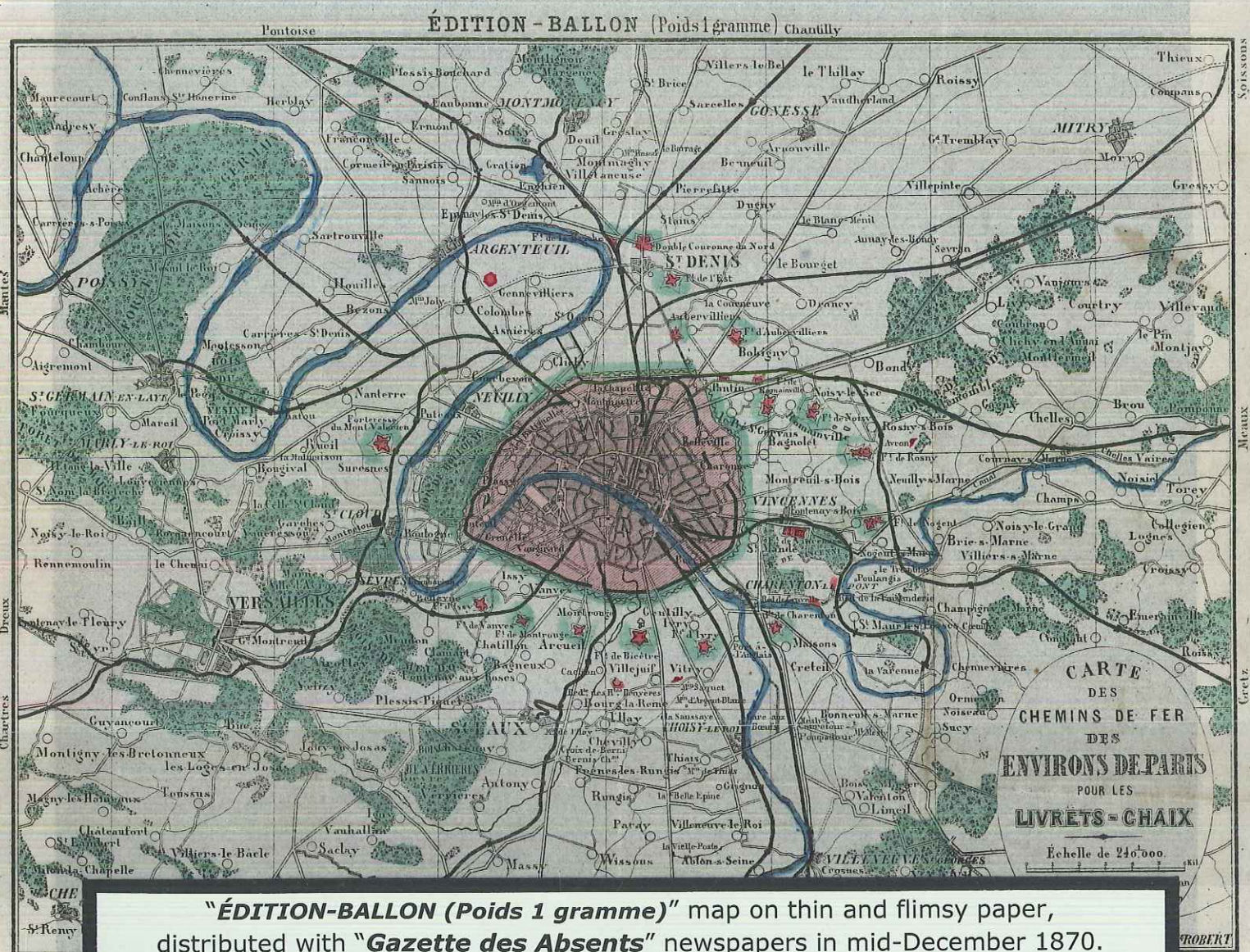


THE BALLOON POSTS OF THE SIEGE OF PARIS 1870 - 1871: FRENCH "BALLON MONTÉ" MAILS TO IRELAND

September 19, 1870 - January 28, 1871



"ÉDITION-BALLON (Poids 1 gramme)" map on thin and flimsy paper, distributed with "*Gazette des Absents*" newspapers in mid-December 1870.

The Franco-Prussian War started on July 19, 1870, and culminated with the Siege of Paris, which lasted from September 19, 1870, to January 28, 1871. The siege resulted in French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and led to the establishment of the German Empire.

An ingenious method of keeping up communication from Paris to the outside world - at least unidirectional - was the French balloon posts which were carried in "Ballon Montés" (manned balloons). During the 4 months of the siege 66 Ballon Montés carried over 3 million letters (as well as passengers and freight, including carrier pigeons to bring back news from the outside world). Each Ballon Monté flight was an exciting adventure in itself ... many were captured by the enemy, many fired at and chased on horseback by the Prussians, many landing in faraway places such as Norway, some crashed and some saw the first "inflight meal service". The flights brought fame to many of the balloon builders and balloonists, like Nadar, Dartois, Duruof and Albert and Gaston Tissandier. Sadly (for us airmail buffs), no Ballon Monté landed in Ireland, so "Irish Ballon Montés" always refer to mails carried by a Ballon Monté out of Paris and forwarded by surface transport to its ultimate destination in Ireland.

The weight of each letter to be carried by a Ballon Monté was limited to 4 grams; enclosures were not allowed (but went through occasionally). Postage to destinations within France was 20 centimes and appropriately more for other countries. Mails to Ireland required 30 centimes. Some destinations are very scarce to find, especially overseas destinations. Within Europe Ireland surprisingly seems to be one of the elusive, if not scarce destinations. So far I have documented about 50 "Ballon Montés" addressed to Ireland. Even after many discussions with specialised collectors and dealers I don't have an explanation for their rarity.

BALLON MONTÉ "CELESTE" MAILS
PARIS - DREUX, FORWARDED TO DUBLIN AND TO NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY

September 30, 1870

Departure: Usine à Gaz, Paris, on September 30, 1870, at 9.30 a.m.
 Landing: St. Denis de Monroval, near Dreux (Eure-et-Loir), to the West of Paris, at 11.50 a.m., covering a distance of 81 km
 Aeronaut: Gaston Tissandier, no passengers
 Mails: 80 kg of mails and freight, 3 carrier pigeons
 Flight history: While overflying the Prussian camps at Versailles, Gaston Tissandier dropped 10'000 propaganda leaflets.

Posted Paris, Rue St-Lazare,
 on September 29, 1870,
 carried on September 30
 with the Ballon Monté "**CELESTE**"
 and forwarded to Dalkey, Dublin.
KINGSTOWN and **DALKEY**
 arrival postmarks of October 14.



Posted Paris, Rue St-Lazare,
 on September 29, 1870,
 carried on September 30
 with the Ballon Monté "**CELESTE**"
 and forwarded to
Newtownmountkennedy,
 Co. Wicklow.
GREYSTONES arrival
 postmark of October 3.



(100% copy of backstamp)

BALLON MONTÉ "ARMAND-BARBÈS" MAILS
PARIS - MONTDIDIER, FORWARDED TO LISBURN AND TO ROSCOMMON

October 7, 1870

Departure: Place Saint-Pierre, Paris, on October 7, 1870, at 11.10 a.m.
 Landing: Montdidier, near Amiens (Somme), to the North of Paris, at 2.45 p.m.,
 covering a distance of 98 km
 Aeronaut: Alexandre Trichet
 Passengers: Léon Gambetta, Minister of the Interior, and Eugène Spuller
 Mails: 100 kg of mails and freight, 16 carrier pigeons



Posted Paris, Rue de Palestro, on October 4, 1870,
 carried on October 7 with the Ballon Monté "**ARMAND-BARBÈS**"
 and forwarded to Lisburn. **LISBURN** arrival postmark of October 14.



Posted Paris, Rue Taitbout, on October 1, 1870,
 carried on October 7 with the Ballon Monté "**ARMAND-BARBÈS**"
 and forwarded to Roscommon.

Without arrival postmark but "Received 16th October 1870" in manuscript.
 Letter written in English.

**BALLON MONTÉ "WASHINGTON" OR "LOUIS BLANC" MAILS
PARIS - CAMBRAI OR PARIS - TOURNAI (BELGIUM), FORWARDED TO DUBLIN**

October 12, 1870

Note: Mails cannot be distinguished since both the "**WASHINGTON**" and the "**LOUIS BLANC**" left Paris simultaneously.

Departure: "**WASHINGTON**": Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on October 12, 1870, at 8.00 a.m.
Landing: Carnières, near Cambrai (Nord), to the North of Paris, at 11.30 a.m., covering a distance of 158 km

Aeronaut: Albert Bertaux
Passengers: Albert Lefebvre (French Consul) and Louis Van Roosebecke
Mails: 300 kg of mails and freight, 25 carrier pigeons

Departure: "**LOUIS BLANC**": Place St. Pierre Montmartre on October 12, at 9.00 a.m.
Landing: Hainaut, in Belgium, at 2.45 p.m., covering a distance of 280 km
Aeronaut: Eugène Farcot **Passenger:** Traclet
Mails: 125 kg of mails and freight, 8 carrier pigeons

Posted Paris, Rue Montaigne,
on October 9, 1870,
carried on October 12
with the Ballon Monté
"**WASHINGTON**" or "**LOUIS BLANC**"
and forwarded to Dublin.
Transit postmarks
PARIS À CALAIS of October 18
and **H&K PACT** of October 19.
Unusual *cachet de facteur* "9"
in brown.

