

FRENCH RAILROAD MAILS 1845-1876 "BUREAUX AMBULANTS"

FRENCH RAILROADS BEGAN TRANSPORTING SOME OF THE MAIL IN 1845. THE MAILS WERE ORGANIZED WITH PARIS AS THE HUB. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM ANYWHERE IN FRANCE TO AN ADDRESS ANYWHERE ELSE IN FRANCE BY NO LATER THAN THE NEXT DAY WITH THE HELP OF RAIL TRANSIT.

THIS IS A POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBIT OF CANCELS AND MARKINGS WHICH INDICATED RAIL TRANSPORT OF THE MAIL. IT IS A SURVEY OF ALL ASPECTS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE LOZENGE (KILLER) CANCELS OF 1852-76. STAMPS FOR PARCEL POST WERE NOT INTRODUCED UNTIL 1892.

1876 IS CHOSEN AS THE CUT-OFF DATE BECAUSE IN MARCH OF THAT YEAR THE POSTAL SERVICE DISCONTINUED THE USE OF SEPARATE CANCELS FOR THE STAMP WITH THE DATED CACHET AT THE SIDE. ALSO, LATER THAT YEAR THE "TYPE SAGE" DESIGN STAMPS WERE INTRODUCED, SERVING UNTIL 1900, AND ARE THE BASIS FOR ANOTHER COLLECTION. RAILROAD MARKINGS CONTINUED INTO THE 20TH CENTURY AND THAT IS YET ANOTHER GROUP FOR POSSIBLE SPECIALIZATION.



GARE ST. LAZERE, BY MONET.

FOR THE PERIOD OF THE LOZENGE CANCELS THE OLD FRENCH STYLE OF COLLECTING WAS TO ORGANIZE: LINES TO PARIS, LINES FROM PARIS, AND LINES NOT TOUCHING PARIS. WITH 83 LINES IN SERVICE, AND 269 POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS OF LETTERS IN THE LOZENGE, THIS IS CUMBERSOME AND CONFUSING. PRESENTED HERE ARE THE LINES IN ALPHABETIC ORDER, WITH SELECTED CANCELS FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS, ORIGIN TO DESTINATION AND RETURN TRIP.

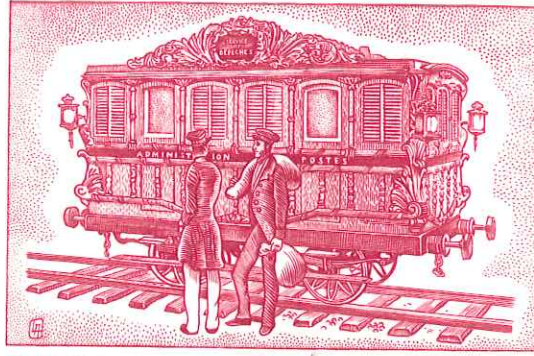
THE PRESENTATION: (IMPORTANT ITEMS ARE MOUNTED ON BLUE BACKGROUND)

FRAME I, PP. 2-8 PRELIMINARY PERIOD FROM 1845, MARKINGS ON REVERSE
PP. 9-16 1852 LOZENGE CANCELS, ROMAN LETTERS, FOR MAIN LINES ONLY

