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

Frame 2965: French Royal Packet Mail Service to the United States (1783-1888) with a listing of crossings, known ship markings and transatlantic covers of the XVIIIth century. Also subsidized Shipline mail of 1847-1849.


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

Frame 2969: Mediterranean dated Ship markings prior to 1866.

Frame 2970: Mediterranean dated Ship names markings prior to 1866.
### French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic:

Established by a Royal Decree of June 8th, 1783, a State-run transatlantic packet service was ordered by the King Louis XVI to start monthly sailing between Port-Charlotte (Brittany) and New York, beginning the following September. Five ships of war with French legal Navy officers and crews were assigned to this project. This packet line operated from September 1783 to July 1788, first from L'Orient and from 1787, from Le Havre.

The following table shows the voyages by year, crossing and ship:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>L'Orient to New York</th>
<th>New York to L'Orient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1783</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Le Havre to New York</th>
<th>New York to Le Havre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1783</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table of Crossings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Courrier in l’Europe</th>
<th>Courrier de l’Amérique</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>Courrier de l’Orient</th>
<th>New York to Martinique</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Ships:**
- Le Courrier de l'Europe, capt: CORNIE - New York - 16 juin 1785
- Le Courrier de l'Amérique - New York
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
1783-1788
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
L’ORIENT to NEW YORK

Postmark: "MARSEILLE"
Prepaid postmark: "P. PAYÉ"
Transit postmark: "P.P.P.P.
Embarcation marking: "PAQ. L’ORIENT"

1786
From Marseille Jan. 29, via Paris, L’Orient
Feb. 16 to Baltimore. Carried on its 5th voyage
go in 60 days by the:
"Courier de L’Orient"

Prepaid 40 sous and taxed 2 der
overland New York - Baltimore.
French Maritme Mail in the North Atlantic

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
NEW YORK to L'ORIENT

1783-1788
First Royal Ship Agency

Dated: "LE COURIER LA MARTINIQUE"
NEW YORK, 15 JAN 1785
shipmark: "PAID"
U.S. Postmark: "PAID"

1785
Philadelphia, January 12 via New York Jan.15 and L'Orient to Mars-
seilles on the first return crossing of the "Courrier La Martinique"

Beyond 2 for Philadelphia, New York and round double rate 50c Ind.
This is the only known shipmark from this packet.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1783-1788
First Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Prepaid postmark: "PORT PAYE DE L'ORIENT"
Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"

1785
Bordeaux. March 22, via L'Orant May 1
and New York May 28, to Philadelphia
received May 31. Carried on its 2nd voya-
ge in 27 days by the
"Courrier La Martinique"

Prepaid 3d. on reverse; rand 6 d. or 3½
local currency avertand New York-Philadelphia.
This was the fonnti crossing of the packets (E-W)
1784
From St-Quentin, May 23, via L'Orient and New York, to Philadelphia received Sept. 10. Carried in 61 days on the 2nd voyage of the "Courrier de L'Orient"

Prepaid 20 sous transatlantic rate and received 2 dwt New York to Philadelphia.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
1783-1789
Second Royal Ship Agency

Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
NEW YORK to LE HAVRE

Embarcation marking: "P A Q. N E W Y O R K"
Transit postmark: "N E W Y O R C K
P A R L.E HAVRE"

Circa 1787
From New York to Paris, undated, via Le Havre, taxed 27 sous.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1792-1793

Private Packet Line

NEW YORK to L'ORIENT

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

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

1793

From New York February 8 via L'Orient
to Le Havre.

Prepaid 30 sous for Ocean crossing and
cost 35 sous overland postage.
Letter probably carried by the shipline
of Benjamin Dufres.
Prepaid postmark: "PORT PAYÉ DE L'ORIENT"
Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"

1783-1788
First Royal Ship Agency

Branch Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

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

Prepaid 20 sols marked on reverse
Rated 2 duc New York to Philadelphia
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1847-1848

Service Marou & de Hambur

Regular Shipline LE HAVRE to NEW YORK

Entry postmark: "LE HAVRE | PAQ. REG."

From Natchez to Paris; carried by the "New York"
Prepaid 10 cents and taxed 13 décimes.

From New York to Reims; carried by the "Maroupi"
Double rate tax 24 décimes (10 décimes + 2 décimes)
This was the last voyage and the end of the shipline H. & de H.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1847-1848
Service Henriot & de la Lande

Regular Shipline
CHERBOURG to NEW YORK

Entry marking: "PAQ. REG."

