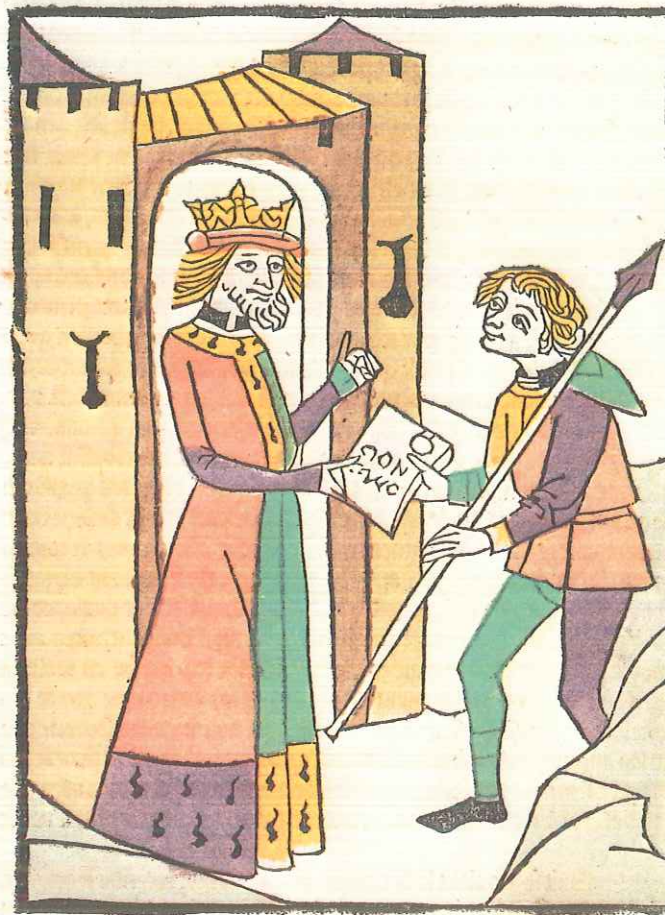


1478

Geneve

Comment le roy de bebaigne enuoia vng messagier
par deuers le roy dans sa sonstere.

C17.



Picture of a messenger taken from the book "Histoire de la Belle Melusine" by Jean d'Arras. Printed by Adam Steinschaber in Geneve in August 1478.

THE PRE-STAMP POSTAL HISTORY OF GENEVA.

The postal history of Geneva can be divided into six different periods:-

- (1) before 1798 as an independent republic,
- (2) from 1798 to 1803 under French military occupation,
- (3) from 1803-1815, the Mediation Period.
- (4) from 1815-1830, the Fischer Post period,
- (5) from 1831-1848, independent Cantonal post,
- (6) from 1848, the Federal Post.

In 1669, France, which had an effective postal system from the time of Louis XIV, opened an agency within its small neighbour, the Republic of Geneva, to handle mail to and from Lyons and other destinations. In 1695 this agency began to use the following straight line DE GENEVA handstamp meaning "from Geneva". Although used by a French post office, this is considered to be the first Swiss postmark;



DE GENEVE

This mark was later changed to GENEVA (only) as shown in the following examples;



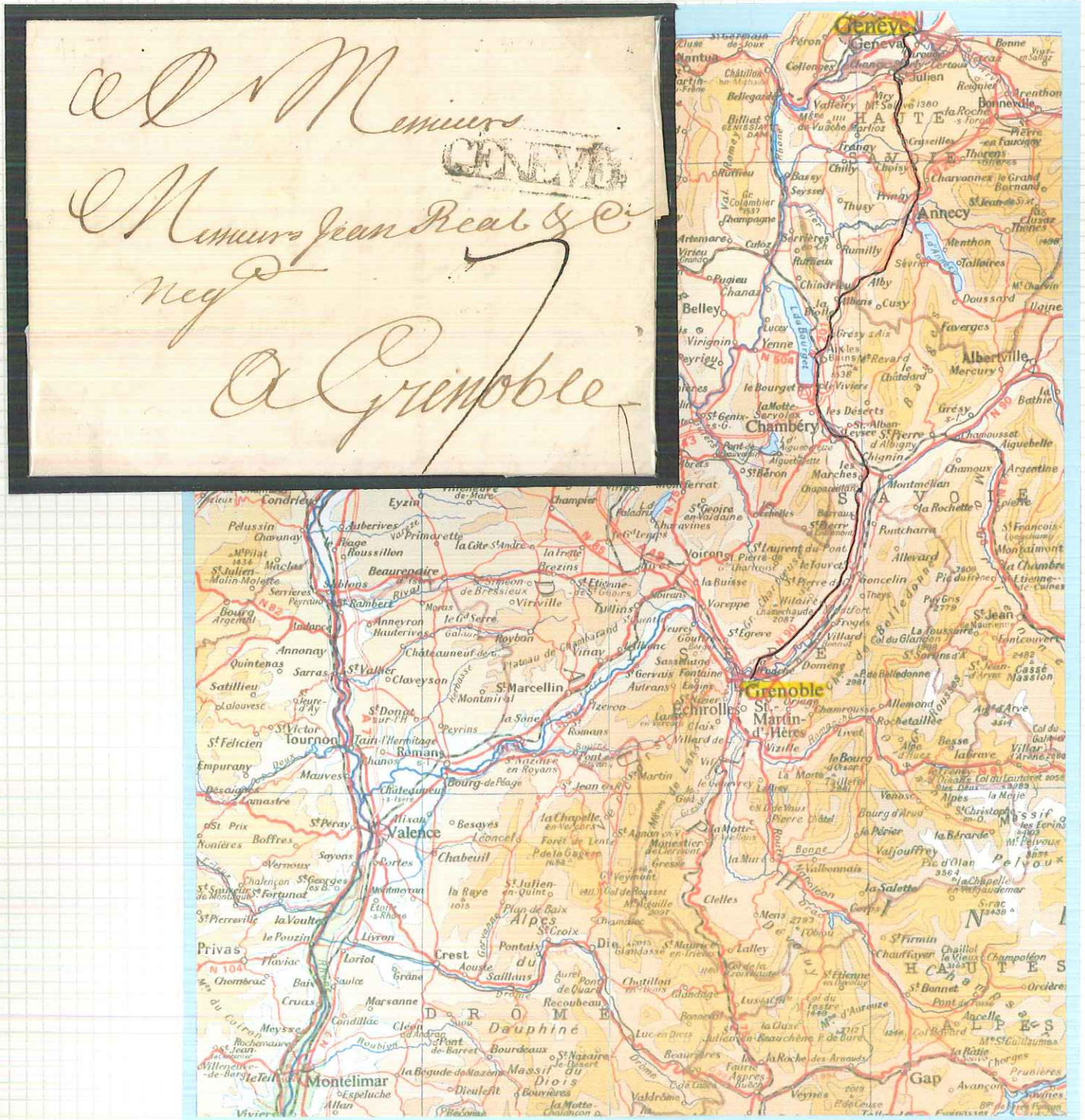
1757 (10th December).

This letter is from Venice to Marseilles routed overland via Geneva because of the British blockade of the mediterranean. The letter is written in an Italian hand and arrived on 31st December 1757. The rate mark, charged in black manuscript is 9 which is presumably 9 sols. This particular type is not recorded in Winkler but as such marks must be considered rare this is not surprising. The marking devices were cut in boxwood or a very soft metal which resulted in rapid wear so that an irregular frame soon appeared round the edge. Each replacement, being hand carved was slightly different. Early examples often have the 'N' reversed. In this example the letters are large and joined together, later types are smaller with more space between the letters.

REPUBLIC OF GENEVA.

1757 (3rd October). Geneva to Grenoble.

The year of the Battle of Plassey. Business letter in French. Winkler type 56, illustration 48 as used 1755-1757. Part of the wooden block surround showing clearly. This is a good strike of this early type and is unusual in that it originates in Geneva and is not just passing through.



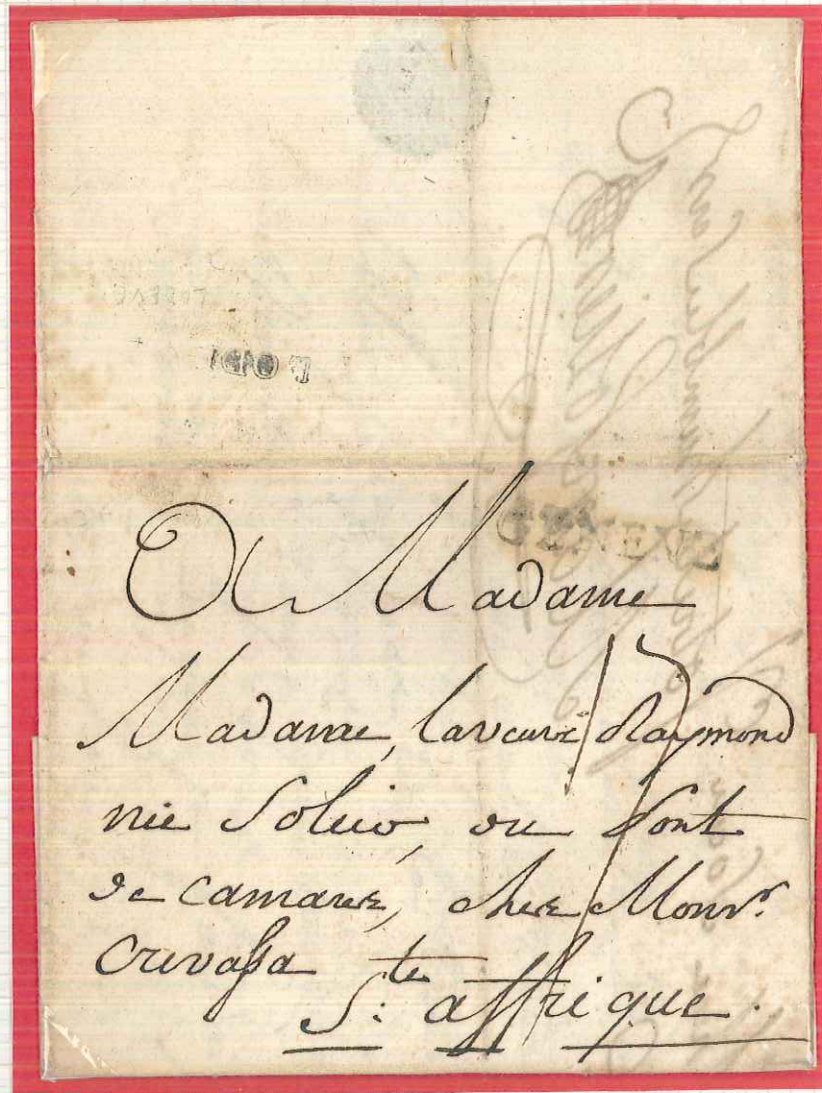
GENEVE - TRANSIT MAIL.



1761 (14 March). The Seven Years War. Letter from Venice to Marseilles. This war was fought between Prussia, aided by Britain, and a coalition of Austria, Russia, France and Saxony. During the course of this conflict, the British fleet blockaded the French ports, including Marseilles. Mail from Italy to Marseilles had normally gone by ship from Genoa, but during the blockade it had to be diverted through Geneva. This letter, with the very early boxed straight line strike of **GENEVE** is not recorded in Winkler. The manuscript charge over the cancellation appears to be "21" though it may be "12". The letter is in Italian and is part of a continuing correspondence.

CANTON GENEVA

OUTWARD MAIL FROM SWITZERLAND.



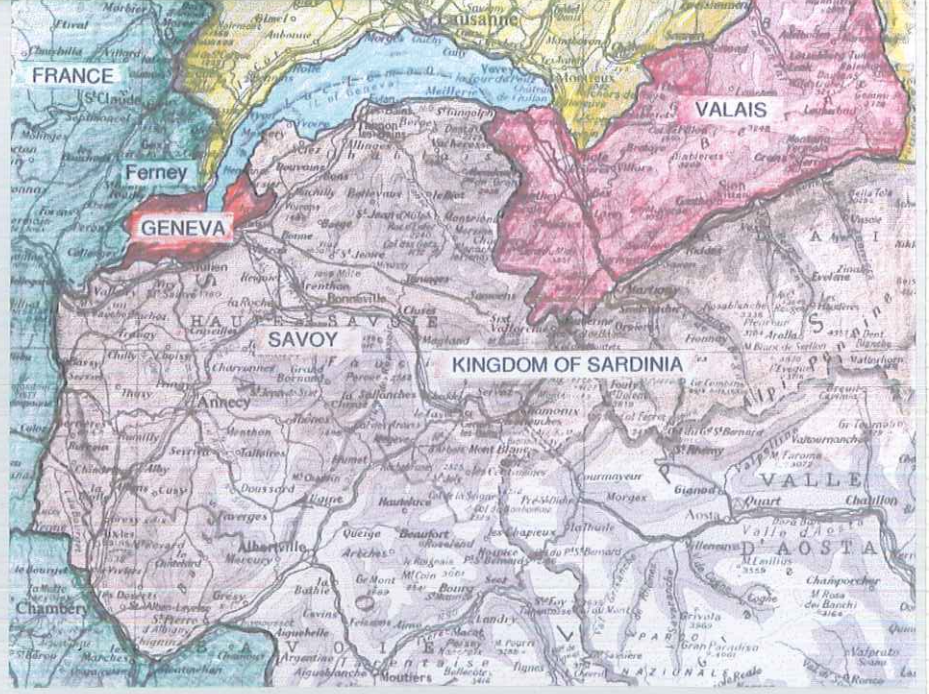
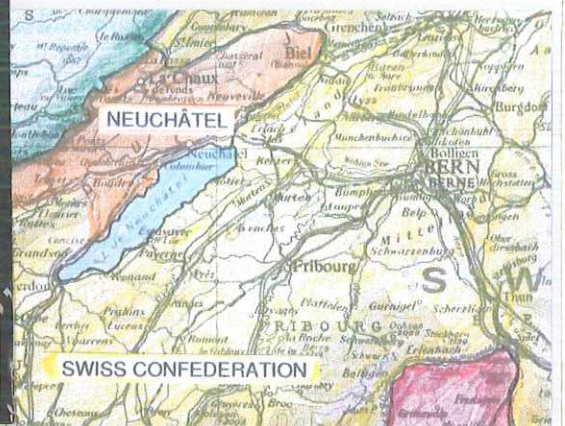
1769 (26th August). Letter from Switzerland to France.

