

1840

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE

SHIP LETTER

OUTRE-MER PAUILLAC



5153

Oct. 12, 1839. Letter handed to Post Office at Port Louis, Mauritius, which turned it over to the master of the ship "Memnon", mms L.L.

Jan. 9, 1840. On arrival at his first port of call in France, ship's captain handed letter to postal officials who stamped letter incoming at Pauillac, port town near Bordeaux.



M

Jan. 10, 1840. Receipt at Bordeaux. 4 decimes (in medieval French script) due from recipient as an unpaid ship letter addressed to Port of Entry.

1843

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
SHIP LETTER
OUTRE-MER, LE HAVRE



July 8, 1843.

Letter handed to ship's captain at Port Louis, Mauritius, to be delivered to France as a Ship Letter.



5134



Dec. 15 (1843). Letter arrived at ship's first port of call in France, LeHavre where this "Outre-Mer" (over-seas) mark was applied. The first of these marks appeared in Feb. 1839.

Dec. 18, 1843. Receipt backstamp at Bordeaux. Letter rated 10 decimes due, ship letter rate. Note letter over 4 months in transit.

1872

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS TO FRANCE VIA ALEXANDRIA
"Possessions Anglaises voie Suez - Alexandrie" MARKS



June 29-30, 1872. Dated tie-print of sender ties 30¢ (Straits) postage to cover. "Dumb" obliterator of Singapore cancels stamps, and letter dated with red c.d.s. of Singapore. Sender had noted letter "per Mail Steamer via Brindisi", the latter an Italian port on the Adriatic Sea, generally in use after 1870 when the Franco-Prussian War made use of Marseilles impractical.



PD



July 29, 1872. Although the writer had noted on letter "via Brindisi", the mail sorters aboard the P&O Packet to Alexandria put it ashore at Alexandria. This French mark was struck there on letters arriving on British packets and to be re-shipped on French packets to Marseilles. French marked "Paid to Destination".

Aug. 6, 1872. Marseilles to Lyon, Special day train Aug. 7. Lyon receipt backstamps.

1843

FRENCH INDIA TO FRANCE VIA SUEZ

Honorable East India Company Steamer Victoria, Bombay to Suez

Forwarding Agent: S. Russell & Co
Bombay



May 8, 1843. Letter dated at Pondichery, a French port on the east coast of India. It went by separate cover to a forwarding agent at Bombay, who endorsed it on the reverse in manuscript: Rec'd in Bombay 19 May by S. Russell & Co.

The sailing of the Honorable East India Company's steamer was covered by the Bengal Hurkaru and the India Gazette, Wednesday, May 3, 1843. OVERLAND MAILS; The Bombay Government intends to despatch the Suez Mail Steamers on the following months, on the dates below specified, viz.:

Russell & Co. endorsed the letter: P. Steamer per Victoria/ via Marseilles.

of June	on the 20th
of July	on the 19th
of August	on the 18th
of September	on the 26th

Bombay Times & Journal of Commerce: Departed Bombay 20th May, H.C. steamer Victoria, lieut. W.C. Barker to Aden and Suez.



On arrival at Suez, mail was transported overland across Egypt to Alexandria, thence by French steamer to Marseilles.

June 30, 1843. Arrival mark at Marseilles, INDES OR. = East Indies. 10 decimes due, shown in manuscript.

1847

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
"INDIES ORIENTALES" MARKS - BRITISH PACKETS



This receipt mark was applied after June 1843 and through Decmeber 1856 on letters arriving from the Indian States (Pondichery) and the Bourbon Isles (Ile de la Reunion) on British Packets.

The introduction of this transit mark (1st Echelon: Mars-eille) resulted from Circular No. 210 of 23 May 1843, notifying of an additional Franco-British Convention effective 3 April 1843, and that the new postmark should be put in service on 1 June 1843.



CALCUTTA
G. P. O.
SHIP LETTER
2 JU 2
1847

INDIA

June 2, 1847.
Indian (British)
Ship Letter
marks applied
at Calcutta.
Letter via
British ship
"Bentinct".

July 17, 1847.
(See mark above).
INDES OR.,
French convent-
ion transit
applied at Mars-
eille.



P.O. de Bentinct Depart Calcutta June 3, 1847
S. Indes. 2000 Suez July 6
Adm. relly Pond 2000 Alca July 9
Flama Dep. marks July 12-14
Arr. Marseille July 17

1851

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
BRITISH PACKET VIA CEYLON



Jan. 18, 1851. Letter put aboard British Packet at Mauritius. This large oval "Packet Letter" mark indicated port tax had been paid at Port Louis. Sender noted "per packet via Ceylon & Marseilles". Letter was picked up at Pointe de Galle, Ceylon by French "Ligne des Indes" on its return trip to Marseille.



April 15, 1851. Transit mark applied at Marseille, indicating INDES ORIENTALES (INDES OR.), Ambulant (RR) by British Packet.

10

10 Decimes due from recipient.



April 16, Bordeaux receipt back-stamp.

P.R. Oriental

P.R. d. Indes.

Administratively Packet Medusa

Left Galle March 16
Left Suez April 1
Dep. Port Louis April 6
Arr. Madras April 10-11
Dep. Madras April 10
Arr. Maurit April 13

Chartered Schooner Princess Victoria, dep. Port Louis Jan 12, 1851
47 days to Galle (Arr. Mar. 1)

1853 - 54

GENERAL SCREW STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY
Mauritius to Plymouth via Cape Town
R.M.S. Propontis



1853-54

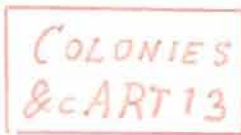
GENERAL SCREW STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY
Mauritius to Plymouth via Cape Town
R.M.S. Propontis

The General Screw Company obtained a contract to carry the Royal Mails from Plymouth to Calcutta via Cape Colony, Mauritius and Ceylon. This was inaugurated in June 1852, with the sailing of Queen of the South from Plymouth. Several steamers performed this service with varying results until Propontis made the final out voyage from England, arriving at Port Louis May 27, 1854. It was then proposed that future mails would no longer be sent "Via the Cape," but from Mauritius to Galle, Ceylon to tie into the P. & O. Line routes.



December 7, 1853. Letter posed at Mauritius and endorsed: p Str Propontis voie du Cap, indicating it was to go via the Cape of Good Hope. The MAURITIUS PACKET LETTER mark shows that the 6d. Packet Letter rate had been paid at Port Louis.

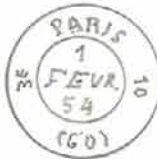
R.M.S. Propontis had left Calcutta November 15 and touched at Port Louis December 7, where this letter went on board.



London Times. Plymouth, January 30, 1854. The General Screw Steamship Company's mail packet Propontis, Capt. Maude, arrived this afternoon. She left Calcutta November 15th, Madras 20th, Ceylon 24th, Mauritius December 7th, Cape of Good Hope 23d., St. Helene Jan. 1, Ascension 5th and St. Vincent 6th.

The General Screw Steam Company's ship Indiana, Capt. G.R. Lampert, which left Plymouth on the 15th of November arrived at the Cape on the 22d. of November. The Calcutta was 2 days due at Ascension when the Propontis left.

January 31. London transit backstamp. The London office struck the "tray" mark which entered this letter on the letter bill under colonies/ &c. ART 13, thus was subject to the 40 decimes per ounce British transit charges. This applied to "Letters from Colonies and Countries beyond the sea."



February 1. French entry mark at Calais and Paris transit backstamp.

Letter was rated postage due at $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 40 centimes per ounce (30 grams) at 10 decimes + 5 dec. French inland postage, total 15 decimes due.

February 2. Bordeaux arrival backstamp.

1857

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRANCO-BRITISH CONVENTION OF 1856

"Pays Étrangers voie de Suez" MARKS

The notation "Indes Orientales" on mail handled by British ships, introduced on June 1, 1843, and applied in accordance with the Franco-British Convention of 1843, disappeared on Dec., 1856, replaced by the new markings of the Franco-British Convention of 1856, applicable Jan. 1, 1857.

The new notations were "PAYS ETRANGERS" (Foreign Countries), i.e. from Asia, "VOIE DE SUEZ" (via Suez). These marks appear principally on correspondence from the Indies (Calcutta, Bombay, Madras), Colombo, Singapore, Batavia, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Yokohama (British Office), Maurice.

Letters are always taxed at 8 decimes (per 7½ grams) or 16 decimes (double port).



Jan. 28, 1857.
Letter posted un-
paid at St.Denis,
Reunion.



Mar.15.
1856 Con-
vention
mark struck
at Mars-
eille (see
above).

8

8 decimes
Convention rate
due.



March 16-17, 1857.
Paris to Bordeaux transit
backstamps.

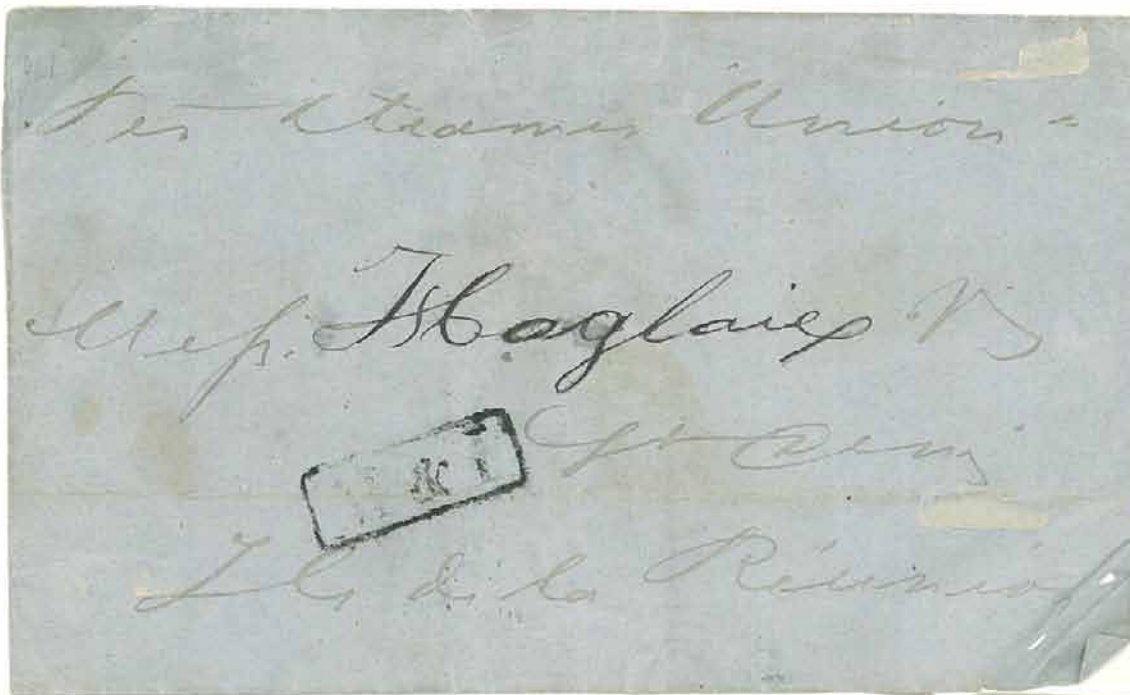


1859

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
Feeder Service between Mauritius and Reunion
S. S. Union

In 1859 the P. & O. Line resumed sailings to Australia via Suez, this time routing her steamers from Aden to Mauritius, then on to King George's Sound. This arrangement lasted only from March 1859 until April 1860, when the "via Mauritius" routing was discontinued due to lack of passenger traffic and excessive coal usage in the run from King George's Sound to Mauritius.

During this time, however, there had been problems with the mails between Mauritius and Reunion. To solve this, the P. & O. bought the 341 ton Union 40 H.P., built in 1854 for the Union Steam Collier Co. of Southampton. The Union left Southampton for Mauritius on February 1, 1859, and afterwards served as a feeder steamer between the two islands.



September 15, 1859. Letter posted at Port Louis, Mauritius. The PACKET LETTER backstamp shows that postage had been paid at Port Louis.

Letter, addressed to St. Denis, Ile de la Reunion, is endorsed to the P. & O. Line feeder steamer: Per Steamer Union.

September 16. Docket notes receipt at St. Denis. The use of the boxed H & I is unknown, possible a company designation.

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

Anglo-French Postal Convention, 2nd Convention 1856-1875

Currency Stamps

Following the revision of the Convention of 1843, which had used postal markings of the Types COLONIES ETC/ART.13; COLONIES/ART. 18, and the like, starting in 1856 a new series of markings was employed to indicate the accounting to either France or Great Britain, depending upon which country had carried the mail. 14 differently shaped stamps were used for France and 10 for Great Britain. The number in the lower portion in each case indicated the credit to the country whose initials appeared in the upper half in francs and centimes per ounce of mail carried.



S2.136

April 4, 1863. Letter posted at Port Louis, Mauritius, and marked as underpaid as letter should have taken a double rate.

Convention accounting mark showing Great Britain was to receive 1 franc 62-4/10 centimes per ounce bulk for carrying the mail.



S1.874

May 4, 1863. "British Possessions via Suez" mark. This postmark applied after 1860 to letters carried by either French or British packets.



May 5, 1863. Paris transit and RR transit, 2nd day trip, Paris to Cherbourg, backstamp. 9 decimes due.

1853

MAURITIUS TO SWITZERLAND
BRITISH PACKET VIA CEYLON & MARSEILLE

This much travelled entire letter illustrates British use of the longer route "via Ceylon". It was at Ceylon that connection could be made with the regular route of the French "Ligne des Indes" and mail expedited onward, across the Suez and then by French Mediterranean packet to Marseille.

See next page for details on postal markings.



1853

MAURITIUS TO SWITZERLAND
BRITISH PACKET VIA CEYLON & MARSEILLE



August 22, 1853. Letter put aboard a British Packet at Mauritius. This mark indicates that the port tax had been paid at Port Louis. Routed "via Ceylon" where it was transferred to French "Ligne des Indes", thence to Suez where it went overland to Alexandria, Egypt. At Alexandria transit onward was arranged via French Mediterranean packet to Marseille.



10



Oct. 12, 1853. Transit at Marseille indicating INDES ORIENTALES, Ambulant at Marseille. 10 decimes due from recipient.

Oct. 13. Letter travelled by train to Nice via Draguignan.



VIA DI NIZZA



October 13, 1853. Letter put aboard the RR at Nice and marked "Via Nice" in Italian.

October 15, 1853. Letter, transit through Torino, arrived in error at Genoa, instead of proper address of Geneva.



October 15-20, 1853. Letter re-routed back through the Mont Cenis tunnel through Chambéry, France to Lyon, thence to Geneva, Switzerland. 10 decimes rate deleted and equivalent amount in Swiss currency due from recipient added in red crayon.

1858

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE

BRITISH PACKET

"Pays Étrangers voie Suez" MARKS

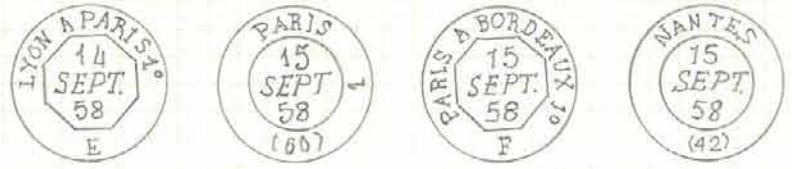
A new Convention between France and Great Britain dated 24 September 1856 allowed for collection of 8 decimes per 7½ grams on sea mail arriving in France from "Countries overseas via Suez and British Packet".



Aug. 10, 1858. Packet Letter cachet struck at Mauritius indicated Port Tax had been paid. Sender noted "via Suez & Marseille".



Sept. 13, 1858. Ambulant (RR) mark at Marseille showing British handling via Suez. 8 Brigades existed, A to H.



Sept. 14 and 15, 1858. RR and transit marks, Lyon to Nantes.

8

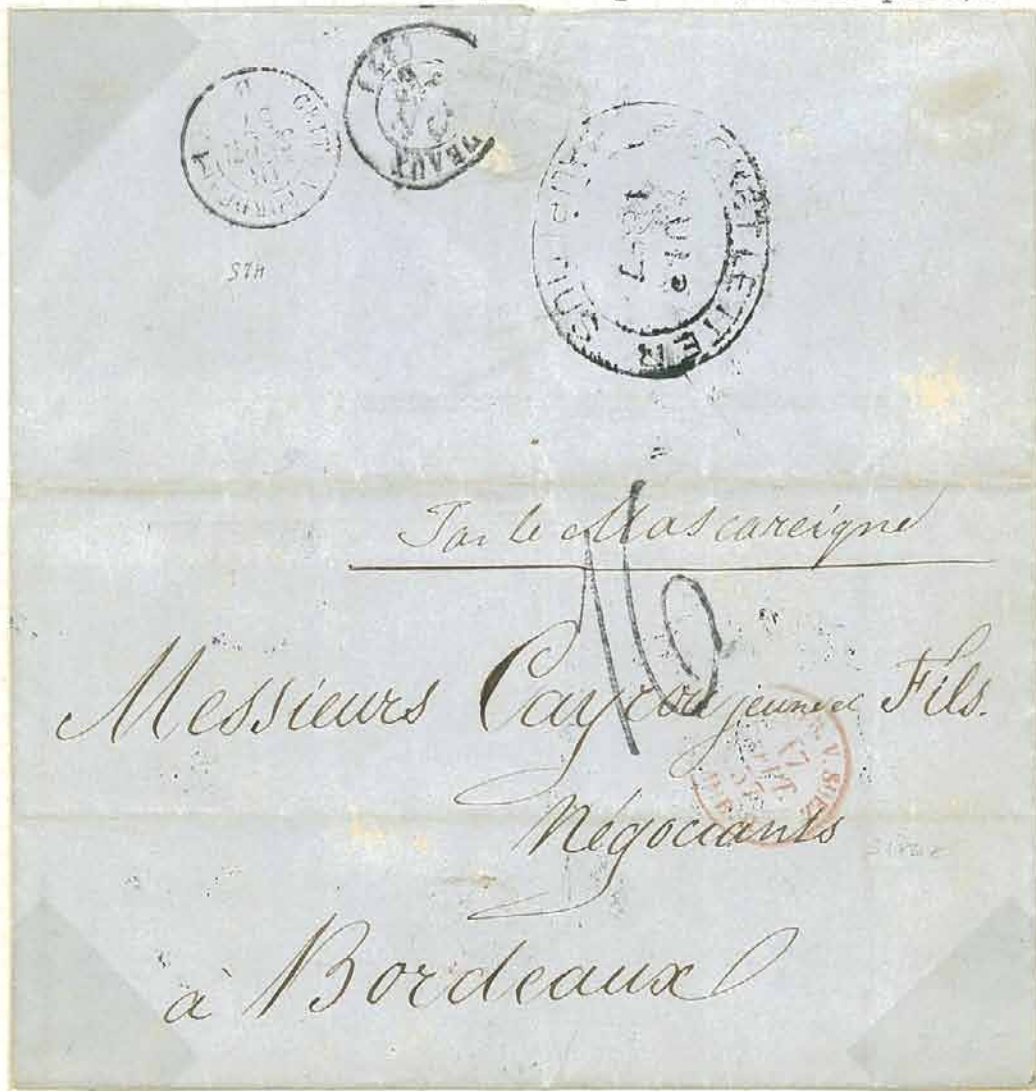
8 decimes, Convention rate, due from recipient.

1857

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
BRITISH PACKET UNPAID
"Pays Étrangers voie Suez" MARKS

French-British Convention rates of 1856:

8 decimes per 7½ grams.
16 decimes per 15 grams (Double port).



Aug. 13, 1857.
Letter received at Port Louis Mauritius (Ile de Maurice), routed via British Packet. This mark shows Port Tax has been paid.



51568

Sept. 17, 1857.
Letter received at Marseille and marked PAYS ETR. V. SUEZ for "Foreign Countries via Suez". Ambulant at Marseille. 8 Brigades A to H.

Manon, Lambert & Co
S. Mascauignes

16



Double Port (15 grams) rate of 16 decimes due.

Sept. 18, 1857.
Cette to Bordeaux RR backstamp.

Sept. 18, 1857.
Bordeaux receipt backstamp.

