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THE FRENCH "DÉPARTEMENTS CONQUIS" 1791-1815

THEIR CHRONOLOGY, CIVIL POSTOFFICES HAVING POSTMARKS,
AND TYPICAL POSTMARKS

By William M. Waugh

Vaurie Memorial Fund Publication No. 3

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FOREWORD

On a rainy night in 1960, after three hours' doorbelling for the upcoming election, I invited my district chairman home for a cup of refreshment. "Oh," he says, spotting some albums in the bookcase, "you are a stamp collector? Let's see what you have in that French Album. Aha! There's one used in Egypt; and another in Turkey!" Got me interested in French cancels, that's what he did.

The author of this handbook is a retired journalist, practical politician, and enthusiastic philatelist and reader of history. We have walked three international stamp shows together, and I never cease to be amazed at his total recall of dates and events which add spice to his appreciation of exhibits of every European issuer.

The pre-adhesive markings of France, and collecting by Departments, are both popular specialties in France. There is some extensive literature in French, and frequent offerings in regular auction sales there. Very little in English. Here is an historical survey of the Napoleonic conquered or annexed territories and introduction to a part of what you have been missing.

This is not a catalog of the markings. Several priced catalogs of "Pays Conquis" marks are already available. But the main types of the civil post marks are illustrated and the list of postoffice towns having been reported with markings is as complete as the accessible sources permit. The dates and sequences of the various changes in status of the conquered and annexed areas are much more thorough than found in any one other philatelic publication; that is what the collector needs in order to know in which category his covers "fit."

—John E. Lievsay, FCPS Director

THE FRENCH "DÉPARTEMENTS CONQUIS" 1791-1815

Their Chronology, Civil Postoffices Having Postmarks, and Typical Postmarks

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"Départements Conquis" were the departments added to France as a result of annexations made during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras. The collection of their postmarks provides a visual record of one of the most interesting periods of French history. At the peak of Napoleon's power, the boundaries of the French Empire included Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Monaco, much of Italy and Germany, and parts of Spain, Austria, Jugoslavia, Switzerland, and Greece. The fascinating postmarks of this period tell the story.

One of the repercussions of the French Revolution was the abolition of the old provinces of the kingdom and the new division of France in 1790 into 83 departments named after geographical features. Each department was assigned a number. The old postal system, "La Ferme Générale des Postes," was replaced by a government General Directory of Posts.

The principal post offices received new postmarks of standard types, with the name of the town and its department number. These were put into use as of January 1, 1792, although a few late 1791 usages exist.

New departments were created and assigned department numbers as conquered territory was annexed to France, becoming "Les Départements Conquis," although small bits and pieces were attached to existing departments and some annexed territory was not erected into departments with numbers.

THE TYPES OF POSTMARKS

The standard postmarks for both France proper and the Départements Conquis for the principal post offices, bureaux de direction, were of three categories:

FOR UNPAID LETTERS the postmark had the department number centered on the top line and the town name in capital letters on the second line, once in a while on the second and third lines (Figures 1, 2, 3.) The size of type used varied.

108
PORT-MAURICE

Figure 1

129
VAREL

Figure 2

104
HOSPICE DU
MONTCENIS

Figure 3

FOR PAID LETTERS, less usual in those days, similar postmarks were used, but with a P on each side of the department number, PP for port payé (Figure 4). Postmarks for both paid and unpaid letters come in red and black, rarely in other colors.

P P P
GENÈVE

Figure 4

FOR FORWARDED LETTERS, etc., déboursé markings were struck on the backs of the letters. These were accounting markings concerned with inter-post office bookkeeping. A typical déboursé marking is on two lines: on the first line DÉB. followed by the department number, on the second line the name of the post office in capital letters (Figure 5).

DÉB. 92
FLESSINGUE

Figure 5

Some post offices in Départements Conquis used provisional postal markings during the period of French occupation pending annexation, or after annexation and pending the arrival of the standard postmarks (Figures 6 and 7). Sometimes these were the old pre-French postmarks. Or they were new locally-made products. Most of these provisional markings are straight-line postmarks with the name of the town but no department number. And during the period of standard postmarks with department numbers, there were a few locally-made markings which varied from the standard types (Figure 8, with smaller numeral than normal).

MENIN

Figure 6

P. P.
AIX-CHAPPELLE

Figure 7

103
GLADBACH

Figure 8

The job of the smaller post offices, bureaux de distribution, was to distribute mail. Incidentally, they sent letters handed in to them to a bureau de direction, to which each of them was attached.

Many bureau de distribution used no postal markings. Others did, usually one-line markings without department number. Some used manuscript markings.

Sometimes covers are found bearing the postmark without department number of a bureau de distribution, plus the postmark with department number of a bureau de direction. These are known as "les marques postales doubles" (Figure 9).

VERVIER⁹⁶ MALMEDY
(C. Monsieur)
Monsieur Labaume Laine
Marchand de Vin à Saune
en Bourgogne
(C. Bauney)

Figure 9

Various kinds of auxiliary markings are known on Département Conquis covers. These include Franchise markings (Figures 10 and 11):—

Dr G^l des Postes
de la Belgique

Figure 10

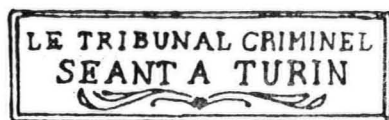


Figure 11

Entry markings (Figures 12 and 13):—

COLONIES PAR
ANVERS

Figure 12

HOLLANDE
PAR
CLÈVES

Figure 13

Arrival or transit markings (Figure 14-17):—

8bre

Figure 14

Avril

Figure 15

Floreéal

Figure 16
Revolutionary
Calendar date



Figure 17

Accessory markings of various kinds (Figures 18-23):—

RECOMMANDEÉ DE LIEGE.

Figure 18

CHARGÉ

Décimes

Figure 19

Figure 20



Figure 21
Censor or Control

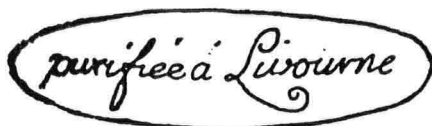


Figure 22

C.H.I.E.R.R.

