REICHSLAND ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN

or

WHEN ALSACE-MOSELLE WAS GERMAN

1870 --



--1919

PLAN

I. Introduction

II. The Franco-German War. 1870-1871
   1. The fall of the Second Empire
   2. The Third Republic and the Provisional Government
   3. The overprints of the German occupation
   4. The Treaty of Frankfurt (May 10, 1871)

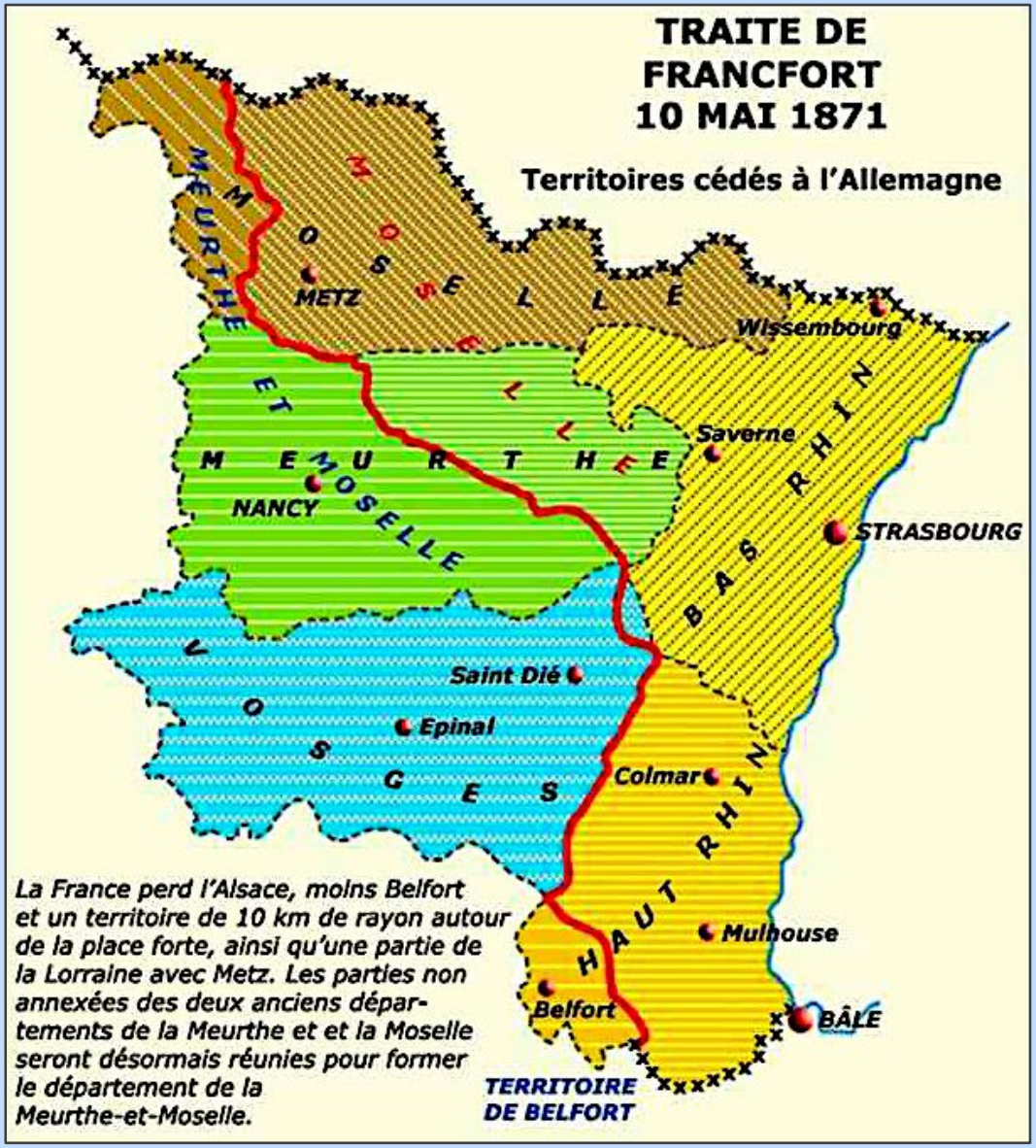
III. The annexation of Alsace-Lorraine to Germany
   1. Transition stamps
   2. Fiscal stamps in Mark and Pfennig
   3. The reorganization of fiscal stamps

IV. The Disannexation of Alsace-Lorraine
   or The return to France
   1. Upper Alsace liberated: the Thann-Masevaux area. 1914
   2. The disannexation of the whole of Alsace-Lorraine. 1918

V. Conclusion

I. Introduction

Alsace before 1870





I.1. Before the Franco-German War 1870

- notarial deeds taxed equally in all French departments
- STAMPED PAPER with '*wet and dry*' stamps with watermark ⟶
  - → these are '*dimension* stamps': tax calculated based on document size
- or MOBILE STAMP (since 1862)

½ small paper	small paper	med. paper	large paper	large register
50c	1F	1F50c	2F	3F

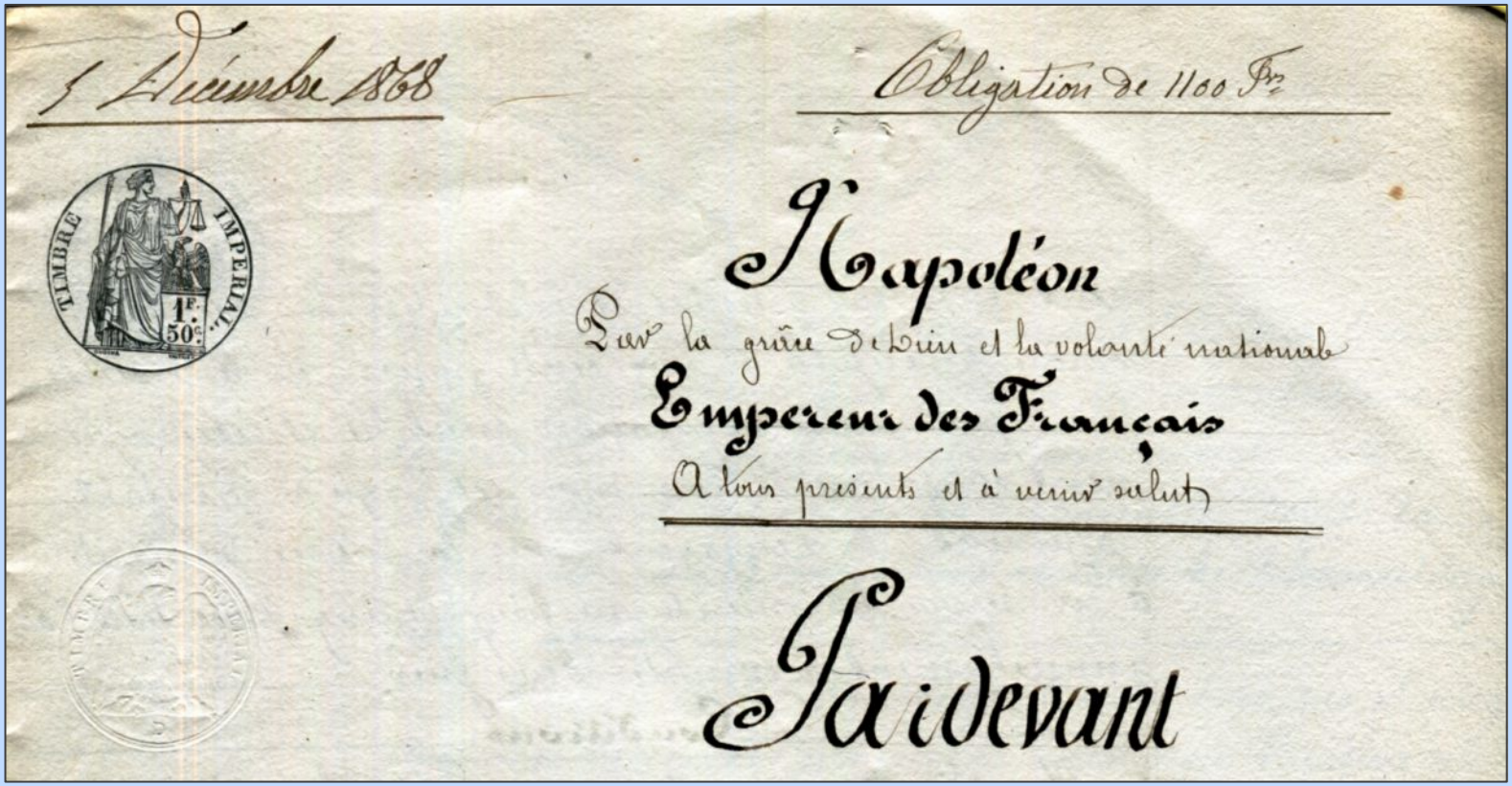


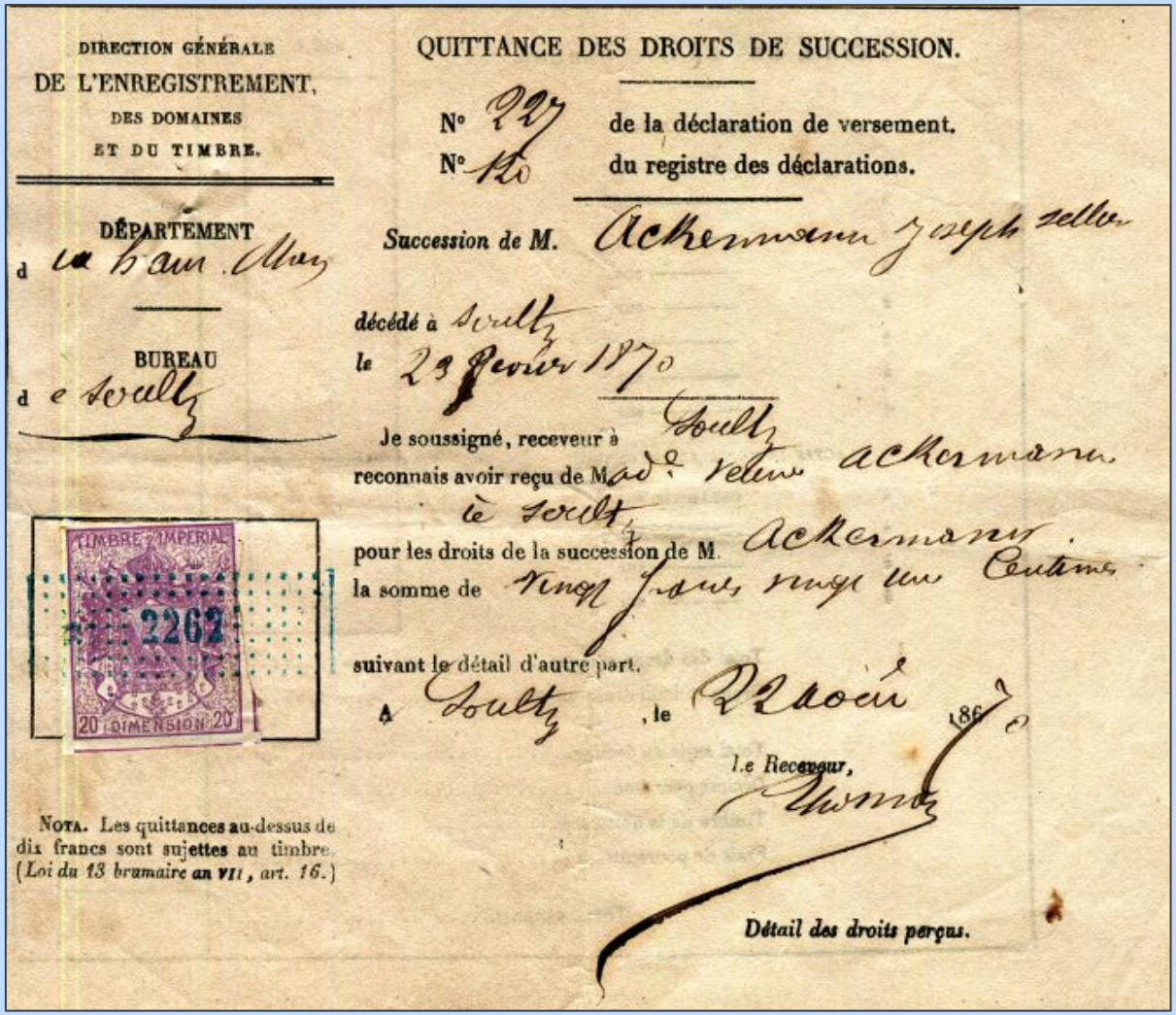
F15 3 in. ⌀

- Marlenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- 5 December 1868
- money loan



1F50→ med paper





DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE
DE L'ENREGISTREMENT,
DES DOMAINES
ET DU TIMBRE.

