



France & Colonies Philatelist



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The Special Arrival Postmarks Used in France On Mail From Scandinavia

by Frederick A. Brofos

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the Scandinavian Collectors Club of New York.

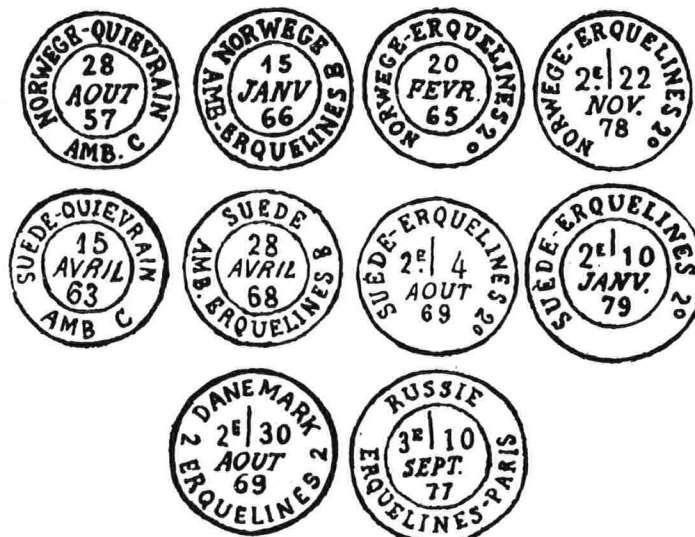


Fig. 1

Of great interest in the realm of foreign cancellations connected with Scandinavia are those which were applied to Scandinavian mail arriving in 18th and 19th century France.

These entry marks showing the country of origin of the mail were introduced in France as far back as 1699, but it was not until 1720 that there appeared any referring directly by name to a Scandinavian country. At that time, four straight-line postmarks were brought into use with capital serif letters: DANEMARC, DANNEMARK, and SUEDE (2 types), all being applied in black. Two-lined postmarks appeared in 1806, of which there are several varieties of spelling and lettering. They were mostly for letters sent via Hamburg which was then under French occupation. One has the last word misspelled, namely: DANNEMARC / P. HAMBOUG, instead of HAMBOURG. These postmarks were followed by other types, some of which had box frames. They are all found on stampless covers, and deserve special study. This article will deal with their successors—the circular type with date—which appeared on mail after the introduction of postage stamps.

The circular entry postmarks were introduced in 1839, according to Maury¹, but the earliest date noted by Chase & Beaufond² was December 21, 1851, the most recent being from March 8, 1891. (Maury appears to be right, as I saw a stampless cover at the FIPEX show, from Strömstad, Sweden, to Bordeaux, with a clear 2-ring mark in blue: TOUR-T 3 GIVET 3, dated 27 JANV 39, the date being supported by other dated markings. The month JANV incidentally was inverted in this particular example.)

Of those circular entry postmarks that refer directly by name to Scandinavia the earliest ones were introduced in 1856 and the latest date seen was from 1880. The entry marks for Scandinavian mail are actually part of a large group of postmarks used in France for marking incoming mail from

most of the civilized world. Special entry marks existed for mail arriving from such diverse places as Argentina, Australia, Bavaria, Dutch Possessions, Russia, Two Sicilies, South Seas, the United States, and so on. In all, for about 44 different nations, colonies or geographical areas.

The circular entry postmarks bear the name of the country of origin of the mail at the top in French (NORWEGE—Norway, SUEDE—Sweden, DANEMARK—Denmark, and RUSSIE—Russia, including Finland) and also the name of the town or port of entry, the date being in the center. They are usually found struck on the face of the cover, but are also in rare cases to be found on the stamp itself. They are generally struck in blue, black or red, the latter color being the scarcest as regards the entry marks for Scandinavia.

The name of the port of entry or of the town on or near the frontier where the letter crossed the lines was usually included in the entry postmark.



Fig. 2

According to an authority on French postmarks, Dr. Carroll Chase³, most of these postmarks were applied aboard railroad postal cars. All those applied in black and with the abbreviation "AMB."—(ambulant) fall into this category.



