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**THE SECESSION OF BELGIUM FROM THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
DURING THE PERIOD OF 1830 – 1839
AND ITS POSTAL CONSEQUENCES.**

by

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THE SECESSION OF BELGIUM FROM THE KINGDOM OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS AND ITS POSTAL CONSEQUENCES BETWEEN 1830 AND 1839

Introduction

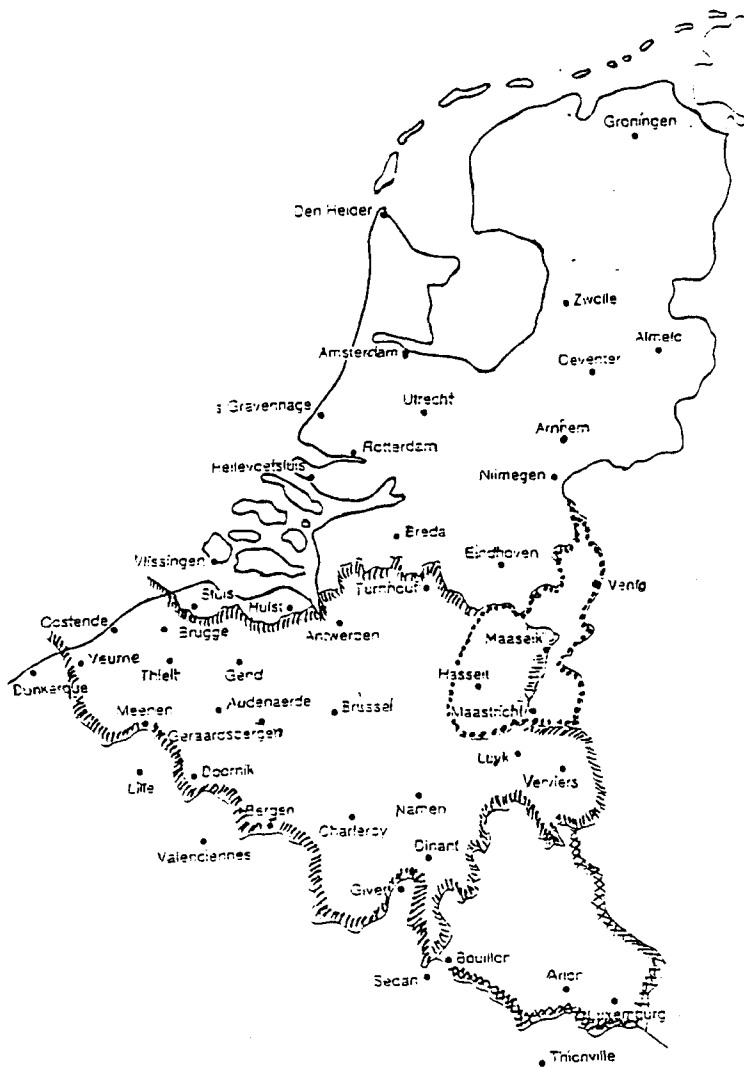
Towards the end of the twenties of the 19th century, there arose, in the Southern Netherlands, a strong popular movement toward separation from the Northern Netherlands which, on August 25th, 1830, triggered by an opera performance at Brussels, came to a head and culminated in open insurrection.

While initially private mail service continued normally, by circular of the Netherlands Postal Administration of October 12th, 1830, service to areas which had refused obedience to the King was prohibited. Additionally, there were warlike actions by the Belgian side which included occupation by Belgian troops of the Province of Limburg (except the City and the Citadel of Maastricht) as well as the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg (except the City of Luxemburg and the Fortress which had a Prussian contingent). Accordingly, mail had to be routed via Prussia which, of course, was far more expensive. Thus letters were routed via Aix la Chapelle (mostly to a forwarding agent), Emmerich and Arnhem into the Netherlands and vice versa.

Between August 2nd and 12th, 1831, there was a military exchange of blows, the so-called „Ten Day Campaign“. The hostilities were ended as a result of intervention by French troops under General Gérard; the Netherlands troops, which had advanced to Hasselt and Leuven, had to withdraw. The postal connection continued to be interrupted and letters had to be routed via Prussia or smuggled across the border by private persons and hand-carried to a post office.

It was not until January 16th, 1835, that an official agreement was reached, by which commercial letters and newspapers were routed via the border post office of Groot-Zundert near Breda or Antwerp. Postage had to be paid for the distance to the border, otherwise they were sent to the Bureau des Rebutis until payment. On January 1st, 1837, the border post office of Groot-Zundert was relocated to Breda and the extra postage concurrently reduced.

During 1839, there was an exchange of ratification documents and Belgium withdrew from that portion of the Province of Limburg which had been assigned to the Netherlands as well as from a part of Luxemburg. The situation normalized itself.



Map of the Netherlands – aprx. 1831

Belgium ///////

Luxemburg XXXXXXXXXX

Limburg

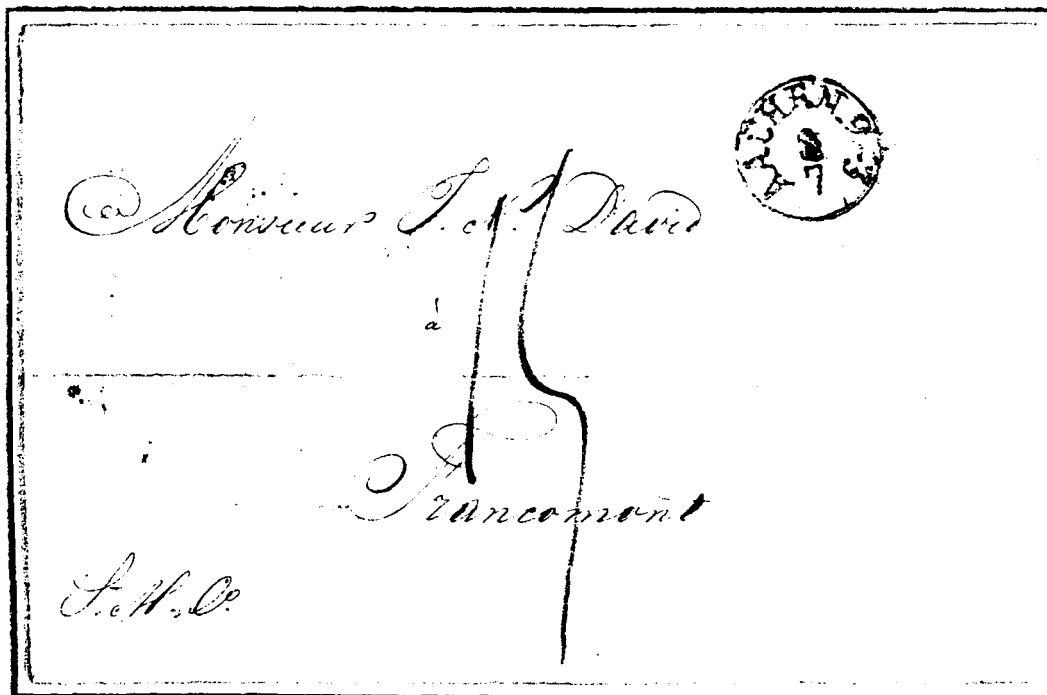
Arrangement

1. Mail from the Netherlands to Belgium
 - a) private mail smuggled via Prussia
 - b) per forwarding agents
 - c) via Border Post Office Groot-Zundert – Antwerp
2. Mail from Belgium to the Netherlands
 - a) directly into the Netherlands or smuggled
 - b) per forwarding agent
 - c) Convention of Zonhoven
 - d) via Border Post Office Antwerp – Groot-Zundert/Breda
 - e) Postal traffic from France or from overseas via France
3. Military or Field Post
4. The Belgian period in Limburg
5. The Belgian Period in Luxemburg

1. Mail from the Netherlands to Belgium

a) Smuggled letters

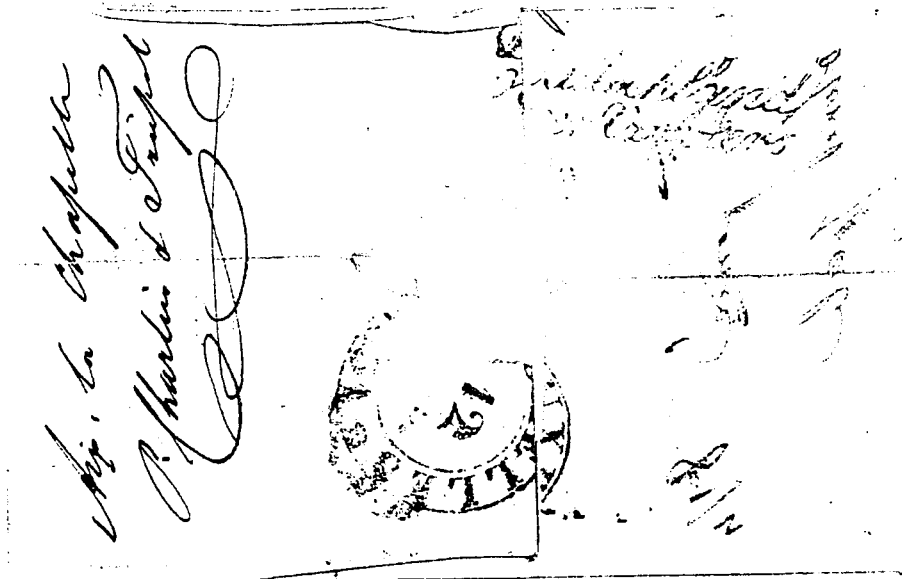
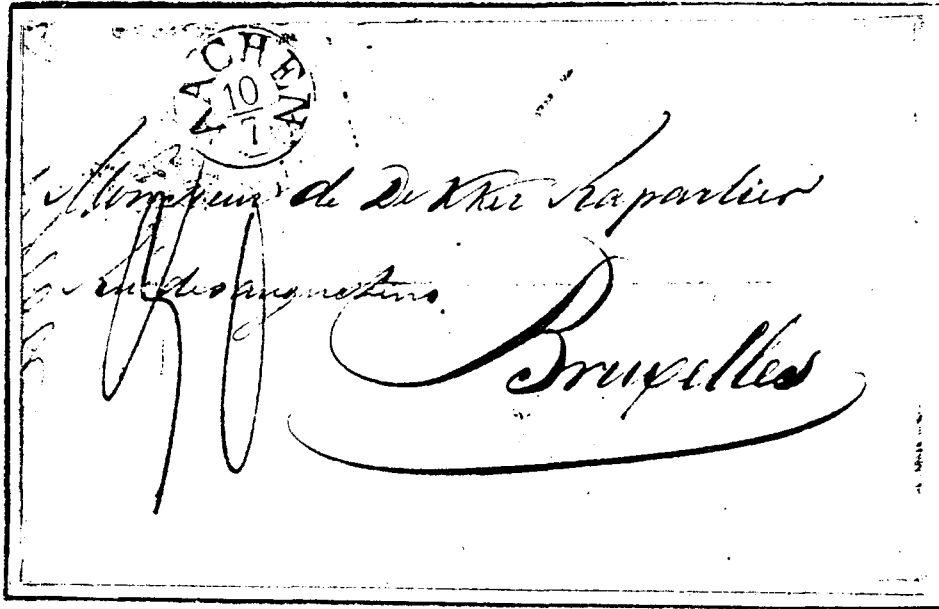
Subsequent to the Brussels Uprising in August, 1830, mail from the Netherlands to Belgium ran normally until, in October, pursuant to an order of the Netherlands Mail Service, the connection to Belgium was interrupted. Since, at the time, the main portion of the postal interchange consisted of commercial mail, commerce searched for a loophole. One gave the letters to a friend or acquaintance, enroute to Prussia (mostly Aix la Chapelle), and there mailed them at the post office (Ill. 1). These letters neither indicated the sender nor any rate indication on the reverse. The fact that they are so-called „smuggled letters“ can be recognized in that they show the origin (a Netherlands town name) and date inside, but are postmarked in Prussia and addressed to Belgium on the outside. The postage which the addressee had to pay consists of the Prussian postage + the extra postage (border transit charge) + the distance postage from the Belgian border to the destination.



