

### Stamps

Postal services and the Paris Commune

### Postcards

Back to school

### Photography

Women drivers!

### Coins

Gold sovereigns with the effigy of Queen Victoria



**FROM 24 TO 26 NOVEMBER 2022**

Terrasses de Fontvieille  
Principality of Monaco

anno  1997



**MONACOPHIL**  
2022



**3 PHILATELIC  
EXHIBITIONS**

**INDIA**

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE**

**100 ICONIC ITEMS**

**AT THE ESPACE LÉO FERRÉ:**

80 stands operated by postal administrations  
and international stamp dealers

<http://www.monacophil.eu>



FFPA PATRON(N)AL





# Editorial

Your new Delcampe Magazine - Classic Collections wishes you a happy return from your summer holidays! The summer is coming to an end, but not the discoveries! I hope you will make some in this new issue. So, no regrets about the summer, because fall will bring new opportunities for stimulating learning!

First, I'd like to invite you to discover the work done by the engravers at the Monnaie de Paris where I had to opportunity to talk with the General Engraver Joaquin Jimenez. Don't miss the interview during which I learned many interesting things. On the subject of coins, you should also explore the gold sovereigns with the effigy of Queen Victoria. These valuable coins evolved during the very long reign of this iconic Queen of England. For this magazine, we also took the opportunity to talk with one of our members, Walburge\_collections, who provided us with interesting advice that I'm very happy to share with you.

On the topic of philately, we take a look at stamps from Luxembourg, Germany and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon. France is also featured with a description of the postal service during the war in Paris in 1871. And, to finish up on a lighter note, we have an article about caterpillar stamps.

In terms of postcards, we bring you the Catherinettes, the illustrator Jacquier and, of course, the new school year, since it's upon us.

We've added some thrills with an article about women racing drivers to put you on track for a successful year.

We hope that this varied content will bring you a great deal of enjoyment and discoveries. Thank you again for being members of the Delcampe community. Happy reading!

Héloïse Dautricourt

# Strike **gold** on Delcampe!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

**Join us** to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe.net**

**The collectors' marketplace**



# Contents



From Marocco to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, a story of fakes

14



Welcome to the Monnaie de Paris

20



Women drivers!

32



Catherinette postcards

36



Back to school

54

## Delcampe

- 3 Editorial
- 6 What's new at Delcampe?
- 8 You are now 10,000 subscribers to the Delcampe YouTube channel!

## Stamps

- 10 Postcrossing, featured by Post Luxembourg
- 13 Top Sales
- 14 From Marocco to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, a story of fakes
- 26 Postal services and the Paris Commune
- 44 Caterpillars in philately

## Coins

- 20 Welcome to the Monnaie de Paris
- 25 Top Sales
- 40 Gold sovereigns with the effigy of Queen Victoria
- 54 Coin collecting

## Postcards

- 18 Marcel Jacquier
- 35 Top Sales
- 36 Catherinette postcards
- 54 Back to school

## Photography

- 32 Women drivers!





# New!



## What's new at Delcampe?

### Security at the heart of our concerns

Delcampe is a marketplace dedicated to collectors where conviviality is key. Clearly, all marketplaces attract the interest of scammers (though they, fortunately, account for a very small number of site members). That's why we want to improve our security by facilitating account verification. You can now verify your account via SMS in addition to using the traditional postal verification method. It's extremely simple and it's free. To do so:

1. Click on your nickname at the top left of the Delcampe page.
2. Click on the account verification tab.
3. Select SMS check by clicking on Next.
4. Enter your telephone number.
5. You'll receive a code via SMS. Enter it in Delcampe and confirm.

6. Great! You're now a verified member! Be sure to do this. It provides a guarantee for other members of the Delcampe community that you're serious!

We would also like to remind you that payments in cash, by Western Union or by MoneyGram are not allowed on the website. Only fully secured payment methods are allowed: Delcampe Pay, PayPal, wire transfer or cheque, or cash if you go to the seller's in person.

Always use the website for your transactions. It's much safer. Don't be too trusting...Be wary of new accounts when they haven't been verified. If you think that you are in contact with a scammer, be sure to contact our Customer Service. They will shut down the account if you're



right. You'll be doing the Delcamper community a favour and we thank you in advance. Want to find out more? Go to the Help Centre.


## Delcampers help you value your items

Many collectors have items at home and don't know their value. We've created a page to let collectors submit their objects to the Delcamper community to help them with pricing. With a community of over one million active users a month, we're sure that most of your collection items can be valued by a specialist collector thanks to the website.

On the other hand, you may be the expert who can help another collector! See the new page dedicated to estimates and remember to present your "mystery" items on the right forum on [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net)!

Select a method to verify your account:

**Recommended**



**Verification by text message**

- ✓ Sending a code by text message.
- ✓ Fast reception (~1min)
- ✓ Free

[More information](#) ▾

**Continue**







# Postcrossing, featured by Post Luxembourg

Have you heard of postcrossing? Postcrossing started in Portugal in 2005. It's an entertaining way to explore the world from home. The idea is to exchange postcards with members from around the world. Post Luxembourg is supporting the project by issuing a themed stamp.

It's easy to join: you simply need to register on the [www.postcrossing.com](http://www.postcrossing.com) website. You'll receive the contact information of another member to send them a postcard. And, someone will be given your contact information and you'll receive a postcard a few days later from another country than your own. As you can imagine, this inexpensive activity is

very interesting for stamp and postcard collectors: although the stamps and postcards will be recent, they will often be sent by collectors who will make an effort to send you something original.

Over 80,000 postcards have been sent from and arrived in Luxembourg. Not that many people have joined the programme yet, so



you can figure that some members have already easily built a wonderful collection.

A few months ago, I met a postcrossing member at the Soirée du Timbre in Luxembourg. She told me that she looked forward to checking her mailbox in the morning to find postcards from around the world.

That's why Post Luxembourg wanted to honour this amazing activity by issuing a stamp about it. No doubt that stamp collectors who are involved in postcrossing will be happy to receive a postcard with this stamp!

Are you interested in the programme? Go to [www.postcrossing.com](http://www.postcrossing.com)!







Available in our shop on  
[www.postphilately.lu](http://www.postphilately.lu)

**35€**  
 shipment  
 included

# A unique collection

All luxembourgish stamps issued in 2021.

**34** postage stamps and a "black Print"  
 of the special "Christmas" stamps in one set.

[www.postphilately.lu](http://www.postphilately.lu)  
[contact.philately@post.lu](mailto:contact.philately@post.lu)

\* The value added tax varies according to the delivery address.





# Top SALES

delcampe.net



## Non issued No. 522B\*\*

1952 Helsinki Olympic Games

Monaco - 1952

Modified value in francs, overprinted - «COLOMBES - 15/5/1960

1521 €



## Chinese horoscope

Year of the Monkey \*\*

China - 1981

Signed by Brun

800€



## Letter with 3x No. 5 postage

Large dot cancellation

France - February 26, 1853

from Paris to Milan - Signed by Calves

900 €



## «ORTS-POST.»

2 1/2Rp. black & red

with framed cross

Switzerland

Y/T No.17 regummed

1800 €



## N°325A not issued

50c red carmine \*\*

France - 1937

Paris International Exhibition, 1937 (signed Calves + certificate)

4260 €



## Letter dated 1858, franked (87g) with 5 different stamps.

Naples to Marseille

Italy

3112 €





# From Morocco to Saint-Pierre et Miquelon a story of fakes

By Georges Ferretti of the French association APCC

**What connection could there possibly be between Morocco and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon?**

**What connection is there between a stamp dealer, a historian of Moroccan philately in the 1940s and Saint-Pierre et Miquelon stamps with a F.N.F.L. overprint?**

Three or four years ago I purchased a binder of stamps from Saint-Pierre et Miquelon. I was immediately drawn to the stamps with a FNFL France Libre overprint from 1941 and 1942. I was very surprised, especially given that certain prices were quite high. I became increasingly sceptical the more I examined them front and back. However, many of the stamps had a signature: Benatar Morocco.

The signature was on the back of the stamps and in some of the margins of the sheets. Was this the signature of an expert or of the former owner of the stamps? Quite a few years ago, many collectors marked the backs of their main stamps with either a name or initials.

The stamps stayed in a binder but, from time to time, I would take them out and inspect them as if I was seeing them for the first time



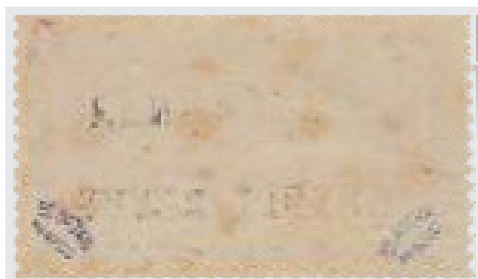
and I wondered about them. The former owner of the stamps? Maybe...a stamp expert? Maybe...I put the binder away a number of times telling myself that the stamps were likely fakes, but deep down, there was a glimmer of hope: you just never know!

Then I tried my luck on Google and got an answer right away. A Moroccan writer, Mr Mustapha Jmahri, had written a book on a Jewish family in Morocco called "Il était une fois la famille Benatar à Mazagan". That was the icing on the cake because the author's email address was included. Questions and answers the same day Mr Benatar had died quite a long time ago. He was a consular agent for a British office in Morocco. However, the family didn't know if he had collected stamps, something he could do in his position, or if he dealt in stamps.

Reading the magazine "L'écho de la timbrologie", I learnt that Mr Benatar was the author, together with Mr L.A. Guigue, of the first editions of the catalogue of Moroccan postal stamps in 1927 and 1930. This information was confirmed by a correspondent. I was on the right track.

