



Fig. 1

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY



Fig. 2

THE date-stamps of France of the "classical" period are a fascinating study, but rather complicated, and they have received very much less study than the cancellations. Comparatively few writers have dealt with the subject, and most of these seem to contradict one another (and even, occasionally, themselves) in an exasperating manner. Much of the confusion is, of course, due to lack of material; many of these postmarks are rarely, if ever, found as cancellations, and hundreds of thousands of specimens must have been destroyed when the stamp has been removed from its cover and carefully preserved.

I have attempted in this article to pick my way through the maze, and although I can hardly hope to have avoided all the pitfalls which lie in wait for the unwary (connoisseurs of mixed metaphors will appreciate this hitherto unrecorded feature of a maze), I hope that I have at least succeeded in keeping free from the grosser forms of error.

Here and there we shall come upon postmarks which are not actually date-stamps; these have been included for the sake of convenience.

My authorities are the same as for the two previous articles (with the exceptions of Meinertzhagen, who has little to say about the date-stamps, and of O. G. Bowlby's article on "Maritime Movable Boxes") together with: Gustave Bertrand, *Mémorial Philatélique: Ce que disent les Timbres. VI. La France: Premières Emissions de 1849 à 1900* (Three parts, Bischwiller: Louis Schneider, 1948-50). Covers much the same ground as M. Blanc, but in rather more detail, and more in the manner of a catalogue. Here and there I have also made use of an informative little book on the postmarks of the pre-adhesive period: André Leralle, *A.B.C. du Collectionneur de Marques Postales*. (Amiens: Yvert, 1944).

The division of this article follows much the same lines as that of the previous article on the "lozenge" cancellations, since most of the more important date-stamps are found in conjunction with them, or with the *grille* or Paris stars. Additional sections are included on the newspaper postmarks, and on the *cachets d'entrée* used at some post offices in ports and near the frontiers; and the date-stamps found with the anchor lozenge have also been given a section to themselves. On the other hand, I have made no attempt to deal with the date-stamps of the Colonies except in the rather special case of certain marks of Indo-China.

Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate the standard types of date-stamp of the period. The type of Fig. 1 with the name of the plate at the place at the top, the department number in brackets at the bottom and the date in three lines in the centre was introduced in 1838. Fig. 2, a larger circle (about 23 mm. diameter instead of about 21 mm.) and including the *levée* number—that is the number of the collection—was introduced in Paris in 1853 and in the provinces in 1868. Both these types continued in numerous

forms until 1876 and unless otherwise described all postmarks mentioned in this article are of one of these types.

The normal colour of the date-stamps, as of the other postmarks of the period, is black. Red and more rarely blue may occasionally be found, but are scarce; other colours such as violet, green or brown are not unknown, but are rarities. In some cases red or blue is the normal: these will be noted.

Since frequent references will be made to the department numbers and names found in these postmarks it will be as well to begin with a brief account of these.

In 1790, as one of the many reforms accompanying the French Revolution, the old division of France into provinces was done away with and a new division into departments—smaller than the old provinces—was made. There were originally 83 of these departments, numbered in alphabetical order, and up to No. 83 the names and numbers remain almost exactly the same today. (Department No. 60, the Seine, appears out of its alphabetical order: this was originally known as the "Paris" department, and when the name was changed in 1797 its position was left unaltered.) The number was increased by occasional sub-division, and much more by the tremendous expansion of France during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars when much territory was added to France and brought into the system of departments. At the height of Napoleon's power there were 134 departments, and it is curious to note among their capitals such cities as Hamburg, Amsterdam, Rome and Barcelona. In 1814 Napoleon's empire vanished and France was reduced again to 86 departments—the original 83 and three others created at various times by sub-division and now re-numbered as 84, 85 and 86. (There had been a fourth sub-division, of Corsica, but the island was reunited as one department in 1811.) Thus the position remained—the only postal monument of the Hundred Days being a group of Army postmarks—until the accession of Savoy and Nice to France in 1860 brought in three more departments.

The annexation of Alsace and Lorraine by Germany affected five departments. The Bas-Rhin went entirely to Germany. Of the Haut-Rhin, only a small piece of territory around Belfort remained to France: this was given the name, which it still retains, of the "Territory of Belfort". Belfort itself, for postal purposes, was included in the Haute-Saône department, and from 1871 to 1875 the postmarks of Belfort are found with either the Haute-Saône department number (69) or that of the Haut-Rhin (66); Delle, also in this small piece of territory, is found with the No. 24 of the Doubs. Postmarks from this district, however, are found after 1875 with the name of the department as "Haut-Rhin" though one or two are known with "Haute-Saône". The departments of the Meurthe and the Moselle each lost much but not all of their territory, and

(Continued on page 199)

The Date Stamps of France

(Continued from page 197)

those parts of the two remaining to France were combined into a single department, which was called the "Meurthe-et-Moselle" and retained the number (52) of the old Meurthe department. Only one former Moselle office, however, is known to have included this number in its postmark. A small portion of the Vosges department was also annexed.

Through all these changes the department numbers continued (starting in 1792) to be included in the postmarks, and from 1830 in the date-stamps. In 1875 it was decided to substitute the names for the numbers of the departments in all postmarks; it was some time, however, before the last of the postmarks with the numbers disappeared. The numbers of the departments are still used for administrative purposes.

We may now proceed to describe the date-stamps themselves.

(1) Paris

(a) The Central Post Office, Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The oldest date-stamp which was in use at the Paris Central Office in 1849 was that illustrated in Fig. 1, originally introduced in 1838 for use not only in Paris but throughout France (see below, Section 2. The large and medium circle types described in Section 2 were obsolete in Paris before 1849.) The number (60) at the bottom is that of the Seine department. A variety of this date-stamp dating from 1844 has a small star within the outer ring on each side.

The date-stamps of the Central Post Office were accompanied from 1849 until December, 1851 by the *grille* cancellation, and from January, 1852 until March, 1876 by the "blind" Paris star. They are also found with the "roller" and "pepper-pot" cancellations. (See the previous article on the *grille*, the Paris star, etc.)



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

An important development in the date-stamps, the introduction of the *levée* number, took place in Paris in 1853, as already mentioned. This number shared the top line of the date with the day of the month, the two being divided by a short vertical line (Fig. 2.) To allow for this the date-stamp was slightly enlarged. By 1866 there were nine *levées** daily in Paris, the ninth being at 7 p.m. In addition there were a night *levée* (4 a.m.), indicated in the postmarks by a letter "N" in place of the *levée* number, an early morning *levée* (5 a.m.), indicated by a star, and a number of supplementary *levées* (*sections de levée*) made between the others. For the supplementary *levées* the date-stamps appeared as shown in Fig. 3, the figure within the segment being that of the preceding main *levée* and that below it that of the supplementary *levée*. The example shown is of the second supplementary *levée* following the fourth *levée*. The latter was made at 1.30 p.m. and supplementaries at 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 p.m., followed by the fifth *levée* at 3.30. This mark, then, indicates a letter collected at 2.30 p.m. The number of supplementary *levées* made between two main *levées* varies from one to four. These postmarks may be found with a star within the segment for supplementary *levées* following the 5.0 a.m. *levée*, but not with "N" in the segment as there were no supplementaries between 4.0 and 5.0 a.m.

* A tenth *levée*, at 9.30 p.m., was also made, but it is believed that this was not until after 1876.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

The date-stamp illustrated in Fig. 4 was used, as its inscription indicates, for prepaid letters from one part of Paris to another. It was in use at the Central Post Office from about 1854.

In 1855 the type of Fig. 2 appeared with a star at each side, as in 1844; and in 1860 with two stars and without the department number. A rare postmark (1860 or shortly after) is similar to the last, but with a small Cross of Lorraine on each side instead of the two stars. Date-stamps with letters, or letters and numbers, at the sides belong to the District and Branch Offices and will be considered in a moment. For those with numbers only at the sides (that at the left often followed by a small "E") we must await the section on the route-marks of Paris.

An altogether different type made its appearance in 1866—one supposes as an essay. This was a single-circle date-stamp without *levée* number, with "PARIS" in sans-serif capitals, the date in one line in the centre and the department number in very large figures at the bottom. (Fig. 5.)

When the department numbers were replaced by names in 1875 the Paris Central Office started to use the word "DEPART" instead of the number on its marks. This is found with *levée* number (or star or "N"), *section de levée*, etc., but not without *levée* or with stars, etc. at the sides.

A few oddments and we have done with the ordinary date-stamps of the Central Post Office. Date-stamps are known from before 1849 with the inscription "BUREAU CENTRAL" accompanied by either the department number or the name "PARIS" but do not appear to have been used after the '50's. The Central Post Office also fulfilled the functions of the *Recette Principale*, or Head Office, of the Seine Department, and sometimes used postmarks reading "RECETTE PRINCIPALE—SEINE" (without *levée* number) or "PARIS—RECETTE PRINCIPALE" (with *levée*). These date from after 1863 and it seems possible that there is some connection with the reorganisation of the Paris postal system in that year. (It may be remarked that "*Recette Principale*" is the meaning of the initials "R.P." found after the name of the town in many modern French postmarks; they indicate that the letter has been handled by the Head Office of the department.) I shall be glad to hear from any reader who can tell me the origin of the mark shown in Fig. 6. The initials "S.C." stand for "Service Central". This was certainly a *Bureau Central* mark, and dates from 1868. It is found struck in red, which may be its normal colour, on letters sent out of Paris by balloon during the siege of 1870-71. Date-stamps of various types inscribed "PARIS—ETRANGER", usually in red or blue, were used on letters going abroad or received from abroad from about 1870. (An earlier type inscribed "ETRANGER" at the top with a rosette at the bottom was used as a route-mark, see below, for only a few months in 1848. Its usual colour is blue.)

(To be continued)

Question and Answer

Q.—Is the Leeward Is. S.G.56d—the 3d. on pale yellow—a scarce stamp?

A.—Yes. The general opinion is that this pale yellow is ten times as rare as the white-back 3d. of the same series. It is some time since one of these stamps was offered so that it is difficult to suggest a value. It is, of course, unpriced in Gibbons.



Fig. 7.

(b) District and Branch Offices. (See STAMP COLLECTING, April 29th, 1950, page 177.)

