

FRENCH MARITIME MAIL COVERS
***** 1783 - 1900 *****

Covers are grouped by North Atlantic mail, French Ship Lines after 1866 and Mediterranean ship Markings of the period before 1866.

Frame 2965: French Royal Packet Mail Service to the United States (1783-1788) with a listing of crossings, known ship markings and transatlantic covers of the XVIIIth century. Also subsidized Shipline mail of 1847-1848.

Frame 2966: The start of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantic in 1864 and of the line "H" in 1866. Treaty rates and incoming French mail into the United States. Shipline markings of Lines "A", "B", "D", "F", "C", "H", "J", "M", "N".

Frame 2967: Dated Shipline markings of lines "N", "O", "P", "R", "S", "T", "U", "V", "W", "X", "Y", & "AB".

Frame 2968: Mediterranean pre-stamp period Ship markings and Ship Name marks prior to 1866.

Frame 2969 : Mediterranean dated Ship markings prior to 1866

Frame 2970: Mediterranean dated Ship names markings prior to 1866.

Quadrillés
F. O.

ALBUMS YVERT & TELLIER - AMIENS
Made in France

Quadrillés
F. O.

1783-1788

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

FIRST PACKET SERVICE: 1783-1788

Established by a Royal Decree of June 28, 1783, a state run transatlantic Packet Service was ordered by the King Louis XVI to start monthly sailings between Port L'Orient (Brittany) and New York, beginning the following September. Five sloops of war with French Royal Navy officers and crews were assigned to this project. This Packet Line operated from September 1783 to July 1788; first from L'Orient and from 1787, from Le Havre.

The following table shows the voyages by Year, Crossing and Ship:

Table of Crossings

	L'Orient to New York				Le Havre to New York		Total
	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	
Courier de l'Europe	1	2	2	2	2		9
Courier de l'Amerique	1	2	1				4
Courier de Port Louis	1	shipwrecked					1
Courier de New York	1	1	2	2	1	1	8
Courier de L'Orient		3	1	2	1	1	8
Warwick		2	1				3
Sylphe		1					1
Courier La Martinique		1	1				2
Deux Freres					1		1
Marechal de Castries					2		2
Unnamed Packet No 1					1		1
Total	2	12	8	6	8	2	40

	New York to L'Orient				New York to Le Havre		Total
	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	
*Courier de l'Europe	1	2	1	3	2		9
*Courier de l'Amerique		2	2				4
*Courier de New York		2	2	2	1	1	8
*Courier de L'Orient		2	2	2	1	1	8
Warwick		2	1				3
Sylphe		1					1
*Courier La Martinique			2				2
Deux Freres					1		1
Marechal de Castries					1	1	2
Unnamed Packet No 1						1	1
Total	1	11	10	7	6	4	39

*Only one or two letters carried by each of these packets are known postmarked with the ship's name in New York.

P. Le Courier de l'Europe. Le Courier de l'EUROPE.
 capt: CORNIC - New York. New York* 16 juin 1785

1784

1785

Le Courier de l'Amerique
 New York

1784

Le Courier de New York

1784

Courier de L'Orient
 New York

1784

Le Courier La Martinique
 New York. 15 Jan. 1785.

1785

*Shipmarks
 used in New York*

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Postmark: "MARSEILLE"

Prepaid postmark: "P. PAYÉ"

Transit postmark: "P.P.P.P."

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"



1786

From Marseille Jan. 29, via Paris, L'Orient
Feb. 16 to Baltimore. Carried on its 5th voyage
in 60 days by the:

"Courier de L'Orient"

Prepaid 40 sous and taxed 2 dwt
overland New York - Baltimore.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

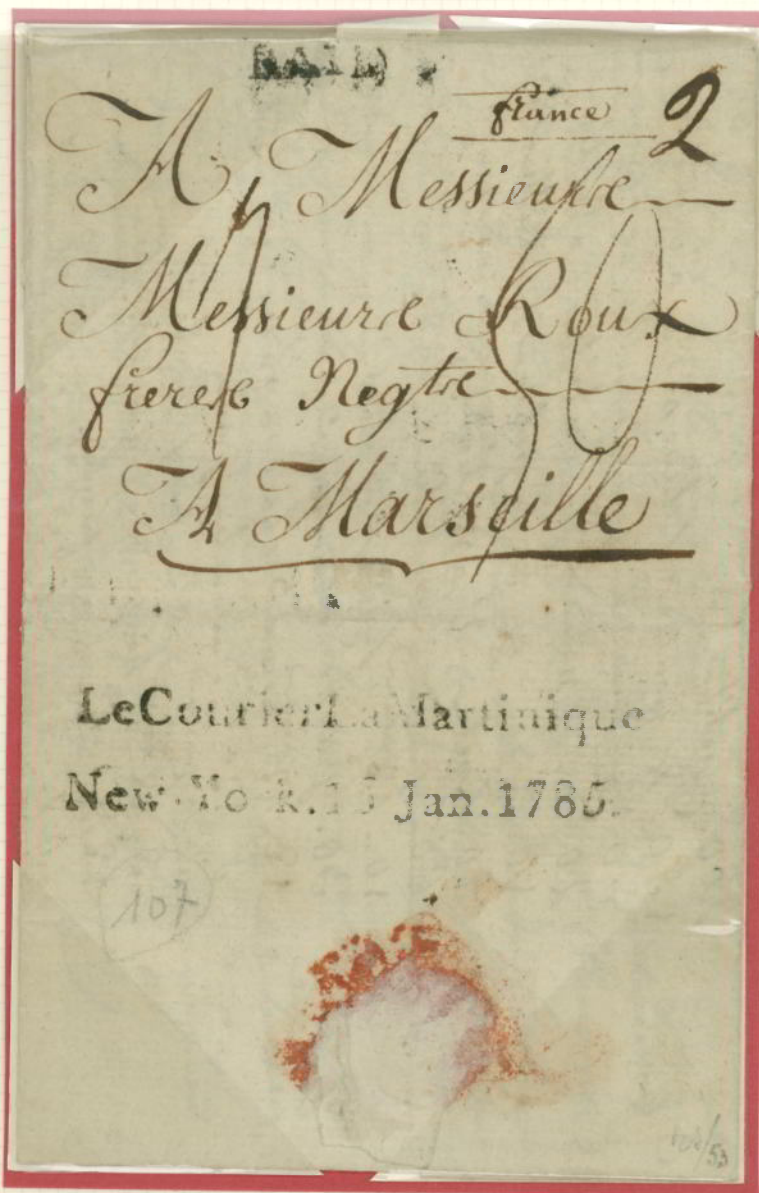
1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
NEW YORK to L'ORIENT

Dated " LE COURIER LA MARTINIQUE
shipmark: NEW YORK. 15 JAN 1785 "

U.S. Postmark: " PAID "



1785

*Philadelphia January 12 via New York Jan. 15 and L'Orient to Mar-
seilles on the first return crossing of the "Courier La Martinique".*

Prepaid 2 dwt Philadelphia - New York and taxed double rate 50sols.
This is the only known shipmark from this packet.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

LORIENT to NEW YORK

Prepaid postmark: "PORT PAYE DE L'ORIENT"

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"



1785

Bordeaux March 22, via L'Orient May 1
and New York May 28, to Philadelphia
received May 31. Carried on its 2nd voyage
in 27 days by the

"Courier La Martinique"

Prepaid 38 sols on reverse; rated 6 dwt or 2/8
local currency overland New York-Philadelphia.
This was the fastest crossing of the packets (E-W)

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Prepaid postmark: "PORT PAYE À L'ORIENT"

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"

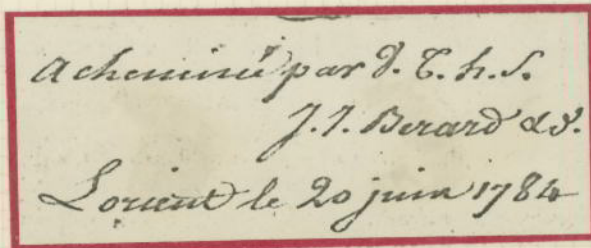


1784

From St.-Zuentin May 23, via L' Orient
and New York, to Philadelphia received
Sept. 10. Carried in 41 days on the 2nd voy-
age of the

" Courier de L' Orient "

Prepaid 20 sous transatlantic rate and
taxed 2 dwt New York to Philadelphia.



