'VINUM BIBAMUS'

'Let us drink wine'

Since mankind has colonised an area, one of the first things he has set about is the planting of vines.

Before I joined my Father in the Stamp trade, I was in the wine business, working as, initially for a firm importing grower's wines from Burgundy and Champagne.

This collection, of which, these pages are a small part is made up of correspondence relating to the production, transporting and enjoying of wine around the world.

It is entirely personal, the write up will not conform to judging rules and regulations, it is just what appeals to me.

All the mistakes (and there will be a number!) are mine.

The collection has an abundance of mail from Great Britain and France, but includes letters from many countries around the world.

GREAT BRITAIN

1814 23rd November, entire from London to Madeira, prepaid '3/4' as a 'Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter London' datestamp, applied, on reverse across the flap, and also, contrary to regulation, on the front.

Section 3 of the 1814 Act: 'The Post Master General shall receive Letters directed to places abroad, both within the King's dominions and Kingdoms and Countries beyond the seas, from persons who may be desirous to forward them themselves, upon prepayment of a third of the packet rates; and shall mark the postage and return the letters to the persons, who may forward them by any vessels not being packet boats, without penalty'.



The letter is addressed to the well know Madeira firm of 'Newton Gordon Murdock & Scott and details '20 Pipes of your very finest wine to be shipped to Colonel Joboalter in St. Croix. I think that the East India Company order this year will be the same as the last. and the usual orders for Mr. Daniel Stephenson in Falmouth, Jamaica and Mr. Hopkinson in Demarary'

To date, this is the only recorded letter with the London Maritime Mail mark applied to the front of the cover.

GREAT BRITAIN

1840 6th December, 1d. Mulready Letter Sheet, Stereo A9, from Harlow to London, cancelled with red Maltese Cross away from Britannia, contrary to Post Office regulations, Harlow circular datestamp for DE 6 1840 in red, and London arrival for 7th December on reverse.



The Mulready is addressed to 'Messrs. Carbonel, Wine Merchants, Regent St London. The firm of Carbonnel. Moody & Walker was founded by John Carbonnel, the celebrated Vintner, who was wine merchant to King George 111.

GREAT BRITAIN

1841 24th February, entire from Goole to France with 1d. Black Plate 8 tied by black Maltese Cross, marked 'Insufficient Postage' red 'Angle Calais 28 Fevr.' noted '10' and with '14' decimes French charge. Backstamped Feb. 25 Goole; London 'H' double circle transit for 26th Feb, Cognac arrival for 2nd March.

The previous September, Postmasters had been instructed to ignore the 1d as prepayment to the Port, the charge of 10d was applied by the British Post Office as the cross channel fee, and the 14 decimes the coast to Cognac fee due.



The cover is addressed to the firm of Marett Arbauin & Co, and informs them of the demise of the 'late lamented Mr. Wilson, Wine & Brandy Merchant', and that the stock of 'Brandy Wine' is low, therefore please advise of your best price for Old Brandy of the same character as the last.

Ex: Gavin Fryer

GREAT BRITAIN

1858 26th July, entire from Liverpool to Bordeaux, with 4, 1858 2d. blues Plate 6, watermark large Crown, perf. 16, cancelled by '468' Liverpool duplex, with Liverpool, London transit marks, PD in Red, with Calais, Paris, and Bordeaux arrival cancels.



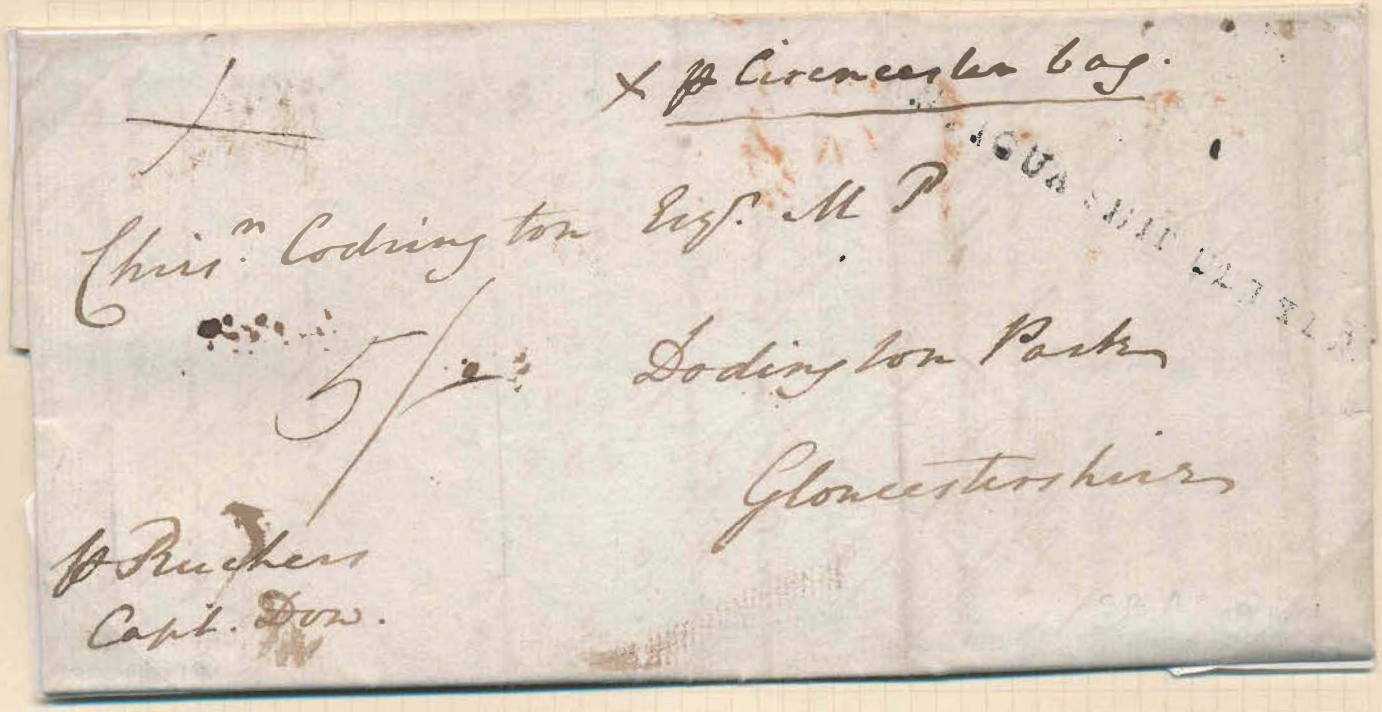
Addressed to the wine shipping firm of Barton & Guestier; a detailed Letter: 'for Charges on following by Jamanlipar from Bordeaux and reshipped per Rhone S.S. for Corfu:
Claret & Brandy for 1st Batt. 3 Regt. Buffs Corfu £ 6 1 6
Claret & Brandy for 91st Regt. Cephalinica £8 19 10
Claret for Sir John Young Bart. Corfu £6 11 6

Ex: Lagenhoef January 1945

ANTIGUA

1799 23rd November, entire letter from Antigua to England, endorsed 'p Cirencester bag' and sent 'p Ruckers Capt. Dow.' rated 5/-, with straightline handstamp Type S2 'ANTIGUA SHIP LETTER', with London transit mark on reverse for 19th January 1800.

There are only two recorded examples of this ship letter handstamp, and this is the earliest, as listed in the Antigua handbook by Charles Freeland and John Jordan.



Ex: Dr. Reginald Urwick

The contents refer to sending a Mr. Porter to Barbuda where he might be more useful' and pointing out the dangers of French privateers out of Guadaloupe, and, 'on board the Ruckers is a pipe of wine according to your order'.

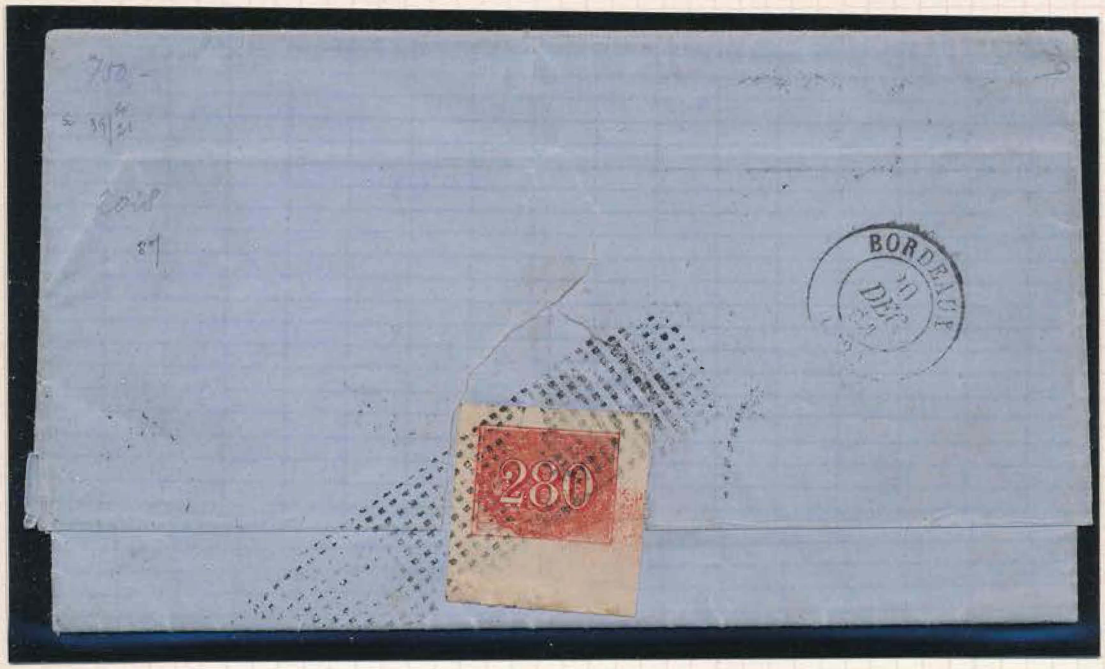
BELGIAN CONGO

1908 30th March envelope from Boma, Congo Free State to Belgium with 50c. Olive & black tied by 'Boma / 30 / Mars / 16-17 / 1908' small circle type 1 postmark, paying the single letter rate. 'Bruxelles' arrival cds on reverse for 19th April. The envelope advertises special 'Vielle Fine Champagne Extra Dry' as supplied by La Grande Distillerie Belge.



