

# delcampe

The free magazine for collectors

Classic Collections No. 5 / 2023

MAGAZINE



## Stamps

Open philately

## Postcards

And so we dance

## Coins

Secular coins

## Photography

Prom queens

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# Editorial

It's been exciting at Delcampe since January! Since Sébastien Delcampe has been on television, team motivation is at its highest to continue pampering the Delcampe community!

He comes into contact with all sorts of unusual objects, but the stars of the Delcampe Magazine aren't the items seen on *Affaire Conclue* on French TV, but rather those of the classic collections close to your heart.

Stamps, coins, old postcards and photographs from yesteryear are the stars.

For our coin collectors, and thanks to Dominique Hollard of SENA, I invite you to discover secular coins, that is, antique coins struck for the Roman century games. I hope that this very interesting topic will fire up your curiosity. With respect to more modern coins, we'll be talking about 10,000-franc Belgian notes.

And philately hasn't been forgotten, of course. The Academy has pro-

vided us with the feature of the month, presented by Hervé Barbelin. We'll also talk about the open class and Charlemagne thanks to stamps from Andorra, and the topic of silk. Kevin will give you a good laugh with the varia article.

Postcard collecting will put a smile on your face too, thanks to the April Fools' tradition, and we'll be travelling to Africa to see zebras. And then, we'll dance. With respect to dancing, we'll start with folk dances like the *bourée* before moving on to the aristocrats to discover the history of *débutante* balls. We hope that you'll be inspired by their graceful dance steps!

And, I hope with all of my heart that you will continue to appreciate your Delcampe Magazine and its ever-renewed enthusiasm to provide you with articles of many different styles. Happy reading!

Héloïse Dautricourt

# Forever **stamped** on your memory!



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## Post Luxembourg celebrates the first century of the first commemorative stamp sheet in the world!



Sheets of stamps, or souvenir sheets, are highly sought after by collectors. They feature an illustration in which there is one, or several stamps. The sheets are often issued to celebrate an event. They are known as commemorative sheets.

Since stamp collecting began at the same time as the first stamps were issued, making fans around the world, post offices quickly started to work to please collectors, outdoing each other in creativity to offer beautiful products, including the souvenir sheet.

The first commemorative sheet of stamps in the world is a hundred years old. It was issued by Luxembourg. The dark green 140 stamp valued at 10 francs is attached to a white sheet. It is number 1A, which was issued to celebrate the birth of Princess Elisabeth of Luxembourg, who was born on 22 December 1922.

The sheet was issued in 5,100 copies. The sheet is for sale on Delcampe for over €500, well below its quoted value.

Other countries soon followed Luxembourg, France among others for the 1925 Paris exhibition. Currently, several hundred commemorative sheets are issued every year around the world. Which means that paying homage to their ancestor is the right thing to do.





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# Top SALES

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## France

N.127/28 \*\* Retouched Mouchon series 1902

€ 529



## Greece

Postal stationery 10L, Cancelled "Athens 25 March 1896" (Julian calendar), Opening day of the first modern Olympic Games on 6 April 1896 (Gregorian calendar),

€ 1,250



## France

Airmail PA15, Block of 4x50f "Burelé" dated June 15 1936

€ 1,800



## Indochina

Indochina, Superb registered letter franked and cancelled on June 3, 1904 in Saigon for Johannesburg via Aden, then re-franked and redirected to Pretoria,

CHF 1,350



## Monaco

N°43 5f +5f, Wedding day of Princess Charlotte 20/03/1920, Calves certificate

€ 2,490



## Martinique

Superb letter franked Colonies Générales, Six No. 2 + one No. 5, St-Pierre to Nantes, 1867, Roumet certificate,

€ 875

# The special pneumatic mail system reduced rate, known as “de l'orage” (the storm rate) (1927)

By Hervé Barbelin of the Academy of Philately

The conference used press clippings along with sample correspondence to tell the story of a special rate in response to a weather event.

The conference used press clippings along with sample correspondence to tell the story of a special rate in response to a weather event.

A storm burst the sewer system and flooded the basements of the “Segur” telephone exchange to a height of two metres on the afternoon of 11 July 1927. It followed on an earlier storm which had caused flooding rising to 50 centimetres on 6 July and a fire caused by a short-circuit on 25 June, which had led to damage that was about to be repaired. The exchange accumulators and distributors were flooded and 12,000

subscribers in the Invalides, Segur and Vaugirard telephone sectors, which normally depended on the Segur exchange, had their telephone service cut off. The official repair time was expected to be several weeks.

The postal minister, Maurice Bokanowski, initially took two usual steps in these instances: he suspended collection of the subscription fees and provided users access to public telephone booths at the same rate as if they were using their subscriber telephone. Faced with protests by users due to the perceived poor compensation for a disruption due to last several weeks, the minister then decided that subscribers could, as of 18 July 1927, and for the period during which their telephone service would be disrupted, send and receive mail via the pneumatic system at the cancellation rate of 0.30 francs (that is, the unit price of a call) instead of 1.50 francs (the rate of the first pneumatic mail service level, 01/05/1926). The rate was even lower than for a single letter at the domestic rate (0.50 francs).

The mail of the type sent by the subscribers had to be deposited at the counter of one of the offices of the 7th, 14th or 15th arrondissements or at the counter of the suburban municipality for suburban subscribers



First day of the measure, 18 July 1927; benefits from the measure allowed with the telephone number of the sender (Segur). The signature of the PARIS 102 counter (boulevard Pasteur, in the 15th arrondissement) proves the validity of the cancellation. The telephone number of the recipient was not required.

connected to Vaugirard. Subscribers had to prove their eligibility by providing their latest telephone bill or their subscriber contract.

To benefit from the same rate, the pneumatic mail sent to subscribers had to show the telephone number of the subscriber on the mail, in addition to their address.

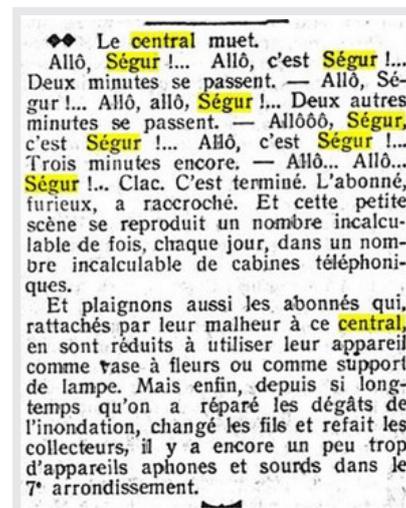
Other Parisian telephone exchanges were impacted by the same weather event and the subscribers affected requested the benefit of the same service. However, it was not granted on the basis of the fact that their service had not been disrupted for as long. There was, however, one known exception, which was presented at the conference.

Completion of the repairs at the Segur exchange were first announced and celebrated on 15 August, but the announcement was premature. It took another two months to fix the problem.

It was only on 24 October 1927 that a circular from the government announced that the telephone lines of the subscribers who had been impacted by the floods in July were again working. And that the special rate of €0.30 for pneumatic mail sent by the subscribers or their correspondents would end on receipt of the circular. In the end, the "storm rate" would last three months and seven days.



Le Petit Journal, 20 July 1927



Le Petit Journal, 12 October 1927.



A later (and not very up-to-date) illustration of the special "storm rate" of 17 October 1927, Paris 60 (rue de la Convention, 15th arrondissement), destination serviced by Paris 80. The subscriber's telephone number (Vaugirard 08-60/74) does not appear on the envelope, but this is likely because they were well-known, which meant that they were allowed to use the special rate for this mail.



## SENA\* Conference: coins from the Roman Empire's secular games

On 7 October, in the prestigious setting of the Monnaie de Paris, Dominique Hollard presented a very interesting topic. It's now my pleasure to tell you about it, based on his presentation.

The topic covered coins related to the Roman Empire's secular games. Before starting, it's important to point out that the games were secular. According to Roman tradition, the games were intended to celebrate the end of one century and ask for the benediction of the infernal gods for the next century.