The 1838 type of date-stamp used in the Paris District and Branch Offices differed from that of the Central Post Office only in that the letter or letters, with or without number, denoting the District office or *succursale*, appeared at each side in brackets. (Fig. 7.) A variety without the brackets is known from Bureau J. The date-stamp of the D *succursale*, No. 3 may be found with DS3 at the right and GN at the left, and that of HS4 always has GSO at the left. These two offices combined the functions of *succursales* and railway station post offices, DS3 at the Gare du Nord and HS4 at the Gare d'Orleans (Gare du Sud-Ouest). Other date-stamps with railway station initials at the left will be dealt with under Paris Railway Stations later on. The first E *succursale* may be found as either ES or ES1. All others follow the usual course: A, AS, AS2, etc. The foregoing remarks apply only to date-stamps without *levée* numbers.

The year 1853 saw the introduction of *levée* numbers into the postmarks of the District and Branch Offices as well as of the Central Post Office. (Date-stamps without *levée* numbers continued, however, to be used and even supplied: all the offices opened after 1853 used date-stamps both with and without the number.) The date-stamps were enlarged to 23 mm. and the letters denoting the office no longer appear within brackets. (Fig. 8.) A curious difference now occurs between the date-stamps of the District Offices and those of the Branch Offices: at the bottom of the latter appears the department number "60" in brackets, as usual, but the District Offices have a star in its place. As exceptions to this, the date-stamps, with *levée* number, of the District Offices L, M and N are found with either the star or the number. Date-stamps of AS3, ES2, GS and HS are not known with the *levée* number. The peculiarity of the lozenges of one or two of these offices in omitting the "S" in the office's initials, so that one finds, for instance, C2 as well as CS2, has been remarked on in the article on these cancellations: in the date-stamps (with *levée*) all except HS2 are known without the "S", and B1, C1 and F2 are the only forms known for those offices. For the first *succursales* the forms AS, etc. do not appear with *levée* numbers: AS1 (or A1) etc. is now the rule. Railway station initials are not found on any of the date-stamps with *levée* numbers—not even in DS3 or HS4.

The cancellations used with these date-stamps were: 1849-December, 1851, the *grille*; January, 1852-June, 1863, the lozenge containing the letter, etc. denoting the office.

The list of these offices and the letters and numbers they used is as follows:—

- A 1 Rue Tirechappe.
- AS1 Hôtel de Ville.
- AS2 170 Rue St.-Antoine.
- AS3 15 Rue de la Ste.-Chapelle.*
- B 95 Boulevard Beaumarchais.
- BS1 176 Rue du Faubourg St.-Antoine.
- BS2 19 Boulevard Mazas.
- C 4 Rue des Vieilles-Haudriettes.
- CS1 48 Rue d'Angoulême-du-Temple.
- CS2 4 Rue Neuve-Bourg-l'Abbé.
- CS3 6 Boulevard St.-Martin.

* The office at 15 Rue de la Ste.-Chapelle was the *succursale* of Bureau G until 1854, and then became AS3.

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 199)



Fig. 8.

- D 2 Rue Ste.-Cécile.
- DS1 160 Rue du Faubourg St.-Martin.
- DS2 28 Rue de Cléry.
- DS3 Gare du Nord.
- E 24 Rue de Sèze.†
- ES1 75 Rue du Faubourg St.-Honoré.
- ES2 3 Rue de Chaillot.
- F 56 Rue St.-Dominique-St.-Germain.
- FS1 5 Petite-Rue du Bac.
- FS2 148 Rue St.-Dominique-Gros-Caillou.
- G 12 Rue Mazarine and 3 Rue de Seine.
- GS 15 Rue de la Ste.-Chapelle.*
- H 22 Rue du Cardinal Lemoine.
- HS1 173 Rue Mouffetard.
- HS2 Hôpital de la Salpêtrière.
- HS3 42 Rue de la Harpe.
- HS4 Gare d'Orléans.
- J 4 Place de la Bourse.
- JS1 19 Rue d'Antin.
- K 5 Rue Bourdaloue.
- KS1 8 Rue St.-Nicolas-d'Antin.
- KS2 30 Rue de Londres.
- L 16 Rue de Tournon.
- M 2 Rue de Bourgogne (Corps Legislatif.)
- N 3 Rue de l'Echelle.

In 1863, when the above system of District and Branch Offices came to an end and the offices, now re-numbered and all placed on the same footing, were allotted the numbered Paris star postmarks (see the previous article on these) the old date-stamps were abolished and their place taken by a new series with "PARIS" at the top and the address of the office at the bottom. (Fig. 9.) The street number was not usually included: the office at 56 Rue St.-Dominique-St.-Germain (No. 20), the only one which always did so, produced two curious varieties in which the street number is wrongly given as 53 and 58 respectively. Most of the names are abbreviated in one way or another, and there are varieties of these abbreviations: "Rue" in several cases may be found either in full or abbreviated to "R". The abbreviation "B" reflects the old spelling of "Boulevard" as "Boulevard"; it is sometimes varied to "BP", but I cannot say with certainty that any examples of this appear before 1876: on the whole it seems unlikely. The Rue Aligre (No. 23) appears in one variety as "Rue d'Aligre" and the Rue du Cherche-Midi (No. 10) as "Rue Cherche-Midi", and finally there is an oddity from No. 6: the Palais du Luxembourg is mis-spelt as "Pal. du Luxembourg". These three varieties, again, may be post-1876. In a few cases we may find the number of the office following "PARIS" at the top. Later this became quite a normal practice, but this was after the Paris stars had disappeared.

No date-stamps of this type occur without the *levée* number.

† This office is stated by Langlois and Veneziani to have received the Paris Star No. 3 in 1863. This number, however, was allotted to an office in the Place de la Madeleine. The two are very close together, and it seems that either the office was moved in 1863, or the address changed as the result of street re-numbering. In either case, the continuity of the office as serving a particular district was preserved, and this is not to be considered as a re-allocation.

(Continued on page 241)

The Date Stamps of France

(Continued from page 239)



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

(c) Railway Station Post Offices.

Post Offices were first opened at the railway stations of Paris in 1854. Only two of them at first had their own obliterators: those at the Gare du Nord and the Gare d'Orléans. (See above for a description of their date-stamps, and STAMP COLLECTING, April 29th, 1950, page 177.) The other three stations whose offices were opened at this time were the Gare de Lyon, the Gare de l'Est and the Gare du Nord-Ouest (Gare St.-Lazare). These offices used date-stamps with the letters and numbers of the nearest *succursales* to which they were attached on the right, and the station initials on the left. (Fig. 10.) The result is a series of three date-stamps reading respectively "GL—BS2" (Gare de Lyon), "GE—DS1" (Gare de l'Est) and "GNO—KS2" (Gare du Nord-Ouest). All three are found only without *levée* numbers. Letters posted at these offices received the cancellation of the corresponding *succursale*.

In 1863 date-stamps showing the name of the station, of the type illustrated in Fig. 8, were issued to these offices.

The offices at which the foregoing date-stamps were in use were ordinary branch offices open to the public and forming part of the Paris postal system. It is not known whether they were actually in the railway stations from which they took their names or nearby, except that the Gare du Nord post office seems to have been in the station.

There were also established in some Paris railway stations offices of a quite different type, entirely separate from the others and allied not to the postal system of Paris but to that of the travelling post offices. These were not open to the public (except that they had letter-boxes for public use). It was in these offices that the "PG" series of lozenge obliterators was used and distinctive date-stamps were also in use. These were similar to Fig. 1 with "PARIS" at the top and the name of the station at the bottom. As in the date-stamps of the travelling post offices (see below, Section 4) the name of the station was sometimes followed by a letter indicating the *brigade* or team of clerks handling the letter, though this is so far only known to have been done at the Gare de Lyon. Again, as in the T.P.O. date-stamps, postmarks with a central circle were used at night and with a central octagon during the day: the Gare de Lyon and Gare du Sud-Ouest are the only offices known to have used the type with octagonal centre.

The earliest example of a postmark from an office of this type is dated 1864 (Gare de Lyon, lozenge PGL), and this may have been the year in which the system began. A date-stamp of 1865 is known from the Gare du Sud-Ouest (lozenge PGSO; another name for the Gare d'Orléans), but from the other three stations which had offices in the T.P.O. system (Gare de l'Est, PGE; Gare du Nord-Ouest, PGNO, and Gare de l'Ouest, PGO) no examples are known before 1872—though they may, of course, have been open before then.

For some reason unknown a second lozenge lettered P ORL, with corresponding date-stamp "PARIS—GARE D'ORLEANS" came into use at that station and was used concurrently with the PGSO lozenge. The earliest known date is 1869.

In 1872 (the earliest date for all offices except the Gare du Sud-Ouest, which is not known before March, 1873) a new type of date-stamp (illustrated in Fig. 11) came into use in these offices for day work. Its octagonal shape may give rise to the impression that it was used for *levées exceptionnelles*, but this is not the case.

In writing the above section I have had the advantage of consulting a new and authoritative work by Dr. Carroll Chase and E. H. de Beaufond: *Catalogue des Cachets des Bureaux Ambulants de France de l'Origine à 1900.* (Paris: de Beaufond, 1951.) I must express my thanks to both authors for kindly and helpfully replying to enquiries of mine. Of the two dates given above which are earlier than dates given in the Catalogue, one was given to me by Dr. Chase and the other is an observation of my own.

(To be continued)

NEWS FROM NORWAY

New stamps issued without the customary F.D.C. arrangements of the Post Office are:—

Regular Stamps in the new King Haakon type:

- 25 o. grey.
- 30 o. red (previously reported).

Service Stamps of the new "O.S." type:

- 5 o. red-lilac.
- 10 o. blue-grey.
- 30 o. red (previously reported).
- 60 o. prussian blue.

It is interesting to note that this new "O.S." designation meets not only the requirements of the two contending schools of the Norwegian tongue but also can stand for the pure English "On Service". Many collectors, however, might have difficulty in finding these stamps in a catalogue without a country name to guide them!

Letter Card in the King Haakon type:

- 30 o. red.

Stamp Booklets. The 30 o. red denomination having become the normal letter rate for inland letters, a new composition has become necessary for the *Stamp Booklets*, with the following panes of 10 (5×2) subjects (one pane of each value):

- 30 o. red "King Haakon".
- 15 o. green "Posthorn".
- 10 o. blue-grey "Posthorn".