1860

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
MAURITIUS TO FRANCE VIA SUEZ
"Pays Etrangers Voie Suez" MARKS



Nov. 7, 1860. Franco-British Convention of 1856 mark applied upon arrival at Marseille. This was the railroad (ambulant) mark used after 1859 to supplement the earlier mark which indicated the Brigade. PAYS ETRANGER (foreign country, V. SUEZ AMB. (via Suez - railroad).



Oct. 6, 1860. Letter transit G.P.O. at Mauritius with internal rate of 4d. only prepaid. "dumb" obliterator cancels stamp, and date backstamp at G.P.O., Mauritius.

8 decimes, convention rate due, struck Nov. 7, 1860 at Marseille. See above.



Nov. 8, 1860. RR transit backstamps, Cette to Bordeaux, and Bordeaux receipt.

1857

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH COLONIAL MARKS—DESTINATION MARSEILLE
"Colonies Françaises par la Voie Suez"

ISLE DE LA REUNION

Circular No. 101, 17 August 1853, required that correspondence from the Ile de La Reunion, on arrival at Marseille, be struck with this mark, if destined for Marseille.



51851

"1" is 1st echelon (Marseille). A similar stamp, but "2" is 2nd echelon (Paris).



June 12, 1857. Letter prepaid in cash at St. Denis. By ship to Suez, thence overland to Alexandria, French packet to Marseille.

July 24, 1857. Receipt at Marseille as "French Colony via Suez". See above.

1861

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH COLONIAL MARKS - AMBULANT MARSEILLE-LYON
"Colonies Françaises par la Voie de Suez et Ambulant"

ISLE DE LA REUNION



51861

Mail incoming from La Reunion received this mark, if not addressed to Marseille itself. After 1 September 1855, there were two daily services, Marseille to Lyon. Mail destined beyond Marseille received the "Ambulant" T.P.O. mark.

"COL. FRA." (Colonies Francaises) mark.



Jan. 7, 1861. Letter received and paid in cash at St. Denis. Double rate "2" (mms.)

Feb. 3, 1861. Received and forwarded by T.P.O. at Marseille. There were 8 brigades A to H.



Feb. 3, 1861. Cette to Bordeaux night train, Brigade B, backstamp.



Feb. 4, 1861. Bordeaux receipt backstamp.

1861

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH BUREAU OFFICES IN INDIA- PONDICHERY
Colonies Françaises - voie Suez Ambulant marks



PD

January 1, 1861. French Bureau receipt postmark at Pondichery, one of the few small French Colonial possessions left in India at this time. Entire letter pre-paid in cash.



Feb. 3, 1861.
Received incoming
at Marseilles.
Salles 1861. "French
Colonies via Suez"
mark.



Feb. 4, 1861. Paris transit and
Nantes receipt backstamps.

1863



B53 TYPE 1a OBLITERATOR
IN USE 1861-1867



BACKSTAMP IN BLUE,
ORIGINATING P.O.

P.D.

PAID TO
DESTINATION



3 OCT. ENTRY
MARK (S.1874)
AT MARSEILLE.
"BRITISH POSSESSIONS
VOIE SUEZ,
AMBULANT AT MARSEILLE"



PARIS
TRANSIT BACK-
STAMP
(BLACK)



NANTES
ARRIVAL BACK-
STAMP
(BLACK)

MAURITIUS TO NANTES, FRANCE

THE P&O LINE SHIP S.S. SULTAN DEPARTED MAURITIUS ON 6 SEPT. 1863 FOR SUEZ VIA BOURBON ON 7th, SEYCHELLES 11th, ADEN 17th AND ARRIVED SUEZ ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1863. FROM SUEZ THE MAIL TRAVELLED OVERLAND BY RAIL TO ALEXANDRIA.

AT ALEXANDRIA THE MAIL WAS PUT ABOARD S.S. VECTIS, OF THE P&O. LINE, WHICH CLEARED FOR MARSEILLE ON 26 SEPT. WITH A STOP AT MALTA ON 30 SEPT AND ARRIVED AT 0530 ON 3 OCTOBER 1863. THIS LETTER THEN ENTERED THE FRENCH MAIL SYSTEM AND TRAVELLED BY RAIL TO PARIS AND ON TO NANTES.

S.S. SULTAN - ORIGINALLY A PADDLE STEAMER, IRON, 1090 TONS DISPLACEMENT 1847-1856. LENGTHENED FROM 224' TO 231' AND ALTERED TO SCREW HAD A 1125 TON DISPLACEMENT. REMAINED IN SERVICE UNTIL 1869.

S.S. VECTIS - WOODEN, PADDLE STEAMER 841 TONS DISPLACEMENT. STARTED SERVICE 1853.

POSTAL RATE TO EUROPE (INEFFECT 1859-1877) WAS 4d PER 1/2 OZ. THIS IS A DOUBLE RATE. LETTER.

(SHIP DATA COURTESY REG KIRK - DATA NOT PUBLISHED)

1863



B53 TYPE 1a OBLITERATOR
IN USE 1861-1867



BACKSTAMP IN BLUE,
ORIGINATING P.O.

P.D.

PAID TO
DESTINATION



3 OCT. ENTRY
MARK (S.1874)
AT MARSEILLE.
"BRITISH POSSESSIONS
VOIE SUEZ,
AMBULANT AT MARSEILLE"



PARIS
TRANSIT BACK-
STAMP
(BLACK)



NANTES
ARRIVAL BACK-
STAMP
(BLACK)

MAURITIUS TO NANTES, FRANCE

THE P&O LINE SHIP S.S. SULTAN DEPARTED MAURITIUS ON 6 SEPT. 1863 FOR SUEZ VIA BOURBON ON 7th, SEYCHELLES 11th, ADEN 17th AND ARRIVED SUEZ ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1863. FROM SUEZ THE MAIL TRAVELLED OVERLAND BY RAIL TO ALEXANDRIA.

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POSTAL RATE TO EUROPE (INEFFECT 1859-1877) WAS 4d PER 1/2 OZ. THIS IS A DOUBLE RATE LETTER.

(SHIP DATA COURTESY REG KIRK - DATA NOT PUBLISHED)

OK 7-24-83
MODIFIED +
WRITTEN UP
8-15-83
JL

COVER NUMBER A 3

POSTED AT: MAURITIUS ON 6 SEPT 1863 BLUE CDS BACKSTAMP

CANCELLATION: KEN BAKR TYPE: 1a B53

MANUSCRIPT NOTATION(S): VOIE SUEZ + MARSEILLE

SORTING MARK(S) NONE

DEPARTURE BACKSTAMP: BLUE CDS

^{1847 73}
KIRK LTR. INFORMATION:

- DEPARTURE: S.S. SULTAN on 6 SEPT 1863
- AT BOURBON 7 SEPT
- AT SEYCHELLES 11 SEPT
- AT ADEN 17 SEPT
- ARR. SUEZ 24 SEPT 1863

^{1847 83}
KIRK LTR. INFORMATION:

SALLES II INFO.

SHIP(S):	<u>S.S. VECTIS</u>	_____	_____
ALEX.	<u>26 SEPT '63</u>	_____	_____
MALTA	<u>30 SEPT '63</u>	_____	_____
MARS.	<u>3 OCT. '63 (0530)</u>	_____	_____
GIB.	<u>—</u>	_____	_____
S'OTON	<u>—</u>	_____	_____

TRANSIT/
ARRIVAL CDS(S)

- MARSEILLES 3 OCT 1863 (T)
- PARIS 4 OCT 1863 (F)
- NANTES 5 OCT 1863 (A)

WHEN I FIRST GOT
STARTED ON COVERS I
MADE UP THIS WORK
SHEET - THAT MADE THE
FINAL WRITE UP QUITE
EASY.
Dag



Hong Kong Study Circle

FOUNDED 1951

franklin.com
18.7.83

Please reply to:

Dear Doug,
Here is it

P.O. SUKATAN
Mauritius 6.9.53
Bowdon 7
Segedellen 11
Aden 17
Suva 24.9.63

P.O. VECTIS
Alex 26.9.63
Malta 30
Nicosia 3.10.63 (0530)

OTHERS

No	date	place	date	place
3	28.5.59	Malta	3.6.59	ELLORA
7	12.3.60	Malta	19.3.60	VECTIS
11	31.8.61	Malta	6.9.61	VALETTA
12	11.2.62	Malta	17.2.62	VALETTA
121	2.5.59	Malta	10.5.59	NEPAUL — check annual report
1	13.10.62	Malta	19.10.62	VECTIS
A2	26.8.66	Malta	1.9.66	CHINA
10	28.4.61	Malta	4.5.61	VECTIS
14	11.8.63	Malta	17.8.63	VALETTA

if early Mediterranean connections to Bombay Line not published, why?

- 1) when I asked, Greek Study Circle not interested; and
- 2) too many copies about - without acknowledgement. So if they copy and rewrite under their own name, they still have some work to do.

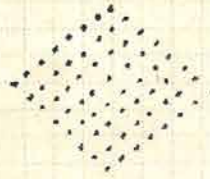
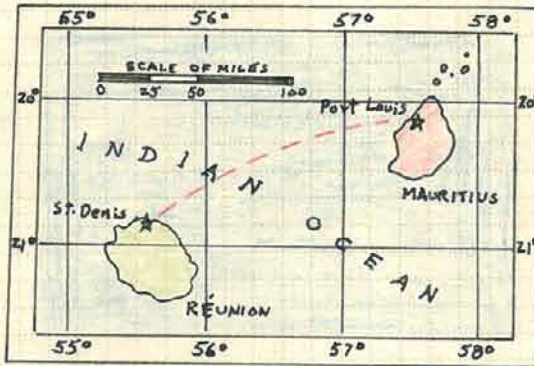
Sincerely
Raj.

1864

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY ILE DE LA REUNION A ILE MAURICE (Mauritius).

On August 13, 1864, a new Postal Service was introduced by the French Packets to improve service to Reunion and Mauritius (Ile Maurice). A new scale of rates included paid letters from France at 50 centimes per 10 grams, 60¢ unpaid.

Letters from Reunion to Mauritius were charged at 30 c. per 7½ grams, paid only to the port of debarkation; the interior postage of Mauritius being indicated by a "6d. TO PAY" hand-stamp.



Oct. 12, 1864. St. Denis, Reunion date stamp. "Dumb" lozenge of dots cancels a strip of three 10 centimes stamps prepaying 30c. rate.



6d
TO PAY

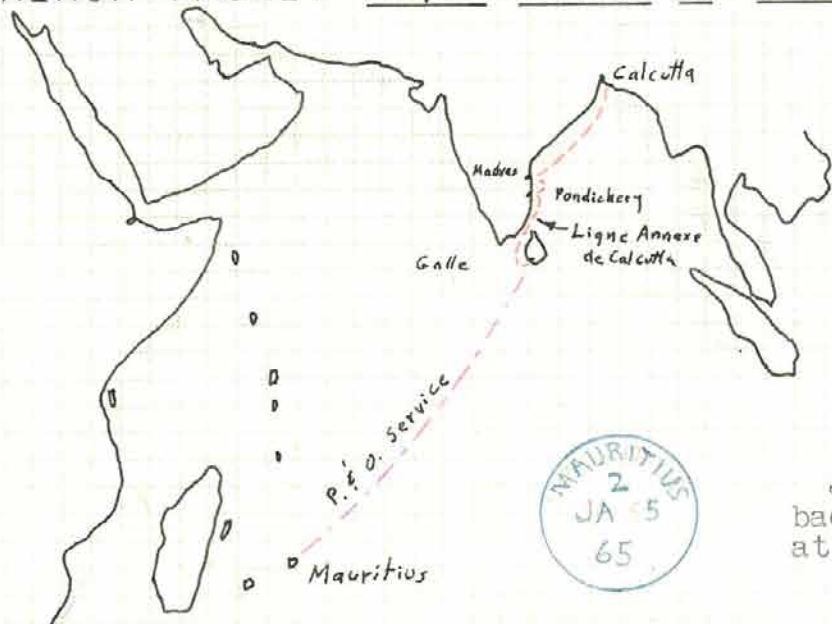
Oct. 20, 1864.
Receipt back-stamp at Port Louis, Mauritius.

6d. due from recipient (see above).

1864

MAURITIUS

INCOMING SHIP LETTER, India to Port Louis.
FRENCH PACKET - Ligne Annexe de Calcutta



Dec. 2, 1864.
Letter posted at Calcutta.



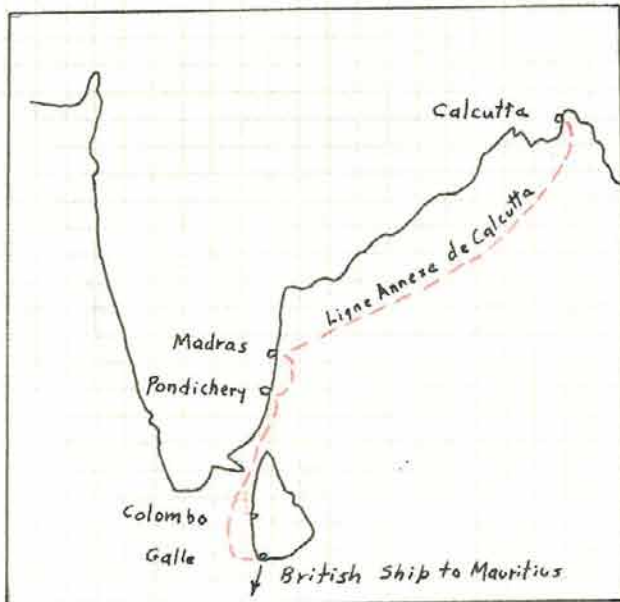
Jan. 5, 1865. Letter backstamped upon arrival at Mauritius.



1864

MAURITIUS

INCOMING SHIP LETTER, India to Port Louis.
FRENCH PACKET - Ligne Annexe de Calcutta



INDIA PAID

December 2, 1864. Letter put into G.P.O. at Calcutta and the "India" postage paid by the 4 annas East India stamp (SG 46) which was cancelled by the Bengal Circle B/1 of Calcutta. Note the handstruck "STAMPED" across the

face of the stamp to prevent theft by native clerks. Letter was endorsed "per Erymanthe via Aden". The Erymanthe of the French Ligne Annexe de Calcutta left Calcutta Dec. 2 and arrived at Pointe de Galle, Ceylon Dec. 14. Although marked "via Aden", it would appear that this letter went by the British P & O packet, which had established a direct service with Pointe de Galles to Mauritius. No French sailings listed from Pointe de Galles to Aden would allow for delivery at Port Louis on January 5.



6d -
TO PAY

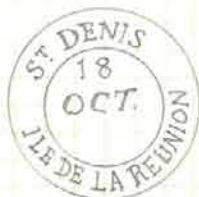
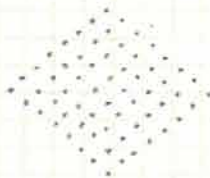
January 5, 1865. Letter backstamped incoming at Port Louis.

The prepayment of postage in India only paid the letter to the port of arrival. A 6 d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Inward Ship Postage charge was due from the recipient.

1864

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH COLONIAL MARKS - TRAVELLING THROUGH MARSEILLE

"Colonies Français" par Ambulant Marseille



October 18, 1864. "Dumb" lozenge of dots cancels vertical pair of 40 centimes Colonial "Eagles", which represents an overpayment by 30 centimes. Rate from 1 January 1864 to 1 July 1876 by French Packet, per 10 grams, was 50 centimes.



November 15, 1864. Octagon COL. FR. V. SUEZ (French Colony via Suez)/ P.F. AMB. MARS 2 (French Packet, RR at Marseilles) Struck on arrival at Marseilles. Salles 1863.

Nov. 16, 1864. Cette to Bordeaux day train, Brigade D. Backstamp.

Nov. 17, 1864. Saintes receipt backstamp.

1866

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH COLONIAL MARKS - TRAVELLING THROUGH MARSEILLE
"Colonies Français" par Ambulant Marseille



PD



Aug. 18, 1866. Letter prepaid in cash. Reunion to Bordeaux. By ship to Suez, thence overland to Alexandria where French packet transported it to Marseille.

Sept. 16, 1866. Octagon COL.FR.V.SUEZ (French Colony via Suez); P.F. AMB MARS 2 (French Packet, R.R. at Marseille). Struck on arrival at Marseille.



Sept. 17, 1866. Cette to Bordeaux R.R. transit backstamp.



Sept. 17, 1866. Bordeaux receipt backstamp.

1865

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH COLONIAL MARKS - DESTINATION MARSEILLES

Colonies Françaises par la voie de Suez - Paquebots Anglais
ILE DE LA REUNION



August 6, 1865. "Dumb" lozenge of dots cancels French Colonies "Eagle" issues. Rate from Reunion to France via British packet from 1 Jan. 1864 to 1 July 1876, was 70 centimes per 10 grams. Here a double rated letter was prepaid by a pair of the 10 centimes plus

3 copies of the 40 centimes (total 140 centimes). Stone (Collectors Club Handbook No. 11) rates single rated covers from Reunion via British packet as "Very Scarce", and notes that higher rates (as in this case - double rated) as all very much rarer.



Sept. 6, 1865. Rare entry mark at Marseilles, noting mail from French Colony via Suez and British packet. 3rd echelon to Paris. Salles 1856.



Sept. 5 (error), 1865. Receipt backstamp at Paris.

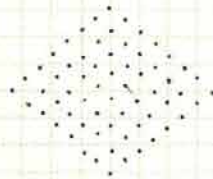
1870

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

LIGNE T: 2nd Variant

ADEN A LA REUNION ET MAURICE, 1869-1882

This second variation of Ligne T made connection at Aden with the line from Marseille to Hong Kong every 28 days.



March 12, 1870. Letter prepaid 50 centimes. It was picked up by the EMIRNE, which had left Reunion on Mar. 12 and arrived at Aden on Mar. 24. Stamps cancelled by the "dumb" lozenge of dots.



PK. Col
sent 3.5



April 9, 1870. Octagon COL. FR. V. SUEZ (French colony via Suez) P.F. AMB. MAR. (French Packet, R.R. at Marseille.) Struck incoming at Marseille.

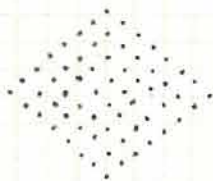


1874

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
FRENCH COLONIAL MARKS-DESTINATION MARSEILLES

"Colonies Françaises par la voie Suez et Ambulant"

ILE DE LA REUNION



July 24, 1874. "Dumb" lozenge of dots cancels 4 x 25 centimes or 100 centimes of the French General Colonies issue of 1872 - 76. Double rated letter at 50 centimes per 10 grams x 2 = 100 centimes. Multiple ratings are much scarcer than single rated covers.

Letter was handled aboard the Ligne T (2nd variant) steamer Dupleix, which left Réunion July 24 and cleared Aden Aug. 5, 1874.

August 21, 1874. Letter was handled Aden to Marseilles by a steamer of the "Ligne de Marseille a Hong Kong". Received this mark (S. 1864) on the day train, Marseilles to Lyon.



Aug. 21-22, 1874. Cette to Bordeaux night train, Brigade F, and Bordeaux receipt back-stamps.

1866

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
FRENCH PACKETS - Overland via Suez
"Possessions Anglaises voie de Suez" MARKS

((B53))

MAURITIUS
A
MY18
66

May 18, 1866.
Letter posted
prepaid at Port
Louis, Mauritius.
"B53" British
Post Office
number obliteration
assigned to
Mauritius.
C.d.s. back-
stamp.

PROV. SUEZ
15
JUN
66
2 MARSE
1866

P.D.

June 15, 1866.
2nd Echelon Amb-
ulant mark
applied at Lyon
showing British
Possession via
Suez and French
Packet. Marked
"Paid to Dest-
ination".



PARIS A NANTES
16
JUN
66
R

NANTES
17
JUN
66
(12)

June 16, 1866. Paris to Nantes RR transit backstamp. June 17, 1866. Nantes receipt backstamp.

1864

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
FRENCH PACKET - Overland via Suez
"Possessions Anglaises voie de Suez" MARKS



51873

October 17, 1864. Letter posted at Port Louis, inland port tax paid by 4d. stamp. Duplex obliterator, "B53".

Nov. 15, 1864. 2nd echlon ambulant mark applied at Lyon showing British possession via Suez - French packet.

16



16 Decimes (double port) rate due from recipient.

Nov. 18, 1864. Nantes receipt backstamp.

