France 1999

Liberty Leading the People

Eugène Delacroix

Louvre, Paris

# THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

FROM THE

ANCIEN RÉGIME

TO THE END OF THE

1ST REPUBLIC

1789 - 1804

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#### **PLAN**

- I. Introduction
- II. The Ancien Régime  $\pm 1655 1789$
- III. The French Revolution
  - 1. May 1789 Aug. 1792
  - 2. Sept. 1792 Nov. 1799
    - The French First Republic
      - 2.1. The National Convention
      - 2.2. The Directory

[end of the Revolution]

- IV. The Consulate Nov. 1799 May 1804
  - The end of the French First Republic

[beginning of the French Empire]

- V. The armies of the Revolution
- VI. Conclusion

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The *Ancien Régime* (Former Regime) was the monarchic, aristocratic, social and political system established in the Kingdom of France from approximately the 15th century until the French Revolution.

The administrative and social structures of the *Ancien Régime* were the result of years of state-building, legislative acts, internal conflicts and civil wars, but they remained a patchwork of local privilege and historic differences until the French Revolution ended the system.

The Seven Years' War followed by the participation of France in the American War of Independence emptied the National Treasury. The Third Estate, constituted by 98% of the people, must pay several taxes among them: the *taille*, the *gabelle* (salt tax) and tithe. They blamed the government for the privileges granted to the nobility and clergy.

Let us see the causes which will lead the French people to revolt:

- 1. the social structure of the country during the *Ancien Régime*
- 2. the taxes

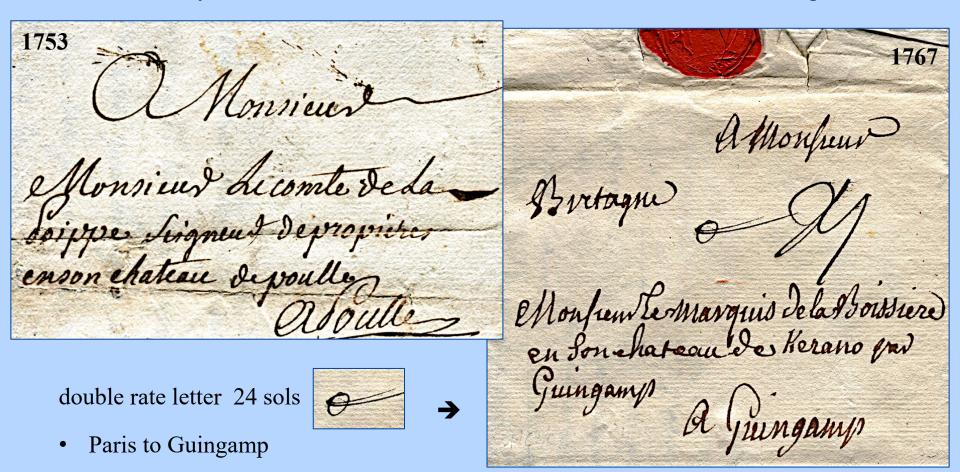
#### I.1. The social structure of the country during the Ancien Régime

At that time, French society was made up of three social classes (estates):

- A. the nobility (aristocracy)
- B. the clergy
- C. the *Tiers-État* (Third Estate) (commoners)

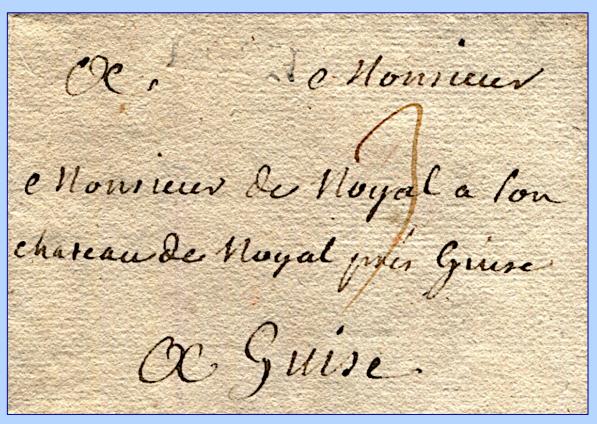
#### A. The aristocracy

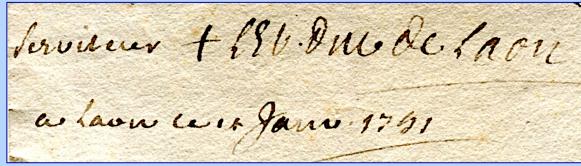
- > They enjoy all the privileges: social, judicial, fiscal
- > Yet many live in idleness in their castles or at the court of the King



#### B. The clergy

- ightharpoonup distinction between the high clergy (nobility) and the rural clergy
- > exemption of taxes







seal

Letter from Maxime de Sabran, Bishop Duke of Laon (France) preparing his flight out of France.

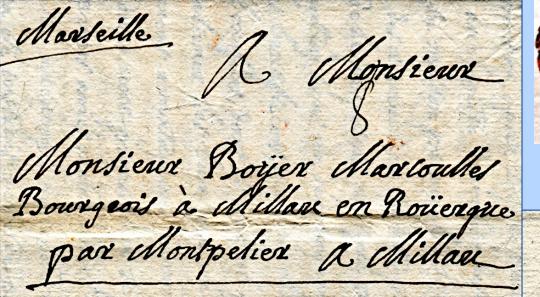
- Laon to Guise
- January 11 1791
- postage due 3 sol

#### C. The *Tiers-État* (Third Estate)

- > 98 % of the population
- > no privileges but many taxes

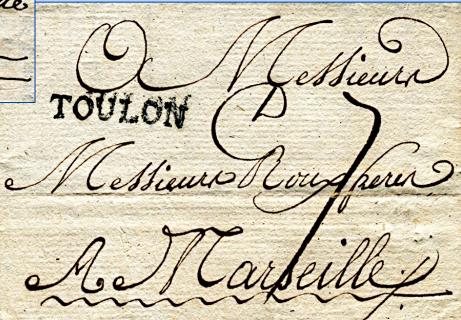
> a very diverse population: bourgeois, lawyers, notaries, counsellors, farmers,

peasants ...



• bourgeois

merchants



#### I.2. The taxes

Taxes were numerous and administered arbitrarily. Here are a few:

#### A. The *taille*

- irect land tax on the French peasantry and non-nobles
- > to fund the many wars
- > the tax was levied in a very arbitrary manner.

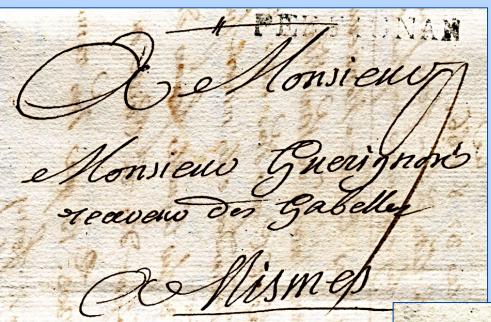


- manuscript postmark of origin *Embrun* to Gap
- April 24 1769
- postage due 4 sols

The sender requests a 3 month delay for a tax payment:

<<... de la continuation de vos bontés... je viens encore vous suplie de macorde trois mois pour le paÿment ... l'argent est extremement rare ...>>

#### B. The *gabelle* (salt tax)



- salt is essential for cooking, preserving food and for raising livestock
- extreme regional disparities in salt prices
- the salt tax stood as one of the most hated and grossly unequal forms of revenue generation in the country
- Perpignan to Nîmes
- October 27 1766
- postage due 9 sols

#### *Grenier à sel* (Salt attic)

- at first, they were salt warehouses for salt
- after the 16<sup>th</sup> c., they are **courts** to try disputes over the gabelle
- they concentrate on police and justice
  - DE LYON to Nîmes
  - January 14 1769
  - postage due 7 sols



Added to these heavy taxes, the years of poor harvests exasperated the French. In 1789, the French people are dissatisfied, they want to abolish monarchy and feudalism.

Although the postal system is under royal control, it will be the main source of information transmission.

Thus, the revolt may spread throughout the Kingdom.

The French Revolution marks the end of the Old Regime and the replacement of absolute monarchy by a constitutional monarchy and finally by the First Republic. To better understand the important changes that occured during the French Revolution, we must see its functioning before this great disruption.

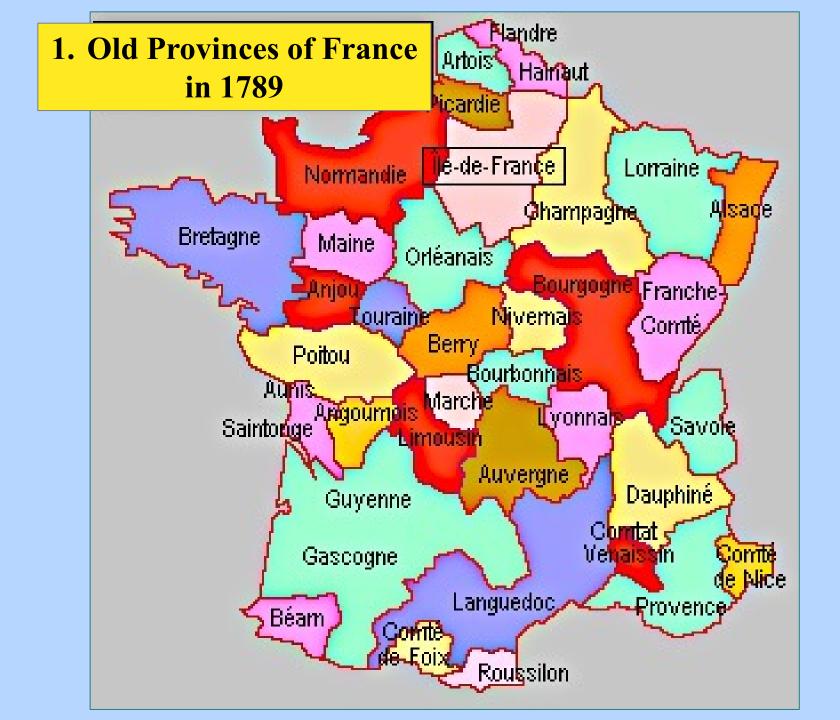
# II. The Ancien Régime(Old Regime)

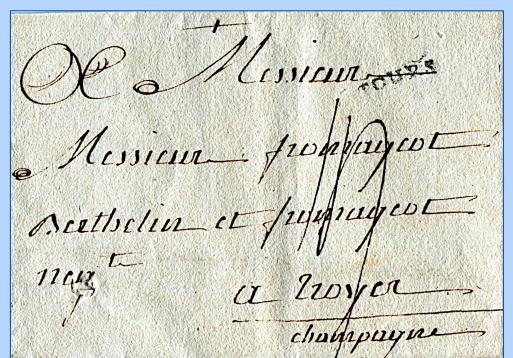
±1655 - 1789

## II. The Ancien Régime. ± 1655 - 1789

During the *Ancien Régime*, the **postal system** is under royal control. The system is relatively stable and is the main source of information transmission in the Kingdom.

- 1. The French Provinces
- 2. The Postal Organization
- 3. The Postal Routes
- 4. The *Petite Poste de Paris*





#### The CHAMPAGNE

- Tours to Troyes
- 1760
- postage due 14 sols

#### The NORMANDIE

- Bayonne to L'Aigle
- 1765
- postage due 16 sols



## 2. The Postal Organization

In 1630, until the French Revolution, the person responsable of the postal organization had the title of « Surintendant des postes et relais » (Postmaster General).

