

*"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"*

# **THE PATENT - OVERPRINT**

The combined monthly newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs

**November 2025  
Number 74**

**The November meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library in historic downtown Lebanon. Please bring along an item or two from your collections to share with the rest of the club! We are also going to start collecting dues for 2026, so you may give those to Don Smith starting with Tuesday's meeting.**

## **A report from our club president . . .**

November 13, 2025

Hi all,

Just a report from the other side of the pond.

My history has shown that the most dangerous thing for me is time to kill at a stamp show with no agenda. This also includes being given access to a small handful of "something" not heretofore collected.

Case in point. Last week I went to Paris to attend a large stamp bourse that I have attended for at least the past 10 years. Part of the tradition is to have the traditional two-hour French lunch at a nearby restaurant with friends of long standing.

Several months ago, I wrote a piece for "The Patent", the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club newsletter, about French liberation stamps. (Late in 1944) This subject fascinated me to the extent that I bought the authoritative book on the subject.

At the bourse last week, while poring through a box of "Guerre" covers, I ran across several Liberation issue covers. There were two problems for me. 1) I knew almost nothing of what I was seeing and 2) the dealer's default price seemed to be 30 euros. There were easily 6-8 covers I'd have liked to acquire. The price turned me off and I left empty-handed. But one word popped

into my head - Delcampe. I vowed to look at Delcampe to see what was there and for what prices. Long story short, I have bought 16 covers and about 20 individual stamps on Delcampe. The auction on a 17th cover closes tomorrow and I expect to win it. If I win that last cover, I will only have 271.64 euros plus shipping invested in a new collection. Color me excited!

This subject is quite complex and not short on pitfalls. These overprinted stamps were issued in several French towns, mostly in August of 1944. Surprising to me is that the first issue was in German-occupied France, not free France. The issue quantities are generally small and, of course, almost everything has been counterfeited. I figure I'm fairly safe in buying mostly all covers showing genuine usage. I had many purely philatelic covers to choose from, but stayed away from them. As you can imagine, the large cities like Bordeaux had several stamps issued and small towns had very few. And prices are in line with this. The book/catalogue that I bought is 321 pages long and wisely stays away from pricing. The book was written in 1964 and any pricing would be way out of date anyhow.

As to the bourse in general, it was a four-day affair, Thursday through Sunday. There were 47 dealers, several stamp-issuing countries (mostly French territories) and a few publishers. I always attend on the first day, Thursday. Mostly retirees in attendance and not many 9-to-5ers. Attendance seemed to be brisk. La Poste, the French Post Office, always has a large presence. Rather than having to stand in line, customers are given numbers, which are called for service. Last year I got a number as soon as I walked in the door, about 15 minutes after the doors were opened, and it took between 3 and 4 hours to get to my number. It's a good system really. With number in hand you can do the show and check back periodically to see how close they are to your number.

My friend, Sophie Bernardin, was there with her new publication. She was the editor of L'Echo de la Timbrologie for 20 years and lost that position last year when Y&T bought a competing journal and brought in that editor to continue as editor-in-chief. Sophie's new publication is supposed to be an intellectual endeavor with a side of philately. I received my first issue three days before the bourse. Time will tell.

This is always a fun day for me. Paris is only 90 minutes by train for me. The bourse is easily reached via Metro from the train station. The bourse is a 2-block walk from the Metro station.

I've been to two monthly meetings of the Paris Stamp Club, one this week. I will also make the December meeting. I am scheduled to present my Victorian G.B exhibit at the April 2026 meeting. Gotta get busy translating the text that accompanies the Power Point.

Guess that's it from here.

Have a good Thanksgiving (Not celebrated here!) and Christmas, too. We'll be back in Lancaster before you know it, and I'll see you very soon.

Best regards,

Dick

## French Postal Markings

*By Richard Colberg  
President of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club*

In the realm of postal history collecting, every marking on a cover, front and back, is important. While searching through hundreds of dealers' boxes of covers looking for covers for my two French postal history exhibits, I have come across many interesting covers with no bearing on the present search. I've bought several of these covers without breaking the bank. In this issue I will show you some of these finds and explain what's up.

