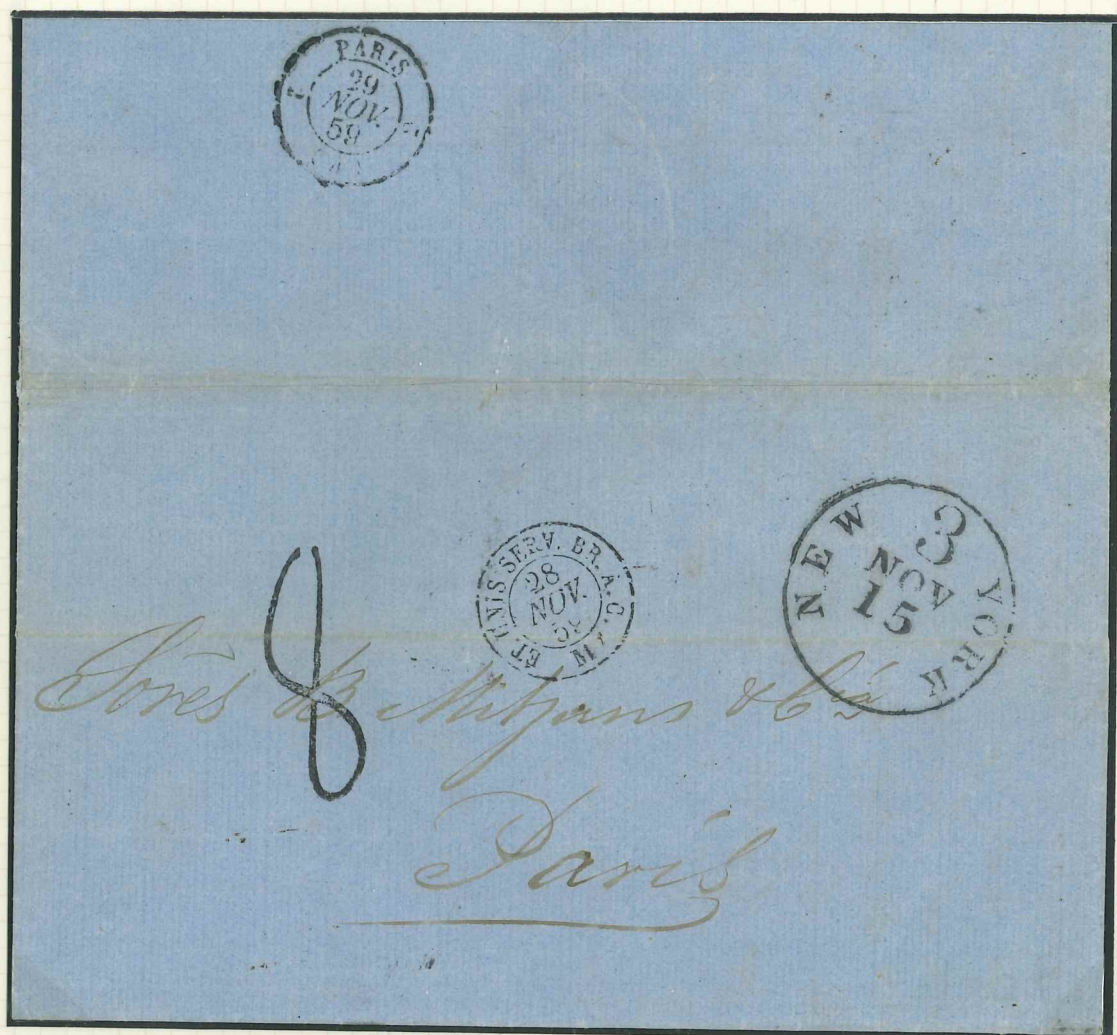


TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. Service - British Packet

1859



Havana, Cuba to Paris showing French Exchange Office cds -  
ET.UNIS SERV. BR. A.C. / M - US Service - British Packet; USA  
Exchange Office NEW YORK cds, showing credit due to U S Post  
Office - 3 cents for inland postage, also handstruck 8 in black -  
8 décimes to be collected in France.  
Backstamped at Paris on Nov 29.