Figure 23
Rayon Number

CHRONOLOGY OF ANNEXATIONS

with Lists of Post Offices Having Postal Markings Reported

The following material is presented chronologically, by dates when annexed territory became departments, with some other areas of unusual character that are put into the sequence in order of their annexation.

Post offices with postmarks which have the department numbers of Départements Conquis are listed by department in capital letters.

The postmarks of other post offices are listed in caps and lower-case letters. These may be Département Conquis post offices (generally bureaux de distribution) which postmarked mail but did not have postmarks with numbers. They may also be postmarks (with or without numbers) in related areas which are not generally regarded as Départements Conquis.

Not included are the postmarks of French military posts in occupied or annexed areas, on which there is an extensive literature, or the French civil post offices in occupied but non-annexed areas.

Illustrations are chosen to show a variety of types and sizes of postmarks.

AVIGNON 1791

VAUREAS

DÉB. 89
AVIGNON

The Papal territories on and near the lower Rhône, Avignon and the Comtat Venaissin, after a violent local revolution, voluntarily united with France, September 14, 1791.

These territories prior to their union with France had been served by the French postal system (see postmark illustration above). They were divided between two French departments, 25 Drôme with post offices at Carpentras, Valreas and La Palud, and 12 Bouches-du-Rhône with post offices at Avignon, Apt, Cadenet, Pertuis. Carpentras in error also had a department 12 postmark.

This situation was of short duration as on June 25, 1793, the new department of 89 Vaucluse (see Avignon illustration) was formed which included some other areas in addition to the former Papal territory. (Its department number was changed to 86 in 1830.)

The Avignon area is not regarded as a Département Conquis, but it presents a related situation of annexation to France.

SAVOY 1792

In the autumn of 1792 the French Army of the Alps occupied Savoy after token resistance from the Sardinians. Savoy was united with France November 27, 1792.

84 Le Mont Blanc

P.84P
CARROUGE

CHAMBERY or CHAMBERI, AIGUEBELLE, AIX or AIX MONT-BLANC, ANNECI, BONNEVILLE, CARROUGE, CLUSES, CONFLANS, EVIAN, FRANGY, LANS-LE-BOURG, MODANE, MONTMELIAN spelled four ways, MOUSTIERS, LA ROCHE, RUMILLY, SALANCHES, ST JEAN DE MORIENNE, ST PIERRE D'ALBIGNY, TERMIGNON, THONON, Echelles (manuscript).

When Geneva was annexed in 1798 and 99 Le Lemman created as a new department, BONNEVILLE, FRANGY, CLUSES, LA ROCHE, SALANCHES and THONON were transferred to it.

Following the first fall of Napoleon, by the Treaty of Paris, most, but not all, of Savoy was returned to Sardinia May 30, 1814.

A new and smaller department of 84 Le Mont Blanc comprised the smaller part of Savoy which was still French with post offices at AIX MONT-BLANC, ANNECI, CHAMBERY, FRANGY and RUMILLY. FRANGY was formerly part of 99 Le Lemman. A post office was established at St. Julien, but no post mark of this period is known.

After the second fall of Napoleon this remnant of Savoy also was ceded to Sardinia at the end of 1815, with the exception of St. Julien which went to Geneva. In 1816 Geneva swapped St. Julien to Sardinia for Carouge where a Sardinian post office had been opened.

(Department number 84 was reassigned to Loire in 1830. When reunified with France in 1860, Savoy was split into 88 Savoie and 89 Haute-Savoie.)

NICE and MONACO 1793

In the autumn of 1792 the French Army of the Var occupied the Sardinian Compté de Nice without opposition. The people of Monaco revolted against their prince. February 4, 1793 Nice and Monaco were integrated into France. They became 85 Les Alpes Maritimes. This department was later enlarged with some territory of the Ligurian Republic (Genoa) which was annexed to France in 1805, SAN REMO and VINTIMILLE.

85 Les Alpes Maritimes

P85.P
SAN-REMO

85
MONACO

NICE, MENTON, MONACO or FORT HERCULE (in 1793 Monaco had a short-lived 78 Var postmark), LE PUGET, SAN-REMO, ST SAVEUR, SOSPELLO, TENDE, HUTELLE or UTELLE, VINTIMILLE, Rocabigliera, and Scarena (both in manuscript).

In May 1814 Sardinia regained Nice. The Prince of Monaco was restored.

When France regained Nice in 1860, San-Remo, Vintimille and Tende remained with Sardinia, but France gained Tende in a frontier rectification after World War II.

Department number 85 was reassigned to Tarn-et-Garonne in 1830 which formerly had number 115. On its reunification with France in 1860, Alpes-Maritimes received number 87.)

MONT-TERRIBLE 1793

The Bishop of Basel ruled a territory on the Swiss border (not including the city of Basel) part of which was included in the Holy Roman Empire and part of which was more or less part of Switzerland. In 1791 Porentruy, the capitol of the bishopric, revolted. After a conflict, the Rauracian Republic was proclaimed in November 1792. A few months later it joined France and the Department of Mont-Terrible was created March 23, 1793, including the Imperial part of the former bishopric.

87 Le Mont Terrible:—

87
DELLEMONT

66
MONTBELLIARD

PORENTUUY, BIENNE, DELLEMONT, MONTBELLIARD, Courtelery.

Meanwhile the adjoining Principality of Montbéliard, which had been a Wurttemberg territory, was occupied by the French in April 1793 and voluntarily united with France October 10, 1793, followed by the tiny, adjoining Republic of Mandeure (which had no post office) on October 24.

Montbelliard was first attached to 69 Haute-Saône, but on March 1, 1797 it was added to Mont-Terrible. Mont-Terrible was further enlarged in 1798 by the addition of the "Swiss" portion of the former bishopric of Basel.

Even with its enlargements, Mont-Terrible was the smallest French department.

It was abolished in 1800 and its territory transferred to Haut-Rhin. There are 66 Haut-Rhin postmarks for Bienne, Dellemont, Porentrui or Porentruy, and St. Imier all of which went to Switzerland 1814-15, and for Montbelliard which remained French and was transferred October 8, 1814 to 25 Doubs.

(Meanwhile the department number 87 was reassigned to Gênes, 1800-14, and in 1860 to Alpes-Maritimes.)

BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, LIÈGE 1795

Before the French Revolution, most of what is now modern Belgium was part of the Austrian Netherlands. The Austrian monarch was also the duke of Luxembourg. There was a prince bishop of Liège.