DÉPARTEMENT
d le haut Rhin

BUREAU
d e Soultz

TIMBRE IMPÉRIAL 2262 20 DIMENSION 20

NOTA. Les quittances au-dessus de dix francs sont sujettes au timbre. (*Loi du 13 brumaire an VII, art. 16.*)

QUITTANCE DES DROITS DE SUCCESSION.

N° 227 de la déclaration de versement.
N° 120 du registre des déclarations.

Succession de M. Ackermann Joseph veuf

décédé à Soultz
le 29 Janvier 1870

Je soussigné, receveur à Soultz
reconnais avoir reçu de Mad.e veuve Ackermann
à Soultz,
pour les droits de la succession de M. Ackermann.
la somme de vingt francs vingt centimes

suivant le détail d'autre part.

A Soultz, le 22 août 1870

Le Receveur,

Détail des droits perçus.

- Soultz (Haut-Rhin)
- 22 August 1870
- 20c → ¼ small paper
- receipt for inheritance tax
- stamp 'Manteau impérial' type
- cancellation N°2262 → Soultz Registry Office

I. The Franco-German War. 1870-1871

- War between France and the Kingdom of Prussia and its allies.
- Chancellor Otto von Bismarck wants the unification of Germany
- Following a 'diplomatic dispute', France declares war on the Kingdom of Prussia
  - the Spanish affair and the Ems dispatch (1870)
  - the army



NAPOLÉON III
French Emperor



WILHELM I
King of Prussia



OTTO VON BISMARCK
German Chancellor

- very quickly the French armies were defeated in Alsace
- surrounded at Sedan, Napoléon III must capitulate... he will be taken prisoner
- which leads to:
  - the fall of the Second Empire
  - the proclamation of the IIIrd French Republic
  - the Proclamation of the German Empire
- Treaty of Frankfurt (May 10, 1871) ⟶ consequences
  - the war lasted 6 months and 10 days

SEDAN 1-2 September 1870



41. SEDAN-DONCHERY — Napoléon III, après avoir passé la nuit du 1er Septembre à la Sous-Préfecture de Sedan, se rend à Donchery, à la rencontre du Roi de Prusse, pour essayer d'obtenir une reddition honorable



- E. F. Baron de Wimpffen, French general - signs the capitulation of Sedan
- H. Count von Moltke, General-in-chief of the German armies
- O. von Bismarck, Prussian Minister-President, German Chancellor



4 Septembre 1870, Proclamation de la République.

Léon Gambetta, Minister of the Interior, proclaims the Republic on the balcony of Paris City Hall. September 4, 1870

II.4. THE TREATY OF FRANKFURT

- even before the general armistice, the GERMAN EMPIRE (Second Reich) was proclaimed at the Château de Versailles on January 18, 1871.
- The Treaty of Frankfurt was signed on May 10,1871
- ceded territory: Haut-Rhin (except Belfort), Bas-Rhin, very large part of Moselle and large part of Meurthe.
- + a financial tribute of 5 billion gold-francs





Proclamation of the German Empire

Hall of Mirrors
Château de Versailles

painting (1885)
Anton von Werner
(1843-1915)

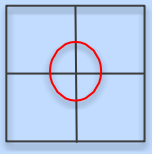
II.2. The III[rd] French Republic and the Provisional Government Occupied France.

- **removal of the imperial eagle on wet and dry stamps**
- **Empire stamps were tolerated until July 6, 1871.**
- **law of August 23, 1871: tariff increase → countermark**



- 31 May 1871
- 2 countermarks: 20c et 10c.

II.3. The overprints of the German occupation in Alsace-Lorraine (1870)



- the armistice was signed on January 26, 1871
- the drawing of borders: the negotiations are long and difficult
- maintenance of the French stamp type "Imperial Coat" (mobile and stamped paper) WITH overprint "Quarter circle" – several types (rare) →



#1

- **DER UNTERPRAEFECT ZU MULHAUSEN** 20c

- **DEPARTMENT OBERRHEIN STEUER DIRECTOR** 50c



#2



#4

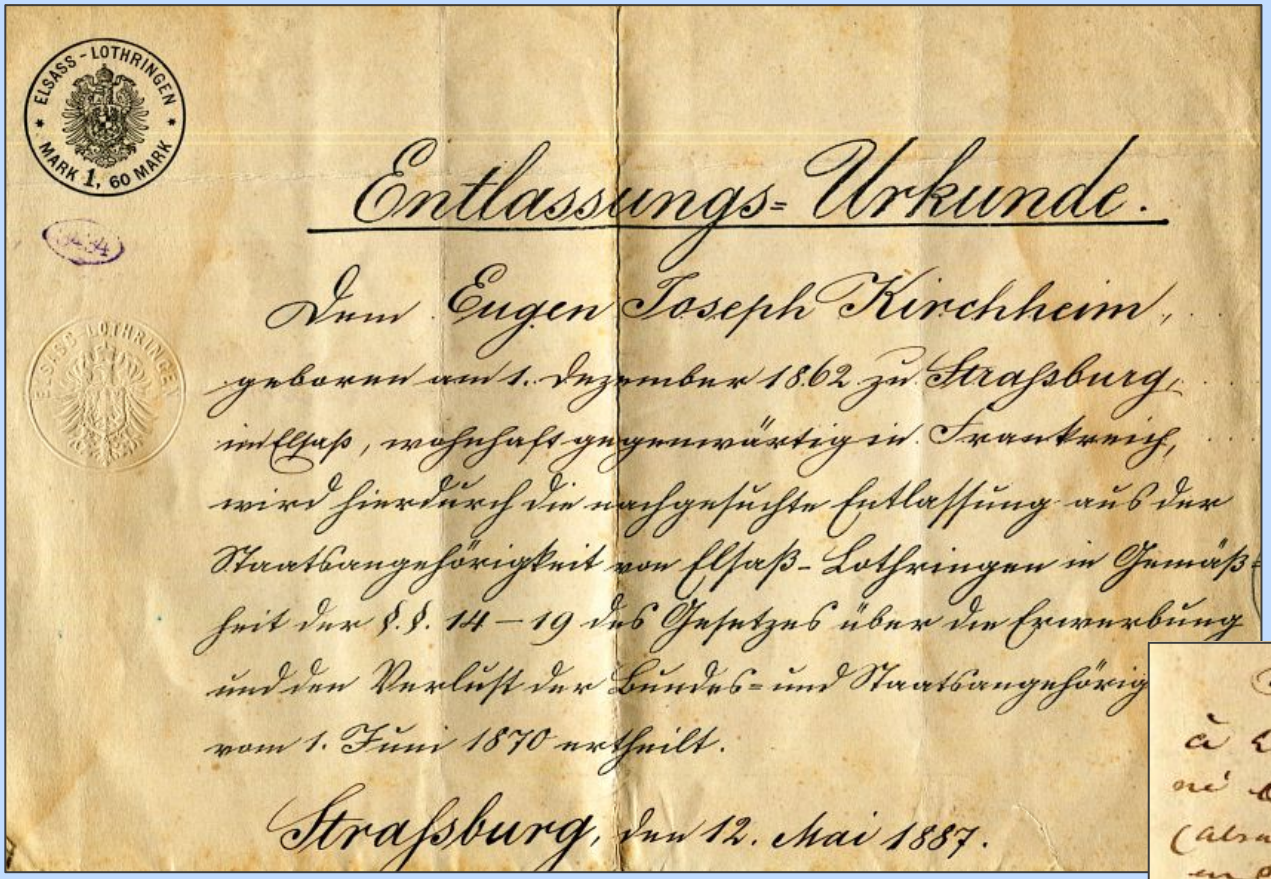
- **DER KREISDIRECTOR IN ALTKIRCH** 1F50c

- **STEUER DIRECTOR FUR DAS DEPARTMENT NIEDER-RHEIN** 1F50c
  Ovpt stamp of 1870 used with the REICHS-STEMPEL stamp of 1871; German cancellation with the Imperial eagle



#8 #4

Important: the treaty stipulates that the inhabitants have the choice of their nationality.

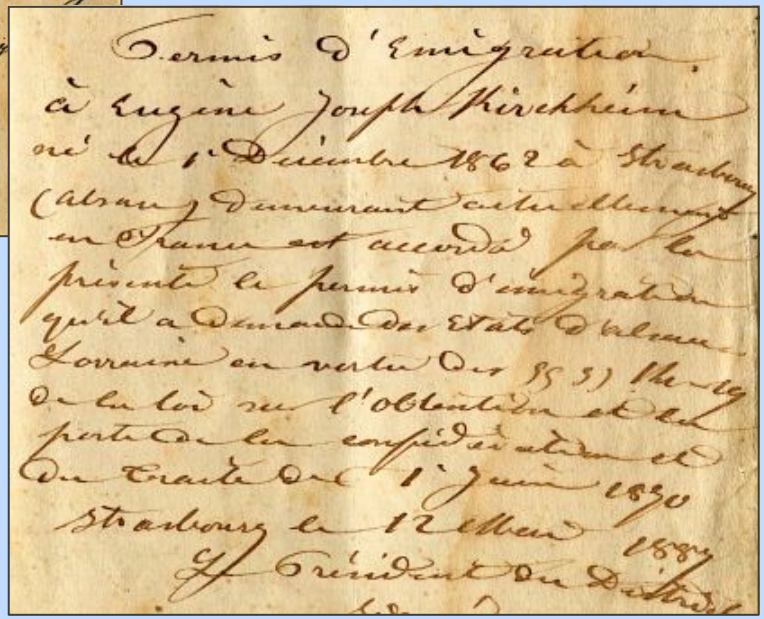




wmk
type B



coat of arms
House of
Hohenzellern



Stamped paper

Elsass-Lothringen
1,60 MARK
with large crest
House of Hohenzollern

- dry stamp
- wmk type B 1885
- Strassburg
- 12 May 1887
- **3434** auxil.distributor

- those who retain French nationality must leave Alsace-Lorraine
- 130, 000 will leave



- those who remain will have German nationality only

Family document of
Maurice Touchette
Nancy, 8 April 1915





MODÈLE n° 2.

TRAITÉS DU 10 MAI ET DU 11 DÉCEMBRE 1871.

OPTION POUR LA NATIONALITÉ FRANÇAISE.

(1) Dates du jour et du mois. — Le (1) 14 Septembre 1872,

(2) Noms de la commune, de l'arrondissement et du département. — par-devant nous, maire de la commune de (2) Tarbes, arrondissement de Tarbes, département des Hautes-Pyrénées

(3) Nom et prénoms du déclarant. — est comparu (3) Rivet, Jean-Baptiste, serrurier

(4) Indication du lieu de naissance. — né à (4) Mulhouse (Haut-Rhin)

(5) Date de la naissance ou au moins indication de l'âge du déclarant. — le (5) 5 Décembre 1849

(6) Ajouter pour les mineurs, quand leur déclaration sera faite *séparément* : (6) Option déjà faite à Mulhouse, le 16 Août 1872 sous le N° 6217

(8) Ou attestation par le maire qu'il ne sait pas signer.

Signature du déclarant (8) — *Signature du Maire.*

J. B^te Rivet

HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES MAIRIE TARBES

LA PRUSSE S'ARRÊTANT.
OU
LA LIGNE EXACTE DE DÉMARCATION DE L'ARMISTICE.

