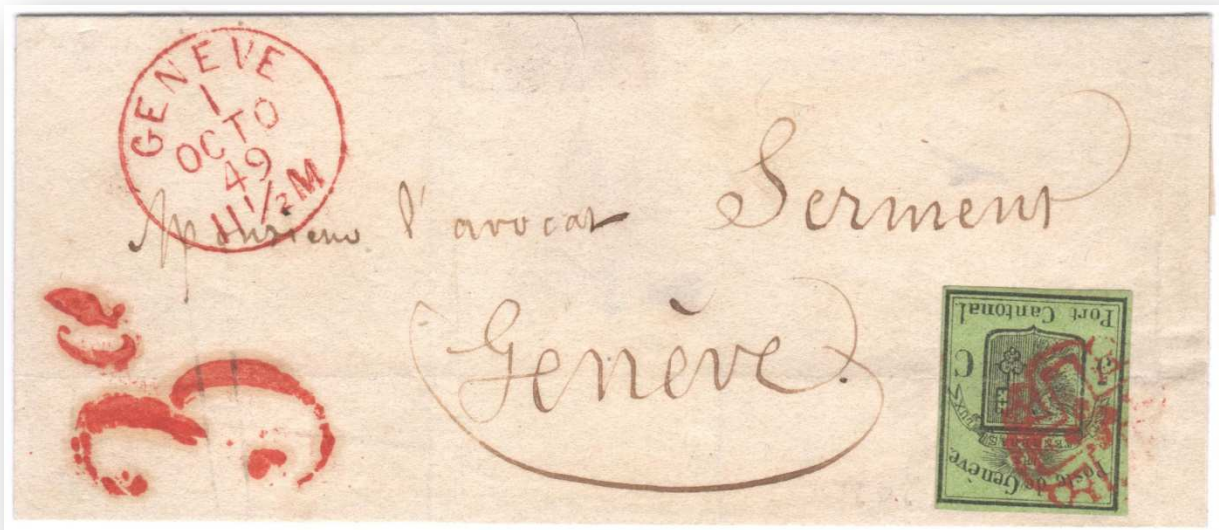


Geneva

From the Cantonal To the Federal Post



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The Royal Philatelic Society London
28 September 2017

Front cover illustration

On 1st October 1849, the cantonal posts are reorganized and the federal post is created. The Geneva cantonal stamps are still valid, but the rate for local letters is increased from 5 to 7 cents. As the "Large Eagle" with a face value of 5c is sold at the promotional price of 4c, additional 3c is required, materialized here by the old newspapers stamp. One of the two covers being known dated on the First Day of the establishment of the Federal Service.

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Background

Although I started collecting stamps in 1967 like most of my classmates, I really entered the structured philately in 2005. That year I decided to display a few sheets of Genevan covers at the local philatelic society I joined one year before. Supported by my new friends - especially Henri Grand FRPSL who was one of the very best specialists of Geneva - I went further and got my first FIP Large Gold medal at London 2010 for the postal history collection "Geneva Postal Services". Since then the collection received the FIP Grand Prix International at Philakorea 2014 and the FEPA Grand Prix Finlandia 2017.

As the subject of the birth of the Swiss Franc, backed by the new Federal Post, has ever been difficult to apprehend, I tried to find a new way to explain how worked this delicate transition. I firstly produced a paper in the London Philatelist (October 2012) and in other periodicals such as the Helvetia Philatelic Society Newsletter (UK) or the "Tell" magazine from the American Helvetia Philatelic Society. Then I gave a series of lectures to major philatelic organisations: Consilium Philateliae Helveticae, Collectors Club New York, French Academy, European Academy of Philately, Berliner Philatelisten-Klub 1888, etc. The title used was "*How the French currency of Geneva became the Swiss Franc*".

An excerpt of the present display was lastly shown at the RPSL on 24 Nov. 2016 with the "Académie de Philatélie Group Display". I hope these contributions will help a broader range of philatelists to understand what is truly hidden behind these forerunner stamps of Geneva.

Structure of Display

The display comprises about one half of the collection "Geneva Postal Services 1839-1862" i.e. the useful pages to compare the situation "Before - During - After".

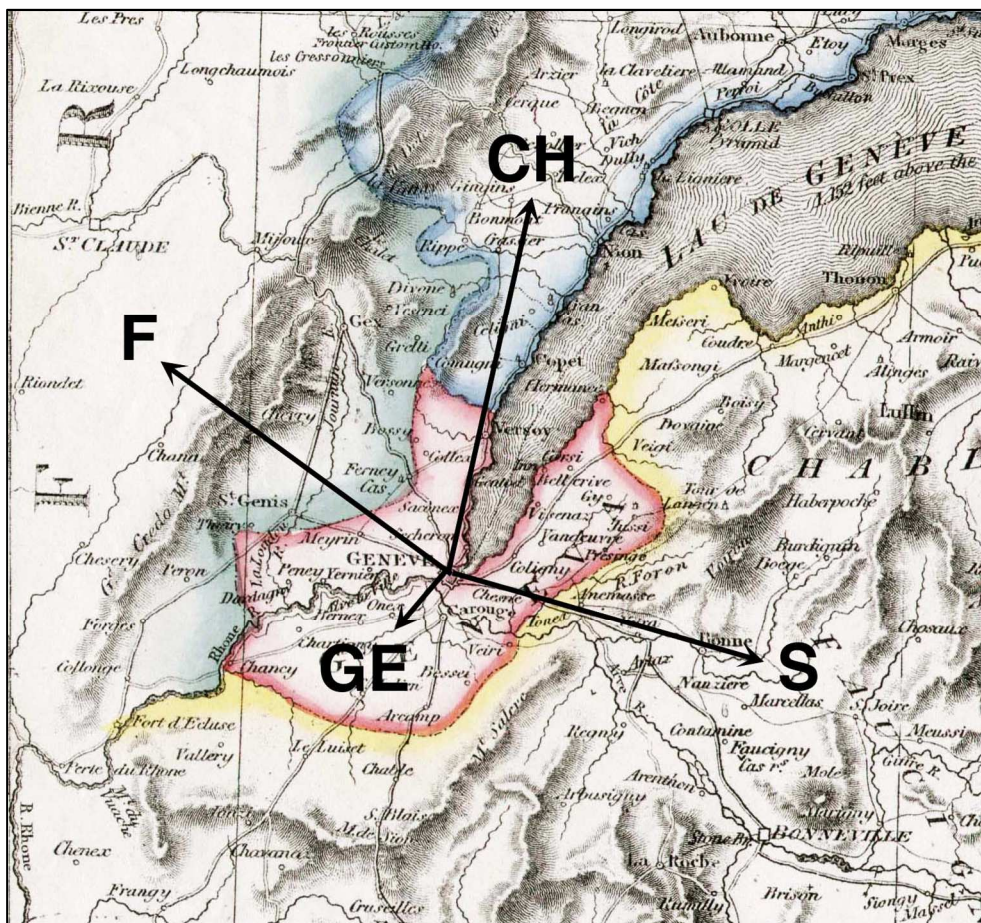
Before (frames 1 - 3): Swiss cantons have a full postal sovereignty like any other state of the world. This period ends officially on 1st January 1849 but is effective until 30 September.

During (frames 4 - 6): from 1st October 1849 to 31 December 1851 the canton of Geneva has to comply with the new federal rates while currencies are not the same.

After (frames 7 - 10): from 1st January 1852, the whole Switzerland is aligned with the former currency of Geneva and the unification of rates is completed.

Each part of the display considers postal services according to geography i.e.:

- At local level: city and canton of Geneva (GE);
- With the rest of Switzerland (CH);
- With / Via Kingdom of Sardinia (S);
- With / Via France (F).

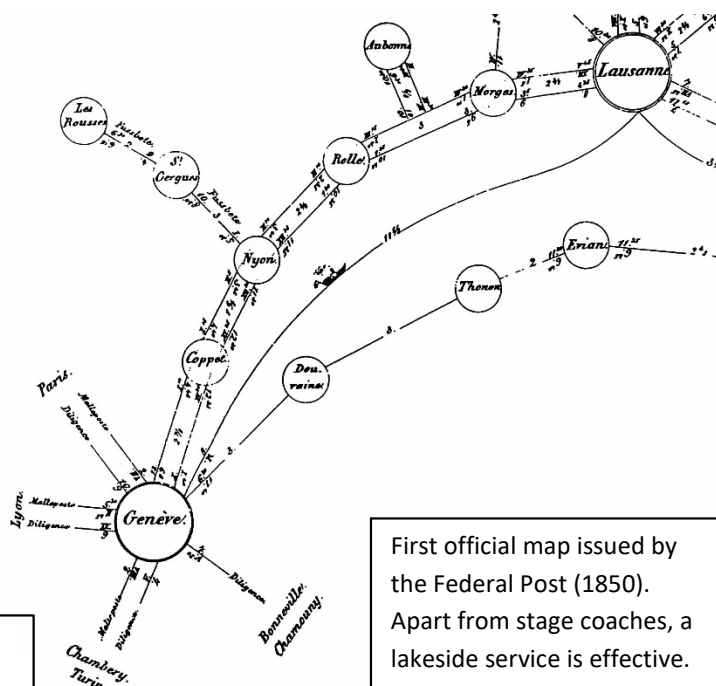


Excerpt of the Map of Switzerland by Wyld, London, 1847

Introduction

The birth of the Swiss Franc in Geneva was one of the most amazing processes in Swiss postal history. The subject has been studied by several philatelists for the last hundred years but remains understood only with some difficulty. The display shows the most dramatic changes in the process using in particular an innovative **chart** as a thread (see **back cover** of this booklet).