Ill. 1: Letter to Francmont/B., written on July 4th, 1833, in Rotterdam,
 posted at Aix la Chapelle on July 9th.
 Postage calculation: border transit charge 5c + distance Verviers-Francmont 10c.

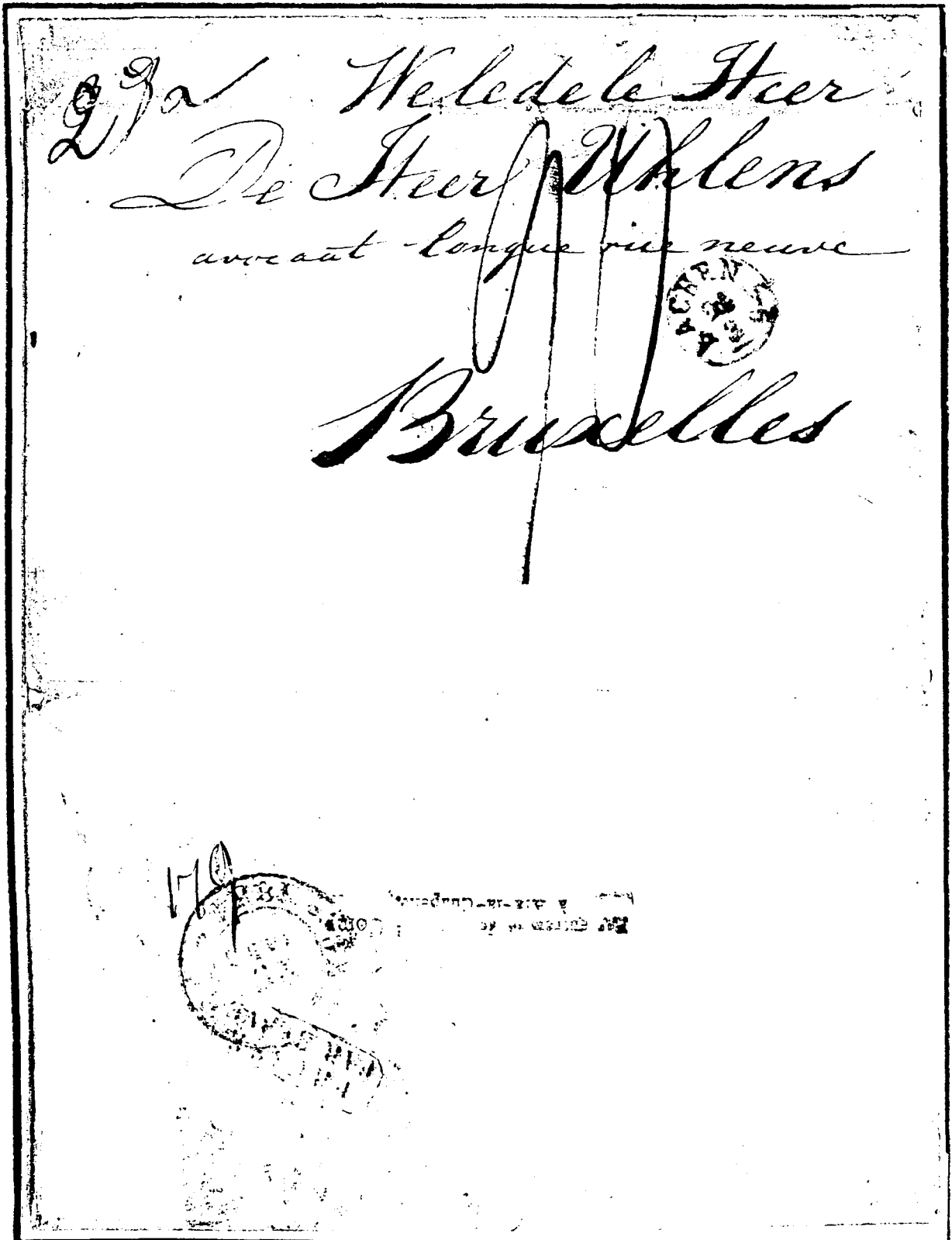
b) per Forwarding Agent

There was also a somewhat more expensive way to route letters: by forwarding agent. The advantage was that the letter reached its destination more rapidly. The front of the letter shows the departure location in Prussia and the postage, similar to the smuggled letters; on the reverse, manuscript or by handstamp, the address of the forwarding agent, mostly located along the border at Aix la Chapelle, Cologne or Kleve (Ill. 2, 3, 4).



Reverse of Cover

Ill. 2: July 6th, 1831 Letter from Eindhoven via Aix la Chapelle, on July 10th to Brussels per forwarding agent, „Aix la Chapelle p. Charlin & Trüpel“.



III. 3: Letter of March, 1834, from Amsterdam via Aix la Chapelle to Brussels, per forwarding agent. „Par entremise de Oeder & Comp. à Aix la Chapelle“

(The postmark „PRUSSE PAR HERVE“ was only used during March, 1834)

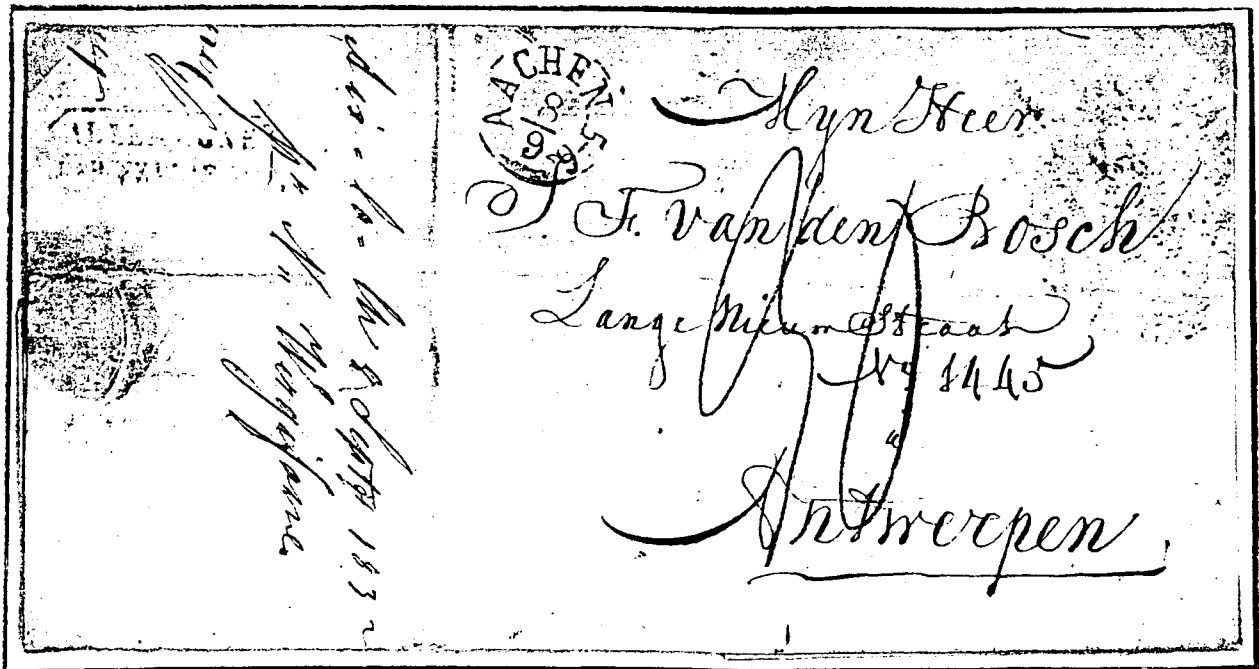


Abb. 4: September 5th, 1832 Letter from Amsterdam via Aix la Chapelle to Antwerp on September 8th, per forwarding agent, „Aix la Ch. 8 Sept. 1832 pr N. Wergifosse“.

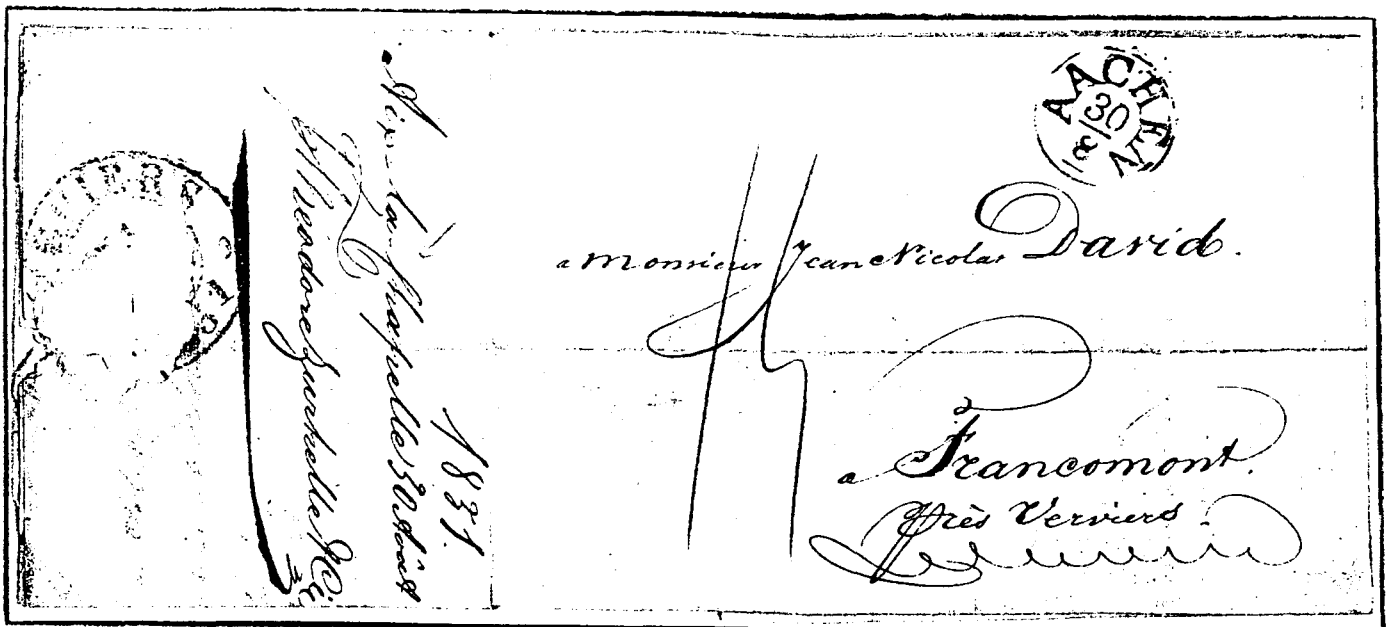
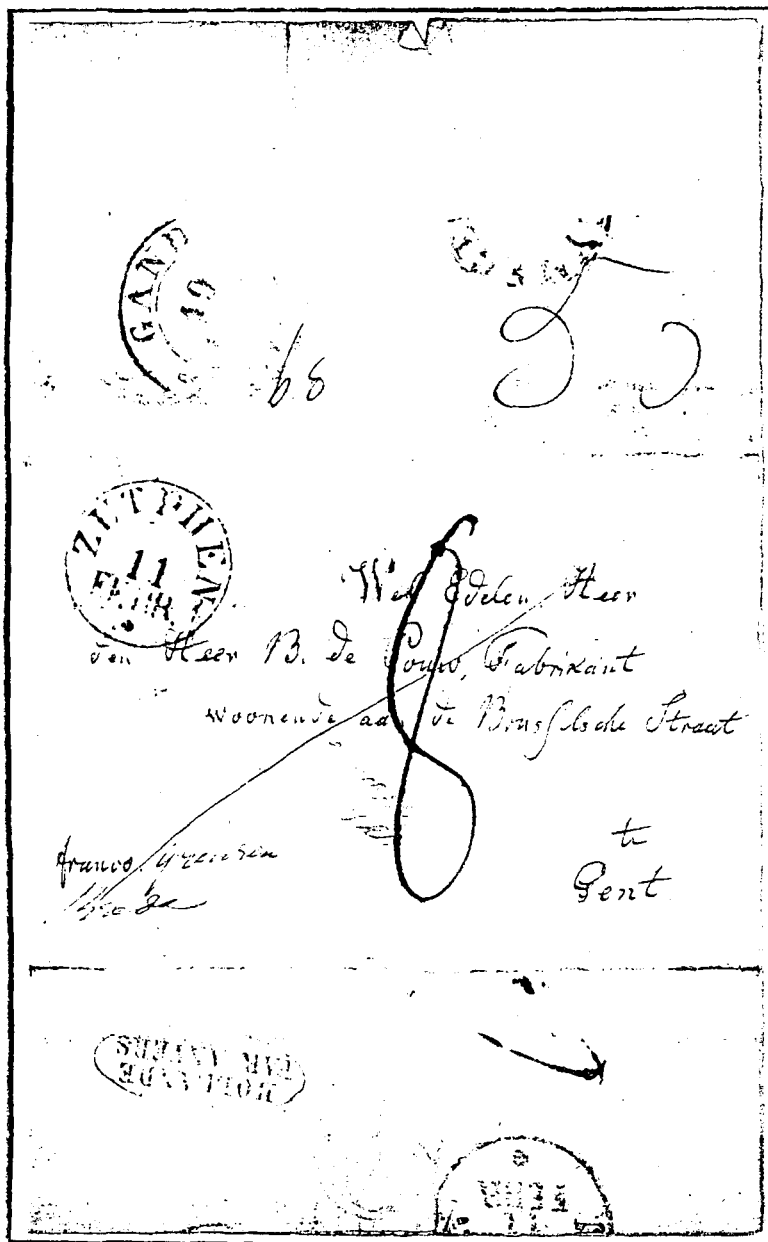