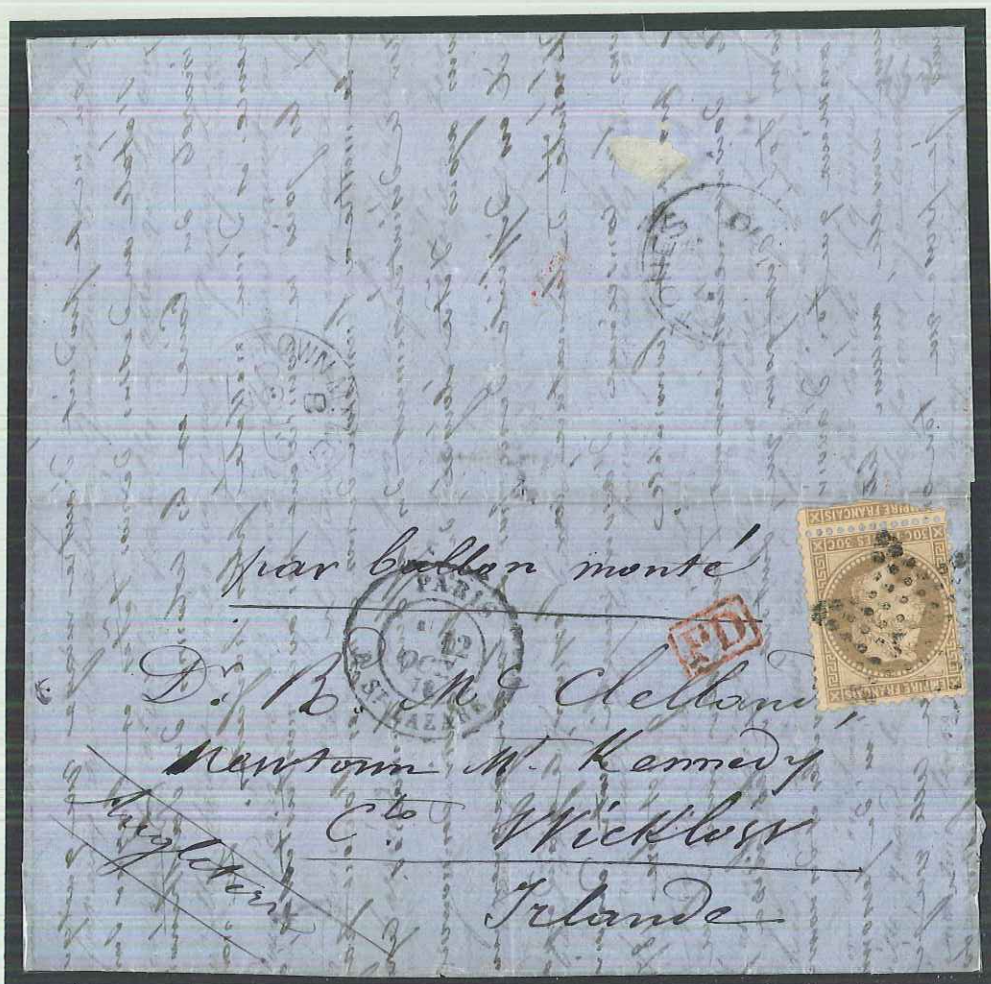


Posted Paris, Rue Montaigne,
on October 11, 1870,
carried on October 12
with the Ballon Monté
"**WASHINGTON**" or "**LOUIS BLANC**"
and forwarded to Dublin.
H&K PACT transit postmark
of October 19.

**BALLON MONTÉ "GODEFROY CAVAINAC" MAIL
PARIS - BRILLON, FORWARDED TO NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY**

October 14, 1870

Departure: Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on October 14, 1870, at 10.00 a.m.
Landing: Brillon, near Bar-le-Duc (Meuse), to the East of Paris, at 2.45 p.m.,
covering a distance of 256 km
Aeronaut: Edmée Godard
Passengers: Count Emile de Kératry, Prefect of the Police, Estancelin and Couchut,
his 2 secretaries, and Jay de Quesneau
Mails: 170 kg of mails and freight, 4 carrier pigeons
Flight history: Approaching the German borders, the landing took place in a zone invaded
by the Prussians, but balloonist and passengers were brought to safety by
local farmers before the Prussians became aware of the landing.



Posted Paris, Rue St-Lazare, on October 12, 1870,
carried on October 7 with the Ballon Monté "**GODEFROY CAVAINAC**"
and forwarded to Newtownmountkenedy, Co. Wicklow.

GREYSTONES transit postmark of October 19
and **NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY** arrival postmark of October 19.

**BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BALLONS MONTÉS FORWARDED TO IRELAND**

October 14, 1870

J. ROBINEAU

36

PHILATELISTE

EXPERT PRES LA COUR D'APPEL DE PARIS
L'ADMINISTRATION DES DOMAINES

5, RUE DROUOT
75009 PARIS

Tel. 01 47 70 16 90
Fax. 01 47 70 43 96

Je soussigné J.ROBINEAU certifie avoir examiné la pièce reproduite sur ce certificat.

Lettre mention manuscrite pour Wicklow (Irlande), affranchie N°30 oblitéré étoile 2, frappée du cachet de départ Paris R St Lazare 12 Oct 70 et au verso, du cachet d'arrivée TOWN.KE OC 19.70 (faible mais date lisible) Destination Rare.

Pli transporté par LE GODEFROY CAVAIGNAC.

Mon opinion est que cette pièce est authentique et très belle.

Paris, le 13 Octobre 2000

N° 16856



Posted in Paris on October 12, 1870,
carried on October 14 by the *ballon monté* GODEFROY CAVAIGNAC
and forwarded to Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

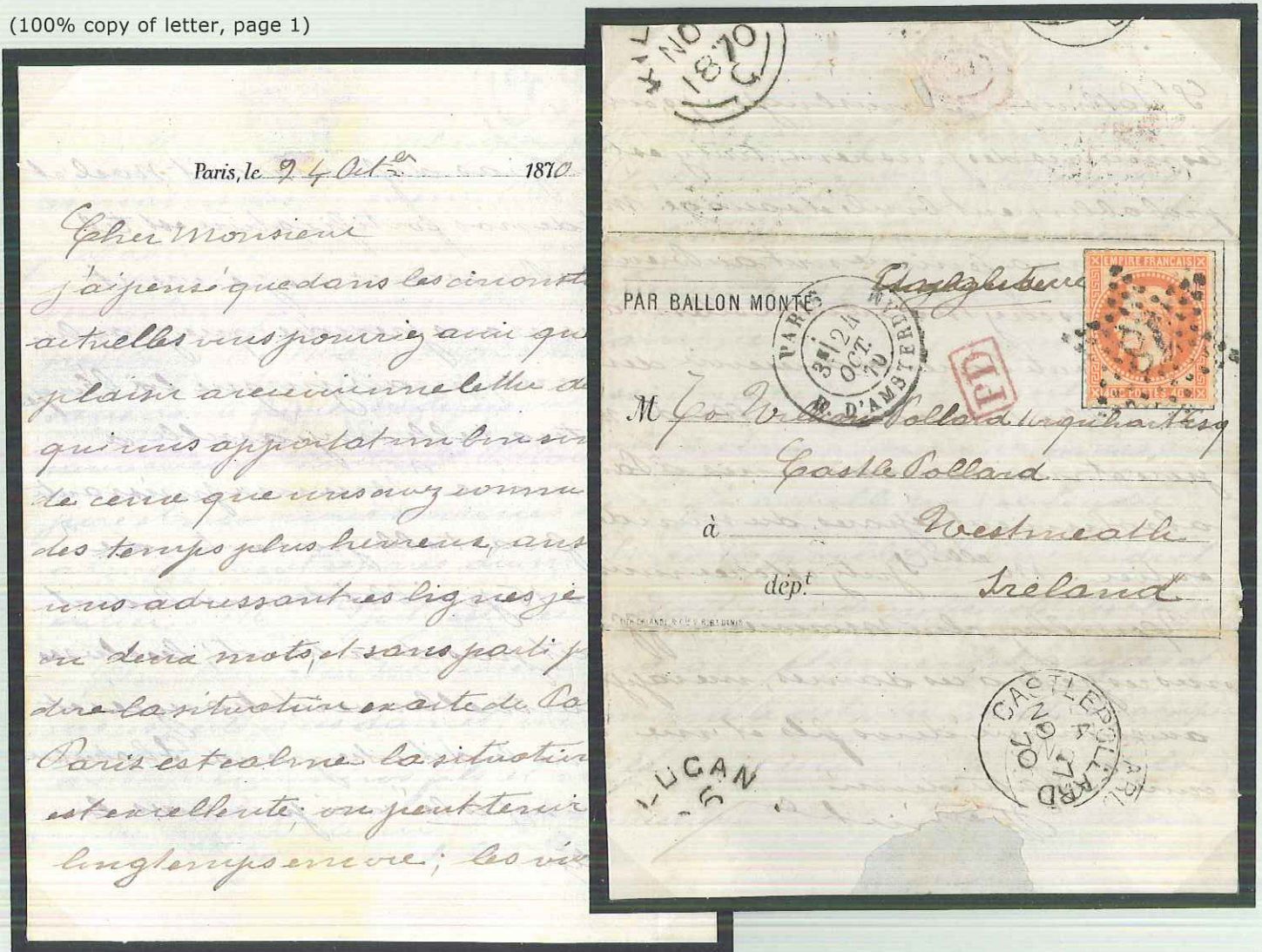
GREYSTONES transit postmark and
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY arrival postmark of October 19.