#### 3 types of services:

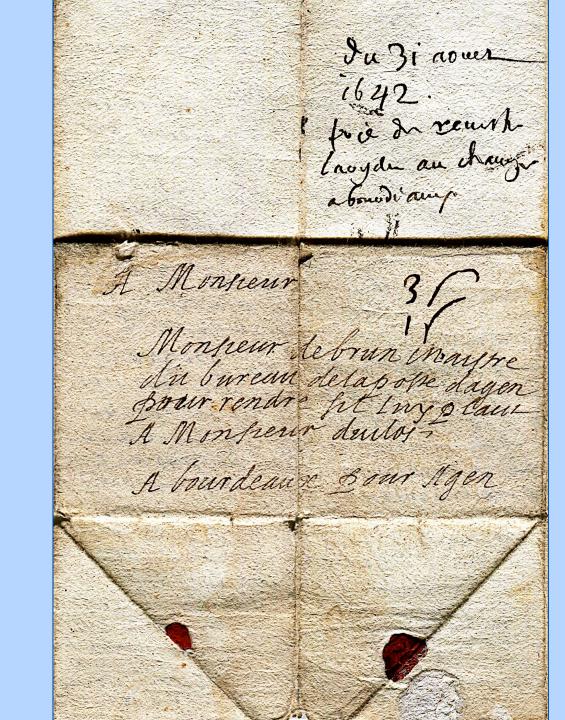
- the *poste aux lettres*: carried letters
- the *poste aux chevaux*: carried passengers and small packages
- the *messageries*: carried passengers and packages under 50 pounds
  - → fierce competition between the 3 services

The « poste aux lettres »

King Louis XIII Period (1610 – 1643)



- Paris to Bordeaux via Agen
- August 31 1642
- postage due:
  - Paris to Agen: 3 sols
  - Agen to Bordeaux: 1 sol

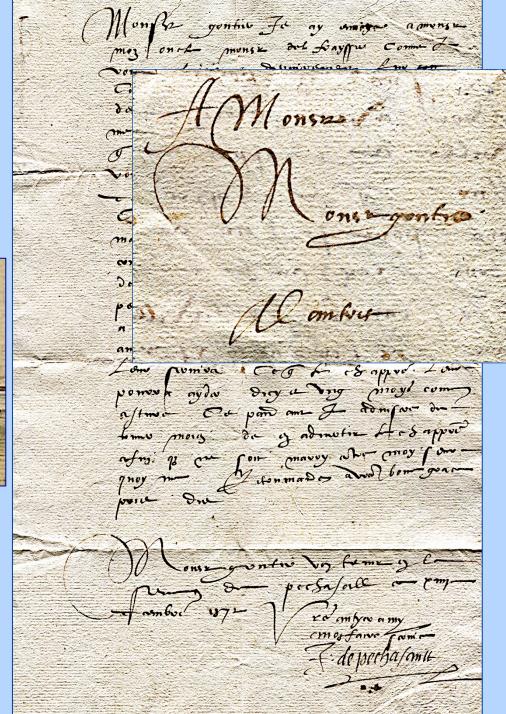


## ■ The « poste aux chevaux »

King Charles IX Period (1560 – 1574)



- Brousse to Lautrec
- 1571
- postage paid
- signature: Jean de Pechasault



■ The « messageries » carried passengers and heavy packages under 50 pounds.

	Rembourfement,
M	ESSAGERIES ROYALES
DE	LYON, PROVENCE ET LANGUEDOC, ET RETOUR.  A Syon le 25. 4 1787
% Fo	A la garde de Dieu, & par les Catrosses urgons des Messageries Royales, il vous plaira recevoir Vue Cates marqué comme ci-contre, contenant
CE a	Nuleur de Vings Sept mille nonficeur Cour e
#2.	sure - u ;
bién i	conditionné, en paierez la Voiture Comptant, à raison de Communication de l'ordinaire
les D	raits légitimes, en outre
	qu'on soit responsable de la rupture des choses fragiles, coulage des liquides; s mouillures: Et sommes
2 74	Vo ) très-humble / Serviteur /
A Memour Co	
= $ma$	

the *Messageries* complained of couriers carrying goods but they did not hesitate to carry letters...

- receipt
- Lyon à Marseille
- 25 December 1787

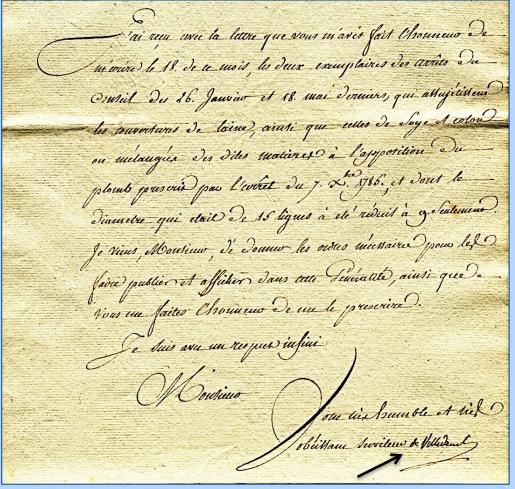
#### **King Louis XVI Period** (1774 – 1789) (1789-1792)

➤ in 1786, P.-C. Laurent de Villedeuil becomes the Comptroller-General of Finances, responsable of the General Administration of the Posts of the Kingdom of France

Left for England in July 1789 but returned to France in 1792 to plan Louis XVI's escape after the failure of his attempt to flee at Varennes. After Louis' execution he emigrated to Scotland and only returned to France after the fall of Napoleon

- Rouen to Paris
- July 24 1786
- signature --->





#### **King Louis XVI Period**

- Claude François Marie Rigoley,
   Comte d'Ogny named in 1780
   Postmaster General
   (« Surintendant des postes et relais »).
- he will stay in charge of the postal administration until the Decree of August 29 1790
  - Paris to Paris
  - September 20 1785

♦ signature 
 →

Je medicis fait rendre lompte, Monsieir, dela relamation que vous a charge de me faire M' Le Colonel Campell. il deplaint qu'on lui a attelle & chevary Sur fa dilique charge dedang servouves avec une malle. Je Suistres fache devous observer que cette Maintenien par foudie van pouver louralter Lordonnance page 9, artiele 4. qui est au lou menement du diore des l'ostes. Je repuis qu'aprouver les maitres de boster que ventent bien me pas læiger tout enqui leurest du Legitimement, mais Je ne puis blaneveeux qui fuivant alarique l'ordonnance, quand ils font leur representation ava hounetete. Jesuis ava attachement, Mousieur, potre tres humble el tru obcinant Servituer M. Serregam banquier medadatier abaris

faris Le 20. 76,785

#### 3. The Postal Routes

- ➤ 5 main postal routes from Paris:
  - Strasbourg
  - Lyon
  - Toulouse
  - Bordeaux
  - Brest
- other destinations:private couriers(liaisons transversales)

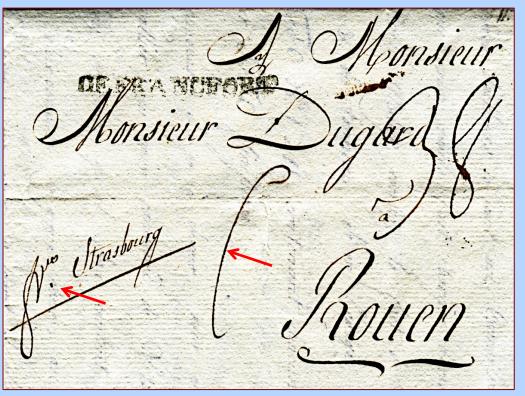


## - route Paris – Lyon – Claveson - Marseille



- Marseille to Claveson (Claveyson)
- postage due 5 sols
- date unknown

### - route Francfort - Strasbourg - Paris - Rouen



- Francfort to Rouen
- 1788
- franco Strasbourg
  - exchange office with the Imperial Post of *Thurn und Taxis*
- postage due Strasbourg to Rouen
  - $\rightarrow$  38 sols

fr fort ce 10. May 1988.



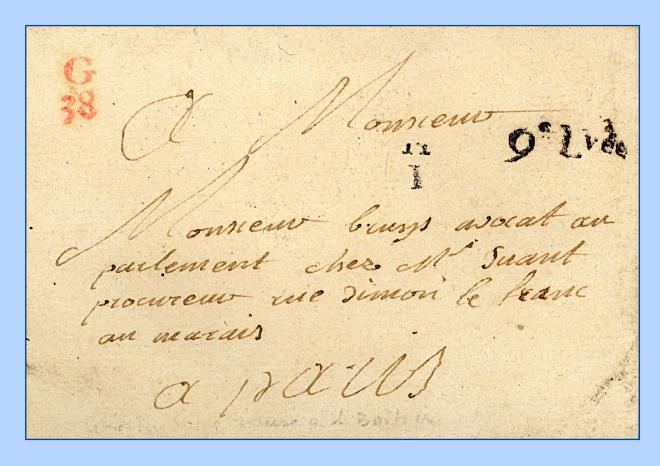
back dry seal double rate letter special mark



#### PETITE POSTE DE PARIS

(1760 - 1849)

ightharpoonup the Petite Poste was serving the inner city of Paris ightharpoonup 2 sol



- beginning: 9 June1760
- 9 offices:A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J- K (suburb)
- > 9 collections of mail each day (L<sup>vée</sup>)
- > date by the sorting office in Paris
- for the first time,the sender pays the tax

on July 1st 1780, the *Petite Poste* is annexed to the *Grande Poste* 

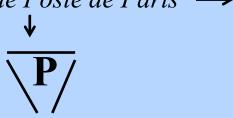


- the local
   mailboxes may
   receive letters for
   the provinces
- > POSTAGE PAID
  - to Paris
- > POSTAGE DUE
  - from Paris to Rouen
    - $\rightarrow$  6 sols

• Petite Poste de Paris → Grande Poste de Paris → Rouen

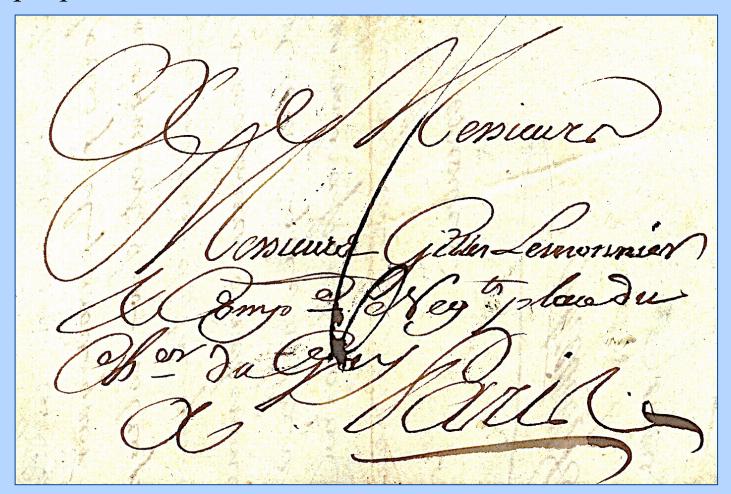
 $\mathbf{D}$  = office D

**27** = mailbox number





On the eve of the Revolution, merchants were still working but people were anxious about the fate of their orders.



- Rouen to Paris
- 1789
- postage due 6 sols

« ...cette lettre est pour vous tranquilliser sur le sort... »

#### III. THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

- 1. May 1789 Aug. 1792
- 2. Sept. 1792 Nov. 1799
  - \* The French First Republic
    - 2.1. National Convention
    - 2.2. Directory

Historical Facts. The French Revolution is a turbulent period in the history of France. French people redesigned their country's political status, uprooting centuries-old institutions such as monarchy and the feudal system. It proclaimed the equality of citizens before the law, the fundamental freedoms and the sovereignty of the nation.

- ➤ The heavy taxes, the years of poor harvests exasperated the French. In 1789, the French people are dissatisfied, they want to abolish monarchy and feudalism.
- The King summoned the Estates-General (États-Généraux), an assembly representing the nobility, the clergy and the rest of France (98%).
- The meeting soon deteriorate and the Third Estate formed into a **National Assembly**, inviting the other two to join, against the wishes of the King.
- This signals the outbreak of the French Revolution.