Abb. 5: August 27th, 1831 Letter from Amsterdam via Aix la Chapelle on August 30th, Verviers to Francomont per forwarding agent, „Aix la Chapelle 30 Aout 1831 p. Theodore Zurkelle & Cie“.

c) via the Border Post Office Groot-Zundert – Antwerp

On January 1st, 1835, a new official mail connection was established; commercial mail and newspapers could now pass the border at Groot-Zundert (near Breda) for Antwerp and further into the interior. It was a prerequisite that postage for these letters was paid to the border. At the border post office of Groot-Zundert, these letters were postmarked, on the front, with the script handstamp, „Franco Grenzen“; on the Belgian side, the postmark „HOLLANDE PAR ANVERS“ was used (Ill. 6)



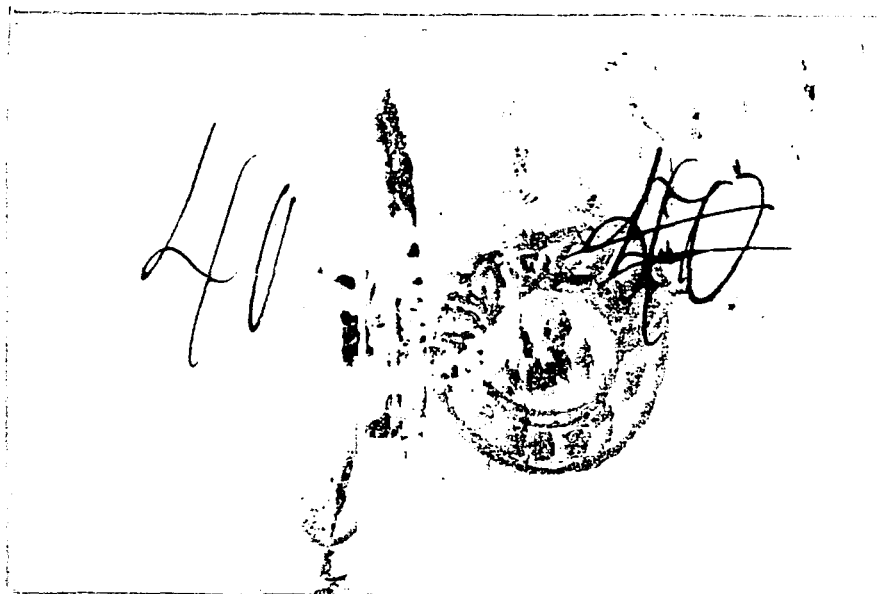
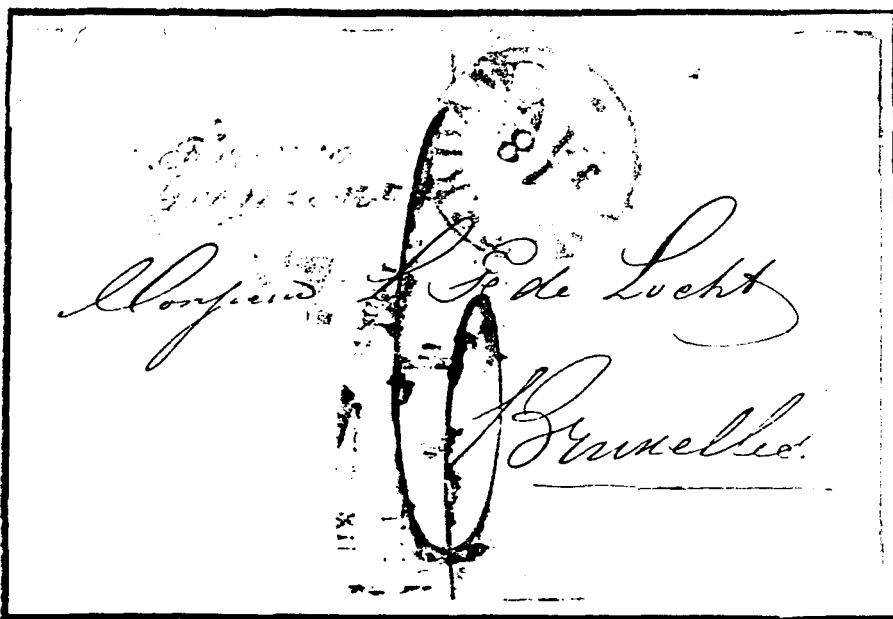
Ill. 6: 1835 Letter from Zutphen via Breda – Groot-Zundert – Antwerp to Ghent.
 The Letter was franked to the border with „50“ cent (Zutphen-Breda = 25c + extra postage 25c)
 The addressee had to pay „8“ décimes (Antwerp-Ghent = 3 déc. + extra postage 5 déc.)

As of December 29th, 1835, Belgium introduced a new weight progression scale, while the Netherlands retained the old one.

old: less than 16g – single rate

new: less than 10g – single rate

On January 1st, 1837, the Netherlands reduced the extra postage (border postage) from 25c to 15c; Belgium from 5 décimes to 3 décimes.



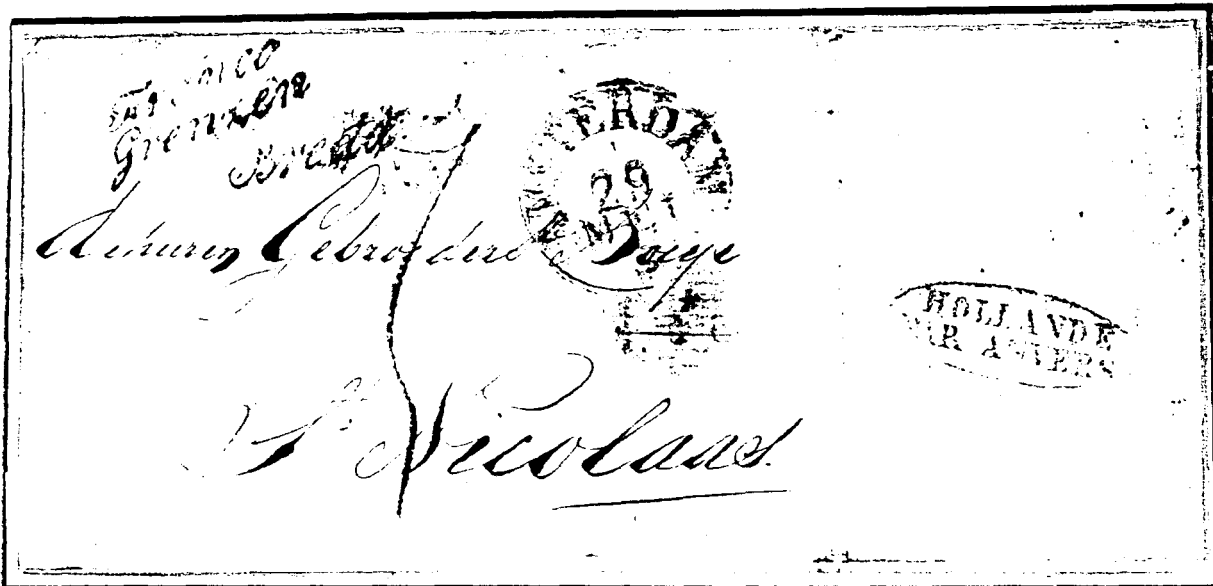
Reverse of letter

Ill. 7: January 18th, 1837 Letter from Amsterdam to Brussels.
 The postage to the border (Amsterdam-Breda) now = 25c + extra postage 15c = „40“c,
 for the route portion Antwerp-Brussels = 3 déc. + extra postage 3 déc. = „6“ déc.
 which were payable by the receiver.

On the reverse, the postal clerk had initially charged 50c which, on the basis of the
 new rate schedule, was struck and changed to „40“c.