BRAZIL

1864 23rd November , entire letter from Rio de Janeiro to France with 280 Reis vermilion on yellowish paper franked by lozenge of dots sent by French steamer La Navarre, Brasil a Bordeaux arrival cds for December 20th and Bordeaux arrival for the same day.





The wine merchants, Jules Clavelle was well established in Bordeaux by this time, advertising his wares such as 1876 Ch. Branaire-Ducru at 2000 francs a barrel, and 1877 Ch. Haut-Brion at 3000 per barrel, as far afield as The Brisbane Courier and the Quebec City Mercurey; here, buyers in Brazil were asking for a more mundane 100 baskets of red wine.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND

1896 23rd January, ½d. Great Britain Postcard over printed British Bechuanaland Three Half Pence, additionally franked 1d. Carmine-red Cape of Good Hope with type 10 overprint cancelled by '758' oval obliterator, and Palla cds. 'Reims Marne 18 FVR 96' arrival datestamp.



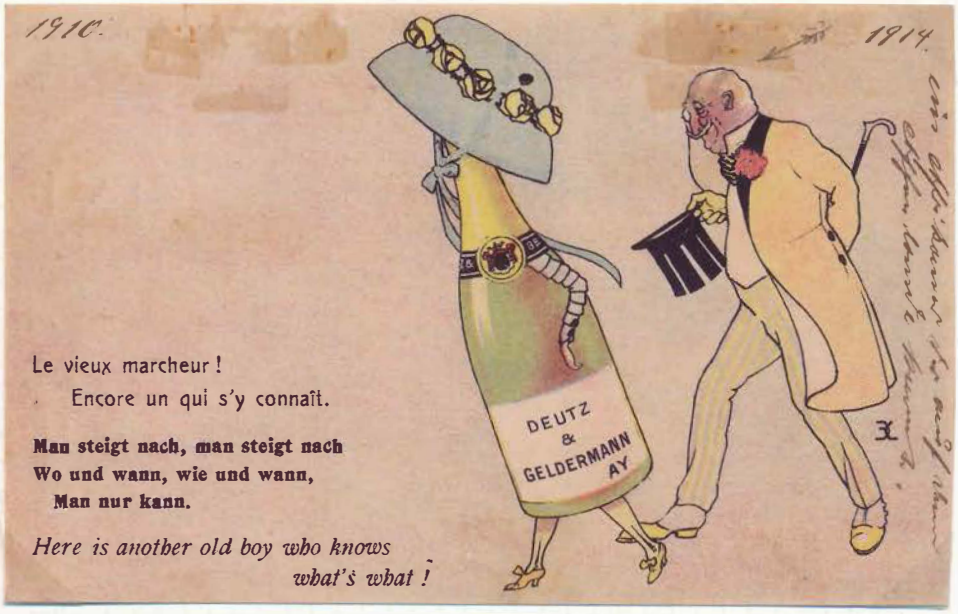
The card is addressed to the Champagne House of Maison Ruinart, describing how well the wine is selling in the area, and promising to write when 'I have more time.'

CAMEROON

21st January 1914, Postcard to Germany, with 5 pfennig Green cancelled 'DUALA 21 .1. 14. KAMERUN'.







The postcard sent from the German colony of Cameroon to Kiel in Germany, and comments on how well the Champagne of Deutz & Gelderman is selling, a house founded in 1838.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1794 An envelope carried by favour and the 'Good Offices of the Captain of The Buitenverwachting' with the official 6 stuiver 'VOC 6 st' handstamp (Goldblatt VOC3) which was the rate from Holland for a single letter. With the signature of the Captain 'H.A. Stoete'

The Ship Buitenverwachting departed Amsterdam on 5th May 1794 bound for Batavia, arriving en route at the Cape of Good Hope on 20th September 1794, the dates confirming this as a copy letter.





Buitenverwachting, which translates as 'beyond expectations' was the name given to a beautifully appointed farm on the east-facing slopes of Constantiaberg, originally forming part of the Constantia Estate founded by Simon van der Stel the first Governor of the new Dutch Colony. The farm was sold as a 'morgen sub-division' to Cornelis Brink in 1773. The winery was started about this time, and after about 90,000 vines being planted in 1825 by Ryk Arnoldus Cloete, brother of Hendrik Cloete of Groot Constantia, flourished, and is still producing excellent wine today.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1849 22nd December, entire letter from 'Paarl, Cape of Good Hope' to Mauritius, marked 'Prepaid' with '12' Octagonal framed numeral postmark of Paarl; with 'Cape of Good Hope' Crowned 'General Post Office' transit mark. The letter was charged at '8'd which was corrected to '1/-' and with crowned arrival datestamp for 'Mauritius / JA22 / 1850'



The letter is addressed to Pipon Bell, the major importers in Mauritius at the time and concerns settlements and details of previous shipments: 'As the market you describe is growing, I have not been in the habit of trading myself – though I am a wine grower, I might be tempted to do so despite the expense of about £3 a pipe. If you would be good enough to inform what good Cape wines both light and dark 'Pontac' type would be sold at, I shall give the concept my serious attention.'

Provenance: Esterhuysen; Horst Kollrepp; 'Table Mountain; 'Tatiana'

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1868, July 23rd, Envelope from French-Hoek to Cape Town, from the 'Klisser' correspondence, with 4d. Blue tied by triangular barred obliterator with Cape-Town / Cape Colony C JU 24 68' circular date stamp. The reverse with 'French-Hoek' barred oval datestamp.



The envelopes reads: 'Table d' Hote Champagne / Oysters / Tiffins.'

The couple are saying: 'This looks rather nice, wife, we will stay here. She (Zij) says: 'Where are we?' He (By) 'A L Klisser Commercial Hotel Cape Town where they also have nice calfsheads which your brother likes.'

CANADA

1887 21st March, envelope from Morden, Manitoba to Germany with a pair 3c. Orange-red small Queens (overpaid by 1 cent), and 8c. Blue registered letter stamp paying the registered rate to Germany, cancelled by blue 'cork' cancel, Morden dispatch datestamp for 21st March on reverse, London transit Registered handstamp for 13th April. Used in the correct period, before the 1898 8c. small queen was introduced, the rate to Europe remaining 8 cents until May 1889.

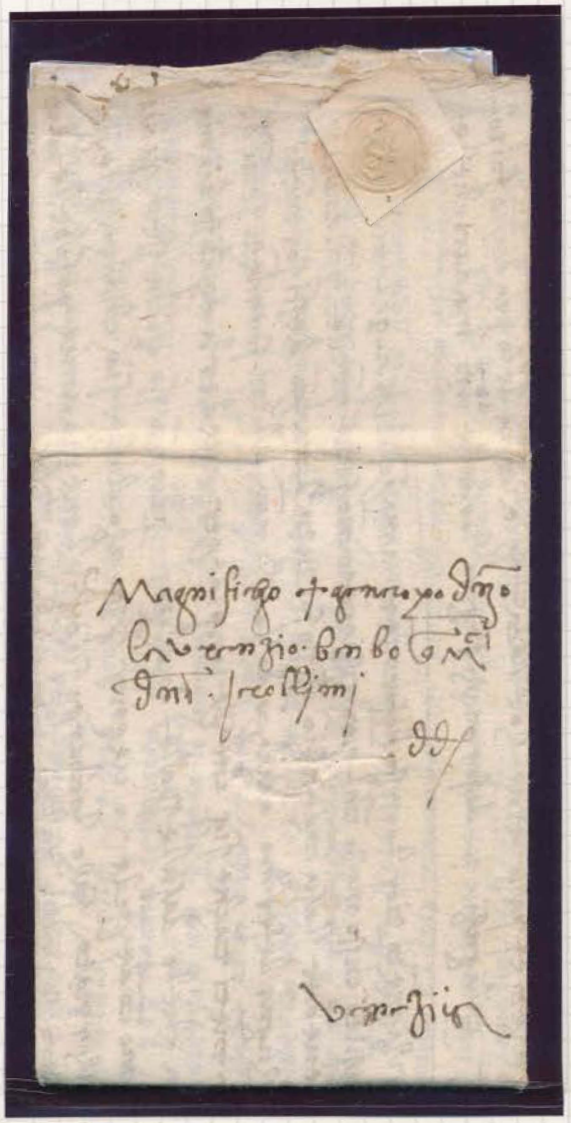


The envelope is from Heiman & Co. Wholesale Dealers in Wines, Liquors, Tobacco & Cigars, in Emerson – Manitoba.

Ex: Burrus

CRETE

1480, 5th May entire letter from Francesco Zustignani' in Candia, the old Venetian name for Heraklion, to Lorenzo Bembo in Venice, endorsed 'dd/' received 22nd June 1480.



The letter details the escape of Piero da Ponte on a Slovonian ship without giving security for his dates, the Doge of Venice remarks 'Let Piero go with God; he has bread and wine in the ship.'

EGYPT

1902, 30th April; Envelope from Alexandria to Hungary, sent Registered from French Post Office abroad with two 25 centimes Black and 50 centimes Carmine both on rose paper overprinted ALEXANDRIE Type 1, cancelled Alexandrie Egypt cds. with Messina transit and Hungarian arrival marks on reverse.



The envelope is from the Wine Merchants J,. Nessler who represented the wines of the co-operative Richon-Le-Zion, based in the city of the same name which was founded by Russian immigrants in 1882, it is the oldest and first exporter of wine and Brandy in Israel.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1908 29th December Queen Victoria postal stationary envelope with Edward V11 ½ d. Yellow-green and 1d. Vermilion to complete correct foreign letter rate to Portugal. Backstamp arrival of 27th & 28th January 1909, carried on the mailship 'Oravia' homeward to Liverpool from the west coast of South America



The Port house of Velloso & Tait was founded in the early part of the 19th century, and still produces fine Port today.

FIJI

1884 25th August envelope from Levuka, the major port on the eastern coast of the island of Ovalau; franked with 2d. Green perf. 10 tied by Levuka / AU 25 / Fiji' datestamp.; on the reverse is an arrival datestamp for Melbourne, Victoria, dated September 6th.