French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

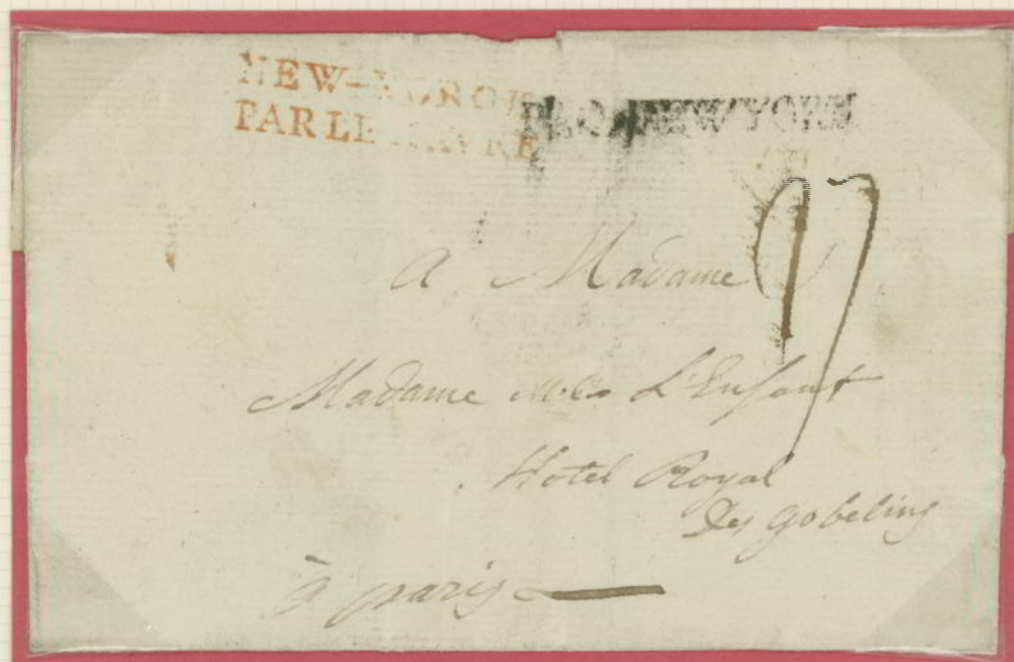
Second Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

NEW YORK to LE HAVRE

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. NEW YORK"

Transit postmark: "NEW YORCK
PAR LE HAVRE"



Circa 1787

*From New York to Paris, undated, via Le
Havre, taxed 27 sous.*

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1792-1793

Government sponsored Service

Private Packet Line

NEW YORK to L'ORIENT

Embarkation marking: "P. F. DE NEW YORK"

Entry marking: "AMERIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE P. L'ORIENT."



1793

*From New York February 16 via L' Orient
to Le Havre.*

Prepaid 20 sous for Ocean crossing and
rated "30" sous- overland postage.
Letter probably carried by the shipline
of Benjamis Dubois.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Prepaid postmark: "PORT PAYÉ DE L'ORIENT"

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"



1784-1785

From L'Orient November 20, 1784 sailing December 1st via New York, January 18, 1785, to Philadelphia, received January 20. Carried on its 3rd voyage in 49 days by the

"Courier de l'Amerique"

Prepaid 20 sols marked on reverse
Rated 2 dwt New York to Philadelphia.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

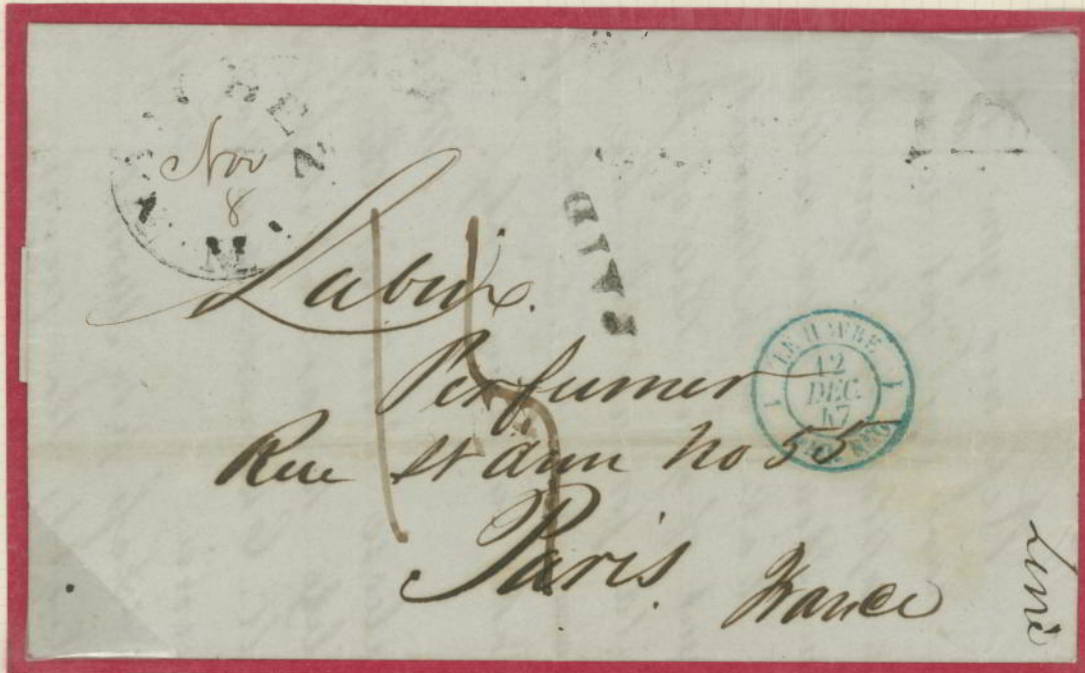
1847-1848

Service Herout & de Handel

Regular Shipline

LE HAVRE to NEW YORK

Entry postmarks: "1 LE HAVRE 1 PAQ. REG."



1847

From Natchez to Paris; carried by the "New York"

Prepaid 10 cents and taxed 15 decimes



1848

From New York to Reims, carried by the "Missouri"

Double rate tax 24 decimes (10dec.-maritime+7dec. x2=24dec.)

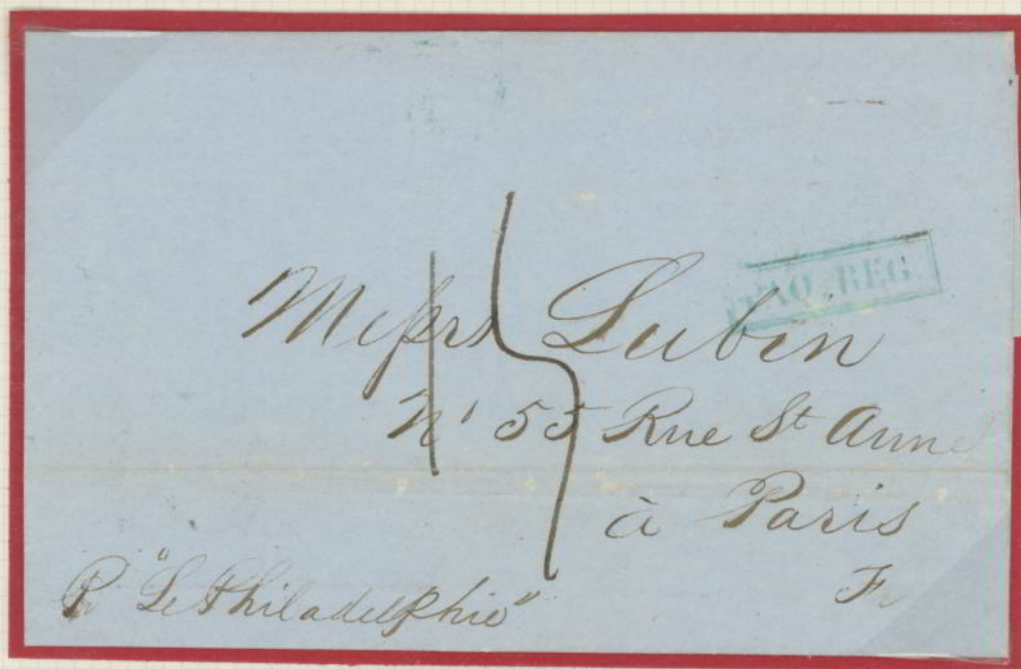
This was the last voyage and the end of the shipline H. & de H.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1847-1848
Service Herout & de Handel

Regular Shipline
CHERBOURG to NEW YORK

Entry marking: "PAQ. REG."



1847

New York August 14 via Cherbourg to Paris;
doctored as received September 3. Carried on
the first return voyage by the:
"Philadelphie"

Taxed 15 decimes: 10 dec. maritime + 5 dec. overland.
This shipline was in service from June 1847 to Feb.
1848. Cherbourg at the beginning, and later Le
Havre were heads of the line.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Prepaid postmark: " P. PAYE "

Transit marking: " P P P P "

Embarkation marking: " PAQ. L'ORIENT. "



1785

*From Marseille August 1, 1785 to New York, via Paris
and L'Orient. Carried at its 4th voyage by the
" Courier de New York "*

The crossing took 45 days.

Prepaid tax of 40 sols marked on reverse.