In November 1789 there was a local Belgian revolt against the Austrians and a Belgian United States was formed in January 1790. The Austrians put down this revolt in November 1790, but their reoccupation was disturbed by a French invasion in 1792. The French occupied southern Belgium, but were driven out by an allied army in 1793. In 1794 the French returned to stay until the first fall of Napoleon.

Following the 1792 French invasion, an ephemeral department 86 Jemappes in Hainault was created March 2, 1793. The French were driven out of the area before any new postmarks with the department number were made. After the 1794 French conquest, the area of Belgium, Liège, Luxembourg, etc., was divided into various administrative units. Then on October 1, 1795, the area was definitely annexed to France and divided into nine departments, including Jemappes with its old number 86.

86 Le Jemappes

86
DÉB: D'ATH

MONS, ATH, BEAUMONT, BINCH, BRAINE-LE-COMPTE or BRAISNE LE-COMPLE, CHARLEROY, CHIMAY, ENGHIE, SOIGNES, TOUR-NAY, Goslies, Quievrang, Fontaine, Boussu.

When most of Belgium was detached from France as of June 15, 1814, by the first Treaty of Paris, Beaumont and Chimay remained French. Beaumont, as Beaumont-Nord, was attached to Department 57 Nord, while Chimay was attached to 7 Ardennes. New postmarks were used.

After the second fall of Napoleon and the second Treaty of Paris, France also lost these two towns as of December 31, 1815, to the new Kingdom of the Netherlands, which included Belgium.

91 La Lys

91
BRUGES

BRUGES, COURTRAY or COURTRAI, FURNES, GHISTELLES, MEN-IN, NIEUPORT, OSTENDE, WARNETON, YPRES.

92 L'Escaut

D. 92. B
Gand

BAU FRANÇAIS
A FLESSINGUE

GAND, ALOST, AUDENAEDE, BEVEREN, DEYNSE, ECLOO, GRAM-MONT, LOKEREN, NINOVE, ST NICOLAS, TERMONDE, FLESSINGUE, WAESMUNSTER, Hulst (manuscript).

FLESSINGUE, originally in the Dutch province of Zeeland, was put under the joint sovereignty of France and Holland in 1795 (see postmark illustration). It was definitely attached to France January 21, 1808, and became part of 92 L'Escaut. On May 15, 1810, it was transferred to newly created 125 Bouches de L'Escaut, but continued to use its department 92 postmarks.

93 Les Deux-Nèthes

**D93B
ANVERS**

ANVERS, CONTIGH or CONTICH, LIERRE or LIER, MALINES, TURNHOUT, and after annexation of Dutch territory in 1810: BERG-OP-ZOOM, GEERTRUIDENBERG, OUDENBOSCH, ROSENDAAL, STENBERGEN, ZEVENBERGEN.

94 La Dyle

**94
BRUXELLES**

BRUXELLES, ASSCHE, DIEST, GENAPPE, HAL, LOUVAIN, NIVELLES, TIRLEMONT, TUBISE, VILVORDE, WAVRE, Waterloo, Aerschot (manuscript).

95 La Meuse Inférieure

**95
MASEYEK**

MAESTRICHT, HAMMONT, HASSET, MASEYEK (spelled three ways), RUREMONDE, ST TRON, TONGRES, VENLOO or VENLO, the following three in manuscript:— Achel, Horn, Bree.

Maestricht and Venlo had been ceded by Holland to France May 16, 1795. Part of this territory is now in Dutch Limburg, part in Belgium.

96 L'Ourthe

**96
LIÈGE**

LIEGE, HERVE, HUY, SPA, VERVIERS, EUPEN or NEAU (its Revolutionary name), Malmédy.

Eupen and Malmédy went to Prussia in 1814, then to Belgium after WW I.

97 Le Sambre-et-Meuse

**97
TELLIN**

NAMUR, DINANT, MARCHE, SOMBREF, ST HUBERT, TELLIN, PALISEUX (its number 97 was in error as it was actually located in department 98).

98 Les Forêts

P98P
LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG, ARLON, BASTOGNE, FLAMIZOUL, GREVNMACHER-EM, Neufchateau.

Part of this territory is now in Luxembourg, part in Belgium.

CORSICA 1796 RECONQUEST

DEB.19 90
PORTO-FERRAIO AJACCIO

This is not a case of an annexation, but rather of a reconquest. Corsica was French in 1792 with department number 19 La Corse, so it is not regarded as a Département Conquis.

In 1793 there was a revolt and civil war. Paoli, who led one faction, called in British aid. By the summer of 1794 this was successful, and the Corsica assembly offered its sovereignty to King George III. British occupation lasted until 1796 when the French reconquered the island.

In the meantime August 11, 1793 the French government had divided the island into two departments: 90 La Liamone, chief town Ajaccio, and 19 Golo, chief town Bastia, which kept the old number. Ajaccio, Sartène and Bonifacio received department 90 postmarks. In 1811 Napoleon reunited the entire island into department 19, La Corse. In 1814 the British occupied the island for a short time.

Porto-Ferraio, on the island of Elba which became French in 1802, used department 19 postmarks from 1804 to 1811. It was then attached to 113 La Méditerranée. Following Napoleon's first fall, he received Elba with full sovereign rights and was there May 5, 1814 to February 26, 1815. After his second fall, Elba became part of Tuscany.

IONIAN ISLANDS 1797;1807



The Ionian Islands were Venetian possessions for several centuries. The Republic of Venice fell to the French in 1797. The islands were occupied by the French in June-July 1797, and the Treaty of Campo Formio, October 17, 1797 confirmed French possession of the islands along with the mainland towns of Butrino, Provenza, Vonitsa, and Parga. The islands, then known as Les îles ci-devant Vénétiennes, or îles du Levant, were divided into three ephemeral departments, Corcyre, Ithaque, de la Mer Egée. Department number postmarks do not exist.

The first French occupation was short. Russian-Turkish forces captured most of the islands in 1798, Corfu March 5, 1799. Ali Pasha occupied the mainland towns except for Parga.

French postal arrangement during the first occupation are obscure. Most of the letters of this period are without postmark.

