

PARIS STAR CANCELLATIONS AND ANCILLARY POSTAL MARKINGS ON THE CLASSIC ISSUES OF FRANCE 1852-1876



On January 1, 1849, France began the use of adhesive postage stamps as the accepted method of prepaying for the use of all postal services. For 28 years the French Postal Service produced an endless number of ever changing postal markings that tell the growth of the French Postal Service and records the history of France during the period – its changes of government, transportation systems, conquests, wars, downfall, and its eventually regaining a place as a leader among the nations of the world.

This collection – The Star Cancellations of Paris, 1852-1876 – is representative of a portion of that period of French Postal History. During this time, cancellations and killers were applied to all mail, not only singly, but in most cases with multiple types of postal markings, as found on the fronts and backs of all covers and letters, by the French and all other postal services along the letters route. These obliterations not only invalidated the stamp but also recorded a concise history of each letter – when and where was it sent from, how it travelled, where and when it was received, as well as special annotations regarding its travels, rate differences, amounts due and monetary remunerations paid or collected to the various postal services along its route.

In this collection many types of Star cancellations used by the Paris Post Offices are to be found, as well as the almost endless number of date cachet cancellations and their varieties. Through the successive and seemingly constant changes of these cancellations, the growth of the Paris Postal System can be traced. Each new series of cancellations reflected the addition of new Bureaus and their name changes until 1876 when Bureau Central and 39 Sub-Bureaus made up the Paris Postal System that used the Star Cancellations and their accompanying date cachets.

On April 1, 1876, the single date cachet cancellation came into standard use in Paris. Along with it came a new series of allegorical design postage stamps. These changes combined with the introduction of the machine cancellers, and thus ended this colorful and fascinating period of French Postal History.

It should be noted that in the collecting of cancellations and postal history, the postal markings are the first considerations, while the condition of the stamp or cover is considered second. This is very true in the case of rare usage, special or unusual markings. This collection therefore contains the best available examples of both the cancellation and the stamp or cover found by the collector to date.

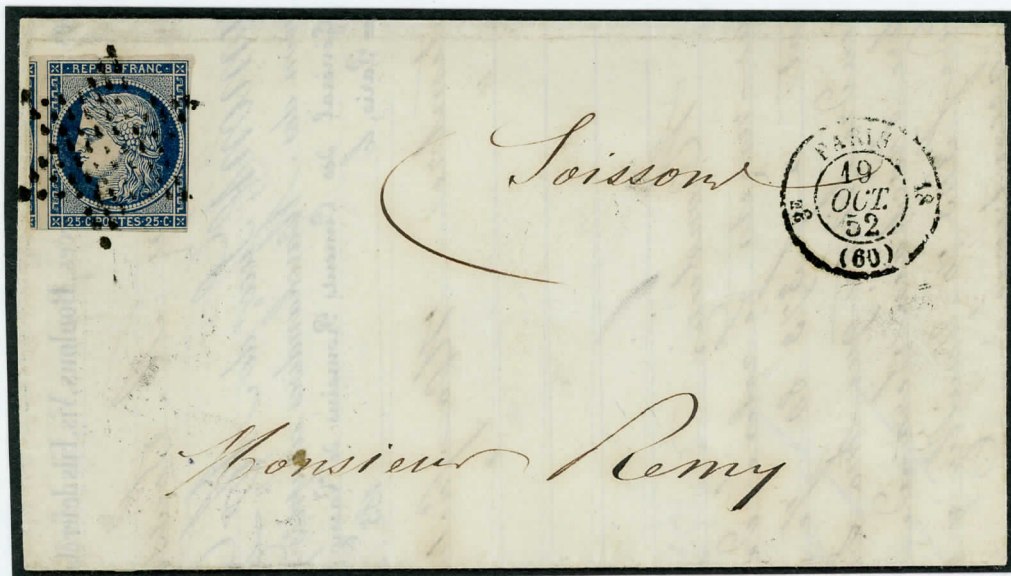
ALLEGORY OF CERES ISSUE

First Issued - 1 January 1849

As of January 1, 1852, the field of Paris cancellations was increased by the adoption of several new forms. For the first time there was a major differentiation between the cancellations of Paris and those used in the rest of France. For Paris the change was the adoption of the Star of Dots by Paris's Bureau Central.



The Paris Bureau Central Star Cancellations was made up of 73 small dots to form a six pointed star. It is often referred to as a Mute or Solid Star. Normally the Star is found in black and occasionally in red or blue. It was routinely used by the Paris Bureau Central until 1876. This type of star can also be found after 1863 used on mail originating in the District Offices where it was used as an emergency canceler.



Domestic rate for under 7 grams. Mailed under
Postal Article No. 13 effective 1 July 1850.

ROLLER OF SMALL DOTS

In Use 1849 - 1864



Due to cancellation of service by the Collins Line, with it's last sailing on 3 February 1858 to New York, this letter was put in the mails on the HAPAG Lines S.S. Hamonia at Southampton 21 March arriving at New York on 1 April entering the United States mails on 2 April 1858.

BUREAU CENTRAL STAR CANCELLATION
 NAPOLEON III LAUREATED ISSUE
 DECEMBER 1862 – DECEMBER 1872



Double rate Transatlantic cover with N.Y.STEAMSHIP 10c due in U.S. Notes on delivery. French boxed P.P. mark in blue.



1868 Transatlantic cover via Direct Route. French PD and NEW YORK PAID ALL with French credit - 3 - in red, paid to United States on prepaid letters.

BUREAU CENTRAL STAR CANCELLATION
CERES PERFORATED ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 1870 – APRIL 1876



1875 Transatlantic cover franked 50c for the Convention Rate of 28 April 1874.

BUREAU CENTRAL STAR CANCELLATION
CERES PERFORATED ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 1870 – 1876



50c franking on Direct Route Transatlantic cover rated under the Postal Law of 21 April 1871 and placed in force 25 May 1871. French boxed P.P. in red. 10c to be collected on delivery in U.S.



Identical covers to England mailed 70 days apart. Large and small PARIS types of Bureau Central date cachets without sectional hour included.

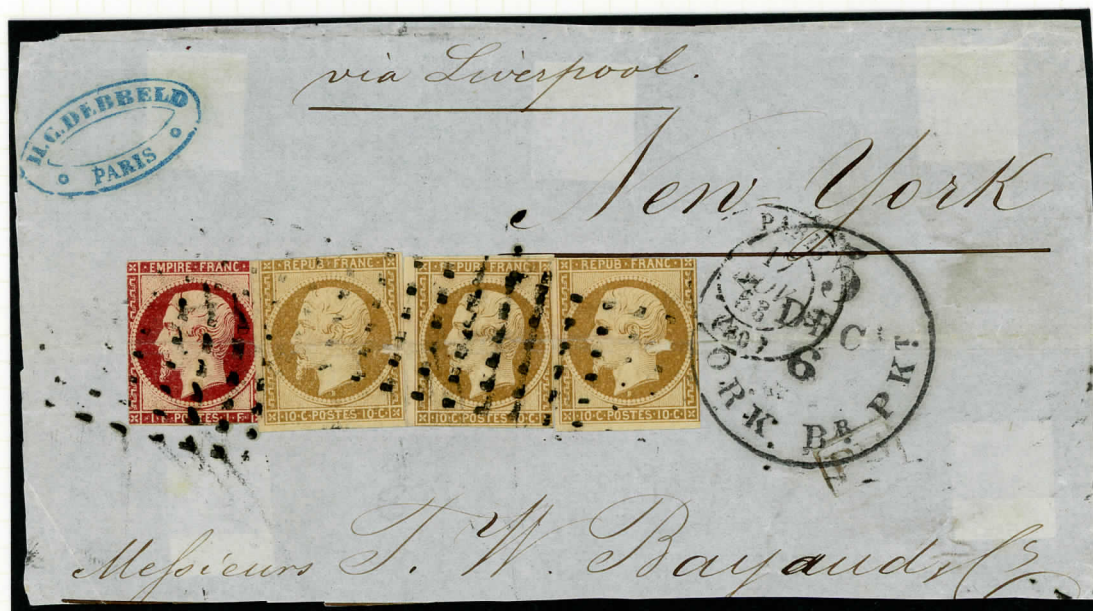
**BUREAU CENTRAL CANCELLATION
GRILL ROLLER
JANUARY 1849 - 1864**

In place of the Star killer a roller-type canceler was used in Paris at Bureau Central to facilitate the cancellation of pairs and strips of stamps. The rollers were made up of grills of diamonds, large or small square dots, or points of dots, arranged in several different patterns. All roller cancelers were used in Paris Bureau Central. An exception was in 1870 when the roller of large square dots was used on registered mail at the Bureau 4 District Office - Rue d'Enghien. The only other known use was when the roller of large square dots was used to annulate stamp remainders.



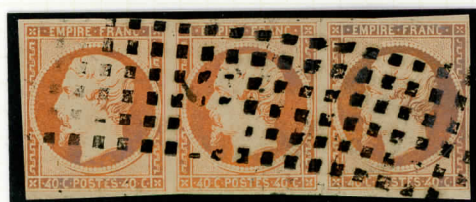
Letter front from Paris Nov. 19, 1852 to New York, with pair of 25c and single 10c Ceres Imperf Issue making Private Ship Rate of 60c. Red PD. Black six in circle indicates Ship Letter fee collected for delivery in American port city.

BUREAU CENTRAL CANCELLATION
 ROLLER OF SMALL SQUARE DOTS
 JANUARY 1849 - 1864



Mixed franking letter front from Paris Nov. 17, 1853 to New York via Liverpool, with 1 Fr. Empire Imperforate and three single 10c Republic Imperforate making Transatlantic British Closed Mail rate of 1 Fr. 30c. 5c U.S. Inland Delivery rate due on delivery in New York in British Packet cancel of December 6. Cancelled with roller of small square dots. French PD in red.

BUREAU CENTRAL CANCELLATION
ROLLER OF LARGE SQUARE DOTS
1849 - 1864



Paris Bureau Central Registry double ring date cachet in red of September 30, 1860, on piece to London. Small boxed PD in red. Roller of large square dots used to cancel Empire Imperforate 80c.

BUREAU CENTRAL STAR CANCELLATION
PARIS POUR PARIS DATE CACHET
JANUARY 1852 – APRIL 1863



Used on letters posted and delivered in Paris, this circular date cachet shows the hour and date of receipt by the Bureau Central or District Offices. The cancellation went out of use with the advent of the Bureau name date cachet.



August 7, 1854 date cachet used with Bureau Central star killer. Small double ring date cachet used on the stamp as second office receipt.



Folded letter sheet dated December 22, 1853 and posted for delivery in Paris. PARIS POUR PARIS double ring date cachet in blue. Used in rare combination with black Bureau Central Star.

BUREAU CENTRAL CANCELLATION
 CACHET OF LARGE DOTS
 ESSAY OF 1856



Experimental cancellation - Square of 36 Large Square Dots - and Bureau Central double ring date cachet on August 1856 cover to Vienna, Austria. Combination of 40c and 80c Empire Imperforate used to pay for rate. Small red boxed foreign mail PD mark shows paid to destination. This cover is backstamped Vienna Sept. 1. This essay cancellation appears to have been used only during August of 1856, and only by Paris Bureau Central and Bureau J.

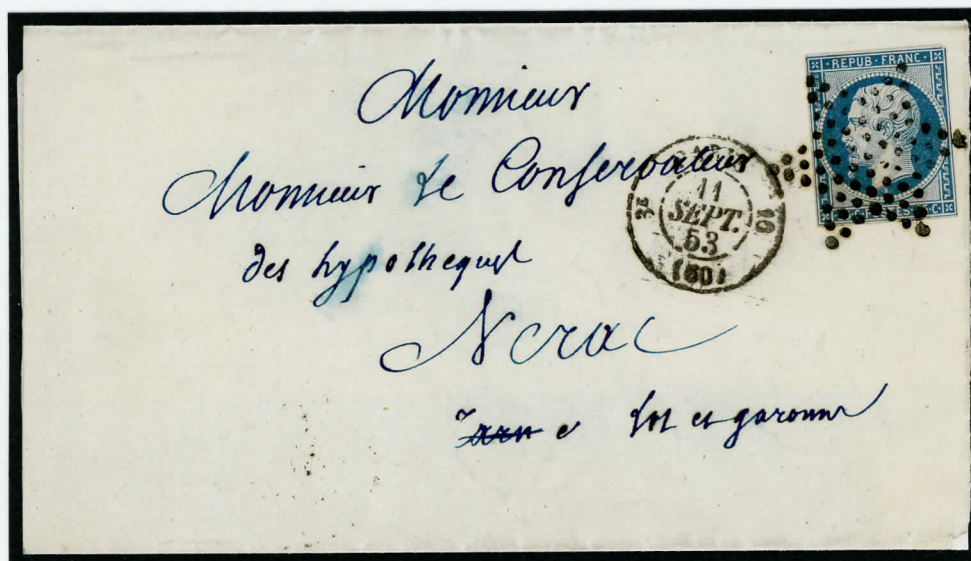
PRESIDENCY ISSUE
First Issued - AUGUST 1852



Many color variations exist on the 25¢ value.



1853 domestic rate usage under 7 grams
 effective with Postal Article No. 10.



Early use of Star killer showing some outer
 points enlarged. Domestic rate to Nérac.

