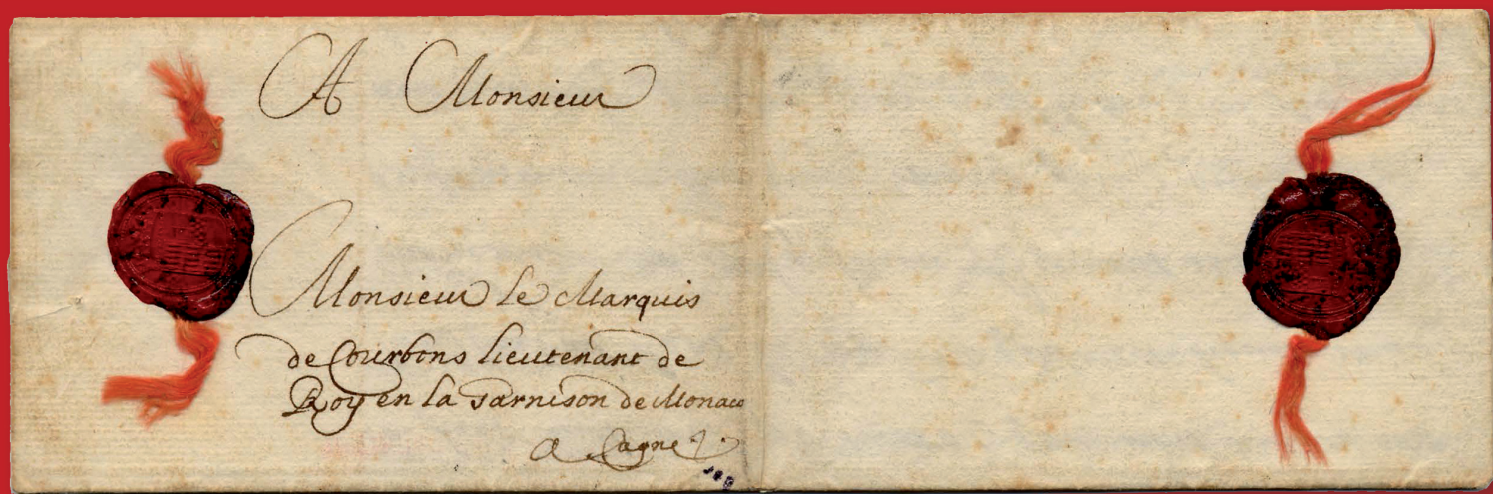


An Overview of the Philatelic Collections belonging to H.S.H. Prince Albert II



Letter from Monaco dated 1649 and signed by Prince Honoré II. Sealed with silk thread and 2 wax seals (on the front and reverse) bearing the Prince's coat of arms.



The Royal Philatelic Society London

17 May 2018 (1 pm)



The Principality of Monaco and its borders shortly before it ceded a major part of its territory to France in June 1860.

The collection first came into being in 1917, when Prince Albert I purchased all the pieces from the Principality (from the Monaco and Menton post offices) that had been assembled by the English vicar, Reverend E. G. Barber. The latter had probably attracted the attention of the Prince and his immediate entourage when he began to publish his first detailed article on the postal history of the Principality, in the magazine "Le Bulletin Philatélique" in March 1914.

As no inventory was made of this initial purchase, it is difficult to identify which pieces came from this source. We know that it consisted of a few postmarks, Sardinian and French stamps used in the Principality and, in particular, a fairly detailed study of the Charles III and Albert I issues, proofs, large sheets (including a sheet of twenty-five 1 franc Charles III stamps, which is the largest known multiple of this value and still part of the collection), varieties, *millésimes* (dated blocks) and postal stationery.

The purchase of a second collection from Albin Harnisch during the reign of Louis II, in 1925, was to enrich the first two issues. As none of the pieces was described, there is no way of telling them apart.

During the reign of Rainier III, the collection was further expanded. From the beginning of his reign, he began to establish a stamp museum at the Palace, which would become the Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies in 1995. It has its own specially designed and equipped premises at Fontvieille. Philatelists and coin collectors know it well and especially members of the Club de Monte-Carlo. This is partly because it hosts the Monacophil exhibition every two years. Outstanding rarities are exhibited at this well-established event, which is probably the most important and popular in the world of international philately. In 1987, the Prince set up a consultative commission to manage his philatelic collection (which a few years later became a "philatelic and numismatic" collection).

At the same time, four specialist collections focusing on the forerunners of Monegasque stamps (postmarks, Sardinian and French stamps used in the Principality) were acquired, along with a few important pieces sold at auctions both in France and abroad. A few high-profile rarities are known to exist in major private collections and the commission strives to catalogue and, if appropriate, purchase them if the opportunity arises.

The Collection des Timbres de Monaco (from 1885 until the present day) continues to grow all the time and is housed in no less than 120 albums, each of which has about 100 pages.

After the accession of H.S.H. Prince Albert II, the decision was made to expand the collection in other directions, two of which are described here. The first is linked to the City of Nice, a neighbour and friend that has always maintained close links with the Principality, as illustrated by a study detailing how Sardinian stamps were used until 13 June 1860, followed by French stamps after this date, which were cancelled using a Sardinian postmark, before French postmarks could be made and delivered (in October of the same year, which is a period of approximately 4 months). The second relates to the postmarks used in the French armies from the reign of Louis XIV until that of Louis-Philippe. The Princes have always had very close links with the French army. In this context, we should mention, the philatelist Princes Louis II and Rainier III. For his part, H.S.H. Prince Albert II enlisted and rose to the rank of captain and later that of lieutenant commander. He is also Patron of the Patrouille de France.

We hope our visitors will enjoy a pleasant journey through the worlds of history and philately.

