

PARIS THE DISTRICT OFFICES JANUARY 1852-SEPTEMBER 1863

In January 1852 the grills which had been in use since January 1849 were replaced. In Paris lozenge hand stamps to cancel the postage stamps were issued including the office letter designation. These first ones had large seriffed letters (*le losange romain*). A second type appeared in late 1855 with letters in block capitals (*le losange bâton*), both continued in use together.

However since the summer of 1851 further centralisation of the processing of mail had taken place. The cancellation of all ordinary mail was now done at the Bureau Central and not the district offices. Only letters handed over the counter and those for the supplementary railway service continued to be processed in the local offices. In the principal offices this lasted until March 1856 when they once again took over the processing of mail collected in their office, the head office being unable to handle the ever increasing volume of mail. The secondary offices did not resume handling of their mail until February 1860.

Page 1 Introduction

Page 2 Map of the location of the district offices toward the end of the period

Pages 3 to 12 Mail in the first period dealt with at the counter – printed matter, registered (*les lettres chargées et recommandées*), official from government Ministries and public bodies and foreign mail

Pages 13 to 16 Mail in the first period by the supplementary railway service

Pages 17 to 24 Mail in the second period from the principal offices March 1856 to September 1863

Pages 25 to 36 Mail in the second period from the secondary offices March 1860 to September 1863



Office E 25 January 1852 the earliest recorded use of the lozenge cancellation

The letter has been posted at office E in the Place de la Madeleine in the box for late letters leaving from the Gare du Nord-Ouest (Saint-Lazare) for destinations served by that station, here Le Havre