Until 1849 Switzerland was a very fragmented country. The territory comprised 22 cantons which had a total sovereignty. In an area twice that of Wales, 17 independent postal services worked separately, more than 450 currencies were used throughout the country, about 400 custom barriers impeded trade between cantons, weight and measure systems were numerous.



EXTRAIT DE LA LOI SUR LES MONNAIES FÉDÉRALES,
DU 7 MAI 1850.

L'unité monétaire suisse est le franc, ayant cinq grammes d'argent fin, au titre de $\frac{9}{10}$; il se divise en 100 centimes (rappes).

Les espèces suisses de monnaies sont :

- 1° *En argent*, la pièce de 5 francs, la pièce de 2 francs, la pièce de 1 franc et la pièce de demi-franc (50 cent.).
- 2° *En billon*, la pièce de 20 centimes, la pièce de 10 centimes et la pièce de 5 centimes.
- 3° *En cuivre*, la pièce de 2 centimes et la pièce de 1 centime.

Les espèces d'argent sont toutes au titre de l'unité monétaire. (du franc.)

L'alliage des monnaies de billon se compose de cuivre, de zinc et de nickel.

Les espèces de cuivre consistent en cuivre avec un alliage d'étain.

Le diamètre des espèces d'argent doit être le même que celui des espèces françaises.

Les monnaies suisses, nouvelles, auront le même cours que les monnaies françaises.

Toutes les monnaies suisses existantes actuellement en circulation, seront retirées par séries et dans un espace de temps déterminé.

Le retrait de ces monnaies se fera d'après le tarif ci-après :

Les monnaies d'or, ainsi que toutes les monnaies d'argent, seront retirées au taux de leur valeur nominale en francs de Suisse et rappes actuels. La contre-valeur en sera payable en espèces neuves, la pièce de 5 francs à raison de 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ batz, soit le nouveau franc à 71 rappes.

Ces taxes ne sont cependant applicables ni au paiement des intérêts de capitaux déjà placés ou des capitaux eux-mêmes, ni aux créances ou contrats antérieurs de l'administration fédérale des finances.

Last but not least there were almost no railways and topography was significantly tortuous.

Geneva suffered from economic underdevelopment too: the town was encircled by thick battlements which were going to be removed; thus urban growth and industrialization could really start.

The new federal state decided – among other things – postal and monetary unification. The standard was to be the Franc of France which had already been used in Geneva for the previous ten years. The common unit of currency used by cantons for mail exchange was the Kreuzer. But the latter did not exist as change for the population.

Starting status:

2 Kreuzer = 5 Rappen;

100 Rappen = 1 Swiss £ = 1.43 Franc of Geneva / of France

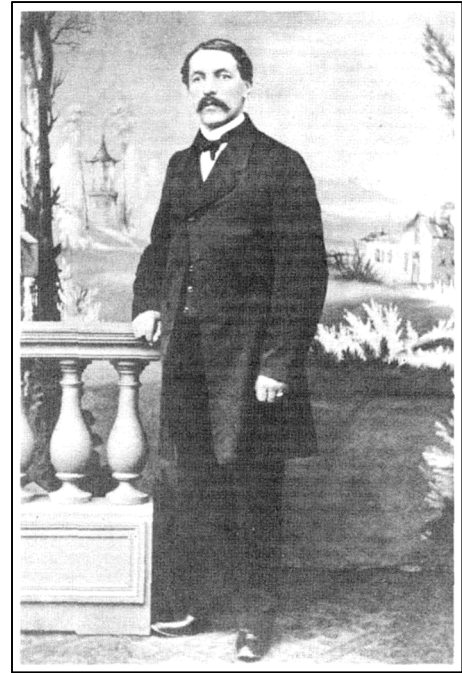
Goal to reach:

1 new Swiss Franc = 100 Rappen

= 1 Franc of France

= 1 former Franc of Geneva

Over a period of two years and three months a process supported the change of parity from 70 to 100 Rappen for 1 Franc of Geneva. A series of hesitations, U-turns and improvisations characterised the way to reach the goal.



J.-L. Collignon-Faure, head of the Post in Geneva, led the full process from the cantonal to the federal post.

Frames 1 - 2 (upper row)

Cantonal post Local Mail
Until 30 September 1849



Map of Geneva by B.R. Davies, London 1840. The city is still circled by battlements. Local postage beyond the walls costs 10c until 1845, then 5c within the whole canton Geneva.

From 1843 Geneva had issued its own stamps. As for Zürich, it was the first continental postal administration to do so. Stamps were valid for local mail only and people were not enthusiastic about this new way of franking. In order to convince their users, the cantonal postal administration decided to reduce the price of its 5 cent stamps to 4 cents while unfranked mail was still charged 5 cents to be paid by the recipient.



Within the city.
5 cents due from
the recipient

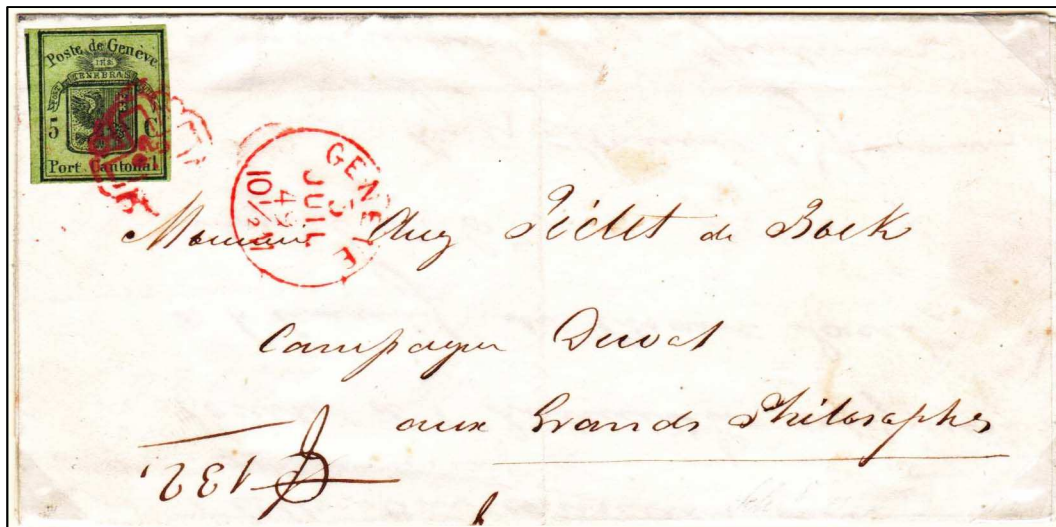
To Vernier, "beyond the
walls". Postage 10c until
1845. The sender paid
actually 8c as stamps were
sold with a discount of 20%.



To Eaux-Vives, "beyond
the walls" after 1845.
Postage 5c with a "Half-
Double" paid actually 4c.

Within the city. Franked with a Small
Eagle which succeeded the Double.





To Grands-Philosophes, franked with a Large Eagle which succeeded the Small Eagle

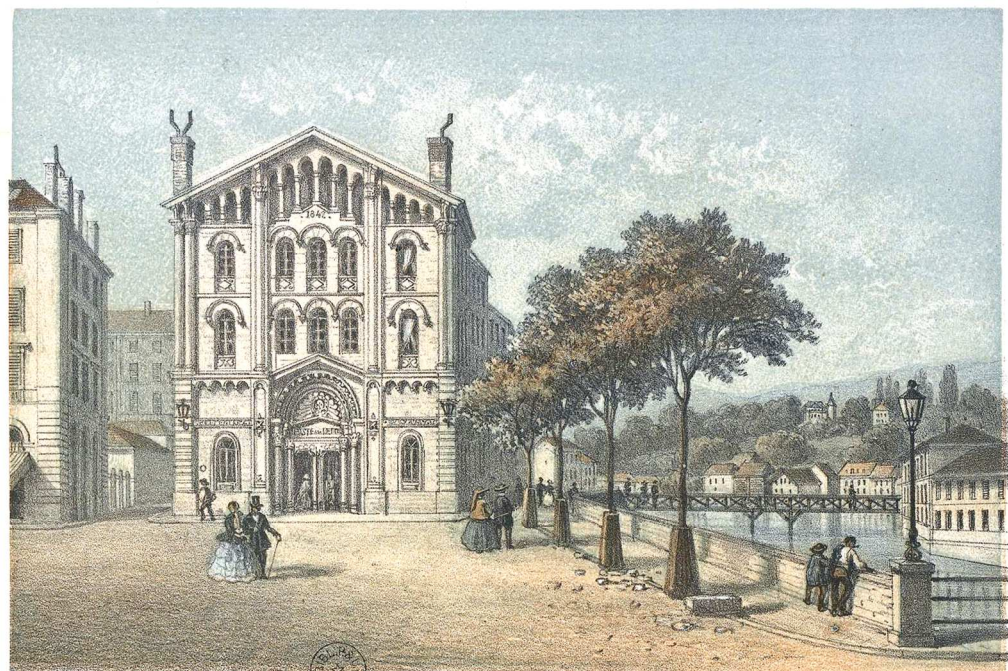


The "French" currency of Geneva, used until 1851.

Postman plate of the cantonal Post of Geneva.