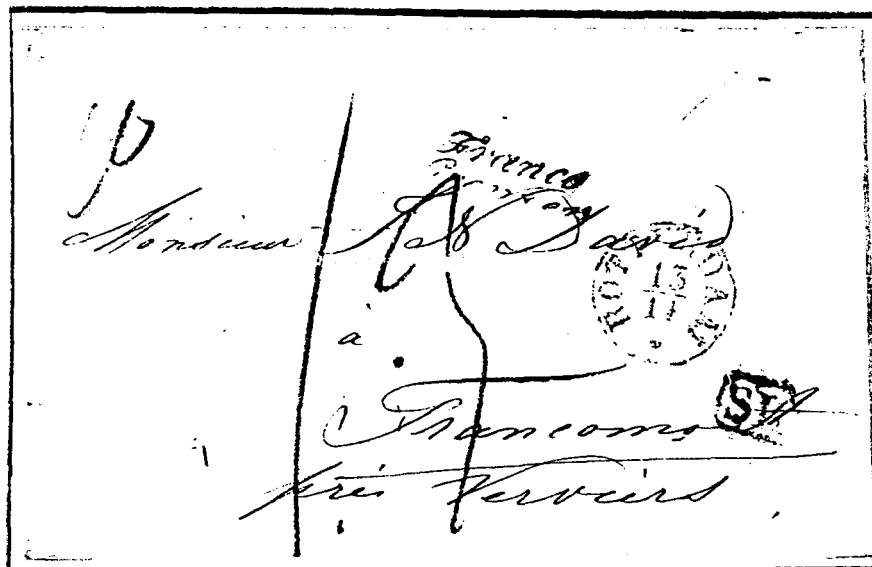
Concurrently with the reduction of the extra postage, the Netherlands Border Post Office was relocated from Groot-Zundert to Breda. For this reason, the script border postmark, „Breda“, was applied adjacent to the postmark, „Franko Grenzen“, for a short while.

Breda



III. 8: May 29th, 1837, Letter from Amsterdam via Breda to St. Nicolaas.
The letter was prepaid to the border with 40c (Amsterdam-Breda = 25c + extra postage 15c);
an additional „5“ décimes (Antwerp-St. Nicolaas = 2 déc. + extrapostage = 3 déc.)
was payable by the addressee.

The handstamp, „Breda“, went out-of-use as early as at the end of 1837.



III. 9: November 13th, 1837, Letter weighing 10g (thus Belgian postage x 1,5)
from Rotterdam via Breda to Francmont.

Letters from overseas for recipients in Belgium which, during the postal embargo, arrived in the Netherlands for forwarding, were retained and not forwarded until the border was opened.



III. 10: January 23rd, 1833 Letter from Baltimore/USA to Francomont.

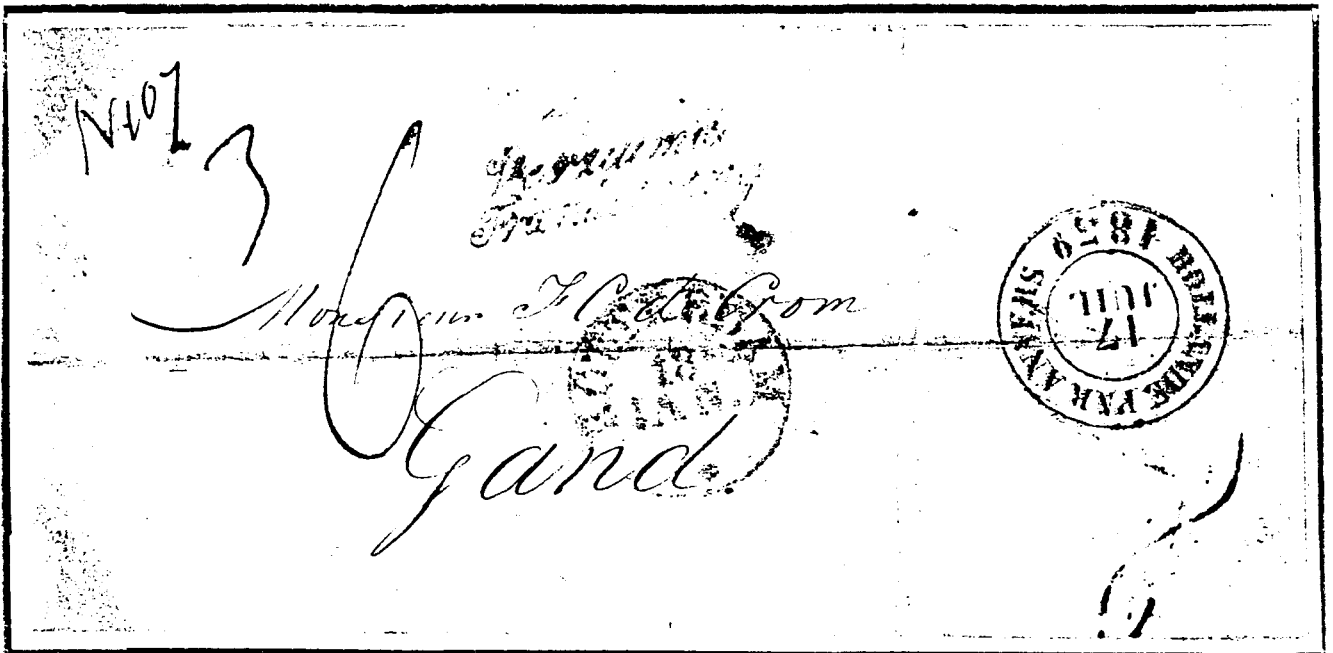
The letter reached Den Helder on April 2nd, 1833 (postmark: „ZEE-BRIEF / 2 APR / DEN HELDER“) Because of the interrupted postal exchange, the letter remained unforwarded. The letter could only be forwarded as late as 1835, subsequent to the agreement with Belgium. It was postmarked „Na Posttyd“ and was the forwarded via Groot-Zundert, Antwerp (postmark: „HOLLAND / PAR ANVERS“) to Francomont

Accordingly, the letter was held in the Netherlands for 2 years.

According to an order of April 19th, 1816, Circular 77, the 60c sea mail postage was valid to the destination in the Netherlands and , for this reason, no postage was raised in this instance. The recipient merely had to pay the sea mail postage of 60c = 12 déc. + postage for the route Antwerp – Francomont = 6 déc. + extra postage of 5 déc. = „23“ décimes.

Letters from the Netherlands to Belgium as well, which, during the postal embargo, were delivered unfranked to the post office, were retained and not forwarded until the opening of the border, thus subsequent to July 1st, 1839.

*Verzuimde
Frankeering*



III. 11: January 18th, 1832 Letter from Rotterdam to Ghent

This letter was delivered to the post office unfranked and thus remained at the post office, under registration number „107“. Only subsequent to the agreement of July 1st, 1839 and the normalization of conditions could the letter be forwarded on to Ghent. As an explanation for the delay, it was postmarked „Verzuimde Frankeering“ at Rotterdam. To date, it is the only known letter with this postmark.

Accordingly, the letter was delayed for more than 7 years.

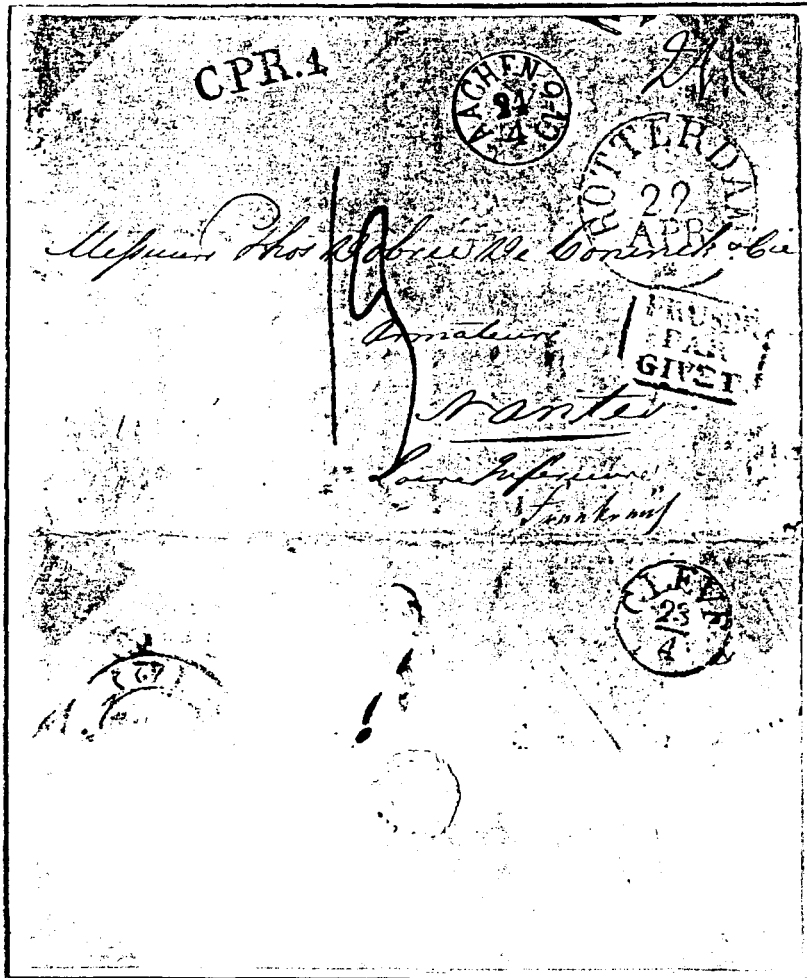
The extra postage was discontinued, as of June 22nd, 1839, in Belgium and, as of July 1st, 1839, in the Netherlands, accordingly, this letter was rated in accordance with the new rate schedules:

for the distance Rotterdam-Antwerp (rate of 1830) 3 Décimes
for the distance Antwerp-Ghnet 3 Décimes
„6“Décimes

d) Postal interchange with France

There were 2 means of postal interchange between the Netherlands and France:

1. Netherlands – Arnhem – Prussia – Thionville or Givet – France

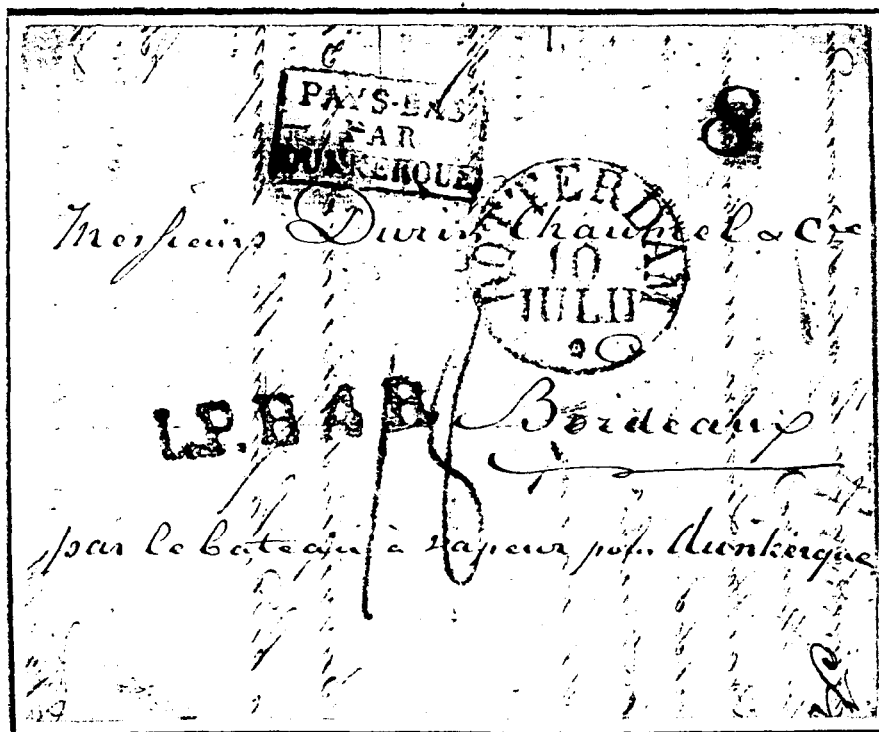


III. 12: April 22nd, 1834 Letter from Rotterdam via Cleve, Aix la Chapelle to Nantes

The 25c postage paid to the border is indicated on the front of the letter, the postage payable by the receiver for the distance Cleve-Aix la Chapelle 4 Sgr.= 5 Déc. + for the distance Aix la Chapelle-Dinant 5 Déc. + for the distance Givet-Nantes 3 Déc. = „13“ Déc.