With the issue of the Winter Olympic stamps on October 1st last also an appropriate slogan machine cancellation hub was introduced, in translation:

"VI Olympic Winter Games
(the Olympic rings)
Oslo, 14-25. Febr. 1952".

This cancellation will be used intermittently until February 25th, 1952 at twelve post offices in Oslo.

THORSTEN INGELOFF.

Einar Aas (Trondheim) also sends news of an air letter described as "Aerograms No. 5:

- 55+5 ore blue. Design: a dove.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Student of French Postal History requires copy of "Marques Postale" by Maury and "Catalogue des Estampilles" published by Yvert in 1929. Please address offers to "F.P.H.", c/o the Editor.



Fig. 12

(d) *Route-marks.**

The purpose of these was to indicate the route by which a letter had arrived at or would leave Paris. This was done by the introduction of a number into the date-stamp, the number being that of the route. The routes from Paris were numbered in rotation as they went clockwise round the capital, No. 1 being the Calais route. The list seems to have been revised later on as we find No. 1 being used for the Paris suburbs. In 1838, when the route-marks were first introduced, there were fifteen routes—all by mail-coach, leaving Paris each evening. Only the presence of a number on each side of the outer ring distinguishes these marks from the ordinary Paris date-stamp of Fig. 1. The only marks of this series surviving in 1849 were those numbered 17, for the Paris suburbs. They may be found with "DEUXIEME", "TROISIEME", etc. at the bottom to indicate supplementary despatches during the day. The normal colour of these is blue.

A short-lived series of route-marks of 1848, obsolete before the issue of postage stamps, are mentioned here because they are frequently confused with other marks. Some of this series have the name of the town to which the letter is going (or from which it has come) at the top and a rosette at the bottom: these are often taken for date-stamps of the towns named. "Another has "ETRANGER" and the rosette, for foreign letters. Others, used to indicate the railway line by which the letter travelled, are more often than not called T.P.O. marks. These read: "BORDEAUX L. DE CHATEAU^x" (Chateauroux), "COURRIERS SP^x L. DU HAVRE", "L^s QUIEVRAIN ET BOULOGNE", or "RENNES LIGNE DE TOURS", in each case with a rosette at the bottom. These are also in blue and are rare. As possible sources of confusion may also be mentioned two route-marks which were additions to the first series: "ROUTE DE MOULINS" and "ROUTE DE GENEVE".

Fig. 12 illustrates a new type of route-mark, introduced about a month before the first issue of postage stamps. This type, again, is often wrongly assigned to the travelling post offices. For the first few weeks of the use of marks of this type (until January 5th, 1849) they were struck in blue and from then until their use ceased in 1851 in black. The numbers ran from 1 to 20 (except 15 and possibly 11).

The last series of route-marks (1852) are illustrated in Fig. 13. The number on the right is that of the route, that on the left that of the despatch. The same numbers were used as for the preceding series, 11 and 15 being now included (but possibly not, this time, 17 and 19). No. 1 (used for the Paris suburbs) is in blue, No. 15 in black, red or blue, and the other numbers always in black. A provisional type used owing to a breakdown of the ordinary mark for Route No. 12 is exactly as Fig. 2 with the addition of the figures "12" on each side, in the outer ring. A set of route-marks corresponding to these, for unpaid letters, will be described later. (See below, Section (e).)

The system of route-marks was abolished in May, 1856, but the date-stamps continued in use, presumably as ordinary date-stamps, for some years. They may sometimes be found with the route number replaced by a star or removed altogether.

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 241)



Fig. 13

(e) *Miscellaneous.*

The most important of the remaining Paris date-stamps are those for "*levées exceptionnelles*"—"special collections" or, as we call them, late fee letters. This service was introduced in Paris in 1863 and the large postmark illustrated in Fig. 14 was the first type used. It had a short life and is scarce. It has been attributed, presumably on the strength of the letter "E" at the sides, to Bureau E, but I think it much more likely that it was used at the Central Post Office and that "E" stands for "*Exceptionnelle*", as it undoubtedly does in all other postmarks of this class.

There were three *levées exceptionnelles* each day, at intervals of a quarter of an hour after the last ordinary *levée*, or the last *levée* for the despatch of mails to a particular destination. The fee charged was 20c. for each quarter of an hour, so that a letter posted at the last possible moment would cost 60c. extra.

The date-stamp of Fig. 14 must be regarded as a provisional or essay. The regular series of *levée exceptionnelle* marks was introduced in the same year and these are, as a rule, readily distinguished by their octagonal frame and by the large "E", followed by a number, in place of the usual *levée* number. The number (1 to 3) following the "E" indicates the number of the *levée exceptionnelle*. This number was sometimes indicated in the same way as the ordinary *levée* numbers: in such marks the octagonal shape of the mark serves for identification. A few circular *levée exceptionnelle* marks were used: these invariably show the large "E" with the number following. That of the Central Post Office reads "PARIS—(60)" or, after 1875, "PARIS—DEPART" with a star at each side. Other offices had the name of the office at the bottom. (Fig. 15.) Bureau J, before its date-stamp with the name (Place de la Bourse) came into use, used one similar to that of the Central Post Office but with "J" at each side.



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

Another series of postmarks used in Paris was for the purpose of indicating the hour of distribution of letters, and the number of the distribution. A type of this series, dating from before 1849, and known to have been used as a provisional cancellation in January 1849, is illustrated in Fig. 16. Other marks, similar to this type and possibly obsolete by 1849, were without the name "PARIS", and sometimes included the time of the *levée* as well as of the distribution. One set of these included District office letters. These early marks were all for prepaid Paris letters; similar marks for unpaid Paris local letters are mentioned below.

* My only authority for this section is Dr. Carroll Chase.

The Date Stamps of France

(Continued from page 303)



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

In 1857 a new series appeared, as Fig. 17, and is found with the letters of all the District offices from A to K in the circles at top and bottom. Shortly after this another series of distribution marks came into use in which the regions into which the city was divided for distribution purposes were shown (Fig. 18, found in red). This was in 1859, and in 1862 a new type followed, without distribution number, and only distinguishable from the original date-stamp of Fig. 1 by the number at the bottom, which instead of being the department number (60), is that of the distribution region. The last types we have to consider with regional numbers are similar to Fig. 2; one reading "PARIS-(60)", and the other "PARIS-DISTRIB^{ON}", each with the regional number at each side. The date will serve to distinguish the former from the provisional route-mark No. 12 mentioned above. To this class also belong two date-stamps of 1860 and 1870 respectively, the former reading "PARIS-RAYON CENTRAL" (Central Region), and the latter "PARIS-(60)", with "RC" at each side. This last is known on Siege of Paris balloon letters, but this must have been an error or the result of very exceptional circumstances.

A further series of postmarks indicated the amount due on unpaid letters. These were, at first, similar to the earliest of the distribution postmarks of Fig. 16, but with "15c." instead of "PP" in the centre. These were for unpaid letters within Paris. There are several types, including one for the District offices in which their letters appear. Fig. 19 shows a new type of distribution mark for unpaid letters, introduced in 1851. It may be found with numbers from 1 to 9, with a star, or with letters from A to K (except I) in the top circle, the last being the District office postmarks. The amount at the bottom is always 15c. These were struck in black or blue.

Postmarks are also known which combine an indication of unpaid postage with the route-marks. These corresponded with the last set of route-marks, and came into use at the same time (1852); they are illustrated in Fig. 20. The figure at the left



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

indicates the despatch, and that at the right the route. Route No. 1, as the ordinary route-marks of the time, was for the suburbs of Paris: the charge is shown as 15c., and the colour is always blue. The other numbers (2 to 20, except 15) occur at first with the charge as 25c., the rate at that time for unpaid letters in the provinces. This rate was raised to 30c. on July 1st, 1854, and the date-stamps changed accordingly. These are all in black. This series of postmarks are found also with a star

in place of the route number, and in this form date from 1856 (when the system of route-marks was abolished) or shortly after.

The District offices, from 1852, used date-stamps as in Fig. 21 for unpaid local letters. The Central Post Office continued to use the route-marks until 1862, when (for local letters only) two types as Fig. 2, reading "PARIS-(15c)" came into use, one with a star at each side, the other with a small Cross of Lorraine. Finally, in 1863, with the re-organisation of the District and Branch offices, a new type with the name of the office appeared (Fig. 22). These were for provincial as well as for local letters, and the amount shown as due varies.

The Returned Letter Office used a considerable number of



Fig. 21



Fig. 22

different date-stamps, from 1839 onwards, which may be recognised by the words "RENOVI", "RECLAMATIONS", "REBUTS DE PARIS", "B^{AD} DES REBUTS ET NON-VALEURS", "NON-VALEURS-BUR. REBUTS 1", and various other combinations. They are usually in blue or red; some, if not all, are to be found in conjunction with the "R" lozenge whose normal colour is blue.

Other postmarks were used for miscellaneous purposes at the Central Post Office. A brief list of these follows, there being variations in some cases as to position of the lettering, presence or absence of the name "PARIS" or the *levée* number, etc. The date given is in each case that of the appearance of the earliest type:—

Chargements (registered and insured letters), 1853.

Affranchissements (also used chiefly on registered letters), 1860.

Poste Restante, 1868.

Franchises, in red (used on official and other letters entitled to free postage), 1844.

Section des Contre-Seings, in red or black, 1857. (This was used for the same purpose as the "Franchises" marks, which it gradually superseded, though for a time they were in use side by side.)

Service d'Exploitation, in black, red, or blue, 1863.

Direction des Postes—Seine. (These last two were used for administrative purposes only, on official documents, and will not be found used as postmarks in the ordinary sense of the word.)

Rétard au Convoi, in red, 1850. (Possibly used to explain the late arrival of a letter by the fact that the train or mail-coach carrying it was delayed: but I have no evidence to confirm this.)

Caisse. (This mark, of whose normal purpose I have no idea, is found on Siege of Paris balloon letters.)

Controle des Produits, in red, 1844. (The purpose of this date-stamp, which may well have been administrative rather than postal, is unknown to me.)

(To be continued)

Harper Green Stamp Club—a school society at Farnworth, Lancs—are holding an exhibition on December 1st, with the support of the Walkden & District P.S. Mr. S. Law is the organiser.

"Commonwealth" Reprint. The publishers of the Commonwealth catalogue announce that a reprint of their new, 1952, edition has become necessary despite a greatly enlarged first printing. The reprint should be ready within a week or two.



