The goal of the project is to digitize registrations from the Sommier Foncier, a French register that details transactions of properties and inheritances of these properties for the purpose of taxation.

The Sommier Foncier is a register available for entire Paris that contains separate sheets for each house, listing all relevant transactions. There are 3 series; the first serie (1809-1860), second serie (1860-1880) and the final series (1881-1943). There are some differences in the details across registers.

Below are two pages of the first register of the sommier. The registers look the same across properties.

The left page contains information on the owners or involved person, the paid tax and all the transactions. For this data entry project, we are only interested in the information below the “Mutations” column.

The right page contains on the upper side a mention of the street and neighborhood and the property its house number. There is an old (“Ancien”) and a new (“nouveau”) house number. For the first observation of each house or street, you mention the name of the neighbourhood (Quartier, column B), street (Street, column D) and the house number (HouseNo, Column E). Note that in the order of the photos the right page often comes before the left page, since this helps to identify whether you are dealing with a new house.

After entering the address information of a property, you turn to the left side of the page, and start entering the information under “mutations”. All other information on the right page is irrelevant (at least for now).

On the left page, you look at the column “Nature des Mutations” and in Column F, you enter the “Type” of transaction. Nearly all transactions will either be “Succession” (inheritance), “Adjudication” (auction) or a “Vente” (regular sale). Very often, the transaction type is abbreviated or unclearly written. The Excel file “examples.xls” contains examples to help you. You write the full name of the type, also if it is not a succession, adjudication or vente. There are many possibilities. Sometimes, the sale or succession is only for part of a property. If that is the case, you write the part in Column N (Part). For example, if the Succession is for ½, you write 0.5 in Column N.

Next, you enter the data of the transaction, which is written under “Dates des Mutations”.

If there is no date at all in a transactions you should not enter it at all!