Shortly before the start of the games, public criers would invite the population to attend the games "Games that none have ever seen and will never see again".

The first secular games represented in coins were organised by Augustus, the first Roman emperor, with the assistance of a college of fifteen members, the *quindecimviri sacris faciundis*, presided over by the emperor and those close to him.

The first secular games under Augustus were held in -17. The idea was that they should take place every 110 years, which was the maximum life span of a person at the time, in order to comply with the message "Games that none have ever seen and will never see again". However, there were also secular games in the strict meaning of the term, that is, every 100 years starting in 48. The year 48 was the anniversary of the founding of Rome in -753, according to Varro.

The coins of the period featured the games. Under Augustus, in -17, there were coins with the inscription "LVDOS SAEC", that is *Ludos saeculares*, meaning secular games.

The coins in question featured different as-

\* *Société d'études numismatiques et archéologiques* (Society for numismatic and archeological studies)

Augustus aureus from -17 with the announcement of the secular games on the reverse.

pects of the games. First came the announcement of the games by the public crier carrying the attributes of Mercury, the messenger of the gods. Next came the distribution by the priests of the *suffimenta* (inflammable materials) which were used for ritual purifications.

There was also a coin representing the sacrifice of an animal, which was an offering to the gods. Lastly there was a coin with the *Cippus* (a stone stela with inscriptions) which indicated the actual holding of the games.

Other emperors continued the tradition after Augustus. They included Emperor Claudius, who organised the games of 48 to celebrate the 800-year anniversary of the foundation of Rome, as well as Domitian, who minted a large number of coins featuring the secular games. The tradition was continued.

In 248, Emperor Philip the Arab organised secular games to celebrate the millennium of Rome's foundation. The emperor was called "the Arab" because he was born in Syria. Some sources also say that he was the first Christian emperor. The sumptuous games were obviously promoted by the coins both with Philip I



Augustus aureus from -17 distribution of the *suffimenta* on the reverse.

Augustus aureus from -17 sacrifice on the reverse.

Augustus denier from -16 with a *cippus* on the reverse.

Domitian (88?) denier with a *cippus* on the reverse.



on the obverse or Empress Octacilia or their son Philip II. Many of the coins have animals on the reverse, notably an elephant, which symbolised eternity for Rome.

The secular game tradition was lost during the next century, under the reign of the Christian emperors. When Rome fell in 76, according to late pagans, it was because the tradition was lost, angering the gods!

The coins are a beautiful testimony to the past, documenting the games which certain ancient authors wrote about. They provide an interesting introduction to the events of the times!

**Other ancient coins are available for sale on Delcampe.**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Philip the Arab antoninianus, Philip 2 and Octacilia on the obverse, a chariot race on the reverse

Octacilia aureus, carrying a virgin *cippus* on the reverse.

Philip the Arab sesterce with the eternal elephant on the reverse.

# Top SALES

delcampe.net



**"Louis XVI, Roi des Français"**

1/2 silver ecu,  
France - 1792

€ 8,910



**Charles Quint**

Gold escudo,  
Spain - (1516-1555)

€ 750



**Queen Elizabeth II Golden Sovereign**

Condition: XF  
Great Britain - 1958

€ 412



**John III Doukas Vatatzes**

Golden Hyperpere Nice-  
ne Empire, Condition : XF  
Byzantium, Histamenon, 1222-  
1254

€ 500



**Philip VI**

Écu d'or à la chaise,  
Trésor de Pontivy, NGC  
grading, Condition: XF  
France, 1343

€ 6,275



**Prince Honoré V**

extremely rare 40 franc  
gold proof, condition:  
VF,  
Monaco, 1838

€ 1,200



# And so we dance!



A few weeks ago, Dave Hill, one of our regular chroniclers, sent me some postcards from his collection. They feature a dance from the Auvergne region of France called the “bourrée”. I really liked the subject and decided to share it with my dear readers.

The *bourrée* is a folk dance for two or four people in which there is no contact between the dancers. They tap their feet on the ground and make quite a bit of noise when they wear their traditional clogs. The dance was invented before the 17th century and spread in the south of France. Its purpose wasn't to seduce, but rather to have a good time with friends.

Since I liked the topic, I looked for other postcards featuring folk dances on Delcampe. My search was met with great success. Here are a few other popular regional dances:

### The “vouâle”

This dance is derived from the *bourrée*. It's popular in southern Auvergne. It follows the steps of the *bourrée* and is also a traditional peasant dance.

### The “delphinale” from Grenoble

This dance takes its name from the Dauphiné region where it became popular. The *delphinale* is a popular peasant dance. There is little information available about it, except that it has been part of agricultural tradition since the 18th century and that it also appears to be a cousin of the *bourrée*.

#### On the left page

Semi-modern postcard, the *farandole* from Provence

Old postcard, dance from Normandy

#### On this page

Old postcard, the *voûale*.

Semi-modern postcard, the *delphinale* from Grenoble.

Old postcard, the *bourrée* from Auvergne.





**The “gigouillette”**

The gigouillette is a popular traditional dance from Normandy in which couples hold hands in a kind of circle and do eight polka steps and jumps. The dance is very rhythmic and lively.

**The “farandole” from Provence**

Back to the south with the *farandole* from Provence! The farandole is a traditional festive circle dance. In the beginning, it was usually danced around a fire, for example, for the feast of Saint John.

We hope that you liked this overview, which is far from being exhaustive, and that it inspired you to try a few dance steps.

**Discover other postcards on the theme of dance on Delcampe!**

[CLICK HERE](#)



Old postcard, the *gigouillette*.

Old postcard, the *poya*.

Old postcard, the *bourrée*.

# Top SALES

delcampe.net



## Original media photo of gymnast Nadia Comaneci (Romania)

Gold medalist on beam at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal

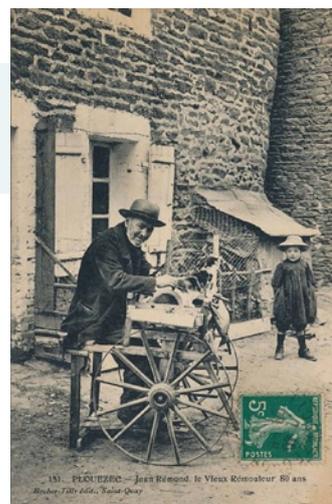
€ 340



## China

Rare original photo of the departure of a military balloon at the beginning of the 20th century, Format: 8 x 11 cm

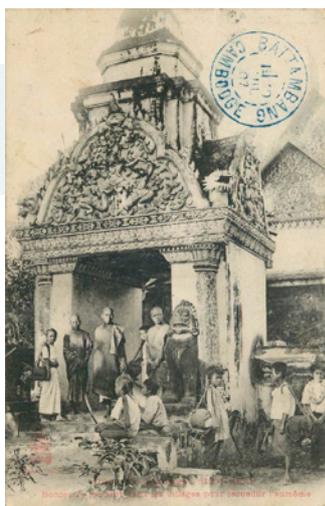
€ 401



## France

Very rare postcard, Plouezec, Jean Rémond, le Vieux Rémoleur 80 years old, dated 29 August 1911

€ 1,500



## Cambodia

Bonzes going to the villages to collect alms, Siem Reap to Cabourg Calvados, August 1907

€ 756



## Armenia

family picture, Women in traditional clothing, late 19th century

€ 261



## France

framed picture, Two motorcyclists on their motorbike in 1909

€ 488

# The legend of Charlemagne in Andorra

By Philippe Louviau of Philandorre

Even if you have to invent a few legends, having Charlemagne as the representative of your small country is very prestigious. All the more so when the first words of the national anthem refer to Charlemagne.