**BALLON MONTÉ "VAUBAN" MAIL
PARIS - COMMERCEY, FORWARDED TO CASTLEPOLLARD**

October 27, 1870

Departure: Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on October 27, 1870, at 9.00 a.m.
 Landing: Commercey (Meuse), to the East of Paris, at 1.00 p.m., covering a distance of 248 km
 Aeronaut: Guillaume
 Passengers: A. Reitlinger, a lawyer, and Edouard Cassiers, "Colombophile"
 Mails: 290 kg of mails and freight, 23 carrier pigeons
 Flight history: The landing took place in a zone invaded by the Prussians, but balloonist and passengers were brought to safety by local farmers before the Prussians became aware of the landing

(100% copy of letter, page 1)



Posted Paris, Rue d'Amsterdam, on October 24, 1870,
 carried on October 27 with the Ballon Monté "**VAUBAN**"
 and forwarded to Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath.

KILLUCAN transit postmark of November 6
 and **CASTLEPOLLARD** arrival postmark of November 7.
 Unusual postage of 40c.

Addressed to William Pollard-Urquhart (1815-1871) who tried to solve the National Debt.
 Pollard-Urquhart was a writer specialising in economic and policy questions of his day.
 He served as high sheriff of County Westmeath since 1840
 and sat as Member of Parliament for Westmeath as a liberal from 1852.

**BALLON MONTÉ "COLONEL CHARRAS" AND "GÉNÉRAL RENAULT" MAILS
PARIS - MONTIGNY-LE-ROI, FORWARDED TO TUAM,
AND PARIS - BAILLOLET, FORWARDED TO KINGSTOWN, DUBLIN**

October 29, 1870 / December 11, 1870

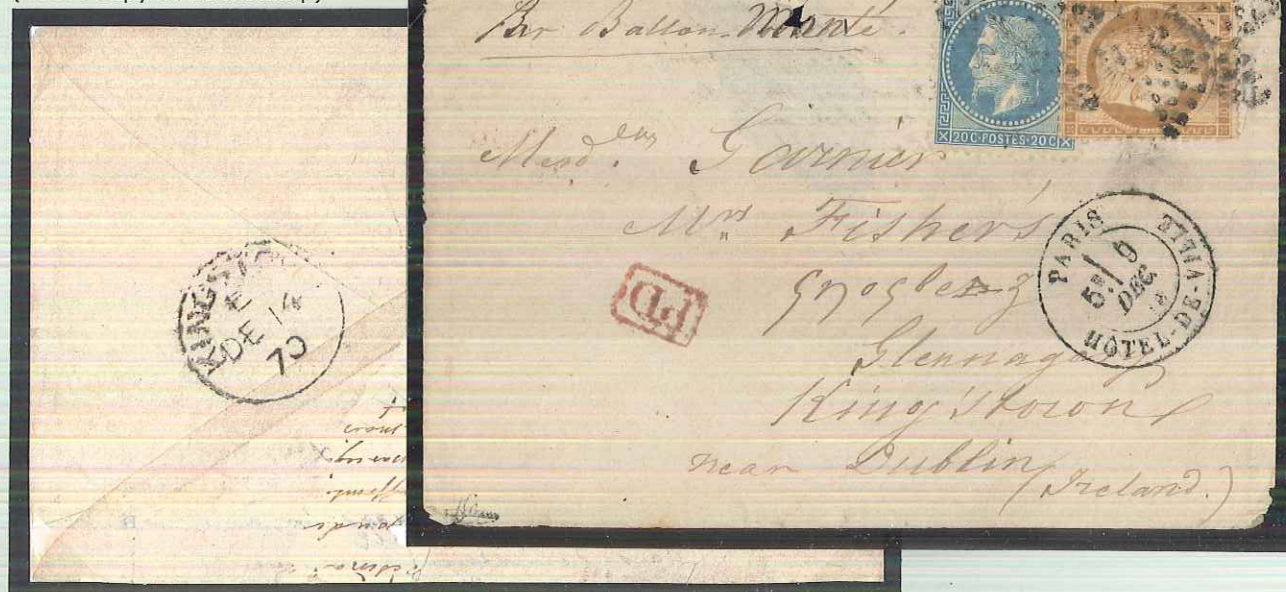
Departure: **"COLONEL CHARRAS"**: Gare du Nord, Paris, October 29, 1870, 12.00 a.m.
Landing: Montigny-le-Roi (Haute-Marne), to the South-East of Paris, at 4.30 p.m.,
covering a distance of 200 km
Aeronaut: Ferdinand Gilles, no passengers
Mails: 460 kg of mails and freight, 6 carrier pigeons. This was the heaviest load of
mails ever carried by a Ballon Monté.

Postcard, posted in Paris
with military postmark
"ARMÉE DU RHIN / B^{AU} AL"
and **"A.R.13°C"** of October 27, 1870,
carried on October 29 with the
Ballon Monté **"COLONEL CHARRAS"**
and forwarded to Tuam, Co. Galway.
Unusual mixed postage of
"Cérès" and "Empire Lauré" stamps.
Addressed to Mrs. J.A. George,
Headford Castle. Headford Castle
at that time was owned by Richard
James St. George (1838-1891).



Departure: **"GÉNÉRAL RENAULT"**: Gare du Nord, Paris, December 11, 1870, 2.15 a.m.
Landing: Baillolet (Seine-Inférieure), to the North-West of Paris, at 5.30 a.m.,
covering a distance of 143 km
Aeronaut: Henri Joignerey, a student Passengers: Larmanjat and Wolf
Mails: 100 kg of mails and freight, 12 carrier pigeons

(100% copy of backstamp)



Posted Paris, Hôtel-de-Ville, on December 9, 1870,
carried on December 11 with the Ballon Monté **"GÉNÉRAL RENAULT"**
and forwarded to Kingstown, Dublin. **KINGSTOWN** arrival postmark of December 14.
Mixed "Cérès" and "Empire Lauré" postage.

**BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BALLONS MONTÉS FORWARDED TO IRELAND**

December 11, 1870

Jean-François BRUN

CERTIFICAT d'EXPERTISE

Expert A.I.E.P.

Paris, le 17 décembre 1997

Certificat n° 10406

L'enveloppe affranchie, dont photo partielle ci dessous:

Pays: FRANCE

Emissions: 1867 et 1870

Valeurs: 20 c et 30 c

Nuances: Bleu, bistre

N° 29 et 36 du catalogue Yvert

Etat: oblitérés Etoile sur enveloppe
à destination de Kingstown, Irlande,
transportée par Ballon Monté,
arrivée en Irlande le 14 décembre 1870
est authentique



BRUN & FILS, PHILATELISTES, 85 Galerie Beaujolais, Palais Royal, 75001 PARIS ☎ 01 42 61 48 88

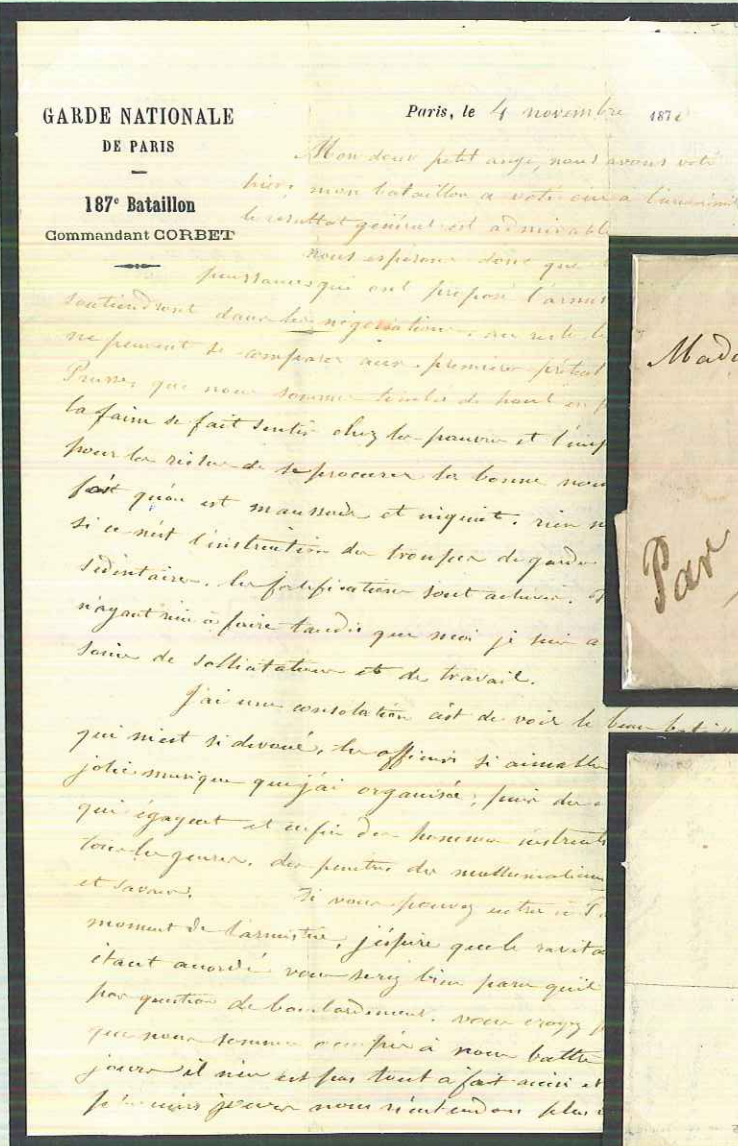
Expertise effectuée suivant nos conditions générales

Posted in Paris on December 9, 1870, carried on December 11
by the *ballon monté* **GÉNÉRAL RENAULT** and forwarded to Kingstown, Dublin.
Mixed "Cérès" and "Empire Lauré" postage
and **KINGSTOWN** arrival postmark of December 14.

**BALLON MONTÉ "VILLE DE CHÂTEAUDUN" MAIL
PARIS - RÉCLAINVILLE, FORWARDED TO PORTADOWN**

November 6, 1870

Departure: Gare du Nord, Paris, on November 6, 1870, at 9.45 a.m.
Landing: Réclainville, near Chartres (Eure-et-Loir), to the South-West of Paris, at 5.30 p.m., covering a distance of 105 km
Aeronaut: Philippe Bosc
Passengers: no passengers
Mails: 455 kg of mails and freight, 6 carrier pigeons. This was the second heaviest load of mails ever carried by a Ballon Monté.