The Turks left the islands to the Russians who set up local governments. By the Treaty of Amiens, 1802, they became the Septinsular Republic 1802-07 and were under Russian protection.

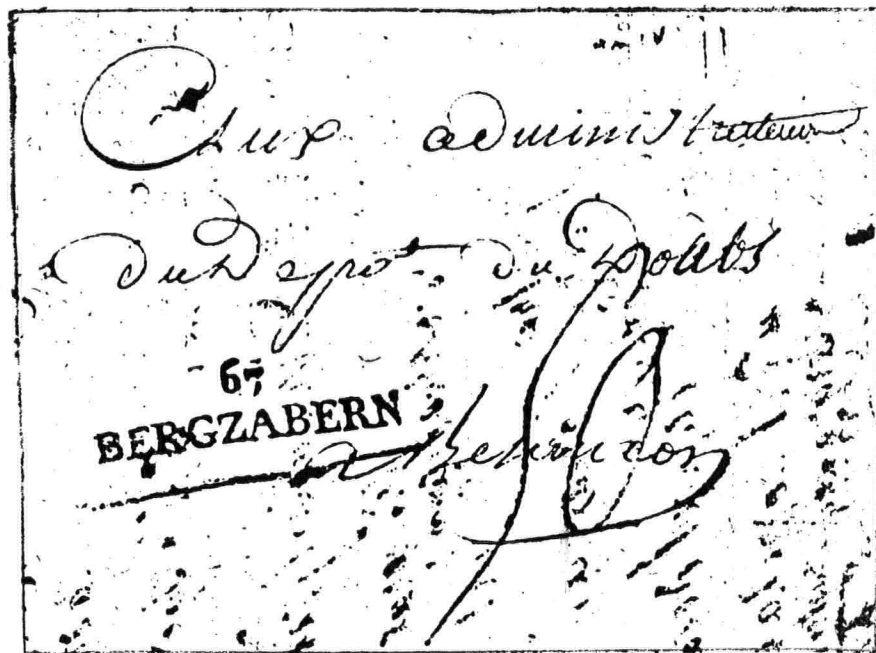
In 1807 following the Treaty of Tilsit, they went to France again, became an integral part of the French Empire and were incorporated into the Illyrian Provinces.

The British gradually recaptured them, Ithaca, Zante, Cephalonia, and Cerigo in 1809, Santa Maura in 1810, Paxo in 1814. After the first fall of Napoleon, unconquered Corfu surrendered in June 1814.

During the second French occupation there were French post offices on all seven islands, but not on the mainland. At first on Corfu a circular postmark of the Septinsular Republic continued in use, "Posta Settinsulare Corfu." Then there were straight-line markings from Corfu, Cefalonia, Paxo, and Santamaura.

GERMANY, RHINE WEST BANK 1797

German territory on the west or left bank of the Rhine was invaded by the French under General Custine in 1792. It was fought over in see-saw campaigns, 1793-96. Its Prussian territory was formally ceded to France October 17, 1797. The west bank was divided into four departments November 4, 1797.



EXTRAIT MORTUAIRE.

(*) COMMUNE de *Bergzabern* HÔPITAL *Militaire**De Bergzabern*

(*) Ici le nom & la qualité de l'hôpital doivent être désignés; il faut dire s'il est civil ou militaire, s'il est sédentaire ou ambulatoire, & en quelle commune il est établi.

Du Registre des Décès de *la dite Commune*

a été extrait ce qui suit:

BATAILLON, *5^e Rég^{te}* COMPAGNIE *N^o 8^{te}*

Le Citoyen *François Gillard* au service militaire de la République, dans le corps & compagnie ci-dessus désignés en qualité de *Caporal* natif de *Soutaine* District de *Beaune* Département de *Côte d'Or* est entré audit Hôpital le *huit* du mois de *floral* l'an *quatrième* de la République française, & est décédé le *seize* *floral* an *4*

Après la date du décès, expliquez le genre de maladie ou de blessure dont il est mort.

J'ai soussigné *Ag^{te} des d^{ts} Commune* certifie le présent extrait véritable & conforme au Registre des décès d^u *dit* hôpital

FAIT à *Bergzabern* le *quatorzième* du mois de *floral* l'an *4* de la République.



Nous *Resident du Canton de Bergzabern* certifions que la signature ci-dessus est celle du *Cir. Vuch* & que foi doit y être ajoutée.

FAIT à *Bergzabern* le *vingt sept* du mois de *floral* l'an *4* de la République française une & indivisible.

On recommande la plus grande exactitude dans les actes de décès. Les noms & prénoms des décédés doivent être recueillis avec attention, ainsi que les lieux de naissance, Districts & Départemens, les noms & N^{os} des corps & compagnies, & le tout doit être écrit très-lisiblement.

Je soussigné Ag^{te} des d^{ts} Commune
de Bergzabern
le 1796

A military death certificate from Bergzabern in 1796. Note use of the revolutionary calendar. Bergzabern postmark is very rare.

100 Le Mont-Tonnerre

100

DEUX-PONTS

MAYENCE, ALZEY, BINGEN, DEUX-PONTS, FRANCKENTHAL, HOMBOURG or LAUTERN, KAYSERSLAUTERN or KAYSERS-LAUTERN, NEUSTADT, SPIRE, WORMS, Kirchheimboland.

Bergzabern, in occupied territory which later became part of Mont-Tonnere, had a 67 Bas-Rhin postmark. It was open only from 1795-97. (See cover illustration.)

101 La Sarre

P101P
TRÈVES
101 55
SARREBRUCK SARREBRUCK

TREVES, BIRCKENFELD, PRUM, SAAREBRUCK, Coussel, Witlich.

At first after the 1793 invasion Saarebruck was attached to 55 Moselle, but continued to use the old German postmark, Saarbruck. After the June 1814 peace treaty, Saarebruck remained French. It was again attached to 55 Moselle. Then following Waterloo and the second fall of Napoleon, it was transferred to Prussia as of January 1, 1816.

102 Rhin et Moselle

P102P
TRARBACH

COBLENTZ, ANDERNACH, BONN, CREUTZNACH, SIMMERN, TRARBACH, Mayen, Bacharach (also in manuscript), Cochem (manuscript).