## The history

Charlemagne (born in 742 or in 748, depending on the source) - eldest son of Pepin the Short - crowned King in 768 together with his brother Carloman. He became the only king on the latter's death in 771. His reign was - from a military standpoint - a series of campaigns (1):

- The war against the Lombards (773-774)

- The war against the Saxons (772-803)
- The war against the Avars (791-796)
- The war against the Saracens (778-812)

totalling 50 military expeditions to consolidate the borders of his empire. For the rest of this article, we will only refer to the campaigns against the Saracens. At the time, in Spain, the caliphate of Cordoba (loyal to the former Umayyad dynasty) was at war with several provincial governors, who represented the new Abbasid dynasty. One of them, the Emir of Zaragoza, Sulayman al-Arabi, was unsuccessful in combat and was chased from his city. He crossed the Pyrenees and went to Paderborn in 777 to request Charlemagne's help. The latter couldn't let the opportunity to weaken the Saracens and take over a large chunk of Spain get away.

Charlemagne travelled to the Pyrenees in early 778. Before crossing the mountains, he ensured the allegiance of Lupo II, Duke of Gascony. The Frankish troops crossed the mountains, one army corps to the east and



1: Map of the Iberian Peninsula in 814 with Charlemagne's campaigns.

the other to the West. The soldiers conquered the Ebro Valley then joined forces before Zaragoza. Unfortunately for Charlemagne, they were not successful: the city's old Roman walls resisted the assaults of the Franks.

The conquest of the Spanish territories was not yet solid. It took six new expeditions over the following 30 years, between 797 and 812 to finally assert domination over these lands. For example, Barcelona was only taken again in 801. These campaigns were led by Prince Louis the Pious (2) (778- 840) the son of Charlemagne and King of Aquitaine since 15 April 781. The lands conquered south of the Pyrenees became the Spanish March, divided into counties. The county of Urgel included Andorra.

### The legend of Charlemagne in Andorra

They are truly legends because all of the military campaigns in Spain were carried out from 797 by his son Louis the Pious, King of Aquitaine.

Charlemagne's troops, which came from Toulouse, via the Ariège Valley - travelled through the mountains from Ax and entered Andorra (3) through the Fontargente Pass (2260 m) then the Valley of Incles. Legend has it that, to attach his horse, Charlemagne had a large iron ring embedded in a rock at Xuclant, which can still be seen today. And it was said that he had his horse drink from a trough at Engordany.

According to legend, during the victorious battle of the Carolingians and the Andorrans against the Saracens at a place called La Serra de l'Honor (the Mountain of Honour), Emperor Charlemagne felt overcome by the heat and went to the river. He used his sword



2: French, Andorra, 1963, Louis the Pious, son of Charlemagne and King of Aquitaine, also called Louis the Debonaire (wrongly used since the 13th century).



3: French, Andorra, 1963, Charlemagne crossing Andorra.





4: French, Andorra, 2010, the legend of Charlemagne's chair.



5: French, Andorra, 1978, Charlemagne's house at Puy de l'Olivesa on the heights of Sant-Julia de Loria.



6: French, Andorra, 2007, the Virgin of Sabart, who appeared to Emperor Charlemagne.

to cut a large rock into a chair and rested there (4).

The "House of Charlemagne", located near Sant-Julia de Loria, is part of the same tradition. At the top of a steep slope is a 100-metre rock called Puy de l'Olivesa. It is topped by the Bastida de Pons, a farm which is visible from the road (5). The buildings were built on the ruins of a fortress of which the chapel still remains. Charlemagne apparently stayed there. Before the fire of 1865, people still showed the room in which the emperor spent the night.

In addition, the road which leads from Port de Siguer to the Ariège Valley, takes us through Tarascon-sur-Ariège where another legend associates Charlemagne with this region.

In 778, around 8 September, according to legend, the Carolingian emperor set up camp around Tarascon to engage bands of Saracens. While they were pursuing one of the bands through the valley, during a stormy night, he wanted to inspect the area with one of his knights. His horse suddenly stopped at the foot of a mountain. Charlemagne spurred the flanks of his steed three times but the animal wouldn't move, then backed away. He had come face-to-face with a group of spies. Charlemagne got off his horse, joined his companion and, with his sword, dispatched the Saracens.

A luminous Virgin appeared where his horse had reared up, and disappeared immediately.

When morning came, on their leader's orders, the entire army gathered at the place of the apparition. Two white heifers, which the king himself led, stopped and the ploughshare discovered a bronze statue which was set on an improvised altar of stones. An invisible hand had engraved the words: "Our Lady of Victory".

The king decided to take the Virgin of Victory to the new Abbey of Saint-Volusien in Foix, but it returned twice to where it had first appeared. That left no room for doubt. Jesus' Mother would be honoured in this uncultured land. He ordered that a chapel be built on this now-divine land and called it Sabart (6). An annual pilgrimage was devoted to the emperor's victory.

### The foundation of Andorra by Charlemagne

Stamps issued in 1963 and in 2002 evoke the foundation of Andorra by Louis the Debonaire in the case of the former (7) and Charlemagne, in the case of the latter (8).

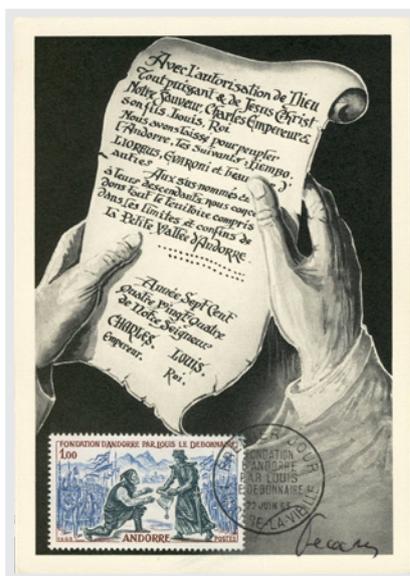
The date 784 appearing on these postcards causes difficulties for two reasons: there is absolutely no record of an expedition against the Saracens that year, although Louis the Debonaire (778- 840) became King of Aquitaine in 781, he was only six years old in 784.

On the other hand, *La Carta Pobla* (town charter) - kept in the cathedral of Seo de Urgel - indicates

that in 804, Charlemagne and Louis the Pious granted the Bishop of Urgel the right to raise a tithe on the valleys of Andorra. According to the most recent research, this was invented between 1135 and 1162 by an Andorran to slow the episcopal goal of having the Andorran valleys pledge allegiance.

In any event, the legends above aside, filiation with Emperor Charlemagne is always prestigious. Thus, the Andorran national anthem, which was composed in 1914 with words by Joan Benlloch i Vivo (9) (1864-1926), Co-prince of Andorra from 1906 to 1919 – clearly claims this filiation (10): “El gran Carlemany mon pare dels àrabs em deslliurà...”

“The great Charlemagne, my Father, from the Saracens liberated us...”



7: French, Andorra maxicard, 1963, the foundation of Andorra by Louis the Debonaire.



8: French, Andorra maxicard, 2002, the founding of Andorra by Charlemagne.



9: Spanish, Andorra, 1980, Joan Benlloch i Vivo, Co-prince bishop of Andorra, author of the lyrics of Andorra's national anthem.



10: French, Andorra, 1980, Charlemagne and the first words of Andorra's national anthem.



# What about open philately?

By Stéphane Hecq



Some twenty years ago, in order to reignite collector interest in showing their collections and to boost visitor interest in the frames exhibited, the idea of combining stamp collections with non-philatelic material took root. This gave birth to the open class, as it was known in its early days.

The goal is to show a collection which consists of minimum 50% philatelic material and maximum 50% non-philatelic material. As is the case with any competition, there is, nevertheless, a rule book and directives to be followed when setting up and presenting a collection.

The subjects covered in this type of collection are often an extension in philately of a hobby or a subject dear to the collector.

Ancient letter Mission Citroën from 1924.

Citroën vinyl collector's item.