Claude Palmero

President of the Philatelic and Numismatic Commission
of H.S.H. Prince Albert II

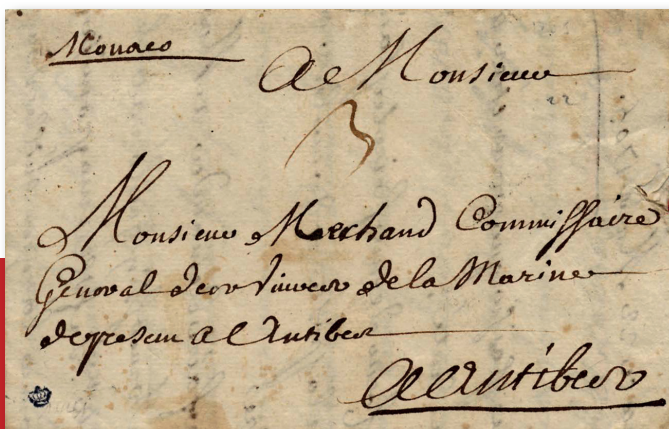
The Postal History of the Principality

Until 2 February 1861, which was the date of the ratification of the Franco-Monegasque Treaty, the Principality encompassed all the municipalities of Monaco, Menton and Roquebrune. After this date, it was deprived of much of its territory, restricted to the municipality of Monaco, with Prince Charles III being forced to cede the other two to the France of Napoleon III. Menton and Roquebrune are now French and the area covered by the Principality fell from 24 km² to 2 km², when it adopted the borders that we know today.

In 1641, the King of France, Louis XIII, and Prince Honoré II signed the Treaty of Péronne. The independent Principality of Monaco placed itself under French protection and took advantage of this to drive out the Spanish soldiers garrisoned on the Rock.

After the Treaty, a French post office was set up in Monaco on an unknown date between 1650 and 1700. It maintained links with Antibes by sea (to provide postal communications), as the Sardinian territory of the County of Nice had to be avoided. Until 1750, the famous Courier of Rome who started his journey in Lyon regularly followed the traditional Sardinian route (via Chambéry and Turin) before arriving in Genoa and Florence. But this route was often closed following disputes, some of which were between France and the Kingdom of Sardinia. In addition, mail had to be delivered regularly, punctually and confidentially. Consequently, around this date, the Monégasque route came into being to avoid the (Sardinian) County of Nice. On his way back, the courier now passed through Tuscany, Liguria (not yet part of the Kingdom of Sardinia), which bordered onto the Principality, and Monaco-Antibes by sea, followed by Aix and Lyon. On his way down, the courier followed the same route but in the opposite direction. The Monaco route became effective and the post office experienced a boom, while becoming the central hub for all correspondence exchanged between France and Southern Italy (including to and from countries, such as England or Spain, which travelled along the French route). The successive postmasters in Monaco would also play a very important role as carriers for all transactions with Liguria for about fifty years.

The first postmark to be discovered was the handwritten "Monaco" (the earliest known date is 1703) on this Venetian letter, followed by the first handstamped mark (between 1764-1769), which mysteriously disappeared without any rational or obvious explanation. The handwritten "Monaco" reappeared until the events of the French Revolution.



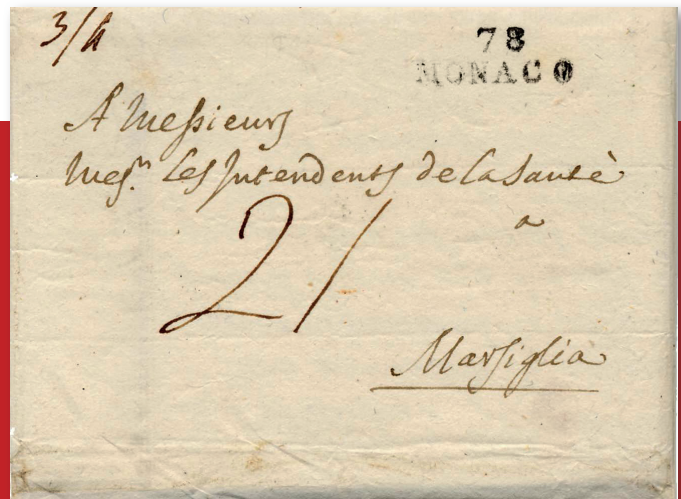
The post office added its name "Monaco" so that the letter could be taxed in proportion to the distance covered between the post office where it was posted (Monaco) and the destination post office. Neither post office was (subject to exceptions) required to tax the letter. This task fell to a third intermediate post office situated between the departure and destination post office, which meant that it was vital to know its exact origin.



The small MONACO known to exist from 1764-1769.



The 78/MONACO was initially stamped in red...



... and later in black (less than 5 known examples)

After 1790, France was divided into *départements* and each post office had, from 1 January 1792, a postmark bearing the *département's* name below its number. Monaco, which was still independent currently, was the exception, as it was not part of the French territory.

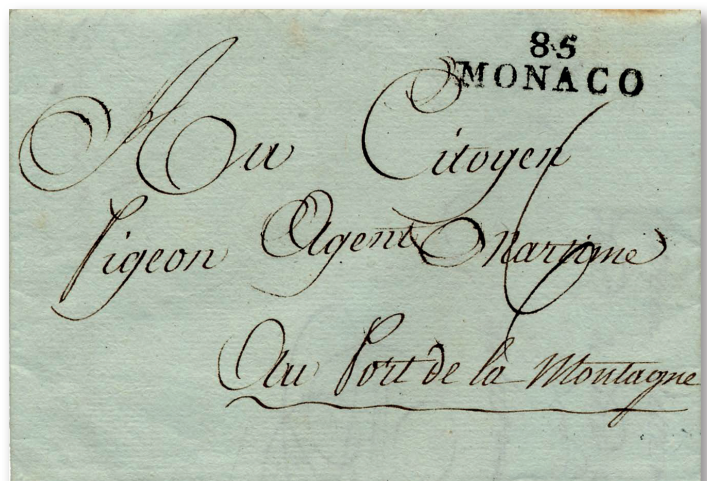
It was attached (in postal terms) to the nearest *département*, the Var, with its number 78 (78/MONACO) essentially for postage rates (in proportion to the distance between the *département* of the sender and that of the recipient) identified by its (specific) number.

During the French invasion of the County of Nice, followed by its annexation and that of the Principality, the latter became French territory until the Empire came to an end. It was attached to the new *département* of Alpes-Maritimes (February 1793) and given the number 85 (85/MONACO), but there was a short time until the new postmark was put into service (November 1793). Mail could then pass through this new *département* and the sea link between Monaco-Antibes was abandoned.



Conversely, the 85/MONACO was red when it was first introduced...

... then in black until it was no longer used after December 1817.



Letter posted to Port de la Montagne, the revolutionary name for Toulon.



85/MENTON small format.