Other information I collected confirmed that Mr Benatar was a stamp dealer in Casablanca and that he was knowledgeable and serious.

Saint-Pierre et Miquelon overprinted stamps were sent to Mr J.J. Tillard, well known in my opinion for his "high-end" writing on stamps from the region and an expert in those stamps. All of the Benatar-signed stamps were apparently fakes. I sent the stamps to the Contacts Experts Calves company and got the same



#### On the left page

Envelope sent by R.M. Benatar of Casablanca in Morocco.

#### On this page

Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon stamps with the "France Libre FNFL" surcharge with the BENATAR MAROC signature at the lower right.



answer.

According to the information gathered from Mr Mustapha Jmahri, the Moroccan writer mentioned above, who obtained information from the Benatar family himself, the dealer-expert died in 1940. In fact, the Saint-Pierre et Miquelon stamps with the F.N.F.L. overprint were issued in 1941 and 1942, according to the Yvert et Tellier catalogue.

Furthermore, and still based on information to be used with caution, Mr Benatar's widow apparently continued the stamp business for several years with a stamp collector, which indicates that Mr

Benatar's seal was used after his death. I suppose that Mrs Benatar was knowledgeable about the stamp collecting business since she worked with her husband. It's clear that the seal was used after Mr Benatar's death. But, by whom???

Was the Benatar Morocco seal used on stamps other than those from Saint-Pierre et

Miquelon? I was told that it was, but I haven't seen those stamps.

Any information readers may have on the subject is welcome and will be shared. I'm sure that I'm not the only person to have stamps signed by Mr Benatar. For my part, the stamps in my possession have gone through a number of hands. I didn't receive them directly, of course. In addition, when stamp collectors get taken, they prefer not to admit to it.

This article is illustrated with several Saint-Pierre et Miquelon stamps with the Benatar Morocco signature. The stamps have the Benatar signature on the back on the lower right side. However, in the third example, there are two signatures on the TP 251, upper right and left, but upside down: the seals are in black ink whereas all of the other ones are blue or blue-green. Strange coincidence: this is the third-most expensive one.

Letter sent by the "Maroc Philatélique" house which belonged to Mr Benatar.







# You are now 10,000 subscribers to the Delcampe YouTube channel!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that more and more of you are following us on the Delcampe YouTube channel. And thanks to you, our number of subscribers has reached 5 figures!

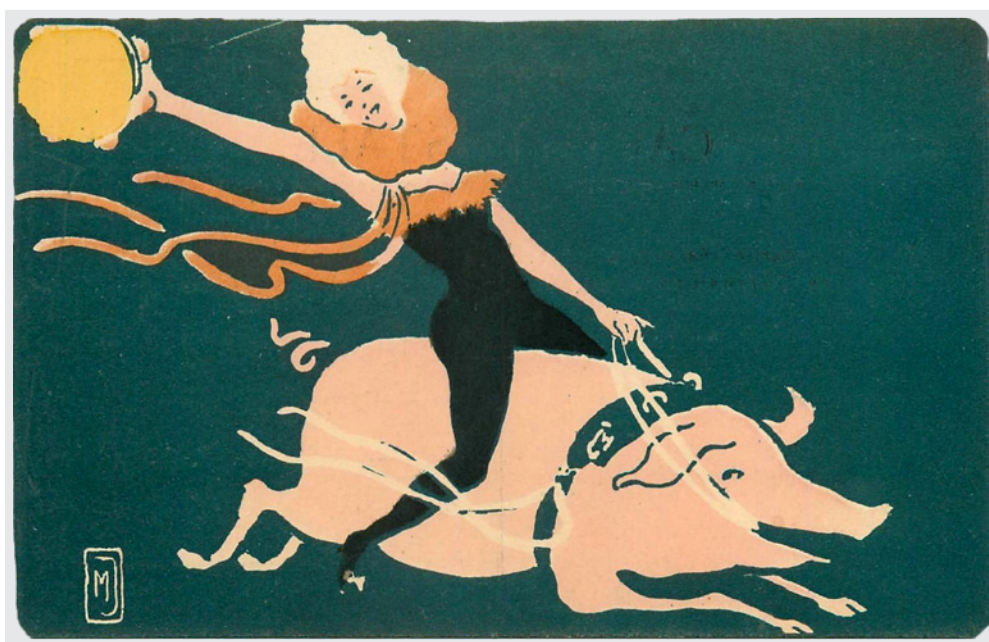
Since the launch of the «World of Collecting» and «Delcampe's top sales», the number of subscribers to our YouTube channel has been growing steadily. In just a few months, we have gone from 500 to 10,000 subscribers, proof that the members of our community support us.

Through our various collecting videos, we are happy to discuss interesting topics, but also to share with you the top sales of the site. The team behind the videos is very happy to see that you like this project. Thank you for your comments, blue thumbs and enthusiasm for these topics. Our YouTube channel has exceeded 3 million views! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all subscribers and to invite others to join us on YouTube and on [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net), the collectors' marketplace!





# Marcel Jacquier



Marcel Jacquier isn't as well known as Mucha or Kirchner, but he takes us into a world of colourful postcards that I want to introduce you to.

Postcards illustrated by Marcel Jacquier



Marcel Jacquier was born in Paris in 1877. He attended the Beaux-Arts school of Nantes starting in 1889. He completed his education by joining the Académie Julian in Paris in 1907. That same year, he came first in the *Affichage des Artistes Bretons* competition. He took part in the *Salon des Artistes Français* from 1905 to 1940 and was rewarded in 1933. He then went to live in Brittany and died in Nantes in 1957.

### Marcel Jacquier's works

Marcel Jacquier's postcard illustrations are popular with collectors. However, before becoming an illustrator, he was a painter. He liked to paint regional subjects in Brittany.

His paintings, posters and postcards feature refined feminine and elegant subjects.

He added a touch of humour to his postcards, which collectors also appreciate. Marcel Jacquier postcards usually sell on Delcampe for a few tens of euros.

**See other postcards by Marcel Jacquier!**

[CLICK HERE](#)







# Welcome to the Monnaie de Paris (Part I)

The Monnaie de Paris is the oldest institution in the world. Charles II the Bald, the king of France, officially appointed it to mint currency in the Edict of Pîtres in 864.

Coins have been struck by the Monnaie de Paris for over 1100 years. It mints one billion euro coins a year at its branch in Pessac. Gold and silver coins are struck in Paris. They thrill collectors and provide an investment which can be quite profitable. It also makes French institutional medals including the very famous Legion of Honour, special order medals, and other collection items. It is also one of the rare art foundries creating magnificent works of art, for example bronze sta-

tues, with outside artists.

I invite you to discover this fabulous institution with me, where I was welcomed by Joaquin Jimenez, the General Engraver of the Monnaie de Paris. I'll also take this opportunity to talk to you about this incredible trade, the creation of coins...

**Hello Joaquin Jimenez. How did you become the General Engraver of the Monnaie de Paris?**

I studied literature and Beaux-Arts and began to work in companies that also made medals. I set up research and design studios there and became interested in low-relief modelling. I did copper engraving, but I didn't want to



make a career of it. I came to it by chance, then I entered money-related competitions. And I won!

I won my first competition in 1986 and never stopped after that. I became interested, and I occasionally worked at the Monnaie de Paris. When I won competitions, I came here to work with the General Engravers at the time and since things went well, they started asking me to work on orders. I worked with my two masters there: Emile Rousseau, Grand Prix de Rome, and Pierre Rodier. They were the prior two General Engravers of the house. Thanks to this solid training and a highly developed creative sense, I got noticed because "I didn't work like everyone else". At least, that's what Emile Rousseau told me at the time when he wanted to bring me on board at the Monnaie de Paris. In fact, he also told me that I would be sitting in his place one day!

I continued my career in other companies. Then, several years later, the Monnaie de Paris, via the director Christophe Beau, asked me to join the team. That was when the Métal Morphose project was being launched. I was very interested in it, so I decided to take on the management of the engraving workshop. When Marc Schwartz joined, as I'd already reached the right level of expertise, I was promoted to the position of General Engraver and Artistic Director of the Monnaie

de Paris.

I won several awards in different countries. I received the first Life Achievement Award of the profession, which gave me worldwide recognition.

### **What is your work day like?**

As the General Engraver of the Monnaie de Paris, my main function is to put my mark on the pieces. All of the coins and medals that come out of the Paris workshop have my mark. It provides a guarantee and a signature, like on the bank notes, which attest to the fact that the coins are from our workshop. My mark will be on all of the items produced as long as I'm the General Engraver of the Monnaie de Paris.

I also head the two workshops, the one in Paris and the one in Pessac, assisted by Yves Sampo and Nicolas Cozon who manage them. Yves is also *Maître d'Art*, which means that he has the skills to train young people to ensure that our very special know-how is perpetuated.

Our role is to create all of the coins, both for collections and for circulation, and to lead the profession by continuing to promote its techniques. The Monnaie de Paris is 1150 years old, but it's a modern company. It's important to use modern technologies and to retain the traditional techniques. We have all the software available and we're very interested in 3D. In fact, the tooling is done with lasers. However, there's more to it than that. An engraver at the Monnaie de Paris has to be



Astérix coin

Molière coin

Finalized Harry Potter medal



smart to do good work. That's why it's very important that they understand the oldest engraving techniques as well. It develops their potential and their creativity.

**Are you involved in selecting the themes?**

Yes, of course, the marketing department of the Monnaie de Paris inventories themes that can have an impact in terms of history, commemoration or anniversaries, and other topics. Based on these ideas, we create an extensive programme over the year which is then studied during a discussion session. That's when we decide together what we will do with the coins.