Fig. 3

gory. However, there was also a group of postmarks, showing the town of entry, which were not applied aboard the RPO cars but at the Main Post Office in Paris. These were as a rule struck in blue, though red and black impressions have been recorded. They usually show a figure (1-6 and a small E) or a star, to the left of the day date. This figure indicates what the French call the "levée"—the approximate time of collection from the mail boxes, etc. This is never found in an ambulant postmark.

The correspondence of Denmark, Norway and Sweden generally penetrated France through the intermediary of the postoffices of Thurn & Taxis and Prussia, later Germany, so it happens that the entry marks for these countries (TOUR-T., PRUSSE, ALLEMAGNE) were sometimes, somewhat misleadingly, applied to Scandinavian mail.



Fig. 4

The confusion of so many different postmarks was relieved around 1880 when general use entry marks inscribed PARIS/ETRANGER—(Foreign) were brought into use. These occur in several types, and were struck in blue on the face of the cover, and occasionally may even be found on the stamp itself. However, this group of postmarks does not have the same attraction to us as those which included the names of the Scandinavian countries.

A few words must be said about the two small entry towns of Quievrain and Erquelines. They are south of Lille, near Valenciennes, but, oddly enough, on the Belgian side of the border.

In the following list, the postmarks have been divided into three main types. Type 1: small 2-ring, without "levée"; Type 2: small 1-ring, with "levée"; Type 3: larger 2-ring, with "levée". The list is a conglomeration of all the different "Scandinavian" circular entry marks mentioned in the works listed in the accompanying bibliography. Those postmarks that I have actually seen myself, I have made tracings of, and they are illustrated above. I would be glad to hear from anyone with additional material or information regarding these interesting markings.

TEXT IN POSTMARK	POSTMARK TYPE	IDENTIFICATION LETTERS	COLOR	WHERE USED	EARLIEST DATE RECORDED	LATEST DATE RECORDED	COLOR: N = BLACK, B = BLUE, R = RED WHERE USED: P = PARIS RPO = RAILROAD CAR	REMARKS
DANEMARK AMB. ERQUEL.	1	—	N	RPO	?	?		USED BEFORE 1867
DANEMARK 2 ERQUELINES	2	—	B	P	1856	1864		WITH ASTERISK OR "LEVÉE"
DANEMARK 2 ERQUELINES	2	—	B	?	?	?		USED SINCE 1870
DANEMARK PAG. PARIS	3	—	B	P	?	?		USED SINCE 1870
NORWEGE QUIEVRAIN AMB. A	1	A,B,C,D	N	RPO	1855	1864		
NORWEGE AMB. ERQUELINES A	1	A,B,C,D	N	RPO	1856	1868		
NORWEGE ERQUELINES 2°	1	—	B	P	1865	1865		25.5 MM. NO "LEVÉE"
NORWEGE ERQUELINES 2°	2	—	B	P	1877	1878		20.5 MM. WITH "LEVÉE"
NORWEGE ERQUELINES 2°	2	—	N	P	1879	1879		23 MM. WITH "LEVÉE"
NORWEGE AMB. L.C.A.	1	—	N	?	?	?		L.C.A. REFERS TO CALAIS. USED BEFORE 1870.
NORWEGE LILLE	1	—	N	?	?	?		
NORWEGE LE HAVRE	1	—	?	?	?	?		USED BEFORE 1867
NORWEGE PAG. PARIS	3	—	N	P	?	?		USED SINCE 1870
SUEDE QUIEVRAIN AMB. B	1	A,B,C,D	N	RPO	1857	1863		
SUEDE AMB. ERQUELINES A	1	A,B,C,F	N	RPO	1864	1868		
SUEDE ERQUELINES 2°	1	—	R	?	1865	1865		
SUEDE ERQUELINES 2°	2	—	B	P	1864	1875		WITH "LEVÉE"
SUEDE ERQUELINES 2°	3	—	B	P	1879	1879		WITH "LEVÉE"
SUEDE ERQUELINES 2°	3	—	R	P	1877	1880		23 MM.
SUEDE LILLE	1	—	?	?	?	?		USED BEFORE 1867
SUEDE AMB. M. CENIS. A	1	A	?	RPO	?	?		USED BEFORE 1867 AMB. MONT CENIS - MÂCON (?)
SUEDE PAGNY PARIS	3	—	B	P	?	?		USED SINCE 1870