FRAMES II-III BLOCK LETTER LOZENGE CANCELS, 1853-1876

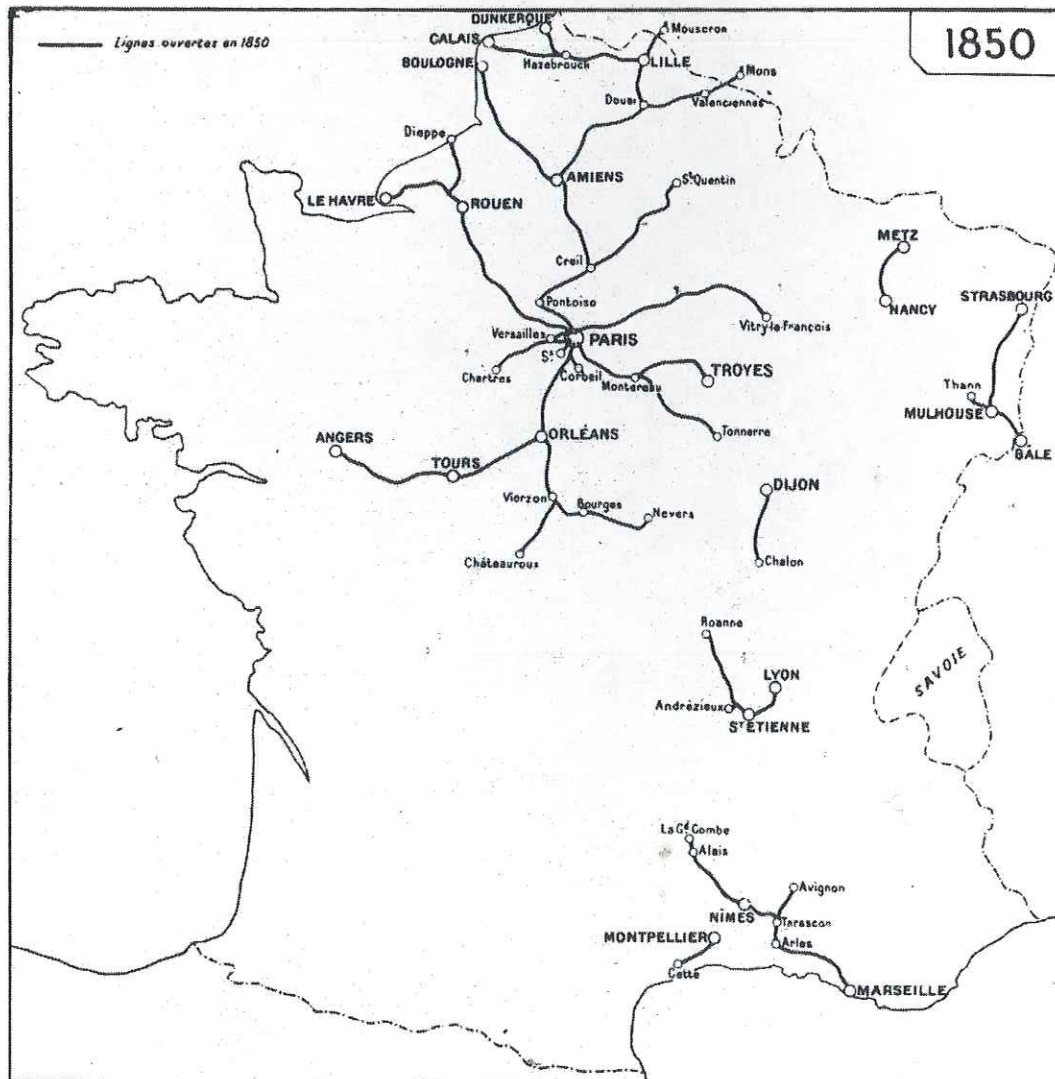
MARKINGS OF AUXILIARY MAIL SERVICES:
FRAME IV, PP. 1-4 LOCAL COLLECTION FOR TRAIN, "BOITE MOBILE"
PP. 5-8 RAILWAY JUNCTION SORTING STATIONS, "BUREAUX DE PASSE"
PP. 9-16 POSTAL FACILITIES AT RAILROAD STATIONS "GARES"
FRAME V, PP. 1-8 ENTRY HANDLING OF MAIL FROM COLONIES AND FOREIGN ORIGIN, "ENTREPOTS"
PP. 9-16 MAIL CLERKS RIDING IN PASSENGER CARS, "CONVOYEURS"