BALLONS MONTÉS      Siege of Paris 1870-71

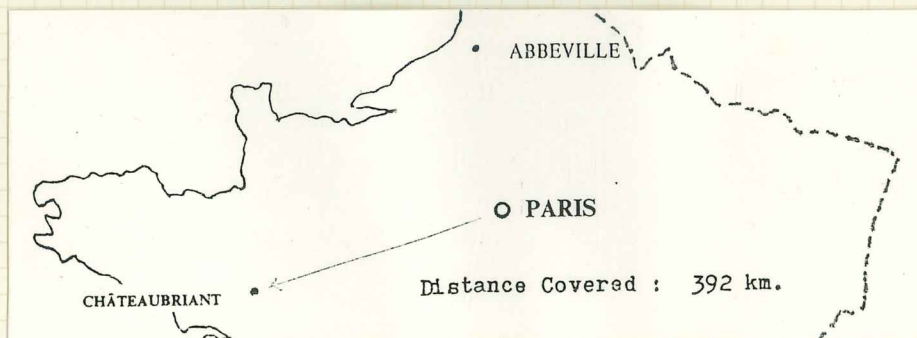
During the Franco-Prussian war, from September 17 1870, Paris was besieged for some four months by the Prussians who had set up a complete postal blockade. Mail was sent out of Paris in balloons; letters were marked "PAR BALLON MONTÉ" - by manned balloon.



November 2 1870 Letter from Paris to Abbeville, Par Ballon Monté, with 1863/71 Empire laureated 20c blue Perf., cancelled by Paris star without numeral and the Paris/60 c.d.s., both of the Central Office. Backstamped at Abbeville on November 7.

Balloon - "Le Ferdinand-Flocon"

Place of departure - Gare du Nord, Paris, on November 4 at 9 a.m. carrying 130 kg. of mail dated November 2nd and 3rd. Landed the same day at 3.45 p.m. near Châteaubriant. Pilot Mons. Coisset.





TOWN-OF-ENTRY / PORT-OF-ENTRY MARKS

These marks, showing arrival in France, are an indication of the route taken by incoming mail from foreign post offices. Early straight-line marks were superseded by the circular datestamps used at exchange offices.



October 15 1823 Letter from Coruña to London, via France, showing French entry mark two-line ESPAGNE/PAR BAYONNE in black; backstamped at the Foreign Office, London on November 3.

Rate 2/2 Stg. London to or from Spain via France (Jan. 1817 to 1837).

June 12 1830 Letter from Coruña to Quintin (St. Quintin), France, rated 12 décimes in manuscript and '3' handstamp credit mark, with French entry mark ESPAGNE PAR/ St. JEAN DE LUZ in black and framed GALICIA/CORUNA, in blue. Backstamped at Paris on June 27.



BOITE MOBILE - 'B.M.' HANDSTAMP

The letters 'B.M.' stand for 'boite mobile' - movable box. Usually found in a small oval frame but more rarely in a rectangular frame. In use from 1867, these postmarks were applied to mail taken from movable post boxes carried by trains on secondary lines; equally of maritime origin - from movable boxes on ships.



October 7 1872 Libourne local cover, with 1870 Ceres 15c yellow cancelled lozenge gros chiffres 2032, showing GARE DE LIBOURNE/ 32 c.d.s. and oval framed 'BM'. Backstamped at Libourne on October 7. Rate 15 centimes /10g for mail posted/delivered within Bureau area.

October 18 1873 Letter from Philippeville, Algeria to Marseille, with 1870 Ceres 25c blue Perf. cancelled lozenge gros chiffres 5055 showing PHILIPPEVILLE/ALGERIE c.d.s. and 'B.M.' in rectangular frame, in black. Backstamped at Marseille on October 24.



£200

FALMOUTH / LISBON PACKET

1773

In the General Post (Inland Branch) for England and Wales, the first Bishop datestamps - from 1661 - showed the month in the top section, day in the bottom but from 1713 the month and the day were reversed. However the Foreign Branch kept the month at the top.



Lisbon to London, showing London Foreign Office Bishop mark AV/27 August 27 - 16mm diameter.

Rate : London to / from Portugal by packet boats - 1/6d (9 Anne Chapter 10. June 1711). Mail routed through Falmouth.



FRENCH PACKET LINES

Bordeaux - Rio- Buenos Aires

1888

The first marks of the French maritime posts were applied on board ships on the Marseille to Constantinople line from 1837. In 1860 the first octagonal cachets appeared which carried the name of the packets. These were replaced in 1865 by new ones which indicated the packet boat lines as well as the date.



Cover from Buenos Aires to Paris, endorsed "par Orenoque", franked 12c blue of Argentina, cancelled BUENOS AIRES single ring datestamp and showing octagonal French Packet datestamp in blue-LIGNE J / PAQ. FR. No.4, "Ligne J" indicates the line Bordeaux to Rio de Janeiro, then to Buenos Aires. Backstamped at Paris on June 2.