Taxed 2d at port of arrival, on front.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Line

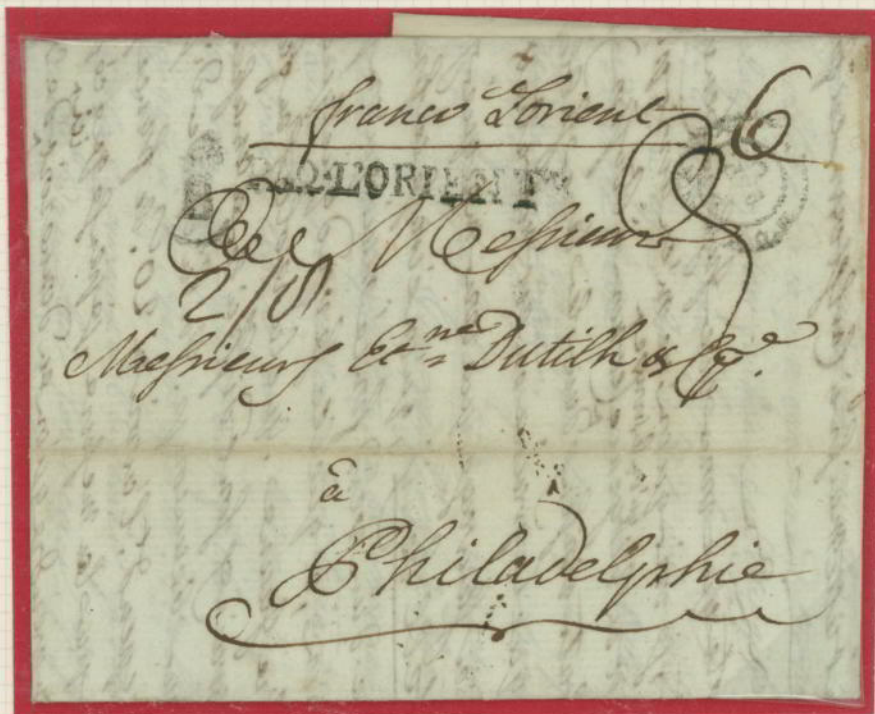
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Postmark: "B"

Prepaid postmark: "P.P. BORDEAUX"

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"



1785

*Bordeaux January 29, via L'Orient March 23
and New York April 29, to Philadelphia re-
ceived April 30. Carried on its 4th voyage in
37 days by the:*

"Courier de l'Europe"

Prepaid French overland "12 Double" on reverse.
Rated 6 dwt or 2/8 local currency for New York
to Philadelphia.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788

First Royal Ship Agency

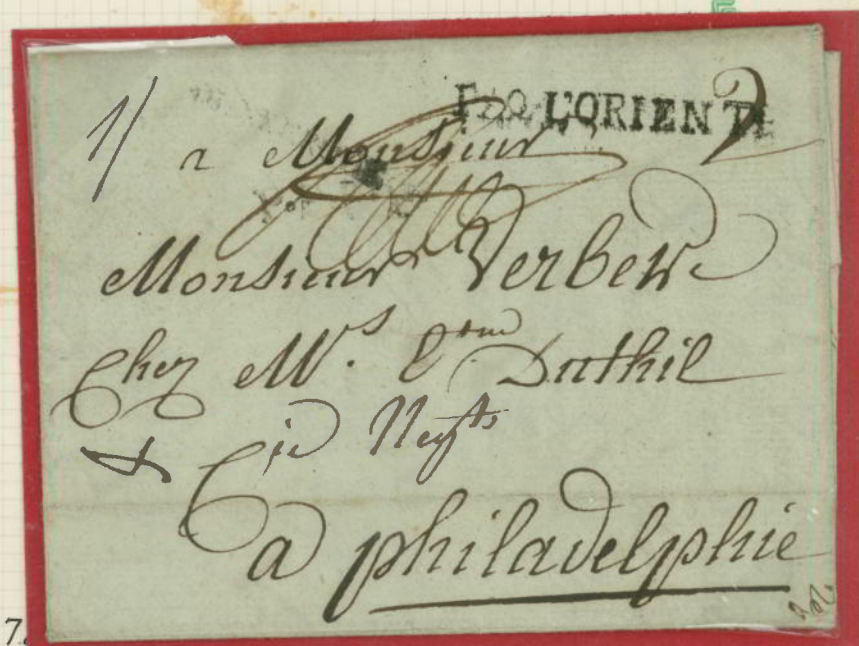
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Postmark: "DUNKERQUE"

Transit postmark: "P. P. P. P."

Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"



17.

*From Dunkerque, undated, via L'Orient
Nov. 6 and New York Dec. 27 to Philadelphia,
received November 29. Carried on its 6th voy-
age in 51 days by the:*

"Courier de New York"

Prepaid overland and transatlantic rates of
38 sols. Taxed 2 dwt or 1/- local currency New
York to Philadelphia. This is the last packet of
the 1st Royal Agency sailing from Lorient. Next
sailings and the 2nd Agency were made from
Le Havre.

1783-1788

Second Royal Ship Agency

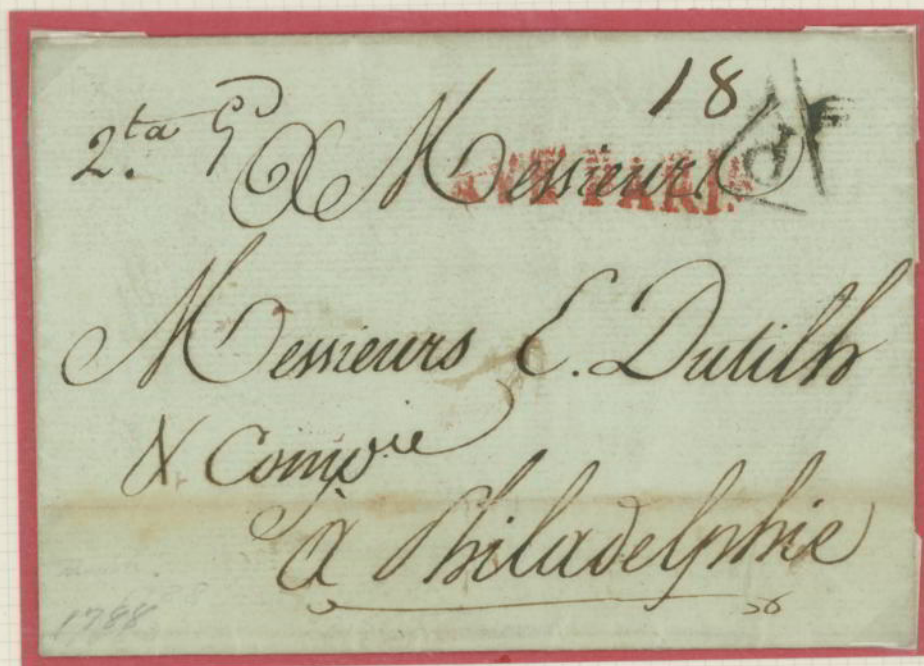
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

LE HAVRE to NEW YORK

Postmark: "P"

Prepaid postmark: "P. PAYÉ PARIS."



1788

From Paris February 2 to Philadelphia, received
April 18 via Le Havre February 27 and New York
April 17. Carried on its 8th voyage in 50 days by:
"Courier de L'Orient"

Taxed on delivery 4 dwt or $\frac{7}{8}$ in local
currency. Prepaid 7sous overland &
20 sous transatlantic rates.

This is the last voyage of this packet
before the discontinuation of the line.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1864-1866

Cie Generale Transatlantique

Regular Shipline

LE HAVRE to NEW YORK

*Dated shipmark: " * LAFAYETTE * PAQ. FR. 19 OCT 64 "*



1864

*From Le Havre October 19 to New York
arrival November 3.*

Prepaid double rate 1 fr. 60 and 6 cents credit to U.S.A.
This was the 2nd voyage of the "Lafayette"

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1864-1866

Cie Generale Transatlantique

Regular Shipline Service

NEW YORK to LE HAVRE

Provenance and Shipline marking in red:

"ETATS UNIS * PAQ. FR * LAFAYETTE * 26 AVRIL 65"



1865

*From New York April 26 to St Jean Pied de Port, via
Le Havre, May 9. arrival May 11. Prepaid 15 cents can-
celled by French line anchor. 6th Crossing by "Lafayette"*

Single Rate postage of 15 cents with a
red "PD": Paid to Destination.
This Provenance Marking was unknown
to Mr. Salles and not listed

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1866-1872

Compagnie Generale Transatlantique

Line A

Le Havre to New York and back, via Brest

Incoming French Packet - N.Y. Entry: "FRNH PKT"
Depreciated Currency Marking



1866

Insufficiently prepaid letter (AFFR. INSUFF.) from Paris, 8 May, by the "Pereire" to San Francisco via New York, May 22, arrival June 16. Double rate of 30¢ silver or 38¢ U.S. notes - paid by the addressee and a 24¢ debit to U.S.A.

Taxed on arrival 30¢

French Maritime Mail in the West Indies and in Central America

1865-1879

Cie Generale Transatlantique

Main Shipline "A"

SAINT NAZAIRE to COLON via
Fort-de-France and Ste Marthe.

Dated Provenance Shipmark:

" PANAMA-PAQ.FR.A-No1-1 SEPT. 67. "



1867

*From Panama, September 1, via Colon and Saint-Nazaire, September 22 to Paris, arrival Sept. 23.
Carried by the "Nouveau Monde" and prepaid
80 centimes for a single rate.*

This is the earliest known date of real provenance from Panama as indicated by the forwarders' name marking.

French Maritime Mail from the West Indies

1866-1876
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE

Main Ship line "A"
St-NAZAIRE to COLON (Panama) and
back via Fort-de-France (Martinique)

Shipline Cancellation: COR. D'ARMEES L.A. PAQ. No 3-9 JUIL 69



*From Martinique to
Paris, prepaid 20
centimes, military rate.
Carried by the steamer
"Floride"*

1869

1867-1885
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE

Main Ship line "B"
St-NAZAIRE to VERA CRUZ (Mexico)
and back via Saint Thomas.