PRELIMINARY PERIOD, FROM 1845



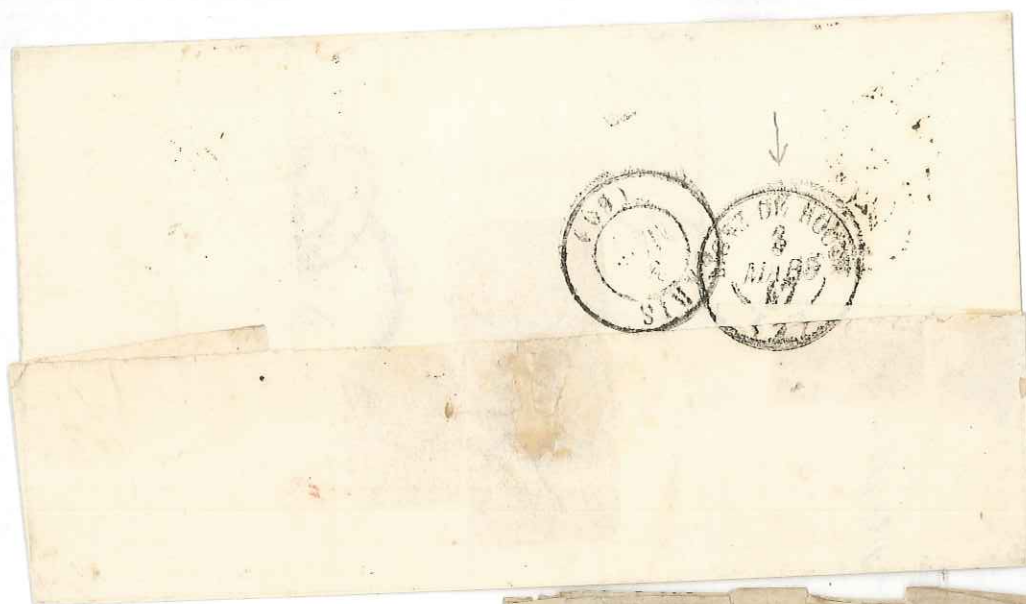
LE PREMIER WAGON AMBULANT: PARIS-ROUEN (1845)

THE FIRST MAIL CAR, ROUEN - PARIS 1845
SOUVENIR PRINT FROM PARIS POSTAL MUSEUM



THE EARLY LINES AS OF 1850

**EIGHT LINES OPENED. NO SPECIAL CANCELS FOR STAMPS
MARKING OF LINE ON REVERSE OF LETTER**



**LIGNE DE ROUEN
(1845)**

**1847 LETTER
FROM
HARVE TO PARIS**



**STRASBOURG – BALE, N°1
(1846)**

**1847 LETTER FROM
PRUSSIA (P.PAYE)
TO BEAUNE**



**STRASBURG – BALE, N°2
1848**

**LETTER FROM PRUSSIA TO
MARSEILLE**

LIGNE DU HAVRE
(1847)