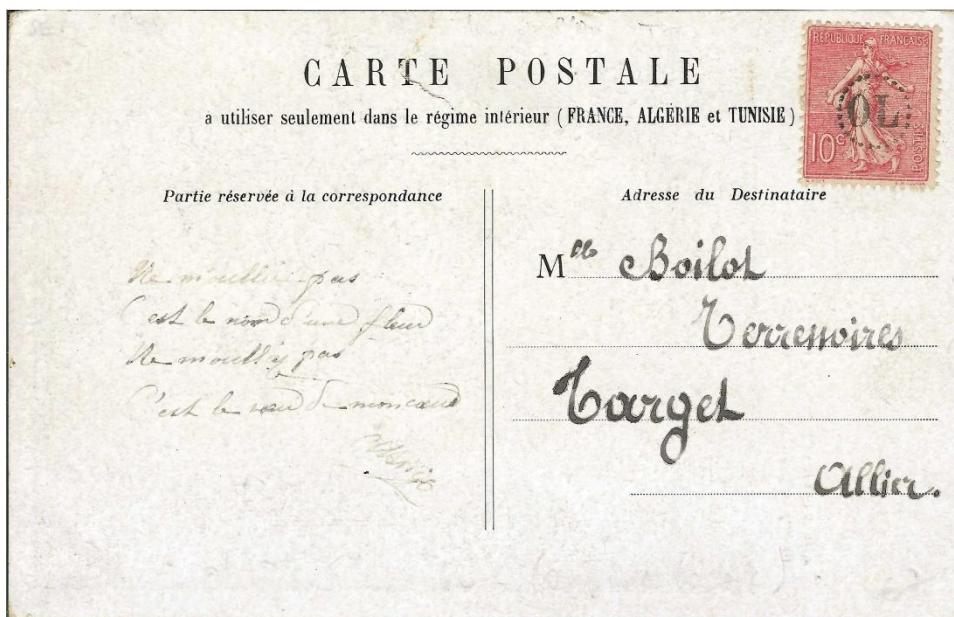
The first three are markings on the stamp only. First, we have a bisected circle with an unreadable number in the bottom half and a roman numeral **XIV** in the top half. The handstamp was applied upside down. This postcard was mailed from Saint Brieuc on the northwest coast near St. Malo to Paris. The Saint Brieuc CDS is on the picture side of the card and, thus, the stamp did not get cancelled. The Paris address is in the 14<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement (there are 20 such zones in Paris). The postman, noticing that the stamp was not cancelled, used his assigned handstamp to cancel the stamp. The **XIV** in his handstamp refers to the 14<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement and the unreadable number would be the carrier's assigned number.



The next marking is an **OR** in a circle (always a solid line). **OR** stands for **Origine Rurale** (Rural Origin). This card would have been handed to the rural carrier instead of mailing at a post office. The sender could have applied their own stamp or bought it from the carrier. Note how large the Rouen Cathedral is on the left!



Next, we have an **OL** in a circle (always a dotted line). **OL** stands for **Origine Locale** (Local Origin). This card would have been handed to a city carrier for delivery, probably on the same route. As above, the sender could have applied their own stamp or bought one from the carrier. Neither of these two cards ever saw the inside of a post office.



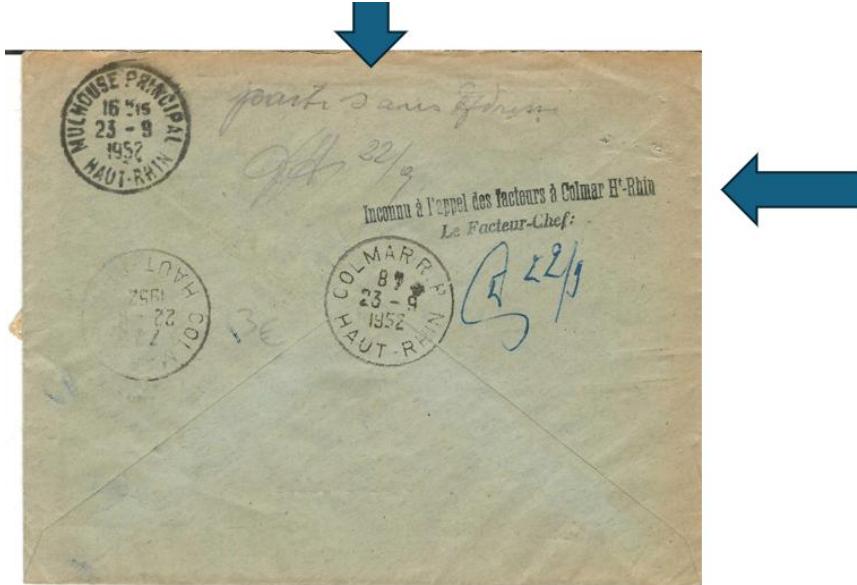
## RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR.