103 La Roer

103
AIX-LA-CHAPELLE

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE (or Aix Libre without number), CLEVES, COLOGNE, CREVELT or CREFELD, DALEN, DUREN, GEYLENKIRCH, GLADBACH, GUELDRÉS, JULIERS, MEURS, NEUSS, RHINBERG, WESEL, Berchem, the following three in manuscript: Enkeleus, Montjoye, Weekerath.

Generally, the French occupation of the Rhine west bank ended in January 1814.

GENEVA 1798

The Republic of Geneva was united with France in 1798 and a new department was created August 25 of that year.

99 Le Leman

99
GEX

GENEVE (from Geneva), BONNEVILLE, CLUSES, LA ROCHE, SALANCHES, THONON (all from 85 Mont-Blanc), COLONGE, FERNEY-VOLTAIRE, GEX (from 1 Ain), Douvaine.

The three originally French towns which had been part of 1 Ain thus acquired the department number of a Département Conquis. Their area stayed French and in 1814 was returned to Ain.

There had been a French post-office abroad in Geneva prior to its union with France.

The Republic of Geneva was reestablished May 30, 1814. Bonneville, Cluses, La Roche, Salanches, and Thonon reverted to Sardinia, June 15, 1814, as did Frangy after an interlude in 1814-15 as part of 85 Mont-Blanc.

PIEDMONT 1801

War with the Sardinian Kingdom in Italy, whose western mainland border provinces had been overrun in 1792, continued and in 1796 Napoleon conquered its mainland area, Piedmont, and continued into Lombardy where he defeated the Austrians. The Repubblica Piemontese was established by the French in 1798. Meanwhile with Napoleon in Egypt, the Austrians and Russians were successful in 1798-99 campaigns in Italy and on June 20, 1799 the Repubblica Piemontese was overthrown.

Then Napoleon returned and his 1800 campaigns in Italy were successful. Piedmont became the Nazione Piemontese and then the Subalpine Republic 1800-01. It was annexed to France in 1801. As usual, new French departments were created April 2, 1801:—

104 L'Eridan, or Le Pô

(name changed to Le Pô, September 2, 1802)

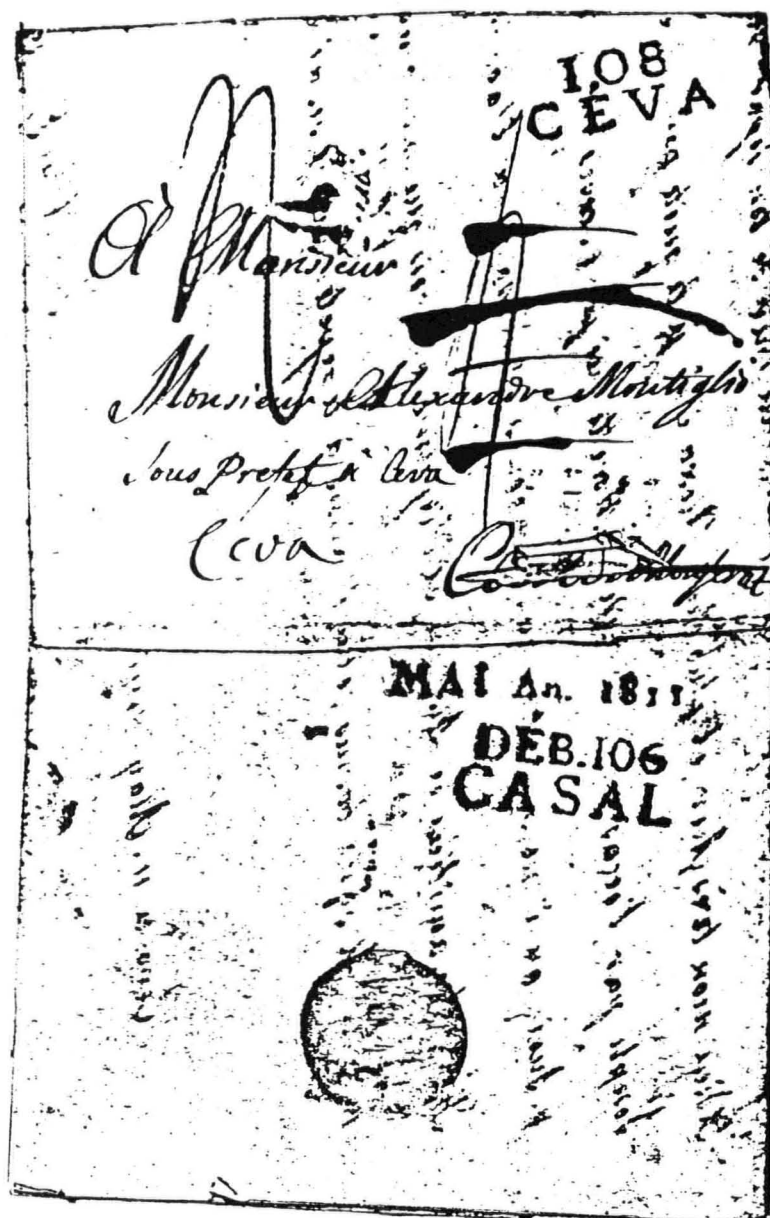
104
TURIN

TURIN, AVIGLIANO, CARMAGNOLE, CHERI or QUIERS, HOSPICE DU MONTCEINIS, LANZO, PIGNEROLE, SUZE, Bagnasco.

105 La Stura

DÉP. 105
BRA

CONI, ALBE, BRA, CHERASCO or QUERASC, COEVA, COURTEMILLE, DRONERO, FOSSANO, MONDOVI, SALUCES or SALUCE, SAVIGLIANO.



Letter forwarded to 108 with déboursé mark and date mark of 106 Casal, on back.

106 Le Marengo

106
ALEXANDRIE

ALEXANDRIE, ASTI, CAZAL or CASAL, MONT-CHAUVE or MONT-CALVO, TORTONNE, VALENCE, VOGHERA, Castelalfer.

107 La Sésia

P.107.P
GATTINARA

VERCEIL, BIELLE, GATTINARA.

108 Le Tanaro

P.108P
ALBA

ASTI, ACQUI, ALBA, Castelafer.

In 1805 Le Tanaro was abolished. Its number was transferred to a new department, 108 Montenotte, to which ACQUI was attached. ASTI and Castelafer went to 106 Marengo. ALBA, now ALBE, went to 105 La Stura.