Very old letter from Boisy (Bossy) just north of Geneva to St. Afrique a village near Lodève in the Camargue. The cover bears one of the large number of straight line marks used by Geneva in the 18th century and the letter is backstamped LODE (VE) in black. It is a letter from the family solicitor notifying a sister of the sad death of her brother and asking her to be brave and show fortitude with God's help. All is well at home and we are thinking of you and your loss. There were, however costs, of SWf250 for the doctor and funeral and though the nephew has helped they must ask for SWf200 as her share. There were certain goods that would be sent on to her in due course.

GENEVA - INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC.

1772 (28th September).

Letter dated 28th September 1772 from Geneva to Saillan, Dauphiné, with straight line hand stamp of the Bureau de poste Francais as used from 1770 to 1775 (Winkler 59 illustration 50 rarity 6). This is an interesting cover with the manuscript rate mark of 17 sols and what appears to be 'scribble' before the address. The 'scribble' is now thought to indicate that the postage had been paid in full and was a kind of 'post paid' indicator. The writer had no need to give the full address of the recipient as it was a small village, but he clearly indicated the route to be taken, which was via Valence on the Rhône and Crest situated some distance up the Drôme tributary. The route was clearly indicated to avoid the mountains of Savoy which at that time formed part of the Kingdom of Sardinia.



The Bureau de Poste Francais was closed in 1798 when the French Republican army marched in.

CANTON GENEVE

The Napoleonic Period 1798-1815.

Napoleon occupied Switzerland in 1798 and set up the Helvetic Republic which lasted until 1803. During this period, the Posts were reorganised and the services previously run by the Cantons or by private carriers, were nationalised and unified. A Central Post Bureau was set up at Luzern (but moved to Bern the following year), and the Country was divided into five Postal Districts. Those parts of Switzerland incorporated into France such as Geneve, introduced French type postmarks, the Army using distinctive military marks. The Helvetic Republic was closed in 1803 after the Act of Mediation, and Napoleon created fresh Cantons under French domination. All areas were restored to Switzerland by the Congress of Vienna 1815.



1808 (November). For the limited period 1808-09 the **99/GENEVE** mark had slightly smaller letters than its predecessor. The letters were 3½mm x 26mm (Winkler 470). The manuscript '8' indicates a charge of 8 decimes. The mark in red is the Paris receiving mark. After the French occupied Switzerland in 1798, Geneve was annexed by France and remained under its jurisprudence until 1815. The French created a new Department - Département du Lemane - and allocated it the number 99. This number was then included in the postmarks. This two line type in black was in use from 1798-1815. There are variations in size and style of letter and Winkler has recorded ten such variations. The second '9' is frequently found broken.

GENEVA

THE MEDIATION PERIOD 1803 - 1815.

1814 (9th November).

Letter sheet from Geneva to Orleans? The writer has gone to great lengths to conceal the destination of this letter to preserve the secrecy of the recipient. The cover has obviously been altered but examination of the contents show that the destination has been carefully cut out! This strike is an unusual one (Winkler 473c illustration 405 rarity 8) and is recorded as used from 1807-1814. The letters of this strike remain small as in the previous example, but there is a 'grave' accent over the second 'E', and the letters P.P (port paye = tax paid) are added, together with three dots. This is an early example of the P.P. mark, the earliest being dated to 1796.

The letter is officially sealed with the Geneva city seal which is superb and is reproduced below.

P.P.
GENÈVE



The same arms of the city - an eagle and key - were used later in the design of the Geneva Cantonal issues.

On December 30th 1813, Austrian troops under General Bubna drove the French out of Geneva and established a provisional government under General Zechmeister. Postal activities were under military control, letters to France were permitted provided they were presented unsealed to General Bubna before being sent. In August 1814 the French post office was re-opened and functioned until June 1815. In May 1815 Geneva became a Swiss Canton.

FISCHER POSTAL AGENCY IN GENEVA.

On 13th December 1815 a contract was agreed with the Fischer Agency of Berne to undertake the letter post service of Geneva for 15 years for an annual fee of 42,000 gold francs.

In 1816 the Fischer Agency employed; one Inspector; one controller; two cashiers; two office workers; two postman and one office boy. The main office was in Geneva with secondary offices at Carouge and Versoix and a distribution office at Chêne. A very complicated tariff system was used relating to the weight of the letter and its destination.



Beat Fischer of Reichenbach

Another Agency was opened in Sardinia in 1703. Beat Fischer made judicious covenants or treaties and operated the North - South transit service from the German States, Thurn and Taxis, Brandenburg, the Netherlands and Northern Italy.

CANTON GENEVA

Early Transit Marks.

Much Swiss mail naturally went to France and was routed through French Offices which were situated near the frontier. Of these, probably the best known is the one which existed at Ferney and mail passing through it was stamped firstly with the two line with a two line and later with a three line boxed cancellation. Later circular cancellations were used, usually in red and these can be found for such places as Belfort, Besancon, Delle, Huningue, Pontarlier, St. Louis etc.

1816 (28th September). Geneva to Marsailles.

This letter bears the earliest type of transit mark used by the Fischer family. GENEVE / PAR FERNEY (W.2617) was in use from 1815-1818.



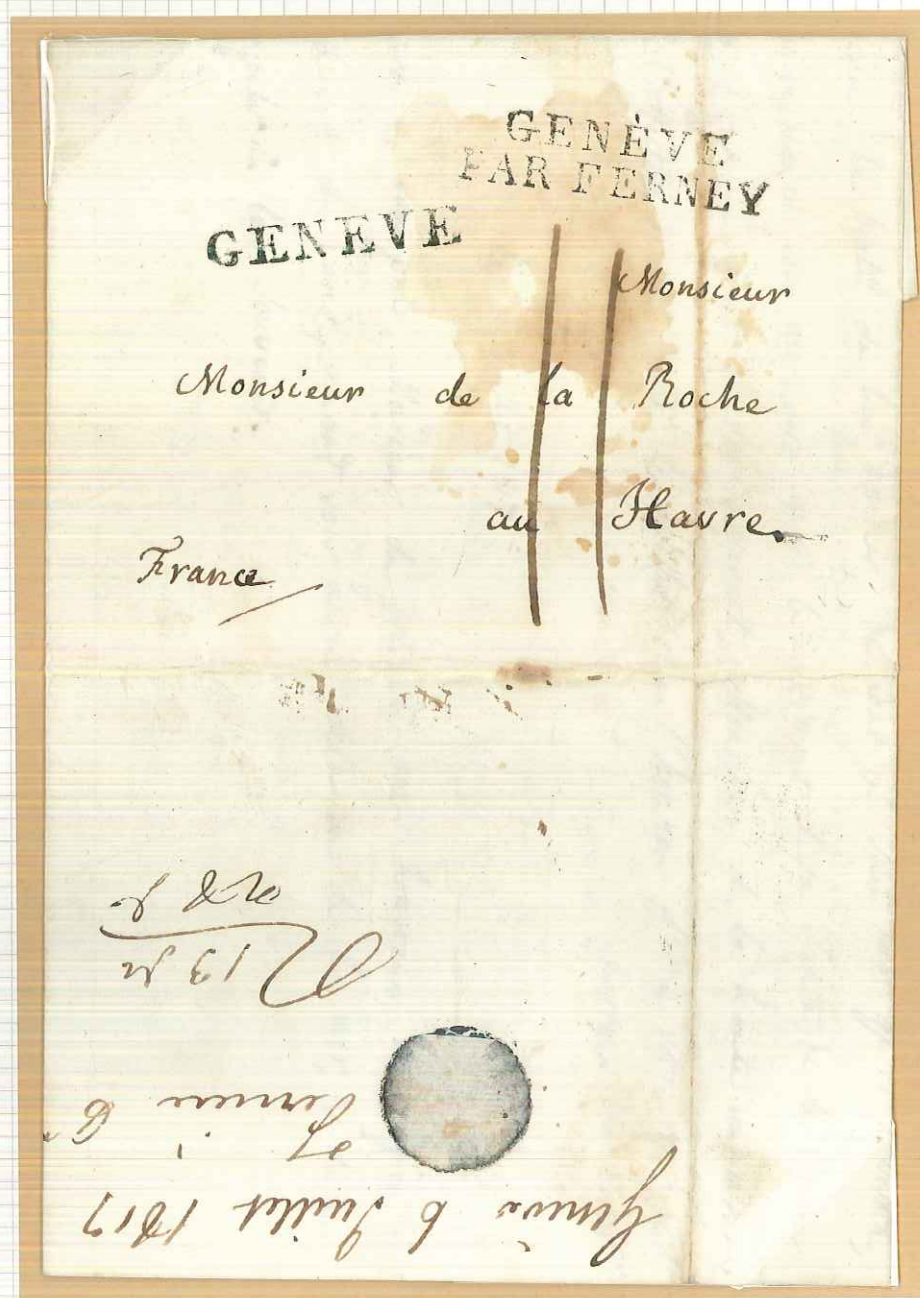
In the 18th century there was no central government in Switzerland dealing with letters which were mainly from merchants or officials and this caused many problems. After the Act of Mediation in 1803 which restored independence to Switzerland, methods governing the transit of mail between Switzerland and France were developed. French exchange offices began to use 'Marque d'entré' from 1807 to indicate the point of entry of letters from Switzerland.

FISCHER POST

CANTON GENEVA

1817 (6th July). Geneva to La Havre.

An interesting letter with both the straight line GENEVE (4½ x 33½, Winkler 2617 and the first type transit mark GENÈVE / PAR FERNEY (Emm.Gp.169 type 6668). The grave over the second 'E' in GENEVE may have been added or may be accidental. The tax mark is '11'.



In 1815 when the French left Geneva the transit office was moved from Geneva to Ferney just across the border. This resulted in the creation of GENEVE / PAR FERNEY used on letters carried by the Fischer family. The matching SUISSE / PAR FERNEY was used on letters from elsewhere in Switzerland (usually Vaud), which entered France at Ferney.

FISCHER POST

CANTON GENEVE

1815 (10 November) - 1830 FISCHER POST.



1817 (22nd May). Letter from Geneva to Lavigny in France. Manuscript charge of '7' to the frontier and '10' to the final destination. Straight line **GENEVE** 4½mm x 33½mm, Winkler type 2617 illustration 1302 as used 1816-20.

CANTON GENEVE

1817 (26th October).

This letter is from Geneva to Paris and carries the rare two line GENEVE PAR FERNEY as well as the stright line GENEVE (Winkler 2617 illustration 1302) as used from 1816-1820. The charge to the recipient of 10 decimes is indicated by the black manuscript mark. The letter is backstamped with the receiving mark of Paris dated 31st October in black.

1815 (10 November) - 1830 FISCHER POST.

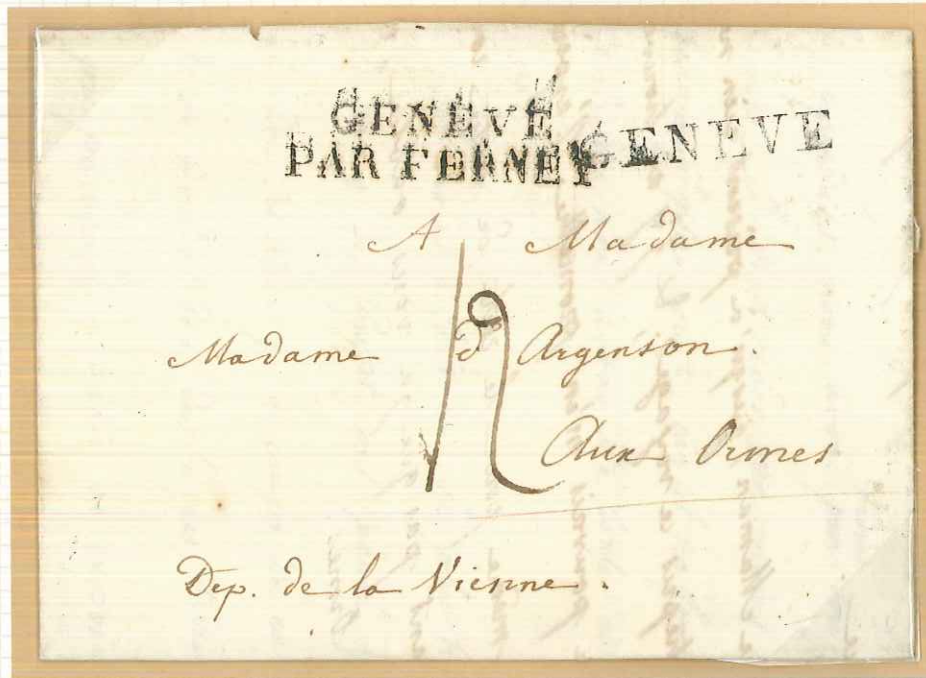


When Geneva joined the Swiss Confederation in May 1815, the French closed their post office in the City and established an exchange office in Ferney, just across the border north of Geneva. Letters carried by the Fischer Post to Ferney received the two line transit mark.

CANTON GENEVA.