EMPIRE ISSUE - IMPERFORATE
First Issued - AUGUST 1853



Type I

Type II



Type I

Type II



16 July 1856 fully paid local rate mailed under the law of May 1853 which reduced the rate from 15¢.

EMPIRE ISSUE - PERFORATED

First Issued - September 1862

The first perforated issue of France is found with all values reported being used in the 39 Bureaus. This included the 4 new Bureaus added in the month of October 1866. The 1¢ value, issued to pay for mailing newspapers, is extremely scarce with the Star cancellation.



EMPIRE ISSUE - PERFORATED

First Issued - September 1862



The Empire design 5¢ green on bluish paper was printed in December of 1872 and was replaced by the 5¢ Ceres value the same year.



Foreign Mail and mute star combination cancellations of Bureau Central. 7.5 gram closed mail rate via England under the Treaty of 1 April 1857 on Galway Line S.S. Adriatic.

NAPOLEON LAUREATED ISSUES

First Issued - December 1863

All values of the Napoleon Laureated issue have been reported being used in all bureaus. The 1, 2, and 4¢ values are scarce with the Star cancellation. They were intended to pay the rate for the mailing of newspapers, circulars and advertisements.



BUREAU CENTRAL CANCELLATION
CIRCLE OF DOTS
OCTOBER 11, 1858 - MAY 1862

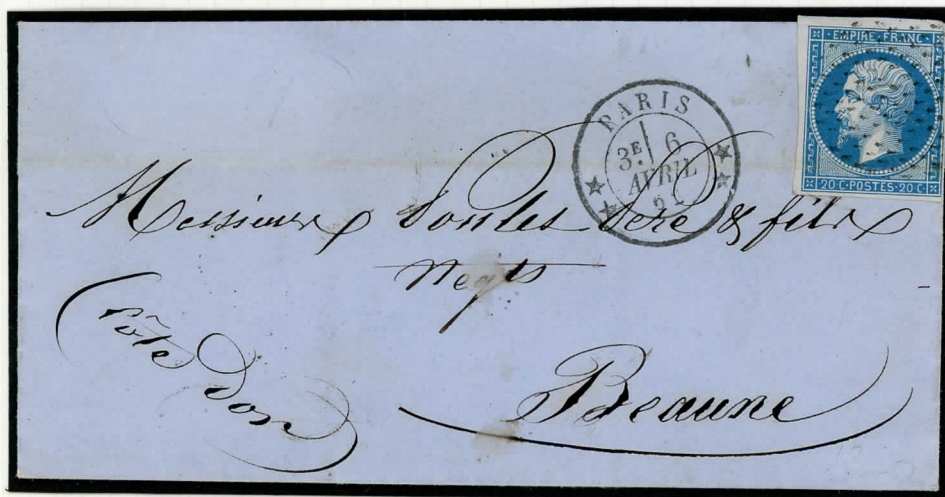
The Circle of Dots killers were used only in Paris in place of the Bureau Central Star. There are 5 types of the circular killers and only 1 of the octagonal type. The killer is best identified on cover since the total of all dots in the cancellation are normally required to determine type.



BUREAU CENTRAL CANCELLATION
CIRCLE OF DOTS
OCTOBER 11, 1858 - MAY 1862



The Circle of Dots killer is made up of either square or diamond-shaped dots which form a circle. They range from 20mm to 23mm wide in diameter. The double ring date cachets accompanying these cancellations are found in three types: 1 Star on either side; 2 Stars on either side; or with the Cross of Lorraine being used in place of the Stars.



5¢ EMPIRE PERFORATED ISSUE

First Issued - 15 October 1862



Combination franking used to make 20¢ domestic rate for 10-20 grams, effective 1 January 1863.

10¢ EMPIRE PERFORATED ISSUE

First Issued - 15 October 1862



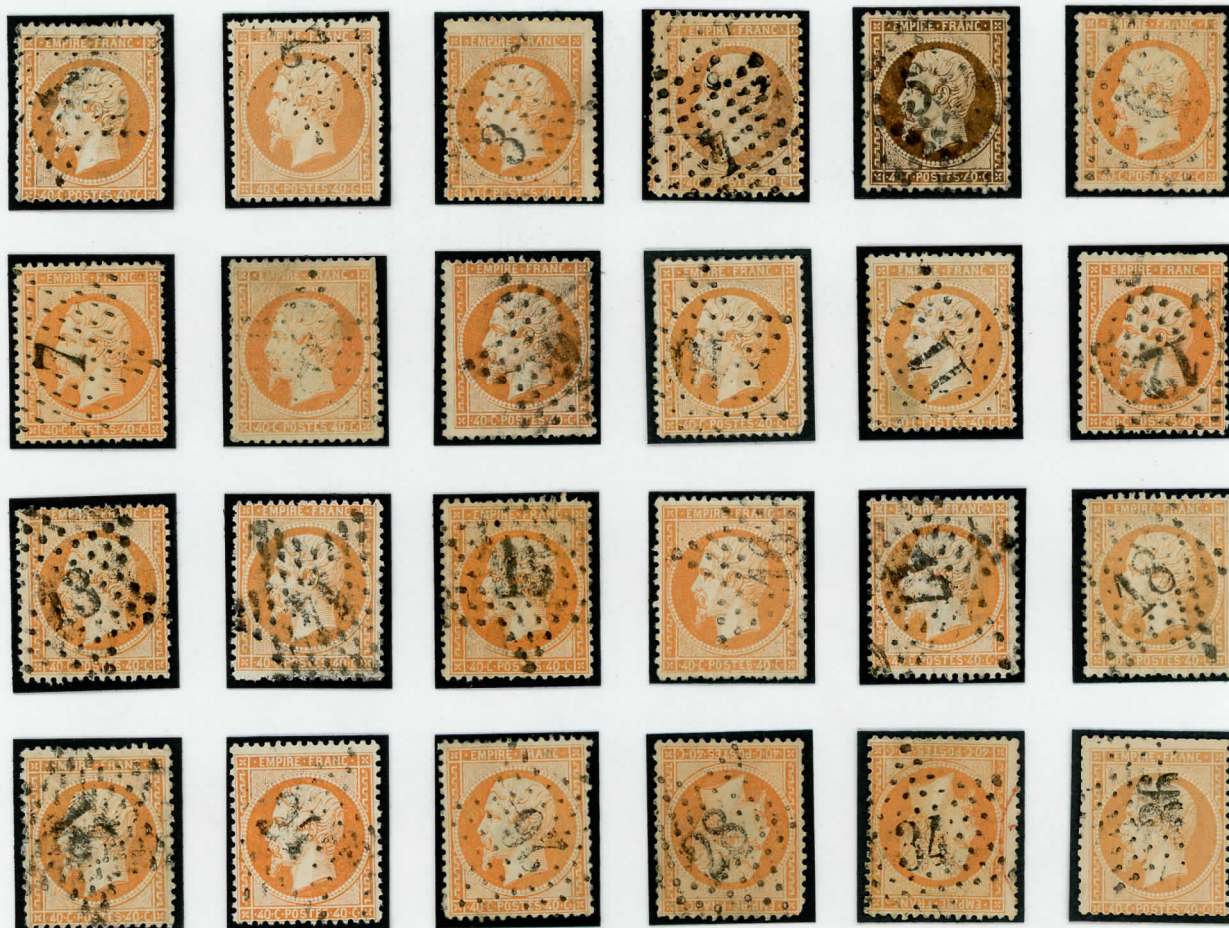
Combination franking to Prussia mailed 4 October with Bureau Star 34 cancellation only. Posted to late for regular scheduled train departure. Aachen Transit Mark applied on crossing German border.

20¢ EMPIRE PERFORATED ISSUE
First Issued - 10 September 1862



40¢ EMPIRE PERFORATED ISSUE

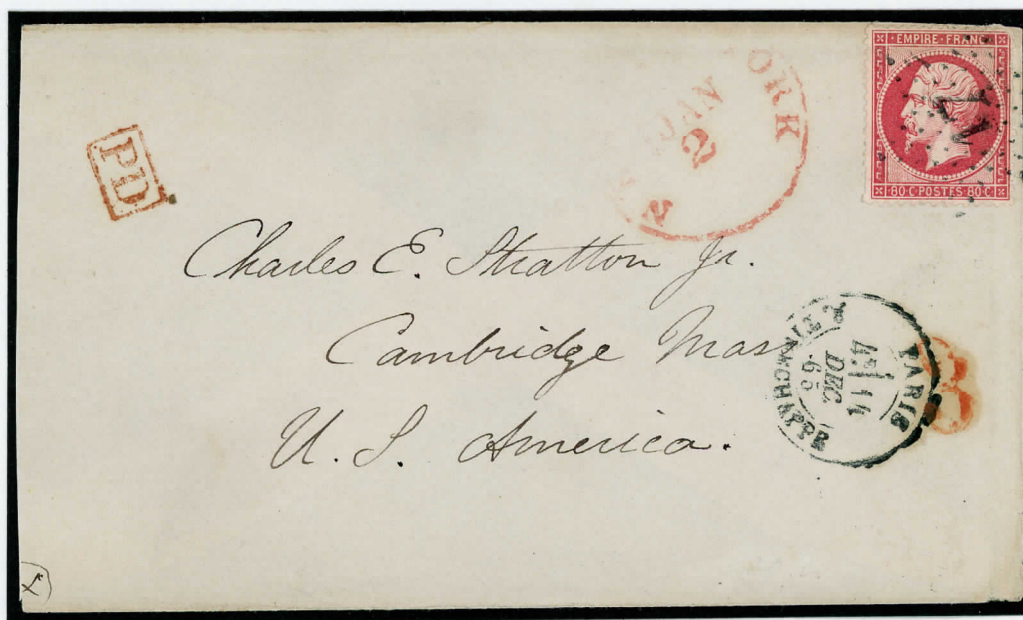
First Issued - 15 October 1862



Single rate fully paid to England
with overnight service.

80¢ EMPIRE PERFORATED ISSUE

First Issued - 15 October 1862



Single letter rate direct route full paid on French Line
S.S. Lafayette from Le Harve. 3¢ Transit Fee paid to United States.

5 FR. NAPOLEON LAUREATED ISSUE

First Issued - August 1869



Issued to pay registered, heavy letter and parcel rates. Scarce on small covers.



Registered letter with 3500FR. insurance. 7fr.90 rate made up of 7fr insurance, 50¢ registry fee and 40¢ double letter rate.

**HOLLOW STAR CANCELLATIONS
EMPIRE PERFORATED ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 1862 – DECEMBER 1876**

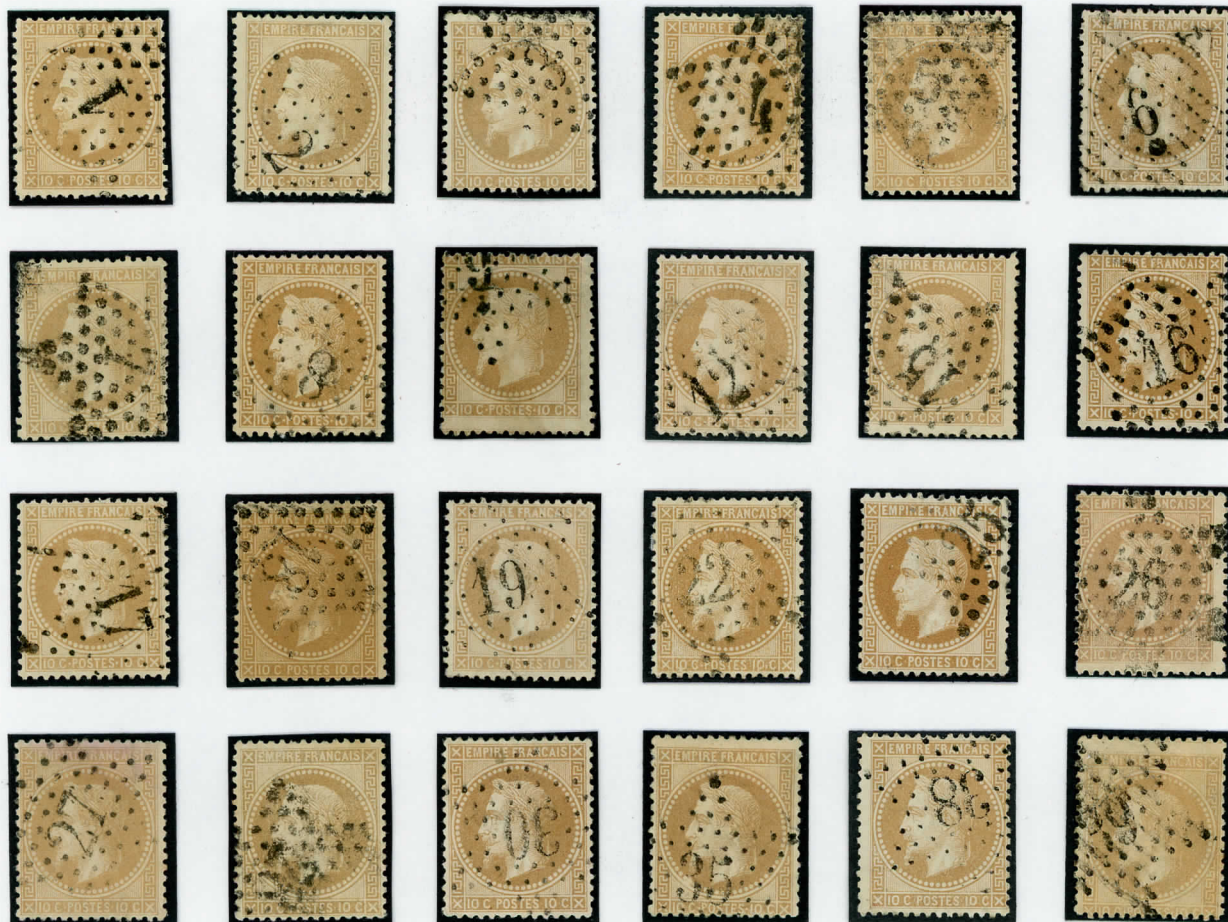
The Hollow Star cancellation, one used without numbers in the center, is known to have been used in Bureaus 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 16, 18, 22, 26, 27, 29, 32, and Bureau Central. The best identification is made when found on cover. There are 13 different dot structure pattern with as many as five Bureaus using the same star.



