

# Postal Services Development in Geneva 1862 - 1907



## Background

The new Swiss flat rate valid as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 1862 abandons the system of "Rayons" (progressive rates according to the radius) keeping only a local rate for letters (up to 10 km). As from this time Geneva, which is still the largest city in Switzerland, faces a strong growth of population and trade. The railway post link from Geneva to Bern, Zurich and Basle is effective in September 1862 and changes dramatically delivery conditions. The first issue of perforated stamps is launched in October 1862 just when the head of the Swiss post district I (Geneva area) decides to open auxiliary post offices within the growing city. Geneva is the cradle of the Red Cross which gives rise to new kinds of mail especially during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Toward 1885 the Federal post in Geneva keeps using different specific local cancellations. Some are very rare.

## Purpose and Scope of the Exhibit

The purpose of this exhibit is to show all the aspects of postal and telegraphic services in Geneva with its major neighbours. A strong focus is made on Franco-Prussian War and the Red Cross.

The exhibit displays postal links of the city at domestic level and with main neighbours. Within each section, chronological order shows the use of the different postmarks and rates.

The exhibit does not display far or exotic destinations. Indeed long distance mail from Geneva does not really differ from that of another Swiss city.

Why starting in 1862: see background above.

Why ending in 1907: the Revision of the first Geneva Convention and the disappearance of the Standing Helvetia issue mark the end of a major postal chapter. Mass courier handling appears with strong changes such as the new international rates of 1<sup>st</sup> October 1907 matching with new stamp issues.

## Sources and references

Beside personal research mentioned below, information and statistic data come from studies and articles from H. Grand, P. Guinand, R. Fürbeth, R. Bäuml, all fellows of the Consilium Philateliae Helveticae, and R. Pittier† & P. Monot† for the Red Cross.

## Personal research and publications

Information gathered through personal research consists of official rules available at the Swiss Postal Archives, misc. literature in libraries, interviews with philatelists and experts. Existing philatelic literature is widely insufficient or imprecise.

My personal research gives rise to various publications:

"*Manuel des oblitérations genevoises 1840-1907*" (ca. 1500 postmarks or cancellations described on 300 pages): completed and to be published in a near future;

"*Manuel d'histoire postale genevoise 1840-1907*" (innovative maps, focus on industrial revolution and development of tourism): drawing up still in progress;

Many specialised lectures and articles on Geneva postal history.

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- 1.7 Postal Cards
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### 2. Red Cross and Franco-Prussian War

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### 3. Financial Services

- 3.1 Cash on Delivery
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- 4.1 Domestic
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### 5. Telegraph Service

## Outstanding pieces

The exhibit shows almost all that this period of the Swiss postal history counts of special, rare and unexpected documents. Due to the density of rarities, including unique pieces, such a collection of this Swiss postal history period is not possible to duplicate.

Most outstanding pieces come from famous Swiss collections which were awarded worldwide recognition (Burrus†, Grand, Pittier†, Schäfer, Soderberg†, Stone, Vogel†, etc).

## Rarity statements

These are based on surveys made by F. Winterstein and L. Reist (combined or mixed frankings), the exhibitor (rest of mail) during the last 10 years, based on auction catalogues, lists compilations and other miscellaneous sources.

## Abbreviations

<b>AW</b>	Swiss Manual of Cancellations 1843-1907	F. Andres, H. Emmenegger, A. Müller, A. Lipp
<b>Zst.</b>	Zumstein Specialised Catalogue Switzerland Volume 1	M. Hertsch

## Colour conventions

Story line in **blue**;  
Rarity statements in **red**;  
All other descriptions in **black**.



As from 1862, rates become more simple and cheaper. People however are not yet used with stricter postal regulations. The postal District of which Geneva is the head opens local branches in the city:

A : Central, Rue du Stand (Main Office)  
B : Gare (Rail Station)  
C : Rive (close to the Lake)  
D : Plainpalais  
E : Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall)

Postage Rates Domestic Letters						
Period	Weight	Letter		Not franked		Insufficient franking
		Local	Distant	Local	Distant	
01.07.1862	< 10 g	5	10	5	15	As not franked . used stamps
31.08.1871	10 to 250 g	10	20	10	30	
01.09.1871	< 15 g	5	10	10	15	△ + 5
31.08.1876	15 to 250 g	10	20	15	25	
01.09.1876	< 15 g	5	10	10	20	As not franked . used stamps
31.10.1884	15 to 250 g	10	20	20	40	
01.11.1884	< 15 g	5	10	10	20	As not franked . used stamps
30.11.1891	15 to 250 g	10	20	20	40	
01.12.1891	< 250 g	5	10	10	20	△
31.12.1917	< 250 g	5	10	10	20	



3 bisects recorded in Geneva

(apart from printed matter at 2½c in 1861-62)

(e)

13 Oct. 1862 - To Carouge, canton, franked with a bisected Imperforate Sitting Helvetia of 10c (Zst. 23SF) for local postage. Forbidden franking; postage due handstamp 5 c.



ca. 5 frankings of 5 x 2c known in Switzerland

(2 recorded in Geneva)

(e)

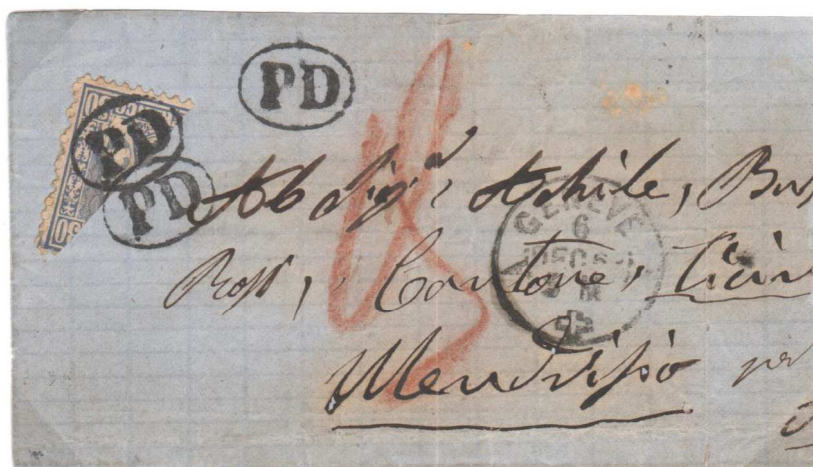
26 Sept. 1862 - To Winterthur, franked with the new imperforate stamp of 2c (strip of three and pair Zst. 21G) normally intended for printed matter.



*Most mail is sent from the central office (A). In exceptional cases, senders attempt old practices.*

6 Dec. 1868 - To Mendrisio, Ticino. Postage with a **bisected Sitting Helvetia** of 30c (Zst. 41SF). Handwritten postage due **15** c. The Lucerne office cancelled the refused bisect with its postmark PD. On the back, ship mail postmark SCHIFFS-BUREAU LUZERN (Gothard route).

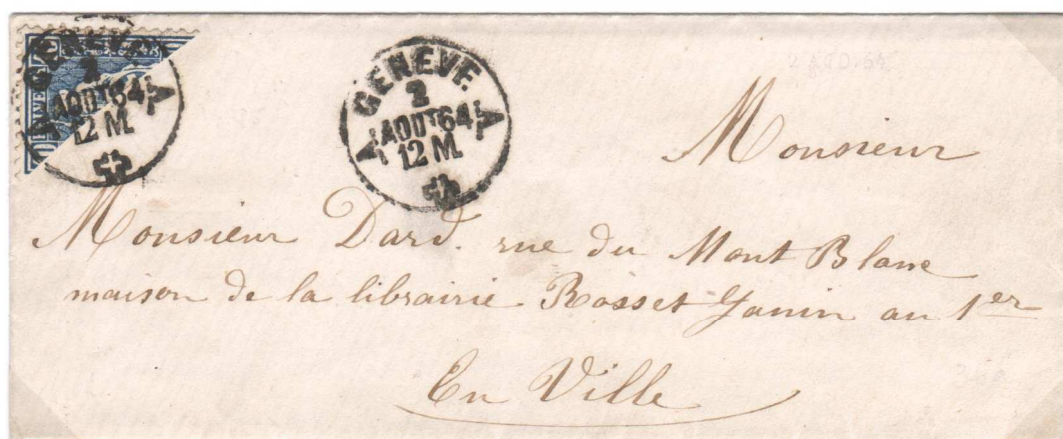
**Only 2 bisects of 30c recorded in Switzerland** (e)



**4 bisects of 10c recorded in Geneva**

Ex Alma Lee

(e)



2 Aug. 1864 - Within the city with a **bisected Sitting Helvetia** of 10c (Zst. 31 SF) for 5c. Forbidden way of franking, exceptionally allowed.



4 Aug. 1863 - To Loèche les Bains, Valais, franked with a **demonetized Imperforate Sitting Helvetia** (validity deadline 31 July 1863). Handwritten mention "**nul**" (*null*) and postage due **15** c.



*Federal postal stationery is launched in July 1867. Envelopes have to be employed for a unique use and cancelled anywhere on the front.*



9 Sep. 1868 - To Neuchâtel, franked with two 5c **cut-outs** from pre-stamped envelope newly issued in November 1867 (Zst. U4). Although prohibited, no postage due was charged.

(e)

***These 2 covers bear the only cut-outs recorded in Geneva***  
*(a few other ones are known within Switzerland)*

5c  
 (AW 17/5)

21.11.1865 - 13.01.1873

21 Nov. 1867 - Within the city (Contamine). One **cut-out** for the local rate of 5c. Postage due for this amount. Two pinholes show that a postage due label might be attached to the cover.

(e)





*New rates allow up to 15g for single letters. Three rates with minor changes will succeed each other until 1891.*



*Former French handstamp of 8 decimes from the Genevan exchange office, used as Swiss 8 cents mark.*

**Only 2 examples recorded**

6 Jan. 1872 - Within Geneva, franked 2c (Zst. 28) but not acknowledged as printed matter. 5c letter rate + 5c penalty ./ 2c franking = 8 c due.



Scarce  
SWISS TIMES  
imprint

*Ex Vuille*

30 April 1872 - Imprinted envelope (Zst. U9) direct to Wimmis, canton of Bern. Particular cancellation with the date in Elzevir font (AW 147A / Güller 528).

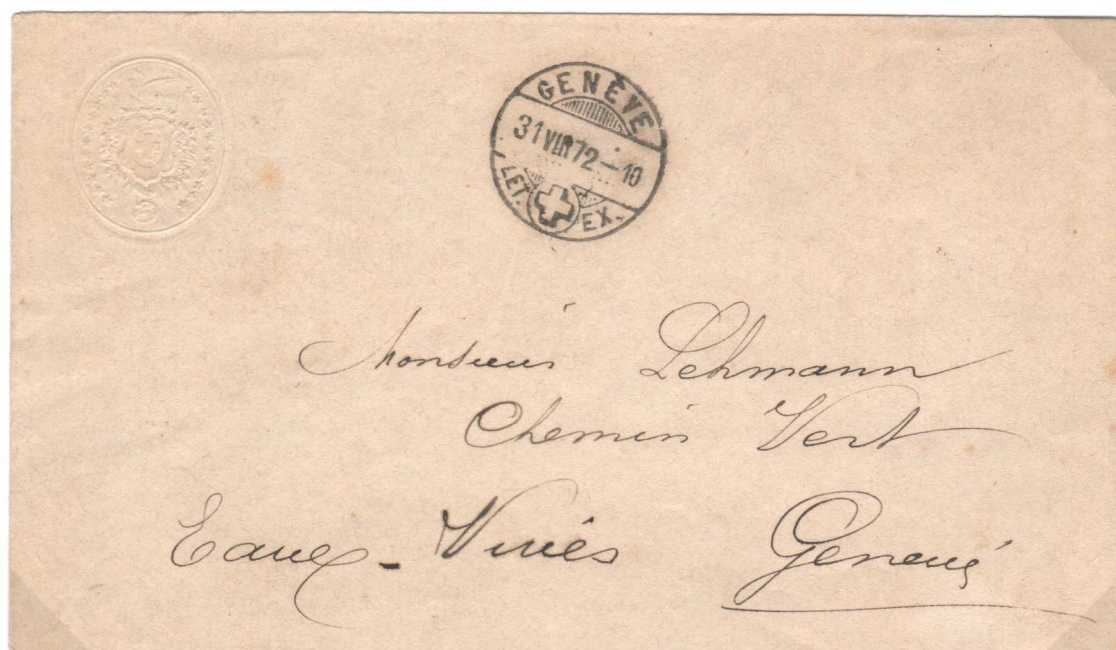


Postal stationery envelope is the most commonly used means for local mail traffic.

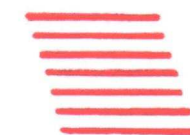


Exceptional used  
Albino value

(e)



31 Aug. 1872 - To Eaux-Vives, canton. Successful attempt to use **albino 5c imprinted stamp** (Zst. U12 II) which was valid for postage.



Exceptional use of the  
former Genevan grid  
(AW 3 / 19)

2 examples in red  
recorded  
beyond 1854

Ex Vogel

24 Dec. 1874 - Within the city, redirected to Chemin Neuf, eventually put to **REBUTS** (dead letters). Red postmark **INCONNU A L'APPEL** (unknown from postmen).



Newly coloured stamps gradually replace the out of print first issues.



1862 issue

+



1874 issue

4 covers recorded in Switzerland

(e)

5 Sept. 1874 - Letter direct to Aubonne, Vaud. **Mixed franking with twin values 2c of two different issues:** one grey stamp (Zst. 28) and two pairs of brown ones (Zst. 37).

10

Handstamp "Ficelle"

02.09.1875 - 07.12.1876

Only 3 examples  
recorded in Switzerland



19 Dec. 1875 - From a notary within the city, not franked. Exceptional use of the 10c Swiss postage due handstamp at the rate of 1 Sept. 1871. Since then penalties apply on local insufficient frankings which therefore become rare. Postmark GENEVE / SUCC[URSALE] GARE from the *Rail Station office*.



*Imprinted Envelopes (1871-1887)*

*Only example  
recorded to date*



12 May 1879 - To Bex Salt Mines, canton Vaud (stationery Zst. U25) with imprint of a **coal merchant**. Private dated seal of the company at the bottom.



*Only example  
recorded to date*

*Ex Vogel*

11 March 1876 - To Aarau, Argovia (stationery Zst. U24) with back side imprint of the firm CARTERET & Cie under **official process with Federal Post** according to legal provision of 27.03.1870.



*As from 1876, penalties for insufficient franking raise.  
This actually excludes partial original frankings.*

Combination of postage due stamp and Sitting Helvetia:

**4 examples recorded  
in Geneva**

Ex H. Grand

(e)



13 Feb. 1882 - Within the city, franked 5c (Zst. 45 granite paper), then redirected to Clarens, Vaud. Postage due 5 c (Zst. 4 II N) without penalty because of sufficient initial franking.



Gross postage due (< 15g)	20c
Used stamps	<u>/ 5c</u>
Remainder	15c

**Only distant letter charged due  
within the canton  
known on that period**

(e)

1st May 1881 - Mourning letter from Versoix to Croix-de-Rozon, both located in the canton of Geneva. Franking 5c (Zst. 30) for local mail. Exceptional sending of **more than 2 leagues within the canton**. Postage due 15 c (Zst. 4I and 5II).



*The Sitting Helvetia issue gives way to Cross and Numeral in 1882-1883.*



25 July 1882 - Local letter from the train station (GENEVE PV) franked with the new Numeral issue **white paper** (Zst. 54). Cancellation GENEVE / SUC.[URSALE] GAR.[E] (rail station).



7 Jan. 1884 - To Crassier, Vaud, franked with a pair of **demonetized** Sitting Helvetia (deadline 30 Sept. 1883). Handwritten mention "**nuls**" (*null*) and postage due stamps 20c (pair of Zst. 18A).



*Penalties for partial franking are withdrawn. In Geneva, a new central post office is put in operation while subsidiaries appear.*



27.04 - 19.10.1896

15 Oct. 1896 - Within the National Exhibition enclosure. Postage due 2c (Zst. 2K).

*Local post offices operated for 6 months*



4 Jan. 1898 - Local letter not franked. Postage due stamps 10c according to current postal rate (strip of four Zst. 1 and pair of Zst. 16Da II).



## Rarities in local mail.

4 Rechnung über Porti und die Fachgebühr  
Compte pour ports et droit de case

GENEVE  
1. V. 96

Rechnung des verflossenen Monats  
compte pour le mois passé

Fachgebühr pro laufenden Monat  
Droit de case pour le mois courant

Soll. — Doit.	
F.	C.
	1 50
Total...	1 50

Obigen Betrag empfangen:  
Reçu le montant ci-dessus:

Unterschrift: Signature:

GENEVE  
2 V. 96 - 2  
RUE DU RHÔNE

Nº 3202. G. S. VIII 95. 50,000.

1<sup>st</sup> May 1896 - Scarce formular Nr. 3202 for monthly endorsement of P.O. box at the RUE DU RHÔNE office.



28 Dec. 1900 - Local letter franked with an **inverted** UPU Jubilee stamp of 5c (Zst. 77B 1.07).

**Only 2 examples recorded in Geneva**

(e)





Federal Post rules grant franking privilege for mail from State services (Canton of Geneva), Federal administration including Post offices, Church affairs and some charity organizations.



TOMBÉ À LA BOÎTE

(AW 25 / 3224)

30.11.1860 - 09.07.1867

"Put straight into the mailbox"

3 August 1866 - Notice from the State Department of Finance returned by the recipient the day after. Put straight in the mailbox maybe to avoid paying a postage. Cancellations of the same post office on both days.

Ex H. Grand



3 Jan. 1864 - Letter from the Public Prosecutor of the Canton of Geneva to the president of Police district Court in Nyon, canton of Vaud. Handstamp "Aff. Off." and duty seal to let the mail eligible for franking privilege.



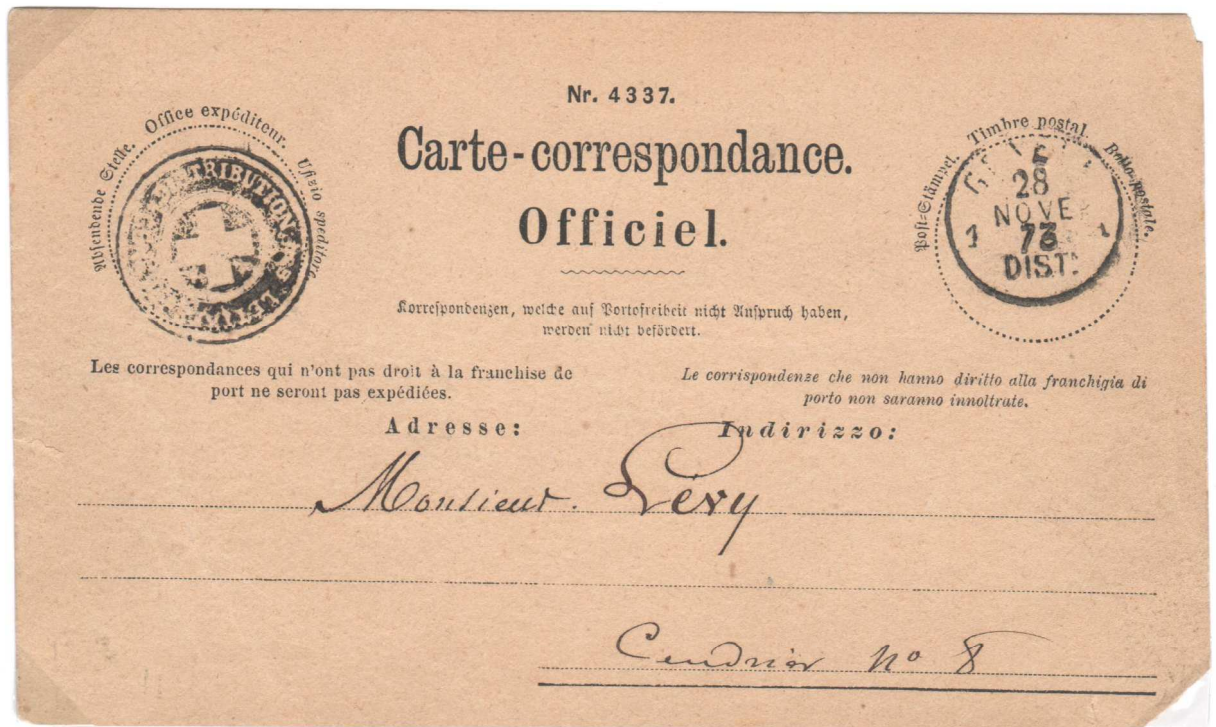
The Genevan postal administration uses its own postmarks for official needs. All of them are particularly scarce.



(AW 72D / G12)

Only example  
recorded

Ex Grand, ex Vuille



28 Nov. 1873 - Official postal card from the main post office in Geneva for the follow-up of a claim. **Negative cancellation** DISTRIBUTION DES LETTRES / GENEVE.



INCONNU A L'APPEL

(in red)

12.08.1873 -  
28.01.1875



(overleaf)

"Postmen counter"

12.08.1873 -  
08.10.1878

9 August 1873 - Letter from the Direct taxes office to Plainpalais, canton. Handstamp "affaire officielle" at the top left. Handwritten diagonal blue line to confirm that mail could not be delivered.





DES

GENÈVE



Mme. Projoix  
B<sup>e</sup> James Fazy  
Genève

M

M  
Vous êtes convoquée en assemblée mensuelle  
pour le mercredi 6 Décembre à 2 1/2 heures du soir  
au local. ~~ou~~ à 8 heures du soir  
et 4 1/2 s s

4 absences

La Secrétaire.

Veuillez porter cette carte pour le contrôle de présence.

Impr. J. Ziegler, quai du Seujet 23, Geneve.

Thomas A. V. C.

30 Nov. 1893 - Notification from the Samaritan Society of Geneva to a member. Overleaf the reason: support the cause of **indigent wounded persons**. Handstamp of the society and OFFICIEL to qualify to franking privilege.

Monsieur Morog,



Rue Cabaran 3,

L'œuvre

**Administration**  
**du JOURNAL OFFICIEL**

*Affaire concernant  
l'Exposition nationale,*

Le Comité central.

6 Aug. 1896 - Within the city, from the administration of the Official Journal. Franking privilege was anyway granted for the National Exhibition affairs.



Official pre-printed cards or envelopes can be sent free of charge if their contents comply with postal provisions.

Genève  
(RUE du STAND)

12.03.1902 -  
03.02.1908

Normally dedicated  
to parcel post

9 June 1905 - Official postal card within the city. Overleaf, the post office "Rue du Stand" asks a trader to bank its last month C.o.D.'s.

**Postkarte**  
Carte postale — Cartolina postale  
**officielle.**

Korrespondenzen, welche auf Portofreiheit nicht Anspruch haben, werden nicht befördert.  
Les correspondances qui n'ont pas droit à la franchise de port ne sont pas expédiées.  
Le corrispondenze che non hanno diritto alla franchigia di porto non sono inoltrate.

Adresse: *Messieurs Chermouad & Rejon* Indirizzo:

R & S — VIII 04 — 500,000 N° 4337.

Double du commandement de payer.  
A retourner en franchise de port.

**A l'office des poursuites**  
à  
**GENÈVE**  
Palais de Justice N° 47.

LUZERN  
31.VIII.1.-12  
P.F. DISTR.

GENÈVE  
28.VIII.1.-7  
FACTEURS

28 August 1901 - Copy of legal summons from a creditor in Lucerne. After being signed, the document has to be returned to the legal proceedings office (*A retourner en franchise de port*). Blue line for franking privilege.



*From 1<sup>st</sup> October 1862 to 31 July 1863 imperforate stamps can still be used with the new perforate Sitting Helvetia. All mixed frankings are scarce documents and a few combinations are great rarities. (See also 1.4 page 37).*

**Rarest combination  
in Switzerland**

**Only example recorded**

Ex H. Stone

(e)



30 March 1863 - To Milan, Italy, with a **mixed franking 30c** (Zst. 23G & 32) at the rate of 01.07.1862 / 10g. The 10c stamp was sold out since end of 1862 while its perforated equivalent was available at the counter since October.



**Only 5 mixed frankings  
recorded from Switzerland  
to France**

(e)

8 Jan. 1863 - To Lyon with a **mixed franking 40c** (Zst. 25G & twice 31) at the rate of 15.08.1859 / 7½g.



*Mixed frankings appear in very little number from April 1863, nearing the end of validity of imperforates.*



**One of the 10 mixed frankings recorded from Switzerland to UK**

Ex H. Stone

(e)

28 May 1863 - To London with a **mixed franking 60c** (Zst. 26G and 32) at the rate of 15.08.1859 via France / 7½ g. French entry postmark **3 SUISSE 3 / BELLEGARDE** and **LONDON W. / PAID** to acknowledge full postage.

**One of the 4 recorded Swiss mixed frankings with demonetized stamps**

Ex H. Stone

(e)



4 Aug. 1863 - To Frankfurt with a **mixed franking 50c** (Zst. 26G & 30) at the rate of 15.10.1852 / 15g. Imperforated stamps are **demonetized** since 1<sup>st</sup> August and a postage due of 4 decimes was handwritten (firstly **3** which was struck). Mention "**nul**" on the stamp.



*A few attempts of franking with **demonetized stamps** can be observed until the end of 1863. Most covers are charged due.*



24 Nov. 1863 - To Paris franked 40c with a **demonetized imperforate** (Zst. 26G). Despite the absence of the PD mark, no postage due was calculated.



7 Oct. 1863 - To Belley, franked 40c with two **demonetized imperforate Sitting Helvetias** (Zst. 25G). The exchange office put the handstamp 4 decimes for postage due and cancelled the stamps with the handwritten mention "**nul**".



*Destination Haute-Savoie (Upper Savoy), neighbour French department of which main part is no longer in Border zone.*



7 March 1866 - **Seven-time** postage letter to Annecy franked Fr. 2.10 i.e. 7 x 30c (new rate of 01.10.1865). Four-coloured franking with stamps of 1Fr., 60c, 30c, 20c (Zst. 36, 35, 33, 32).

*Betrix is a financial institution which receives bills of exchange to be discounted*

(e)

5 July 1863 - To Chamonix, Haute-Savoie, franked 40c with **8 stamps of 5c** (Zst. 30) at the rate of 15.08.1859. French entry **SUISSE / BONNEVILLE** of the same day.

(e)





Until the end of 1870 two different ways to **Italy** are possible:  
maritime via France (PD) or direct through the Alps (PP).



2 Nov. 1866 - To Rome, Papal States, stipulated "**franco via Marseille**", France, franked Fr. 1.40 (Zst. 34 and 36) 2 x 70c for double weight maritime route, according to the rate of 1865. Railway postmark SUISSE AMB. MARSEILLE and, at the back, LYON / 3 NOV. and ROMA / 7 NOV.

(e)

18 Nov. 1867 - To Rome, from the same sender, stipulated "**par le Mont Cenis**", then Turin and Florence, franked 35c (Zst. 30, 31, 32) until the border of Papal States, according to the rate of 1862. Handstamp PP (Partial Payment) and handwritten postage due 20 centesimi for the last section not covered by a postal agreement with Switzerland.

Ex H. Stone





1867 marks new issues for the 10c and 30c stamps of which colours swap. Other stamp colours move later.



1862 issue

1867 issue

**Rarest combination of the Sitting Helvetia period (1862-1882):**

**Only 2 examples recorded in Switzerland**

Ex H. Stone

(e)



22 May 1867 - To Frankfurt, Germany, franked with two values of same color from successive issues: **30c** (Zst. 41) and **10c** (Zst. 31) twice to total up 50c.



11 Sept. 1867 - Double weight Letter to Annecy, France, franked 60c with **2 blue shade** stamps of 30c (Zst. 41b).

Blue shade stamps (instead of **ultramarine**) are noted in Geneva from 06.1867 to 05.1868

**Only 2 covers recorded with two blue shade stamps**

(e)



*The head of Postal Zone I in Geneva experiments a PD combined cancellation.  
It also tries out a post office settled within a hotel as a unique case in Switzerland.*



**First Day of Handle PD postmarks recorded**

**Only 25 documents recorded (1871 to 1875) of which 4 letters**

(e)

4 April 1871 - To Lyon, franked 30c (Zst. 41), cancelled with a "handle PD".  
These were reserved for printed matter sent abroad.