The opinion of others is very important, because you can make the most beautiful coin in the world, but if the public doesn't appreciate it, we won't sell any. Our programme takes a generalist approach. Of course, we have to please the coin collectors, but also other collectors who collect based on a particular theme. For example, comic strip collectors would be interested in Asterix coins. We take that into account and try to diversify the programme with the help of our teams.

As the Artistic Director, which is my role together with that of General Engraver, I have to make artistic decisions and select ideas for production. I make the drawings or approve those of other engravers. I think it's important that everyone continue to design. That's part of the engraver's overall skill!

**You mentioned an Asterix coin. How does this type of partnership happen from an artistic standpoint?**

When we have a partnership for coins like the Smurfs, Asterix or Harry Potter, we work very tightly together.

We can only adapt and meet stringent specifications. Those projects are very interesting, but they're not the most creative ones. Of course, we want to feature different themes while maintaining the "Monnaie de Paris" signature, and I have to say that the results are often very good, for both our partner and ourselves.

**What if there is no graphic charter?**

I find it thrilling to start with nothing! You can be totally creative. You have to find an idea, a concept, then implement it. For series like "Excellence à la française", you have to find an idea and implement a method that involves the two workshops. We work with French companies that are recognised internationally for their know-how. These are super-interesting projects because we have to enhance their products while demonstrating our know-how and technical expertise. It's a reciprocal exchange of skills that usually results in a beautiful and amazing product.

**You favourite coin?**

The iconic coins. In a way, I'm the "father" of the new French euro, but those aren't necessarily my favourite coins. I have many numismatic children! And I really enjoy unusual projects. However, the coin I'm most interested in is this one!

**What theme would you like to work on?**

I'm very lucky because I nearly always work on extraordinary subjects. They range from the Smurfs to the French Republic. We work on a real variety of projects and all of them are interesting in some way. I'm interested in culture, so I'm really lucky to have the position of General Engraver.



## Creating a medal: an involved engraving process

**Explanations by Yves Sampo**

You have a bit more freedom when you work on medals. Here is how we create a medal. The starting point is always the drawing. We start with a rough version and when we're happy with it, we make a very detailed drawing to show the customer. Once the drawing is approved, it's used to create the rhodoid model. This is a drawing on plastic film which shows the main contours of the model. It's used as a reference when we work with modelling clay, enabling us to create the volumes to get a clear overall impression.

Next, we create a plaster model which is a negative mould on which we work on the details. When this work is completed, we create a positive plaster mould which is also reworked before being used as the production proof. This mould is three times the size of the actual medal.

It then has to be reduced in size. The traditional method consists in using the plaster mould to pour very hard resin, which is then placed in a reducing lathe. We currently also use more modern techniques. We take the entire volume of the medal using a laser probe to create a point cloud which is interpreted in 3D software, which we rework before creating a file that's used to engrave a matrix in steel. "Matrix" is the term used for medals. When referring to money, this is called a "coin".

Collector coins are polished to give the final product different sanding effects and sheens. At the Monnaie de Paris, we have a workshop which makes the stands and coins. When they're engraved, they are returned to the engraving studio for checking. They are then annealed for a mirror finish for striking.





Dior bottle medal as part of the Excellence à la Française project..  
©Monnaie de Paris.

Reducing machine used to manufacture coin dies.

### Do you collect coins?

No, I'm not a coin collector. On the other hand, I do collect rhinoceroses. In fact, my mark includes the head of a rhinoceros. I've always liked that animal; I don't know why. I find it mysterious, with that horn on the tip of its nose! It's a very ancient animal and a popular artistic theme. It appears in cave paintings and in the paintings of Dali, who said that it was "... the only animal that carries an incredible amount of cosmic knowledge within its armour". That's how I see the engraving workshop, like a conservatory for disappearing knowledge.

### What can we wish for you for the future?

You have to hope that, after I leave, things continue and that I can stop with the feeling that I've accomplished my duty. I want things to continue after I'm gone. I'm in favour of "wanted obsolescence". I give everything I have to young people so that they can build their own identities as engravers. That's what I hope for them and for myself with all of my heart.

A very big thank you to Joaquin Jimenez and the Monnaie de Paris for their fabulous welcome. In the next Delcampe Magazine, it will be my great pleasure to take you on a tour of the workshop of the oldest institution in the world!

# Top SALES

delcampe.net



## Gold sovereign

Queen Victoria  
Australia, Sidney, 1971  
Condition: VF

460 €



## Gold coin of 10 lire

Carlo Ludovico  
Toscana, Florence, 1907  
Condition: XF

706,46 €



## 2 guilder silver coin

Emperor Franz Joseph I  
Austria-Hungary, 1875

350 €



## 20 lira gold coin

King Umberto I  
Italy, 1882  
XF (extra fine)

365 €



## Silver coin 1 peso

Emperor Maximilian  
Mexico, 1866

499,50 €



## 100 gold francs

Napoleon III 1858  
France, Paris  
XF (extra fine)

2 300 €



# Postal services and the Paris Commune

Bertrand Lemonnier, Associate Professor, PhD in history, Professor Emeritus and Senior Fellow.



Paris-rue d'Enghien postmark of 18 March 1871, first day of the Commune, with three 10 c Cérès siege stamps with postage for abroad (Belgium, arrived on 20 March).



The postal blockade was already in place on 1 April 1871. However, one last wagon was sent to Versailles by the Commune in the hope that mail intended for Paris would be sent in return. This letter (part of a death notice) was part of the fifth postal collection by the Bureau Central. It has 2 x 10 c empire with laurel stamps and was cancelled with so-called "chiselled" empty stars. It was sent to Villefranche-de-Rouergue (arrival postmark 5 April) and was probably one of the very last letters to leave Paris by (more or less) normal means until 27 May. It was probably one of the very last letters to leave Paris by (more or less) normal means until 27 May.

1870-1871 was the "terrible year" according to Victor Hugo. It was one of the darkest in modern French history and one that generated the most hope following the absolute disaster of the Franco-Prussian war. After the traumatic siege of the capital (September 1870-January 1871), during the Commune (18 March-28 May 1871), Parisians had to deal with the difficulties created by the postal blockade. It was imposed by Versailles at the end of March and isolated them from the outside for nearly two months. To summarise the issue in simple terms, the Commune was more than a military, political and social civil war; it was also a major communications war. During the turbulent period, two competing postal organisations faced off, with at stake, the dissemination and circulation of information.

In Paris, Albert Theisz, the head appointed by the Commune, a bronze worker affiliated with the socialist First International, was entrusted with the delicate task of running a disorganised postal service with no resources, as the director, Germain Rampont-Léchin, had run away on 30 March with part of the personnel and the equipment. Assisted



by Zéphirin Camélinat, delegate at the Monnaie, Theisz, found stocks of postal stamps and also succeeded in having some printed (siege and empire with laurel crown) to provide nearly-normal postal service within Paris.

Theisz hired auxiliaries and reworked salary scales for Poste workers. In April, he gave private agencies permission to provide courier services between Paris and the outside via postal boxes in the inner suburbs and, in particular in Saint-Denis and Vincennes. Agencies like Lorin-Maury and Ed. Moreau operated like small, private post offices, which enabled exchanges between Paris and the provinces to continue during the civil war, while the Germans still occupied a large part of the Paris region. In fact, some of the mail moved in both directions thanks to remunerated smugglers and a transport system set up by the agencies. The Parisian postal service required additional postage of 10 c.

However, the sporadic military confrontations between the two camps, the bombing of forts, the entry of the Versaillais into Paris on 21 May and the terrible "Bloody Week", which crushed the Commune, significantly disrupted all postal activity during the period.

Given these circumstances, the Commune didn't have the time or the resources needed to create a true Commune Postal service. Did it really intend to? The issue



Blue postmark of the Prévost agency (Paris) on a 10 c stamp



Fragment of a letter for Paris sent to the Lorin-Maury agency, which was delivered by the same agency during the postal blockade. Villers-sur-Mer postmark (Gros Chiffres 4526 on the stamp), cancelled 20 c (Bordeaux type without perforations) on 21 (?) May 1871. The pre-printed envelope has the address of Mr E. Lorin of Ile Saint-Denis (Seine). The Lorin-Maury (LM) tax stamp was glued on by the agency (with the handwritten 20 c to be received) to which an official 10 c stamp was added (empire with laurel crown), i.e. the additional tax for Paris. The two stamps added in Paris are cancelled with a C.IX postmark (C office of the 9th arrondissement).



Very exceptional black "Anchor" cancellation (normally used on liners, which appeared on local Parisian post from 16 to 27 May and into June due to a shortage of regulation postmarks). It was placed on a 10 c empire with laurel crown stamp (Paris for Paris) by the Montmartre office on 26 May 1871, in the midst of the Bloody Week. This is a very beautiful postal testimonial to this period.