20c Empire Perforated pair, tied by double Hollow star cancellation of Bureau 3, PL. DE LA MADELEINE used in 1864.

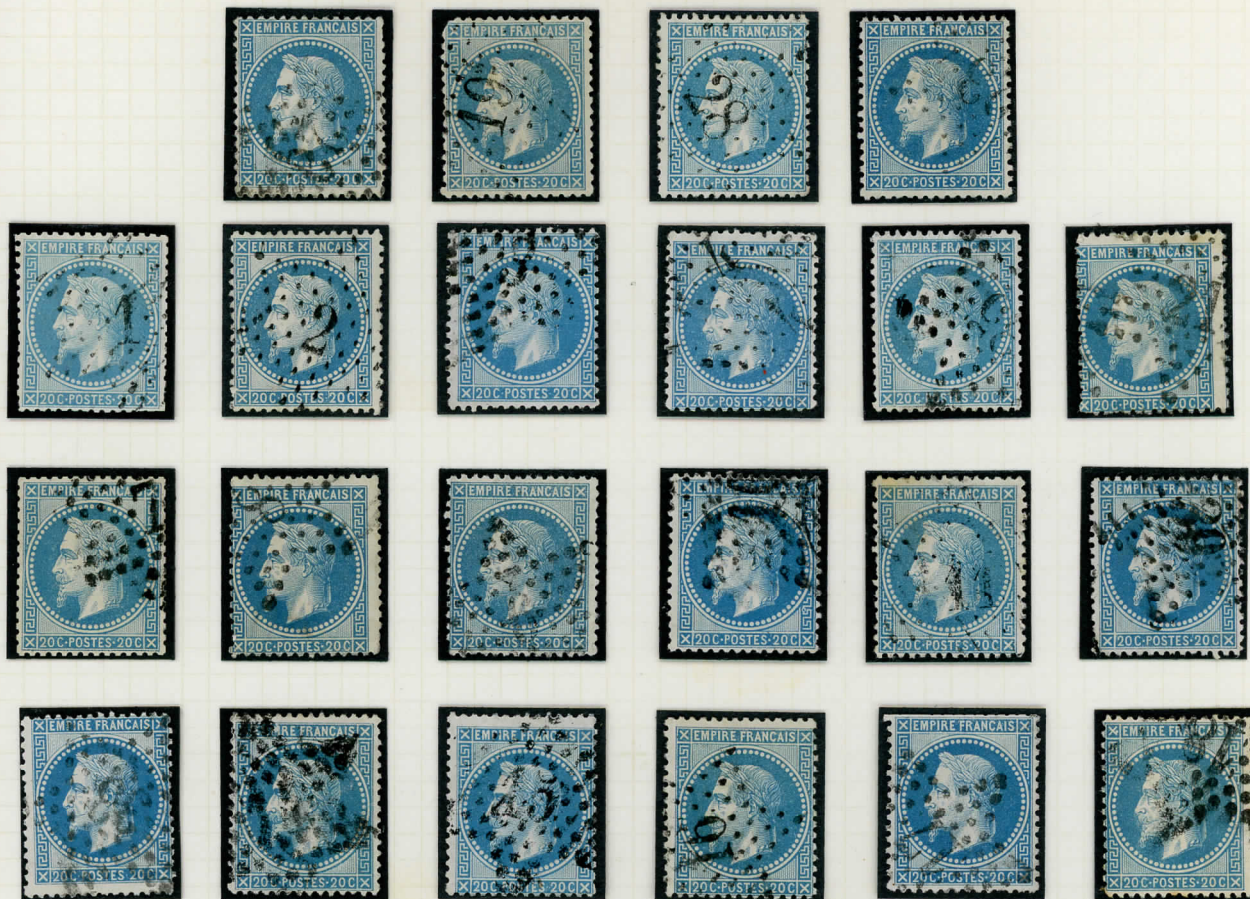
10¢ LAUREATED NAPOLEON ISSUE

First Issued - 15 November 1867



Combination franking posted by Munroe & Co. (Forwarding Agents)
Saarbrücken Transit Mark applied at German border.

STAR WITH NUMERAL CANCELLATION
20c LAUREATED NAPOLEON ISSUE
APRIL 1867 – APRIL 1876



30c LAUREATED NAPOLEON ISSUE
First Issued - 1869



Commune Period — Double domestic rate. Bureau 24 star,
and Bureau 17 date cancels, both tie 30c to cover.

40¢ LAUREATED NAPOLEON ISSUE
First Issued - August 1868



Single rate letter to Ireland fully paid under
 Treaty Rate of 1 January 1862 with Great Britain.

STAR WITH NUMERAL CANCELLATION
80c LAUREATED NAPOLEON ISSUE
DECEMBER 1868 – APRIL 1876

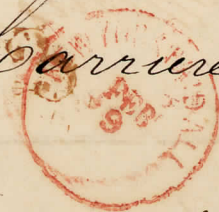


Hollow Star -Grand Type- used with Octagonal date cachet on cover to London. Large boxed P.D.

via Lorient.



Messieurs A. Carrere & Co.



Nouvelle Orleans.

HOLLOW STAR CANCELLATION
 NAPOLEAN III LAUREATED ISSUE
 DECEMBER 1862 – DECEMBER 1872



Double rated folded letter sheet with Bureau Central date cachet
 and Hollow Star cancellation, December 16, 1869.

CERES ISSUES

First Issued - October 1870

Reported on all 39 Bureaus, many numbered stars are scarce due to the amount of mail serviced by some District Offices. As in prior issues star killers on the 1¢, 2¢ and 4¢ values are scarce. Dropped officially in 1876, the killer was often used during heavy mail periods.



**STAR WITH NUMERAL CANCELLATION
CERES PERFORATED ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 1871 – APRIL 1876**



**1-CENTIME OLIVE-GREEN
NOVEMBER 1872 – APRIL 1876**

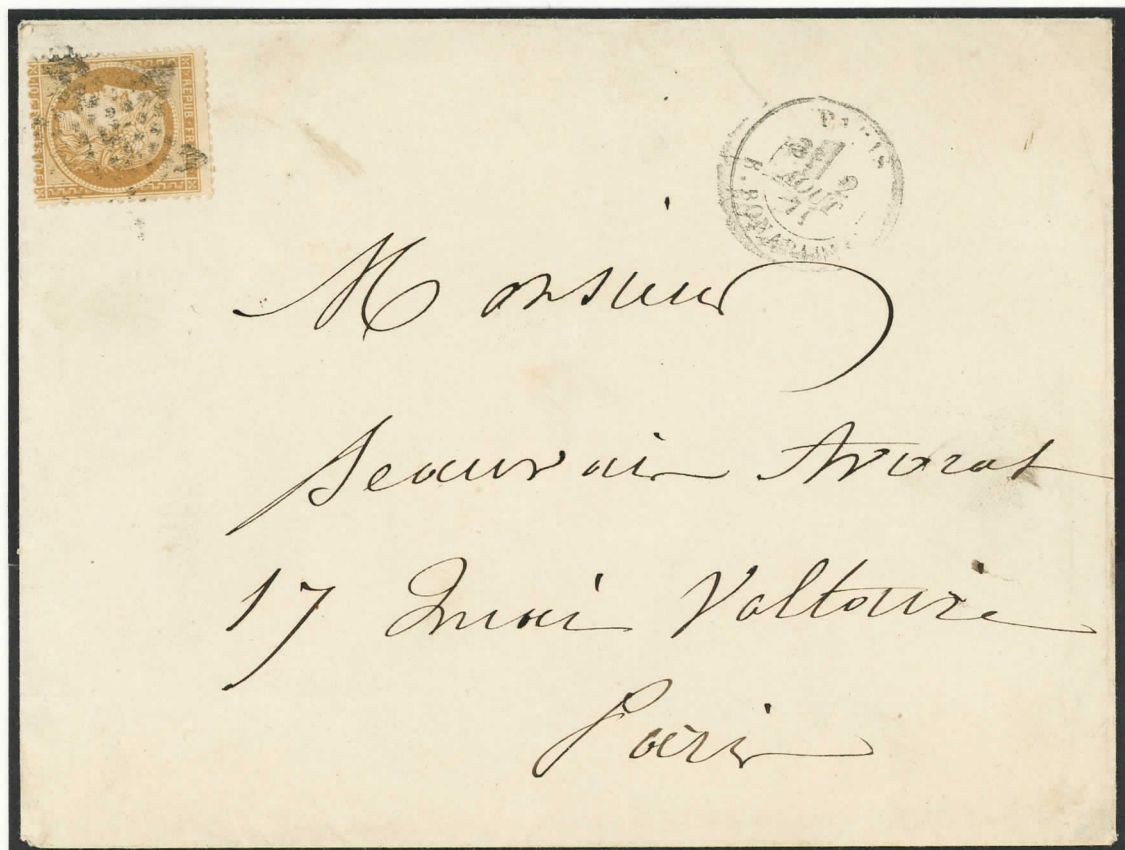


**2-CENTIMES RED-BROWN
APRIL 1872 – APRIL 1876**



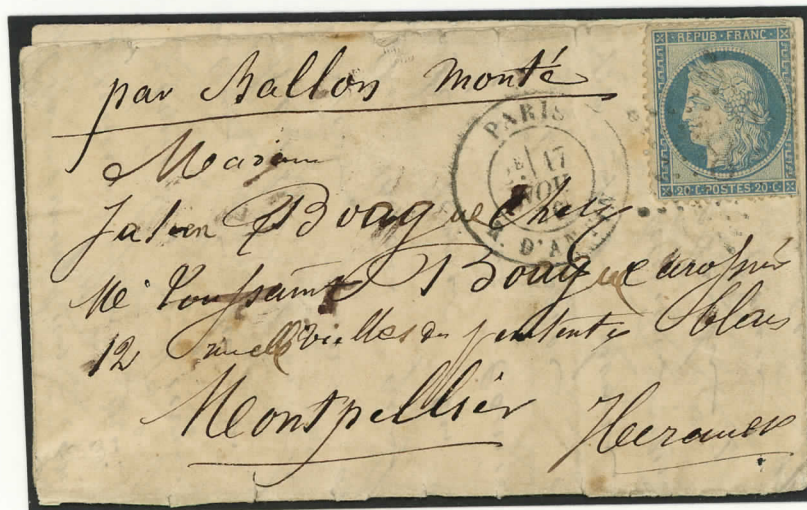
**4-CENTIMES GREY
MAY 1872 – APRIL 1876**

10¢ SEIGE ISSUE
First Issued - 11 October 1870



Single letter rate for Local Delivery.

20¢ CERES ISSUE
First Issued - 11 October 1870



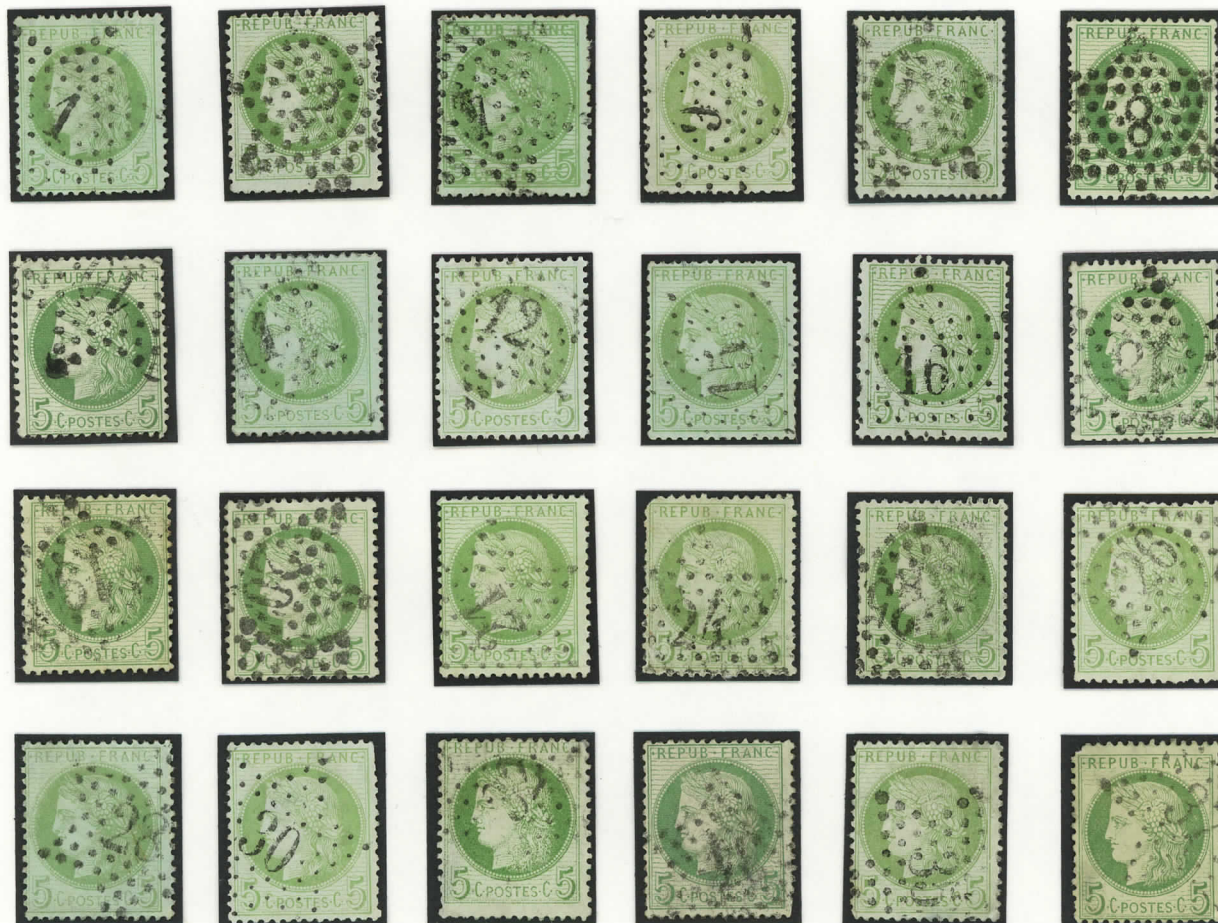
Par Ballon Monte folded letter sheet to Montpellier flown on the Ballon Le General-Ulrich 18 November 1870. Posted at R.D'ANTIN - 17 NOV. (18)70.