109 La Doire

109
IVRÉE

IVREE, AOSTE, CHIVASSO, COURGNIE, VERRES.

In the meantime, the western part of the French Italian conquests evolved into the Kingdom of Italy with Napoleon as King, March 18, 1805. It was divided into departments on the French style, but with Italian names.

It had previously been the Italian Republic, 1802-05 created, with additions, from the Cisalpine Republic, 1797-1802, which was a combination of the October 16, 1796-February 19, 1797 Cispadine Republic (Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, Reggio, etc.) with Lombardy.

GENOA 1805

The ancient aristocratic Republic of Genoa became the revolutionary Ligurian Republic 1798-1805. It was annexed to France June 6, 1805, and three more departments were formed.

87 Gênes (with the former number of Mont-Terrible)

PORT-PAYE
GÈNES
87

GENES, BOBBIO, NOVI, VOLTRI, also from Marengo: TORTONE, VOGHERE.

108 Montenotte

P. 108. P.
DIANO-MARINE

SAVONE, ACQUI (formerly in Le Tanaro), ALASSIO, ALBEGNA, CEVA (formerly COEVA in La Stura), DIANO-MARINE, FINALE, LOANO, LA PIETRA, PORT-MAURICE, NIZZA, Oneglia (manuscript).

110 Les Apennins

P. 110. P.
FIVIZZANO

CHIAVARI, BORGO-TARO, FIVIZZANO, LEVENTO, PONTREMOLI (in 1808), RECCO (which was transferred to 87 Gênes but kept its 110 postmark), SARZANA or SARZANE, LA SPEZZIA, Bagnone.

In March 1814 the British landed at Genoa and in April the old pre-revolutionary Republic of Genoa was temporarily reestablished. However, it was awarded to Sardinia as of January 1, 1815.

Practically all of the territory of Alpes-Maritimes, old Savoy, and of the Italian Départements Conquis 87, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 ended up in the spring of 1814 as part of the Kingdom of Sardinia with slight exceptions, Pontremoli went to Tuscany (and then to Parma in 1847). Fivizzano went to Tuscany (and then to Modena in 1847). Monaco with Menton was re-established as an independent principality, but Menton later became Sardinian, and then French in 1860.

PARMA 1805

Parma was also annexed to France and was transformed into a French department, May 24, 1808.

111 Le Taro

P. 111. P.
FIORENZOLA

PARME, BORGO-SAN-DONINO, FIORENZOLA, PLAISANCE or PIA-CENZA.

After the fall of Napoleon, his Austrian wife, Marie Louise, became Duchess of Parma as a consolation prize.

TUSCANY 1808

In 1799 the French drove out the grand duke of Tuscany. With Austrian help the French were driven out. The French returned in strength in 1800. In 1801 by the Peace of Lunéville, Tuscany became part of the Spanish dominions as the Kingdom of Etruria, with the former Duke of Parma as king. In 1807, Napoleon forced the King of Spain to cede Tuscany to France. Tuscany was divided into three French departments May 24, 1808, although Napoleon's sister, Elisa, was made titular grand duchess and viceroy in 1809.

112 L'Arno

DÉB. 112
FLORENCE

FLORENCE, AREZZO, CORTONE, DICOMANO, EMPOLI, LUCIGNANO, MODIGLIANA, MONTE-VARCHI, PISTOIE, PRATO, ROCCA S. CASCIANO, SAN-SEPOLCRO.

113 La Méditerranée

P. 113. P
PORTO-FERRAIO

LIVOURNE, PESCIA, PIETRA-SANTA, PISE, PONTE-D'ERA, PORTO FERRAIO (in Elba), VOLTERRA.

114 L'Ombrone

DÉB. 114
GROSSETO

SIENNE, GROSSETO, MONTEPULCIANO, RADICOFANI, ST-QUIRICO. In 1814, the Hapsburg grand duke of Tuscany was restored.

ROMAN STATES 1809

Following a 1797 French invasion, a Roman Republic came into existence 1798-99. This was followed by a Neapolitan occupation of Rome 1799-1800 with the Pope Pius VII restored in 1800. Meanwhile the Pope had lost his northern and western provinces which eventually became part of the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy.

His remaining territory was annexed by France in 1809 and became two more French departments, June 9, 1809:—

116 Le Tibre



ROME, ALBANO, ANAGNI, CALVI, CANINO, CIVITACASTELLANA, CIVITAVECCHIA, FROSINONE, NARNI, PALESTRINA, PIPERNO, RIETI, RONCIGLIONE, TERRACINA,, TIVOLI, VELLETRI, VITERBO.

117 Le Trasimène

P.117.P.
ACQUAPENDENTE

SPOLETO, ACQUAPENDENTE, AMELIA, CITTA-DELLA-PIEVE, CITTA-DI-CASTELLO, FOLIGNO, NORCIA, ORVIETO, PERUGIA, TERNI, TODI.

The Pope was restored in 1814 to his temporal rule over the Papal States.

Some parts of Italy remained outside of the area annexed by France and of the Kingdom of Italy. In Naples, a short-lived Parthenopean Republic in January-June of 1799 was followed by a restoration of the Bourbon king. However, he was ousted from his mainland dominions by the French in 1805. Napoleon's brother, Joseph, became King of Naples 1806-08, to be followed by his brother-in-law, Marshal Joachim Murat, who was king from 1808-15.

The islands of Sicily and Sardinia, protected by the British navy, remained under the rule of their pre-revolutionary dynasties. Napoleon permitted the Republic of San Marino to continue.

Lucca, after several years of French occupation, in 1805 along with Piombino was made into a principality for Napoleon's sister, Elisa, and her husband, Felix. Piombino went to Tuscany after the peace, while Lucca became a duchy with a Bourbon ruler. There were Principalities of Guastalla, Pontecorvo, and Benevento for Napoleonic favorites.

There were French post-offices abroad at Rome prior to the French annexation, at Naples and Milan.

While the actual date of the end of the French occupation in Italy varied from place to place in early 1814, May 21 is generally accepted as the cut-off date in regard to Département Conquis covers for most towns.