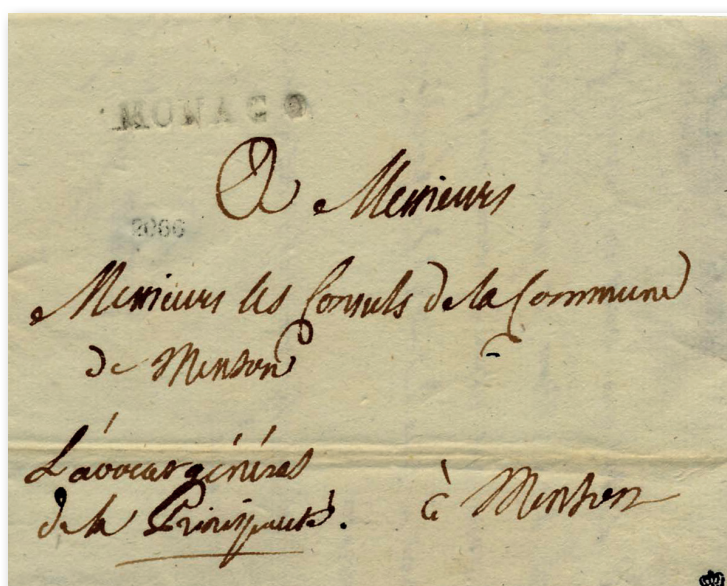
85/MENTON large format.

The revolutionaries opened a post office in Menton which was given its first small postmark 85/MENTON (1792/99). The latter smudged easily and was not easy to read, but was essential for taxation that, as pointed out, was hardly ever applied at the departure or arrival post office, but at an intermediate post office.

A new and larger postmark (mainly with the number "85") was introduced in 1799. It is known to have been used until late 1817, in other words until the French postal presence in the Principality came to an end. From 1 January 1818, the Sardinian post office kept using it (thus saving a considerable amount of money) but removed the "85", as it no longer meant anything in this region.

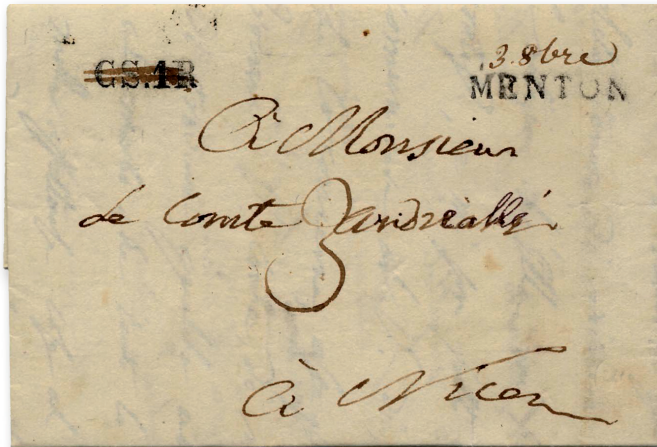
After the defeat of Napoleon and the first Treaty of Paris in 1814, the Principality regained its identity, independence and its Prince, but the Second Treaty of Paris after the Hundred Days and especially the defeat at Waterloo (June 1815), placed it under the protection of the Kingdom of Sardinia and its King, Victor-Emmanuel I of Savoy who, though appointed its protector, had set his sights on the Principality.

The post office remained French until 1 January 1818, when the Sardinian administration was established. Until this date, two postmarks were used at the Monaco post office - the 85/MONACO for mail posted to France and the old 78/MONACO, which was recovered, though the "78" had been filed away, for mail posted in the Kingdom of Sardinia (in Nice or Menton, in the case of the few pieces that have been discovered).



(78)/MONACO truncated.

From 1 January 1818, the post offices in Monaco and Menton became Sardinian. The number 85 was abandoned in anticipation of the Italian postmarks that would arrive a few years later (around 1820 for Monaco, in the second half of 1824 for Menton). These postmarks with the *département* number filed away are commonly known as "truncated postmarks" (along with the "78" example from the previous period).

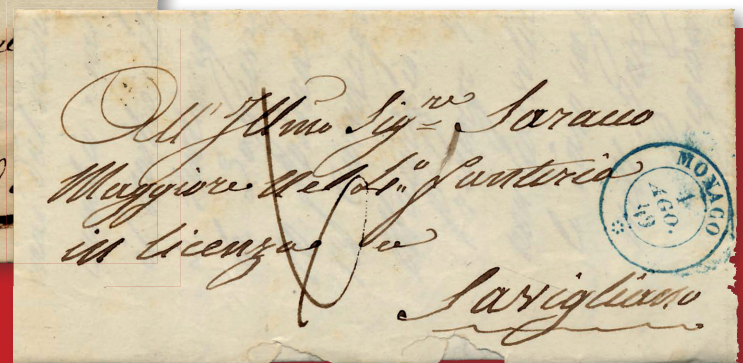


(85)/MENTON truncated.



(85)/MONACO truncated.

They were followed by the Sardinian postmarks (one single type for Monaco), two of which were used for Menton (one was replaced after it became worn following heavy use due to the larger population and economic activity that did not exist in Monaco arising from the sale of lemons). At the end of the first half of 1849, the datestamp made its appearance at the two post offices.



The following three Sardinian postmarks are known to exist in black, red and blue, together with the datestamp from Menton, which is not shown.

Municipalité de Fort Tesuile
Quatre Citoyens
Maires et Officiers Municipaux
de la Commune de la
Par Exprimé Turbie

First of all, the administrative postmark “Municipalité de Fort-Hercule” (two known examples, both of which form part of the collection). After it was annexed by France early in 1793, the revolutionaries changed Monaco’s name (as in many other French municipalities) due to its association with the Church (the name was considered too like the word *moine* (monk). This name (known as a “revolutionary name”) has only so far been found on municipal mail delivered locally and therefore free of charge.

The second group consists of postage paid mail (this means that the sender paid the postage, which was far less common than postage due mail and amounted to approximately 10% of mail). Under the old system, it was the handwritten words *affranchi* (franked) or post *payé* (postage paid) that made it possible to distinguish between these two types of mail. With the revolution and the advent of numbered postmarks, the administration added the letter “P” on each side of the number (standing for *post payé*).