1



2

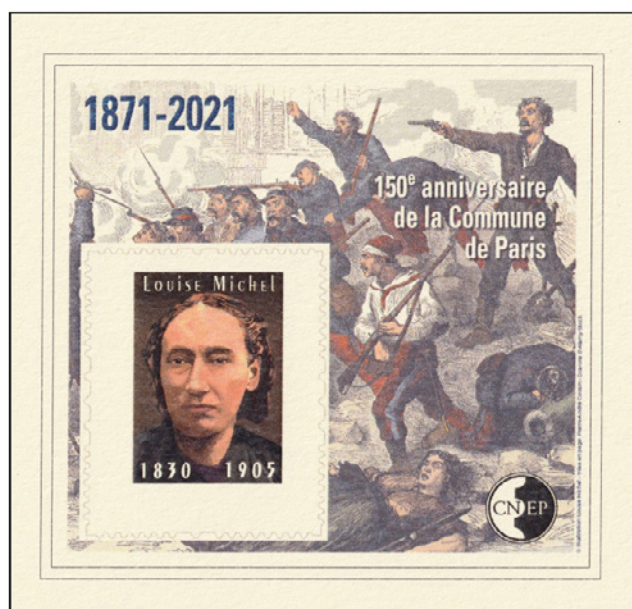


3



4

Agency stamps which didn't circulate during the Commune (1-2),  
fantasy vignette printed in 1871 (3) and after 1872 (4)



Deluxe proof of the CNEP sheet, 2021 The sheet was also sold with a "personalised" Louise Michel stamp. Portrait made on a graphics tablet by the artist Pierre-André Cousin and enhanced with an anonymous colourised background engraving.

wasn't - as it was in 1848 - to use the postage stamp to define a new symbolic embodiment of the Republic, but to maintain an essential public service at the heart of the Republic's democratic and social purpose. There were no "Commune stamps" stamped "Commune de Paris", although fantasy vignettes were printed during the events (and especially after them) as were agency vignettes which were never in circulation. As for the so-called "Commune stamps" on yellowish paper of the 20 c Cérès bleu listed in the catalogues, they weren't very different from certain print runs during the siege period.

As for the posterity of this episode, the Commune has never really vanished from people's memories. The Republican amnesty of 1880 contributed temporarily to moderating political passions and to forging one of the foundation myths of the French left, celebrated nearly every year in front of the Mur des Fédérés at the Père-Lachaise cemetery. The French post office has never issued stamps depicting this event, notably on the occasion of the various anniversary dates and, in particular, the centenary in 1971. Yet, famous people like the painter Gustave

Courbet, the writer Jules Vallès and the teacher Louise Michel were “made into stamps”, but with no mention made of their Communard past. Fortunately, in 2021, the *Chambre syndicale des négociants et experts en philatélie* (CNEP) decided to print a very attractive souvenir sheet dedicated to Louise Michel and the 150th anniversary of the Commune.

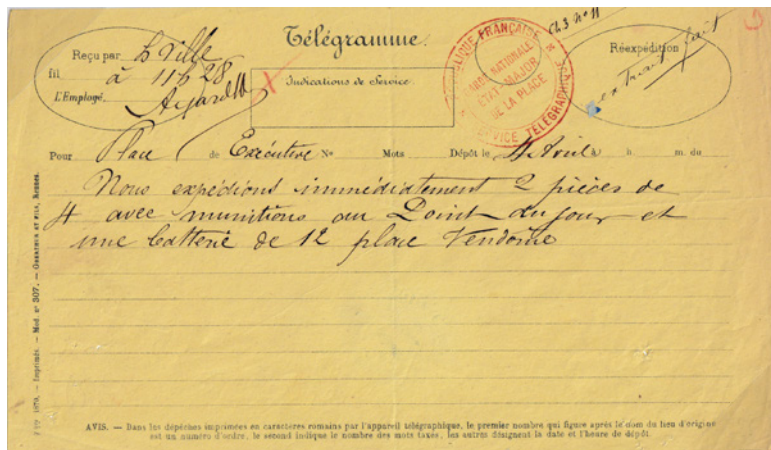
On the other hand, other revolutionary periods have been commemorated by the Post Office, including the French Revolution, many times, and the 1830 and 1848 revolutions. The events of 1871 suffered, from a philatelic standpoint, from the “cold war” between the two Blocks from 1947 to 1991: the historical analyses of the Commune by Marx and Engels fed a split between communist countries (the USSR, Eastern Europe and China), which have produced many stamps celebrating the Commune, and the liberal countries of the West, which have generally ignored it.

With respect to collectors, the Commune period is probably less sought after than that of the siege, which means that it's possible to make some nice discoveries, in particular, letters posted between 18 March and 30 May



A few examples of stamps issued by communist countries for the 100th anniversary of the Commune of Paris in 1971 (the USSR, Albania, Yugoslavia, Poland and China).





Military telegram received at the town hall, dated 4 April 1871 with the seal of the National Guard staff. Telegrams can complement letter collections.



"F. Fleury collection" postcard from the Belle Époque, showing the Mur des Fédérés with a 5 c stamp. The postcards illustrate a themed study of the memory of the Commune.

from Paris to the provinces and from the provinces to Paris, and others related to the trials and the deportation of the Communards. It's very difficult to determine prices given that each item is unique and there are many evaluation criteria (postage, content, origin and destination postmark, cancellation, blockade period, agency envelope, etc.). In any event, many different collections related to the Commune are possible. This is the case of non-postal vignettes dear to collectors, agency stamps and postmarks, telegrams, coins, cancellation marks, military seals, administrative mail, *Imprimerie Nationale* posters, newspapers, advertising, photographs, engravings, caricatures and, with respect to the memory of the Commune, illustrated postcards. Of course, without forgetting any of the commemorative stamps which appeared in the world post-1945 or any of the modern types of artistic, literary and cinematographic representations of this period, which lives on in the collective memory.

Want to know more? Discover Bertrand Lemonnier's book

Bertrand Lemonnier

# LES POSTES ET LA COMMUNE DE PARIS

Une guerre des communications de 1871 à nos jours



Historiques  
Travaux

L'Harmattan





# Women drivers!



Old photos of women driving.

Men may still say that they don't know how to drive, but women have been driving for a very long time. While it's normal to see women drivers nowadays, in the early days of the automobile, there were definitely far more men than women drivers. Yet, some of the most successful racing drivers were women! Let's take a look at these pioneers!

Have you ever heard of Camille du Gast? In 1901, this fearless young woman won the Paris-Berlin race ahead of many men. It was a great victory for a woman who was also an expert with a pistol, and an excellent horse rider, skier and mountain climber! A new career as a racing driver opened up for her...Unfortunately, not for very long! In 1904, the Commission of the Automobile Club of France sent women back to their kitchens. They were no longer allowed to compete as racing drivers!

After the First World War, the world had become aware of the power of women, who had replaced their husbands during the war. New opportunities opened up for them. For example, Monte Carlo launched its first "Coupe des Dames" in 1927.

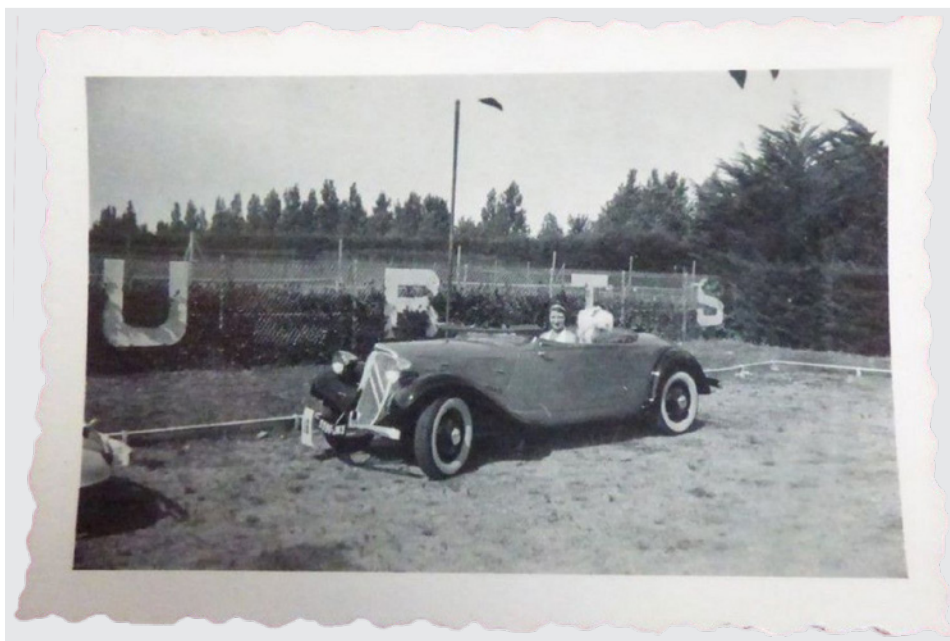
There was also Hellé Nice, who became a legend of motor racing. This former Casino de Paris dancer started racing to beat the speed record for 10 laps of the racetrack at Montlhéry by driving at an average of 200km/h. She didn't reach that speed, but drove at 198km/h.

There have been (many!) other (anonymous) women drivers other than the two famous ones we've talked about here. They



Photo of Camille du Gast.  
Photo of Hellé Nice at the wheel.





have been at the wheel of a racing car since the end of the 19th century. Everyone has heard of a great-great-grandmother or great-aunt in their family who drove at a time when it was far-fetched to believe that a woman could even learn to drive!

Photography has paid tribute to them by immortalising these very brave pioneers!

**This article is illustrated with a few photos, but there are many more to discover on Delcampe!**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Old photos of women driving.