## Materials

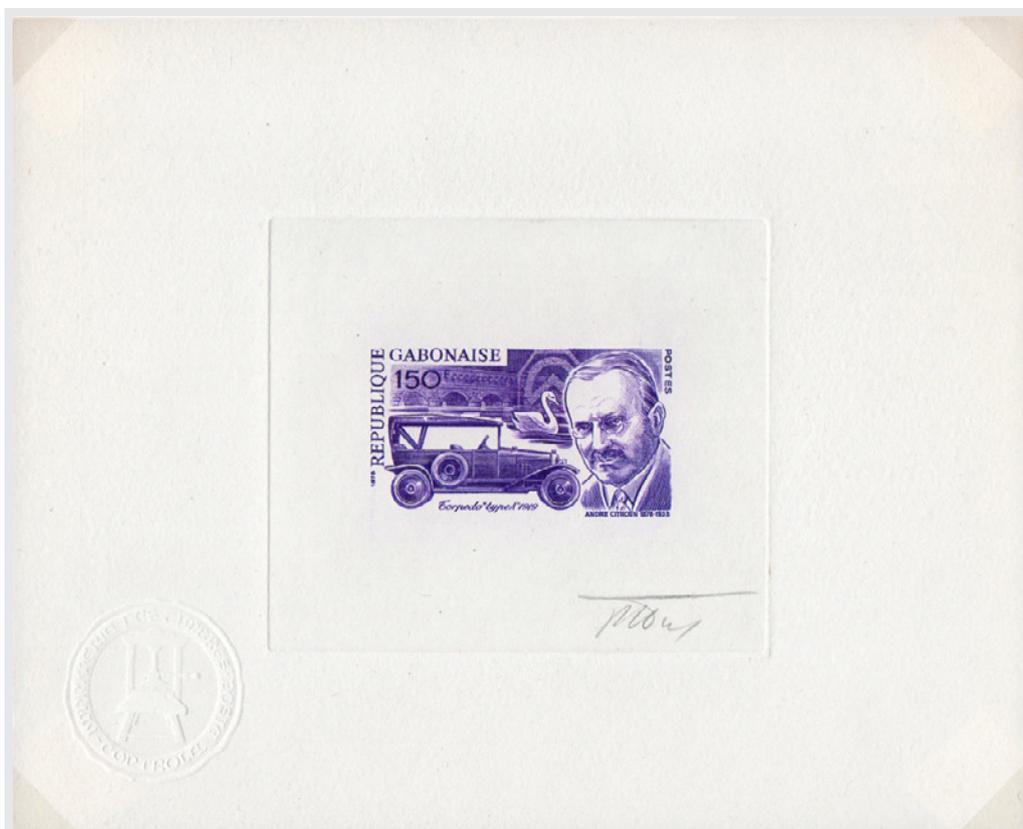
The basic idea is to create a collection containing minimum 50% philatelic material (stamps, envelopes (which have preferably travelled) (avoid FDCs) postal cards, telegrams, pictorial cancellations, special cancellations, essays, books, etc.) and 50% non-philatelic material which must always be related to the main subject of the collection (postcards, pins, stickers, key chains, paintings, bird feathers, seeds, tree leaves, transport and entrance tickets, invoices, bank notes, coins and medals, sugar bags, records or CDs... in other words, nearly any objects possible and imaginable as long as they don't contravene good morals and are no thicker than 5 mm (to ensure that the exhibition frame can be closed

with protective plexiglass).

The 50% count as part of the overall collection and not by exhibition sheet, which means that you can have an entirely philatelic sheet and another which is not philatelic at all. However, to ensure visual harmony, it's preferable to vary and use as many different items as possible.

## Developing the collection

Before starting, you'll have to decide on the theme you want to develop, then consider the best way to handle the subject with all of the materials you already have. Also think about everything that touches directly or indirectly on the topic and start to gradually develop a more complete inventory. You will often have to purchase items



Gabon 1977, André Citroën stamp proof.



France 1889, Obverse and reverse of a medal dedicated to the construction of the Eiffel Tower.

you're missing. You can find many of them on your favourite site: Delcampe.

It's a fact that all of the ideas won't come to you in a day, but rather as you put your collection together and, sometimes, as you make new discoveries, new avenues will open up to you. It's a long-term project, which you'll find captivating and culturally enriching (although a little less so for your wallet).

If you don't mind my giving you a little advice: take your time and ease into things while slowly but surely collecting items related to your subject. Your collection will be better and you won't ruin yourself by buying items at any price because you've run out of time. Don't go overboard either. For a beginner, one frame (16 sheets) or 3 frames (48 sheets) will be a good start. You'll be able to show for a first time in a regional competition and correct any little errors afterwards.

As is the case with any collection, you can start and do very nice things with a relatively small budget. However, it would be wrong to say that this will always be the case, because, if you're ambitious about competing, you'll have to invest in rarer, and more expensive items at some point. You'll have to improve on your previous exhibits at each stage of competition.

### The plan

The plan is your collection's guideline. It summarises the subject and breaks it down. Generally speaking, the items you select must fit together logically and, preferably, chronologically, in order to ensure that visitors and the jury understand the collection and how it developed. The plan must appear at the start of the collection (on one of the two first pages, and never at the end of the collection).

### The jury's grading system.

This is the grading sheet the jury will use to give you points. As you can see, in open philately, both the philatelic and the non-philatelic material is taken into account in assessing the collection. This is contrary to the themed class, which means that it's important to also present high-quality and varied non-philatelic items to ensure that you don't lose points.

The jury assigns points to obtain a percentage, which then translates into an award based on a medals table.

The jury will also comment and provide some advice. In this case, it's best to take this into account to correct small mistakes and apply the recommendations for later showings of the collection

Criteria Critères		Punten Points		Opmerkingen en / of raadgevingen Remarques et/ of raadgevingen	
1	Titre et plan	10	30		
	Traitement	20			
2	Connaissance Phil.	20	35		
	Connaissance non Ph.	15			
3	Qualité	10	30		
	Rareté	20			
	Présentation		5		
Total		100			

### Presenting the frames

Sheets are placed in large frames in the exhibition halls. A frame contains 16 A4 sheets.

### The frames

are grouped by category and your collection will be side-by-side with other collections in the same category. Generally speaking, the organisers will identify the category above the frame, sometimes with your name and the name of the collection, and a frame number.

Sheet media selection

To set up your collection, you must use either A4 (27cm x 21 cm) sheets or an A3 (42 cm x 21 cm) sheet. The number per frame will be set up in 4 rows of 4 A4 sheets (one A3 counts as 2 A4s). It's preferable to use thin cardboard which is light in colour or slightly coloured. Note that black and very dark colours are forbidden in competition.

I hope I've convinced you to explore this type of collection, with which you'll learn many new things. It's sometimes surprising what you can find out about a topic. Before starting, next time you go to a show, be sure to take a look at the collections of people who are already involved in open philately and ask them for their advice!

Rating sheet of the members of a jury in open class.

France, 200-franc banknote with the effigy of Gustave Eiffel.





# Strange birds!



The zebra is an animal from central and southern Africa. It's a member of the horse family. It's very recognisable thanks to its black and white stripes. Apparently, the original species were more grey than black.

Semi-modern postcard with zebras  
Old postcard of zebras at the zoo





# The Belgian 10,000-franc banknote

Among the last Belgian banknotes was the 10,000-franc banknote with the effigy of King Albert II and Queen Paola. The note would currently be worth €250. They were not used very much because, at the time, it was a very large amount of money. Very few people did their shopping with this banknote. It was used from 1997 to 2001.



The banknote replaced one of the same value with the effigy of King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola, which also had a short life, from 1992 to 1997. One side had a stylised illustration of the Laeken greenhouses and the other, the portrait of the king and queen. The banknotes were state-of-the-art in terms of security technology and should really have had a longer life span. King Baudouin died unexpectedly on 31 July 1993.

Today, the banknotes can reach €500 or more on Delcampe, that is, twice their value. This is proof that they are quite rare. Few people kept them when the euro was introduced. On the other hand, they are essential for collectors of Belgian banknotes.