# **ESTATES-GENERAL** ÉTATS GÉNÉRAUX May 5 1789



- ➤ On July 14 1789, insurgents **stormed the Bastille fortress** in an attempt to secure gunpowder and weapons. It was also a **symbol** of the abuses of the monarchy; its fall was the flashpoint of the French Revolution.
- ➤ In France, the 14th of July is a public holiday, called the Bastille Day

# POSTE IN DOCH IN E AERNE ACTUO VALUEBRAD PARIS 390 LANDER AND REALITY PROPERTY OF THE PARIS O







150th anniverssary - 1939

#### THE STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

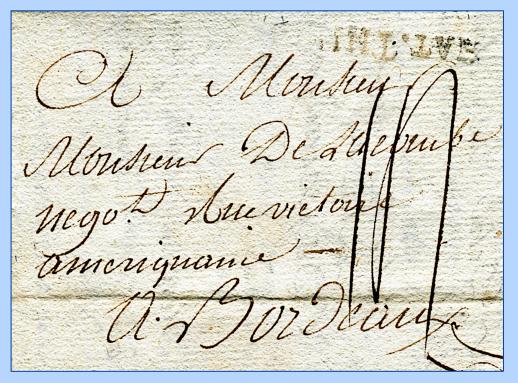
July 14 1789







200th anniversary - 1989





tean threin er 18 juillet 1789

- Chateau-Thierry to Bordeaux
- 18 July 1789
- postage due 14 sols

Vereste De Sarin, den elmer y Sont a un somit qu'on me sent concerver, ca il vint de le fastes den evenement de plus extraordinaires, des Details ne Jout somme que de vive voix, d'inventure destoutes des dettres qui battant s'as faire, memprehent de vous fairles ses faire, memprehent de vous fairles ses

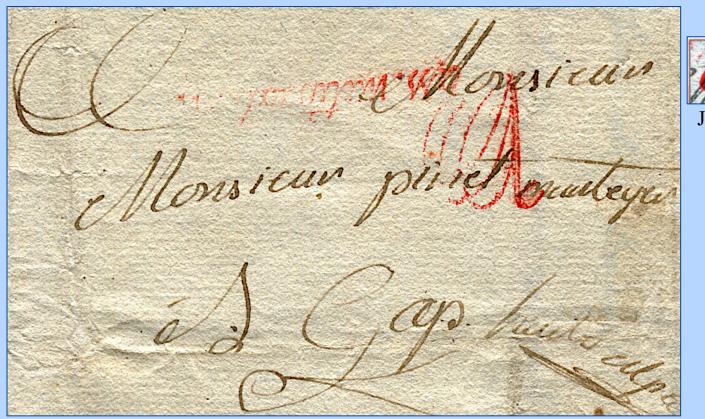
Letter from a soldier writing about the events in Paris... and the opening of letters « l'ouverture de toutes les lettres... »

- reference to the 'Cabinet noir'

#### THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- functioned as a governing body and a constitution-drafter → CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY
- took possession of the powers of the State
- abolished the privileges (August 4)
- consecrated the principle of equality by the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen







June 17 1789-Sept. 30 1791

- Paris to Gap
- 1791
- franchise red mark

> the insurrection spread throughout France

> members of the nobility, fearing for their safety, fled to

neighboring countries

 even if it was a difficult period for the French, trade continued

1791

Marseille enhanquedoc

1789

#### **REVOLUTIONARY SYMBOLS**

THE PHRYGIAN CAP became the symbol of liberty

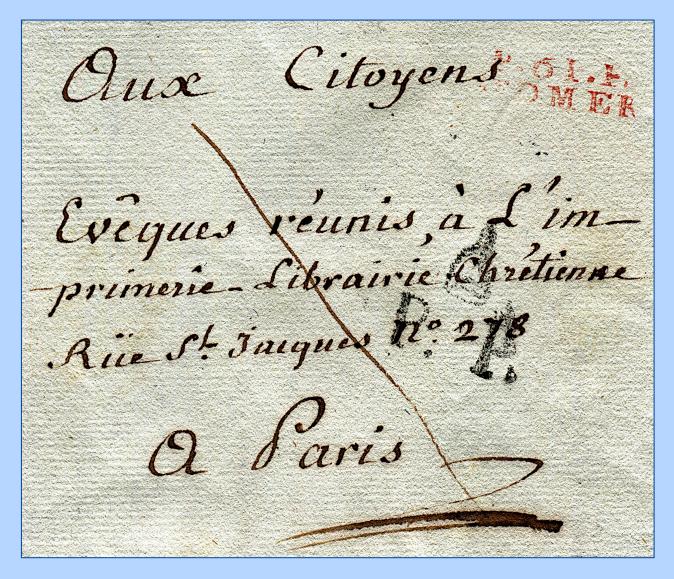




- Bapaume to Paris
- post paid
- letter adressed to the *Citoyen*
- replaced in 1798 by

**P. P.** 

#### RARE postmark: deformation of the bonnet





- St-Omer to Paris
- 1801
- postage paid

# THE EYE – countersignature for the Committee responsable for the surveillance of the enemies of the Revolution





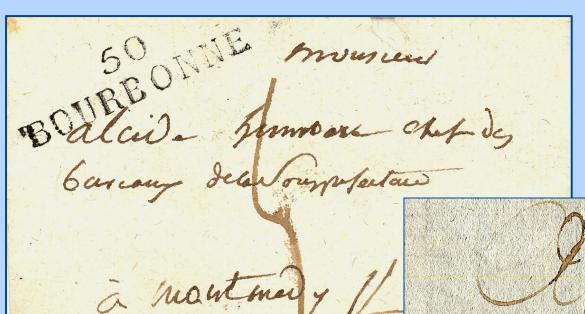
front & back countersignature in red

- Aix to Valence
- 1798
- postage due 6 sols

#### CREATION OF THE FRENCH DEPARTMENTS

A decree of February 26 1790 divided France into 83 departments

As soon as January 1st 1792, postmarks bear the department number



Department 67 « Bas-Rhin »

Department 50 «Haute-Marne»

1792

Postage due: 5 sols



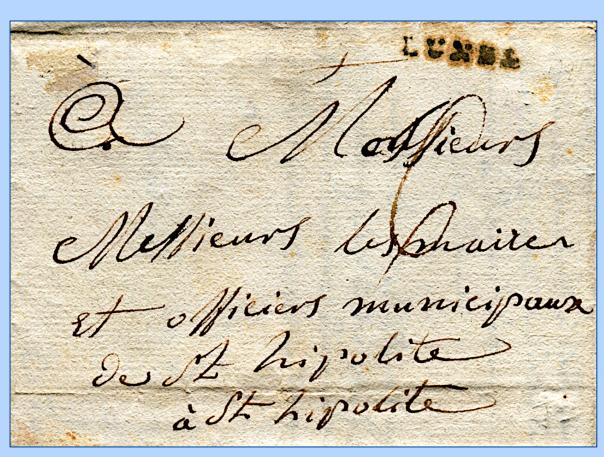


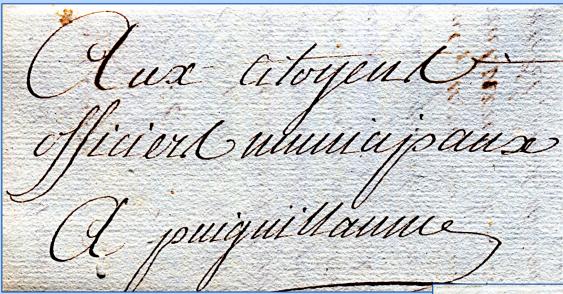
#### THE CIVIL CONSTITUTION OF THE CLERGY

- ➤ law of July 12 1790: immediate subordination of the Catholic Church to the French government.
- > all priests had to swear an **oath of loyalty** to the Civil Constitution
- > refractory priests / jurors

Letter from a **juror** priest thanking the municipal officers for their good words regarding the oath he had taken to the Constitution.

- Lunel to St-Hippolyte
- March 24 1791
- postage due 6 sols





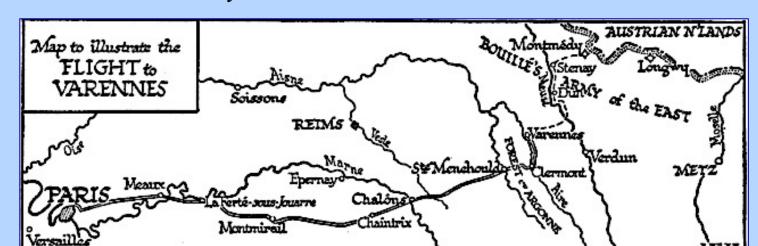
- Letter from the district administrator to remind the municipal officers of the deportation of refractory priests
- Thiers to Puy-Guillaume
- October 5 1794 franchise

- Letter from a **refractory priest** stating that 'his vows retained their full force'.
- He will be deported to Spain.
- Carcassonne to Toulouse
- December 7 1791
- postage due 4 sols



#### THE ROYAL FLIGHT TO VARENNES

- > night of June 21 1791
- > the King and family tried to escape unsuccessfully to Varennes
- > from this point forward, the abolition of monarchy and the establishment of a republic became an ever-increasingly possibility
- > after many events will occur:
  - the Emperor of Austria & the King of Prussia meet in Saxony
    - → *Declaration of Pillnitz* August 27 1792
  - April 20 1792: France declared war leading the country in the *Revolutionary Wars*

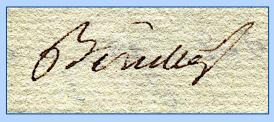


there 26: juin Jes unes remerces montains la barm tal loud que vons eva boi voule escus Donner par faire payer les dattes de hands Jornes. Je way par pour Conservarion la desail de delongo se perongo Vousley avon vomin 1038. Le la 600 to genjos vens en address 136. genje Vous desais pour les touvoires des des des gement it soit mes devanis loudiquement 1882 per lee de 1884 go Van pais our il tale au lander du mila Jobal: que m'as demandal des calantes 7 cmm Corab Depisal que voir regomens

## RARE LETTER FROM THE MARQUIS DE BOUILLÉ

while putting down rebellion in Metz

- ➤ Marquis de Bouillé (1739 1800)
- he was a committed Royalist and a leading conspirator involved in the royal flight
  - Metz (Alsace)
  - June 26 1790



back signature

➤ Letter from F. von Heymann who participated in the King's flight

- Paris to Paris
- June 20 1790

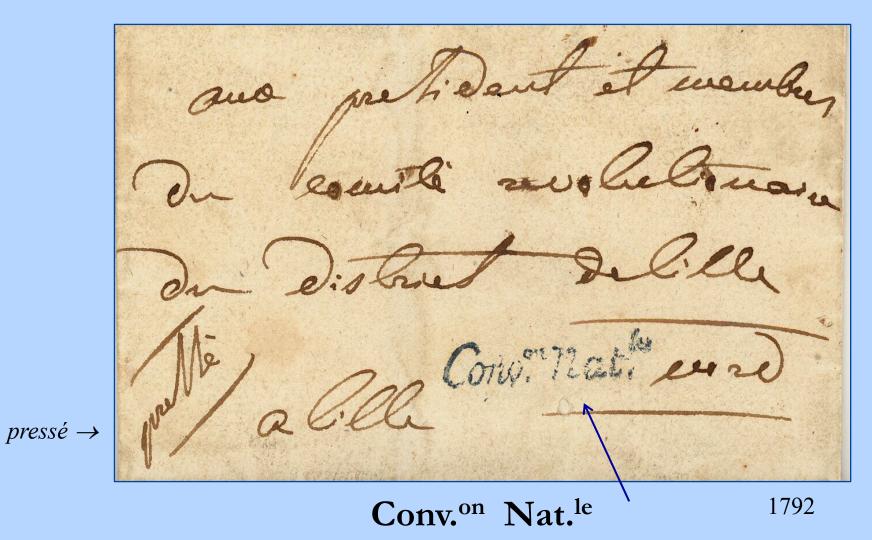
de General de choisy mon cher stengel prend he louunaudement auboffe allace gelui ou parté de vous et de l'utilité dout your pourie, bui etre en polatinat Pertout il vous employera, il compte sur sa. meonnaissance autant que her le desir qu'il auende ous faire valois dans touts les occasions. adie mon her stangel vous Considés mon invariable Amité pour Hous. Deljeignam baris en 20. quin 1790

#### 22 September 1792 - 17 May 1804 FIRST FRENCH REPUBLIC

#### 3 stages in the Government:

- CONVENTION NATIONALE 21 September 1792 25 October 1795 NATIONAL CONVENTION
- DIRECTOIRE 26 October 1795 9 November 1799 DIRECTORY
- CONSULAT 10 November 1799 17 May 1804 CONSULATE

#### **CONVENTION NATIONALE** – 21 September 1792 - 25 October 1795



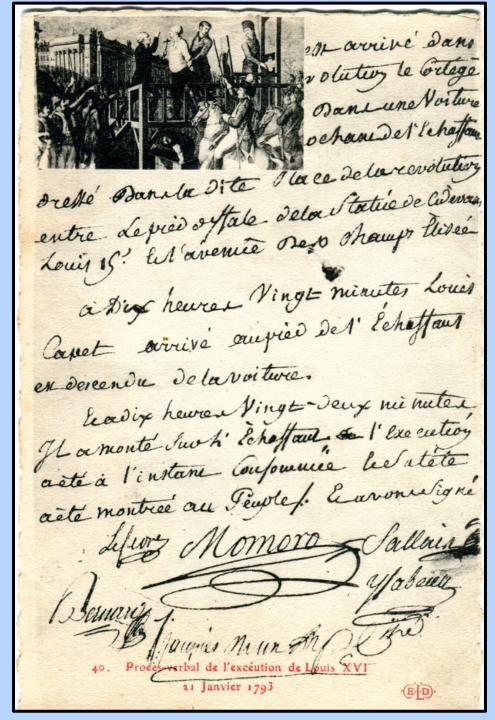
countersignature of the Convention nationalefree letter sent to Lille



#### DEATH OF LOUIS XVI

- ➤ the majority of the Conventionals voted "La mort!"