#### HOTEL NATIONAL

(AW 144A / Güller 2444)

31.10.1875 - 15.09.1884

**Only 25 covers recorded on the 9 years of use**

**First day recorded**

Ex H. Grand



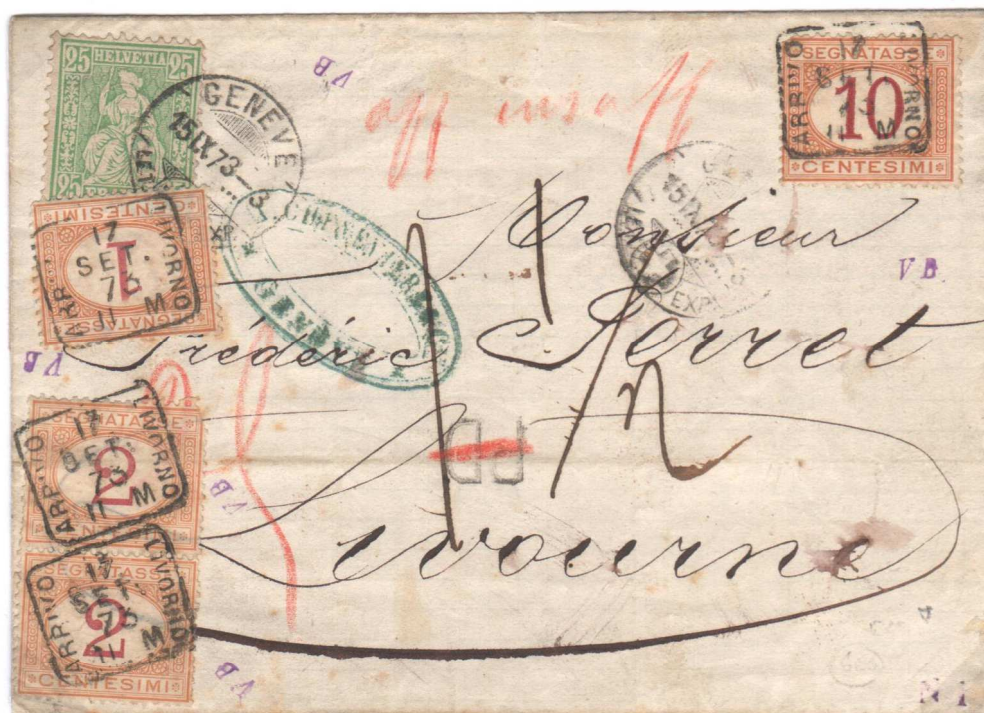
Cf. article from J. Voruz in  
Documents Philateliques No. 211  
© Academie de Philatelie.

31 Oct. 1875 - Letter from the Hotel National to Dijon, France, franked 30c (Zst. 30 et 40). Postmarks of railway post N° "1 a" (Geneva to Culoz) and **SUISSE AMB. M.CENIS** (Culoz to Macon).



Postage due for insufficient franking: Rate for not franked mail 50c ./ used stamps = difference paid by addressee.

10 April 1869 - Within the city, franked 5c (Zst. 30), then redirected to Paris and put straight into the mobile mailbox (*Boîte*) at the rail station. Postage due 50c for unfranked mail less used stamps 5c rounded to 5 (decimes). Given to the counter the letter would have been charged due 25c only (30c ./ 5c). Railway postmark GENEVE-CULOZ exceptionally well printed and French railway exchange office stamp **SUISSE / BELLEGARDE**.



15 Sept. 1873 - To Livourne, Tuscany, franked 25c (Zst. 40) instead of 30c according to the rate of 1869. Italian postage due stamps were used to collect the remainder (Sass. 3, 4, 6).

Calculation:  
 Gross postage due 40c  
 Partial franking ./ 25c  
 Remainder 15c

(e)



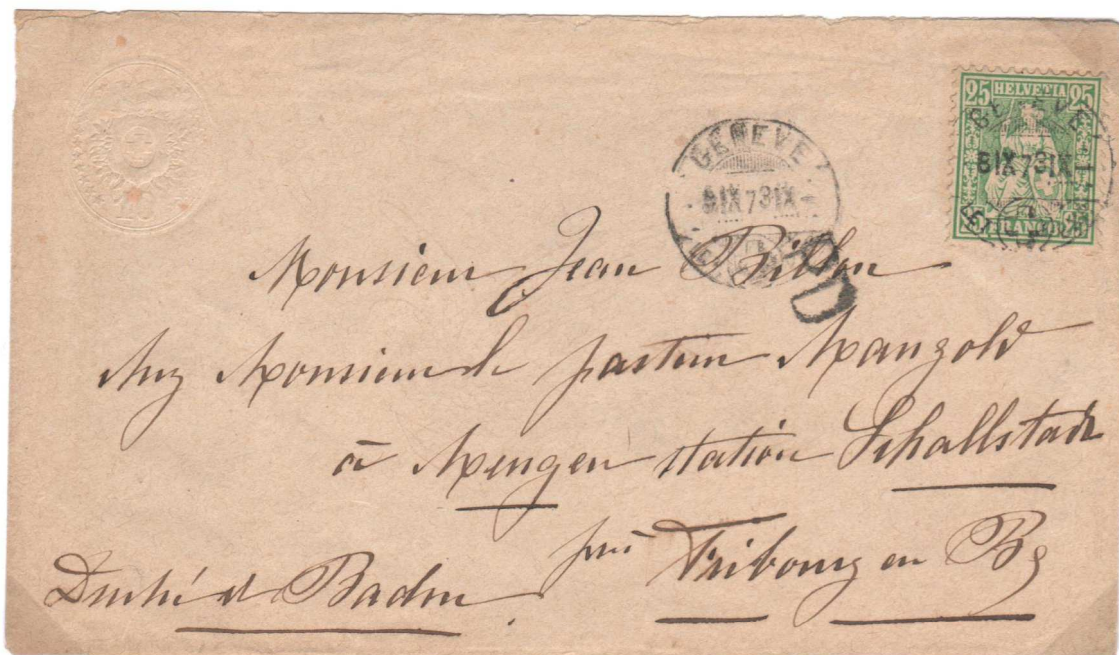
*Use of foreign stamps or postal stationery with printing defects may lead to final excessive sending costs.*

**10 attempts of French franking  
recorded before UPU (from 1854)**

**Only 2 covers of which French  
stamp bears a Swiss cancellation**



9 Sept. 1875 - To Belley, France, franked 30c with a **French stamp** (YT 56). After having been acknowledged at the counter, the exchange office refused it and marked full postage due **5 decimes**. Then according to the French postal circular of September 1872, **the used stamp was deducted** so that the recipient paid only 2 decimes.



**Exceptional used  
Albino imprint  
without regard  
to the value**

Ex H. Stone

8 Sept. 1873 - To Freiburg, Germany, franked with a 25c stamp (Zst. 40). No attempt to use the **albino** 10c imprinted stamp (Zst. U13 II).



USA + Switzerland + France  
France + Switzerland + France



15 Sept. 1868 - Letter from Niagara Falls, U.S.A. direct to Geneva, then redirected to St-Gervais, France. Successive frankings U.S.A. 15cents (Scott 77) and Swiss 60c (Zst. 35) at double weight rate. Very pale cancellation NIAGARA FALLS / N.Y. from 31 Aug.

Ex Grand, ex Wyler

(e)

9 March 1865 - Letter from Lyon, France direct to Geneva, then redirected to Paris. Successive frankings: French 40c (YT 23) and Swiss 40c (Zst. 34) at simple rate. Mark LYON of 8 March, French rhombus with large figures and Genevan postmark TOMBÉ À LA BOÎTE justifying the additional franking.

(e)





France + Switzerland

Switzerland + Italy

11 Aug. 1873 - Letter from Nice, France direct to Geneva, then redirected to Gryon sur Bex, canton of Vaud. Successive frankings: **French** 30c (2 x YT 23) and **Swiss** 10c (Zst. 38) without penalty. Postmark NICE of 9 August, French rhombus of railway post ML (Marseille-Lyon) and Genevan postmark.

(e)



1 May 1871 - Stationery envelope (Zst. U11) direct to Rome, Italy, then redirected to Manziana. **Italian additional adhesive franking** 20 centesimi (Sass. L26). Both frankings correct for their respective postal routes as for separate sendings. The forwarder may have put the envelope straight in the mailbox.

Ex Vogel



## Switzerland + France + Great-Britain



10 May 1874 - Letter from Messageries Nationales, Geneva office, direct to Amphion close to Evian, France, correctly franked 30c (Zst. 41) for a weight < 10g, then redirected to Paris. From Paris, redirected again to London with an additional franking of 30c (pair YT 59). Postage from Switzerland to Great-Britain via French way: 50c for each part of 7½g. For a weight likely between 7½ and 10g, Great-Britain charged due the difference between double postage and the used stamps, i.e. 2d.

## Successive cancellations:

- 10 May GENÈVE / LET. + EXP.
- 11 May EVIAN-LES-BAINS
- 12 May MONT-CENIS A MÂCON
- 12 May LYON A PARIS
- 13 May PARIS / ETRANGER
- 13 May 1 PARIS 1
- 13 May PARIS / R. MONTAIGNE
- 14 May LONDON

(e)





Standard rate for letters < 15g : 25c. Postage due: 50c ./ used stamps.  
Unknown recipient: flat rate 20c



10 June 1876 - To Dover, UK. Successful attempt to use **albino 10c imprinted stamp** (Zst. U13 II) which was valid for postage. **Circled in blue** to ensure the value be noticed. Additional franking to reach 25c (Zst 38 and 30).

**Exceptional used Albino value**

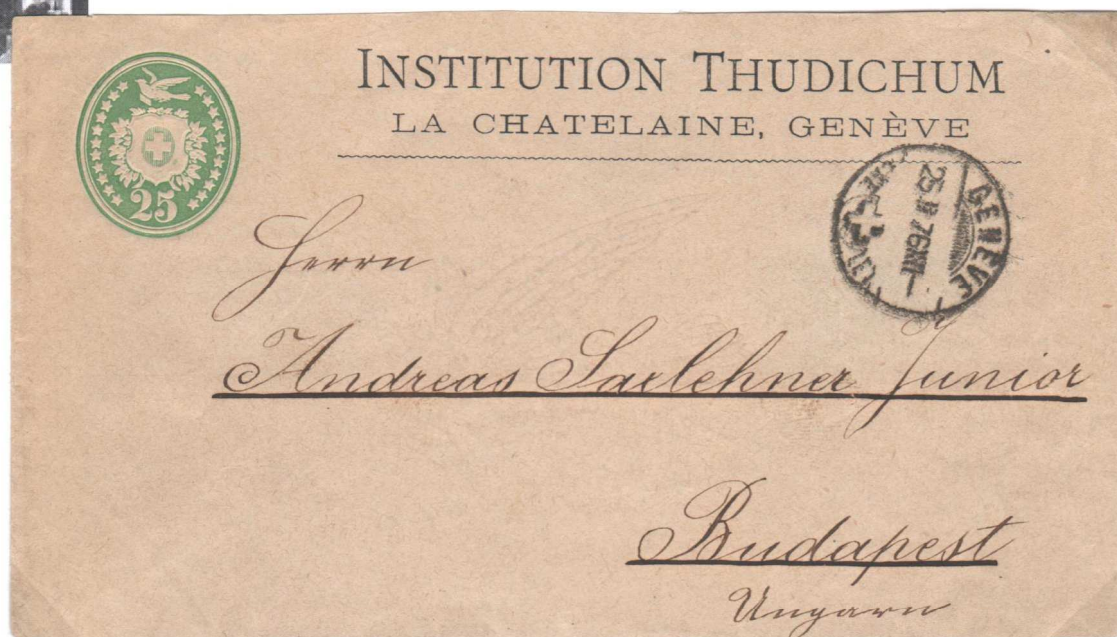
Ex Schäfer (e)



Thudichum Boarding School (1876-1919) before hosting an hotel and since 1946 the headquarters of the ICRC.

25 Feb. 1876 - Stationery envelope (Zst. U18) to Budapest, Hungary, with **imprint of the Thudichum Boarding School**. Standard UPU franking 25c and overleaf postmark BUDAPEST / 76 FEB.27.

*Only example known so far*





*New calculations of postage dues since the advent of UPU.*



(Noël 1164)  
1876 - 25.01.1880

27 March 1877 - To Crest, France, franked 25c with a **French stamp** (YT 78). Not acknowledged at the counter and cancelled by the exchange office with the French entry postmark **SUISE / LYON**. Then according to the French rate from 01.01.1876 to 31.03.1879, postage due = 60c / 15g minus the value of any stamp affixed so that the recipient had only 35 c to pay.



14 Aug. 1879 - To Magland, Hte-Savoie, franked 20c. Destination beyond border zone, thus **05** c missing, written in blue. **20** c handwritten in red and Swiss postage due stamp of **20c** (Zst. 6 II K) according to Swiss postal provision from 1876: *When the recipient is unknown, the sender pays the postage due for domestic unfranked letters regardless of initial franking.*

At the back handwritten mention "*Décachetée par conformité de nom*" (break opened resulting of name conformity); wax seal MAGLAND / POSTES with crossed string.

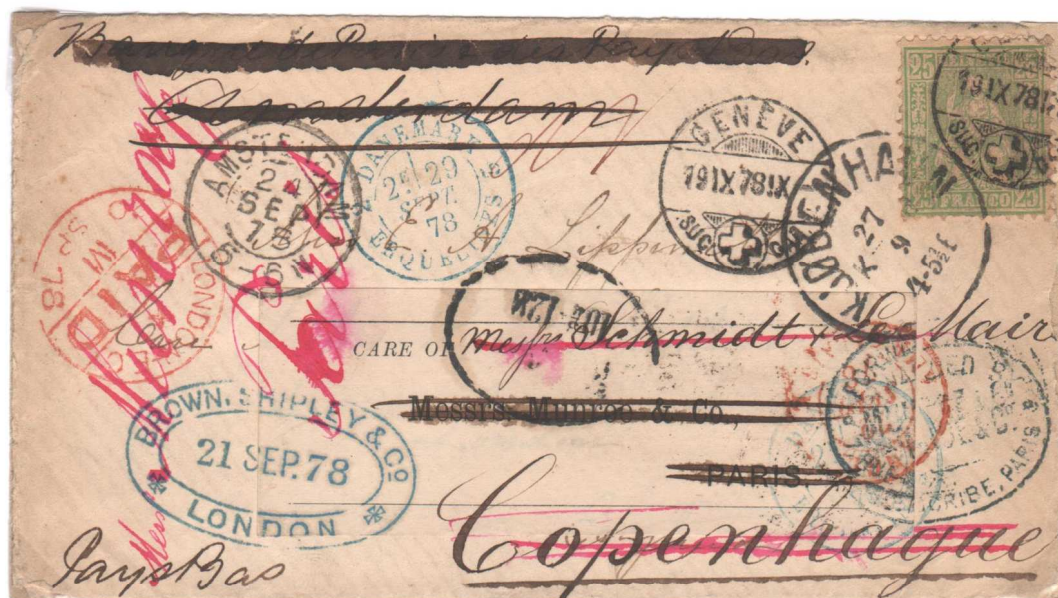
**Only 2 tied up Swiss letters recorded**

Ex Winterstein

(e)



*As from UPU, the place of France among postal destinations from Geneva becomes less dominating.*



#### Successive frankings:

- 19 sept. GENÈVE / SUC. + GAR.
- 19 sept. GENÈVE / EXP. + LET. (back)
- 20 sept. LONDON EC / PAID
- 21 sept. BROWN, SHIPLEY & Co (forward.)
- 21 sept. LONDON EC / A (back)
- 23 sept. PARIS / PL. DE LA MADELEINE
- 23 sept. MUNROE & Co (forwarding agent)
- 24 sept. AMSTERDAM / 5-6
- 24 sept. AMSTERDAM / 12 - IN (back)
- 27 sept. KJØBENHAVN
- 28 sept. 10 - 12Ø (Danish oval)
- 29 sept. 2 DANEMARK 2 / ERQUELINNES  
(French entry postmark)

19 Sept. 1878 - Letter franked 25c (Zst. 40) to London, then redirected to Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and back to Paris.

Ex Schäfer

(e)

30 Nov. 1882 - To Nantua, France, franked 25c (Zst 60A and 66A) as for single weight (less than 15g). The weight check disclosed 15.20 (g) as handwritten at the upper left. Postage due was calculated as follow:

Gross postage due for double weight 2 x 50100c	
Partial franking	/.. 25c
Remainder	75c

The French post used **CHIFFRE-TAXE** stamps (YT 9 and 16) of which the **square blue one of 60c** especially uncommon. Mention **à rendre** (to send back) and Swiss postage due of **20 c** according to the provision of 1876 (see previous page).

(e)





Same standard rate for letters. Postage due: twice the difference.

**ANNULÉ**

(AW 25 / 795)

21.09.1878 - 18.12.1884

Last date recorded

18 Dec. 1884 - Letter from Dunières, France direct to Paris, correctly franked 15c (YT 90), then redirected to Geneva. Postage due 10c (Zst. 18B K II) **without penalty** because of correct initial franking. Genevan handstamp INCONNU A L'APPEL (unknown addressee), thus due stamp cancelled in red. At the back postmark PARIS REBUTS of 22 Dec.



2 Jan. 1885 - **Six-time postage** letter from Fischbach, Germany, to Geneva, franked 40 pfennig (pair Mi 42). Postage due stamps 2 Fr. (Zst. 21A K) cancelled GENÈVE / FACTEURS. Rate for 80 (g):  $6 \times 25c = \text{Fr. } 1.50$ . Used stamps: 40 pf. = 50c. Shortage: Fr. 1.-. Postage due: twice i.e. **200** (c). **One of the biggest postage dues seen on letter in Geneva** (e)





*Around the end of the century, large hotels use their stationery as international advertising.*

4 Aug. 1903 - Double weight letter direct to Vichy, France, franked only 25c (Zst. 73E). French postage due stamp 50c (YT 37) for twice the difference of 25c, cancelled VICHY / ALLIER.



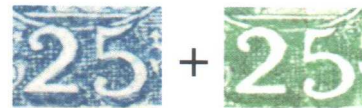
6 June 1896 - Letter to Trieste, Austria franked 26c (13 x Zst. 58B) i.e. 1c overfranked. The hotel may have experienced a 25c stamp reserve out of stock. Cancellation GENÈVE RUE DU RHÔNE (AW 142 / Gü 8336).

*Very uncommon franking with an ordinary stamp*

(e)



UPU standard postages allow though a large variety of frankings.



1899 issue

1894 issue

17 Jan. 1901 - Double weight letter direct to Florence, Italy franked 50c with a combination of **twin values** from **two successive issues** of Standing Helvetia (Zst. 67D & 73D).

**3 examples recorded over 25 years in Geneva**

(e)



1899 - 1966  
(Baer 01)

23 Nov. 1901 - Letter from the Geneva municipal utilities to Paris. Use of a **perfin stamp** (Zst. 73D) with a private perforation to ensure a professional usage.





## Redirected mail

8 April 1901 - Letter from Durban, Natal, direct to Geneva, then redirected to Paris. Correct franking 2½d (SG 113) and **no additional franking or postage due** despite the letter was put straight in the mobile railway mailbox. Linear railway postmark **Genève** (AW 39a / 974, type A3) and railway cancellation **AMBULANT / N° + 1**. (Geneva to Culoz).



15 Dec. 1900 - Letter from the newspaper "La Suisse" direct to Paris without valid franking. French stamp of 15c (YT 90) not acknowledged. Postage due 2 x 25c = **50** (c) with French "Chiffre Taxe" (YT 28, 29, 30). Handwritten mention at the back "Refusée pour taxe" (refused on account of postage due), letter sent back (office RUE DU RHÔNE) and Swiss due stamp (Zst. 20G) affixed and charged to sender.



*The end of 1907 underlines in Switzerland the beginning of a new postal era in terms of traffic and technical means.*



4 May 1907 - Letter sent by **express delivery** direct to Munich, Germany, franked 55c (Zst. 88A and 93A): 25c for regular postage + 30c for express fee. Handwritten mention **46** for the pneumatic bureau in Munich.

**Entire trilingual label** (# 2 Guignard & Vuille) employed in its correct period of use (1906-1909) and bearing the departure cancellation

(e)

8 Nov. 1907 - Double weight letter direct to Leipzig, Germany, franked 40c (Zst. 89A) **at the new rate of 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1907** i.e. 25c for the first 20 grams + 15c for the surplus. New "floweret cancellation" GENÈVE 5 / SUCC. BOURG DE FOUR.

*The use of Standing Helvetias according to the new rates of 1907 is uncommon*





Right bank of Rhône river (departments Ain & Jura):  
 Since 1850, the French border zone is enforced for distances up to **30 km** bird eye from bureau to bureau.  
 From Geneva, the radius comprises Ferney, Gex, Collonges (Fort-Ecluse), Châtillon-de-Michaille, St-Claude.

Left bank of Rhône river (department of Haute-Savoie):  
 Since 1860, postal traffic with former Sardinian Savoy is taken over by France, keeping the **35 km** applicable.  
 From Geneva, the radius comprises mainly Frangy, Annecy, Bonneville, Thonon.



© J. Voruz, 2007



9 frankings recorded in Switzerland

**Only example recorded to a foreign destination**

Ex Schäfer

(e)

19 Jan. 1863 - To St-Julien franked 20c with a combination of **twin values of successive issues**: Imperforated and Perforated Helvetias (Zst. 23G + 31).

**These two covers belong to the 5 mixed frankings recorded from Switzerland to France**

(see also pages 17-18)

10 June 1863 - Triple weight to Thonon, Hte-Savoie. **Mixed franking** 60c with imperforated and perforated Helvetias (Zst. 26G and 32).

(e)





### Single Letter Rates for Border Zone

From 1859 to 30.09.1865:	20 c up to 7½ g
01.10.1865 to 31.12.1875:	20 c up to 10 g
01.01.1876 to 30.06.1892:	20 c up to 15 g
01.07.1892 to 30.09.1907:	15 c up to 15 g
01.10.1907 to 31.01.1921:	10 c up to 20 g

22 Sept. 1865 - Triple weight letter direct to Annecy, Haute-Savoie. Franking 60c (Zst. 35) for 3 x 20. Genevan postmark **P.D.** (Paid to Destination) used only in 1865 and French entry postmark **SUISSE / ANNECY** of the following day.

**60c stamps used for triple border postage are much scarcer than any other usage**

(e)



28 June 1867 - To Thonon, Hte-Savoie, redirected to Lyon. Regular border Swiss franking 20c (Zst. 32). **Further French franking 20c (YT 29)** for the route from Thonon to Lyon (domestic rate from bureau to bureau) paid by the "forwarder". GENEVE C (Rive district office) and THONON dated 3 July.

(e)



*Insufficient franking gives rise to postage due as follows: rate for not franked mail ./ used stamps = difference paid by addressee.*



12 / 14 May 1866 - To Thonon, franked 10c instead of 20c. Mark **AFFR. INSUF.** (insufficient franking), before being crossed out on 14 May. As the letter had been put straight into the mailbox (**TOMBÉ À LA BOÎTE**: see 1.1 Domestic Official Mail), the office decided to anticipate a postage due, not to penalize the addressee. The firm **CHAPONNIÈRE** had most likely a current account with the Post office.

Calculation:

Gross postage due	30c
Partial franking	./ 10c (Zst. 31)
Remainder (14 May)	20c (Zst. 32)

(e)

Gross postage due	50c
Partial franking	./ 20c
Remainder	30c

**Exceptional use of the former black grid of Geneva to cancel the "PD"**

*Ex Vogel*



14 Nov. 1869 - From Zurich to Mornex, Hte-Savoie: Border zone to Geneva but not to Zurich (distant rate 30c). Handstamp 3 decimes from the French exchange office in Geneva.



*From Switzerland with a French stamp /  
From France with a Swiss stamp.*

*Before UPU, 10 attempts of  
French franking are recorded  
(1854 to 1875)*

*The only one for the  
Border zone*

*One of the 2 French  
frankings bearing a  
Swiss cancellation*

(e)



4 May 1868 - From Geneva to Ferney-Voltaire, Ain, franked with a **French stamp** of 20c (YT 22). After having been acknowledged at the counter, the exchange office refused it and calculated the full postage due, 30c / 3 decimes.



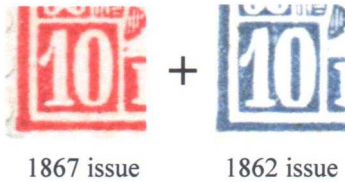
French exchange office:  
enforced full postage  
due 50 c (as Lucerne is  
out of Border zone)  
with Ficelle handstamp.

Swiss exchange office  
in Geneva: struck the  
postage due, put the PD  
mark and cancelled the  
stamp GENEVE A.

17 May 1868 - From Thonon, France, direct to Lucerne. Franked with a **Swiss stamp** of 30c (Zst. 41). The counter did not acknowledge and left the stamp blank.



1867 marks new issues for the 10c and 30c stamps of which colours change. The other stamps colours change later.



13 mixed frankings 10+10 are recorded in Switzerland of which 2 abroad

**The so-called "Rose & Bluette" cover is known as the finest and most spectacular franking of twin Sitting Helvetia values.**

Ex H. Grand

(e)



28 Oct. 1867 - To Sergy, Ain, Pays de Gex, franked with **twin values of successive issues: red 10c** (Zst. 38) and **blue 10c** (Zst. 31) to comply with the rate of 20c.



17 Feb. 1874 - To Thonon, Haute-Savoie, franked **1 Fr.** (Zst. 36c) for 5 times weight confirmed with the handwritten **5**.

(e)



Rates in Border zone are the same for incoming mail as well as postage dues.



13 June 1874 - From Bonneville, Haute-Savoie, to Geneva, correctly franked 20c with an inverted pair (tête-bêche) of Ceres (YT 58) [little rep. top of left stamp]. At the back, arrival postmark of the same day.

(e)



20 March 1871 - From Nyon, Vaud, to Essert, Hte-Savoie. French postage due mark 30c applicable to not franked border zone letters. At the back, handwritten mention "Parti sans laisser d'adresse" (moved address unknown). Sent back to Nyon via Geneva where the exchange office affixed the **form Nr. 202** intended to recover the French postage due from the sender.

(e)

9 examples recorded in Geneva (1863-1874)

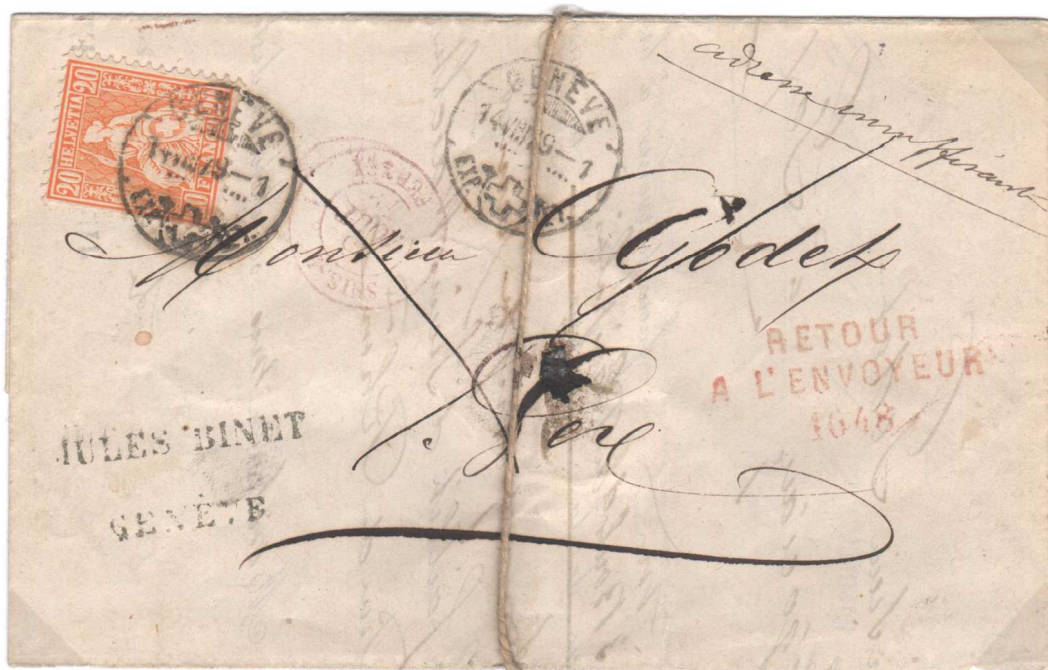


*Beside unmodified rates, the new UPU standard allows the simple postage up to 15 grams.*

14 Aug. 1879 - To Gex, Ain, franked 20c (Zst. 32). Handwritten mention "*adresse insuffisante*" (insufficient address). Opened by postmen to find the addressee; unsuccessful attempts in Ferney and Gex as handwritten on back, then **wax sealed** GEX / POSTES with **crossed string**.

**Only 2 tied up Swiss letters recorded**

*Ex Winterstein*



28 Dec. 1876 - To Bons-en-Chablais, Hte-Savoie. Franking 20c with the stationery envelope (Zst. U22) and the **re-use of a stamp not cancelled** (Zst. 38). The sender cut the cover on which the stamp was affixed.



*Granite paper issue announces the end of the Sitting Helvetia era.  
Printed matter acknowledgement makes rates dividing by four.*



16 Jan. 1882 - To Bellegarde, Ain, franked 5c **granite paper** (Zst. 45). Cancellation of the RIV(E) postal subsidiary.

*Price list eligible to printed matter rate (< 50g) although blank spaces filled out by hand*

15 March 1882 - To Bonneville, Hte-Savoie, franked 20c **granite paper** (Zst. 48). Cancellation GENÈVE / SUC. + GAR. (Succursale Gare = Rail Station Postal Subsidiary).