2. the searoute: Netherlands – Rotterdam – Dunkirk – France.
 In this instance, the letters had the manuscript note, „par le bateau à vapeur pour Dunkerque“ (per steamer to Dunkirk).

par le bateau à vapeur pour Dunkerque



III. 13: July 10th, 1833, Letter from Rotterdam via Dunkirk to Bordeaux.

Postage calculation took place according to the French Département System:

Foreign Reimbursement 4 th Rayon	8 Déc.
Distance Dunkirk-Bordeaux	<u>10 Déc.</u>
	„18“Déc.

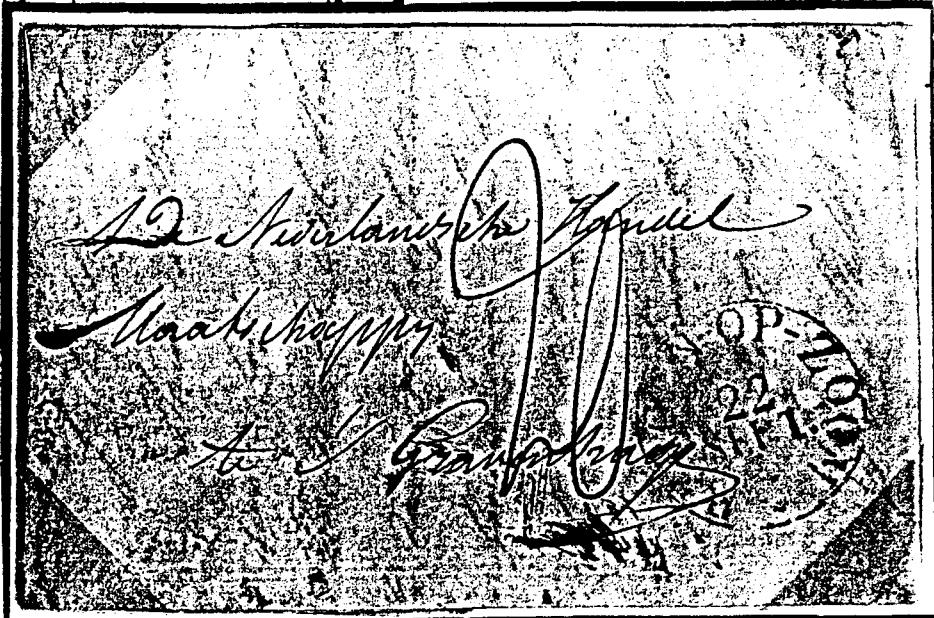
2. Mail from Belgium to the Netherlands

a) Smuggled Mail

On this reverse route as well, there was smuggled mail which, in most instances, was brought across the border at Antwerp and delivered to the post office at Bergen op Zoom or Breda.

N° 107		BOURSE D'ANVERS		19 septembre 1831.	
		courts jours	à 2 mois.	à 3 mois.	
Amsterdam	1 1/4	perte			
Rotterdam	3/8	perte	P		
Paris pr. fr. 100	fl 47	1/4	A		
Londres pr. Lstr	fl 11	95	A	fl 47 1/16	A
Hambourg pr 100 MBoo	35	3/16	A	fl 11 90	P
Bruxelles				35	A
Gand	1 1/4	0/0	perte		46 15/16
					34 5/16
				à 6 semaines.	
Petersbourg pr 20 rub.					
Vienne pr 20 thal					
Francfort pr 20 rixthal	35	1/8	P	35 15/16	
Auguste pr. 20 thal					35 13/16
				à Usance.	
				à Usance et demi.	
Cadix					
Madrid, } pr. 40 duc.					
Lisbonne pr. 40 cruz.					
Or fin pr. 1/2 PB					
Argent fin do do					
Escompte	4	0/0			
FONDS PUBLICS.			Inter.		
Belgique.	Dette active		5		
	Dito différée				
Anvers.	Actions de l'Entrepôt		5		
	Emprunt de 12 mill. 1831		5	67 3/8 à 1/2	
	Dette active		2 1/2		
	Dito différée				
Hollande	Obl du syndicat		4 1/2		
	Rentes remboursables		2 1/2	84 1/2	P
	Société de Commerce		4 1/2		
France.	5 pr. cent jouiss. de		5		
	3 " " do				
	Banque de Vienne				
Autriche.	Métalliques		5	80 3/4	P
	Do. à Londres		5		
	Lots de fl 100				
	Do. " " 250		4	102	A
Pologne.	Do. " " 300			360	P
Bude.	Do. " " 50			82 à 83 &	P
Darmstadt.	Do. " " 50				
Bésil.	Emprunt à Lorôres de 1824		5		
	Dito chez Guebbard 1824		5	62	P
	Rte. perp. à Amsterdam		5		
Espagne.	Dito dito à Paris		5	41	
	Dito dito dito		3		
	Dito dito à Londres		3		
	Dette différée				
Haiti.	Emprunt à Paris		6		
Grèce.	Do. à Londres de 1824 de Lst. 100		5		
	Do. do. de 1825 de Lst. 100				
	Do. à Amsterdam chez Hope et comp.				
	Do. do. Nouvel				
Russie.	Inscriptions au Grand livre				
	Do. Certificats				
	Do. Métalliques				
Danemark	Do. à Londres de 1822				
	Do. chez Smets				
	Do. à Londres				
	Do. do				
Prusse.	Do. à Londres				
	Do. par loterie à Berlin de 1820				
	Do. do. de 1822				
Naples	Certificats Falconnet				
	Do. à Paris				
	Do. à Londres				
Stoite.	Levée de 1821				
	Dito dito 1824				

Pour le Syndic des Agens de C



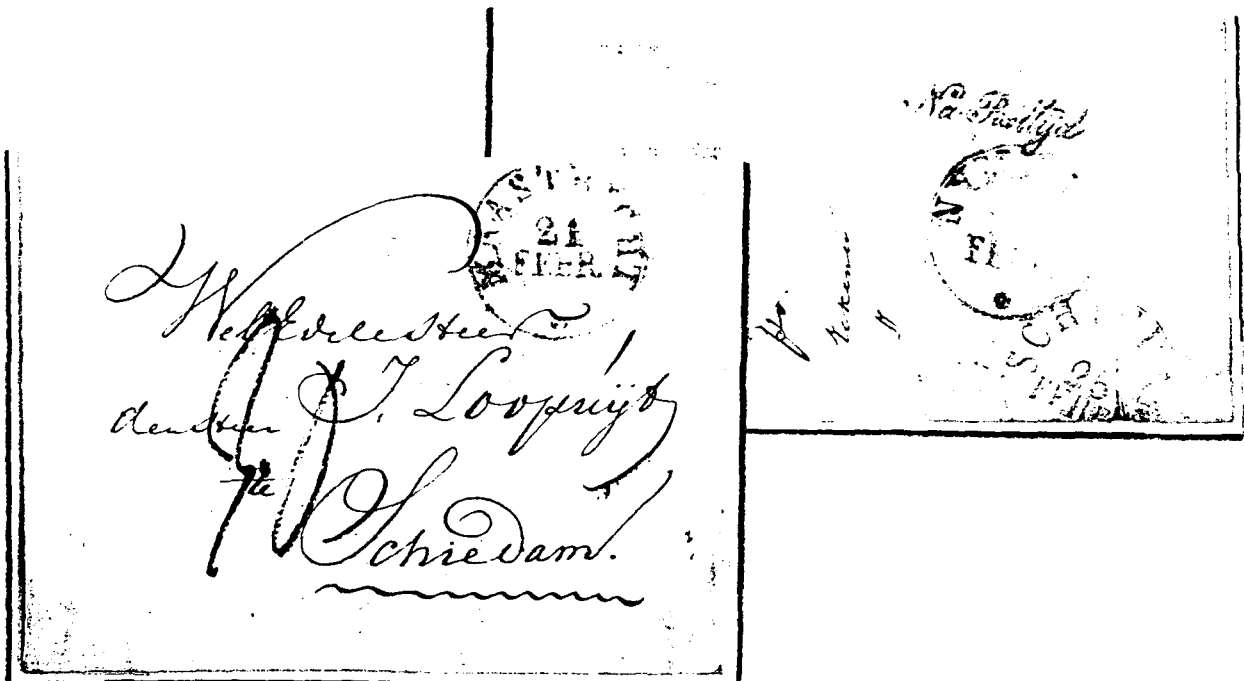
III. 14: September 21st, 1831 Letter from Antwerp to Copenhagen enclosed is the Antwerp stock exchange list of September 19th 1831

b) per forwarding agent



III. 15: June 2nd, 1831 Letter from Brussels via Cologne, Amhem to Schiedam per forwarding agent „L. A. HARDT & HELLMERS / COLOGNE“.

As I have mentioned in the introduction, the Province of Limburg, with the exception of the City and Fortress of Maastricht, was occupied by Belgian troops. Pursuant to a directive of the Netherlands Postal Administration, dated October 12th, 1830, mail from and to Maastricht had to be routed via Nijmegen.



III. 16: February 21st, 1831 Letter from Maastricht via Nijmegen to Schiedam
The postage was 30c.

c) The Convention of Zonhoven

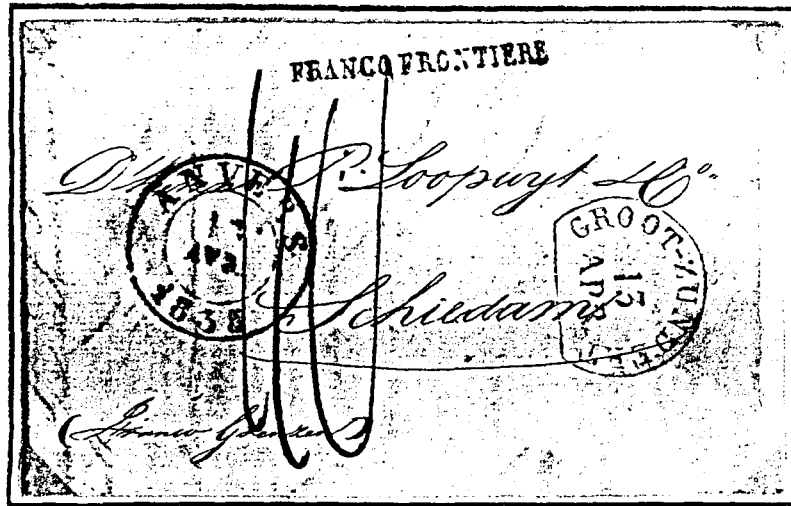
Discussions between the Netherlands and Belgian commanders about the situation of Maastricht resulted, on November 26th, 1833, in the so-called „Convention of Zonhoven“ which, among other matters, established certain connecting routes from and to Maastricht. Thus a connection from Aix la Chapelle via Maastricht to Eindhoven was opened, which was less expensive than via Arnhem.