Ge D 29041

Le contour de l'animal montre d'une manière **ABSOLUMENT EXACTE** *les lignes occupées par les belligérants pendant l'armistice, ainsi qu'il est spécifié dans le texte de la convention; et la partie du territoire français occupée par les Allemands à la date de la* **CAPITULATION DE PARIS**

15 fév. 1871



III. THE ANNEXATION OF ALSACE-LORRAINE TO GERMANY

III.1. The transition

1.1. The transition stamps:

German REICHS-STEMPEL stamps replace overprinted stamps;
however, they have the same format, the same colors and the same values expressed in francs.
Until 1876.

French Law of August 23 1871: increase of 2dc followed by the German administration



ovpt French stamp
of 1870



New German stamps of 1871
3 color varieties
thick paper thin paper





seal of the town hall

copy of civil status register - death certificate

15 September 1871

- REICHS-STEMPEL
- 1f 50c
- French cancellation
- French numbering 2522 = Wintzenheim (Haut-Rhin)

countermark
TIMBRE IMPÉRIAL
1f 50c

countermark
2 DÉCIMES EN SUS
1871

➢ New cancellation: French type with rectangle with dots but with *German numbering* specific to Alsace-Lorraine from 1 to 99.



Direktion der Zölle
und
indirekten Steuern.

Bezirk
Ober Elsass

Enregistrements-Einnehmerei
Obersulz

REICHS-STEMPEL
20c DIMENSION 20c

Nota. Quittungen, welche den Betrag von zehn Franken übersteigen, sind dem Stempel unterworfen.
(Gesetz vom 13. Brumaire VII. Art. 16.)

Quittung über Sterbfall-Gebühren.

No. 10 der Zahlungs-Deklaration.
No. 167 des Sterbfall-Deklarationsregisters.

Erbschaft des Hr. Romain Ackermann
Ludig, Müller

gestorben zu Obersulz
den 27 April 1876

Der unterzeichnete Enregistrements-Einnehmer zu
Obersulz bescheinigt hiermit empfangen zu haben
von der Wittwe Joseph Ackermann
Wittwe das Erbschaft
für Sterbfall-Gebühren des Mortuarium
die Summe von achtzehn mark sechs Pfennig
wie solche anderseits detaillirt ist.

Obersulz, den 28 September 1876
Moritz

- REICHS-STEMPEL
- 20c
- French cancellation
- German numbering
  47 = Obersulz

- Obersulz (Haut-Rhin)
- 27 April 1876
- receipt

- Obersulz = Soultz
  47 ⟶ 2262

Rechnung für das Rechnungsjahr 1876

Management accounts for the year 1876

- French cancel
- German num. 30 Saarburg



Bezirk
Département
Lothringen.

Kreis
Arrondissement
Saarburg

Gemeinde
Commune
Harthigny

Rechnung für das Rechnungsjahr 1876

vorgelegt durch den Gemeinde-Rechner J. M. Erasmy

COMPTES DE LA GESTION 1876

Présentés par M. ..... *Percepteur-Receveur municipal.*

Einnahme. — Recette.

Auf Grund des Budgets für das Rechnungsjahr 1876 und der aus dem vorhergehenden Rechnungsjahr 1875 übernommenen Einnahme-Rückstände, sowie auf Grund etwaiger besonderer Ermächtigungen hat der Gemeinde-Rechner folgende Einnahmen für das Rechnungsjahr 1876 bewirkt:

En vertu du budget de l'exercice 187 et des restes à recouvrer reportés de l'exercice précédent 187 , ainsi qu'en vertu d'autorisations spéciales éventuelles, le Comptable a effectué les recettes suivantes sur l'exercice 187 :

1. Während des Jahres 1876 / Pendant l'année 187 ..... 2920 M. 23 Pfg.
2. Während der ersten drei Monate des Jahres 1877 / Pendant les trois premiers mois de l'année 187 ..... 1752 M. 69 Pfg.

Gesammt-Einnahme im Rechnungsjahr 1876 / Total des Recettes de l'exercice 187 .... 4672 M. 92 Pfg.

Laufende Nummer der Belege. / N^os d'ordre des pièces justificat.	Nummer der Artikel im Budget. / N^os des articles du budget.	Art der Einnahmen. / Nature des recettes.	Einzunehmende Beträge (Soll-Einnahme) / Sommes à recouvrer: nach dem Haupt- u. Ergänzungs-Budget und den besonderen Ermächtigungen. / d'après les budgets et autorisations.	nach den Einnahme-Anweisungen und Belägen. / d'après les titres et actes justificatifs.	Bewirkte Einnahmen (Ist-Einnahme) / Recettes effectuées: während des Jahres 1876. / pendant l'année 187	während der ersten 3 Monate des Jahres 1877. / pendant les trois premiers mois de 187 .	Insgesammt. / Total.	Am 31. März 1877 vorhandene und auf das Rechnungsjahr 1877 zu übertragende Einnahme-Rückstände. / Restes à recouvrer.	Bemerkungen. / Observations.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		A. Im Hauptbudget vorgesehene Einnahmen.							



Prussian eagle



eagle Hohenzollern in 1876

1.2. Stamped papers of 1871:

- stamped paper in francs and centimes, REICH-STEMPEL type with the Imperial Eagle with small crest
- identical dry stamp but without value

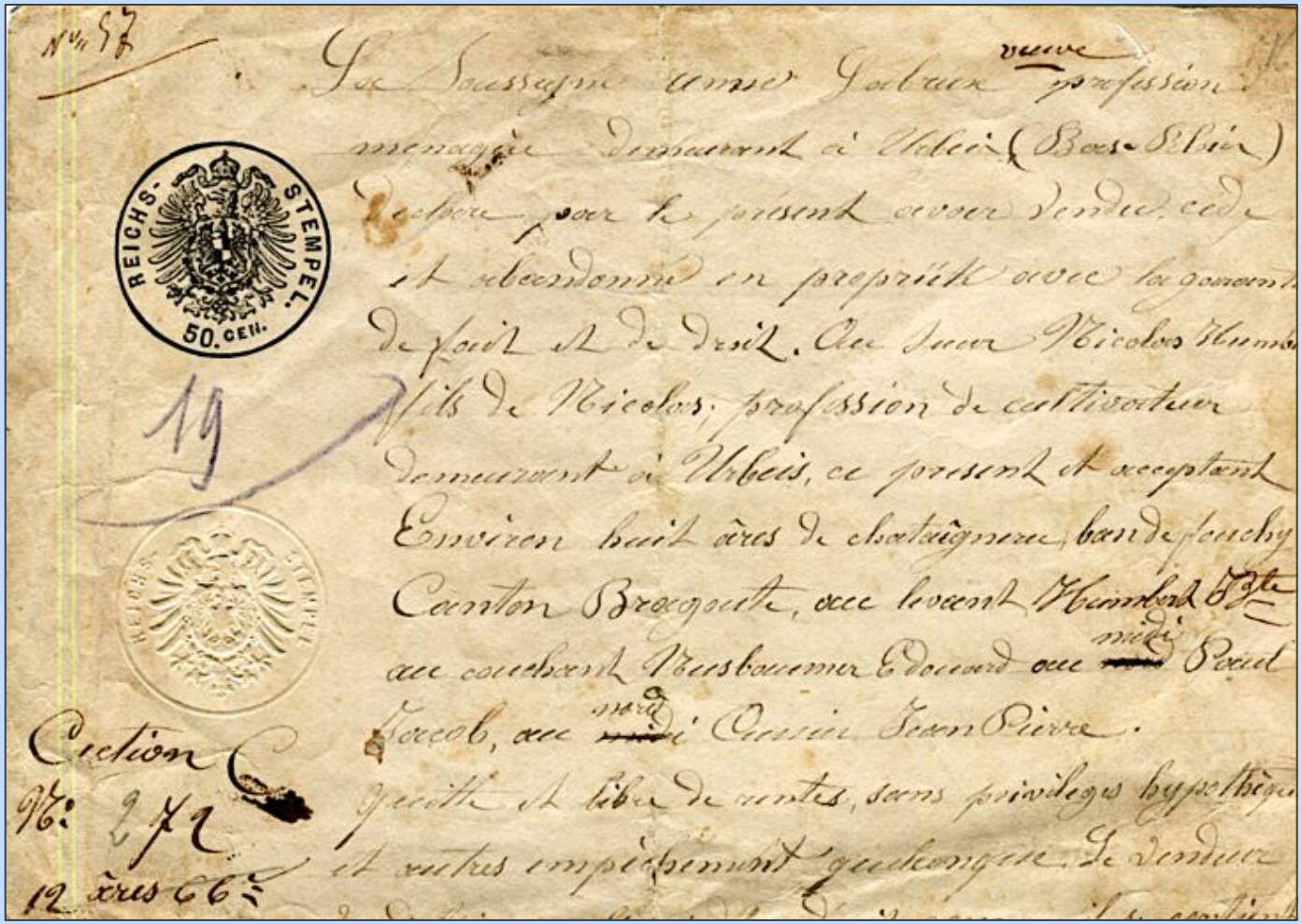




- watermark unlisted with the year 1871

- 20 September 1871
- Riquewihr (Haut-Rhin)

In 1872, Emperor William I demanded that the small Prussian crest be replaced by a large crest bearing the Hohenzollern coat of arms. *.



- REICHS-STEMPEL 50. cen.
- identical dry stamp but without value
- wmk type A



- Urbeis (Bas-Rhin)
- 29 November 1874

* The House of Hohenzollern is a family that ruled Prussia (1701-1871) and the German Empire (1871-1918).

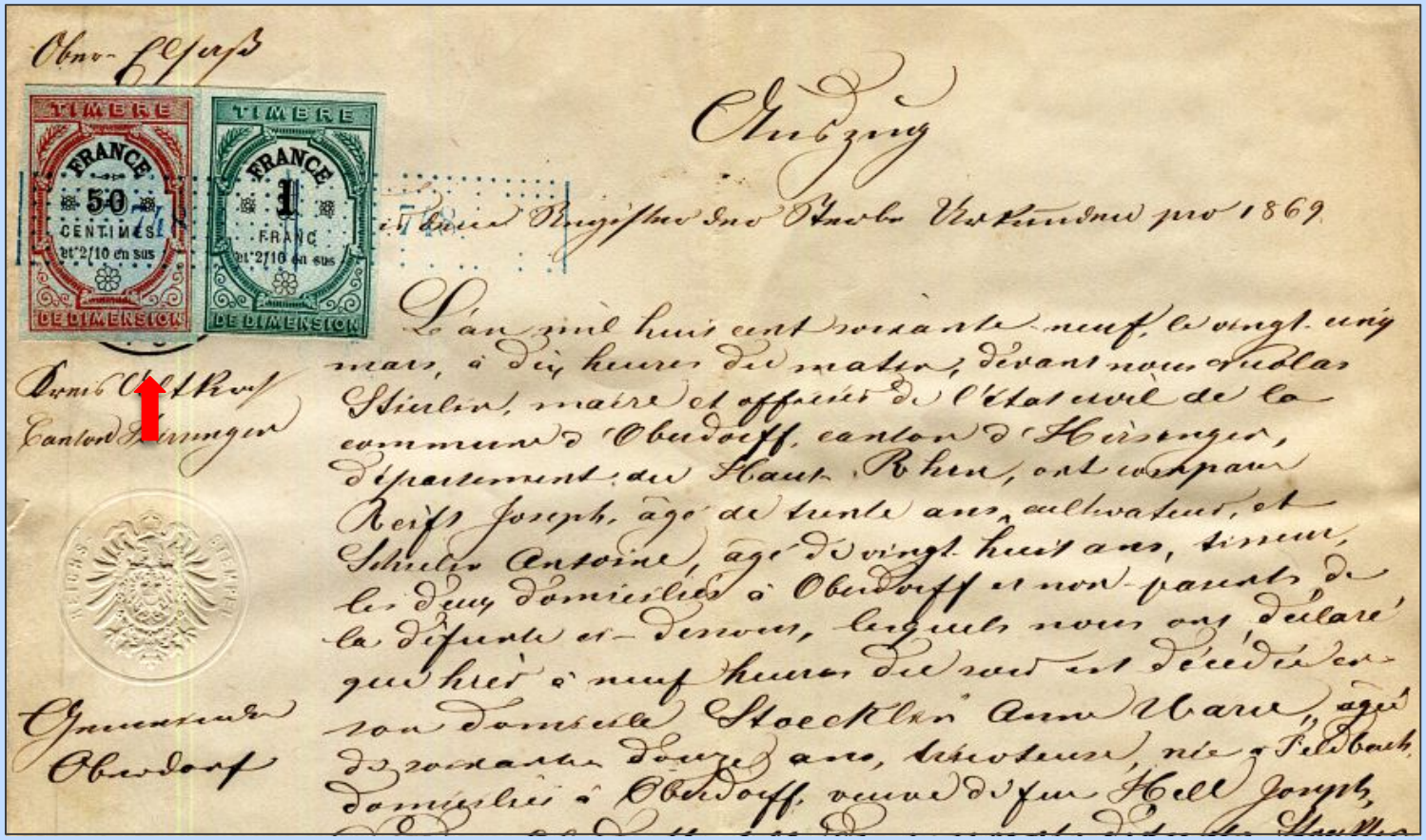


coat of arms



shield

- The French/Alsatian feeling remains very present and some demonstrate it in different ways.
- Case in point: the German REICHS-STEMPEL stamp is almost entirely hidden by 2 French stamps which are used in the rest of France



- stamps: 1 F. 50 c.
- et 2/10 en sus
- Oberdorf (Haut-Rhin)
- 28 juillet 1874



seal from the *Imperial Court in Hirsingen*

Irregularities observed in Alsace-Lorraine.
It seems that this practice depends less on distraction than on a spirit of revolt!