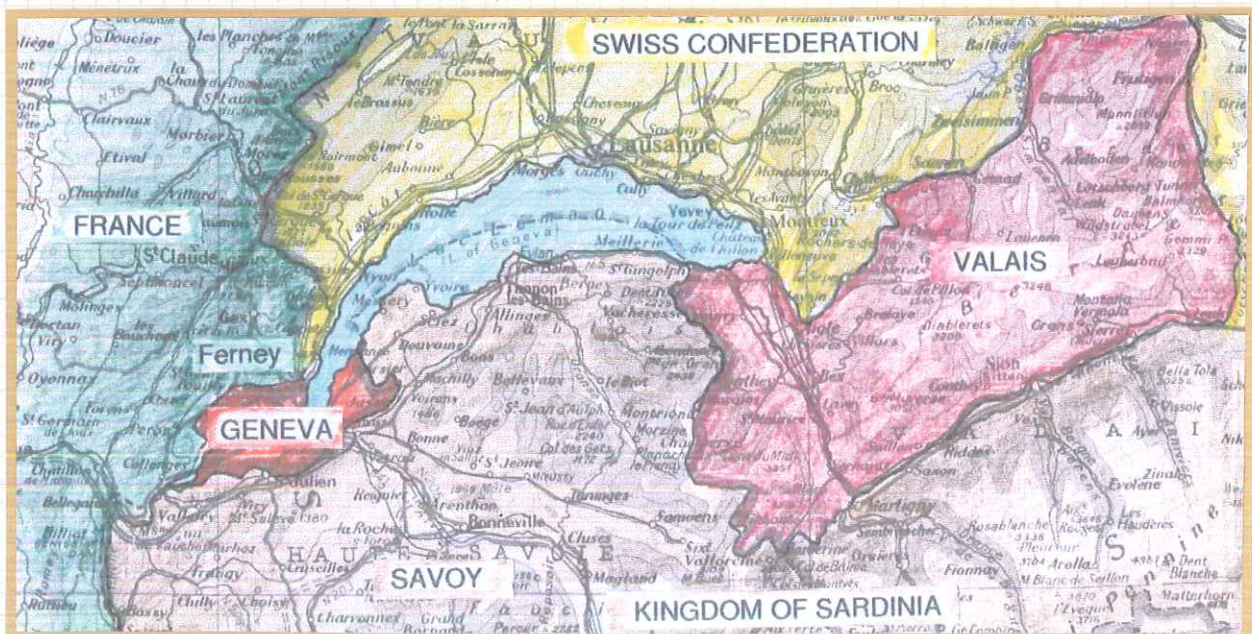
Geneva joined the Swiss Confederation for the first time in 1815 when Napoleon was finally defeated. The letter below, written in 1816 was addressed to Ormes in France.

1815 (10 November) - 1830 FISCHER POST.



1816 (30th January).

Letter to Ormes in France bearing the straight line mark GENEVE (Winkler 2617) as used from 1816-1820. The other mark GENEVE / PAR FERNEY is rare and was not known to Winkler. In 1815 when the French left Geneva the transit office was moved to Ferney just across the border north of Geneva. This caused the creation of two new transit postmarks, "GENEVE PAR FERNEY" was used on letters carried by the Fischer Post to Ferney, whilst another mark "SUISSE PAR FERNEY" was used on letters from elsewhere in Switzerland which entered France at Ferney. The recipient of this letter was charged 12 decimes as indicated by the black manuscript marking.



1816 (25th March). Entire from Plancher les-Mines to Geneva.

Letter offering goods at an advantageous price with no further discount. Though lacking any postal markings, the instructional marks are interesting. At the top left, the charge for the short distance from Plancher des Mines to Belfort, the Exchange Office, was 30 centimes. The charge to pay in full of "15.97 centimes" (67 altered to 97) is in the middle right.



CANTON GENEVA

In 1815, after the defeat of Napoleon, Geneva became the 22nd Canton of the Swiss Confederation. From late 1815 the Geneva postal system was operated by Fischer. The French closed their post office in the city and most letters entering Switzerland from France entered at the Exchange Office at Ferney. This letter entering at Belfort is, therefore, somewhat unusual; it could have travelled south in France to Ferney for Geneva. The absence of any Fischer marks would seem to indicate a private carrier.

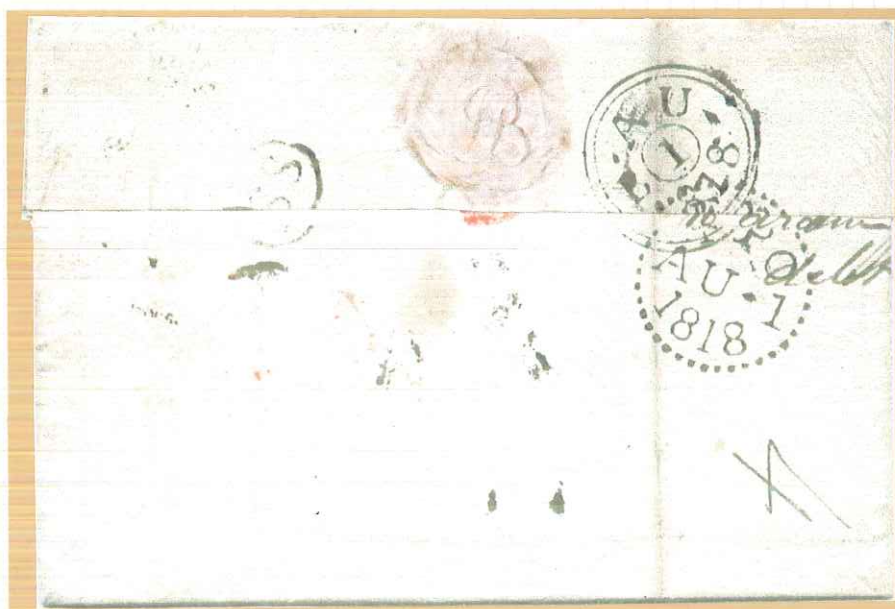
CANTON GENEVE



Note also the manuscript marks 1/11d (deleted), 1/2d and 1/4d.

1818 (23rd July).

This most interesting entire is written in Geneva and addressed to Elgin in Scotland. In black it has the boxed three line mark SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY. It was then backstamped on arrival in London with the General Post Office strike as used from 1791-1828 (W&J type 1/7) and the dotted Foreign Section mark for the same date August 1st 1818. This mark was used from 1816 (W&J 1007). There is also a light strike of the Receiving House mark - S.S. As the letter entered Scotland en route from London it was taxed boxed $\frac{1}{2}$ a tax which operated from 1813-1839. This was a charge imposed on four wheeled carriages on entering Scotland following the cancellation of exemption from tolls. The red octagonal mark receiving mark (W&J 4/7) for August 4th was used from 1811-1823.



CANTON GENEVE

1822 (29th April). Mail into Switzerland.

An entire from Paris addressed to Geneva with the French octagonal mark in red **60 PP F**, and the straight line mark **PORT-PAYÉ** indicating "postage paid. The script figure '8' on the reverse indicates eight decimes pre-paid. The figure '4' in red indicates a charge of four Kreuzer raised by the Swiss Exchange Office, to be collected for forwarding this letter from the border to Geneva.

FISCHER POST



THE FISCHER POST IN GENEVA.

In 1815 after the defeat of France, Geneva became the twenty-second Canton of the Swiss Confederation, and from late 1815 until 1830 the Geneva postal system was operated by Beat Fischer of Bern.

The fifteen year contract signed by Geneva and Beat Fischer for the operation of the postal system called for an annual fee of 28,000 pounds (about 42,000 gold Francs) and could be terminated by either party after four years. The first Director of the Fischer Post in Geneva was Andre-Jacques Pasteur-Fatio, who was followed in turn by his son Guillaume Pasteur. In 1816 the post office employed one inspector, one supervisor, two cashiers, two clerks, two letter carriers and an office boy. The post office was located in the Fusterie District on the Rue du Rhône. Carouge and Versoix also had regular post offices and Chêne had a distribution office for several years.

Before 1816 the public was obliged to pick up their own mail at the post office. This was, however, only a minor hardship as the town was quite small numbering 24,789 inhabitants. Door to door mail delivery was begun in 1816 with the employment of two letter carriers. It should be noted that most letters were passed hand to hand or delivered by private messengers. Thus the workload of the mailmen was fairly small, whilst in 1830 the mail was delivered by four ladies! A fifth letter carrier was added in 1834. Until 1835 letters could only be posted at the main office at 63/64 Rue du Rhône. Two mailboxes were installed during 1835, one in the Rive district and the other in the Place St.Gervais. These boxes were emptied three times a day. To provide a mail service outside the city, a rural postal service was organised in 1832. Initially employing ten letter carriers, the purpose of the 'Landpost' was to deliver letters, collect postage due on those letters and empty rural mail boxes. By the end of the year the Landpost was handling more than 80,000 letters each year.

CANTON GENEVE

1815 (10 November) - 1830 FISCHER POST.



1823 (25 February). SUISSE PAR FERNEY. Geneve to Marseilles. In the early nineteenth century a number of French Exchange Offices were handling mail between France and Switzerland. They indicated the point at which letters had entered the French postal system by applying a cachet d'entrée. One of the best known of these Offices was at **Ferney** just to the north-west of Geneve. The three line handstamp **SUISSE PAR FERNEY** (Emm.Gp.169 type 3005) was in use from 1823. Also on this cover is the straight line **GENEVE** 6½mm x 33mm (Winkler 2620, illustration 1305) as introduced in 1823 and only used for this one year. Similar types were used from 1819 to 1828 (Winkler 262a). The manuscript **'9'** in black indicates that the recipient had nine decimes to pay.



CANTON GENEVA



1824 (26th May). Geneva to Lyon (France).

Entire letter cancelled with straight line **GENEVE**. This is Winkler 2620 which was introduced in 1823 and was previously thought used only that year. Emmenegger, however, reports it as used *from* 1823. The three lined boxed **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY** would have been applied at the French Exchange Office in Ferney (Emmenegger Group 169 type 3005, also first used in 1823). The manuscript '6' indicates that the recipient had 6 decimes to pay.



FISCHER POST

CANTON GENEVE



1826 (27th September).

Letter from Geneva to Edinburgh. An unusual front as the originating Geneva two line stamp has been omitted. It was a heavy letter charged at 3/6d so therefore over 3/4 ounce. The additional charge of 1/2d for Scotland was applied at Edinburgh in black. There is a good clear strike of the boxed SUISSE/PAR/FERNEY (Emmenegger Group 169 type 3005. The English backstamps are particularly interesting; (1) At the Foreign section FPO/OC5/1826 (W&J 1007); (2) Inland section - double circle OC/X5 1826 (W&J 20) as used until 12 July 1828 and finally (3) a single circle in black OCT/W7E 1826 applied in Scotland (Whitney 4/10 recorded in red from 1825-30). The post-office clerk obviously pressed the stamp into the wrong ink pad!

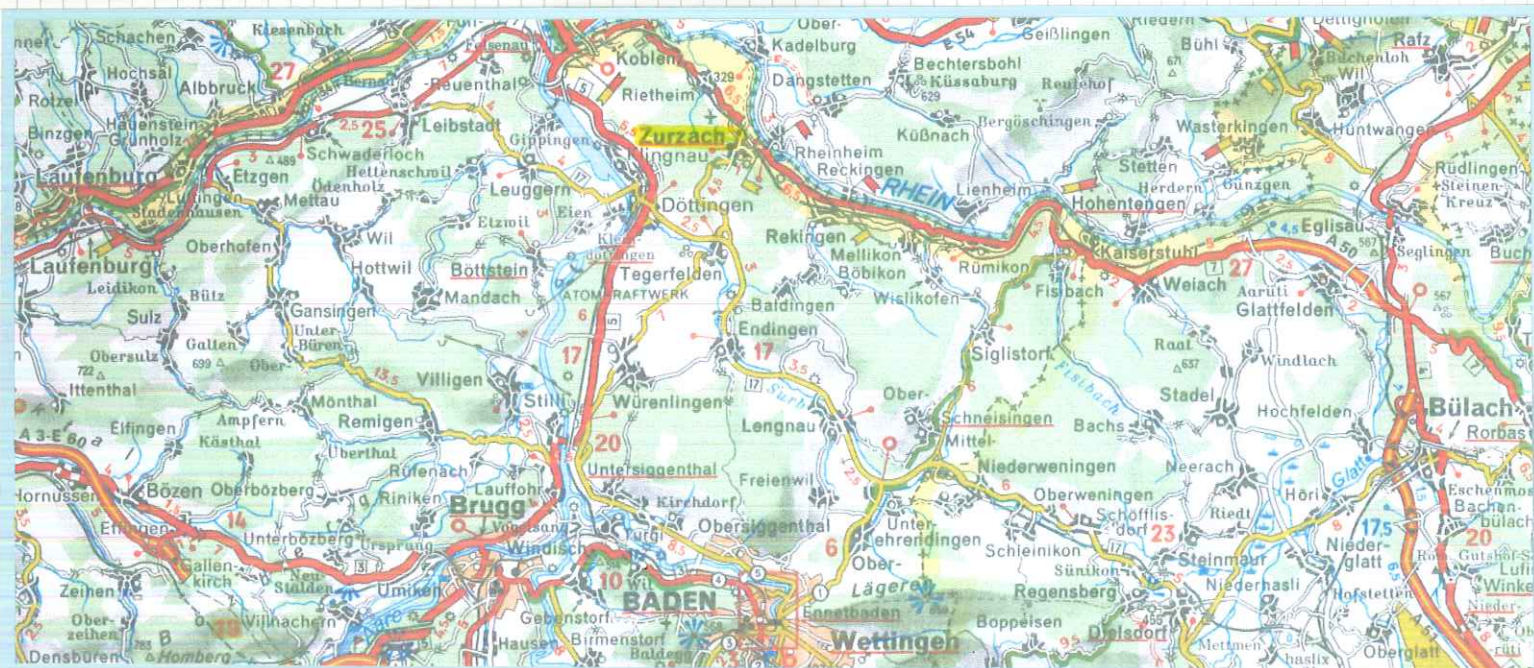


**1827 (30th January).
Letter from Geneva to Zurzach.**

Zurzach lies on the road between Basel and Zurich. This example is a complete and interesting letter written in French and after the usual salutations concludes with a bill for goods delivered. The mark Geneve 30 Janiv,1827 is Winkler 2624 (listed as rarity 6) recorded as used only in 1827 and has the accent grave over the second 'E' of 'GENEVA' (illustration 1309). This is the only type in this series with this distinction.



The front has charge marks for '3', '8' and '14' which track the letters progress presumably through Vaud, Berne and finally Aargau (Argovie).



CANTON GENEVA

FISCHER POST



1827 (15th November), Aristocratic letter from Geneva to Rolle.

This letter, written in French was started in Turin and is dated 30th October to 11th November. It has an interesting crest on the wax seal. This is Winkler type 2623 as used 1825-1828, and is one of a series of two line marks introduced by the Fischer Agency. There were at least seven types of this mark between 1825 and 1831. The manuscript charges are 4/8 as split between the two Cantons.

CANTON GENEVE

FISCHER POST

1829 (28th 7bre (September)).