ILLYRIAN PROVINCES 1809**P.P.
TRIESTE
ILLYRIE**

The Illyrian Provinces became a part of France, but were not divided into departments. Therefore the postmarks of their cities do not contain department numbers.

These provinces were a combination of formerly Venetian (to 1797) territory in Istria and Dalmatia ceded by Austria to France by the Treaty of Pressburg, December 26, 1805, the Republic of Ragusa on the Adriatic seized by France in 1805, and added to the Illyrian Provinces in 1811, and further cessions by Austria on October 14, 1809 of territory in Carniola, Carinthia and Croatia.

Postmarks are known from Capo d'Istria, Pola, Ragusa, Spalato, Zara, Knin, Macarsa, Trieste, Dignano, Gorice, Monfalcon, Parenzo, Rovigno, Cattaro, Adelsberg, Laybach, Neustadt, Villach, Lienz, Sillian, Carlsstadt, Fiume, Samabor, Segna, Vuchinischselo, Gospich, Kostaniza, Peterinia, and Narenta in manuscript.

These provinces went to Austria after the fall of Napoleon.

On May 1, 1812, postal service was extended from the Illyrian Provinces to Turkey, "La Poste Franco-Turque," with French post-offices abroad at Constantinople, Salonique, Smyrne and Bosna-Serai. They had straight-line boxed postmarks. This service ended late in 1813.

HOLLAND 1810

An abortive French invasion of part of Holland in 1793 was followed by a successful invasion and occupation under General Pichegru in 1794-95. It was welcomed by the Dutch "Patriot" party. A Batavian Republic was established. By a treaty of May 24, 1806, Holland became a kingdom under Louis Napoleon, the brother of the emperor. Holland was enlarged by the addition of some German territory.

However, Napoleon decided to annex Holland to France. This was accomplished in 1810 in two stages. On April 24, 1810, the Dutch territory west of the Rhine was annexed to France and a new department, Les Bouches du Rhin, was created. Then on May 15, the establishment of Les Bouches de l'Escaut was decreed.

On July 9, 1810 an imperial decree was issued annexing the balance of Holland to France. Another decree of September 13, 1810, divided Holland into 9 French departments including the two previously created. A decree of December 13, 1810, integrated Holland into the French empire.

118 Le Zuyderzée

118 AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, ALKMAAR, AMERSFOORT, BEVERWYK, EDAM, ENKHUISEN, HAARLEM, LE HELDER, HOORN, LOENEN, MEDENBLICK, MUNNIKENDAM, NAARDEN, PURMEREND, SCHOONHOVEN, TEXEL, UTRECHT, WOERDEN, ZAANDAM.

119 Les Bouches de la Meuse

119 DRIKSLAND

LA HAYE, ALPHEN, LA BRIELLE, DELFT, DIRKSLAND or DRIKSLAND, DORDRECHT, GORCUM, GOUDA, HELLEVOETSLUIS, LEERDAM, LEYDE, MAASLUIS, ROTTERDAM, SCHIEDAM, VLAARDINGEN, Herkingen, Middelharnis, Goederede, Oeltjensplaat, Oudorp, Sommeldyk, Voorschoten, Zwammerdam.

120 Les Bouches de l'Yssel

P.120.P. KAMPEN

ZWOLLE, ALMELO, DEVENTER, ENSCHEDE, KAMPEN, RHEINE, and both in manuscript:—Blenziel, Hardenberg.

RHEINE was transferred to 131 La Lippe, April 27, 1811, but its 120 postmark continued in use until a new 131 RHEINE LIPPE postmark was prepared.

121 L'Yssel Supérieur

P.121.P. ARNHEM

ARNHEM, DOESBOURG, EMMERICH, HARDERWYK, HATTEM, MUNSTER ISSL-SUP, THIEL, WAGENINGEN, ZUTPHEN, Anholt, Buuren (manuscript), Zevenaar (manuscript).

Anholt, EMMERICH, MUNSTER ISSL-SUP were transferred to La Lippe, April 27, 1811.

122 La Frise

I22
FRANEKER

LEUWAARDEN, DOKKUM, FRANEKER, HARLINGEN, HEEREN-VEEN, SNEEK, and both in manuscript: Lemmer, Terschelling.

123 L'Ems Occidental

P.I23.P
DELFZYL

GRONIGUE, ASSEN, DELFZYL, MEPPEL, NIENHUYS, WEENER, WINSCHOTEN.

NIENHUYS was transferred to 131 La Lippe April 27, 1811. Weener, formerly in the German principality of Aremberg, had been ceded to Holland in 1807. It eventually went to Hanover after the fall of Napoleon.

124 L'Ems Oriental—on the German side of the Ems river.

P.I24.P
JEVER

AURICH, EMBDEN, ESENS, JEVER, LEER, NORDEN, WITMUND.

On July 7, 1807, Russia had ceded Jever to France. On November 11, 1807, France ceded Jever and East Friesland (formerly Prussian) to Holland. They were regained by Russia and Prussia in the breakup of the Napoleonic empire, but in 1815 Prussia ceded East Friesland to Hanover and in 1817 Russia ceded its Jever territory to Oldenburg.

125 Les Bouches de l'Escaut

ZIERIKZEE

MIDDELBOURG, GOES or TER GOES, THOLEN, VEERE or TER VEERE, ZIERIKZEE.

126 Les Bouches du Rhin

PI26.P
HELMONT

BOIS-LE-DUC, BAARTWYK, BOMMEL, EINDHOVEN, GRAVE, HELMONT, HEUSDEN, NIMEGUE, TILBOURG, WOERCOM.

The French occupation of Holland ended in late 1813, with an end to the French postal system there in December.

VALAIS 1810

In 1810 the French Empire took another piece of the Swiss lands and annexed the Valais along one line of communication with Italy. It had been separated from the rest of Switzerland since 1802 as the Rhodanic Republic. It became a French Department October 15, 1810.

127 Le Simplon

127 SION

SION, BRIG, LOECHE, MARTIGNY, ST MAURICE EN VALAIS.

Austrian occupation took place late in 1813. A provisional government was formed, and then Valais entered the Swiss Confederation December 12, 1814, but the French postal system survived until March 31, 1815.

NORTHWEST GERMANY 1810

In 1810 Napoleon also annexed a large part of northwest Germany to France. Three departments were created December 13, 1810, and a fourth, La Lippe, April 27, 1811.