(70% copy of letter, 1st page)



(100% copy of backstamp)

Posted Paris on November 5, 1870,
 carried on November 6 with the Ballon Monté "**VILLE DE CHÂTEAUDUN**"
 and forwarded to Portadown, Co. Armagh.

PORTADOWN arrival postmark of November 10.

Letter written by "**Commandant Corbet, 187e Bataillon, GARDE NATIONALE DE PARIS**",
 on unusually thick and heavy paper and marked only with "Par Ballon".

Commandant Corbet, ranking high in the French Army,
 sent his wife Amélie Corbet to Portadown, Co. Armagh,
 for the months of the siege of Paris.

**BALLON MONTÉ "GIRONDE" AND "GÉNÉRAL UHRICH" MAILS
PARIS - GAUDREVILLE, FORWARDED TO MULLINGAR, AND
PARIS - LUZARCHES, FORWARDED TO DUBLIN**

November 8, 1870 / November 18, 1870

Departure: "GIRONDE": Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on November 8, 1870, at 8.20 a.m.
Landing: Gaudreville, near Evreux (Eure), to the West of Paris, at 3.40 p.m.,
covering a distance of 92 km
Aeronaut: Claude Galley Passengers: Herbault, E. Barry and J. Gambès
Mails: Only 60 kg of mails and freight
Flight history: This was the first flight with an "inflight service", as a bottle of Bordeaux,
Château Giscours, was opened and drunk.

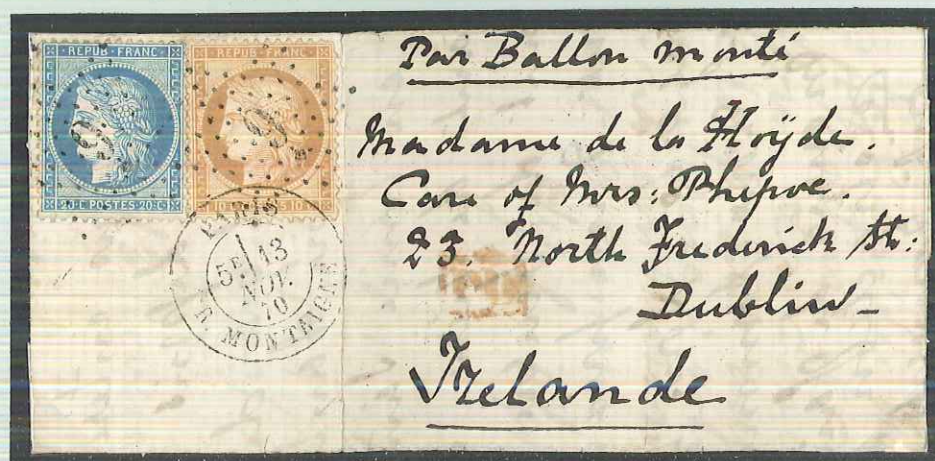
Posted Paris,
Place de la Madeleine,
on November 7, 1870,
carried on November 8
with the Ballon Monté
"GIRONDE" and
forwarded to Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath.

MULLINGAR
arrival postmark
of November 10.



Departure: "GÉNÉRAL UHRICH": Gare du Nord, Paris, November 18, 1870, 11.15 p.m.
Landing: Luzarches, near Pontoise (Seine-et-Oise), to the North of Paris, at 8.00
a.m. on the following morning, covering a distance of 30 km
Aeronaut: Emile Lemoine
Passengers: Joseph Bienbar, Jean Chapouil and Prosper Thomas
Mails: 80 kg of mails and freight and 34 carrier pigeons were carried.
Flight history: This was the first night flight, after several earlier balloons were captured

Posted Paris,
Rue Montaigne,
on November 13, 1870,
carried on November 18
with the Ballon Monté
"GÉNÉRAL UHRICH"
and forwarded to Dublin.



BALLON MONTÉ "ARCHIMÈDE" MAILS
PARIS - CASTELRÉ, HOLLAND, FORWARDED TO ROSCOMMON
AND TO NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY

November 21, 1870

Departure: Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on November 21, 1870, at 0.45 a.m.
 Landing: Castelnau, Holland, at 6.45 a.m., covering a distance of 400 km
 Aeronaut: Jules Buffet
 Passengers: Gaston de Saint-Valéry and Albert de Jaudas
 Mails: 290 kg of mails and freight, 21 carrier pigeons
 Flight history: First Ballon Monté to land in Holland

Posted Paris,
 Bd Richard-Lenoir,
 on November 19, 1870,
 carried on November 21
 with the Ballon Monté
 "ARCHIMÈDE"
 and forwarded to
Newtownmountkenedy,
 Co. Wicklow.

BELGIQUE / LILLE
 and **FRANCE OUEST**
 "cachets d'entrée"
 of November 23,
GREYSTONES
 transit postmark
 of November 24 and
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY
 arrival postmark
 of November 24.



Posted Paris,
 Place de la Madeleine,
 on November 19, 1870,
 carried on November 21
 with the Ballon Monté
 "ARCHIMÈDE" and
 forwarded to Roscommon.
 Inscribed "Nov. 25th, 1870"
 in manuscript.
 Letter written in English.



BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BALLONS MONTÉS FORWARDED TO IRELAND

November 21, 1870

J. ROBINEAU

PHILATELISTE

EXPERT PRES LA COUR D'APPEL DE PARIS
L'ADMINISTRATION DES DOMAINES

5, RUE DROUOT
75009 PARIS

Tel. 01 47 70 16 90

Fax. 01 47 70 43 96

112



Je soussigné J.ROBINEAU certifie avoir examiné la pièce reproduite sur ce certificat.

Lettre mention manuscrite datée du 14 Nov, affranchie N°30 (un angle défectueux) oblitéré étoile 19 et cachet départ partiel .Lenoir date illisible frappée du cachet de passage Belgique Lille et France Ouest, tous deux du 23 Nov, du cachet Creystone NO 24 et d'arrivée (faible) Nexton 2 ? NO (Irlande). Rare cachet d'entrée en Belgique et destination Rare.

Pli transporté par L'ARCHIMEDE.

Mon opinion est que cette pièce est authentique et rare.

Paris, le 14 Octobre 2000

N° 16898

Posted in Paris on November 14, 1870,
carried on November 21 by the *ballon monté* ARCHIMEDE
and forwarded to Newtownmountkennedy, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
BELGIQUE LILLE and FRANCE OUEST "cachets d'entrée" of November 23,
and GREYSTONES transit postmark and
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY arrival postmark of November 24.

**BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BALLONS MONTÉS FORWARDED TO IRELAND
THE CORBET CORRESPONDENCE**

November 30, 1870

Commandant Corbet, ranking high in the French Army as commander of the 187th Battalion of the **GARDE NATIONALE DE PARIS**, sent his wife Amélie Corbet to Portadown, Co. Armagh, Ireland, for the months of the siege of Paris.

*Ma chère Amélie,
Aujourd'hui huit soixante-deuxième jour du siège
je t'écris. M^r Corbet est en ville, j'ai revu
de la garde au fort de Vincennes. Je suis
là comme tu dois le penser aux premières
loges pour la grande bataille qui aura lieu
certains jours-ci. D'ailleurs M. Corbet
est bien placé également quoique à l'appui
de ma section.*

Letter dated November 28, 1870, probably carried on November 30 by the ballon monté **JULES FAVRE II** and forwarded to Portadown, Co. Armagh.

*En ces moments nous sommes continuellement
jeux et nuit de service et je
quelques pressions s'entendent par
La canonnade est devenue
Simple et si naturelle que les
souffles pichés sur les remparts
la plainte, nous ne nous ser
jeux un valet de carreau.*

*Paris est d'un calme absolu
tout homme de 18 à 70 ans est
et manœuvre comme et même
quelques soldats.*

*Nous avons des vivres pour plusieurs
mois, c'est-à-dire du pain, du vin,
du cheval, des chats, etc, etc.*

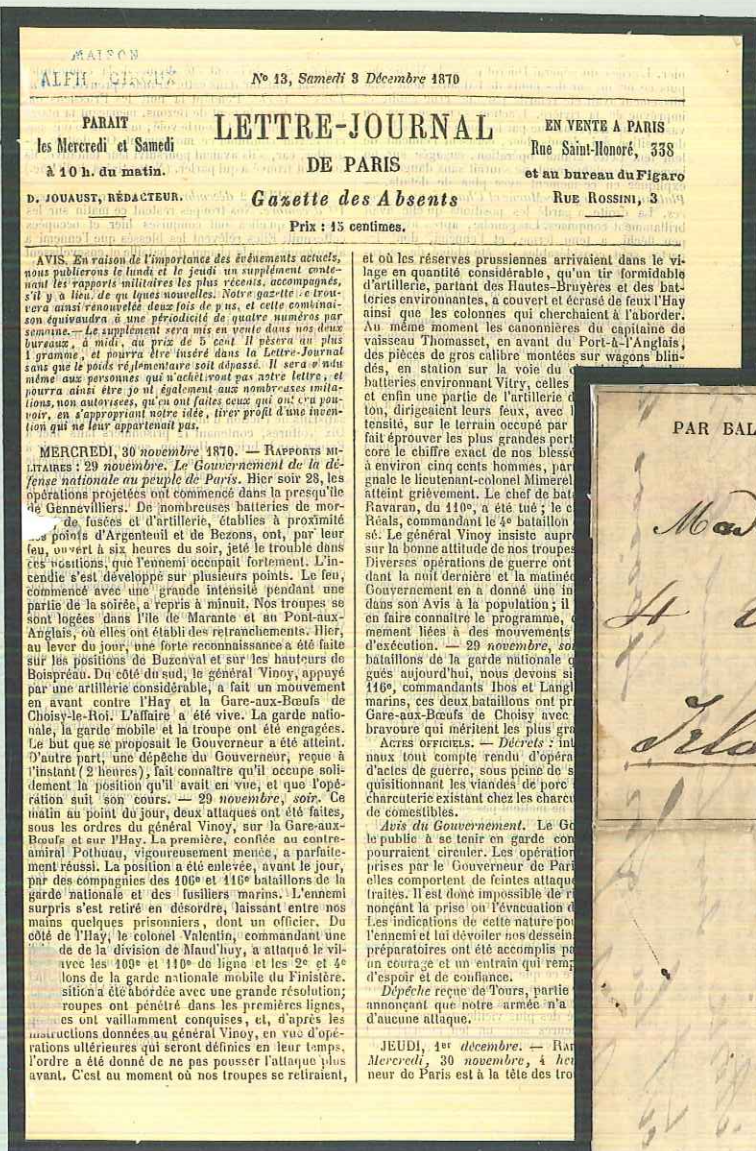
*Madame Amélie Corbet
Portadown Co. Armagh
Irlande*

Undated letter to Portadown, probably enclosed in a separate letter sheet.