1847

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

Taxed 13 decmes. 10 dec. maritime + 5 dec. overland.
This shipline was in service from June 1847 to Feb.
1848. Cherbourg at the beginning and later; Le
Havre was head of the line.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
1782-1788
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Prepaid postmark: "P. PAYE"
Transit marking: "PPPP"
Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"

1782
From Marseille August 1, 1782 to New York, via Paris and L'Oran. Carried at its 4th voyage by the "Courrier de New York"

The crossing took 45 days.
Prepaid tax of 20 sols marked on reverse.
Taxed 2d at port of arrival on front.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
1783-1788
First Royal Ship Line
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line
L'ORIENT to NEW YORK

Postmark: "B"
Prepaid postmark: "P.P. BORDEAUX"
Embarkation marking: "PAQ. L'ORIENT"

1785
Bordeaux January 24, via L'ORIENT March 23 and New York April 29, to Philadelphia received April 30. Carried on its 4th voyage in 37 days by the:
"Courrier de l'Europe"

Prepaid French overland "12 Double" on reverse.
Received 6 shillings or 3/4 local currency for New York to Philadelphia.
From Dunkerque, undated, via L'Orient, Nov. 5 and New York Dec. 27 to Philadelphia, received November 29. Carried on its 6th voyage in 31 days by the:

"Courier de New York"

Prepared overland and transatlantic rates at 10 sols. Taxed 2 dwt or 1/3 local currency New York to Philadelphia. This is the last pocket of the 1st Royal Agency sailing from Lorient. New sailings and the 2nd Agency were made from Le Havre.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
Regular Transatlantic Packet Line

1783-1788
Second Royal Ship Agency

Postmark: "P"
Prepaid postmark: "P. PAYÉ PARIS"

1788
From Paris February 2 to Philadelphia received
April 18 via Le Havre, February 27 and New York
April 17. Carried on its 8th voyage in 50 days by
"Courrier de l'Orient"

Taxed on delivery 4 dwt or 3B in local currency. Prepaid 7 sous overland &
20 sous transatlantic rates.
This is the last voyage of this packet
before the discontinuation of the line.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1864-1866

Cie Generale Transatlantique

Regular Shipline

LE HAVRE to NEW YORK

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

1864

From Le Havre October 19 to New York

arrival November 3.

Prepaid double rate 1 fr. 60 and 6 cents credit to U.S.A.

This was the 2nd voyage of the "Lafayette"
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic
1864-1866
Cie Generale Transatlantique

Provenance andShipline marking in red:
"ETATS UNIS * PAQ. FR * LAFAYETTE * 26 AVRIL 65"

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

Single Rate postage at 15 cents with a
red "PD". Paid to Destination.
This Provenance Marking was unknown
or Mr. Salles and not listed
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique

Le Havre to New York and back, via Brest

Incoming French Packet - N.Y. Entry - "FRNÉ PK." Depreciated Currency Marking

1866

Insufficiently prepaid letter (AFFR. INSUFF.) from Paris, 8 May, by the "Perse" to San Francisco via New York, May 22, arrival June 16. Double rate of 30¢ silver on 3½ U.S. notes - paid by the addressee and a 24¢ debit to U.S.A.

Taped on cancelled 30¢
French Maritime Mail in the West Indies and in Central America

Main Shipline "A"

Saint-Nicolas to Colón via
Fort-de-France and Ste. Marie.

Dated Provenance Shipmark:
" PANAM A - PAQ. FR. A No1 - 1 SEPT. 67. "

1867
From Panama, September 1, via Colón and Saint-
Nicolas, September 22 to Paris, arrival Sept. 23.
Carried by the "Nouveau Monde" and prepaid
30 centimes for a single rate.

This is the earliest known date of real provenance
from Panama as indicated by its forwarders'
name marking.
French Maritime Mail from the West Indies

1866-1876
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE

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

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

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

1867-1875
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE

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

Shipline Cancellation: COR D'ARMEES L.B. PAQ. No1 27 AVRIL 83

From the West Indies to Brest via St. Thomas, prepaid military rate of 15 centimes. Carried by the "Ville de Brest"
French Maritime Mail in the Caribbean

1865-1877

Main Ships: "B"

Cie Générale Transatlantique

SAINT-NAZAIRE to VERA-CRUZ
via Saint-Thomas

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

Dated Provenance stamp:
"St THOMAS - PAQ. FR. B-NO 4-27 JUL. 76"

1876
From St. Thomas July 26 to St. Nazaire August 14 and Nantes. Carried by the "St. Nazaire".

1 franc rare with two 30 and one 40 cent.
at 1871-77 issue cancelled with Consular mark, used only in 1876-77. Arrival postmark
"2 COL. FR. 2-SA NAZ AIRE-15 AOUT 76"
French Maritime Mail from the West Indies

1866-1875
Pioneer Line "D"
St. Thomas to Colon via San Juan

1865-1901
Main Line "B"
Cie Generale Transatlantique
St. Nazaire to Vera-Cruz via St. Thomas & Santander

French Consular Agency dated postmark:
"St. Jean-de-Porto-Rico 25 Dec. 74"
Backstamped: Shipmarks of corresponding lines?Y&?R?