1864

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
MAURITIUS TO FRANCE VIA SUEZ
POSTMARKS OF ORIGIN - BRITISH POSSESSIONS
"Possessions Anglaises Voie de Suez" Marks



(1)



S.1874

November 7, 1864. Letter paid at the 1 oz. rate to Europe (1859) at 4d. per ½-oz. via Marseilles. British packet handling as at this early date only two French packets, the Emirne and Mozambique made voyages in Sept., Oct. and Nov. 1864, the closest being that of Emirne from Reunion on Nov. 19.

Mail dropped off at Suez was transhipped across the Isthmus to Alexandria.

Dec. 6. Arrival entry mark at Marseilles POSS(essions) ANG(lais) V(oi)e SUEZ. Ambulant (RR) at Marseilles. This mark appears on both British and French packet incoming mail.



December 6. Bordeaux arrival backstamp.

1866

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
LIGNE DE SUEZ A LA REUNION ET MAURICE



Jan. 18, 1866. Paid letter at Port Louis, Mauritius. The French packet Emirne left Port Louis the 18th and cleared Reunion Jan. 19. mail arrived at Suez Feb. 7.



S.1873

P.D.

Feb. 15. 2nd echelon ambulant (R.R.) mark showing mail from a British Possession via Suez and French Packet. Marked Paid to Destination.



Feb. 16-17. Paris to Nantes transit back-stamps.



1866

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE
"POSSESSIONS ANGLAISES VOIE DE SUEZ" MARKS
PAR AMBULANTS



(B53)



Feb. 7, 1866.
Letter pre-paid by 8d. Mauritius stamps.
Port Louis circular date back-stamp.

P.D.

Paid to Destination mark.



51874



March 6, 1866. "British Possession via Suez" mark. This postmark applied after 1860 to letters carried by either French or British packets. Ambulant Marseille, 8 Brigades, A to H.

March 7, 1866. Transit backstamps.

1864

SINGAPORE TO FRANCE
"POSSESSIONS ANGLAISES VOIE DE SUEZ" MARKS.
PAR AMBULANTS



S. 1874

Sept. 19, 1864. Letter posted at Singapore and endorsed "via Marseilles". Mail put aboard French steamer.

October 24, 1864. Stamped incoming at Marseilles, ambulant (RR). These marks show Brigades A to H and indicate mail arriving from British possessions via Suez.



Oct. 25. Transit marks Paris to Reims. Night train, Paris to Strasbourg, 1st section, Brigade G.

Nine decimes due from recipient.

9

1868

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
MAURITIUS TO FRANCE VIA SUEZ
POSTMARKS OF ORIGIN-BRITISH POSSESSIONS
"Possessions Anglaises Voie de Suez" MARKS



December 18, 1867. Letter posted at Port Louis, Mauritius per Emirne via Suez. The Emirne left Reunion on Dec. 19, 1867, and arrived at Suez on Jan. 7, 1868. Mauritius c.d.s. backstamp.

Jan. 15, 1868. Letter then went overland to Alexandria where it was picked up by the Volga of Ligne U for the trip to France. Stamped incoming at Marseille POS. AN. V. SUEZ (British Possession via Suez) P.F. AMB. MARS. (French packet, R.R. at Marseille).



Jan. 15, 1868 Letter routed to head sorting office of the district (backstamp).

Jan. 16, 1868. Nancy receipt backstamp.

1865

PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

S.S. Nepaul

800 tons, 244 ft. x 30 ft. beam. In service 1859-67.
Ran to Mauritius in early years. "Sold to Japan".



Oct. 7, 1865.
8d. Packet Letter rate paid by two 4d. stamps, issue of 1860-63. Mauritius dated backstamp. Noted "per Str. Nepaul" of the P. & O. Line



P.D.



November 4. Entry mark at Marseille (S.1874), "British Possessions via Suez" Mark appears on both British and French packet mail.



Nov. 5. Cette to Bordeaux RR backstamp, night train, Brigade B.



Nov. 6. Bordeaux receipt backstamp.

1865

PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

SS Sultan

1110 tons, iron. Originally paddle steamer, in service 1847-69. Started in the Istanbul service, but moved around later. In 1855 she was altered to screw for the Eastern Station and lengthened to 231 feet (from original 224 ft.).



April 7, 1865.
Letter prepaid
8d. at Port Louis,
Mauritius. Endorsed
"per Sultan" of the
P.&O. Line.

P.D.



May 5. Entry
mark (S.1874) at
Marseille. "Brit-
ish Possessions
via Suez, ambulant
at Marseille".
This mark appears
on mail incoming
by British and
French packets.



May 6-7. French transit backstamps. Note
two different date stamps at Nantes.

1866

MAURITIUS TO FRANCE

BRITISH PACKET

P. & O. Line

S. S. Norna



P.D.

April 7, 1866. Paid letter at 1 shilling 4d. rate by British packet, posted at Port Louis. Endorsed: p St: "Norna" Via Marseilles. Paid to destination.

Norna was a 969 ton iron screw steamer of the P. & O. Line. Letter went by Norna to Galle, Ceylon, then transshipped by another P. & O. steamer to Suez. From there it went overland across Egypt to Alexandria.



S.1847

May 4. Letter by British or French packet. French paquebot Said arrived at Marseilles May 3 having left Alexandria March 28.



May 5. Bordeaux arrival backstamp.

1866

INDIA TO MAURITIUS VIA BOMBAY AND ADEN

P. & O. Line : S.S. Carnatic, Bombay to Aden

Rate of 1 September 1865



April 20, 1866. Letter paid at the 1 September 1865 rate of 8 annas per ½-oz. to Mauritius by British Packet via Aden.

Rate paid by the 8 annas carmine, Issue of 1855, tied by the "tie print" handstamp "Stamped" of Camin Lamouroux & Co. to prevent pilferage of the stamp by native clerks. Cancelled by the Type I B/1 of Calcutta.

April 29. Letter forwarded to Bombay for handling by P. & O. Steam Navigation Co. where the S.S. Carnatic departed April 29, arrived at Aden May 7. Letter was forwarded on by British Packet to Mauritius.

May 24, 1866. Mail arrival date at Port Louis, Mauritius, backstamp. It was there subject to the Ship postage inwards rate of 6d. per half-ounce. This rate recognized no prepayment. R. Lowe, Vol. II, Pg. 369.

6d
TO PAY



8 ANNAS

DATE: 20 April 1866
ROUTE: Calcutta to Mauritius via Bombay and Aden
STAMP: 8 annas carmine of 1855
RATE: of 1 September 1865
8 annas per half ounce

The postal regulations provided for a fine of 4 annas (6d) for insufficiently stamped letters in addition to the extra postage; it appears that this letter weighed more than a half ounce and was assessed the fine.

5X



6^d
TO PAY



60²⁸
Mauritius. Dep. Galle May 2, 1866
Arr. Aden May 11-12.

9
C. ... Dep. Calcutta Apr 17, 1866
Arr. Aden May 7.

1868-69

MAURITIUS



December 31, 1868. Letter posted at Port Louis and paid at the local 2d. rate by a wing margin copy of the Issue of 1863 blue.



January 1, 1869. Arrival backstamp at Riviere du Rempart, Mauritius.

1869

MAURITIUS

TO INDIA VIA ADEN

FORWARDING AGENT
RICHARDSON & CO.,
Mauritius



April 10, 1869. Letter posted at St. Louis, Mauritius and back-stamped c.d.s. of receipt. "B53" R.L. Type C16.

Handstamp of forwarding agent on reverse of cover.



^d
10



April 24, 1869. Backstamp transit of mail sorting steamer en route from Aden to Bombay.

10d. out of postage for sea and India. Mauritius retained 1d. for her share.

May 5, 1869. Calcutta receipt backstamp.

1873-74

MAURITIUS TO ITALY VIA ADEN AND MARSEILLES

Ligne T - 2^e Variante, Aden a la Reunion et Maurice

Paquebot Dupleix

Ligne N - Aden a Marseille

Paquebot Sindh



December 12, 1873. Paid packet letter with 1 shilling blue Issue of 1870 and 1d. lilac brown and 2d. blue Issue of 1863. Endorsed Via Marselles p France (French Packet.)

Ligne T, the 2nd Variant, was established in 1869 as an annex service for Ligne N, Marseilles to Hong Kong via Suez. Mail was transferred at Aden where the Ligne T steamers terminated from Mauritius and Reunion.

The Ligne T steamer Dupleix departed Mauritius Dec. 12 via Reunion the 13th and arrived at Aden December 25, 1873.

November 28, 1873. The Ligne N steamer Sindh left Shanghai this date, cleared Saigon Dec. 8 and linked up with the Ligne T mails at Aden on December 25.

Jan. 7, 1874. Arrival date of Sindh at Marseilles. Mark notes: British Possessions via Suez, French Packet Ambulant (RR) Marseilles.

Jan. 8. Italian ambulante (RR) backstamp, Modane to Torino.

Jan. 9. Genoa arrival backstamp.



S.1875

1874

MAURITIUS
REGISTRATION MARKS



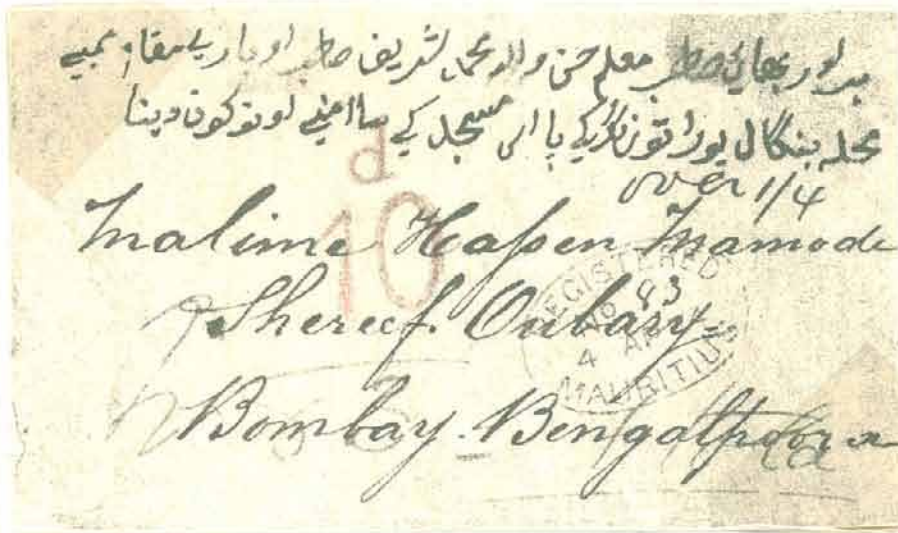
April 4, 1874. Letter posted and registered at Mauritius to Bombay, India.



1 shilling 3d. in Mauritius stamps canceled by "B53" (this type cancel unlisted by R. Lowe).



April 21, 1874. Bombay receipt.



d
10

Accountancy mark, 10 d. out of rate due to British for sea voyage, 2d. to Mauritius for her handling, 3d. registry fee, total 1/3d.

1880

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE T - 2ND Variant.
ADEN A LA REUNION ET MAURICE, 1869-1882
POSTMARKS OF ORIGIN - BRITISH POSSESSIONS



June 18, 1880.
Letter posted at
Port Louis, Mauriti-
us for Bordeaux
"per Alphee".



June 18, 1880. Ligne T
packet, the steamer Alphee,
left Mauritius on her home-
ward voyage, landed Aden
July 1, 1880.



July 12, 1880. At Aden letter
transferred to a ship of "la Ligne
d'Extreme-Orient" which put in at
Naples where this French mark was
applied. Letter then travelled via
the tunnel at Mont-Cenis on the RR
Modane to Paris.



July 13.
Bordeaux receipt
backstamp.

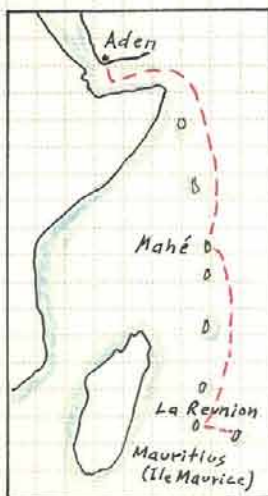
1882

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

LIGNE T - 2ND Variant

ADEN A LA REUNION ET MAURICE, 1869-1882

POSTMARKS OF ORIGIN - BRITISH POSSESSIONS



April 18, 1882. Letter posted at Mauritius for Agen, France, routed "via Suez et Naples".



April 18, 1882. Ligne T packet, steamer GODAVERY which left Mauritius on her homeward journey April 18. She landed Aden on April 30, where she transferred mail to Ligne N ship.

Via Suez et Naples



Monsieur L. Bourgeat
Avocat
Agen



Backstamps: May 12, 1882. Mail was routed via Naples, Italy through the Mont Cenis Tunnel to Lyon. Thence, Lyon to Marseille (Special Train); Cette to Bordeaux route (3rd section, Brigade C) to Agen on the C-B line.

1893

L. Draeger, Port-Louis (Mauritius).

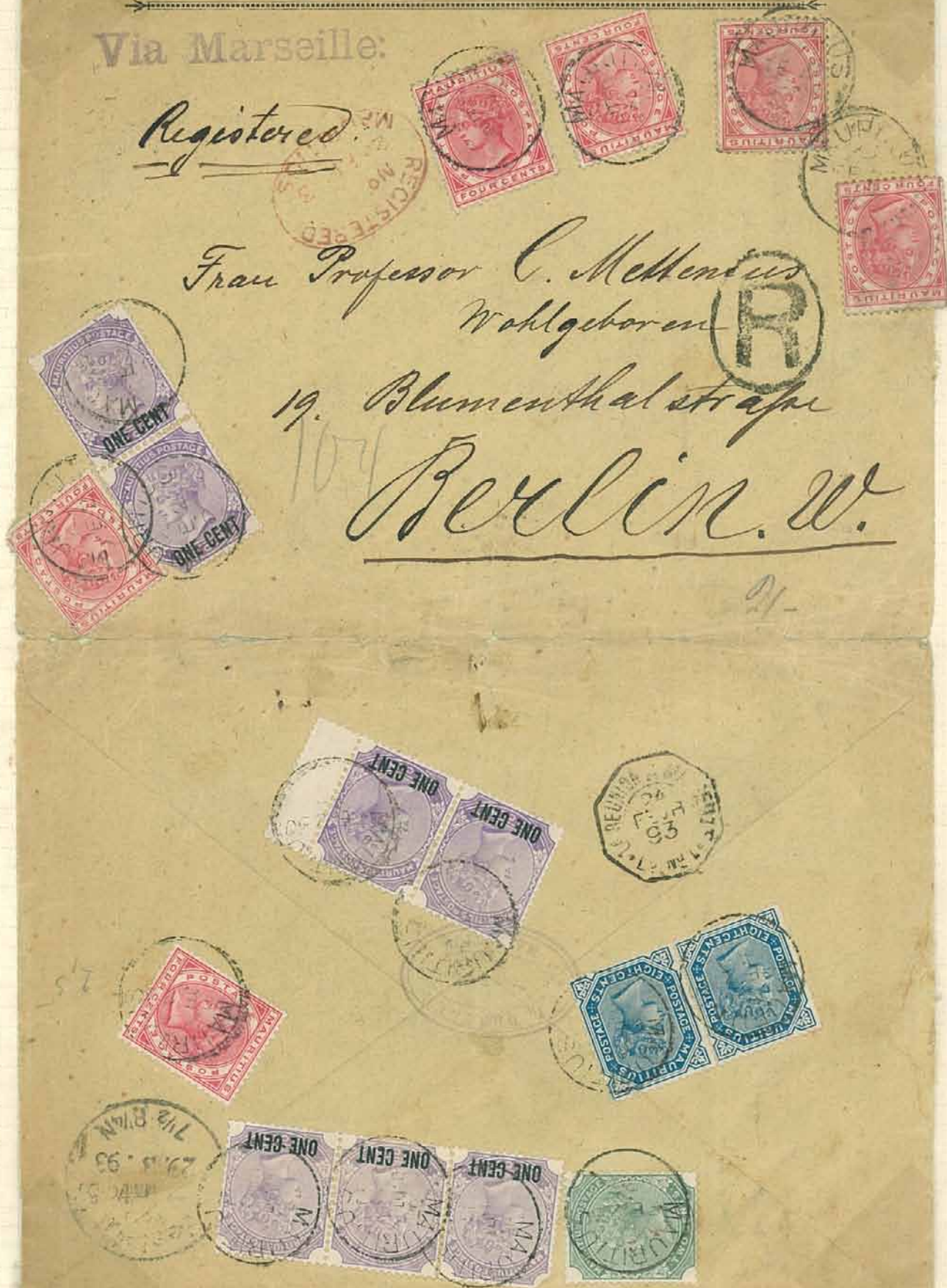
Via Marseille:

Registered.

Frau Professor C. Mettenius
Wohlgeboren

19. Blumenhalstraße

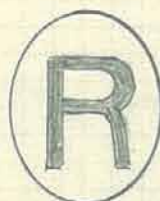
Berlin. W.



1893

MAURITIUS
REGISTERED - PORT LOUIS TO BERLIN
FRENCH PACKET - LIGNE V

"Ligne de la Cote Orientale D'Afrique", 1888-1895



Feb. 23, 1893. Registered letter posted at Port Louis, Mauritius. Registration, No. 104, mms. on cover face. 49¢ Mauritius paid in an interesting array of stamps.



Feb. 24, 1893. Letter picked up by the Ava, Ship No. 1 of Ligne V. She trans-shipped her mail to another vessel at Malta.



March 29, 1893. Arrival backstamp, Germany.



1893

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE V. DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION

S.S. Amazone



March 9, 1893. A 6¢ U.P.U. Post Card to France posted at Camp de Masque, Mauritius. The card is cancelled by the seldom seen "B45" of Camp de Marque.

March 10. Card in transit at Port Louis, Mauritius.

March 25. S.S. Amazone of the Ligne V, designated V.3 on this voyage, departed from Reunion this date. She arrived at Marseilles on April 23.

1894

MADAGASCAR

FRENCH PACKET-LIGNE V - La Reunion a Marseille

"Ligne de la Cote Orientale D'Afrique, 1888-1895"

S.S. Pei-Ho



April 3, 1894. Letter originated at Fort Dauphin, a ruined fort and town on the south coast of Madagascar. It was directionally endorsed "per Zanzibar via Tamatave", referring to the routing of the Ligne V steamers from Reunion which picked up the southern Madagascar mails at Tamatave.



April 9. Tamatave transit backstamp. Mail held there pending arrival of the next steamship.



S.2308/2

April 25. S.S. Pei-Ho of Ligne V, designated No. 2, departed from Reunion Madagascar mail went aboard her at her port of call at Tamatave April 27 when the octagonal mark was struck.



May 23. Altona, Germany arrival backstamp.

1895

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE V - LA RÉUNION A MARSEILLE

Cachets de Corps Expeditionnaire de Madagascar



S. 2311/2

Sept. 28, 1895. Mark of the Army; Expeditionary Corps of Madagascar, struck aboard the Djemnah, which left Reunion on Sept. 23, and arrived Marseille Oct. 19, 1895. Soldiers' mail went free of any postal charges.



Backstamp, bold mark of the French Maritime Service. The French Expeditionary Force was sent to occupy Madagascar Dec. 12, 1894. After occupying Tamatave, they were held up months by fever and transportation difficulties. This letter was posted two days before the capitol, Tananarive, was bombarded on Sept. 30, 1895.



October 20, 1895.
Arrival backstamp
at Franconville,
Seine et Oise, France.

1900

LIGNE V, DE MARSEILLE A LA RÉUNION
Paquebot Iraouaddy



October 17, 1900. Letter prepaid at Mauritius by a pair of the 15¢ Admiral Mahe de la Bourdonnais (Governor 1734-36) Issue of 1899. Letter is endorsed: p. M.M. "Iraouaddy."



October 27. French paquebot mark struck aboard the Messageries Maritimes steamer Iraouaddy. She was designated Ligne V, No. 3 on this voyage. Salles notes this steamer at Reunion on November 1, 1900.



November 25. Iraouaddy arrived at Marseilles.

November 26. Arrival backstamp at Nancy, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France, the confluence of the two rivers.

1871

ANGLO-FRENCH EXCHANGE MARKS

On Jan. 1, 1866 an additional new article became effective to reimburse the British for French mail carried aboard British packets. These charges were:

From British possessions in Asia	1Fr.66. per 30 grams (1sh.4d.)
Foreign countries in Asia	1Fr.26c. per 30 grams (1sh.)
Printed matter from either origin	1Fr.90c. per kilogram (1sh.6d.)