Bibliography:

1. "Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France" by A. Maury. Amiens, 1929.
 2. "Catalogue des Cachets des Bureaux Ambulants de France de l'origine a 1900" by Dr. Carroll Chase and E. H. de Beaufond. Paris, 1951.
 3. "The Railroad Postmarks of France" by Dr. Carroll Chase. "Collectors Club Philatelist," Oct., 1940, p. 266-69.
 4. "Catalogue des Marques Postales & Obliterations du Nord de 1698 a 1875" by L. Dubus & E. Fregnac. Amiens, 1947.
 5. "Catalogue des Marques Postales & Obliterations du Pas-de Calais de 1698 a 1876" by L. Dubus. Amiens, 1947.
 6. "Les Estampilles Postales Francaises" by F. Doé. Amiens, 1900. (Pages 264-65).
 7. "The Cancellations on French Stamps of the Classic Issues, 1849-76" by R. Lesgor & M. Minnigerode. New York, 1948.
 8. "Covers" magazine, Sept., 1952 p. 6, 8, 17; Feb., 1954, p. 9.
- (Pictures some Scandinavian covers with French entry marks. The February issue shows an interesting cover of 1843, from Christiania to Bordeaux, with a straight-line mark not mentioned in Mr. Bentley's article. The 2 lines in antiqua read "DANEMARCK / PAR HAMBOURG". Other marks on the cover are a 2-ring circular "TOUR-T. 3 GIVET 8" dated 28 AOUT 43, and a small straight-line "T. T. R. 4." in antiqua.)
- "Les Marques Postales Francaises de Hambourg" by Leralle, 1946.
- "French Entry Marks on Letters from Scandinavia" by Wilfred Bentley, in "Scandinavian Contact" No. 2, 1954. Publ. by Scand. Coll. Group, London.

After writing the above article I was pleasantly surprised to run into another one on this same unusual subject. It was written by Mr. W. Bentley in England. The early straight-line marks which I have only briefly mentioned here are covered in detail. Illustrations of them may be found in the book by Leralle.

Serial on Cameroun by Mrs. Porter Completed.

In No. 88, July-August 1956, we called the attention of members to the excellent serial on Cameroun which began January 1956 in the paper "The Philatelist" published monthly by Robson Lowe, the London dealer. This serial, which has dealt with the French issues from July 1956 on, was completed in the February 1957 number.

Reading it through, we find it an excellent, usually fully adequate treatment. Adequacy, let it be said, is the distinguishing feature. Such items as proofs and color trials are listed in full, for example. (S.G.R.)

Our Special Number of Linn's Weekly.

April 29 1957 is the date of publication, as arranged. Before the deadline, nine articles on French and Colonial items went in. Some may not find sance; but will appear later in that case. Your editor acted as gathering and sending agent for this material.



TONG-
23 AVRIL 79
HAIPHUNG

7

"Cancellation" on the Granet Reprint of the Colonies Eagle Type

The item in F.& C.P. No. 91, page 4, by Mr. Gerth, inquires whether the cancellation reading "Haiphung, Tong-kin, 23 Avril 79" on Granet reprints of two Eagle stamps is a favor cancel, or what. (Mr. Gerth owns these two copies).

Dr. Bouvet, writing in L'Echo of Jan. 31 1955, page 8, mentions this cancel, which he considered "if not false, then at least an exaggerated favor item." Dr. Bouvet was being only polite and rhetorical about the "favor" possibility, as the rest of his paragraph makes it clear that this item can only be a fake. It is found on various Colonial stamps as well as on French ones; Dr. Bouvet adds "even on the Granet reprints." He concludes: ".....it is sufficient to say that the mark is the work of a fantasist." Further circumstances, which we might add, emphasize this conclusion: the fact that it comes on so many stamps still with full gum; and that the spelling of the name "Tong-kin" is incorrect-- the genuine cancellation reads **Tongquin**.

In years of collecting Eagles, and studying hundreds of copies, we have never seen,---- nor heard of-- a Granet Eagle with genuine cancel, even if only philatelic.

----- Robert G. Stone.

Mercury Stamp Journal's "France."