- Prussian monetary Law of December 4, 1871 establishing the **mark** as the single currency of the Empire; followed by the German Monetary Law of July 9, 1873.
- **decimal system** comes into force **: 1 mark = 100 pfennig**
- Law of October 1st **1876**: the face values for Alsace-Lorraine: → mark and pfennig

1 mark = 1,25 franc

III.2. Fiscal stamps in mark and pfennig

2.1. The stamps of 1876

- the new stamps: **ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN with the imperial eagle with large crest and raised feathers**
- different types of cancellations

		
official fiscal cancel rectangle with dots German number	fiscal cancel of the ministerial officers	private cancel handwritten by notaries

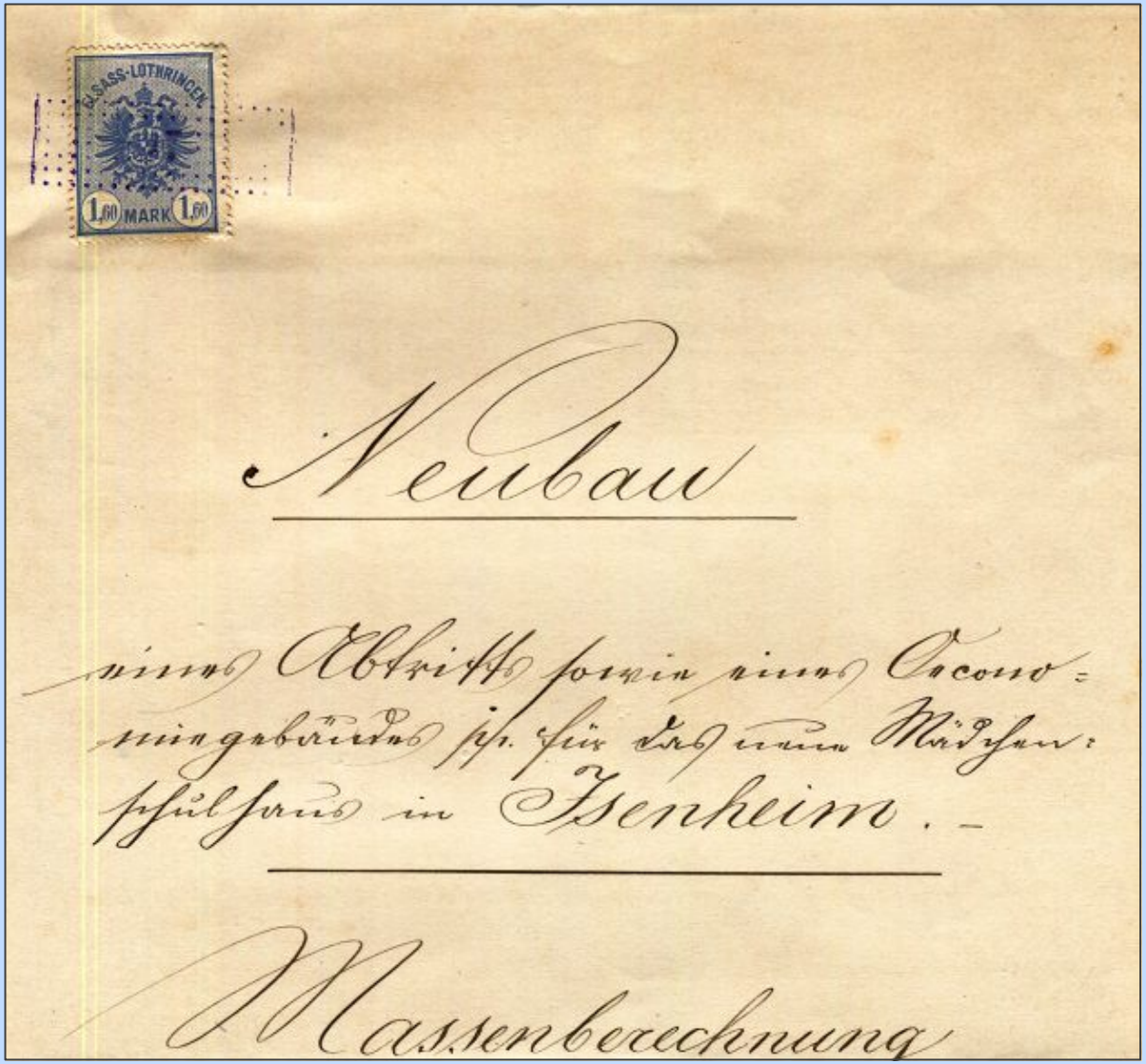
- The printing of Alsace-Lorraine stamps has been entrusted to various printers.
- **different burelage** and **two types of paper** →



thin paper



thick paper



ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
1,60 MARK
imperial eagle with large crest
with raised feathers

- absence of dry stamp
- no watermark
- rectangular cancel with dots **17**

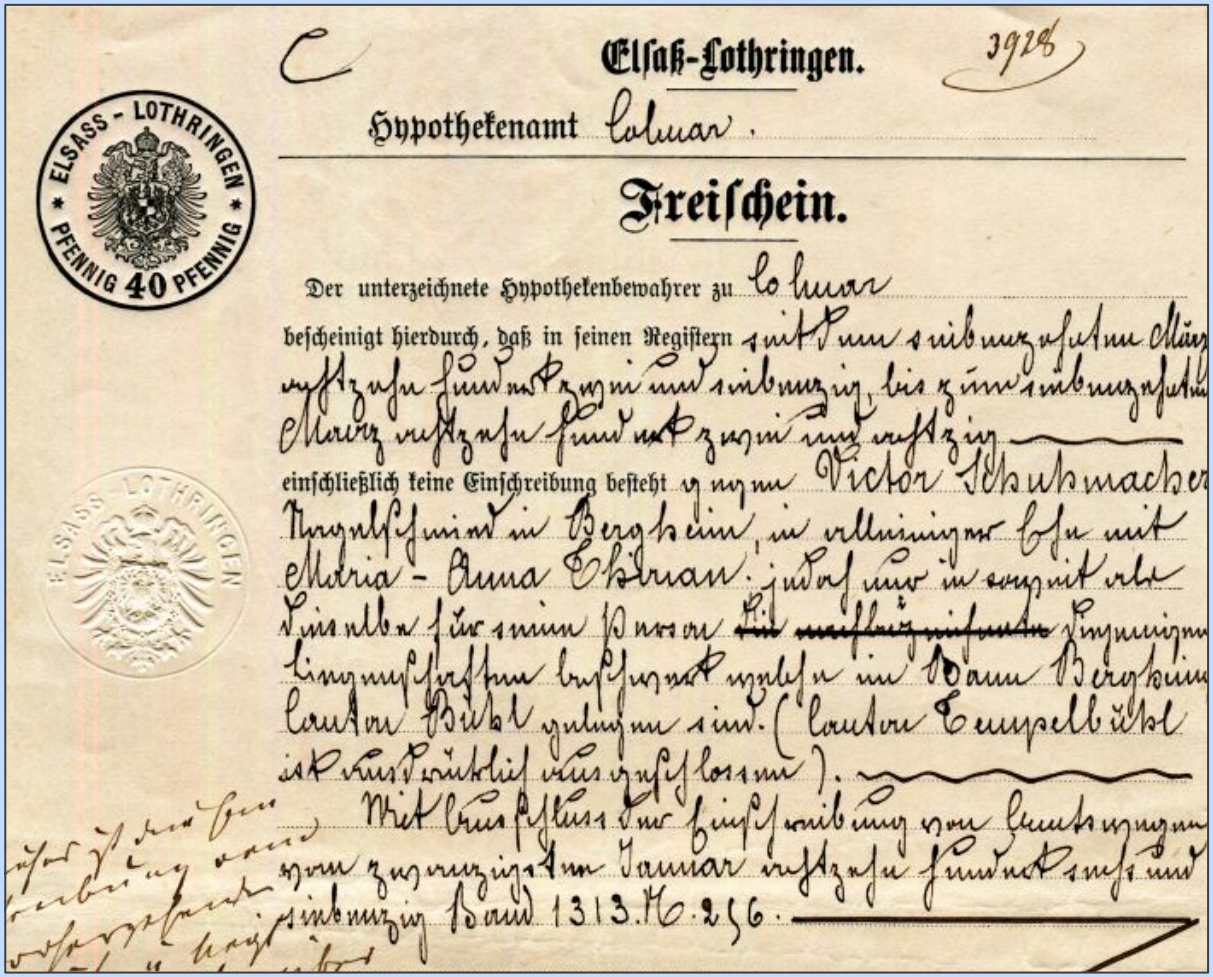
- **17** = Issenheim (Haut-Rhin)
- 14 June 1876

- price for a new building

2.2. Stamped papers of 1876

- the circular stamps bears the Imperial Eagle with the large crest of the Hohenzollern and has raised feathers.
- same face value as the stamps
- presence of a dry stamp and a watermark type B with the year →





- ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
  40 PFENNIG

- dry stamp
- wmk type B

- Colmar (Haut-Rhin)
- 17 March 1878

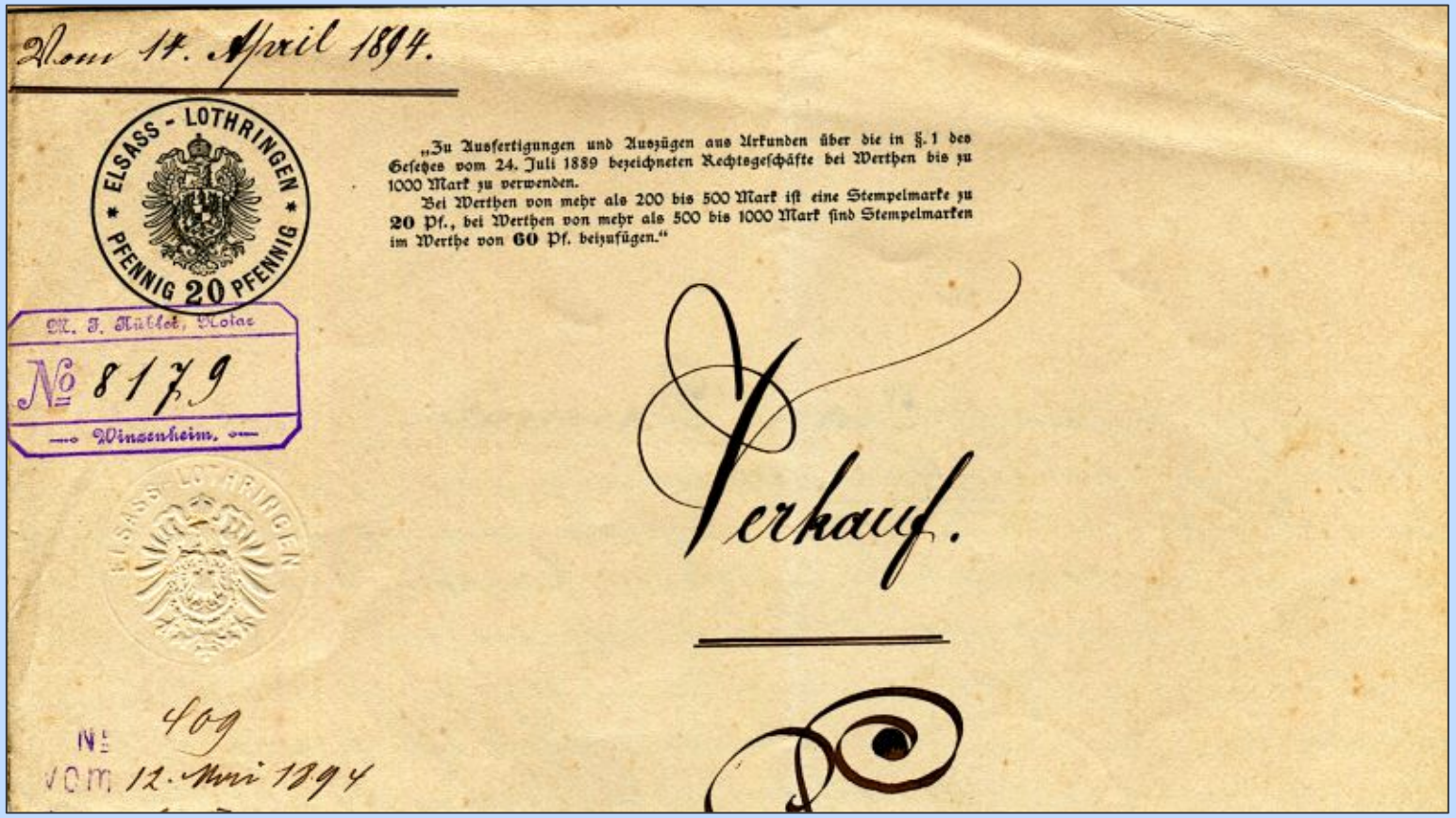
- certificate ensuring the absence of mortgage

2.3. Stamped papers of 1889

NEW CALCULATION OF FISCAL TAX

Imperial Law of July 24, 1884: introduction of the tax graduated according to the value of the operation covered by each act.

This stamped paper contains a 6-line text introducing the tax.



- tax of 20 pfennig for a transaction of 200 to 500 Mark.
- Win(t)zenheim (Haut-Rhin)
- 14 April 1894

- A single stamp issued in 1890, the **20 pf gray** used in contracts to increase the value of the graduated tax.
- The transaction value is increased from 500 to 1000 Mark.

ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
20 pfennig

- Barr (Bas-Rhin)
- 13 July 1891

- dry stamp
- wmk type B 1890

❖ increase in tax to 40 pf.



2.4. The stamps and stamped papers of 1890

- Imperial decree of December 6, 1888; in the year of the coronation of William II (Wilhelm II), the design of the Hohenzellern eagle was ordered to be replaced by a new type.
- Eagle with a small crest with lowered feathers.

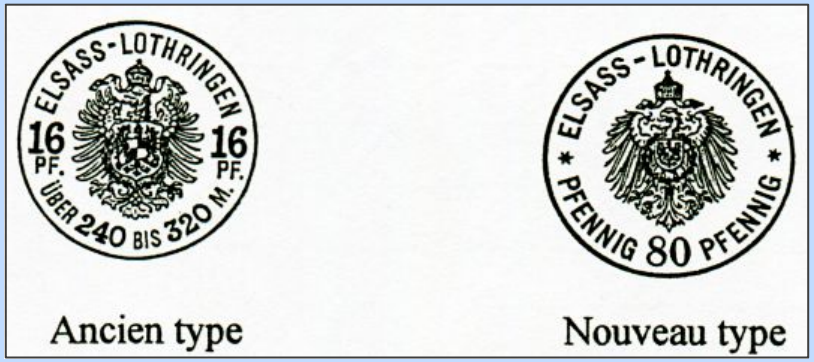




new
wmk type **C**

ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
4 Pf.
FÜR 80M UND DARUNTER
FOR 80M AND LESS

document for recognition of debts



<u>old type</u>
large crest
raised feathers



<u>new type</u>
small crest
lowered feathers



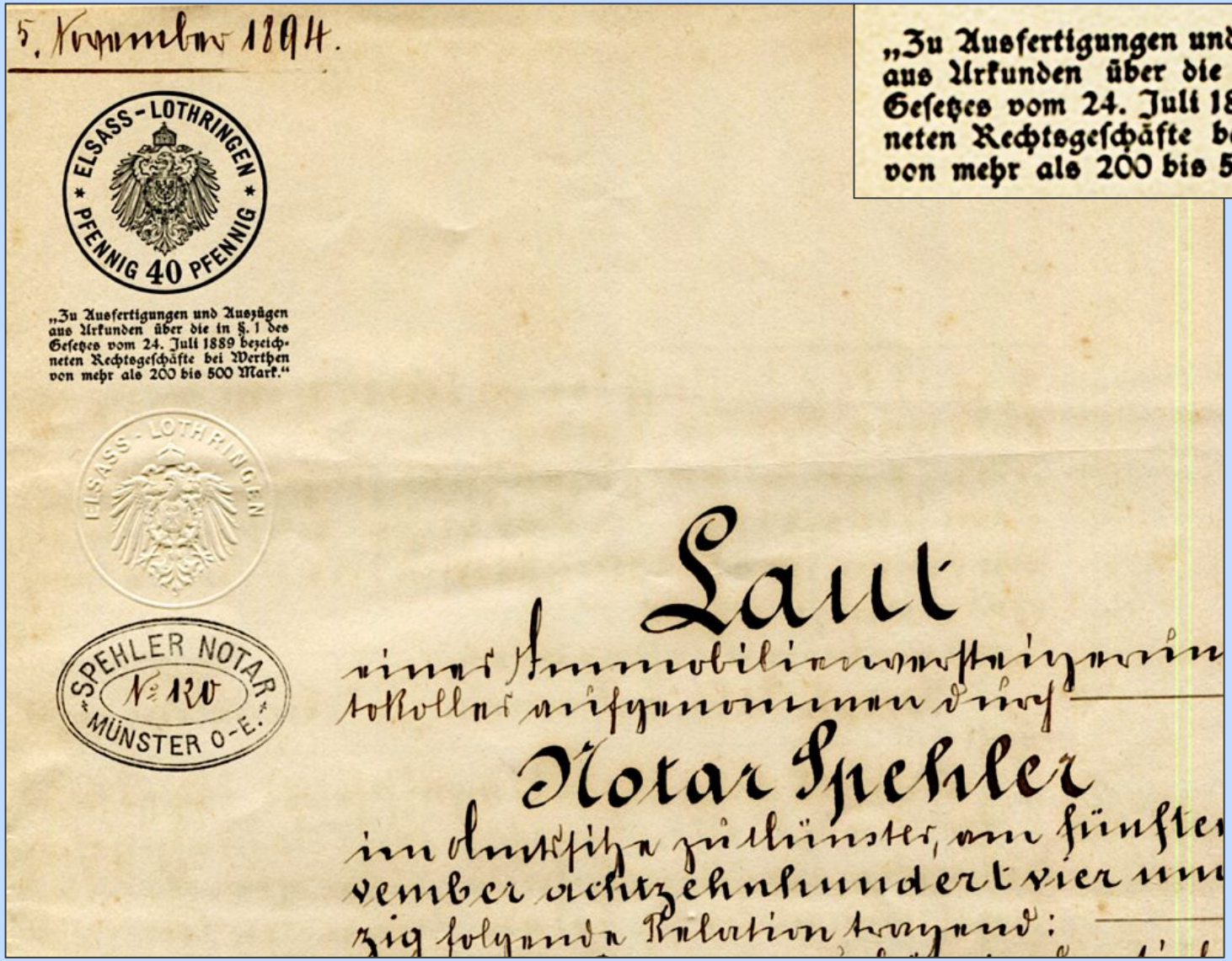
ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
40 PF.

imperial eagle with small crest and with lowered feathers

- dry stamp
ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
- wmk type B

- 5 November 1894
- Münster (Haut-Rhin)

❖ 40 pf to pay for a transaction of 200 to 500 Mark



III.3. The reorganization of tax issues in German Alsace-Lorraine



- the Law of June 21, 1897 allows the issue of fiscal stamps of Germanic design
- tariffs: - increase for the stamps - unchanged for stamped papers
- German eagle with <u>small crest with the new coat of arms</u> of the **Reichsland Elsass-Lothringen**



coat of arms combined and united with the imperial eagle

- the new coat of arms comes from the combinaison of 3 coats of arms



Bas-Rhin



Haut-Rhin



Lorraine

3.1. The stamps of 1898

- large format STEMPELMARKE stamps with the new coat of arms
  - values in Pfennig - large format
  - values in Mark -‘giant’ format















Vollmacht.

Der Unterzeichnet ertheil dem Hebamme Fr. Cunkum

hiermit Vollmacht für Vertretung in allen Angelegenheiten der freiwilligen Gerichtsbarkeit, insbesondere zur Abgabe von Erklärungen gegenüber dem Grundbuchamte zur Einholung von Genehmigungen zur Antragstellung auf Ertheilung eines Erbscheines und in dem Verfahren betreffend die Zwangsversteigerung und die Zwangsverwaltung von Grundstücken einschließlich des Vertheilungsverfahrens. Ferner zur Führung des Prozesses der Ehefrau des Fuhrmanns Johann Wendelin Hüffmeier 27.

Dammerkirch, den 1 April 1901

A Ruhlmann

Anna Bauer

- The following year, in 1899, the format of the stamps was reduced
- the face value and color remain identical to those of 1898