40¢ CERES ISSUE
First Issued - 11 October 1870



Treaty of 1 July 1871, rate full paid to destination via England. Carried as contract mail on Inman Line S.S. City of Montreal via Halifax and Boston.

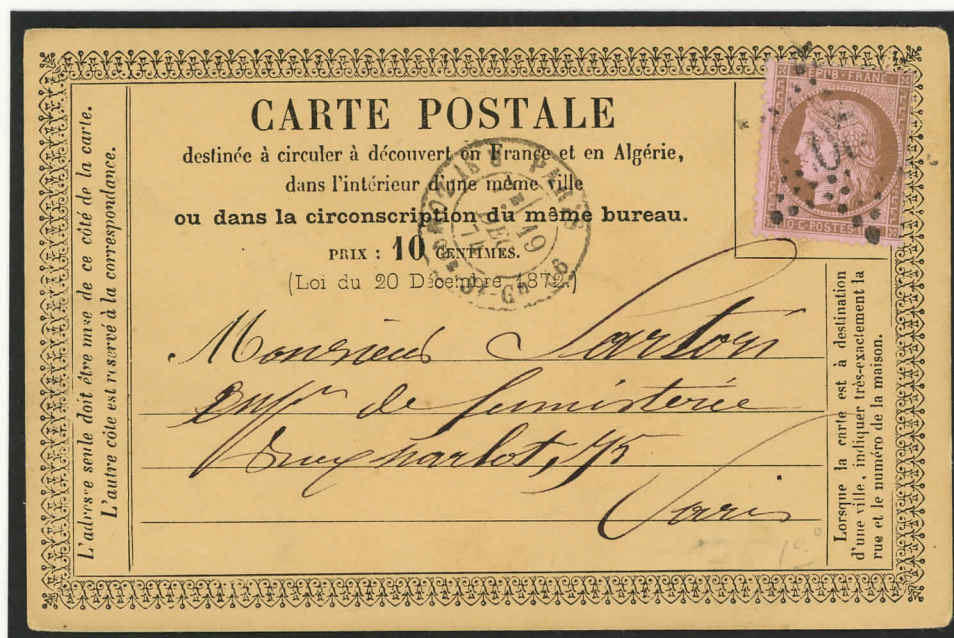
5¢ CERES ISSUE
First Issued - 10 June 1872



Combination franking paying 60¢ UPU rate of 1875.
 Direct closed mail carried by French Line.

10¢ CERES ISSUE - SMALL NUMERAL OF VALUE

First Issued - January 1873



Printing of 1873 postal card issued for Postal Law of
20 December 1872. Paid for local delivery.

First Issued - March 1875



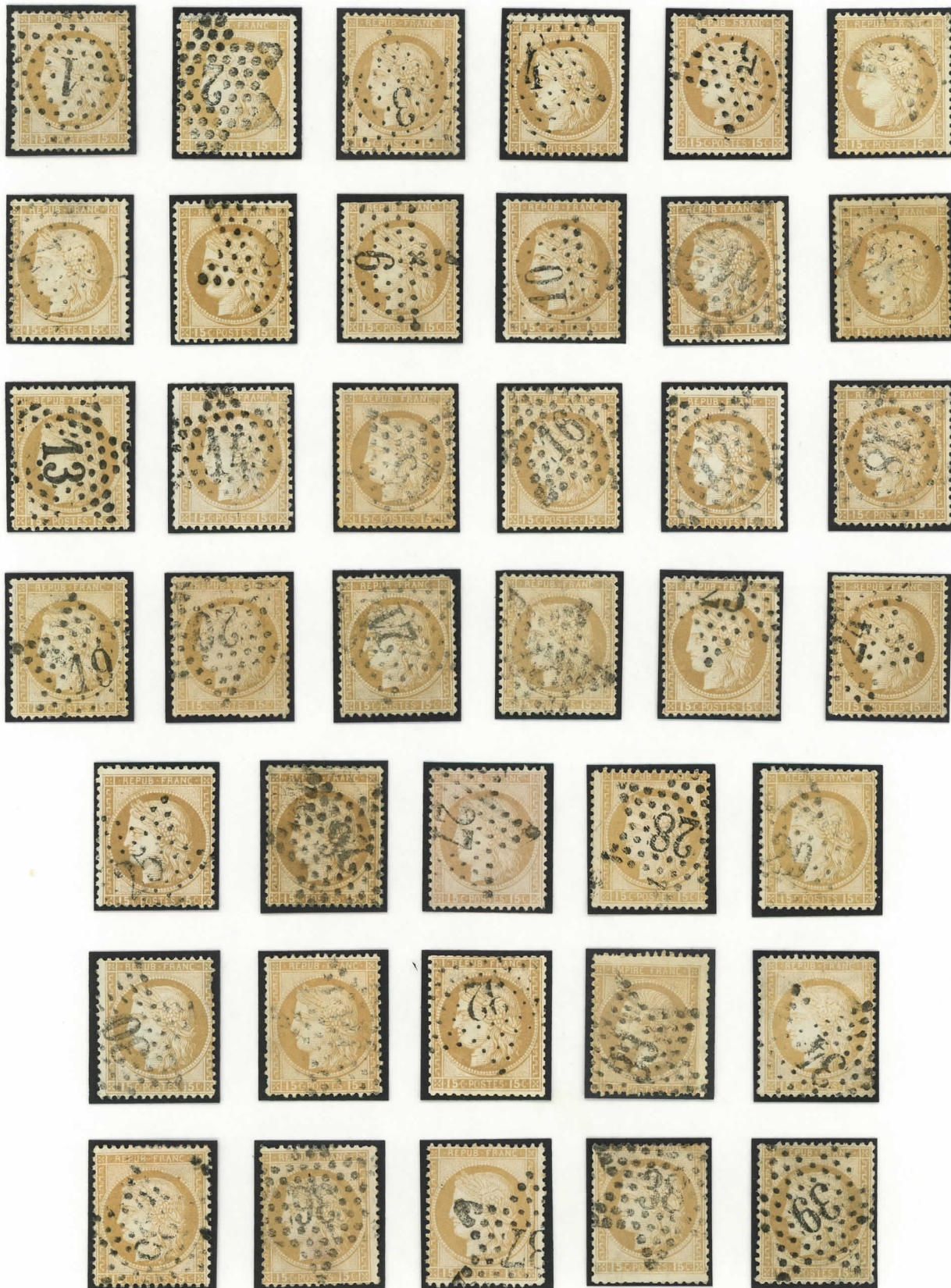
Domestic rate of 20 December 1872 to Ville on 1875
printing of postal card Type F 5.

15¢ CERES ISSUE - SMALL NUMERAL OF VALUE
First Issued - 1 September 1871



15¢ CERES ISSUE - LARGE NUMERAL OF VALUE

First Issued - June 1873



25¢ CERES ISSUE
First Issued - September 1871



30¢ CERES ISSUE
First Issued - 28 August 1872



1875 shortrated letter to England. French and English due marks indicate underpaid 40¢ UPU rate in effect.

80¢ CERES ISSUE
First Issued - 12 September 1872



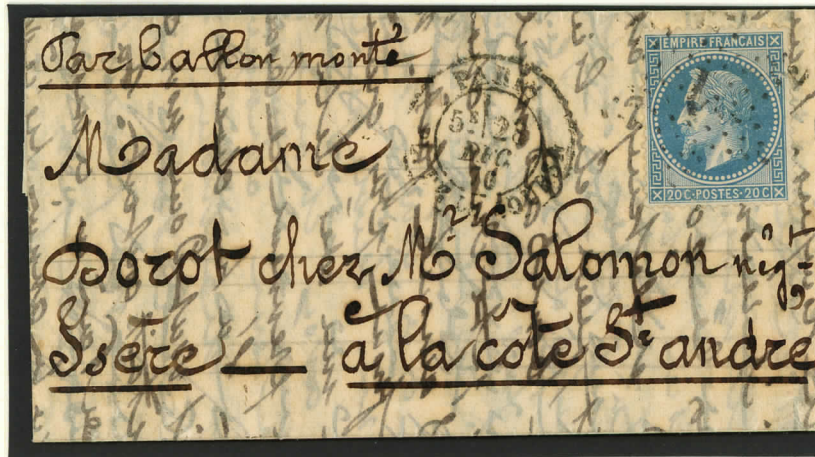
Double rate letter mailed under Treaty of 1 July 1871
via England. French Paid to Port but under rated by
Mexico with 25cs due collected on delivery.

**HOLLOW STAR CANCELLATIONS
CERES PERFORATED ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 1871 – APRIL 1876**



January 18, 1876, date cachet with large PARIS, used with Bureau Central Hollow Star killer on November 1875 issue postal card.

BUREAU 1
Place de la Bourse Sept. 1863 – 1887



Par Balloon Monte folded letter sheet to La Cote St. Andre in the provence of Isere, Bureau Star 1 killer and PL. DE LA BOURSE, DEC. (18)70 double circle date cachet.



4 May 74 folded double letter sheet to Guadalajara, Mexico with Paid To Port and London PAID in red. Four 25c Ceres Issue tied by Bureau 1 star killer. 2 May By Way of Southampton, in black. Mexican 25c DUE mark in black. Backstamped VERA CRUZ, 25 May 1874.

BUREAU 1
CANCELLATION VARIETIES



A pair of the 40c Empire Perforated Issue tied by a Mute Star cancellation used in Bureau 1. Date cachet shows September 12, 1865, with backstamp in Lyon on the 12th. The 80c paid is unusual for a double letter sheet.



Full Paid folded letter sheet to Amsterdam. Small red PD. Bureau 1 star cancellation with octagon date cachet.

BUREAU 2
Rue St. Lazare Sept. 1863 – Nov. 1872
Rue Milton Nov. 1872 – 1880



Fully paid single rate Transatlantic cover via England.



Circular date cachet 23 May 73, R. MILTON with 25c Ceres Issue tied by Bureau 2 star killer on folded letter sheet to Besnacon.

BUREAU 2
Rue St. Lazare Sept. 1863 – Nov. 1872
B for R Variety / Mute Star Usage



Variety of Rue St. Lazare date cachet with letter B used in place of R in the Bureau name. Double ring date cachet of Aug. 26, 1872 shows B. ST.LAZARE as clear strike. This variety is unlisted in the major French specialized catalogs.



Mute Star cancellation with R. ST.-LAZARE date cachet on cover to Colmar. June 22, 1868 usage.

BUREAU 3
Place de la Madeleine Sept. 1863 - 1879



Laureated Napoleon Issue 80c pair, tied with Bureau 3 star cancellation on envelope to Philadelphia, Pa. Via Queenstown. 1 Oct. 64 circular date cachet and PD stamped in red. Backstamped with circular Philadelphia Receiving mark Oct. 12, 1864 in red.



Combination franking of 25c and 5c Ceres Issue, tied with Bureau 3 star killer on cover to Livourne, Italy. Circular date cachet in black, 29 Feb. 76. Backstamped with Livourne receiving mark.

BUREAU 3
Place de la Madeleine Sept. 1863 - 1879



Bureau 3 star killer and PL. DE LA MADELEINE date cachet of Dec. 20, 1867, on fully paid letter to Australia. It was routed to Marseilles to connect with the mailboat leaving Southampton on the same day as posting in Paris. Backstamped Melbourne Feb. 12, 1868 in black.



July 7, 1874 date cachet on domestic letter for General Delivery in Bordeaux. Backstamped BORDEAUX POSTE RESTANTE in red.

BUREAU 3
MUNROE & CO. MARKING
FORWARDING COURIERS

These covers, handled by MONROE & CO., Forwarding Agents, were both prepared by the same employee of the company. The similarity of handwriting is quite obvious as is the color of ink used, pairs of the 25c Ceres Perforated Issue used for franking and the star killer and date cachet.