The Sardinians used a postmark with two pieces of information (MONACO + PP) or two different postmarks (MENTON and PP). The following 3 Sardinian postmarks are known to exist in black, red and blue, together with the date stamp from Menton, which is not shown.

8897
MONACO

A Monsieur
Le Maire de la Ville
d'Aix

à Aix-en-Provence

1 NOV.

P.F.
MENTON

Cat. M^{re} Sig. R. Pagnon-Cellier
M. Sig. Francisco Moj. Comis. 25. Juan

S. Remo.

Four types of “postage paid” letters, although other examples exist...



The final category is devoted to a very interesting accounting mark: the *déboursés* (charges to be transferred). If a letter with postage to be paid by the recipient failed to arrive at its destination for any reason (death, change of address, not known at this address for example), the destination post office would write "*déboursé* + the name of post office" on the back of the letter. In fact, if a letter with postage due arrived at its destination post office, the latter was automatically liable in its accounting entries for the total amount of postage and responsible for recovering this amount from the recipient, to balance its accounts.

Only two examples with the *déboursé* mark are known to exist, one in black and the other in red, which can be seen here.

If the mail was not delivered this was stated on the reverse, and the letter was returned to the post office responsible for handling the charges which credited then its account with the sum already debited. In this way, by means of this endorsement and by forwarding the mail, it could balance its accounts again. This mark could be handwritten or a handstamp as Monaco used both methods. For Menton, only the rare handwritten mark is known to exist.

On 1 January 1851, the first stamps bearing the effigy of Victor-Emmanuel II were introduced in the Sardinian post offices. The first three issues used in Monaco or Menton are extremely rare.

From the first issue, only two letters are known to exist (one from Monaco and the other from Menton, both of which belong to the Princely Collection). A single letter is known to have left Monaco bearing the second issue (in a private collection). We have not received any information about the third issue.



The only letter bearing the first issue used in Menton.

After July 1855, the first three values from the fourth issue made their appearance (5, 20 and 40 c.) and until 1 January 1858 (issue date of the 10 and 80 c.), when stamps became compulsory, examples from this period are also rare.



After this date and before the return of the French administration, fewer than ten or so letters are known to exist from the Monegasque post office compared to approximately double this number for Menton.

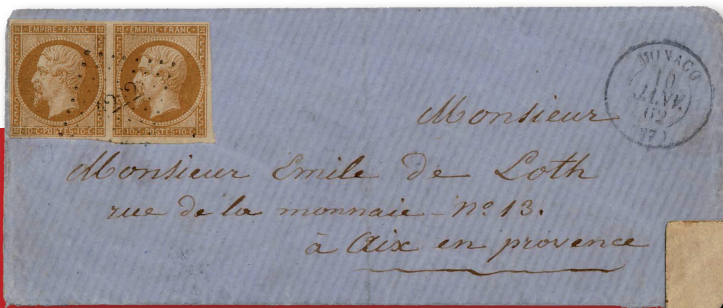
All the authors who have tackled this subject agree about and emphasise the rarity of letters franked with postage stamps from their introduction until the end of 1857 when they were made compulsory. The reigning Prince, Charles III, would have frowned terribly on the use of stamps bearing the effigy of King Victor-

Emmanuel II who was considered an enemy, rather than a protector, on mail posted in his country. Therefore, the stamps would not have been delivered to the two post offices in the Principality, which only seems logical. This theory is confirmed by the two letters bearing the first and only known examples, on which the stamps should have been cancelled with the Sardinian motto required by the regulations ("muto a rombi" in Italian). Both have been cancelled by pen (the letter from Monaco was cancelled with "a rombi" on arrival in Nice, just to meet

the regulations), which proves that these special cachets for postage stamps were not delivered to the two post offices as they would have been useless without the use of postage stamps. These letters were probably franked by passing travellers who already had stamps or by unofficial "aficionados" of the King of King of Sardinia.



The only known example on the 80c.



The small number 4222.



The large number 2387 on a letter with insufficient postage.

After the County of Nice (and Savoy) was ceded to France, the French post offices in Monaco and Menton also returned to France. The postal handover took place on 14 June and French stamps replaced the Sardinian figurines.

However, the postmarks were not yet ready and, for four months, the postmarks from Sardinia were used on French stamps, which resulted in some major philatelic rarities.

After October 1860, the first cancellations used to cancel stamps were the small number 4222 postmark for Monaco (for 26 months), which was replaced by the large number 2387 in January 1862, and 4220 for Menton until the end of January 1861, when it was ceded to France (for 4 months). A substitute cancellation, the *petit chiffre du gros chiffre* ("Small Number equivalent of the large number") could be found at the post office in Monaco (which corresponds to the figure seen in the large number, even after January 1862).



Le petit chiffre du gros chiffre 2387.

All the French issues (perforate and imperforate Empire, Lauré, Siège de Paris, Bordeaux, Cérès and Sage) would follow, together with all the accompanying cancellations (small numbers, large numbers and the different date stamps) until the appearance of Monégasque stamps on 1 July 1885.

According to the regulations, a datestamp was used to cancel all postal items sent at a reduced rate, in this case a newspaper wrapper.





The Sage type.

Ballon monté (balloon mail).

and "Boule de Moulins".



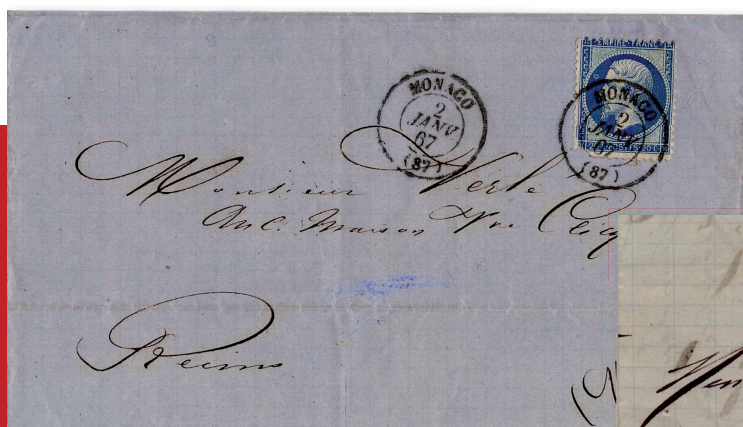
A few specialities round off this study, such as tax stamps, railway cancellations and letters from the 1870 Franco-Prussian War, such as "ballons montés" and the "boules de Moulins".