**Want to buy one? You can find them on [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net), the marketplace for collectors!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**On the left page**

Belgium, 10,000-franc banknote with the effigy of King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola

**On this page**

Belgium, 10,000-franc banknote with the effigy of King Albert II and Queen Paola





## Prom queens!



While young girls are thinking about choosing THE dress that will fit them perfectly at their university or graduation prom, I wanted to invite you to a little trip into our past to show you that this prom tradition is not new!

Pictures of *débutantes* at the ball.

The word ball comes from the verb baller which, in old French, meant to dance. There have always been balls. Their existence has been mentioned since the Middle Ages. Gathering the nobility, they were the occasion of courteous meetings between «well-born» young people.

Royalty used to organise sumptuous ones. Imagine what a ball in the Château de Versailles could be like!

In the 18th century, the first debutante balls appeared, providing an opportunity to present the young girls of high society at elegant festivities.

As years went by, the doors of the proms became more and more open to the public. Nowadays, it is common for young people graduating from school to attend a prom. This American tradition has been imported to Europe and offers an unforgettable memory to our teenagers.

For a long time, parents have been immortalising these precious moments so that their children will remember them forever. And as this tradition of balls is not new, it is common to find photos of them on Delcampe. You can have fun guessing the periods thanks to the dresses and hairstyles and imagine these debutantes, probably a little stressed to miss a dance step.

**Want to see more? Check out Delcampe!**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Pictures of women in evening dresses.



# A reason to smile

## Introduction

The history of newspaper cancellations [1] is one of a facility granted to printers to respond to growing reader demand, to pay taxes due (fiscal and postal) and to enable just-in-time delivery. Printers had to include the stamp on the first, white page, of the newspaper then print the paper, which cancelled the stamp<sup>1</sup> typographically.

Collectors take pleasure in spending time understanding the past life of the objects in their collection.

In this article, by reading 19th century newspapers, which are at the heart of a newspaper cancellation collection, we want to entertain you and have you share the point of view of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, who said: "A smile is often the most essential thing. One is repaid by a smile. One is rewarded by a smile."

## Aerostats can finally be manoeuvred: putting "beefsteak" to good use...

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 broke out on 19 July 1870 and ended with the capitulation of Napoleon III in September, with the defeat of France, then the loss of Alsace-Lorraine, when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 26 February 1871. The siege of Paris from 19 September 1870 to 28 January 1871 was one of the significant events of the war.

Parisians were under siege and had to communicate with the rest of the country. Aerostats, gas balloons common-

ly known as *ballons montés* (balloons with pilot), were very effective to get through enemy lines. The aerostat technology developed by the Montgolfier brothers in the 18th century made it easy to gain altitude by dropping part of the ballast on board on departure. It was also possible to control the descent by dropping a rope to the ground in the hope that someone could take a hold of it to anchor the balloon.

The immediate outcome of this rudimentary technology was that it was impossible to steer an aerostat and the wind alone decided on the direction the balloon would take. That being said, French creativity was not under siege and people proposed innovative ideas to steer the aerostats.

We've reproduced an excerpt from the Journal de Villefranche of Thursday, 8 December 1870 [2]. Paris is under siege and it is said that "satisfactory experiments have been carried out with the Jardin-des-Plantes' eagles

attached to a basket. The experiments were carried out in the presence of Mr Rampont, the managing director of the post office, Mr Chassinat, head of the Seine department, and Mr Mattet, principal collector. Four or six strong birds were fastened to the balloon. They were directed by an aeronaut using a piece of raw meat attached to a long stick held in front of them: the voracious birds tried, in vain, to reach the meat but it continued to move ahead of them. When the aeronaut wished

to change the direction of travel of the balloon, he moved the steak either to the left or to the right or downwards or upwards if he wanted to ascend or descend.”

### What if smileys were already used in the 19th century?

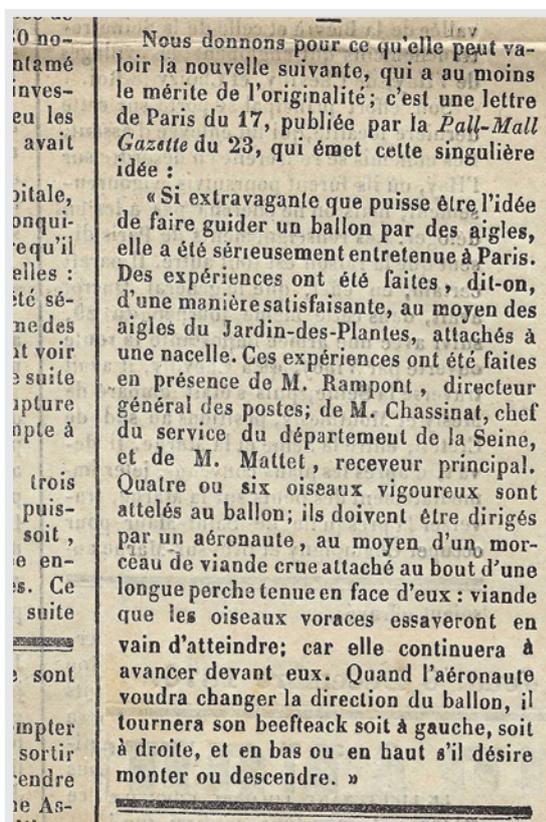
Smileys are so omnipresent these days that they are accessible via a character font on our smartphones. Last 7 June, La Poste issued a book of self-adhesive stamps<sup>2</sup> to celebrate the 50 years of “The Smiley Company”.

As is often the case with Internet-related technology, the history is confused, likely because it’s too recent. It should be noted that the word smiley<sup>3</sup> is a generic word which describes emojis and emoticons, very different techniques the purpose of which, in both cases, is to represent an emotion with a symbolic face:

- Emoticons<sup>4</sup> use typographical characters and are, therefore, potentially, older than printing itself. The best-known ones are :- ) and :-( that is, happy and unhappy faces. There is also a Japanese version, called kaomoji, which is enriched by the diverse Japanese punctuation, for example anger (#`Д´). The purpose of an emoticon is to symbolically represent an emotion.
- Emojis<sup>5</sup> appeared more recently



[1] Typographical cancellation with a 1c empire with laurel on the Journal de Villefranche of 8 December 1870  
Cancellation of a non-political newspaper distributed in the department or a bordering department



[2] An excerpt of the Journal de Villefranche of Thursday, 8 December 1870 entitled “Du bon usage du ‘beefsteack’”

Demandez à Paris  
MAISON DU  
**PONT-NEUF**  
RUE DU PONT-NEUF — PARIS  
Le Nouveau Catalogue et les Gravures des Vêtements  
pour Hommes, Jeunes Gens et Enfants  
**ÉTÉ 1888**  
Envoi Gratia et Franco

COMPLET Haute Mode <b>21</b> fr.	COMPLET drap noir <b>27</b> fr.
PANTALONS Nouveauté <b>6</b> fr.	COMPLET Coutil chiné <b>8</b> fr. 50

[3] Page 3 of the L'Avenir newspaper of Saturday, 21 April 1888 Emoticons from 1888 together with a remedy for gout

**Refusez les contrefaçons. — N'acceptez que nos boîtes en fer blanc, avec la marque de fabrique Revalésière du Barry, sur les étiquettes.**

PAR LA BOUCHE  
**SAUVEZ LES ENFANTS REVALESCIERE DU BARRY, de LONDRES.** — Partout on déplore que l'enfant — la joie de la famille et l'espoir de la nation — est fort maltraité. Par l'ignorance seule d'es mères ou des nourrices, il en meurt la première année 60,000 en France et 40,000 en Angleterre! Cette mort est due à un allaitement trop fréquent, ou bien à l'usage du lait de vache ou de chèvre, ou à la panade — tous aliments inadmissibles, et qui, ordinairement, amènent une irritation de la muqueuse, et, comme suite inévitable, l'échauffement ou la diarrhée, les vomissements continus, l'atrophie, les crampes, les spasmes et la mort. On a reconnu que la digestion d'un jeune enfant, une fois compromise, les drogues les mieux choisies sont impuissantes à réparer le mal! C'est un fléau pour la famille et pour le pays que cette destruction cruelle! Il y a pourtant un moyen simple et peu coûteux d'y parer, et qui a fait ses preuves depuis trente ans : c'est de nourrir le bébé et les enfants malades ou faibles de tout âge avec la *Revalésière du Barry*, toutes les trois heures de la journée, simplement bouillie à l'eau et au sel.