The Post Office of Geneva, in operation from 1842 to 1862.



Chartriaux, Place du Belair-M^{me} des 3 Rois, à Genève.

Genève,
Vue de la Poste aux Lettres.

Frame 2 (lower row)

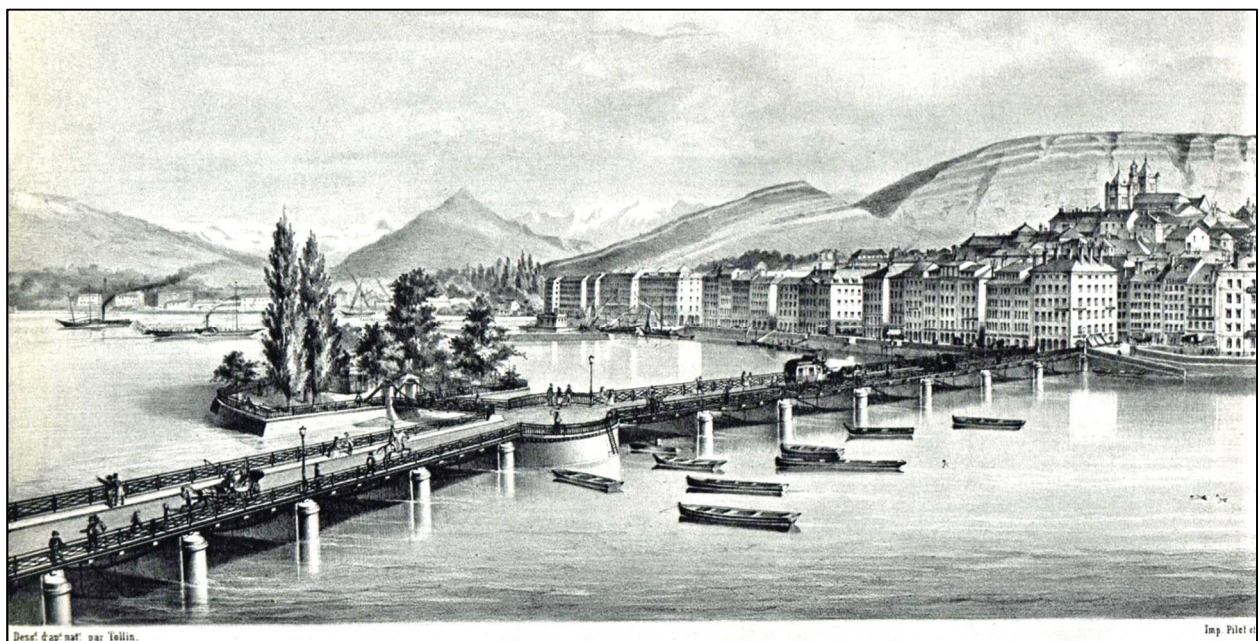
Cantonal Post Distant Mail

Mail received from /sent to the different cantons of Switzerland was charged with postage due according to the successive postal services along the way.



To Vallbach, Aargau. 2 kreuzer for Geneva, 8 for Bern including the part due to Vaud; lastly a total of 12 charged by Aargau which then accounted for the amounts due.

For incoming mail, the total amount in Kreuzer was eventually converted into cents or decimes (10 cents) of Geneva.



Arrival of the stage-coach. Lithograph by A. Doviane, from a drawing by F. Tollin, around 1840.

From Wohlen,
Aargau. **10** in black
charged by Bern (of
which 4 for Aargau)
plus 2 kreuzer for
Geneva (not written
on the cover). Total
due 12 kreuzer i.e.
48 cents of Geneva
rounded to **5**
decimes. All dues
finally struck in red.

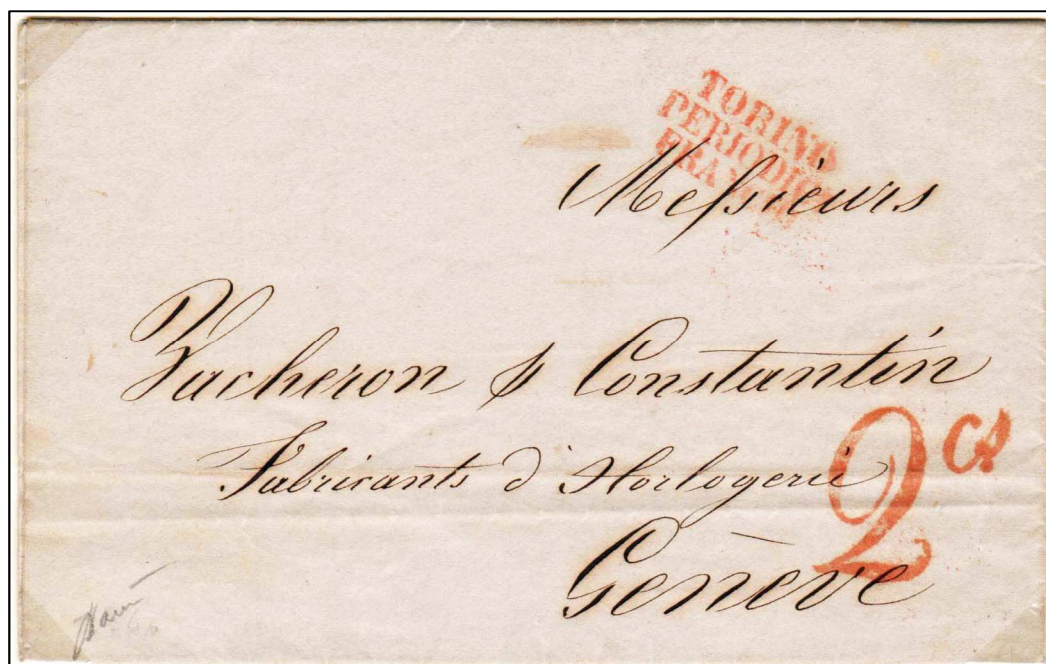


Frame 3

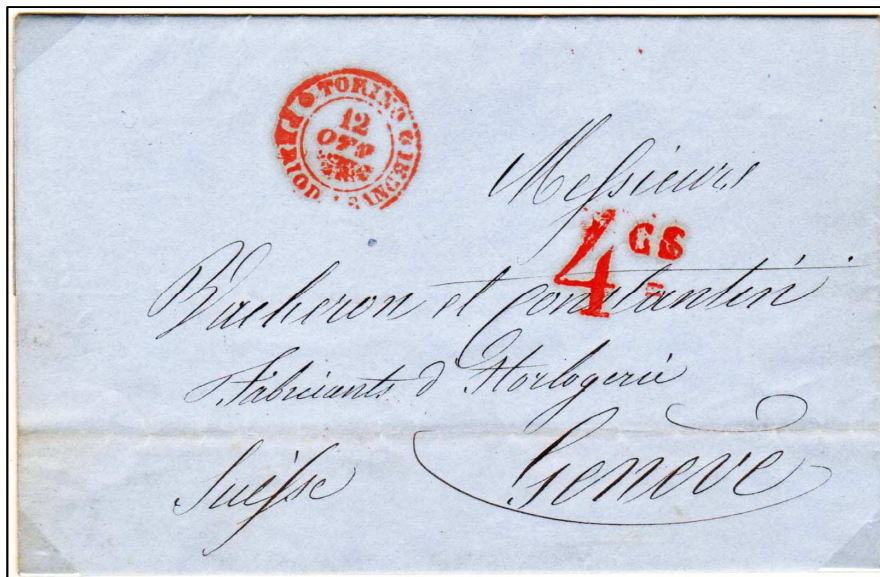
Cantonal Post Sardinian & French Mail

Rates for mail exchange with Sardinia and France were decided through postal treaties directly agreed with the Canton of Geneva as Swiss cantons had still a full sovereignty.

Sardinian currency had a very close parity with the Franc of Geneva ($2 \text{ Soldi} = 10 \text{ Centesimi} = 1 \text{ Sardinian decime}$, slightly lower than the Genevan decime) and French currency was equal. So dealings with foreign postal administrations were clearer than with Switzerland!

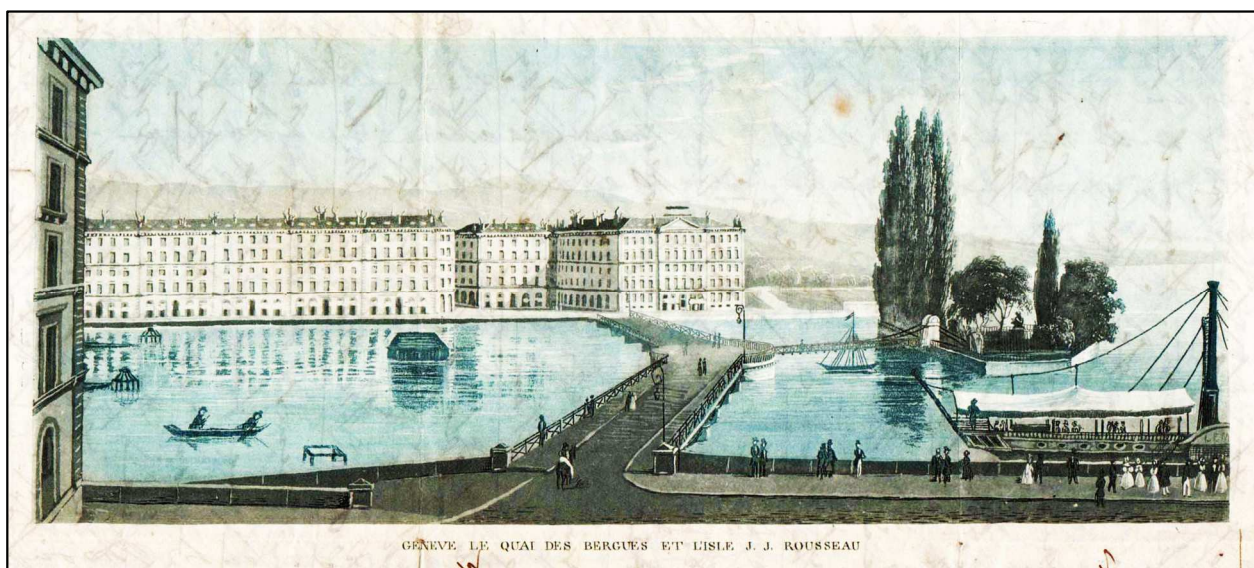


3 Sept. 1846 - Circular
letter from Turin,
Piedmont. Charged
postage due as printed
matter **2^{cs}** with one of
the rarest handstamp
ever used in
Switzerland.