1874-1875
From San Juan, Porto Rico, December 25, 1874 to
Santander, Spain; arrival docked Jan. 13, 1875

Prepaid single rate 1 franc and taxed 4 Reals at arrival
French Maritime Mail from Puerto Rico

1879-1886

The 3rd Feeder Ship line "G"
St-Thomas to Kingston, Jamaica,
via Porto Rico, Haiti, etc.

Main Ship line "B"
St-Nazaire to Vera Cruz and
back via St-Thomas

1882

Stop-over and Feeder line shipmark: MAYAQUEZ - PAQ.FR.F - 23 AVRIL 82
Main line shipmark in red. LIGNE B - PAQ.FR.No3 - 27 AVRIL 82

1882

From Mayaguez to France via Saint Thomas, prepared & censured,
and carried by the "Uele de Brest" to St-Nazaire

Sales 1977a and 1437 in red. This is very late usage of the B
shipmark. Sales notes its use in black only, ending in 1874
French Maritime Mail in the Caribbean

1865-1872

Veclo Line " G "
MARTINIQUE TO GUADELOUPE
AND BACK. In correspondence with main
LINE " A "

Shipline marking: LIGNE G PAQ.FR. No 2 - 8 DEC. 67

1867
From Porte à Pitre, Guadeloupe, December 6th to Port de
France, Martinique, December 8th and transhipped to the
" Nouveau Monde ", arriving Dec.23 St-Nazaire & Nantes.
Prepaid single rate 50 centimes.
Franche Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic.

1866-1872

Main Shipline "A"

Le Havre - New York - Le Havre

Provenance and shipline datemark:
"ETATS-UNIS. PAQ. FR. H No4 30 NOV 67"

1867

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

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

1866-1869
Cie des Messageries Maritimes

The first main Shiplines "J"

Bordeaux to Rio de Janeiro
via Lisbon, Dakar, Pernambuco & Bahia

Date of shipline mark:
"LIGNE J-PAQ. FR. No 2 - 25 OCT 67"

1867
From Bordeaux, October 25, to Rio de Janeiro. November 16. Prepaid single rate 80 centimes. Carried by the "Guiprune".

This letter unable to reach its addressee was returned first to Paris, March 25, 1868, and marked "RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR ABATU" and then to Bordeaux, March 20.
French Maritime Mail to the Far East

1869-1870
Ge des Messageries Impériales

Supplementary Shipline "M" MARSEILLES-ALEXANDRIA-MARSEILLES
in correspondence with Line "H", Steamer to Hong Kong and Feeder Line "S", Hong Kong to Yokohama.

Shipline marking:
LIGNE M - PAQ.FR. No 1-10 JULI 69

1869
From Marseilles to Yokohama via Alexandria, Suez and Hong Kong. Prepaid single rate 10 centimes. Carried by the "Duplexe" to Alexandria, by the Main Line "M" to Hong Kong and by the Feeder Line "S" steamer "Duplexe" to Yokohama; backstamped with "LIGNE S-PAQ.FR.No.19/18/69" and "YOKOHAMA BAY"
FRANÇAIS: 25 AOUT 69". S 891
Far Eastern French Maritime Mail.

1866-1910
Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Main Cuirassiers "N"
MARSEILLE to SHANG-HAI via
Port Said, Aden and Saigon in
correspondence with feeder line "T"s
Aden - Reunion - Mauritius

Dated Provenance shipmark:
"MARSEILLE-PAQ.FR. N 608-3 AOUT 73"

1873
From Marseille August 3 to Port-Louis, Mauritius,
via Aden transit, August 18, arriving September 2.
Carried from Marseille to Aden by the "Immaculée"
and transshipped at Aden onto the "Illusus" - Line "T"

Letter prepaid with four 25 centimes of 1871-73 issue.
The provenance shipmark "MARSEILLE-PAQ..." was
in usage from 1871 to 1876. Letter backstamped:
"LIGNE T-PAQ.FR. No 2 - 18 AOUT 73"
French Maritime Mail in the South Pacific:

1872-1874
Cie Générale Transatlantique

The Second Shipline "A"
PANAMA to VALPARAISO via
Guayaquil, Callao, etc.

Dated Provenance and Consular Agency marking:
"GUAYAQUIL - PAQ.FR. N2-4 OCT.72"

1872
From Guayaquil, October 4, via Callao, October 5, to
Lima arrived October 14. Carried by the "Ville de
St-Nazaire". Prepaid single "interisland" rate of 60
centimes.