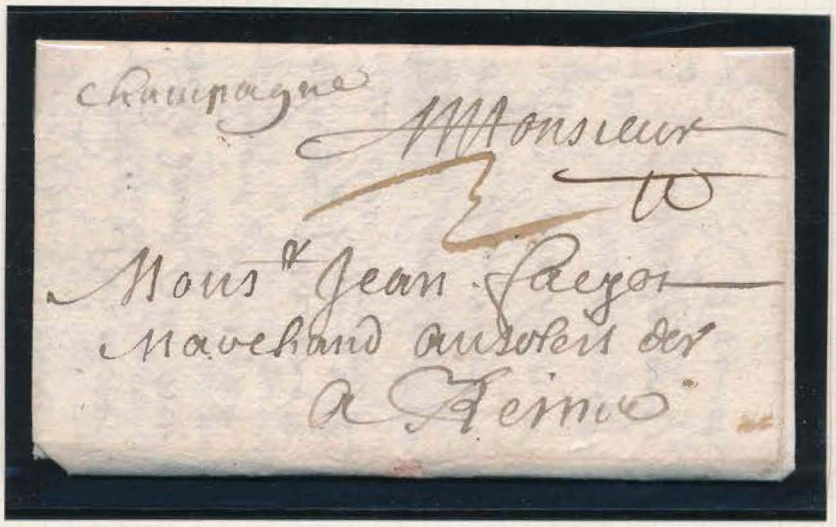
The envelope is addressed to the Chateau Tahbilk Wine Stores in Little Collins Street in the Docklands area of Melbourne.



Chateau Tahbilk was established in Victoria in 1860 and is still producing wine today. It has perhaps, a unique position of the global world of wine in that it still has nearly 1½ acres of original un-grafted pre-phylloxera Shiraz vines that produce their flagship '1860 Vines' series, a remarkable survivor making wines of great intensity and historical value.

FRANCE

1694, 14th August, entire letter from Rouen to Reims via Paris, endorsed 'Champagne' and charged '3' sols for the carriage to Paris only.



The letter refers to orders for 'paniers' of Champagne.

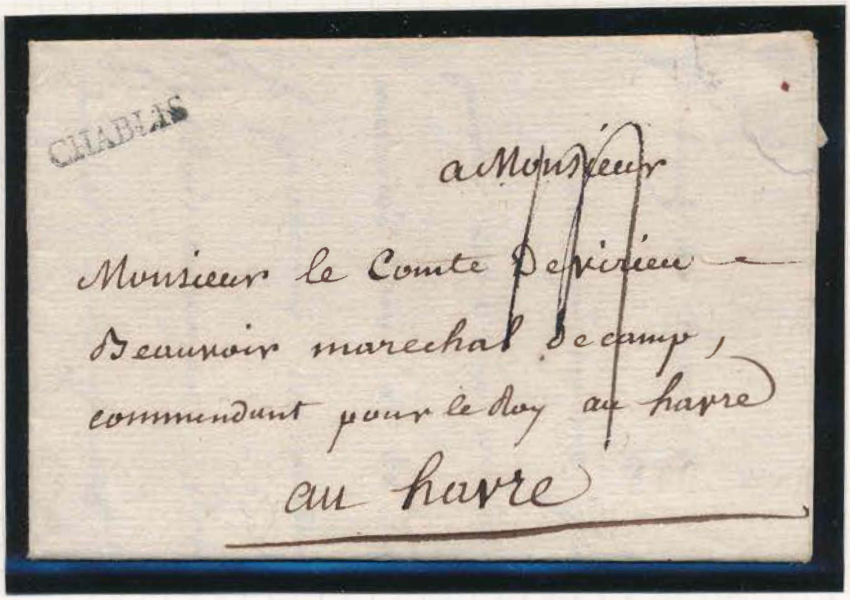
The history of Champagne has been argued over almost as long as the wine has been inexistence. Red wine from Champagne had been known in England for some time, and the sparkling wine that we know today was only introduced there in the early 1660's.

Those early sparkling wines were the result of an accident. Most 'vin gris' (the white juice from red grapes) in France was drunk young; but when shipped abroad in cask, the warm spring weather frequently set off a secondary fermentation, still underway when the wines arrived. Immediately bottled this sparkling wine became fashionable. Back in France, Frere Jean Oudart and Dom Pierre Perignon were the first successful practioners of deliberately capturing this process in bottle. They were the cellarmasters of the Abbeys Saint-Pierre aux Monts de Chalons and Saint-Pierre d'Hautvillers, co-incidentally just two miles apart.

Anyway, as everybody knows, the English invented 'Champagne. in 1662 Christopher Merret reports in an article called 'Some observations concerning the ordering of wins' by the Royal Society, how sugar was added on purpose in order to achieve a sparkling wine.

FRANCE

1782 18th April, entire letter from Chablis to the district of Havre, with 'CHABLIS' straightline handstamp, the letter charged '1' decime.



The letter is addressed to the Marshal General of the King's Camps & Armies, currently in the district of Havre in the Northeast of France firghting the Anglo-French Wars.

Clearly the officers were in need of re-supply, as the letter details an order for: 'a feuillette (114 litres) of Red wine of the 1st quality of 1780 vintage, and half a feuillette of Red wine of the 1st quality of 1781, and two feuillettes on White wine of the 1st quality of 1781 vintage; along with other wines detailed to be a total order of 30 feuillettes'
Payment for this order, was, intriguingly, to be made 'sometime in the future.'

FRANCE

1829 11th November, entire letter from Epernay to Beaune with '49 EPERNAY' town handstamp in black, despatch datestamp for '13/ NOV / 1829' and on reverse, arrival datestamp for 16th November. The entire rated '6' decimes in manuscript.



The letter is from the Champagne House of 'Chanoine Freres' who are the second oldest Champagne House being founded in 1730 during the reign of Louis XV. The letter asks for 'some barriques (barrels' of sweet wine'
The sweetness, or otherwise, of Champagne is controlled by adding sweet white wine in a process known as 'dosage' It is most unusual to find proof of wine being ordered from outside the Champagne region for this purpose.



FRANCE

1855 24th November entire from Chablis to Paris, franked with Second Empire Type 1 20c. Milky Blue, tied by petit chiffres '691' with Chablis datestamp alongside. Circular 'Origine Rurale' handtsamp, on reverse 'Lyon a Paris' datestamp for 25th November and Paris arrival for 25th November.

'Your order of Grand Cru Chablis left by the evening train'





Unfortunately, apart from a first name, no clue is given as to the identity of the grower. By the end of the 19th Century about 40,000 hectares were under vine in Chablis, of which only 99 hectares were designated Grand Cru. The hillside upon which those vines are grown is photographed here, and are, from left to right: 'Les Preuses, Vaudesir, Grenouilles (around the Chateau), Valmur, Les Clos, Blanchot and in the distance to the right Montee de Tonnerre.

FRANCE

11th November 1870, part printed BALLON MONTE' from Paris with 20c. Blue cancelled by large pointed star, with Paris dispatch, for the 14th November, carried by the 'Le General Ulrich' the 30th balloon of the siege, with Chablis arrival datestamp for 27th November '70' on reverse.

The General Ulrich 'lifted off' from Paris at 8 a.m. on the 11th November, and flew a total of some 36 kilometers, before a change in wind direction forced it to the ground, French civilians managed to spirit the pilot and mail away before the German troops arrived.



The printed part of the letter, No. 5 of the 'Journal des Evenments du Siege' deal with the ever increasing hardships of life in Paris, and the rising costs of daily essentials. It is addressed to the wine growing town of Chablis, and in a family letter, the sender, wonders to his Mother and Father if there was a possibility that some of the family wine could be got into Paris, he concludes that in all probability, not.

Ex: Thomas Knapp

FRANCE

1871 3rd January, an entire letter, sent as a 'BOULES DE MOULIN' from Chateauneuf-sur-Sarthe to Paris franked with 1853-61 20c. Blue and 80c. Rose, each tied by '944' gros chiffres of Chateauneuf-s-Sarthe' with departure datestamp with mileage marking '47'.



The letter addressed to the husband, now stranded in Paris during the siege and assures him that the family are all well, and the 'the wine is resting well in the cellars awaiting your return.'

The town of Chateauneuf –sur –Sarthe is in the Loire valley famed very much these days for its white wine, less so for its red.

The practice of sending letters to Paris by the Boules de Moulin method was used during the siege of 1870; some 55 'Boules' were floated down the Seine packed with letters, from 4th to 20th January, the practice was abandoned as it was discovered that none had reached its destination, and they were dredged from the river.

FRANCE

1874 15th May, envelope sent from Le Mans to Saulieu with; 5c. Green, 30c. Brown and 1869 5Fr. Grey-violet, all tied by '2188' petit-chiffres of Le Mans. Sent Registered 'CHARGE' handstamp in red, and insured for 'Deux mille Deux cent - cinquante francs.' with Le Mans cds, 'Brest a Paris' transit for 16th May, Paris transit for the same day, and Saulieu arrival cds for 17th May.



The town of Saulieu, in the Aloxe-Corton region of Burgundy. In the Eighth century, the Emperor Charlemagne made a gift of some of the best situated vineyards to the Abbey of Saulieu The particular Chateau that this envelope is addressed to is situated directly in the middle of the vineyards of Corton-Charlemagne; and the family of Boisjourdan have long been associated with Burgundy wine production.

FRANCE

1877 5th August , from Castillon sur Dordogne to Bordeaux, with 5 x 1c. Green on tinted paper type a, and 5 x 2c. Green on tinted paper type b, and 10c Black on Lilac, all cancelled by Castillon sur Dordogne cds., type 17; circular framed 'OR', 'O&J VERGNIOL' forwarding agents cachet, and Bordeaux arrival cds. on reverse.