Circular from Turin, charged due 4^{cs} by the exchange office in Geneva, according to the number of sheets regardless of distance. Only cover in Switzerland bearing a 4c postmark.

To Bordeaux, charged due 11 decimes (8th radius < 600 km, 9 decimes for France + 2 decimes for Geneva). Currencies are the same in France and Geneva.



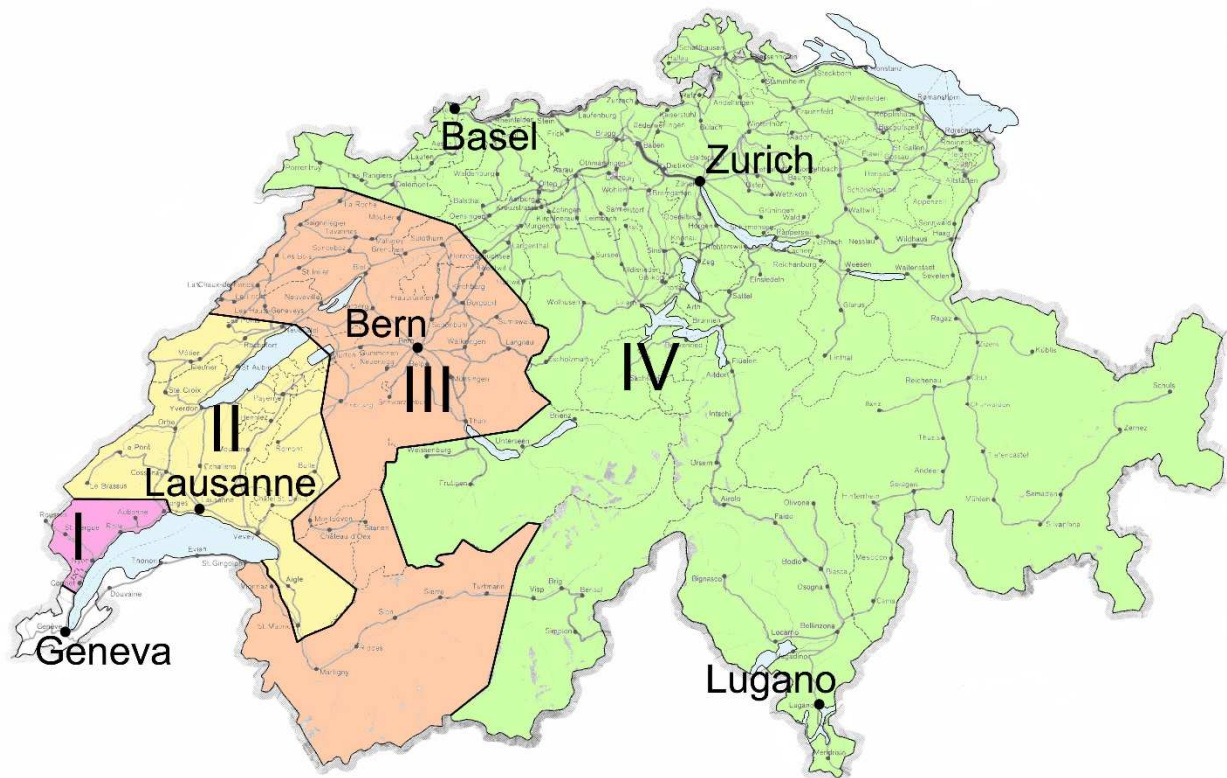
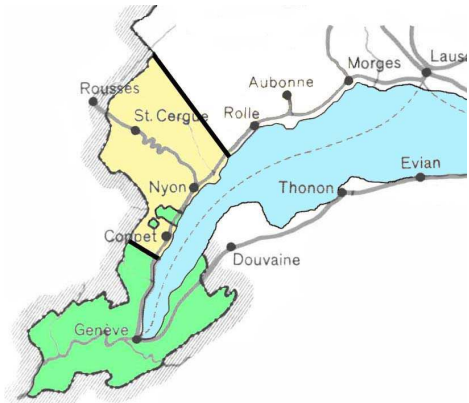
Lithographic stationery contained in a cover sent to Birmingham, England via France (8 Sept. 1843).

Frame 4 (upper row)

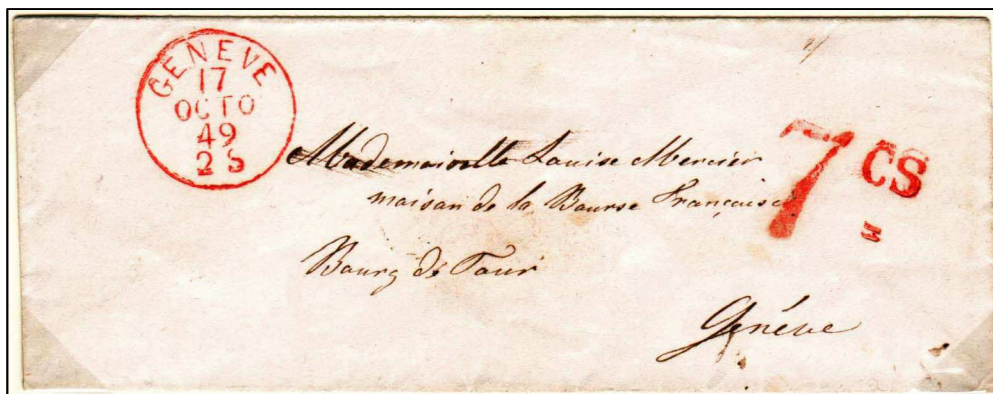
Transition Period Conversion to the nearest cent
1 October to 31 December 1849

J.-L. Collignon-Faure (see page 6) was the first head of the new federal "*Arrondissement Postal I*" which followed the "*Poste de Genève*", the cantonal postal administration. The new Swiss Federal Post divided the territory in 11 postal districts. This new status gave wide autonomy to local management.

The "*Arrondissement Postal I*" includes the Canton Geneva (green) and a part of the Canton Vaud (yellow).



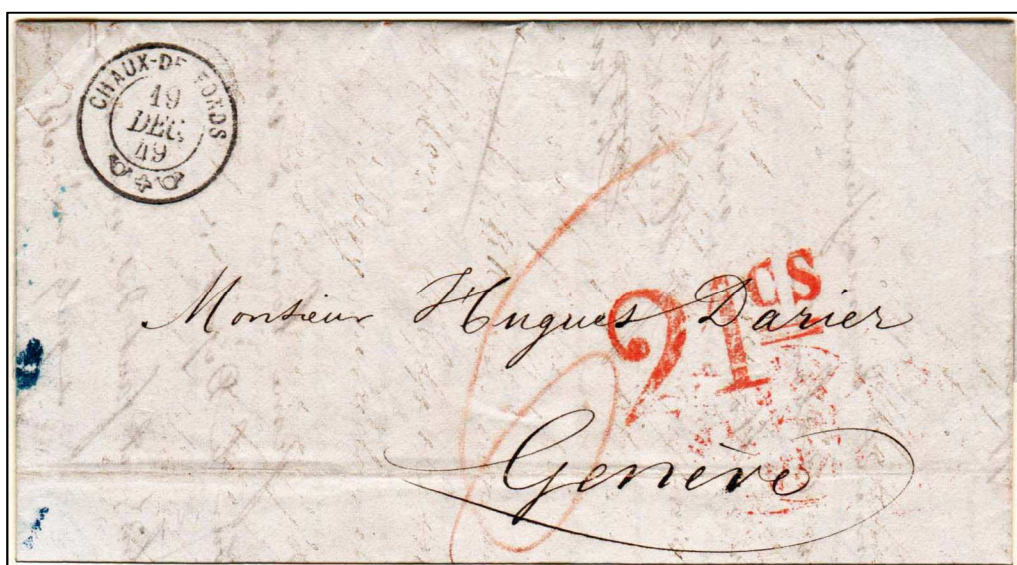
Mr Collignon-Faure decided to adjust Genevan rates as close as possible to the first federal tariff. A series of amazing marks were then locally produced for incoming mail: 7cs, 14cs, 21cs, 28cs depending on four levels of distance (see above). Other postages for multiple weight letters such as 54c were handwritten in red.