III. 17: December 3rd, 1834 Letter from Leuven via Aix la Chapelle, Maastricht to Utrecht. The postage to the border was paid („franco Gr.“), the recipient paid an additional 30c.

d) via the border post office Antwerp – Groot-Zundert/Breda

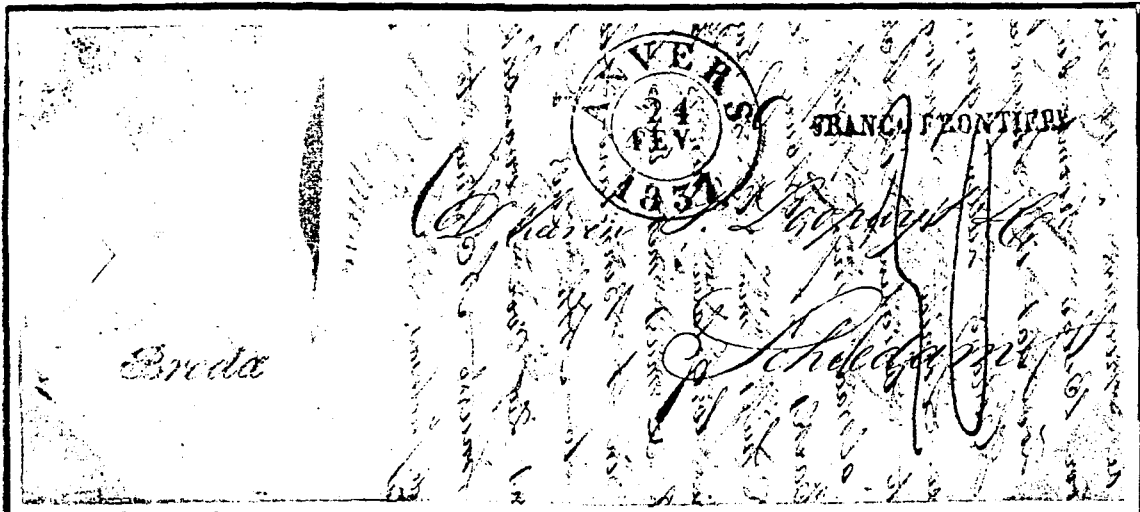
Letters which, according to the official post agreement, as of January 16th, 1835, passed the border near Antwerp – Groot-Zundert/Breda, were marked „FRANCO FRONTIERE“, either manuscript or by handstamp. On the Netherlands side, they received a halfround postmark, „GROOT-ZUNDERT“, with indication of day and month. The period of use was from January 16th, 1835 – December 31st, 1836 (see illustration 18).



III. 18: April 13th, 1835 Letter from Antwerp to Schiedam.
The letter was franked to the border with 3 déc., the recipient still had to pay extra postage 25c + 15c for the distance Breda-Schiedam = „40“c.

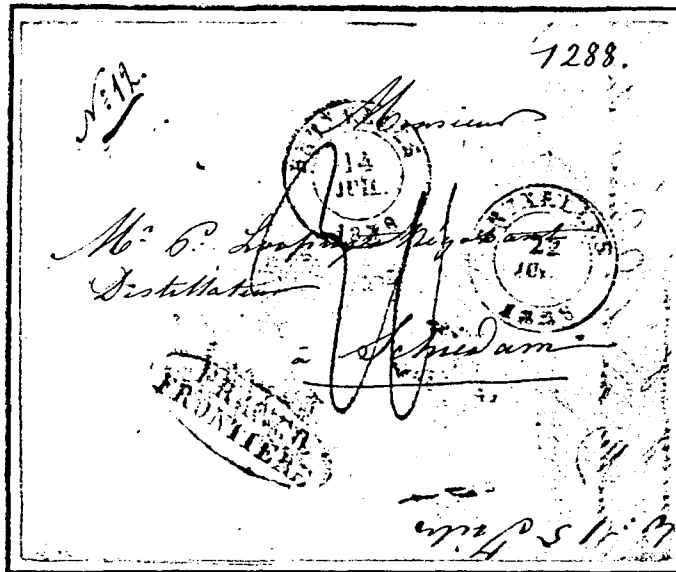
Subsequent to the relocation of the border post office to Breda, in 1837, the script postmark, „Breda“, was additionally used here for a short period.

Breda



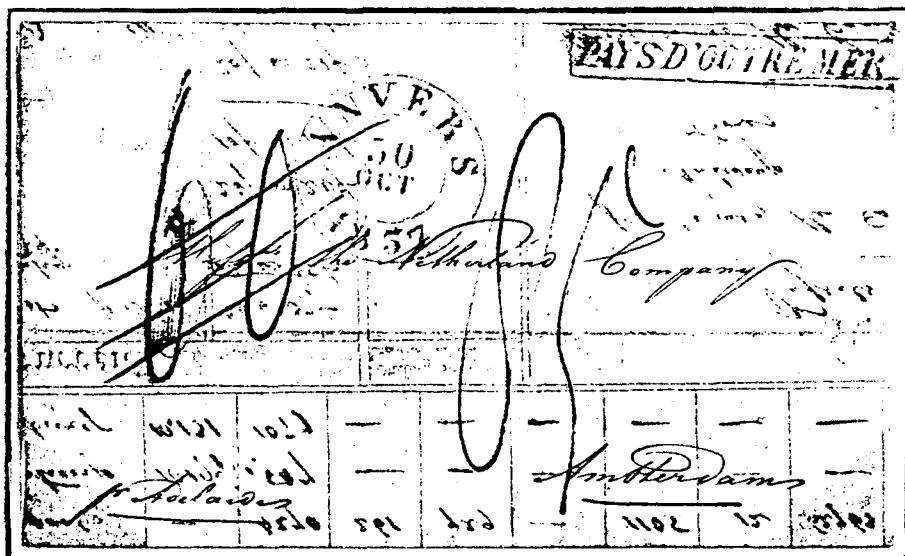
III. 19: February 24th, 1837 Letter from Antwerp via Breda to Schiedam with the „Breda“ postmark.

The same applied in Belgium as in the Netherlands: Letters for which postage was not paid to the border were sent to the Bureau des Rebut, which resulted in a delay of 3 weeks, because the Bureau notified the sender about the missing postage and released the letter only upon its receipt.



III. 20: June 22nd, 1838 Letter from Brussels via Antwerp, Breda to Schiedam. Since the letter was not prepaid, a demand for postage was made and, upon receipt, forwarded to Schiedam on July 14th, 1838.

Only very few letters from overseas are known which arrived in the port of Antwerp and were addressed to the Netherlands.

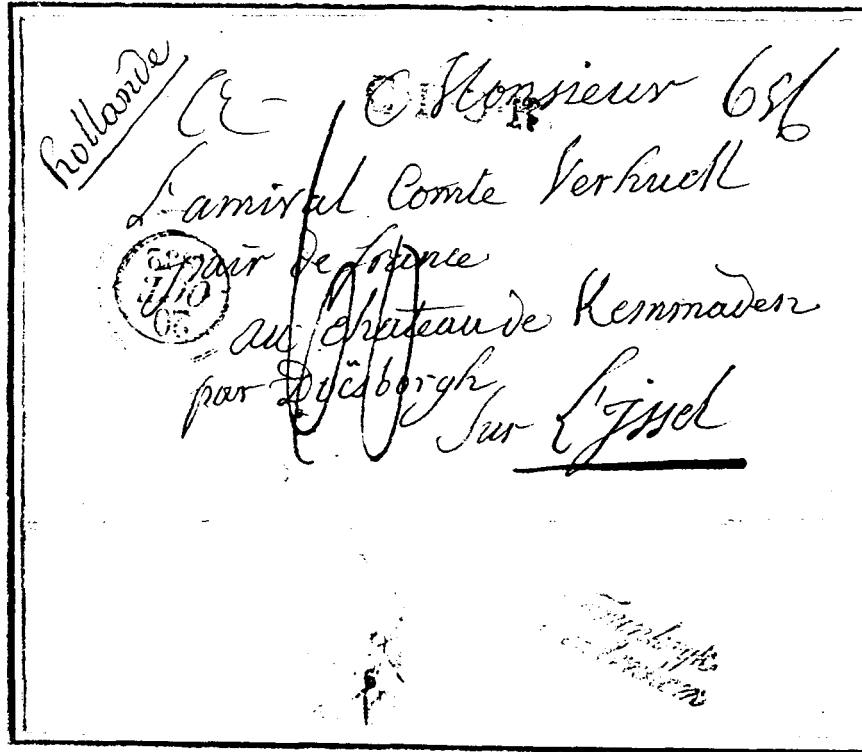


III. 21: August 12th, 1837 Letter from Buenos Aires/Argentina via Antwerp to Amsterdam

e) Postal Routes from France or from Overseas via France

Here again the 2 possibilities:

1. the land route: France – Thionville – Prussia – Arnhem – Netherlands



III. 22: October 20th, 1832 Letter from Paris via Thionville, Arnhem to Doesborgh. Postage was calculated according to the old rate schedule with border transit at Valenciennes-Bergen.

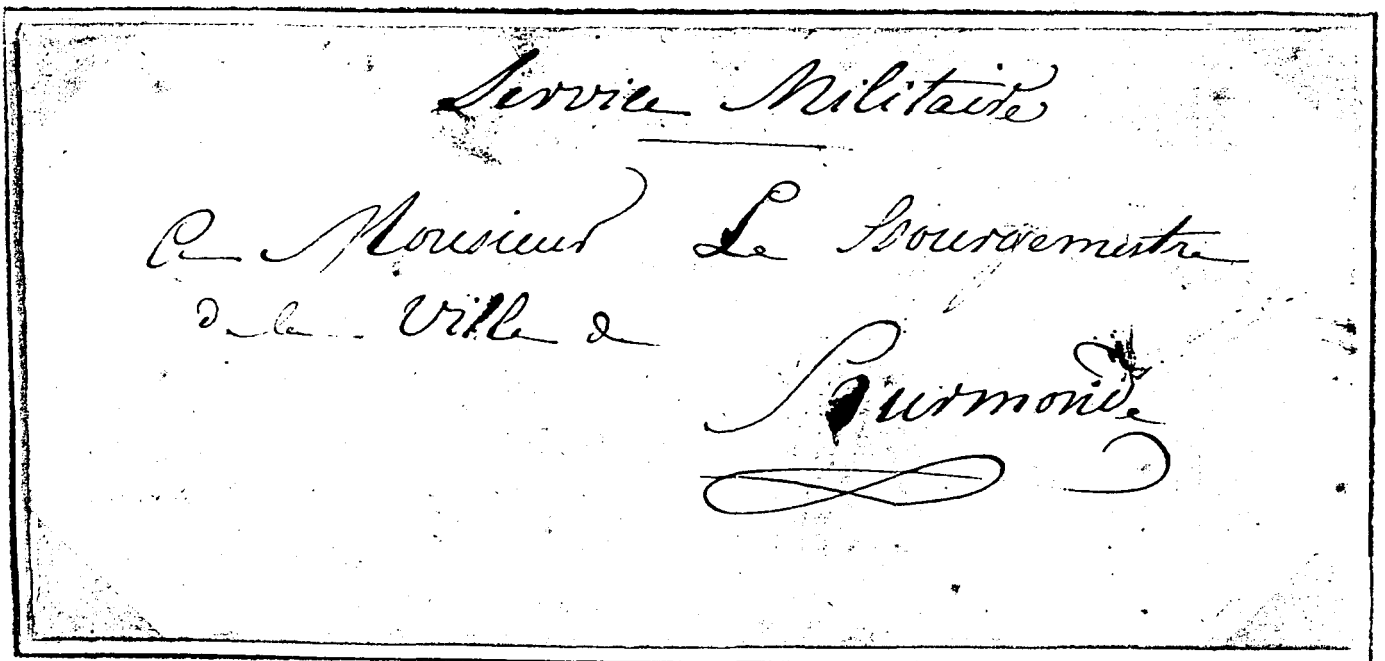


III. 23: June 22nd, 1832 Letter from Libourne to Wyhe. Because of the cholera epidemic in Europe, disinfection of incoming and outgoing mail was prescribed. Arnhem was the disinfection point for the Netherlands. Accordingly, this letter was disinfected as well and the postmark, „GEZUIVERD“, was applied (clear disinfection slits on the reverse).