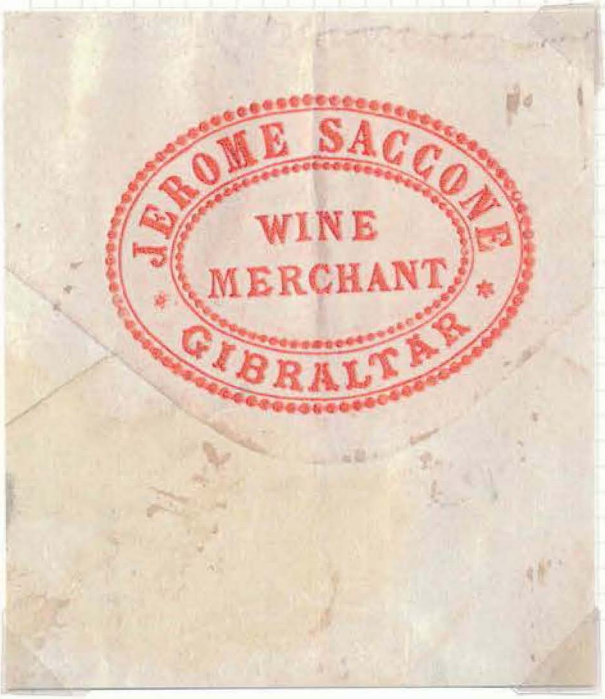


The letter is addressed to the Bordeaux wine firm of Chaperon & Lugiege and details that although the wine is good, with a 'particular' taste, it is not selling well.

GIBRALTAR

1875 October 14th, Cover from Gibraltar to Genoa with pair 1d. rose-red plate 170 cancelled 'A26' duplex with Gibraltar 'A' cancel, with straight-line 'con Bastim Mercant' forwarding agent cachet, marked 'by first steamer', 40c. postage due applied in Genoa, cancelled 'Genova 16 Oct'





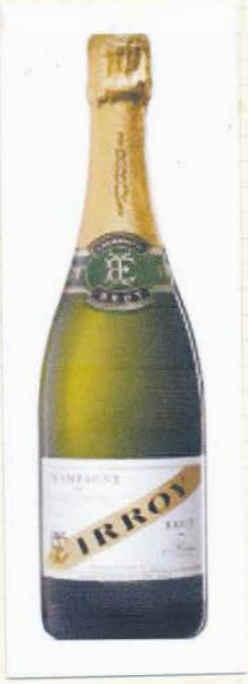
The envelope is from Jerome Saccone, Wine Merchant Gibraltar. The firm today trades under the name Saccone & Speed.

GREECE

1863 September, outer letter-sheet from Piree, Greece, to France with Heipaieye transit datestamp, French cross-border marks, 'Mediterranee A Lyon' entry mark for the 6th October, Paris transit for 7th October, 'Paris A Strasbourg' instructional mark for the 7th October, and Reims arrival datestamp for 9th October.



The letter is addressed to the Champagne House of Ernest Irroy, who have their origins documented to the middle of the 17th Century. At that time, the vineyards surrounding the Chateau and the adjoining Avenay convent were renowned for their delicious wines. The castle and convent were destroyed during the French revolution, but the vineyards remained.



GRENADA

1845 1st October, entire letter from Grenada to France, sent via Puerto Rico with black boxed 'S. JUAN' handstamp, red boxed 'Colonies / & c. Art. 13' handstamp, red 'Angl. a Calais' double ringed datestamp, and on reverse a London Paid transit mark, strangely for 1847, a date error the letter charged on delivery.



Despite the London date error, the latter is annotated as having arrived at its destination on the 8th January 1846, and contains a detailed description as to the state of the market in Grenada, but that European wines which had arrived on the Nicaragua were some 30% cheaper.

GUATEMALA

1863 30th November, Entire letter from Guatemala to France, sent 'p Steamer via Belize & Southampton' with despatch 'Guatemala DE 2 1863' blue double circle handstamp, charged '4' Reales, 'GB/2F' accountancy handstamp; Calais entry datestamp and the entire charged '90' decimes on arrival. On reverse transit datestamps for Belize 15/12, London 13/1, Paris 14/1 and Reims arrival for 15th January.



The letter is Kellee Niererer & Co. general merchants in Guatemala, and is addressed the Champagne House of Krug & Co. The House was established in Reims in 1843, so in a short space of time they were exporting all over the world. This letter confirms an order for $106.75 to be shipped via New York.

Ex: Simon Greenwood

HAITI

1845 18th December entire from Gonaives to Bordeaux with oval intaglio 'Gonaives Paye' for prepayment of local postage Jacmel double ringed datestamp for 'DEC 25 1845' on reverse red boxed 'Colonies &c. Art 13' London accountancy mark for unpaid British packet postage, red Boulogne transit for 22nd January and Bordeaux arrival datestamp for 24th January, charged '20' decimes



The letter is addressed to Glossman & Co., who, apart from being general merchants in Bordeaux, had a flourishing wine trading business with the Caribbean.

HAITI

1885 27th July. A complete copy of Le Peuple newspaper with added 1883-4 perf. 2d. Purple tied by Port au Prince cds. to Hamburg, with COL.FR/LIG.B.PAQ.FR.N.2 datestamp



In the prices current listed, Ch. Lafitte & Ch. Yquem, amongst others, were again available in Haiti
Cert. Moorhouse

HONG KONG

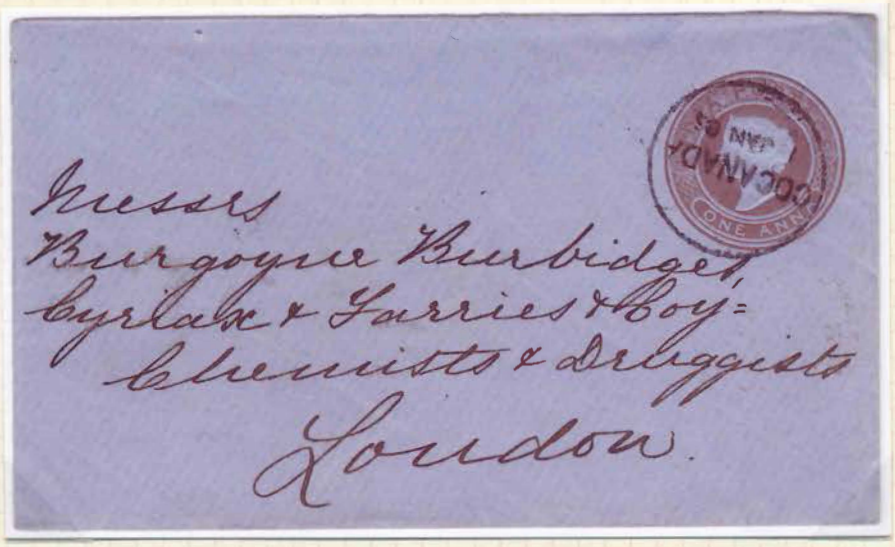
1847 20th April, entire from Hong Kong sent 'Per Steamer Marseilles' to France, prepaid 1/0 d. to Alexandria and rated as a double-letter on arrival and charged 20 decimes. Large Crowned Circle Handstamp Hong Kong cds. for 25 AP 1847 on reverse, arrival cds. 'Indies Or. Marseilles for '20 Juin 1847'.



The letter headed 'Canton 20th April' details life in the Orient and recalls with fondness the writers' family wines of Perpignan, and muses how well they would sell in the current market.

INDIA

1885 1st January, One Anna postal stationary envelope to London cancelled Cocanada cds, uprated by block of eight ½ Anna blue, (Die 2) wmk. 13 perf. 14, tied by six line cachet, and Bombay transit for 7th January.

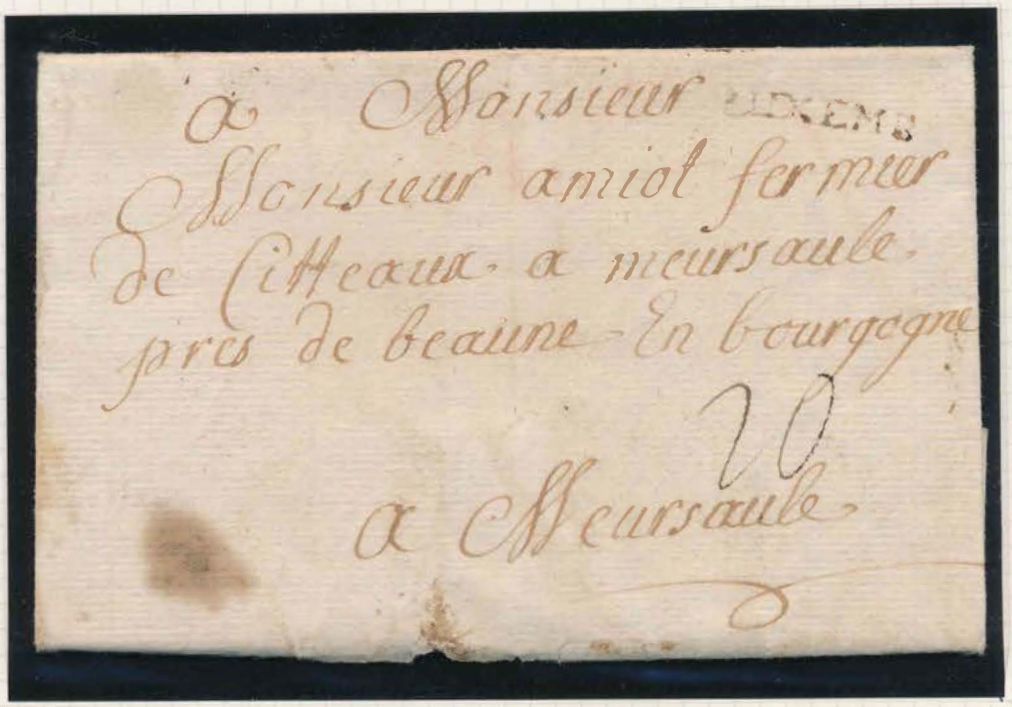




The cachet reads: 'Spencer And Co. Wine, Ale, and Spirit Merchants, Importers of Oilmans Stores & English & Foreign Merchandise, Mount Road Madras Colacamund and Bangalore.'