*Formular from the Courthouse of Commerce not eligible to printed matter rate because of blank spaces filled out by hand*





*Geneva, as Vaud, Neuchatel and Valais, tries again to use its own postmarks RL (Rayon Limitrophe = Border Radius) as in the 1850's.*



RL

10.05.1884 - 09.01.1902  
to Haute-Savoie

6 Nov. 1886 - To Bonneville, franked 20c Standing Helvetia (Zst. 66A). Cancellation of the RIVE subsidiary.

Most border mail do not bear the mark RL



GENÈVE / LET. EXP.

(Handle Postmark)

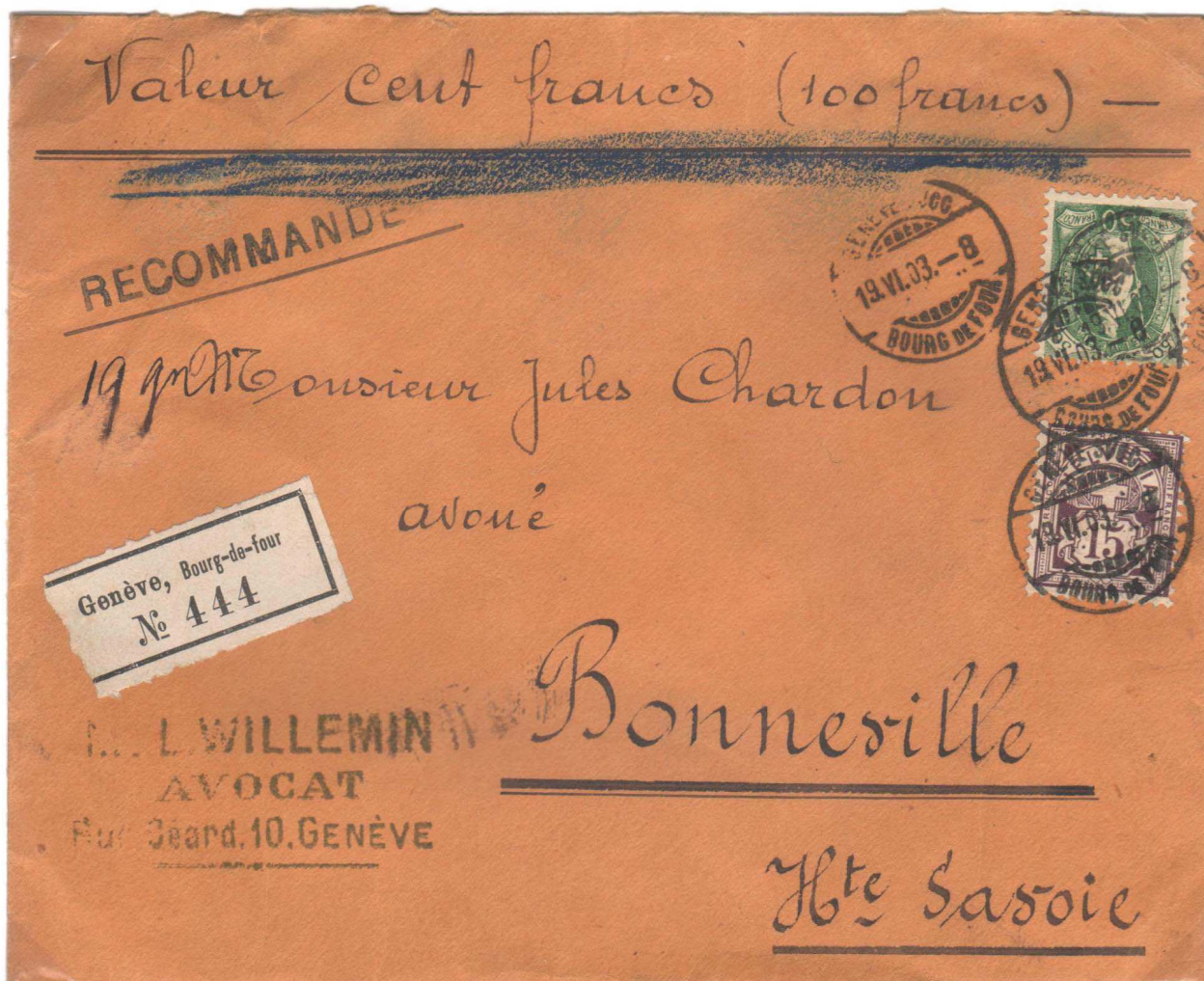
18.01.1877 - 14.02.1888

13 Oct. 1887 - To St-Genis, Ain, Pays de Gex, franked 20c (2 x Zst. 61A), cancelled with a former "handle PD postmark" of which PD was cut out as from the advent of UPU.



*As from mid-1892 border rate decreases to 15c.*

7 June 1894 - To Onex, Canton, then redirected to Sergy, Ain, France. Initially franked 5c (Zst. 60B), then additional adhesive (Zst. 61B) to comply with the 15c for Border zone. Cancellation RUE DU STAND subsidiary, then ONEX dated 7, then 8 June because of late collection. RL mark.



19 June 1903 -  
Money letter 100  
Fr. to Bonneville,  
Haute-Savoie.  
Franking:

Border rate for double weight (19 gr. handwritten)	
2 x 15c =	30c
Registration fee	
UPU flat rate	25c
Insurance fee	
10c / 300 Fr.	10c
Total	65c

*Rare example  
of Money letter  
in Border  
zone*



Since 1892, the former central post office is a subsidiary named RUE DU STAND beside 4 other subsidiaries while the new main office is located at Rue du Mont-Blanc.



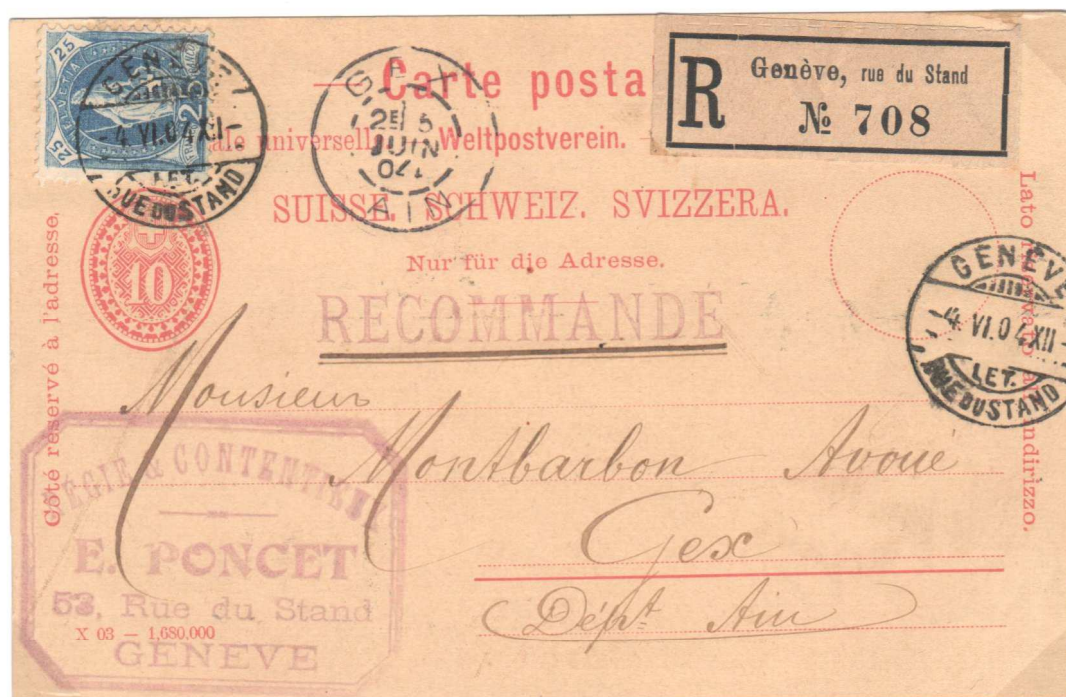
23 June 1899 - **French prefranked** letter card 15c (YT 156) from Ferney-Voltaire to Geneva where addressee was absent. At the back, handwritten mention *parti pour Paris* (left to Paris). **Swiss complementary franking** 10c (Zst. 61B) to reach the UPU postage of 25c.

4 June 1904 - Registered postal card from RUE DU STAND direct to Gex, Ain, franked 35c 10c stationery (Zst. P28) and 25c Standing Helvetia (Zst. 73E) for registration postage.

The stamp RECOMMANDÉ is private. Black postal R label in use from 1903 to 1907.

**Very uncommon registered postal card in Border zone**

(e)





*As from 1907 border rate decreases to 10c.*

17 Jan. 1907 - Summons from the Commercial court of St-Julien-en-Genevois (Haute-Savoie) to an unknown addressee in Geneva. Franking 10c Semeuse (YT 129). One of the two cancellations bears a wrong date as GENEVE should be later than ST-JULIEN. Green bilingual label for insufficient address.

Very late handstamp  
INCONNU A L'APPEL

**Last date recorded**



23 Jan. 1908 - To Gex, franked 10c (Zst. 83).

Since 11 Nov. 1907, the new issues Tell Boy and Helvetia Bust are the only stamps available.

Uncommon use of  
Cross & Numerals  
after Nov. 1907



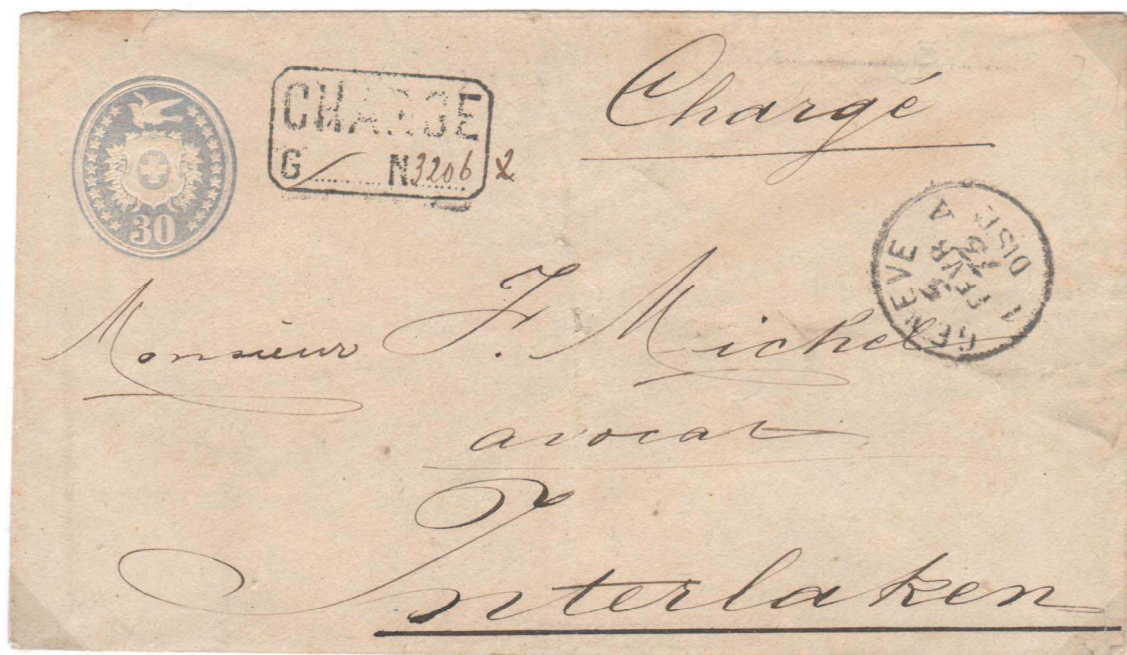
Domestic Rates for registered letters  
 01.10.1849 to 31.08.1871: x 2  
 01.09.1871 to 31.08.1876: + 10c

Registered mail from Geneva is rare until 1871 (double rate):

5 domestic sendings recorded from 1849 to 1871



26 June 1869 - To Vevey, Vaud, franked 20c (2x Zst. 38) at double letter rate according to the unified 10c rate of 01.07.1862. Rare octogonal handstamp APRÈS LE DÉPART (see page 51).



3 examples recorded in Switzerland

Ex Vogel

(e)

5 Feb. 1873 - Pre-stamped 30c envelope (Zst. U15) to Interlaken, canton of Bern. Regular use: single letter to France or Italy. Actual: registered double weight to a distant Swiss destination. Double distant rate 20c + registration fee 10c = 30c



Domestic Rates for registered letters  
01.09.1876 to 31.10.1884: + 20c

N<sup>o</sup> 1963

Frankomarkte.	Franco-Bollo.	Postage Stamp.	
---------------	---------------	----------------	--

**Empfangschein    Récépissé    Ricevuta    Receipt**

für                    pour                    per                    for a

einen rekommandirten    une lettre    una lettera    registered letter

Brief    recommandée    raccomandata    addressed

nach    à destination de    per    to

*Comptoir d'Escompte*

zurück    à renvoyer    da ritornarsi    to be returned

nach    à    a    to

b) .....

a) Bestimmungsort des Briefes.  
Destination de la lettre.  
Destinazione della lettera.  
Destination of the letter.

b) Aufgabeort des Briefes.  
Lieu d'origine de la lettre.  
Luogo d'origine della lettera.  
Place of origin of the letter.

Sch. S. XI. 71. 10,900.

Nr. 210.

**Return**

registered letter receipt

The undersigned receiver

*Mrs. Schupf*

certifies that a registered letter  
addressed to him, mailed at

18

has been to day remitted to  
him by the post office.

Zu Rückst.  
Le destinataire:  
Il destinataire:  
The receiver:

*Procurator*

Nr. 210.

17 July 1882 - Receipt  
for a registered letter ad-  
dressed to *Comptoir  
d'Escompte* (trade dis-  
count bank) in Zurich.  
Flat fee 20c (Zst. 48 *gra-  
nite paper*).

**From 1866 to 1882  
only 5 receipts re-  
corded in Geneva**

Overleaf  
(excerpt)

(e)

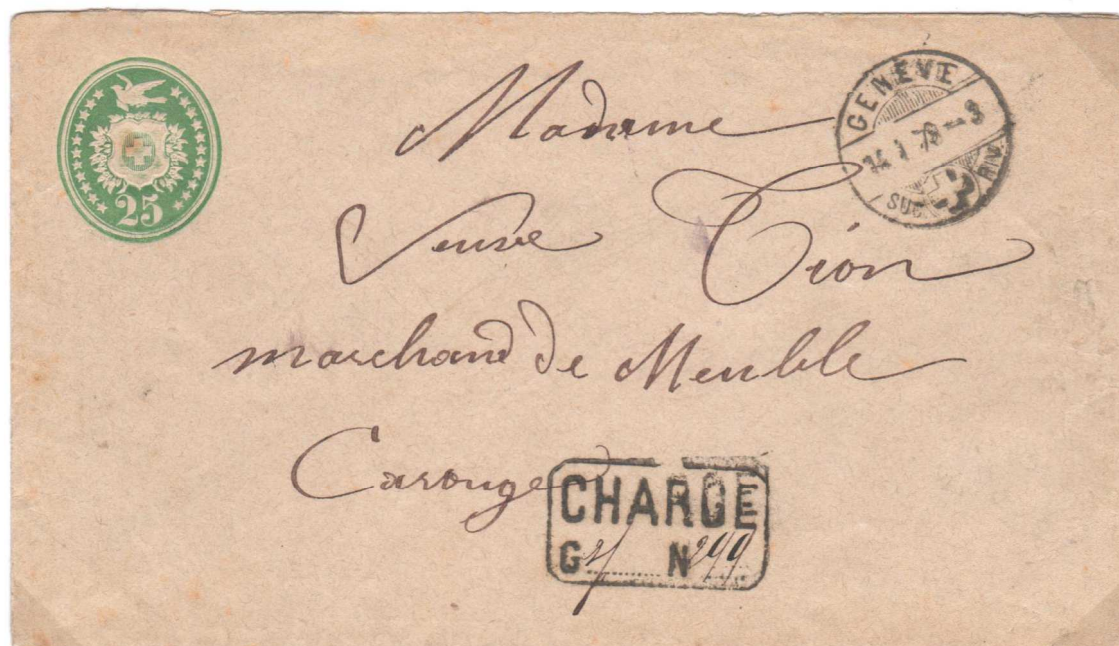
14 Jan. 1878 - Pre-stamped  
25c envelope (Zst. U18) to  
Carouge, within the canton.

Regular use: single letter to  
most UPU countries.

Actual use: registered letter  
to a local Swiss destination.

Local single rate:	5c
Registration fee:	20c
Total:	25c

**Few examples noticed in  
Switzerland**







(after mail collection)

(AW 24 / 792)

22.05.1864 - 15.08.1879

15 Aug. 1879 - To Clarens,  
canton Vaud.

Single distant rate: 10c

Registration fee: 20c

Total: 30c

Pre-stamped envelope (Zst.  
U27) and additional fran-  
king (Zst. 32).

Rare octagonal handstamp  
**APRÈS LE DÉPART**



22 May 1882 - Letter  
to Basle with a mixed  
franking 30c combi-  
ning **Sitting Helvetia**  
and **Numeral** issues  
(Zst. 48 **granite pa-**  
**per** + 61A).


Mixed franking pos-  
sible from April 1882  
to Sept. 1883

**Only 9 mixed**  
**frankings recor-**  
**ded in Geneva**

(e)



Domestic Rates for registered letters  
01.11.1884 to 31.12.1917: + 10c



**RÉCÉPISSÉ**

\*) Affranchissement ces..... *18*  
Récépissé "..... *05*


pour un *Chargé* avec valeur déclarée de fr. *[redacted]*  
avec remboursement de fr. *[redacted]*

consigné par *M<sup>r</sup> E. Moroy*  
à l'adresse de *E. Roussillon Genève*

Signature de l'agent postal: *[signature]*

La place non occupée par des chiffres dans la hachure doit être remplie par de fortes barres (=====).  
S'il n'y a pas de valeur, soit de remboursement à indiquer, les barres doivent être tirées à travers toute la hachure.  
\*) Si l'envoi n'est pas affranchi, on tire une barre après ces (Affranchissement ces=====).

St. B. — XII. 95. — 200,000.



N° 3150.

15 Oct. 1896 - Re-  
ceipt for a *Chargé*  
(registered) addres-  
sed within the city.

Local postage 5c  
Registration fee 10c  
Receipt flat fee 5c  
Total 20c

Temporary post-  
mark **VILLAGE**  
**SUISSE** of the Na-  
tional Exhibition:  
27.04 - 19.10.1896

*Chargé* *audob*







Monsieur Henri Reymann  
Maître charpentier  
22, Chemin des Volandes  
Eaux-vives





*D 2089.*

10 April 1895 - To Eaux-  
Vives within the canton,  
franked 15c (Zst. 60B  
and 61B) i.e. local pos-  
tage 5c + registration  
10c. Labels **R** (Guignard  
& Vuille Nr. 1 a) and  
"Parti" (Nr. 11): Moved  
away.



Registered letter rates for France  
 01.10.1849 to 30.09.1865: x 2  
 01.10.1865 to 31.12.1875: + 40c



19 Aug. 1863 - Double weight letter (9 grams) direct to Bagnols-sur-Cèze franked 1.60 Fr. (Zst. 35 and 36), i.e. 40c x 2 x 2.

## CHARGÉ

(AW 19A / 647)

28.03.1863 - 13.08.1864

**4 examples recorded**

Postage from Ferney-Voltaire  
 (border French post office)  
 would have costed **only 60c**:  
 40c (2 x weight) + 20c (fee)

**8 letters to foreign  
 destinations recorded  
 from 1849 to 1865**

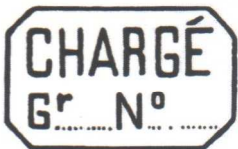
(e)

## P. D

(AW 13A / 3438)

10.04.1862 - 03.08.1875

Used only at the  
 registration counter



(AW 19B1 / 718)

Angular corners  
 Letters: É, G, N°

**Exceptional handstamp  
 never reported  
 in Geneva**

**Scarce single franking  
 1 Fr.**



(e)

17 Feb. 1866 - Double weight letter (16.8 g) direct to Avignon franked 1 Fr. (Zst. 36a) i.e. 2 x 30c + 40c.



*France offers the only means to send registered mail to UK.*



REGISTERED / LONDON  
(UK acknowledgement)

3 SUISSE 3 / BELLEGARDE  
(French entry)

FRANCE / REGISTERED  
(UK entry)

GENEVE / 1 A / DIST<sup>N</sup>  
(Swiss consignment)

18 April 1866 - To Liverpool via France, franked with 42 stamps of 1 Fr. (Zst. 36a gold bronze, reddish shade): 1 block of 10, 1 block of 9, 1 block of 4, 1 strip of 5, 1 strip of 4, 1 pair and 8 lone examples.  
Among the three possible routes in 1866 - Germany, Belgium, France - the latter (via Bellegarde) is the only way for which registered mail is allowed. Postage calculation for a weight of 359.6g : 48 fractions of 7.5g at each 50c, doubled for registration = 48 Fr. Probable 6 Fr. additional franking on the back, never mentioned by the successive owners of the piece.

*The so-called "Liverpool Cover" is known as being the **most important and spectacular postage of Swiss classic philately*** (e)  
*Ex Buttas, ex Grand*



## Registered letter rates UPU

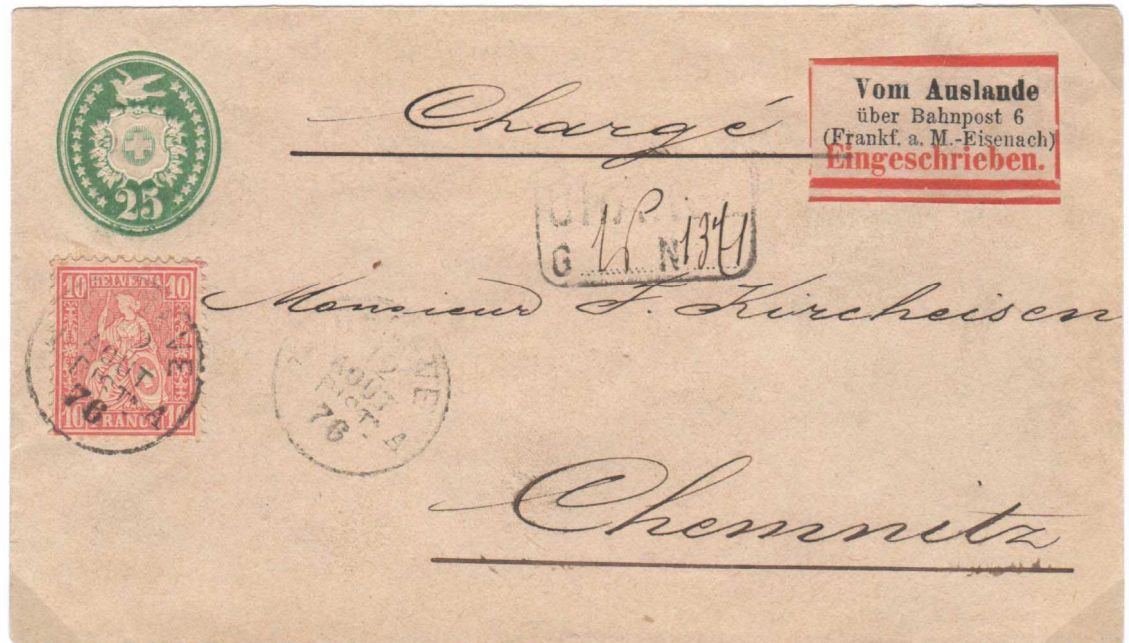
01.07.1875 to 31.08.1876: + 10c

01.09.1876 to 31.03.1879: + 20c

01.04.1879 to 31.01.1921: + 25c

12 Aug. 1876 - Standard UPU pre-paid envelope to Chemnitz, Germany, 25c (Tübli Zst. U18). Additional franking 10c (Zst. 38) for registration fee. German label "**Eingeschrieben**" (Registered) from the railway post Frankfurt-Eisenach.

Duration of the 10c rate:  
14 months



13 Oct. 1876 - To Oxford, Great-Britain (Zst. U23). Additional franking 20c (Zst. 32) according to the new rate of 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1876.

Same cancellation GENEVE with the year at the 3<sup>rd</sup> line instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> one (see above)



1881-82: Last issue of the Sitting Helvetia / Advent of the Standing Helvetia.



**Sole  
combination  
50 + 50  
recorded in  
Switzerland**

(e)

30 June 1882 - Triple weight to Paris franked 1 Fr. with a combination of **twin values of two successive issues**, Sitting and Standing Helvetias (Zst. 43 + 70A).



19 March 1881 - To Darmstadt, Germany, pre-stamped 25c (Zst. U18) with an additional franking of 25c (Zst. 40), **same color, same value.**

Ex H. Grand



*Geneva uses successive postal marks to ensure identification of registered mail.*



**R**

(AW 8 / 1)

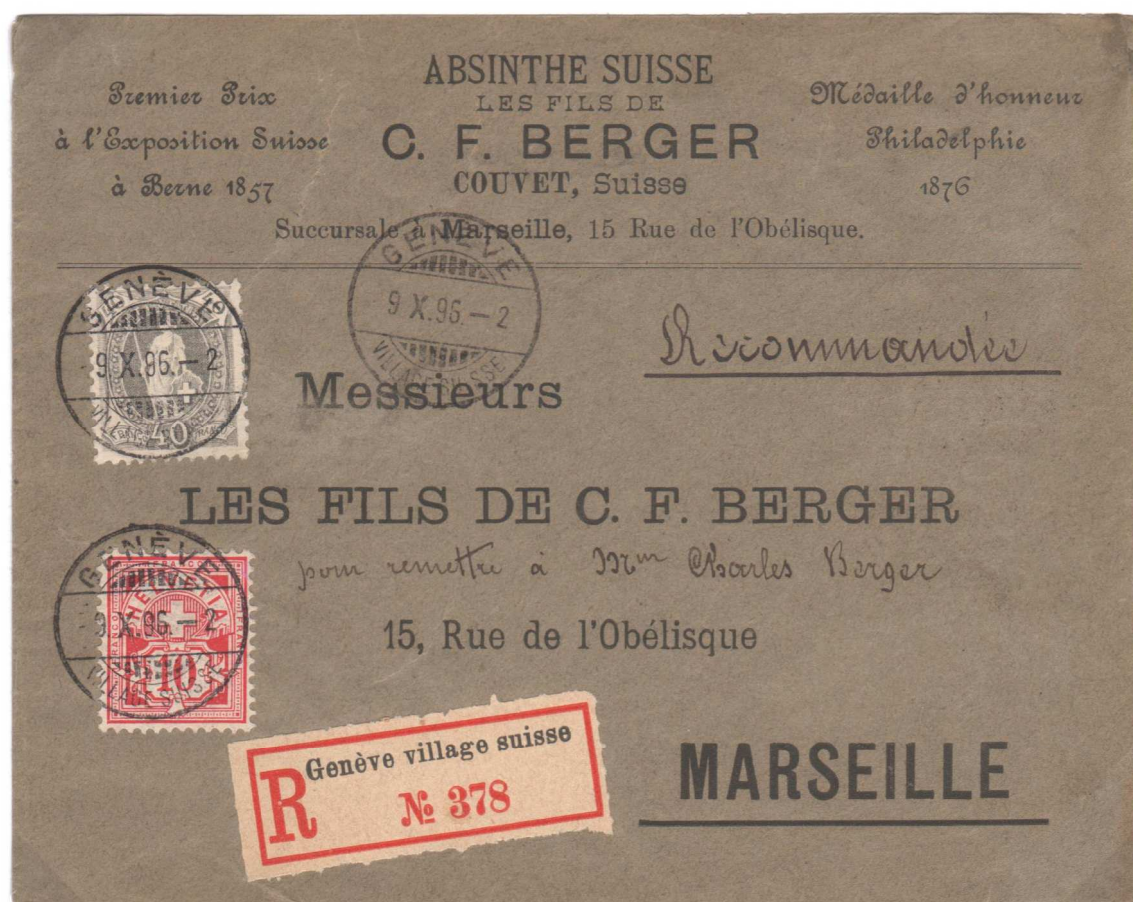
07.09.1883 - 02.03.1891

7 Sept. 1883 - Pre-printed envelope single weight to the address of the private forwarder *Munroe & Co.* in Paris, franked 25 + 25c (Zst. 60A and 67A). **First day recorded of the R mark in Geneva.**

**R** Genève village suisse  
(G&V I)  
09 - 17.10.1896

9 Oct. 1896 - To Marseille from a wormwood producer most likely exhibitor at the *Swiss National Fair* of 1896 in Geneva. Franked 50c (Zst. 69D & 61B). Extremely scarce **registration label** from the temporary post office of "village suisse".

**One of the sole examples known**





Multiple weight sendings.

2 May 1900 - To Sal-  
lanches, Haute-Savoie,  
France, triple weight.

3 x 25	75c
Fee	25c
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.00</b>

(Zst. 71D).