The marking "GUAYAQUIL - PAQ.FR. N2-4 date"
was used only at a Consular Agency cancel in
Guayaquil in lieu of a regular consular marking.
French Maritime Mail in the North Atlantic

1865-1872
Compagnie Générale Transatlantique

Treaty rate Markings of incoming French Mail
BOSTON EXCHANGE OFFICE

Line A
Le Havre to New York
and back via Brest

1860 Prepaid single rate 20 cents from Nice May 19 to Boston; arrival June 4; by
the "St. Laurent"; red penciled 3¢, credit to U.S.A. for its inland postage

NEW YORK EXCHANGE OFFICE

1861 Prepaid single rate 80 cents from Le Havre, Aug. 29 to New York Sept. 13
by the "Europe"; red 3¢ credit to U.S.A. for its inland.
1875

Letter to France posted aboard "Paz Fr. No 1" by the "Ainadyr" going to Shanghai, paid double rate of 2 Francs, carried to Marseilles by "Paz Fr. No 8" the "Hookey" returning from the Far East, after transfer in Aden.
For Eastern French Maritime Mail

1867-1871
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Becker Shipline "O" from India
CALCUTTA - GALLEYS, Ceylon - CALCUTTA
via Madras and Pondicherry, in correspondence with main line "N" or Galles.

Provenance and Shipline marking:
ETAB.FR. INDE - PAQ.FR. O No1 - 7 DEC. 67

1867-1868
From French India to Nantes, arriving 6 Jan. 1868,
via Galles, Swag and Marseilles. Insufficiently franked with 40 centimes, taxed 7 décimes at destination.
Carried by the "Meinam" to Galles and "Imperatrice" from Galles to Swag.

$L 6.00
The Eastern French Maritime Mail

1879-1884
Cie des Messageries Maritimes

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

Provenance and shipline marking in blue:
POSS. NEER. - PAQ FR. P-No1 - 27 APRIL 82.

1882
From Willemoren, Netherlands Indies, via Singapore,
25 cents Postal Stationary. Carried by the "Swinne"
from Batavia to Singapore.

3/1886 b
Our Eastern French Maritime Mail

French Shipline "R" to Hong Kong

SHANGHAI - HONG KONG - SHANGHAI

Shipline marking
LIGNE R PAQ.FR. No.1-20 JUL 67

1867
From Shanghai to London, Sept. 9, via Hong Kong.
Prepaid triple rate 2 frs 40. Carried by steamers
"Duquesne" to Hong Kong and "La Bourdonnais" to
Suez.

51968 a
Far Eastern French Maritime Mail
1875-1876
Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Packet Shipline "S" from Yokohama
YOKOHAMA-HONG KONG-YOKOHAMA
in correspondence with line "N" from Hong Kong.

Provenance and shipline marking:
YOKOHAMA - PAQ. FR. S Nb3 - 26 OCT. 75

1875
From Yokohama, via Hong Kong and Marseilles
to Lyon - arriving Dec. 10. Single rate franking of 1Franc. Carried by the "Mengaleh" from Yo-
kokama and by the "Ava" from Hong Kong to
Marseilles.

S: 1872/3 a
For Eastern French Maritime Mail

1887-1887
Cie des Messageries Marines
MILITARY CORRESPONDANCE

General Shipline "S"
YOKOHAMA to HONG-KONG
via Keeling [Taiwan] in 884-85

Dated Army Shipline marking:
"COR.D.ARM.-LIG. S PAQ.FR.NO 1-23 DEC.84."

1884-1885
From Taiwan December 25 via Hong Kong December 27.
Marseille January 29 to Rome, arrival January 30. Corrected
by the "Mongaloh" from Keeling to Taiwan or Formosa
to Hong Kong and by the "Noted" to Marseille. Despatched
15 centimes, military single rate

Between September 1884 and July 1886 a French Expeditionary
force occupied Keeling on the island of Taiwan (Formosa) and
picked up the ship line "S" were ordered to stop-over at Keeling.
The majority of military mail was stamped red and this is a rare ex-
ample of prepaid soldier's mail, not used by Mr. Salles. The large
 الإن Decree "MARINE ET COLONIES" with Anchor shows the origin
of this letter to be a battalion of French Marines.
French Maritime Mail in the Indian Ocean
1876-1903
Cie des Messageries Maritimes

Main Shiplines “T”
MARSEILLE to NEW CALEDONIA
in 1888-95, via Suez, Aden, Seychelles
and Australia

Dated Shipline marking:
" LIGNE T PAQ.FR. No 1 17 OCT.90 "

1890
From Réunion October 13, via Mahé, Seychelles
October 17 and Marseilles, November 1st to Com-
bourg, arrival November 2. Prepaid 25 centimes,
single rate and carried from Mahé by the
"Occasion". From Réunion to Mahé this letter
was carried by the "Ava" of the Mascarene
interisland secondary shipline service.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1868-1872
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline: "U"
CONSTANTINOPLE to MARSEILLES via
the Dardanelles, Pyreus and Messina.

Dated Shipline marking:
"LIGNE U - PAQ. FR. NO2 - 2 SEPT 68"

1868
From Constantinople Sept. 2, via Marseilles Sept 8, Paris and Le-
Havre Sept. 10 to New York, arrival Sept. 23. Carried to Mar-
seilles by the "Niemen" and by the French ship "St. Laurent" from Le Havre to New York.