### RAILROAD POSTMARKS

In 1885 a slightly larger version of the wavy-edge circle postmark, type 2 ( 25mm ), was introduced; again showing the two names of the terminal stations on the line.



November 21 1899 Cover to Alençon, Orne, with a pair of 1877 'Peace and Commerce' 15c blue, cancelled with BREST A St BRIEUC railroad postmark in black; this type was in use 1885 to 1904. Backstamped at Alençon on November 22. Rate 30c/30gm from 1878.



## RAILROAD POSTMARKS

From 1875 the railroad postmarks (T.P.Os) with distinctive wavy edge showed the names of the terminal stations - type 1 - 24mm. After April 1876 these postmarks were also used for cancelling the stamps.



December 23 1893 Cover from Le Puy to Wohlen, Switzerland, with 1877 'Peace & Commerce' 15c blue and 5c green (pair), cancelled by LE PUY A ST. ETIENNE railroad postmark, 2° indicating '2nd train'. Backstamped - ST. ETIENNE/RECETTE PRINCIPALE on December 23 and at Wohlen on Dec. 24. Postal Union adopted 25c international rate.

March 31 1879 Cover from Dol-de-Bretagne to Fougères, with 1877 'Peace & Commerce' 5c green and 10c black on lilac, cancelled by ST. MALO A RENNES railroad postmark, 1° indicating '1st train'. Backstamped at Rennes on March 31 and at Fougères on April 1.



THE SQUARE DOT ROLLER CANCELLATION

This roller-type "killer" was used in the main Paris post office, chiefly to facilitate the cancellation of pairs or strips of stamps but in the example shown is used on a single stamp.



March 2 1860 Letter from Paris to Manchester with 1853-60 Empire 40c orange Imperf., cancelled by square dot cancellation, arranged in six horizontal rows; showing PARIS c.d.s. in black, London PAID c.d.s. and PD in red.

Backstamped - French transit and at Manchester on March 3.



### RAILROAD CANCELLATIONS

The cancellation consists of a lozenge of dots with letters and numeral; the first letter indicates the point of departure, the numeral the 1st/2nd train. The date mark with octagonal centre indicates night service; the letter at the bottom refers to the brigade/team of postal clerks working together. In use - 1855.



October 20 1868 Letter Marseille to Carpentras, 1863-71 Empire laureated 20c blue Perf., tied railroad cancellation lozenge with 'ML2°' (M for Marseille, L for Lyon, numeral indicates 2nd train), showing railroad datestamp MARSEILLE A LYON, 'Brigade' code G.

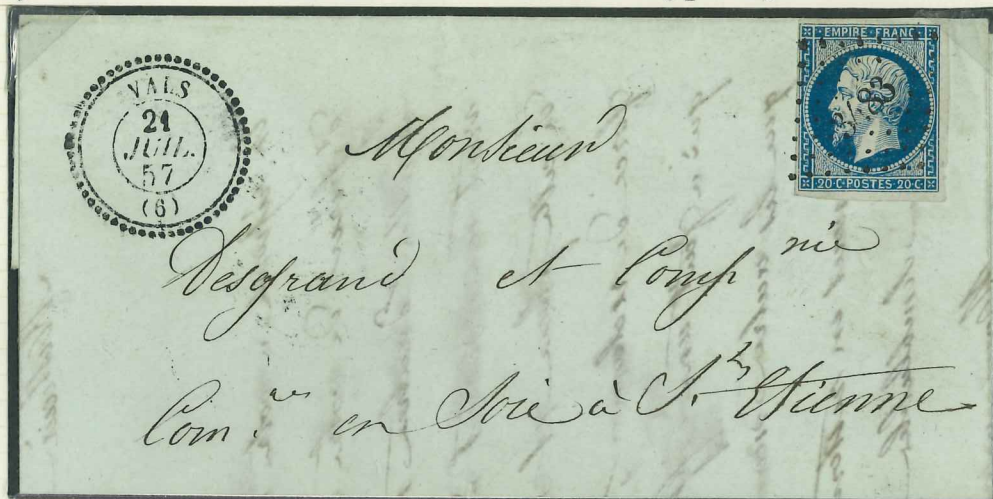
Backstamped at Carpentras on October 21.

Internal rate in France - 20 centimes - July 1854 to Sept. 1871.