**Rare lone 1 Fr.  
franking**

(e)



**R** Genève  
(G&V 1)

30.06.1893 - 10.07.1901

25 July 1900 - Double  
weight to Abbeville,  
France, franked 75c  
(Zst. 3 x 79A). Private  
handstamp RECOM-  
MANDÉ and regulatory  
postal label **R** of the  
central office.



Registered mail apart from letters is much more uncommon.



16 March 1906 - **Wrapper** direct to Darmstadt, Germany, prepaid 5c (Zst. S20). Additional franking 30c (Zst. 68E). Postage for **photographic prints at printed matter rate**: 10c for a weight up to 100 g + registration fee 25c.

(e)

5 Dec. 1903 - Local letter correctly franked 15c (Zst. 64B), then redirected to Annecy, France. French **postage due** 35c without penalty, then sent back to Geneva (*Retour à l'envoyeur*). Same Swiss postage due **without penalty** dated 8 Dec.



(e)



Public services from Switzerland, France and the major part of Germany may exchange mail with franking privileges according to the agreement of 1857.



29 Nov. 1871 - Envelope of the Swiss postal administration to St-Chamond post office, France. Form Nr. 250 intended for money orders transmission. Boxed **S.S.P.** imprinted on the form.

*One of the 5 recorded  
S.S.P. covers from  
Geneva to France  
(1858-1876)*

30 Nov. 1865 - Official letter from the Genevan Police Administration direct to the president of the Darmstadt Courthouse, Grand Duchy of Hesse, Germany. Postmark **S.S.P.** to mark the franking privilege. As the addressee is not a civil servant, a postage due for the German domestic part was charged.

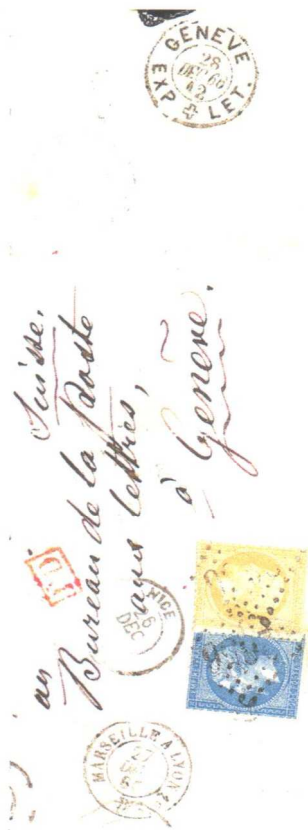
*Only example recorded  
from Geneva  
to Germany*

Ex H. Grand, ex Vuille



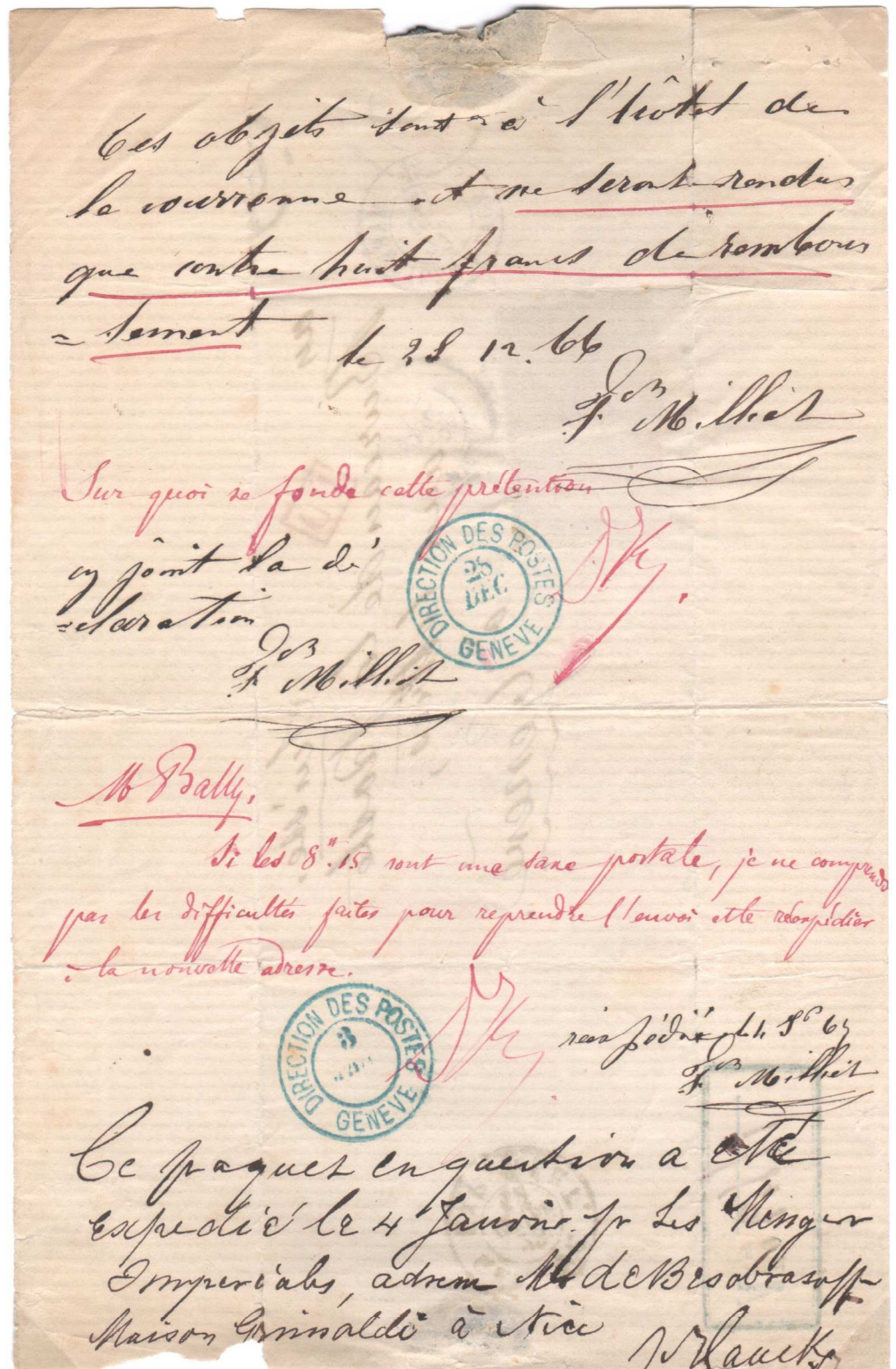


International correspondence between post offices adopt various forms. Such documents are not supposed to have been kept and they are always scarce.



28 Dec. 1866 - Claim from the post of Nice, France, dated 26 Dec. to the mail post (*Bureau de la poste aux lettres*) in Geneva. The Genevan post replied twice (black handwriting) respectively on the 28th December and 3 January (questions from Nice) in red handwriting. Postage 30c only paid by the French post on the first sending (YT 21 et 22).

**Only example noticed with this postmark from the Genevan head of Posts**





The main post office located at Rue du Stand until 1892 and then Rue du Mont-Blanc deals with most official matters.



27 June 1871 - To the Head of the Telegraph Office in Lyon, France, franked 30c (Zst. U9 & 32) despite the official nature of the letter. Sent back free of charge with the handwritten mention "concerne le service de la poste" (= relates to postal service). At the back postmarks LYON of 28 June and AMBULANT 1a (Railway Post Culoz-Geneva) of 2 July.



Overleaf

(AW 73D / Gü 1393)

12.02.1873 - 15.02.1886

**2 covers recorded**

2 Sept. 1876 - Letter from the head of Postal zone I direct to Agen, France. Franking privilege not acknowledged for the private addressee who had to pay 10 decimes for a double weight postage due.





Use of official form envelopes. Telegraph and postal administrations share the same premises.



21.08.1900 - 06.11.1922

(AW 152H / Güller 6918 & 7012)

21 Aug. 1900 - Telegram transmittal cover within the city, redirected to Côte-d'Or department, France, then back to Geneva after addressee research failure. French postage due 50c void. Distinct cancellations BUREAU DES TELEGRAPHES / GENÈVE of 21 and 30 August.



21 April 1897  
Postal form envelope used by the central office (Rue du Mont-Blanc) to send its French money orders to Paris for clearing. Registered mail is mandatory (values sending) and has full franking privilege.

Arrival postmark 2 PARIS-ÉTRANGER 2 / CHARGEMENTS (abroad registering)



Switzerland is the third country in the world (after Austria one year before and Germany in the meantime) to issue postal cards. Rate from 01.10.1870 to 31.12.1917: 5c

**FIRST DAY of the postal card in Switzerland**

**Only example recorded**

Ex Vogel

(e)



1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1870 - Brick red issue (Zst. P1) direct to the Suchard firm, Neuchâtel.



7 Nov. 1872 - To Nyon, Vaud, with additional franking of 5c (Zst. 30). The sender paid the letters postage of 10c although all features seem comply with postal cards provisions. The stamp was left uncanceled in Geneva and hit by the P.P. stamp of Nyon (AW 12/A).

Such cancellation on stamp and moreover on a postal card is exceptional

Ex Stone

(e)



*Postal cards are precociously used for dealing with clients and suppliers. Some of them belong to the very rare mail sent from the postal subsidiary HOTEL NATIONAL.*



2 June 1874 - Red brown issue (Zst. P4) to a photographer and publisher in Lausanne, then redirected to Bière, Vaud, and RENVOI À SON TIMBRE (back to the place of dispatch) via Lausanne. Put to REBUTS (dead letters) in Geneva.

*Ex Vogel*

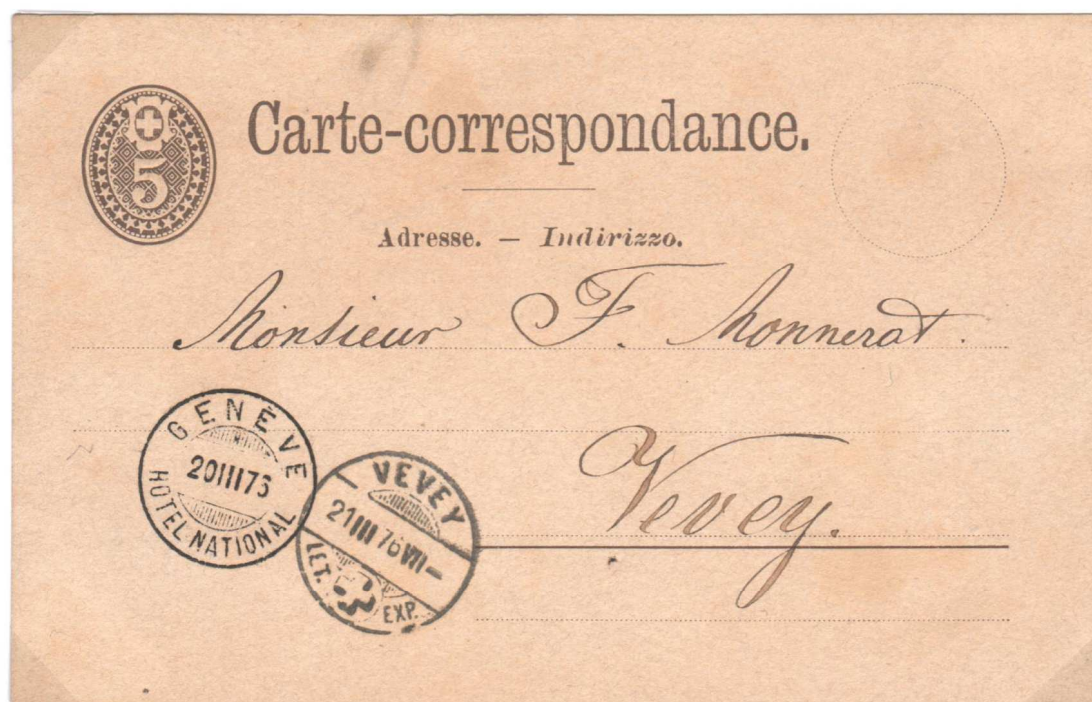
#### HOTEL NATIONAL

(AW 144A / Güller 2444)

25.10.1875 - 15.09.1884

20 March 1876 - To Vevey Vaud (Zst. P10) from the Management of the **Hotel National** to a supplier.

**Only 6 postal cards recorded for the 9 years of the office**



Cf. article from J. Voruz in Documents Philateliques No. 211 - © Academie de Philatelie.

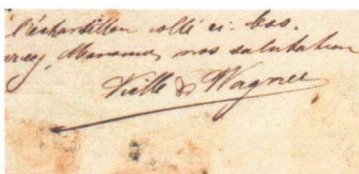


*The flat rate of postal cards may not match with some very occasional uses.*

20 Nov. 1883 - From a silk spinning mill to Männedorf, Zurich (Zst. P12). A **sample of silk** was stuck on the back; thus postage due was collected from the recipient:

Rate for unfranked letter	20c
Less pre-payment	5c
Remainder due	15c

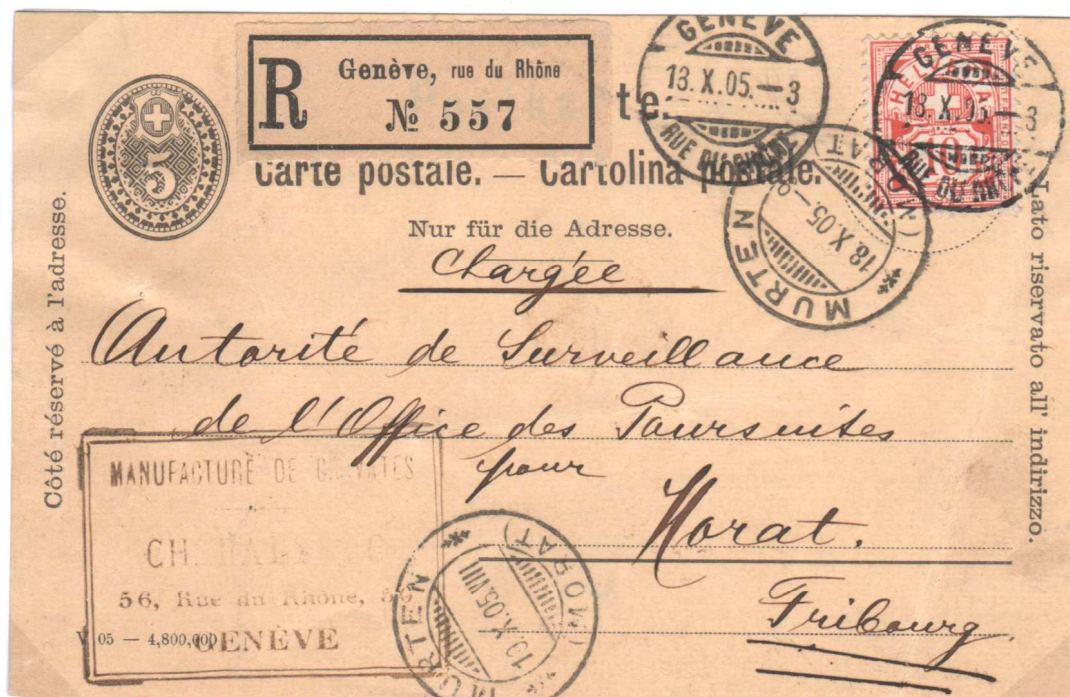
**Mixed franking** of two different due stamps issues (Zst. 4 II and 18A). Marks of silk below the text.



"l'échantillon collé ci-bas" = the sample stuck herebelow



*Exceptional postage due on domestic postal card*

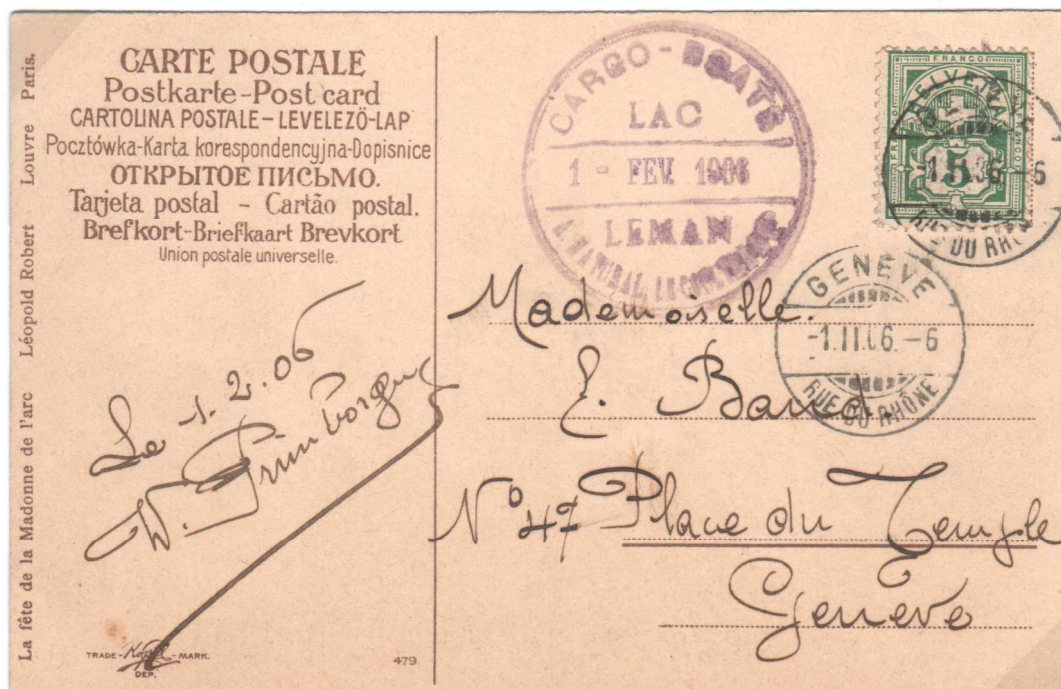


18 Oct. 1905 - **Registered** postal card (Zst. P26 TIII) to the Survey authority of the legal proceedings office in Morat, canton of Fribourg. Additional stamp 10c (Zst. 61B) for registration fee.

*Scarce example of registered postal card for legal purpose*



*Private postcards which are actually not postal stationery take still more place in postal traffic. Postage is the same as for postal cards.*



1 Feb. 1906 - Forwarded by freight boat through private service. Regular franking 5c (Zst. 65B) and private mark from **CARGO - BOATS / LAC / LEMAN / A. NATURAL, LE COULTRE & CO.**

Mail carried on the **Lake of Geneva** was posted at the subsidiary **RUE DU RHÔNE** the nearest to the pier.

Whether a forwarding fee was paid by the sender is not visible on the card.

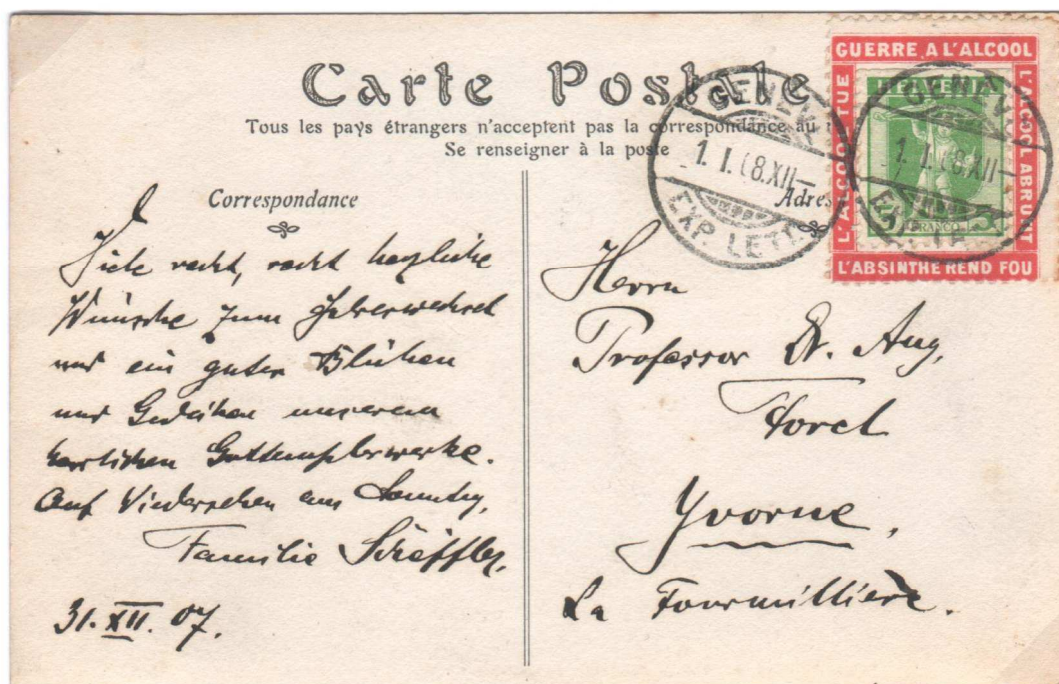
**Only example recorded**

(research on the last fifty years from G. Barraud†, CPhH)

31 Dec. 1907 - Private postcard direct to Yvorne, canton of Vaud, franked 5c (Zst. 103 Tell Boy) stamped on the **advertising collar** of an anti-drinking movement. Cancellation dated 1.1.08.

**Slogans:** War on Alcohol / Alcohol dazes / Wormwood makes crazy / Alcohol kills

**Advertising collars are used from 1907 but will remain marginal**





*Postal cards in international traffic are foreseen by GPU / UPU from 1875/76. Since already 1873, the Austro-German postal union allows postal cards at a reduced rate.*



*Scarce postal card sent before UPU at letter rate*

*One of the two only blocks of ten 3c stamps in Switzerland*

Ex Schäfer

(e)

29 Aug. 1872 - Forerunner postal card sent to Brighton, England, franked 30c **as a letter** (block of 10 Zst. 29) without regard to the imprinted value of 5c not yet acknowledged. Pre-UPU PD postmark. Rate direct way (French post carry but don't handle mail) according to the agreement from 1.1.1869

5 June 1874 - German domestic postal card **used before UPU**, franked as a card (MI 14 + P1 **combining Eagle with large / small crest**) from Selestat, German Alsace. Postmark SCHLETTSTADT (German name since 1871); **Genevan distribution mark** ④ indicating postmen delivery round.

**Twin values of two successive issues  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$  Groschen**

(e)



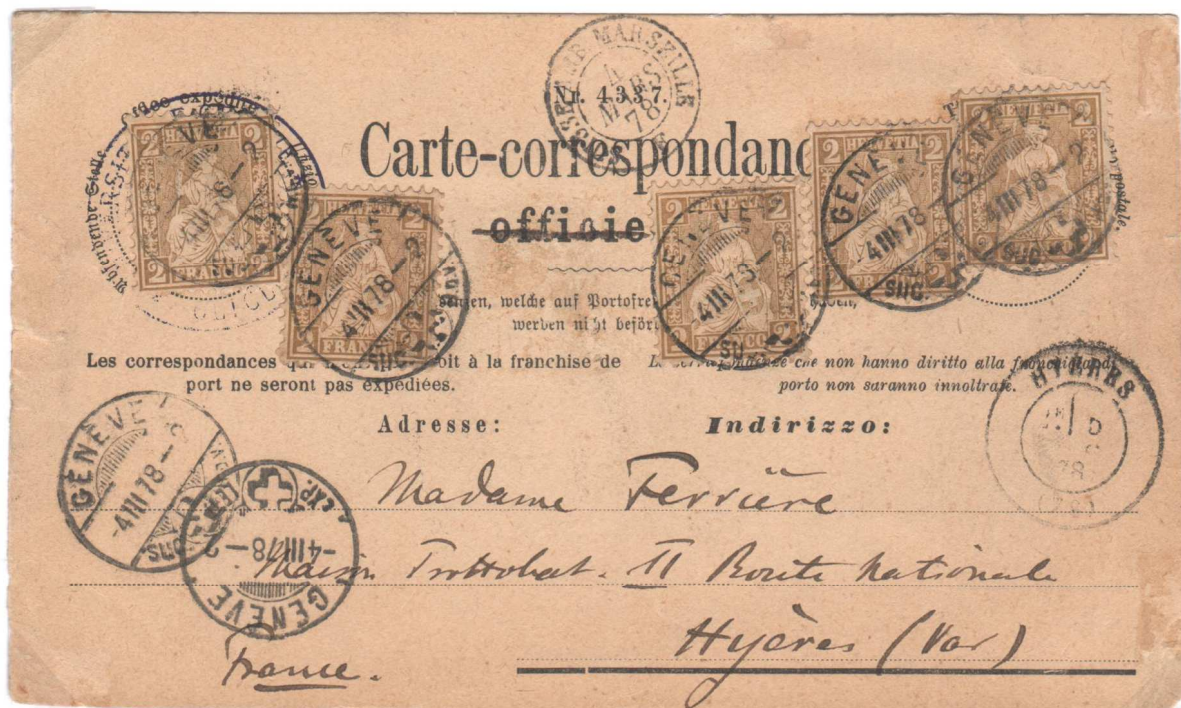


Domestic postal cards may be used for destinations abroad provided additional franking is regulatory.

4 March 1878 - Official domestic postal card used as international at the rate of 10c (5 x Zst. 37) to Hyères, France. The word "officiel" was manually struck.

Only example known in Geneva

Ex Stone



30 June 1893 - Gotthard anniversary issue prepaid 5c (Zst. P30) to Biella, Italy. **Registered card franked 50c as a letter** (Zst. 58, 59, 64A, 67C); illustrations were not allowed for cards sent abroad; mention CARTE POSTALE missing.

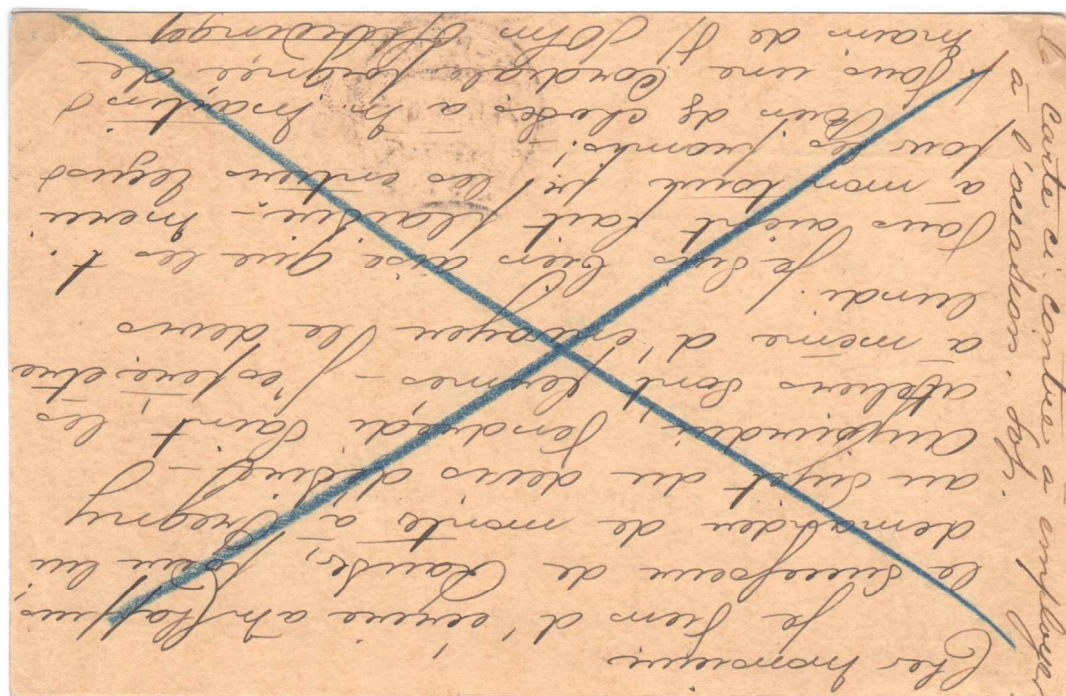
2 such instances recorded in Geneva

Stationery valid from 25.06 to 31.12.1893 only

(e)



Reply-paid postal cards of which both halves were used and not separated are exceptional.



Overleaf



19 / 24 April 1895 - Domestic reply-paid postal card 5 + 5 (Zst. P23) to Paris. Further 5c on both sides (Zst. 63B). The French postmark (PARIS dated 23 April) is the only possible **regulatory foreign cancellation** on a Swiss stamp at that time.

3 examples recorded from Geneva





*The past main office became auxiliary RUE DU STAND from 1892 but kept a strong mail volume due to its central location in the city.*

14 July 1900 - Registered Jubilee UPU standard postal card (Zst. P32) from to Mainz, Germany. Registration fee 25c with a mixed franking (Zst. 73D). Postal label **R** and private hand-stamp **CHARGÉ**. Arrival postmark MAINZ two days later.

*Ex Vogel*



11 Sept. 1903 - Pre-stamped 10c (Zst. P26 + 65B) postal card which was probably straightaway to be sent abroad. Successive postmarks on the way to find the addressee:

- 13 + 14: ZERMATT
- 15: SAVIESE
- 17: NEUCHÂTEL
- 17: COLMAR (German Alsace)
- 19 + 20: NEUCHÂTEL
- 20 + 21: ZÜRICH (Poste restante)

14 postmarks on the front and the back for an unsuccessful delivery

*Ex Vogel*



*Domestic Rates for Printed Matter*

2c < 15g as of 01.07.1862	5c < 250g
(40g as of 01.09.1871)	10c < 500g
(50g as of 01.10.1872)	15c < 1 kg

1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 1862 - To Bern, correctly franked 2c (Zst. 21G).