Letter from Geneva to Paris. This date is marked in the top right hand corner in black with Winkler type 2625 and is very late use. In the top left hand corner is F.F.4 of the Fischer Post (Winkler 2690 as used 1827-30, rarity 6) as well as the handstamp numeral 2. Centrally the boxed French mark **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY** (Emmenegger Group 169 type 3005).



The Fischer mark **F.F.4.** indicates four kreuzer due for postage from Geneva to the French Exchange Office. According to an agreed formula, the French Exchange Office converted this to two decimes indicated by the handstruck **2**. The manuscript figure '10' indicated a final charge of 10 decimes, eight for postage from Ferney to Paris plus two due to the Fischer Post.

New treaties establishing common postal procedures between France and the Cantons of Bern, Vaud and Neuchâtel came into effect on 1st October 1828; treaties with Basel and Zürich came into effect in 1829 on 1st April. With the exception of Neuchâtel, the Treaty Cantons acted as exchange points for the other Cantons. Geneva was associated with Bern, and both Cantons employed the Fischer Post service. A main provision of the Treaty required the Swiss Exchange Offices to clearly mark the postal charges due as far as the French Exchange Offices.

CANTON GENEVE



1829 (1 October). FISCHER PAR FERNEY. Geneve to Bergerac.

During the period in which the Fischer Post was involved with the system introduced by the 1828-1839 treaties their office in Geneve used a similar mark to that used in Porrentruy. The only difference was that the letters were "F.F." i.e. Fischer par Ferney. For letters originating in Geneve the charge as far as the frontier was 4 kreuzers.

The other marks on the cover are **GENEVE with date** (Winkler 2625, 4½mm x 34mm. This type "Tag schräg, Jahr gerade" is only known used in this year); **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY** in black (Emm.Gp.169 type 3005); handstamp "2" in black applied at Ferney to indicate that the charge to the frontier was equivalent to two decimes, and finally manuscript "19" in black indicating the final charge. The cover is backstamped in black for 7 / OCTO / 1829 in a circle.

In 1830 the Canton decided to try and run the postal service by itself and a five man commission was appointed to carry out this task commencing on January 1st 1831. The changeover in management had little effect on the postal markings used on letters originating in Geneva. A wide variety of two line departure postmarks continued in use until about 1840. Winkler lists seventeen different cancels of this type, the differences being quite minor and usually involving the year and date (either upright or slanted). One important change occurred in the mark required by the postal treaty with France. The former **F.F.4** indicating 'Fischer via Ferney, 4 kreuzer' was changed to **G.F.4** meaning 'Geneva via Ferney 4 kreuzer'. The change was effective from January 1st 1831, and continued for at least six months. Due to the relative scarcity of this mark, its exact period of use has not been determined. Note that the French Exchange Office at Ferney still applied the usual mark 'Suisse par Ferney' and the numeral '2' indicating the amount due to the Swiss for carrying the letter to the border. All of these marks were in black.

FISCHER POST

CANTON GENEVE

1815 (10 November) - 1830 FISCHER POST.



1829 (20 October). FISCHER PAR FERNEY. Geneve to Paris. During the period in which the Fischer Post was involved with the system introduced by the 1828-1839 treaties their office in Geneve used a similar mark to that used in Porrentruy. The only difference was that the letters were "F.F." i.e. Fischer par Ferney. For letters originating in Geneve the charge as far as the frontier was 4 kreuzers.

The other marks on the cover are **GENEVE with date** (Winkler 2625, 4½mm x 34mm. This type "Tag schräg, Jahr gerade" is only known used in this year); **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY** in black (Emm.Gp.169 type 3005); handstamp "2" in black applied at Ferney to indicate that the charge to the frontier was equivalent to two decimes, and finally manuscript "10" in black indicating the final charge. The cover is backstamped with the **PARIS** receiving mark in red for October 24th 1829.

POSTAL HISTORY

In 1675 Béat Fischer of Reichenbach from Bern organised the first internal Posts but it was not until 1790 that the first handstamp was introduced. The control of the Posts became more centralised during the period of the Helvetic Republic 1798-1803 and it produced a flood of letters, mostly official, for study. The Füscher family was allowed to carry on for a while but a Central Post Office was set up in Lucerne, later transferred to Bern. Local post-offices were instructed to prepare handstamps, the date of posting to be marked before the name of the town and the forwarding date after the name. Bureaucracy came in with the Republic and caused numbers of organisations to claim free postage. Government and Cantonal departments prepared a variety of ornamental handstamps "the bear the name of the authority with a seal or other device...". Cantonal control was regained the day after the Congress of Vienna in 1815 but the Swiss Federal Postal Service did not come into being until 1848.

CANTON GENEVA

1830 (13th May).

This entire is from Geneva addressed to Morex, in French Jura, with the double straight line mark **GENEVE/13 MAI 1830** (Winkler lists this as used in 1829 and as type 2625). In the bottom left hand corner is **F.F.4** (Winkler type 2690 as used 1827-30) and in the top right hand corner in black **SUISSE/PAR/FERNEY**. Morex, Morex today, is north of Geneva, six kilometres inside the French border.



1815 (10 November) - 1830 FISCHER POST.



There is no handstamped numeral indicating postage due to Fischer. The Fischer mark **F.F.4** indicates four kreuzers due for postage from Geneva to the French Exchange Office. The manuscript figure '4' indicates the final charge of four decimes of which two decimes should have been due to the Fischer Post, although there is no mark to indicate this. Letter backstamped in black circle 14 MAI 1830.

CANTON GENEVA



1831 (16th September). Entire from Geneva to Vevey. Internal Mail.

In 1830 the contract between the Fischer Post and the Canton of Geneva was not renewed. The Canton decided to run its own post and a five man commission was appointed to run the post from 1st January 1831. To provide a mail service outside the city itself a rural postal system was organised in 1832. Initially employing ten letter carriers, the purpose of this 'Landpost' was to deliver letters, collect postage due on these letters and to empty rural mailboxes. By 1835 this Landpost was handling more than 80,000 letters each year.



Letter cancelled with a clear example of Winkler 2628 as used 1831-1834

CANTON GENEVE



1832 (2nd September). Letter from Geneve to Berlin. Manuscript "Poste Restante" which seems to have been crossed out as there are other manuscript charges of '19' in red and blue, '9' and '5' in black, '7' in red and a further mark in blue. Though written in French to Prussia it is diagonally charged with 'Received 11th September' in English! On the cover is a **two line dated GENEVE** (Winkler type 2626, illustration 1313, size 4½mm x 33½mm, **not recorded in this size** but "Tag gerade, Jahr schräg". The letter has a Berlin receiving mark in black for 11th September (within a single circle 11/N I/9).

1831 (January 1st) - 1849, CANTONAL POSTAGE

GENEVA. The treaty with Fischer was broken at the end of 1830, and on 4th April 1831 a Postal Commission was created. From 4th January 1831 the mark FF4 used for cantonal post, was replaced with a mark GF4 (Geneva-Ferney 4 Kreuzer). Geneva signed a treaty with France, which came into force on 1st July 1831. The GF4 was then replaced by a framed mark 'LG' (lettre genevoise), struck in black and then red. At the end of 1832, on the termination of the Fischer treaty with France, Geneva introduced a framed mark LG 10K, this was stamped on letters from the canton of Fribourg, this canton had broken with Berne. It is known in black, red, and blue.

CANTON GENEVE

FISCHER POST

1831 (4th March).

Entire from Geneva to Amiens. This striking cover shows clearly the mark **G.F.4** (Winkler 2688 illustration 1367 rarity 10) which was only used from January to March in 1831. The Geneva mark is Winkler 2628 as used 1831-1834. The French Exchange Office added the **SUISSE PAR FERNEY** and the conversion charge of 2 decimes. The manuscript figure '10' indicates the total charge of ten decimes which was payable by the recipient.



The Fischer Post contract with Geneva was terminated on 4th January 1831, and as has been described separately, a new exchange mark was used for letters from Geneva to Ferney. The mark was **G.F.4**, the letters representing Geneva and Ferney and the '4' the postal charge. It was an interim measure apparently used until 5th July 1831, and was then replaced by a boxed mark **LG**, after a new postal agreement had been made with France.

The mark **G.F.4** indicates a letter from Geneva for which the French Exchange Office calculated that two decimes was refundable to the Swiss Exchange Office. To indicate this the figure **2** was applied.

CANTON GENEVA

1831 (6 November).

This is an entire from Geneva addressed to Paris. with the dated two line handstamp GENEVE / 6 bre 1831.(Winkler 2629) with early use. Also the new replacement mark for the Fischer Post mark, a boxed LG (Winkler 2696 illustration 1373) as used from 1831-1840. There is also the French Exchange Office mark, boxed SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY and the black '2' conversion mark of that office. The letter is backstamped with a Paris receiving mark for November 9th 1831.



The boxed mark LG signifies a letter from Geneva for which the French Exchange Office in Ferney calculated that two decimes was refundable to the Swiss Exchange Office and applied a numeral handstamp '2'. The manuscript '25' indicates the total charge of twenty five decimes.

When Geneva terminated the contract with the Fischer post after 4th January 1831 and an interim exchange mark became necessary. Subsequently after agreement with France, a new mark was introduced on 5th July 1831 similar in design to that used by other Cantons. The new boxed mark was LG in a box. The letters represented "Lettre Genève" - literally, 'letter from Geneva'.

CANTON GENEVA



1834 (6th May). Letter from Geneva to St.Hippolyte in France.

On the front cancelled **GENEVE / 6 Mai 1834** (Winkler type 2633 - but only previously known used in 1836). Also in black boxed **SUISSE PAR FERNEY**. The boxed **LG** signifies a letter from Geneva for which the French Exchange Office in Ferney calculated that 2 decimes was refundable to the Swiss Exchange Office. The handstamp '2' also applied at Ferney indicated that the charge to the frontier was assessed at 2 decimes. The manuscript '9' indicates the total charge from the frontier. The cover is backstamped with the receiving mark in blue for **ST.HIPPOLYTE-DU-FORT** for the 9th of May. St.Hippolyte is near Nîmes.

CANTON GENEVE

1835 (30th September).

A small single letter sheet from Geneva addressed to Lyon, with the dated two line handstamp GENEVA / 30 7^{bre} 1835 (Winkler 2633 but early use). The boxed Swiss Exchange Office mark in black LG (Winkler 2696) was used from 1831-1840. The cover also bears the French Exchange Office mark SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY in red (Emmenegger 6682). The backstamp is the French arrival mark in black for October 1st 1835.



The boxed mark LG signifies a letter from Geneva for which the French Exchange Office in Ferney calculated that two decimes was refundable to the Swiss Exchange Office and applied a numeral handstamp '2' in red. The manuscript '6' indicates the total charge of six decimes payable by the recipient in Lyon.



CANTON GENEVE

1836 (28 August).

A single sheet from Geneva to London with the two line stamp of GENEVE / 28 Aout 1836. This mark (Winkler 2633) is only known used in 1836. Mail from Geneva to France and beyond was routed through the French Exchange Office in Ferney where the boxed entry mark SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY was applied in red. Although there is no mark to indicate that postage was paid to the French border, the French Exchange Office also applied the red two line mark A.E. / J.F. the letters representing "Afranchie étranger jusqu'a frontiere" which translates as 'foreign postage paid to the French border'. The letter is backstamped with the London receiving mark (W&J 1009) which was only used from August 1836 until August 1837, and is dated 2 Sep 1836. The recipient was charged 1/2d for a letter from France.



CANTON GENEVE



1836 (10 August). Letter in French from Geneva to Paris. The writer forgot to post it in Paris! The **GENEVE / 10 August 1836** (Winkler 2633 - 4mm x 24mm) was only used in 1836. The boxed **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY** is recorded (Emm.Gp.169 type 3005) as used from 1838 in red so this is early use. The red handstamp '2' is the charge in decimes to Ferney with the manuscript '10' in black the additional charge to Paris. The letter is backstamped with a blue French receiving mark.

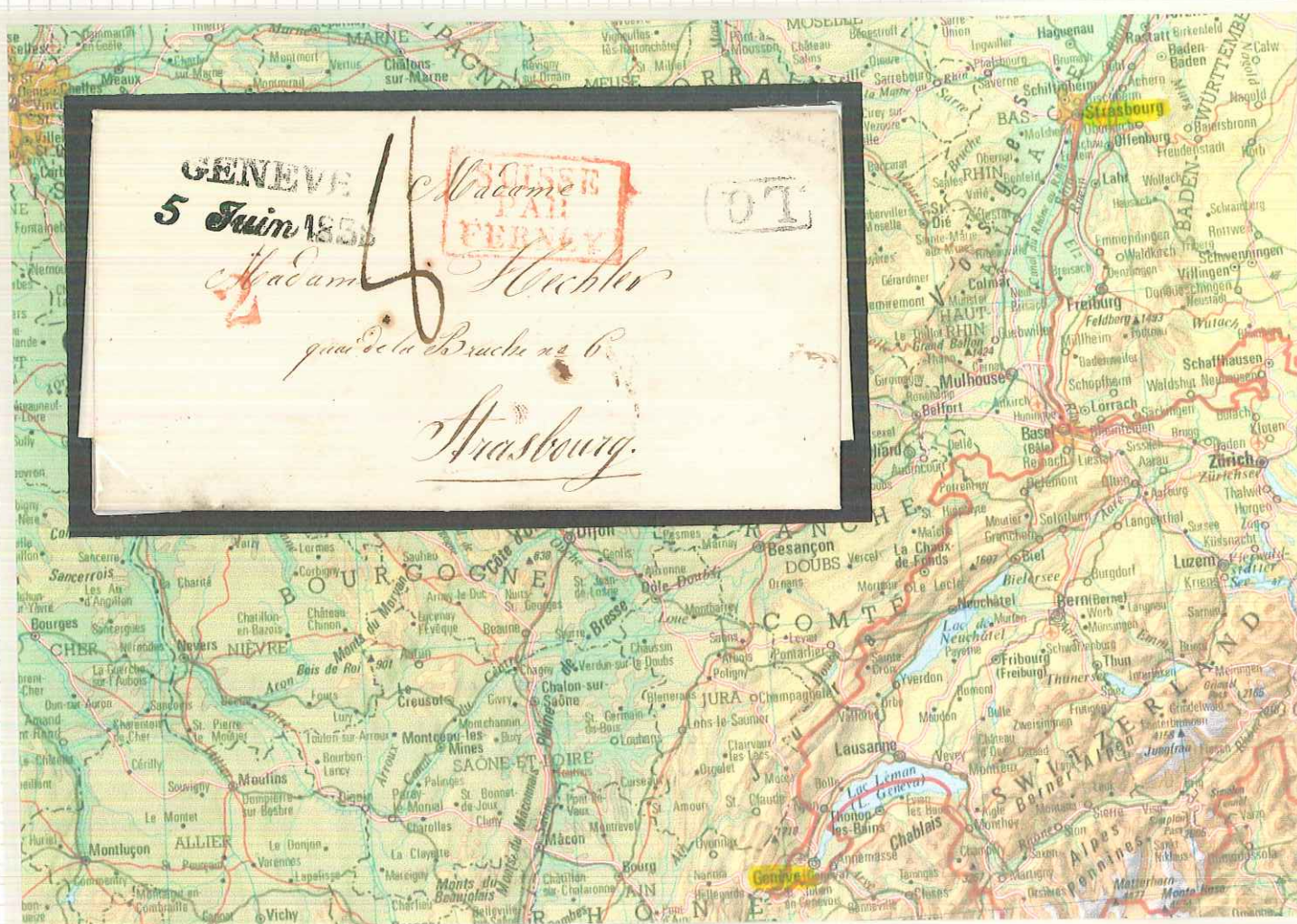


1837 (5 January). Letter from Geneva to Paris. The marks are **GENEVE 5 Janv: 1837** (Winkler type 2635 as used 1837-39; Boxed **LG** (Lettre genevoise), the Geneve transit mark to the frontier, (Winkler type 2696 8mm x 15mm as used 1831-1840); "2" indicates a charge of two decimes to the frontier; In red **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY**. In March 1835 the French Exchange Office at Ferney started to use red ink instead of black and from then until January 1839 both the marque d'entrée and handstamped numerals are in this colour. The manuscript "10" shows the charge still to be made and finally the backstamp in a blue circle **8 / JANV / 1837** as a receiving mark.