Readers referring to page 16 of No. 81 of this paper, May-June 1955, will see our notice with appreciation, of the three articles on France in Mercury Stamp Journals Nos. 32, 33 and 34. Several of our members have secured them, finding them of much help.

Our member Col. Robert C. Williams was a bit puzzled by one statement in Mr. Mueller's last article, Mercury No. 34, June 1955, pages 233, in which the count of varieties was given. It says there that:

"The Scott Catalog lists for the classic France stamps (without telegraph stamps) 78 main numbers, from which we can deduct 11---5 varieties which do not deserve main numbers, 3 unissued stamps and 3 newspaper tax stamps which were fiscals only---leaving 67 classic stamps."

At Col. Williams' suggestion, your editor tried his own hand as detective, to locate the eleven items to be deducted. All save one were found.

Here is the computation:

Regular issues, 1849 through 1875 (Nos. 1 to 63; there is no No. 5)	62
Dues 1859 to 1878	10
Newspaper stamps, 1869	6
	<hr/> 78
Less: Unissued items, Nos. 4, 49, 55	3
Strictly revenue (so-called "fiscal" or "tax" newspaper stamps Nos. P2, P4, P5)	3
Varieties not for major listing: Nos. 16, 24, 44, 45.	4
Net total.....	<hr/> 10
68

Now let us hunt for the one further example of a non-major item in Scott's list.

Your editor could find only four cases that would even remotely qualify as varieties, not as major numbers. Two are paper-tint changes; two are the types of the 20c Bordeaux. There do not seem to be any other cases in which one denomination of one issue has two listings (major, of course) except Nos. 54 and 55 of the 1870-73 set. We suspect this to be other other, fifth item, to be deleted.

Despite an occasional cryptically worded bit of writing, such as that on page 200, March 1955 which says that the single border line of the sheet was "about 8 mm. apart", this study gave your editor an increased appreciation of the high merit, the great usefulness, of Mr. Mueller's series. Those of us who like France before the 1876 issue will find it well worth acquiring.

Variety of an 1893 5-Line Precancel.

A French precancel of Hoover Type F-2, the 1893 roller of Paris, has shown up with the day inverted. This is a 5c green, with precanceling reading down, date 13 NOV 93. The "13" line is inverted.

Our member Adrien Boutrelle found it in his material, and furnished us the photograph which we here use.

As the roller device had loose bands for the various lines, changed as needed, this variety is readily understood. The day band was put on "wrong side to."

Similar varieties, such as no day, no 93, and I believe one case of lines in wrong order, have been reported. If members wish a list, it can readily be made and here published; but without sufficient requests, space for it is deemed more usefully occupied by other copy.



"We borrowed him from the aquarium--our canceling machine broke down."

Colonial Varia--Some Old-Time; Some Modern.

By Robert G. Stone

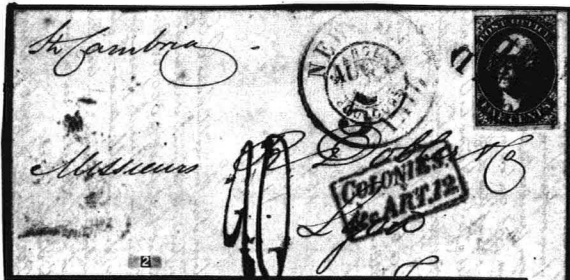
In The Seaposter of Nov.-Dec. 1956, is a note by Robert S. Gordon on French Oceania ship posts. He cites from the Jan. 1956 number of "French Oceanic Settlements Newsletter" published by H. Houwink, Zeist, Holland, an article by Henri Quiot on postal markings of French Oceania. Mr. Gordon adds two marks to Quiot's list: a single line straight line "SERVICE MARITIME COTES" used 1946 and later; and a dated circular postmark incrimbed: SERVICE POSTALE INTERINSULAIRE (1950 and later). The pre-war "Service de la Plonge," is a well known mark, and a "Bureau Flottant" is also mentioned. Quiot reports a "Service Postale" ship letter mark of New Hebrides (1928--) also listed in J.W. Dovey's "Ship Letters of the South Pacific."