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 1862, printed matter < 15 g benefit of the flat rate of 2c and explain the late issue of this stamp, already demonetized on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1863

(e)



5

Handstamp "Ficelle"  
5c

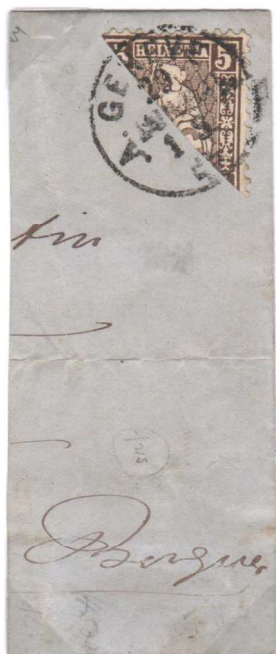
(e)

1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1862 - Circular within the city franked with a demonetized bisect, charged due 5 c. The new stamp of 2c valid since 1<sup>st</sup> July would have been sufficient.

**3 demonetized examples recorded**



*Bisects are no longer allowed since 1<sup>st</sup> July 1862. A few attempts are known in the very first years of the new rates.*



29 Jan. 1864 - Piece of cover delivered at Quai des Bergues, Geneva, franked with a **5c bisect** (Zst. 30 SFa) to be used for 2c.

**2 examples\* recorded in Switzerland**

\* the other one being a smaller fragment

(e)

**Only lone example recorded in Switzerland**

Ex H. Grand  
Ex Stone

(e)



9 Feb. 1864 - Mourning announcement within the city franked with a **2c bisect** (Zst. 28 SF) to be used for 1c. Mass frankings no longer exist since mid 1862 and bisects are prohibited henceforth as well. Postage due **5 c** as for a letter without penalty.



*Forerunner pre-stamped wrappers are all very scarce.*

*One of the very first uses  
of pre-stamped wrappers  
in Switzerland*



12 Aug. 1871 - **Experimental issue wrapper** from Railway Post  
(*ambulant*) to Geneva, pre-paid 2c (Zst. S2b).

*Ex Stone*



27 Sept. 1873 - Within the city, experimental pre-paid 5c (Zst. S4b).

## Ex Stone



24 Feb. 1875 - Within the city, 1874 issue pre-paid 5c (Zst. **S8**). Imprint of the *Trade Bank of Geneva*.

*Only recorded imprinted example  
of this early issue*

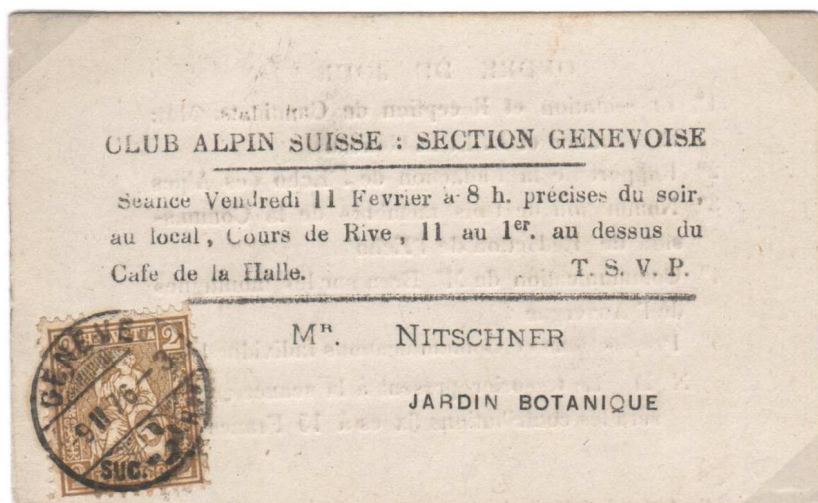
### *Rarest wrapper of Swiss philately*

## Ex Stone

(e)



*2c frankings constitute the great majority since they cover sendings up to 50g.*



9 Feb. 1876 - *Swiss Alpine Club* convening notice within the city franked 2c (Zst. 37). Date stamp from the *City Hall* postal subsidiary (H.D.V. = Hotel de Ville).

7 Jan. 1882 - Geneva to Chaux-de-Fonds, same prepaid 2c. **Very rare ESSAI hand-stamp**: printed matter sent for inspection. Then "Refusé" by recipient and returned on 10<sup>th</sup>. Due stamp 2c without penalty.



**3 examples recorded**

Ex Winterstein

(e)

23 Oct. 1882 - Announcement sent to Morat, canton of Fribourg, franked 2c with the Cross & Numeral **white paper issue** (Zst. 53).

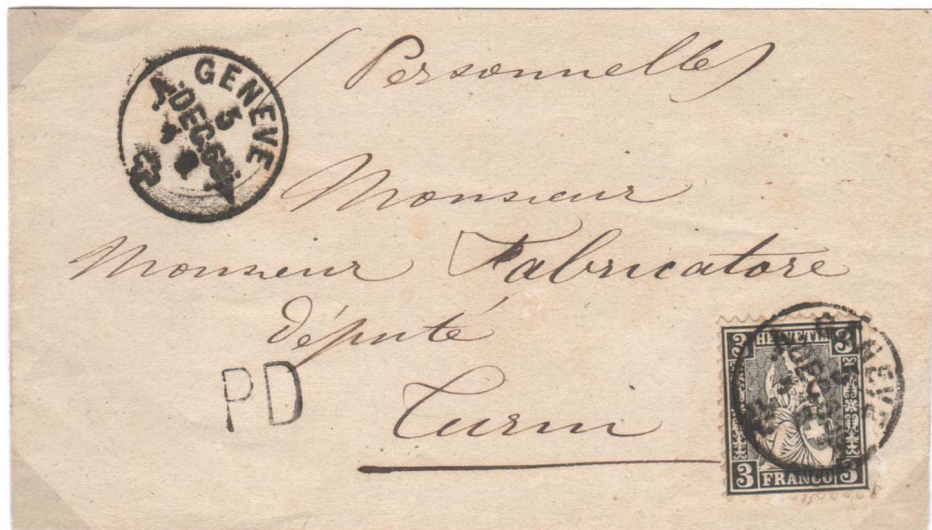
**Scarce white paper lone franking**

(e)





*Printed Matter Rates for Kingdom of Italy (excl. Papal States) as from 01.07.1862 and before UPU : 3c / 40g*



3 Dec. 1863 - Private wrapper franked with the new stamp of 3c (Zst. 29) direct to Turin, Piedmont.

*New perforated stamps are available as from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1863*

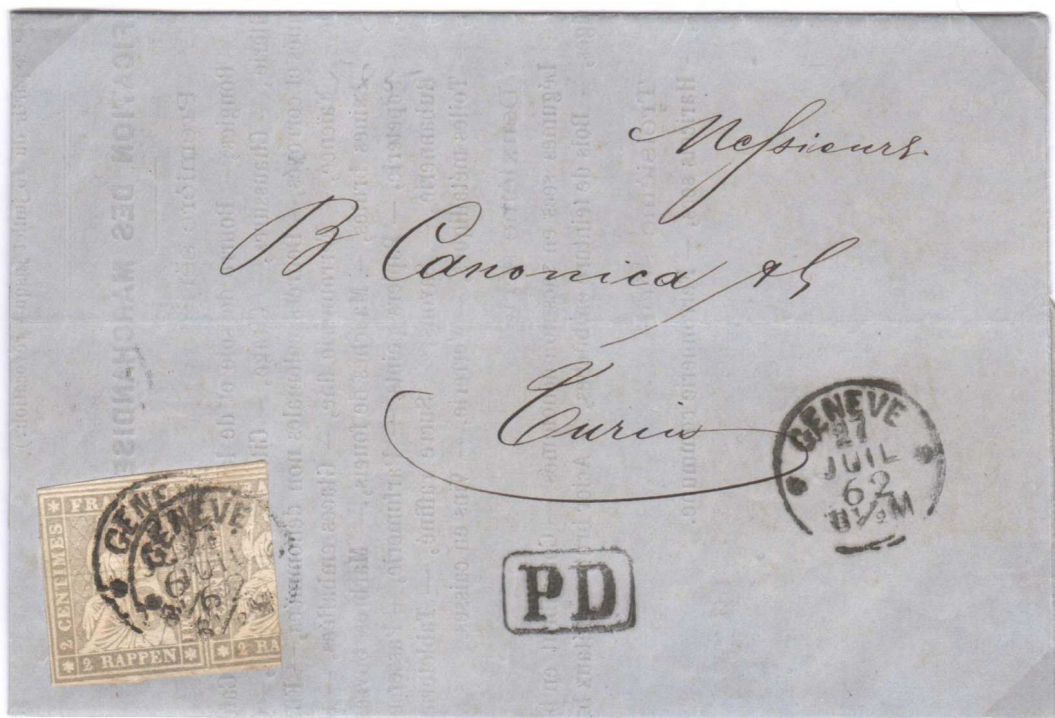
*Such scarce postage is the only way to use a lone stamp of 3c*

27 July 1862 - To Turin, Piedmont. Circular letter franked 3c with 1 ½ stamp of 2c (Zst. 21G) used until the new stamp of 3c (see above) be available.

*So-called Italy Provisorium franking used for 3 months*

**4 examples recorded from Geneva**

Ex Dale-Lichtenstein (e)





*Printed Matter Rates*  
*Before UPU: 5c / 40g (to France)*  
*From UPU: 5c / 50g*

13 Feb. 1875 - Wrapper prepaid 5c  
 (rare stationery Zst. S8) direct to Li-  
 gueil, France, cancelled with a "handle  
 PD postmark", type 1a.

*Handle PD postmarks were designed  
 for printed matter sent abroad*

**Only 25 Handle PD recorded  
 on 4½ years (1871-1875)**

Ex Vuille

(e)



5 Feb. 1874 - Postal card (Zst. P4)  
 sent as a C.o.D. within the city, then  
**redirected to Vichy, France**. France  
 refused to accept Swiss postal cards  
 before it joined UPU on 01.01.1876.

**Only recorded pre-UPU use  
 of a Swiss card as printed  
 matter to any country**

Ex Stone



*Incoming printed matter may have to be franked for Swiss delivery.*



12 July 1898 - Wrapper for periodical from Paris to Narbonne, France. Postmark dated 10 July JOURNAUX PARIS / P.P. notifying the French domestic charge. Forwarded to Geneva where the missing postage of **5 c without penalty** was handwritten and confirmed by the postage due stamp (Zst. 17F II N).

*Ex Stone*

GENÈVE (RUE DU STAND)  
MESS.

*Parcel Post Office*  
(AW 144B / Güller 9911)  
01.02.1894 - 18.11.1916

21 Nov. 1905 - Fragment of Form Nr. 1201 used for mass franking of papers **from abroad** to be dispatched in Switzerland. Visible franking **Fr. 63.75** (block of 15 and strip of 5 Zst. 72D, L block of 75E, 1 x 74D and 1 x 87A).

(e)





UPU rates for samples of no value from 01.04.1879:  
10c first 50g + 5c / 50g (10c for the first 100g from 1899)

17 July 1881 - Card-board envelope for photographic prints sent to Corwen, Wales, Great-Britain. Franking 10c (Zst. 38) at sample rate corresponding to printed matter up to 50g.

(e)



23 April 1898 - Samples contained in an envelope with handwritten mention "Echantillons sans valeurs" (Samples of no value) to Aschersleben, Germany. Franking 5c (Zst. 60B) instead of minimum 10c. **Postage due** for twice the difference, **10** (c) pencil blue.

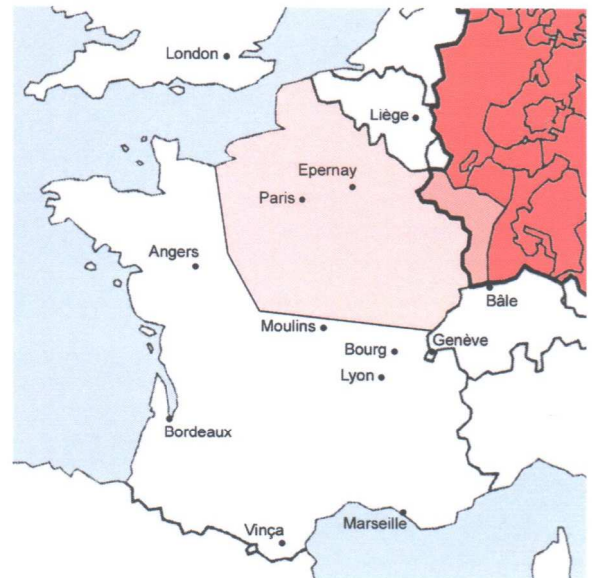


- 2.1 Mail with the International Committee
- 2.2 Military Mail
- 2.3 Links with Paris Besieged
- 2.4 Bypass of Occupied or Annexed Territories
- 2.5 Postal Traffic with Occupied Territories
- 2.6 Postal Traffic with Annexed Territories
- 2.7 Post-War Forwarded Mail
- 2.8 Post-War Official Mail

*Geneva is the cradle of Red Cross founded in 1863. Being situated close to French border and not far from German-occupied territories, the city will play a key role as a postal hub for mail forwarding. The International Committee of Red Cross coordinates actions in many areas.*

### Chronological steps of the war

- 19 July 1870 Declaration of war from France to Prussia
- 7 August 1870 Postal franking for prisoners of war
- 4 Sept. 1870 Collapse of French Empire
- 18 Sept. 1870 Start of the siege of Paris
- 23 Sept. 1870 First post-balloon from Paris
- mid-Nov. 1870 Special issue of stamps in Bordeaux
- 23 Dec. 1870 Decision to use the "Boules de Moulins"
- 28 Jan. 1871 Surrender of Paris and armistice
- 31 Jan. 1871 Stopping service of the "Boules de Moulins"
- 25 Feb. 1871 Mail freedom between occupied and free territories
- 24 Mar. 1871 Abolition of postal German checks in occupied area
- 15 May 1871 Alsace-Lorraine as integral part of German Empire
- 28 June 1871 Last military postal privileges for ambulances only
- 8 April 1872 Abolition of all postal privileges



© J. Voruz 2007

Maximum expansion of German occupation in 1871



Oval frank stamp (SBK 8)

14.09.1870 - 21.08.1883

16 covers recorded

Mail from Red Cross direct to France is usually sent from Basle (Internees and Red Cross employees).

**Only 3 examples recorded to France**

(e)

13 Feb. 1871 - Red Cross cover to Bordeaux, France, provisional seat for government and foreign representations. Frank stamp not acknowledged for an international sending. French postage due handstamp 50c.



*The International Committee handles sendings to be delivered to military and civil internees / prisoners.*

12 Dec. 1870 - Opened envelope from Beaune, France, to the International Committee in Geneva, to forward to the prefect of the Department Côte-d'Or, **State prisoner** at the Ehrenbreitstein fortress, close to Coblenz, Rhineland **Prussia**.



Handstamp **CHARGÉ**, PD and handwritten **X** (Red Cross) probably to get partial (e) franking privilege. Whether the letter was actually charged seems doubtful because not closed. Franking of 30c (3 x YT 28) complies with a standard postage to Switzerland. At the back, handwritten mention from the Prussian post *Kann abgegeben werden* (may be delivered) and private mark **EHRENBREITSTEIN**.

**GENEVE**  
-A-  
16 MAR 71



(Cat. Monot Nr. 128)

2 examples recorded



(e)



27 Feb. 1871 - Parcel card for a sending destined for a sergeant-major, Engineering company, 1<sup>st</sup> Legion Rhone. Black parcel post (MESSAGERIE) stamps of the main post office (A), red circle seal of the **Relief Central Agency** to get franking privilege, confirmed by the PP (postage paid). Handwritten blue marks for parcel post register.



As from 28 July 1870 Swiss Post grants franking privileges to international charitable institutions according to the Geneva Convention of 1864.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE GENÈVE

COMITÉ  
INTERNATIONAL  
SECOURS AUX  
BLESSÉS /  
GENÈVE

(Cat. Monot  
Nr. 132 C)

**Sole  
example  
recorded**

(e)



*officiel*  
*Monsieur*  
*Edouard Camille*  
*Notaire*  
*Puits St Pierre*  
*Geneve*

24 July 1871 -  
Wrapper tied  
with the seal  
of the Interna-  
tional Com-  
mittee gran-  
ting postal  
franchise.  
Postmark of  
the closest  
office RIVE  
in Geneva.



The Genevan  
seal COMITÉ  
INTERNA-  
TIONAL -  
SECOURS  
AUX BLES-  
SÉS was also  
used on front  
cover of such  
official Red  
Cross reports.

GENÈVE  
IMPRIMERIE SOULLIER ET WIRTH, CITÉ, 19-21

1871



*The International Committee receives mail from Red Cross districts of Switzerland which look after prisoners in Germany and France. Four districts issued frank stamps: Lausanne, Vevey, Basle and the International Committee in Geneva itself.*

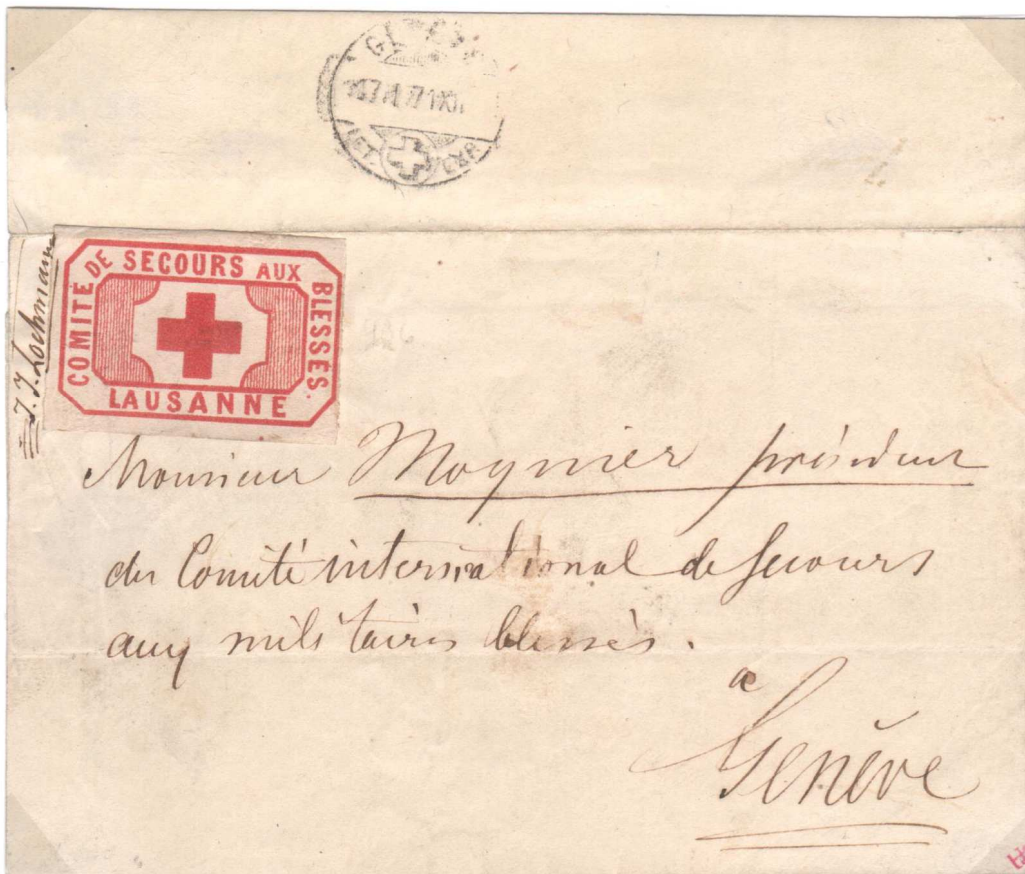
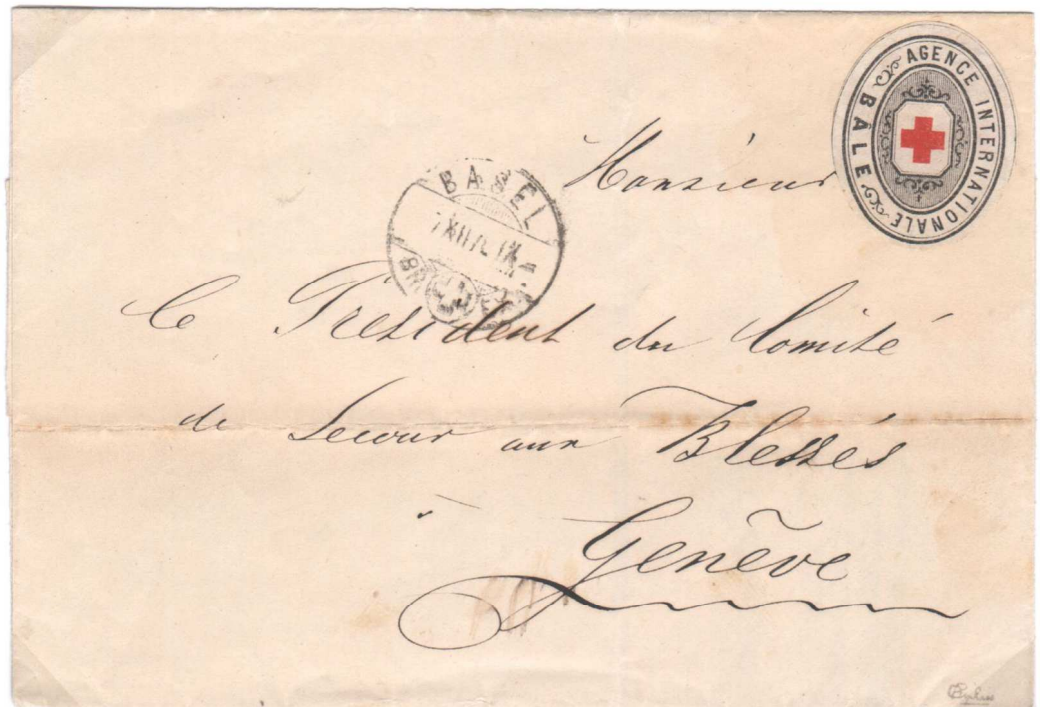
7 Dec. 1870 - From the Basle Red Cross district (International Agency which handled most parcels for prisoners) to **Gustave Moynier**, President of the International Committee. First Basle Red Cross frank stamp.

Oval frank stamp (SBK 6)

09.1870 - 1871

Ca. 20 covers recorded

(e)



17 Jan. 1871 - From the Lausanne Red Cross district to the same addressee. Frank stamp bearing the signature of **Jean-Jacques Lochmann**, well-known philanthropist in Lausanne.

Rectangle frank stamp  
(SBK 4)

1870 - 1871

**Ca. 10 covers  
recorded**



As from the beginning of the war, Swiss troops are deployed along French and German borders. Seals of Relief Agencies for Wounded Soldiers give franking privilege to a certain extent.

**Service postal militaire.**  **Eidgenössische Feldpost.**

*in* *Geneve* *le 5 Dec 1870*

*Signe des Officiers*  
*Nom de l'expéditeur*

An *Monsieur* Grad

A *Felix Niotet*

Waffengattung }  
Arme }

N° der de la } **Compagnie** *chasseur 2*

N° des du } **Bataillon** *84 3<sup>ème</sup> brigade*

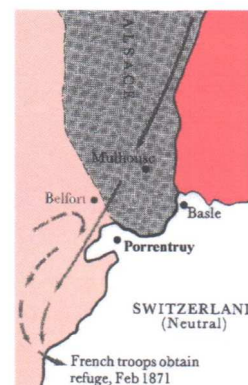
N° der de la } **Division** *3 Division*

**Remarque:** Die Adresse muß deutlich geschrieben sein. Die Waffengattung ist anzugeben. Die Nummer der Compagnie, des Bataillons und insbesondere der Division ersetzt den Bestimmungsort, weil letzterer, wegen der öftern Verlegung des Standortes der Truppen, stets wechseln kann. Für richtige Adressierung wende man sich an die Postbureau oder Gemeindevorstände.

**Observation:** L'adresse, indiquant aussi le grade, doit être écrite lisiblement. On désigne l'arme. Le N° de la compagnie, du bataillon et surtout de la division remplace le lieu de destination; on n'indiquera pas ce dernier, à cause des fréquents changements de quartier. Il est bon, en cas de doute, de s'assurer de l'exactitude d'une adresse auprès d'un bureau postal ou du président de la commune.

**BORDERS  
OCCUPATION**

**Porrentruy**, Swiss Jura, is located close to the boundary of both occupied and annexed territories



Excerpt from the map "The Franco-Prussian War 1870-71"

2 Dec. 1870 - Military postal service envelope free from Geneva. Designated spaces for name of civilian sender (along left side) and military address of recipient. No exact destination because troops move frequently. Overleaf postmark PORRENTUROY dated 5 Dec.

**SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DE SECOURS  
AUX BLESSÉS MILITAIRES  
Délégué. Région. EST**

Cat. Monot Nr. 109

30 August 1871 - Red Cross letter from Geneva direct to Vinça (close to Perpignan, France). French postage due stamp of 5 (decimes). French entry postmark **SUISSE / LYON** dated 31. At the back, railway postmark CETTE A BORDEAUX dated 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Franking mark **SO-CIÉTÉ DE SECOURS AUX BLESSÉS MILITAIRES / \* EST \*** (Monot Nr. 108).

**2 covers recorded  
from Geneva** (e)





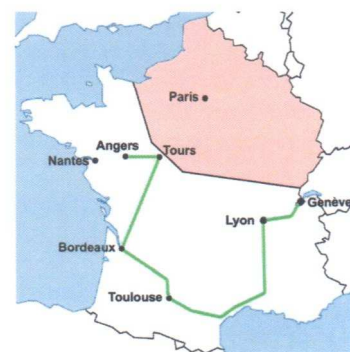
**Gratis** Labels are used from 03.02 to 27.03.1871. They are not issued by Swiss Post, thus are not supposed to be tied with postmarks.

14 Feb. 1871 - **Domestic postal card** sent by a "prisoner on his word" (*Prisonnier sur parole*) to Paris, thus ineligible to use the GRATIS label. The French officer added full postage for letter rate 30c (Zst. 41), taking no credit to the imprinted value of 5c under the adhesive. Stamp manually cancelled because not compliant with postal provisions. After Paris delivery, charged due 2 decimes for re mailing to St-Benin d'Azy (French domestic letter rate).

**Unique example of military mail sent on a postal card abroad before UPU**

Ex H. Stone

(e)



20 Feb. 1871 - Letter carrying the mention **Provenance Militaire Ambulance** from Geneva direct to Angers, France. On back, railway postmark TOULOUSE A BORDEAUX dated 22 and ANGERS dated 23.

**4 labels recorded from Geneva of which only one bears a postmark**

(e)



Ambulances are set up from Feb. 1871 after the entry of the Bourbaki Army. Handwritten mention on the front is usually sufficient to get military franking privilege.



17 March 1871 - Letter written by an internee from Mellingen, canton of Argovia, direct to Geneva. Handwritten mention *Interné français* to justify Swiss domestic postal franking. Franking acknowledged by the postmark *P.D.* (*Paid on to Destination*).

Si vous pouvez nous envoyer des soldats, des blessés  
et les via rouge - nous nous rendons un immense service.  
Nous avons plus de 100 malades dans notre seule ambulance.

21 Feb. 1871 - Official postal franking card (Form Nr. 4337) from the Central Ambulance, Fribourg, to the International Relief Agency for Internees, Geneva. On the back: text signed by the Director requesting clothing for more than 100 wounded soldiers.

(e)

Exceptional  
military use of  
an official  
postal card

Contr.-N°

Ambulance Centrale  
à Ecole de filles  
Fribourg

**Carte - Correspondance.**  
**Officiel.**

Der Stempel oder die Bezeichnung der absendenden Amtsstelle oder Person ist im Kreise links anzugeben. — Korrespondenzen, welche auf portofreie Beförderung nicht Anspruch haben, werden mit der gesetzlichen Brieflage belegt.

Le timbre ou la désignation de l'autorité ou de la personne expéditrice doit être indiquée sur le cercle gauche. Les correspondances ne jouissant pas de la franchise de port seront grevées des taxes légales.

Il bollo o la dichiarazione dell'autorità o della persona speditrice sarà indicata nel circolo a sinistra. Le corrispondenze non ammesse alla franchigia di porto saranno caricate delle tasse legali.

Adresse: Indirizzo:

Agence centrale de secours pour les Internés  
français.  
Grande rue 33.  
Genève



Telegraphic mail

Transmission cover of below telegram sent to Zurich, then forwarded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Regiment, Algiers.

Telegrams and printed covers are very scarce documents before 1900

7 examples recorded in Geneva

(e)

Bureau des Télégraphes  
Genève.

15 11 71 - 10  
EXP.