Shipline Cancellation: COR. D'ARMEES. L.B PAQ. No 1-27 AVRIL 83

*From the West Indies
to Besançon via St-
Thomas, prepaid mi-
litary rate of 15 cen-
times. Carried by the
"Ville de Brest"*



1883

French Maritime Mail in the Caribbean.

1865-1877

Cie Générale Transatlantique

Main Shipline "B"

SAINT-NAZAIRE to VERA-CRUZ
via Saint-Thomas

Consular Agency marking: "St. THOMAS 26 JUIL. 76"

Dated Provenance shipmark:

"St THOMAS - PAQ. FR. B. No 4-27 JUIL. 76."



1876

*From St Thomas July 26 to St-Nazaire August
14 and Nantes. Carried by the "St-Nazaire".*

1 Franc rate with two 30 and one 40 cent.
of 1871-77 issue cancelled with Consular
mark, used only in 1876-77. Arrival postmark
"2 COL. FR. 2-St NAZAIRE-15 AOUT 76"

French Maritime Mail from the West Indies.

1866-1875

Feeder Line "D"

St-THOMAS to COLON via San Juan

1865-1901

Main Line "B"

Cie Generale Transatlantique

St NAZAIRE to VERA-CRUZ via St. Thomas & Santander

French Consular Agency dated postmark:

"St JEAN - DE - PORTO - RICO * 25 DEC. 74 "

Backstamped Shipmarks of corresponding lines "D" & "B"



1874-1875

*From San Juan, Porto Rico, December 25, 1874 to
Santander, Spain; arrival docketed Jan 13, 1875*

Prepaid single rate 1 Franc and taxed 4 Reals at arrival

French Maritime Mail from Puerto Rico

1879-1886

The 3rd Feeder Ship line "A"

St-THOMAS to KINGSTON, Jamaica,
via Porto Rico, Haiti, etc..

1882

Main Ship line "B"

St-NAZAIRE to VERA CRUZ and
back via St-Thomas

Stop-over and Feeder line shipmark: MAYAGUEZ - PAQ.FR. F - 23 AVRIL 82

Main line shipmark in red: LIGNE B - PAQ.FR.No3 - 27 AVRIL 82



1882

*From Mayaguez to France via Saint-Thomas, prepaid 8 centavos,
and carried by the "Ville de Brest" to St-Nazaire*

Salles 1597a and 1431/3 in red. This a very late usage of Line B
shipmark: Salles notes its use, in black only, ending in 1874

French Maritime Mail in the Caribbean

1865-1872

Cie. Gle. Transatlantique

Feeder Line "G"
MARTINIQUE TO GUADELOUPE
AND BACK; in correspondance with main
LINE "A"

Shipline marking: LIGNE G PAQ.FR.No2- 8 DEC. 67



1867

*From Poite à Pitre, Guadeloupe, December 6th to Fort de
France, Martinique, December 8th and transshipped to the
"Nouveau Monde", arriving Dec. 23 St-Nazaire & Nantes.
Prepaid single rate 50 centimes.*

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic.

1866-1872

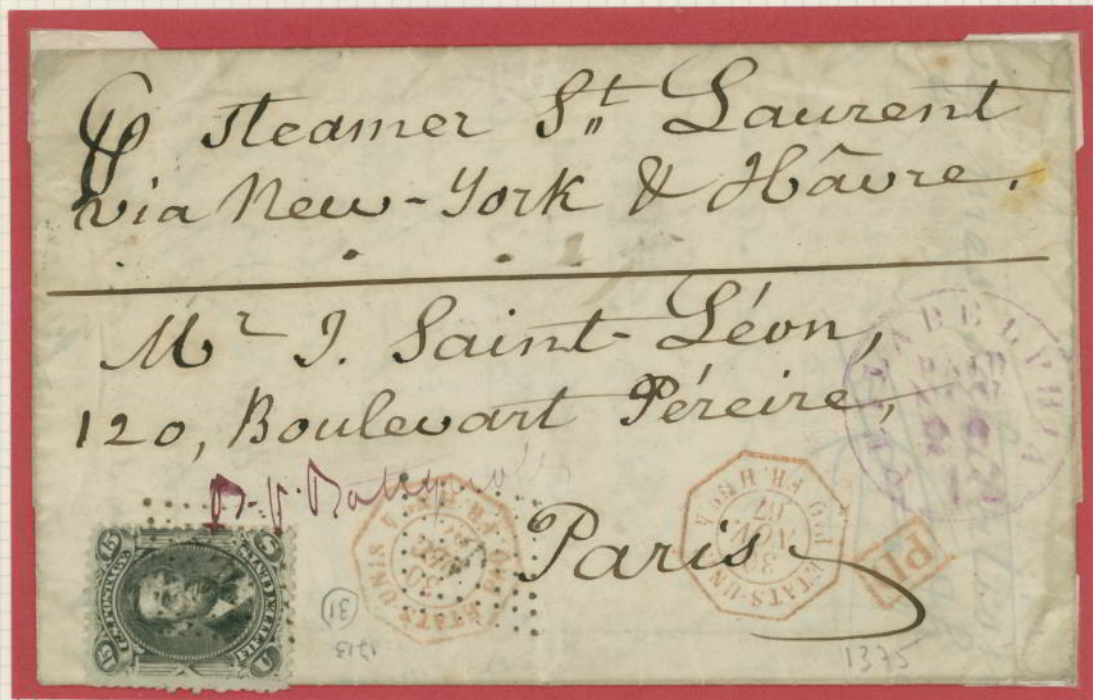
Cie Générale Transatlantique

Main Shipline "H"

LE HAVRE-NEW YORK-LE HAVRE

Provenance and shipline datemark:

"ETATS-UNIS PAQ. FR. H No4 30 NOV.67"



1867

From Philadelphia November 29, via New York, Nov. 30, Le Havre Dec. 12 to Paris arriving the same day. Prepaid with 15 cents stamp cancelled on board by anchor and lozenge of dots in black. Carried by the "St-Laurent"

Single rated prepaid letter with "PHILADELPHIA PAID 12" in purple showing debit of 12 cents to the USA. French "PD" shows Paid to Destination.

French Maritime Mail in the South Atlantic

1866 1869
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

The First main Shipline "J"
BORDEAUX to RIO-de-JANEIRO
via Lisbon, Dakar, Pernambouco & Bahia

Dated shipline mark:

" LIGNE J-PAQ. FR. No 2 - 25 OCT. 67 "



1867

From Bordeaux, October 25, to Rio-de-Janeiro November 16. Prepaid single rate 80 centimes. Carried by the "Guienne".

This letter unable to reach its addressee was returned first to Paris, March 25 1868, and marked: "RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR-REBUTS" and then to Bordeaux, March 26.

French Maritime Mail to the Far East

1869-1870

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Supplementary Shipline "M"

MARSEILLES-ALEXANDRIA-MARSEILLES

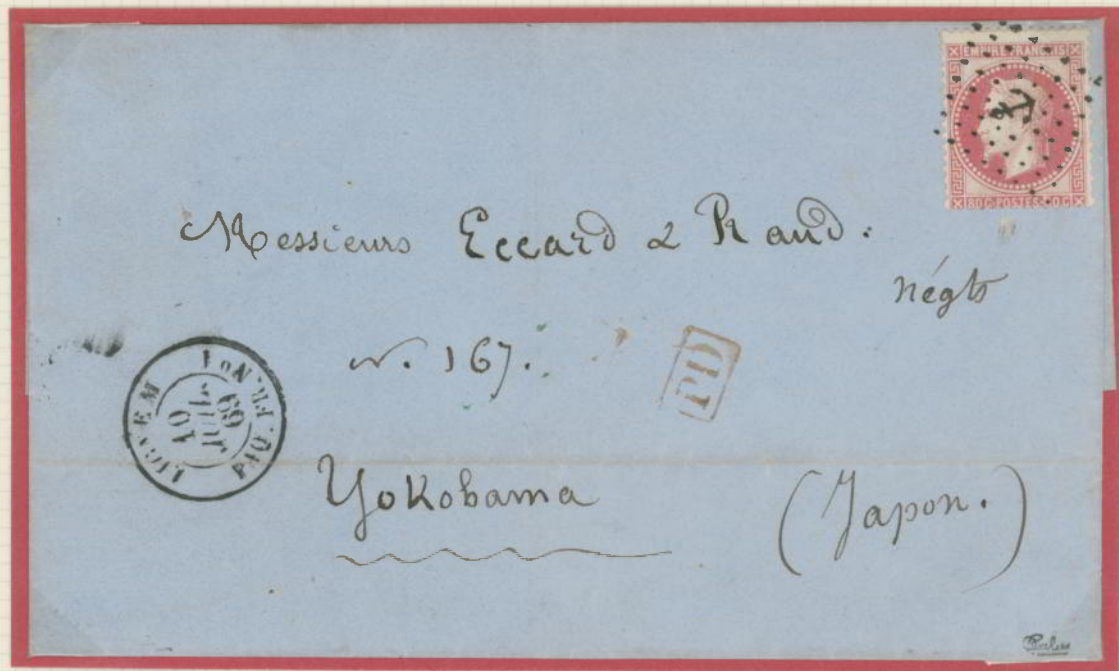
in correspondance with Line "N", Suez

to Hong Kong and Feeder Line "S",

Hong Kong to Yokohama.