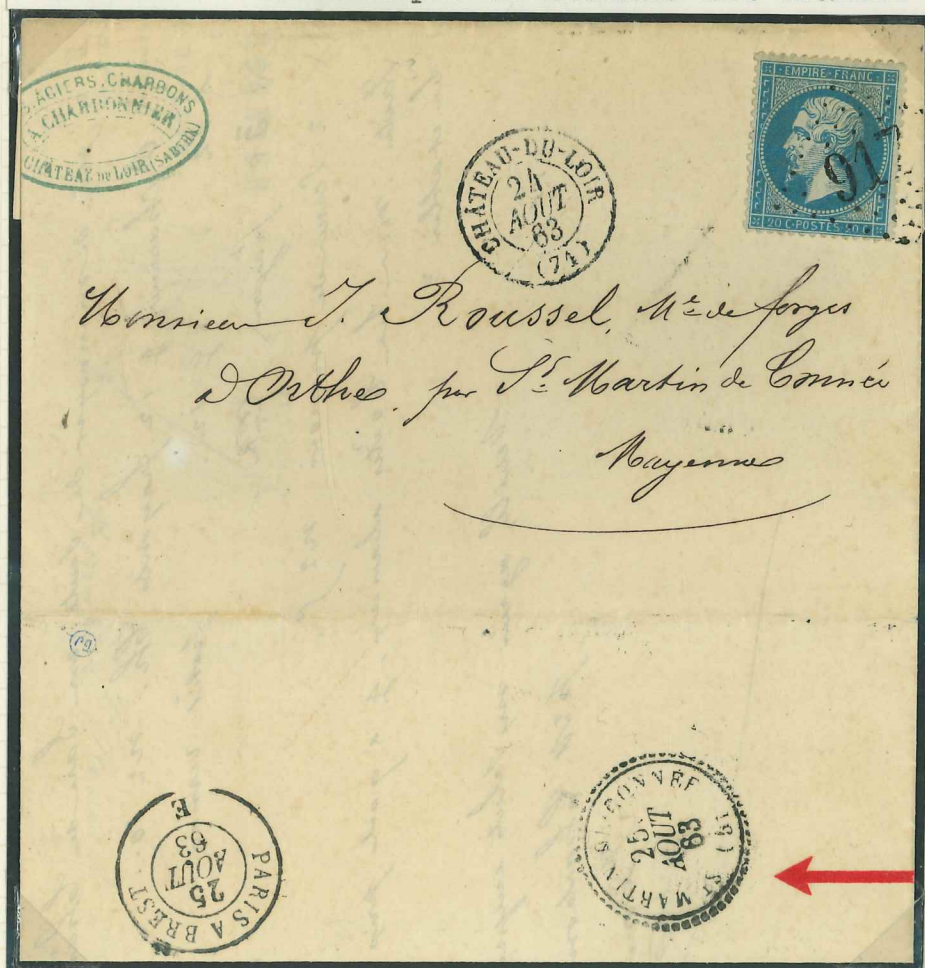


## POSTMARKS WITH OUTER CIRCLE OF DOTS

A double circle postmark (type 22), with outer circle of dots was introduced in 1853, showing town name and date but no indication of collection time. A single circle mark, also with outer circle of dots, was introduced in the 1860's - type 23.



July 21 1857 Letter from Vals to St. Etienne, with 1853-60 Empire 20c blue Imperf. cancelled by lozenge petits chiffres 3483, showing VALS/ 6 double circle datestamp with dots - 6 indicating département Ardèche. Backstamped at AUBENAS and transit c.d.s. on July 22.



August 24 1863

Letter from Chateau-du-Loir to St. Martin de Connee, with 1862 Empire 20c blue Perf. cancelled gros chiffres 917.

Backstamped -  
St. MARTIN de CONNEE  
single circle type  
c.d.s. with outer  
circle of dots.



### SMALL DOUBLE-CIRCLE TOWN DATESTAMPS

The small double-circle town datestamps were introduced in 1838 and remained in use until 1886; usually struck in black, however a few occur in red or blue. They are called 'les Petits Cachets' by the French.



November 11 1856 Cover from Boulogne to London, with 1853-1860 Empire 20c blue Imperf. (pair). Cancelled by lozenge petits chiffrés, showing BOULOGNE-S-MER c.d.s. (diameter 20mm), in black. Also framed PD - Paid to Destination and London PAID c.d.s., both in red. Backstamped London timestamp for November 12 at noon.



PARIS DISTRICT POST OFFICES - CANCELLATIONS

The cancellations containing a letter or letters in lozenge of dots classified the Paris District Post Offices and their Branch Offices alphabetically. In use from January 1852 until July 1863, when they were replaced by the Paris star, which classified the post offices numerically.