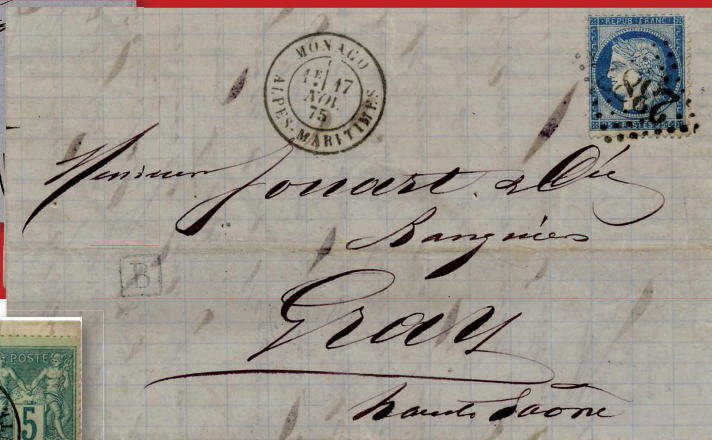
The convoyeur-station railway cancellation on its way to Russia...



70 spectacular examples of the 10c Bordeaux (7f) for Italy, including a block of 38 stamps, which is the largest known multiple of stamps to have been cancelled for this value. Only one stamp is missing on the reverse, left-hand side. As the rate was 40c for 10g, the 20c must be have been added for the full postage of 7f20 that would be required for a weight step of between 170 and 180g, the following steps, multiples of 40c cannot be present above 7 francs using a single stamp (7f60, 8f, 8f60... the face values of 60, 1f and above did not exist up to 5 francs).



Postmark with (87).



Postmark stamp with ALPES-MARITIMES.



Postmark stamp with PRINCIPALITY.

The first French datestamp includes the number 87 at the base (as the new number for the département of Alpes-Maritimes (formerly 85) was no longer available, having been reassigned to Tarn-et-Garonne after the fall of the Empire). In 1875, a new date stamp appeared with the name of the *département* instead of its number.

This change took place at the instigation of the Société de Géographie, which to educate its users preferred to link the name of a *département* to a town or village rather than a simple number. The school curriculum of the time required pupils to have a perfect knowledge of all the *préfectures* and their associated *départements*. Monaco became a French city in Alpes-Maritimes which provoked the anger of the Prince who demanded that it be replaced by a postmark of the "Principality". The French authorities reacted immediately, but the creation and delivery of this new postmark took a month, during which time the MONACO/ALPES-MARITIMES postmark (reported dates: 24 October - 25 November 1875) was used to the great delight of future postmark enthusiasts. Fewer than ten or so of the letters bearing this cancellation seem to have been recorded.

After the "Charles III" stamps were introduced, French stamps were authorised until the end of the year (1885), postal stationery until 1 April 1886 and postage due stamps (solely for use by post office employees) until 1905 (when they were replaced by identical stamps with the word "MONACO", so that they could be differentiated).



French postal stationery card posted to Senegal on its last day of validity (31/3).

The Postage Stamps of the Principality

Despite the appearance of special Monégasque stamps in 1885, the post office remained French (as is still the case). The use of French stamps was prohibited, and the rare letters or postcards found in the Principality's letterboxes were surcharged.

The first issue consists of 10 values bearing the effigy of Charles III (1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 25, 40 and 75 centimes, 1 and 5 francs). It appeared on two different dates:

- 5, 15 and 25 centimes: 1 July 1885
- the other values appeared on 7 September of the same year

No less than 10 designs were submitted to the Prince for approval, most of which are only known from photographic reproductions. In fact, every design submitted had to include a drawing or sketch accompanied by a scale photographic reduction of the stamp. Various artists took part in this project and it is probable that the drawings were returned to them if they were not adopted (and they would therefore not have been paid). Only the photographic reproductions have been preserved.