Nr. 4.

Télégramme N<sup>ro</sup> 4168

à *Frantz Lieutenant d'artillerie*  
*20<sup>e</sup> Corps français*

Remis au facteur pour transport à domicile  
le *15/2* 18 *71*, hs. m.

Taxe d'express frs. *par poste* *Genève*

*Voir au dos*

*Voi - Zurich*



Confédération suisse.

Bureau des Télégraphes  
de

Genève.

Télégramme N<sup>ro</sup> 4168

N<sup>o</sup> 3.

GENEVE: BALE 3481 20 15 4 35 S -

de (voie)

N<sup>o</sup> Consigné le *15/2* 18 à heures min. du *S.*  
(mots ) Arrivé le 18 à 6 heures min. du

L'Administration des télégraphes n'accepte aucune responsabilité à raison du service de la correspondance par la voie télégraphique. Elle prendra toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer l'exactitude de ce service ainsi que le secret des correspondances télégraphiques.  
Die Telegraphen-Verwaltung übernimmt keinerlei Verantwortlichkeit in Betreff der telegraphischen Correspondenz. Dagegen wird sie alle zur Sicherung des Dienstes und zur Wahrung des Depeschengeheimnisses nöthigen Massregeln ergreifen.

JRANTZ LIEUTENANT D ARTILLERIE 20 ME CORPS FRANCAIS A GENEVE

= ATTENDONS TON ADRESSE POUR TE REJOINDRE . I SOMMES HOTEL DES

TROIS ROIS = KRAUTZ +



*Geneva is a pretty usual destination for Balloon post mail. Some letters have however exceptional features.*

12 Jan. 1871 - Letter carried by the  
General Faidherbe Balloon. Arri-  
val postmark of 25 January.

INCONNU A L'APPEL

(Unknown from postmen)

**Only Balloon letter bearing  
this Genevan handstamp**

(e)



Swiss travelling postoffice  
GENEVE-CULOZ operates  
on a French railway line

**Scarce underpaid balloon  
mail**

31 Dec. 1870 - Letter carried by the Newton. Underpaid 10c **AFFR.**[anchissement]  
**INSUFF.**[isant]. Postage due penalty rate 50c minus any prepayment. French double  
line handstamp 30 c due. Arrival on 15 Jan. through railway post GENEVE-CULOZ.



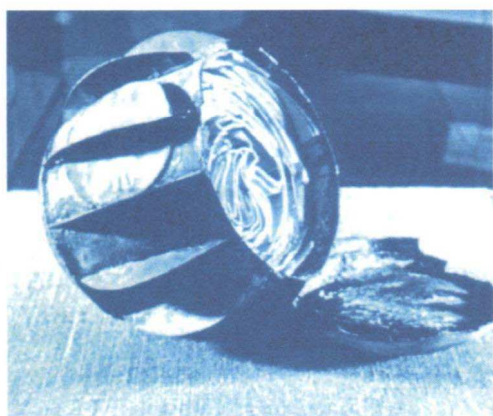


7 Nov. 1870 - Letter sent from Paris (Crédit Foncier Suisse) with imprint "Par ballon monté" (*La Gironde*) direct to Geneva. Written by Mr. J. Raisin to his spouse.

Excerpt of the back herebelow



**Letter from Paris**



**Reply from Geneva**

4 Jan. 1871 - Reply from Mrs Raisin to the letter hereabove. From Geneva to Paris (Crédit Foncier Suisse), sent from the French border postoffice FERNEX. Special postage of Fr. 1.- for sending through Boule de Mou-lins (max. weight 4g).

The immersed letters we know were recovered from the Seine River after the Siege only.





*The different **attempts** to let the mail **enter into Paris** fail in most cases until February 1871 when relations start again gradually.*

10 Oct. 1870 - From Geneva to Paris. Usual franking of 30c (Zst. 41). Handwritten mention **Par ballon monté**. Only **attempt** by French post to let mail enter **into Paris by balloon**. The *Jean Bart* left Rouen on 7 Nov. and couldn't reach Paris due to changing winds.

*Only letter recorded from Switzerland*



*Backstamps*

29 Dec. 1870 - Enclosed letter from Geneva to Paris. Delivered in February 1871 after **attempt of entry** into Paris. On the back: railway postmark MARSEILLE A PARIS dated 30 DEC. 70 and arrival postmark PARIS dated FEVR. 71.



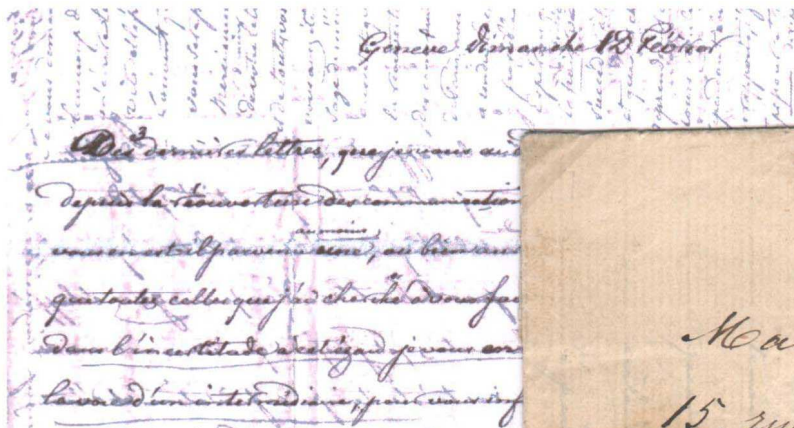
Postal traffic through walking smugglers is marginal.



17 Dec. 1870 - From Paris firstly carried by the **smuggler BARTHÉ** to Nevers where the letter was mailed on 20 Jan. 1871 (YT 30) direct to Geneva. Arrival postmark 21 Jan.

Handwritten mention from the smuggler:  
"Répondre à Mr Barthé par retour du courrier poste restante à Bordeaux" = Please reply to Mr. Barthé by return mail poste restante in Bordeaux.

Register Nr. 60 handwritten by the smuggler.



"la voie d'un intermédiaire"  
=  
the way of a private courier



12 Feb. 1871 - From Geneva firstly forwarded by a private messenger. Entered into Paris **by smuggler** and there mailed (PARIS dated 17 Feb).



6<sup>ème</sup> lettre par Ballon poste 14 novembre 59 jour du Siège 1870.

Ma chère petite Estelle

J'ai bien peur que ma dernière lettre ne te soit pas parvenue. le ballon le galilé  
est tombé entre les mains des Prussiens et je crains que l'épître que je t'écrivais  
et celle adressée à Carlotta où je lui souhaitais la fête ne soient restées au  
fond de la nacelle. Je recommence sur de nouveaux frais, comme il y a  
long temps que je ne t'ai vue, chère enfant! les journées de Siège sont  
plus longues que les années, on ne saurait compter pour des mois, on ne saurait  
imaginer une existence plus morne et plus triste et malgré tout le désir  
que j'aurais de te voir je suis heureux de te savoir loin de nous. de  
dangere il n'y en a pas, dans le vrai sens du mot, la ville n'est pas  
attaquée sérieusement mais investie de façon à nous faire mourir  
de faim dans un temps donné. dans ce cachot de plusieurs heures  
de tour je n'ai pas comme Napoléon la ressource de manger ses  
enfants puisqu'ils sont en Suisse ou en Angleterre. il n'y a plus  
de beurre depuis long temps, l'huile commence à manquer, le fromage  
est un mythe et je t'avoue que le macaroni à l'eau est au 1<sup>er</sup> et au  
2<sup>ème</sup> rang. la ration de viande est descendue à quarante grammes  
par jour pour chaque personne et l'on n'obtient sa part qu'après  
des queues de trois heures. j'ai mangé du cheval, de l'âne, du mulet  
mais il n'y en aura bientôt plus. il se forme des bœufs  
où l'on vend du chien, du chat, et même des rats et si par hasard  
un chien un peu fort vaut 20 fr. une moitié de chat 6 fr. le rat  
et les pierrots 50 centimes. pardonne tous ces détails mais la grande  
affaire est de se nourrir. quand on se rencontre la première question  
que l'on s'adresse est: avez vous de la viande? cela a remplacé le  
banal comment vous portez vous? mais tout cela n'est rien  
ce qui est navrant c'est d'être muré dans un tombeau, séparé de  
la France et du monde, ne sachant rien de ce qui se passe au delà  
de Chatillon ou de St Denis de ne jamais recevoir de réponse aux  
lettres qu'on écrit, dégoûter même si elle arrivait, de ne pouvoir  
même au péril de sa vie retrouver ceux qu'on aime, de se sentir  
abandonné de tout l'univers, de ne pouvoir envoyer d'argent  
à ceux qui sont et en manquant de les réveiller malades ou  
morts. il n'y a pas de plus dure épreuve de plus profond  
ennui. pense un peu à nous qui t'aimons bien et embrasse  
bien tendrement pour moi Carlotta, Ernestine et Auguste. dis  
aussi bien des choses à nos amis de Genève avec qui il me serait  
bien doux de fumer un cigare en fêlant l'avenue  
de St Jean. Dans tous balcons de ton père assiégé

Théophile Gautier

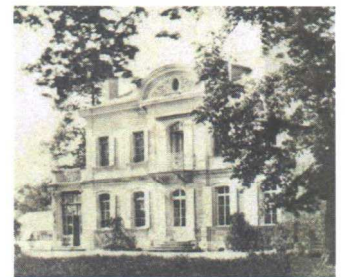
Mon amie Estelle

Villa Grisi sur St Jean  
Genève

Suisse



Portrait of **Theophile Gautier**  
by NADAR, photographer and  
balloonist, 1856.

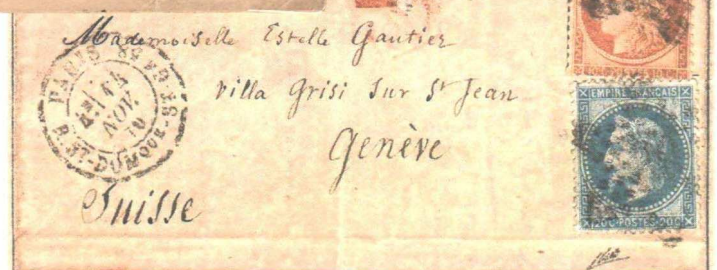


Villa St-Jean, Geneva, property of  
Carlotta Grisi, ca. 1870, former Opera  
dancer and mistress of **Theophile  
Gautier**. The author visited her every  
year until his death in 1872.

14 Nov. 1870 - Letter written  
by the famous French author  
**Theophile Gautier** to his  
daughter Estelle housed to  
Carlotta Grisi in Geneva. Im-  
print PAR BALLON MONTÉ  
with the *Gazette des Absents*.  
Postballoon "General Uhrich"  
landed in Luzarches, 25 km  
north from Paris. On the back,  
handstamp GENEVE-  
CULOZ dated 27 Nov.

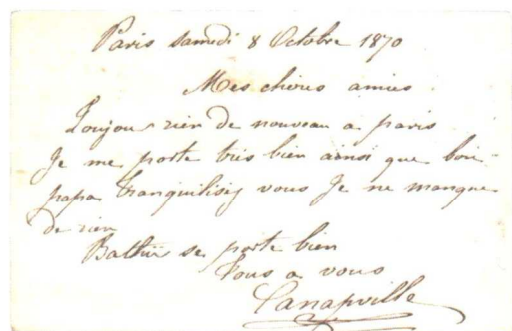
Published under # 4505 in "Correspondance générale 1870-1871", tome XI, Librairie Droz, Geneva - Paris, 1996

Illustrated in *LES BALLONS MONTÉS*, Gérard Lhéritier, p. 130, Valeur philatélique, 1994



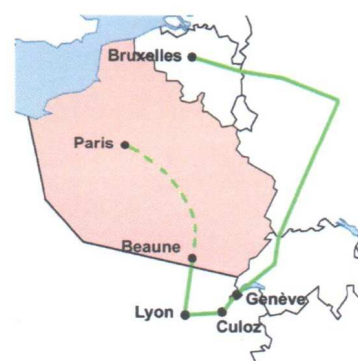


*Links between Geneva and Paris continue at both commercial and private levels despite postal restriction due to the Siege.*



8 Oct. 1870 - Card sent from Paris by Balloon Post (the Washington or Louis-Blanc) direct to Geneva. P.P. for postage paid.

*Scarce P.P. on card by Balloon post*

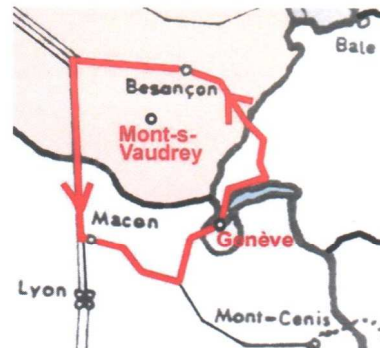
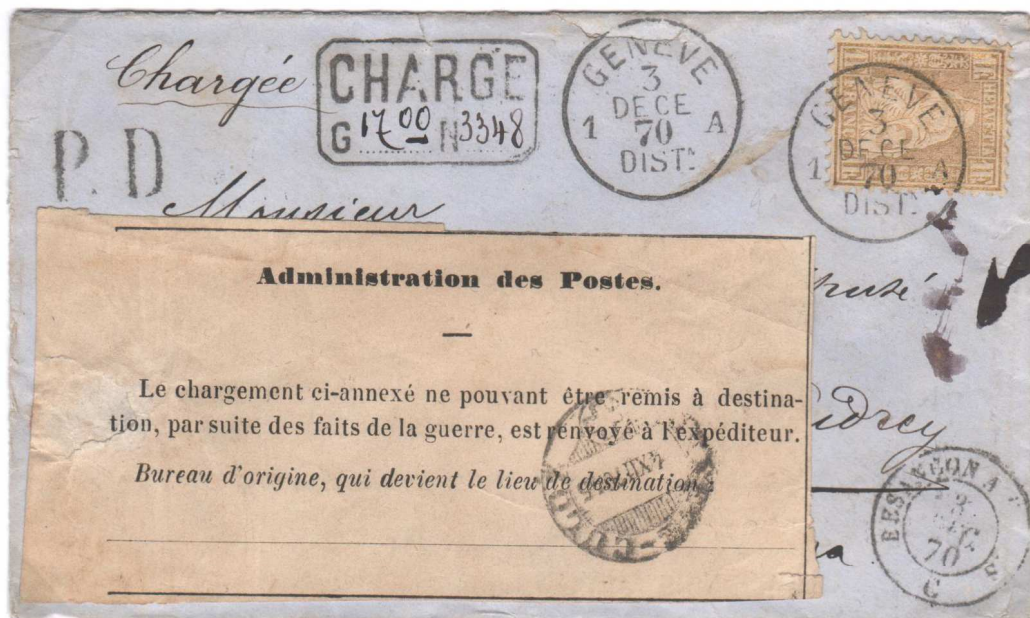


(e)

17 Dec. 1870 - From La Chapelle-St-Denis, north of Paris, by Balloon (the Davy) to Geneva, redirected to Brussels and to Geneva again. Charged due 40 (c) for Belgium-Switzerland (rate 1869). On back GENEVE-CULOZ dated 19, BRUXELLES dated 22, Belgian railway SUISSE / PAR EST I. dated 23 and GENEVE.



Until Spring 1871 straight postal service between occupied and unoccupied areas is irregular and disrupted. To get round the situation, mail is sent by private courier to Switzerland where forwarding agent mails it onward.



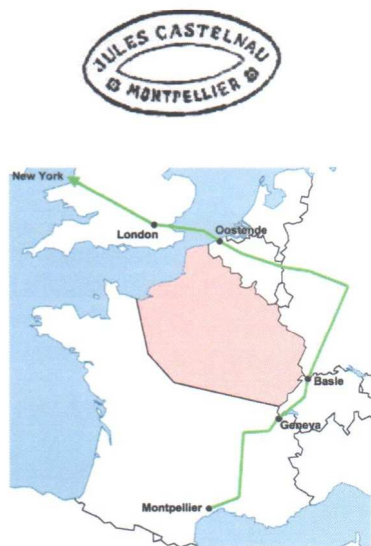
Excerpt from "La poste ferroviaire de 1871 à 1914", Pierre Lux © AP

On back: "This letter has gone for almost 25 days and went back to me by post. I try to forward it via Geneva with the help of our friends in this town"

3 Dec. 1870 - To Mont-s-Vaudrey, French Jura, registered, double weight: **Fr. 1.-** (Zst. 36b) i.e. 2 x 30c + registration fee 40c. Not delivered due to military priorities in railway postoffice service.

(e)

**Extremely rare French postal return label**



**Only 3 reported covers forwarded to USA**

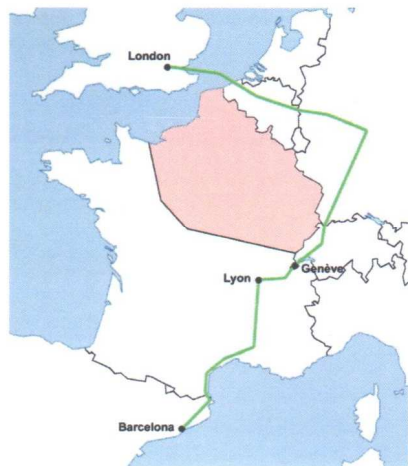
Ex Stone



3 March 1871 - From Montpellier, France, to **New York**. Conveyed by private courier up to Geneva, then mailed at the rate of 50c (pair Zst. 40) via direct exchange over Ostende (Belgium) and England. Postmarks **LONDON / PAID** and **NEW YORK PAID ALL / MAR 17**. On back **BASEL / 4 III 71**.



*Mail traffic to and from London via Geneva.*



Postal conveyance is operated through Belgium and Germany, while private courier may travel through occupied territories.



11 Dec. 1870 - From London to Barcelona, Spain. Conveyed by private courier up to Geneva, then 50c (Zst. 43) correctly paid at current rate. Seal of the forwarding agent BONNA & Cie on the front.



18 Feb. 1871 - From Marseille to London. Conveyed by private courier up to Geneva, then 30c (Zst. 32 and 38) correctly paid at current rate. Seal of the forwarding agent A. CHENNEVIERE & Cie on the front. Arrival postmark LONDON / PAID / 20 FEB.

(e)





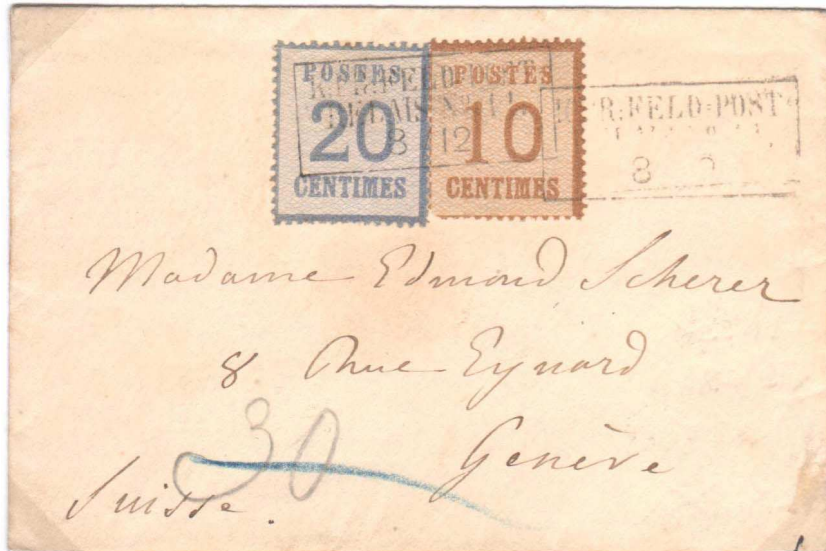
14 Dec. 1870 - From Coblenz, Germany to Dijon, firstly forwarded to Geneva, then mailed on 16 Dec. (Zst. 41) and carried by Prussian post via STRASSBURG, annexed Alsace, on 18 Dec. Arrival postmark DIJON dated **16 JANV. 71**



16 Feb. 1871 - Marseille to  
Eprenay, German-occupied  
French area, stipulated "**voie  
d'Allemagne**" (via *Germany*).  
25c (Zst. 40) current rate for  
Germany, but no postage due  
for the French route.



*Mail through Feldpost-Relais (German Fieldpost). Validity of occupation stamps apart from annexed zone: 06.09.1870 - 24.03.1871 i.e. 6½ months.*



K.PR.FELD-POST-  
RELAIS N° 41.  
8 / 12

8 Dec. 1870 - Through fieldpost No 41 (Versailles) to a private addressee in Geneva. Postage with occupation stamps of 10 and 20c (Mi 5 I, 6 I). Handwritten mention 30 (c) striked in blue not to claim any postage due.

*No franking privilege for Telegraph Service which is independent of Postal administration.*

*The head of Telegraph & Post in France has to notify the adjournment of Telegram service. Opened letter via Versailles is the only allowed way.*



31 Dec. 1870 - Through fieldpost No 43 (St-Germain-en-Laye, Seine & Oise) to the head of **Telegraph Office in Geneva**. Same postage and handwritten mention "*f(ranco) 30*" accentuated in blue. Mark K.PR.FELD.POST / RELAIS N°43 .



Postal traffic with annexed Alsace-Moselle works under **censorship** until the end of the war. Validity of occupation stamps: 09.12.1870 - 31.12.1871



Auf militairischen  
Befehl geöffnet

[2x enlarged]

30 Dec. 1870 - From Colmar, Alsace, to Lancy, Geneva, franked 25c (YT 1, 3, 5), German rate to Switzerland. German postmark COLMAR and arrival mark GENEVE dated 3 Jan. 1871. **Very scarce blue censorship mark** meaning *Opened upon military order*.



17 Nov. 1871 - Banking correspondence from Mulhouse to Geneva. Regular postage 25c (YT 7 / Mi 7 I). Rail station postmark MÜHLHAUSEN-i-ELSASS / BAHNHOF. (e)



Postage rates seem not always clear for senders or postal service.



23 Jan. 1871 - From Geneva to Metz stipulated "Par Bâle" (via Basle) by German postal service. 30c (Zst. 41) paid at the rate for France instead of 25c rate for Germany.

Opened by military censorship.  
On the back, handwritten mention  
**Auf militärischem Befehl geöffnet**  
(opened upon military order).  
Arrival postmark METZ dated 26 Jan.

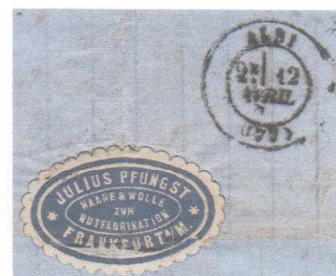
2 Feb. 1871 - From Metz to Geneva.  
Regular postage 25c (YT 7 / Mi 7 I).  
Red handwritten postage due of **25** c  
for double weight **10 / 2**. Striked in  
blue by the Swiss exchange office.  
Former French postmark METZ still  
in use.

(e)





*Prussian troops leave the French occupied territory progressively and postal traffic is not back to normal before mid-1871.*



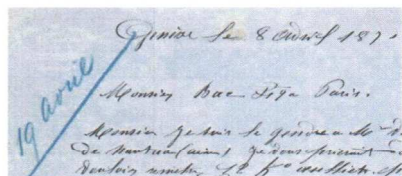
7 April 1871 - From Frankfurt, Germany, to Albi, France. Firstly forwarded to Geneva, then mailed at normal rate (Zst. 41) on 10 April. On back railway postmark TARASCON A CETTE of 11 and ALBI of 12 April.

5 May 1871 - From Strasbourg, annexed Alsace, to Bergerac, France. Private route to Carouge, canton of Geneva, then posted at normal rate for France. On back, postmarks GENEVE, railway TOULOUSE A BORDEAUX, MARMANDE and BERGERAC of 7 May.





During the **COMMUNE OF PARIS** (end March to end May 1871) postal services are disrupted. A little mail can be forwarded outside the surroundings of Paris by private means.



**Exceptional Swiss letter  
entered in Paris during  
the Commune**

One so-called "Bruner Letter"  
(via St-Denis) dated 2 May from  
Silvaplana, Grisons, is recorded

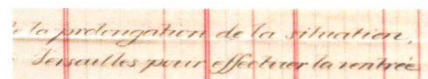
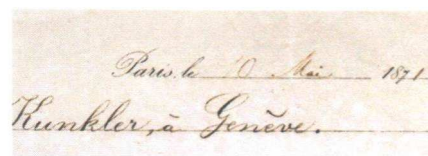
(e)



9 April 1871 - From Geneva to Paris, usual postage. Inside is the only mark stating the arrival on 19 April.



10 May 1871 - From Paris to Geneva. Private route to **MELUN**, ca. 50 Km south-east from Paris, then posted at the usual rate 30c (YT 30) on 13 May. At the back **PARIS A AUXERRE** of 14 and **GENEVE-CULOZ** of 15 May.



"Due to the persistence of circumstances, we are determined to send by Versailles ..."

A few letters during the **Commune** to Switzerland are also known via Fontainebleau or St-Denis



*After the Franco-Prussian war, the International Committee will keep using successive frank stamps.*



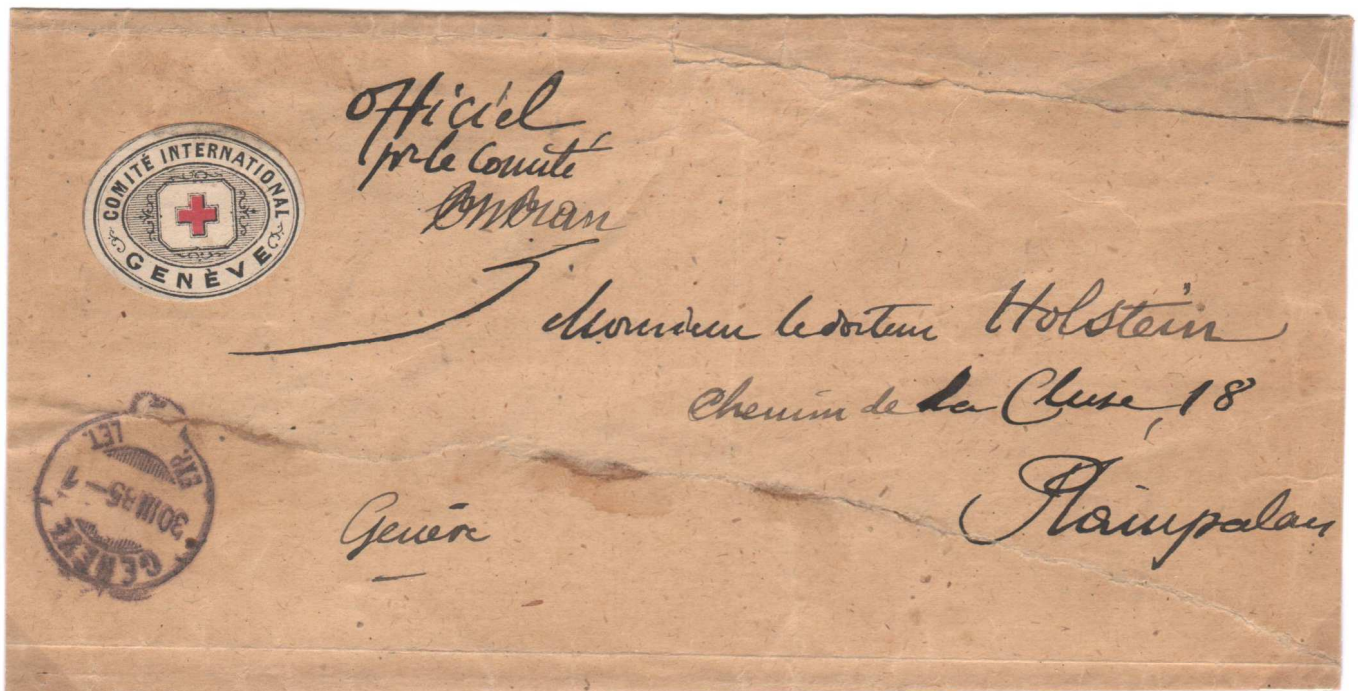
26 Oct. 1898 - Red Cross wrapper to Bern. These are used to send activity reports of the International Committee. As Red Cross frank stamps are not issued by the post, they cannot be cancelled by postmarks.