September 10 1858 Letter from Paris to London, with 1853-1860 Empire 20c blue Imperf. (pair), cancelled by lozenge with 'A' alongside PARIS c.d.s. code A. The 'A' signifies the Post Office at 1 Rue Tirechappe, Paris; this office became Star number 17 in July 1863. Also showing boxed PD - Paid to Destination and LONDON/PAID circular mark for September 11 1858, both in red.

Backstamped - transit PARIS A CALAIS for September 10.



TOWN NAMES      Postage Due Markings

France generally adopted namestamps in the larger offices, starting in 1695. Marks showing town names and first letter of town name are associated with postage due items, the postage to be paid on delivery being marked in manuscript on the cover.



July 26 1763 Letter from Bordeaux to Pons, showing the early town stamp 'B' for Bordeaux ('B' with part oval and fleur-de-lis), rated 4 décimes in manuscript. Other towns showing the initial letter handstamps were Paris, Nantes and Limoges.

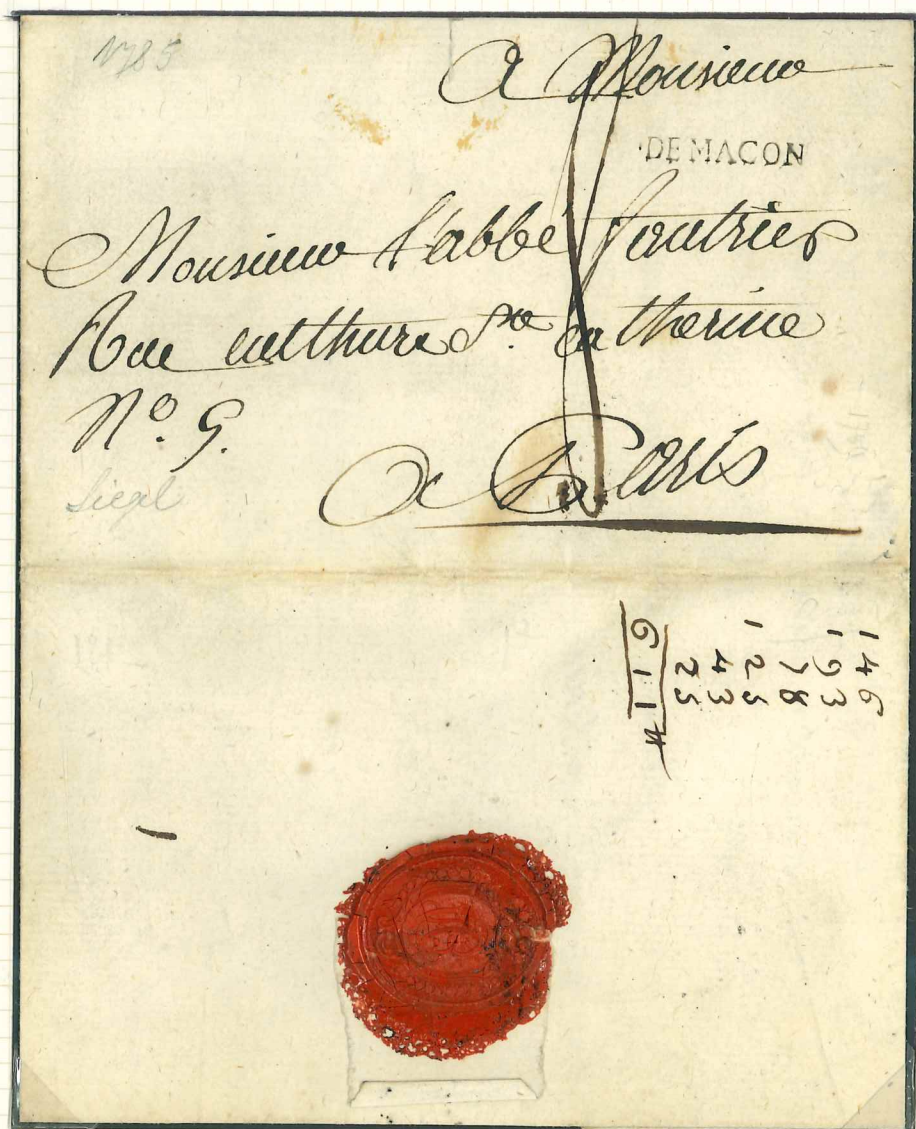


January 12 1787 Letter from Lorient to Gand, now Gent in Belgium, showing straight-line town name LORIENT in black, rated 11 décimes. Note - one décime equals one tenth of a franc or ten centimes.