Prepaid 80 centimes on 40 grammes, single rated letter
from Constantinople to Marseilles and a prepayment of
1.60 Fr. on 7.5g r., or double rate for transatlantic
passage Le Havre - New York, a total of 2.40 Frs.
6 cents double rate credit to the United States.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1870
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline "V"
MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA
via Messina.

Shipline marking:
LIGNE V. PAQ. FR. No3 19 DEC 68

1868
From Marseilles Dec 12th, by the "Peluse" to Messina, arrival Dec 22, double rated at 80 centimes.
5.88/3
Date of ship line marking: 
"LIGNE W - PAQ. FR No 1 - 24 JUIN 68"

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

Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate to Italy.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1872
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline "X"
MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA
via Palermo, Messina, Syracuse, Smyrna,
Rhodes, Naissos, Alexandretta, Latta-
que, Tripoli, Beyrouth and Jaffa.

Dated Shipline marking:
"I I G N F X. PAQ. FR No. 2-28 NOV 68."

1868
From Marseille, November 28, carried by the "Iago"
to Palermo, arrival December 1st. Prepaid single
rate of 40 centimes.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1866-1872
Cie des Messageries Impériales

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

Provenance and Shipline marking:
"ALEXANDRETTE - P.FR. X No.1-13 MARS 67"

1867
Front of letter from Alexandretta, Syria, March 13, to Marseilles, arrival March 25. Letter carried by the "Tibre" and prepaid with 40 centimes, single rate.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

Circular Shipline "X"

Shipline marking:
BEYROUTH PAQ.FR.X No 4 13 JANV. 72
3.90s

1872
From Beyrouth via Marseilles to Tarare, France, arrival January 24. Prepaid single rate 80 centimes. Carried by the "Amerique" to Marseilles.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1871-1872
Main Carrier Shipline "X"

Marseille, Alexandria, Smyrna, Marseille,
or:
Marseille-Smyrna-Alexandria-Marseille

Provenance and Shipline marking:
"ALEXANDRIE PAQ FR X No1 16 JUL 72 "

1872
From Alexandria July 16, carried by the "Mil"
via Marseille July 22 to Paris, arrival July 23.
Prepaid single rate of 80 centimes.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Seas
1866-1869
Cie des Messageries Impériales

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

Dated Shipline marking:
"LIGNE Y - PAQ. FR. No1 - 23 NOV. 69"

1869
To Aleppo November 23, prepaid single rated letter.
40 centimes, via Smyrna, Nov. 25, forwarded from
there to Aleppo and taxed with 2 Turkish tax
stamps.

According to Mr. Salles, only 2 dates of the
Line "Y" are known; the other is June 23, 1868.
French Maritime Mail in the Black Sea
1867-1868
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Frederi Shipline 'A.B.' to the Turkish Coast
CONSTANTINOPLE to TREBIZOND via Ineboli,
Sinope, Samsour and Kerassunde.

Dated Shipline marking:
"LIGNE AB : PAQ.FR No2 - 25 OCT. 68."

1868
Front of a letter from Amasya, Turkey,
October 28, via Samsour to Constantinople.
Proposed single rate 40 centimes.

According to Mr. Salles this is the only
known cover carried by "PAQ.FR No2."
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1837-1851
French Postal Administration
Packet Service

Ship line to the Levant
CONSTANTINOPLE to MARSEILLES via
Smyrna, Syra, Malta, Naples, Leghorn, etc.

Marseilles Entry marking in block:
PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANÉE

1839
October 23, passed at Malta. Taxed 10 ducats at arrival. Carried by the "Ivandids" from Malta to Marseilles.
8/8
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1837-1851
French Postal Administration
Packet Service

Main Line to the Levant
Marseille to Constantinople & back
via Leghorn, Civita-Vecchia, Naples, Malta,
Syra, Smyrna and the Dardanelles

Dated Shipmark:
"POSTES FRANÇAISES-LEONIDAS-11 MARS 43"

1843
From aboard the "Leonidas" March 10 address to Paris;
landed at Malta March 11. Transhipped to Marseille on
the "Scamandre", arrivals March 21. Disinfected and
faxed 17 décimes.

Sanitary considerations compelled all mail to be
disinfectected between Dec. 1843 and Oct 1845.
Therefore the Spanish to the Levant were cut
into two with ships sailing from the Levant to Malta
and back and others making the round trip from
Malta to Marseille.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1852-1857
Cie des Messageries Nacionales

Feeder Shipline from the Pyreus station
PYREUS to SALONICA & back

Dated Shipmark: "EUROTAS • 14 JUL 52"

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

It is the only known stamped mark on the "Eurotas" during the Oct 1851-Aug 1857 voyages in Pyreus.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cin the Monographie Nationales

Main Sickle to the Levant
MAREILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Malta, Syria, Smyrna and the Dardanelles

Dated Shipmark: "MENTOR • S AOUT 53"

1853
From Constantinople, despatched July 25 to Marseille,
arrival August 6. Double rated and taxed 20 décimes.

The date "S Aout" of the shipmark is in error; the
"Mentor" left on July 25.
No prepaid mail carried by the "Mentor" has been
reported by M. Solles.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Main Ship Line to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back, via
Malta, Smyrna and the Dardanelles.