1849 LETTER FROM ROUEN TO PARIS



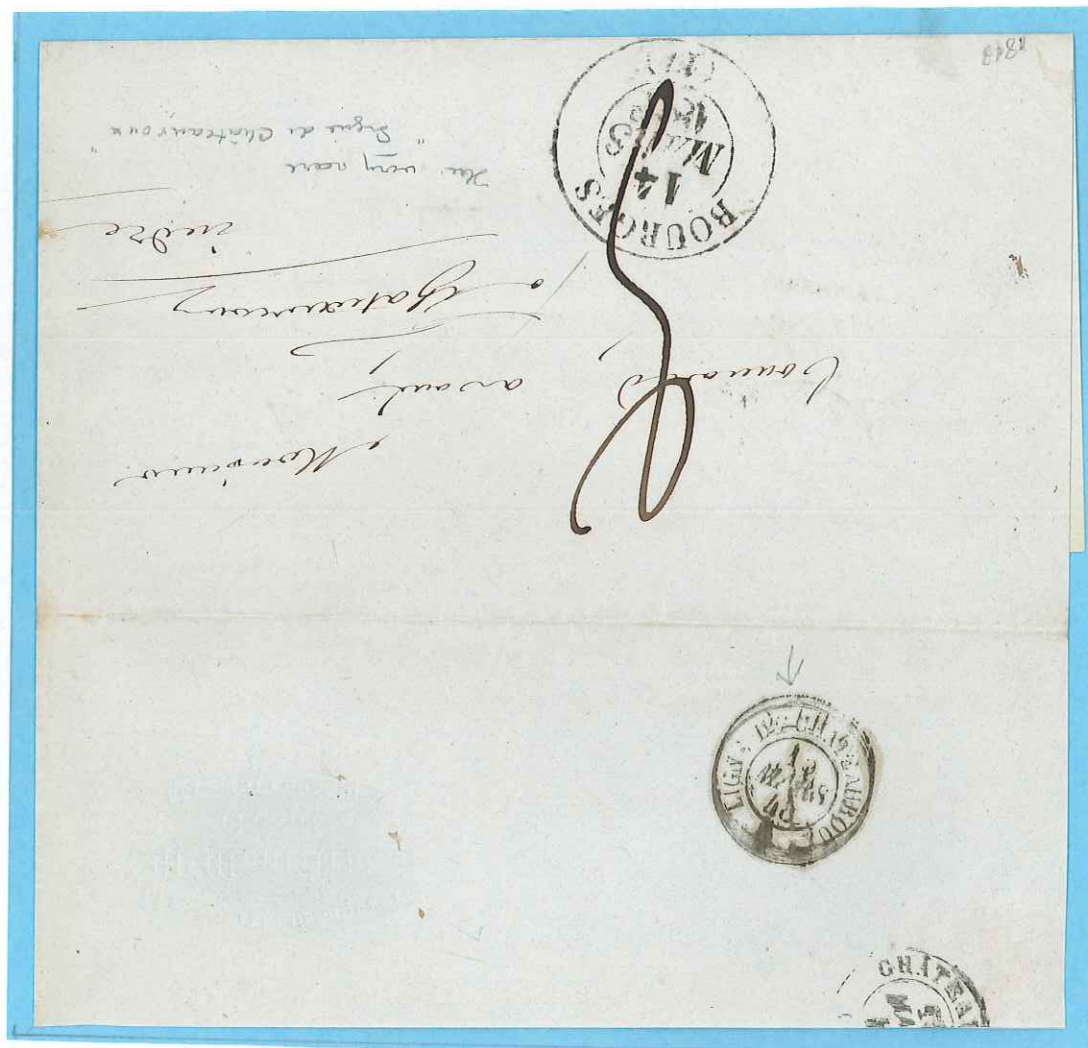
LIGNE DU HAVRE AND
PARIS CITY ROUTE BACKSTAMPS

1849 LETTER FROM ELBEUF TO BOURGES



1851 LETTER FROM BOURGAHARD TO BRULON
"OR" IN CIRCLE INDICATES RURAL ORIGIN OF THE LETTER

LIGNE DE CHATEAUROUX
IN SERVICE FEBRUARY – APRIL ONLY, 1848
(VERY SHORT TIME)