TOWN NAMES      Postage Due Markings

In some cases, the name of the town is preceded by 'DE' (from) as in the example shown - DE MACON. The straight-line town names were in use up to 1792 - then marks included département numbers.



January 7 1785 Letter from Macon to Paris, showing straight-line DE MACON (from Macon), rated eight décimes in manuscript.



# THE GRILLE CANCELLATION

Adhesive stamps were introduced in France on January 1 1849. The grille was used as the regulation obliterator from January 15 '49 - found usually in black, rarely in red or blue. In use until replaced by the small numeral cancellations - January 1 1852.



April 12 1849 Letter from Bléré to Argenton, with 1849 Ceres 20c (pair), black on white Imperf. (Yvert 3), cancelled by grilles and showing BLÉRE/36 medium c.d.s. 25mm diam., in black - 36 indicating département Indre-et-Loire. Backstamped LIGNE-DE-TOURS (transit) on April 13 and at ARGENTON-SUR-CREUSE on April 15. Rate : 40 centimes - 15 grammes internal rate - Jan. 1849/ July 1850.



# THE GRILLE CANCELLATION



October 3 1849 Letter from Clermont-Ferrand to Brioude with 1849 Ceres 20c black on white Imperf. (Yvert 3), cancelled by grille and showing CLERMONT-FERRAND/62 c.d.s., in black - 62 indicating dépt. Puy-de-Dôme. Backstamped at Brioude on October 5.  
Rate : 20 centimes - internal rate from January 1849 to July 1850.



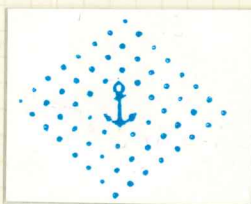
December 31 1850 Letter from la Capelle-en-Thierache to Paris, with 1849 Ceres 25c blue Imperf., cancelled by grille, showing LA CAPELLE-EN-THIERACHE c.d.s. in black, 'F' indicating Bureau. Backstamped at Paris on January 1.  
Rate : 25 centimes - internal rate from July 1850 to July 1854.



# SHIP CANCELLATIONS - FRANCE

1868

The "Anchor" cancellation was used on board French ships to cancel stamps on letters to France from the Colonies or foreign countries. In use 1857 to 1876, usually found in black, rarely in blue or red.



Cover to Château Renault, Indre-et-Loire, with 1863-71 Empire laureated 40c orange Perf., tied ship cancellation Anchor in lozenge of dots; with octagonal cachet- CONSTANTINOPLE/P.FR. U No.4 and framed PD, both in blue; also framed PAQUEBOTS/DE LA / MEDITERRANÉE, in red.

Backstamped at Marseille - Dec 9, at Château Renault on Dec 10.



## DÉPARTMENT NUMBERS

Under the Napoleonic reorganization all the départements of France were given numbers. From January 1 1792, the postmarks of the various Post Offices show, on top of the name, the number of the département. Later, numbers were also included in the postmarks in territories occupied by the French.