Dated Shipmark: "LEONIDAS 16 DEC 53"

1853
From Constantinople December 16 to Paris, arrival December 28. Taxed single rate 10 décimes.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1856-1857

From Salonica to Marseille, arrived July 24. Transshipped to Main Shipline from the Leonant. Arrived Malta July 21 and carried from Malta to Marseille by the "Egyptus." Double rate tax, 16 décimes.

Date of Shipmark: "PERICLES • 13 JUIL 54".
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1856
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Shipline to Italy
MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Livorno, Civita Vecchia,
Naples and Messina.

Dated Shipmark:
" PHILIPPE-AUGUSTE " 25 FEVR. 55 "

1855
From Civita Vecchia February 25 to Marseilles, ar
rival February 26. Single rated and hand 13
decimes.

Normal single rate taxation on incoming
letters from Papal States or Two Sicilies
was set at 15 decimes; above letter was
taxed 13 decimes.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1856-1856
Cie des Messagiers Impériales
Maritime Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Messina, Pyræus and the Dardanelles.

Dated Shipmark: "SPHINX • 8 JANV 56"

1856
From Marseille, January 8, to Constantinople, arrival
docketed January 15. Carried by the "Borystheus".
Triple tax rated at arrival. 30 décimes.

The "Borystheus" on its first voyage
out of Marseille used the "Spinx" dated shipmark.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline to the Levant
Marseille to Constantinople
via Messina, Pyrée & the Dardanelles

Dated Shipmark: "ALPHEE • 10 MAI 62"

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

1862
From Marseille May 10 to Messina arrived May 13. Prepaid single postage rate.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

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

Dated Shipmark:
"AUNIS • 25 JUIN 63"

1863
From Marseilles June 20 to Civita Vecchia ar-
rial June 28. Prepaid 1 Franc, single rate pos-
tage to the Pontifical State.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1856-1866
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "BALKAN • 16 MARS 59."

1859
From Constantinople March 16 via Marseilles March 22 to Paris. Prepaid 1 franc double postage rate.

This letter was carried by the pocket "NEWA", on the first return of this new ship from Constantinople. The "BALKAN" shipmark was borrowed and used by the postal agent of the "NEWA."
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1951-1966
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "BORYSTHENE • 3 JANV. 63"

1863
From Marseille January 3 to Constantinople Jan 10.
Prepaid 50 centimes, single postage rate.

The date digit "6" at 02 is missing from the shipmark. Not previously reported for this voyage.
Branch Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Dated Shipmark:

*BOSPHORE* 28 SEPT 62*

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

The "BOSPHORE" was stationed for the 3rd time in Constantinople from January 1862 to June 30, 1863. An incomplete back cancellation indicates "Salonique Turquie" in a derived circle, lending to the possibility that this letter went via Salonica (Thessaly Coast feeder line), Sura or Smyrna (Anatolia Coast feeder line) to the main French shipline servicing the Syrian and Turkish coasts with a stop-over at Messina. According to Mr. Salter, no pre-paid covers known by the "BOSPHORE" are known, except on this voyage.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Constantinople Station
Thursday east Vector Ships line
CONSTANTINOPLE to PYREUS
via Volo and Salamine

Dated Shipmark:
"CAIRE • 21 NOV. 65"

1865
From Salonica November 21, via the Dardanelles and Messina to Leghorn, arrival December 2.
Transshipped at the Dardanelles from the "Caire" to the "Danube" out of Constantinople on the way to Marseilles via Messina.

Prepaid double-rate of 1.60 Frs
Two purification slips
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

Ship line to Italy
MARSEILLES to MALTA, &c
Genoa, Leghorn & others

Date of Shipmark:
"CAPITOLE 11 AOUT 64"

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

1864
From Marseille August 11, to Genoa arrival.
August 12. Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate postage.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

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

Dated Shipmark: "CEPHISE • 19 JAN 60"

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

This is the only voyage made by the "CEPHISE" to and from the Levant.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1831-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline to the Levant
Marseilles to Constantinople

Dated Shipmark: "DUPLEX • 19 NOV 64"

1864
From Marseilles November 19 to Constantinople
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Imperiales

Shipline to Syria
MARSEILLE to ALEXANDRIA & back via
Palermo, Messina, Syra, Smyrna, Rhodes, Her-
tino, Alexandretto, Lattaquia, Tripoli, Beyrouth
and Jaffa.