CANTON GENEVA

1838 (5th June), Geneva to Strasbourg.

This entire bears the following marks; the two line strike of **GENEVE/ 5 JUIN 1838** (Winkler type 2633 - this is late use); the black boxed **LG** Swiss Exchange mark and the red boxed **SUISSE/PAR/FERNEY** and a numeral handstamp 2. The letter is backstamped **STRASBOURG** in black for June 8th 1838 and has a black manuscript tax mark '8'.



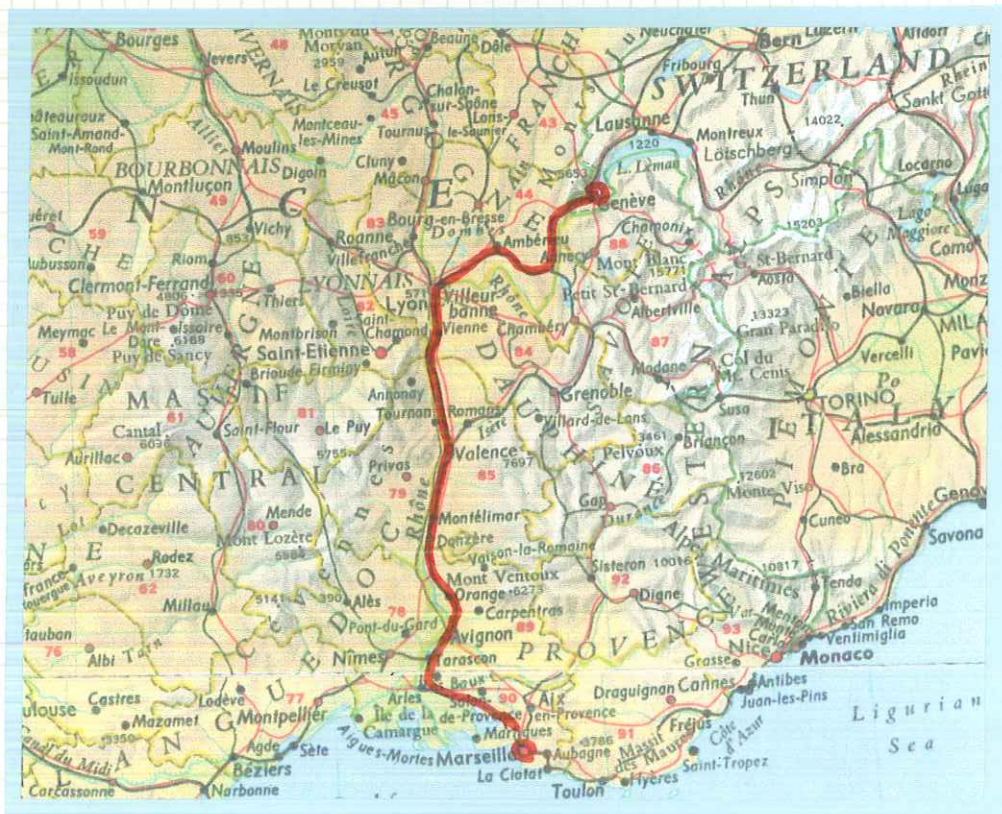
The boxed **LG** indicates a letter from Geneva, postage to the French Exchange Office in Ferney was refundable to the Swiss post office. This was calculated to be two decimes by the French Exchange Office which then applied the numeral handstamp '2' to indicate this. The manuscript figure '8' indicates the amount payable, in decimes, by the recipient

CANTON GENEVE



1838 (19 August). Letter from Geneva to Marseille.

The marks are **GENEVE 19 Aout:1838** (Winkler type 2635 as used 1837-39; Boxed **LG** (Lettre genevoise), the Geneva transit mark to the frontier, (Winkler type 2696 8mm x 15mm as used 1831-1840); "**2**" indicates a charge of two decimes to the frontier; In red **SUISSE / PAR / FERNEY**. In March 1835 the French Exchange Office at Ferney started to use red ink instead of black and from then until January 1839 both the marque d'entrée and handstamped numerals are in this colour. The manuscript "**9**" shows the charge still to be made and finally the backstamped **LYON** for the 20th August and **MARSEILLE** a day later as the receiving mark.

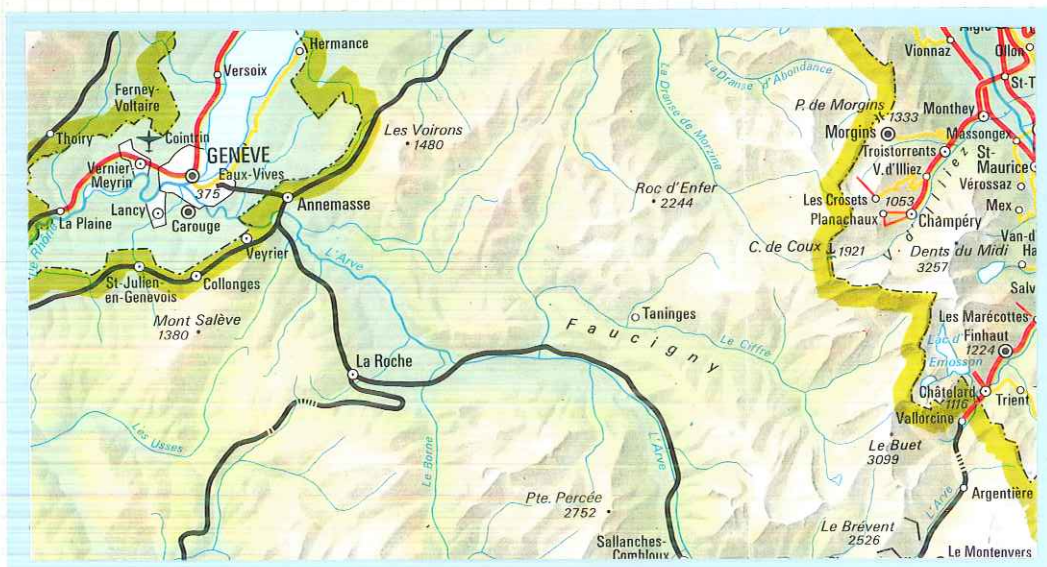


CANTON GENEVE

1831 (January 1st) - 1849, CANTONAL POSTAGE



1840 (10th April). Letter from Geneva to Genes in Piedmont. On the front manuscript '17' and the mark **GENEVE / 11 Avril 1840** (Winkler type 2635 illustration 1318). There is also the scarce **VIA DI / S.JULIEN** transit mark. St.Julien is just south of Geneva. The letter is backstamped in black with 6.20 manuscript mark and in red **14 APRILE**.



CANTON GENEVE

1840 (1st June).

A single letter sheet from Geneva to Paris, with the dated two line mark GENEVE / 1 Juin 1840 (Winkler 2637 illustration 1320) which is only known used in this year. There is a boxed Swiss Exchange mark in black **LG** (this is the last year of use in black) and the French Exchange Office entry mark. This time it is a red circular mark SUISSSE 1 FERNEY and a numeral **2** handstamp also in red. The '1' indicates mail for Paris. The letter is backstamped in blue for Paris in June 1st 1840.



The boxed mark **LG** indicates a letter from Geneva; postage to the French Exchange Office at Ferney was refundable to the Swiss Office. This was calculated to be 2 decimes by the French Exchange Office which then applied the handstamp '2' to indicate this. The French manuscript mark '10' indicates the total charge to Paris of ten decimes.



CANTON GENEVA



1838 (30th March). Geneva - Bergerac - Bordeaux.

In 1838 the postal administration in Geneva was taken over by the Ministry of Finance.

This interesting cover travelled from Geneva - Ferney - Bergerac (dept. Aquitaine, Dordogne) - Bordeaux (dept. Aquitaine, Gironde). The letter was redirected from Bergerac to Bordeaux. The Swiss Cantonal charges were Geneva 2xr and Geneva to Ferney 2xr making a total of 4xr which converts to 2 decimes (applied at Ferney in red). The French postal charges for a weight up to 7.5gms (Ferney to Bergerac up to 500km = 8 decimes making a total of 10 decimes. The rural post charge was 1 decime and interestingly this was applied in both red and black probably due to the redirection. It may, however, indicate morning or afternoon use. This made a total charge of 11 decimes. This Geneva mark is Winkler 2635 as used from 1837 to 1839 and the LG in black is known from 1831-1840.



1836 (26th July). Geneva - Ferney - Avallon. (Dept. Bourgogne (Yonne)).

Swiss Cantonal charges; Geneva=2xr; Geneva-Ferney=2xr (frontier zone equals 4xr which converts to 2 decimes. The French postal charges for weight up to 7.5gms; Ferney - Avalon. For up to 220kms 5 decimes (total 7 decimes. Rural post charge of 1 decime totals 8 decimes. The Geneva mark is W2633 rarity 5 only known in 1836; the boxed LG is W2696 rarity 4 known from 1831-1840. The '2' was applied at Ferney.

CANTON GENEVE



GENEVE
26 *8bre* 1838

1839 (22 February). Superbly written letter with accounts to Geneva possibly originating in Gennes in France. Manuscript numeral in red for postage and 22 FEB in red. Backstamped in black **GENEVE / 25 Fev: 1839** and manuscript "15" centimes (Emm.Gp.89A.) to the frontier with a further 4 sol to Geneva. Winkler type 2636, date sloping but year numerals straight as used only in 1839.



1840 (22 July). Letter from Geneve to London. Date stamped in black **GENEVE / 22 Juill 1840** (Winkler type 2635 illustration 1318), with manuscript payment. Also in red, **E.A.J.F.** in square indicating "Affranchie à l'étranger jusqu'à la frontière" and red French Border control mark **SUISSE - FERNEY 1** (Emm.Gp.170) for the same date. Backstamped London Foreign Section, 27 July 1840. Winkler indicates that this type (2637) was only used in 1840.

CANTON GENEVE

1840 (6th October).

An entire from Geneva addressed locally to Eaux-Vives, with the red circular date stamp of Geneva dated 6th October 1840 (Winkler 2639). Also a clear strike of the red handstamp '1d' representing one decime (one decime = 10 centimes); these types were in use between 1839 and 1844. Winkler indicates that this particular mark was used 1843-44 (Winkler 2663 - 20½mm x 5mm x 10mm, rarity 7), so this is early use. The marks were used either to indicate the charge due to Geneva for delivery of mail received from another Canton, or in this case, to indicate postage due on a letter posted within the Canton of Geneva.



The rate for local letters was reduced to five centimes at the end of 1840, and a new handstamp 5cs was used for local letters, whilst the 1½ mark continued in use for the Cantonal rate. This cover clearly shows the rate of 10 centimes, or one decime for the local rate. The address still exists as 'Geneva 6' as a postal district.

CANTON GENEVE

1831 (January 1st) - 1849, CANTONAL POSTAGE



1840 (19 June). A most interesting entire letter in French from Estavayer-le-Lac to the Chateau Haute Bergere near St. George. The cover has a manuscript 'franco' and in red a blurred **ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC** used in red from 1840-1844 which is just across the lake from Neuchâtel. The red boxed **L.G.10K** (Winkler 2699c) is a mark first reported as being introduced in 1832 for use on letters originating within the Canton of Fribourg. It was in black until 1839 making this an early use of the mark in red. (Fribourg had broken away from the Bern network). A more likely explanation is that it is "Lettre genevois a 10 kreuzer" which was used in red from 1839 to 1848. The red **'4'** indicates an additional charge to the frontier, as does the black oval **1D** (one decime to pay). At the French Exchange Office the red **SUISSE - 1 - FERNEY** for 24 June was applied. The '1' indicates transit via St. Louis. There is also a manuscript '14' the charge payable on delivery. The letter is backstamped **PARIS 27 JUIN** and finally, in black **ST. GEORGE-SUR-LOIRE (47)** for 28th June 1840.

CANTON GENEVA

1841 (29th January).

A single letter sheet from Geneva addressed to London, with the circular date stamp of Geneva (Winkler 2639, as used 1841-45) in red ink. Mail from Geneva through France was routed through French Exchange Office at Ferney, where the circular entry mark SUISSE PAR FERNEX 1 dated 29th January was applied. There is no mark to indicate that the postage within Switzerland was paid though there is a black manuscript '6' could be such a charge. The Exchange Office in Ferney also applied the red two line mark A.E./J.F., the letters representing Afranchie etranger jusqu' a frontière meaning 'Foreign postage paid to the French border'.