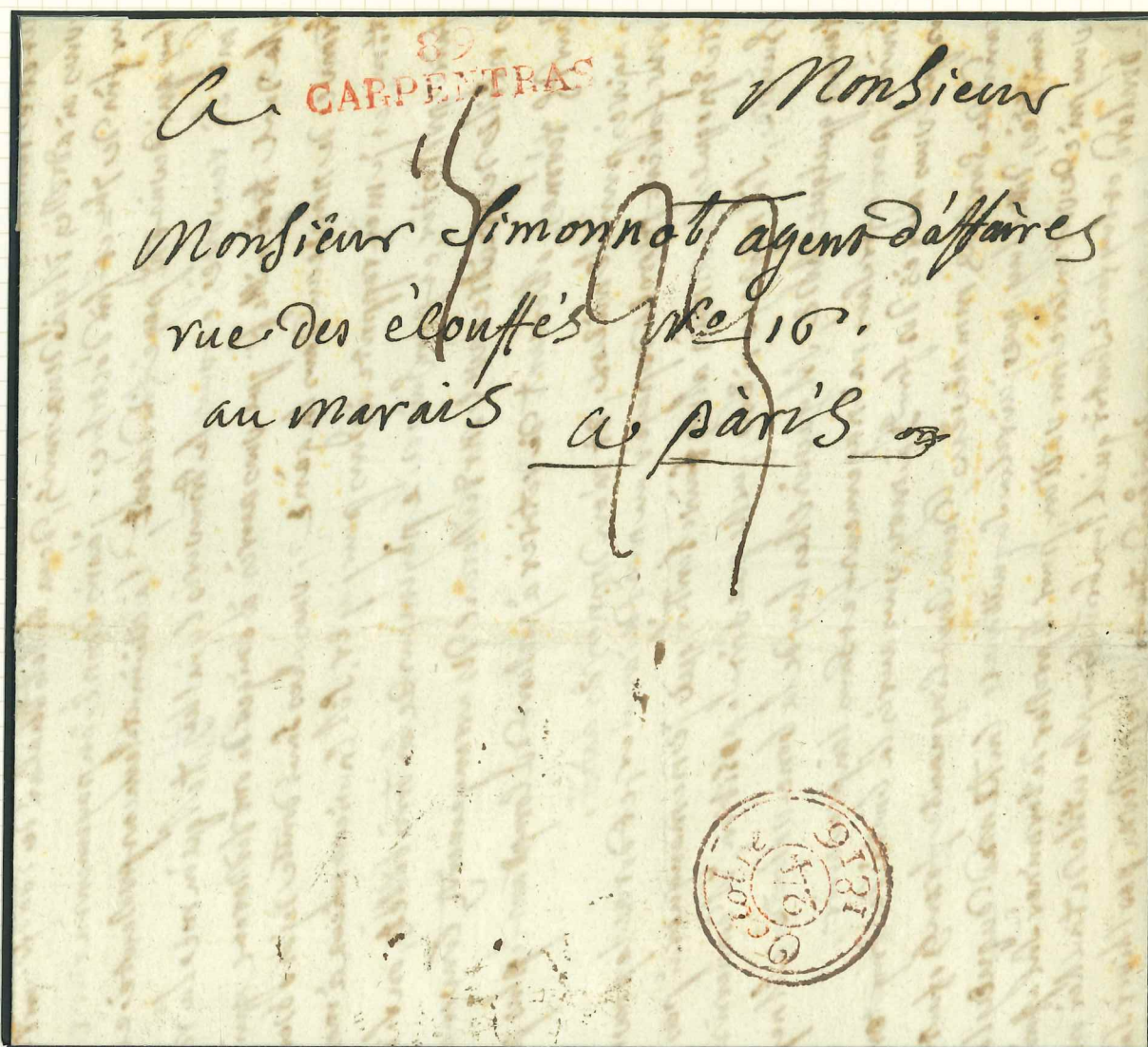
September 18 1792 Letter from Dunkerque to Gand, showing two-line 57/DUNKERQUE in black (first year in use), '57' indicating the département Nord.



January 29 1822 Letter from Bordeaux to Dayen, rated 4 décimes - fixed rate for mail in same dépt., with two-line 32/BORDEAUX in black - '32' indicating the département Gironde.



DÉPARTMENT NUMBERS



October 18 1816 Letter from Carpentras, near Avignon, to Paris, with two-line 89/CARPENTRAS, 89 indicating the département Vaucluse.

Backstamped at Paris on October 24 1816, in red. After 1805, the Republican calendar year shown as 'An 14', was replaced by the year inscribed in full. The French Senate had decided to revert to the Gregorian calendar.



TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

1826

France was one of the first countries to open up mail communication with the new Republic of the United States. During the 1820s and up to the end of the 1850s the American packets were the principal carriers of mail between the two countries.



Boston to Cognac, showing two-line packet letter handstamp COLONIES PAR / LE HAVRE in red, an early use, "10" in manuscript - ten décimes postage due, to include the packet rate plus French inland postage - to be collected on delivery. Backstamp French arrival postmark 5 JANV 1827 - 23mm diameter - 38 days in transit.



MILITARY MAIL - GRANDE ARMÉE HANDSTAMPS

From 1800 the Napoleonic Armies - Grande Armées - were formed into groups of several divisions under the command of a senior general. Each group, called an Army Corps, was given a number, the example shown, Corps 'No.23./GRANDE ARMÉE' based in Prussia at Königsberg, now Kaliningrad, in present day Lithuania.



October 22 1812

Königsberg to Lyon,  
rated 9 décimes,  
showing handstamps -  
No.23./GRANDE ARMÉE,  
in black.



MILITARY EXPEDITIONS - ARMÉE EXPÉDITION/D'AFRIQUE

During the reign of the restored Bourbon king - Charles X, a large French expeditionary force left its base at Toulon for North Africa in May 1830. The aim was to capture Algiers (which it did in July 1830); nominally in order to put an end to the piratical activities of the Algerians, in practice to increase French power in the area.