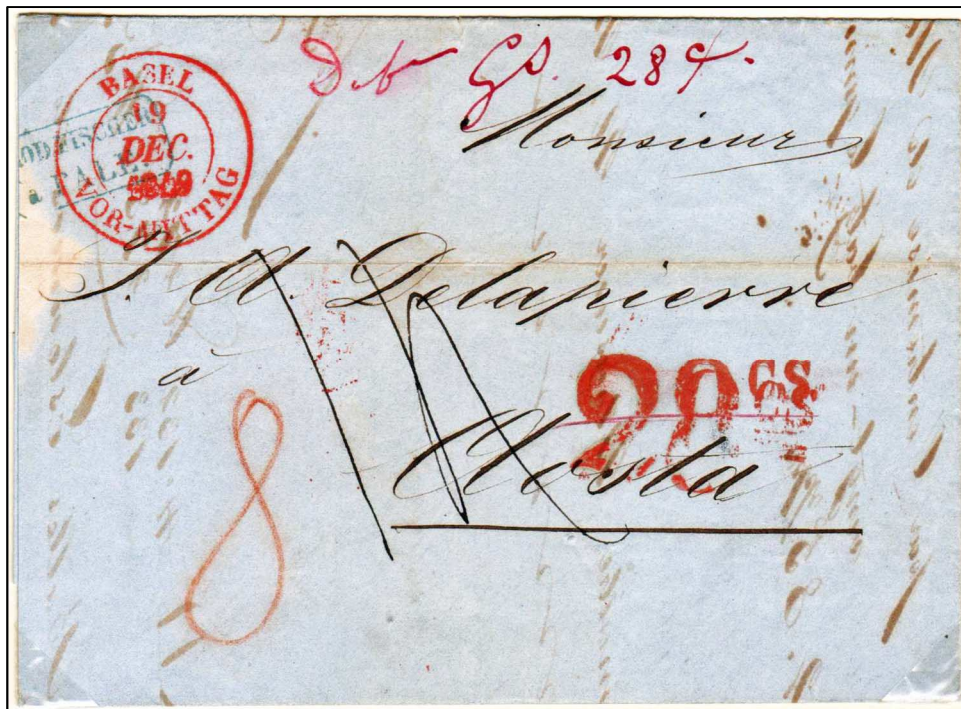
Within the city,
charged due 7c.



From Ste-Croix,
zone II, to
Geneva.
Postage due 4
Kreuzer
converted to
14cs with the
Genevan
handstamp.



From Chaux-de-
Fonds, zone III.
Postage due 6
Kreuzer
converted to
21cs of Geneva.



From Basel, zone IV, to Aosta, Sardinia, via Geneva. Swiss postage due 8 Kreuzer handwritten i.e. **28cs**. Total postage due 14 soldi from the recipient to the Sardinian Post of which *Deb. G. 28c* (*Discharged Geneva 28 c*).



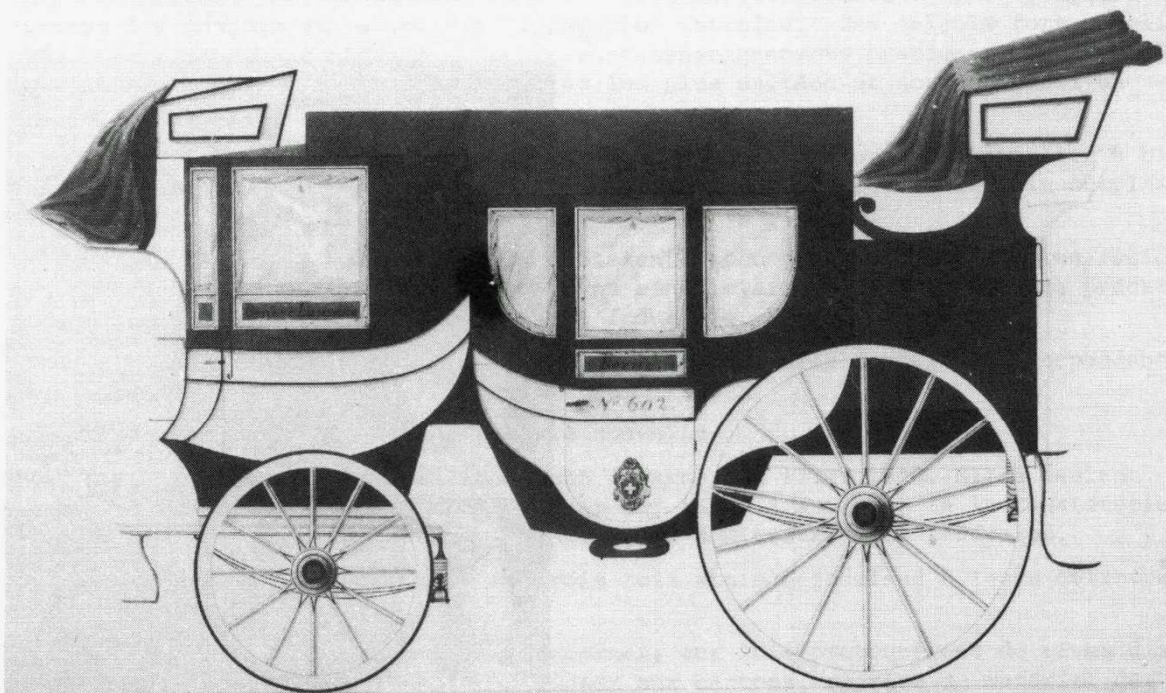
From From Locle, zone III, at the 4th weight step. Postage due 15 Kreuzer handwritten and converted to **5/4** i.e. **54c**. Calculation: $15 \times 2.5 \times 1.43 = 53.63$ rounded to 54.

The population showed disapproval of the new rates. Cantonal mail costed 40% more than before and the different rates in general seemed complicated to use.

As from 22 October the postal district issued the famous 4 cents stamp known as the "4 of Vaud". This allowed local urban mail to be close to the 2½ rappen of the federal tariff.



Within the city, franked for 5c with the so-called "4 of Vaud". This stamp was sold for 3 months only but remained subsequently valid for 5c frankings.



1850 - Diligence des postes fédérales Genève - Lausanne - Berne

(Musée des PTT)

Standard Swiss stage-coach put into service by the new Federal Post in 1850. It will remain in operation until the end of the century.

Frames 4 (lower row) - 5 (sheet 1)

Simplification to the upper / lower 5 cents

1st January to 30 September 1850

Mr. Collignon-Faure listened to the protests and decreed a new transitory scale (see below). It set up rounded converted prices to the upper or lower 5 cents. As a result, this gave rather arbitrary rates:

2½ rappen = 5 cents of Geneva (mail within the city);

5 rappen = 5 cents of Geneva as well (mail to / from the 1st rayon);

10 rappen = 15 cents of Geneva (mail to / from the 2nd rayon);

15 rappen = 25 cents of Geneva (mail to / from the 3rd rayon);

20 rappen = 30 cents of Geneva (mail to / from the 4th rayon).

Thus a letter for Lausanne was charged triple price of a letter for Morges, both being neighbouring towns in the Canton Vaud.

Some authors established the effective date of the new rate on 22 January 1850. Material found in the meantime allows to deny this assumption despite the acknowledged use of the 7c handstamp in early January 1850.

Dans la *Feuille d'Avis du Canton de Genève* du 22 janvier 1850, nous lisons l'avis suivant:

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES SUISSES

Le Conseil fédéral a par décision du 26 décembre dernier fixé de la manière suivante la réduction des Rappen en centimes pour l'usage de l'Administration des Postes à Genève:

2 ½	Rappen =	5	centimes	&	5	Rappen =	5	centimes
7 ½	»	=	10	»	10	»	=	15
12 ½	»	=	20	»	15	»	=	25
20	»	=	30	»	25	»	=	35
30	»	=	45	»	35	»	=	50
40	»	=	60	»	45	»	=	65
etc. jusqu'à					100	»	=	145

Le même jour est annoncée l'émission des nouveaux timbres de 5 centimes:

Le public est informé qu'à dater de ce jour l'Administration fait vendre à raison de 5 centimes, aux bureaux de postes de Genève, de Carouge, et de Chêne des timbres d'affranchissement (estampilles) valables pour la ville et le canton de Genève (sauf l'enclave de Céligny).

Les timbres d'affranchissement vendus à 4 centimes et non encore employés auront la même valeur.

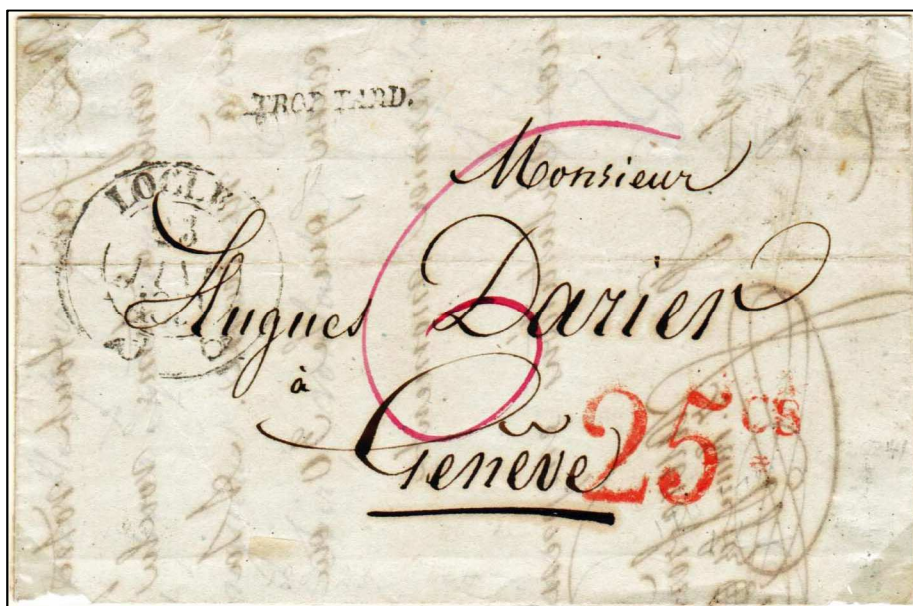
Le directeur:
COLLIGNON-FAURE.