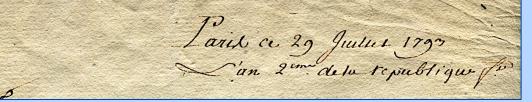
  361/749
- guillotined on January 21 1793 to international condemnation
- text: minutes from his death
- postcard ELD Ernest le Deley (Paris 1908)

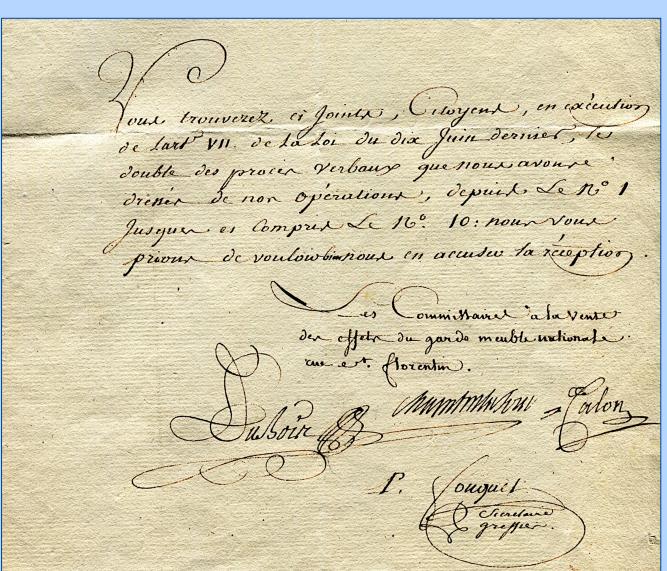


# LETTER AND SIGNATURES FROM CONVENTIONAL REGICIDES

- de Calon
- Chambon-Latour

- Paris to Paris
- July 29 1793
- franchise





#### THE REPUBLICAN CALENDAR

- $\triangleright$  22 September 1792  $\longrightarrow$  1er Vendémiaire An I (of the liberty)
  - = the day of the proclamation of the Republic
- back to the Gregorian calendar: 1st January 1806 canceled by Napoléon

#### The months:

- \* Autumn
  - o Vendémiaire Période des vendanges (Grape harvest)
  - o Brumaire Période des brumes et des brouillards (Mist and Fog)
  - o Frimaire Période des froids (Great Colds)
- \* Winter
  - o Nivôse Période de la neige (Snowing)
  - o Pluviôse Période des pluies (Raining)
  - o Ventôse Période des vents (Great Winds)
- \* Spring
  - o Germinal Période de la germination (Germination)
  - o Floréal Période de l'épanouissement des fleurs (Flowering)
  - o Prairial Période des récoltes des prairies (Harvesting)
- \* Summer
  - o Messidor Période des moissons (Harvesting)
  - o Thermidor Période des chaleurs (Hot weather)
  - o Fructidor Période des fruits (Fructification) total: 360 days
- + 5-6 at the end of the year: the *sans-culottides*

#### THE FRENCH REPUBLICAN CALENDAR

COMMISSION

DES

ARMES, POUDRES,

ET EXPLOITATION

DES MINES

DELA RÉPUBLIQUE. LIBERTÉ,

4º Divisiono



ÉGALITÉ.

Paris, le 4 Messidor, l'an 2me. de la République, une et indivisible.

Weaponry, Powders and Mining Commission of the Republic

«MORT AUX TYRANS; PAIX AUX PEUPLES»

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE, UNE ET INDIVISIBLE On Citogen

Agent national prés le District

D'aubin\_

a dubin

CONVENTION NATIONALE

14 Messidor an II 2 July 1794

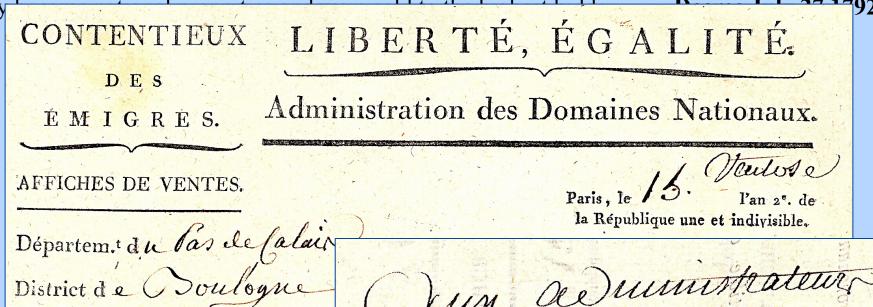
Com des armes poudres et mines.



#### SALE OF PROPERTY OF EMIGRANTS

The French Government confiscated the estates of the *émigrés* who fled to neighboring countries.

They 1



#### **Legal Department**

- Paris to Boulogne
- 15 Ventôse an II
   → March 5 1794
- franchise
- countersignature

Jun dedrumintrateur

ar Toulogue J. Sardefoling

admondes dom. nataux.

#### SALE OF FURNITURE FROM THE DISPOSSESSION OF THE CHURCHES

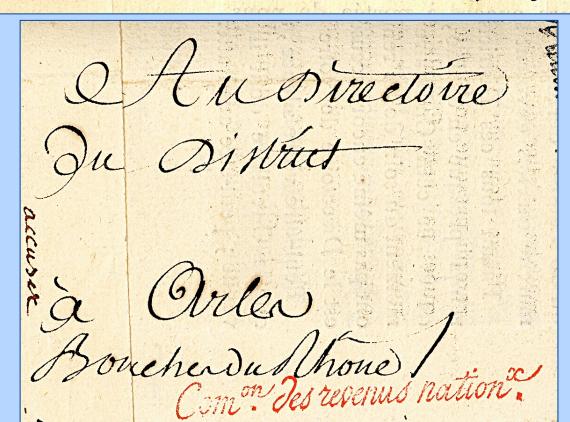
MOBILIER
NATIONAL,
provenant de la
dépouille des
Eglises.





ÉGALITÉ.

Paris, le 15 Prairial, an deuxième de la République Française, une et indivisible.



- Paris to Arles
- 15 Prairial an II
   → June 3 1794
- franchise
- countersignature

### Creation of the COMITÉ DE SALUT PUBLIC: 8 members

6 April 1793

- goal: created to cope with exceptional situations:
  - war against the 1<sup>st</sup>
     Coalition

     (foreign countries)
  - war against theVendeans(Royalists)
  - countersignature

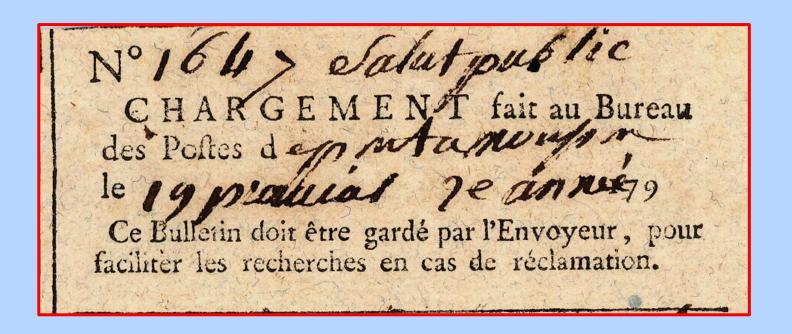
Salut et fraternité.

Les Membres composant le comité de Salut'public,

Signé, Robespierre, Carnot, R. Lindet, B. Barère, C. A. Prieur, Billaud-Varenne, Couthon et Coelot-B'Herbois.

- franchise
- **CHARGÉ** = postage paid
- Paris to Digne

1793



#### RECEIPT Nº 164 FOR A REGISTERED LETTER

- · letter sent to the Comité de Salut Public
- 19 prairial an II  $\rightarrow$  7 June 1794
- from Pont-à-Mousson (Meurthe-et-Moselle)

#### CREATION OF THE COMITÉS DE SURVEILLANCE RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE REVOLUTIONARY MONITORING COMMITTEES

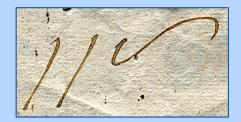
- reated by **decree** on March 21 1793 in all municipalities
- charged with « the application of the revolutionary laws and measures of general safety and 'public safety' »
   12 people on each committee
- ➤ 2 letters censured by <u>2 different agents</u> of the Comm. of Chalons-sur-Marne with the mention vu au comité de surveillance + signature



#### TRIBUNAL RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL

> the tribunal became one of the most powerful engines of the Reign of Terror

- Plancouet to Paris
- 1<sup>er</sup> Pluviose an II
   → January 20 1794
- manuscript port payé
- X postage paid
- P. P. + phrygian cap



back 11 sols paid by sender



#### REVOLUTIONARY PRISONS

#### LA FORCE



#### REVOLUTIONARY NAMES OF THE FRENCH COMMUNES

On 25 Vendémiaire an II (16 October 1793) a **Decree** changed the names of more than 1200 communes.

- dechristianization: saint, sainte ...
- evocation of feudalism: comte, duc ...
- symbolism of the Ancien Régime: château ...
- royal names: Louis, François ...
- the terms *Monsieur* and *Madame*, with an aristocratic connotation are banned and replaced with *citoyen*, *citoyenne*
- replacements:
- \* geographical names
- \* revolutionary heroes
- \* revolutionary virtues: liberty, equality...
- very few of these name changes will survive the Revolution



#### Before the Révolution

• Bar-le-Duc to Longuÿon

1787



Bar-sur-Ornain

revolutionary name of Bar-le-Duc from October 9 1792 to 1812

BAR-S.-ORNAIN

<u>Department 53 – Meuse</u>

1812

postage due: 5 décimes

P.53P.

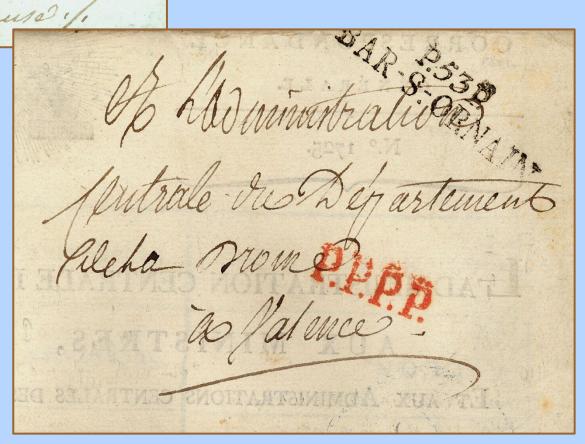
**BAR-S.-ORNAIN** 

Department 53 – Meuse

1799

P.P.P. = transit postmark

Port Payé Passe Paris



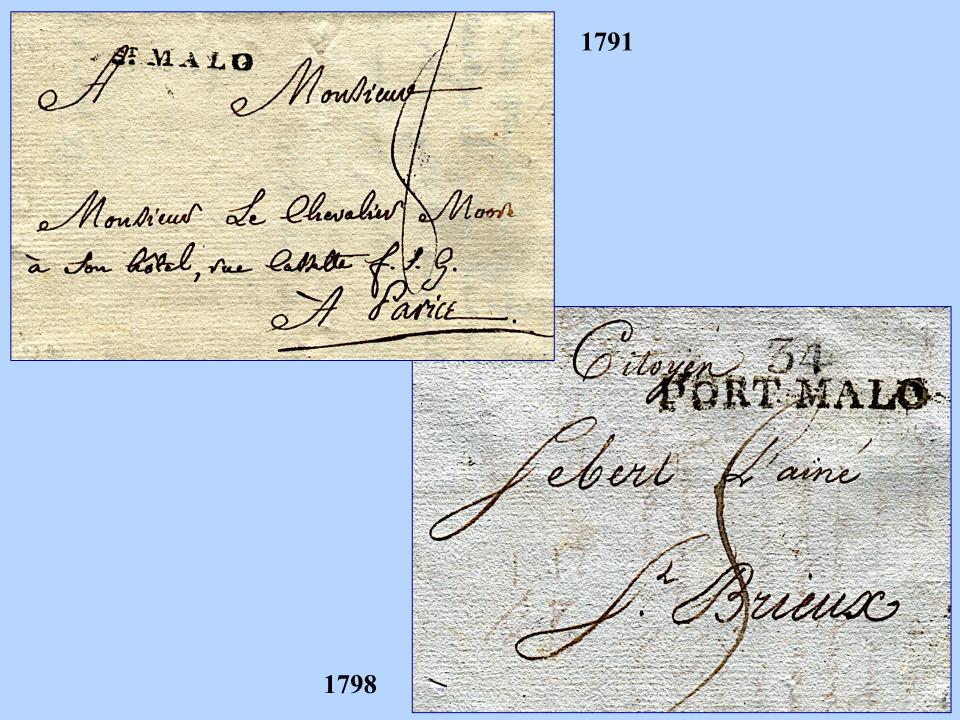


1793

# LYON VILLE AFFRANCHIE

12 October 1793

St-Esprit changed to Jean-Jacques-Rousseau



DUNKER JUS 1790 Merhunt DUNE-LILRA

Tux Citogras

1: Martell saxmand

1. Cognac.



CERTIFICAT de Mesidence

NoUS Maire & Officiers Municipaux du Havre-Marat, District de Montivilliers, Département de la Seine Inférieure; certifions à tous qu'il appartiendra que Louis frausois Cresy, vriginaire des ois y sous Étielle, de missie clave

Pan Serond de la République Françoise, une & indivisible.