October 27 1835

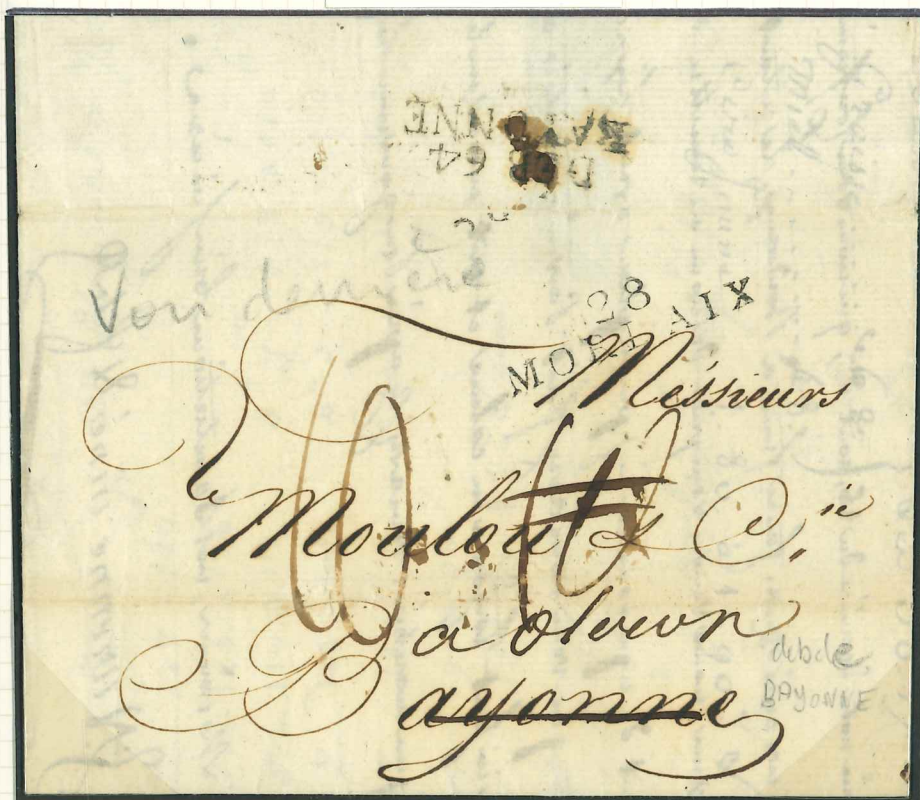
Letter to Paris  
rated 10 décimes,  
showing handstamps  
A/ ARMÉE EXPÉDITION /  
D'AFRIQUE, in black,  
and  
TOULON-SUR-MER cds.  
B/s at Paris Oct 31.



DÉBOURSÉS DÉB

The DÉBOURSÉS, DÉB postmarks were applied to Port-Du (payable at destination) letters which had been returned to the Bureau by the postmen, undelivered (reason - refusal of letter / change of address). The letters were re-rated and sent forward or returned to the sender. In use from the 1770s to 1837.

DÉB 64  
BAYONNE



September 10 1813 Letter from Morlaix, originally addressed to Bayonne and rated 10 décimes, showing 28/MORLAIX, in black; then readdressed to Oloron, handstamped DÉB 64/BAYONNE on reverse and again rated 10 décimes.



TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U S / American Packet

1855

Letters of the period 1820's to 1850's addressed to France, showed the characteristic markings of the French Exchange Office.



New Orleans to Paris, via Great Britain per "Steamer Pacific", showing USA marks - NEW ORLEANS cds and PAID / 21 (21 cents per quarter ounce letter prepaid in USA), both in red; French Exchange Office cds - ETATS UNIS. PAQ. AM. / B.A CALAIS - US / American Packet and handstruck 8 in black - 8 décimes, to be collected in France. Backstamped UK transit stamp for Jan 10.



BRITISH WEST INDIES PACKET  
French Exchange Office Marks

1863

As a result of a postal convention between France and Great Britain, Sept 1856, agreement was reached whereby the share of the transit postage handled by the British Post Office was to be marked on mail for France by postmarks showing the lettering "GB" above or alongside the amount to be credited.



Port au Prince, Haiti to Reims endorsed "Packet", showing French Exchange Office mark ANGL./AMB. CALAIS G, rated 8 décimes and with black framed "GB /1F 60c" - G.B. accountancy mark - bulk charge per 30 gms. on British packet mail.

Backstamped at Jacmel, Haiti on August 26, at London on Sept 14, at Paris and at Reims on Sept 15.