**BALLON MONTÉ "FRANKLIN" MAIL
PARIS - SAINT-AIGNAN, FORWARDED TO DUBLIN**

December 5, 1870

Departure: Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on December 5, 1870, at 1.00 a.m.
Landing: Saint-Aignan, near Nantes (Loire-Inférieure), to the West of Paris, at 8.00 a.m., covering a distance of 403 km
Aeronaut: Pierre Marcia
Passengers: Count d'Andrécourt, Captain in the General High Command, carrying secret documents
Mails: 100 kg of mails and freight, 6 carrier pigeons



(70% copy of "Gazette des Absents", page 1)



**"Gazette des Absents No. 13, Samedi, 3 Décembre 1870",
posted Paris, Place de la Madeleine, on December 4, 1870,
carried on December 5 with the Ballon Monté "FRANKLIN"
and forwarded to Dublin.**

H & K PACT transit postmark of December 11.

**BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS
CERTIFICATE FOR BALLONS MONTÉ FORWARDED TO IRELAND**

December 5, 1870

J. ROBINEAU

1348

PHILATELISTE

EXPERT PRES LA COUR D'APPEL DE PARIS
L'ADMINISTRATION DES DOMAINES

5, RUE DROUOT
75009 PARIS

Tel. 01 47 70 16 90
Fax. 01 47 70 43 96



Je soussigné J. ROBINEAU certifie avoir examiné la pièce reproduite sur ce certificat.

Gazette des Absents N°13 pour Dublin (Irlande), affranchie N°30 (angle arrondi) oblitéré étoile 3, frappée du cachet Paris Pl de la Madeleine 5^h/4 Déc 70 et du cachet d'arrivée H5K.PACT.A/DE 11/9/1870. Destination Rare.

Belle pièce, transportée par LE FRANKLIN.

Mon opinion est que cette pièce est authentique.

Paris, le 5 mars 1999

N°

15995

GAZETTE DES ABSENTS NO. 13, dated December 3, 1870, posted in Paris on December 4, carried on December 5 by the *ballon monté* **LE FRANKLIN** and forwarded to Dublin.
H & K PACT transit postmark of December 11.

**BALLON MONTÉ "VILLE DE PARIS" MAIL
PARIS - BAILLOLET, FORWARDED TO KINGSTOWN, DUBLIN**

December 15, 1870

Departure: Gare Du Nord, Paris, on December 15, 1870, at 4.45 a.m.
Landing: Sinn, near Nassau in Germany at 1.00 p.m., covering a distance of 468 km
Aeronaut: Emile Dhiot (Delamarne)
Passengers: Lucien Morel (journalist) and Billebault
Mails: 63 kilograms of mails and freight, 6 carrier pigeons
Flight history: This was the first landing of a Ballon Monté in Germany, and balloon, passengers and mails were immediately captured



(70% copy of "Dépêche-Ballon", page 1)

**"DÉPÊCHE-BALLON No. 12, Mardi, 6 Décembre 1870",
posted in Paris, Rue de Strasbourg, on December 12, 1870,
carried on December 15 with the Ballon Monté "VILLE DE PARIS"
and forwarded to Dublin.**

No arrival postmarks due to delays confiscation of mails by the Germans.
Mails were only released in July 1871 (with earliest arrival postmarks of July 26).

Newspaper agencies were quick to adapt to the situation
and printed reduced newspaper forms on thin and flimsy paper and weighing 4 grams
which could be sent out of Paris under existing postal regulations.

**BALLON MONTÉ "VILLE DE PARIS" MAIL
PARIS - NASSAU, GERMANY, FORWARDED TO KINGSTOWN**

December 15, 1870

Departure: Gare Du Nord, Paris, on December 15, 1870, at 4.45 a.m.
Landing: Sinn, near Nassau in Germany at 1.00 p.m., covering a distance of 468 km
Aeronaut: Emile Dhiot (Delamarne)
Passengers: Lucien Morel (journalist) and Billebault
Mails: 63 kilograms of mails and freight, 6 carrier pigeons
Flight history: This was the first landing of a Ballon Monté in Germany, and balloon, passengers and mails were immediately captured



(70% copy of "Dépêche-Ballon", page 1)

**"DÉPÊCHE-BALLON No. 13, Vendredi, 9 Décembre 1870",
 posted in Paris, Rue de Palestro, on December 12, 1870,
 carried on December 15 with the Ballon Monté "VILLE DE PARIS"
 and forwarded to Kingstown, Dublin.**

Mixed "Cérès" and "Empire Lauré" postage.

No arrival postmarks due to delays confiscation of mails by the Germans.

Mails were only released in July 1871 (with earliest arrival postmarks of July 26).

Newspaper agencies were quick to adapt to the situation
 and printed reduced newspaper forms on thin and flimsy paper and weighing 4 grams
 which could be sent out of Paris under existing postal regulations.

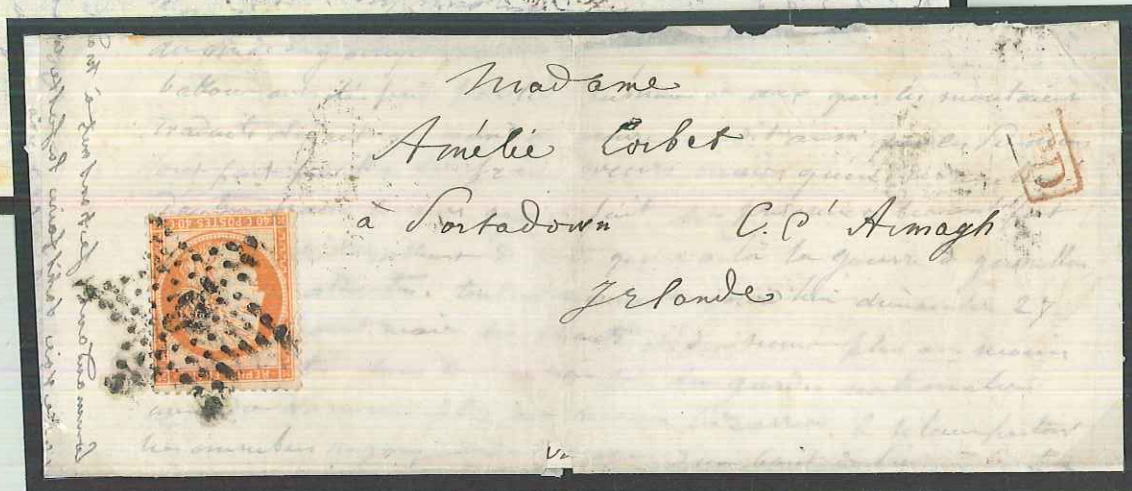
**BALLON MONTÉ "LAVOISIER" MAIL
PARIS - LA MÉNITRÉ, FORWARDED TO PORTADOWN**

December 22, 1870

Departure: Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on December 22, 1870, at 2.30 a.m.
 Landing: La Ménitré, near Angers (Maine-et-Loire), to the South-West of Paris,
 at 9.15 a.m., covering a distance of 290 km
 Aeronaut: Joseph-Sauveur Lebreton
 Passenger: Capitaine Raoul Le Mouton de Boisdeffre, future head of the army high
 command and minister of war
 Mails: 175 kg of mails and freight, 6 carrier pigeons

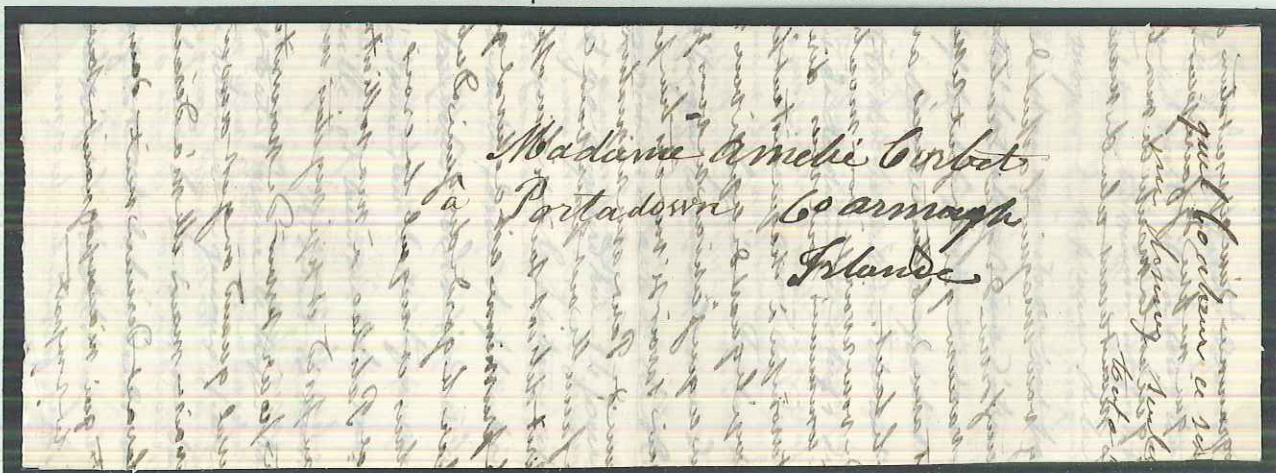


(100% copy of backstamps)



Letter written on December 19, 1870,
 posted with 40c stamp tied by a star "6" but without a dated postmark,
 carried on December 22 with the Ballon Monté "LAVOISIER"
 and forwarded to Portadown, Co. Armagh.