LUXEMBOURG

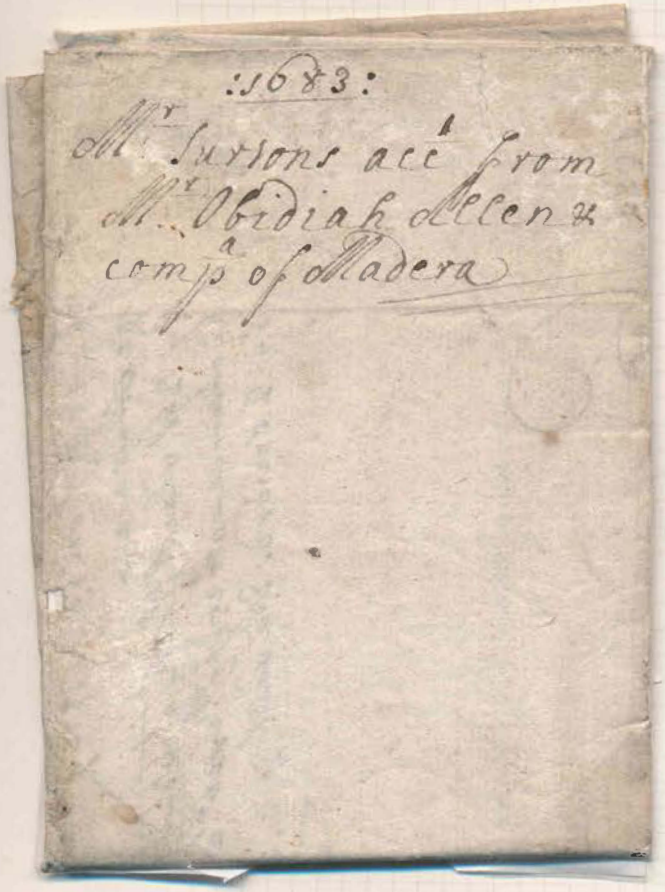
1765 16th April Entire letter from Luxembourg to France, with the straightline 'LUXEMB' handstamp, the entire charged at 20 Sols. The Duchy of Luxembourg was at this time administered by the Hapsburg Empire.

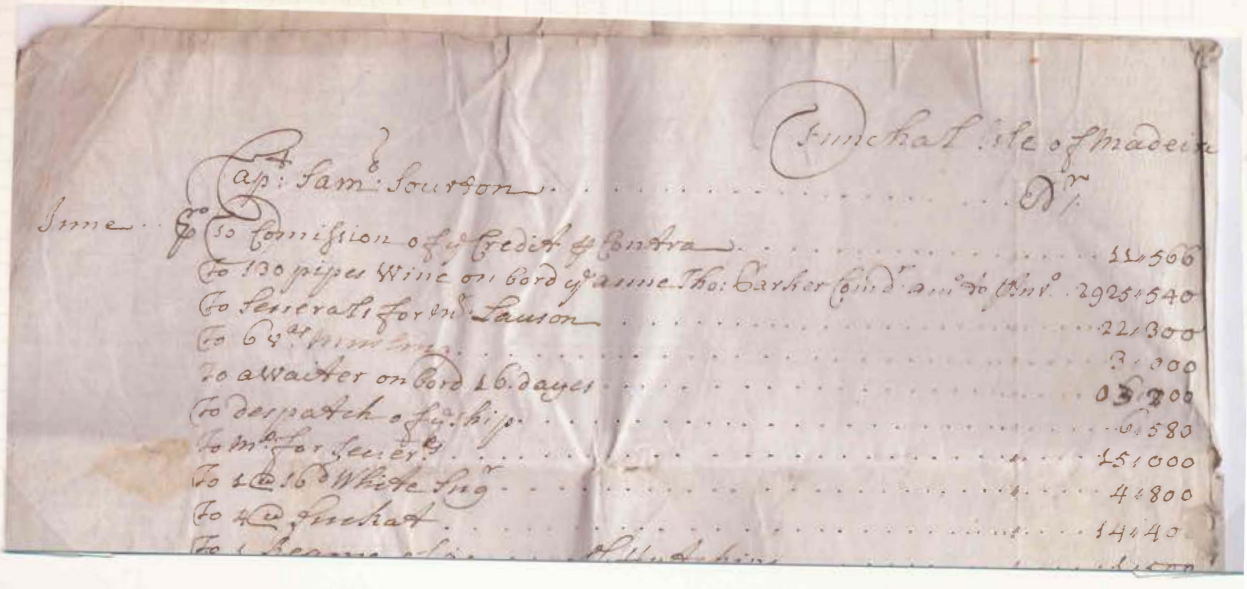


The letter is addressed to the Burgundy house of Pierre Amiot, who had their headquarters in Pommard. This is sent to the smaller cellar in Meursault near Beaune in the Bourgogne region, and asks that 3 'piece' of wine of the first quality be sent as soon as possible. The term piece can refer to a basket of wine of some 25 bottles, or, sometimes 25 cases of wine

MADEIRA

'Funchal Isle of Madeira Anno Domini 1683' an internal letter containing the June accounts of Funchal merchant and shipping agent Thomas Wright, as prepared by his clerk Obadiah Allen, to his client in the interior of the Island. It details wine dispatched, goods received, and the costs resulting. Including: 'to the making of a shirt and hose; to 2 swords and belts, and proceeds of 10 pipes of wine.'





MALTA

1772 26th October, entire letter from Malta to France, rated '90' and shows two-line handstamp 'MARSEILLES /DE MALTHE.'



The letter is written by Armand Joseph, a Knight of Malta, back to the family home in Saulieu, Burgundy. The family 'de Balathier' had large estates in the Bourgogne region of France, including large vineyards in Volnay, adjoining the Chateau. After the French Revolution, the family was all but wiped out, but, wine is still produced in the area, and you can even stay there as a paying guest.

Ex: CRL 13/12/1994



MAURITIUS

1850 28th April, entire letter sent from 'Maurice' to France sent 'p. John Hullet' Captain Turner, with 'Mauritius G.P.O.' circular datestamp, and red boxed 'Colonies / &c. Art. 13', boxed 'DEAL SHIP LETTER' in blue, charged '8' for a letter up to ½oz. in the British Isles 'A.M.B./ Calais' transit for Nov. 28, charged '15' decimes, to Bordeaux with arrival for 4 Dec.



The letter is addressed to Veillon Freres from Port Louis, and is concerned with a number of shipments, including the confirmation of arrival of '40 barrels of Montferrand and 40 barrels of St. Emilion'.

MAURITIUS

1875 5th February, Commercial wrapper to Marseille with pair 6d. Yellow-green and 4d. Rose. Carried 'per messageries', tied by 'B53' in barred circles with transit marks, despatch and arrival backstamps, with red P.D.



Listing an order from the negotiant in France, including, '80 of the 100 of Vermouth, Noilly (Pratt), 32 barrels of the 100 of Tarns' A region from the South of France producing strong red wine.

Ex: Hiroyuki Kanai

MEXICO

*1863 16th May, entire letter from Vera Cruz to France with 'Correos * Franco* VeraCruz' handstamp, French maritime datestamp 'Mexique 16 Mai 63' in blue and 'Mexique 17 Mai 63 Tampico' departure datestamp in black, on reverse 'Paris a Givert 16 Jun 63' arrival datestamp , and Reims arrival datestamp for 16th June, the entire charged '8' decimes. The rare Mexique Tampico mark is signed Jacmel.*



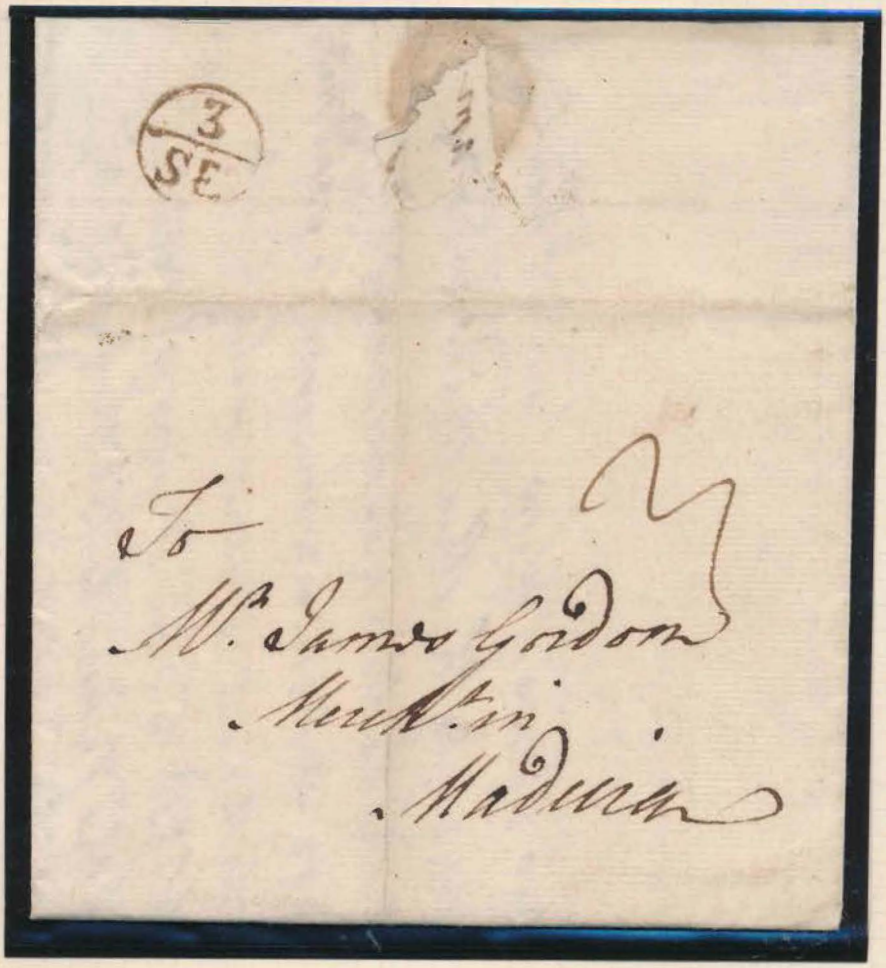
Veracruz was the major port for importing and exporting goods netween Europe and the colony of New Spain, business at this time was however slow, with little activity aside from the occasional arrival of a merchant ship or French transport.

The letter is from the merchants 'G. Guichenne & Co addressed the the Champagne House of Krug in Reims. The House had been exporting Champagne for only about 20 years by this time, and the letter explains that the previous shipment of '2 panniers' of wine had arrived on the merchant vessel 'Le Buenos Ayres' and unfortunately there had been many breakages and loss of stock and therefore they were unable to fulfill their orders. Could therefore 10 panniers be sent as soon as possible, better packed this time, so the business could continue.