MARCH, 1848 LETTER FROM BOURGES TO CHATEAUROUX

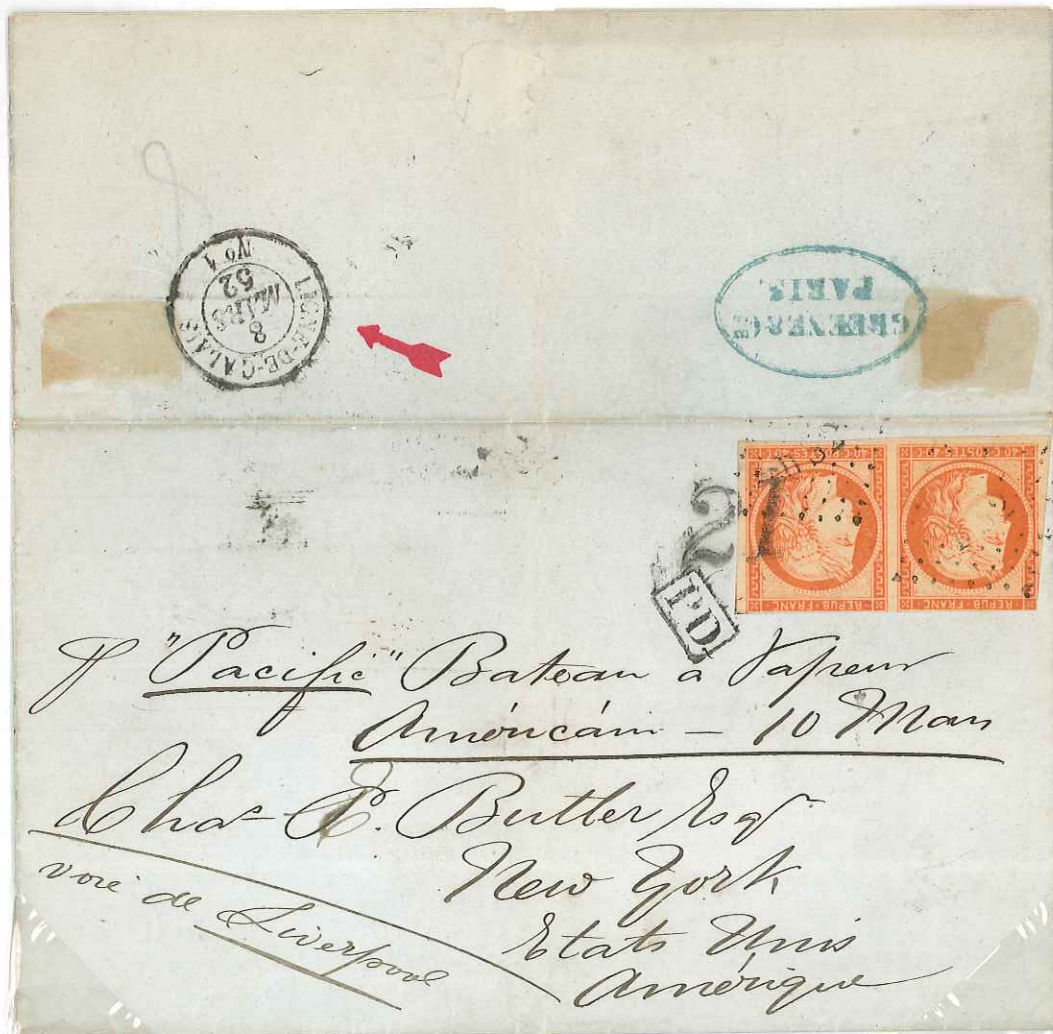
LIGNE DE CALAIS
(1849)



1851 LETTER FROM
PARIS

TO NEW YORK VIA
LIVERPOOL

CACHET OF LINE USED TO CANCEL
STAMPS – VERY UNUSUAL



1852 LETTER
FROM PARIS (HS2)

PD TO NEW YORK VIA
LIVERPOOL

LIGNE DE QUIVERAIN
(1848)

9
1848 LETTER
FROM AMIENS
TO LYON



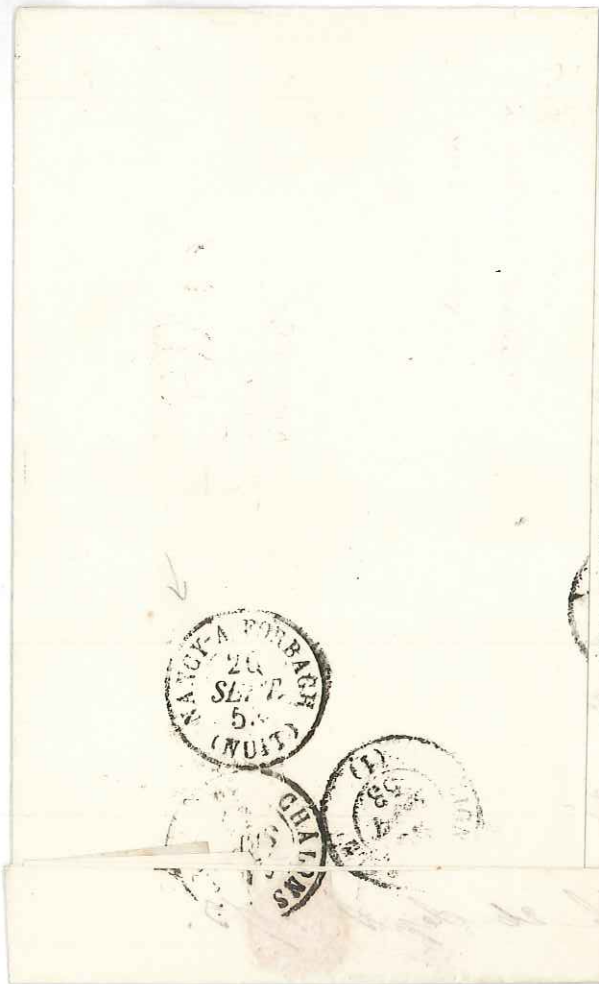
LIGNE DE BALE (1)
(1853)