PORTADOWN arrival postmarks of December 26 and 27.



Letter written also on December 19, 1870, without postage and postal markings,
 and probably enclosed to the letter shown on top of page.

Both letters written by Commandant Corbet,
 187th Bataillon of the Garde Nationale de Paris,
 who sent his wife Amélie Corbet to Portadown, Co. Armagh,
 for the months of the siege of Paris.

**BALLON MONTÉ "NEWTON" MAIL
PARIS - DIGNY, FORWARDED TO DUBLIN**

January 4, 1871

Departure: Gare d'Orléans, Paris, on January 4, 1871, at 1.00 a.m.
Landing: Digny, near Chartres (Eure-et-Loir), to the South-West of Paris,
at 10.30 a.m., covering a distance of 110 km
Aeronaut: Aimé Ours
Passengers: Amable Brousseau
Mails: 310 kilograms of mails and freight, 4 carrier pigeons



(70% copy of "Gazette des Absents", page 1)

**"Gazette des Absents No. 21, Samedi, 31 Décembre 1870",
posted in Paris, Place de la Bourse, on December 31, 1870,
carried on January 4 with the Ballon Monté "NEWTON"
and forwarded to Dublin.**

H & K PACT transit postmark of January 11.

SOLUPHIL - FRANCE

S.à r.l. au capital de 87 500 FF

RCS PARIS B 327-235-685

5, rue Helder F- 75009 PARIS

Téléphone (1) 4801 61 00 Téléfax (1) 4246 37 15

TVA N° FR 40327235685

BARCLAY'S BANK
21, rue Lafitte - Paris 9^e
Compte 7265 802 01 01

CCP Paris 15.222.66 T

Paris, le

09.05.94

CERTIFICAT D'AUTHENTICITE

91/140

VENTE

069

N° LOT

997

19 SEPT 1870-27 JANV 1871: BALLONS MONTES

10 cts bistre + 20 cts bleu (pd) s/GAZETTE des ABSENTS N°21 pour DUBLIN, IRLANDE, obl
étoile 1 + c.à.d Paris 31 DEC 70 ; c.à.d "H 8 K PACT/ JA/11/71". Transportée par le
"NEWTON". Rare...TB 36+37 ☒



Loeb

January 28, 1871



Paris 28.th Jan'y 1871.

Saturday night.

My dearest Augusta! Saturday night.
I kept Janie from
writing you yesterday and to day in
case of any hitch occurring to prevent
the signature of the armistice, but now
that it is officially announced I can't
let the night pass over without telling
you know that up to the last moment

have all passed safely through the fiery ordeal - in super-
lacet as our precious skins are concerned. Long before this
reach you you will have heard by the telegraph that our
Paris has been forced to give in, not from want of courage
part of its defenders but from the absolute impossibility of
stopping the impending famine. We had in fact carried the
advance of the stomachs to its extremest limits and would
simply have continued to do so had there been the slightest hope
of relief from without, within any delay short of complete starvation
the depot of the outside armies deprived us of all that aid
the government no alternative but surrender. Even as it
we were reduced to little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of horse flesh
and 9 oz. of black bread per diem for each and though this
quite enough to sustain life and even health in most
cases associated as it was by a tolerable supply of wine the
authorities had to finish by acknowledging the day before
yesterday that at that rate moderate as it was we could only
last a few days longer even by breaching in the rations of
soldiers who as a matter of course had hitherto been better
than the civil population. It brought to that point the
the B.C.A. for it had to do what was necessary.

Letter written on Saturday, January 28, 1871, in Paris - the last day of the siege and the last day a ballon monté left Paris. The writer added an additional note on Sunday, January 29.

Posted Paris, Place de La
Madeleine, on January 29,
1871 (faint CDS),

carried by one of the
earliest non-ballon monté
mails out of Paris and
forwarded to Roscommon.
ROSCOMMON arrival
postmark of February 1?,
1871.

ago & said if she was nearly dead, and from her reply of "Yes to Storer's" you can easily understand how far she is. By the way, I lost the half of a beautiful blue bird the other day, in swimming a bit of straw, belonging to an outlying house that had been killed by a fragment of shell or shot or other thing; - I was alone & I ought to have in all conscience but I can tell you that the spirit of God lives, that you may, I fear, just make me feel too languageless & weakly. When I write him things - but I can't keep repeating my words; down and deeper & you sit, and in hope of being with him enabled to write him a second sheet of paper, believe me as strongly to be - Your affectionately attached son
Wm. W. W.

Mrs Daly
Rocksavage
Roscommon
Ireland.

[illegible]

THE NATION

VOL. XXI.---No. 22

DUBLIN, 3 JUNE, 1871.

PRICE: TWOPENCE.

The Nation

The struggle in Paris was over by Sunday last. By Saturday the various corps, under the supreme command of Marshal MacMahon, converging steadily on the insurgents from North, West, and South, had driven them into their last stronghold in Belleville, and on the evening of that day that last stronghold was captured by the troops of General Vinoy and L'Admirault. At five o'clock on Sunday all firing had ceased, the last band of insurgents had been either killed or made prisoners, and Marshal MacMahon proclaimed to the inhabitants of Paris the complete and final extinction of the Commune.

The work of suppressing the insurrection finished, that of meting out punishment to the most execrable set of criminals the world has seen, immediately began, and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the scene in the streets are said by many to have almost equalled in horror those of the previous week. According to the English newspaper correspondents, the troops gave no quarter to men or women found with arms in their hands. The insurgents were bayoneted or shot right off in batches of one hundred or more at a time. As many as forty thousand prisoners were taken, and to try these court martials were established in several quarters of the city. It is estimated that 1,500 insurgents are daily condemned to death by these courts. As for the chiefs of the Commune, all have now been either killed or taken prisoners, and are awaiting execution, with the exception of Pyat and Grousset, and with reference to even these, there is some doubt whether they have escaped. The total loss of the insurgents before the entry of the troops into Paris is set down at twelve thousand in killed and wounded, and it is estimated that ten thousand were killed in the course of the fighting in the city. It is probable that ten thousand more have been executed since the suppression of the insurrection. The total loss of the troops appears to have been about 2,000 or 3,000 in killed and wounded.

confidently asserted, yet the question as to what form of Government is to be definitely established in France has not yet been broached in the Assembly.

The most notable incidents of the proceedings of the National Assembly during the week have been the statement made by General Changarnier on the capitulation of Metz, and the speech of General Trochu on the causes of the French disasters. General Changarnier blames Bazaine for having allowed himself to be shut up in Metz; but he finds no fault with his conduct since the battle of Gravelotte. General Trochu attributes the disasters which have befallen France to his countrymen's love for frivolous pleasures, and to their practical irreligion. "The army," he says, "was not at fault, but was victimised. The whole country was guilty for having allowed itself to be invaded by two plagues—English luxuriousness and Italian corruption." All sensible and competent observers are in thorough agreement on this subject with General Trochu.

A truly good, if not a great man has just passed away from amongst us. The Very Rev. Dr. Spratt died this day week, to the sincere sorrow of every citizen of Dublin. While there was no path of Christian duty in which he did not walk, Dr. Spratt applied himself with special care and eagerness to protecting the orphan, giving shelter to the homeless, and battling with the evils of Drink. It was in this last cause that he was most prominently before the public, and it was in its actual service that he died. Although he did not take any prominent part in political movements, he was yet an ardent lover of his country, and devoted as heartily as any one her moral and material advancement. His funeral, which took place on Tuesday, was as large a one as Dublin has seen for many a day, and was attended by persons of all creeds and classes. For rich and poor, Protestants and Catholics, held Dr. Spratt in equal esteem and affection. In our news columns will be found a notice of his life and labours, and an account of his funeral.

BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BALLONS MONTÉS FORWARDED TO IRELAND
THE CORBET CORRESPONDENCE

September 16, 1870

Commandant Corbet, ranking high in the French Army as commander of the 187th Battalion of the GARDE NATIONALE DE PARIS, sent his wife Amélie Corbet to Portadown, Co. Armagh, Ireland, for the months of the siege of Paris.

Paris le 16 Septembre 1870

Ma chère amie,

Vous senez-je bien inspirée si
vous m'avez écrit un télégramme de Londres
comme vous en avez l'idée. Je n'aurais pas pu en
avoir l'idée, m'étant couché à 2 heures et le
à 4^h 1/2. Je suis venu hier de Pont de l'arche
après avoir reconnu la route de la à Gisors pour
m'assurer si l'ennemi ne se dirigerait pas par
Compiègne et Bapaume sur Rouen pour intercepter
les arrivages de la Seine et faire contribuer cette
dernière ville. Le midi lui-même était fort inquiet
je viens de son bureau pour lui montrer votre
lettre des que j'ai vue. Il vous ira.