15 Ventôse an II March 5 1794

#### STANDARDIZATION OF WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND CURRENCIES

- March 1791. The Academy of Sciences suggests the Decimal System
- December 10 1799. The Decimal System is compulsory in France

→ <u>law of 19 Frimaire an VIII</u>

#### Decimal System (base-10 numeral system)

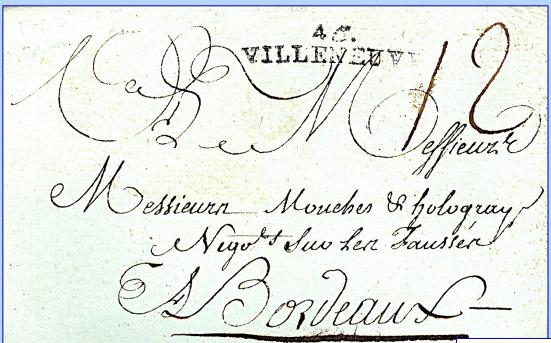
- postal tariff of December 25 1796
- into force July 21 1800

#### **Equivalences**

- Old Regime: 1 pound = 20 sols (sous)
- **Decimal System**: 2 sols (sous) = 1 décime

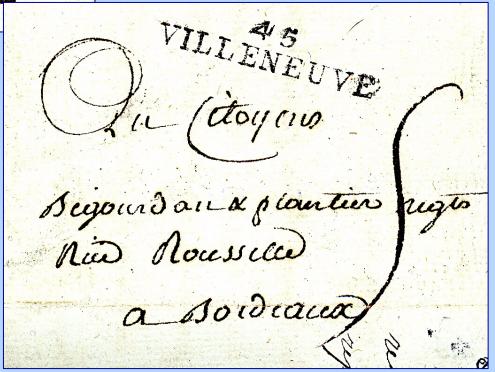
10 décimes = 1 franc

- the tax is still calculated according to the distance x weight
- 1st level (1er échelon): up to 7,5 grammes



- Villeneuve to Bordeaux
- June 21 1792
- postage due 12 sols

- Villeneuve to Bordeaux
- *3 Thermidor an VIII*→ July 22 1800
- postage due 5 décimes



#### THE ASSIGNATS

the property of the clergy had been confiscated; the government decided to create a new currency whose value corresponds to these properties
 Dec. 1789





destroyed in Feb. 1796



#### BILLET DE CONFIANCE

Letter requesting the exchange of billets de confiance for assignats

- Angerville to Poitiers
- April 18 1793
- manuscript chargée
- in red CHARGÉ
- in red franchise



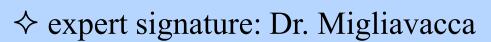
# EN NUMÉRAIRE law Dec.27 1795

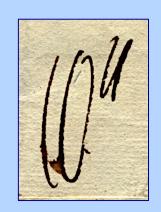
- ➤ letters from abroad may be paid in *numéraire* (cash) in the old tariff or in *assignats*
- Danzig to Bordeaux
- April 1st 1796
- 2 taxes:
  - tax En. Num (cash)

front: 34 sols

- Danzig to Paris: 24 sols
- Paris to Bordeaux: 10 sols
- tax equivalent: 4 groschen in Danzig currency back: tax in assignat: 10 sols



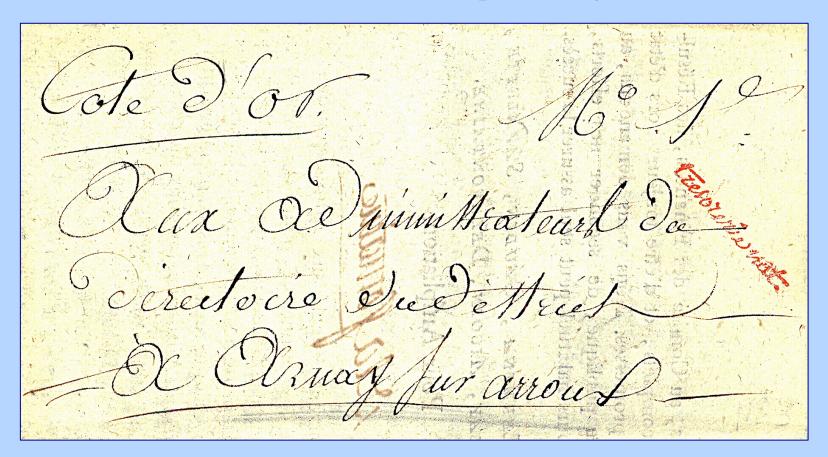


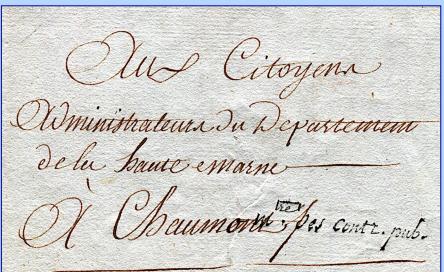


**back** 

#### THE POSTAL ORGANIZATION 1790. Decree

- The postal system will undergo a major change; the directors and comptrollers are **elected by the people**
- The *Trésorerie nationale* will head the postal organization





#### 1791. Decree

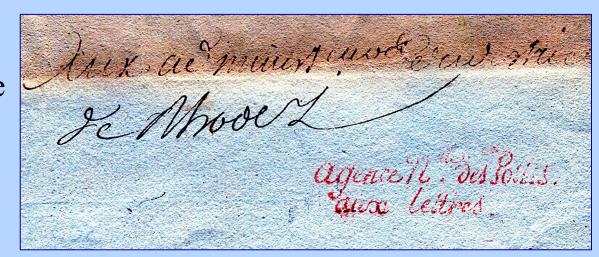
Creation of the *Ministère des*Contributions publiques who will administer the Posts



Officier Mounicipaup de la Pournance de Benufort Apt de Maine et Loire à Beaufort Maine et Loire

- ➤ 1792 Creation of the Commission des subsistances and approvisionnements
- ➤ 1794, May 1st, a **Decree** merges the *Postes aux lettres & aux chevaux, courriers et relais* into a unique administration: the *Commission des transports, postes et messageries*.

Mid-June 1794, the name changes to *Agence des* postes aux lettres



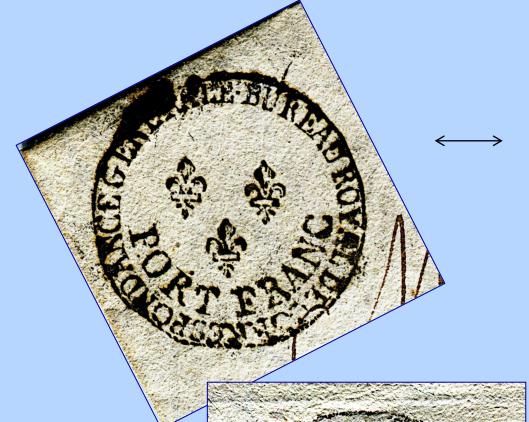
May 1795, creation of the *Administration* générale des postes et *Messageries* 



# BUREAU (ROYAL) DE CORRESPONDANCE GÉNÉRALE

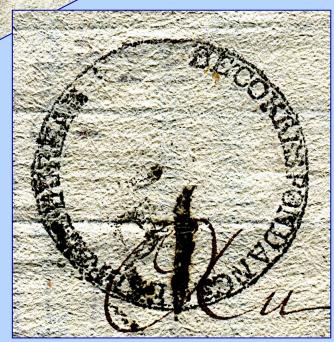
- ➤ the Bureau handles business in Paris and abroad for people who cannot do it themselves
- > 1781, special postal marking for the Bureau





**1787-1792 postage due** 

1781-1792 postpaid





1792-1796

## 22 September 1792 - 17 May 1804 FIRST FRENCH REPUBLIC

### 3 stages in the Government:

• CONVENTION NATIONALE – 21 September 1792 - 25 October 1795 NATIONAL CONVENTION



- DIRECTOIRE 26 October 1795 9 November 1799 DIRECTORY
- CONSULAT 10 November 1799 17 May 1804 CONSULATE

### **DIRECTOIRE** - October 26 1795 – November 9 1799

- The *Directory* concentrated on ending the Reign of Terror; mass executions stopped and measures taken against priests and royalists were relaxed
- > 3 levels of government:
  - le Directoire exécutif the Executive Directory: 5 members
  - le Conseil des Ancients the Council of Ancients: 250 members
  - le Conseil des Cinq-Cents: the Council of Five Hundred: 500 m.

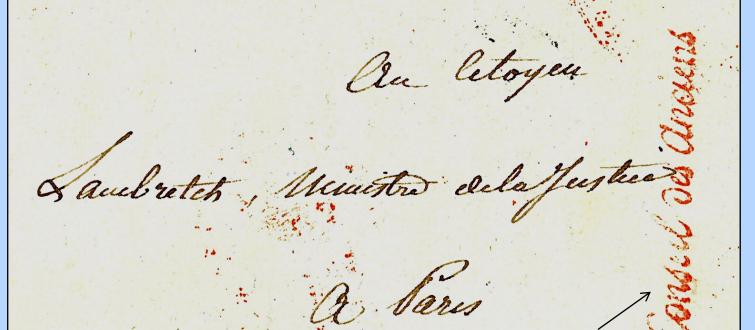


### DIRECTOIRE EXÉCUTIF

- Paris to Bar-sur-Ornain
- 1<sup>er</sup> Ventose an IV
  - → February 20 1796
- franchise

CONSEIL DES ANCIENS: could accept or reject laws put forward by the

Council of 500



- Paris to Paris
- franchise
- = office responsible for the deputies' mail

27 = date of reception in the office

Conseil des Anciens

• 27 Thermidor an 6

→ August 14 1798

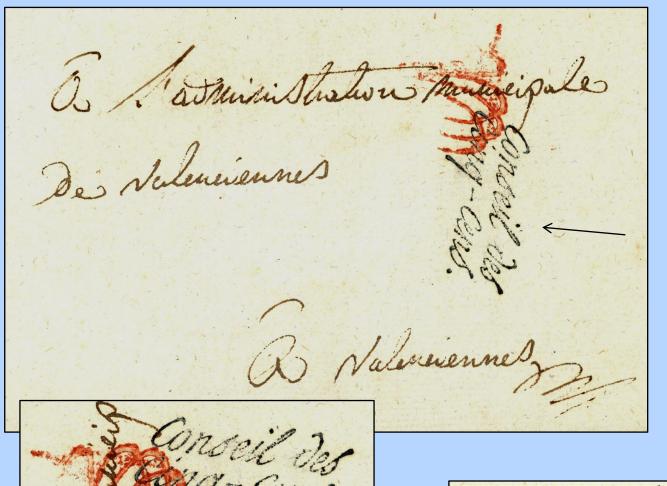
seal



Paris 27 therwise and dela Regullagio

### **CONSEIL DES CINQ-CENTS**

> proposes laws to the *Conseil des Ancients* 



- Paris to Valenciennes
- 8 Frimaire an 4
- → November 29 1795
- franchise

paid ce & fumile stamme

control of the franchise

# 22 September 1792 - 17 May 1804 FIRST FRENCH REPUBLIC

### 3 stages in the Government:

- CONVENTION NATIONALE 21 September 1792 25 October 1795 NATIONAL CONVENTION
- DIRECTOIRE 26 October 1795 9 November 1799 DIRECTORY

