

**Press
release**



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**The Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence
is putting on-line a name database for the penal colonies**

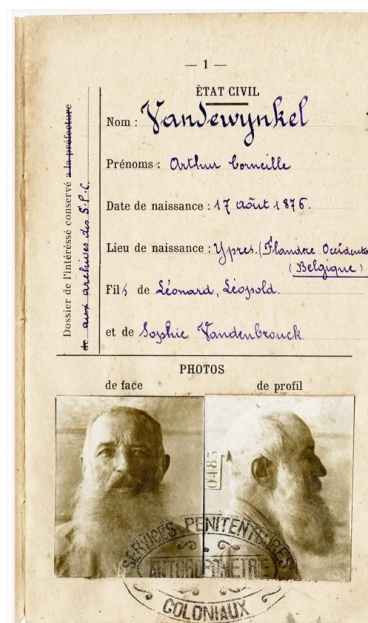
From 1852 to 1953 France exiled more than 100,000 people (criminals, habitual delinquents or political prisoners) in its penal colonies, amongst which were those in Guyana and New Caledonia. The penal colonies collections now kept at the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence, is a resource for research into these repressive institutions as well as for the memory of the people concerned.

Apart from the convicts, France sent to the penal colonies numerous political opponents of the Second Empire and players in the many uprisings in the second half of the XIXth Century (the insurrection of 1851, the Commune of 1871, the revolts of 1871 in Algeria and Martinique, etc.). Beyond each person is therefore a political and social history of metropolitan and colonial France in the XIXth Century.

The Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer has put on-line on http://anom.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/bagnards_dossiers_individuels/ both the search tool for the colonial penitentiary administration collection and the name database giving access to the individual dossier of the convicts committed to the penal colony before 1891.

With these electronic publications, the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer is continuing a dynamic of making the best use of the penal colonies collection, already undertaken with the publication in 2007 of the work, '*Lettres du bagne*' in its *Histoires d'outre-mer* collection and the putting on-line in 2010 of two virtual exhibitions on its website.

Paris, 4 May 2011



Anthropometric identity card for the convict, Vandewynckel, Guyana [c.1936]
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