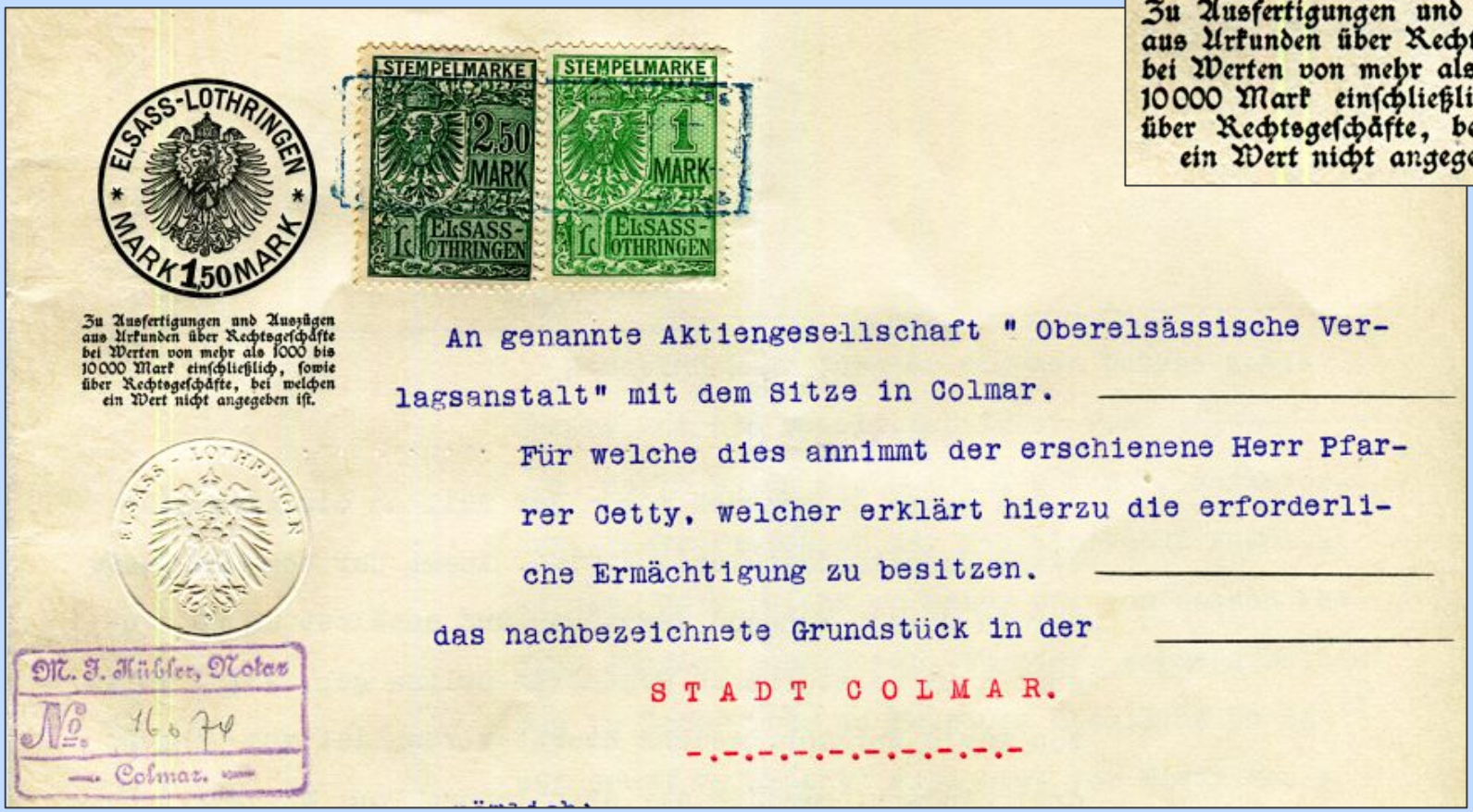
3.2. The stamped paper

ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
1,50 MARK
graduated tax

This case: for a transaction from 1000 to 10,000 Mark

- 1st March 1913
- Colmar (Haut-Rhin)
- dry stamp
- wmk type B

* 2,50M stamp very rare

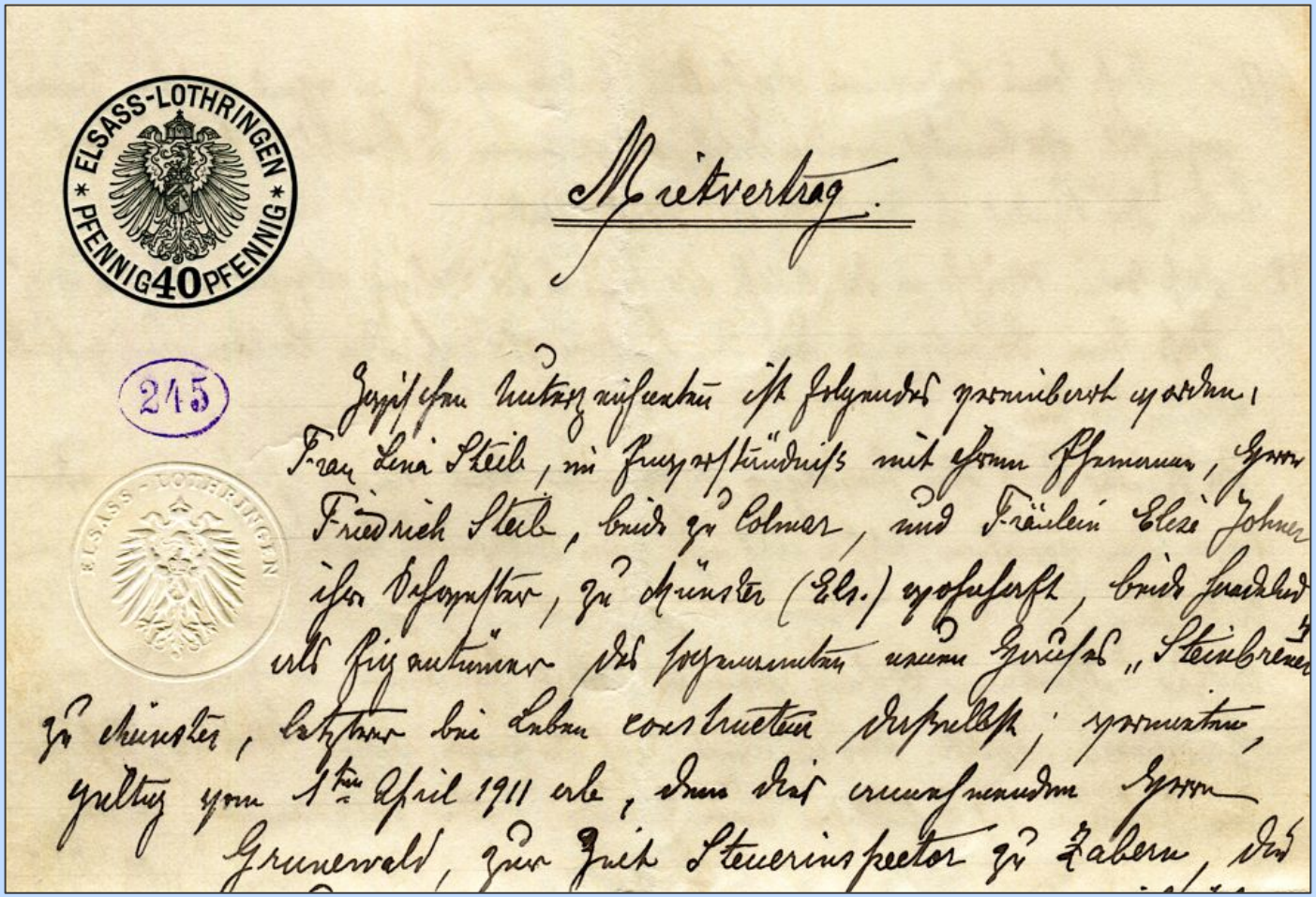


➢ The stamped paper and the dry stamp will bear the lowered feathered eagle with the new coat of arms of Elsass-Lothringen.

ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
40 PFENNIG
dimension tax

- 6 March 1911
- Münster (Haut-Rhin)
- dry stamp
- wmk type B 1911

❖ great rarity for this period: auxiliary office...



IV. DISANNEXATION OR RETURN TO FRANCE

- The First World War (1914-1918) was particularly difficult for the Alsatians who found themselves on both enemy camps.
  - Alsatians from the Reichsland **vs** Alsatians who emigrated to France (often same family)
- the stamps and papers remained identical until the advance of the French in Alsace-Lorraine

Disannexation is done in two stages

1. **August 1914 . Liberation of the Thann-Masevaux area in Haute-Alsace**
2. **End of 1918. Liberation of the whole of Alsace-Lorraine**

1. The reoccupation of the Thann-Masevaux area by France

1.1. 1915. French overprints on German stamps of 1898 and 1899







1.2. 1914. The issue of 'special' French stamps - rares

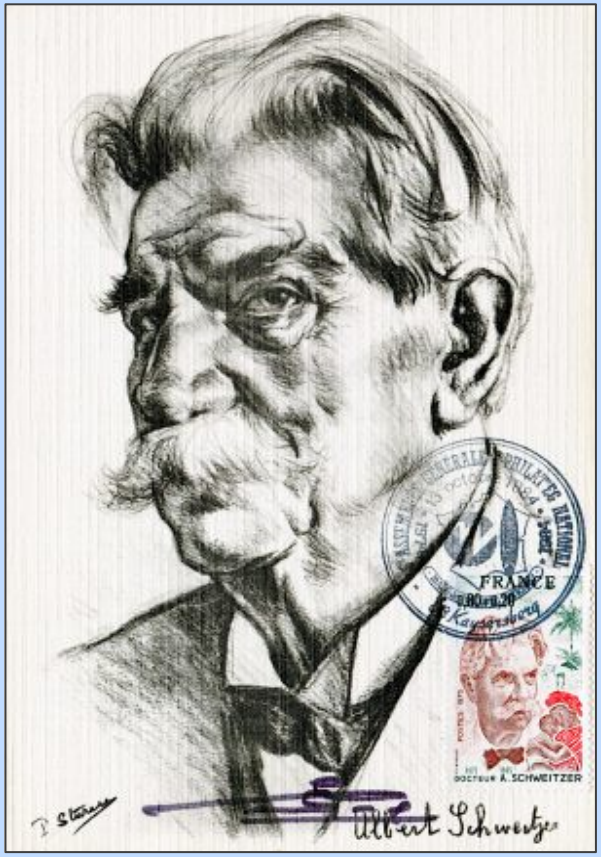




essay
not selected

Dr. Albert Schweitzer

Born in Alsace in 1875, of French parents who became German after the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine to the German Empire in 1871, like all the Alsatians who remained there.

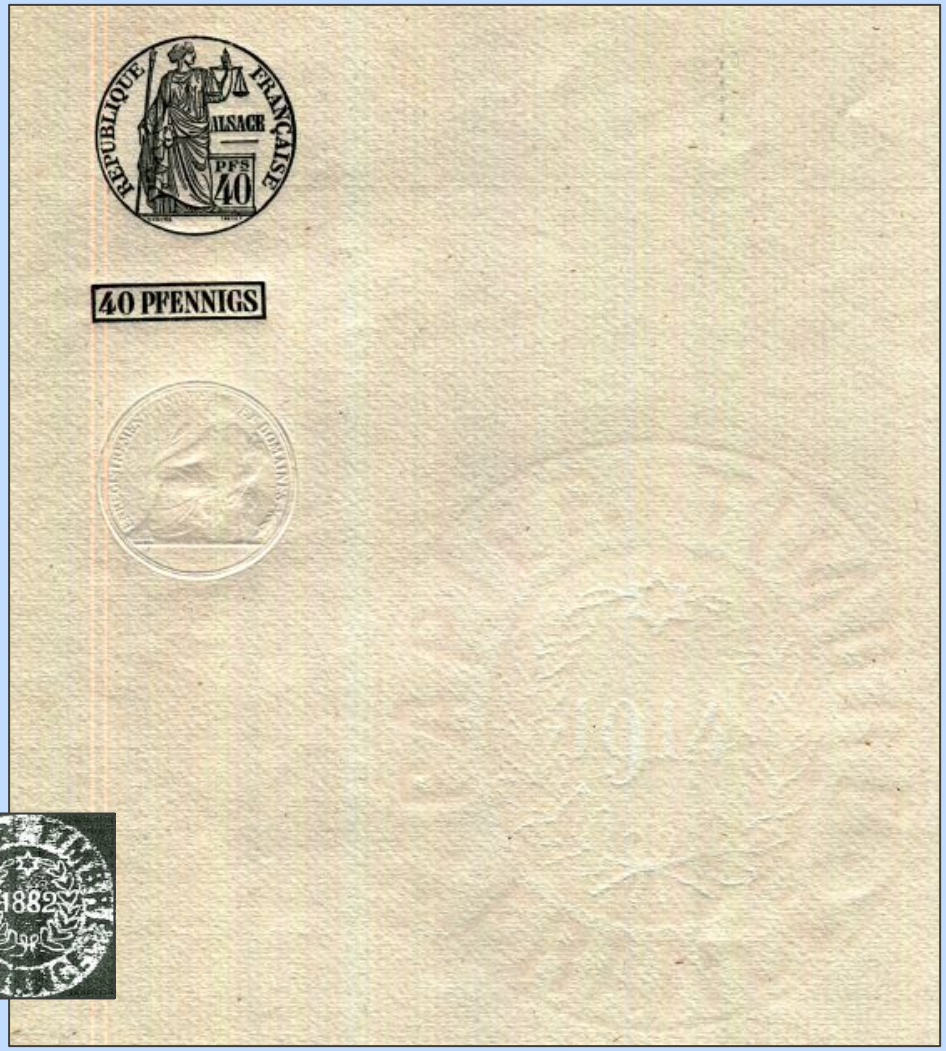


« ... In September 1917, Albert and Hélène Schweitzer were arrested in Lambaréné (Gabon), considered prisoners of war and sent to France, first confined in a barracks in Bordeaux, then interned in a civilian prison camp... » (Wiki)