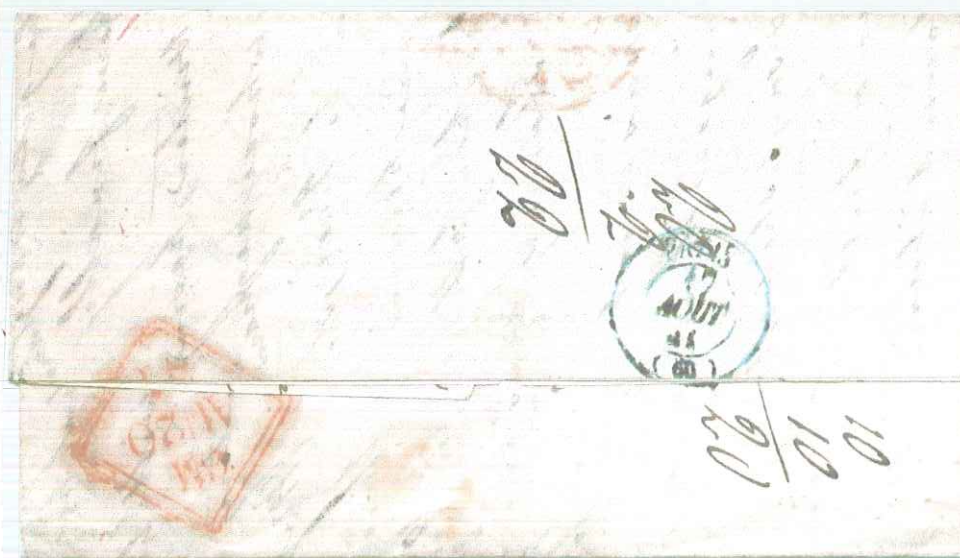


The letter is backstamped with a blue Paris receiving mark dated 1st February and two London marks in red. The circular mark is that of the Inland Office (W&J 14b used 1841-43) and an oval mark that I have been unable to trace. Similar marks were used at the Chief Office, however. The recipient was charged 1/2d as indicated by the manuscript figures.

CANTON GENEVA

1841 (14th August).

A single sheet letter addressed to Dublin from Geneva, inscribed in the top right hand corner 'via Paris' and '10' in red manuscript figures. With this is the circular red mark of GENEVE (Winkler 2639) as used 1841 to 1845. The letter has been stamped in Geneva with the **boxed PD** (Winkler 2649 illustration 1330, rarity 7). This is recorded by him as only in use for 1845. The PD represents 'Port à destination', that is, postage paid to destination. The French Exchange Office at Ferney applied the red circular transit mark SUISSE 1 FERNEY dated 14th August 1841 and the red mark A.E.D., the letters meaning 'Affranchie etranger jusqu''a destination' - foreign postage paid to destination.



Letter backstamped in blue for Paris 17th August 1841 and the diamond shaped Irish receiving mark for August 20th 1841. As explained above, the cost of the letter had been entirely pre-paid starting with the '10', the Swiss part of the charge.

CANTON GENEVE



1842 (20 January). Boxed LG in red. Letter from Geneva to Paris. From the beginning of 1841 the framed mark **LG** which had been in black since its introduction on 5th July 1831, had its colour changed to red which continued until the end of its validity (1841-1845 Winkler 2696a). The other marks on the cover are **GENEVE** in red (Winkler 2639); **SUISSE FERNEX 1** applied at Ferney, the '1' is the code for Paris. The handstamp '2' in red indicates that the charge as far as the frontier was equivalent to two decimes. The black manuscript '15' indicates the final charge to the recipient. The letter has a **PARIS** backstamp in blue for the 23 Jan.

1831 (January 1st) - 1849, CANTONAL POSTAGE

CANTON GENEVA

1844 (23rd February) - Inward mail.

An entire from BELLEY in France dated 23rd February 1844. Addressed to Carouge in Canton Geneva the entire has a red manuscript tax figure three and a red French Boxed Exchange Office mark **L F/3 D** meaning *Lettre Francaise 3 decimes*. It is backstamped FERNEUX on 24th February 1844 in black.



The French Authorities required three decimes for postage in France, however, there is no sign that additional postal charges, within the Canton of Geneva were demanded from the recipient.

CANTON GENEVE

1831 (January 1st) - 1849, CANTONAL POSTAGE

Marque d'entrée GENEVE-FERNEY.

In 1847 the French Exchange Office at Ferney began to use a marque d'entrée with the word GENEVE instead of SUISSE. This was used on letters originating in Geneva as opposed being in transit through the city.



1848 (23 December) Geneve to Marseilles. On the cover in red **GENEVE 8½ S** dated 23 / DEC / 48. (Emmenegger Group 131 ttype 2584). The figure '1' in the marque d'entrée, **GENEVE-FERNEY** (Emmenegger Gp.170 type 6767) indicates despatch via **Lyon**. The handstamp '1' shows that the postal charges as far as **FERNEY** was equivalent to one decime and the manuscript '8' shows that there was a further charge of eight decimes on delivery. The cover is backstamped in black **LYON** on Christmas Day. The letter reached **MARSEILLES** on 28 December.

GENEVE - TRANSIT MAIL.

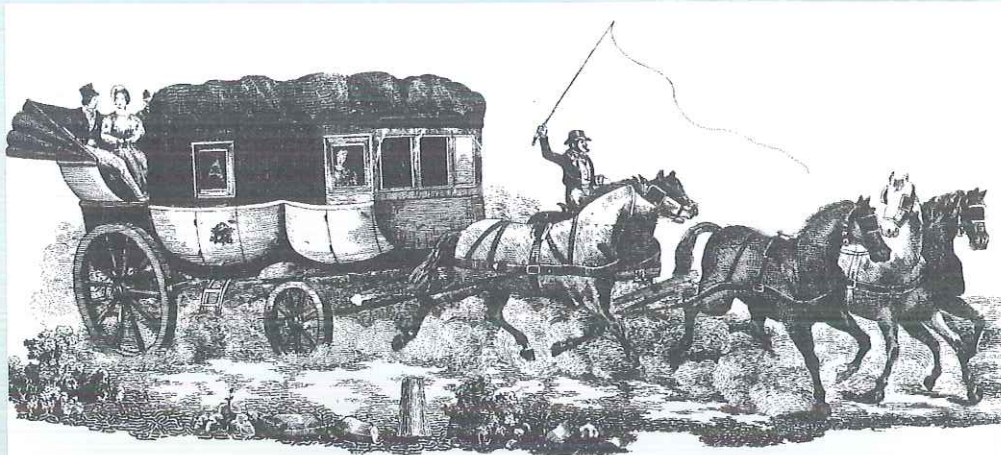
CANTON GENEVA

1843 (12 January).

As prepayment of postage gradually became more frequent, various methods were used to indicate this. Shown below is a single sheet invoice posted in Geneva date 12th January 1843. It is marked with circled letters **P.P.** (Winkler 2647) representing 'Post paid' and as used from 1841 to 1849. The other mark is the double circle mark listed by Winkler as type 2641 illustration 1323. This is early used and may explain the clear strike!



CANTON GENEVE



1843 (20th May).

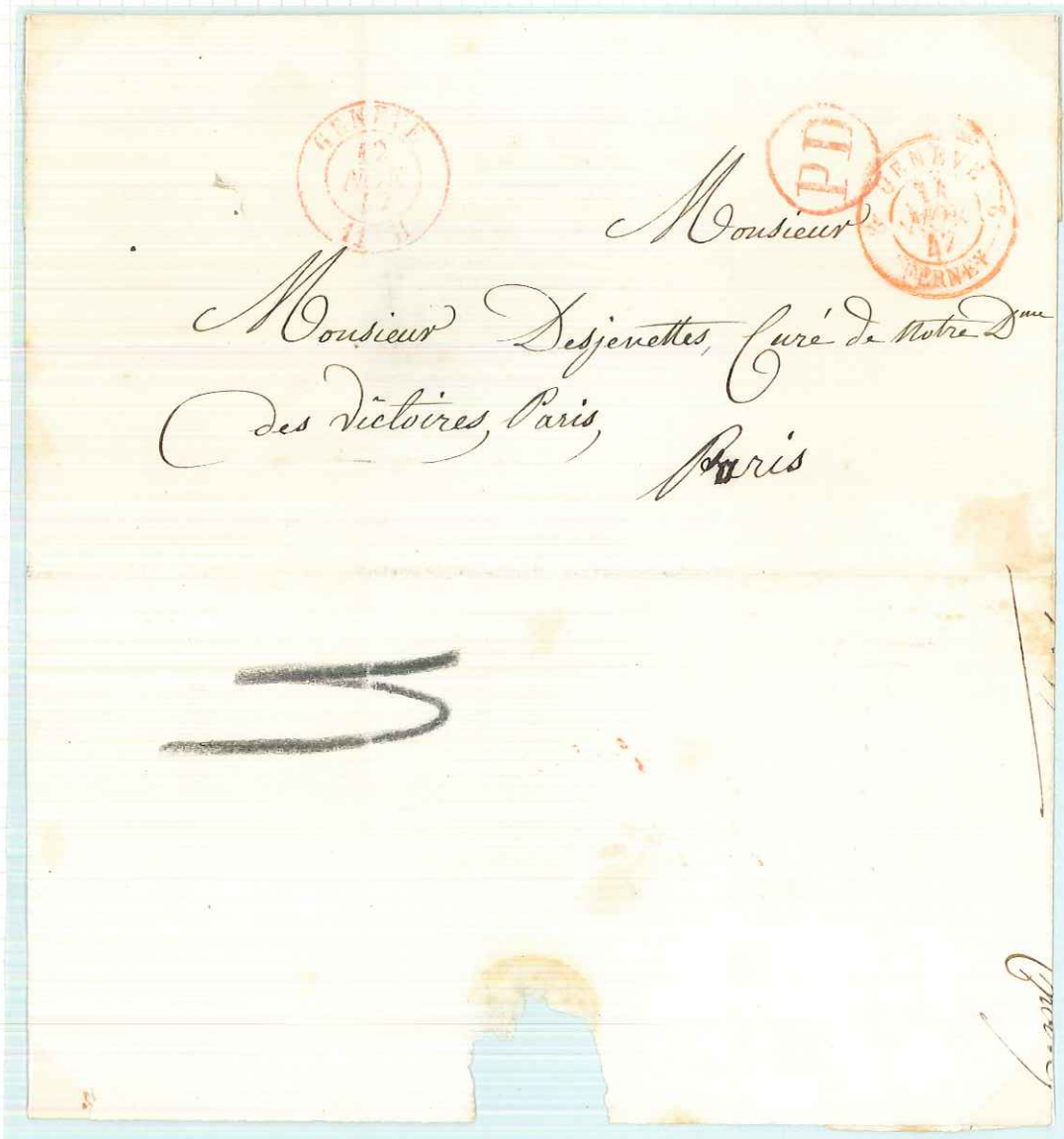
This interesting entire shows the red circular GENEVA 29 MAI 43 (Winkler type 2639), a manuscript '8' for the charge and the very rare mark in red **APRÈS LE DÉPART** (Winkler 2654 rarity 9). This is very early use as he records it in use only in 1844-45. It means 'after the departure' (of the mail coach). Rare marks often are at variance with Winkler's dates.



CANTON GENEVA

1847 (12th November).

A wrapper from Geneva addressed to Paris with the red circular date stamp of Geneva dated 12th November 1847 (Winkler 2643 illustration 1325 - no dots). The letter has also the so called 'mishapen' encircled **PD** mark (Winkler 2657 illustration 1332) as used 1847-49. This indicates postage paid to destination. The wrapper was then stamped at the French Exchange Office in Ferney with the red transit mark **GENEVE 2 FERNEY** also dated 12th November 1847.

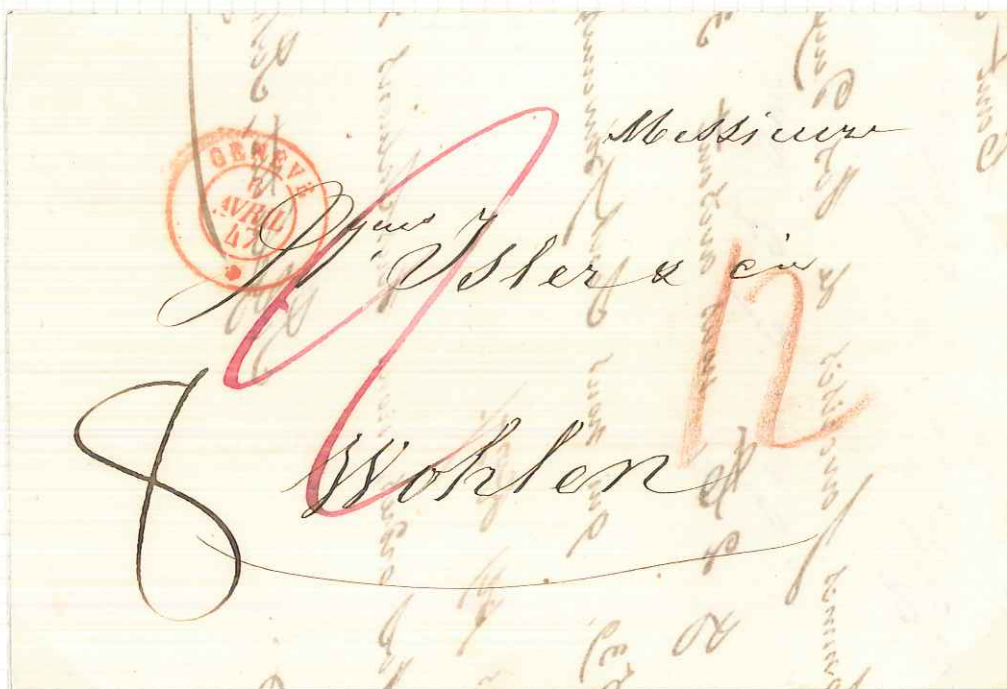


The wrapper has been opened to show the black crayon manuscript mark '4'. These marks are difficult to understand nowadays but in the middle of the eighteenth century by having the following characteristics they were recognisable by any postman. They had to be carried out with a single stroke; this stroke had to be as simple as possible in the interest of speed and it had to have a characteristic that was instantly recognisable by any delivery postman who had to obtain the fee from the recipient.