July 15, 1871.
Unpaid letter at Calcutta, directed via Brindisi, port in Italy on the Adriatic Sea.



S.3065

Exchange mark (20 x 17.5 mm) showing France owes Britain 1 Franc 66 centimes per 30 grams of mail, bulk. This mark is recorded in Salles as from Mauritius (1866-67, black). The Salles 3062 "Calcutta" mark, said to be seen in blue, measures 20 x 22 mm. It would appear that the "Mauritius", Salles 3065 was reassigned to Calcutta. Both the Calcutta backstamp and the exchange mark are in the same ink.



15

Aug. 14-15.
Bordeaux receipt backstamps. 15 decimes (1Fr.50c.) due.

1874

ANGLO-FRENCH EXCHANGE MARKS - Struck aboard
the Sea Post Office - Bombay to Aden

FORWARDING AGENT

Gillanders, Arbutnot & Co., Calcutta



INDIA UNPAID

June 2, 1874.
Letter posted
unpaid by
Forwarding
Agent at Cal-
cutta.



June 5, 1874.
Letter handled
by the Bombay-
Aden Sea Post
Office which
applied this
mark aboard
ship.



Anglo-French account-
ancy mark crediting
Britain with 1 Franc,
66 centimes for ocean
voyage.

June 26,
1874. French
entry mark at
Brindisi, Italy.
Ambulant via
Modane to Paris.

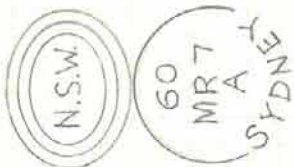
Backstamps (3):

June 27-8, 1874. Paris to
Bordeaux transit.

15 decimes due from
recipient.

1860

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
MARKS OF MAIL ORIGIN: AUSTRALIE VOIE DE SUEZ
PAR AMBULANTS



March 7, 1860. Letter prepaid at Sydney, N.S.W., at the 6d. rate by British or French packet to Marseilles R.L. Type C11 date stamp.



May 3, 1860. Letter marked incoming at Marseilles, R.R. (Ambulant). This type (Salles 2.116) always indicates origin at Melbourne. Brigade C. 5 decimes due from recipient.

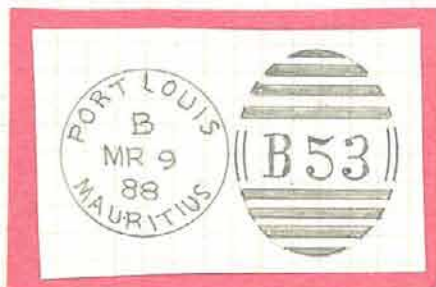
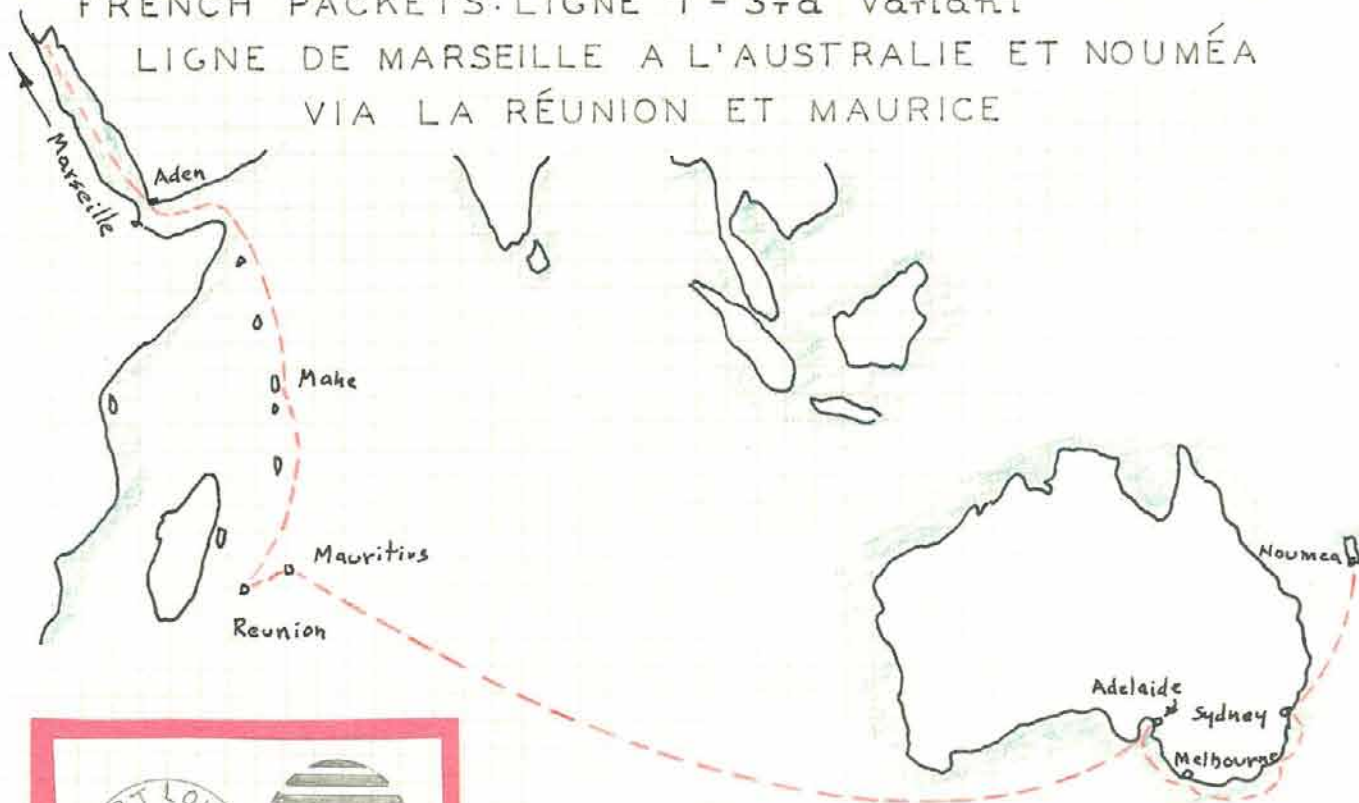


May 4-5, 1871. Transit backstamps, Paris to Nantes (RR day trip, Brigade C), arrival at Paimboeuf.

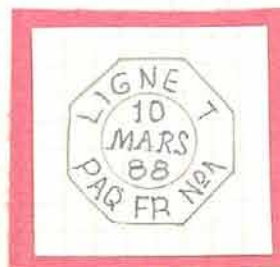
1888

MAURITIUS

FRENCH PACKETS: LIGNE T - 3rd Variant
LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A L'AUSTRALIE ET NOUMÉA
VIA LA RÉUNION ET MAURICE



March 9, 1888.
Card posted at
Port Louis, Mauritius.



Mar. 10, 1888.
Card picked up by
the Steamer Yarra,
which had left Sydney
Feb. 13. Mail marked
transit at Mahe, Sey-
chelles.

The Yarra arrived
Marseilles on March
29, 1888.



1891

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

LIGNE T - 4e Variante

MARSEILLE TO NEW CALADONIA BY SEYCHELLES & AUSTRALIA

The Convention of 30 June 1886 reorganized the route of Ligne T, eliminating passage to Reunion and Mauritius.



October 11, 1891. Double rated U.P.U. letter (8¢ x 2 = 16¢) posted at Curepipe Road, Mauritius, c.d.s. backstamp. Stamps cancelled with "37" identified with the Curepipe Road Post Office.

Oct. 11. Transit backstamp at Port Louis, Mauritius. Local steamer took letter to the Seychelles.



S.2141/4

October 16, 1891. Steamer Oceanien, No.4 of Ligne T, picked up letter at Mahe, Seychelles. She arrived Marsailles November 1.



Nov. 2, 1891. Aubervilliers, France arrival backstamp.

1895

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

LIGNE T - 4^e Variante

MARSEILLES TO NEW CALEDONIA BY SEYCHELLES & AUSTRALIA

Paquebot Ville de Ciotat

The Convention of 30 June 1886 reorganized the route of Ligne T, eliminating passage to Reunion and Mauritius. Sailing homeward, the steamship from New Caledonia called at Sydney, Melbourne and King George's Sound. From the latter port they proceeded directly to Mahe, Seychelles.



January 28, 1895. A 4 cent Seychelles post card augmented by a 2 cent adhesive, Issue of 1890, Die II, card addressed to Germany.

Paquebot Ville de Ciotat, homeward bound from New Caledonia, touched at Sydney January 25, and left Australia at King George's Sound. She touched at Mahe, Seychelles on February 16, where this card went aboard. On this voyage she was designated Ligne T No. 4 as shown in the textbook strike of the octagonal ship mark.

March 2. Ville de Ciotat arrived at Marseilles.

March 3. Ulm, Germany arrival stamp.

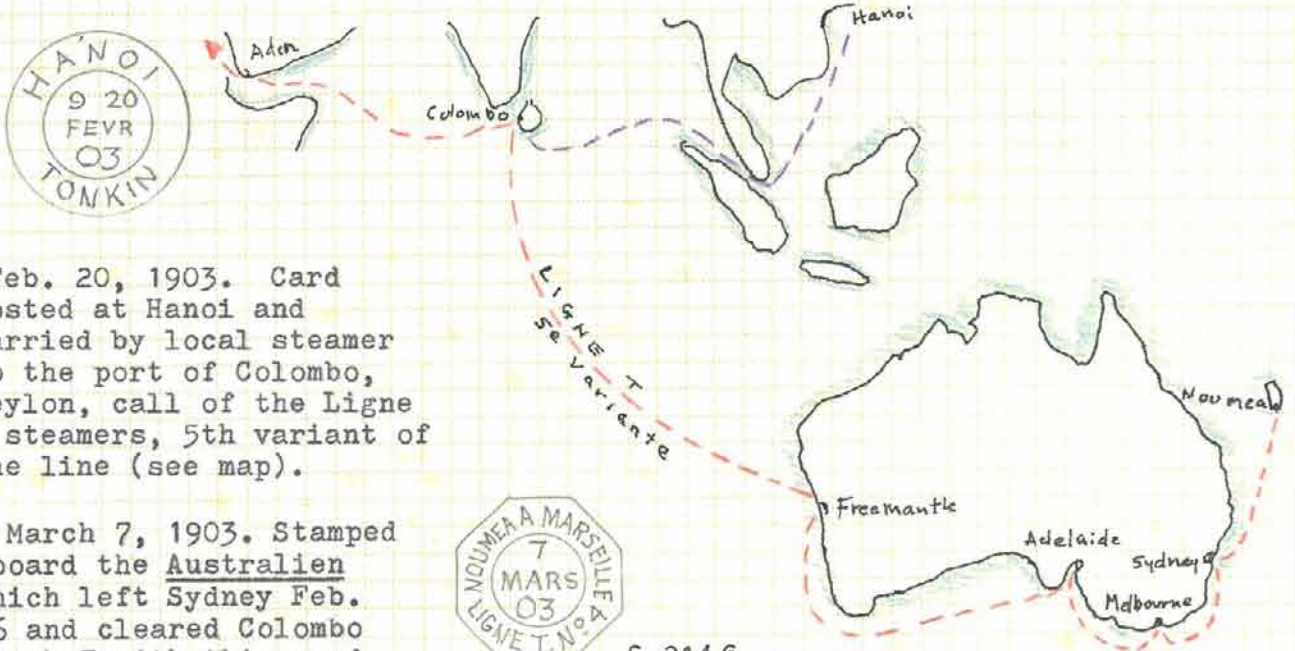
1903

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

LIGNE T: 5^e Variante

S.S. Australien

MARSEILLE TO NEW CALEDONIA by COLOMBO & AUSTRALIA



Feb. 20, 1903. Card posted at Hanoi and carried by local steamer to the port of Colombo, Ceylon, call of the Ligne T steamers, 5th variant of the line (see map).

March 7, 1903. Stamped aboard the Australien which left Sydney Feb. 16 and cleared Colombo March 7 with this card. Records show she arrived Marseilles March 22.



S. 214 6

This is a scarce mark.



March 23. German transit stamps.

1894

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

DIEGO-SUAREZ TO GERMANY

FRENCH PACKETS: LIGNE V, Marseille a la Reunion.

LIGNE U, Service Annexe des Mascareignes.

LIGNE T, Marseille a la Nouvelle Calédonie par Mahé.



May 5, 1894. Post card entered mails at Diego-Suarez to Germany.

May 5, 1894. Card picked up by the Iraouaddy, Ship No. 1 of Ligne V on her outward voyage, she having left Marseille April 12. She dropped her mail at Reunion.

May 12, 1894. Mail trans-shipped at Reunion aboard the Ava of the Annex Service of Ligne U, Reunion to Mahe, Seychelles.



May 17. Picked up by the Australien, Ship 3 of Ligne T. June 1, card cleared rail office at Ulm.

1896

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE V, DE MARSEILLE A LA RÉUNION

The older Ligne V, designated as "La Ligne de la Cote Orientale d'Afrique" (1888-1895) saw a variant for only the year 1896. Outgoing ships went direct from Djibouti to Diego-Suarez, but returned by way of the East Coast of Africa. The following year, 1897, and continuing through 1912, the line went direct via Mahe in the Seychelles.

F. LAROQUE & CO., PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.



April 30, 1896. Circular date stamp of Port Louis, Mauritius cancels Mauritius stamps.



April 30, 1896. The Iracouaddy, designated as packet No.2 of the 1896 Intermediate Ligne V service stamped letter aboard. She cleared Reunion May 1, arrived Marseilles May 28.



May 29. Arrival backstamp at Meze, France.

1898

LIGNE V, DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION
Seychelles to U.S. via France and England
Ligne V. S.S. Pei-Ho. Mahé to Marseilles
White Star Line. S.S. Majestic. Transatlantic



Messrs Burger & Co
53, Nassau St.
Corner Maiden Lane
New York



July 30, 1898. Seychelles stamped envelope posted at Mahe. The French paquebot S.S. Pei-Ho left Reunion on August 1 and picked up the Seychelles mail at Mahe after calling at the Madagascar ports of Tamatave and Diego-Suarez.

August 25. Pei-Ho arrived at Marseilles.

August 31. S.S. Majestic, Capt. Smith, of the White Star Line left Liverpool Aug. 31, and called at Queenstown Sept. 1 where this letter went aboard.



Sept. 7. Port of New York backstamp. Majestic arrived at the Bar at 1:37 P.M. and proceeded to the docks of the White Star Line.

1898

LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION 1° OU LIGNE U



November 14, 1898. Registered letter posted at Mauritius, postage and registration paid by Issue of 1895 adhesives to total 31 cents. "120" in manuscript is the registered letter number.



November 14. The French Ligne U paquebot Djemnah picked up the Mauritius mail. She departed Reunion November 17 and arrived at Marseilles December 17. Backstamp.



December 18. Arrival backstamp at Geneva, Switzerland.

1899

LIGNE DE LA REUNION A MARSEILLE 1^o ou LIGNE U
S.S. Oxus



June 14, 1899. A registered Mauritius post card, the 8¢ card revalued to 6¢, augmented by the 36¢ surcharged to 15¢, Issue of 1899, the Diamond Jubilee Issue. Posted at Curepipe, Mauritius, it went aboard the Ligne U paquebot Oxus.



5.2322/2

June 14. Ligne U mark struck aboard the Oxus at Mauritius. She touched at Reunion on June 17 and arrived at Marseilles July 15. The Oxus was designated ship No. 2 of Ligne U on this trip.

July 17. Gand (Ghent), Belgium arrival backstamp.



1899

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE U-LA RÉUNION A MARSEILLE

Cachets de Corps Expéditionnaire de Madagascar



S.2325/2

Sept. 2, 1899. Army "Expeditionary Corps of Madagascar" struck aboard Ship No. 2, Ligne U vessel, Reunion to Marseilles. No postage was charged to military personnel.



Cachet of the French Maritime Service. The French conquest of Madagascar ran from Nov. 10, 1894 to Jan. 16, 1896, the first period of the French Expeditionary Force. French forcing of the queen to accept French possession of the island resulted in an anti-Foreign and anti-Christian insurrection necessitating continuance of the "Expeditionary Force" as late as 1899.



Sept. 26, 1899. Arrival backstamp at Plouescat, Finistere, France.

1899

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
2° LIGNE P, DE SINGAPOUR A BATAVIA



Nov. 7, 1899. Card posted at Soekaboloem, Dutch Indies for Ain-Bessem, Algeria. French mail services to Batavia were handled by Ligne P, which made connections with the major Ligne N (Yokohama to Marseille) at Singapore. Two days was allowed for the Batavia-Singapore run. The steamer La Seyne served this route from July 1898 to 1905.



Nov. 11, 1899. Card transit marked aboard the steamer Tonkin on her return voyage. She left Yokohama on Oct. 11 and Saigon on Nov. 7.

Dec. 4, 1899. Card readdressed at Algeria to Marseille, then travelled on 3rd French Packet to Marseille.

Dec. 6. Marseille receipt handstamp.

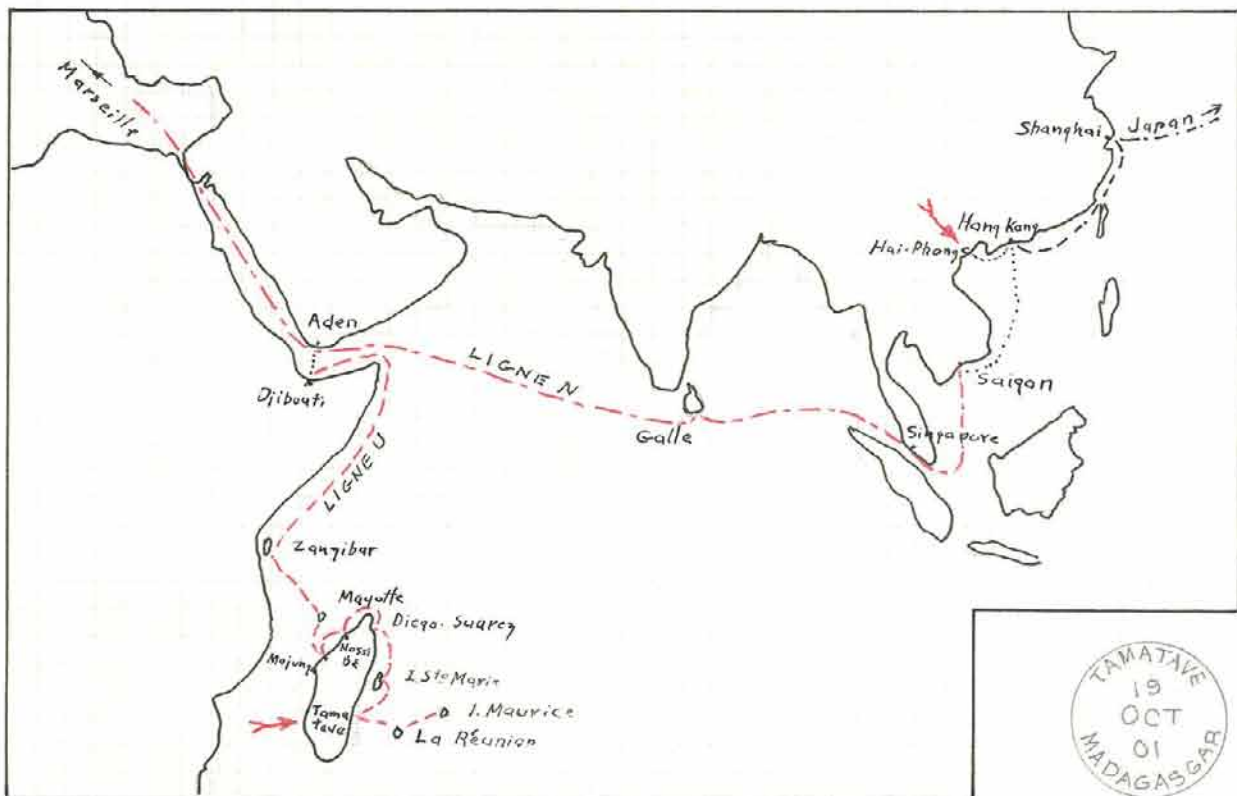


1901

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION 1° OU LIGNE U
 LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A SAIGON - LIGNE N

Mail on Ligne U from Reunion was routed via Djibouti in East Africa. Any mail destined for the East Indies was then trans-shipped to the Orient on Ligne N.