In response to my article in F. & C.P. No 89, page 23, on "Auxiliary Postal Markings from Guadeloupe," Leo Goerth sends me a cover with the "Apres le Depart" marking, dating from 1874 --- it was a local letter from a small interior post office to Pointe a Pitre, where the mark was undoubtedly put on upon arrival. It makes no sense used thus. Therefore we suspect that the postal clerks had the thing around for years, without knowing what to do with it.

A new book by Frank Staff, "The Transatlantic Mail" (\$6.50, J.S. Sanders, Southampton, England) has a section on the mail services between the U.S. and France, though most of the book is on the British services.

In L'Echo for Sept. 30 1956, Comte de Pomyers has a note about the "little CCH" lozenge---the one which Bouvet and all specialists have long known as a fake. The Comte says "recent discoveries" permit (him) to conclude that it is genuine. This was actually his opinion for the last 25 years or more. But he did not dare to say so while Bouvet was alive. His reasons seem to us to make no sense at all.

This lozenge is found on Eagle type stamps, only, usually on those with full gum (original). While not seen on certain printings, it is common on certain ones, though not exceedingly so. The ink and impression does vary some (as the Comte stresses) but this is only natural. It may have been intentional with the faker. Evidently this mark was used all at one time on a batch of Eagles from a stock that probably came from only one or two printings of each value --- a very logical assumption about an old merchant who once wanted to make up some used copies for his trade.



"Article Mark" on Letter to France via England in 1845

The boxed marks, applied in England, reading "Colonies & Article..." usually 13, are well known to collectors of early material from the French Antilles, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

There are several of these, with various numbers. 13 is most usual from the Antilles.

From H.R. Harmer's auction catalog of Feb. 18 1957 we illustrate, through their courtesy, a cover with the 5c New York to Lyon, and Article 12 mark.

* SECRETARY'S REPORT . *
January 15 to March 15 1957

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome.

- 670 Gadbois, Charles 1420 E. 13th. Avenue,...
Denver 18, Colorado (France & Colonies)
671 Giebert, Robert P. 2504 South Drive,
North Little Rock, Arkansas (19th Fr..)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- 409 Cox, Thomas R., to 45 East 85th St., New York
28, New York.....
133 Ball, Dwight B., to 215 Pine St., Avon....
Park, Florida.....
460 Gannett, Taylor W., to 114 North Cleveland.
Street, Arlington 1, Virginia.....
561 Horowicz, Sigismund, to 225 West 106th St.,;
Apt. 3-A, New York 25, New York.....
532 Kahn, William, to 40 West 57th St., New York
19, New York.....
563 Martin, Marc W., to 290 West End Avenue,.....
New York 23, New York.....
114 Meyer, Charles E., to c/o A. Glerum, Fairfield
Road, R.D., Caldwell, New Jersey.....
266 Rothbaum, Richard E., to 240 Central Park
South, New York 19, New York.....



WE ARE

FISHING for

this year's DUES!

Your 1957 dues are now payable. Please send them in early, so as to save time and money to your faithful Secretary---to celebrate his 7th year as Secretary, without pay and so so so much of work of various kinds.

You do not have to wait for your notice, to pay:

New York resident members: \$2.50;

All other members, in the U.S. and abroad,
\$1.50.

Send all dues to

Charles Bretagne,

P.O. Box 30, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Respectfully submitted,
Chas. Bretagne, Secretary

MEMBERS' APPEALS

Want and exchange notices only; members only; no charge; one or two insertions only. Those who reply will please offer only what is asked.

Covers wanted, showing Mite Star of Paris Main Office used as cancel at Branch Offices in Paris, except Bureau J or Place de la Bourse.... Please submit prices, or list wanted in exchange. Mrs. James W. Dayton, Lodestone, Amherst, Mass.... (Member 113).

French Morocco Locals wanted, as listed in French catalogs. Send information and prices only; not stamps. Lt. Col. Bill Bryan, 3151st Supply Group, A.P.O. 30, New York, N.Y. (Member 666)

Wanted: Letters J and M in lozenge of dots cancellations; Letters B-H and L in lozenge of dots cancellation with the hour of distribution town postmark. Will buy; give price; or will give two different for one. These must be on cover. Merritt F. Handy, 21 Garnett St., Malden 48, Mass. (Member 269)

Will exchange USED French Colonials with other members; especially cancellations --- also covers. Roy N. Urton, 826 North Foote Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Member 121)