Design N°



Design N°



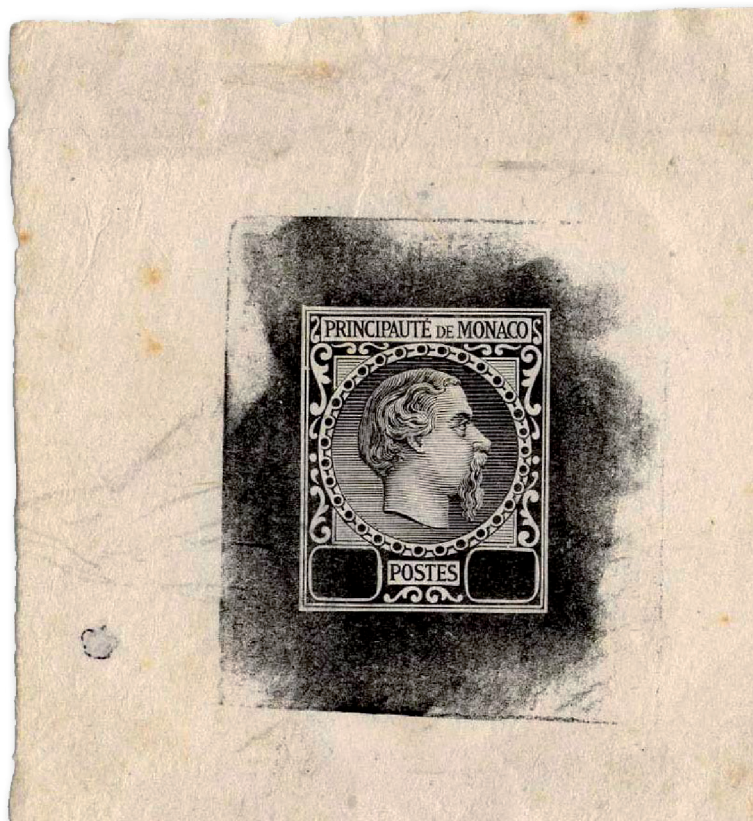
Design N°



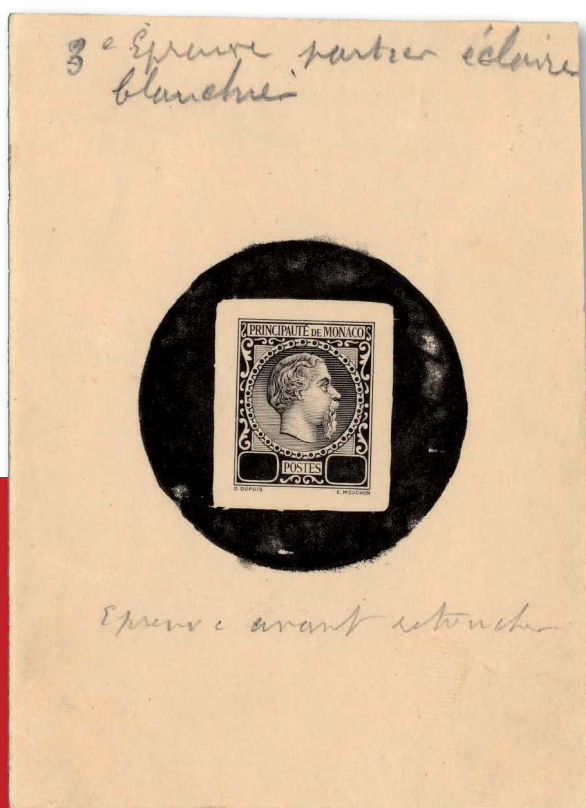
Design N° - Unused design. Original artwork.

The next stage involved engraving the image onto a soft steel die. The engraver Mouchon, who was asked to complete this task, made a first attempt in a larger format compared to the dimensions used for the future stamps. He made extremely fine proofs on China paper, at least one of which was presented to the Prince, who approved the design.

Mouchon was then able to create the definitive die on steel, to produce the ten values that make up the series. The two lateral inserts, which were to be used for the face values, remained blank on any engravings. A few proofs were also created as work progressed, to fine-tune the chiselling or correct the few small imperfections (these are the "states", which are numbered chronologically, 1, 2, 3, etc. They inevitably have tiny modifications). Once the work was considered



Large format proof printed on China paper.
An identical proof in violet can be found in the collection.



satisfactory, a few definitive proofs were printed. It was now only necessary to cut out gaps to position the values and insert the pre-prepared numbered pins. Once again, proofs were printed for each face value. Three different colours are known to exist: violet, pink and black. The next step was to prepare the plates, but no other document was needed before the process commenced, in other words, the start of the actual printing, which required a few test sheets to obtain a perfect print. Once these excellent standards had been achieved, the definitive print run could be started.

State proof.
The handwritten inscription tells us that this was the third proof with, as a modification, the illuminated part having been bleached (probably the right-hand side of the face). Below "Épreuve avant retouche" (proof before retouching).



Colour proof.
The yellow background was used
for the 1f and red for the 5f.



Colour proof.
Green background for the 5f
and brown-yellow for the 10c.

Before beginning the print run, a colour had to be chosen for each value. New proofs were submitted to the decision-makers, often with a palette including many different colours. As most Monégasque stamps from the first series had a coloured background, each proof recommended one colour for the background and another for the stamp (see illustrations above).



Numbered proofs.
Three complete series seem to have been
catalogued, each of them with a different
colour (black, red and violet).

The largest known multiple of the Charles III 5 francs is a strip of five (cover photo). The Postmaster at the Monaco Post Office cut the sheets of 25 stamps into strips of five before handing them to the clerks, probably to reduce the value of their stocks in hand, for which they would certainly have been responsible at this time. The sheet of four stamps is unknown.



Except for the strip of five, this pair is the largest multiple, of which fewer than five have probably been catalogued. This example, from the corner margin, is probably the finest of them all.



Sheet of 25 x 1 franc stamps.
The only example identified from the Barber collection acquired in 1917.
The largest known multiple of this value.

Charles III passed away in 1889 and was succeeded by his son Albert. Stamps bearing his effigy came into service from 1891, but only after the stocks of the previous issue had been used up. There is therefore no precise date indicating when the different values of these new figurines were made available to the public.

As for the first two issues, there is a seemingly endless number of drawings, artist and workshop proofs, colour essays, final proofs, complete perforated and imperforate sheets, varieties, millésimes, postal stationery and many more items, where they exist, for all the issues that followed, and this is still the case today.



Only two major varieties are known from the first issue, which are quite similar. This triangle is probably due to an accident on the respective print plates. Situated on the neck on the 2c, it can be seen behind the back of the neck on the 1c. These two spectacular varieties are very uncommon.

The first two issues form part of the conventional postal history of the Principality, but the later issues been neglected. Mail sent during WWI and WWII, the zeppelins and other stamps are fields of research currently being studied by the Commission.



Letter from 1886 sent to Charles Diena, one of the first members of his philatelic dynasty, with his brother Emilio. UPU rate for registered second weight step letter. Probably a consignment of new stamp designs or new stock of the first Monegasque issue.

The 5f is easy to find on letters posted by collectors, seen mainly on envelopes sent to German philatelists and not paid at the correct postage rate. It is still a rarity if found to cover the correct postage.



Registered envelope to Paris. Tariff of 1 May 1878
Insurance: 10f (10c per 100f)
Registration: 25c
Second weight step: 30c (for weights between 15 and 30 g)
Total: 10 f 55

22/11/0

A circular postmark from Monte Carlo. The text "MONTE CARLO" is curved along the top inner edge. The date "31/15" is at the top, "JANV." is in the middle, and "86" is at the bottom. The text "PTE DES MONTE" is curved along the bottom inner edge.

CHARGÉ.

A circular postmark from Monte-Carlo. The text "MONTE-CARLO" is curved along the top inner edge, and "M. MONACO" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "31/15" is written above "JANV." and "86" below it. A diagonal line crosses the center of the stamp.

CHARGE
M^{me} Marguerite Geline
497

Russie.

a Koscow

Въ Вискоблагороднаго Маргарита Андреевича
Таммоя. Свѣдѣніе въ 600000 рублей

М. Тугординовский переулочъ, домъ Корова, кв. № 12

Въ Москвѣ

ASSETS

1001	1002
R	G.H.

A circular library stamp from the University of Toronto Libraries. The text "UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARIES" is arranged in a circle around the number "1966".