MONTSERRAT

1763 9th July, entire letter to Madeira, having been carried and forwarded from London, with '3/SE' Bishop Mark, rated '3'

This is the earliest Montserrat letter recorded in the Robson Lowe Encyclopedia.



The letter is addressed to James Gordon of the famous Madeira House Cossart Gordon, and states: I have received two Pipes of wine from your House, one of green Malmsey and one of Madeira. I am sorry to inform you that the wines are by no means to the quality that you used to send me, being very little better than common sale wine.'

Ex: Brian Brookes

NETHERLANDS

1859 30th March, double weight entire letter from 'Maestricht' to Beaune, franked with 6 x 10c. dull Red, Plate 5, tied by 'Maastricht 30/3/1859' 'FRANCO' circular Type 30 cancellation. Red 'P.D.' denoting prepaid mail. French entry datestamp for Valenciennes '31 Mars 59' on reversed there are transit marks for Paris 31 Mars, Paris a Lyon 31 Mars, and a Beaune arrival datestamp for '1 Avril 1859'.



The letter is from the established wine merchants of Polis & Ryckelen in Maestricht, who also had their own vineyards in Holland, and is addressed to the negotiant House of Champy Pere et Fils in Beaune, and details previous invoices of wine collected in Paris, and requests a further 3% discount to the amount of business carried out of the years.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1856 25th October, entire letter from Sydney to France, sent unpaid endorsed 'p. Centurion via England' with '3' handstamp New South Wales credit for outgoing ship letter, and 'Sydney /NSW/NO 1' despatch cds. on reverse; London transit datestamp in red for '10 /02/ 1857' British Post Office framed 'GB / 1F 60c' accountancy mark. '8' in manuscript for British credit for the letter, which weighs 8 grams. 'ANG. 10 FEVR. 57 / AMB. CALAIS' entry datestamp, and Paris transit and Reims arrival for 11th February. The entire charged '16' decimes.

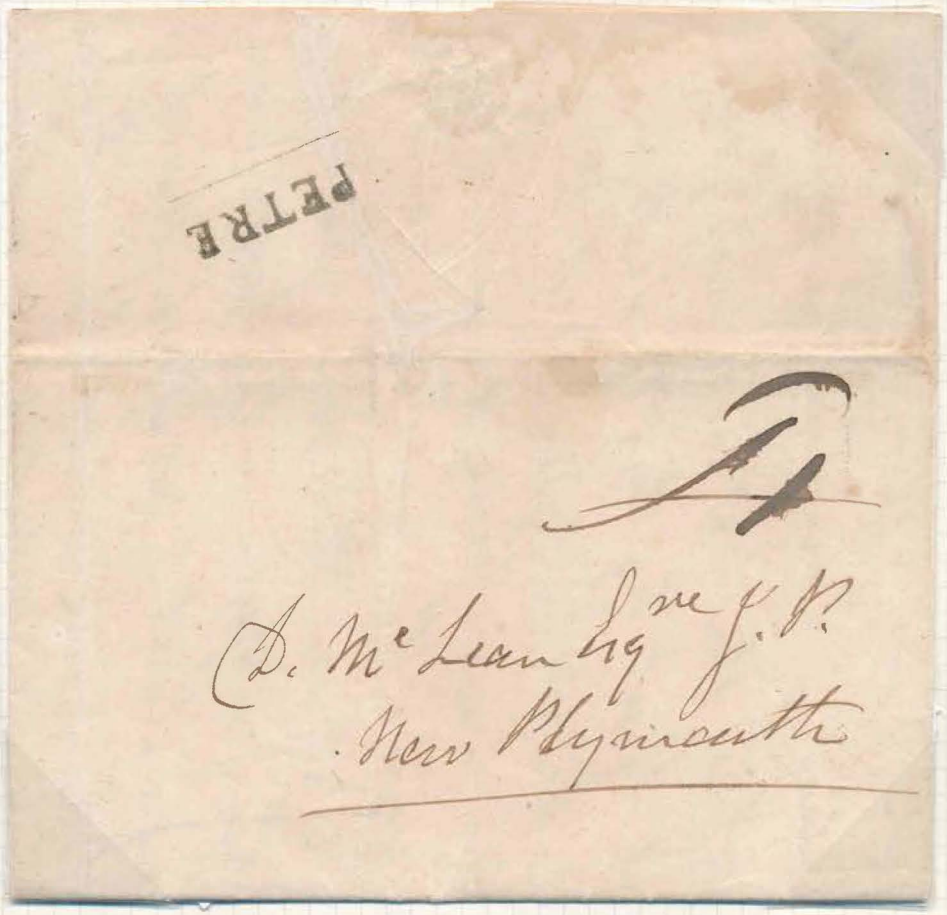


The letter was sent form the merchants Flower, Salting & Co. in Sydney, and is addressed to the Champagne House, Ruinart Et Fils. 'We now beg to advise that a few days since, we again tried a portion of your Champagne by auction and succeeded in placing 30 cases of the shipment per 'A. Bertrand' @34/ per doz, is the highest price that has been given for the wine. Port,+ Sherry wines still continue in fair demand, and light wines, claret most particularly are sought after.

Ex: Hugh Wood

NEW ZEALAND

1847 22nd March, entire letter from Wanganui to New Plymouth, rated '4' being the sea postage to be paid on arrival; the rate following the 'Governor Grey's' rate of 6d; this rate being charged per ½oz. till 19th September 1848. With boxed 'PETRE' handstamp in black, without stop.



The letter states: 'I enclose the receipt of the Captain and of the schooner Governor Grey but I thought that by this time the wine must be with you at N.P.'

Ex: 'Kiwi'; John Woolfe; Len Jury

NORWAY

1858 30th September, entire letter from Bergen to France franked with 2sk. Orange-yellow and strip of three 8sk. Carmine, cancelled '25' in barred circle. Bergen blue departure cds. for '30/9/1858' transit 'Sandusund' in the Aland Islands of Finland, transit cds. for '5/10' French entry cds 'Norwege-Erquelines' for the 9th October, red boxed 'P.D.' Paris transit on reverse for 10th October, and Cette 11th October arrival.



The letter details an order for 'baskets (an old measure for normally 25 cases of wine) of Chateauneuf de Pape; Malaga, Teneriffe, Sherry and Chambertin, all of the very best quality.'



NOVA SCOTIA

1868 13th March, entire letter from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Bordeaux, France with two, 8½c. deep Green, each tied by 'H' in oval grid Halifax MR 13 68 duplex cancels, carried 'Pr Etna' via Queenstown, red London Paid 24 March and matching oval framed 'PD' with manuscript '7' red British Post Office rated charge. Calais entry AMBL MR 25 datetsamp, on reverse, Paris transit datetsamp for 25th March, and Bordeaux arrival for the 26th March. Paying the correct, but rare, 17c. rate

The Iron screw, steamer, Etna, was built for the British & North America Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and was transferred to the Inman Line. In 1867, responsibility for mail contracts was transferred from the Admiralty to the Post Office and offered for bid, Inman was awarded one of the three weekly New York mail services and the fortnightly route to Halifax, Nova Scotia formerly held by Cunard.



The business letter details cargo requested, and 'the wine to be shipped as soon as possible' and, 'please not to ship any plums to this place.'

ORANGE FREE STATE

1897 1st July, Revenue document headed: 'Licentie Kleine Maat' Licence for a small business to sell wine, spirits etc., issued within the district of Caledon River, for a period of three months. Bearing £18 15s, in Orange Free State revenues, each cancelled '1/7/97' in manuscript and tied by Vernietigd/Jul/ 1 + 1897' perfins.

LICENTIE KLEINE MAAT.

Gouvernement Oranjevrijstaat, District Caledon River.

WETBOEK, HOOFDSTUK CVIII.

No 14

Licentie voor verkoop van Wijnen, Sterke Dranken, enz., bij de Kleine Maat.

Ik, Daniel. Haupt, Landdrost van het District Caledonrivier op dezen 1sten dag van Juli 189 7, authoriseer en machtig hierdoor den heer James. Morton wonende te Smithfield. (en die mij het certificaat door de wet geeischt geproduceerd heeft), bij de kleine maat, wijnen, sterke dranken, moutdranken, en jopenbier, te verkoopen te Smithfield, op Erf No 1. Blok B. Marktplein. en niet elders, voor den tijd van 3. maanden, gerekend van den Eerstedag dag van Juli, 189 7, en niet lan...*



Daniel Haupt
Landdrost.



het k...

PENANG

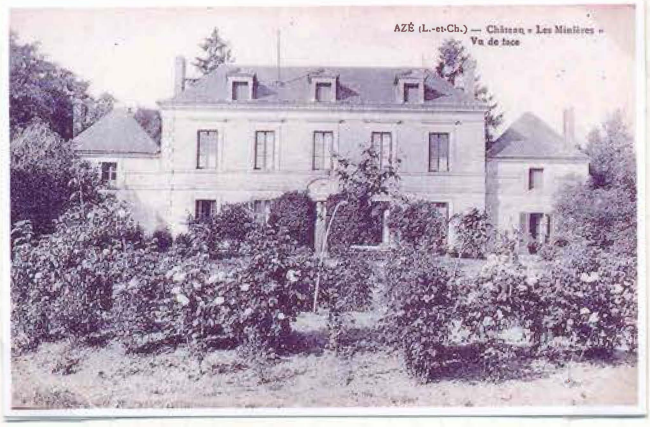


1882 23RD May, envelope from Penang to France, with three 2c. Brown (2 on reverse). cancelled 'B/172' four-lined octagon in Penang. with Penang Paid mark in red, transit cds. for Mouane A Paris 1/08/1882 and Vendome arrival for 2nd August.

A letter to France, not exceeding ½oz. routed via Brindisi was 8c. This cover shows the 6c. route via Marseilles.

This canceller was originally allocated to Singapore, but when the administration of the Straits Settlements was transferred from the India Office to the Colonial Office in 1867, the numbered cancellers ceased to have any significance and they were used wherever they were needed.