Oct. 19, 1901. Card cancelled at Tamatave, Madagascar. Addressed to the director of Navigation of the Tonkin Gulf.



Oct. 19. Aboard IRAOUADY, left Reunion Oct. 17, arr. Djibouti Nov. 5. No Ligne N mark. Aux. lines Saigon - Hai-Phong

1901

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

2nd LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION 1^o - LIGNE U

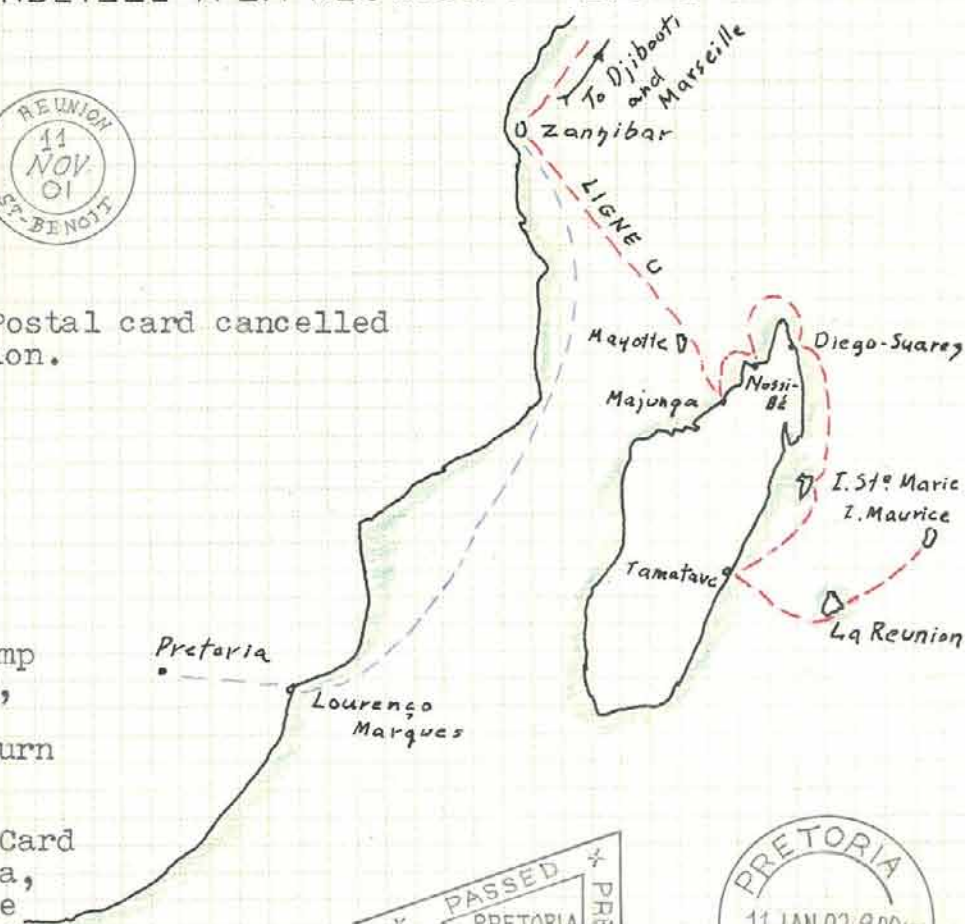


Nov. 11, 1901. Postal card cancelled at St. Denis, Reunion.



Nov. 17, 1901. Octagonal date stamp aboard the YANGTSE, steamer No. 1 of Ligne U on her return trip to Marseille.

Jan. 11, 1902. Card arrived at Pretoria, the Transvaal. The YANGTSE had dropped mail at Zanzibar.



Card then went by British Steamer via Lourenço Marques. As card went into South Africa during the Boer War, it was subject to censorship, as shown by the censor's mark.

1905

2° LA LIGNE U: MARSEILLE A LA REUNION 1°
1896-1912

S.S. Melbourne

A series of picture post cards all with the same postal markings mailed at Mayotte on the 2nd Ligne U de la Cote Orientale D'Afrique on her outbound trip and addressed to Zanzibar. The Ligne U schedule of the S.S. Melbourne, designated U No. 1, was as follows:

Outbound: May 2, 1905	Mayotte	Return: May 14	Mauritius depart
May 3	Nossi-Be	May 17	Reunion
May 4	Diego-Suarez	May 19	Tamatave
May 6	Tamatave	May 21	Diego-Suarez
May 8	Reunion	May 23	Mayotte
May 10	Mauritius arrival.	May 26	Zanzibar arrive, cards put ashore.
		June 14	Marseilles arrival via Suez.

Thus, the cards went out to Mauritius, Ligne U, and returned by the same route to Zanzibar.





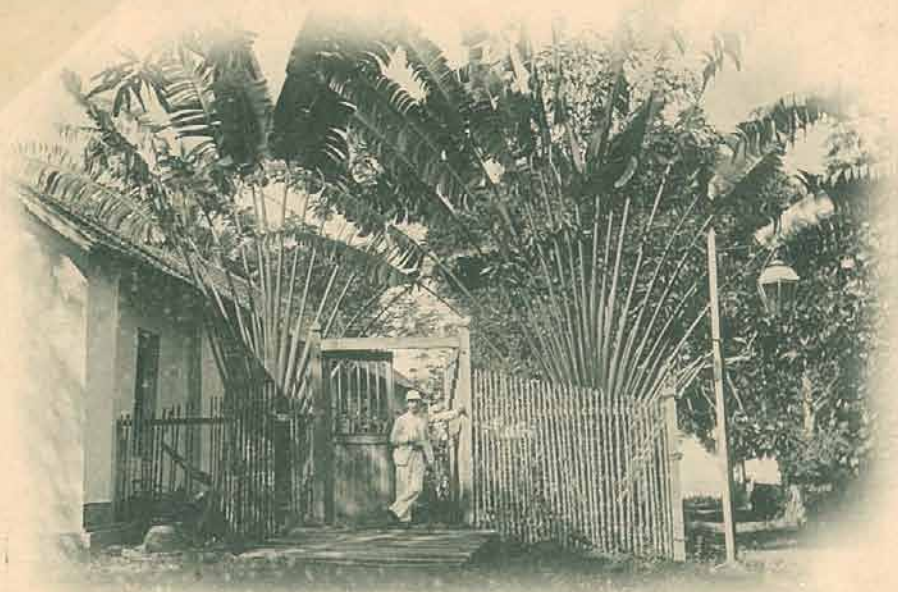
Ed. - H. D.

7 — Diego-Suarez - Un détachement de Condamnés



Ed. - H. D.

3 — Tamalave - Bureau des Douanes



Nossi-Bé - L'Arbre du Voyageur

EMH
512 01

1902

LIGNE V, LA REUNION A MARSEILLE
Paquebot Oxus



June 1, 1902. The Messageries Maritimes steamer Oxus, designated V.2 on this voyage, departed from Reunion en route to Marseilles.



June 11. A printed matter piece of mail posted at Djibouti, French Somali Coast, and paid at the 5 centimes printed matter rate by the 5 centimes surcharge on 40 centimes adhesive, Issue of 1902.

June 13. Oxus called at Djibouti where this cover went aboard.

June 25. Oxus arrived at Marseilles.

June 26. Lucerne, Switzerland arrival backstamp.

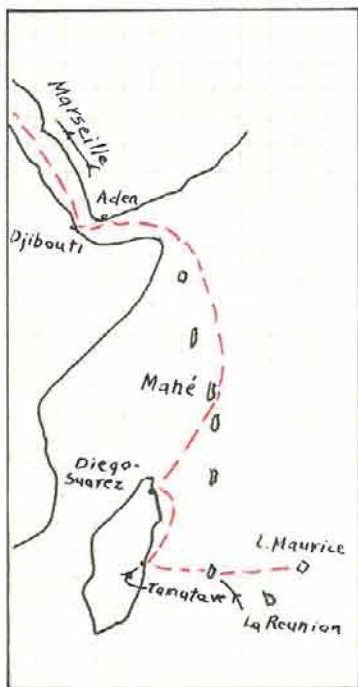


1905

FRENCH PACKETS

LIGNE V - LA REUNION A MARSEILLE

2ND Variant - Direct Route via Mahé



March 5, 1905. Letter posted at Tamatave, Madagascar.



March 5, 1905. Letter picked up by the MELBOURNE, which left Reunion on Mar. 3, 1905, arriving at Marseille Mar. 27.

April 6, 1905. Letter backstamped arrival at Newton, Mass.



1905

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE V, DE MARSEILLE A LA RÉUNION

Paquebot OXUS - N° 4

A shortage of 10 centime stamps occurred aboard the steamer Oxus on her September 25, 1905 sailing out of Marseilles. As a result the postal agent aboard allowed bisected 15 centime stamps to serve as "Special Prepayment" of the 10 c. post card rate during the emergency.

Two different handstamps in violet were used to validate the bisects by tying the bisected stamps to postal matter.

Affranchissement special
faute de timbres a 10 cent.

Oxus

N.B. Separate stamp. "Oxus"
in upper and lower case
letters.



Oct. 25, 1905. The Oxus had left Marseilles Sept. 25. One of a series of postcards by a tourist aboard. Probably dropped off at Diego-Suarez to be picked up by another, homeward bound, ship.

1905

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE V, DE LA REUNION A MARSEILLE

Paquebot OXUS - N° 4.

A shortage of 10 centime stamps occurred aboard the Oxus, resulting in the postal agent aboard allowing bisected 15 centime stamps to serve as "Special Prepayment" during the emergency

Two different handstamps in violet were used to validate the bisect.

Affranchissement special
faute de timbres 10 cent.

Paquebot-Poste
OXUS

N.B. - Separate stamp,
OXUS in upper case letters.



November 14, 1905. The Oxus had left Reunion on November 2 on her return voyage.

1905

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE V, DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION

Paquebot OXUS - N° 4.

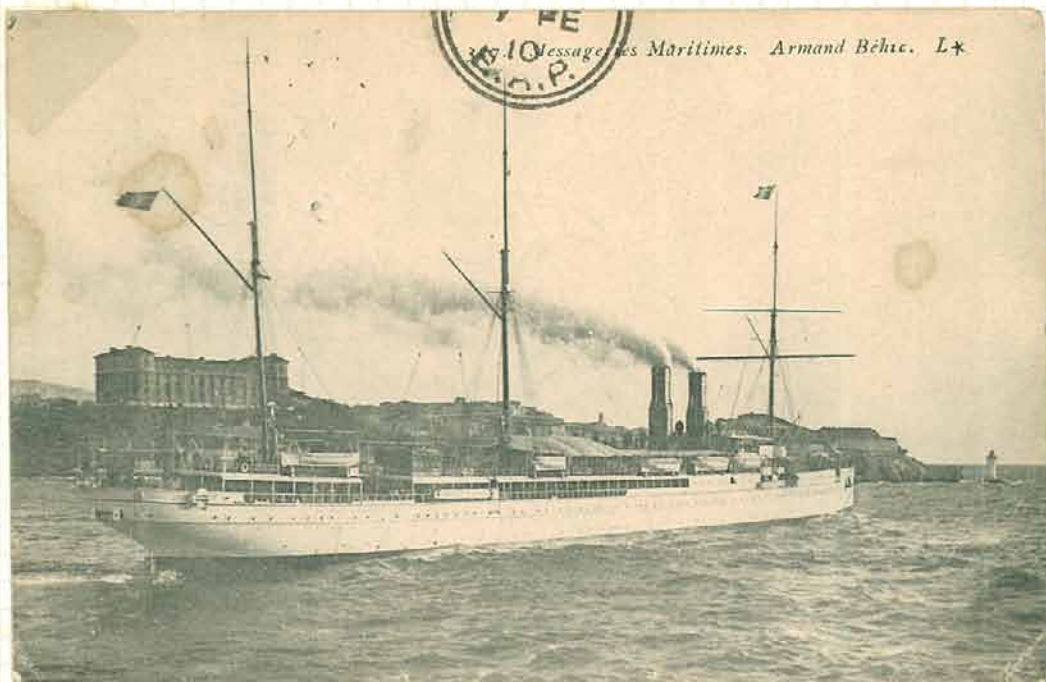
Series of bisected stamps validated by Type I violet handstamp. Note varying position of "Oxus" relative to rest of legend proving separate handstamps were used.



1910

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

Messageries Maritimes - SS. Armand Béhic.



FE
10
Messageries Maritimes. Armand Béhic. L*



Jan. 19, 1910.
Card posted at
Colombo, Ceylon.



Jan. 26, 1910.
Aden transit
stamps. Card
forwarded to
Mombassa, Brit-
ish East Africa.



Feb. 7, 1910.
receipt at
Mombassa, East
Africa Protect-
orate.

CARTE POSTALE

Colombo. January 19. 1910
Ceylon - CORRESPONDANCE

We had the devil of a time coming
across the Indian ocean - a regular
cyclone. I hope you didn't get into
it.

Everything lovely - good boat
jolly passengers. The only English
speaking person in the first saloon is
an Asiatic Italian Cockney Swede
from Shanghai who says his wife is
from Portland - Do send me a card to
Yokohama. Hong Kong - Shanghai Bank -
Sumerai Carl Pöcker

M. Edward C. Saffern
Messrs Aden Coal Company
National Bank
Aden
Mombassa

CEYLON POSTAGE
10
GENT 10

ADEN
8.20 AM
26JA.10

ADEN
8.30 AM
26JA.10

ADEN
10 AM
7 FE
10
E.A.P.

26

1933

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION
Nautonaphte Jean Laborde



S.2341/5



June 8, 1933. Jean Laborde departed from Marseilles on May 10 on the 1920 "New Convention" schedule of Ligne de Marseille a la Reunion: Marseilles (0) - Port Said (5) - Djibouti (12) - Mombassa (19) - Zanzibar (21) - Dar es Salaam (21) - Mayotte-Majunga-Nossi Be-Diego Saurez (31) - Tamatave (35) - Reunion (38) - Mauritius (45). This letter evidently received the Jean Laborde cachets around Mayotte on the outbound voyage May 27, and went ashore at Tamatave, Madagascar on June 8, where the maritime cachet (S.2341) was applied and the stamp was cancelled the same day. Jean Laborde went on to Mauritius.

The letter went back on the Grandidier which had departed from Reunion June 4 and arrived back at Marseilles July 7.

July 24. Letter docketed arrival at Redlands, California on this date.

*Numbers indicate days out from Marseilles.

1939

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A LA REUNION
S.S. Bernardin de St.-Pierre



February 23, 1939. The French paquebot S.S. Bernardin de St.-Pierre departed from Marseilles out-bound for Reunion where she arrived March 27.

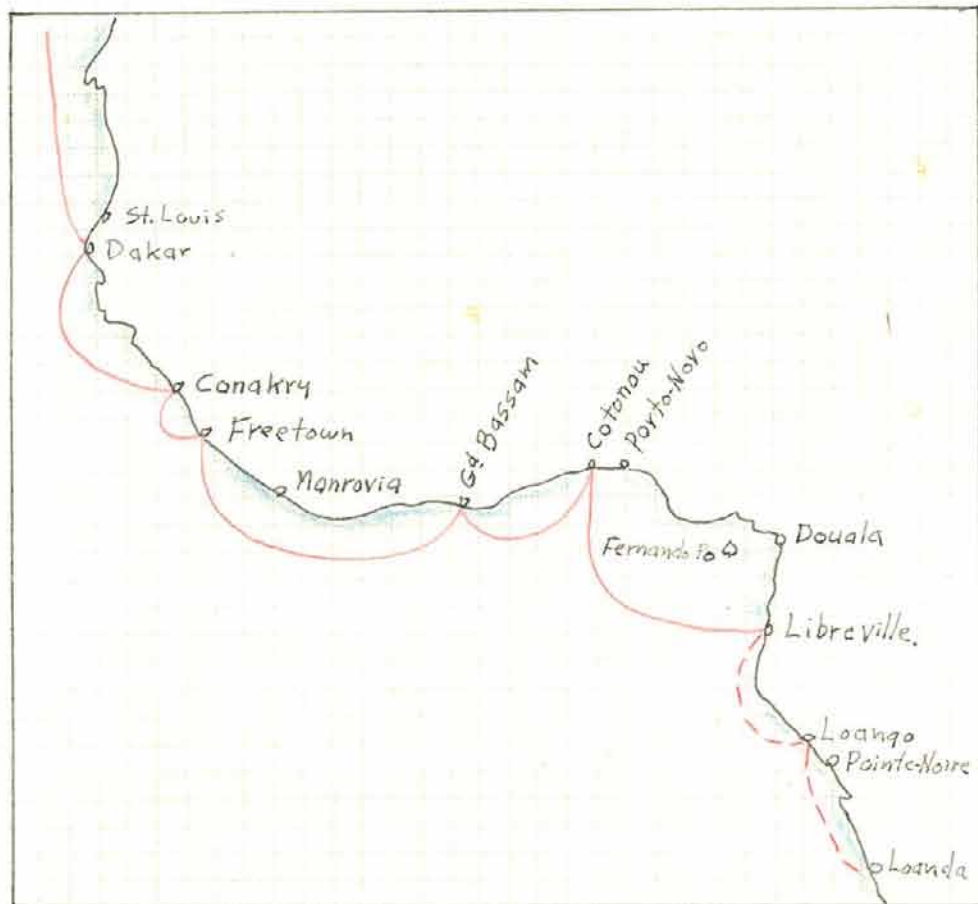
March 20. This letter went aboard at Madagascar on the out-bound leg as endorsed and remained with the ship for her return voyage, arriving back at Marseilles April 28.

N.B.: Octagonal mark is Salles 2345. Salles does not record a vessel number for this trip, here shown as No. 3.

1900

FRENCH PACKET LINES

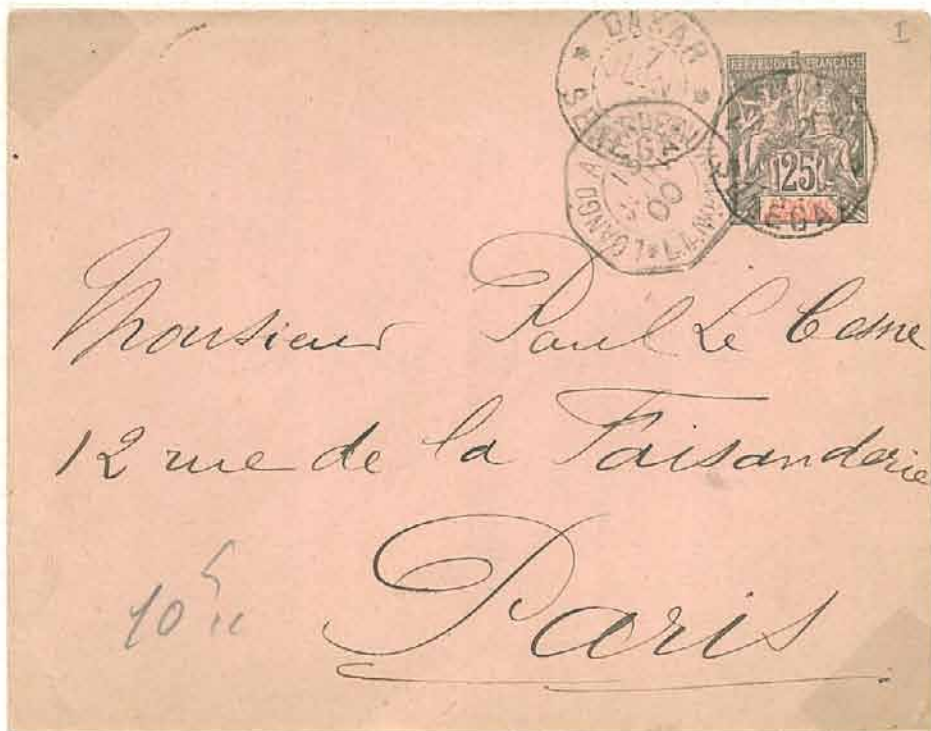
LIGNE L - LOANGO TO BORDEAUX, 1899-1908



June 7, 1900.
 Stamped envelope
 posted at Dakar,
 which was on the
 route of Ligne L -
 Loango to Bordeaux.
 (Map at left.)



