

THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC

by Reg Morris

Last Christmas our editor John W. Koontz sent me a present — A French cover illustrated here as Figure 1.

Addressed to Washington, D.C., North America it was sent from Frejus on March 4, 1912 and duly arrived at its destination on March 19. Since the Titanic sank on April 14th/15th the hand stamp Titanic is to say the least, Enigmatic. But it did remind me of the time a few years ago — when I lived in Massachusetts for a brief period. I was a member then of an unusual stamp club — the 906 Stamp Club — which met in the State Penitentiary!

At one of the meetings I was asked whether any

Titanic mail was known to have survived. At the next meeting the same enquirer asked, if I could give him details of when such mail — if any existed — would have been postmarked and details of the form of the postmark, date of posting, etc.

When I subsequently discovered this particular club member in the penitentiary print shop I wondered whether his interest in Titanic mail was purely philatelic! But what has all this got to do with machine cancels? Absolutely nothing! But on the back of the "Titanic" cover is a Washington, D.C. International marking showing a somewhat later date use than that recorded by Art Bond in his "International" handbook. (See Figure 2.)

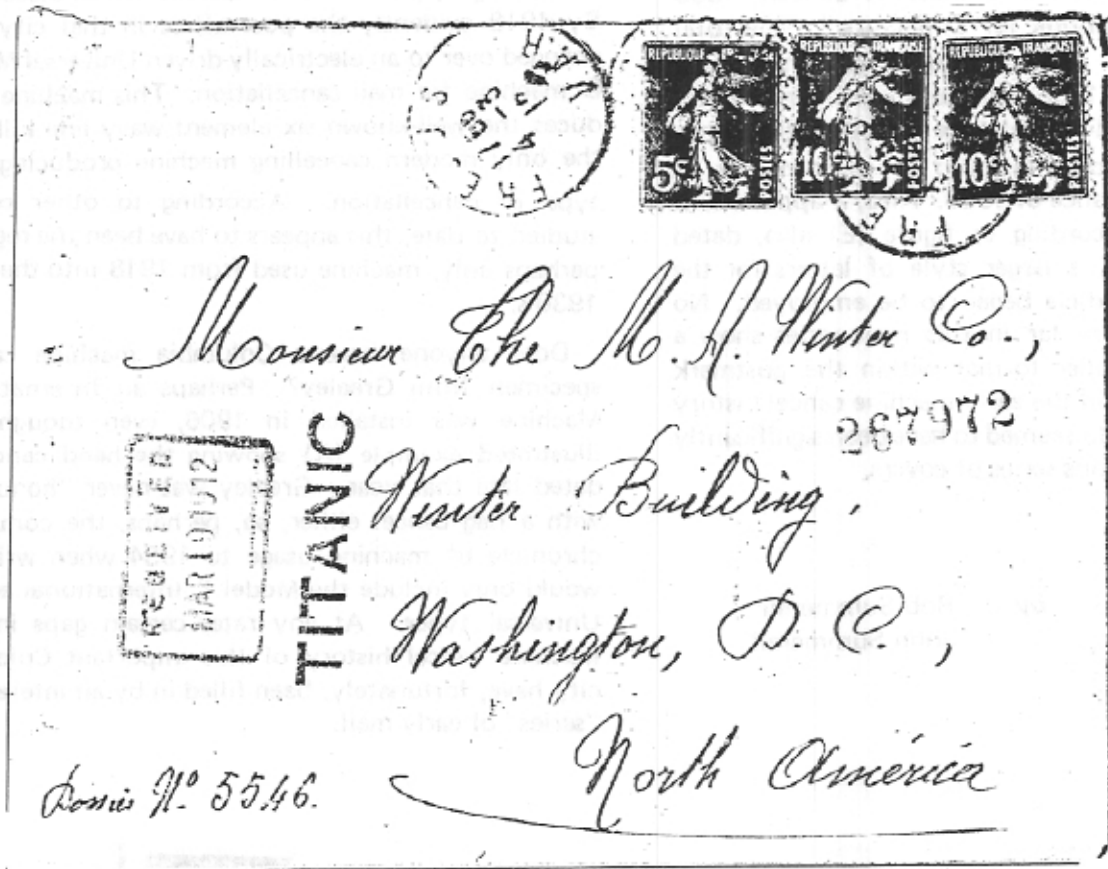


Fig. 1

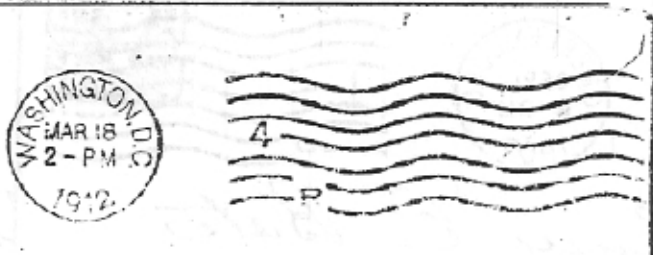


Fig. 2