Shipline marking:

LIGNE M - PAQ.FR. No 1 - 10 JUL. 69



1869

*From Marseilles to Yokohama via Alexandria, Suez
and Hong Kong. Prepaid single rate 80 centimes.*

*Carried by the "Peluse" to Alexandria, by the Main
Line "N" to Hong Kong and by the Feeder Line "S"
steamer "Duplex" to Yokohama; backstamped with*

*"LIGNE S-PAQ.FR.No1-19(AOUT)69" and "YOKOHAMA-BAU
FRANÇAIS- 25 AOUT 69".*

S 891

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail.

1866-1910

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Main Shipline "N"

MARSEILLE to SHANG-HAI via
Port Said, Aden and Saigon in
correspondance with feeder line "T":
Aden - Reunion - Mauritius.

Dated Provenance shipmark:

" MARSEILLE - PAQ. FR. N No8-3AOUT 73 "



1873

From Marseille August 3 to Port-Louis, Mauritius,

via Aden transit, August 18, arriving September 2.

Carried from Marseille to Aden by the "Iraoudly"

and transhipped at Aden onto the "Illissus"-Line "T"

Letter prepaid with four 25 centimes. of 1871-75 issue
The provenance shipmark "MARSEILLE - PAQ" was
in usage from 1871 to 1887. Letter backstamped:
" LIGNE T - PAQ. FR. No 2 - 18 AOUT 73 "

French Maritime Mail in the South Pacific

1872-1874

Cie Générale Transatlantique

The Second Shipline "A"

PANAMA to VALPARAISO via
Guayaquil, Callao, etc.

Dated Provenance and Consular Agency marking:

" GUAYAQUIL - PAQ.FR.F-No2- 4 OCT.72 "



1872

*From Guayaquil, October 4, via Callao, October 8, to
Lima, arrival October 14. Carried by the "Ville de
St-Nazaire. Prepaid single "interisland" rate of 60
centimes.*

The marking " GUAYAQUIL - PAQ.FR. No 2- & date "
was used only as a Consular Agency cancel in
Guayaquil in lieu of a regular consular marking.

French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1866-1872

Compagnie Generale Transatlantic

Line A

Le Havre to New York
and back via Brest

Treaty rate Markings of incoming French Mail

BOSTON EXCHANGE OFFICE



1868 Prepaid single rate 80 centimes from Nice May 19 to Boston; arrival June 4; by the "St-Laurent"; red penciled 3¢, credit to U.S.A. for its inland postage

NEW YORK EXCHANGE OFFICE



1867 Prepaid single rate 80 centimes from Le Havre, Aug. 29 to New York Sept. 13 by the "Europe"; red 3¢ credit to U.S.A. for its inland.

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail

1871-1887 Period

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Main Line "N"

Marseilles-Aden-Saigon-HongKong-Shanghai-Marseilles

Shipline datemarks:

"LIGNE N - PAQ. FR. N° 1 - 20 DEC 75"

"LIGNE N - PAQ. FR. N° 8 - 28 DEC 75"



1875

Letter to France posted aboard "Paq. Fr. No 1" the "Anadyr" going to Shanghai, paid double rate of 2 Francs, carried to Marseilles by "Paq. Fr. No 8" the "Hoogly" returning from the Far East, after transfer in Aden.

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail

1867-1871

Cie des Messageries Impariales

Feeder Shipline "O" from India

CALCUTTA-GALLES, Ceylan-CALCUTTA
via Madras and Pondichery, in correspon-
dence with main line "N" at Galles.

Provenance and Shipline marking:

ETAB.FR.INDE - PAQ.FR. O No1 - 7 DEC. 67



1867-1868

*From French India to Nantes, arriving 6 Jan. 1868,
via Galles, Suez and Marseilles. Insufficiently fran-
ked with 40 centimes, taxed 7 decimes at destination.
Carried by the "Meinam" to Galles and "Imperatrice"
from Galles to Suez.*

S 1962 a

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail

1879-1884

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Feeder Shipline "P" to Batavia
SINGAPORE - BATAVIA - SINGAPORE
in correspondance with main line "N"

Provenance and shipline marking in blue:

POSS. NEER. - PAQ. FR. P-No1 - 27 AVRIL 82.



1882

*From Weltewreden, Netherlands Indies, via Singapore,
Paris and London to Madeira. Arrival July 6 Funchal.
25 cents Postal Stationary. Carried by the "Emirne"
from Batavia to Singapore.*

S 1966 b

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail

1867-1869

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Feeder Shipline "R" to Hong Kong

SHANGHAI - HONG KONG - SHANGHAI

Shipline marking:

LIGNE R-PAQ.FR. No1-20 JUIL 67



1867

*From Shanghai to London, Sept. 9, via Hong Kong.
Prepaid triple rate: 2 frs 40. Carried by steamers
"Duplex" to Hong Kong and "La Bourdonnais" to
Suez.*

S 1968 a

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail

1875-1876

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Feeder Shipline "S" from Yokohama
YOKOHAMA-HONG KONG-YOKOHAMA
in corrdpondance with line "N" from HongKong

Provenance and shipline marking:
YOKOHAMA - PAQ.FR. S No3 - 26 OCT.75



1875

*From Yokohama, via Hong Kong and Marseilles
to Lyon - arriving Dec. 10. Single rate franking
of 1 Franc. Carried by the "Menzaleh" from Yo-
kohama and by the "Ava" from Hong Kong to
Marseilles.*

S 1972/3 a

Far Eastern French Maritime Mail

1867-1887

Cie des Messageries Maritimes
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE

Feeder Shipline "S"
YOKOHAMA to HONG-KONG
via Kelung (Taiwan) in 1884-85

Dated Army Shipline marking:

" COR. D. ARM.-LIG. S PAQ.FR.No 1- 25 DEC. 84. "



1884-1885

*From Taiwan December 25 via Hong Kong December 27,
Marseilles January 29 to Reims, arrival January 30. Carried
by the "Menzaleh" from Kelung in Taiwan or Formosa
to Hong Kong and by the "Natal" to Marseilles. Prepaid
15 centimes, military single rate*

Between September 1884 and July 1885 a French Expeditionary Force occupied Kelung on the island of Taiwan (Formosa) and packets of the shipline "S" were ordered to stop-over at Kelung. The majority of military mail was stampless and this is a rare example of prepaid soldier's mail, not cited by Mr. Salles. The large strike "MARINE ET COLONIES" with Anchor shows the origin of this letter to be a battalion of French Marines.

French Maritime Mail in the Indian Ocean

1876-1903

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Main Shipline " 7 "

MARSEILLES to NEW CALEDONIA
in 1888-95, via Suez, Aden, Seychelles
and Australia

Dated Shipline marking:

" LIGNE T - PAQ. FR. No 4 - 17 OCT. 90 "



1890

From Reunion October 13, via Mahé - Seychelles
October 17 and Marseilles, November 1st to Com-
bourg, arrival November 2. Prepaid 25 centimes,
single rate and carried from Mahé by the
"Oceanien". From Reunion to Mahé this letter
was carried by the "Ava" of the Mascarene
interisland secondary shipline service.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1872

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline "U"

CONSTANTINOPLE to MARSEILLES via
the Dardanelles, Pyreus and Messina.

Dated Shipline marking:

"LIGNE U - PAQ. FR. No2-2 SEPT 68"



1868

From Constantinople Sept. 2, via Marseilles Sept. 8, Paris and Le-Havre Sept. 10 to New York, arrival Sept. 23. Carried to Marseilles by the "Niemen" and by the French ship "St-Laurent" from Le Havre to New York.

Prepaid 80 centimes on a 10 grammes, single rated letter from Constantinople to Marseilles and a prepayment of 1.60 Franc on 7.5gr. x 2 or double rate for transatlantic passage Le Havre - New York, a total of 2.40 Frs. 6 cents double rate credit to the United States

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1870

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline "U"

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA
via Messina.

Shipline marking:

LIGNE V - PAQ. FR. No3-19-DEC.68



1868

From Marseilles Dec. 12th, by the "Peluse" to Mes-
sina, arrival Dec 22; double rated at 80 centimes.

S. 887/3

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1870

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline "W" to Italy
MARSEILLES to CIVITA-VECCHIA

Dated shipline marking:

"LIGNE W - PAQ. FR. No 1 - 24 JUIN 68"



1868
From Marseilles June 24 to Naples, arrival
June 27. Carried by the:
"Saintonge"

Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate to Italy.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1872

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline "X"

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA
via Palermo, Messina, Syra, Smyrna,
Rhodes, Mersina, Alexandretta, Latta-
quie, Tripoli, Beyrouth and Jaffa.

Dated Shipline marking:

" LIGNE X-PAQ.FR. No 2-28NOV.68 "



1868

*From Marseilles, November 28, carried by the "Tage"
to Palermo, arrival December 1st. Prepaid single
rate of 40 centimes.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1872

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline "X"

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA via
Palermo, Messina, Syra, Smyrna, Rhodes,
Mersina, Alexandretta, Lattaquie, Tripoli,
Beyrouth, Jaffa and back with the same
stop-overs.