The cover above, dated Oct. 31, 1874 is franked for the Closed Mail Convention Rate of April 28, 1874, via England and was received in New York as PAID ALL. The cover below is marked with Paris, London, script and New York Due Marks. The 50c paid the rate for 15 grams. The due marks indicate the letter was overweight by 5 grams with the 5c being collected on delivery at destination.



BUREAU 4
Rue d'Enghien Sept. 1863 – 1879



Truncated star cancel applied over 2 mute star cancels of Bureau 4 on letter to Spain on Feb. 3, 1865.

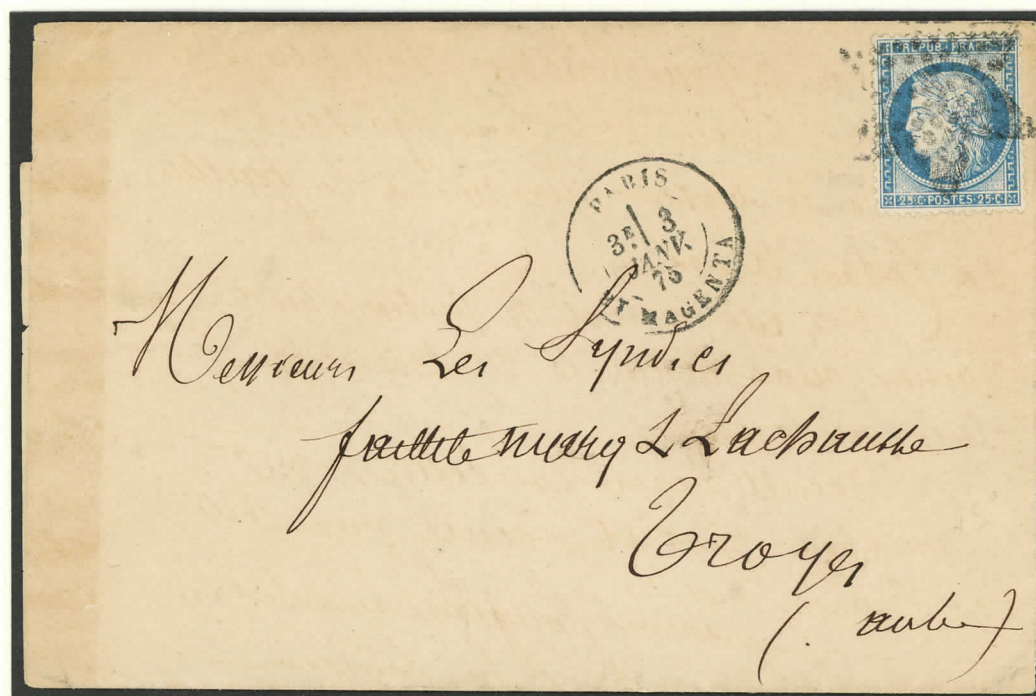


1868 Double Rate folded letter fully paid for Transatlantic mail service to New Orleans, Louisiana via England. Left stamp tied with both Bureau 4 star killer and red boxed PD. NEW YORK PAID ALL in red 12 days later.

BUREAU 5
 Boulevard St. Martin Sept. 1863 – July 1865
 Rue de Bondy Aug. 1865 – Sept. 1872
 Boulevard Magenta Sept. 1872 – 1877



Full Paid folded letter sheet to Amsterdam, R.DE BONDY, May 22, 1869.



Folded letter sheet to Troyes. BT. MAGENTA 1875 date cachet.

BUREAU 6
Senat Sept. 1863 - Oct. 1871
Pal. du Luxembourg Nov. 1871 - 1878



Par Balloon Monte folded letter sheet to Marseille. Type I Bureau 6 star killer. Oct. 4, 1870 SENAT cachet indicates either WASHINGTON or LOUIS-BLANC balloon flight.

BUREAU 7
Rue des Vieilles Haudriettes Sept. 1863 – 1878



Identical covers with the exception of the date cachet dated 17 days apart. Date cachets read: (top) HAUDRTES, (bottom) HAUDTES, indicating a change of cancellations taking place on September 1, 1869.



BUREAU 7
CANCELLATION VARIETIES



TYPE I a



TYPE I b

Since all the star killers were "finished" by hand and probably by more than one engraver, two distinct 7's have been found during their period of use. Type I a has a thin serif on the left of the top bar, while Type I b has a triangular shaped serif. Also, the base of the figure 7 is slanted upward to the right on Type I a. A light strike helps to establish these two sub-types.



Triple strike of the star killer showing Type I b killer of 1864.

BUREAU 8
R. D'Antin Sept. 1863 - 1883

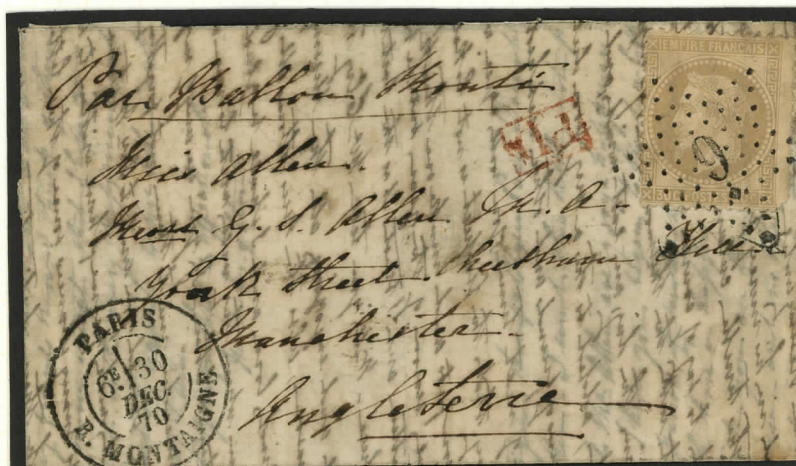


Open Packet Transatlantic mail via England fully paid to destination. Dec. 31, 1872 circular date cachet for R. D'ANTIN. 1 Fr. 20c rate of August 1871. 2c British credit mark to U.S. in red crayon. Backstamped CARRIER JAN. 25.



Combination franking on Transatlantic cover via England with 2 Bureau 8 star killers. R. D'ANTIN date cachet of Jan. 14, 1873. Paris, London and San Francisco PAID markings. 2 CENTS red British credit to U.S. marking.

BUREAU 9
Rue du Faubourg St. Honore Sept. 1863 – May 1867
Rue Montaigne June 1867 – 1883



Par Balloon Monte folded letter sheet to England, carried on ARMEE DE LA LOIRE. Date cachet of Paris, Dec.30, 1870 with Manchester backstamp Jan. 3, 1871.



1873 Postal Card, black on white with double rate box, with 10c brown on rose Ceres Issue of 1873 tied by Bureau 9 Type 2 star killer. 31 March (18)73 circular date cachet shows early use of both card and stamp by R. MONTAIGNE.

BUREAU 10
 Petite-rue-du-Bac Sept. 1863 - April 1865
 R. du Cherche-Midi April 1865 - 1879



Small ladies letter with Petite-rue-du-Bac circular date cachet of Feb. 2, 1865. 10c Empire Perforated used to pay rate for local delivery inside Paris.



Combination franking to make 1 Fr. 20 rate for double folded letter sheet to Amsterdam with 1866 R. DU CHERCHE-MIDI date cachet.

BUREAU 11

R. de L'Echelle Sept. 1863 - Nov. 1864

R. St. Honore Dec. 1864 - June 1873

Pl. du Theatre-Francis June 1873 - 1879



Transatlantic cover via French Packet with combination franking to pay rate. The lower stamp is also tied by N.Y. STEAMSHIP marking.



Transatlantic cover via French Packet with 25c Ceres Perforated Issue tied by the Bureau 11 Star and NEW YORK DUE 10 U.S. CURRENCY marking in black.

BUREAU 12
Bt. Beaumarchais Sept. 1863 - 1878



1864 Transatlantic cover to Mexico. Right date cachet shows Nov. 30 with the APRES LE DEPART mark applied on top. The left date cachet shows cover to be reposted on Dec. 2. Two Mexican Due 4 killers. 2 shilling British Exchange rate posted in script in upper left.



Par Balloon Monte cover carried on Godefroy-Cavaignac or Jean-Bart No. 1. Backstamped Le Mans Oct. 17, 1871. Variety of date cachet with 2E collection hour.

BUREAU 12
Bt. Beaumarchais Sept. 1863 - 1878



TYPE I

TYPE II

Although not mentioned in any reference sources researched to date, two distinct sub-Types of the figure 2 have appeared in the killers in the cancellation for this Bureau. Type I has a very clean single line on the serif to the right of the bottom bar. Type II has a triangular serif.



Domestic rate cover to Roquecourbe November 27, 1869 with 20c Laured Napoleon tied by Bureau 12 Type I Star cancellation.

BUREAU 13
Hotel-de-Ville Sept. 1863 - May 1871
R. de la Tacherie Feb. 1872 - 1877



Bureau Star 13 killer with HOTEL-DE-VILLE date cachet with the month and year missing, on cover to Vierzon.



Folded letter sheet to Bar-y-Aube, Dec. 5, 1873. Single rate.

BUREAU 14
R. du Faubg St.-Martin Sept. 1863 - July 1865
R.de Strasbourg Aug. 1865 - 1877



Single rate folded letter sheet to Switzerland, 1864.



Mixed franking on R.DE STRASBOURG folded letter sheet to London with 5c Empire Perforated and 25c Ceres Perforated (Republic) used to make the 30c rate due to the shortage of 5c or 30c Ceres Issues not released until 1872.

BUREAU 14
R. de Strasbourg Aug. 1865 - 1877



July 29, 1869 folded letter sheet to Frankfort without any street address or any indication of delivery shown other than the city. Small red PD marking.



Folded letter sheet to Vienna, July 20, 1870 with Late For Departure marking in black. Backstamped Vienna Aug. 3.

BUREAU 15
Rue Bonaparte Sept. 1863 – 1877

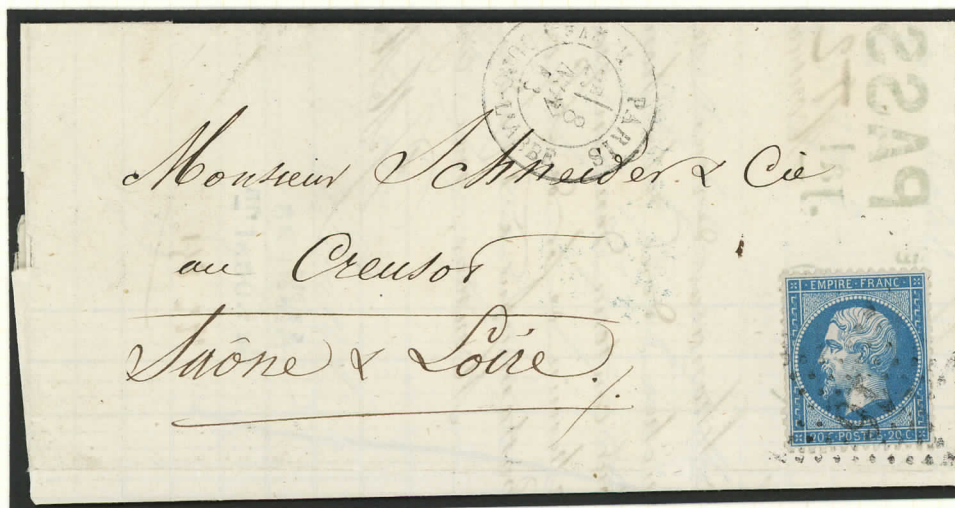


Military Mail, Par Balloon Monte folded letter sheet to the Director of Powder at Lille. Probably carried on the balloon Victor Hugo. Backstamped at Lille 20 Oct. 1870.



Strip of three 80c Ceres Issue of 1872 tied to double rated cover to New York on Transatlantic mail via England. The 1 Fr. 20c rate was reduced to 40c effective Aug. 1, 1874. 2c Exchange rate in red.