*C'est en somme la nourriture par excellence qui, seule, réussit à éviter tous les accidents de l'enfance.*

Citons quelques preuves de son influence invinciblement salutaire, même dans les cas les plus désespérés :

Cure N° 85,410.  
Rue du Tilsut, Valenciennes (Départ), 13 juillet 1877.  
Ma nourrice m'ayant rendu mon enfant, âgé de trois mois et demi, entre la vie et la mort, avec une diarrhée et des vomissements continus, je l'ai nourri depuis de votre excellente Revalésière. Dès le premier jour que je le nourrisse à la Revalésière, toutes les trois heures, l'enfant ouvrait ses chers petits yeux et riait. Après trois jours de ce régime, l'enfant reprit sa santé, à la surprise de tous ceux qui l'ont vu revenir de chez cette misérable nourrice. Il serait à désirer que toutes les mères de famille aient connaissance de cette excellente nourriture. Mes remerciements affectueux.  
ELIZA MARTINET ALEY.

Cure N° 86,416.  
M. le docteur F.-W. Beneke, professeur de médecine à l'Université, fait le rapport suivant à la clinique de Berlin, le 8 avril 1872 :  
« Je n'oublierai jamais que je dois la préservation de la vie d'un de mes enfants à la Revalésière du Barry. »  
L'enfant, à l'âge de quatre mois, souffrait, sans cause apparente, d'une atrophie complète, avec vomissements continus qui résistaient à tous les traitements de l'art médical. La Revalésière arrêtait immédiatement les vomissements, et rétablit la santé de l'enfant en six semaines de temps.  
Quatre fois plus nourrissante que la viande, elle économise encore 50 fois son prix en médecine. En boîtes : 1/4 kil., 2 fr. 50; 1/2 kil., 4 fr.; 1 kil., 7 fr.; 12 kil., 60 fr. — Les Biscuits de Revalésière enlèvent toute irritation et toute odeur fétideuse en se levant, ou après certains plats compromettants : oignons, ail, etc., ou boissons alcooliques, même après le tabac. En boîtes, de 4, 7 et 60 francs. — La Revalésière échauffée rend l'appétit, bonne digestion et sommeil rafraîchissant aux plus éreintés. En boîtes de 12 tasses, 2 fr. 25; de 24 tasses, 4 fr.; de 48 tasses, 7 fr.; de 96 tasses, 10 fr., environ ou 40 c. la tasse. — Envoi contre bon de poste, les boîtes de 32 et 60 fr. franco en France. — Dépôt à Saint-Brieuc, chez MM. MARCOSSET, épiciers; TOUSSY, BARRE, épiciers, rue du Collège; E. LOCO, épicier, Marché au Blé, et partout chez les bons pharmaciens et épiciers. — Du BARRY et Co, 26, place Vendôme, et 8, rue Castiglione, Paris; et 59, rue du Rhône, Genève.

**Excellente occasion**  
**BON BILLARD A VENDRE**  
S'adresser au propriétaire, rue Jouffran, 1.

**LES ARDOISES DE TREGNANTON**  
Commune de Saint-Gelven (Côtes-du-Nord)  
MÉRIALLÉES DEPUIS 1865  
sont incontestablement de qualité supérieure.  
S'adresser à A. DURAND-VACCARON, à St-Gelven, par Gouézec.

**CARRIÈRES DE TALL-AN-DOUR**  
En BOURBRIAC (Côtes-du-Nord)

M. J.-M. LE GUILCHER, entrepreneur à Bourbriac, à l'honneur de présenter MM. les Propriétaires et Entrepreneurs qu'il tient à leur disposition des pierres de taille pour constructions et travaux d'art. Ces pierres sont vendues brutes ou travaillées, au gré des acheteurs.  
On a prétendu que M. LE GUILCHER ne faisait extraire des pierres que pour ses constructions; c'est complètement inexact. Depuis plusieurs années qu'il exploite ses carrières, M. LE GUILCHER a toujours été et est encore aujourd'hui en position de fournir des pierres de toutes dimensions aux personnes qui veulent bien l'honorer de leur confiance.  
M. LE GUILCHER se charge, comme par le passé, de l'entreprise des constructions.  
S'adresser, pour les commandes de pierres, à M. J.-M. LE GUILCHER, entrepreneur, à Bourbriac (Côtes-du-Nord).

**SULFURÉES, SODIQUES ET CALCIFIQUES**  
**Eaux-Bonnes**  
Bains-Pyrennes. — Sables 15 Mai — 15 Sables.  
Rhume, Bronchite, Angine, Oronalations, Laryngite, Asthme, Catarrhe, Goutte, Gravelle, Affaiblissement, Lymphatisme, Uniques contre la Phthisie pulmonaire. Dépôt dans toutes les Pharmacies.

[4] Last page of the La Presse Langroise newspaper of Friday, 21 September 1877. L'alimentation avec Revalésière du Barry et le remède Eaux-Bonnes.

and are images which were created by telephone operators to minimise communication. While emoticons symbolise emotions, there are now emojis for virtually everything, including pizza!

La Poste's book celebrates the 50th anniversary of the filing of the patent of an iconic image created by the journalist Franklin Loufrani<sup>6</sup> to inform the readers of France-Soir where to look for the good news in the paper. What is the current status of the typographical version of the smiley?

In an excerpt from the newspaper L'Avenir dated Saturday, 21 April 1888 [3], the chief editor mischievously informed readers about a remedy against gout by introducing his humorous column with a series of emoticons.

### The universal elixir against all ills

The peddler selling miraculous remedies is a stock character<sup>7</sup> for fans of Western films. These fake pharmacists and real conmen, didn't hesitate to peddle their supposedly universal elixir against all ills, truly a panacea.

The real goal was, obviously to take advantage of the naivety of onlookers and, nowadays, these kinds of scams are unheard of (although sometimes...).

Far removed from Western mythology, reading newspapers from the 19th century will also make you smile when you come across those offers for miraculous cures.

Eaux-Bonnes [4], sulphur water, sodic and calcic, was appropriately named because it cured colds, granulation (which is no doubt a very painful condition, although it's hard to define, or even imagine...), asthma... and, especially "phthisis", that is,

pulmonary tuberculosis. With hindsight, we should be asking why antibiotics were invented, since sulphur water was able to cure tuberculosis! One question comes to mind: did we try the ferruginous water popularised by Bourvil's skit<sup>8</sup>?

Alphonse Baer's antineuralgic water [5] is another remedy to remember. It provided an INSTANTANEOUS CURE for migraines and "toothaches, even when they have cavities". No doubt a way to maintain your spending power while saving on dentist fees!

Lastly, we will provide a little relief for asthma sufferers who also suffer from constipation [6]. On the one hand, the potion of Mr Aubrée, a physician/pharmacist in Ferté-Vidame really does cure asthma and, on the other hand, only Podophyllum Coirre provides a radical cure for constipation, "without purging". For those who, unluckily, like Gaston Ouvrard, as he said in his famous song<sup>9</sup>, "have oversensitive kidneys" and suffer from renal colic, Mr Aubrée can help thanks to a "special treatment".

[5] Last page of the La Presse Langroise newspaper of Wednesday, 20 October 1875 L'eau antineuralgique d'Alphonse Baer dans les principales pharmacies de France et de l'étranger.