Fig. 23

The Date-Stamps of France 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 305)

Fig. 24

2. PROVINCES, ALGERIA, AND FRENCH POST OFFICES ABROAD

The date-stamps in use in provincial post offices in 1849 have already been briefly mentioned in a previous article. The earliest of them dated from 1830, and consisted of a large double circle with the name of the place at the top and the department number (usually, but not always, in brackets) at the bottom, and the date, in three lines, in the middle. Ornaments are often found at the sides: these consist, in their fullest form, of two ornaments separated by a small oval on each side of the outer ring. (Fig. 23) The rule seems to have been that short names were accompanied by full ornaments and long ones left without ornaments, while half-ornaments, usually the lower halves without the ovals, were used for names of medium length (Fig. 24). Varieties of these ornaments are known, but uncommon: the top halves of the ornaments appear instead of the lower, the ovals are missing, the lower halves and ovals appear without the upper, the ornaments have disappeared and left only the ovals (this is said, without much foundation, to have been the work of a Republican postmaster who disapproved of the fleur-de-lys appearance of the ornaments!), and there is even a type in which the upper ornament appears on one side and the lower on the other. In later replacements and supplies of the large circle date-stamps, the ornaments are omitted, whatever the length of the name, and Dr. Carroll Chase illustrates a type in which a name of only two letters (Eu) appears without ornaments, giving a very skeletal appearance. Varieties are also known without the inner circle. It is improbable that all the varieties just described survived into the postage stamp period.

In 1836 the size of the circle was reduced to 25 mm. (Fig. 25: an octagonal type is also known in this size), and in 1838 to 21 mm. (as Fig. 1). The latter was the standard provincial date-stamp for the next thirty years. Neither the medium circle type of 1836 nor the small type of 1838 was provided with ornaments.

In the provinces, these date-stamps were accompanied by the *grille* cancellation from 1849 to December 1851, by the "small figures" lozenge from January 1852 to December 1862, and by the "large figures" lozenge from January 1863 onwards.

A few variations in the date-stamps occur from about 1840. In some places (to distinguish them more readily from other places of the same name) the name of the department was added to that of the town at the top of the stamp. In a few large towns we find a letter or number introduced into the date-stamp: these, I think, were used in branch offices. In 1849 a branch office at Brest began to use a date-stamp with the inscription "B^{AT} SUPPL." ("Bureau Supplémentaire"). Other branch



Fig. 25

35
Mezières
en Brenne

Fig. 26

offices, from 1863 onwards, used date-stamps in which the name of the district was placed at the bottom instead of the department number. This was the type of date-stamp used in conjunction with the lozenge cancellations showing the town number followed by a letter. (See *STAMP COLLECTING*, June 13th, 1950, p. 271, and June 20th, 1950, p. 307.)

In 1853, combined name and date stamps were for the first time issued to the *bureaux de distribution* (the smaller post offices). These offices had previously used postmarks showing the name of the place in a straight line, in italics, with the name of the department above (Fig. 26). The original type of these



Fig. 27



Fig. 28



Fig. 29

dated from 1820, and a smaller type from 1850. They were used along with the date-stamp shown in Fig. 27, which was introduced throughout France in 1826 and, though superseded in the larger offices by the 1830 and subsequent types, survived in the smaller until 1853. A smaller type of the 1826 date-stamp has the circle surrounded by an outer circle of dots. Both types were used in *bureaux de distribution*.

The date-stamps now issued (1853) were exactly the same as those for the larger offices (*bureaux de recette*), except that they had an additional outer circle of dots. (Fig. 28). (The dotted circle, now often by itself, remains a characteristic of the postmarks of these offices to the present day.)

Although the *levée* numbers had been introduced into the Paris postmarks in 1853, it was not until 1868 that this was done in the provinces. The change was at first effected by removing the inner circle from the existing date-stamps to make room for the *levée* number, which was then inserted beside the date (Fig. 29). Shortly afterwards date-stamps as Fig. 2 appeared in the provinces; the smaller, temporary stamps of Fig. 29, however, remained in use in some places for several years. This course was followed in both classes of post office: the converted date-stamps (as Fig. 29, but with additional dotted circle) of the smaller offices are scarce, and are so far known to have been used in only 22 offices.

In 1875 the department numbers at the bottom of provincial date-stamps were replaced by the names of the departments. By this time the types without *levée* number were nearly all obsolete, and they do not occur with department names.

This is perhaps the best place to deal with the date-stamps of those Parisian suburbs which, being within the fortifications, were brought within the city boundaries in 1859. These places retained their numbers in the provincial list, and continued to use lozenge obliterations of the provincial type; and when the provincial offices were re-numbered in 1863, they received numbers in the new provincial list. Only three suburban offices

(Continued on page 419)

France : Date-Stamps—(Continued from page 417)

made alterations in their date-stamps in 1859. These were the offices in those parts of Ivry, Montrouge and St.-Mandé which were within the fortifications; the ordinary obliterations and date-stamps continued in use in the offices of these places outside the fortifications, while those inside, now in Paris, used obliterations with "BIS" added to the numbers, and date-stamps reading, respectively, "GARE D'IVRY—(60)", "MONTROUGE—PARIS", and "ST.-MANDE—PARIS". It was not until after 1863 (about 1866, I think) that the other suburban offices which had been brought into Paris in 1859 altered their date-stamps. All the suburban offices then received date-stamps of the usual Paris type of 1863 (see Fig. 9), with "PARIS" at the top and the name of the office at the bottom. The provincial type of lozenge cancellation remained in use with these date-stamps until 1876. The offices concerned, with their numbers (1863 series) were as follows:—241 Auteuil, 347 Les Batignolles, 432 Belleville, 445 Bercy, 892 La Chapelle-St.-Denis, 904 Charonne, 1625 La Gare d'Ivry, 1715 Grenelle, 2170 La Maison Blanche, 2488 Montmartre, 2523 Montrouge-Paris, 2793 Passy-les-Paris, 3739 St.-Mandé-Paris, 3921 Les Ternes, 4116 Vaugirard, 4277 La Villette. At Montrouge, Passy, and St.-Mandé one finds, rather curiously, date-stamps reading: "PARIS—MONTROUGE-PARIS", "PARIS—PASSY-LES-PARIS", and "PARIS—ST.-MANDE-PARIS". About 1870, second offices were opened at Les Batignolles, Montmartre, Passy, Vaugirard, and La Villette, and used date-stamps reading "PARIS—2 LES BATIGNOLLES 2", etc., the number 1 being at the same time inserted in the date-stamps of the parent offices. These second offices were given new numbers in the provincial list. (This was either a triumph or a breakdown of French logic: I am not sure which!) Eventually all these offices were properly assimilated into the postal system of Paris and given numbers in the list originally worked out for the Paris stars, but this was some years after 1876, and for our purposes it is more convenient to regard them as provincial offices. They did not, of course, receive Paris star cancellations with their new numbers.

These offices are the only ones in the provincial list which used postage due date-stamps. These dated from 1854 and were as Fig. 1, with the name of the office at the top, but with (15c.) instead of the department number at the bottom. (The suburban offices came within the Paris local letter rate area before being brought within the city boundaries.) In 1866 they appeared (still as Fig. 1, without *levée* number) with "PARIS" at the top and the name of the office followed by "15c." at the bottom.

(To be continued)



Fig. 30

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 419)



Fig. 31

The postmarks of the provincial railway stations are simply dealt with. With the exceptions of the La Charité and Nevers station boxes (see *STAMP COLLECTING*, May 20th, 1950, p. 309) none of them had special cancellations, the ordinary town lozenge being used in each case. The first date-stamps appeared in 1850: a small double circle reading "GARE DE ---" with a star or rosette at the bottom, and the date. About 1857 the department number began to replace the star or rosette, and from about the same time, in some places (presumably where there was more than one station) one finds such wording as "CETTE (GARE DE BORDEAUX)—(33)". Occasionally the name of the town is followed at the top of the circle by the word "GARE". *Levée* numbers (as Fig. 2) were introduced into the provincial station date-stamps in 1870. The date-stamps for the station boxes at Nevers and La Charité had the name of the place at the top and "B. GARE" below, with *levée* number. A number of other places had these station letter-boxes, the letters being usually cleared direct from the box to a T.P.O.: the special postmarks used for some of them will be described when we come to the date-stamps of the *ambulants*.

The system of *boîtes mobiles* (travelling letter boxes), and the hand-stamps used for some of them, have been described in a previous article. These handstamps, consisting of the letters "B.M.", with or without a square or oval frame, were used only in small offices, or in those whose travelling letter boxes collected comparatively little mail: where there was more use for them, special date-stamps were in use (from 1856 onwards: some of them were in use in *bureaux de distribution*). Fig. 30 illustrates one of these: those used in *bureaux de distribution* had the usual additional dotted circle. "BOITE MOBILE" may be found in full, or abbreviated in various ways. These *boîtes mobiles* should not be confused with those used on certain mail-boats (see Section 3, below).

The system of *levées exceptionnelles* was extended to the provinces, in a few large towns only, in 1874. The first type used was octagonal, very similar to that of Paris (see Fig. 15). The town name appeared at the top, and the department number, or name of the branch office, at the bottom. This was changed (in 1874 also, according to Barthélemy, but I doubt if it was as early as that) to a hexagonal type, with the name of the department. (This hexagonal type was also used in Paris, but only at the very end of our period, and I doubt whether in fact any of the hexagonal date-stamps really concern us.)

Other provincial date-stamps are (various types, similar to Figs. 1 and 2):—

Distribution, 1853.
Chargements, 1876.
Affranchissements, 1865.
Etranger, 1872.
Arrivée, 1871.

All the above were used only in the larger towns, and by no means in all even of them.

The date-stamps of Algeria had much the same history, on a smaller scale, as those of the provinces. Algeria was divided into three departments (Alger, Constantine and Oran), which were not numbered, and from 1849 to after 1876 the date-stamps used were of the small circle type, with "ALGERIE" in place of the department number. *Bureaux de distribution* (except a

few of the smaller ones which used a stamp consisting of the name of the office in a straight line) used the dotted circle type of Fig. 28, and the *levée* numbers were introduced into the postmarks of the larger offices of Algeria at the same time and in the same way as in the provinces.

