MARSEILLE

MARITIME ENTRY MARKS

Up to the end of the XIXth century

The aim of this study is to show both the importance of Marseille as the entry port of the mail in the Méditerranean Sea and the quality of the postal treatment thanks to many marks struk according to origin and/or destination.

The evolution of the Maritime Post marks has followed the mail service evolution by ship, since the "free" transport by a ship captain during the 17th and 18th centuries, with generally no mark, until the Steam Packets of the 19th century, and many marks.

It is important to emphasize that even if the mail was unloaded at Marseille, entry marks were not necessarily struk in Marseille. It is the case of the marks of the Travelling Post Office Marseille to Lyon, struk in the Travelling, and the 2d and 3d order marks generally struck in Paris.

Before 1869, date of the opening of the Suez Canal, for the mail coming from Asia or Oceany, including La Réunion and Mauritius, the transshipment was made by "overland" from Suez to Alexandria between the ships of the East and those of the Mediterranean Sea, essentialy English or French.

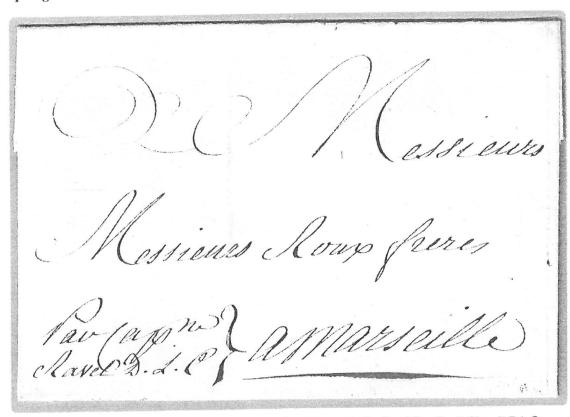


1861. Letter from La Réunion to Bordeaux with handwritten mention "Via Suez". Franked at 1F, with a pair of the 10 c and one pair of the 40c Colonies, corresponding to the double postage according to the rate of january 1st 1857 by English ship. The letter has been transported by the P&O ship Nepaul from La Réunion to Suez, by the P&O ship Vectis from Alexandria to Marseille. Red circular entry mark COL.FRA.V.SUEZ AMB.C

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MARSEILLE: MARITIME ENTRY MARKS

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1773. Purified letter from Smyrna to Marseille. Handwritten indication " Par Cap^{n*} Clavel" D.L.C. (Dieu Le Conduise) (God leads) reflecting the risks of navigation at this time.

Essential references

R. SALLES: La Poste Maritime Française, tomes 1 to 8.

J. BERGIER, V. POTHION: France, Poste Maritime.

G. DUTAU : La désinfection du courrier en France et dans les pays occupés.

M. CHAUVET, J.F. BRUN: Introduction à l'Histoire Postale des origines à 1878.

R. KIRK: The Postal History of the P&O Services to the Peninsula.

R. KIRK: British Marithme Postal History J.K.SIDEBOTTOM: The Overland Mail

The blue texts relate to the scarcity of documents shown, like the color of the frame too

S (Signature)

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MARSEILLE MARITIME ENTRY MARKS Up to the end of the XIXth century

SYNOPSIS

The aim of this study is to show both the importance of MARSEILLE as the entry port of the mail in the Mediterranean Sea, and the quality of the postal treatment thanks to many marks struk according to origin and/or destination.

It is important to emphasize that even if the mail was unloaded at Marseille, entry marks were not necessarily struk in Marseille. It is the case of the marks of the Travelling Post Office Marseille to Lyon, struk in the Travelling, and the 2d and 3d order marks struk in Paris on mail generally received in closed dispatches.

If the importance of Marseille seems obvious for mail from the Mediteranean basin, we can see that the overseas origin is also provided, since the mail comes from Asia and Oceania not to mention Reunion and Mauritius. Before 1869, date of the opening of the Suez Canal, the transshipment was made by "overland" from Suez to Alexandria between the ships of the East and those of the Mediterranean Sea, essentialy English or French.

The presentation includes 7 frames in which we will develop the different ways used :

Frames 1 and 2: Route of commercial vessels.

Frames 3 and 4: Route of the French Post Ships for mail from the Mediterranean basin.

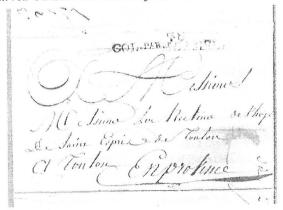
Frames 5 and 6: Route of the French Post Ships for overseas mail.

Frame 7: Route of foreign postal Ships (mainly English)

Frames 1 and 2: Route of Commercial Vessel

The sender intrusted his letter to the captain of a merchant ship bound for the recipient country. On arrival, the letter was put in the postal circuit at the port. One of the interests of this chapter is that it shows the evolution which occur since the mail without any marks to the very first round date stamp, born in 1839, through the linear marks. Some rarities to report in these frames:

- The curved COLONIES marks of the Petite Poste de La Cotterie



The erroneous mark 78 MARSEILLE Known in 3 copies



The OUTR.PAQ.SARD.MARSEILLE stamp.
Only piece known to date

The third frame evokes the birth of the French Post Steamers sailing in the Mediterranean and carrying mail mainly from the Mediterranean basin. This will give rise to the rectangular stamp PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE, then to the date stamps indicating the country of origin. In this frame some rarities among other equaly interesting pieces:

- Large black stamp on cover of the 1st voyage of the liner TANCREDE

- Red oval mark « Paquebots de la Méditerranée » struck in Paris



First known date of the small black stamp PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE

Sapar olleditoriana
Sig Franklik Rivera
Charrigha

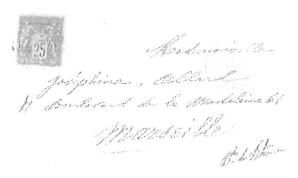
Stamp struck in Marseille ESPAG 2 MARSEILLE 2

The 4th frame continues to evoke the French Post Steamers from the former Italian States, Italy, Corsica and North Africa to lead to the famous a Steamers »stamps and finish with the English possessions (Malta). Note the rarest pieces:

- Stamp Italie Marseille in black or blue instead of red.



NICE BATA VAP Stamp



Very rare MAROC MARSEILLE Stamp

Frames 5 and 6 are mainly devoted to French Post Steamers for mail from overseas, either from French Colonies, or from foreign countries. The number of stamps put into service is significant and shows diversity of origins. All these letters are more or less rare, but some really are:

Stamp BRESIL MARSEILLE



Mark COLENSUEZ PAQE 1 MARS 1 With nice Shang-Hai date stamp



Mark COL, F.V.SUEZ PAQ, F. 3 MARS 3 Blue instead of red on letter from Cayenne

The 7th frame deals with Foreign Post Steamers, mainly English. PAQ. ANGL. precision does not appear on all entry stamps, and it is the date of arrival in Marseille that makes it possible to differentiate the nationality of the ship using its chart. From Malta to Melbourne we will meet many English Colonies, but not only! None of theses pieces are uncommon, but the most notable are:

- First letters seen with stamp struck in black instead of red.



Mark COLEVSUEZ PAQA, 3 MARS 3 without inner ring. Only known piece to date



PAQ,ANGLA,MARSEILLE*
New stamp seen for the firts time, not reported by R. Salles