

# *Les Etoiles De Paris*

*1852- 1876*

Presentation to Philatelic Specialists Society

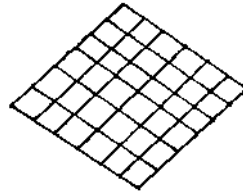
By

Ted Nixon

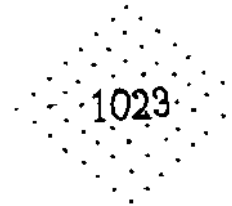
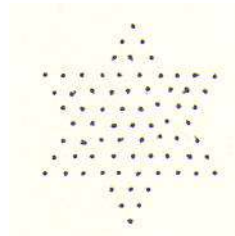
February 19, 2014

# Obliterators used in France – 1849 to 76

- Introduction of stamps in 1849 required an obliterator – it was the Grill – used in Paris and elsewhere:



- On Jan. 1, 1852 grills were replaced with stars and lozenges of dots:



# Obliterators used in Paris – 1852-76

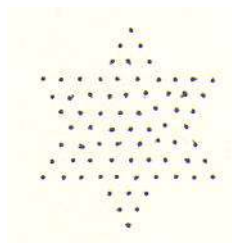
- Six point plain star for use only in the Paris Central office (Bureau Central) throughout 1852-76 period- with a few exceptions :



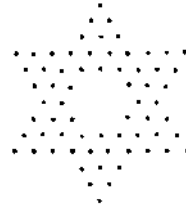
Variations on the plain star exist

# *Les Etoiles Pleine for the Bureau Central*

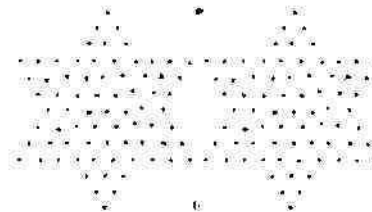
- *L'étoile pleine* is the plain 6-point star – in black, but existing in blue & red:



- *L'étoile évidée* is the hollow or empty star:



- *L'étoile rouleau* is a star roller.



# Obliterators used in Paris 1852-63

- Lozenges with letters and numbers were used for the Paris District Offices (Bureaux des Quartiers) from 1852-63:



- Letters were roman capitals until 1855-block letters after

# Obliterators used in Paris 1863-76

- Numbered stars – (*Les Etoiles Chiffrees*) were used at the 39 Paris District Offices from 1863 to 1876. Each was given its own number.



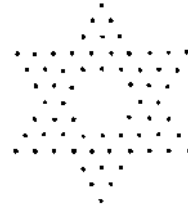
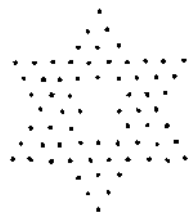
1-Place de la Bourse



28- Rue Cardinal Lemoine

## Numbered Stars for District Offices – 1863-76

- Two types of stars were required – one for single digit offices, another for the two digit offices:



- Numbered stars were introduced in 35 district offices in Sept. 1863. Four more offices were added in 1866. Stars were used until end of March 1876.



# Paris Circular Datestamps 1852-76

- Large variety of circular datestamps were used in the Central Office and two types were used in District Offices:
- Sample Central Office datestamps:



- District Office styles:

1852-63



1863-76





# Focus of Presentation

- Paris star cancellations were obliterators used to deface the stamp on mail from Paris, France from 1852-1876.
- There are :
  - Plain stars and variations thereon used from Jan. 1852 to Mar. 1876 in the Central Office. *Les Etoiles Pleines*
  - Numbered stars used from Sept. 1863 to March 1876 in the 39 District Offices and sub-stations. *Les Etoiles Chiffrees.*
  - Large variety of date cachets used in the *Bureau Central* and in the *Bureaux des Quartiers* during the 1852-76 period.
  - Studies of French postal history can become complicated very quickly – thus stay focused!
  - I am showing a few central office plain stars and all numbered stars with their district office datestamps.