Return to Sender. Now, here's one we can all relate to. This French handstamp is seen on the next several covers: some with modifications, some with additional handstamps.

First, we have a registered cover sent from Mulhouse to Colmar. We see a boxed **RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR** in the lower left corner. The manuscript **appel** in the upper left corner tells us that they will call around for information. More of this trail follows on the view of the back of the cover, following.



The markings on the back of the cover, seen on the next page tell us more. The manuscript at the top says: **Parti sans adresse.** (Left without an address.) Below that and to the right is a handstamp reading: **Inconnu à l'appel des facteurs à Colmar H<sup>t</sup>-Rhin / Le Facteur-Chef** (Unknown to the postmen at Colmar Haut Rhin / Postmaster). The PM signed and dated it. So, it got sent back to the sender.



Here is the backside of the previous cover.

Next is a First Flight cover from Paris to Tananarive, Madagascar. It is sent to SCOTEM Poste Restante (General Delivery). In addition to the **RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR** handstamp we have one that reads **NON RÉCLAMÉ** (Unclaimed). It's interesting to see in the cachet Par Quadriréacteur BOEING 707 (Four-engine jet). So, this cover sent to General Delivery was not called for and was sent back. As the return address on the back is also SCOTEM, I believe the cover is purely philatelic!

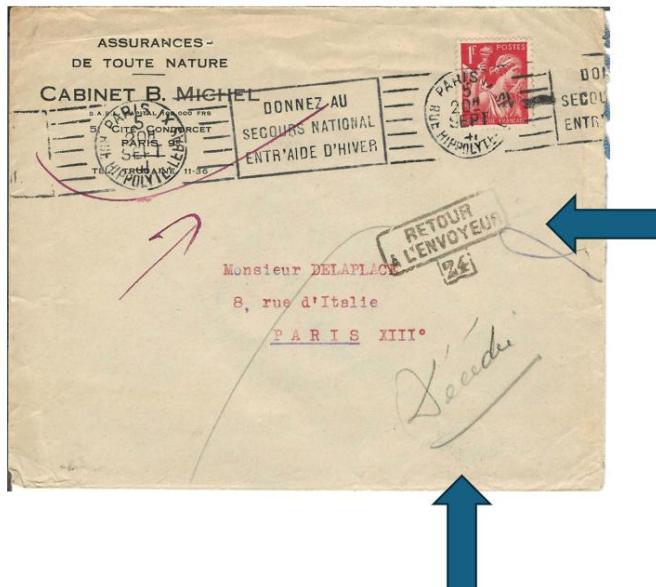


Next is an interesting piece of WW II postal history. This piece was sent from Paris to Thionville, France. Thionville is a stone's throw from Belgium. The cover is dated September 23, 1940, EXACTLY one year before I was born! But apparently, there was no mail service due to the war.

So, we have two handstamps. One reads; **RELATIONS POSTALES SUSPENDUES** (Postal Relations Suspended). The other: **RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR**. I'm assuming that this cover never left Paris and that the markings were applied there and the cover sent back to the sender.