# Top SALES

delcampe.net



## Human cat skiing

Illustrator: Arthur Thiele  
From Ghent to Paris,  
1914

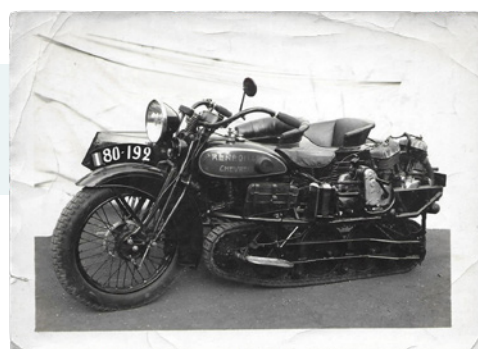
512 €



## The Bear Dance

From Santec to Paris  
France, 1906

900 €



## Photography Tracked motorbike

«Chevreau de René Gillet», 1935  
Large format: 18x13 cm

306 €



## Postcard «Moulin rouge - La Goulue

Toulouse-Lautrec 1898, Cinos Paris edition  
(uncirculated)

791 €



## Original photo of a South American soldier

(not dated)

502,50 €

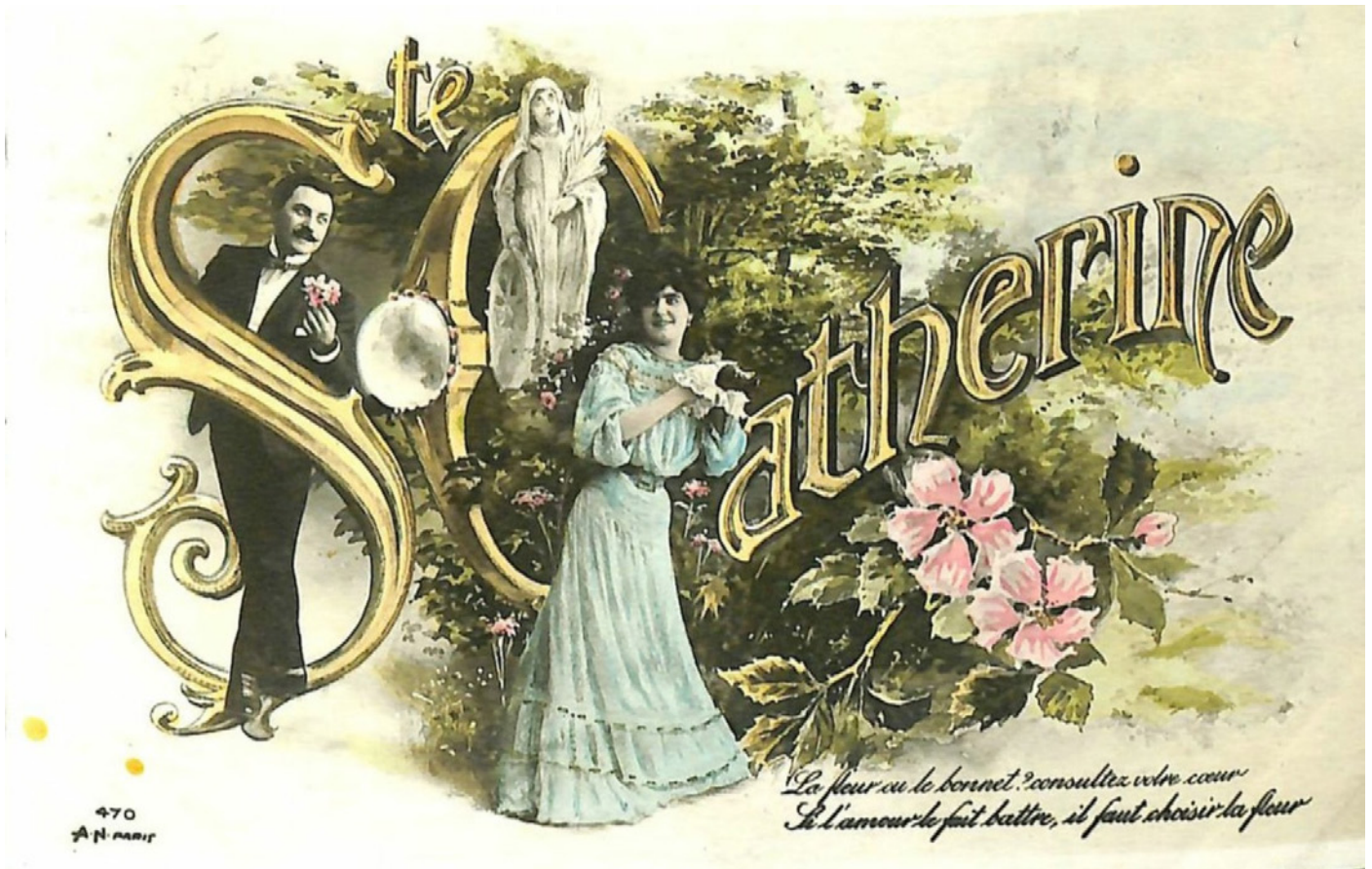


## Photo card of the «Momège» watch and jewellery factory, 1913

Uncirculated

420,50 €





# Catherinette postcards



The theme of saint's days is very popular with postcard collectors. Of course, the first postcards that come to mind are for Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day. However, there are also other, more eccentric, ones.

We celebrate Saint Catherine on 25 November (at least, she was celebrated until 1970 when the Church removed her from its calendar). It was most certainly one of the least feminist-friendly festivals of all Christianity. Nevertheless, an amusing expression remains with us today: "capping Saint Catherine" or, to

become a Catherinette! This is said of young women who are unmarried by the age of 25.

## The legend of Saint Catherine

Saint Catherine was thought to be the daughter of King Costus. An erudite young woman, a virgin and pious, she believed in God and in Jesus. When Emperor

Old Saint Catherine themed fantasy postcards

Maxentius (according to writings, but it is far more likely that it was Emperor Maximinus) called on all of the inhabitants of his province to gather to make sacrifices to idols, Catherine refused.

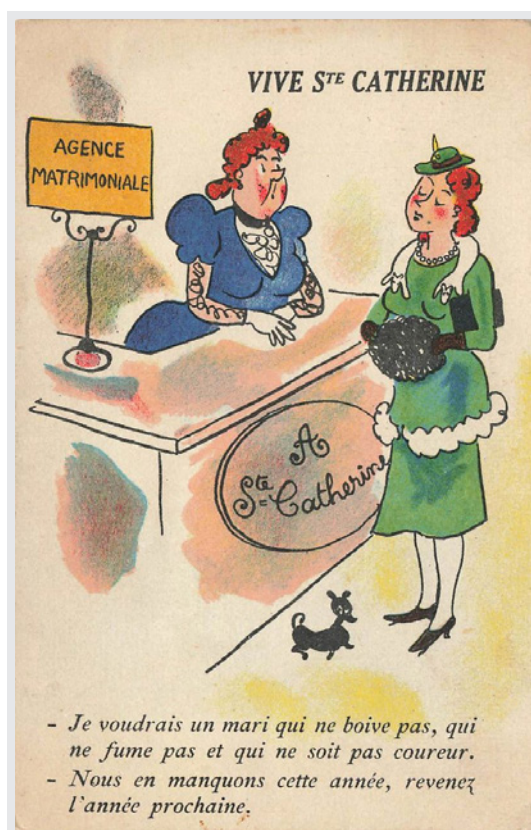
The emperor summoned the wise men of the period to convince her to give up her faith, but, with the help of an angel, Catherine refuted all of their arguments. On the contrary, the wise men converted. The emperor also tried to marry her. She refused several times because she had taken Christ as her fiancé!

In the end, the emperor sentenced Catherine to a horrible death, to be torn apart on four spiked wheels. She was again saved by angels but was eventually decapitated. Instead of blood, milk flowed from her veins.

According to legend, the angels lifted her body to the top of Mount Sinai. She became the patron saint of the monastery there, where she is buried.

She later appeared before Joan of Arc with Saint Margaret and

Old Saint Catherine themed fantasy postcards







the archangel Michael.

### The Catherinettes

Saint Catherine is, among other things, the patron saint of young, unwed women. Young women must put a cap on her head every year on 25 November. The task must be carried out by single women over 25. This is where the expression "capping Saint Catherine" comes from. While nowadays the normal marrying age for young women is several years later than 25, this wasn't the case even a few decades ago.

It was recommended that single women say the following prayer: "Saint Catherine, help me. Don't let me die single. A husband, Saint Catherine, a good one, Saint Catherine; but, better one than none at all"!!!

Custom also required that Catherinettes wear a hat on 25 November to celebrate their patron saint.

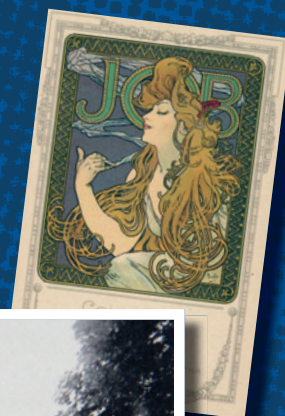
Lastly, and it must be said that this was fairly cruel, tradition required that a Saint Catherine postcard be sent to the young women in question. There are all sorts of these postcards, sometimes showing the cap and sometimes the woman wearing it. There are also humorous postcards, as you can see in the illustrations for this article.

**Discover Saint Catherine postcards on [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net).**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Old Saint Catherine themed fantasy postcards, highlighting the Catherinettes' cap.

# Play your **cards** right on Delcampe!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

**Join us** to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net  
The collectors' marketplace





# Gold sovereigns with the effigy of Queen Victoria



Queen Victoria is an iconic figure of the 19th century. She had such a great impact on her period that it has been named the “Victorian Era”. For good reason: she was on the throne for over 60 years and had a lasting impact on world history...and on numismatics...

## Who was Queen Victoria?

Alexandrina Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward of Kent and of Strathearn and of the Princess born Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. She was named Alexandrina in honour of her godfather, Tsar Alexander I of Russia. Nothing predestined her to becoming queen at her birth on 24 May 1819. Yet, before she turned 12, a number of deaths raised her ranking in the order of succession. Her uncle, King William IV died one month after Victoria turned 18 and she was crowned on 28 June 1838 at Westminster Abbey.

Victoria had an austere childhood regulated by the rules of the “Kensington system” and raised by her mother and her comptroller John Conroy.