Provenance and Shipline marking:

" ALEXANDRETTE - P. FR. X No 1-13 MARS 67. "



1867

*Front of letter from Alexandretta, Syria, March 13,
to Marseilles, arrival March 25. Letter carried by
the "Tibre" and prepaid with 40 centimes, single
rate.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1871-1872

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Circular Shipline "X"

Marseilles - Alexandria - Port Saïd - Jaffa - Beyrouth -
Tripoli - Lattaquie - Alexandretta - Mersina - Rhodes -
Smyrne - Marseilles .

Shipline marking:

BEYROUTH PAQ.FR.X No 4 13 JANV. 72
S.905



1872

*From Beyrouth via Marseilles to Tarare, France, arrival
January 24. Prepaid single rate 80 centimes. Carried by
the "Amerique" to Marseilles.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1871-1872

Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Main Circular Shipline "X"

Marseilles - Alexandria - Smyrna - Marseilles, or:

Marseilles - Smyrna - Alexandria - Marseilles

Provenance and Shipline marking:

"ALEXANDRIE - PAQ. FR. X No 1-16 JUIL 72."



1872

*From Alexandria July 16, carried by the "Nil"
via Marseilles July 22 to Paris, arrival July 23.
Prepaid single rate of 80 centimes.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1869

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

*Feeder Shipline "Y" to Anatolia Coast
CONSTANTINOPLE to SMYRNA via Gallipoli,
The Dardanelles and Metelin.*

Dated Shipline marking:

"LIGNE Y - PAQ. FR. No 1 - 23 NOV. 69"



1869

*To Aleppo November 23, prepaid single rated letter,
40 centimes, via Smyrna, Nov. 25, forwarded from
there to Aleppo and taxed with 2 Turkish tax
stamps.*

According to Mr. Salles, only 2 dates of the
Line "Y" are known; the other is June 23, 1868.

S 918

French Maritime Mail in the Black Sea

1867-1868

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Feeder Shipline "AB" to the Turkish Coast
CONSTANTINOPE to TREBIZOND via Ineboli,
Sinope, Samsoun and Kerassunde.

Dated Shipline marking:

"LIGNE AB - PAQ.FR. No2 - 23 OCT. 68."



1868

*Front of a letter from Amasya, Turkey,
October 28, via Samsoun to Constantinople.
Prepaid single rate 40 centimes.*

According to Mr. Salles this is the only
known cover carried by "PAQ.FR. No2"

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1837-1851

French Postal Administration
Packet Service

Shipline to the Levant

CONSTANTINOPE to MARSEILLES via
Smyrne, Syra, Malta, Naples, Leghorn, etc.

Marseilles Entry marking in black:

PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANÉE



1838

*From Syra 27 Sept.-10 Oct.- to Marseilles,
October 23, purified at Malta. Taxed 10 de-
cimes at arrival. Carried by the "Leonidas"
from Malte to Marseilles.*

S.725

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1837-1851

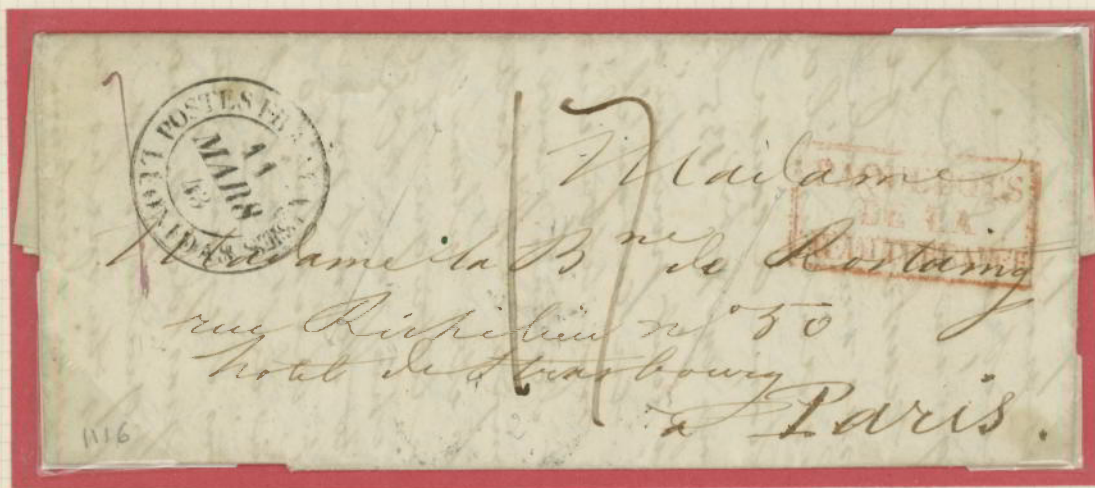
French Postal Administration
Packet Service

Main Line to the Levant

MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Leghorn, Civita-Vecchia, Naples, Malta,
Syra, Smyrna and the Dardanelles.

Dated Shipmark:

"POSTES FRANÇAISES-LEONIDAS-11 MARS 43"



1843

*From aboard the "Leonidas" March 10 address to Paris;
landed at Malta March 11. Transshipped to Marseille on
the "Scamandre", arrival March 21. Desinfected and
taxed 17 décimes.*

Sanitary considerations compelled all mail to be
desinfected between Dec. 1837 and Oct. 1845.
Therefore the Shiplines to the Levant were cut
in two with ships sailing from the Levant to Malta
and back and others making the round trip from
Malta to Marseille.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1852-1857

Cie des Messageries Nationales

Feeder Shipline from the Pyreus station
PYREUS to SALONICA & back

*Dated Shipmark: "EUROTAS * 14 JUIL 52"*



1852

*From Salonica July 14 to Marseille, arrival July 26.
Carried from Salonica to Syra, via Pyreus, trans-
shipped aboard the "Egypt" for Marseille. Single rate
taxed 10 décimes*

It is the only known dated mark of the "Eurotas"
during the Oct. 1851-Aug. 1852 stay in Pyreus

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Nationales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Malta, Syra, Smyrna and the Dardanelles.

*Dated Shipmark: " MENTOR * 5 AOUT 53 "*



1853

*From Constantinople, docketed July 25 to Marseille,
arrival August 6. Double rated and taxed 20 décimes*

The date "5 Aout" of the shipmark is in error; the
"Mentor" left on July 25.
No prepaid mail carried by the "Mentor" has been
reported by Mr. Salles.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Ship Line to the Levant

MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPE & back, via
Malta, Syra, Smyrna and the Dardanelles.

*Dated Shipmark: "LEONIDAS*16 DEC. 53"*



1853

*From Constantinople Decembre 16 to Paris, ar-
rival December 28. Taxed single rate 10 décimes.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1852-1857

Cie des Messageries Nationales

Feeder Shipline from the Pyreus station

PYREUS to SALONICA & back

*Dated Shipmark: " PERICLES * 13 JUL 54 "*



1854

*From Salonica July 13 to Marseille, arrival July 24.
Transshipped to Main Shipline from the Levant. Arrived
Malta July 21 and carried from Malta to Marseille by the "Egyptus".
Double rate tax: 16 décimes*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Italy

MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Leghorn, Civita-Vecchio,
Naples and Messina.

Dated Shipmark:

" PHILIPPE - AUGUSTE * 25 FEVR. 55 "



1855

From Civita Vecchio February 25 to Marseilles, arrival February 28. Single rated and taxed 13 decimes.

Normal single rate taxation on incoming letters from Papal States or Two-Sicilies was set at 15 decimes; above letter was taxed 13 decimes

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPE & back
via Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles.

*Dated Shipmark: "SPHINX * 8 JANV 56"*



1856

*From Marseille, January 8 to Constantinople, arrival
docketed January 15. Carried by the "Borysthene".
Triple tax rated at arrival: 30 décimes.*

The "Borysthene" on its first voyage
out of Marseille used the "Sphinx"
dated shipmark.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE
via Messina, Pyreus & the Dardanelles

*Dated Shipmark: "ALPHEE * 10 MAI 62"*



1862

From Marseilles May 10 to Messina arrival May 13. Prepaid single postage rate

This is the last voyage in the Mediterranean by "Alphee" before sailing to service the Indo-China coast.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Italy

MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Leghorn, Civita Vecchia,
Naples and Messina.

Dated Shipmark:

"AUNIS * 25 JUN 63"



1863

*From Marseilles June 20 to Civita Vecchia ar-
rival June 28. Prepaid 1 Franc, single rate pos-
tage to the Pontifical State.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "BALKAN * 16 MARS 59"*



1859

From Constantinople March 16 via Marseilles March 22 to Paris. Prepaid 1 franc double postage rate.

This letter was carried by the packet "NEWA", on the first return of this new ship from Constantinople. The "BALKAN" shipmark was borrowed and used by the postal agent of the "Newa".

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "BORYSTHENE * 3 JANV. 63"



1863

From Marseilles January 3 to Constantinople Jan 10.

Prepaid 50 centimes, single postage rate.

The date digit "6" of 63 is missing from the shipmark. Not previously reported for this voyage.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866

Constantinople Station Feeder Shiplines

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Dated Shipmark:

" B O S P H O R E * 28 SEPT 62 "



1862

Letter addressed to Mersina, September 28; single prepaid rate of 50 centimes.