Dated Shipmark: "ERIDAN • 28 SEPT 66"

1866
From Marseille, September 28 to Syria, Greece, arrival
October 6 or September 24 per Greek calendar.
Disinfected and taxed at arrival 132 Leptas.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Ges des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark:
"EGYPTUS* 9 AVRIL"

1857
From Constantinople April 9 to London, via Marseille, April 18, Paris and Calais, April 19, arriving London April 20. Prepaid single sea rate 60 centimes and taxed on arrival 2 shillings.

During 1857 a yearly "57" insert was in use with the "EGYPTUS" dated shipmark.
Stamps cancellation with small "1856" was done in Marseille. The Atlantic in favour of the "cancelling" came into use in July 1857.
Although Mr. Salles noted that there were no prepaid letters during the first 2 voyages of the "EGYPTUS" in 1857, above prepaid letter was carried on the 2nd such voyage.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipment to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "EUPHRATE • 13 SEPT 62"

1862
From Marseille Sept. 13, via Cyprus Sept. 19
to Syria Sept. 20. Postmarked at arrival Sept.
8 per Greek calendar and taxed 132 Leptas.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1861-1866

Main Shipping to the Levant

Shipmentmark: GOLEVRY 26 OCT 64

From Constantinople October 25, 1864 to Nice

Shipmentmark: GOLEVRY 25 MAI 65

From Marseilles May 27, 1865 to Constantinople

The erroneous spelling of the shipmentmark "GOLEVRY" used
in 1863-64 was replaced by "GODAVERY" in 1865.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1866

Main Shipline to the Levant

Marseille to Constantinople

Dated Shipmark: "HYDASPE • 1 AOUT 50"

1860

From Constantinople August, via Marseille Aug. 9, to Lyon arrival Aug. 10. Prepaid 1 Fr., double postage rate.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "ILLISSUS • 10 OCT. 56"

1866
From Constantinople October 10, via Marseilles
simple postage rate.

Shipmark "ILLISSUS" is erroneously spelled;
it was never corrected to "ILLISSUS".
Last voyage with this shipmark before the change to "Line" markings in 1866-67.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales
Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE

Date of Shipmark: "INDUS • 15 NOV 62"

From Marseille, November 15, to Constantinople
arrival Nov 23. Prepaid 1 franc double postage rate.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

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

Dated Shipmark:
"JOURDAIN • 24 SEPT 61"

1861
From Smyrna September 24, via Marseilles
October 1st to Bordeaux Oct.3.
Prepaid single rate 50 cents.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Cie des Messageries imperiales

Shipline to Egypt
MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA
and back via Messina

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

1863
From Alexandria January 21 to Marseilles arrival
February 10.

Prepaid 50 centimes, single rate to France
This is the first return voyage of the "La Bourdonnais"
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1857-1866
Crimea Telegraph

Constantinople Station

Thursday coast packet ship

CONSTANTINOLOLE TO PYRÉUS

via Volo and Salonicca.

Dated Shipmark

"LOUQSOR • 75 MARS 62"

1862
From Salonica March 25, via the Dardanelles to
Messina, arrived March 31. Carried by the "Louqsor"
in the Dardanelles and by the "Alphee" to Messina.

Single rate prepaid 80 centimes, erroneous "insuffisant" postmark struck out by pen and anchor cancellation. Error attributed to the Jan 1862 change from 7.5 gr. to 10 gr. single rate weight.

This was the first voyage of "Alphee".
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

Main Shipline to the Levant

MAURELLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark:
"MENSALE • 20 AOUT 65"

Dated Shipmark:
"MENZALEH • 14 AVRIL 66"

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

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

Postage rates to the Levant were leased from Jan. 1, 1866 from 50 to 40 centimes per 10 grams.

Uncorrect shipmark spelling "MENSALE" as in 1865 was changed to the correct "MENZALEH" in 1866.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

Ships to Egypt

MARSEILLE to ALEXANDRIA & back,
via Palermo and Messina.

Dated Shipmark: "M E R S E Y 3 SEPT 62"

1862

From Alexandria September 3 to Marseille, ar-
rial September 9. Prepaid single rate 50 cent.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Compagnie des Messageries Impériales

Ship line to Egypt
MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA

Dated Shipmark:
"MÆRIS • 19 MARS 65"

1865
From Alexandria March 19 to Marseilles, arrival March 26. Prepaid 50 centimes, single rate.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shiplines to the Levant

MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "DANUBE • 26 JUIN 58"

1858

From Marseille June 26 to Constantinople.

Front of letter with prepaid 1 Franc double rate postage to the Levant.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866

Main Shipline to the Levant

MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE via

Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles.

Dated Shipmark: "NEVA * / MAR 63"

1863

From Marseilles March 7, via Messina to Catania. Prepaid 40 centimes single rate postage to Sicily.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE via Messina, Pyreus and the Dardanelles

Dated Shipmark: "NIL • 26 NOV. 64"

1864
From Marseilles November 26 to Messina arrived November 29. Prepaid 50 centimes and postmarked: "Insufficient postage" together with a tax 75 decimes.