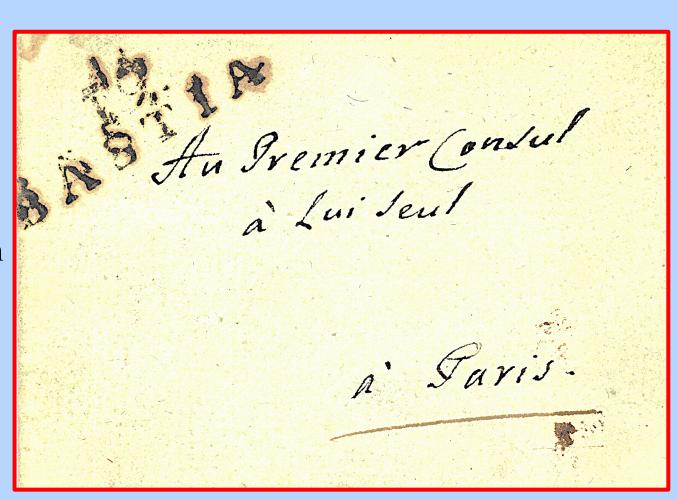




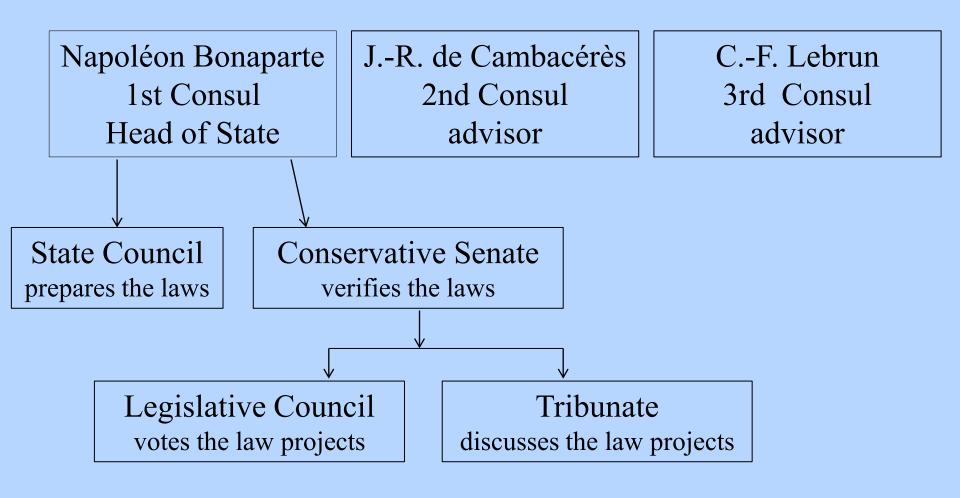
### IV. **CONSULAT** - November 10 1799 to MAY 17 1804

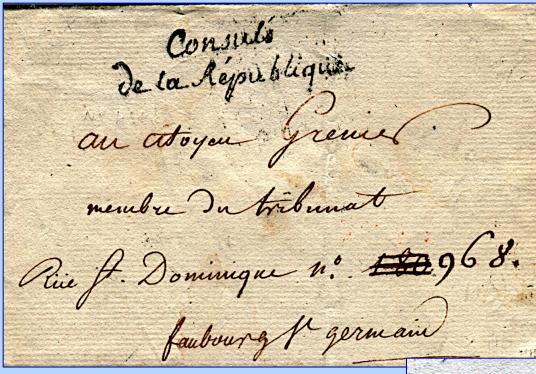
- ➤ the **coup of 18 Brumaire** (November 9 1799) brought General Napoléon Bonaparte to power as 1<sup>st</sup> Consul
- > the coup d'état overthrew the Directory replacing it by the Consulate
- > it marks the end of the Revolution

- Bastia (Corsica) to Paris
- 1799
- addressee Napoléon *Premier Consul*



### THE CONSULATE: THE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION







back
seal of « CAMBACÉRÈS 2è CONSUL
DE LA RÉP(UBLIQUE) »

# countersignature

- → franchise
- Paris to Paris
- 1801
- Paris to Lyon
- 1800

countersignature

→ postage due

POSTES
PRÉSLES CONSULT
LEMA REPUBLIQUE
Clu Citoyen Regny
Pore Neg', rui bela comidie
Calyon

# CONSEIL D'ETAT STATE COUNCIL

- Paris to Grenoble
  - 1800 —

(Asire) Chi Chicano Constitution Constitution Constitution of the Constitution of the

Secretaine d'Etat

Monsieur le Comte Portalise

Conseiller d'Etas

Anger, E

Anger, E

Anger, E

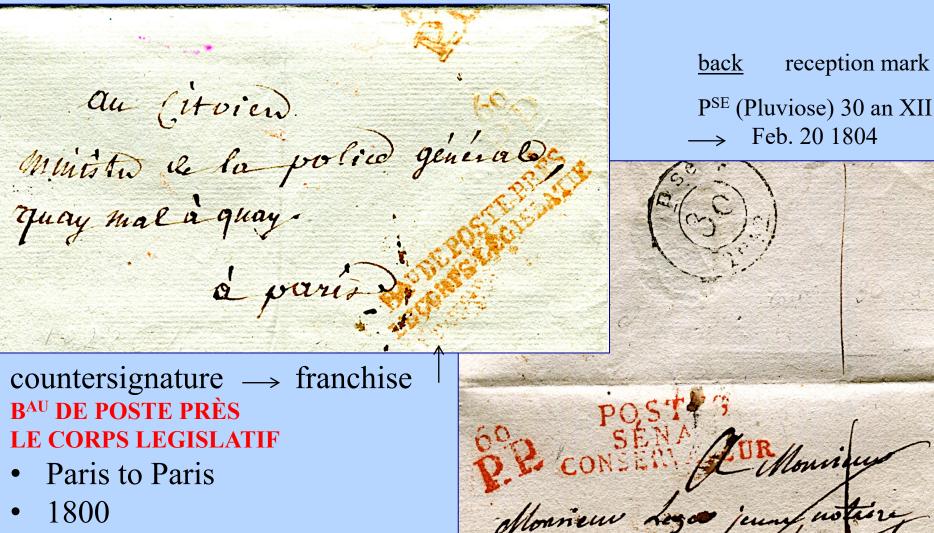
MES DE GOUVERNEME

back

- Paris to Angers
- 1814

- 1. reception mark ANGERS 19. AOUT 1814
- 2. postmark of origin **16 Hout 1814**
- 3. countersignature CONSEIL D'ÉTAT

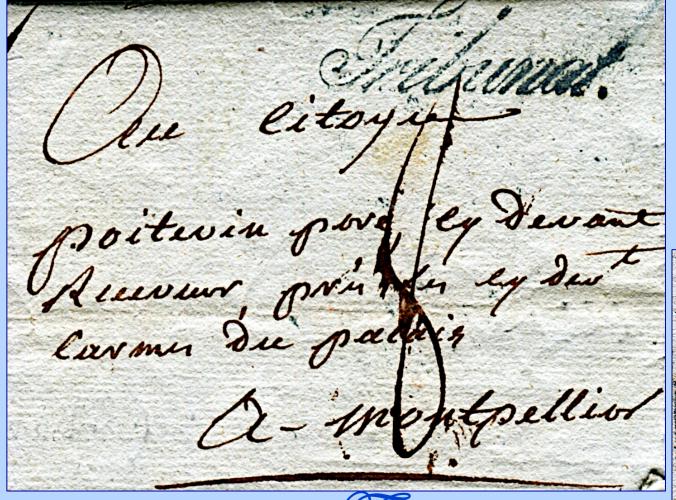




countersignature  $\rightarrow$  franchise POSTES 60 SÉNAT P. P.

SÉNAT P. P. CONSERVATEUR

Monnieur regor jump noting nu dela Monnoi 11.8



countersignature: Tribunat.

- Paris to Montpellier
- 1801
- postage due 8 décimes



back seal

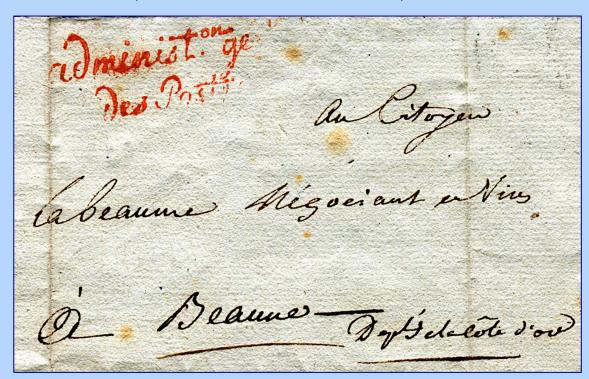
➤ Since 1795, the postal administration was under the control of the *Ministère des Finances* (Ministry of Finances)

Letter from Antoine-Marie Chamans, Count of Lavallette, *Directeur* 

Général des Postes



back seal



- Paris to Beaune
- 1802

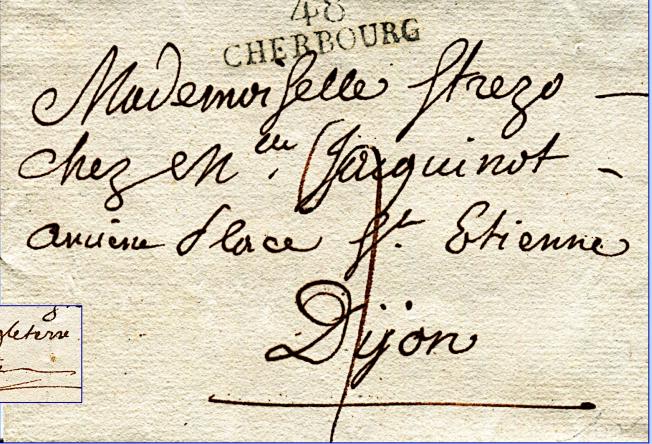
Caralletts

- during the hostilities, all mail between the French and the noble émigrés in England was forbidden and seized
- > the **Peace of Amiens** was signed on March 25 1802

Letter smuggled to France from a French noble émigré to his family.

SOUTHAMPTON (private carrier) → mailed at a French post office in CHERBOURG (France) → DIJON

- Cherbourg to Dijon
- February 1st 1802
- postage due 9 décimes
  - Cherbourg-Paris 5dc
  - Paris-Dijon 4dc



Le fouthumpton angleters 1et for 1802 Visuaffice

#### POSTAL SERVICE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The international mail will be governed by the International Conventions until the Empire May 18 1804.

Letter from London (England) to France using the Thurn und Taxis Postal Service

London→ Hamburg → Thurn & Taxis Postal Service → French border → Paris → Cognac



<u>back</u> Foreign Office

**R.4.** =distance Hamburg to the French border

postage due: 18 schilling Hamb.

London-Cognac: 42 sols old

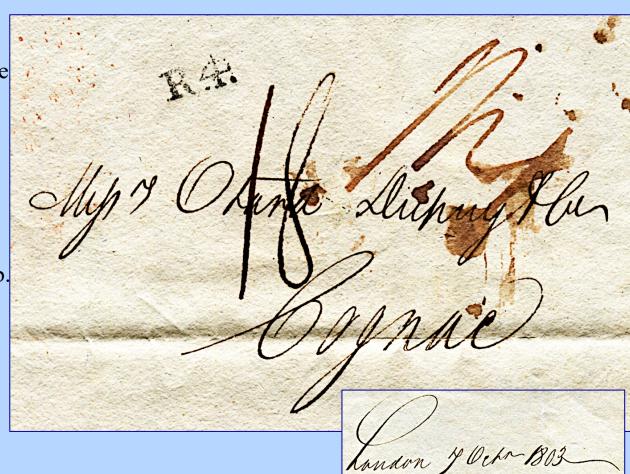
currency

- London-Hamburg: 8 sols

- Hamburg-Paris: 24 sols

- Paris-Cognac: 10 sols

 $\rightarrow$  = 42 sols



During this period, the *Institut de France* (1661/1795) charged with « collecting discoveries and perfecting the arts and sciences » enjoyed great prestige among the educated population.