The "BOSPHORE" was stationed for the 3rd time in Constantinople from January 1862 to Jan.31, 1863. An incomplete back cancellation indicates "Salonique Turquie" in a dotted circle, leading to the possibility that this letter went via Salonica (Thessaly Coast feeder line), Sira or Smyrna (Anatolia Coast feeder line) to the main French shipline servicing the Syrian and Turkish coasts with a stop-over at Mersina. According to Mr Salles, no prepaid covers carried by the "BOSPHORE" are known, except on this voyage.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

*Constantinople Station
Thessaly coast Feeder Shipline*
CONSTANTINOPLE to PYREUS
via Volo and Salonica

Dated Shipmark:

"CAIRE * 21 NOV. 65"



1865

*From Salonica November 21, via the Dardanelles
and Messina to Leghorn, arrival December 2.
Transshipped at the Dardanelles from the "Caire"
to the "Danube" out of Constantinople on the
way to Marseilles via Messina.*

Prepaid double rate of 1.60 Frs
Two purification slits.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Italy

MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Leghorn & others

Dated Shipmark:

"CAPITOLE 11 AOUT 64"



1864

*From Marseilles August 11, to Genoa arrival
August 12. Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate
postage.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles.

*Dated Shipmark: "CEPHISE * 19 JAN 60"*



1860

*From Constantinople January 18 to Paris, arrival
Marseille January 30 and Paris, Jan. 31. Prepaid
double rate 1 Franc.*

This is the only voyage made by the
"CEPHISE" to and from the Levant.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "DUPLÉIX * 19 NOV. 64."*



1864

*From Marseilles November 19 to Constantinople
arrival Nov. 26. Prepaid 50 cmes, single postage.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Syria

MARSEILLE to ALEXANDRIA & back via
Palermo, Messina, Syra, Smyrna, Rhodes, Mer-
sina, Alexandretta, Lattaquie, Tripoli, Beyrouth
and Jaffa.

*Dated Shipmark: "ERIDAN * 28 SEPT 66"*



1866

*From Marseille, September 28 to Syra, Greece, arrival
October 6 or September 24 per Greek calendar.
Desinfected and taxed at arrival 132 Leptas.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark:

"EGYPTUS * 9 AVRIL"



1857

From Constantinople April 9 to London, via Marseille, April 18, Paris and Calais, April 19, arriving London April 20. Prepaid single sea rate 60 centimes and taxed on arrival 2 shillings.

During 1857 no yearly "57" insert was in use with the "EGYPTUS" dated shipmark. Stamps cancellation with small "1896" was done in Marseille. The Anchor in lozenge of dots cancellation came into use in July 1857. Although Mr. Salles noted that there were no prepaid letters during the first 2 voyages of the "EGYPTUS" in 1857, above prepaid letter was carried on the 2nd such voyage.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851 1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "EUPHRATE * 13 SEPT 62"*



1862

*From Marseilles Septembe 13, via Pyrens Sept. 19.
to Syra Sept. 20. Postmarked at arrival Sept.
8 per Greek calendar and taxed 132 Leptas.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "GODEWERY * 26 OCT 64"*



From Constantinople October 26, 1864 to Nice

*Dated Shipmark: "GODAVERY * 25 MAI 65"*



From Marseilles May 27, 1865 to Constantinople

The erroneous spelling of the shipmark "GODEWERY" used in 1863-64 was replaced by "GODAVERY" in 1865.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "HYDASPE * 1 AOUT 60"*



1860

From Constantinople August, via Marseilles Aug. 9, to Lyon arrival Aug. 10. Prepaid 1 Fr., double postage rate.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "ILLISSUS * 10 OCT. 66"*



1866

*From Constantinople October 10, via Marseilles
Oct. 17, to Paris Oct. 19. Prepaid 40 centimes
single postage rate.*

Shipmark "Illissus" is erroneously spelled;
it was never corrected to: "ILYSSUS".
Last voyage with this shipmark before the
change to "Line" markings in 1866-67.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851 1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "INDUS * 15 NOV 62"*



1862

*From Marseilles November 15, to Constantinople
arrival Nov. 23. Prepaid 1 franc double postage
rate.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Egypt and Syria
MARSEILLES to SMYRNA & back
via Malta and Alexandria

Dated Shipmark:

"JOURDAIN * 24 SEPT 61."



1861

*From Smyrna September 24, via Marseilles
October 1st to Bordeaux Oct. 3.*

Prepaid single rate 50 centimes

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Egypt

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA
and back via Messina

*Dated Shipmark: "LA BOURDONNAIS * 28 JANV. 63"*



1863

*From Alexandria January 28 to Marseilles arrival
February 10.*

Prepaid 50 centimes, single rate to France
This is the first return voyage of the "La Bourdonnais"

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

*Constantinople Station
Thessaly coast Feeder Shipline*
CONSTANTINOPLE to PYREUS
via Volo and Salonica.

Dated Shipmark:

" LOUQSOR * 25 MARS 62."



1862

*From Salonica March 25, via the Dardanelles to
Messina arrival March 31. Carried by the "Louqsor"
to the Dardanelles and by the "Alphee" to Messina.*

Single rate prepaid 80 centimes. Erroneous "Insufficient
postage striken out by pen and anchor cancellation.
Error attributed to the Jan. 1862 change from 7.5 gr. to
10 gr. single rate weight.
This was the first voyage of "Alphee".

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPE

Dated Shipmark:

"MENSALÉ * 26 AOUT 65"



Dated Shipmark:

"MENZALEH * 14 AVRIL 66"



*From Marseilles August 26, 1865
to Constantinople Sept 2. Prepaid
double postage 1 Franc*

*From Marseilles April 14, 1866
to Constantinople April 21. Prepaid
single postage 40 centimes*

Postage rates to the Levant were lowered Jan. 1, 1866 from
50 to 40 centimes per 10 grammes.
Uncorrect shipmark spelling "MENSALÉ" in use in 1865
was changed to the correct "MENZALEH" in 1866.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Egypt

MARSEILLE to ALEXANDRIA & back,
via Palermo and Messina.

*Dated Shipmark: "MERSEY*3 SEPT 62"*



1862

From Alexandria September 3 to Marseille, arrival September 9. Prepaid single rate: 50 cent.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Egypt

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA

Dated Shipmark:

"M O E R I S * 19 M A R S 65"



1865

*From Alexandria March 19 to Marseilles, arrival
March 26. Prepaid 50 centimes, single rate.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPE

*Dated Shipmark: "DANUBE * 26 JUIN 58."*



1858

From Marseilles June 26 to Constantinople.

Front of letter with prepaid 1 Franc double rate postage to the Levant.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE via
Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles.

*Dated Shipmark: "NEVA * 7 MARS 63."*



1863

From Marseilles March 7, via Messina to Catania. Prepaid 40 centimes single rate postage to Sicily.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE via
Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles

*Dated Shipmark: "NIL * 26 NOV. 64"*



1864

From Marseilles November 26 to Messina arrival November 29. Prepaid 50 centimes and postmarked:

"Insufficient postage" together with a tax "7" decimes.

According to postal regulations, the agent aboard the "Nil" discounted the 40 cmes but gave credit of 10 cmes in taxing the letter: 80 cmes less 10 cmes = 70 cmes or "7" decimes.

The "Nil" shipmark belongs to the 2nd steamer of that name in service from 1864 to 1866.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

*Constantinople Station
Thessaly coast Feeder Shipline*
CONSTANTINOPLE to PYREUS
via the Dardanelles, Salonica and Volo

Dated Shipmark:

"ORONTE * 18 AVRIL 65"



1865

Part of cover from Salonica April 18 via the Dardanelles and Messina. Dated Milan April 27.

Prepaid double rate of 1.60 Fr.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles.

Dated Shipmark: OSIRIS * 9 JUN 66



1859

From Constantinople June 22 to Marseille, arrival June 30.

Carried by the "Metidjah". Prepaid single rate 50 centimes.

Shipmark "Osiris" was aboard the "Metidjah" and in use during the return trip to Marseille. The "Metidjah" had spent a few months in the Black Sea sailing between Constantinople and Trebizonde.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Italy

MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Leghorn, Civita-Vecchia,
Naples and Messina.

Dated Shipmark:

"PAUSILIPPE * 24 DEC 63"



1863

From Marseilles December 24 to Genoa, arrival Dec. 25. Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate to the State of Sardinia

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messaries Imperiales

Shipline to Egypt

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA

Dated Shipmark:

"PELUSE * 9 JANV. 66"



1866

*From Alexandria January 9, to Marseilles dis-
tribution postmarked January 18.*

Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate to France

DATED CANCELLATIONS



19 OCT 66



19 JUIL 66

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "PHASE * 2 JUL 62"*



1862

*From Constantinople July 2, via Marseilles July 9
to Lyon arrival July 9. Prepaid 1 Franc, double
rate postage.*

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Italy

MARSEILLES to MALTA & back
via Genoa, Leghorn, Civita Vecchia,
Naples and Messina.

Dated Shipmark:

"QUIRINAL * 20 JUN 61"



1861

*From Marseilles June 20 to Civita Vecchia.
arrival June 23.*

Prepaid 1 Franc, single rate to the Pontifical State.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Egypt

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA

Dated Shipmark:

"SAID * 9 OCT 66"



1866

*From Marseilles October 9 via Alexandria to
Jaffa.*

Prepaid 40 centimes single rate to Egypt

Two purification slits

This letter was picked up by a paquebot of shipline servicing the Syrian coast line from Alexandria. The "Eridan" leaving on the 18th made a stop in Jaffa on the 20th.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE
via Pyreus.