A circular, ornate stamp or seal, likely a library or archival mark, featuring a central emblem and decorative border. The stamp is tilted and has a yellowish, aged appearance. It contains a central figure, possibly a saint or historical figure, surrounded by a circular border with text. The outermost border is a decorative, scroll-like pattern. The stamp is placed on a light-colored, textured surface.

Am 21. d. M. Decem.

Extraordinary envelope of 1886 with postage paid to Moscow weighing 32g or 25c (per 15g step) x 3 = 75c fixed rate for registered mail: 25c
Insurance: 25c per 100f or 25c x 32 = 8f for a total of 9 francs.
3 francs and three stamps seem to be missing, according to the vast number of cancellations.
Probably three other examples of the 1 franc were removed due to their condition...

Another major collection consists of the various combinations of stamps used with the four Sardinian issues on mail posted from the City of Nice followed, for the sake of completeness, by French stamps cancelled using the Sardinian postmark after 13 June 1860 and until mid-October, when the French cancellations were introduced.

The first issue appeared on 1 January 1851. It was valid until 30 September 1853. On this date, the stamps were declared obsolete and cannot be found used with the subsequent issues.

The second issue was put into circulation on 1 October 1853 and the third on 18 April 1854.

The fourth was introduced in the first days of July 1855 (5, 20 and 40c.) and 1858 (only for the 10 and 80c.) The co-existence of the last three issues means that it is possible to find spectacular combinations.



Tricolour on the second issue.

The presence, among other examples, of two of the tricolours shown above, lifts this collection to the highest level.

See opposite for some example of cross-border mail (distance of less than 30 km between the Sardinian and French towns, 25c for a simple letter, 50c for second weight step postage).

The 3 lire appeared in 1861 and is not covered by this study.



Tricolour on the third issue.



Cross-border rate: 25c
1st issue.



Cross-border rate: 25c
2nd and 3rd issue.



Cross-border rate: 25c
3rd issue.



Cross-border rate: 25c
3rd and 4th issues.



Cross-border rate:
50c for a letter
weighing between 7.5 and 15 grams
Third weight step
with the 3rd issue

The 40 centimes from the third issue and its multiples.

40 centimes
Single inland postage.



1f60
Second weight step for Great Britain.

80 centimes
Single postage for Ireland.



...and mixed franking.



50 centimes
Single postage for France.

French stamps, which came into service on 14 June 1860 and could be used on mail on the condition that they were cancelled using Sardinian postmarks until October 1860 are also in the Collection.

When the County of Nice (and Savoy) was ceded to France, the French administration arrived with its stock of postage stamps but, in order to cancel them, it was necessary to manufacture new postmarks (33 different ones for the County of Nice and 87 for Savoy) multiplied by two as there were two offices (with the "Petits chiffres" or small numbers required by the regulations to cancel stamps). This task was in addition to that of creating new post offices throughout the French territory, which were widespread and given priority (this was at the height of postal development), as they did not have any postmarks. It should be remembered that private businesses served as post offices and a great deal of manual work was involved. The County of Nice and Savoy, already provided with Sardinian postmarks, would have to wait..

This period lasted approximately four months and all combinations, except for the standard rate (20c), are difficult to find. Most of them are unique or only two to three examples are known to exist.

The collection of stamps from Nice is shown in its entirety.



Local postage costing 10c
The 5c are the only known examples on document.



Second weight step:
40 centimes (between 7.5 - 15g).



50c postage
Postage from France to Italy.

The Armies

The collection is currently being studied and mounted, which means that we can only display about half of the pieces. The definitive display will be mounted on large sheets, like the 12 presentation pages on display, which provide an overview of the Revolution and Empire section. The Collection covers the entire pre-philatelic period from the Dutch campaign during the reign of Louis XIV to the Algerian campaign under Louis-Philippe.

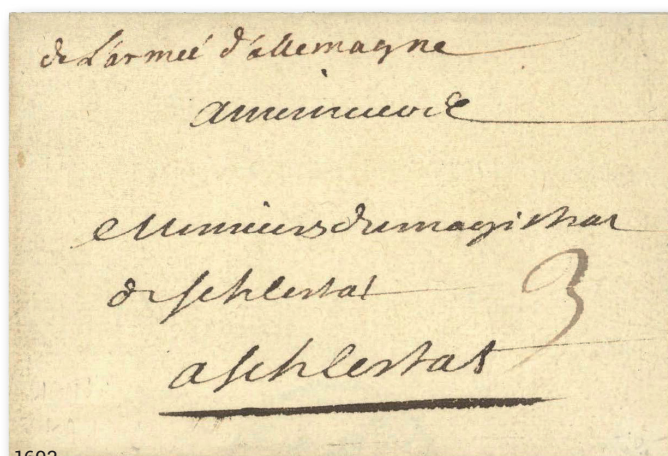
It is difficult to describe a collection of such richness in a few paragraphs. We will therefore limit ourselves to listing the various sections that are shown, starting with the military campaigns of Louis XIV.

The first army postmarks appeared in about 1675 during the Franco-Dutch War and, curiously, before the civilian postmarks of the towns of the Kingdom of France, which only appeared about ten years later. At first, they were handwritten, and in around 1690 some post offices began to use handstamps, especially the towns conquered in the Netherlands, which included the territories of what later became Belgium (in 1830) and some towns in the far north of modern-day France.

During the reign of Louis XIV (1643-1715), the Franco-Dutch War (1672-78) was followed by the War of the League of Augsburg (1689-97) and the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14).

All the other campaigns in the 18th century would take place during the reign of Louis XV (1710-1774). The latter was crowned King, at the age of five on the death of his grandfather in 1715, but only assumed power when he came of age in 1723 and took over power from the Regent, his cousin, the Duke of Orleans.

The hostilities in Europe started again with the War of the Polish Succession (1733-1738), the Corsican Expedition (1738-1769, which extended over several campaigns), the War of the Austrian Succession (1741-1748) and the Seven Years War (1756-1763).