Oval frank stamp (SBK 9)  
06.07.1885 - 1922

On 37 years, 55 covers recorded of which **only 20** used for service purpose (not convenience)

Ex Löwer

(e)



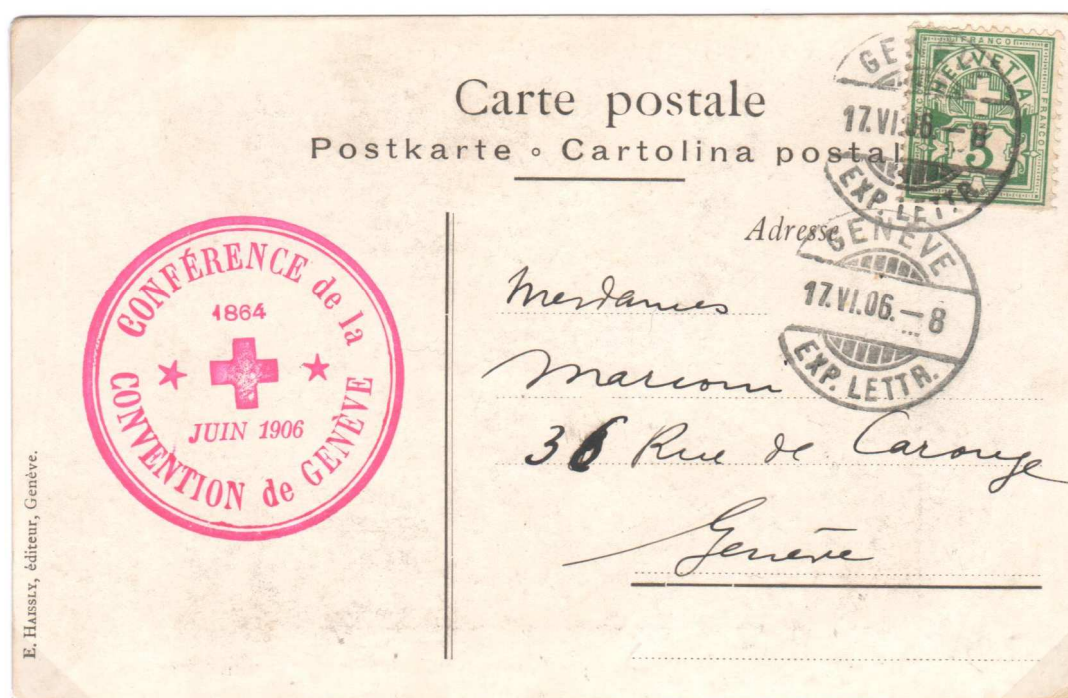
30 March 1885 - Wrapper within the city (Plainpalais). Handwritten mention "Officiel / pr le Comité". 2<sup>nd</sup> oval frank stamp with regular letters E of GENEVE (SBK 8a). **8 examples recorded** (01.1882 - 01.1886) (e)



*The Conference for the Revision of the Geneva Convention in 1906  
opens a new era for the ICRC which will shape its role during WW I.*

17 June 1906 - Postcard sent within the city, bearing the official seal of the International Conference for the revision of the Geneva Convention.

*Very few examples of this red mark are known*



25 June 1906 - Official cover issued by the Canton of Geneva on behalf of the ICRC. Regulatory State seals **REPUBLICA GENEVENSIS** and **AFFAIRE OFFICIELLE** to grant franking privilege during the Conference.

**Only 3 examples recorded**

(14 and 26 June) with the header "Conférence de la Convention de Genève: Juin 1906"



Domestic rate for C.o.D.'s as of 01.07.1862:  
1% of value with a minimum of 10c,  
then progression by step of 10c.

GENÈVE / B

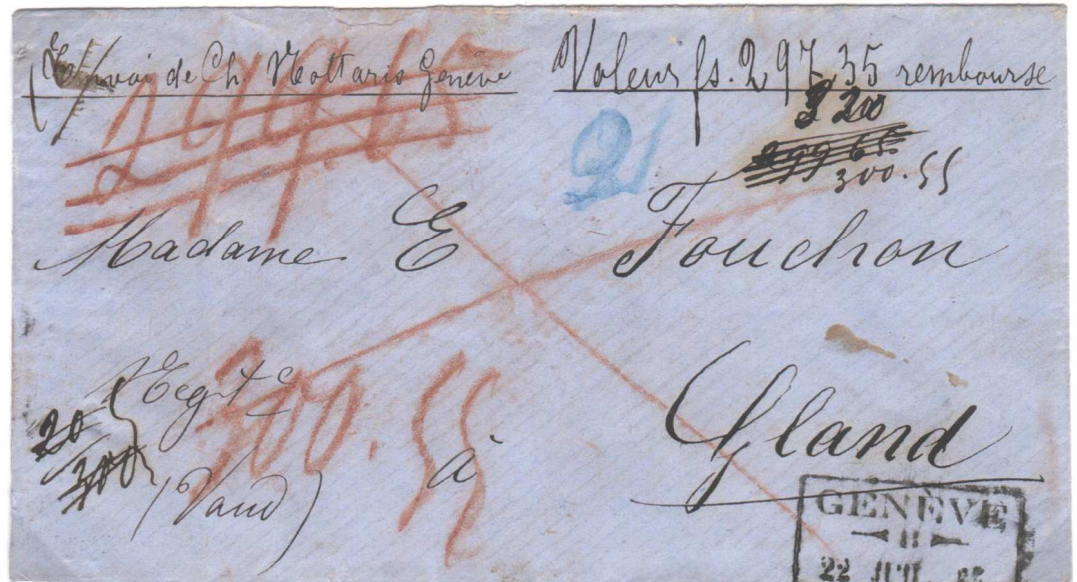
(AW 95)

07.01.1865 - 21.02.1871

**3 examples recorded**

C.o.D.'s from 50 to 300 Fr. are  
processed by **parcel post**

Ex Vuille



22 July 1865 - Double weight C.o.D. Fr. 297.35 to Gland, Vaud. Postage 20c + insurance fee Fr.3. Total Fr. 300.55 due from the recipient.



GENÈVE / A

(AW 89B / 2025)

24.12.1866 - 24.06.1873

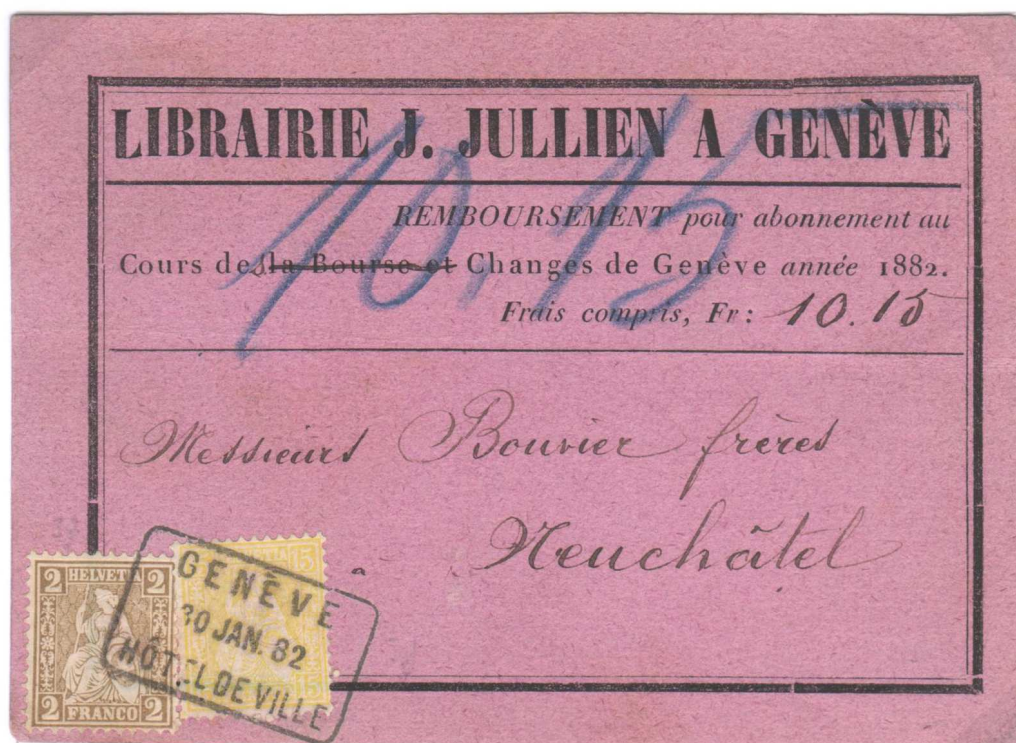
18 April 1871 - C.o.D. for Fr. 5.- within  
the city, pre-stamped 5c (Zst. P2) and mi-  
nimum insurance fee 10c (Zst. 38).

**Scarce forerunner postal card  
used for C.o.D.**

Ex Grand



Branch post offices in Geneva have designed their own parcel hand-stamps until 1885. Swiss Post standards were established gradually.



GENÈVE  
HOTEL DE VILLE

(AW 99 / Gü 3248)

11.02.1881 - 07.12.1885

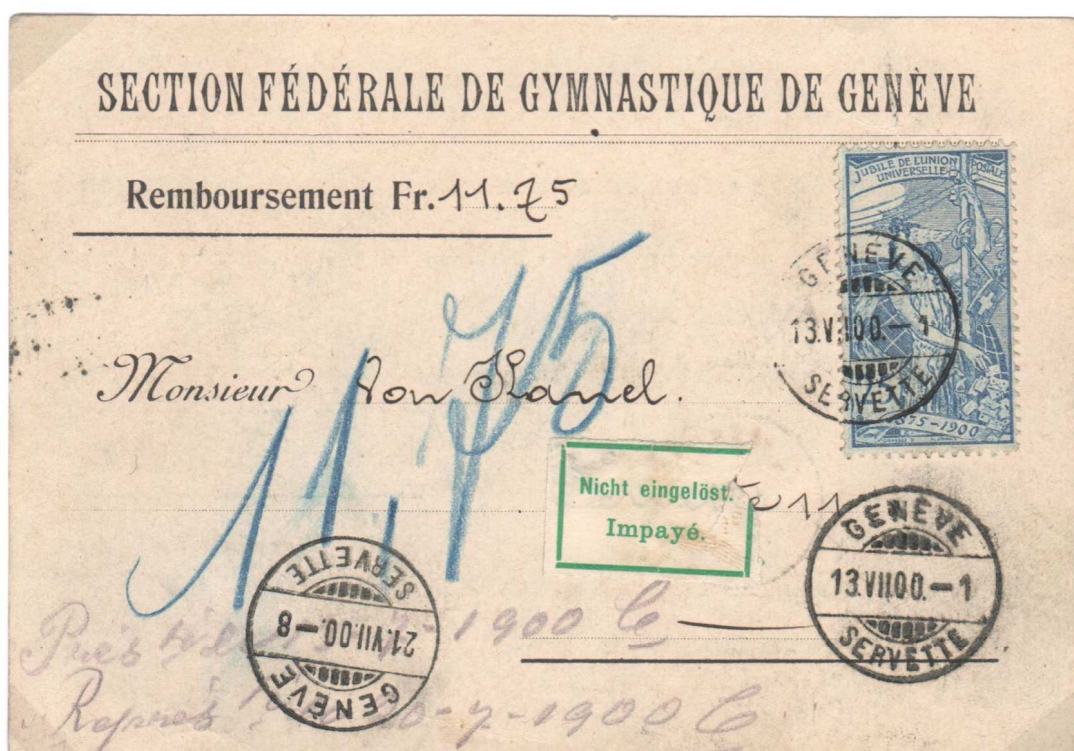
**5 examples recorded**

30 Jan. 1882 - Fr. 10.- to Neuchatel, franked 2c as printed matter and excessive insurance fee 15c (Zst. 37 and 39). 10c were sufficient. **Scarce parcel postmark HOTEL DE VILLE.**

(e)

13 July 1900 - Within the city Fr. 11.50, franked 25c (Zst. 79A): 20c insurance fee and 5c local postage. Cancellations GENÈVE / SERVETTE from 13 July (Gü 12152) and 21 July (Gü 12150): payment refused by the recipient (green label **Impayé** G+V n°1). Postman's handwritten mentions of the two unsuccessful deliveries *Présenté le 13-7-1900* and *Représenté le 20-7-1900*.

**Uncommon UPU Jubilee franking on a C.o.D.**





*International C.o.D.'s are sent through **Parcel Post** until 1892 for different European countries (1895 for France and NL). These postal documents are extremely scarce.*

12 Oct. 1869 - Acknowledgement receipt for Fr. 6.15 for a C.o.D. to Beilstein, Württemberg, Germany. The recipient's post office should have sent back the form after having stamped it on the lower part.

*Postal form No.50 not recorded or reported*

**Only example noticed in Switzerland**

No. 50.)  
VIII 66.



**Nachnahme-Zettel.**  
**Bulletin de remboursement.**  
**Bullettino di rimborso.**

von }  
de }  
da }

nach }  
à }  
per }

und zurück nach  
et retour à  
e da ritornarsi a

No. 2 ad No.


11 Sept. 1878 - C.o.D. Fr. 14.50 on a wrapper sent to Bischwiller, German Alsace, franked Fr. 1.20 (Zst. 32 and 36c):

Swiss weight postage (< 5 kg):	-40
German weight postage:	-50
Insurance fee (minimum):	-30
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.20</b>

*Very beginning of stamped parcel post*

**Only example recorded in Geneva**

*Ex Schäfer*

(e)



*C.o.D.'s eligible to Mail Post:*  
*From 01.07.1892: Bel., Lux., Ger., Aust., Italy, Rom.,*  
*Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Chili.*  
*From 15.06.1895: France, Netherlands.*  
 UPU rate:           Registration postage;  
                           Insurance fee paid by recipient.



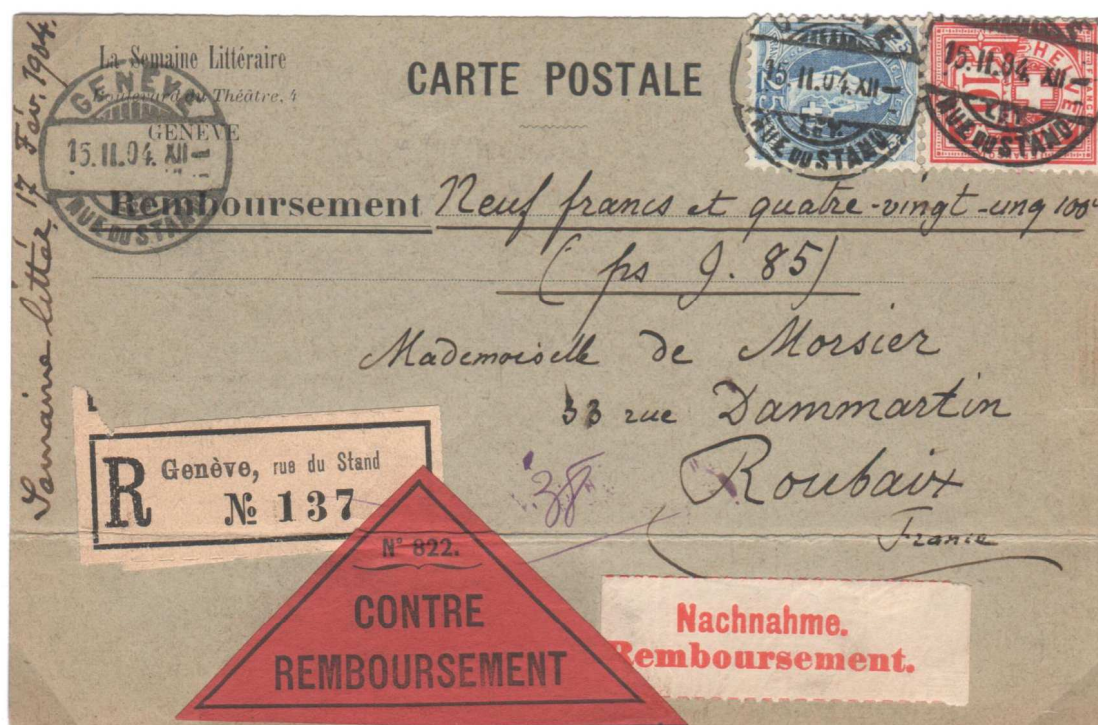
25 Sept. 1897 - Fr. 15.50 to Rudkjøbing, Denmark, converted into 11 Kr. 7 Ø. Pre-paid UPU 25c envelope (Zst. U31) and further registration fee 25c (Zst. 67D). Label **R** and cancellation from the branch office *Rue du Stand*. Label **Nachnahme / Remboursement** (No 4 G&V) for the insurance fee to collect from the recipient.

**Rare example of a C.o.D. to Denmark**

(e)

15 Feb. 1904 - Fr. 9.85 on a postcard direct to Roubaix, France, franked 35c (Zst. 61B and 73E): 10c postage and 25c registration. As from 1903, R labels are in black. French triangle label **CONTRE REMBOURSEMENT** (cash on delivery).

*C.o.D.'s abroad are always uncommon*





*Rates for domestic:*01.07.1862 to 30.06.1867: domestic rates of **Parcel Post**01.07.1867 to 31.12.1917: 20c up to 100 Fr. + 10c / 100 Fr.  
(with particular cases during certain periods)

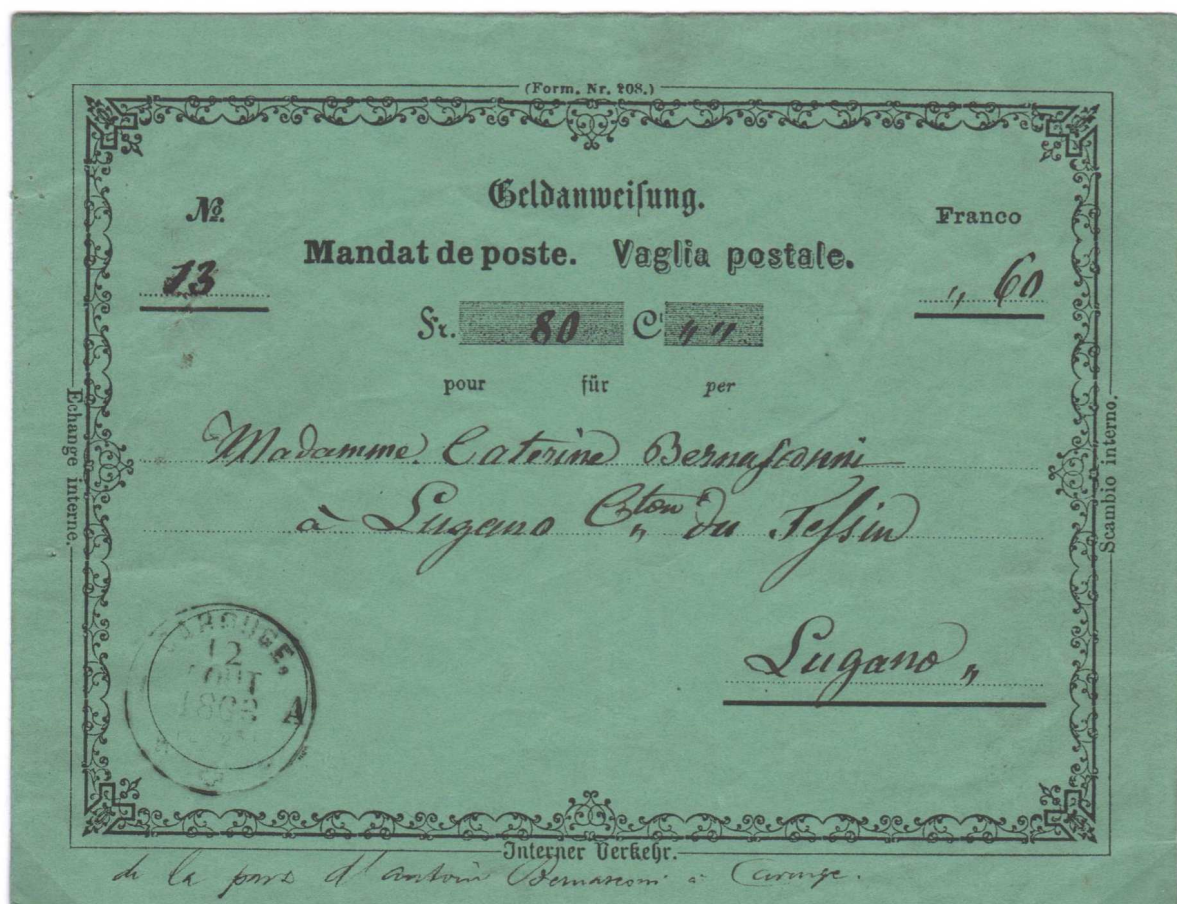
1<sup>st</sup> July 1867 - Money order for Fr. 79.- from Chêne, Geneva, to the chief cashier of the head of posts in Geneva. Imprinted value of 20c and stamp I for postal zone I. Postmark CHENE-THONEX erroneously dated 1 JUIN (June) 67 instead of July.

**First Day of pre-stamped money order in Switzerland**

12 Aug. 1863 - Money order for Fr.80.- from Carouge, Geneva, to Lugano, Ticino. Handwritten postage 60 (c) according to the minimum Parcel Post rate for the 19<sup>th</sup> distance step, up to 1 pound and up to 100 Fr.

Before 1867 money orders forms are envelopes without imprinted value. A message can be enclosed by the sender.

**Rare early example**





Rates for international:  
From 01.04.1879: 25c / 25 Fr. (minimum 50c)  
Domestic: see previous page

GENÈVE. C  
(AW 43G)

19.09.1887 - 23.10.1888

19 Sept. 1887 - To Lausanne, pre-stamped 20c (Zst. PA 34). Additional franking 40c (pair Zst. 66A). Correct total 60c for a payment of Fr. 450.

Entire money order forms are almost nonexistent in Geneva



GENÈVE. B  
(AW 43G)

27.11.1879 - 05.07.1888

5 July 1888 - To Paris, France, for Fr. 172.90, on form No. 750 prepaid 50c (Zst. PA62) and correct additional franking Fr. 1.25 (Zst. 67A & 71A). Both postmarks are from the rail station (GARE and GENÈVE.B)

Used moneys orders in Geneva are almost always cut out to hide names and comply with postal secrecy  
Uncommon example of entire piece

(e)



International service with France and Germany only:  
25c from 1880 to 30.11.1890



24 Nov. 1885 - Collection order to Vimoutiers, Normandy, containing bills of exchange to be discounted by French post in favor of the sender located in Turin. Swiss form-envelope n° 1570 especially dedicated to France (without weight limit). Flat rate 25c (Zst. 60Ac and 2x 61Ab) for collection limited to Fr. 1'000.

Italy being not included in the international collection service, postmen sent back the envelope to Geneva.

Postmarks on the back: VIMOUTIERS, railway post PARIS A CHERBOURG and CHERBOURG A PARIS, AMBULANT N°2 (Basle-Geneva), GENÈVE / EXP. LET. of 28 Nov.

Only 2 copies recorded in Geneva

(e)

Form. No 1570.

Administration des Postes Suisses.  
Schweizerische Postverwaltung.

GENÈVE  
24.XI.85.-5  
MANDATS

VALEURS A RECOURER.  
Einzugsmandat.

RECOMMANDE

509

Genève

Bureau de poste de Vimoutiers

RETOUR  
A L'ENVOYEUR  
4285

Département de l'Orne Suisse  
(France)

ENVOYÉ par M. Jeneke Bureau Restant  
Versender

demeurant à Turin (Italie)  
Wohnort des Versenders

S. S. II. 83. 10,000.

Timbre poste de  
Francomarque zu  
25 Cts.

Il n'est permis d'insérer dans la lettre recommandée que des effets payables dans la circumscription postale du bureau de destination. — L'administration ne se charge pas de faire protester les effets; en cas de non-paiement, elle se borne au renvoi pur et simple, sans frais, à l'expéditeur. La somme recommandée en France est convertie en un mandat au profit du déposant, déduction faite du droit proportionnel établi par la loi sur les mandats et du prélevement au profit des agents, calculé à raison de 10 centimes par 20 francs ou fraction de 20 francs. Ce prélevement ne peut dépasser 30 centimes. Es dürfen nur solche Anlagen beigegeben werden, deren Einzug in die Bestimmungsbereich des Bestimmungsbüroaus stattfindet. Die Postverwaltung pflegt sich nicht damit, Wechsel protestieren zu lassen; bei Zahlungverweigerung werden die Papiere ohne Weiteres kostenfrei an den Auftraggeber zurückgeschickt. Die in Frankreich angegebene Summe wird dem Auftraggeber durch Geldanweisung unter Abzug der gesetzlichen Geldanweisungstaxe und Gebühr von 10 Cts. für je Fr. 20 oder einen Bruchteil von Fr. 20, abgezogen. Diese Gebühr beträgt im Maximum 30 Cts.



Domestic: 01.04.1875 to 30.11.1891: 50c up to 1'000 Fr.  
 01.12.1891 to 30.06.1925: 30c » » (15c up to 20 Fr.)  
 International: 01.12.1890 to 30.09.1907: as for registered (12 to 17 countries)

12 Feb. 1892 -  
 Fr. 109 to St-  
 Martin, canton  
 of Fribourg,  
 franked 30c  
 (pair Zst. 64A)  
 from branch  
 office RUE  
 DU RHÔNE.  
 Form No 1550  
 without im-  
 printed value.

Schweizerische Postverwaltung. Administration des postes suisses.

**Internes Einzugsmandat. Recouvrement interne.**

R N° 110

Name und Adresse des Auftraggebers: An das Postbureau Au bureau de poste

Nom et adresse du mandant: *Oron*

WYLER & C°  
 3284  
 GENEVE

Die Post ist beauftragt, einzuziehen bei — La poste est chargée d'encaisser chez

*Monsieur Jean [redacted], Aubergiste*

in) *St Martin pri Oron / Fribourg* am) *15 février 1892*  
 à) le)

den Betrag von) Fr. *cent-neuf francs* C.  
 le montant de)

in Zahlen) Fr. *109.* ( gegen Aushändigung der Inlagen, bestehend in  
 en chiffres) ( contre remise des pièces incluses consistant en

*en traite acquittée*

G. R. & S. — X. 91. — 220,000. N° 1550.

GENEVE  
 12 II 92-8  
 RUE DU RHÔNE

R Genève Plainpalais N° 944

Schweiz. Postverwaltung. — Administration des Postes suisses.

Versender Envoyé par *N° 7 Lacroix. Photographie*  
 Wohnort des Versenders 1 rue de Candolle. Genève  
 demeurant à

**Einzugsmandat.**  
**Valeurs à recouvrer.**

Post-Bureau in *Berlin*  
 Bureau de poste de

(Provinz oder Département)  
 (Province ou Département de)

LS & Cie. X. 92. 25,000. N° 1570.

GENEVE  
 10.1.92-2  
 PLAINPALAIS

12.35

30 Jan. 1897 -  
 To Berlin, Ger-  
 many, on form  
 No. 1570 de-  
 signed for the 12  
 countries eli-  
 gible to the ser-  
 vice. Franking  
 50c (Zst. 70D)  
 for a 1<sup>st</sup> weight  
 step registered  
 letter from  
 branch office  
 PLAINPALAIS.

The fee of 25c /  
 25 Fr. and the  
 flat-rate of 10  
 (c) for each equi-  
 -ty are deducted  
 from the collec-  
 tion paid back to  
 the sender

(e)



Parcel post did not use stamps until 1878. Postage depends on distance, weight and value. All declared values in domestic traffic are handled by **parcel post**, including letters.



10 July 1878 - Fr. 10,000 declared value. Franked Fr. 1.60 (Zst. 32, 36, 38): Fr. 1.20 insurance fee and 40c for less than 5 kg (any distance until this weight). Rates of 1876. *Very beginning of stamped parcel post.*

*Only document bearing the parcel postmark GENEVE A with high characters combined to the faded circles cancellation, both being very rare in themselves*



21 July 1878 - Fr. 200 declared value by letter to Arzier, canton of Vaud. Franking 50 c (Zst. 42 on prepaid stationery Zst. U22): 40c for more than 25 km and less than 5 kg; 10c insurance fee (2 x 3c rounded to the next 5c).

*Rare use of postal stationery in parcel post*

(e)



*From 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1884 postage remains dependent of distance for heavy sendings.*



*Heaviest sending  
ever recorded in  
Switzerland until  
1921*

1.265 tonne /  
1.24 long ton /  
1.39 short ton

GENÈVE  
MESS. CONS.