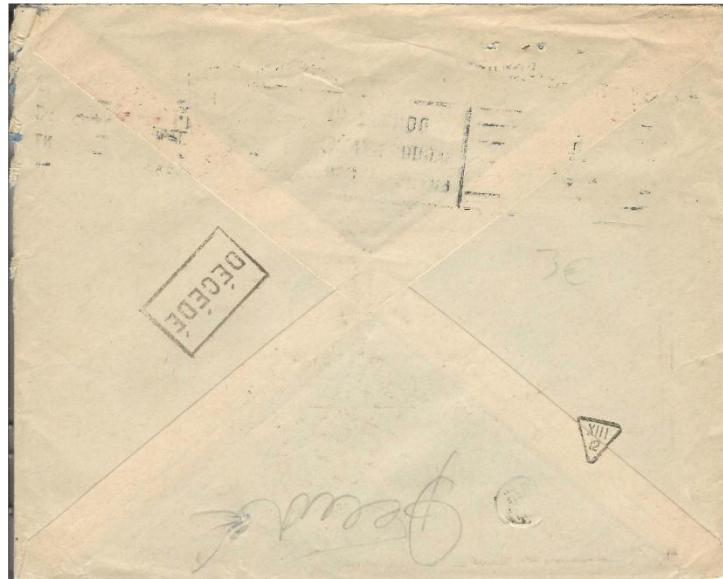


Next is another example where both the front and back of the cover are involved. On the front we have a handstamp: **RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR / 24**. Also, in the lower right corner is a manuscript Décédé (Deceased). One would assume the deceased notation is the reason for the Return to Sender. See the next page for the relevant backside markings.



The slogan cancel reads: **Donnez au secours national entr'aide d'hiver.** (Give to the National Winter Relief Mutual Aid).

On the back of the above cover we see three relative markings. To the left is a boxed **DÉCÉDÉ** (Deceased). At the bottom we have a manuscript **Décédé**. And in the lower right corner we have the carrier's triangular handstamp with **XIII / 12** in it. We note that the cover was sent to an address in the 13<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement in Paris. So, this is the handstamp of the carrier in the 13<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement who probably applied the **DÉCÉDÉ** handstamp. There is an unreadable circular handstamp alongside the pencil manuscript **Décédé**. It could be the clerk stamp of the person who wrote the notation.



Next, we have another Return to Sender cover to Madagascar. In addition to the boxed **RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR** handstamp we have a boxed **INCONNU** (Unknown) handstamp. All of that pen scribble next to the **INCONNU** handstamp is the initials and number of the postal employee who made the determination that the addressee was not known and that the letter should be sent back.



Next is the last Return to Sender cover. Here we have a boxed: **N'HABITE PAS À L'ADRESSE INDICUÉE / RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR.** (Does not live at the address listed / Return to Sender). The pen scribble is that of the postal official who made the determination.



Our last item is a registered cover showing a boxed **CHARGÉ** handstamp. This cover is a real puzzle to me. **CHARGÉ** is to be used for sending items with a stated value. And the **R** on the registration label is supposed to be cut off, so as not to be confused with a regular registered letter. The total postage cost is made up of (1) normal letter rate postage (15c), + (2) Registration fee (25c), and + (3) an additional fee based on 20c per 500F of declared value. So, with no declared value, the postage would be 40c. And that's what we have here! So why the **CHARGÉ**?

To add to my confusion, this appears to be a piece of Military mail. The Regimental cachet is applied in the lower left corner and is duly signed per procedure. I consulted with a French friend who has probably forgotten more about French postal history than I will ever know. We agree on my analysis. He figures that there were important papers in the envelope, justifying the **CHARGÉ** marking. As this is 13 months after the end of WW I, there is also no Military rate concession.

Of course, the icing on the cake is the advertising label from a firm in Munich showing a young boy smoking their cigarette! That certainly would not fly today!



## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

Please contact the editor if you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings.

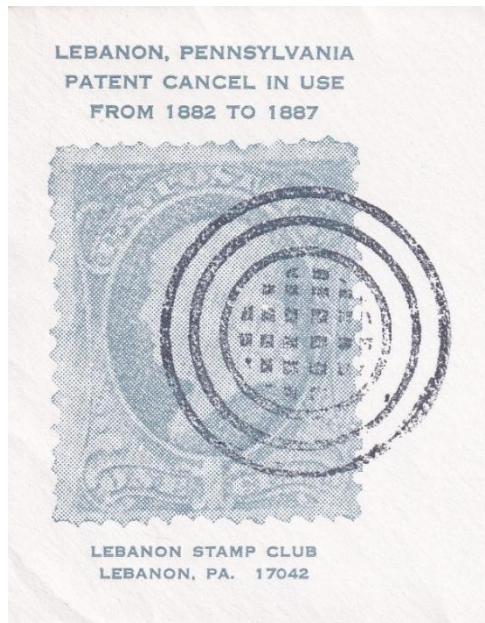
Date	Presenter and Subject
November 18, 2025	Open – show, tell, and philatelic fellowship
December 16, 2025	Holiday Dinner at The Rotunda Restaurant and Pub