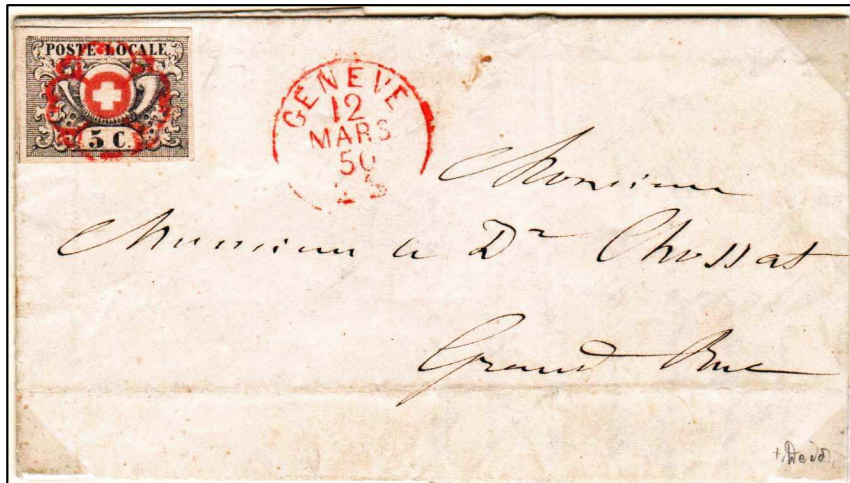
From Rolle, zone I, to Duillier, then redirected to Geneva. Postage due 2 kreuzer converted to 5^{cs}.



From Vallorbe, zone II. Postage due 4 kreuzer converted to 15^{cs}.



From Locle, zone III. Postage due 6 Kreuzer converted to 25^{cs}. Postmark TROP TARD (AW 23D) for Put in the mailbox after the last collection.



Local mail could be franked with the new "5 of Vaud" (the "4" transformed into "5" from the same lithographic stone) or with the late 5 cent cantonal stamps.

Within the city, franked with the so-called *Vaud 5*. Cancelled with the 4th Rosette.

Frame 5 (upper row)

First use of federal stamps

1 October to 31 December 1850

The introduction of federal stamps at Swiss level didn't need to modify the rates valid in Geneva. Two stamps were issued and sold all over Switzerland:

The "Rayon I" (dark blue) 5Rp. sold 5 cents in Geneva;

The "Rayon II" (yellow) 10Rp. sold 15 cents in Geneva.

With such a parity, the franking of mail could be confusing:

1st rayon: 1 stamp of 5 Rp. (5 c)

2nd rayon: 1 stamp of 10 Rp. (15c)

3rd rayon: 1 stamp of 10 Rp. + 2 stamps of 5 Rp. (25 c)

4th rayon: 2 stamps of 10 Rp. (30 c)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES FÉDÉRALES.

TIMBRES D'AFFRANCHISSEMENT POUR LA SUISSE.

A dater du 1^{er} octobre prochain, l'administration fera vendre aux bureaux et aux dépôts de poste de l'arrondissement des timbres postes pour l'affranchissement des lettres à destination de la Suisse.

Pour le 1^{er} rayon (jusqu'à 10 lieues) :

Des timbres bleus (de 5 rappes) à 5 centimes

Pour le 2^e rayon (de 10 à 25 lieues) :

Des timbres jaunes (de 10 rappes) à 15 centimes.

Pour le 3^e rayon (de 25 à 40 lieues) :

On apposera un timbre jaune et deux timbres bleus.

Pour le 4^e rayon (au delà de 40 lieues) :

On apposera deux timbres jaunes.

Les timbres postes mis sur des lettres à destination de l'étranger n'ont aucune valeur. De même les timbres dits de *poste locale* ne peuvent être employés que pour les affranchissements à destination du canton de Genève (moins l'enclave de Céligny).

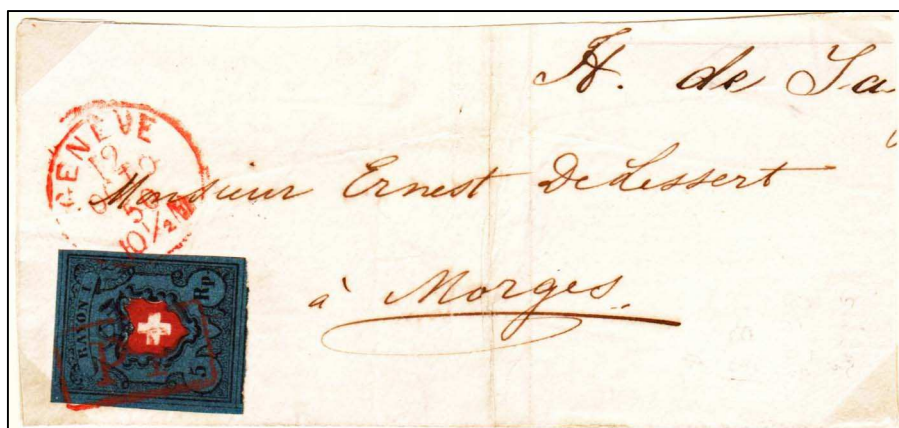
Lorsque les lettres dépasseront le poids de 1/4 d'once, on apposera un nombre suffisant de timbres pour représenter le montant de l'affranchissement exigé par le Tarif.

Pour la commodité du Public, la Direction fera remettre des tableaux indiquant les principales localités de la Suisse classées par rayon.

Genève, le 23 septembre 1850

Le Directeur des Postes du 1^{er} arrondissement,
COLLIGNON-FAURE.

To Morges, zone I, franked with the stamp RAYON I of 5 Rp. sold 5 Genevan cents until the end of 1850.



To Bern, zone III, franked with one RAYON II of 10Rp. sold 15 Genevan cents and two RAYON I sold 5c each, total 25 Genevan cts.

10 + 5 + 5
≠
10 + 10



To Basel, zone IV, franked with two RAYON II of 10 Rp. sold 30 Genevan cents.

Two stamps of 5Rp. were not equivalent to one of 10Rp. During this period, franked mail was really scarce despite the population of Geneva having become accustomed to stamps for the previous seven years.

From Geneva to
Morat, zone II,
franked with a
RAYON II sold at
15 Genevan cents.



5 + 5
≠
10



From Morat to
Geneva, franked
with two RAYON I
for 10 Rp.

Frames 5 (lower row) - 6

Value adjustment of low rates

1 January to 30 September 1851

As one may guess, the price charged for the 1st rayon was too low. People had to pay the same price within the city as for Morges which was 10 leagues (30 miles) away.

To eliminate this discrepancy, the price for the 1st rayon was adapted so that 5 Rp. = 7 cents of Geneva. We have no official rule confirming this rate but two reliable presumptions are:

- i. As of 1 January 1851 mail for the 3rd rayon had to be franked with 1 Rayon II + 1 Rayon I only. The total price to be paid amounted therefore to 22 cents of Geneva. We know of seven letters in 1851 with such a franking. The four bearing the former franking were all reported in 1850.



To Bern, zone III, franked with 1 RAYON II + 1 RAYON I, i.e. 15 + 7 = 22 Genevan cents.

- ii. The second proof is a very explicit document (here below). This receipt of July 1851 was issued by the postal District of Geneva according to Swiss federal rules. Pre-printed is the fixed federal duty of 5Rp. to pay in addition to the franking itself. The equivalence of the value of 5Rp. to 7 cents of Geneva is proved by the addition $6.00 + 0.05 = 6.07$

F. N° 2.

Bureau des Postes à Genève

GENEVE 24 JUIL 51 10 1/2 M

	Fras.	Rps.	
Alfranchissement payé	6	00	Certifie avoir reçu de <i>M^r C. Vernet</i> un pli recommandé, avec indication de valeur, à l'adresse de <i>M^r Starnitschi</i> <i>et van Bentheym, à Amsterdam</i> pour lequel pli la poste se porte garante à l'eneur des dispositions mentionnées d'autre part.
Droit de récépissé	—	5	
	6	07	

(Lieu et date.) (Signature du Bureau des postes.)