According to postal regulations, the agent aboard the "NIL" discounted the 40 centimes but gave credit of 10 centimes in settling the letter. 50 centimes, 70 centimes or "75" decimes. The "NIL" shipmark belongs to the 2nd steamer of that name in service from 1864 to 1866.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1857-1866
Ce des Messageries Impériales

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

Dated Shipmark:
"ORONTE 18 AVRIL 65"

1865
Part of cover from Salonica April 18 via the Dardanelles and Messina. Dated Milan April 27.

Prepaid double rate at 1.60 Fr.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1856
Cie des Messageries Impériales

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

Dated Shipmark: OSIRIS • 9 JUN 22

1859
From Constantinople June 22 to Marseille, arrival June 30.
Carried by the “Metidjeh”. Prepaid single rate 50 centimes.

Shipmark “Osiris” was aboard the “Metidjeh” and in use during the return trip to Marseille. The “Me-
idjeh” had spent a few months in the Black Sea sailing between Constantinople and Trebizondas.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Ce des Messageries Imperiales

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

Dated Shipmark:
"PAUSILIPPE - 24 DEC 63"

From Marseille December 24 to Genoa, ar-
rival Dec. 25. Prepaid 40 centimes, single
rate to the State of Sardinia.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Shipline to Egypt
Marseille to Alexandria

Dated Shipmark:
"PELUSE • 9 JANV. 66"

865
From Alexandria January 9, to Marseille destined postmarked January 13.
Prepaid 40 centimes, single rate to France

DATED CANCELLATIONS:

19 OCT 66
14 JUI 66
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales
Main Shipping to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE

**Dated Shipmark: PHASE 2 JUIL 62**

1862
From Constantinople July 2, via Marseilles July 9
to Lyon arrived July 9. Prepaid 1 Franc, double rate postage.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Ch. Le Mesme, Ministres Impériales

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

Dated Shipmark:
"QUIRINAL 20 JUIN 61"

1861
From MARSEILLES June 20 to CIVITA VECCHIA,
arrival June 23.

Prepaid 1 Franc, single rate to the Pontifical State.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Shipline to Egypt
MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA

Dated Shipmark:
"SAID 9 OCT 66"

1856
From Marseille October 9 via Alexandria to Jaffa.

Prepaid 40 centimes single rate to Egypt
Two purification slips
This letter was picked up by a paquebot of shipline servicing the Syrian coastline from Alexandria. The "Evridik" leaving on the 18th made a stop in Jaffa on the 20th.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea.

1851-1856
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE
via Pyreus.

Dated Shipmark:
"SIMOIS • 23 OCT. 57"

1857
From Constantinople October 21, via Pyreus to Athens; arrival October 23 or October 11 per Julian calendar; Prepaid single rate 50 centimes.

On this voyage the dated cancel "SIMOIS" was used on arrival to Pyreus as well in Marseilles instead of the day of sailing from Constantinople; Oct. 23.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea
1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Main Shipline to the Levant
MARSEILLES to CONSTANTINOPLE

Dated Shipmark: "SINAÏ 9 MAI 65"

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

Unreported data:
- Dated Shipmark applied at arrival in Con-
stantinople instead of departure day from
Marinales.
- Shipmark's dative digit is reversed with the
"6" of 63 missing.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie de Messageries Impériales

Main Shiplines to the Levant
MARSEILLE to CONSTANTINOPLE & back
via Malta, Syria, Smyrne and the Dardanelles

Dated Shipmark: "THABOR • 4 MAI 57"

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

Dated Shipmark: "THABOR • 23 OCT. 56"

From Constantinople October 23 to Marseilles, arrival November 1st. Single rate tax 10 centimes.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1851-1866
Cie des Messageries Impériales

Shipline to Italy
MARSEILLES to MALTA via
Genoa, Leghorn, Civita-Vechia,
Naples and Messina

Dated Shipmark:
"VATICAN • 17 SEPT 63"

1863
From Marseilles September 17 to Civita Vecchia arrived Sept. 20.

insufficiently prepaid 40 centimes,
double rate 20 decimes tax.
Dated Shipmark: “TAMISE • 23 OCT. 61”

1861
From Constantinople October 23, via Marseilles Oct. 30 to Lyon Oct. 31. Prepaid single rate postage 50 cmes.

The "TAMISE" was returning to Marseilles from a stay at the Constantinople Station.
French Maritime Mail in the Mediterranean Sea

1832-1866

Shipline to Syria:
MARSEILLES to ALEXANDRIA & back
via Palermo, Syria, Beyrouth & others.

Dated Shipmark:
"NIEMEN 28 JUIL 66."

1866

From MARSEILLES July 28 to Palermo, ar-
rival July 30.

Prepaid single rate 40 centimes to Italy,
Two purification pits.