BUREAU 16
 Rue Neuve Bourg l'Abbe Sept. 1863 – Jan. 1865
 Rue de Palestro Jan. 1865 – Oct. 1873
 Rue de Turbigo Oct. 1873 – 1879

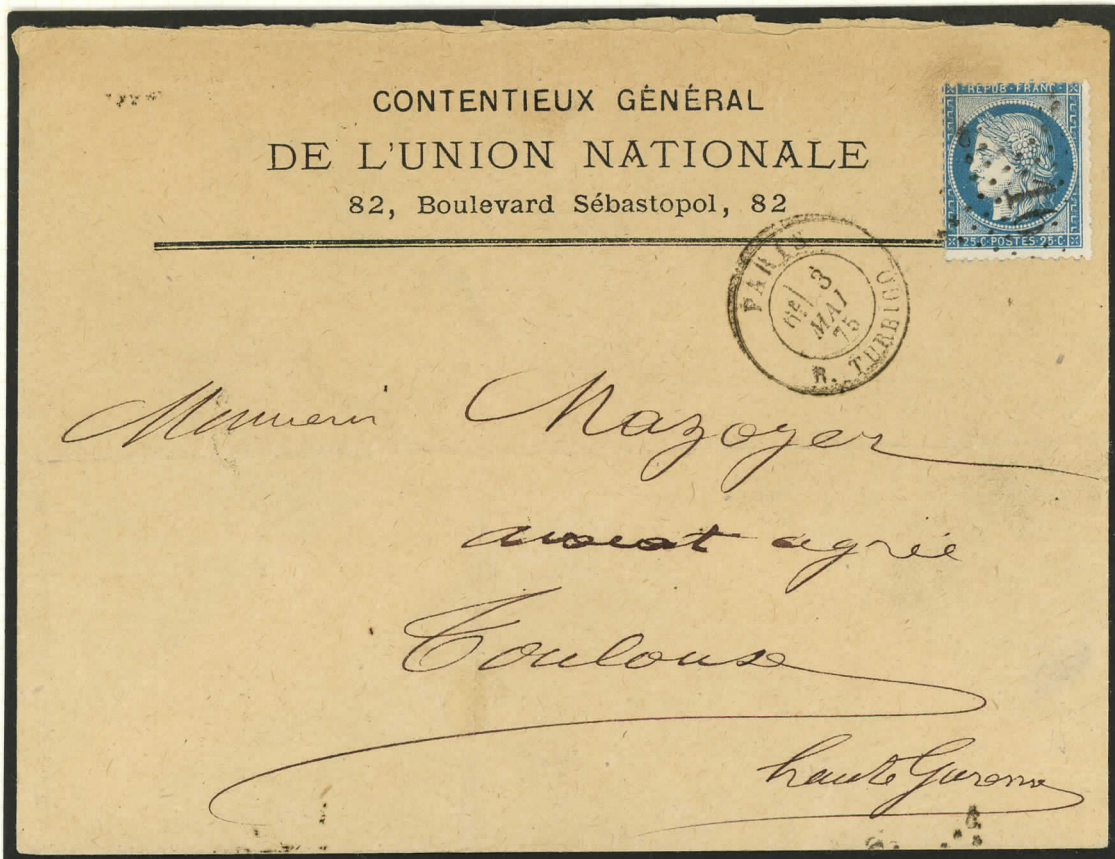


Single rate folded letter sheet with R.NEUVE BOURG l'ABBE cachet.



R. DE PALESTRO date cachet, Mar. 12, 1868, on folded letter to Chalons.

BUREAU 16
Rue de Turbigo Oct. 1873 – 1879

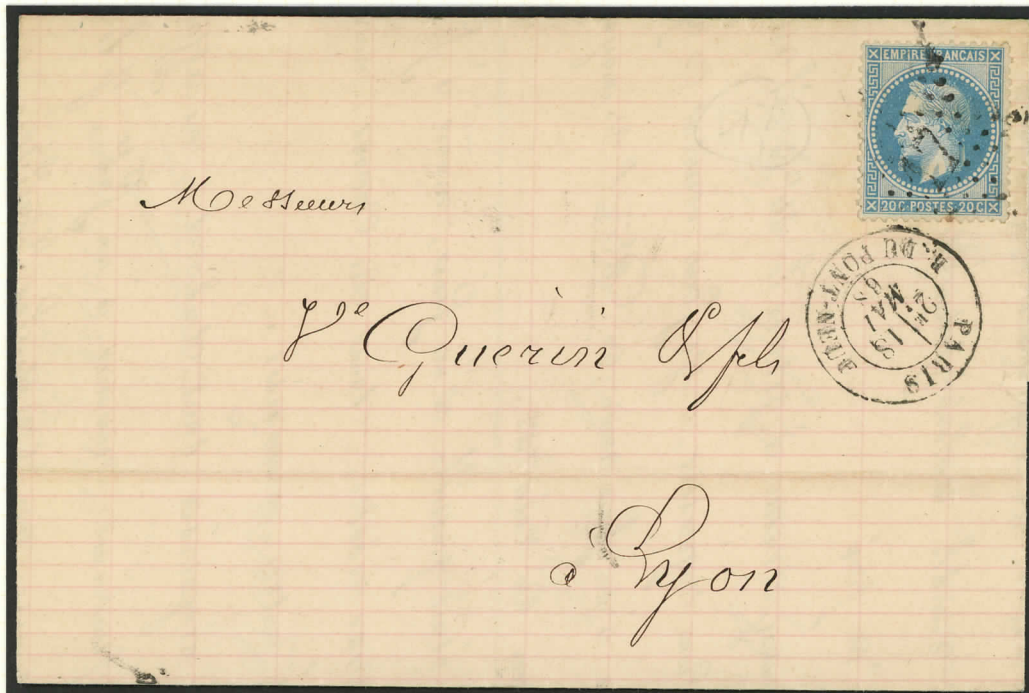


Oversize envelope from the Director of the Relief for the Union Nationale to Toulouse. 25c Ceres Issue Type III of 1874 tied by Bureau 16 star killer. 3 May 75 circular date cachet in black.

BUREAU 17
 R. Tirechappe Sept. 1863 - June 1867
 R. du Pont-Neuf July 1867 - 1878



80c Empire Issue tied by Bureau Star 17 with date cachet without year date of R. TIRECHAPPE and boxed PD in black. 9c American collection rate in red with curved PAID mark. 15c was collected on delivery to fully pay rate in depreciated United States currency.



R. DU PONT-NEUF date cachet, May 18, 1868, on folded letter to Lyon.

BUREAU 18
R. de Londres Sept. 1863 - Feb. 1869
R. D'Amsterdam Feb. 1869 - 1877



Domestic double letter rate to Le Havre, with 40c Empire Perforated Issue tied by star 18 killer.



Combination franking on folded letter sheet with all stamps tied by Bureau 18 star cancellation. Backstamped LEOPOLDSTADT, WIEN, Mar. 29, 1873.

BUREAU 19
R. D'Angoule-du-Tple Sept. 1863 - Jan. 1868
Bt. Richard-Lenoir Jan. 1868 - 1877



20c Empire Perforated Issue tied by Bureau 19 Star cancellation and date cachet of R.D'ANGOULE-DU-TPLE on cover to Vierzon.

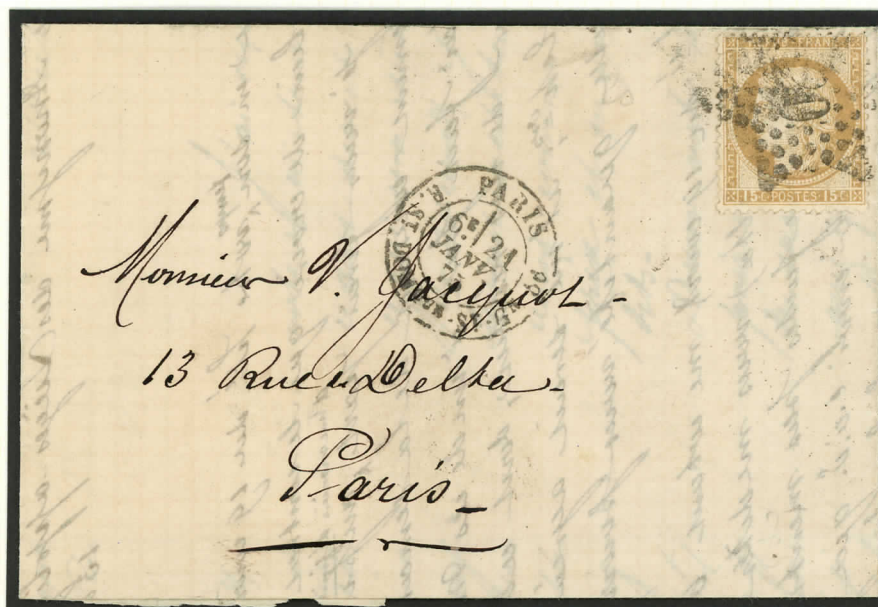


Single rate folded letter sheet to London with pair of 15c Ceres Issue of 1872 tied by Bureau 19 double Star killer from BT. RICHARD - LENIOR. London receiving mark shows PAID next day, Dec. 12, 1871.

BUREAU 20
R. St-Domque-St-Gn, 56 Sept. 1863 - 1878



Bureau 20 Star killer 20 used to tie 20c Laureated Issue to cover to Pas-de-Calais district. Date cachet of March 14, 1874 for R.St-DOMQUE-St-Gn,56.



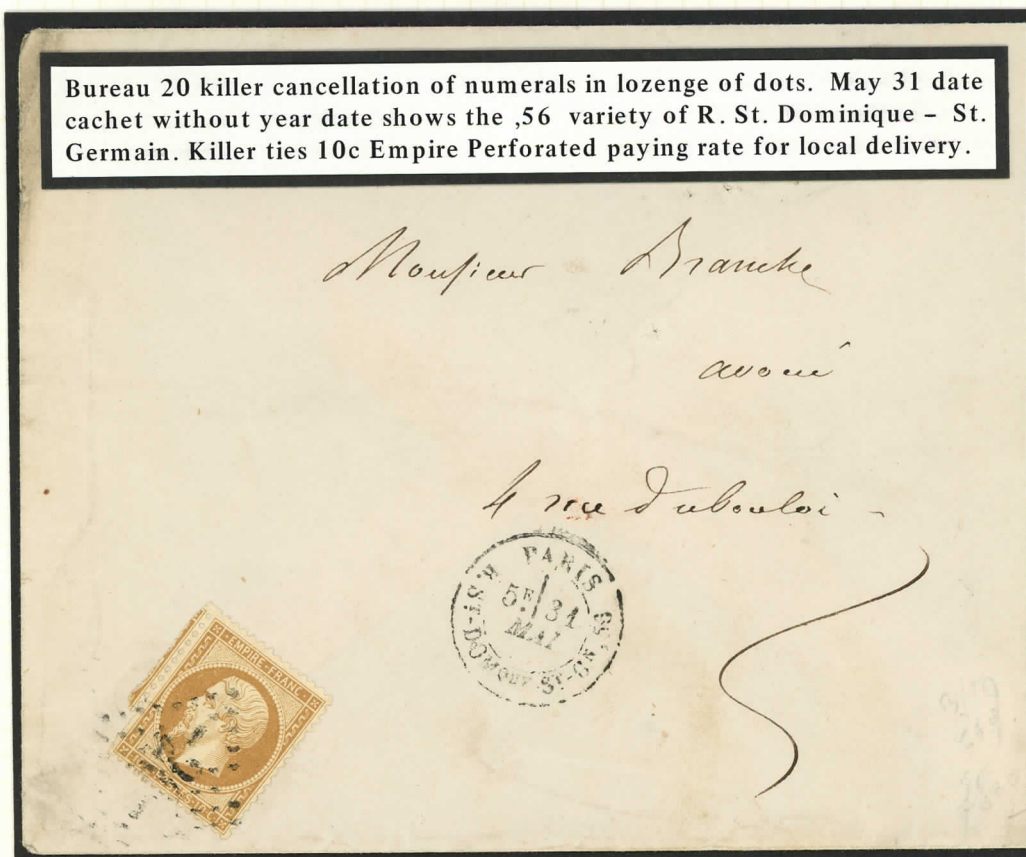
Paris local folded letter sheet with Jan. 21, 1875 date cachet.

LARGE NUMERALS IN LOZENGE OF DOTS
ACCOMPANIED WITH 1864 DATE CACHET

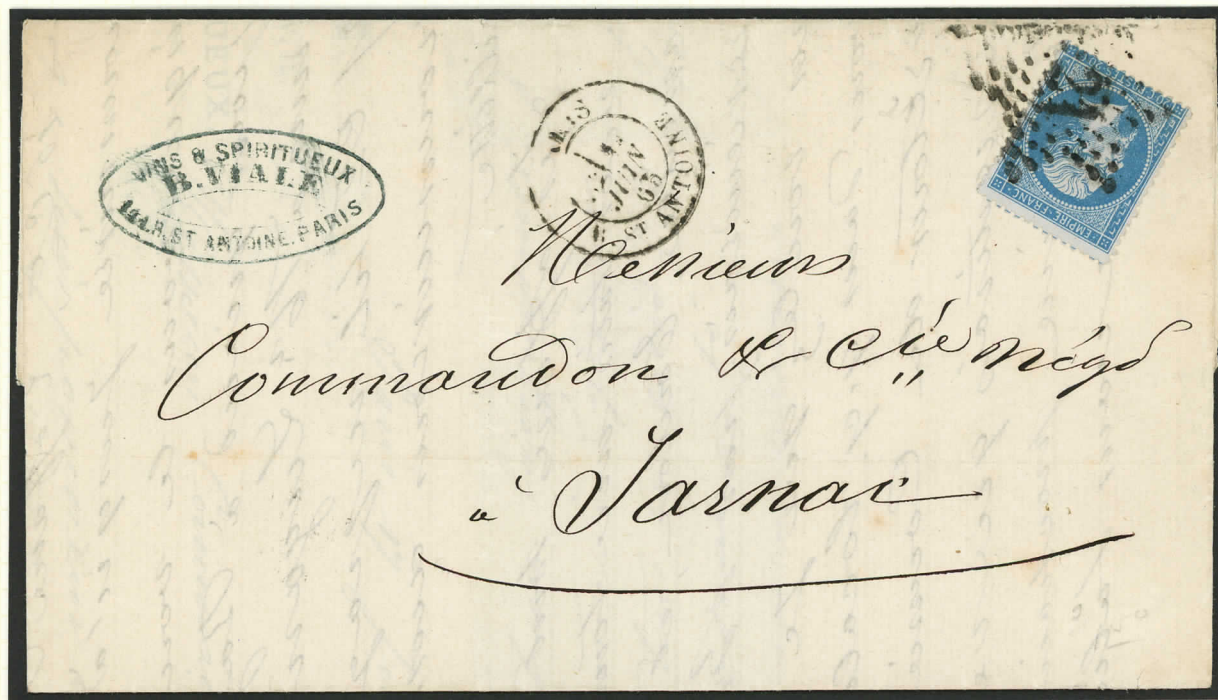


November 12, 1865 in the double ring date cachet shows a rare late use of the large numeral 20 in lozenge of dots killer used as a replacement cancellation for Bureau 20- Rue St. Dominique- St. Germain. This mourning cover was sent to Orsay and return.