CANTON GENEVA

1847 (6th April).

An entire from Geneva addressed to Wohlen with the Geneva circular date stamp in red (Winkler type 2641) as used from 1843-1847. The front is marked with three manuscript marks which trace its journey. A large '2' in red ink, '8' in black ink and '12' in red crayon.



The manuscript figures represent three different postal charges raised by the Cantons of Geneva, Bern and Aargau. Firstly, two kreuzers were charged in Geneva; Bern raised a charge of six kreuzers (not shown) making a total of eight kreuzers. Finally Aargau raised a charge of a further four kreuzers bringing the total to the '12' shown. These marks would have been applied at the various stages of the journey.

CANTON GENEVE

Both these letters received the cancellation GENEVE in blue. The cancellations give the time of collection i.e. 8.30p.m. (8½ S). Both letters bear red French Exchange entry marks SUISSE 3 FERNEX but one was taxed "4" and the other "8" although seemingly identical letters.



1853 (12 July). Letter from Geneva to Paris. Manuscript "8" in black and blue GENEVE (Emm.Gp.116 type 2313) only known in blue for 1850-1854. Also in red, French Exchange Control SUISSE 3 FERNEX 14 JUL (Emm.Gp.170). No one has been able to determine the destination route when FERNEX 3 was applied. Backstamped in black with PARIS receiving mark.



1853 (13 July). Letter from Geneva to Paris. Manuscript "4" in black and blue GENEVE (Emm.Gp.116 type 2313) only known in blue for 1850-1854. Also French Exchange Control SUISSE 3 FERNEX 15 JUL 53 (Emm.Gp.170). Backstamped in black with PARIS receiving mark.

CANTON GENEVA

1848 (9th October).

Geneva was the first city to use handstamps to indicate postage due, other cities also used handstamps between 1850 and 1860. This letter is from Geneva addressed locally and dated 9th October 1848. The circular GENEVE is Winkler type 2643 as used 1848-9 but the main interest lies in the large 5cs used to indicate the local letter rate of five cents. There are a few of these types but this seems to be Winkler 2676 illustration 1356, rarity 7.



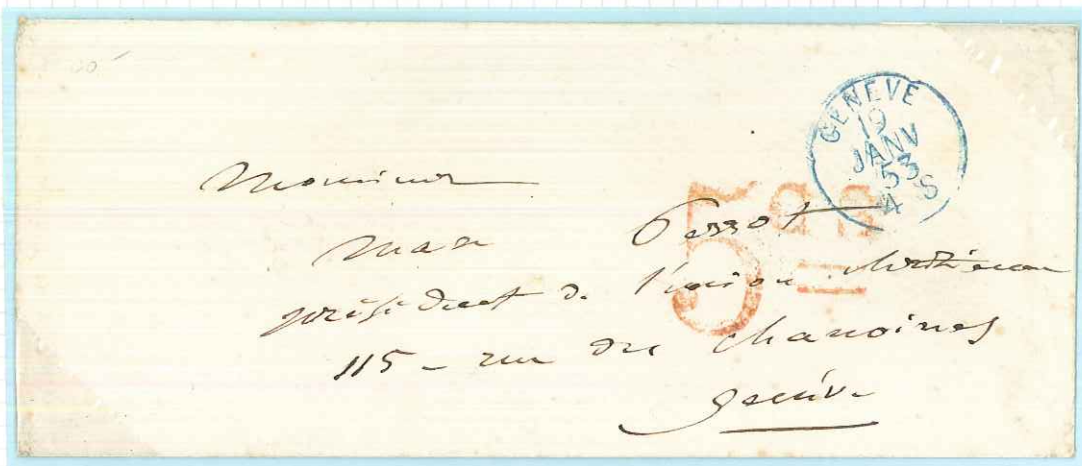
CANTON GENEVE

5^{CS} =

In April 1850, adhesive postage stamps (Ortspost and Rayons) became available, but most people ignored them and continued to send mail to be paid for by the recipient. Geneva pioneered manufactured **Tax Marks** such as these 'postage due' marks struck at the Geneva receiving office to take the place of the old manuscript rate marks. The 5cs mark for local delivery (twice the rate for using a postage stamp) occurs in black and red and was used from 1850 until 1860 when the use of adhesives became compulsory. **N.B.** These marks are not a fine like the postage dues introduced later.

1853 (19th January). Local Geneva cover.

This cover has a handsome coat of arms on the seal. The blue cancel is Emmenegger Group 116 type 5067 as used 1852-54. The Tax Mark in red for 5 centimes was pioneered by Geneva (Emmenegger Group 17 type 549).



1858 (20th April). Mourning envelope from Geneva to Chancy.

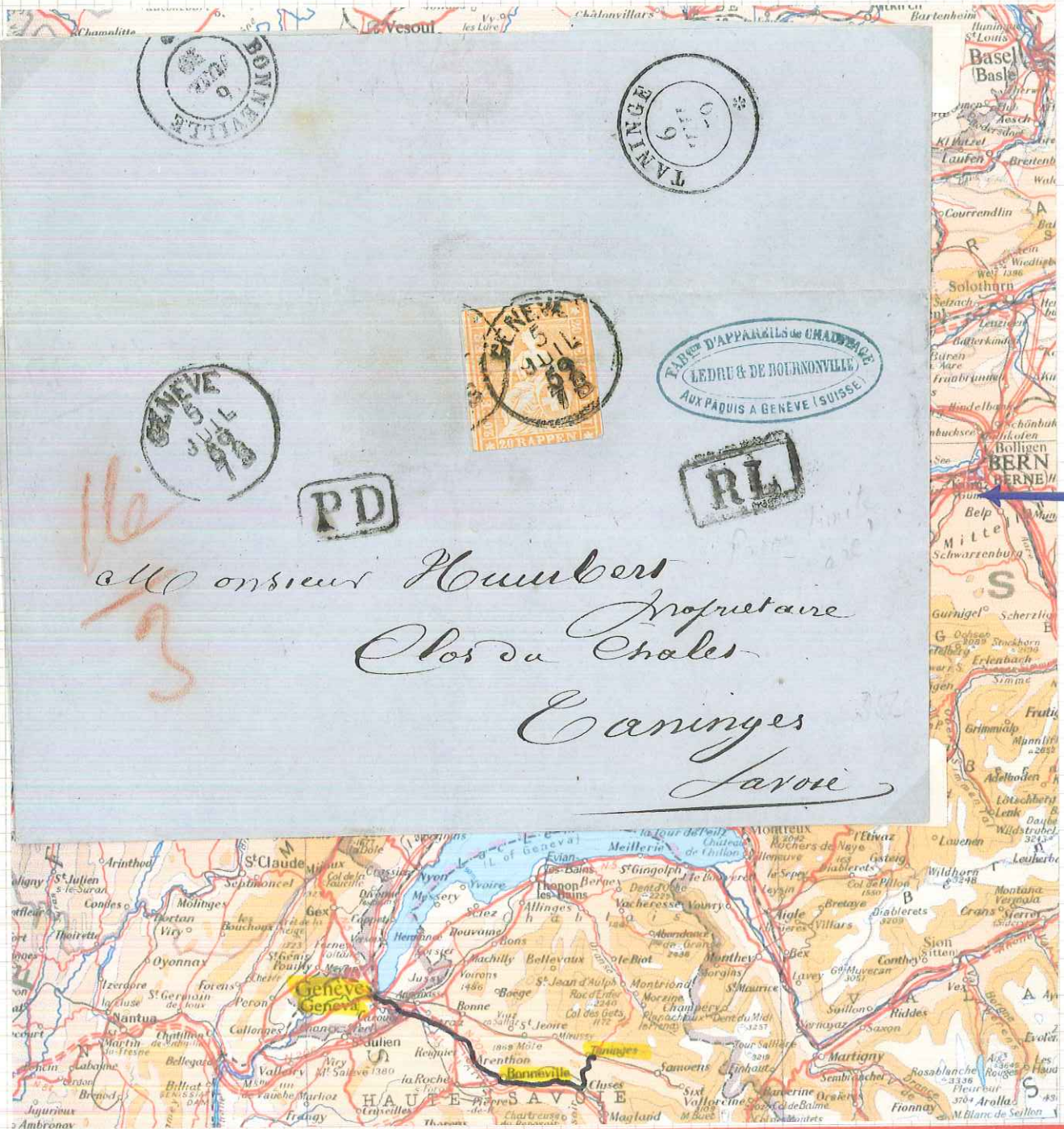
This small cover is cancelled with 5 centimes Tax Mark in black (Emmenegger Group 17 type 549) and GENEVA (Emmenegger Group 116 type 5067 as used 1851-1861). The cover is also backstamped AIRE LA VILLE (unlisted Emmenegger Group 116).



CANTON GENEVA

1859 (5th July). Letter from Geneva to Taninges in France.

Well routed letter showing multiple cancellations. The 20R 'G' Strubel is cancelled with GENEVE (Emm.Gp.116 type 5066) boxed **PD** (Emm.Gp.13 type 364 of Geneva) and boxed **RL** (Emm.Gp.14 type 416) also of Geneva. In red are the tax charges of 16/3 and the letter is backstamped BONNEVILLE and TANINGES a day later.



R.L. Rayon Limitrophe.

This was a system whereby mail for destinations close to the borders of a neighbouring country was charged at a reduced rate and marked with the letters **R.L.** signifying '**Rayon Limitrophe**' or Limited Zone. These marks can be found unframed (Emm.Gp.14/A) and framed (Emm.Gp.14/B), and in a variety of sizes.

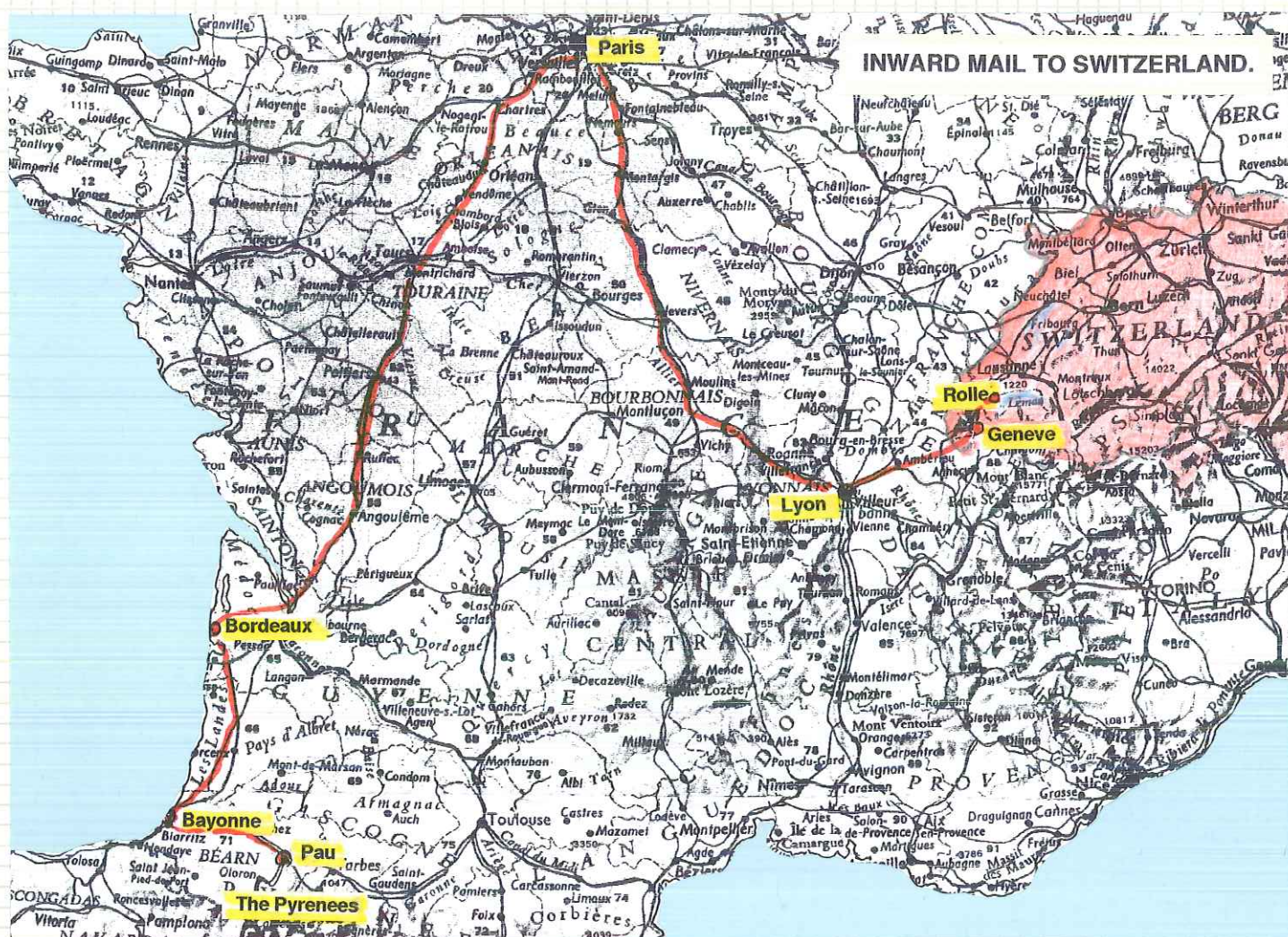
CANTON GENEVA



1859 (7th June). Geneva to Genoa.

Letter dated GENEVE / 7 / JUIN / 59 / 5S (Emmenegger Group 116 type 5070), manuscript '12' and the boxed mark **RL** - Rayon Limitrophe - (Emmenegger Group 14 type 416). This mark indicates that as the letter was travelling outside of Switzerland no Rayon stamp could be applied. The current adhesives were the Strubel issue but a great deal of mail still travelled without these stamps. The letter is backstamped with two Italian marks; DPF.AMB.LINEA VITT.E1 (1) dated 8th June 59 in black and in red the boxed arrival mark GENOVA ARRIVO 9/GIU/59.