June 13, 1900.
 The French packet
V. Maranhao, desig-
 nated as No. 1 of
 Ligne L, arrived
 at Dakar, en route
 from Libreville,
 which she had left
 on May 30. The
V. Maranhao arrived
 at Bordeaux on
 June 22, 1900.



1897

FRENCH PACKET LINES

LIGNE L - Loango a Bordeaux

Steamer No.1 - V. Pernambuco

This vessel left Liberville on her return voyage on Sept. 7, 1897 and stopped at Cotonou where this card was picked up. She arrived at Bordeaux on Sept. 27, 1897.



Aug. 26, 1897. Card cancelled at Porto Novo, thence travelled overland to Cotonou where it had to wait until Sept. 10 for the V. Pernambuco.

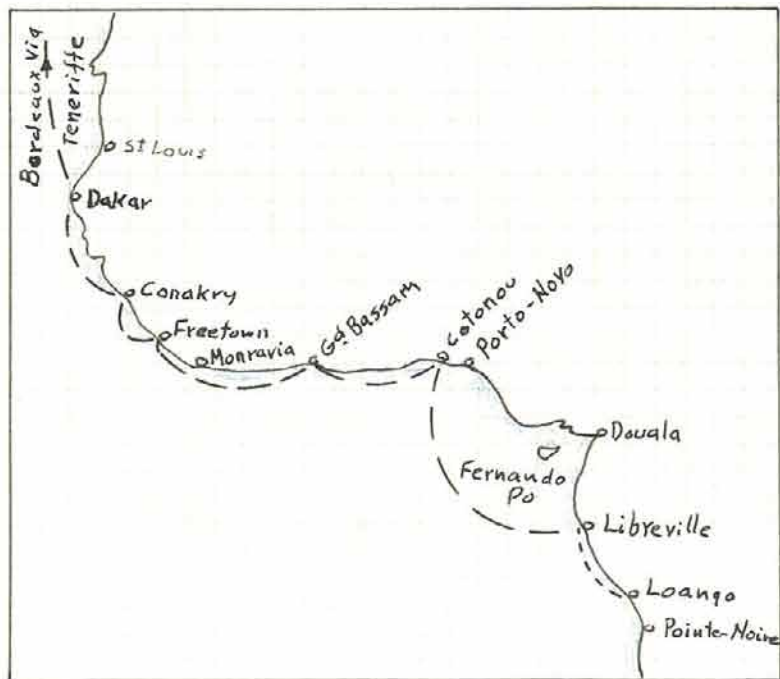


Sept. 10, 1897. Stamped aboard the V. Pernambuco. Although designated the Loango to Bordeaux line, the ships only went as far as Libreville, and free transshipments were arranged to Loango, Angola.

1905

FRENCH PACKET LINES

LIGNE L - Loango to Bordeaux 1899 - 1908



Service of Ligne L terminated at Libreville with free service beyond to Loango.



Aug. 5, 1905. Porto Novo, Dahomey cancellation on 25 centimes stamp, Scott # 8. Letter overland to Cotonou, port of call on the Loango to Bordeaux Ligne L.



Aug. 7, 1905. Packet No. 2, the Cholon left Libreville on Aug. 4, 1905 and stopped at Cotonou on Aug. 7, where letter was picked up and marked with this "Cachet de Ligne". She arrived at Bordeaux on Aug. 23, 1905.

Letter back-stamped Sept. 2, 1905 at Washington, D.C.



1898

FRENCH PACKET LINES

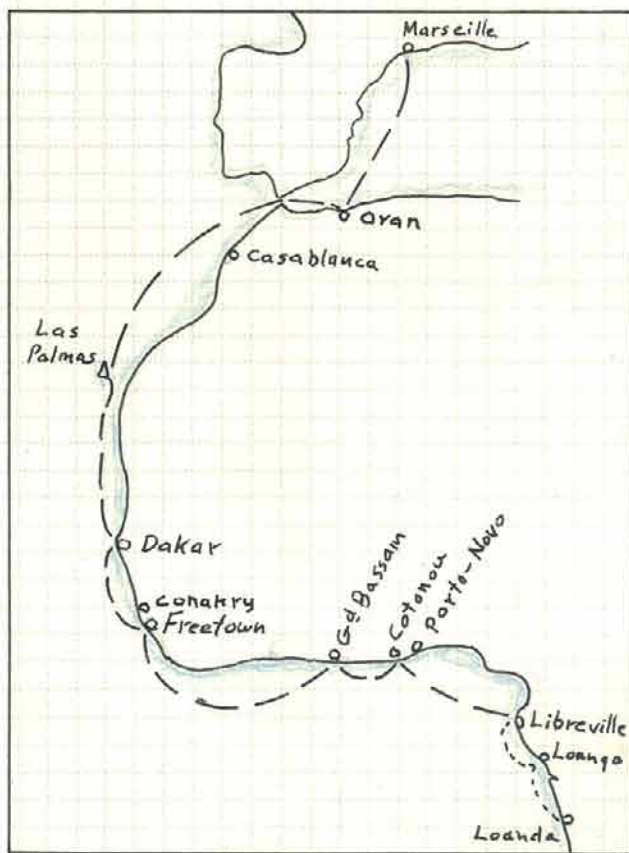
LIGNE M - Loango a Marseille



Oct. 28, 1898. Card posted at Conakry, French Guinea. It had to wait until Oct. 30 for the steamer of Ligne M to arrive.



Oct. 30, 1898. Steamer No. 2 of Line M, the Stamboul, left Libreville on Oct. 20, and after calls at Cotonou, Gd. Bassam and Freetown, picked card up on Oct. 30 at Conakry. She arrived at Marseille Nov. 12, 1898.



Ligne M was in reality only from Bordeaux to Libreville as steamers only went as far as Libreville. Auxillary free carriage was provided to Loango and Loanda.



Nov. 13, 1898. Receipt back-stamp at Bern, Switzerland.

Pour ouvrir la carte-lettre, déchirer en suivant le pointillé.

1916

FRENCH PACKET LINES

LIGNE L - De Bordeaux a Matadi

A new convention, confirmed 5 May 1906, extended La Ligne de Bordeaux to Matadi, with a minimum of six voyages annually subsidized. The war of 1914 - 1918 disorganized the regularity of the departures.



Sept. 10, 1916.

Registered letter posted at Duala, which port was included on the Matadi to Bordeaux line in 1916.



Sept. 21, 1916. Backstamp (Salles 1228). The steamer Afrique cleared Libreville 18 Sept. and Duala 21 Sept. Wartime scheduling caused letter to await at Duala from Sept. 10 to 21. The Afrique was designated steamer No. 1 of Ligne L.



Oct. 9, 1916. Paris arrival backstamp.

1917

FRENCH PACKET LINES

LIGNE L-De Bordeaux a Matadi

S. S. Afrique



S. 1227

May 8, 1917. This post card was posted at Conakry on the outbound voyage of the steamship Afrique which had departed from Bordeaux April 28 and arrived at Libreville May 27. It was franked with the 2 centimes Senegal Issue of 1914, cancelled aboard the Afrique which was designated No. 3 of Ligne L. Afrique arrived back at Bordeaux June 19, this card having completed the voyage back through all the West African ports of call.

1871

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE N - SHANGHAI TO MARSEILLE

S.S. Provence

Ligne N was extended in four stages, as follows:

- Suez to Hong Kong : Nov. 1866
- Marseille to Hong Kong : April 1870
- Marseille to Shanghai : August 1871
- Marseille to Yokohama : August 1887.

This letter was carried on the third trip of the line when it was extended to Shanghai by the S.S. Provence, which left Shanghai on her return trip November 2, 1871. She was designated Ligne N, No. 1.



Nov. 8, 1871.
Backstamp date at Hong Kong. The SS Provence left Hong Kong harbor Nov. 13 with this letter aboard. "B62" canceller of Hong Kong cancels 60¢ in stamps, rate to Germany. British and French portion was restated at left in sterling, red mss. 1/8 or 1 shilling = 24¢ + 8d. = 16¢, total 40¢.



P.D.



Dec. 13. Recorded arrival date of the Provence at Marseille. Struck on arrival, train (ambulant) out of Marseille (Salles 1875). P.F. = Paquebot Française. "POSSessions ANglaises Voie de SUEZ".

Dec. 14-15. RR transit backstamps Marseille to Paris and Paris to border town of Erquelines.

Dec. 16. Hamburg arrival backstamp.

1874

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE N - SHANGHAI TO MARSEILLE
Possessions Anglaises voie de Suez
Par Ambulant Marseille



October 3, 1874. Letter to France prepaid by Hong Kong stamp at the 12¢ H.K. rate. Obliterated by "B62", British Post Office number assigned to Hong Kong.

Endorsed "Str. Amazone" of the French Ligne N. She left Shanghai Sept. 27, 1874, and cleared Hong Kong about Oct. 3. The Amazone was not designated a number on this trip.



November 9, 1874. Recorded arrival date of the Amazone at Marseille. Letter marked incoming "British Possessions via Suez, Paquebot Francais, Ambulant Marseille".

Nov. 10. Paris to Bordeaux, RR transit backstamp.

1878

LIGNE N - MARSEILLES TO SHANGHAI

Le Paquebot Iraouaddy



March 3, 1878. Letter originated at Paris, Place de la Bourse, where it was endorsed: via French Mail. Overpaid U.P.U. rate by the 40 centimes, Issue of 1870. Rate from France to all member countries was 30 centimes per 15 grams, except to U.S. was 40 cent. per 15 grams. Possible posting by an American familiar with the U.S. rates.

March 10. The earliest French steamer following March 3 was the Messageries Maritime paquebot Iraouaddy, which departed March 10 from Marseilles for Shanghai.

April 16. Arrival of Iraouaddy at Hong Kong, backstamp.

April 26. The North China Herald notes: Arrived Shanghai 26 April London mails of 8th ulto. per M.M. steamer Iraouaddy.

May 5. Iraouaddy departed from Shanghai on her return voyage.



1878

LIGNE N - SHANGHAI TO MARSEILLES
Shanghai-French Bureau Office

The extensions of service and routes of the Ligne N from November 1866 to Dec. 1910 were:

SUEZ TO HONG KONG	NOV. 1866
MARSEILLES TO HONG KONG	APRIL 1870
→ MARSEILLES TO SHANGHAI	AUGUST 1871
MARSEILLES TO YOKOHAMA	AUGUST 1887.



BY FRENCH PACKET



May 19, 1878. French Bureau office date stamp at Shanghai, China. Stamp obliterated by the Gross Chiffres "5104" of the Shanghai Bureau office.

May 19. The Ligne N No. 2 packet Tigre left Shanghai May 19, arrived Marseilles July 11, 1878. Packet also stamped the blue "By French Packet".



July 12, 1878. German (Alsace) arrival backstamp at Mulhausen.

1893

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE N DEVIENT - LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A YOKOHAMA
S.S. Salazie



August 26, 1893. Letter posted at Saigon, French Indo China and paid at the 25 centimes U.P.U. rate by a copy of the Issue of 1892. Backstamp at the Saigon Central Office.



S.1921/10

August 27. The French Packet steamer Salazie, designated No. 10 of Ligne N, had departed from Yokohama July 30. She called at Saigon Aug. 27 where this letter went aboard and was identified by the LIGNE N date stamp.



September 24. Salazie arrived at Marseilles. Letter was forwarded on to Richmond, Surrey, England where it received this backstamp on Sept. 25.

1894

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE N - YOKOHAMA TO MARSEILLE

This was the principal French Line transmitting the mails from Yokohama, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Saigon, Singapore, Colombo (Ceylon), and Aden through the Suez.

BASLER VERSICHERUNGS GESELLSCHAFT GEGEN FEUERSCHADEN

An die



**Basler Versicherungs-Gesellschaft
gegen Feuerschaden**

BASEL

(Schweiz.)



July 8, 1894. Letter posted at Alexandria, Egypt. 50 centimes paid by French stamps, U.P.U. rate. Printed envelope is addressed to the "Basel Fire Insurance Company".

Backstamp: July 9. Letter picked up by the Melbourne on her return voyage, she having left Yokohama May 19, 1894. She arrived at Marseille July 12.

July 15, 1894. Receipt backstamp at Basel, Switzerland.

1900

LIGNE N - MARSEILLES TO YOKOHAMA

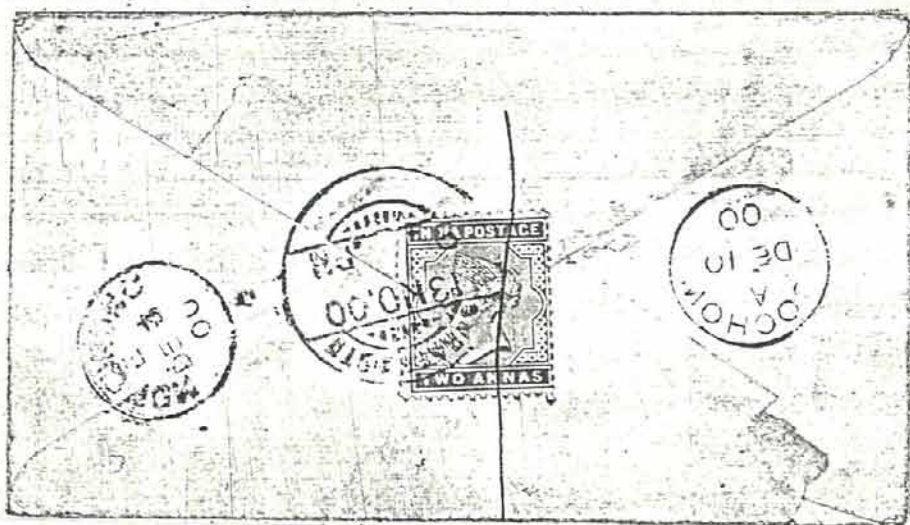
Le Paquebot Océanien



S. 1921/1



Nov. 13, 1900.
Letter posted at
Surat at the 2½ anna
U.P.U. rate. It
went by local steamer
to Galle, Ceylon,
port of call for the
Ligne N steamers.
The Paquebot Océanien
designated No. 1, de-
parted Marseilles on
October 28, 1900, and
this letter went
aboard at Galle Nov.
19 where it received
the LIGNE N mark This
line had been extended
from Shanghai to Yokohama
August 1887.



December 3. Arrival of Océanien at Hong
Kong where the letter received the transit
backstamp. Records show Océanien at Yoko-
hama on Dec. 21 for the return trip.



December 10. Letter forwarded to the
Treaty Port of Foochow by local steamer.
Arrival backstamp.



1904

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE N - CACHET DE LIGNE OCTOGONES

Ligne "N" - Marseilles to Yokohama



March 25, 1904. The octagonal mark used aboard the Ligne N vessels, this (Salles 1.924/6) being the "new" type, and was used on the French Packets No. 6 from 1887 - 1910.

The SS Polynésien had left Marseilles March 20. Card posted at Messina, Italy, and received this cancellation aboard ship. Card dropped off at Suez for carriage back to France aboard another packet. The Polynésien continued on to Yokohama.

1892

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE N.- YOKOHAMA TO MARSEILLE
British Treaty Port - Amoy via Hong Kong



Jan. 20, 1892. Letter posted at the Treaty Port of Amoy and backstamped at the Customs Office. Mail was forwarded to Hong Kong where stamps were cancelled.

Jan. 21, 1892. Letter handled by post office at Hong Kong and stamps cancelled. Hong Kong was one of the ports of call of Ligne N.



Jan. 27, 1892. Cachet of Paquebot Francaise No. 4 of Ligne N. This was the return trip of the YANGTSE, which left Yokohama Jan. 3, Hong Kong the 27th, cleared Saigon Jan. 30, and arrived Marseille Feb. 24.

Feb. 24. Marseille to Lyon, night train special.

Feb. 25. Bern arrival backstamp.

1907

LIGNE N - YOKOHAMA TO MARSEILLES

Paquebot Ernest Simons



March 11, 1907. Letter posted at Chungking, China, paid by the China Issue of 1902 ten cents stamp. Chungking (Chun-Khing or Shun-King) is a town in the province of Se-chuen on a tributary of the Yangtse-Kiang River, 115 miles east of Ching-Too-Foo (modern spelling Ch'engtu). This letter had to travel by river steamer some 1000 miles down the Yangtse to Shanghai.

March 28. Transit backstamp at the Chinese Imperial Post Office at Shanghai. This letter was transferred to the French Post Office at Shanghai the same date, shown by the French date stamp on the face of the cover.

March 28. The French Ligne N paquebot Ernest Simons arrived at Shanghai where this letter went on board. The paquebot's mail officer struck the Ligne N backstamp en route March 29. Ernest Simons was designated No. 8 on this voyage. Her dates were:

Yokohama	March 23
→ Shanghai	28
Saigon	April 6
Colombo	13 →
Marseilles	29.

April 13. E. Simons arrived at Colombo, Ceylon. Receiving backstamp at Colombo 8:15 AM. Letter was forwarded to Coaticook, Quebec, Canada and received back into the mails same day, April 13, at 10 PM, receiving postmark on cover face.



1907

LIGNE N - YOKOHAMA TO MARSEILLES
Paquebot Ernest Simons, Saigon to Marseilles
AMERICAN STEAMSHIP CO.: S.S. New York, Southampton to N.Y



July 19, 1907. A registered letter posted at Bac lieu, French Indochina, paid by the Issue of 1904, 5 centimes deep green, 10 centimes carmine and Issue of 1906, 35 centimes black on yellow.

The paquebot Ernest Simons of Ligne N had departed from Yokohama on July 13 en route to Marseilles. She touched at Saigon July 27, where this letter went aboard. The steamer's mail clerk struck the octagonal cachet on the reverse. E. Simons was designated No. 8 on this trip.

August 20. E. Simons arrived at Marseilles.



August 24. S.S. New York of the American Line picked up this letter at Southampton Aug. 24, arrived at New York Aug. 31.

Sept. 5, 7. California arrival backstamps.

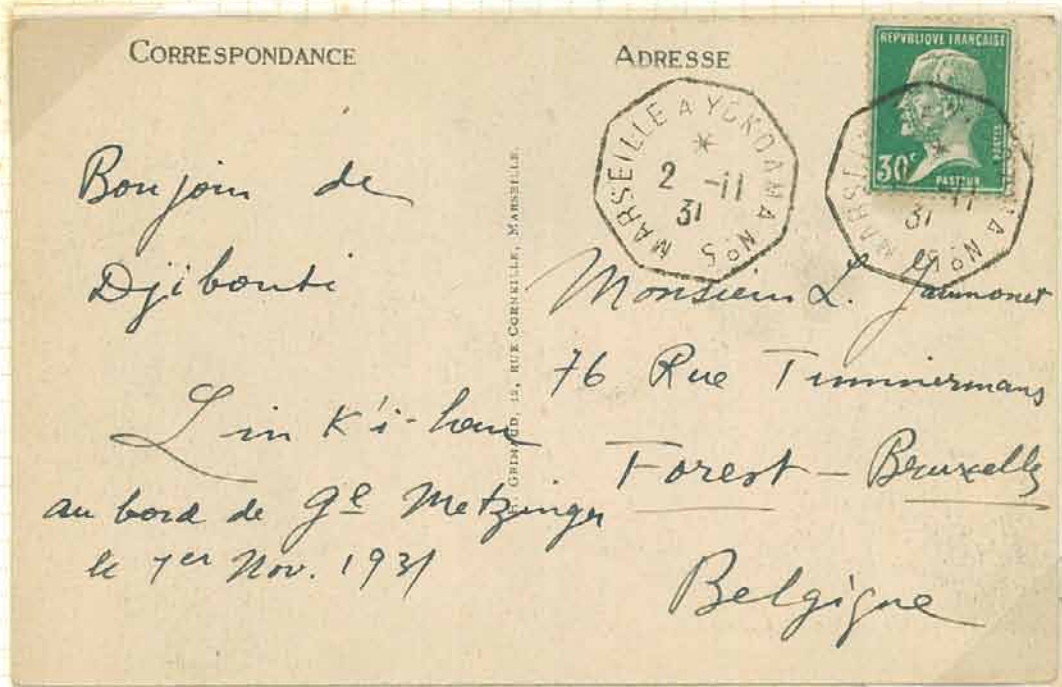
1931

LES LIGNES D'EXTREME-ORIENT
1^o LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A YOKOHAMA

1911-1932

Paquebot Général Metzinger

9500 tons, made 21 voyages 1921-1931 when she was reassigned to the Madagascar Line. Sunk in 1940 at Havre during a bombardment.