[6] Last page of the La Presse Langroise newspaper of Friday, 9 July 1875 Relief for asthma sufferers who also suffer from constipation

#### NOTES:

1. "Comprendre les annulations typographiques de journaux" by Didier Galagain, L'Écho de la Timbrologie, n°1971, April 2022
2. Philinfo of June 2022 available at <https://www.lecarredence.fr/philinfos/philinfo-juin-2022/>
3. From the English "to smile"
4. Portmanteau combining emotion and icon
5. From the Japanese emoji: e, image, and moji, letter, character
6. "Smiley : 50 ans et toujours le sourire" by Gabrielle De Montmorin, Les Échos of 9 February 2022 <https://www.lesechos.fr/weekend/mode-beaute/smiley-50-ans-et-toujours-le-sourire-1385710>
7. Story on peddlers on the Forum Westernmovies <https://forum.westernmovies.fr/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=18699>
8. Bourvil «L'eau ferrugineuse» or "La causerie du délégué de la ligue antialcoolique" on the INA website <https://www.ina.fr/ina-eclair-actu/video/i05057828/bourvil-l-eau-ferrugineuse-ou-la-causerie-du-delegue-de-la-ligue-anti>
9. «Je ne suis pas bien portant» - Gaston Ouvrard. Lyrics: Géo Koger. Music: Vincent Scotto, Gaston Ouvrard, 1932



# April 1st for postcard lovers



April 1st is traditionally April Fools' Day. It's a day when hoaxes and jokes are rife at home and in the media. The tradition isn't new. It apparently goes back to the 15th century, but could be even older. In antiquity and in the Middle Ages, the tradition was celebrated on 25 March and was called Hilaria.

Old April 1st postcard

While there are different explanations about what could have given birth to the event. It's one of the fun times of the year and can be celebrated either with a joke told to make someone believe something or as a paper fish tacked to a person's back.

The tradition is very widespread. It's found in most European countries but also beyond our borders. In China, Japan and the United States, and Brazil, where the day is called "Dia das mentiras" which translates to "the day of lies".

As is the case for many special days, postcard publishers also get into the act and produce beautiful fantasy postcards. Over 22,000 postcards on the subject have already been sold. The most successful card is a water-colour featuring Punch riding a fish. It sold for €62.

Generally speaking, April 1st postcards are affordable and collections can be quite extensive. The result is fun, as you can see from the few examples shown here.

**If you want to discover more, go to the [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net) where you'll find a category dedicated to them.**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Old April 1st postcard



# The secrets of silk in philately

By Vladimir Kachan, Bélarus

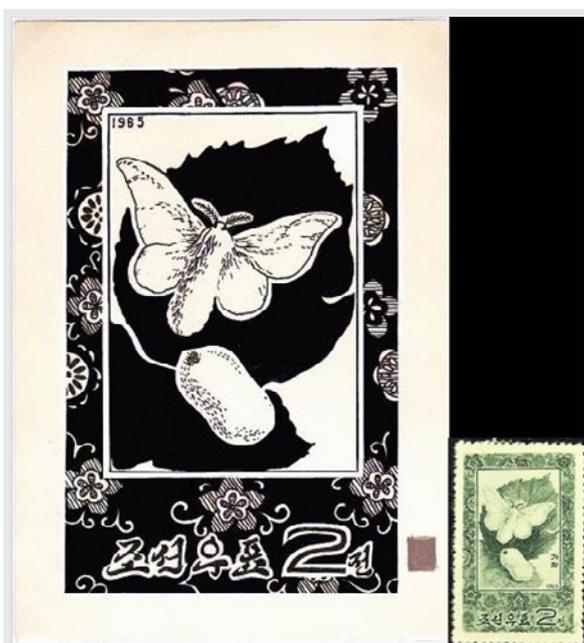


Figure 01



Figure 02

Silk is a soft, smooth cloth that has been used by humans for thousands of years. It is made of fine threads woven by silk-moth caterpillars. These tiny creatures weave the threads into cocoons to protect themselves during metamorphosis. Human beings can harvest the cocoons and extract the threads to make silk fabric. Silk is a precious commodity. It is generally used for making expensive and very impressive looking garments (textiles). It is actually called the queen of textiles because of its glittering luster, soft feeling, elegance, durability and tensile properties, unmatched by other textiles whether natural or artificial. Sericulture has been a very important industry for a long time. The main producer of natural silk is the silkworm with scientific name

*Bombyx mori* (Figure 1 - Designer's drawing and normal stamp of North Korea 1965 with silkworm *Bombyx mori*). Probably more than 99% of the silk in commerce in the world today comes from a single species called the silkworm or mulberry silk moth. This species is believed to have been cultivated in China since ancient times and is used today around the world for educational and scientific study as well as for producing textiles.

The silkworm is one of the few domesticated winged insects. For 5000 years, the caterpillars of this moth, or silkworms, have been spinning thread, weaving their cocoons, from which people produce silk. The silkworm caterpillar is known as the silkworm (Figure 2 - Purple cachet of Germany 1948 with silkworm caterpillar). It

is large, up to 8 cm long, fleshy, whitish in color, with a horn-like appendage at the end of the abdomen. Before pupation, the moth caterpillar surrounds itself with a cocoon of silk thread, which it produces from a specific spinning gland. The silk glands of the caterpillar secrete a silk fiber (silk), which is highly elastic and extremely durable. The finished silk fiber is capable of withstanding a load of up to 46 kg per 1 mm<sup>2</sup> section. When pupating, the caterpillar secretes one whole thread, up to 1000 m long, which it winds around itself in the form of a silky cocoon (Figure 3 - Handstamp in cocoon form on the Brazil stampless letter 1850). In the factory, silk is separated from the cocoon and stretched into thread and yarn. For the production of one silk product, such as a dress, it takes about two thousand silkworm cocoons. Silk products are very expensive, which is associated with the laborious process of obtaining silk threads. But natural fabric has a special richness and charm, and products made of silk thread are still considered an indicator of status and good taste in clothing.

According to Chinese legend, the Empress Leizu, also known as Xi Lingshi, wife of the Yellow Emperor, "discovered" silk almost five thousand years ago. She had tea in the garden, and a cocoon of a silkworm fell in her cup by chance. Trying to take it away by silk thread, she got the first thread, having unwound the cocoon (Figure 4 - Stamp of China 2019 depicting Empress Leizu harvesting silkworm cocoons). The Empress Leizu also started se-



Figure 03



Figure 04

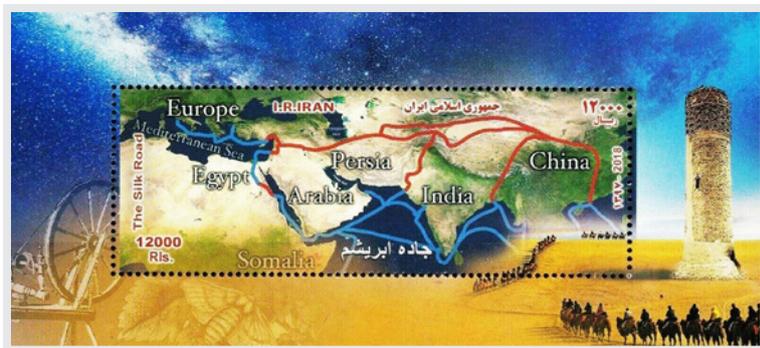


Figure 05



Figure 06



Figure 07

riculture on a scientific plan and invented the loom for weaving silk into cloths which were not only prized in China itself, but were eagerly sought after in India, Persia, Greece and Rome. Silks were originally reserved for the Emperors of China for their own use and gifts to others, but spread gradually through Chinese culture and trade both geographically and socially, and then to many regions of Asia. Because of its texture and luster, silk rapidly became a popular luxury fabric in the many areas accessible to Chinese merchants. Silk was in great demand, and became a staple of pre-industrial international trade. The silk trade reached as far as the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa (Figure 5 - Souvenir sheet of Iran 2018 with silkworm and the Great Silk Road). This trade was so extensive that the major set of trade routes between Europe and Asia came to be known as the Silk Road. Today, the main countries for the production of silk are India and China. Also, mulberry worms are widely bred in Japan, Korea, and in Europe (Figure 6 - Pre-stamped letter of Italy 1856 with Mayor cancel of Povegliano depicting silkworm moths).