3. Military or Field Post

a) the Belgian field post service

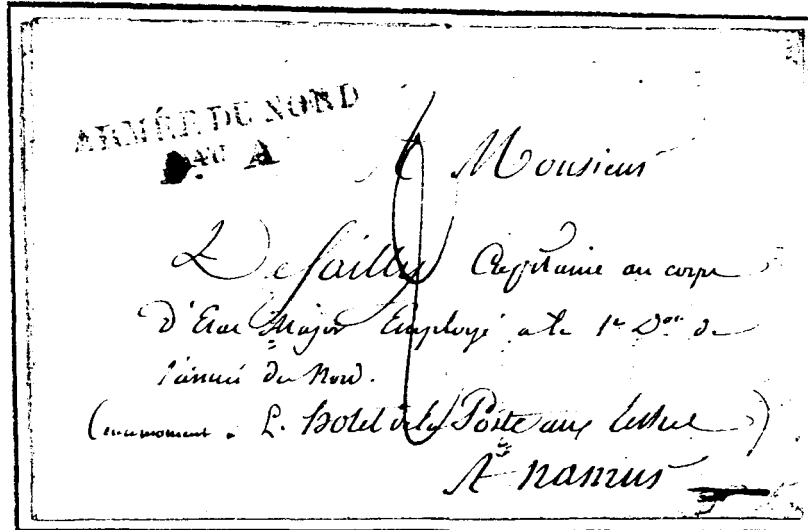
The unrest in Belgium with its endeavours toward independence lead to mobilisation on both sides. On October 1st, 1830, a Belgian army was organized under the Generals Goethals, Nypels and Chazal. These forces were deployed at a later date. There was no separate field post service. Letters were marked „Service Militaire“ by hand and were forwarded free of charge by the civilian postal service.



III. 25: November 11th, 1830 Official letter by the Belgian general, Daine, in his own hand, in occupied Roermond, to the mayor of the city on the eve of the conquest of Venlo.

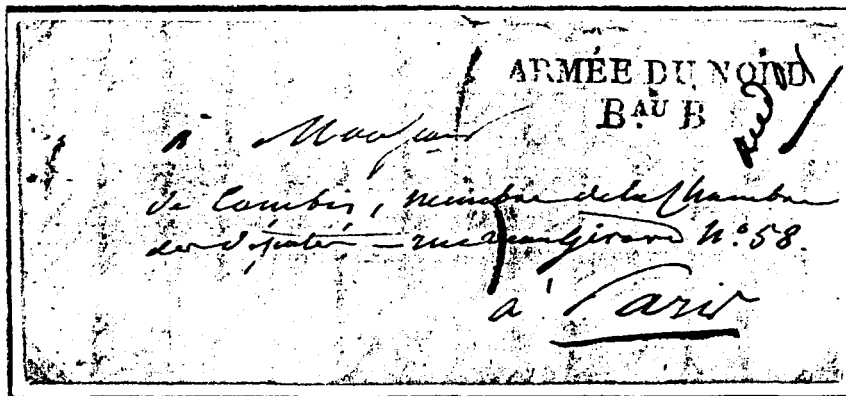
b) the French field post service

The French army, under General Gérard, which, in 1831, intervened in the 10-Day War during the advance of the Netherlands army toward Brussels and thus came to the aid of the Belgians, used its military postmark from the Napoleonic era.



III, 26: September 2nd, 1831 Letter from a French officer on the regimental staff of the Armée du Nord in St. Trond to the staff of the 1st Division at Namur. Postmark „ARMÉE DU NORD B.A.U A“.

During the siege of the Fortress of Antwerp, in Nov./Dec. 1832, the French army came to the aid of the Belgians for the second time.

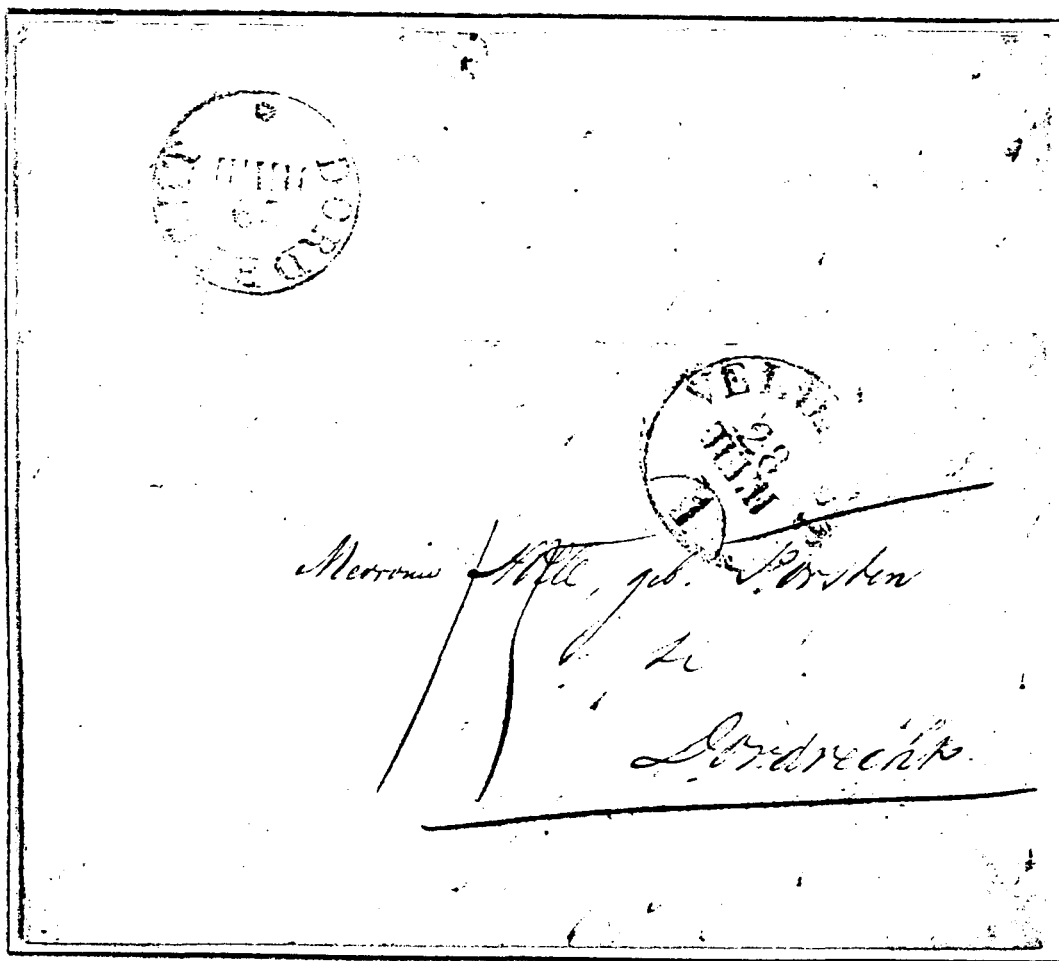


III. 27: December 14th, 1832 Letter from a French soldier to Paris.
Postmark: „ARMÉE DU NORD/B.A.U B“

This private letter was, according to the rate schedule of March 29th, 1832, postage free to the border. For the distance Valenciennes-Paris, „5“ décimes had to be paid, according to the rate schedule of January 1st, 1828.

c) the Netherlands field post service

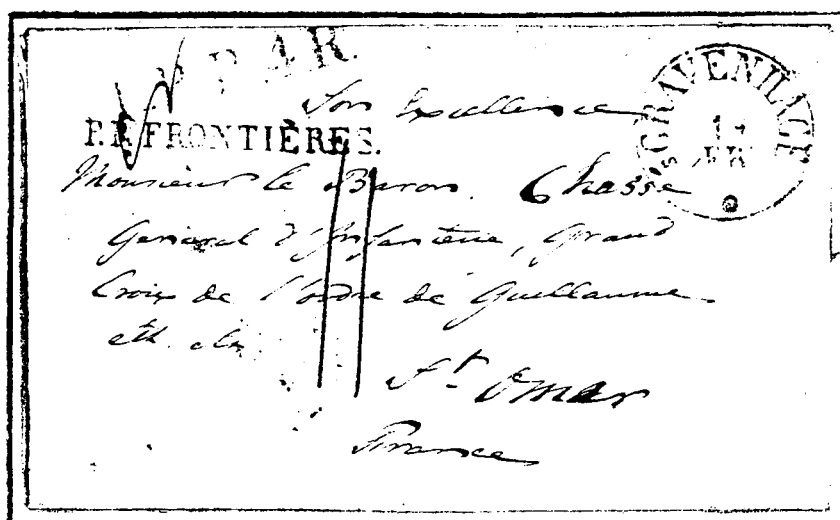
The Netherlands army had, since the Napoleonic era, a field post service, which was dissolved in 1816 and which was reinstated anew in 1831. This field post service received a circular single-frame handstamp, inscribed „VELDPOST“, as well as day and month indication and the numerals 1 through 4. The numeral „1“ had been in use prior to the 10-Day War, the remaining numerals 2, 3 and 4 during and after the war, until 1834, in maneuver areas and garrisons.



III. 28: July 28th, 1831 Letter, 6 days prior to outbreak of the war from Kamp bij Rijen to Dordrecht (Postmark: Veldpost 1).

These letters were not exempt from postage.

Following the fall of Fortress of Antwerp, on December 23rd, 1832, Netherlands prisoners of war, officers as well as enlisted men were brought to St. Omer in France. Pursuant to Circular 251 of the Netherlands Postal Administration, dated January 31st, 1833, letters to prisoners of war were exempt from postage to the border. These letters were postmarked with the handstamp, „P.P.FRONTIERES“; only the French portion of the route was subject to postage.



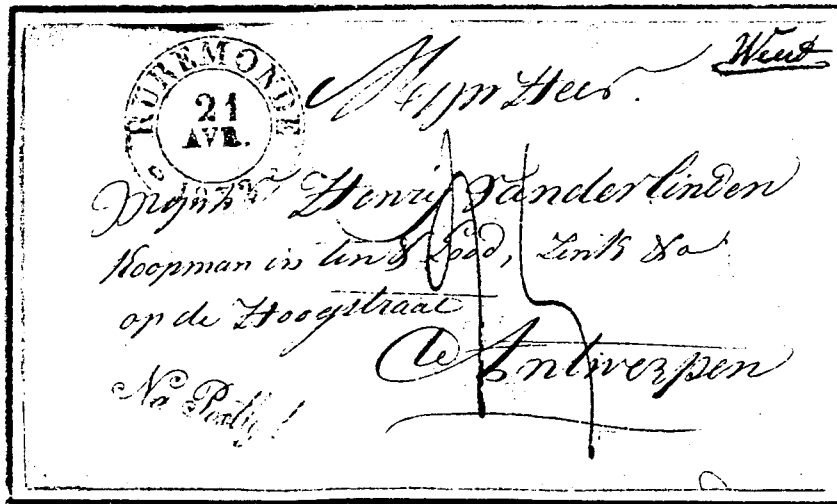
- III. 29: February 19th, 1833 Letter from 'sGravenhage via Arnhem, Prussia, Thionville to St.Omer, to Lieutenant General Baron Chassé, the defender of the Citadelle of Antwerp.