1693

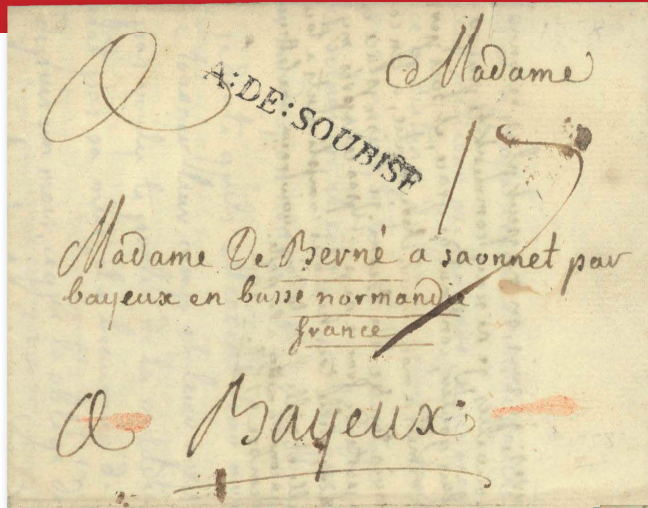
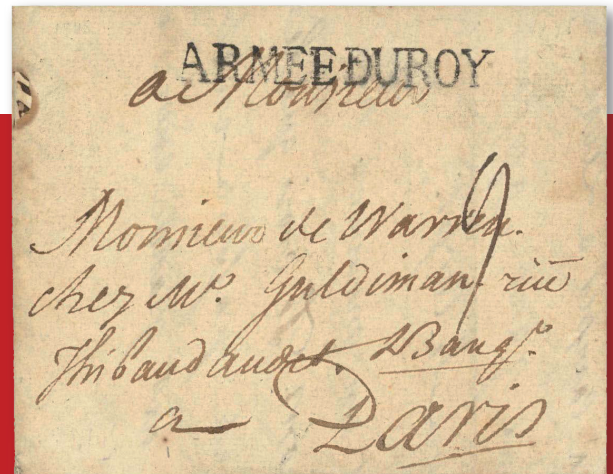
"From the Army of Germany" At the camp in Leydelberg (Heidelberg) War of the League of Augsburg (1689-1697). The first marks are handwritten. Most of them indicate the area of the campaign (Army of Germany, Italy, the Lower or Upper Rhine, Bavaria, etc.).



December 1741 – Prague, Bohemia – BAVARIAN ARMY (Bavaria) War of the Austrian Succession (1741-1748).

1745
At the camp near Tournay (Tournai, Belgium).
War of the Austrian Succession (1741-1748).
The king's army is here...

... and those of his with the commanders in the (Army) of Soubise.
The Prince of Soubise led the army during this conflict
September 1758 Kassel, Germany.
The Seven Years War (1756-1763).

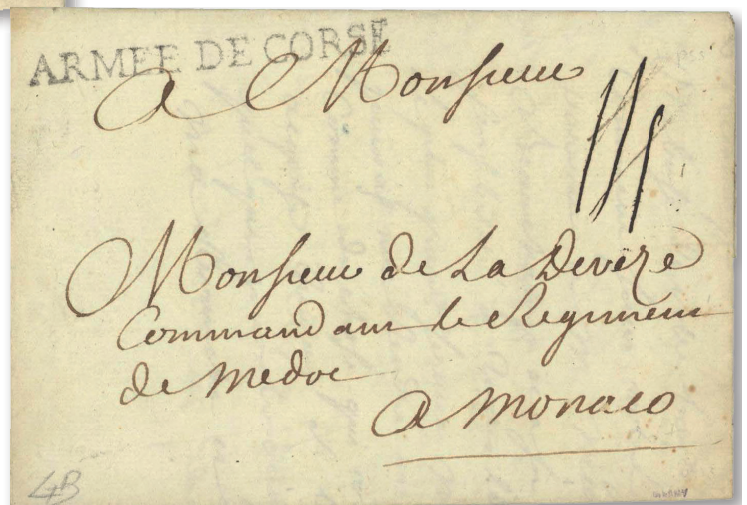


The reign of Louis XVI (1774/1791) would only see the conflict in America between the English and the future Americans during the War of Independence. France simply provided aid, albeit on a large scale, to wipe out the humiliation of the Seven Years War, but it was not fully involved. There was no postal organisation for the armies and the (very few) catalogued letters can be identified by the text and, of course, their point of departure.

With the Revolution, the Consulate and the Empire, periods of peace became an exception and Europe was constantly at war. The many different armies often gave themselves evocative names that were initially inward-looking, when it was a matter of defending the borders (Armies of the Centre, the South, the West, the Alps, the Pyrenees, etc.), and later more triumphant names following the first successes after the war became offensive: the Armies of Germany, Switzerland, Italy, England, etc.

With the Empire, it was the formation of the First Grande Armée (1805-1808), followed by the second (1811-1814) and between these two periods, the Armies of Germany and Spain, before the Russian Campaign, followed by the France and Waterloo Campaigns, which marked the death knell of the Napoleonic saga.

The next Spanish War (1820-1821) took place in the reign of Louis XVIII (1815-1824) and was followed by the Morean Expedition to the Peloponnese (1828-1833) and the Algerian Campaign (1830-1847), both of which began during the reign of Charles X (1824/30) and ended during that of Louis-Philippe (1830-1848).



January 1771
Bastia
ARMY OF CORSICA
Period of occupation after the Fourth Corsican Campaign (1765-1769).
Letter posted to... Monaco!

Special attention should be paid to the contents of letters which often provide valuable testimonies of the facts, observations, feelings or emotions of these soldiers, non-commissioned officers or officers when they sent precious news to their families. They sometimes talk about events that may include slight differences when compared to conventional or official histories.

Documents, autographs and other pieces have pride of place in this collection and particularly the splendid letters sold by *cantinières* (canteen keepers) which were very popular (and even more popular with today's collectors...) during the revolutionary periods and especially the Empire, as true illustrated witness accounts of military life.



"Cantinière" (canteen keeper) letter. July 1813 - Kassel. Handwritten inscription "First battalion of the artillery train".



Unused strip of 5 x Charles III 5 franc stamps
The largest known multiple
Unique!



Print run on Bristol from 1900 with simulated perforation.
Print run used to complete the collections of the administration.
All the stamps produced by the Atelier du Timbre between 1876-1892.
were reprinted, which explains the presence of the two Monegasque, Charles III and Albert I
Issues. The stamps are part sheets of 25 on large sheets of Bristol measuring 50 cm x 65 cm,
including, in theory, nine sheets of different values.
The postal stationery is also shown individually or in pairs on separate pages.
The original issue was produced in 1885.
This may be close to the issue date but not necessarily.