Victoria turned 18 on 24 May 1837. Her uncle, King William IV, died one month later, on 20 June 1837. When the Princess was to become queen in 1838, she had the name Alexandrina removed from her documents. She also decided to banish Conroy and to no longer live with her mother.

In 1836, a year before her accession to the throne, her uncle Leopold, now King of the Belgians, introduced her to Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, a cousin of hers. It was love at first sight!

She married for love on 10 February 1840. Albert became both her adviser and her companion. The couple soon had their first child...and would have eight more! Victoria arranged prestigious matches for her children, which she allied with the greatest European royal families. As a result, she was nicknamed "the Grandmother of Europe".

The situation in England was not to the liking of all of its inhabitants. The queen survived seven attempts on her life! The territory over which she ruled was immense: England, Scotland, Ireland and the British colonies. This was the peak of the Empire, which governed nearly 400 million people spread over no less than 26 million km<sup>2</sup>.

The queen's foreign policy sought a rapprochement between France and England. She travelled to France to meet Louis-Philippe. It was the first Franco-English meeting in 300 years!

Queen Victoria was heartbroken when her husband, Prince Albert, died on 14 December 1861. She never fully recovered and dressed in black clothes until the end of her life. She limited the number of public appearances she made and was given the nickname "the Widow of Windsor" after the castle in which she lived.

This behaviour damaged her popularity... Republicans gathered in 1870 in London to urge her to abdicate. She became gravely ill in 1871, as did the Prince of Wales. Thanks to a public appearance for the 10th anniversary of the death of Prince Albert, her popularity began to increase again.

In 1887, she celebrated her Golden Jubilee (50 years of reign) and her Diamond Jubilee 10 years later. She breathed her last on 22 January 1901 surrounded by her son, who would become King Edward VII, and her grandson, William II of Prussia.



#### On the left page

1851 gold sovereign with the effigy of a young Queen Victoria.

1871 gold sovereign with the effigy of a young Queen Victoria. Reverse Saint Georges slaying the dragon.

#### On this page

1890 gold sovereign with the effigy of a crowned Queen Victoria.





1821 gold sovereign with the effigy of George III.

### Queen Victoria's gold sovereigns

Many coins were struck during Queen Victoria's reign given that she was on the throne for over 60 years. We're going to take a look at one of them in particular: the gold sovereign.

The first gold sovereigns were struck at the end of the 15th century during the reign of Henry VII. They were struck until 1603, the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. No new coins of this type were struck for over 200 years.

New gold sovereigns were struck in 1817, during the reign of George III. Queen Victoria came to the throne 20 years later. During her reign, all gold sovereigns were 22 mm in diameter and weighed 7.99 g.

The first gold sovereigns with her effigy were struck the following year. They bear the Latin inscription *Victoria Dei Gratia*, which translates as Victoria

by the Grace of God. According to the Godot et Fils website, over 150 million of these coins were struck in several workshops: London, as well as Melbourne and Sydney. The coin was struck for over 50 years. There was a new issue virtually every year until 1874.

A second coin with Queen Victoria was struck between 1871 and 1875. The reverse shows Saint George slaying the dragon. 10.5 million of these coins were struck, more in some years than in others. 1879 was very unusual because only 20,000 of the coins were struck that year. The Latin inscription "*VICTORIA DG BRITANNIAR REG FD*" appears on these coins. This means "Victoria by the Grace of God, Queen of Great-Britain

Defender of the Faith". The coins were struck in Melbourne, Perth, Bombay, Ottawa, Pretoria and Sydney. To find out where a coin comes from, look for the letter right above the year it was struck.

In 1887, a new type of gold sovereign was struck for the 50-year jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign. It shows an older Queen Victoria, in profile and crowned. Just over 31 million copies of this coin, called the "Golden Jubilee sovereign", were struck. The workshop where they were struck can be identified in the same way as the coins made in 1871 and 1875. The general public didn't like the coin and it was replaced in 1892.

There was one last sovereign with the effigy of Queen Victoria struck in the last years of her reign, from 1893 to 1901. It shows an older, rounder Queen Victoria in profile. Saint Georges still slays the dragon on the reverse of the coin! The inscription "VICTORIA•DEI•GRA•BRITT•REGINA•FID•DEF • IND•IMP•" is different from the one on the previous issues of the gold sovereign. This translates to "Victoria by the Grace of God Queen of the Britons, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India". Over 42 million of these coins were struck in the same workshops as earlier ones. They are called the "Widow head", although she had already been a widow for quite some time.



1899 gold sovereign with the effigy of Queen Victoria at the end of her life.

**Would you like to discover other Queen Victoria coins on Delcampe?**

[CLICK HERE](#)



# Caterpillars in philately

Vladimir Kachan, Republic of Belarus



Figure 1 - Special cancel of Germany 1997 in honor for the 350th birthday Maria Sibylla Merian, depicting the life cycle of a butterfly.



Figure 2 - Meter mark of Germany 1938 featuring a caterpillar.



Figure 3 - Stamp of Grenada 1999 with caterpillar of *Manduca sexta* moth.

Lepidoptera undergo a wonderful transformation from caterpillar to fantastic winged adult. There are 4 life-cycle stages for all butterflies and moths: egg, larva (or caterpillar), pupa (or chrysalis), and adult. This cycle is called complete metamorphosis. Thus, a caterpillar is the larval stage of a moth or butterfly and it is the second part of their four-stage life cycle. The role of caterpillars in the life stages of butterflies and moths was badly understood. In 1679 Maria Sibylla Merian published the first volume of "The Caterpillars' Marvelous Transformation and Strange Floral Food", which contained 50 illustrations and a description of insects, moths, butterflies and their larvae (Figure 1). Caterpillars have long, worm-like bodies with six true legs. They can also have a variable number of stumpy false legs (called prolegs), which help them to move and cling to things. Caterpillars can change dramatically from when they first hatch to when they're ready to pupate. Some can increase their body mass several thousand fold in just a few weeks - that's like a baby growing to the size of a sperm whale! This is the most destructive life stage

as the larvae have biting mouth parts (Figure 2).

Many caterpillars look very different as they grow. Caterpillars have been called «eating machines», and eat leaves voraciously. Most species shed their skin four or five times as their bodies grow, and they eventually enter a pupal stage before becoming adults. Caterpillars grow very quickly; for instance, a tobacco hornworm (*Manduca sexta* moth) will increase its weight ten-thousandfold in less than twenty days (Figure 3). The tobacco hornworm from the American continent is the robust caterpillar and bright green to about 100 mm in length in the final instar, with white, diagonal striped markings and a small protrusion or "horn" on the last abdominal segment.

The inchworm, or looper caterpillars from the family Geometridae are so named because of the way they move, appearing to measure the earth (the word geometrid means earth-measurer in Greek); the primary reason for this unusual locomotion is the elimination of nearly all the prolegs except the clasper on the terminal segment (Figure 4). The caterpillar of the

temperate species peppered moth (*Biston betularia*) is a twig mimic, varying in colour between green and brown. Recent research indicates that the caterpillars can sense the twig's colour with their skin and match their body colour to the background to protect themselves from predators. In 2019, a geometrid moth caterpillar dating back to the Eocene epoch, approximately 44 million years ago, was found preserved in Baltic amber. Previously, another fossil dating back approximately 125 million years was found in Lebanese amber.

Many animals feed on caterpillars as they are rich in protein. As a result, caterpillars have evolved various means of defense. Some plants contain toxins which protect them from herbivores, but some caterpillars have evolved countermeasures which enable them to eat the leaves of such toxic plants. In addition to being unaffected by the poison, the caterpillars sequester it in their body, making them highly toxic to predators. The caterpillar of the famous North American monarch butterfly feeds on milkweed plants, from which it obtains toxic chemicals that it incorporates into its body (Figure 5). These chemicals later protect the adult butterfly by making it distasteful to birds. The monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) caterpillars advertise themselves with the danger colors of black, yellow and white stripes. Any predator that attempts to eat a caterpillar with an aggressive defense mechanism will learn and avoid future attempts.

Butterfly larvae may not be as graceful or elegant as what they eventually metamorphose into, but their variety of spikes, hairs, colors and pattern – evolutionary adaptations to warn predators to keep away. In the tropical forest of Africa, the genus of butterflies *Euphaedra* lives, the caterpillars of



Figure 4 – Entire postal of Finland 1999 with looper caterpillar of the peppered moth (*Biston betularia*).



Figure 5 – Meter mark of USA 1954 with toxic caterpillar of monarch butterfly.





Figure 6 – Imperforated stamp of Central African Republic 1973 with unusual caterpillar of Euphaedra genus butterfly.



Figure 7 – Booklet of Germany 1991 with spiny black caterpillar of Nymphalis antiopa butterfly.



Figure 8 – Stamp of Belarus 2016 with fuzzy caterpillar of Arctia caja moth on the tab.

which have unusually long and branched lateral spines (Figure 6). The larvae of Euphaedra butterfly species are green, with yellow and pink markings and with feathery irritating appendages.

The spiny caterpillars of the Nymphalis antiopa butterfly, also named the Camberwell beauty, which native to Eurasia and North America, are striking in appearance, with black bodies and a line of eight reddish-orange dots running down the back (so named warning coloration) (Figure 7). The body is covered with short hairs and black spines and white dots. Thus, they have “urticating spines”, visible as stiff hair-like structures, that are hollow and connected to glands which produce an irritating toxin. Definitely something to avoid touching with the bare skin! The Camberwell beauty butterfly caterpillars are called “Spiny elm caterpillars”. This is, of course, a defensive tactic, meant to protect against predators who might gobble up tasty caterpillars.