Here postage was only charged for the route Thionville, the border post office, to St.Omer (300-400 km) = 7 décimes; because of the greater weight of the letter, the postage had to be multiplied by 1,5, resulting in „11“ décimes having to be paid by the receiver.

Unfortunately, only few letters have survived.

4. The Belgian Period in Limburg

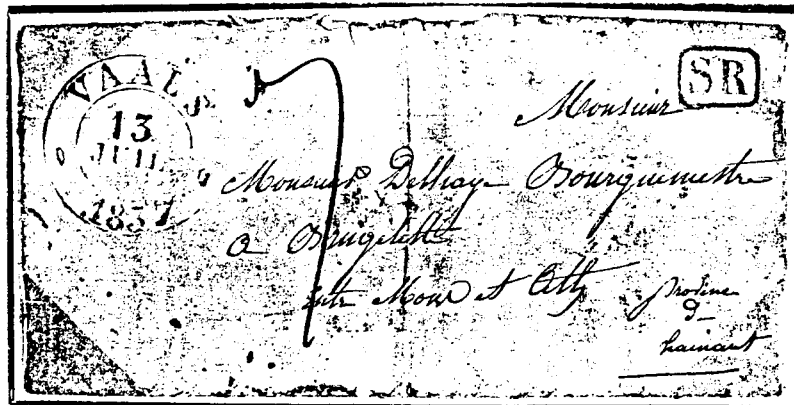
The Province of Limburg, which sympathized with the rebels in Brussels, was occupied by Belgian troops during November, 1830; only the City and Fortress of Maastricht remained in the hands of the Netherlands until the end of the Belgian period, June 22nd, 1839, e.g. until the so-called „24 Articles“, upon which the major powers had agreed with Belgium and the Netherlands, became effective. At this point in time, the Province of Limburg was vacated to the greatest extent by Belgian troops. During these nine years, the post office was subject to Belgian postal regulations; the Belgian postmark types were used.



III. 30: April 19th, 1832 Letter from Weert (Distributiekantoor) via Roermond to Antwerp.
The Distributiekantoor (distribution office) did not have its own postmark
and therefore placed its name in the top right corner.

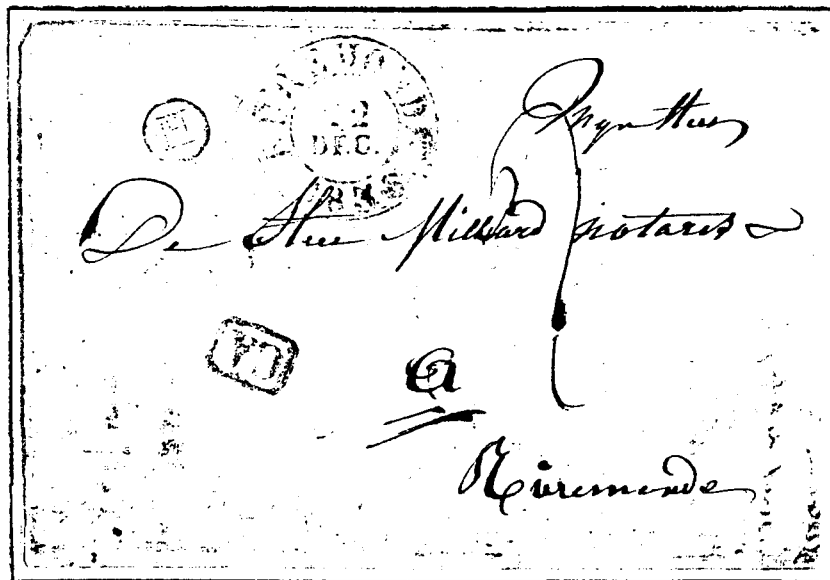
The postage of „25“c, payable by the recipient, was according to the rate schedule of 1818.

Since postal service to small rural locations was quite expensive, Belgium, following the French example, in 1836, introduced the so-called „Plattelandpost“; this means that, in all communities in which no postal facility was established, incoming and outgoing mail was subject to extra postage of 1 décime in addition to the distance postage. These letters were postmarked „SR“ (Service Rural = rural service). Letters whose departure point and destination were in the same arrondissement, were subject to a standard distance postage of 2 décimes and they received the postmark, „CA“ (Correspondence de l'Arrondissement) (III. 31, 32)



III. 31: July 13th, 1837 Letter from Vaals to Ath.
Postage calculation: Vaals – Ath = 6 déc. + service rurale 1 déc. = „7” déc.

By order of the Belgian postal administration, mail boxes were installed in smaller communities, where possible on public buildings, which were emptied by carriers. Such mail received a so-called „brievensstempel”, a letter within a circle.

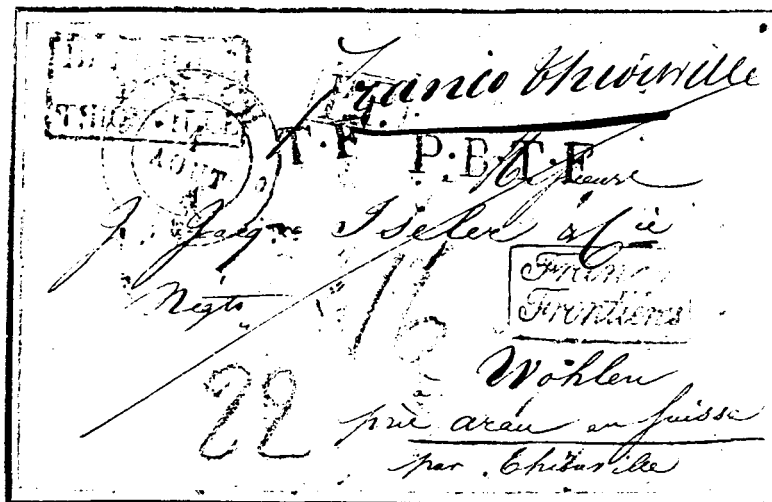


III. 32: December 20th, 1838 Letter from Grathem (distributiekantoor) to Roermond.
The mail carrier took his route via the communities of Beegden-Gratham-Hunsel-Heel-Wessem.
The mail box of Gratham had the mailbox mark „H” within a circle
which is affixed to the above letter.

Because Roermond and Gratham were located in the same arrondissement, the postage was „2” décimes.

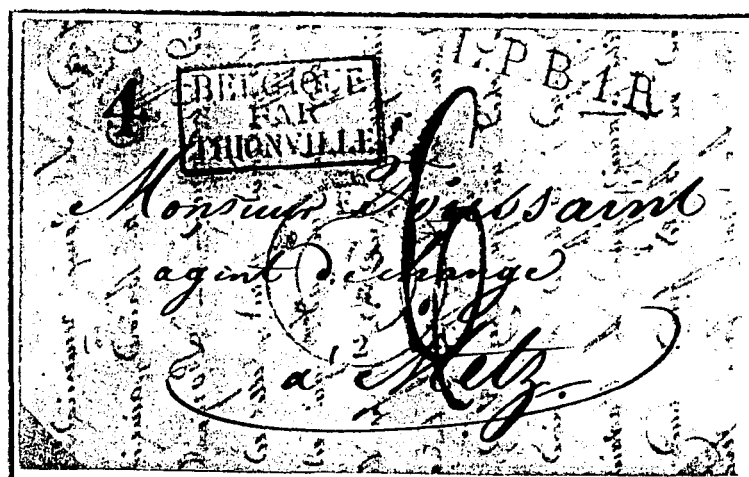
5. The Belgian period in Luxemburg

During the conflict Belgium/Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg was occupied by Belgian military forces, because the King of the Netherlands was concurrently Grand Duke of Luxemburg. On the other hand, Luxemburg and the Federal Fortress of Luxemburg were part of the German Confederation and the Federal Fortress of Luxemburg had a Prussian contingent with a Netherlands post office in town which could now only function to a limited extent. For faster service, a Belgian post office was established outside the city gates, at Eich, through which commercial mail was routed.



III. 33: August 1st, 1834 Letter from Luxemburg/Eich via Arlon, Thionville (French Border post office), Huningue, Basel to Wohlen/Switzerland.

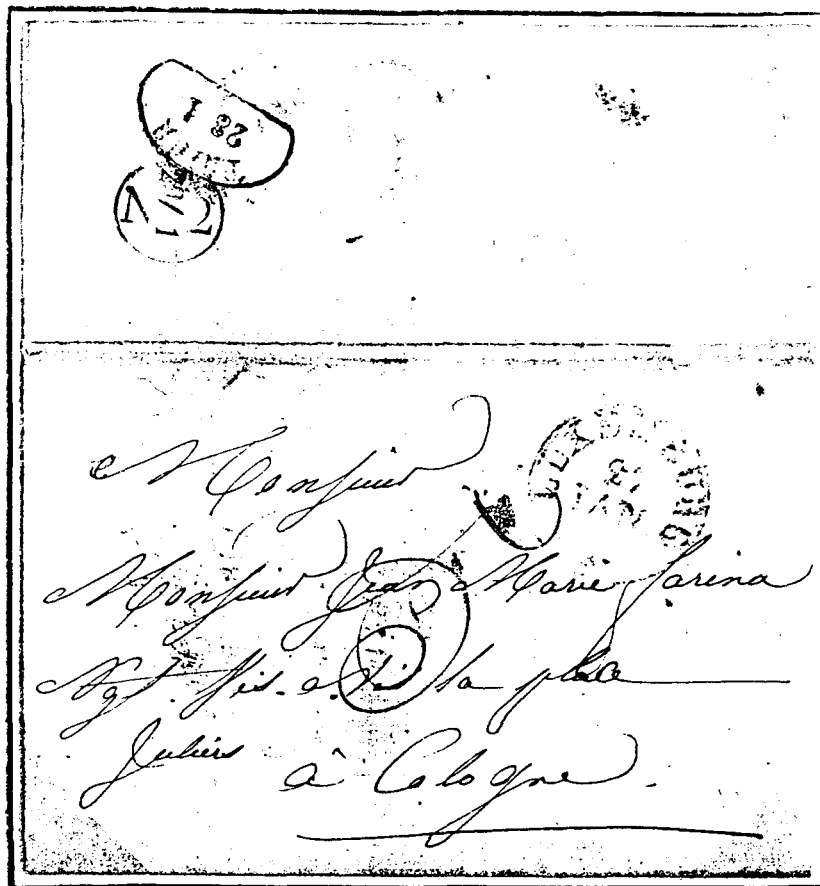
The rate of 10 centimes to Thionville was paid; the recipient still had to pay for the distance Thionville-Huningue 6 déc. = „16“ Kreuzer + for the distance Basel-Wohlen = 6 Kreuzer, thus a total of „22“ Kreuzer.



III. 34: April 29th, 1832 Letter from Luxemburg/Eich to Metz/France.

Rate: rate numeral „4“ indicates 1st Rayon = 4 déc. + Thionville-Metz = 2 déc. = „6“ décimes.

Correspondence from Luxemburg to Prussia and the Netherlands was routed via a free corridor, to which the contingent of the fortress was entitled, to Trier and, further, via Koblenz, Cologne to Arnhem.



III. 35: January 27th, 1834 Letter from Luxemburg via Trier to Cologne/Prussia.

The rate was „5“ Sgr., consisting of 1 Sgr. border transit postage + 4 Sgr. for the distance Trier-Cologne.