LETTER FROM
CHATEAU – THIERRY
TO CHALON



LIGNE DE BALE (2)

1853 LETTER
FROM BAR LE DUC
TO CHALON



LIGNE DE BALE

NANCY – FORBACH
NIGHT TRAIN

ON 1853 LETTER
FROM PONT-A-MOUSSON
TO CHALON

"RETARD DU CONVOI"



THE RED CACHET ABOVE TRANSLATES AS "TRAIN DELAYED"

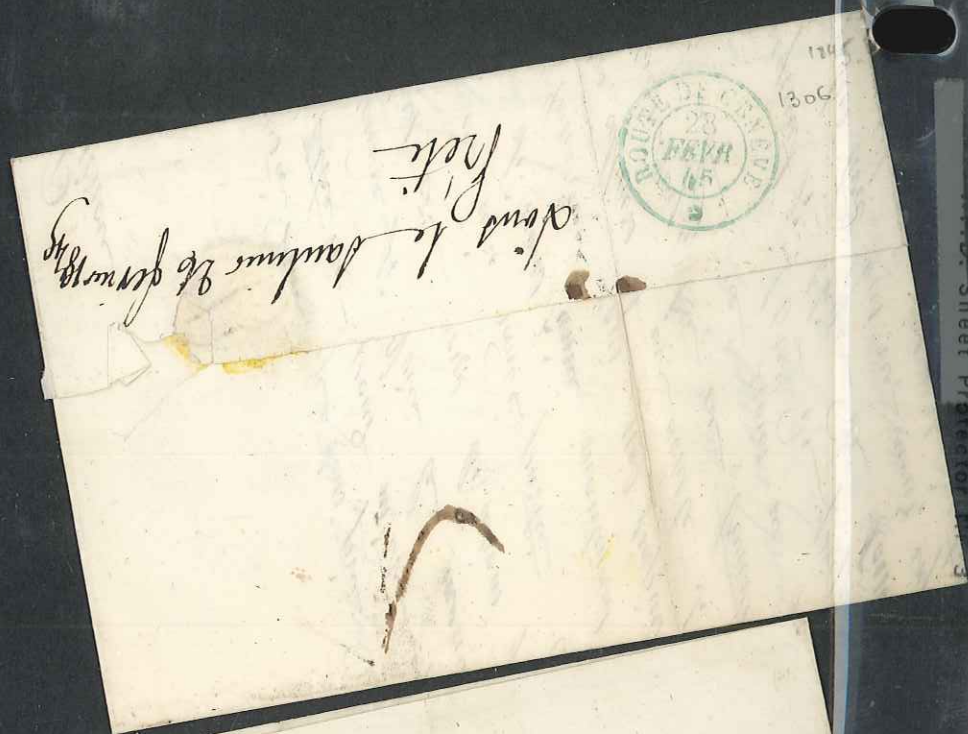
ON 1851 LETTER FROM BRUXELLES TO PARIS,
FAINT ENTRY MARKING AT VALENCIENNES 5 – STRUCK IN PARIS ON RECIEPT