128 Les Bouches de l'Elbe

DÉB.128 LUBECK B. DE L'ELBE

HAMBOURG, BASBECK, BREMERVÖRDE or BREMERVOERDE, BUX-TEHUDE, HAARBOURG, LAUENBOURG, LUBECK B. DE L'ELBE, LUNEBOURG, MOELLEN or MÖLLEN, NEUHAUS, RATZEBOURG, RITZBUTTEL, STADE, WINSSEN, ZEVEN.

129 Les Bouches du Weser

129 VERDEN

BREMEN, ACHIM, ALTBRUCHHAUSEN, BASSUM, BEDERKASA, BERN, BEVERSTEDT, BURGFORDE, DELMENHORST, DORUM, ELSFLETH, HOYA, LEESE, LEHE, NEUENBOURG, OLDENBOURG, OSTERHOLZ, OTTERSBERG, OVELGOENNE or OVELGÖNNE, RETH-EM, ROTENBOURG, SOLTAU, SUHLINGEN, VAREL, VERDEN, WALS-RODE, NIENBOURG, both in manuscript:— Rastede, Friedebourg.

130 L'Ems Supérieur

130
LENGERICH

OSNABRUCK, BOHMTE, CLOPPENBOURG, DIEPHOLZ, DISSEN, HASELUNEN, IBSENBÜHREN, LATHEN, LENGERIC, LINGEN, LUBBECKE EMS. SUP., MELLIE EMS. SUP., MEPPEN, MINDEN, PAPENBOURG, QUACKENBRUCK, RAHDEN, UCHTE, WILDESCHAUSEN, Shapen (manuscript).

131 La Lippe

131
RHEINE
LIPPE

MUNSTER LIPPE, AHAUS, ANHOLT, BENTHEIM, BOCKHOLT or BOCHOLT, COESFELD, DULMEN, EMMERICK or EMMERICH, NIENHUYSEN, NORTHORN, REES, RHEINE LIPPE, STEINFURT.

German territory transferred December 26, 1810 to the Dutch departments of 120 Bouches de l'Yssel, 121 L'Yssel Supérieur and 123 L'Ems Occidental, was combined April 27, 1811 into a new department, La Lippe.

With the exception of Hamburg which held out into 1814, this northwestern German territory was lost to the French empire in 1813. After the peace settlements it was divided between Prussia, Hanover, Oldenburg, Hamburg, Bremen, Lubeck, and Lauenburg.

CATALONIA 1812

Napoleon forced the King of Spain to abdicate and placed his brother, Joseph Napoleon, on the Spanish throne in July 1808. The Spanish rose in revolt, and the British under Wellington, with Spanish aid, gradually drove the French from Spain. In the course of events, Napoleon detached Catalonia from Spain and made it part of France in 1812. By a decree of January 26, 1812, it was organized into four departments.

90 La Montserrat

(90 was the former number of the Corsican department La Liamone.)

90
BARCELONE

BARCELONE.

132 Le Ter

132 FIGUÈRES

GIRONNE, FIGUERES.

133 Le Segré

133 PUYCERDA

PUYCERDA, also 30 Viella which had been attached to 30 Haute-Garonne.

134 Les Bouches de l'Ebre

No post offices with this department number.
Catalonia was liberated in early 1814.

BITS AND PIECES

The Compté de Saarwerden in Alsace was part of the German Holy Roman Empire in pre-Revolutionary times. It had French postal service starting in 1787 with a post office at Boquenom. Saarwerden was annexed to France in 1793 and at first was included in Moselle. Soon it was moved to Bas Rhin and 67 Bas Rhin postmarks of this era exist from Bouquenom and Saar-Union (a consolidation of Bouquenom and Saar-Werden).

67 BOUQUENOM

The Compté de Salm west of the crest of the Vosges mountains was also part of the Holy Roman Empire and was annexed in 1793. It was incorporated into the Department of Vosges. However, its chief town, Senones, did not get a post office until 1827.

The independent Republic of Mulhouse which had a Swiss connection and its own postal service was annexed to France in 1798 and became part of 66 Haut-Rhin, with a 66 Mulhausen postmark.

DEB: DE MULHAUSEN

20 SEPTEMBRE 1808

There were a few small areas which were pre-Revolutionary French territory, but which were lost to France at the end of 1815 following the second fall of Napoleon. Those with post offices were as follows:—

Landau had been an isolated French enclave in the German area of the Palatinate. It became a part of 67 Bas-Rhin. The first Treaty of Paris in 1814 left it joined to France by a corridor. The second Treaty of Paris in 1815 awarded both Landau and the corridor to Bavaria as of January 1, 1816.



**P.Z.P.
BOUILLON**

Philippeville and Mariembourg, towns now in Belgium, were part of pre-Revolutionary France, as was Bouillon, the capital of a semi-independent duchy. All three of these towns became part of 7 Ardennes and Philippeville was renamed with the Revolutionary name of Vedette Republicaine. All three of these towns were awarded to the new Kingdom of the Netherlands as of January 1, 1816.

Sarlouis was French territory before the Revolution and became part of the Department of Moselle with a 55 Sarlouis postmark. It was renamed Saare Libre and then in 1814 Saarelouis, both also with 55 Moselle postmarks. It was ceded to Prussia as of January 1, 1816.

**SARLOUIS
55
SARRE LIBRE**

THE AFTERMATH

**P. . . P
DRONERO**

The loss to France of the Départements Conquis, 1813-15, did not end the story of their postmarks.

The postal service established by France tended to continue to function after the "liberation" of various of these areas until the new regimes had the time to set up their own postal arrangements.

And after these transitional periods, the successor postal administrations sometimes continued to use the old French postal markings, usually, but not always with the French department numbers filed off. These are known as tardive or posthumous usages.

SCARCITY OF COVERS

While nothing in the line of Département Conquis covers is common material anymore, some covers from larger cities and from the Italian area are no scarcer than the general run of contemporary French stampless covers.

As most letters were sent unpaid during this period, from any given city "PP" (port-payé=post-paid) covers are generally much the scarcer.

Déboursé covers are scarce and many of them rare. Provisional markings are usually scarce to rare. Markings from some smaller offices and from offices where the period of use was short tend to be rare.

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