The garden tiger moth (Arctia caja) is a northern species found in the US, Canada, and Europe. The moth prefers cold climates with temperate seasonality, as the larvae overwinter, and preferentially chooses host plants with marked toxicity. The caterpillars of this species are, like many caterpillars of the tiger moth family, “fuzzy” in appearance, leading them to be called «woolly bears» by casual observers (Figure 8). Once the caterpillars reach a certain size, they acquire hollow tubes that often contain irritating compounds. The larvae depend upon the host plant for their toxic compounds, which they convert from plant defense compounds to larval and adult protection compounds. The caterpillars can grow to a maximum size of 6 cm long.

Gonometa postica, known commonly as the African wild silk moth, and burn worm

(Figure 9), is a large species of African moth belonging to the family Lasiocampidae. The caterpillar of *Gonometa postica* moth is black with lateral tufts of white, yellow or orange. The caterpillar is covered in irritating setae, or hairs. The hairs of caterpillar can cause skin irritation so care should be taken to avoid direct skin contact. The genus *Gonometa* boasts some very large moths and larvae; *Gonometa sjostedti* from Africa has a larva 16 centimeters long, for example.

The flannel moths occur in North America and South America tropics. Their larvae are called puss caterpillars, and with their long hairs, resemble cotton balls. They have venomous spines that can cause a painful sting and inflammation lasting for several days. Perhaps the most notorious for stinging is the caterpillar of *Megalopyge opercularis* (Figure 10). The caterpillar is regarded as a dangerous insect because of its venomous spines. Exposure to the caterpillar's fur-like spines leads to an immediate skin irritation with severe radiating pain. The caterpillars of this species is capable of delivering a sting so painful, some liken the sensation to a sudden amputation. The caterpillars are sometimes called Asp Caterpillars because contact with one feels like a snake bite. Extreme caution must be practiced in areas where these caterpillars may roam. Long, hairs cover the entire body, giving it a soft, pet-able appearance. These stinging hairs have a toxic venom inside them. The older the caterpillar, the more potent the chemical defense. Merely brushing past the hairs can cause them to break off and inject this venom.

Caterpillars are typically voracious feeders and many of them are among the most serious of agricultural pests. In fact many moth species are best known in their ca-

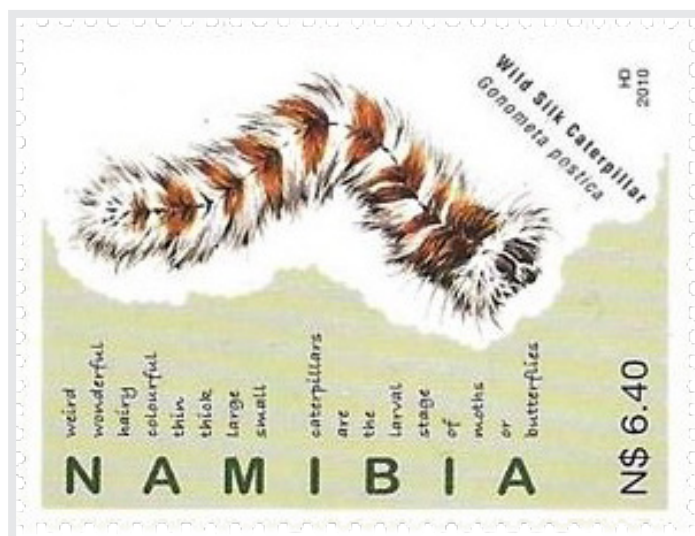


Figure 9 – Stamp of Namibia 2010 with burn caterpillar of *Gonometa postica* moth.



Figure 10 – Stamp of Brazil 2001 with highly toxic caterpillar of *Megalopyge opercularis* moth.





Figure 11 – Stamp of Venezuela 1968 with caterpillar of *Spodoptera frugiperda* moth.



Figure 12 – Stamp of Guinea-Bissau 1991 with caterpillars of *Earias insulana* moth.

terpillar stages because of the damage they cause to fruits and other agricultural produce, whereas the moths are obscure and do no direct harm. In the Old Testament of the Bible caterpillars are feared as pest that devour crops. Caterpillar of the fall armyworm or *Spodoptera frugiperda* moth is regarded as a pest and can damage and destroy a wide variety of crops, which causes large economic damage. Its scientific name derives from *frugiperda*, which is Latin for lost fruit, named because of the species' ability to destroy crops. Destruction can happen almost over night, because the first stages of a caterpillar's life require very little food, and the later stages require about 50 times more. Because the larvae eat so much of the plant, they are very detrimental to crop survival and yield. In corn, larvae will even burrow into the corn ear to eat the kernels (Figure 11). The fall armyworm *Spodoptera frugiperda*, is a harmful moth, the larvae of which feeds in large numbers on the leaves, stems and reproductive parts of more than 350 plant species, causing major damage to economically important cultivated grasses such as maize, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and wheat but also other vegetable crops and cotton. Native to the Americas, it has been repeatedly intercepted at quarantine in Europe and was first reported from Africa in 2016 where it caused si-

gnificant damage to maize crops and then in 2018 also found in some countries of Asia.

The Egyptian stemborer (*Earias insulana*) is found in most of Africa (Figure 12), southern Europe, the Near East and Middle East, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Australia and Hawaii. The larvae feed on okra, cotton and hibiscus, but have also been recorded on rice, sugarcane and corn. Full-grown larvae are 13–18 mm long. Initially, larvae tunnel into the buds of their host plant. Later, the larvae feeds on the bolls, which become brown and fall off. The larvae tend to move from boll to boll of cotton and the damage they cause may be disproportionate to their numbers.

The brown-tail moth (*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*) is distributed from North Africa across Europe to the Middle East. The caterpillar of this moth feeds on the foliage of hardwood trees and shrubs including: oak, shadbush, apple, cherry, beach plum, and many other hardwood trees (Figure 13). Larval feeding causes reduction of growth and occasional mortality of valued trees and shrubs. The larva is very hairy, brown with white markings, and two prominent red spots toward the tail end. The hairs provide protection from predator. Hairs from the caterpillars are toxic for humans, causing a poison duration due to mechanical and chemical irritation. Caterpillars weave their

nests between host twigs in a tent shape. Historic mentions of brown-tail moths dating back to 1500s, describing outbreaks in Paris, London and Berlin so severe as to completely strip all trees of leaves by caterpillars. Non-specific host plant feeding combined with its tendency to reach extreme outbreak densities makes this species a major pest of fruit orchards, ornamental trees and hardwood forests.

The fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea*, is a pest of a number of ornamental trees and shrubs as well as of several agricultural crops. The larvae feed in huge nests and are able to completely defoliate trees and shrubs (Figure 14). Native to North America, this species has become an invasive pest throughout Europe and Asia. The neonate caterpillars place the web over single leaves and feed by skeletonizing, thus harming trees. Larvae have been recorded from more 400 species of forest and shade trees, primarily hardwoods, but also several conifer species.

The codling moths (*Cydia pomonella*) are spread all over the world, ranging from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, and islands in the Pacific. These moths are major pests to agricultural crops, mainly fruits such as pears and apples (Figure 15). The codling moth caterpillars bore into a fruit within 24 hours of hatching from their eggs, usually traveling between 1.5 m to 3 m in search of a fruit. Although apples are their dominant food source, they are polyphagous, feeding on a wide variety of fruits from pear, walnut, apricot, peaches, plums, cherries, and chestnuts. The caterpillar bores through the fruit until it reaches the seminal chamber of the fruit. There, the caterpillar bites into the seeds and halts the growth of the fruit. The fruit ripens prematurely as a re-

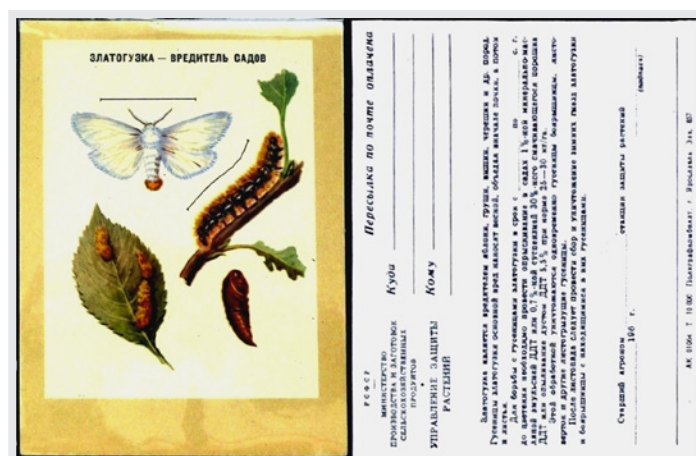


Figure 13 – Stationery card of USSR 1965 with text 'postage paid' instead of printed stamp illustrates caterpillar of harmful moth *Euproctis chrysorrhoea*.



Figure 14 - Stationery card of Romania 1956 with caterpillar of harmful moth *Hyphantria cunea* in the illustration on the left.





Figure 15 - Caterpillar of the *Cydia pomonella* moth in apple on fancy cancel of USA 1873.



Figure 16 – Entire postal of Romania 1960 with white caterpillar of silkworm moth.



Figure 17 – Caterpillar of the moth *Bombyx mori* on special cancel of Japan 1937.

sult. Because the caterpillar of the codling moth bore into fruits and stop their growth, codling moths are major agricultural pests. The main purpose in life for caterpillars is to eat—and man, they're good at it! But not all caterpillars are harmful. Some species of caterpillar are valued as sources of silk, as human or animal food, or for biological control of pest plants. Some caterpillars are used in industry. The silk industry is based on the silkworm (*Bombyx mori*) caterpillar (Figure 16). For more than five thousand years man has been using beautiful textiles made of natural silk from chrysalises of the silkworm moth caterpillars. Before changing into a chrysalis the silkworm caterpillar spins very long strong threads to make its cocoon, which harbours a beautiful secret within – silk.