Several kinds of wild silk, which are produced by caterpillars other than the mulberry silkworm, have been known and used in China, South Asia, and Europe since ancient times. However, the scale of production was always far smaller than for cultivated silks. In sericulture, the Chinese oak tussar moth (*Antheraea pernyi*) is also used, which has been bred in China for more than 250 years (Figure 7 - Designer's drawing and normal stamp of North

Korea 1965 with moth *Antheraea pernyi*). Silk is obtained from its cocoons, which is used for the manufacture of comb, a durable, lush silk. This tussah is a natural beautiful golden color and an excellent hard-wearing fabric.

The Japanese oak silkmoth with scientific name *Antheraea yamamai* is used in sericulture for produce Tensan silk (Figure 8 - Proof of North Korea 1991 with *Antheraea yamamai* moth). This species has been cultivated in Japan for over 1000 years. The cocoon is easy to unwind. The silk thread obtained from it is soft, thick, shiny. In terms of strength, it is equal to the thread of a silkworm, and surpasses it in elasticity. The silk is naturally pale green in color.

*Samia Cynthia* or the Ailanthus silkmoth, is a saturniid moth, used to produce silk fabric (Figure 9 - Designer's drawing and normal stamp of North Korea 1965 with moth *Samia cynthia*). The Ailanthus silkmoth is the only other species of completely domesticated silkworm in its larval form, along with *Bombyx mori*. Its the woolly white silk is very durable and even elastic, as well as having a structure which makes it warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The species occurs naturally as various subspecies over much of far-east Asia, including China, India, and Japan, but this species was imported from overseas into many other countries as part of an attempt to start a silk industry there, including Italy, USA, and for the same reason also into New South Wales, and Tasmania.

*Attacus ricini* is a beautiful big moth found in Asia which feeds on the castor-oil plant and yields seven gene-



Figure 08



Figure 09



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

rations yearly, forming loose flossy orange-red and sometimes white cocoons. Eri silk comes from the moth *Attacus ricini* (Figure 10 - Proof of North Korea 1991 with *Attacus ricini* moth), which has been domesticated for the purposes of sericulture. This silk is mainly produced in North East India, but also produced in Southeast Asia. Eri silk is heavier compared to other types of silk. It is a strong and durable fabric that has a coarse texture. It used for various items, such as shawls, blankets, pillowcases, and various other items.

Currently, there is information about 80 species of moths occurring in Asia and Africa to produce wild silk of economic value. *Actias artemis* is one from the wild silk moths which native to Japan, Korea, China, India and Malaysia (Figure 11 - Proof of North Korea 1991 with *Actias artemis* moth). Even at the Ukrainian Experimental Silk Station (the city of Merefa) in the 1970s, the moth *Actias artemis* was bred to obtain natural silk.

The Tasar moth or *Antheraea paphia* is the silkworm that produces tropical tasar silk and is produced in eastern India (Figure 12 – Special cancel of India 2003 with *Antheraea paphia* moth). The silk is a natural brown or beige color and has been produced for thousands of years. Many eastern tribes of India find this silk an important part of their culture. It is used to make various clothing items such as saris, scarves, wrappers, and kurtas.

*Actias selene*, the Indian moon moth or Indian luna moth, is a species of saturniid moth from Asia (Figure 13 - Stamp of Grenada-Grenadines 2001 with *Actias selene* moth). *Actias sele-*

ne is known also as wild silk worm of India. It has durable brown silk. Therefore, its conservation and exploitation in silk industry is integral part of sericulture. A single cocoon of this moon moth can give continuous fiber of 300 to 350 meters.

In India, the moth *Attacus atlas* is bred (Figure 14 - Stamp of South Vietnam 1968 with error in overprint and with the image of the moth *Attacus atlas*), the caterpillars of which secrete silk that is different from that of the silkworm - it is brown, stronger and woolly - and is called fagara silk. Various shades of brown and tan silks are produced. The color depends on the plant that the caterpillar feeds upon. Many products are produced from this type of wild silk, such as ties, purses, shirts, and scarves.

*Attacus edwardsii*, or Edward's Atlas moth, is one of the world's largest species and the largest Asian silkworm, with wingspan reaching up to 25 centimetres (Figure 15 - Stamp of Yemen 1990 with giant silkworm *Attacus edwardsii*). Fagara silk is produced also from the large moth, *Attacus edwardsii*. This moth is from the tropical regions of southeastern Asia.

*Caligula japonica* or the Japanese giant silkworm, an endemic species in eastern Asia, is not only an important forestry pest to be controlled, but also a precious wild silkworm resource to be domesticated for silk production (Figure 16 - Rejected design of North Korea stamp 1971 with *Caligula japonica* moth). The Japanese giant silkworm is a producer of expensive silk. *Caligula japonica* is the only one of the wild silkworms in Japan whose cocoons are sometime gathered and used. The



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18

price of *Caligula japonica* silk is about ten times higher than that of usual natural silk.

The species *Gonometa postica* moth has become notable in Africa for producing a fine quality wild silk in its cocoon (Figure 17 – Stamp of Namibia 2010 with *Gonometa postica* moth on the tab). The cocoons are harvested commercially in Namibia, Botswana, Kenya and South Africa, and the species also occurs in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The moth *Gonometa rufobrunnea* is used also for the Kalahari Wild silk in Africa (Figure 18 – Stamp of Botswana 2000 with moth *Gonometa rufobrunnea*). Kalahari Wild silk has been produced in Johannesburg, the North West Province of South Africa, eastern Namibia, and eastern Botswana. The silk has been used to produce scarves, shawls, and clothing. The silk has a natural golden brown color, which is often preferred instead of dyeing.

Sanyan silk is a product from West Africa and has been produced for centuries. Caterpillars of *Anaphe panda* moth mass together (about 300) and they make a communal cocoon, which in Nigeria is processed into silk yarn and woven into special cloth called 'sanyan' or 'aso oke' (Figure 19 – Souvenir sheet of Congo 1999 with moth *Anaphe panda*). These cloths are worn during special ceremonies such as funerals. Only rich people can afford them. The high quality of *Anaphe panda* silk provides excellent opportuni-

ties for African countries.

The moth *Antheraea polyphemus* from the North America is sometimes used as a source of commercial silk (Figure 20 – Stamp of Malawi 2013 with moth *Antheraea polyphemus*). Its caterpillars spin brown silk cocoons. *Antheraea polyphemus* has the most potential for silk production of any North American wild silkworms.

Natural silk is a wonderful fabric that has no analogues, its history is covered with ancient legends, and the production process has changed little over several millennia. Silk's absorbency makes it comfortable to wear in warm weather and while active. Its low conductivity keeps warm air close to the skin during cold weather. It is often used for clothing such as shirts, ties, blouses, formal dresses, high fashion clothes (Figure 21 - Essay of Belgium stationery card 1961 with silk fabrics in advertising), lining, lingerie, pajamas, robes, dress suits, sun dresses and Eastern folk costumes.

The author wishes new research and discoveries for philatelists. The author is ready to help for philatelists in creating or improving of philatelic exhibits on butterflies and moths. His address: Vladimir Kachan, street Kulibina 9-49, Minsk-52, BY-220052, Republic of Belarus, E-mail: [vladimirkachan@mail.ru](mailto:vladimirkachan@mail.ru)



Figure 19



Figure 20

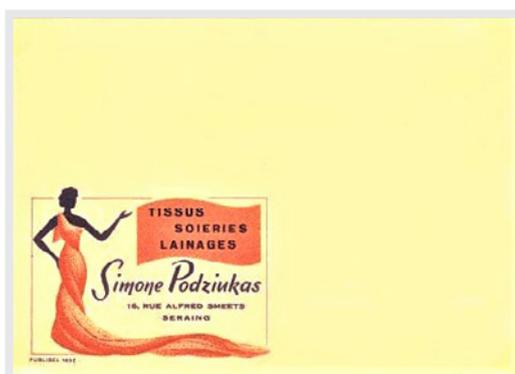


Figure 21

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