Chateau de Minieres in the Loire valley, had been producing red wine from the Cabernet Franc grape wince the beginning of the 19th century, and, exported all over the world. They are still producing wine today.

PHILIPPINES

1876 16th May, entire letter from Manila to France with 62c. Rose tied by parrilla handstamp, endorsed 'Via Brindisi' red Singapore Paid cds. and 'Poss Ang. V. Brind.' double-circle datestamp for 2nd July. French railroad cancel at Modane for British Packet Mail through Brindisi; arrival datestamp for Reims 3rd July.

In 1870 the Franco-Prussian War closed the port of Marseilles, the usual route of Philippines mail to Europe. After the war some mail continued to be sent via Brindisi, usually by British P&O packet via Singapore and Suez.

The earliest recorded item with a Philippines stamp sent to a non-Spanish destination.



The letter is sent from Tillson Herrman & Co., general merchants in Manila, and is addressed to the Champagne House of Krug, and contains an order for a further 8 cases of wine and details the settlement of previous orders totaling $80 and £12 10/-.

REUNION

1872 28th October entire letter from Saint Louis to France, rated '25' sent 'Voie de Suez' with St. Denis double ring datestamp on reverse, red Indes a Marseille transit mark for 13th January and 'Cenon-La-Bastide' arrival for 17th January on reverse, charged '10' decimes.



With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the sugar market expanded rapidly, and the high quality sugar grown on the Island of Reunion was in high demand back in Europe.

This letter details the local market conditions, and includes a plea for wine to be shipped on the return voyage as supplies were running low. Bearing in mind how long it took this letter to arrive, I hope they were in time!

ROMANIA

1869 14th September, envelope from Bucharest to France, franked with 50 Bana red and blue and 25 Bana deep blue and orange cancelled by the Bucharest afternoon postmark; black boxed 'PD', on reverse double-ringed cds. for Vienna transit 15th September, blue Strasbourg cds. for 17th September and French arrival cds. for Freseneaux – Montchevre for the 18th September.



The cover is addressed to the Daudin family at their northern chateau in the department of Oise. The Chateau de Pouilly in Loire region was also owned by the Daudin family, and produces fine Pouilly-Fume today.

St. HELENA

1880 7th May, envelope from St. Helena, with local handstamp for that date, franked with 1/- deep Green cancelled by 'Cork' cancel (Hibbert type CAN 8) paying the Packet Boat rate to the U.K. rated '6'' London arrival for 5th June.



The letter is written by Lord Scott Douglas, onboard the Steamer 'Pretoria' and posted upon his arrival in St. Helena. He was travelling to South Africa to superintend the Boundary Commission after the Zulu War. and writes to his wife: "I begin my third letter to you since leaving England it is very hot....The passengers are a fair lot, none as yet very objectionable... there were a great many vacancies at the tables today...people do not seem to comprehend that if they eat four meals a day, three with meat, wine & spirits they must get ill & bilious...."

St. LUCIA

1848, 29th January, Entire from Government House St. Lucia, to Madeira endorsed 'Per Steamer via England' prepaid 2/10, handstamped with 'PAID/AT/St. LUCIA' crowned circle, boxed paid datestamp London, and '160; charge mark of Madeira, backstamped with St. Lucia double arc datestamp.



Written by Charles Henry Darling, Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia, (later Governor of Cape Colony, Newfoundland, Jamaica and Victoria) addressed to Newton Gordon & Co., ordering 'the same quality of Madeira that you have been in the habit of shipping to my friend W.G. Stewart of Jamaica' also advising them that there is no wholesaler in Barbados.

SOMALIA

1902 22nd May, wrapper around complete newspaper 'Journal Franco-Ethiopien Djibouti' sent to Paris, with 5c. on 40c. Orange & Blue, cancelled by 'Cote Francais des Somalis Djibouti 22 Mai 02' cds. in blue, paying the circular rate.



Amongst the news contained therein: at a banquet at Addis-Ababa on 26th May 1894 the Minister plenipotentiaire de France proposed the health of The Emperor Memilek, and the Champagne was toasted. The Emperor was extremely affable'.

News from Transvaal – The Boer delegates presented Lord Kitchener with their demands for independence with a series of conditions, and many other delicate points.

Martinique – on 9th May the town of St. Pierre de la Martinique was completely destroyed by a volcanic eruption, the number of dead totaled some 40,000'.

SPAIN

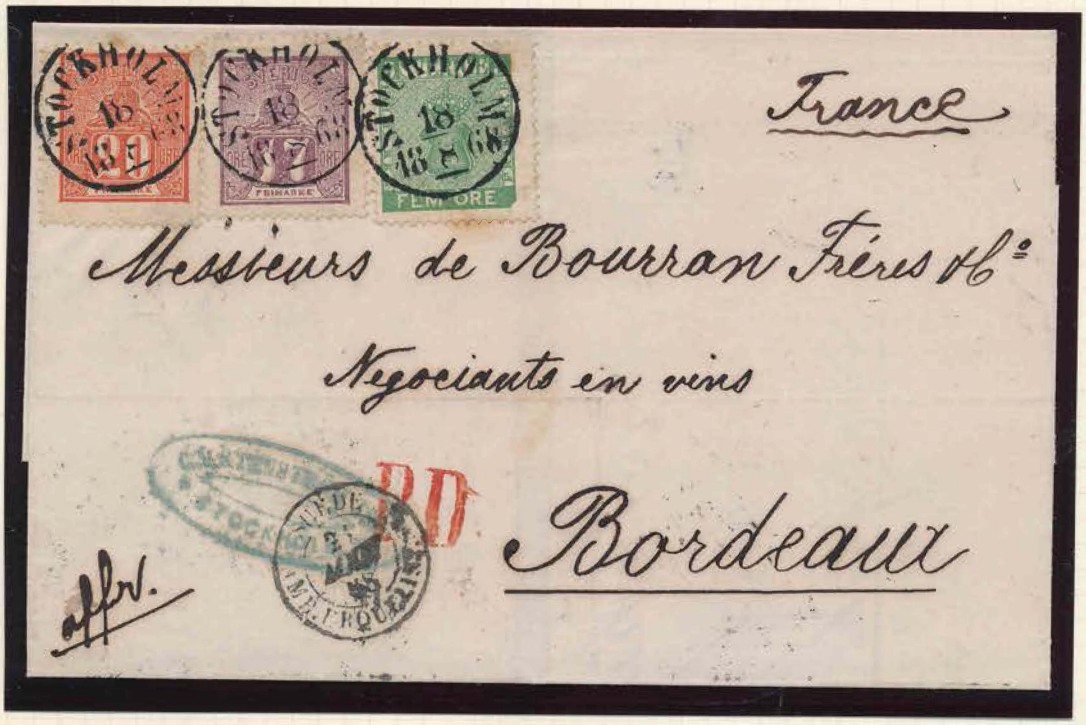
1861 23rd January, entire from Jana to Oloron-Ste-Maria with 12c. Carmine on buff paper, tied by Jana datestamp, rated .5' and with red arrival datestamps for 26th January.



La Jana in the Valencian area of Spain, this letter is addressed to Oloron-Sainte-Marie which is in the Pyrenees, contains much family information: 'Uncle got sick when he returned from Madrid month, if blood had not been taken from him, he would have died, he is now somewhat better and can take a little wine'.

SWEDEN

1868 18th August, cover from Stockholm to France with 1858 5 0re green, 1866 17 ore red-violet and 20 ore vermilion, all tied by 'Stockh9olm 18-18 8 68 cds., with red 'PD' mark alongside border entry cds for 21st August, Stenstrom forwarding agent cachet, Paris transit for 22 August, Paris a Bordeaux transit, and Bordeaux arrival mark on reverse for 23rd August.





The cover is addressed to the Bordeaux merchants of Bourran Freres.

Cert. Helena Wilen

SWITZERLAND

1808 13th December & 1810 28th April, entire letters from Basel to France with: 'Basel April 29.' struck twice, and 'straightline 'BASEL' handstamps, the French entry mark 'SUISSE PAR / HUNINGUE' two-line handstamp, both letters charged '6' decimes'

After the act of Mediation in 1803 which restored independence to Switzerland, methods governing the transit of mail between them and France were developed. French exchange offices began to use Marque d'entre' from 1807 to indicate the point of entry.