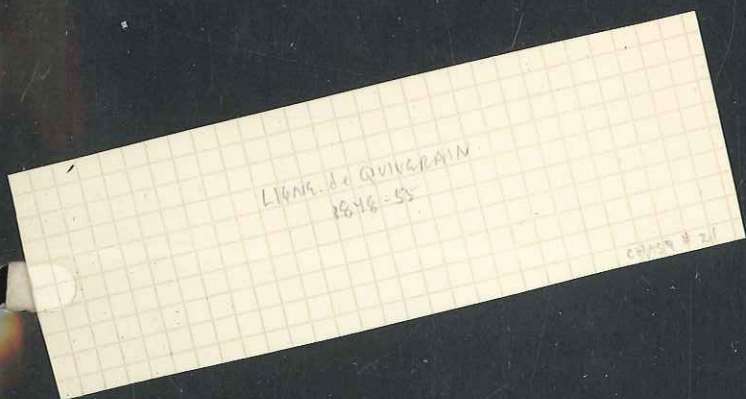


11430 F
FRET

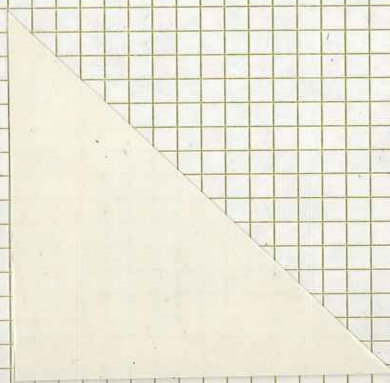


Paris routes





This image shows a single sheet of graph paper. It features a uniform grid of thin green lines on a light-colored background. The top right corner of the paper is folded back, creating a triangular flap that reveals a clean, unprinted white area beneath the grid. The rest of the page remains flat, showing the continuous grid pattern. There are no markings, text, or drawings on the paper.





Monsieur Legrand & Fallos

Wey
Sunday



Les Magesbourg.



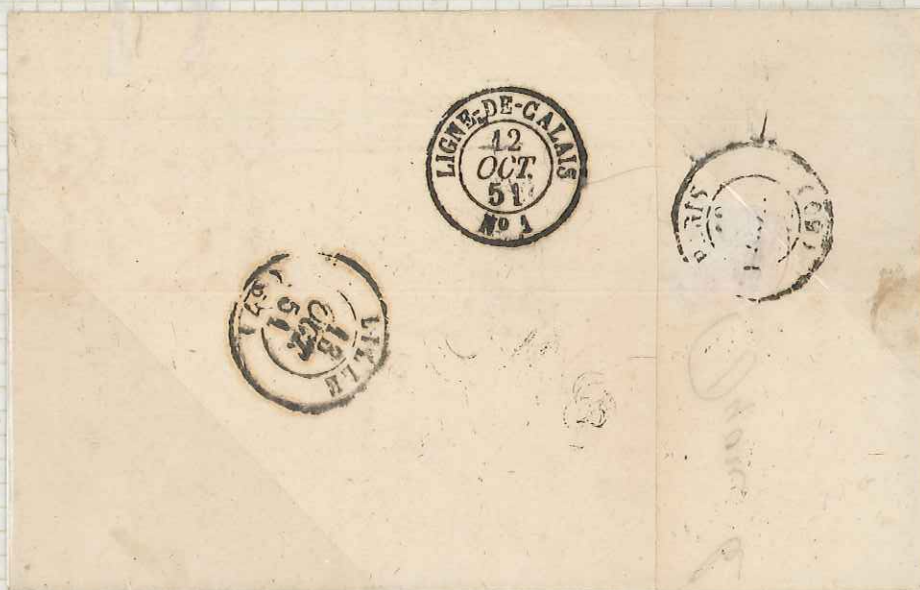
Small

Monsieur Legrand & Fallos
Wey
Sunday



The first Rail-Road postmarks were introduced in 1845. It was a datemark with the legend "Ligne-de-...." and the name of the terminus of the line. It also carried the number of the daily section. All lines radiated from Paris with the exception of the line Strasbourg - Bale. It was struck on the back of the letter.

1851 Ligne de Calais 1844-55



The wording "Ligne de" resulted from the fact that the letter did not necessarily travelled the whole distance by train, since the track was not yet completed. So it moved to its destination partly by train and partly by stage



Ligne de Calais

1815, Nantes - Paris - Plymouth (England)