1860 (24th January). Small envelope from Pau in south west France near the Spanish border, dated 24 JANV 60 and with the following series of French marks as the letter crossed France on its way to **ROLLE** in Canton Vaud. The front has a very clear **PAU** cancel and clear manuscript instructions "Suisse" and "(Canton de Vaud)" as well as the address. There is also a manuscript charge in red which is probably 2 Francs but as is usual in these cases is very hard to make out. On the reverse there is the **TPO** cancel **BAYONNE A BORDEAUX** for the next day. On arrival at Bordeaux it was transferred to the **PYRENEES A PARIS** code C dated the same day. A day later it set off on the **TPO PARIS A LYON** arriving in **GENEVE** (Emmenegger Group 115 type 4946) on the 27th January. The final stamp is that of **ROLLE** (Emmenegger Gp.104 type 4585) where it arrived the same day.

CANTON GENEVA



1861 (4th January). Letter from Geneva to Paris.

Invoice with the front bearing a clear strike of the SUISSE BELLEGARDE transit mark in red

CANTON GENEVA

1861 (10th July), Livorno to Geneva. Inward mail from Italy.

A single sheet entire started from LIVORNO on 10th July and was then stamped as it travelled on the mail train UFF.AMB.TORINO-SUSA 1 a day later. It reached GENEVA the following day, 13 July, at seven in the morning and was endorsed at Zurich with the figure 40 in red-brown ink (Emmenegger Group 17, appendix, illustration 3473 Table III).



INWARD MAIL TO SWITZERLAND.

CANTON GENEVA

1863 (2nd March).

An entire from Geneva dated 2nd March 1863 with a large blue circular mark TRIBUNAL DE COMMERCE · CANTON DE GENEVE. This is an usually clear strike. The item is addressed to Reims and shows the red circular transit mark SUISSE AMB.M.CENIS C with the same date and a black manuscript '4'. The black GENEVE mark is Winkler type 2644 illustration 1326.



There are multiple backstamps as the letter made its way to its final destination. These are shown below; LYON A PARIS on arrival on 2nd March, Paris on 3rd March and with a second travelling post office mark PARIS A FORBACH on the same day. As it reached the end of its journey it picked up the stamps of Ay-Champagne and Epernay on the 4th of March reaching its final destination a day later **REIMS** on 5th March 1863.



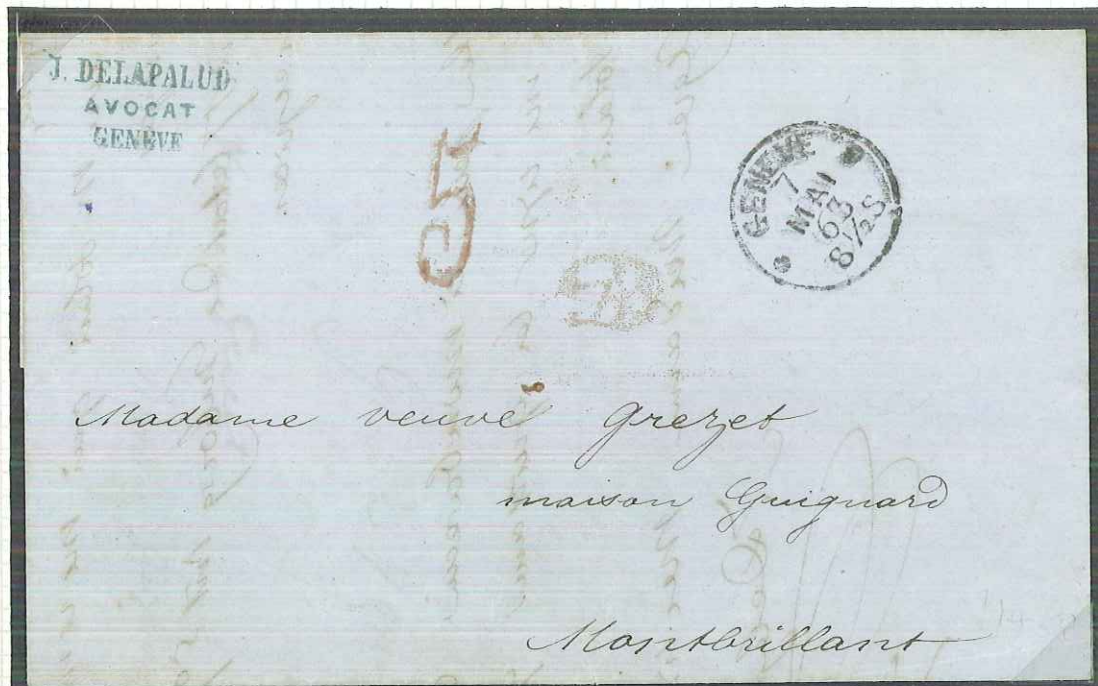
CANTON GENEVE



1879 (12 July). Cover from Geneve to Paris.

z40a on cover from **GENEVE** (Emmenegger Group 149 EXP.LET) to Paris. Backstamped at the Border Exchange Office in blue **SUISSE BELLEGARDE** (Emmenegger Group 170 type 6693) for 13 July as used from 1872. No backstamp.

CANTON GENEVE

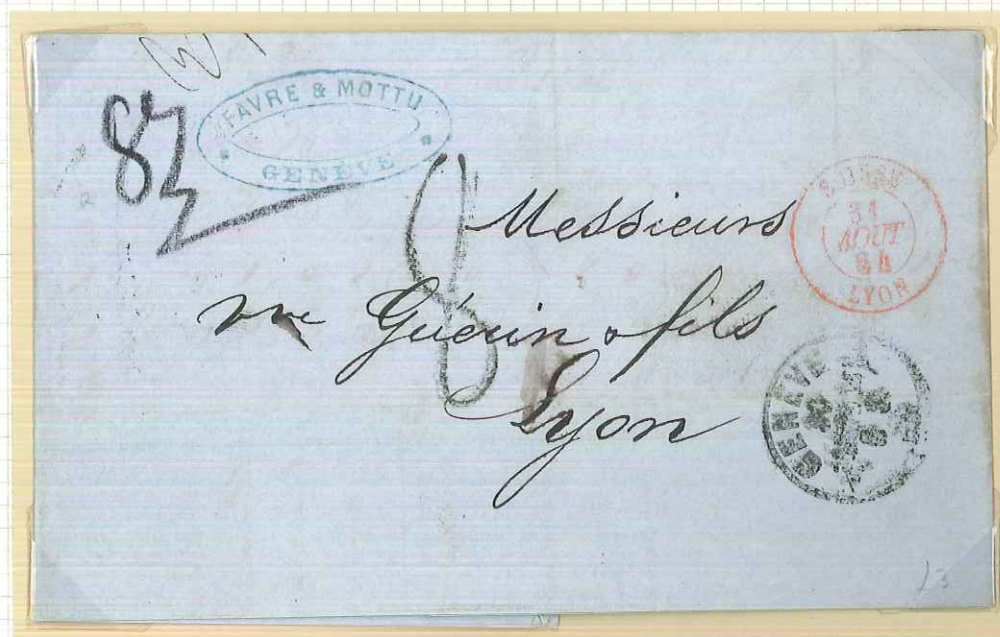


1863 (7 May). Letter from Geneva in French. In red "5" as used at this period (1860-66 - Group 17-5, illustration 3103). Also in black GENEVE (Group 116 with crosses at sides, illustration 2309). This was first used in 1861.



1865 (December 12th). z33. Very fine stamp on cover to Canninges (manuscript 'Rte.3 de Savoie'). Cancelled GENEVE 12/DEC'65/VII/A O A twice, with PD (type 343 of Geneva) and one other faint cancellation - a reverse print of Taninges from the envelope above it! Also a Border Control Exchange cancel in red for BONNEVILLE. and BONNEVILLE black date arrival French cancel. Also TANINGES 13/DEC/65 (89). Taninges lies almost due east of Bonneville.

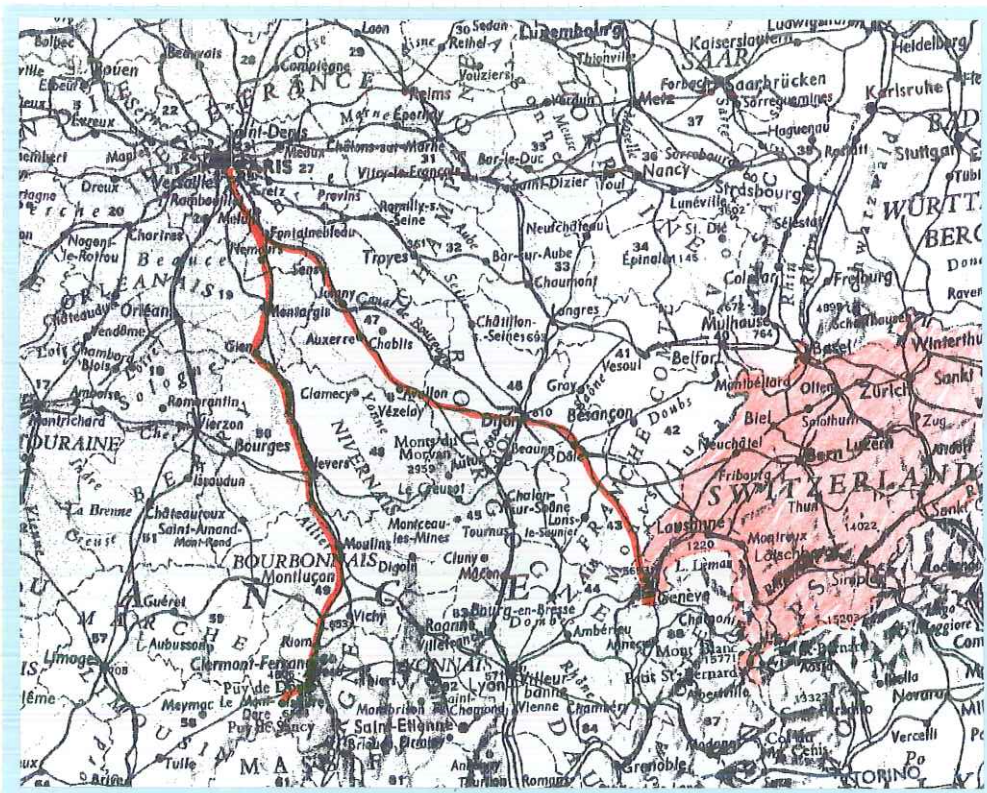
CANTON GENEVA



1864 (30th October). Invoice from Geneva to Lyon.

Letter from Geneva to Lyon. In red the transit mark SUISSE / LYON and in black crayon the charges of 8 and 8 for the two postal authorities. The letter is additionally charged 8 decimes in black ink on the back with the LYON receiving mark for a day later.

CANTON GENEVE



1866 (9 July). Small cover from **Geneve to Marcena (Marcenat)** in the Department of Cantalin in France. On cover, manuscript 'Franco' and '5' centimes, and a Geneva cancellations for 9th July. This first GENEVE A + A (Emm.Gp.126,ill.2533) is on the front with a second on the back, GENEVE I + A (Emm.Gp.116,ill.2302). Also clear strike of French Exchange Office **SUISSE-AMB-M-CENIS A** for the same date (Emm.Gp.171,ill.3017) as used 1864-76. There are also three French backstamps, **PARIS 10 JUIL 66 (60)**; the TPO **PARIS A CLERMONT B**, for the same date and a faint final receiving mark for the 12th July, **MARC**AT**.



GENEVE - TRANSIT MAIL.



CANTON GENEVE



1867 (29 July). Letter from Basel to Thonon. (on the French side of Lake Léman). z32 and z33 on cover with **BASEL** seriffed cancellation (Emmenegger Gp.125 type 5977 (BR+EX)) with **PD** (Emm.13/B type 380 of Basel) in oval. Backstamped seriffe T.P.O. **GENEVE-SION**, (Emmenegger Gp.85 type 9612, train 2); **GENEVE A** (Emmenegger Gp 147 type 6348) and a **THONON** arrival stamp all the same date.

CANTON GENEVE



1869 (24 February). z38 on cover with seriffed VEEVEY (Emm.Gp.148) to GENEVE 25 FEVR 69 (Emm.Gp.116 ill.2301) and GENEVE-SUCC-RIVE.(Emm.Gp.142).



1872 (5 February). z38 on cover from GENEVE to Zurich. No backstamp. GENEVE (Emm.Gp.149).

CANTON GENEVE



1873 (6th November). Letter from Geneva to Schwarzenburg near Bern. Unstamped cover at this late date. Surcharge double for no adhesive in manuscript '15' centimes in red. On front **GENEVE-BALE** (Emmenegger Gp.149 ill.2019). Backstamped **BERN** same date (Emmenegger Gp.147) and one day later **SCHWARZENBURG**. (Emm.Gp.124).

CANTON GENEVE

GENEVE - TRANSIT MAIL.



1877 (20 October). z38 on card from GENEVE (Emmenegger Group 149 with SUD GAR - not listed) to MARSEILLES. Also Border Exchange Control in red SUISSE - MARSAILLES (Emmenegger Group 170 type 6741 as used only 1877-1879) for 21st October and Marseilles backstamp in black for 23rd October.

CANTON GENEVE



1893 (17th February). Pre stamped cover with green 25cents oval as issues 28-9-1869. Late use of straight line **Geneve** (23mm x 5mm capital and 3mm small letters). **AMBULANT No.3** for the same date and arrival stamp of **MAGDEBURG** in East Germany, a day later. (Emm.Gp.148 unlisted). The straight line **GENÈVE** was applied at the railway station; the Train number was 25 on route 3 which at this date ran GENEVE-BERN-BASEL. Further details of this train are shown here. (The information for this was provided by Douglas Houtris).

AMBULANT NUMBER 3

1st October 1892 - 31st May 1893

- a. GENÈVE-BERN-BASEL 25, 56
- b. BASEL-BERN-GENÈVE 43, 2
- c. GENÈVE-BERN-BASEL B.B. 1, 40, 2B
- d. BASEL B.B.-BERN-GENÈVE 15B, 59, 26
- e. BERN-BASEL B.B.-BERN 9, 48, 10B, 11B, 55, 18 (sealed)