J'ai grande foi dans la résistance de
Paris nous avons 300,000 gardes mobiles 157
Bataillons de plus de 1500 hommes chacun.

Les ponts du chemin de fer ayant été
presque tous détruits nous allons être
chargés de la défense de la rive gauche de
la Seine c'est sur ce côté que je pense
qui aura lieu l'attaque par le bois de
St Mandé et environs car ces premiers aimant
les bois leur pays et étant couverts, ils
sont accoutumés à se reconnaître déjà
nous avons fait prisonniers de Hulaux
tout près des forts d'Achères.

Jeanne est toujours avec moi
nous avons ma garde mobile logé dans la
chambre près de la femme. Je me conduit
bien et s'en ira après huit jours

Letter dated September 16, 1870, two days before the normal mail closed,
and probably carried on the last train leaving Paris on September 18, at 2.30 p.m.

October 12, 1870 / April 12, 1990

April 12 1990

FDear Friend:

Thank you very much for your nice letter and especially for the cover. Boca Raton has over 100,000 people and I am pleased and surprised that it reached me without an address. Not everyone who writes me with an address just slightly different from the true one is as fortunate.

I sold my collection of French balloons two years ago. I am 81 and do not know how much time the good Lord will give me to enjoy philately and my wife would have enough to do when Intake leave of this earth.

I sold my entire collection of Ballon Montes two years ago. I do not think that the cover to Ireland was part of it. More likely I took the illustration from an auction catalog of another collection.

The outstanding authority on balloons in this country is

Ernst M. Cohn
1138 Appian Way
Dothan, AL 36303

I do not think that there is a better collection in the world. He has done a tremendous amount of writing on the subject. I will send him to read the things you sent me. Whether he will want to write you I do not know. He will be in London for the stamp show and then go to Germany to visit his wife's relatives. She is German.

Where did you learn such fine English?

I was glad to know that my writings have pleased you. I have a new book coming out this year to be published by Amos Press who did the reprints in the two recent editions.

All best wishes and thank you again for the nice cover you used in writing me. I will send Mr. Cohn a copy of this letter in case he wishes to get in touch with you.

Sincerely,

Pardon the errors. I suffer from Parkinson's Disease and get around in a wheelchair. I do not have the full use of my hands either for typing.

**THE SIEGE OF PARIS AND
THE BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871:
BALLON MONTÉ TO DUBLIN AND THE PAT HERST - RONNY CORRESPONDENCE**

October 12, 1870 / April 12, 1990



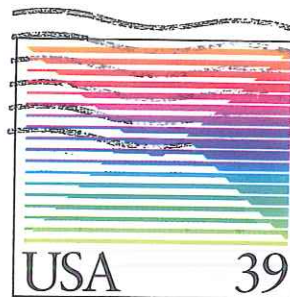
April 12 1990

Dear Friend:

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HERMAN HERST, JR.
POST OFFICE BOX 1583
BOCA RATON FL33429-0494



Mr. Ronny Vogt
Berninastr. 76
CH-8057 Zurich
Switzerland

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

All best wishes and thank you again for the nice cover you used in writing me. I will send Mr. Cohn a copy of this letter in case he wishes to get in touch with you.

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THE SIEGE OF PARIS AND
THE BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871:
BALLON MONTÉ TO DUBLIN AND THE PAT HERST - RONNY CORRESPONDENCE

October 12, 1870 / May 17, 1990

May 17

Thanks Roinny for your note from Aly ¼aly. It was the
firs

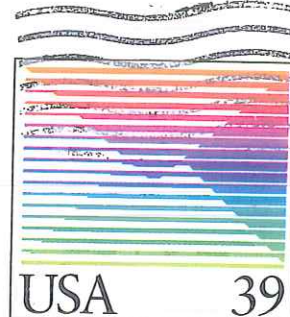
t I have seen of the souvenir sheet. Thanks
for using it.

Glad Ermie Cohn helped you . He was at the
show, Maybe you met him. A very helpful
knowledgeable chap.

Perhaps we will meet in Florida some day. My days of
distant travel are over.

Goodluk,

HERMAN HERST, JR.
POST OFFICE BOX 1583
BCC RATON FL33429-0494



Ronny Vogt

Berninastr. 76

CH 8057 Zurich

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

Switzerlans

Mr. Ronny Vogt
Berninastr. 76

CH-8057 Zurich / Switzerland

Member: AAMS, RPSL, BAeF, EPA, EAPC, FAI

Mr.
Herman Herst Jr.
World-renowned Stamp Dealer and Collector
USA-Boca Raton, Florida 33435

Zurich, April 4, 1990

Dear Mr. Herst

I am a keen as well as a very enthusiastic reader of your books on Stamp Collecting and I thought it to be a good idea to tell you about that one day! I like your books very much, and I have read several of them more than just once. My latest acquisition was the 7th (and revised) Edition (1988) of "Nassau Street" - a marvelous book! My "handicap" is that I am only 40 years old, and that I am a more or less serious stamp collector now only for some ten years: this is the reason why I never had a chance to know the "good old times" that you describe in your books and never had a chance to acquire one of the first editions of your books. When reading your books I feel proud to be a stamp collector (is there a better compliment?), and this may not be taken for granted (vide "Nassau Street", 7th Edition, 1988, Chapter 17, page 163-169!).

But there is another reason, too, for writing this letter: in your book "The compleat Philatelist", 1979 Edition, page 68, I have found a very interesting illustration showing a Ballon Monté cover forwarded to Ireland. And it's here where my special interests start: I have a specialised collection of Irish airmails (a very interesting field of collecting, especially when you think of all the Transatlantic flights, successful or not, to and from Ireland! I enclose a copy of a short article written recently), and one of the scarcer elements are the Ballon Montés forwarded to Ireland. I was very surprised to find the illustration in your book, as your cover originates from the same correspondence as do two of the Ballon Montés in my collection. I assume that the cover of your illustration is from your personal collection as you had (or still have) a special interest in the

**THE SIEGE OF PARIS AND
THE BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871:
BALLON MONTÉ TO DUBLIN
AND THE PAT HERST - RONNY CORRESPONDENCE** (BALLONMONTES EU)

October 12, 1870 / April 4, 1990

ERNST M. COHN
1138 Appian Way
Dorham AL 36303
U.S.A.

*Handwritten 7. April 1990
in Hamp World London*

18 April 1990

Mr Ronny Vogt
Berninastrasse 76
CH 8057 Zürich
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr Vogt,

Pat Herst sent me your letter to him, with photocopy enclosures of your covers to Ireland and your description of your exhibit as well as the article you wrote in IRISH STAMP NEWS No. 30 (1988). I shall return all of that material to him, but not before making a few comments about your ballons montés.

Though I have not made a specific survey of b.m.s to Ireland, I cannot remember having seen very many of them.

The one shown by Pat Herst in his COMPLEAT PHILATELIST (1979), mailed in time for the "Washington" or the "Louis Blanc", appears to have been delayed and flown on a later balloon, judging from the daytime train marking of 18 October.

The letter mailed on 11 October, having arrived on the same day and received an identical pmk as the one illustrated by Herst, presumably was delayed by the same time interval, so the balloon is again indeterminate.

I cannot read the lozenge cancels on the Armée du Rhin cover of 27 Oct. I find it interesting because of the mixed Cérés and Napoléon franking. Having been mailed on that day, it may have missed the "Vauban" that left about 9 AM and hence been carried on a later balloon. One would have to know the date of the earliest stamp from outside of Paris to be sure whether that was the "Colonel Charras". Armée pmks are very desirable, of course.

I happen to be in the process of writing a little study about the "Général Uhrich", which may have carried the cover pmkd 5E/13 NOV 70. The problem is that that cover has no backstamps. The "Uhrich" carried only 80 kg mail, whereas one would expect that the mail accumulated from almost all of 12 Nov through almost all of 18 Nov, i.e., seven days, should have amounted to 140 - 210 kg. In other words, that week's mail should have been at least twice as heavy as what was loaded on the "Uhrich".

The next balloon was the "Archimède". It carried enough mail, so that between those two balloons, we arrive not only at the normal average daily mail weight but also find a bit of excess. I have shown in a statistical study, a good many years ago, that at least half of the Paris balloon mail of 1870/71 consisted of printed matter and similar "second class" mail that had accumulated in the hectic days before the start of the siege. In any case, it is not possible to be certain that this cover went via the "Uhrich".

The cover of 5 Nov is a certain "Ville de Châteaudun"; it is curious (though not particularly significant) that it bears the shortened endorsement "Par Ballon".

The next cover is certainly not a pli confié, since no such

**THE SIEGE OF PARIS AND
THE BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871:
BALLON MONTÉ TO DUBLIN
AND THE PAT HERST - ERNST COHN - RONNY CORRESPONDENCE (BALLONMONTES 8U)**

October 12, 1870 / April 18, 1990

Fine Art & Antiques

Rare Thomas Roberts land

Irish interest at Sotheby's upcoming sale in London will centre on a work by the 18th century artist Thomas Roberts, writes John Armstrong

Sotheby's has put a pre-sale estimate of €294,000-€440,000 (£200,000-£300,000) on an 18th century Irish painting included in its New Bond Street, London, sale on November 24th.

The picture, titled *Gerald Fitzgerald's Negro Servant holding bold Sir William in a Landscape, a Poodle beside*, is by the premier Irish landscape artist of the period, Thomas Roberts (1748-78), and has an unusual provenance.

It is in 1660 National attributes Robert's brother differed Lord Servant and

(1763-1798) were both sons of the first Duke of Leinster. Gerald died at sea, aged 22, serving with the Royal Navy while his older brother, Edward, died in Newgate prison in 1798 from injuries

received during his arrest for treason on the outbreak of the 1798 Rebellion.