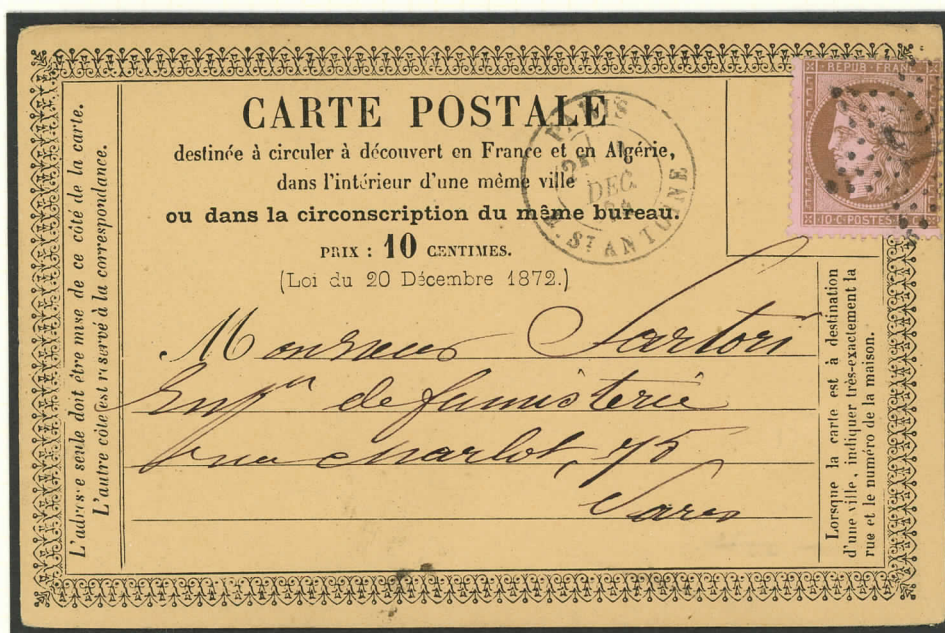
Bureau 20 killer cancellation of numerals in lozenge of dots. May 31 date cachet without year date shows the ,56 variety of R. St. Dominique - St. Germain. Killer ties 10c Empire Perforated paying rate for local delivery.



BUREAU 21
Rue St. Antoine Sept. 1863 – 1880

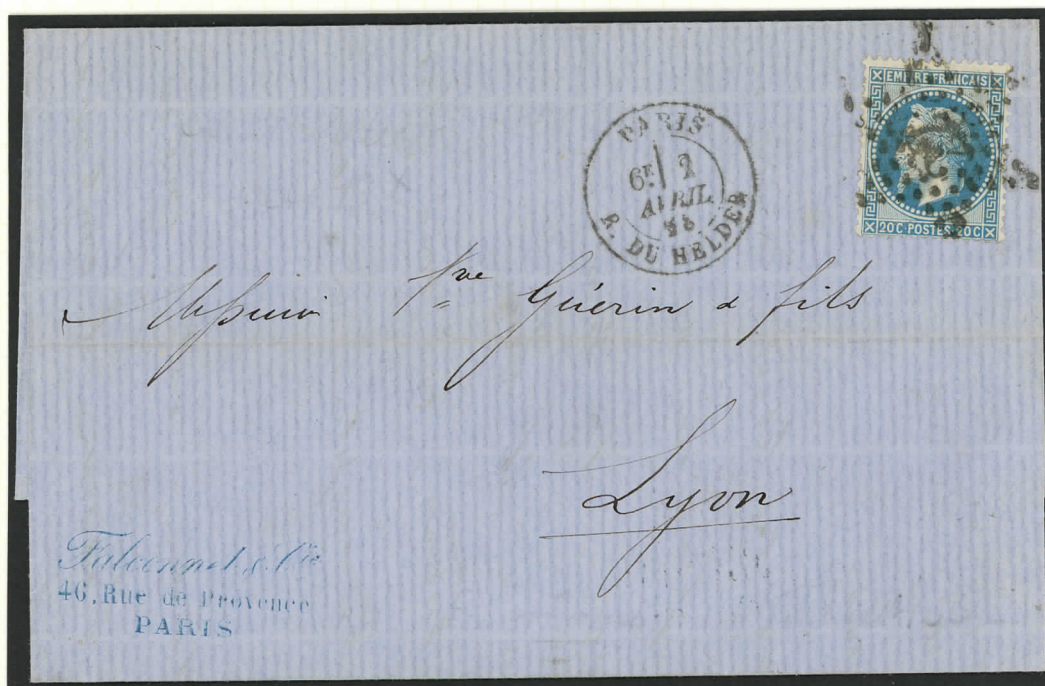


20c Empire Perforated Issue tied to folded letter sheet to Sarnac by Bureau 21 star killer with R. ST. ANTOINE circular date cachet 17 June 65. Backstamped Sarnac.



1873, black on buff, PRIX 10 CENTIMES type Postal Card to Vares with 10c brown on rose 1873 Ceres Issue tied by Bureau 21 star killer. R. ST. ANTOINE circular date cachet 1 Dec. 74.

BUREAU 22
R. du Helder Sept. 1863 - Nov. 1868
R. Taitbout Nov. 1868 - 1879

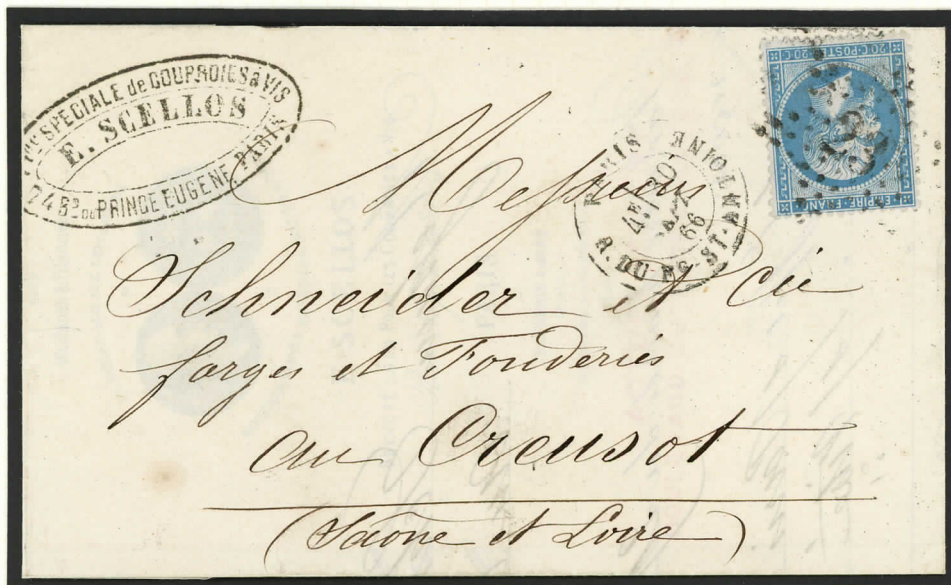


R. DU HELDER date cachet of April 2, 1868 with Bureau 22 star killer. The cover is backstamped LYON April 3.



Transatlantic cover via England to Cleveland with Bureau star 22 and R. TAITBOUT date cachet. New York PAID ALL marking of Jan. 16, 1876. VOIE de SOUTHAMPTON bar applied by bank.

BUREAU 23
R. du Faubg-St-Antoine Sept. 1863 - Oct. 1869
R. Aligre Nov. 1869 - 1877



Commercial folded letter sheet to Creusot. Bureau 23 star killer and R. DU. FG-ST.ANTOINE Sept. 30, 1866 date cachet.



March 9, 1875 Paris local letter with R. ALIGRE date cachet.

BUREAU 24
Rue de Clery Sept. 1863 – 1880



Cover front with strip of four 25c Ceres Issue, positions 46-49D Type II tied by Bureau 24 star killer. Boxed PP and London PAID in red. Via St. Nazaire in blue indicates the 1872 maritime marking for the cancelled sailing of the French Lingne B ship "Panama". Mexican DUE 4 marking in black.



Folded letter sheet to Caracas, Venezuela, with three 40c Seige Issue and 80c Ceres Issue of 1872 tied by Bureau 24 star killers. P.P. and London PAID in red. R.DE CLERY circular date cachet 15 June 74 in black.

**LARGE NUMERALS IN LOZENGE OF DOTS
ACCOMPANIED WITH 1864 DATE CACHET**

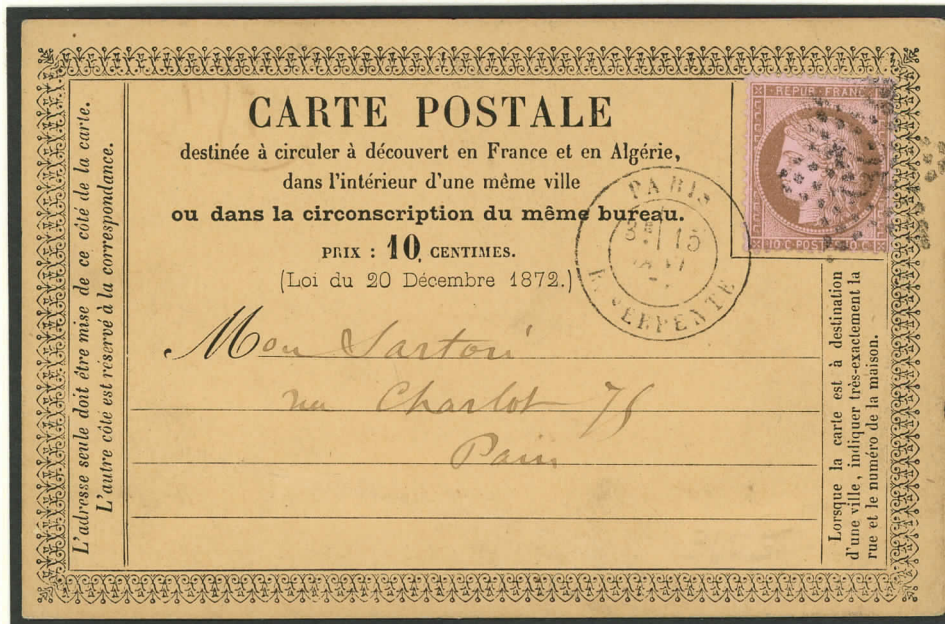


Rue de Cléry cover with August 26, 1864 double ring date cachet and large numeral 24 in lozenge of dots killer on 20c Empire Perforated issue. The use of this numeral killer was originally assigned to the post office at Aiguillon.

BUREAU 25
R. de la Harpe Sept. 1863 - Feb. 1867
R. Serpente Feb. 1867 - 1878



Mixed franking on Transatlantic cover. 1 Fr 20c rate via England effective August 1871.



Paris postal card with Bureau 25 star cancellation and date cachet for R. SERPENTE. 1874 usage.

BUREAU 26
Gare du Nord Sept. 1863 – 1877



Folded letter sheet to Amsterdam, Holland, bearing three 20c Empire Perforated Issue, tied with Bureau 26 star killer. GARE DU NORD circular date cachet 24 March 64. Boxed P.D. in red. Backstamped Amsterdam.



Combination cover to New York with 10c, 20c and 40c Laureated Napoleon Issue making 70c Compulsory Payment Rate of 1 Jan. 1870 for 10 grams via England on Transatlantic Service. French, British and American PAIDs in red.

BUREAU 27
R. St-Domque-Gr-Caill Sept. 1863 - June 1869
Gros-Cailloü July 1869 - 1878



Bureau 27 Star killer used to tie 25c Ceres Issue to small ladies letter to Courthezon. Date cachet of August 22, 1873, 6 pm is for GROS-CAILLOU.

BUREAU 28
Rue Cardinal-Lemoine Sept. 1863 – 1880



Folded letter sheet to Meru with circular date cachet R.CARDINAL-LEMOINE
28 Aug. 67. 20c Laureated Napoleon Issue tied by Bureau 28 star killer.

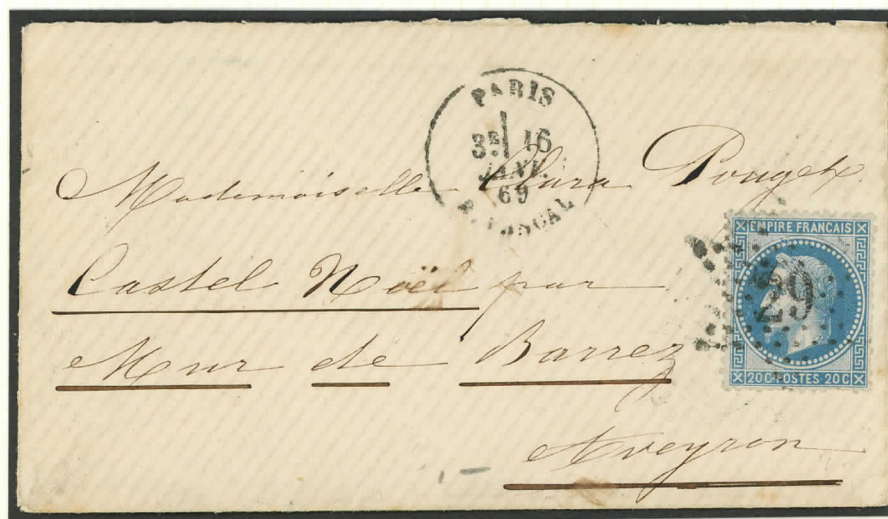


25c Ceres Issue tied by Bureau 28 star cancellation to cover to
the Hospital at Meuse. Circular date cachet of 15 June 75.