# History & Society in Paris 1852-76

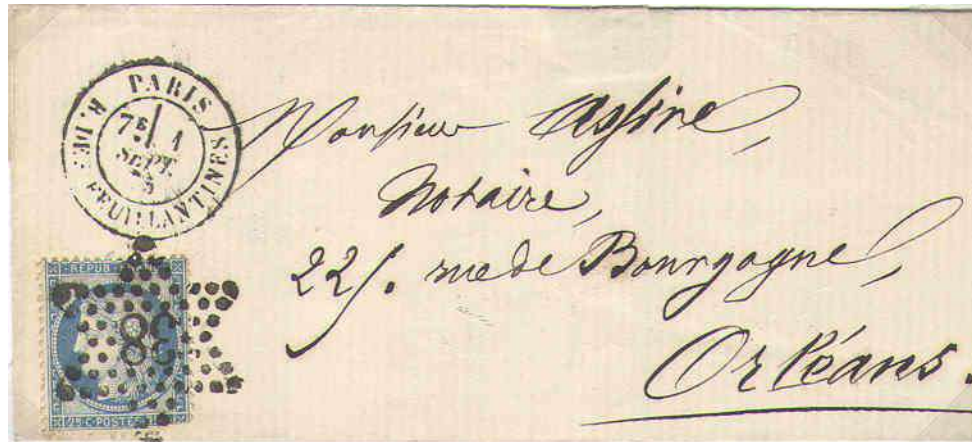
- Second Republic 1849-52
- Louis Napoleon coup d'état 1852, becomes president of republic, then becomes emperor of the Third Empire in 1853.
- Third Empire survives Napoleon's follies until he declares war on Prussia in summer 1870.
- Siege of Paris Sept. 1870 to end of Jan.1871. Balloon mail. France surrenders to Prussia.
- Commune Period – late March to June 1871. Paris insurrection.
- Third Republic created and prospers mid-1871 onward, war reparations paid, Alsace Lorraine lost.

# Stamp Issues in Use in Paris 1852-76

- Republic Ceres Issue 1849-52- carryovers
- Presidency Issue 1852-53
- Empire Imperforate Issue 1853-62
- Empire Perforated Issue 1862-67
- Laureated Issue 1867-70
- Siege of Paris Issue –Oct 1870
- Ceres Issue 1871-76
  
- Basic domestic letter rate is 20c until Sept.1, 1871 then 25c. Huge variety of rates to foreign destinations.

# Some pretty pictures!

- Basic domestic town to town letter at 25c in Sept 1875.



#38 – Rue des Feuillantines

# PSS connection

- Provenance – Murray Heifitz:
- District office 7, to New York in 1873, with strip of 40c Siege issue in a yellow shade



- Crimean war stampless with plain star removing incorrect 25c rate



# Ballons Montes

- Siege of Paris – Sept 1870 to Jan. 31, 1871. Mail left Paris by hot air balloon:



• Domestic letter



Postcard



To London England

# Paris to Foreign Destinations

- To Australia

#4 R. D'Enghien



To Chile

#24 Rue du Helder





# Paris to Foreign Destinations

- To Argentina  
#11 Place du  
Theatre- Francais



To Mexico



#26 Gare du Nord

# Chiffree varieties

- Distinction between “6” and “9”



- There are 11 minute variations on the “9”

# Affranchissement de Sept. 1, 1871

- Domestic letter rate increased from 20c to 25c on Sept 1, 1871 – new stamps were not ready for about a month. Thus some interesting combinations were necessary .



Sept 13, 1871 – 20c Siegge + 4c Laureate+ 1c Empire

# Summary- Why do this collection?

- I learned a lot about
  - French and Paris postal history in this period.
  - postal rates domestic and foreign, pre UPU.
  - balloon post in the Siege of Paris 1870
  - 6 different issues of stamps.
- It is visually attractive with the star cancels and colourful rate combinations
- It is not expensive, given the time period involved.
- Material is available and thus fun to acquire.