In its 1969 catalogue notes for the portraits exhibition, Dr Anne Crookshank and the Knight of Glin, the foremost authorities on 17th and 18th century Irish painting, wrote that the work of the two Roberts brothers, both confusingly sharing the same first Christian name, was so inextricably mixed that "it has so far proved impossible to separate



**"A MOST HONORABLE MENTION":
THE SIEGE OF PARIS AND
THE BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871:
BALLON MONTÉ TO CASTLEPOLLARD, CO. WESTMEATH, IRELAND (BALLONMONTE2 EU)**

October 27, 1870

Dublin until his betrayal and arrest in Thomas Street in 1798.

However, further research on the picture in the 1970s by Dr Michael Wynne, former keeper of the National Gallery, identified

it as part of the Carton collection, first exhibited at the Society of Artists in Dublin in 1772. Dr Wynne's research was based on an

inspection of the catalogue archives of the Society of Artists for the late 18th century.

His findings were later pub-

lish attr Cro Glin

Air balloon letter from Paris siege in sale

A letter from Paris to Castlepollard, Co Westmeath, lifted by hot air balloon out of the French capital during the Prussian siege of 1870-'71, is among the lots to be sold later today at MacDonnell Whyte's stamp auction in Jury's Hotel in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

The airmail envelope has postmarks from Paris and from Kilkucan and Castlepollard, and carries the printed note *Par Ballon Monte*. Because the Prussians had completely surrounded the city, the letter had to be flown out by balloon and thence by sea and rail. It was one of the first combined air-sea-rail letters to Ireland. The pre-auction estimate is €2,250.

Also in the MacDonnell Whyte sale and of interest to collectors



of Victorian stamps are four of the 1840 Twopenny Blues, the second postage stamp issued after the Penny Black. These particular examples are estimated at

€1,800. A block of six Queen Victoria 10/- stamps, postmarked from Belfast in 1893, is expected to sell for about €1,400.

A section of the auction is

Letter from Paris by hot air balloon during the Prussian siege of 1870-'71

devoted to letters sent before the invention of stamps, termed "postal history" by collectors. Included is a letter from Philadelphia to Dorset in England, with a hand stamp "Newry Ship", due to the captain being forced into Carlingford Lough during bad weather. Only one other letter with this marking is known. It carries an estimate of €2,000.

Over 100 collectors are expected at today's auction in the mezzanine suite, Jury's, from 12.30pm. There are almost 1,000 lots, including intact collections and the extensive dealer stock of the late John Keenan.

Thi anc Yo: lion of 19 w d: ai t: c n c i: c t i f s j

BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871
THE SIEGE OF PARIS: BALLONS MONTÉS FORWARDED TO IRELAND

November 2, 1870

Letter written on November 1, 1870, and probably carried on November 2
by the *ballon monté* FULTON and forwarded to Roscommon.

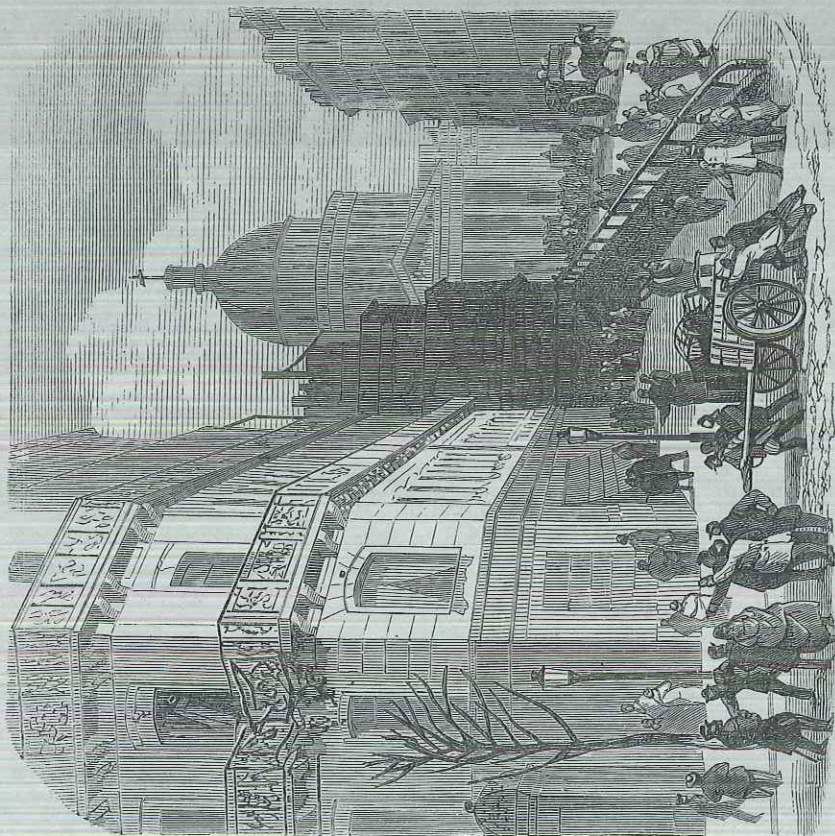
From the Daly/Hodson correspondence to Roscommon. Letter written in English.

My dearest Augusta

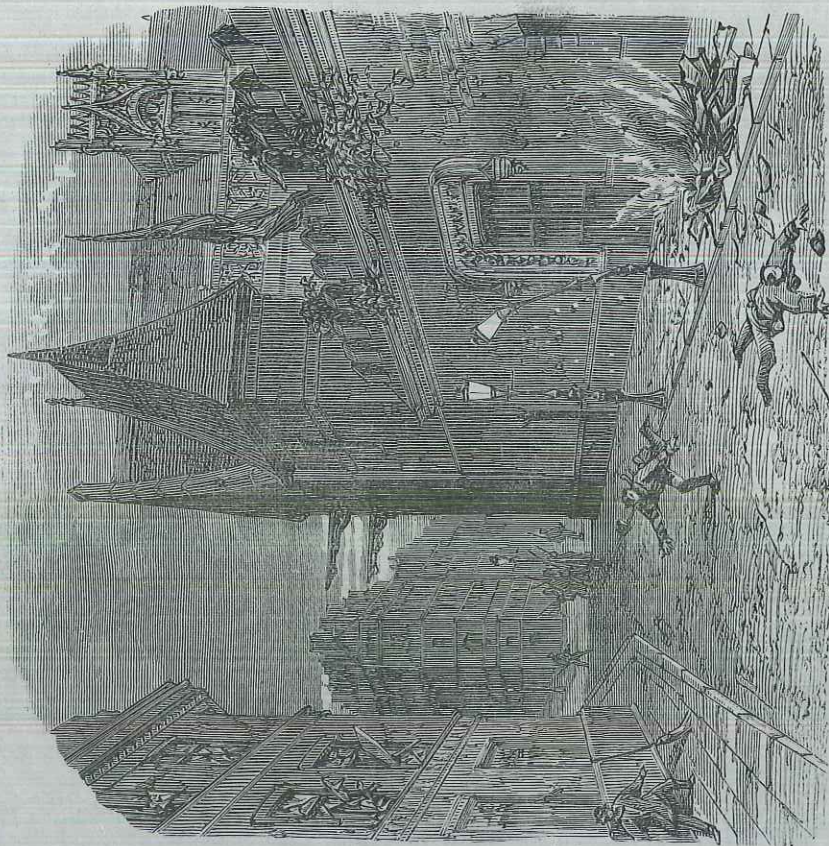
Paris 1st November 1870

The house papers will no doubt publish exaggerated accounts of our latest attempt at revolution which came off yesterday. The strength of Paganini's capitulation is a drop a line to keep your mind easy in chance of its being able to get off its feet. The whole affair of yesterday was a storm in a teacup got up by a parcel of demagogues who brought their ruffian adherents to bear on the Hotel de Ville where they laid hands on the members of the government then in Council - proclaimed their revocation and as a matter of course constituted a new government composed of themselves. The comedy was kept up for several hours during which they issued all sorts of decrees - orders of arrest - and I don't know what not. The town being all the time in a tolerable state of effervescence. In the course of the evening General Trochu succeeded in making his escape from their clutches and collecting his troops surrounded the Hotel de Ville with its men and women who were all taken alive or treated as such. As the part of the ceremony only came off between three and four in the morning we don't get from the details but so far as I can learn no blood of any consequence. As seen the rest we are once more blessed with the same rulers as before. They were never objects of any adoration but were they ever such misanthropes? He garbages of perfection compared with the clique who tried to replace them. He has therefore turned out for the best so far - and though it is not possible that some further trouble may take place you need not be with least alarmed about it. He who is king of my will be content to a little squibbing out of doors. Even as it was last night everything was perfectly quiet in our district which is too far removed from the centre of action to be the least affected by it. So much is indeed the beyond the red groups of specklers on the walls and an ordinary observer and secretly have observed that nothing unusual was going on down town. Therefore whatever you may hear about it keep your mind perfectly at rest on our account. I am sure as you may be that we will always remain under cover while our good angels are keeping things quiet in the streets.

Lettre Journal, N° 29, 19 Janvier 1871.



Maison de la rue Soufflot atteinte par un obus.



Chute d'un obus devant l'hôtel Cluny.

**BALLOON POSTS OF THE FRANCO - GERMAN WAR 1870 - 1871: THE SIEGE OF PARIS
TWO ENGRAVINGS USED TO ILLUSTRATE THE "LETTRE JOURNAL No. 29"**

January 19, 1871

"Maison de la rue Soufflot atteinte par un obus" (House in the rue Soufflot hit by a shell)
and "Chute d'un obus devant l'hôtel Cluny" (Strike of a shell in front of the Cluny hotel).