BUREAU 29
 R. Mouffetard Sept. 1863 - Dec. 1864
 R. Pascal Dec. 1864 - April 1873
 Rue Monge April 1873 - 1876

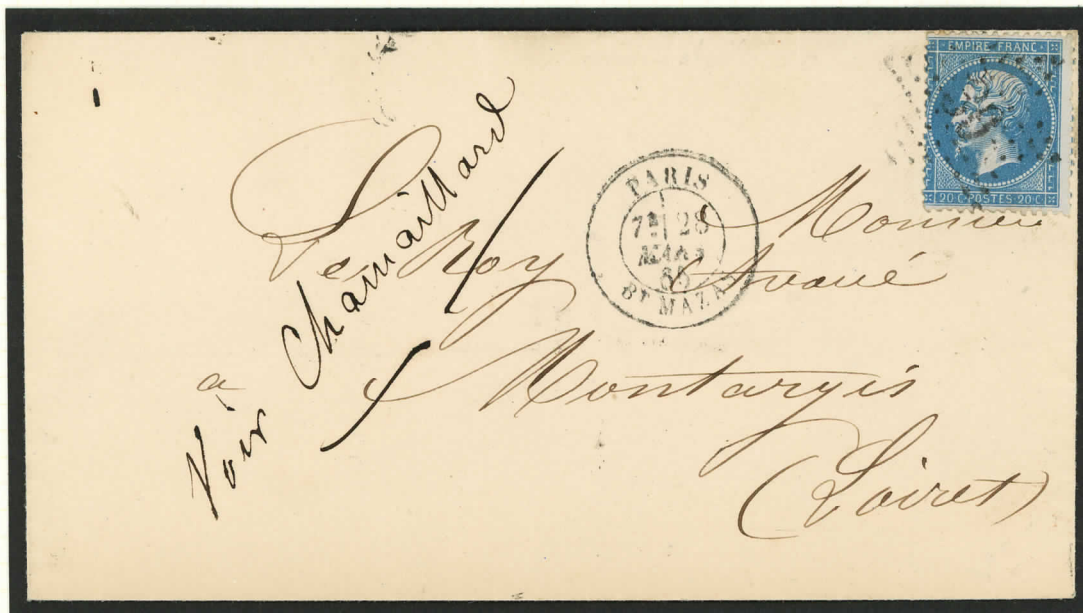


Folded letter sheet with 10c Empire Perforated Issue tied by star 29 killer.
 The R. MOUFFETARD cancellation was only in use 16 months.



R.PASCAL date cachet with 20c Laureated Napoleon Issue tied
 to small size "ladies" cover with star 29 cancellation.

BUREAU 30
Boulevard Mazas Sept. 1863 – 1879



BT. MAZAS circular date cachet 28 March 65 on cover to Montargis. 20c blue Empire Perforated Issue cancelled with Bureau star killer 30.



Stamp tied by BT. MAZAS date cachet and Bureau 30 Star cancellation.

BUREAU 31
Corps Legislatif Sept. 1863 - Oct. 1871
R. de Bourgogne Nov. 1871 - 1883

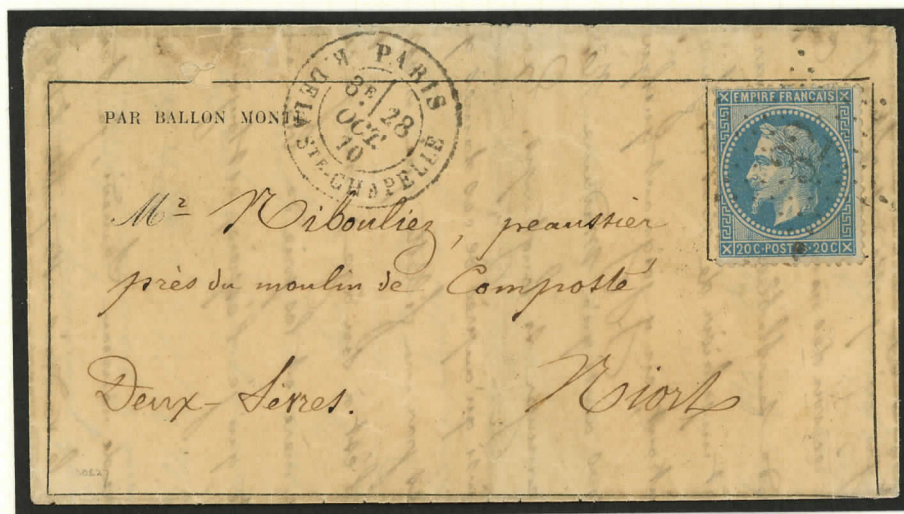


Par Balloon Monte cover to Switzerland, carried on either the Jean-Bart No. 1, or the Godefroy-Cavaignac. Backstamped Geneve.

BUREAU 32
R. de la Ste Chapelle Sept. 1863 - Dec. 1874
Quai des Orfevres Dec. 1874 - 1879

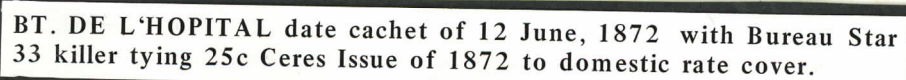
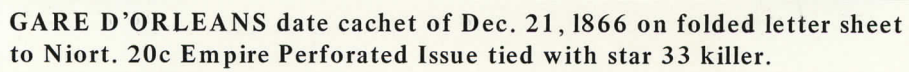


Bureau 32 star killer with R. DE LA STE. CHAPELLE date cachet of April 7, 1867.



Folded letter sheet with PAR BALLOON MONTE imprint carried on the balloon Colonel Charras. Backstamped NIORT, 2 NOV. 70.

Gare D'Orleans Sept. 1863 - Sept. 1867
Bt de L'Hopital Sept. 1867 - 1877



BUREAU 34
R. de Chaillot Sept. 1863 - Jan. 1868
Avenue Josephine Feb. 1868 - 1878



Bureau 34 star killer with R. DE CHAILLOT date cachet Dec. 15, 1866. Too Late For Departure mark in black.



20 July 1868 Mourning cover to St. Louis, Missouri. 80c rate for Transatlantic Service paid by pair of 40c Empire Issue of 1862 tied by Star killer 34 of AVENUE JOSEPHINE. Boxed PD in black with New York PAID ALL in red.

BUREAU 35
 Salpetriere Sept. 1863 - Sept. 1866
 Ministere des Finances Oct. 1866 - June 1872
 R. de Luxembourg June 1872 - 1879



A seldom seen double strike of the Star killer for Bureau 35 ties this 20c Laureated Issue twice. Date cachet for August 26, 1863 is MINISTERE des FINANCES.

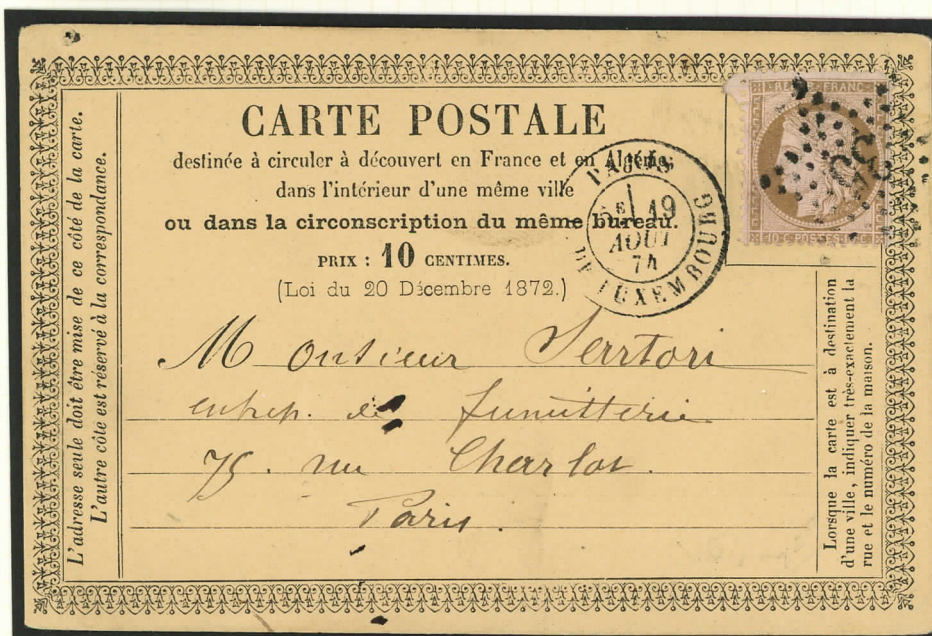


Local letter with Bureau 35 star killer and MINISTERE DES FINANCES date cachet.

BUREAU 35
R. de Luxembourg June 1872 – 1879



Combination franking cover to England. Mar. 14, 1873 date cachet.



Paris postal card with Bureau 35 star cancellation and date cachet of
R. DU LUXEMBOURG of Aug. 19, 1874.

BUREAU 36
Bt du Prince-Eugene Oct. 1866 - Dec. 1870
Bt Voltaire Dec. 1870 - 1877



Folded letter sheet to Angers with 25c Type I Ceres Perforated Issue tied by star killer 36. Backstamped Paris-Nates RR date cachet.

BUREAU 37
Boulevard Malesherbes Oct. 1866 – 1878

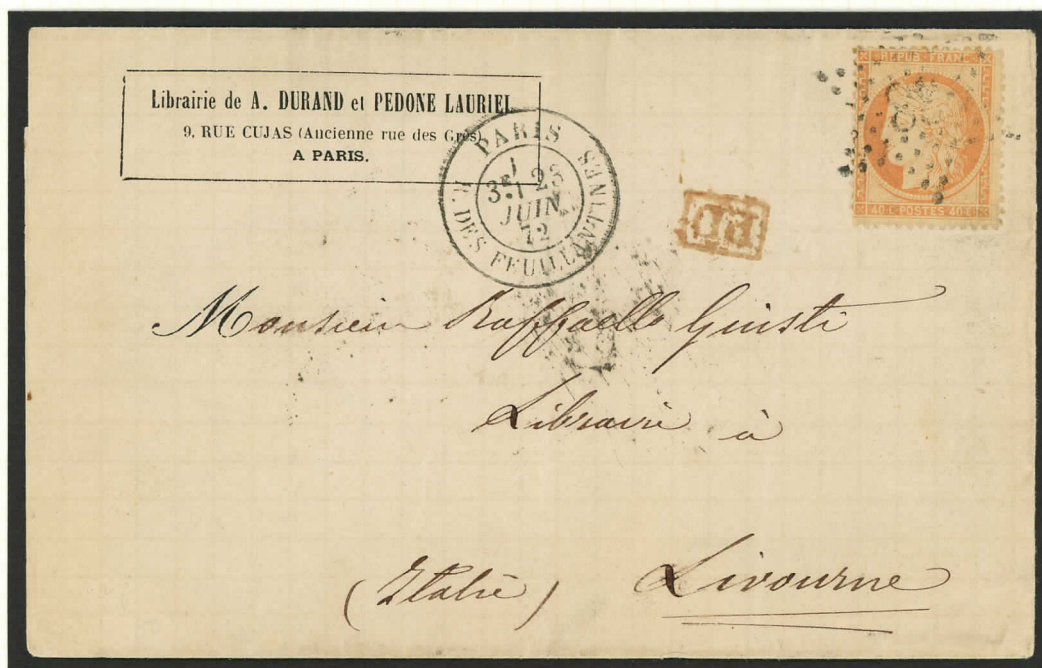


Bureau 37 Star cancellation and July 27, 1869 date cachet were both used to tie the 10c Laureated Napoleon Issue to this local cover.



BT.MALESHERBES (Type II) date cachet used with 37 star killer tying 25c Ceres Issue of 1871 to domestic cover.

BUREAU 38
Rue des Feuillantines Oct. 1866 – 1877



40c Seige Issue tied to folded letter sheet to Livourne, Italy, by Bureau 38 star. Backstamped in Livourne on June 25, 1872.

APRIL 1, 1876
THE END OF THE ERA

After 27 years of double cancellations, the Postal Authorities felt that a single date cachet would be sufficient to use with the new cancelling machines. Since the Bureau name was already incorporated in the design of the double ring cachet, it was felt the Bureau numbers were no longer of importance. Beginning on April 1, 1876, a single, double ring date cachet was inserted into the new cancelling machines of Paris. At the same time, a new series of postage stamps was issued, bringing to an end the period of the Paris Star Cancellations on the Classic Issues of France.



Machine Cancellation
First Day of Use



Ceres Issue Perforated stamps used in combination to make Registration and postage rate on Transatlantic cover from United States Legation Office, June 13, 1876. Use of the Star Cancellation officially ended March 31, 1876.

Used in later years as a hand cancelling device, the Star Cancellation can be found on various later issues, especially when used on New Years cards, or on heavy mailing days when every one of the hand cancellers available were used.