S. 2023/5

Nov. 2, 1931. Post card depicting a general view of Port Said says goodbye to Djibouti in East Africa on board the General Metzinger the 1st of November 1931. The G. Metzinger left Marseille Oct. 23, 1931 on her outbound voyage to Yokohama, here documented passing Djibouti Nov. 1.

The octagonal mark is somewhat strange in that it is one of several that misspells YOKOHAMA, omitting the H with the spelling as YOKOAMA. No. 5 was the ship designation of the General Metzinger.

1929

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE N.-YOKOHAMA TO MARSEILLES

The Ports of Call of Ligne N, and the arrival days out of Yokohama were approximately:

Yokohama	Kobe	Shanghai	Hong Kong	Saigon	Sing.	Colomb.	Djub.P.S.	Mars.
2	7		10	17	20	25	29	34 39



Jan. 26, 1929. Letter, registered, posted at Addis-Ababa Station, Ethiopia. It then went overland to French Somaliland and the port city of Djibouti, port of call of Ligne N steamers, 29-33 days out of Yokohama.

Feb. 5, 1929. Salles 2028/9. Octagonal trans- it backstamp. Letter pick- ed up at Djibouti by Ligne N, No. 9 steamer Athos II, 29 days out of Yokohama. She arrived Marseille Feb. 15.



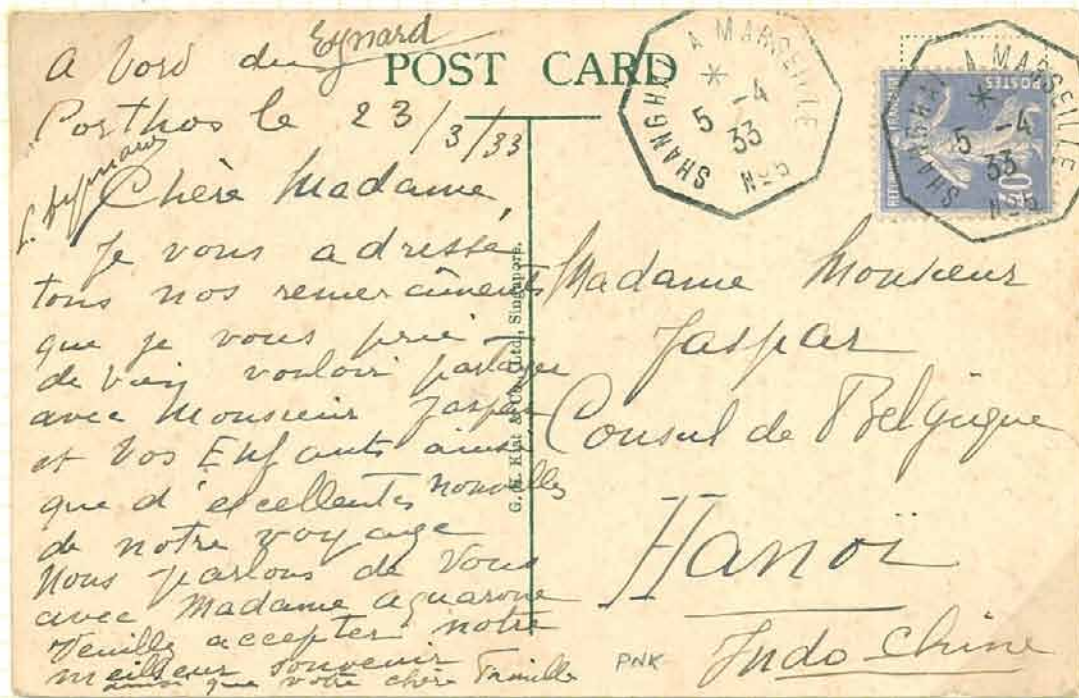
Feb. 27-28. Boston Registry backstamps.

1933

FRENCH PACKET LINES
LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A SHANGHAI
Nov. 1932 - Dec. 1933

Paquebot Porthos

This line started to run Marseilles to Shanghai with the sailing of Aramis from Marseilles Oct. 21, 1932, but for three voyages the date stamp MARSEILLE A YOKOHAMA was used. With the sailing of D'Artagnan Dec. 2, 1932, the proper MARSEILLE A SHANGHAI was used for 22 voyages by various paquebots until Sept. 22, 1933. For four voyages in Oct. and Nov. 1933, the date stamps MARSEILLE A SHANGHAI were used, but the ships ran Marseilles to Kobe, Japan. Thus, the 22 voyages in 1933 are the "true" stamps of this line.



S.2042/5

April 5, 1933. Card datelined March 23 aboard the Porthos. She departed from Shanghai March 11 and cleared Saigon March 20. The postal agent aboard the Porthos cancelled this post card April 5 en route to Singapore where card was forwarded to Hanoi.

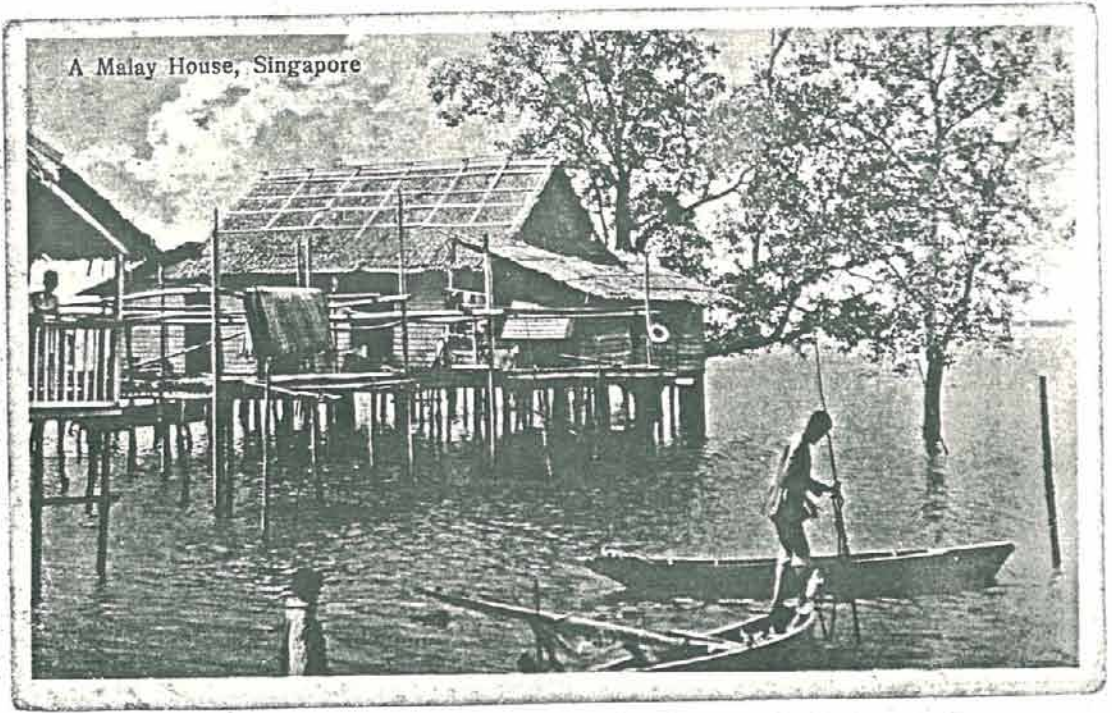
Porthos was designated No. 5 on this trip (Cf.: Salles, T.V, Pg. 176).

Card depicts a Malay House, Singapore.

A Malay House, Singapore



A Malay House, Singapore



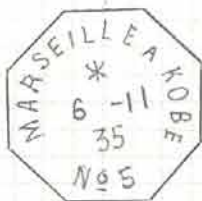
1935

LES LIGNES D'EXTREME-ORIENT

3° LIGNE DE MARSEILLE A KOBE, 1934 - 40

Paquebot Athos II

This line was introduced in 1934 to call at Japan, and used the port of Kobe only.



S. 2051/5

November 6, 1935. Cachet of the Ligne d'Extreme-Orient struck aboard the Athos II, designated as No. 5. She departed from Marseilles November 1 and arrived at Kobe Dec. 11.

1941

LES LIGNES D'EXTREME ORIENT
4° PERIODE EXCEPTIONNELLE DE 1940/41

Paquebot Sagittaire

Nine voyages were made in 1940/41 by way of the Cape of Good Hope, only four returned to Marseilles. Covers were stamped with the octagonal KOBE A MARSEILLE or MARSEILLE A KOBE. Envelopes were franked with French stamps.



Dr. & Mrs. William Owens,
Bucknell University,
Lewisburg, Pa.



5.2056/8

November 2, 1941. Letter franked with French stamps incoming at Marseilles. The dates of the paquebot Sagittaire were:

Saigon	June 27, 1941
Tamatave, Madagascar	Aug. 12
Dakar, West Africa	Sept. 20-Oct. 10
Casablanca	Oct. 28
Marseilles	Nov. 2.

1876

BRITISH MAIL TO SINGAPORE
"BY FRENCH MAIL" - Via Marseille
8d. Rate to Singapore



Dec. 1, 1876. Letter posted at London for Singapore at 8d. (single) rate x 4 = 32d. or 2sh. 8d., prepaid.

Paddington.W obliterator, London District, Second Series. The "U" at the foot of the c.d.s. is the code letter for stamp number "19".

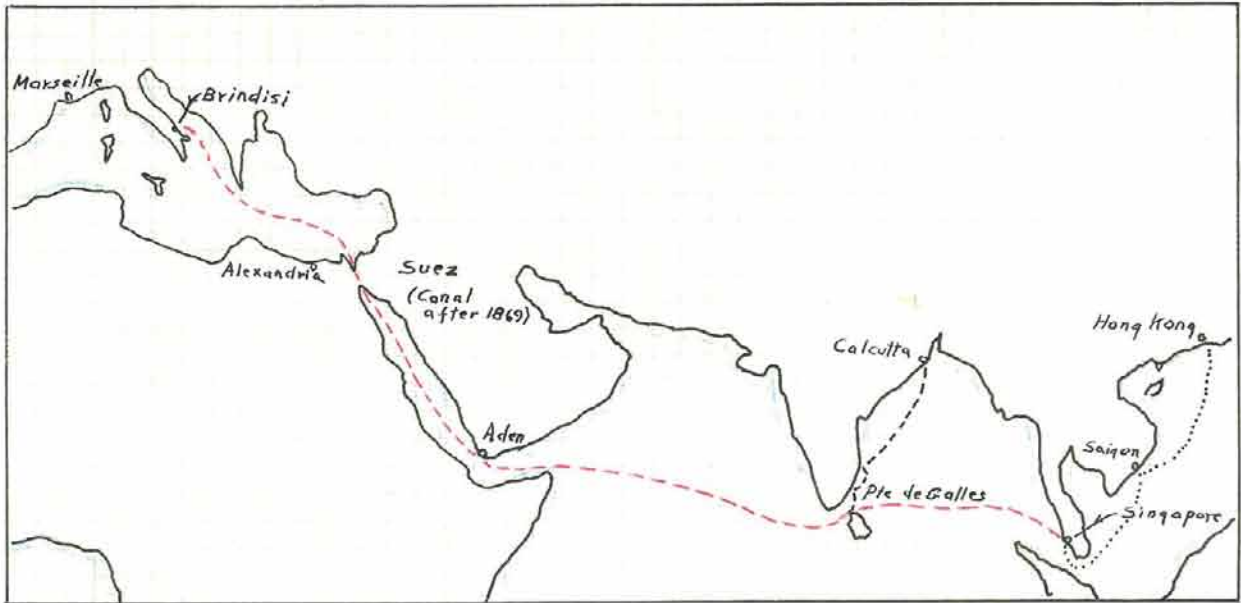
1877

BRITISH MAIL TO SINGAPORE

VIA BRINDISI

8d. Rate to Singapore

The French mail service was conducted via Marseille until the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, when the mail was directed to Brindisi, Italy, via Belgium and Germany.



April 27, 1877. Single weight letter at 8d. rate. London District, Second Series, Paddington. The letter "P" at the foot of the c.d.s. is the code letter for stamp 15 (Dubus Type 72a). Back note - letter received May 27, 1877. Note: P.C.M.O. of address means Principal Civil Medical Officer.

1877

BRITISH MAIL TO SINGAPORE
"BY FRENCH MAIL" - LIGNE N

Paquebot Amazone



April 20, 1877. A letter paid at Paddington Station, London West by the 6d. Issue of 1876, plate 15 (S.G. 147). It is directionally endorsed: By French Mail. This 6d. was a concessionary rate for military or civil medical servants, P.C.M.O. = Principal Civil Medical Officer. The Guide of January 1877 gives the rate to Singapore at 1sh.2d. via France.

April 22. Paquebot Amazone of the French Ligne N departed from Marseilles. The British mail had been forwarded across France to meet her sailing.

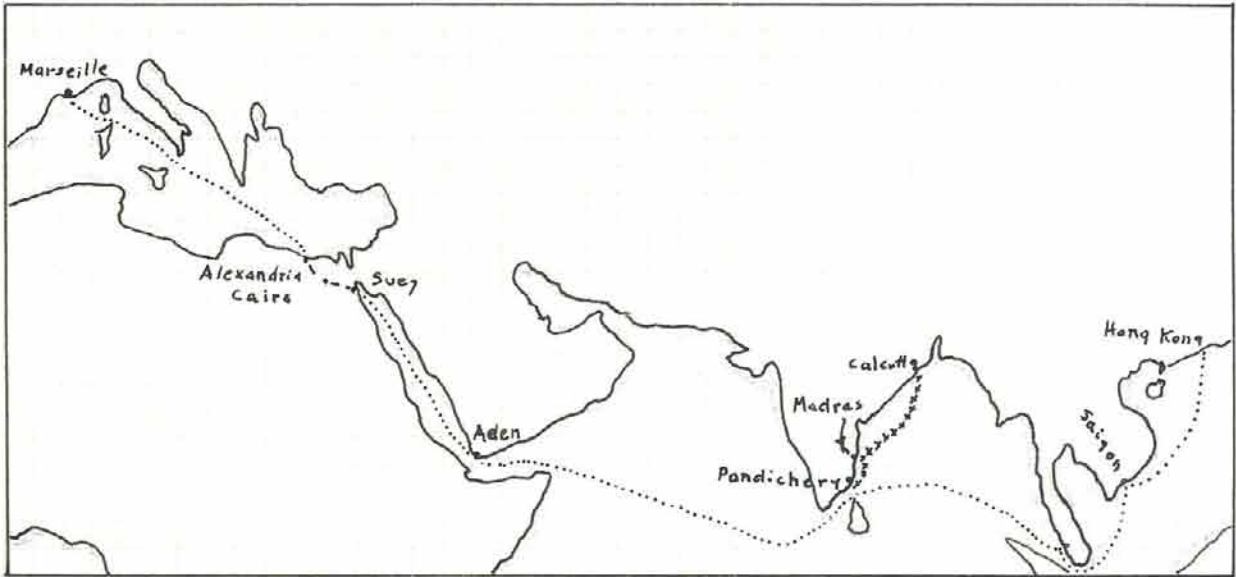


May 21. Singapore arrival backstamp, also verified by a manuscript docket: Received May 21st 1877.

1862

BRITISH MAIL TO INDIA
OVERLAND ROUTE - FRENCH MAIL "VIA MARSEILLE"
9d. Rate to India FORWARDING AGENT
BALFOUR & CO., CALCUTTA

The French early established a route to Indo-China with ships sailing out of Marseille to Alexandria, thence overland to Suez, and again by ship to Indo-China.



This was a most useful and speedy route, and this special envelope was printed with the "via Marseilles" routing designation.



Mar. 26, 1862.
London District,
Second Series
obliterator. 9d.
rate to India
via Marseille.



April 27.
Calcutta bkst.



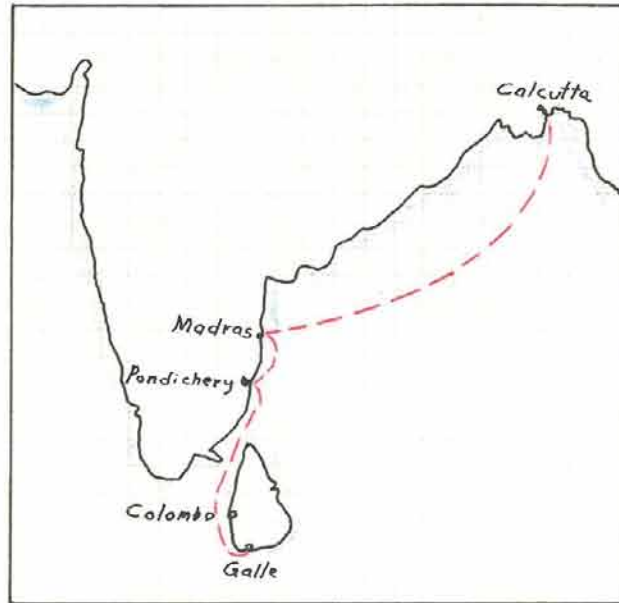
Forwarding Agent's backstamp who held mail for Capt. Poulton. Mms. note shows letter received April 28.

1859

BRITISH MAIL TO INDIA

FRENCH PACKET-"VIA MARSEILLE"

Mail from or to India via French Packets was routed from Marseille to Pointe de Galles, Ceylon on the Ligne D'Indochine. From Pt. de Galles it went via the Ligne Annexe de Calcutta which also made port calls at Pondichery and Madras.



Oct. 9, 1859. London District, Second Series obliterator. Prepaid 9 d. rate to India. Backstamped at receiving office, Brompton Row.

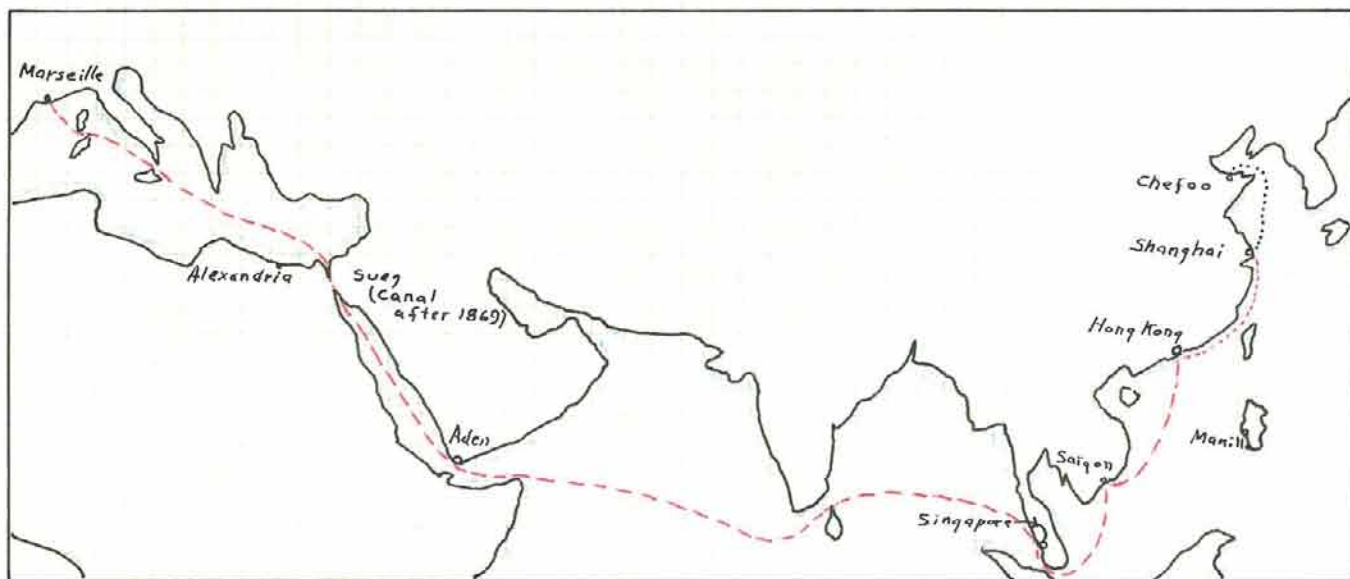
Nov. 13, 1858. Backstamp receipt at Calcutta.