The importance of silkworm caterpillars in medicine is also great. In Oriental medicine silkworm caterpillars are used in the treatment of epilepsy, colds and some women's diseases. This improves sleep, appetite, and general condition. In Japan developed biotechnological method of obtaining interferon using silkworm caterpillars (Figure 17). Interferon preparation used in medicine for the prevention and treatment of many viral diseases.

Larvae of some species of butterflies and moths serve as food for many ethnic groups around the world. They are often prepared charcoaled in salty water or, in some cases, fried or mixed with other food. These insects contribute a great amount of energy and protein to indigenous diets. In some areas of Africa, the large, spiny mopane worms (caterpillars of the *Gonimbrasia belina* moth) are so popular that when they are in season, crawling all over village and jungle trees, the sale of beef and other protein meats is seriously affected. The ca-

terpillars are found mainly in the bushveld from Mozambique and Zimbabwe to Namibia and South Africa (Figure 18), where village women collect them in the early spring, often popping one into their mouth after deftly pinching out the pungent-smelling insides. Later, the women stew them with tomato, onion, and a wild spinach-like green, or fry them, then sprinkle them with salt and lemon juice. Leftover mopane may be dried in the sun. Any way they are prepared, South African government researchers claim that just twenty of the protein-rich caterpillars will satisfy an adult male's entire daily requirement for calcium, phosphorus, riboflavin, and iron.

Cosmopolitan butterfly Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) is very useful in agriculture, as its caterpillars feed on thistles, nettles and wormwood (Figure 19). Painted lady caterpillar is a polyphagous herbivore that has been recorded feeding from more than 100 different plant species. Before the Second World War, thistles were very prolific in the United States. Their caterpillars destroyed all the weeds, and the farmers turned to the Department of Agriculture with a request if there was some way to induce mass reproduction of thistles every year so that they always clear the fields of weeds.

Caterpillars of some species can be used to control weeds. The most striking example is the cactus fireball (*Cactoblastis cactorum*), specially brought to Australia in 1925 from Uruguay and from the northern regions of Argentina. Caterpillars of this butterfly helped to get rid of the introduced prickly pear cactus, which overgrown millions of hectares of pastures (Figure 20). In 1938, Australian farmers erected a special monument to the caterpillars that saved Australia in the Darling Valley, Queensland.



Figure 18 – Caterpillars of the *Gonimbrasia belina* moth as African Delicacy on the Venda stationery card 1991.



Figure 19 – Weed-eating caterpillar of Painted lady butterfly on souvenir sheet of Antigua & Barbuda 1991.





Figure 20 – Stamp of Ascension Island 1998 with caterpillar of *Cactoblastis cactorum* moth.



Figure 22 – Stamp of China 2018 depicts an ancient ivory cultural relic in the shape of a silkworm caterpillar.



Figure 21 – Stamp of Great Britain 1966 with green caterpillar in beak of bird – three color errors.

Caterpillars do their part to maintain balance in nature. Caterpillars are a food source for some animals. Caterpillar is a key element in the food chain, serving as prey for birds (Figure 21), beetles, ants, wasps and some other insects.

Insects have found uses in art, as in other aspects of culture. Ivory work in the shape of a silkworm caterpillar is present in Antique Chinese decorative arts (Figure 22).

The stage of caterpillar lifecycle is temporary. Whether fuzzy, bumpy, spotted or striped, each one is a unique larval form of a moth or butterfly. We might be surprised at the adult it will become.

I hope that my article, illustrated by different types of philatelic material, will stimulate the interest of philatelists in further researching of philatelic material with Lepidoptera theme. I also think that thematic philatelists will be find in my article interesting information for further searching of unknown philatelic materials with butterflies and moths and the development of their collections. I wish for enthusiasts of thematic philately had new discoveries and enjoyment. Author always glad to share his experience and to help for philatelists with butterfly and moth theme in improving their philatelic collections. Please write for author by e-mail: [vladimirkachan@mail.ru](mailto:vladimirkachan@mail.ru) Post address is: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9 - 49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus.

# Forever **stamped** on your memory!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace





## Back to school



It's been a little over 140 years since Jules Ferry made primary school compulsory for everyone in France with the law of 28 March 1882. Nearly 50 years earlier, in 1833, François Guizot had required that every village with over 500 residents have a primary school. In addition, he made primary school compulsory for all boys.

Illustrated "Back to school" postcard  
Old Le Rainey back to school postcard



Generations of children have come and gone on school benches since the 19th century. At the end of every August, the new school year smells of new pencils and notebooks! The great progress made in terms of teaching, mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, coincided with the start of the democratisation of photography. Photographers left their studios and immortalised a few new school years in postcards at the end of the 19th century and, especially, at the beginning of the 20th century. We're happy to introduce them to you on Delcampe!

Illustrators were busy too, as you will see in the postcards we've selected. Big names like Arthur Thiele were also involved. In addition to immortalising the return to school, it was common practice to send best wishes postcards for the new school year.

We wanted to pay homage to these old postcards for this new school year. This article is illustrated with some of them.

**There are, of course, many others to discover on Delcampe!**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Old Authon du Perche back to school postcard

Old Gagny back to school postcard.

Old back to school postcard illustrated by Arthur Thiele





a dealer and collector. I've been collecting postcards of Aachen since then.

**What do you like about Delcampe?**

I started selling on Delcampe in 2013. What I like about Delcampe, is that I have a very loyal clientèle. My goal is to offer them very nice items at a reasonable price.

I currently put between 80 and 100 new coins up for sale every day. I take photos a few days ahead of time when I have downtime between two customers and I sell about 1,000 a month.

**What is the oldest coin you've sold?**

The oldest coin I've sold in my career was from 1500 before Jesus Christ.

I've sold several ancient coins at very reasonable prices. You can find ancient silver coins for between €50 and €100. People are surprised.

**How do you determine the condition of coins?**

The condition of coins is a difficult issue. People find coins at home and polish them to make them prettier. When a coin is oxidised, you shouldn't polish it. That's a big mistake!

I'll show you an example: Here is a set of coins from the French Revolution. There are some absolutely exceptional coins. Here are some Louis XVI ecus. One is very rare. It's a half ecu from the French Revolution with the effigy of Louis XVI.

You have to look at both sides of the coin to make sure that the design is well preserved. On these coins, you have to look at the hair on one side



**On the left page**

Louis XVI medal

**On this page**

Set of coins from after the French Revolution. The fleurs-de-lys have more or less disappeared, depending on the condition of the coin.

France 1792, half denier with the effigy of Louis XVI in very good condition.





Octagonal token with the effigy of Louis XVI

Westfalen medal 1797

Two Louis XIV ecus in very different conditions!

and the condition of the fleur-de-lys on the other side. That way you can determine if the coins in question are in good condition or not.

In terms of price difference, these are all silver coins, so there won't be a great difference between them. In fact, collectors usually look for dates they're missing and for letters (workshops) to complete their collections. The most worn ones will sell between €45 and €50 and the best ones for about €65.

I'll also show you some tokens and medals from the French Revolution by well-known engravers. There are also trial coins, that is, coins that were never in circulation.

Assessing the price of a coin is very complicated, because there are many criteria that need to be taken into account: rarity, quality, etc.... Many people refer to price catalogues, but they're sometimes too enthusiastic about prices compared to market realities.

Delcampe is more realistic when you look at coins that have already been sold.

**What would you recommend to someone who is thinking of investing in numismatics?**

My investment advice would be to avoid modern coins like euros or 20th-century coins because there are too many in circulation. I

would say that the best period is between 1718 and 1850. Ideally, high quality silver items. You can't lose with those ones. I had that kind of collection myself and it saved me because I made a substantial profit when I needed money.

#### **What about banknotes?**

That's also very complicated because there are rare notes from the end of the 20th century and

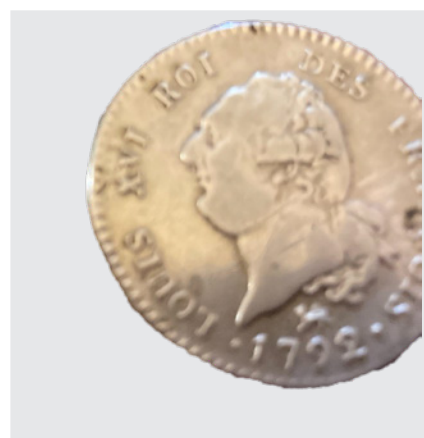
notes that are worthless even though they are from the previous century. In that case, I recommend betting on quality and focusing on the period between 1860 and 1910. I think that's where you have the best results. Overall, and despite the fact that coins have existed for much longer than notes, there are more different notes than there are coins.

### **Period fakes**

Walburge\_collection showed us a period fake during the meeting. The real coin is silver, whereas the fake coin is made from brass that was plated with silver at the time and which has since worn away. There are also fake gold coins which are actually gold-plated brass.

This fake money was used to scam people. You can tell the fakes because there is always a difference in their weight and sound. If you go back to the Middle Ages, or even Antiquity, people already clinked coins together to make sure they were real. That's where the expression "or sonant et trébuchant" (hard cash) comes from.

There are no famous counterfeiters. They generally made a few dozen coins and were then caught. Today, you can collect and sell fakes on Delcampe, on condition, of course, that they are identified as such in the title and description of the item.



Authentic and fake coins with the effigy of Louis XVI.





## The collectors' marketplace