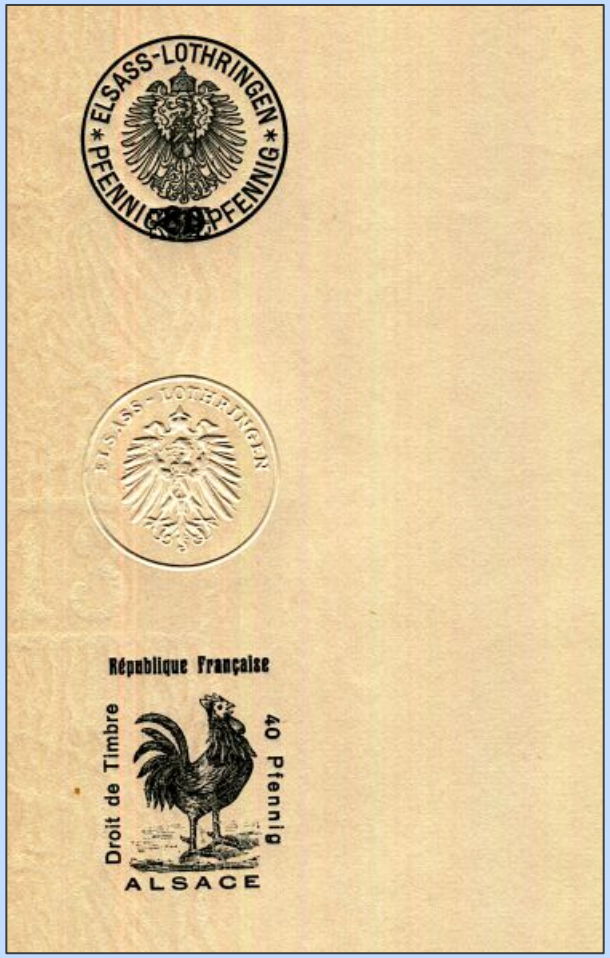
1.3. The stamped paper

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
ALSACE
40 PFS
40 PFENNIGS

- dry stamp
- French wmk 1914 *



*



ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN
80 PFENNIG ON 40 PF

- dry stamp **ELSASS-LOTHRINGEN**
- German wmk type B

stamp Gallic Cock of 1914
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
ALSACE 40 Pfennig

2. THE RECOVERY OF ALL OF ALSACE-LORRAINE IN 1918

The French army entered Alsatian territory on November 17 until complete control on November 22.



ENTRY OF THE FRENCH ARMY
in MULHOUSE
17 November 1918

ENTRY OF MARSHAL PÉTAIN
in STRASBOURG
23 November 1918



Signing of the Treaty of Versailles. 28 June 1919. Hall of Mirrors, Palais de Versailles.

E. Orlando (Italy) G. Clémenceau (France)

W. Wilson (US.) D. Lloyd George (G.B.)



German delegation

painting Sir William Orpen





TREATY OF VERSAILLES

- The Treaty returns Alsace-Lorraine to France
- The former *Reichsland* is divided into 3 departments : Haut-Rhin, Bas-Rhin, Moselle
- In 1920, the name *Alsace-Lorraine* was banned by the government.
- Administrative documents have since used the name *Alsace-Moselle*
- *L'arrondissement de Belfort* became, in 1922, the department of Belfort
  - In 1918-1919, overprint on all stamps and stamped papers found on site before issuing more suitable ones.



2.1. German stamps with overprint

STEMPELMARKE
1 MARK
French overprint

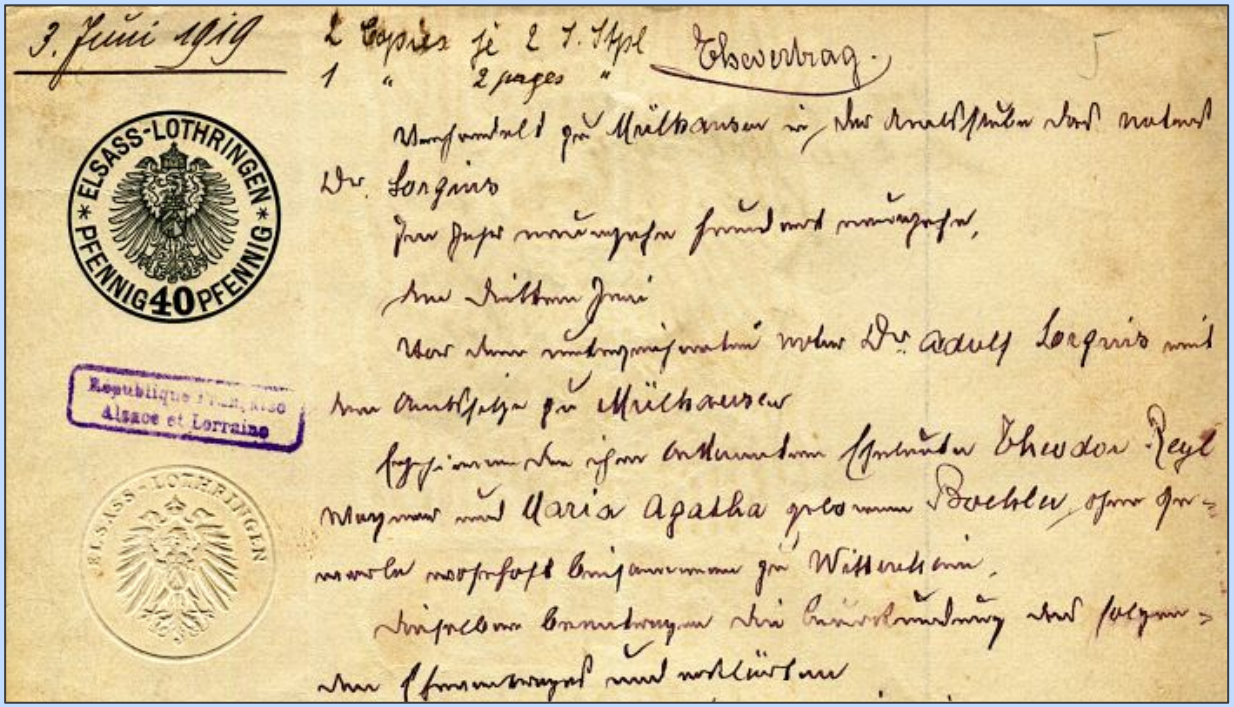


GERICHTSKOSTEN
40 PF.
this 3-line overprint is rare and serves to transform this 'judicial law' stamp into a 'general' fiscal stamp



République française
Dimension
Expédition

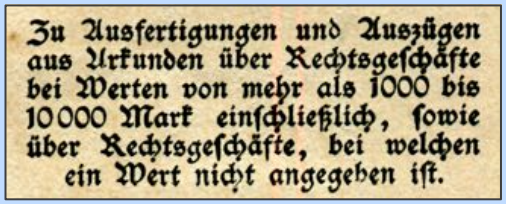
- The Treaty of Versailles enforced the "right of peoples to self-determination."
- Creation of the League of Nations (SDN) → **United Nations (UN)**

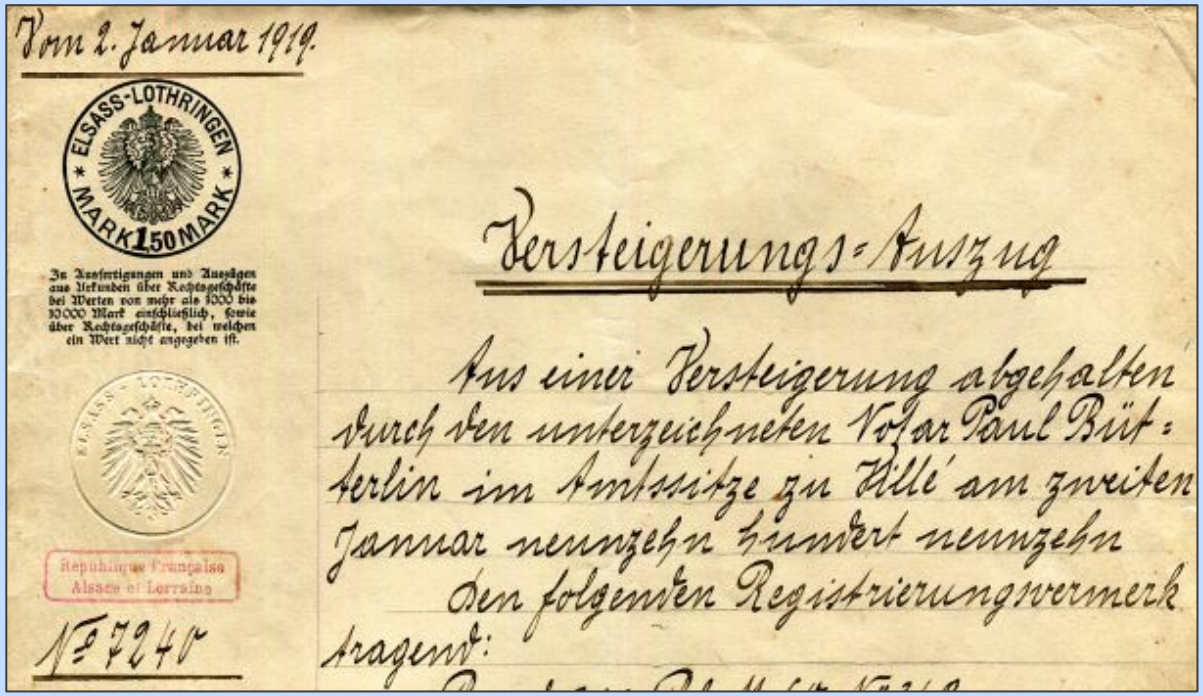


2.2. German stamped paper with purple ovpt.

2.3. German stamped paper with graduated tax with red ovpt.

This case:
for a transaction
from 1000 to 10,000 Mark





2.4. Special stamps of 1919

- stamps issued by the *Atelier Général du Timbre* reserved exclusively in Alsace-Lorraine.
- intended for several methods of taxation
- printed on G.C. paper (consumer paper [***G**rande **C**onsommation*]) of very poor quality

↓

- poor state of conservation
- hence the rarity



With the image of the Republic
- type « Médaillon de Tasset »