Dated Shipmark:

"SIMOIS * 23 OCT. 57."



1857

*From Constantinople October 21, via Pyreus to
Athens, arrival October 23 or October 11 per
Julian calendar. Prepaid single rate 50 centimes.*

On this voyage the dated cancel
"SIMOIS" was used on arrival to
Pyreus as well in Marseilles instead
of the day of sailing from Constan-
tinople: Oct. 21.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

*Dated Shipmark: "SINAÏ * 9 MAI 63"*



1863

*From Fribourg, docketed April 30, forwarded via Mar-
seilles May 2 to Constantinople May 9. Prepaid 50 cen-
times, single postage rate.*

Unreported data:

- Dated Shipmark applied at arrival in Constantinople instead of departure day from Marseilles.
- Shipmark's dated digit is reversed with the "6" of 63 missing

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

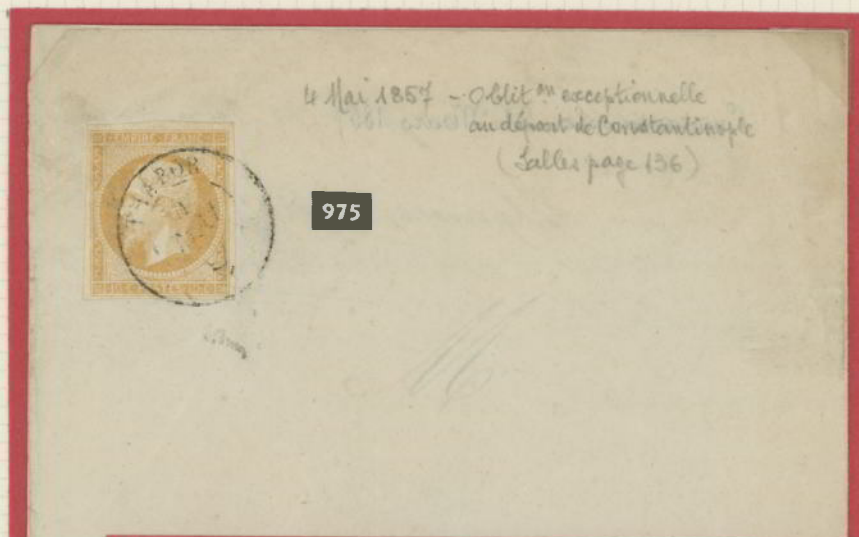
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant

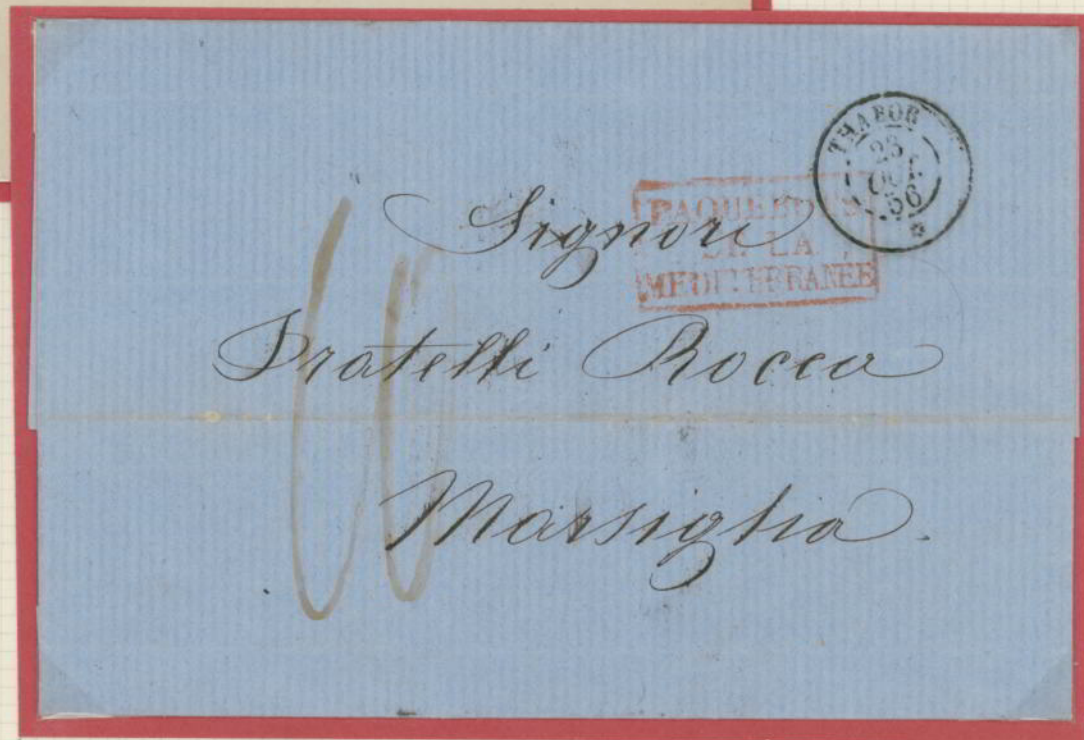
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Malta, Syra, Smyrne and the Dardanelles.

*Dated Shipmark: "THABOR * 4 MAI 57"*

1857



*Printed circular
from Constantinople May 4
and carried by the "Phase"
at its last return from the
Levant. Prepaid single
printed matter rate of 10
centimes instead of 9 cmes.*



*Dated Shipmark: "THABOR * 23 OCT, 56"*

From Constantinople October 23 to Marseilles, arrival November 1st.

Single rate tax 10 decimes

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Impériales

Shipline to Italy

MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Leghorn, Civita-Vecchia,
Naples and Messina.

Dated Shipmark:

"VATICAN * 17 SEPT 63"



1863

*From Marseilles September 17 to Civita Vec-
cia arrival Sept. 20.*

Insufficiently prepaid 40 centimes,
double rate 20 decimes tax.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE & back

*Dated Shipmark: "TAMISE * 23 OCT. 61."*



1861

*From Constantinople October 23, via Marseilles Oct. 30
to Lyon Oct. 31. Prepaid single rate postage 50 cmes.*

The "TAMISE" was returning to Marseilles
from a stay at the Constantinople Station.

French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1852-1866

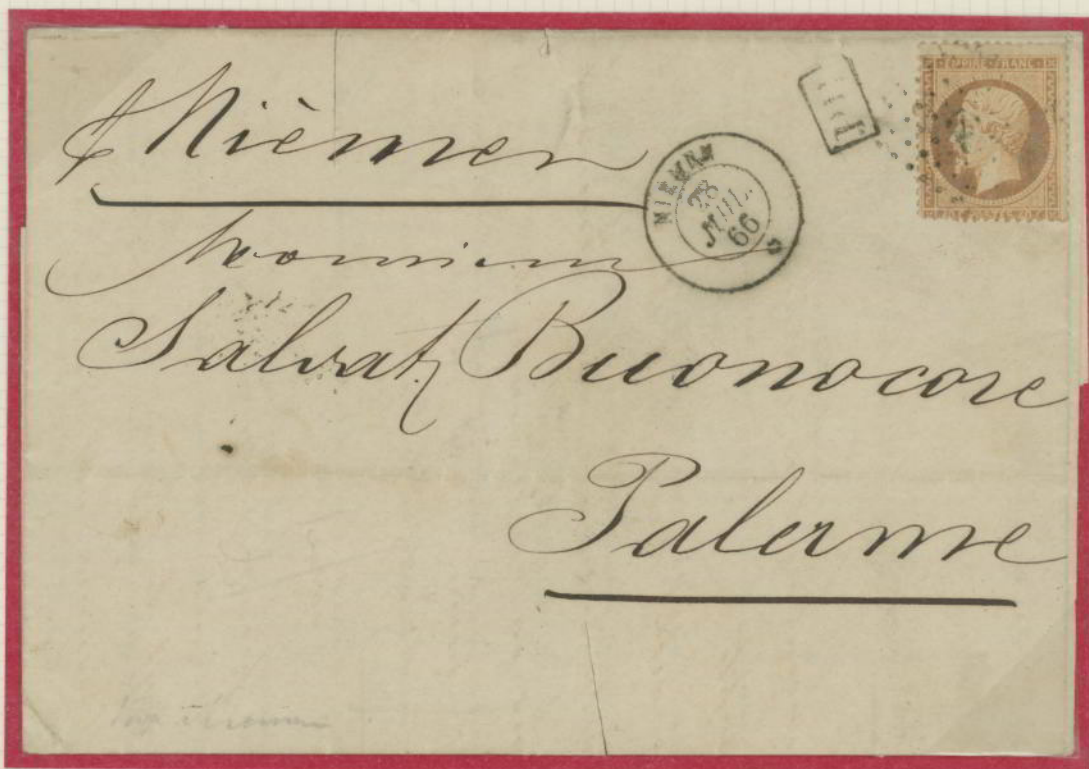
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Syria

MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA & back
via Palermo, Syra, Beyrouth & others.

Dated Shipmark:

"NIEMEN * 28 JUL 66."



1866

From Marseilles July 28 to Palermo, arrival July 30.

Prepaid single rate 40 centimes to Italy.
Two purification slits.