1874

BRITISH MAIL TO CHINA

"PER FRENCH MAIL" - Via Marseille.

The mail to China was efficiently handled by the French Mail Packets on the "Ligne D'Indochine" which sailed from Marseille to Hong Kong, with connecting lines beyond to Shanghai. Local coastal steamers transferred this letter through to Chefoo.



Dec. 17, 1874. After 1864 Liverpool utilized obliterators indicating district offices (E,N,S,W). E.D. here indicates "Eastern District" in the c.d.s.



Jan. 28, 1875. "Transit back-stamp at Hong Kong."

1874

BRITISH MAIL TO CHINA

VIA MARSEILLE

1sh. 3d. Rate



November 19, 1874. Letter posted at Lurgan, Ireland for Chefoo, China. French Packet, via Marseille, carried letter to Hong Kong where connecting French Packet line carried it to Shanghai. Coastal steamer then took it on to Chefoo.



January 2, 1875. Transit at Hong Kong, British P.O. mark.

1879

BRITISH MAIL TO CHINA
FRENCH PACKET - VIA MARSEILLE

This letter went out to China from Lurgan, Ireland at the 6d. "Colonial" rate by the French "Ligne D'Indochine" to Hong Kong, thence by local steamer to Kiungchow.



April 3, 1879. Lurgan, Ireland, "barred diamond" obliterator of the Irish type cancelling S.G. 147, plate 16, issue of 1878.



May 16, 1879. Hong Kong transit, British P.O. Mms. note on back shows letter received at Kiungchow on May 18, 1879.

Docket reverse "Recd Jan. 1, 1877"

F.M.H.
570.0

Dec. 3, Ava departed Marseilles, Arr. Shanghai Feb 2, 1877

Docket reverse "Recd. May 27, 1877"

F.M.H.
575.0

P. & O. Ceylon, dep. Brindisi April 30, 1877
Arr. Alexandria May 31, 1877

1862

P & O Line S.S. Vectis dep. Manx. Mar. 28
Arr. Alexandria April 3

F.M.H. 580.0

S.S. Sunda dep. Sing. April 4
Arr. Galle April 15
Arr. Calcutta April 27

P & O Line S.S. Panther dep. Manx. Oct. 11
Arr. Madras Oct. 14

F.M.H.
585.0

S.S. Candian dep. Sing. Oct. 21
Arr. Galle Nov. 2
(?) Arr. Calcutta Nov. 13

Frank's line S.S. Amazon dep. Manx. Dec. 20
Arr. Shanghai Feb (?)

F.M.H. 590

Frank's line SS Provence dep. Manx. Nov 22

F.M.H. 595

1853

FRANCE

FIRST ISSUE, Ceres Typographed, Unwatermarked
10 centime bistre on yellowish paper, imperforate



February 9, 1853. Use of the first issue (Sc. #1) at Arcis-S-Aube, adhesive cancelled by the petits chiffres "109" of Arcis-S-Aube.

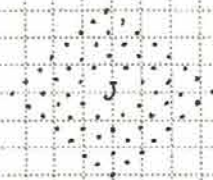
This 10 centimes rate was the rate for a letter up to 15 grams weight addressed to the same village. This rate had been established under the French Revolutionary calendar, the Law of 27 Frimaire An VIII (18 December 1799). Other rates "bureau à bureau" were established effective 1 January 1849 (Circular No. 33, 20 December 1848).

1861

FRANCE

ISSUE OF 1860

10 centimes bistre on yellowish, imperf.



September 9, 1861. A pair of the 1860 Issue pays the July 1, 1854, rate for a $7\frac{1}{2}$ gram letter, bureau to bureau, 20 centimes. Adhesive at the right has the flaw "ball on the nose".



September 9. Railway transit backstamp, Paris to Havre, night train (round center), 3rd Section, Brigade A handled the mail.

September 10. Nantes arrival backstamp.

1866

FRANCE

ISSUE OF 1862-71

10 centimes bistre on yellowish, perf, 14 x 13½

Die II



This cover was posted at a rural box where this cachet (Pothion 1340) was struck. As it was addressed to Mailly in Aube, the same arrondissement and in the direction of the post, it was subject to the 10 centimes rate for a 10 gram letter.



2167

January 30, 1866. The stamp was cancelled by the gross chiffres "2167" of Mailly and cover marked with the pearls date stamp of Mailly.

10 centimes rate paid by Issue of 1862-71, Type II.

1858

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

AMBULANTS

Bordeaux a Paris 1°



August 7, 1858. Letter posted aboard the letter box of the Bordeaux to Paris mail train, 1st Section, Brigade B, night train as shown by the circular center to the date stamp. 20 centimes domestic postage paid by the Issue of 1852, Die I.



August 8. Bergerac arrival backstamp.

1863

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

AMBULANTS

Cherbourg a Paris 2°



December 1, 1863. Letter posted aboard the mail box of the Cherbourg to Paris night train (circular center to the c.d.s.), 2nd Section, Brigade B. The 20 centimes domestic postage was paid by the Issue of 1862, cancelled by the Ambulant lozenge, Cherbourg to Paris.



December 2. Flers de L'Orne arrival backstamp.

1874

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

AMBULANTS

Lille A Calais 2°



April 9, 1874. Letter posted aboard the box of the Lille to Calais train, 2nd Section, night train, Brigade B handled the mail. The routing of Lille-Calais 2° is repeated in the lozenge of dots cancellation. P.D. = Paid to Destination. 30 centimes rate paid by strip of 3 of the 10 centimes issue of 1873, Scott 55.



April 11, 1874. Dundee, Scotland receipt backstamp.

1868

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

AMBULANTS

Marseille A Lyon 1°

Marseille A Cette 2°



PD



December 10, 1868. Letter posted aboard the box of the Marseille to Lyon train, 1st Section, night train, Brigade B handled the mail. Train was inbound from Lyon to Marseille. 40 centimes rate to Spain paid by two copies of the 20 c. Napoleon Issue of 1862.

Dec. 10. Backstamp aboard the continuing trip, Marseille to Cette, 2nd Section, night train, Brigade B.



Dec. 11. Letter crossed border at exchange station at Perpignan into Spain. Backstamp.



Dec. 12. Arrival backstamp at Barcelona.

1870

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

AMBULANTS

Marseille A Lyon 2°

Cette A Bordeaux



January 17, 1870. Letter posted aboard the letter box of the Marseille to Lyon train, 2nd Section, day train as shown by the octagonal center, Brigade E. 40 centimes rate to Spain.

Jan. 18. Backstamp. Letter continued trip aboard the Cette to Bordeaux train. Mail probably dropped off en route to be exchanged at the border town of Perpignan.



January 19. Arrival backstamp at Barcelona.

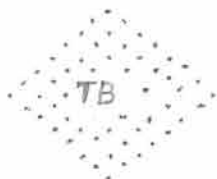
1869

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

AMBULANTS

Toulouse a Bordeaux

Bordeaux a Pau 1°



April 14, 1869. A letter posted aboard the box of the Toulouse to Bordeaux travelling post office, night train (circular center to the date stamp), Brigade B. The 20 centimes domestic rate, paid by the Issue of 1867, is cancelled by the TB lozenge of the Toulouse to Bordeaux TPO.

April 15. Mail was transferred at Bordeaux to the Bordeaux to Pau TPO for the trip south.



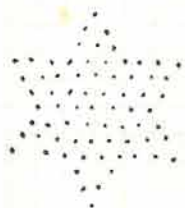
April 15. Orthez arrival backstamp.

1854

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Plain Star - Paris, Bureau Central



April 2, 1854. Plain Paris Star on 10 centimes local rate prepaid by issue of 1853 (Scott 14).

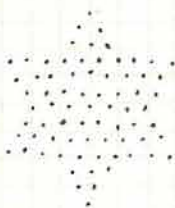
Circular date stamp is a special one used on "letters paid in Paris for Paris" (Pothion 89).

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Plain Star - Pl. de la Bourse



March 16, 1864. Plain Paris Star of Place de la Bourse cancels 20 centimes inland rate, issue of 1862.



March 17, 1864. Paris to Calais, Day Train, Brigade G. Backstamp.

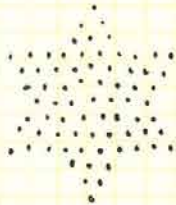
March 17-18, 1864. Lens receipt backstamps.

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Plain Star - Pl. de la Bourse



May 20, 1864. Plain Paris Star of Place de la Bourse cancels 40 centimes rate to Italy, Napoleon Empire Issue of 1862.

May 22. Italian transit backstamps, ambulante (railway P.O.) from Susa to Torino and Milan receipt.



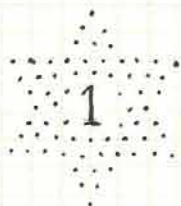
N.B.: Susa is located in Piedmont, 37 miles by railway west of Turin. It is situated on the right bank of the Dura Ripaira, at the junction of the two routes across the Alps by Mont Cenis and Genevre.

1861

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 1 - Pl. de la Bourse



February 21, 1869. Star No. 1 of Place de la Bourse cancels Empire Issue of 1863 (Scott Nos. 32, 35) for 50 centimes rate to Germany.



February 22. German entry mark showing entry point into Germany.

1874

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 1 - Place de la Bourse



March 16, 1874. 60 centimes rate to Greece via Brindisi, an Italian port on the Adriatic. Pair of 30 c. issue of 1872 (Sc. 62) prepays the postage. Pothion lists this Star as No. 321 with 3 dots to each side of the numeral.



March 13 (Julian) 1874 arrival
backstamp at Athens.

1867

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 2 - Rue St-Lazare



February 1, 1867. Paris Star No. 2 of the Rue St. Lazare with R. St-LAZARE. C.d.s. also exists R. St. LAZARE (without hyphen). Star No. 2 was later used at Rue Milton.



February 2, 1867.
Amsterdam receipt backstamp.

1868

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 3 - Place de la Madeleine



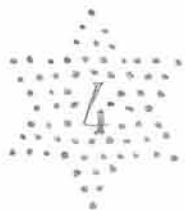
April 6, 1868. Paris Star No. 3 of the Place de la Madeleine office. The letter is paid at the 10 centimes rate per 10 grams for a letter to be delivered within the same postal district, here within Paris (Rate of January 1, 1863.)

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 4 - Rue D'Enghien



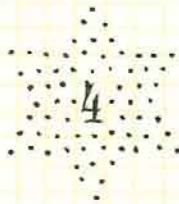
July 19, 1864. Paris Star No. 4 of the R. D'Enghien office. A circular date stamp also exists with the name of the office spelled out, as: RUE D'ENGHIE. The letter is paid at the 10 centimes rate per 10 grams for a letter addressed to be delivered within the same postal district, here in Paris (Rate of January 1, 1863.)

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 4 - Rue D'Enghien



September 5, 1864. Paris Star No. 4 of the R. D'Enghien. A circular date stamp also exists with the street spelled out, as: RUE D'ENGHIEN. 20 centimes inland rate paid by the Napoleon Empire Issue of 1862.



September 6. Backstamp arrival at Le Havre.

1866

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 7 - Rue Des Villes-Hautes



November 15, 1866. Star No. 7 exists with another c.d.s. with street spelling R. des Villes-Hautes.



November 16, 1866. Arrival backstamp at Geneva, Switzerland.

1865

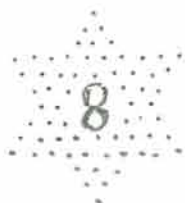
FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 8 - R. D'Antin

Inman Line

S.S. City of Boston



October 16, 1865. Letter paid by the 80 centimes Empire Issue of 1862, the rate per $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. to the U.S. Stamp is cancelled by the Paris Star No. 8 with the date stamp "R. D'ANTIN." It is also found with the date stamp "RUE D'ANTIN."

This letter was handled by the forwarding agent John Munroe & Co. at Paris. They also struck their distinctive routing mark: Par Steamer/ Pr. les États-Unis.

Rate of April 1, 1857, equivalent to 15¢ U.S. was broken down: 3¢ U.S. Inland, 6¢ Sea Postage, 2¢ British Transit and 4¢ French Inland. Exchange Office credited U.S. with 3¢ U.S. Inland + 6¢ Sea = 9¢, shown in red Manuscript.

October 18. The Inman Line S.S. City of Boston (American Packet) departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter at Queenstown on the 19th. She arrived at New York October 31, letter passed as PAID on November 1.

1866

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 11 - Rue St. Honore

American Packet, Hamburg - American Line S. S. Saxonia



June 26, 1866. Letter paid by a pair of the perforated 40 centimes Empire Issue of 1862 at 80 centimes per $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. Stamps were cancelled by the Star No. 11 of the Rue St. Honore. This star saw use at two other offices besides the Rue St. Honore, namely, Rue de l'Echelle and the Place du Theatre Francais.

Rate of April 1, 1857, equivalent to 15¢ U.S. was broken down: 3¢ U.S. Inland, 6¢ Sea postage, 2¢ British transit and 4¢ Franch Inland. Exchange office credited U.S. with 3¢ U.S. Inland + 6¢ Sea = 9¢, shown by the red "9".

June 27. The Hamburg-American steamer Saxonia picked up the U.S. bound mails at Southampton this date.

July 9. Arrived at New York July 8, Steamship Saxonia (Hamb.) Meir, Hamburg June 24 at 5 P.M., Southampton 27th at 3 P.M. to Kunhardt & Co. Received as "PAID" at New York.



1875

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 11 - Place du Theatre Francais



July 31, 1875. Star No 11 saw use at two other offices besides Place du Theatre Francais, namely, Rue de l'Echelle and Rue St. Honore.



August 31, 1875. "Paid All" transit stamp at New York. This letter was posted during the so-called 9¢ rate period, Aug. 1, 1874 to Dec. 31, 1875, i.e., 9¢ U.S. per 15 grams or 50 centimes per 10 grams, a disparity in favor of the U.S. mailer. Here a double rated letter prepaid 100 centimes.

1868

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY
ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 16 - Rue de Palestro



September 19, 1868. 40 centimes rate to England (Angleterre) paid by two copies of the 20 centimes Napoleon, Issue of 1862. 40 centimes = 4 decimes = 4 pence sterling. French noted in red that letter was Paid to Destination.



Sept. 20. Transit at London as a fully Paid letter.

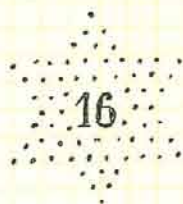
Sept. 21. Warrington receipt backstamp.

1869

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 16 - Rue de Palestro



June 11, 1869. 40 centimes rate to Britain paid by a vertical pair of the 20 centimes Napoleon Issue of 1862. Noted in red Payee au Destination.



June 12. London arrival as a fully paid letter.

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY
ETOILES DE PARIS
Star No 17 - Rue Tirechappe



September 24, 1864. Letter to Rouen paid at the 20 centimes French inland rate. The Star No. 17 of Rue Tirechappe cancels the stamp. This star was also used at Rue du-Pont-Neuf.



September 25. Rouen arrival backstamp.

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY
ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 17 - Rue Tirechappe



November 26, 1864. Letter to England (Angleterre) paid at the French inland rate of 20 centimes, here underpaid as the rate to Britain was 40 centimes. Marked by French "6" (decimes) due at upper left.

This letter was posted at the Rue Tirechappe, Paris office where star No. 17 cancelled the stamp. No. 17 was also used at Rue du-Pont-Neuf.



Nov. 27. Letter transit at London, backstamp. London Foreign Office marked it "MORE TO PAY" and indicated 2 decimes x 2 short



at upper left. The decime was equal to one penny (1d.), so the letter was considered as unpaid (4d.) + a 50% penalty = 6d. due, shown by the large "6".

Nov. 28. Warrington arrival backstamp.

1871

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 19 - Bt-Richard-Lenoir



October 31, 1871. Star No. 19 of the Bt. Richard-Lenoir station. No. 19 was earlier used in the Rue d'Angoule-du-Tple.

This correspondence is written on stationery of "Compagnie des Chemins de fer de l'Ouest".

15 centimes rate (Sc. 56).

1870

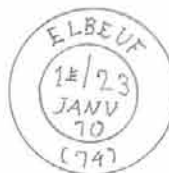
FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 22 - Rue Taitbout



January 22, 1870. Paris Star No. 22 of R. Taitbout cancels the 20 centimes French inland rate. This star is also found with the full name spelled out in the date stamp, as: RUE TAITBOUT.



January 22. Paris to Cherbourg Ambulant (Railway) transit backstamp, night train (circular center.)

January 23. Elbeuf arrival backstamp.

1868

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star N° 24 - Rue de Cléry



September 25, 1868. French 20 centimes inland rate paid by a vertical pair of the 10 centimes, Issue of 1867.



December 23, 1868. French 20 centimes inland rate, Issue of 1867.



1868

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 26 - Gare du Nord



November 25, 1868. Paris Star 26 of Gare du Nord (North Station) cancels 40 centimes stamp (Sc. 35), rate to Holland. P.D. = Payee au Destination.



November 25, 1868. Paris to Lille, night train, Brigade B, back-stamp.



November 26. Amsterdam receipt backstamp.

1874

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 26 - Gare du Nord



July 18, 1874. Star No. 26 of the Gare du Nord (North Station) cancels 15 centimes local rate on issue of 1872-75 (Scott 61) = larger numerals in bottom panel of stamp.



Backstamp of the "Chemin de Fer du Nord" (Northern Railway). Letter within is an official form of the Chemin de Fer du Nord.

1864

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY
ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 28 - Rue Cardinal-Lemoine



May 10, 1864. Star No. 28 of the Rue Cardinal-Lemoine in the 1st state. Later states of this star (2nd and 3rd) show much deterioration of the star points. Letter paid at the 20 centimes French Inland rate.



May 10. Railway post office transit backstamp, Paris to Forbach, night train (circular center.) Brigade E handled the mail.

May 11. Arrival backstamp at Charly sur Marne.

1873

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 30. Bt Mazas



February 28, 1873. Star No. 30 cancels 40 centimes stamp prepaying rate to Torino, Italy. A second, similar c.d.s. has a period following Bt.



February 28, 1873. Paris to Lyon RR transit backstamp.

March 1-2, 1873. Torino receipt backstamps. 1st delivery vertical oval.

1867

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 34 - Rue de Chaillot

British Packet, Cunard Line

R. M. S. China



PD

3

October 10, 1867. Letter paid by a pair of the perforated 40 centimes Empire Issue of 1862 at 80 centimes per $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. Stamps were cancelled by Star No. 34 of the Rue Chaillot. This star also saw use at the Avenue Josephine office.

Rate of April 1, 1857, equivalent to 15¢ U.S., was broken down: 3¢ U.S. Inland, 6¢ Sea Postage, 2¢ British Transit and 4¢ French Inland. The Exchange Office credited U.S. with their 3¢ Inland, shown by the red manuscript "3".

October 12. R. M. S. China of the Cunard Line (British Packet) departed from Liverpool and touched at Queenstown the 13th.

October 25. China arrived at Boston. Mail was bulked to Philadelphia without receiving further identity.

1869

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 35 - Ministère des Finances

British Packet, Cunard Line

R.M.S. Australasian



February 18, 1869. Letter paid by a pair of the perforated 40 centimes Issue of 1862 to total 80 centimes per $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. Stamps are cancelled by Star No. 35 of the Ministère des Finances. This star also saw a brief use at La Salpetriere, which usage is the scarcest of all the Paris stars. It also had normal usage at Rue de Luxembourg.

Rate of April 1, 1857, equivalent to 15¢ U.S. was broken down: 3¢ U.S. Inland, 6¢ Sea, 2¢ British Transit, 4¢ French Inland. Here U.S. was credited with 3¢ U.S. Inland.

February 20. R.M.S. Australasian, Cunard (British Packet) left Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 21st.

March 3. Australasian arrived at New York. Mail bulked to Philadelphia.

March 4. Philadelphia arrival backstamp.



1875

FRENCH POSTAL HISTORY

ETOILES DE PARIS

Star No. 37 - Bt. Malesherbes



U.S. to France - Treaty of 1874.

July 23, 1875. Cover posted under the so-called "9¢ rate" period. The Treaty of 1874, applied from August 1, 1874 until Dec. 31, 1875, rated letters:

On letters from U.S. to France - 9¢ per 15 grams ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz).

On letters from France to U.S. - 50 centimes per 10 grams.

French postage paid by a pair of the issue of 1871 (Sc.58).