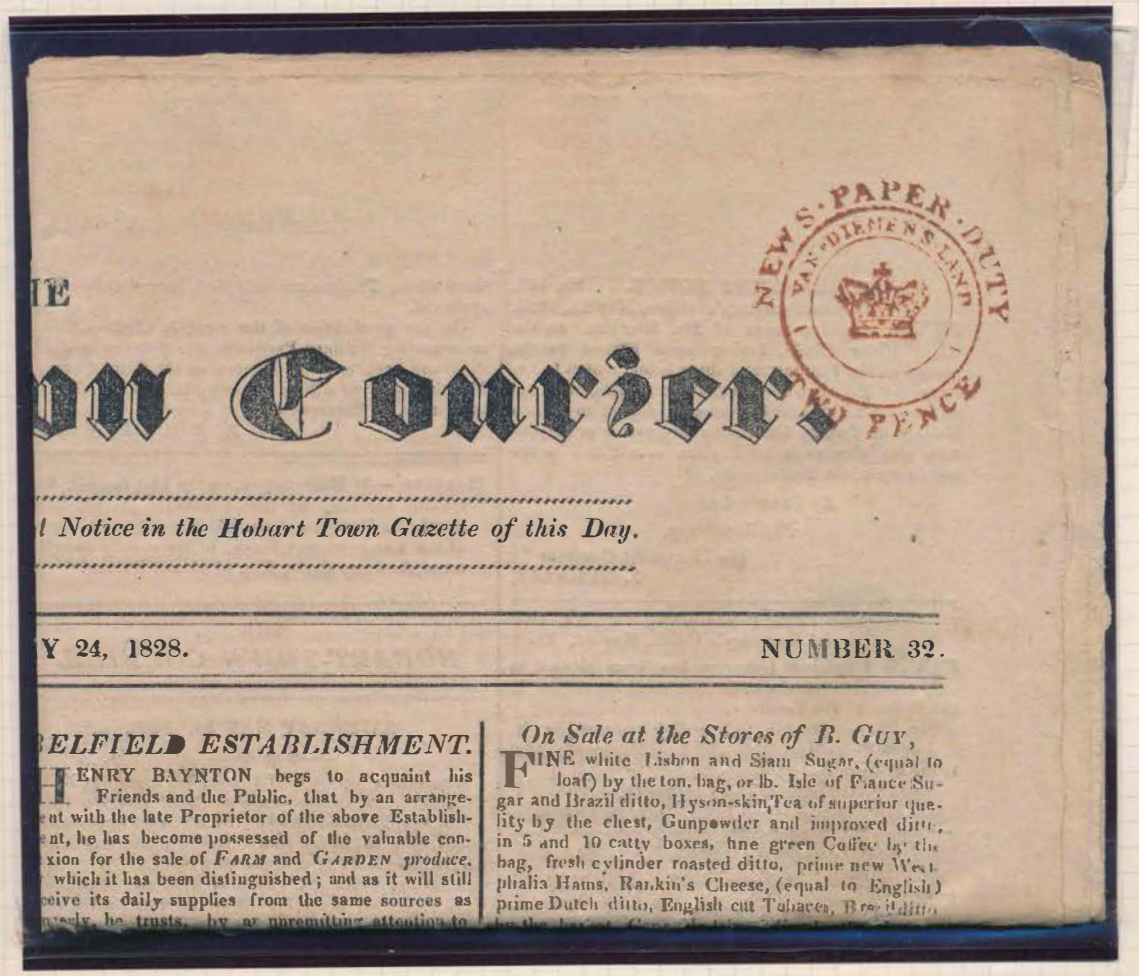




The letters are addressed to the Negotioant business in Pommard of Mathieu Amyot, established in 1725. Both are concerned with orders of wine being shipped or requested including' 30 feuillettes (baskets) red wine for Mr. Bernard Loos' and, 'the feuilette of wine delivered on 17th January has proved most satisfactory, and we request another'.

TASMANIA

1828, 24th May, complete copy of The HOBART TOWN COURIER
Posted locally, with Newspaper duty 2d. handstamp paid in red.



IE

on Courier.

! Notice in the Hobart Town Gazette of this Day.

Y 24, 1828. NUMBER 32.

ELFIELD ESTABLISHMENT.

HENRY BAYNTON begs to acquaint his Friends and the Public, that by an arrangement with the late Proprietor of the above Establishment, he has become possessed of the valuable connexion for the sale of FARM and GARDEN produce, which it has been distinguished; and as it will still receive its daily supplies from the same sources as

On Sale at the Stores of B. GUY,

FINE white Lisbon and Siam Sugar, (equal to loaf) by the ton, bag, or lb. Isle of France Sugar and Brazil ditto, Hyson-skin Tea of superior quality by the chest, Gunpowder and improved ditto, in 5 and 10 catty boxes, fine green Coffee by the bag, fresh cylinder roasted ditto, prime new Westphalia Hams, Rankin's Cheese, (equal to English) prime Dutch ditto, English cut Tobacco, Brazil ditto,

The contents of this fascinating daily include:
'Just imported, per Midas, via Sydney; Port Wine in Pipes, Cape Madeira in hogsheads, Claret in ditto, Madeira in bottle, Champagne ditto, Brandy, Gin and Rum in quantities of not less than five Gallons.' Also an announcement' Lady Charlotte Bury has written a lively novel called Flirtation.' I bet she has!

TRINIDAD

1856 25th July Lettersheet from Trinidad to France with (1d.) deep Blue. lithographed 3rd. printing on thinnish paper with background of clear lines in places, cancelled '1' in a square of bars, paying the 1d. internal postage, with 'Crown Circle Paid at Trinidad' in red and on reverse cds. Trinidad 25th July; the cover rated '2s/1d.' for the external postage via London, 18th August 1856 red Paid circle handstamp and red circled 'PD' Angl. Calais transit mark for 19th August and Paris a Bordeaux 19th August.



The cover is addressed to the Wine Shipping firm of Gaden & Klipsch.

Ex: Ramkissoon

Cert. Holcombe

URUGUAY

1857 4th October, an entire from Montevideo to Podensac near Bordeaux; with green oval Montevideo datestamp, Cruzety & Fernandez forwarding agents mark, with British 1F60c Accountancy mark, Anglo Amb Calais 14th November cds., tampon 8 decimes charge, Paris & Paris A Bordeaux transits and Podensac arrival cds. on reverse.



The letter details a wine order, and also points out that the majority of the 40 barrels of white wine that were ordered last time, still remain unsold.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1857 21st January, outer letter-sheet from New Orleans to France with 1851-7 5c. red-brown, tied by New Orleans circular datestamp for 21st January, marked 'Per first Steamer Via England' letter sent by Persian Packet; Handstamped forwarding 'Henry Yaleton New Orleans', New York red transit datestamp for 4th February, boxed Anglo-French accountancy 'GB 1F 60c' mark, London transit for 14th February, Paris transit for 15th Feb, Paris a Bordeaux mark for 15th Feb, and charged '8' decimes for French delivery. The letter was posted with the United States inland rate, and in the three months prior to the U.S.A./France postal treaty.

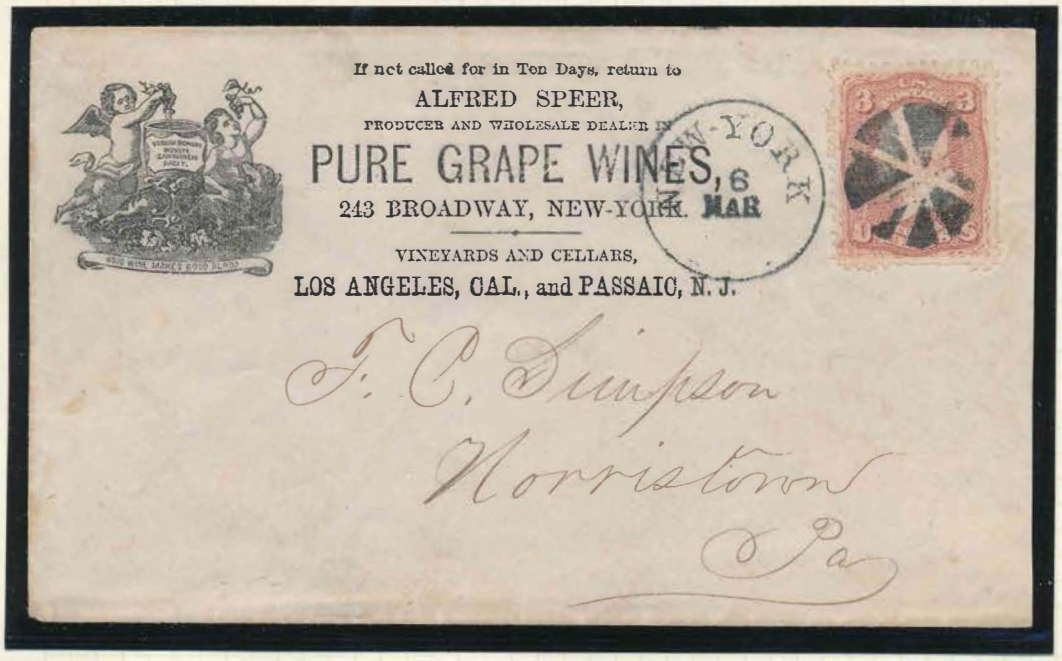


The letter is addressed to the Chief Cellar Master of Chateau Haut-Brion, Premier Grand Cru Classes wine of the Graves region of Bordeaux.

Ex: Ryokei Ishikawa

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1865 6th March, envelope from New York to Norristown, Pennsylvania with 3c. Rose cancelled by cork obliterator and 'New-York 6 Mar' datestamp.





The firm of Albert Speer was one of the most famous in New York, he was an inventor and businessman, his wine business on Broadway near City Hall was plagued by heavy traffic, so he designed an aerial steam powered sidewalk to make a continuous loop above Broadway, sadly, it was never given permission to build; partly because of the projected cost, which in 1872 was given as $3,700,000 His wines were produced from grapes imported from Spain and Portugal, and the firms motto was 'Good wine makes good blood'.

VENEZUELA – LA GUAIRA

1866 29th February entire from Caracas to France with 2r. Green 9 roulette with 'Paquete' tied by 'Correo Caracas' double-ring cancelation, sent by the ship 'Angleterre', Anglo-French accountancy mark 'GB 1F60c' red London transit for March 16th on reverse, 'Angl-Calais' transit for 17th March, 'Paris a Bordeaux' transit for the same day, and Bordeaux arrival datestamp for the 18th March. charged 10 decimes.

In November 1863, Captain R. Todd acquired from the Venezuelan Government the right to carry mail between Caracas, La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, 75 miles to the west and St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies. Stamps were issued by Blohm Nolting & Co, Curacao



The letter is sent from the firm Montamat & Adoue in Caracas and is addressed to the wine shipping firm of Montamat in Bordeaux

VICTORIA

1859 May 27th, entire letter from Tarrangower to Castlemaine Victoria, with 4d. Rose-pink on thick wove paper, from the printings by Robinson, perf. 12, grossly misplaced on this stamp; cancelled 'BN 60' barred numeral, with oval 'Maldon, crown, MY 27 1859 VICTORIA' and oval 'CASTLEMAINE arrival for My '28'.



The town of Castlemaine owes its origins to the gold rush which began in this area in 1851, and, apart from anything else, is the home of the oldest continuously operating theatre in mainland Australia.
The contents of the letter, addressed to the Wine Merchants Messrs. Butterworth & Co., bear testament to the times, and report that as legal proceedings are being instigated against the writer of the letter he has no option but to call a meeting of his creditors which will be held at the British American Hotel, and suggests that they attend.

Ex: Rodney Perry & Ken Barelli

Rodney Perry cert.

ZANZIBAR

1899 24th July, 1 Anna red Post card written from Zanzibar to France, cancelled 'Zanzibar 25 JU 99' squared circle with Bordeaux arrival cds. for 14th August



The post card is written by Giovanni Lossa, who was the Proprietor of the Hotel l'Europe Zanzibar, (see photograph of the covered veranda) and is addressed to the Bordeaux merchants Messrs. Dupont, Clement & Maurel, asking them for an up to date price list.