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County for hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)

The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:

[Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun. \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)



**The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046**

**Scott Ney, newsletter editor**



# The Overprint

## **Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club**

**Meetings held at Calvary Lutheran Church,  
1009 Elizabeth Avenue in Laureldale.**

**Elizabeth Avenue crosses Kutztown Road in the Muhlenberg Township area.  
(About a mile north of Rt 222)**

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.  
(doors open around 6:30 for pre meeting social time)**

**NO MEETINGS UNTIL MARCH 2026**

**There will be a special Christmas gathering in December for  
those members who have attended a meeting in 2025.**

**Invitations will be going out in the near future.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**Current Account as of 010/31/2025: \$ 1,135.80  
Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: \$ 3,414.63**

## 2013 Upright Jenny Invert pane is being offered in Kelleher's Nov. 20 Aristocrats sale

By Charles Snee



Up for bids near the end of the sale is a scarce upright variety of the 2013 \$2 Jenny Invert pane of six (Scott 4806d) that was originally discovered by collector, researcher and exhibitor Gregg A. Hopkins Sr. Hopkins' find came in an order of 10 Jenny Invert panes that Hopkins placed June 2, 2015, with Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City, Mo.

*Linn's* reported the details of Hopkins' discovery in the July 27, 2015, issue. Hopkins' upright \$2 Jenny Invert pane was the 24th such variety reported to *Linn's* at the time.

The \$2 Jenny Invert stamps were issued in panes of six (Scott 4806) on Sept. 22, 2013, as a tribute to America's most famous stamp error. That 1918 24¢ Jenny Invert airmail stamp has its blue Jenny biplane accidentally printed upside down within the carmine rose frame (C3a).



The \$2 Jenny Invert stamps were at the center of a Postal Service promotional program that included just 100 specially printed panes intentionally showing the Jenny biplane in the center of each stamp flying right side up. The regularly issued \$2 stamp portrays the plane upside down.

Each of the 2.2 million panes of the 2013 issue was sealed in a printed paper envelope within a cellophane wrapping, thwarting efforts to detect the rare upright variety seeded among the common standard issue.

Collector demand for the limited upright variety pushed aftermarket values sky-high, with some public auctions seeing realizations of more than \$50,000.

The 100 upright Jenny Invert panes were packaged with a card printed with a phone number the finder could call to receive a certificate signed by the U.S. postmaster general and to register the purchase and discovery. But because the registration is voluntary, it is presumed that some of the found panes were never recorded.

As a result, no one is sure how many have been found and how many remain undiscovered.

*Linn's* reported in the Sept. 16, 2024, issue that the \$2 Jenny Invert pane was no longer available from the U.S. Postal Service as of August 2024.

*Linn's* tally of the upright Jenny Invert panes stands at 43 reported as of the Jan. 9, 2023, issue. No new finds have been reported to date.

The upright Jenny Invert pane in the Kelleher Aristocrats auction comes with a 2015 expertizing certificate from Professional Stamp Experts that assigned a grade of very fine-80.

In mint, never-hinged condition, an upright \$2 Jenny Invert pane is valued at \$60,000 in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*. That value is italicized to indicate an item that is difficult to value accurately because it trades infrequently in the philatelic marketplace.

Kelleher is offering this upright \$2 Jenny Invert pane first discovered in 2015 with an estimate of \$40,000 to \$60,000 and an opening bid of \$20,000.

**Article Courtesy by of Linns Stamp News: November 12 2025**

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## USPS POSTAGE 2026 RATE ANNOUNCEMENT on November 14<sup>th</sup>

**THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE FIRST-CLASS RATE IN JANUARY 2026 . . . YAY!!!!**

**HOWEVER: PRIORITY MAIL . . . . . Up 6.6%**

**PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS . . . . . Up 5.1%**

**PRIORITY MAIL ADVANTAGE . . . . . Up 7.8%**

## A TEASER FOR 2026 . . . A PANE OF 25

### Figures of the American Revolution



AND TO CONCLUDE:

WISHING ALL READING, LEBANON AND LANCASTER CLUB MEMBERS  
AND ANY OTHER CLUB MEMBERS WHO GET TO READ THIS



**A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE THANKSGIVING**



**The Reading Stamp Collectors Club**

**Mike Bach, newsletter editor**