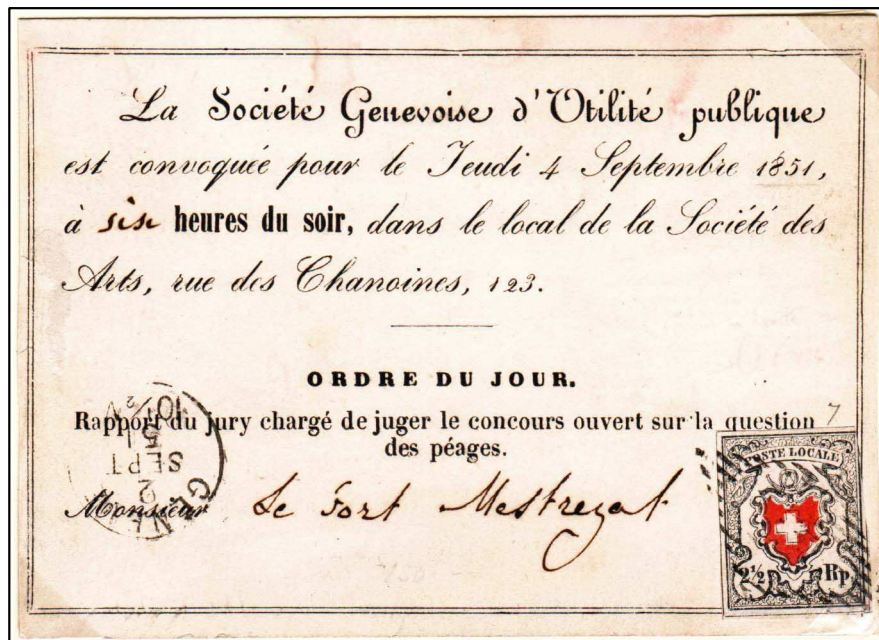
Probet

GENEVE 24 JUIL 51 10 1/2 M

In the meantime, Geneva issued the famous "Neuchatel", a new 5 cent stamp which looked like the federal 2½Rp. Poste Locale. The latter had been refused and sent back to Bern in 1850 as its value was stated in German.

To Chêne-Thônex, canton, franked 5c with the Genevan stamp so-called *Neuchatel* issued on 09.08.1851





It was, though, accepted in 1851 and used for franking of printed matter. The rate applied was probably 1:1 but so far, we have no formal confirmation.

Local notification card from a charity organization, franked with the federal stamp POSTE LOCALE of 2½ Rp.

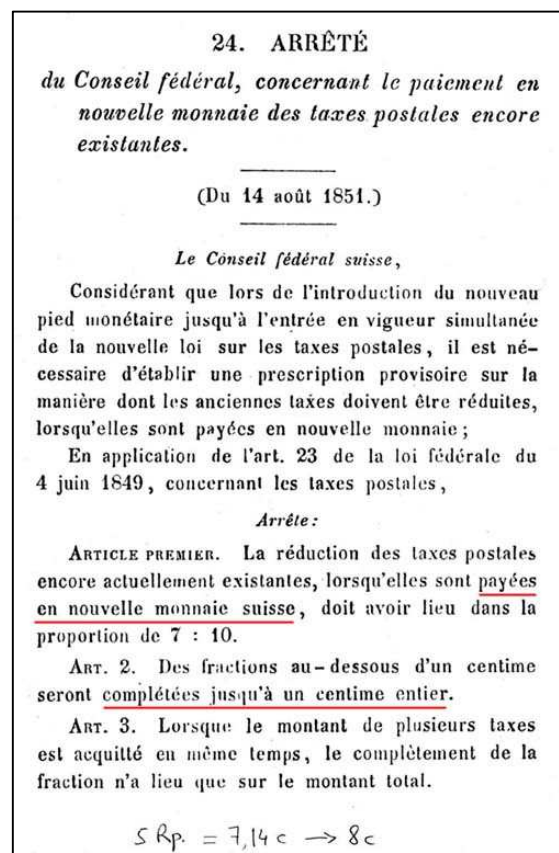
Frame 6

Last Change of Parity

1 October to 24 December 1851

The canton of Vaud anticipated the use of the new Swiss Franc three months before the official monetary unification. In such circumstances, the postal district of Geneva had to modify the way to convert the price of 5Rp. A new federal legal rule (adjacent figure) demanded the rounding of the result to the next cent. $5\text{Rp.} \times 1.43 = 7.15$ rounded to 8 cents.

This new rate was to be valid until the unification which meant a short time. The postal district, however, ordered the making of an 8 cent postal marking. We know only ten covers bearing it.





From Coppet, zone I, to Jargonnant, Geneva. Postage due 2 kreuzers i.e. 5 Rp. = 7.14c rounded to 8^{cs} in Geneva.



To Duillier, Vaud (zone I, double weight). Postage due 3 kreuzers converted to 11^{cs} (3 x 7.5 x 1.43). The canton of Vaud used the new currency since 1st Oct. 1851.

Frame 6 (lower row)

The Stampless Period

24 to 31 December 1851

A few days before the unification, the head of postal district invited people who owned federal stamps to give them back to the post office.

They were bought back at their sale prices and would be re-sold as from January at the new lower federal prices. In the meantime, mail had to be sent without any franking.

To Vevey, postage due 4 kreuzers.
Arrival postmark VEEVEY 31 / DEC. / 51.
Very last cover of Switzerland charged postage due in Kreuzer

ADMINISTRATION FÉDÉRALE DES POSTES.

Retrait des timbres-poste fédéraux.

La nouvelle loi fédérale sur les taxes postales devant entrer en vigueur au 1er janvier 1852, le public est informé que les timbres-poste fédéraux de 5 à 10 rappes (soit 8 et 15 centimes) seront complètement mis hors de cours, à dater du 1er janvier prochain. Dès le 25 décembre courant, il n'en sera plus vendu par les bureaux de postes suisses. Toutefois, les timbres d'affranchissement de 5 centimes (poste locale) continueront à avoir cours pour tout le canton, sauf Céligny.

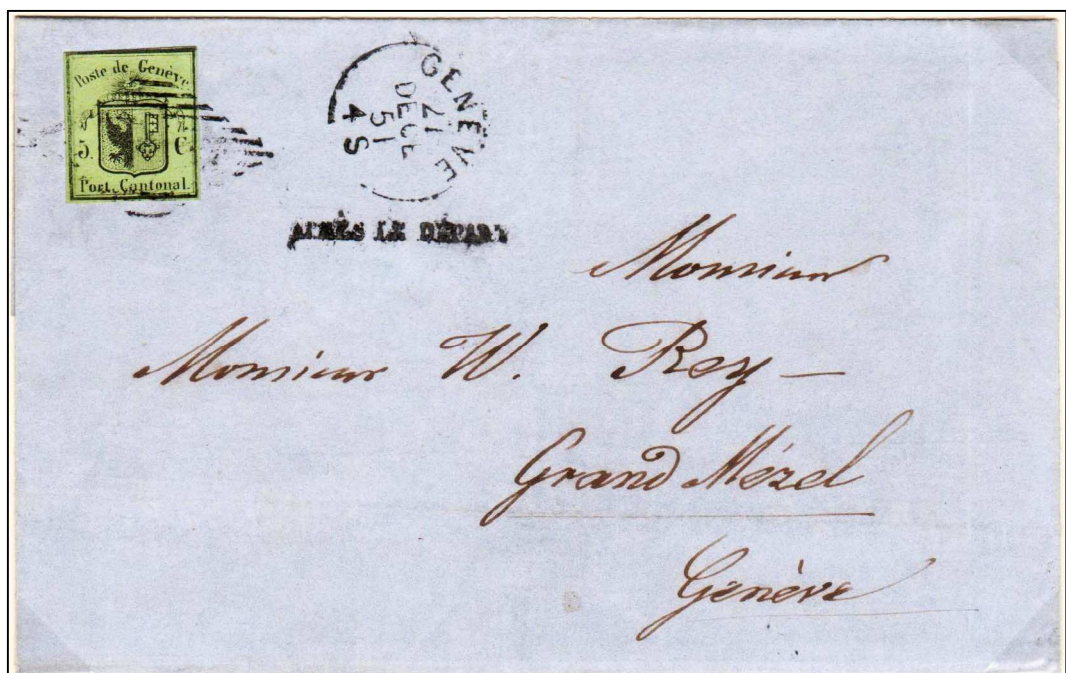
Les personnes qui auraient en provision des timbres-poste fédéraux, sont invitées à les déposer avant le 24 courant, au bureau des postes, où, après le 1er janvier, elles pourront en réclamer la contre-valeur en nouveaux timbres-poste.

Genève, le 9 décembre 1851.

Le Directeur du 1er arrondissement,
COLLIGNON-FAURE.