The post offices in the Turkish Empire, Egypt, and elsewhere abroad used date-stamps of the small circle type throughout. Most of these bore the name of the country at the bottom of the circle (Fig. 31); those in Turkey-in-Asia read "TURQUIE D'ASIE", as opposed to "TURQUIE" in Constantinople and elsewhere this side of the Bosphorus. Some date-stamps bore, instead of the name of the country, "BAU FRANCAIS", and a mark of Shanghai was inscribed "CORR. D'ARMEES". (This was not the only date-stamp of Shanghai.) Many of the offices abroad were classed as *bureaux de distribution* and used dotted circle date-stamps accordingly. Only in a few of the larger offices were *levée* numbers used.

Two interesting marks, not actually date-stamps, may be mentioned here: the cachets used in Jerusalem and Aleppo. There was no actual French post office in Jerusalem until 1900, but a regular courier carried mail between Jerusalem and the French post office at Jaffa. Letters arriving at or leaving Jerusalem by this route were, from about 1873, struck with the cachet shown in Fig. 32. The device in the centre represents the arms of Godfrey of Bouillon. Outward letters received the Jaffa cancellation (lozenge 5089, large figures) and date-stamp (*distribution* type). A mark similar to Fig. 32, but inscribed "CARMELLO ATTARD—JERUSALEM" is a private mark used by a Jerusalem merchant, and is of no philatelic interest or value.

At Aleppo (which never had a French post office) a similar arrangement was in force from 1856 to 1870, the mail usually going through the French post office at Alexandretta (lozenge 3766 small figures, or 5079 large figures: *distribution type* date-stamp). These letters were sometimes, however, cancelled at Smyrna (lozenges 3709 and 5098) or Alexandria (lozenges 3704 and 5080). Here a two-line mark "POSTE FRANCAIS—D'ALEP" was used.

French stamps may occasionally be encountered with the cancellations of post offices of other countries in Turkey and Egypt, or by the Turkish or Egyptian post offices themselves. These items command a fairly high price, but can only be regarded as freaks.

(This concludes the section on the Provinces and French P.O.'s Abroad. The interesting "Marques d'Entrée" open the next section of this important article).



Fig. 32

AUSTRALIA—ANOTHER THIN PAPER

Following our recording of the 3½d. thin paper (page 419, December 14th) we have been shown, by H. Lobb of Bourne-mouth, the 2/- Aboriginal Art on the same type of paper. Next, please!

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 481)



Fig. 33



Fig. 34

3. CACHETS D'ENTREE

The reason for the existence of these date-stamps, which indicated the provenance of a letter from abroad, and the frontier town or port at which it had entered France, was the necessity in the old days for often rather complicated calculations of the amount due on an unpaid letter, according to the rates of postage in the foreign country, and the distance travelled in France. As the practice of full prepayment of foreign letters became more and more prevalent, the need for the *cachets d'entrée* disappeared, and by about 1880 or shortly after they were all obsolete.

To deal first with the *cachets d'entrée* used on letters arriving by land: the earliest type of our period dates from 1839 (Fig. 33). The name of the country of origin is at the top, and that of the French frontier post office at the bottom. Occasionally, especially when letters began to travel by rail, these marks were applied at towns, such as Lyon, rather far from the frontier. Sometimes the name of the office is preceded by the word "PAR". "TOUR T.", found at the top of a *cachet d'entrée*, indicates a letter coming from one of those parts of Germany whose postal affairs were administered by the Counts of Thurn and Taxis. The date-stamp of the French post office at Bâle, which was used purely as a transit office, must be regarded as a *cachet d'entrée*. Sometimes these postmarks were applied in travelling post offices: Fig. 34 shows an example, used on letters arriving from Switzerland and handled by the *ambulant* between Delle (Haut-Rhin) and Besançon.

An octagonal type of *cachet d'entrée* dates from 1854. There are not very many of these.

In 1868 *levée* numbers were introduced into the *cachets d'entrée*, with, as usual, first the old date-stamps with the inner circle removed (as Fig. 29), and then the usual larger double circle, as Fig. 2.

The *cachets d'entrée* used at the ports for overseas letters are rather more complicated. The earliest type we have to consider, introduced in 1839, read "OUTRE-MER" (overseas) at the top, with the name of the port at the bottom, sometimes preceded by "PAR" as in the frontier *cachets*. One port (Port-Bail), whose post office was a *bureau de distribution*, used a postmark with the outer dotted circle.

In 1840 or thereabouts a little more detail began to be given. The name of the country often replaced "OUTRE-MER"; "COLONIES FRA." or a similar abbreviation also became frequent. Sometimes, in the case of letters arriving via England, the name of a French port was omitted, and we find postmarks reading "OUTRE-MER—VOIE D'ANGL." or "COLONIES FRA. V. ANGL."

Like those at the frontiers, the overseas *cachets d'entrée* were sometimes used in travelling post offices, and may be found with "OUTRE-MER" or other inscriptions at the top, and the name of the *ambulant* below.

Some ports, from the 1840's, used a date-stamp with the name of the port above and "BATEAU A VAPEUR", or some abbreviation of it, below. (The positions were occasionally reversed.) Marks of this type were also used to denote the port of origin: for example, date-stamps were used at Marseille and elsewhere reading "ALGER—BAT. A. VAP." on letters from Algiers, and there are many other examples. In Algeria, on letters carried by coastal steamers, we find "Bateau a Vapeur" date-stamps with the names of both ports, e.g. "ALGER—ORAN", "PHILIPPEVILLE—BONE", etc. These again were applied at the port of arrival.

The marks illustrated in Figs. 35 and 36 are not "Paquebot" marks in the usual sense of that term, as meaning marks applied to letters posted on board ship, but are *cachets d'entrée*, dating, I believe, from the late 'forties or early 'fifties. Fig. 35, and a similar, smaller type, were used at Marseille; the Bordeaux type of Fig. 36 indicates that the letter arrived by one of the regular steamship lines. This indication is also found in some of the entry marks of the ordinary circular type.

From about 1854 onwards the maritime *cachets d'entrée* became more and more detailed, often giving not only the port of arrival and country of origin, but the nationality of the ship and sometimes the route as well. Examples are shown in Figs. 37 and 38. Fig. 37 indicates that the letter arrived at Marseille from French India in a French ship, and was next handled by a travelling post office; Fig. 38, that the letter arrived at Marseille from a French colony, having travelled in a French ship via Suez. Quite a lot of information for one postmark!

At the French Post Office at Alexandria, *cachets d'entrée* were in use for letters from the Far East, indicating entry into the French postal system.

In 1868 the *levée* number was added, with single and double circles, as before.

The postmarks of the Bureau Maritime at le Havre may be mentioned here, although they were applied to letters both entering and leaving France. The small circle reading "BUREAU MARITIME—LE HAVRE" superseded an earlier and larger type in 1846.

Fig. 39 illustrates the date-stamp used on letters from England posted in the movable boxes (*boîtes mobiles*) carried on some mail-boats and used for the collection of letters up to the moment of sailing. These were naturally cancelled on arrival. This type dates from 1856 and was struck on the envelopes of the letters, the stamps being cancelled with the ordinary numbered lozenge of the port. The ports known to have used postmarks of this type, and the numbers of their lozenges, are as follows (in each case the first number given is that found in small figures up to the end of 1862, and the second that found in large figures figures from 1863 onwards):—Boulogne-sur-Mer (455, 549),

(Continued on page 515)

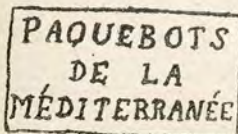


Fig. 35

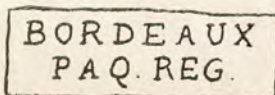


Fig. 36



Fig. 37



Fig. 38



Fig. 39

Date Stamps of France—(Continued from page 514)

Calais (583, 698), Dunkerque (1152, 1364), Granville (1441, 1706), le Havre (1495, 1769), Morlaix (2164, 2539), and St.-Malo (3176, 3734). I am inclined to think that Dieppe (1096, 1299) may also have had such a postmark.

A circular type (as Fig. 1) reading "ALGERIE B B MARSEILLE—(12)" was used on letters carried by a similar service in the Mediterranean. The letters "B B" stand for "*Boite Bateau*".

The normal colour of the *cachets d'entrée* is red. They also occur in blue: black is rather infrequent.

(To be continued)

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 515)



Fig. 40



FIG. 41

4. AMBULANTS OR TRAVELLING POST OFFICES, ETC.

(a) The main line ambulants

The earliest type of *ambulant* date-stamp was introduced in 1845, one year after the *ambulants* themselves had started operations. It consisted of a small double circle reading "LIGNE DE — — —" followed by the name of the place between which and Paris the *ambulant* ran, at the top (sometimes hyphenated), and at the bottom, a number (1 or 2), with or without "No." in front, and with or without brackets. In 1846, the Strasbourg-Bâle *ambulant*, the only one at that time which did not run to and from Paris, started to use a date-stamp of the same type, but with "STRASBOURG A BALE" or "BALE A STRASBOURG" at the top. (In 1853 this route was extended to Paris, and a "LIGNE DE BALE" postmark came into use.) There were altogether eleven lines using this type of date-stamp (counting Strasbourg-Bale and Paris-Bâle as one). Those to and from Chateauroux, Rouen and Valenciennes had been withdrawn before 1849, and that to Boulogne was replaced by one to Calais in 1849. The others were to and from le Havre, Lyon, Nantes, Quiévrain and Tours; and the date-stamps of these, with the exception of that to Nantes, are found from 1852-55 accompanying the corresponding lozenge cancellations (Roman letters, see STAMP COLLECTING, 27/5/50, p. 339). The Strasbourg-Bâle and *Ligne de Bale* date-stamps both accompanied the SM1 and SM2 (Strasbourg-Mulhouse) lozenges.

The *Ligne de Nantes*, which was originally in operation for only a few months in 1853, used lozenge obliterations, PN1 and PN2, in sans-serif capitals: the earliest of this type. The service was revived shortly afterwards, and from 1855 used the PN and NP lozenges in sans-serif letters, without numbers added.

In the meantime other *ambulants* had been started, and were using, from 1853, date-stamps of slightly different types, of which Fig. 40 is an example. Sometimes, instead of the number at the bottom, there is a rosette, or the word "(JOUR)" or "(NUIT)" to indicate a day or night *ambulant*. For some of these, e.g., Nancy-Paris and Nancy-Forbach, there is no record of lozenges having been issued until 1855, and it must be assumed that until then they did not normally cancel stamps.