*Messageries Consignations  
= Parcel Post Consignment*

(AW 144B / Güller 6566)  
13.05.1882 - 10.11.1913

18 Oct. 1898. - Bank **fund transfer** to Zurich, franked with 85 stamps of 3 Fr. (Zst. 72**bb**): 1 full sheet of 50, 2 blocks of 10 and 3 strips of 5. Postage calculation for 25 sacks of coins, eachone weighing 50,6 kg and amounting to a value of Fr. 1000,- : Fr. 9,90 for 55-60 kg to the distance zone III (200-300 km); 30c for 1000-2000 Fr. of declared value. Total per sack = Fr. 10,20. Full postage: 25 x 10,20 = **255.-Fr.**

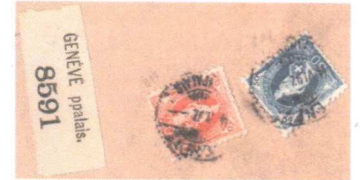
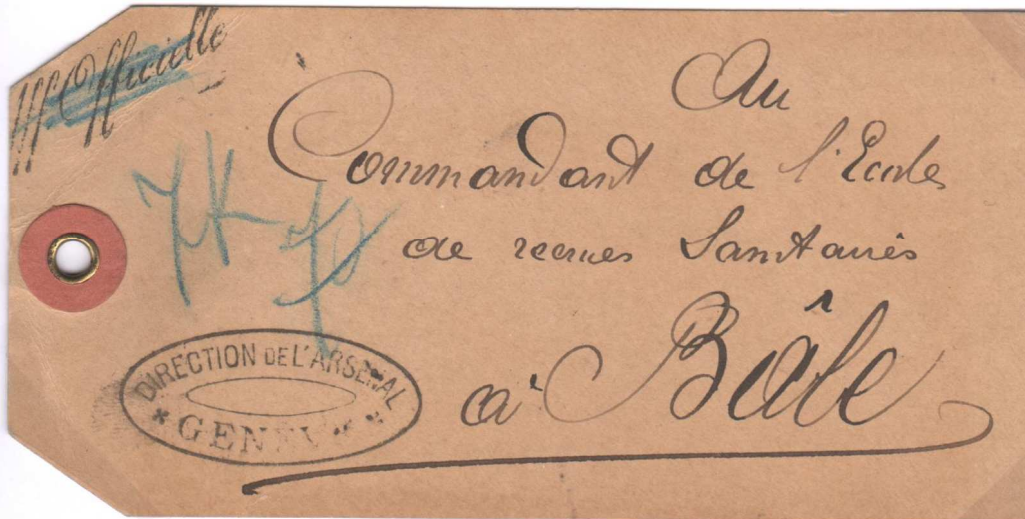
*Highest domestic postage recorded in Switzerland before the 20<sup>th</sup> century*

*Ex Fürbeth*

 $(e)$



As from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1884, rates are independent of distance. Local sendings cost a bit more while long distance are much cheaper.



14 June 1897 - **Military consignment** to Basle. Despite the stamp "*Aff. Officielle*" **franking privilege was not granted** and the blue handwritten mention **7K** (7 kg) implied a franking of 70c (Zst. 66D and 70D). Initial due **70** crossed out.

30 May 1902 - Fr. 2'000 declared value by letter to Zurich, franked 55c (Zst. 65B and 2 x 73E). Parcel post label GENÈVE, Eaux-Vives.

Weight postage: 15c  
Insurance fee:  
first Fr. 1'000 30c  
next Fr. 1'000 10c  
(6c rounded to 10)  
**Total:** 55c





Schweizerische  
Postverwaltung.

Administration  
des Postes Suisses.

Amministrazione  
delle Poste Svizzere.

N.  
der Karte.  
d'expédition.  
di spedizione.

~~Postbrief.~~ — Bulletin d'expédition.  
~~Postbulletino.~~ — Bollettino di spedizione.

Aufgabe von  
Consigné par  
Consegnati da

Mr G. Dufour à Genève

zur Expedition in Eilfracht  
pour être expédié à grande vitesse en port  
per essere spediti a grande velocità in porto

port payé.

an }  
à }  
al }

in }  
à }  
a }

Bezeichnung der Colli. — Indication des Colis. — Indicazione dei Colli.

Anzahl. Nombre. Quantità.	Gattung. Nature. Qualità.	Inhalt. Contenu. Contenuto.	Zeichen und Nummer. Marque et Numero. Marca e Numero.	Gewicht in Kilogramm. Poids en Kilogr. Peso in Chilogr.	Declarirter Werth. Valeur. Valore.	Begleitpapiere. Déclarations. Ricapiti finanziarj.
1	group	especes	adresse	1.240	240fr	

Gegen Nachnahme von  
Contre remboursement de  
Contro assegno di  
Versicherung für den Betrag von  
Assurance pour la valeur de  
Assicurazione pel valore di



Vorausbezahlte  
Ports payés  
Affrancate

Taxen. — Taxes. — Tasse.

Zu bezahlende  
Ports à payer  
Assegnate

Porto — Port — Porto	
Assurance — Assurance — Assicurazioni	
Débours — Spese anticipate	
Remboursement — Assegni	
Provision — Provision — Provvigione	
Frais de Douane — Tasse doganali	
Magasinage — Magazzinaggio	
Porto ultérieur — Porto oltre	
Distribution à domicile - Consegna a domicilio	

Genève le  
1. Decembre 1888

Unterchrift des Aufgebers  
Signature  
du consignataire  
Firma del Mittente

G. Dufour  
N. Chaillos

Total beim Empfänger zu beziehen  
Total à payer par le destinataire  
Totale da esigere


\*) Angegen ob frankirt oder unfrankirt. — Indiquer si c'est en port dû ou en port payé. — Indicare se sono in porto affrancato od unfrancato.

Bemerkung. Die Postverwaltungen und Transportunternehmungen haften für die abgegebenen Gegenstände nach Maßgabe der betreffenden Bundesgesetze.  
Avis. Les Administrations des Postes et les Entreprises de transport sont responsables des articles consignés d'après la législation de leurs pays respectifs.  
Avviso. Le Amministrazioni postali e Imprese di trasporto sono responsabili degli articoli consegnati secondo la legislazione del loro paese.

29361



*Parcel Post has used stamps since 1878 only. The advent of UPU did not standardize rates and procedures at once.*



**RÉCÉPISSÉ**

\*) Affranchissement Fr. 2 1/2 C<sup>o</sup> 1/5  
Récépissé n° 05.

pour un ..... sans valeur déclarée 2 20

pour un paquet ..... avec valeur déclarée

de Francs .....

Consignataire M. F. F. F. F.

Destinataire M. Sulkowski - Paris

Signature de l'agent postal: F. F. F.

Si l'envoi consigné est un article de messagerie (paquet, caisse, etc.) sans valeur déclarée ou une correspondance recommandée, on utilisera la première ligne; si par contre l'objet a une valeur déclarée, on emploiera la seconde ligne.

Le montant en francs de la valeur déclarée doit être énoncé en toutes lettres.

\*) Si l'envoi n'est pas affranchi, toute cette ligne doit être tracée.

**GENÈVE A**  
**21 DEC. 78**

N° 3150.

GENÈVE A

(AW 89 B)

13.11.1874 -

30.03.1883

Postage: 2.05

Receipt fee: 0.05

Total: 2.20

21 Dec. 1878 - Return receipt (Zst. 50.F.3.1) for the consignment of a parcel (*paquet*) to Paris, without declared value. *Rare parcel postmark GENÈVE A (main office).*

1<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1880 - To Genoa, Italy, 1.37 kg and Fr. 270 (coins). Franking Fr. 1.50 (Zst. 36 and 43), route via Simplon Pass (sledge post) and Arona, rate of 1877:

<u>Switzerland</u> : weight up to 5 kg 40c, insurance fee 10c, Alpine pass surcharge 20c	70c
<u>Italy</u> : value up to 1000 Fr. 55c, Stamp duty 5c, Delivery fee within Genoa 20c	80c
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.50</b>

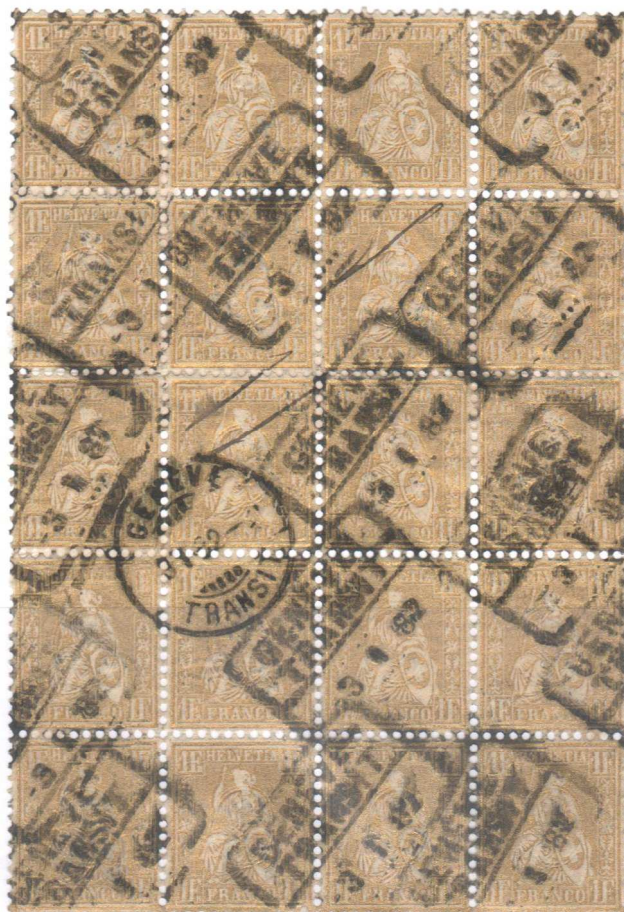
*This forerunner form N°1903 issued in 1876 was still used with Italy while the new common parcel form N°1845 was already used with the Austro-German Postal Union*

**Only 3 forms known in Switzerland, all used in 1880**



3 Jan. 1882 - Franking of 20 Fr. most likely for an interbank fund transfer. Block of 20 granite paper 1 Fr. (Zst. 52).

**Biggest recorded unit of this scarce used stamp**



(e)

Ex H. Grand



Mixed and combined frankings for high or intricate frankings.

GENEVE  
TRANSIT

(AW 99 / 2053)  
01.07.1877 -  
27.03.1885

Boxed parcel  
postmark of the  
Transit post office  
located at the rail-  
way station

Only 9 mixed  
frankings  
recorded in  
Geneva

(e)

Ex Grand  
Ex Soderberg

COUPON.

Office de consignation.

GENEVE TRANSIT 5 VII 82

Versender. Consignataire.

B. A. Prémont  
Spielwerk-Fabrik  
Genève.

zu } une caisse  
conc. }

Werth } Fr. 100  
Valeur } 400  
An }

M. Karl Svab  
Kerepeserstrasse 24  
Budapest  
W Hongrie

Gewicht } 8.050  
Poids }

Aufgabe-Register 401  
Registre de consig Aus  
Romanshorn

N° 1845.

R. & S. — IV. 81. — 200.

5 July 1882 - Parcel consignment form for 8.05 kg and Fr.100.- to Budapest, Hungary. Mixed franking **Sitting Helvetia granite paper** + **Numeral white paper** issues (Zst. 46, 5 x 52, 54) totalling Fr. 5.15. Rate for Austria-Hungary 8-9 kg for zone IV: Fr. 2.15; insurance fee 15c up to Fr. 375.-. Swiss postage 5-10 kg for distance IX (Geneva-Romanshorn < 400 km): Fr. 2.80; insurance fee 5c up to Fr. 100.- abroad. Total: 2.15 + 0.15 + 2.80 + 0.05 = 5.15

422

Coupon.

Kann vom Adressaten abgelöst werden.  
Peut être détaché par le destinataire.  
Può essere staccato dal destinatario.

Office expédition.

GENEVE 4 VI. 91. - 3

Versender:  
Expéditeur:  
Mittente:

Anzahl der Zolldeklarationen  
Nombre des déclarations en douane  
Numeri delle dichiarazioni di dogana } 3

BEGLEIT-  
BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION.

zu } P.P.C. # 253  
pour }  
per } Coln portu

Werth } Fr. 6000  
Valeur }  
Valore }

Nachnahme  
Remboursement  
Rimborso }

An }  
A }  
A }

M. S. Soderberg  
Passage St. Hubert  
Bruxelles

GENEVE 65 Aus W  
Basel Fil. S C B.

Hier die Francomarken aufkleben!  
Ici on collera les timbres-poste!  
Qui si incolleranno i francobolli!

N° 1845.

R. & S. — I. 90. — 800,000.

4 June 1891 - From the **watch factory** Patek, Philippe & Co to Brussels, via Germany. Weight **1k967**: Fr.1.50 up to 5kg; value Fr. 6000: 2.80 insur. fee; decl. fees 1.70; total Fr.6.- (Zst. 22Da II/N + 71A).

(e)



## Narrow parcel labels from 1896

**BEGLEIT-ADRESSE**  
BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION — BOLLETTINO DI SPEDIZIONE

1 *Package* Nachnahme Remboursement Rimborsio } Fr. *1.49*  
Franco . . . . .

Total Fr. . . . .

*J. G. G. Wild*  
*Idar*  
*Rheinland*

Hier aufkleben  
Ici on  
Qui s' 889 Genève rue du Rhône

Zolldeklarationen.  
Declarat. en douane.  
Dichiarazioni dog.

Franco *1.00*

Frankomarken.  
Timbres-poste.

GENÈVE  
RUE DU RHÔNE

1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1901 - **3 kg** without declared value to Idar, Germany, franked **1 Fr.** with **fine printing claret stamp** (Zst. 71E). Narrow parcel post label Genève rue du Rhône. Overleaf German postmarks METZ (German Lorraine) and IDAR.

Correct flat rate applicable to a parcel up to 5 kg to Germany

**Exceptional lone franking with this rare 1 Fr. stamp**

(e)

27 June 1906 - 0.265 kg with Fr. 300.- declared value to Copenhagen, Denmark, franked Fr. 1.65 (Zst. 90A, 61B, 65B). Narrow parcel post label Genève rue du Stand. Customs seals BASEL and Toldfrit (*Duty Free*), arrival KJØBENHAVN B and overleaf HAMBURG of 29 June.

Postage Fr. 1.50 for < 1 kg + 15c / Fr. 300.-, total 1.65

Bulletin d'expédition Begleitadresse Bollettino di spedizione

zu } 1 *Colis* *total*  
pour }  
per }

Wert } Fr. *300*  
Valeur }  
Valore }

*Landske Landmønstre bank*  
*Hypothek- og Wechselbank*  
*Copenhagen*

489 Genève, rue du Stand

Etikette Auswechslungsbureau  
Etiquette Bureau d'échange  
Etichetta

GENÈVE  
RUE DU STAND

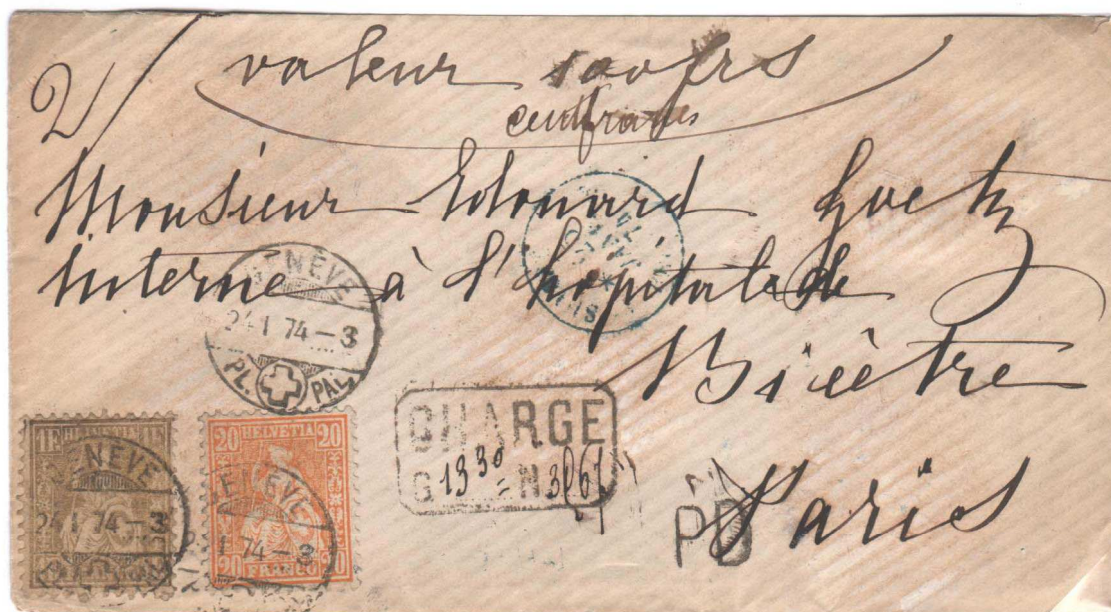
BASEL  
TOLDFRIT

KJØBENHAVN B

HAMBURG



Declared values to foreign destinations are handled by **Mail Post** when not packed in parcels. Although such letters are admitted from 1865, the first recorded one from Geneva dates back to 1870. **FRANCE** is the **only destination country noted from Geneva** until 1897 (then a few letters are known to Italy and Germany). The advent of **UPU** does not affect insurance fees. See rates on next page.



24 Jan. 1874 - **Before GPU / UPU**. Fr. 100.- to Bicêtre near Paris. Franking 1.20 Fr. (Zst. 32 et 36c) as follows:

Double weight 13.3g:	60c
Registration fee:	40c
Insurance fee:	20c
<b>Total</b>	<b>Fr. 1.20</b>

Cancellation GENÈVE / PL. PAL. from Plainpalais branch office.

(e)

27 June 1876 - **As from GPU / UPU**. Fr. 1'600.- to Collobrières, south of France. Fr. 3.55 (Zst. 30, 43 and 3x 36b) as follows:

Single postage 11.3g:	25c
Registration fee:	10c
Insurance fee 16x20c:	3.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>Fr. 3.55</b>

Duration of 10c registration fee to France: **8 months**

(e)





*Rates on the whole period:*

01.10.1865 to 31.03.1879 (France): registration + 20c / Fr. 100.-

01.04.1879 to 31.12.1894 (France &amp; Germany): registration + 10c / Fr. 200.-

01.01.1895 to 31.01.1921 (neighbour countries): registration + 10c / Fr. 300.-

8 May 1881 - Fr. 8'000.- to a  
bank in Chambéry, Savoy.  
Franking Fr. 5 (5 x Zst. 36c) as  
follows:

Triple weight 36g:	75c
Registration fee:	25c
Insurance fee 40x10c:	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Fr. 5.00</b>

Ex H. Grand

(e)



18 June 1895 - Fr. 200.- to  
Valence, France. Postage  
as follows:

Triple weight 41g:	75c
Registration fee:	25c
Insurance fee:	10c
<b>Total</b>	<b>Fr. 1.10</b>

Franking 85c (Zst. twice  
69C and 60B) for a double  
weight only. French hand-  
written mention *aff. insuff.*  
(...). Because of postal  
mistake, the missing  
amount was collected from  
the sending post office in-  
stead of the recipient.

**Exceptional under-  
franked declared  
value letter**

(e)



*Frankings on high declared values are the only opportunities to see 3Fr. stamps on letters. These cases remain extremely scarce.*

**Oblig. Gratis-Empfangschein**  **Récépissé obligatoire et gratuit**

für rekommandierte Briefpostsendungen, für Wertbriefe, für Wertschachteln,  
für Einzugsmandate und für Mandatspostungen **nach dem Auslande.**  
*pour les envois de la poste aux lettres recommandés, les lettres et boîtes de valeur,  
les recouvrements et les mandats-poste à destination de l'étranger.*

(Ungültig für Sendungen aller Art im Innern der Schweiz, sowie für Fahrpost-Sendungen und Poststücke (Colis postaux) nach dem Auslande.)  
*(Ce récépissé n'est pas valable pour les envois, de quelque nature qu'ils soient, échangés dans l'intérieur de la Suisse, non plus que pour les articles de messagerie et les colis postaux à destination de l'étranger.)*

Gegenstand: *Pol. phil. et lit. etc.* Wert oder Betrag: *Fr. 200* Ct. *85*  
Objet: *Pol. phil. et lit. etc.* Valeur ou montant: *Fr. 200* Ct. *85*  
Aufgeber: *Portel à Nîmes*  
Envoyeur: *Portel à Nîmes*  
Adresse: *Portel à Nîmes*

Unterschrift des Postbeamten oder Angestellten: *[Signature]*  
*Signature du fonctionnaire ou de l'employé postal:*

G. S. IV. 95. 500,000. N° 549.

2 Aug. 1895 - Receipt (compulsory and free of charge) for Fr. 200.- to Nîmes, France. 85c as follows:

Double weight:	50c
Registration:	25c
Insurance fee:	10c
<b>Total</b>	<b>85c</b>



**Only 2 examples of 3Fr. stamp on a letter recorded in Geneva until 1907**

27 Feb. 1896 - Fr. 3'500 to Bordeaux, France. Fr. 3.20 (Zst. 72A and 66D) as follows:

7-time weight 93g:	1.75
Registration:	25
Insurance fee:	1.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>Fr. 3.20</b>

Use of the registration label without "R" to notify a declared value letter (specific labels not yet issued).

(e)

**TIMBRES POUR COLLECTIONS**  
**AU PHARE DU LÉMAN, 16, rue du Mont-Blanc, GENÈVE**

*Valeur trois mille cinq cents (3.500) francs*

*93g*   

*Monsieur 167 Danse*

*160 rue du Palais Gallien*

**Genève**  
**N° 458**

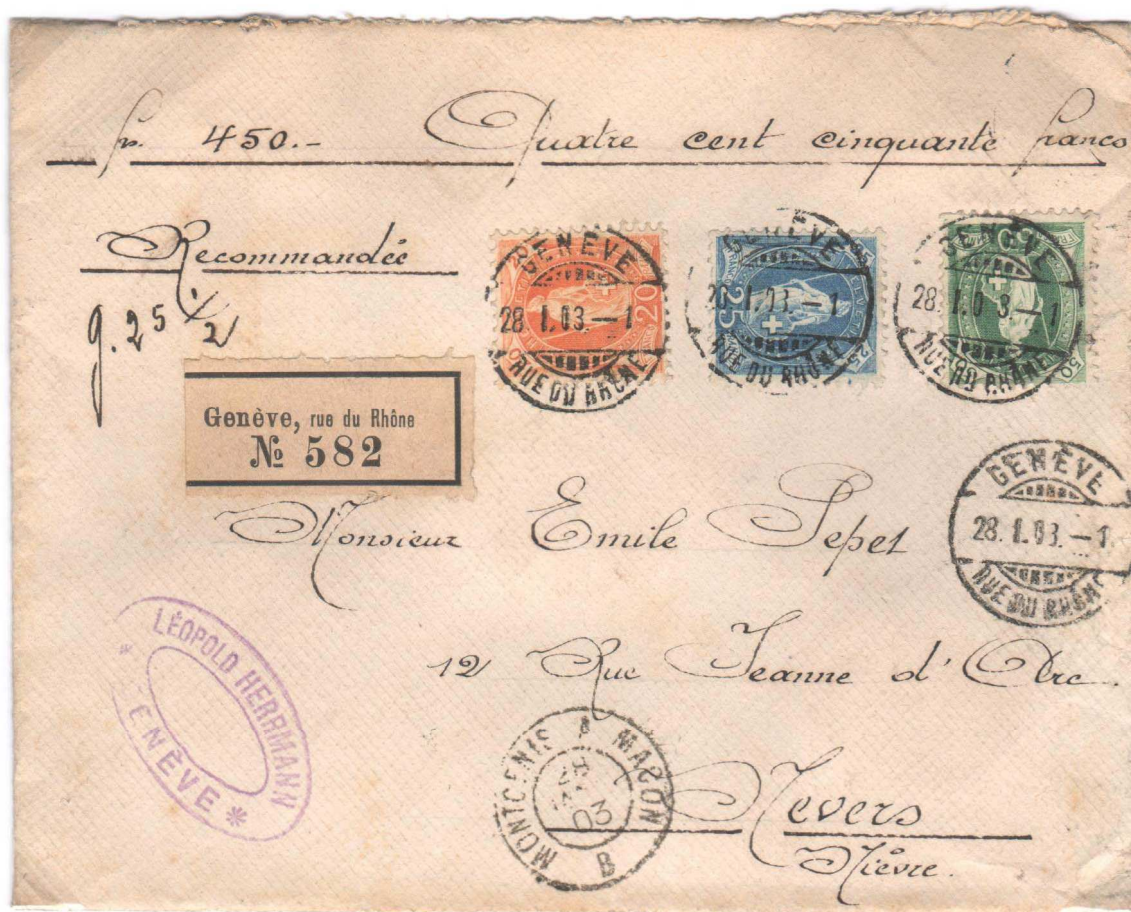
*(Gironde)* *Bordeaux*



Until the early 20th century, destinations other than France are especially rare for declared value letters.

28 Jan. 1903 - Fr. 450.-  
to Nevers, France,  
franked 95c (Zst. 66E,  
73E, 74E). Postage cal-  
culation as follows:

Double weight 25g:	50c
Registration:	25c
Insurance fee:	20c
<b>Total</b>	<b>95c</b>



## LABORATOIRES SAUTER

GENÈVE (Suisse) et BELLEGARDE, Ain (France)

Value Frs 300.- Trois cents frs

Deklariert Wert  
Valeur déclarée



14 Sept. 1907 - Fr.  
300 to Cannstatt,  
Wurtemberg, Germa-  
ny. 85c (Zst. 59B,  
62B, 90A, 80, 85) as  
follows:

Double weight:	50c
Registration:	25c
Insurance fee:	10c
<b>Total</b>	<b>85c</b>

Cancellation office  
SERVETTE and  
orange label *Valeur  
déclarée* (# 7 G&V)

Ex Rolf Rölly

(e)



The Genevan telegraph service operates since 1852 in the premises of the main post office.  
From 1868 to 1877 a flat rate of 50c applies for the first 20 words, then 25c / 10 words.



Les télégraphes n'acceptent aucune responsabilité à raison du service de la correspondance par la voie télégr. Elle prendra toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer l'exactitude de ce service ainsi que le secret des correspondances télégr.



N° 7.

## Dépêche originale.

Die Telegraphen-Verwaltung übernimmt keinerlei Verantwortlichkeit in Betreff der telegraphischen Korrespondenz.  
Dagegen wird sie alle zur Sicherung des Dienstes und zur Wahrung des Dienstgeheimnisses nöthigen Massregeln erlassen.

Adresse:

Chavannes Burnat ingénieur  
Vevey

Texte:

C'est au porteur actuel du billet  
et non à nous à accorder renouvellement  
mais nous pouvons envoyer  
fonds si réclamez par dépêche

Signature:

Weibel & Co

N° 2282	Fr.	Ct.	Consignée le 27. 4. 18	à 9 h. 20 m. du J.
30 mots ..		75	Expédiée le 27. 4. 18	à 9 h. 15 m. du J.
Affranchissement			Le Télégraphiste expéditeur:	
Exprès. (Nuit)		50	Fontaine 17	
Somme ..	1	25	Bureau de Genève.	

Adresse du consignataire:

Vevey manufacturé

GENÈVE / TELEGR.

(AW 152L / 1)

17.09.1868 - 10.06.1872

27 April 1869 - Telegram to Vevey, Vaud, franked Fr. 1.25 (Zst. T1 and T3).

75c for 30 words and additional 50c night service fee (9:20 pm).

Ex H. Grand

(e)

Sole Dépêche recorded in Geneva Ca. 10 examples in Switzerland



As from Oct. 1877 a flat fee of 30c is applied and every word is paid up. Rates to foreign destinations are very high during the first decades of telegraph service.



2 May 1885 - Telegram to Berne franked 95c (Zst. pair 14, 15, 16).  
First octagonal cancellation with characters skirting the frame.

(AW 152H / Giller 846)  
28.11.1883 - 05.07.1885

(e)

5 entire telegrams recorded in Geneva before 1900



5 July 1885 - Second part of a telegram most likely to Great-Britain due to the contents. A first form was used for the beginning of the message and required information. **Mixed franking combining white and granite paper** of Fr. 107.90 (Zst. 15 white paper, 13, 14, 15, 16, 29 x T18 granite paper), for ca. 370 words (29c each, rate of 1877).

Additional stamps on back:

(e)



Six colour mixed telegraph frankings:

2 examples recorded in Switzerland





Telegraph offices use their own forms but may cancel them with postmarks especially in subsidiaries.

**Quittance**

pour le télégramme N° *9110*  
du bureau des Télégraphes  
de

Reçu le \_\_\_\_\_  
à \_\_\_\_\_ heures \_\_\_\_\_ min  
Signature: *[Signature]*

Nr. 47.  
18

**GENÈVE**  
10.VIII.87.XII  
**PLAINPALAIS**

10 Aug. 1887 - Receipt for a telegram sent from the subsidiary of PLAINPALAIS. Although Post and Telegraph are distinct administrations they share the same premises and use often the same cancellations.

Nr. 662.

Schweizerische Telegraphenverwaltung — Administration des télégraphes suisses

Absendende Stelle

**Amtliche Nachnahme — Remboursement officiel**

Frs. 6 Cts. 80

Post Stempel

**GENÈVE**  
8.III.97  
MESSAGERIE

Timbre postal

*Messieurs Lündip rue du Vieux Collège 3*

Soll pro Monat } *février* 1897  
Doit pour mois de }

	Frs.	Cts.
Telegraphentaxen für telephonisch aufgebene Telegramme Taxes télégraphiques pour télégrammes consignés par téléphone		
Telephontaxen für die Vermittlung von Telegrammen Taxes téléphoniques pour la transmission de télégrammes		
Taxen für Phonogramme Taxes pour phonogrammes		
Taxen für interurbane Gespräche Taxes pour conversations interurbaines	0	50
Taxpflichtige Lokalgespräche Conversations locales taxées	6	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>80</b>

Pr. Bureau *[Signature]*

A. S. B. — IX, 1894. — 200,000.



08.03.1897 -  
07.03.1911  
(AW 153C)

8 March 1897 - C.o.D. from the Telegraph Service for Fr. 6.80, franking privilege and no insurance fee according to postal provisions.