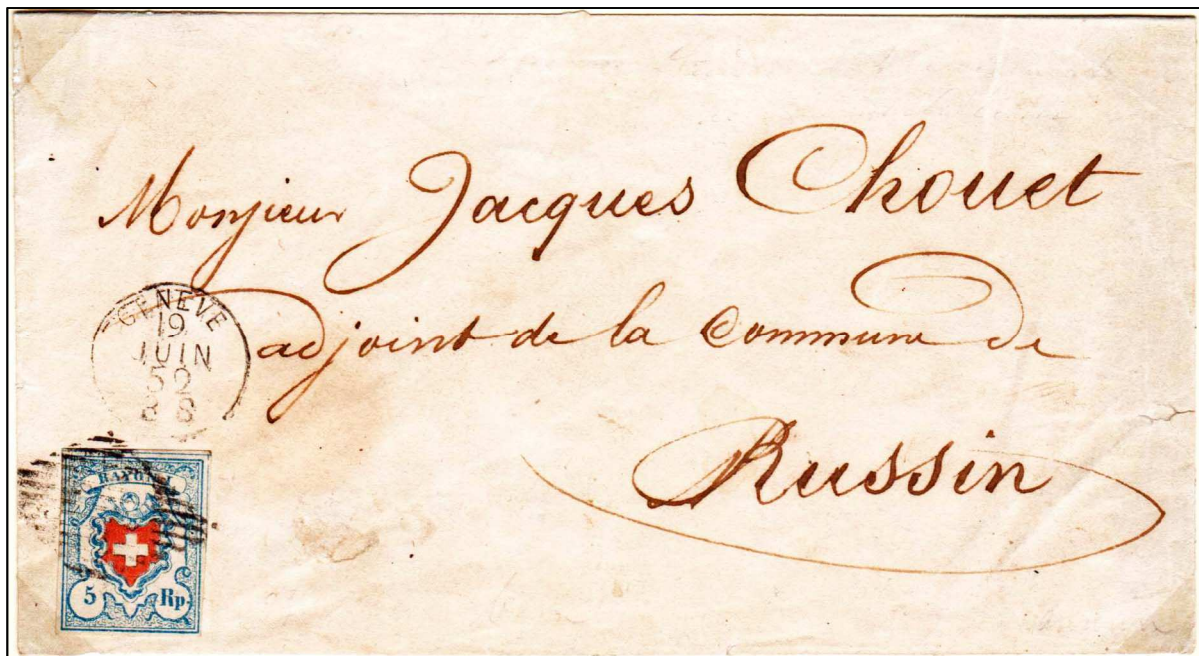
Franking with a Small Eagle of very late use. Local stamps can still be used during the Stampless Period.



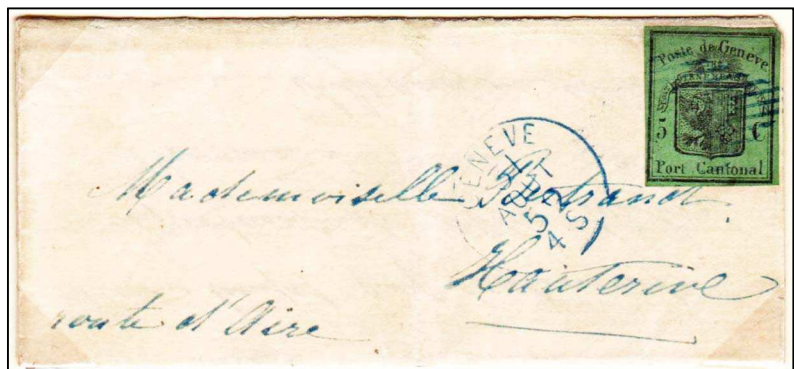
Frame 7

Federal Post from 1 January 1852 Local Mail

Local mail in the canton of Geneva remained fixed at 5 cents (5Rp). Until September 1854 all the stamps that had been sold in Geneva from the beginning in 1843 remained valid. For the very common franking of 5 cents this meant that 11 different stamps could still be used even though only the 5Rp. clear blue was actually sold.



To To Russin, canton,
franked 5c with a clear
blue Rayon stamp.

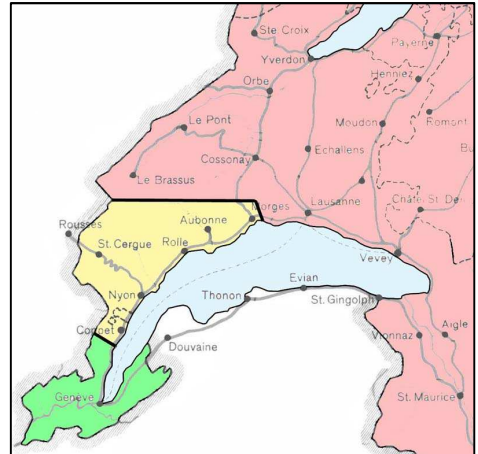


To Hauterive, canton,
franked 5c with a **Dark
Eagle** of very late use.

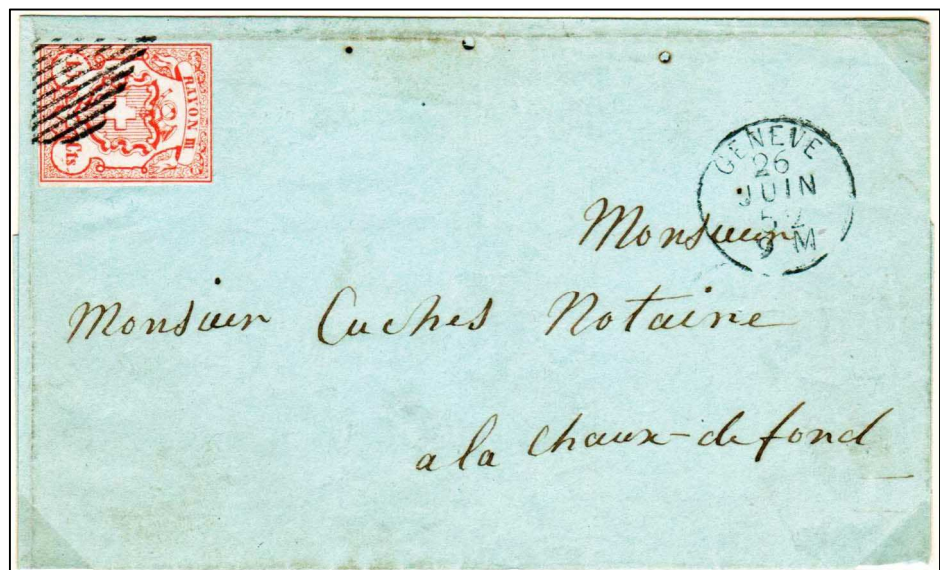
Frame 8

Federal Post - Distant Mail

Swiss postal service simplified not only the way of franking but also the structure of rates. The standard rate for the whole of Switzerland amounted to 15Rp. (15 former cents of Geneva) with a reduced price to 10Rp. for a nearby rayon of less than 10 leagues.



To Morges, zone II, franked 10c. Handwritten due 5 c and mention "*pas assez*" (not sufficient) for the weight > 7½ grams.



To Chaux-de-Fonds, zone III, franked 15c with a RAYON III stamp.

Frames 9 - 10

Federal Post - Mail with / via Sardinia & France

Mail with Sardinia or France was never regarded during the whole period of the transitory process since calculations of postage rates were based on the same currencies.



26 Aug. 1852 from Vercelli, Piedmont, franked 20c. "FRANCOBOLLI INSUFFICIENTE". Postage due 40c in Geneva, then 4 decimes in Chambéry. *Debours suisse f - .40* (To be paid back to Switzerland).



From Paris, franked 20c. "AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT". Postage due 35c in Geneva.

From Liverpool, partially franked up to the French border 1 penny. Not admitted by the Franco-Swiss agreement of 1850, thus charged due by Geneva at the normal rate in force since the said agreement.



From Les Rousses, French border zone. The postage due changed from 20c to 25c on 1st Januray 1852 for economic reasons, regardless of the new Swiss federal currency.

Conclusion

Geneva had 2½ miles of border with the rest of Switzerland while its boundaries with France and Sardinia measured 70 miles. Its trade and postal relations were more important with those neighbours than with Switzerland. One could understand why Geneva “walked backwards” in this process of unification, that was mainly driven by German-speaking public officials in Bern.

On the other hand, Geneva could be proud for having inspired the whole of Switzerland. Its modern monetary and postal systems are indeed still operational today.

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Secretary General of the Club de Monte Carlo

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Member of the AIJP

Member of the Collectors Club New York

Member of the Swiss Society of Postal History

Grand Prix Club

National Juror

Main philatelic Interests:

Postal history of Geneva, pre-stamp and classic periods

Swiss rates in the 19th century

Postal artefacts linked to the studied subjects

Research Projects:

Comprehensive catalogue of postmarks on outgoing and incoming mail to Geneva

Handbook of the 19th century in Geneva

The beginnings of the Red Cross

Cantonal Posts		Transitional Period					Federal Post		
		1 st Oct. 1849	1 st Jan. 1850	1 st Oct. 1850	1 st Jan. 1851	1 st Oct. 1851	25 th Dec. 1851	1 st Jan. 1852	
Geneva Currency	1 Fr. GE = 70 Rp.	Conversion to the nearest cent	Conversion to the upper / lower 5cents	Introduction of Federal Stamps	Adaptation exchange value of the 5Rp. Federal stamp	New Federal Currency in the 1 st rayon	Federal Stampless Period	1 Fr. GE = 1 Fr. France = 1 Fr. Switzerland	
Swiss Units of Account	1 £ 100 Rp. = 1.43 Fr. GE 2 Kreuzer = 5 Rappen								
Cantonal Currencies									
Mail Geneva	City	Franked: 4c (as of 22 nd Oct.)	2½ Rp. = 5c	2½ Rp. = 2½c (Printed Matter)				5c	
	Canton	7c							
Mail Switzerland	1 st rayon	(2Kr.) 5Rp. = 7c	5 Rp. = 5c	I (5c)	5 Rp. = 7c	5 Rp. = 8c		10c	
	2 nd rayon	(4Kr.) 10Rp. = 14c	10 Rp. = 15c	II (15c)				15c	
	3 rd rayon	(6Kr.) 15Rp. = 21c	15 Rp. = 25c	II + I + I (25c)	II + I (22c)	II + I (23c)			
	4 th rayon	(8Kr.) 20Rp. = 28c	20 Rp. = 30c	II + II (30c)					
Mail France	Distant	(10Kr.) 25 Rp. = 35c							35c
	Border Zone	(6Kr.) 15 Rp. = 15c		(6Kr.) 15 Rp. = 20c				25c	