These types of 1853 were not, however, considered satisfactory because they bore no indication of the *brigade*, or team of clerks, who had handled the letter in the *ambulant*. Consequently, in August 1854, a few months before the introduction of the lozenge cancellations with sans-serif letters, a new type of date-stamp appeared in which the *brigade* was indicated by a letter (Fig. 41). (Some of the travelling post offices had a considerable number of different teams of clerks, and by 1878 the Paris-Bordeaux service was using date-stamps with letters going up to S.) By January 1855, when the sans-serif lozenges came into use, this new type held the field and all the previous types were obsolete, except that with a rosette at the bottom, which was still used on a few small lines whose *ambulants* employed only a single team.

An important development took place in April 1855, when it was decided to make a distinction between the date-stamps used on day and night journeys. The latter retained the double circle stamps of Fig. 41, while a new type was introduced for the day journeys with a central octagon instead of a circle (Fig. 42). Later still, a few T.P.O.s on express trains (*rapides*) used date-stamps in which the inner circle had a wavy outline. The only one of these within our period was the Lyon-Marseille *rapide*, which came into service in 1873 and used a lozenge "LMR" as its cancellation.

The years 1865 and 1866 saw one or two essays on the Paris-le Havre and Paris-Strasbourg lines. On the former, in 1865, two experimental types appeared for day journeys, one of which had a circle inside an octagon instead of an octagon inside a circle, and the other, instead of indicating the *brigade* by a single letter, had "BRIG. D" or "BRIG. E". Neither of these essays lasted for very long: nor did the completely new type introduced on the Strasbourg line in 1866 (Fig. 43). There is an obvious family resemblance here to the Paris essay of the same year (Fig. 5), and it seems possible that there was a scheme, which was not proceeded with, for a complete change in all French postmarks at that time.

It has already been said (see Section 2), that the letter-boxes at some stations were cleared direct into a travelling post office, and that some *ambulants* used special date-stamps for such letters. Fig. 44 illustrates one type of these, introduced in 1853. I do not think they had a very long life, and later on such letters would receive the ordinary *ambulant* postmarks.

Date-stamps used by the regional headquarters of the travelling post office services in various parts of France read "BUR. AMBULANTS-SUD-OUEST", etc. They date from 1866.

Levée numbers were not used by the travelling post offices, or by the regional headquarters.



Fig. 42



Fig. 43



Fig. 44

(b) The courriers-convoyeurs

The *courriers-convoyeurs* were a sort of secondary T.P.O.s, which functioned on branch lines or on slow trains on the main lines, stopping at every station and collecting and delivering letters at each. They differed from the main-line *ambulants* in one or two respects. While the main-line *ambulants* usually occupied a whole coach and employed whole teams of clerks, the *courrier-convoyeur* usually consisted of a single employee esconced in a second-class compartment, or in a small office partitioned off from the luggage-van. Moreover, the *courriers-convoyeurs* (the term is quite untranslatable) did not normally cancel the stamps on letters until 1876, when instructions were given that they should do so. Much remains to be learned about their operations.

The first postmarks of the *courriers-convoyeurs* date from about 1852, and were used on slow trains running between Paris and Strasbourg, Paris and le Havre, Paris and Lyon, and Paris and Troyes. These were as Fig. 1, reading "SERV. INTERM." (or other abbreviation) at the top, and "STRASB° A PARIS" etc., at the bottom. From 1855 a *courrier-convoyeur* between Cete and Montpellier (both in the Hérault department) used date-stamps of a similar type reading "CETTE A MONTPELLIER—(1 CONV.)", with numbers up to 4. These, as well as those of the three services of 1852, may be found in both directions, i.e., "MONTPELLIER A CETTE", "PARIS A STRASB°", etc.

(Continued on page 613)

Date-Stamps of France—(Cont. from page 607)

An experimental type of *courrier-convoyeur* postmark, introduced at the end of 1865 or the beginning of 1866, is shown in Fig. 45. This mark is rare, having been in use for only about a year, and on only one line, that from Paris to Montargis, via Corbeil. It consists only of the name of the station at which the letter was handed in (either straight or curved round the top), and the number of the trip (1, 2 or 3), in a circle with a wavy outline. It is known with the names of fifteen stations.

The next type, and the last in our period, has a larger wavy circle, and more details within (Fig. 46). At the top is the name of the station where the letter was handed in, and in the centre are initials or abbreviations denoting the line. Above these is a number indicating the day of the month, and below, as a rule, either the trip number or (where there was only one trip daily) a star. Sometimes this space is left vacant, and very rarely we find the last two figures of the year here. At the bottom is the department number (occasionally omitted), which was replaced in 1875 by the name of the department.

Occasionally, where a station served a town or village of a different name, both names were included in the postmark of the *courrier-convoyeur*.



Fig. 45



Fig. 46

(To be continued)



Fig. 47

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 613)



Fig. 48

(c) The bureaux de passe

The *bureaux de passe* (another untranslatable term!) were special sorting offices established at a number of important railway junctions. (An Irishman might describe them as stationary T.P.O.s!) Their postmarks, which were sometimes used as cancellations, were double circle date-stamps remarkable in two respects: the circles were eccentric, and instead of the name of the town, they bore at the top the number allotted to the town's post office in the provincial list of 1863, as used for the "large figures" lozenges. (The *passe* postmarks were introduced in 1866.) At the bottom, in brackets, is the department number, and in the centre the date, in three lines (Fig. 47). The list of *bureaux de passe*, with their numbers, is as follows:—

- 99. Angers. (Main-et-Loire.)
- 305. Bar-le-Duc. (Meuse.)
- 506. Blois. (Loir-et-Cher.)
- 691. Caen. (Calvados.)
- 897. La Charité. (Nièvre.)
- 898. Charleville. (Ardennes.)
- 947. Chateauroux. (Indre.)
- 978. Chaumont. (Haute-Marne.)
- 1307. Dijon. (Côte-d'Or.)
- 1987. Laval. (Mayenne.)
- 2056. Lisieux. (Calvados.)
- 2188. Le Mans. (Sarthe.)
- 2351. Mezières. (Ardennes.)
- 2435. Montbéliard. (Doubs.)
- 2565. Moulins-sur-Allier. (Allier.)
- 2598. Nancy. (Meurthe.)
- 2654. Nevers. (Nièvre.)
- 2660. Niort. (Deux-Sèvres.)
- 2915. Poitiers. (Vienne.)
- 3112. Rennes. (Ille-et-Vilaine.)
- 3219. Rouen. (Seine-Inférieure.)
- 3325. Saumur. (Main-et-Loire.)
- 3533. St.-Brieuc. (Côtes-du-Nord.)
- 4169. Vesoul. (Haute-Saône.)
- 4201. Vierzon. (Cher.)

The commonest of these is Dijon, though none of them could really be called common when cancelling the stamp. There are differences of opinion about the relative scarcity of the others, and even as to whether some of them exist as cancellations: it seems to be agreed, however, that Nancy and Vierzon are relatively common, and that Montbéliard and Poitiers are rare—if they exist at all as cancellations.

5. SHIPS' POSTMARKS

The earliest postmarks belonging to French vessels come from a service started in 1837, and running between Marseille and Constantinople, connecting at Syra with a second line between Athens and Alexandria. The type of postmark used in these ships (over which the Government lost vast sums in subsidies) is illustrated in Fig. 48: the name at the bottom is that of the ship. Only two names, the *Dante* and the *Eurotas*, are known. Having been superseded in 1851, these postmarks must be very rare indeed, or even non-existent, on stamped covers, as postage stamps were not provided to the ships until 1857.

The line was reorganised in 1851 as the *Compagnie des Messageries Nationales* (later *Messageries Impériales*, and now known

as the *Messageries Maritimes*). Its services were greatly extended in the years that followed, over the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and even up the Danube. A new type of date-stamp was issued to the ships in 1852, consisting of the name of the ship in a double circle, with a rosette at the bottom and the date in the middle (Fig. 49). These postmarks were used chiefly on the Mediterranean routes, but are also known with the names of ships running on the Messageries lines to South America (from 1860) and to the Far East (from 1862), or on the Atlantic routes of the *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique* (founded 1861, and commenced operations 1862). From 1857 these and other ships' postmarks were used in conjunction with the Anchor lozenge cancellation which was then introduced.



Fig. 49 (left)

Fig. 50 (right)



Shortly afterwards a second type of ship's postmark appeared, octagonal in shape, with the name of the ship usually at the bottom, and other legends at the top (Fig. 50). These included the name of the country or port of origin, the same accompanied by some abbreviation of "PAQUEBOT FRANÇAIS", this abbreviation alone, "POSTES FRANÇAISES", or, for military mail or mail from places under French military government or occupation, "CORRESP. D'ARMEES", or some similar abbreviation. Occasionally a circular date-stamp with inscriptions of this sort was used.

Some confusion was thrown into this arrangement by the frequent transfers of ships from one line to another, so that date-stamps which combined the name of the country or port with that of the ship were continually becoming obsolete and having to be replaced. For this reason, it was decided in 1866 to abolish the postmarks bearing the name of the ship, and to substitute new ones with letters and numbers only (besides indications of ports, etc.), which could be transferred from one ship to another whenever there was a change. The system of letters and numbers then worked out was quite simple: each line was designated by a letter, and each ship on the line by a number. The letters indicating the lines run from A to Z, except I, followed by AB and AC. There were two main types of date-stamp in use according to this system: a circular type with the line at the top in the form "LIGNE A", etc., and "PAQ. FR." with the number of the ship below (Fig. 51); and an octagonal type with the name of the port or country, "COL. FR.", "CORRESP. D'ARMEES", etc., above, and an abbreviation such as "PAQ. FR. A. No. 1", indicating line and vessel, below (Fig. 52). Inscriptions of the latter type may be found in circular date-stamps, and conversely octagonal date-stamps are found with inscriptions as in Fig. 51, but these, especially the latter, were infrequent.

Several different methods of classifying these ships' postmarks have been worked out, some of them in my opinion unnece-

(Continued on page 719)

Date Stamp of France

—(Cont. from p. 718)



Fig. 51



Fig. 52

sarily complicated—especially when the primary division is made into circular and octagonal marks, rather than according to inscription. In fact, they divide themselves quite naturally into four main groups:—

- (i) Date-stamps with the name of the ship (1852–66) :
 - (a) With name of ship alone, always circular (Fig. 49) ;
 - (b) With additional inscriptions, usually octagonal (Fig. 50).
- (ii) Date-stamps indicating line and ship by letters and numbers (1866 onwards) :
 - (a) With letters and numbers alone, usually circular (Fig. 51) ;
 - (b) With additional inscriptions, usually octagonal (Fig. 52).