### LÉGION D'HONNEUR

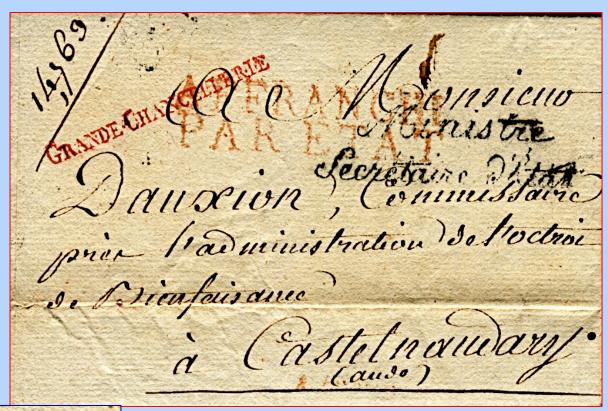
### Order created by Napoléon on May 19 1802

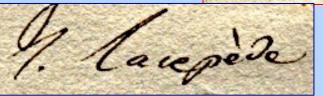
**❖ GRANDE CHANCELLERIE** – first postal marking of the *Légion d'Honneur* in 1802



- Paris to Castelnaudary
- May 29 1804
- franchise

AFFRANCHI PAR ÉTAT





Count de Lacépède, member of the Senate, zoologist, member of the *Institut de France*, *Grand Chancelier de la Légion d'Honneur* 

### V. THE ARMIES OF THE REVOLUTION



#### V.1. Declaration of Pillnitz

It was a statement issued on **August 27 1791** at Pillnitz Castle near Dresden (Saxony) by the Habsburg Holy Roman Emperor *Leopold II* and *Frederick William II* of Prussia. It declared their joint support for King Louis XVI of France against the French Revolution.

Foreign powers reinforced their military presences on the borders of France

- Feeling threatened, France creates on Dec. 14 1791, 3 armies at the borders
  - 1. Armée du Nord (Army of the North)
  - 2. Armée du Centre (Army of the Center)
  - 3. Armée du Rhin (Army of the Rhine)



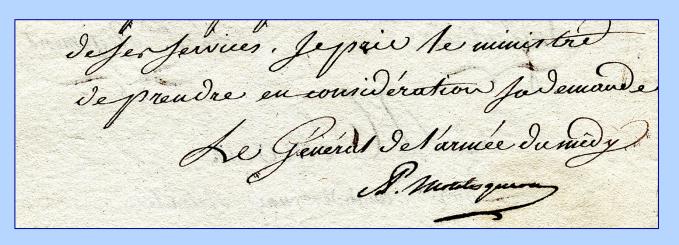
L.-M. Narbonne-Lara is the Minister of War (1791-1792) who will organize these 3 armies and appoint the Generals: *Rochambeau*, *Luckner* and *Lafayette*.





> on April 1792, a 4th army is created, from Besançon to the Mediterranean Sea, the *Armée du Midi* (Army of the Midi) commanded by the Chief General A.-P. de Montesquiou







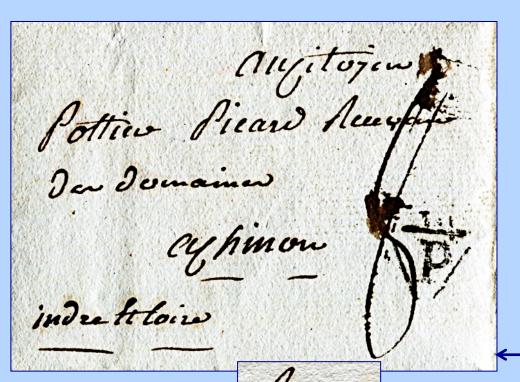
- Briançon to Paris
- July 18 1792

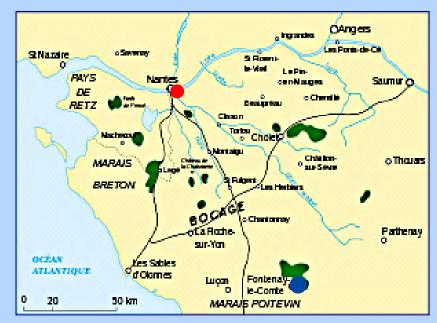
Letter addressed to the Minister of War from General Montesquiou

# V.2. GUERRE DE VENDÉE - War in the Vendée and CHOUANNERIE

- ➤ the Royalists revoltent against the French Revolutionary government in 1793-96
- reasons...
- Republican repression...







Letter from Albert RUELLE; he leads the fight against the Vendeans

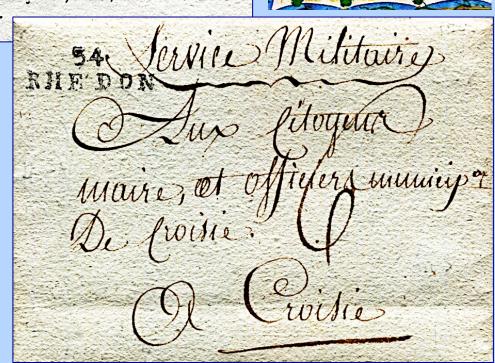
signature

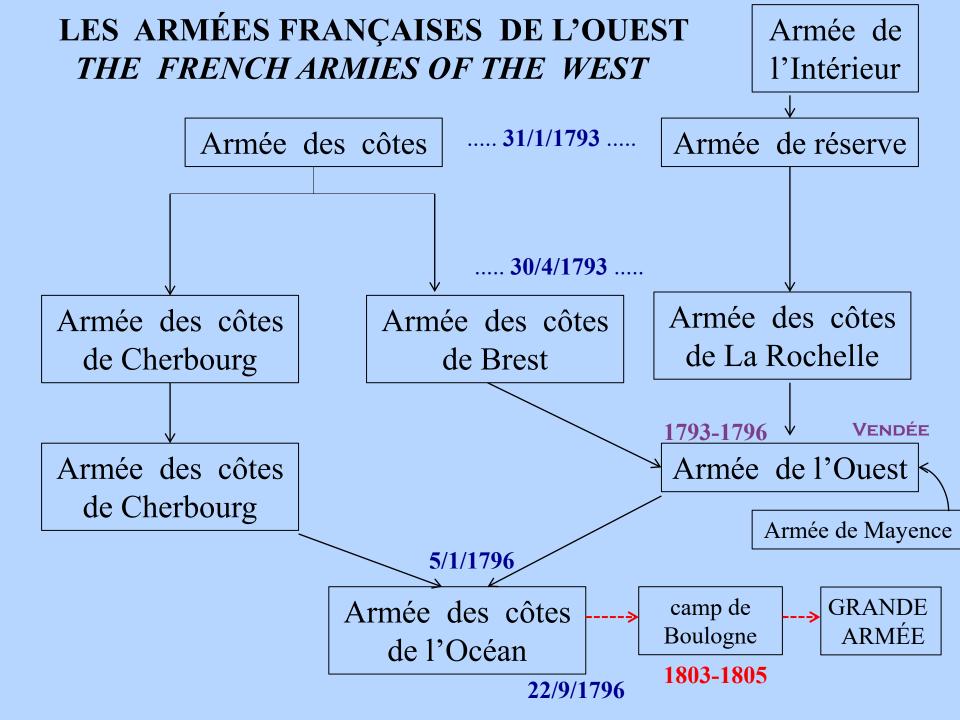
- ➤ 2 Decrees: the Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790)
- > the military conscription necessary to fight the wars in Europe (1793)



Letter about the conscription from the 'Military Police'

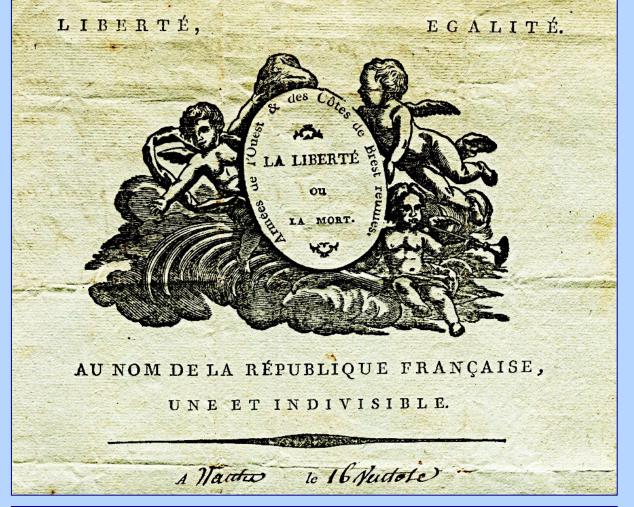
- Rhedon to Croisic (NW France)
- postage due 6 sols





> the Armée des Côtes de Brest reunited with the Armée de l'Ouest

(of the West)



- Nantes to Paris
- 16 Ventose an II
- → March 6 1794

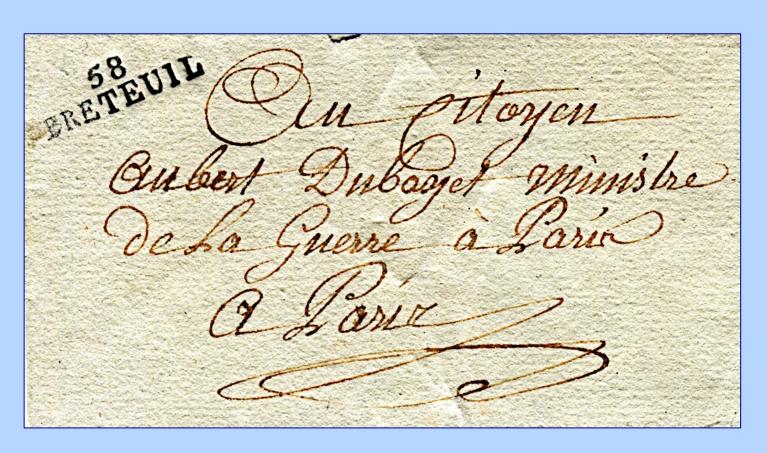
- answer at the bottom of the letter from the 'Police militaire de Paris'
- 11 Germinal an II
  - → March 31 1794



the *Armée de Mayence* (Army of Mainz) is sent to the *Vendée* to strengthen the Republican armies fighting against the insurgents

Letter addressed to General Aubert Dubayet, Minister of War from the *Armée de Mayence* 

- he will parade at the head of the army in Nantes on Sept. 3 1793



# ARMÉE DE L'OUEST

ARMY OF THE WEST

Jean-Baptiste CARRIER

Bylaw signed by Carrier November 22 1793

Carrier was sent, early in

October 1793, to Nantes, under orders from the National Convention to suppress the revolt of anti-revolutionists. He established a revolutionary tribunal in Nantes and the victims were sent to the guillotine, shot or disposed of in an inhumane way.

In a twenty-page letter to his fellow republicans, Carrier promised not to leave a single counter-revolutionary at large in Nantes.

Guillotined in Paris on Dec. 1794

armee Diberté égalité Veloust Au nom de la Republique francise une et indivisible Mantes le deuxieune jour de la Parniere d'aude) de l' frimaire Mois de lan deux de la rymblique Transaise, une et judivisible). Carrier representant du pemple peris larme delocies msiderant que les motifs qui asount de termine a Mettre un ambargo, à ceque les bateaux ne seu fent Monter ni Sescendre labire dequis anyors jusqu'a nantes ont fest et youland douver ala Maringation toute (activité que les finonstonus) perintent que dis a jour la Marigation de la bira est libre et quid Pera juris à bus les Balletiers de renonter et descendre librement la riviere El rejerisintant dazengle) Gigni Larrius



- Nantes to Neuf-Brisach
- August 28 1793
- franchise

Mante, le 26 sont 1739.

