



The History Of Stamped Paper In France. 1673 – 1830

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Stamped paper was the forerunner of the revenue stamp. It first appeared in Holland in 1626 and in Spain in 1637. It started in France in 1673; It was used until 1986. It was a tax on documents which were only legally enforceable if written on officially issued stamped paper.

The king did not collect the tax himself. Instead, he signed contracts with "farmers", who paid him a certain amount in advance, which constituted an immediate source of liquidity for the state. The business farmers collected the tax and reimbursed themselves.

There are many different stamps on the paper. Leases had a term of 6 years. New stamps were used at the beginning of each lease. For tax purposes the country was divided into 37 "Généralités" each with a different design. The stamped paper had a different tax depending on the size and whether it was paper or parchment.

The presentation followed the development of stamped paper within the context of the social and political history of France from the monarchy or Ancien Régime through the upheavals of the Revolution and the Napoleonic era.

The stamps included royal symbols such as the crown and fleurs de lis, an indication of the paper size, value and a great variety of other characters.



1676 D39

Plan

- I. The Ancien Régime in France
- II. The stamped paper of the Ancien Régime
- III. The beginnings
- IV. The characteristics of the stamp
- V. The French Revolution (1789-1799)
- VI. The Consulat (1799-1804)
- VII. The First Empire (1804-1814)
- VIII. The First Restoration (1814-1815)
- IX. The Cent-Jours (Hundred-Days) (1815)
- X. The Second Restoration (1815-1830)
- XI. Conclusion



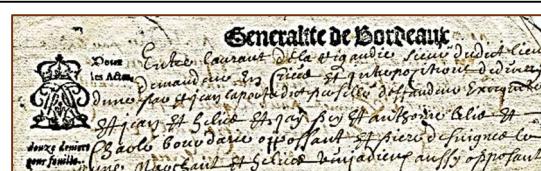
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