Along with the ships' postmarks may be mentioned what the French call *cachets d'escale*, postmarks applied by the agents ashore in various ports. These are rare, especially as cancellations. Their form is very simple : an octagon with an inner circle, with the name of the port at the top, a rosette at the bottom and the date in the centre. Some marks of the type of Fig. 52 have been described as belonging to this class. I rather doubt if this is so, and even if they do there would seem to be no ready means of distinguishing them from the marks actually applied on board the ships.

(To be continued)

DATE STAMPS OF FRANCE 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from page 719)



Fig. 53 (left)
Fig. 54 (right)



6. ARMY CAMPAIGNS AND CAMPS

The lozenge postmarks used by the Army post offices in the field have already been described (see *STAMP COLLECTING*, 27/5/50 and 3/6/50, pp. 341, 367 and 373). The date-stamps used with these lozenges need not detain us long: in the following list, the inscription at the top of each date-stamp, and sometimes that at the bottom, is given against the corresponding lozenges. The inscription at the bottom varied, but corresponded to the function of the individual lozenge, as shown in the article on the lozenge postmarks, to which page references are given. All these date-stamps (unless otherwise described) are of the small circle type: *levée* numbers were not used. The ordinary army post offices, using lozenge cancellations with a single letter added to the code-letters, used date-stamps inscribed "BAU A", "BAU B", etc., at the bottom. By way of example, Fig. 53 illustrates the date-stamp of G.H.Q. of the Army of the Rhine, 1870.

- (a) *The Occupation of Rome*, 1849-1870. (Lozenges, 1867-1870).
CER: "CORPS EXPED^{RE} D'ITALIE-ROME."
CER1 and CER2: "CORPS EXPED^{RE}-1 ROME 1" (or "2 ROME 2").
- (b) *The Crimean War*, 1854-1856.
AO plus: "ARMEE D'ORIENT" (one date-stamp read "KAMIESCH-CRIMEE"—see p. 341). The date-stamp of Bureau C is found with the outer circle double.
K^hAO: "KAMIESCH-ARMEE D'ORIENT". (*Distribution type*.)
- (c) *Algeria*, 1856.
KCE: "KABYLIE COLONNE EXPED^{RE}" and star at bottom. (Probably does not exist.)
- (d) *Italy*, 1859-1860.
AA plus: "ARMEE DES ALPES" (AAA to AAT) or "ARMEE D'ITALIE" (AAA to AAZ). (See p. 367.)
ALEX etc.: "ARMEE D'ITALIE-ALEXANDRIE", etc. (For list, see p. 367.)
GI plus: "GARDE IMP^{LE}".
BSE: "BUREAU SPECIAL DE L'EMPEREUR" (occupying the whole of the outer circle.)
- (e) *Syria*, 1860-1861.
CESA: "CORPS EXP. DE SYRIE-B^{UE} A".
- (f) *China*, 1860.
CEC plus: "CORPS EXP. CHINE".
- (g) *Cochin China*, 1861 onwards.
At first used the date-stamps and lozenges of the Chinese expedition of 1860.

U.S. AIR MAIL PARCEL STAMP



The U.S. Air Mail stamp reported in the *Late News* column on February 22nd (page 751) will appear on March 26th. This 80c. purple stamp is for use on air mail parcels, the rate per pound for air parcels to the eighth zone (which includes Hawaii) being 80c. First day sales will be at Honolulu.

The design (by Victor S. McCloskey, Jnr.) shows the coastline at the foot of Diamond Head in Honolulu with a Clipper in flight. The vignette engraving is the work of George A. Gundersen and the frame, lettering and numerals that of John S. Edmondson.

N.A.T.O. stamp from U.S. will appear on April 4th, the third anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, as forecast on January 18th. The design will show a torch, symbolising freedom and peace, held aloft by two hands.

S.W.A. Query. Can any reader give a definite day of issue for the S.W.A. 2d. Official, S.G.O21. Both Gibbons and Commonwealth merely give "1947".

Later postmarks:

- CHC: "CORR. D'ARMEES-SAIGON" (Fig. 54). A short-lived date-stamp of about 1863 was a large double circle inscribed "ETABLIS^{TS} FRANCAIS DE LA COCHINCHINE-SAIGON".
CCN2 to CCN8: "CORR. D'ARM." (octagonal, with name of town at bottom).
- (h) *Mexico*, 1862-1867.
CEM plus: "CORPS EXP. MEXIQUE". A date-stamp found with the CEMK lozenge, and said to be a replacement, reads at the bottom "BAU N".
- (i) *The Franco-Prussian War*, 1870-1871.
AR plus: "ARMEE DU RHIN".
AF plus: "ARMEE FRANCAISE".
GI plus: "GARDE IMP^{LE}".
A^{IE}GP: "ARTILLERIE-GRAND PARC".
A^{IE}RG: "ARTILLERIE-RESERVE GENERALE".
BSE: "BUREAU SPECIAL DE L'EMPEREUR".

A number of other date-stamps, not allied to any particular lozenge, were also used on these campaigns, and will now be described.

(To be continued)

DATE STAMPS OF FRANCE

1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Continued from Vol LXXVII page 841)

(a) *The Occupation of Rome, 1849-1870.*

The date-stamps used during the first period of French occupation, in conjunction with the *grille* cancellations (both the French *grille* and that of the Papal States) were of the usual double circle type, and with one exception bore the inscription "CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE D'ITALIE", or an abbreviation of it, at the top. Below we find "Q^{ER} GENERAL", "1^E DIVISION", or "2^E DIVISION". The one exception just referred to was a date-stamp reading "BRIGADE FRANCAISE-ITALIE", often found with the Papal States *grille*.

A date-stamp used at Toulon in connection with this expedition reads "CORPS EXPED^{RE} D'ITALIE-TOULON-S-MER". M. Bertrand tells us that this postmark was used in a special office set up for the use of troops embarking for Rome.

(b) *The Crimean War, 1854-1856.*

The French troops who, with British troops, were landed at the Piraeus to discourage the Greeks (who had shown signs of allying themselves with Russia) had a post office which used a date-stamp inscribed "BRIGADE FRANCAISE-GRECE". This office had no cancellation, and stamps were cancelled on arrival at Marseille.

There were also certain naval postmarks of the Crimean War. Two French squadrons, with troops on board, were sent to the Baltic and into Greek waters respectively. Letters from the Baltic squadron were usually postmarked in red with "ESCADRE DE LA BALTIQUE" in a single line, framed, a circular date-stamp reading "CORPS EXP^{RE} DE LA BALTIQUE" however, came to light recently. Those from the Greek squadron were cancelled on arrival at Marseille with the ordinary "1896" lozenge (small figures), and also received the small double circle date-stamp reading "ESCADRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE" which we shall notice later.

The framed "MER NOIRE", sometimes found on letters from the Crimea, was a transit mark applied at Constantinople.

(d) *Italy, 1859-1860.*

A framed cachet, "Correspondance des Armees", in black or red, was used in Italy before the arrival of the regular postmarks. When this postmark was used, stamps were cancelled with the lozenge 1896 (small figures) on arrival at Marseilles.

(g) *Cochin China, 1861 onwards.*

At some time during the period, date-stamps of the ordinary circular French Colonial type, with inner circle of dots, came into use with inscriptions such as "COCHINCHINE-SAIGON". A circular date-stamp reading "COR. D'ARMEES-INDOCHINE" is found, normally in conjunction with the anchor lozenge, on letters from the Army in Indo-China posted on board the troopships or mailboats.

(h) *Mexico, 1862-1867.*

Three date-stamps were used at the office set up at Vera Cruz. The first of these is of the *distribution* type with an outer circle of dots, reading "CORPS EXPED-VERA CRUZ". The other two, struck in red, are inscribed "CORPS. EXP. MEXIQUE" at the top, and "V. FRANC" and "V. ANGL." respectively at the bottom, to indicate the route and ship by which a letter was to travel. As cancellations these are very rare.

(i) *The Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871.*

There were a few date-stamps with "ARMEE FRANCAISE" at the top which had no corresponding lozenge. These had the following inscriptions at the bottom:—

"QUART^R GAL^L", "14^E CORPS A", "14^E CORPS B",

"14^E CORPS C", and "14^E CORPS D". It is interesting to note that the 14th Corps was in Paris throughout the siege, and its postmarks may be found on letters sent out of Paris by balloon.

Some postmarks of the Franco-Prussian War have been mentioned in this article because they belong to the same class as those of the previous campaigns. Numerous other postmarks, both military and civil, of the Franco-Prussian war exist, and are to form the subject of a separate article.

The camp postmarks of France date from the mid-eighteenth century. The earliest of our period is that of the Camp de Satory, at Versailles. This was a small circular date-stamp, unusual in having a double outer circle. (Fig. 55). It dates from 1853, and all specimens, except one, so far known are either on stampless covers, or on the back of letters addressed to the camp: the one stamped letter from the camp has been cancelled with the small figure lozenge 3537 of Versailles. The Yvert special catalogue describes the date-stamp as having the inscription "CAMP DE SATORY-(72)", but unless there were two date stamps, this would appear to be an error. No other authority available to me mentions this variety.



Fig. 55

I have not seen a specimen or illustration of the date-stamp used at the Camp de Porquerolles. According to Lesgor and Minnegerode it reads "TOULON-CAMP DE PORQUEROLLES". That of the Camp de Sathonay reads, from 1857, "LYON-CAMP DE SATONAY", and, from 1859, "LYON-CAMP DE SATHONAY". It seems probable that when this camp office was transferred to civilian control and placed under Lyon, with the lozenge 2145E, a new date-stamp with the department number, and probably the *levée* number, would have been introduced, but I have no information on this point, nor, in general, on the subject of the possible introduction of *levée* numbers into camp office date-stamps, except that these numbers were included in the date-stamps of new camp offices created after 1871, when all these offices came under the civil postal service.