- Nantes to Palluau
- 23 Prairial an II → June 11 1794
- postage due 1794

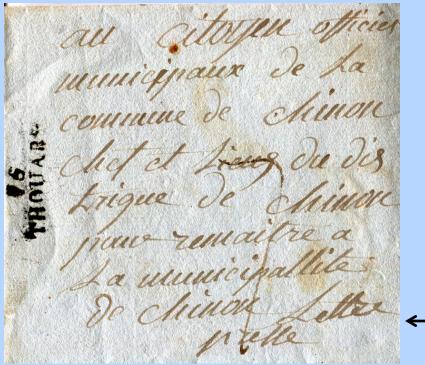


# Letter from a soldier to his father:

« ...je ne travaille pas je suis au servis de la république... quand on sers sa patrie lon donne toujours assez... »



- Fontenay-le Peuple to Montaigu
- 1793
- postage due 5 sols
  - Angers to Saumur
  - 1794
  - postage due 4 sols



Situation Sit inigorous as claumow place of michal porum remattros aufitiones Lationet De Communica

- Letter from a soldier in Thouars
- 1794

# V.3 Armée d'Angleterre – *Army of*1797 – 1800 England

> a new army to prevent the landing of the British in France

ARTILLERIE.

AILE GAUCHE

DE L'ARMÉE

D'ANGLETERRE.

➤ 10 *lieues* wide along the coast from Brest to Ostende

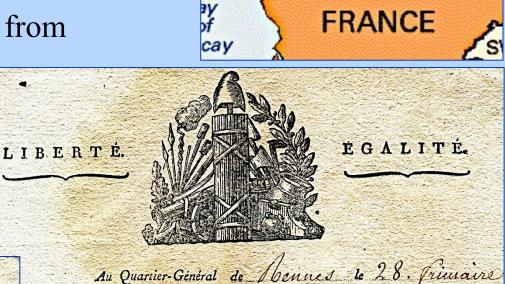
Service Militaire.

Me Senveral De Division Montins
Commandant on Ref Paile Ganche & D

Farmée D'Ougletoure.

Poste aux armées

**Army Postal Service** 



de la 7 année de la République française, une et indivisible.

G.-B.

Rennes

English Channel

- Headquarters in Rennes to Rennes
- December 1798

**Brest** 

franchise

1 French *lieue* (league) = 3,898km

# V.4. LE CAMP DE BOULOGNE THE CAMP OF BOULOGNE 1803 - 1805

- in mid-May 1803, the peace treaty signed in Amiens with France is broken
- ➤ in response, the First Consul Bonaparte plans to invade Britain
- ➤ Bonaparte chooses Boulogne-sur-Mer as a base
- the camp housed → armée des côtes de l'Océan

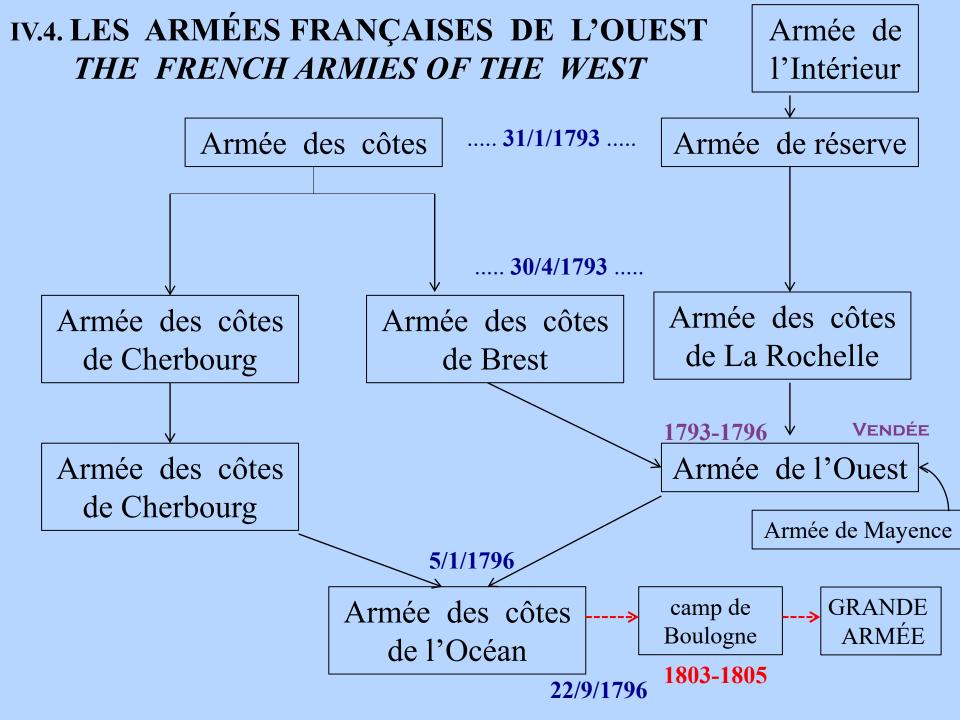
(army of the Ocean Coasts)

- in August 1805, troops headed to southern Germany to fight the 3rd Coalition
  - → **Grande Armée** (Great Army) (190,000 soldiers)

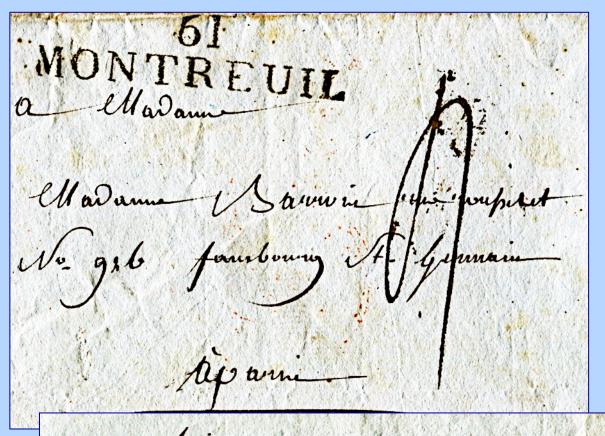


Inspecting the Troops. 1804





# V. 4.1. Camp de Montreuil: line infantry regiments



- Camiers to Paris
- 27 Thermidor an 12
  - → August 15 1804
- postage due 4 dc

#### back

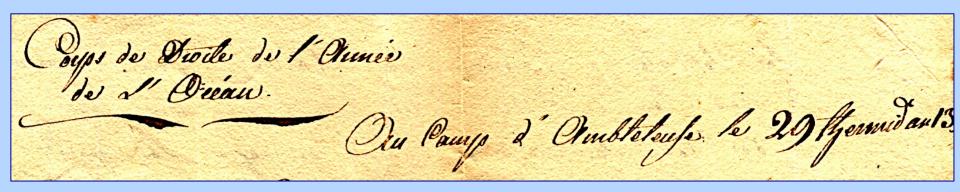
- réception mark
- 30 Thermidor an 1<del>2></del>

A Paris, le 37 Mondon an 12 de la République Française.

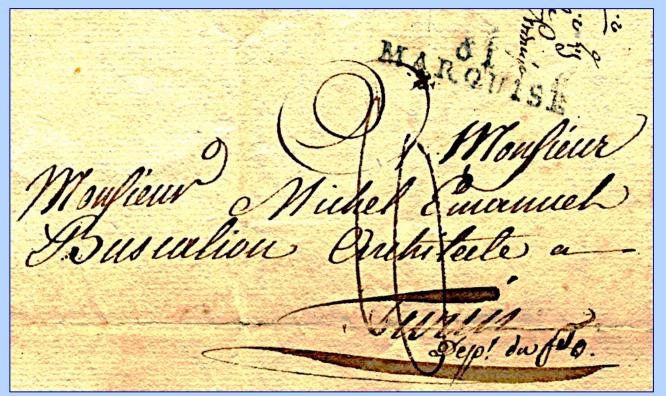
Les Colonel du 96. Régiment de l'Infanterie de Ligne, letterhea



# V. 4.2. Camp d'Ambleteuse: port



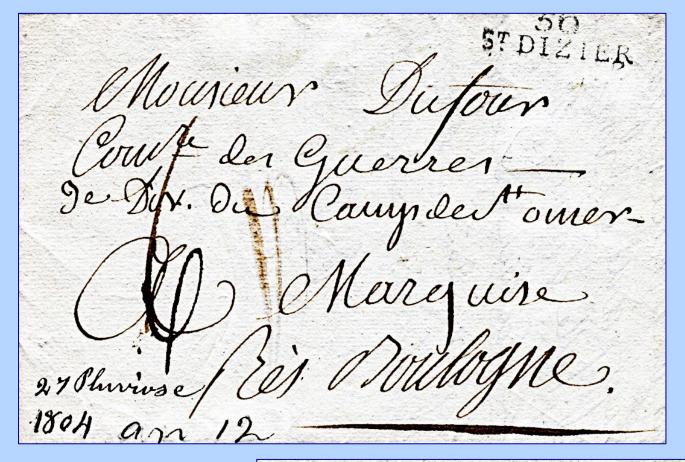
letterhead: Right Wing of the *Armée de l'Océan* 



- Marquise to Turin (104 dept. Pô)
- August 17 1805
- postage due 10 dc



### Letter to the Commissioner of War. Division 9. Camp de Saint-Omer



1 Divier ce ex Muira au Dourse.

- St-Dizier to Marquise near Boulogne
- February 17 1804 postage due 6 décimes

# V. 4.3. Camp de Saint-Omer in Boulogne

Letter to the General
Engineer *Count Henri Bertrand* from the Aidede-camp of Napoléon
Bonaparte, *Count Jean Le Marois* 

« ... le Maréchal désire recevoir chaque jour... le rapport journalier de l'arme que vous commandez... »

- 11 Thermidor an 12 → July 30 1804
- signature Lemavois

CAMP Etan-Major-Général.\_\_ DE SAINT-OMER. union Au Quartier Général à Berelogie le 11 Hermidon an 12. Le Général de Division, Chef de l'Etar-Majov-Genéral, Ou General concurrandent Le Genie. Le Marechal commandent la élet desire, General, Eccasion Cleaque j'un asant gheere. In matie le Rapsport journalier de L'arme que vous connament je vous invite encourée vence à Donnes, les ondres trécessains pour que vous Soyer à même de remplies Ses lutention, pour cet objet: je vou prie le Maccures reception de ma lettre. pour le Général de division chèpoe Métat major Hadjudant lonemandant Soliet De Hetatunger

## V. 4.4. Camp de Bruges (Ostend)





seal: headquarter

Letter from Chief General L.-N. (d'Avout) Davout, Duke of Auerstaedt, Prince of Eckmühl to General J.-M. Petit

- Bruges to Dunkerque
- 1803

# DEPARTURE OF CAMP OF BOULOGNE September 3 1805



### VI. CONCLUSION

➤ On May 18 1804, Napoléon Bonaparte was granted the title of **Emperor of the French** (*Empereur des Français*), ending the

French First Republic

The Napoleonic Wars extended the French borders but after the fall of Napoléon, the Congress of Vienna re-established the borders.

➤ Various types of government followed: Restoration, Monarchies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Empire and Republics (III<sup>rd</sup>, IV<sup>th</sup>, V<sup>th</sup>).





- Pertuis to Lauris
- 1812
- postage due 2 décimes



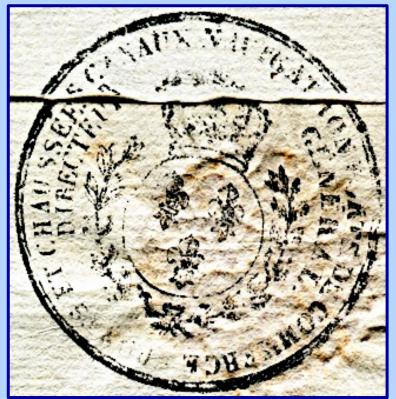
**CONGRESS OF VIENNA** 18 September 1814 – 9 June 1815

- > Immediately after the abdication of Napoléon
  - → Restoration → King Louis XVIII
- > constitutional monarchy to which were added the major achievements of the Revolution; the individual rights are thus preserved.

Paris to Paris

- 1815
- franchise





- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, passed by the *Assemblée nationale* in 1789, is a fundamental document of the French Revolution and in the history of human and civil rights.
- > The Declaration had a major impact on the development of freedom and democracy in Europe and worldwide.
- ➤ It inspired in large part the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



- signed at the *Palais de Chaillot, Paris, by 58 States member of the U.N.*
- December 10 1948

# THE END PART I.