Two date-stamps were used at the Camp de Chalons. The first, used with the C.CH. and 4114 obliterators, is a small double circle reading "CAMP DE CHATONS-(49)"; the second, for the Emperor's post office (lozenge C.Ch.-Q.I., or star obliteration) is similar but reads "Q^{IER} IMP^{AL}" at the bottom instead of the department number. This date-stamp, like the lozenge and star which it accompanies, is in red.

The Camp de Lannemezan date-stamp is of the usual type, reading "CAMP DE LANNEMEZAN-(63)". That of the Camp de Montpellier is a slightly larger double circle, reading "CAMP DE MONTPELLIER" at the top, with a star at the bottom, and with the *levée* number in the centre as well as the date.

The Camps d'Avord and du Ruchard used similar date-stamps, with the *levée* numbers; in each case the name of the camp was at the top and the department number (17 and 36 respectively) in brackets at the bottom. A variety of the Camp d'Avord date-stamp reads "CAMP D'AVOR". In 1875 the department department names (Cher and Indre-et-Loire) were substituted for the numbers.

Three other camps had post offices which were opened in or before 1876, and although no lozenge cancellations were allotted to them, they had date-stamps of the usual type. These read "CAMP DE PERONNE-(76)" (Somme), "CAMP DE PONTGOUIN-(27)" (Eure-et-Loir), and "CAMP DE LA VALBONNE-AIN" respectively. The last-named, having been opened in 1876, is of course not found with the department number at the bottom.

(To be continued)



Fig. 56

The Date-Stamps of France, 1849-1876

By WILFRED BENTLEY

(Concluded from page 50)

7. NEWSPAPER POSTMARKS

The postage rate fixed for printed matter in 1849 was 5c., and as there was no stamp of a face value of less than 10c. until the first 5c. stamp appeared in 1854, newspapers sent by post had at first to be prepaid in cash. Prepayment in cash returned in 1856, when the rate was reduced to 2c. for newspapers and 1c. for other printed matter (these being minimum rates in each case); no 1c. stamp was issued until 1860, and no 2c. until 1862. Fig. 56 illustrates one of the postmarks (dating from pre-stamp days) used in Paris, in the first part of our period, on newspapers prepaid in cash. The small oblong framed "P.P." was also used, and from 1855 a roller postmark which impressed a double line with endless inscription "PERIODIQUE P.P.", the "P" of "PERIODIQUE" in the lower line coming below the second "I" in the top line. Postmarks similar to Fig. 55, but with "P.D." or "P.F." in the centre, were used on newspapers, etc., going abroad, and a similar circular type was also in use. In the provinces the ordinary date-stamps (presumably with "P.P." marks of one sort or another) were used. Date-stamps (and possibly, in Paris, the type of Fig. 56) were used as newspaper cancellations in 1854-56.

New types were introduced in Paris in 1859, and from 1860 were the regular Paris cancellations on newspapers, but it was not until 1870 that the first provincial newspaper cancellations made their appearance. In 1860 a definite regulation was made that stamps on newspapers were to be cancelled with the date-stamp alone (either the special newspaper date-stamps, where such existed, or the ordinary date-stamps)—presumably because of the labour that would be involved in postmarking large quantities of newspapers, first with the lozenge or star cancellation, and then with the date-stamp.

Figs. 57 and 58 illustrate the types of newspaper date-stamp introduced in Paris in 1859. The eccentric circles are characteristic of a great number of French newspaper postmarks, old and new. "P.P.", of course, stands for "Port Payé", and the number following it is that of the District office (these numbers would not, of course, be found before 1863). Without the number following "P.P." at the bottom, the mark was used at the Paris Central Post Office. The type of Fig. 58 is also known with "P.P." at the top: with "P.D." it was presumably for newspapers sent abroad.

During the 'sixties some of the District offices were provided with newspaper postmarks containing the name of the office (Fig. 59), but the numbered varieties continued in use.

New types with a wavy outline to the circle (otherwise as Figs. 57 and 58) appeared in 1869, but did not entirely replace the older marks.

A small double circle (as Fig. 1) reading "PARIS-PERIODIQUES" with a number at each side dates from 1868. To

indicate the number of the distribution, a date-stamp as Fig. 2 was used, reading "PARIS-DISTON DES IMPRES", with date and distribution number in the centre. Date-stamps similar to the first types of newspaper postmarks, but with the centre left blank instead of containing the date, were used for administrative purposes.

All the above were used in Paris only. The 1870 type of provincial newspaper date-stamp, the only one of our period, was as Fig. 57, but without the divisions in the outer ring, and inscribed with the name of the town at the top, "P.P." at the bottom, and the department number at each side.

Before 1876, the colour of the newspaper marks was normally red, though black and blue are not unknown. In the late 'seventies, however, black became the normal.

At some time during the 'sixties, a regulation was made which permitted newspaper publishers and printers to fix the stamps on to their newsprint before the papers were actually printed, in such a manner that the stamp would be cancelled by the printing of the paper itself. This early method of pre-cancellation obviously meant a considerable saving of time, and many newspapers used it.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

(a) Palaces and Imperial Postmarks

These may be taken in the same order in which they were in the "lozenge" article (see STAMP COLLECTING, 3/6/50, p. 373).

Four date-stamps (besides that of the Camp de Chalons) may be found used with the red star cancellation. The first two of these are as Fig. 1 and read, respectively, "BAU DU PALAIS DE BIARRITS", with a star at the bottom, and "PLOMBIERES-(82)" with a star at each side. Both of these date from 1857. The other two, dating from the following year, are as Fig. 2. They read, at the top, "BAU DU PALAIS DE FONTAINEBLEAU" and "BAU DU PALAIS DE COMPIEGNE" respectively, each with a star at the bottom. Two types are known of the Compiègne mark.

The PSC lozenge was accompanied by a date-stamp reading "BUREAU DU PALAIS DE S^t CLOUD-(72)", as Fig. 1 from 1855, and as Fig. 2 from 1859; and at Vichy the small figure lozenge 4189 was used with a date-stamp reading "SERVICE DE L'EMPEREUR-VICHY", as Fig. 1, from 1863. Occasionally, the ordinary date-stamp of the town (in red) was used on Imperial letters, for example at Vichy and at Biarritz.

All the above postmarks of the Imperial post offices were struck in red.

The post office at the Palais du Grand Trianon in 1873 (the trial of Marshal Bazaine) used, along with the P^{DD}GT lozenge, a date-stamp, as Fig. 2, reading "PALAIS DU GRAND TRIANON", with a star at the bottom, in black.

(b) Assemblies and Exhibitions

Three date-stamps were used by post offices of the National Assembly of 1848-49, which drew up the Constitution of the Second Republic. These read, respectively, "ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE-POSTES", "BUREAU DE POSTE-PRESIDENCE" and "BUREAU B-POSTE PRESIDENCE". They may be found on pre-adhesive covers, and on stamped covers with the grille cancellation; they are also known—at least the first of them is—as cancellations during the first weeks of 1849 before the grille postmarks came into use. Thus used they are rare. There seems, on the part of some writers, to be a certain



Fig. 57



Fig. 58



Fig. 59

amount of confusion between the National Assembly of 1848-49, and the Legislative Assembly of 1849, which was the first to be elected under the new Constitution. These postmarks belong to the former Assembly : there are no special postmarks of the Legislative Assembly.

The National Assembly of 1871, meeting first at Bordeaux and then at Versailles, used two date-stamps. At Bordeaux the "532" lozenges (small or large figures) were accompanied by a date-stamp, as Fig. 1, reading "BORDEAUX-ASSEMBLEE NAT^{LE}" (the latter part of the inscription being in sans-serif letters, which is most unusual for date-stamps of this period). At Versailles (lozenge AN.NA, small or large letters) the date-stamp read "VERSAILLES-ASSEMBLEE NAT^{LE}", as Fig. 2. The latter may be found with dates up to 1875.

The Universal Exhibition of 1855 used a date-stamp reading "EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE-POSTES", as Fig. 1. No special obliterator seems to have been used at this Exhibition, but the date-stamp may be found as a cancellation. It is rare thus.

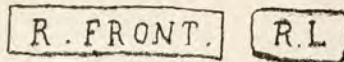
The same wording is found in the date-stamps of the Exhibition of 1867, but these are larger : one is as Fig. 2, the other octagonal, also with *levée* number. The "EU" lozenge was the cancellation of this Exhibition. The two Exhibitions of 1872, at Paris and Lyon, used date-stamps (as Fig. 2) with the respective inscriptions "PARIS-EXPOSITION" (lozenge P.EX) and "LYON-EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE" (lozenge 2145F).

(c) Others

From about 1850 onwards a date-stamp reading "ESCADRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE" was used at Marseille on letters landed from French naval vessels at sea. In 1862 the inscription was abbreviated and the name "MARSEILLE" added. In all there are four types of this mark, at least one of which dates from after 1876. It was used, as we have seen, on some letters from the French Mediterranean squadron during the Crimean War. When it was used on stamped letters, the ordinary Marseille lozenge (1896, small figures ; 2240, large figures) was used as a cancellation.

A postmark which looks as if it might be naval, but is not, is that of Toulon Harbour (Rade de Toulon) : lozenges 2620 (small

Fig. 60



Above : Figs.
61 and 62

Right, Fig. 63



figures) and 3076 (large figures), and *distribution* type date-stamp. This was an ordinary civilian post office, situated on the spit of land which divides Toulon Harbour into the Grand Rade and the Petite Rade. Its name was changed to Toulon-Mourillon in 1875.

On July 1st, 1850, when the letter rate (for ordinary inland letters) was raised from 20c. to 25c., a new postmark, indicating the amount due, was introduced for use on unpaid letters (Fig. 60). Similar types were introduced later for other charges. Before this date, except for Paris types already noticed (which, it will be observed, this new type did not supersede) charges had been indicated in manuscript, or by handstamps designed in imitation of manuscript figures.

Postmarks as Figs. 61 and 62, consisting of various abbreviations of "Rayon Frontière" or "Rayon Limitrophe" (both phrases mean "frontier region") were used on letters travelling in either direction between nearby places, one of which was in France, and the other just over the border. For such letters a rate of postage lower than the usual foreign rate was in force.

Telegraphic cancellations of the type illustrated in Fig. 63 were in use from 1866 until 1880. They are mentioned here only because they were, very occasionally (chiefly during the Franco-Prussian War), used on letters. They were also used on letters sent by the pneumatic post service in Paris, but this service, used for telegrams from 1866, was not extended to include letters until 1879.

THE END