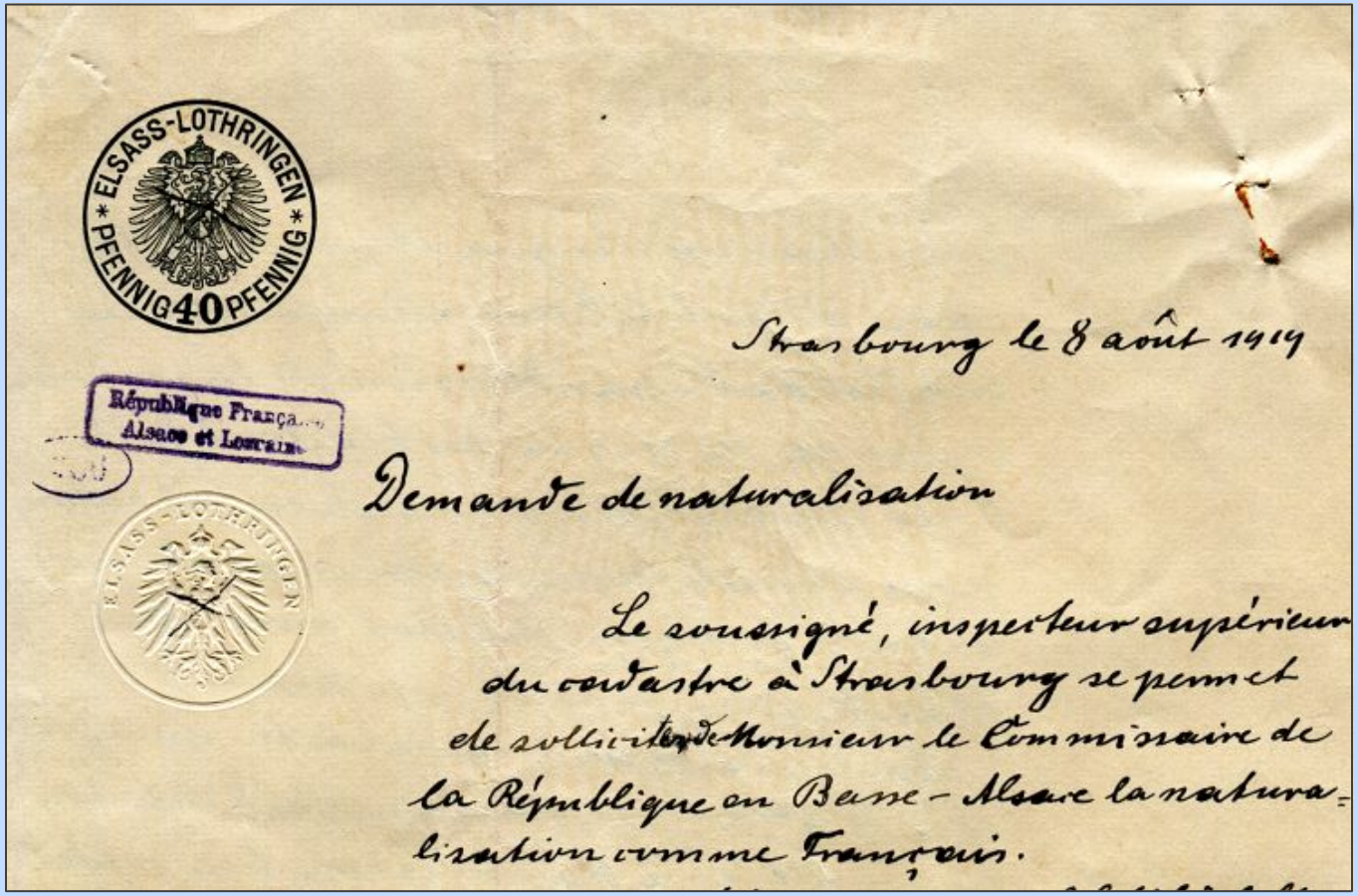




PROOFS



Request for FRENCH NATURALIZATION of a German born in East Prussia.
Emigrated to Strasbourg in 1879, married to an Alsatian in 1886.
In 1919, on the eve of his retirement, he requested French naturalization from the Commissioner of the Republic in Lower Alsace.



- German stamped paper: stamps **CROSSED**
- French overprint
- auxiliary distributor 466

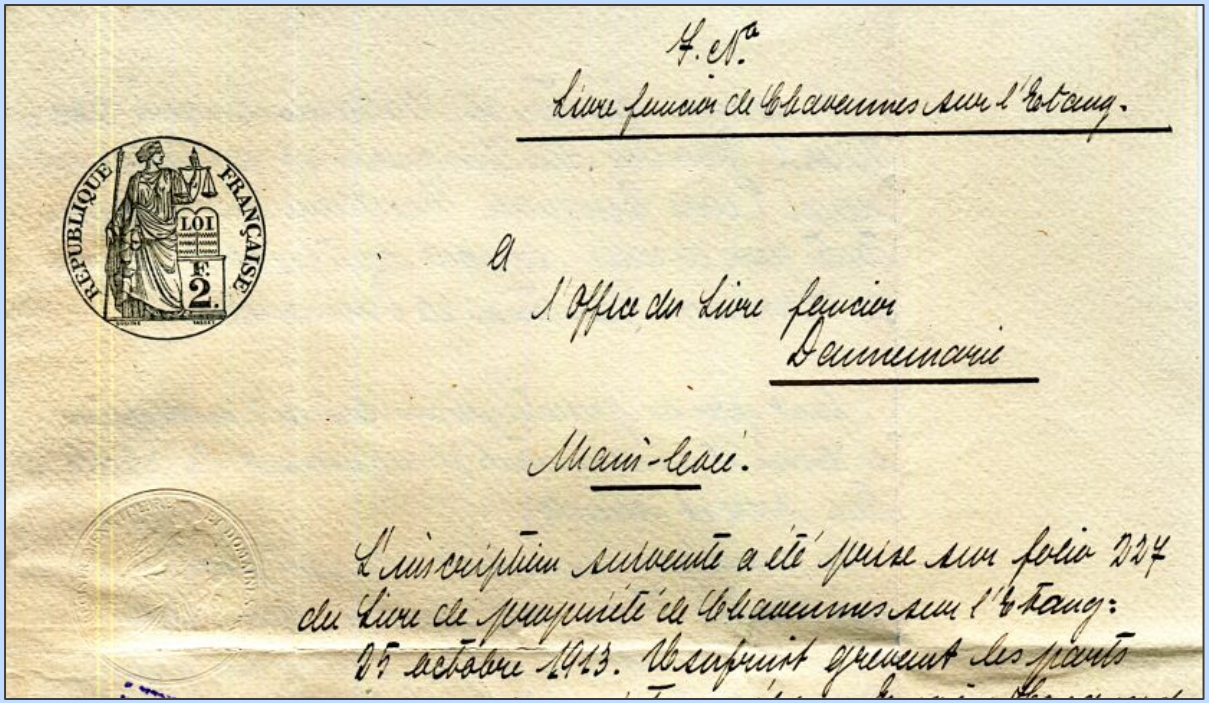
V. Conclusion

- In the recovered territories, the French language successfully replaces German in public services as well as in schools.
- however, because of their border situation with Germany, Alsace and Moselle have particular linguistic situations; learning the German language is more important than anywhere else in France.

1. Return of French stamps and stamped papers

Law of June 25 and Decree of July 25, 1920. Tariffs are doubled.

2.F.	4.F.	6.F.	8.F.	12.F.
½ small paper	small paper	med. paper	large paper	large register



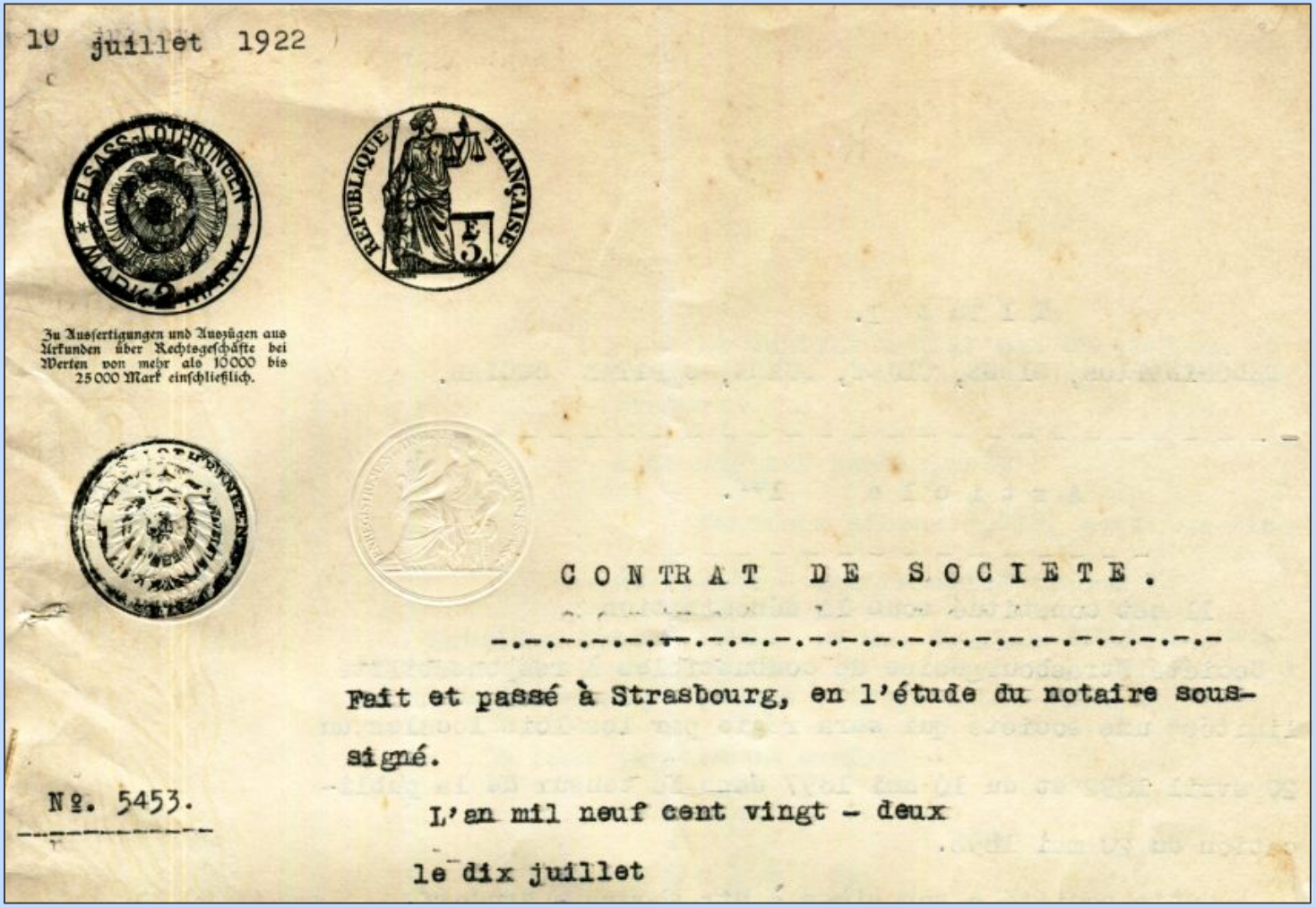
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
2.F.
OUDINE **TASSET**

- Dannemarie (Haut-Rhin)
- ½ small paper
- 1922
- dry stamp TS12 ...
- wmk F18

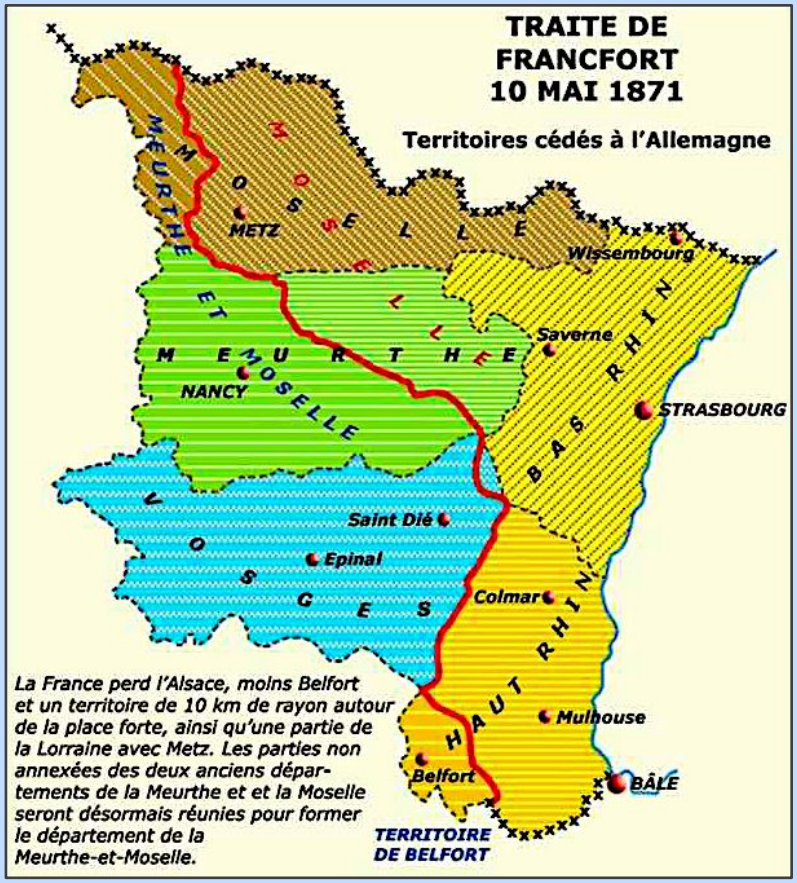


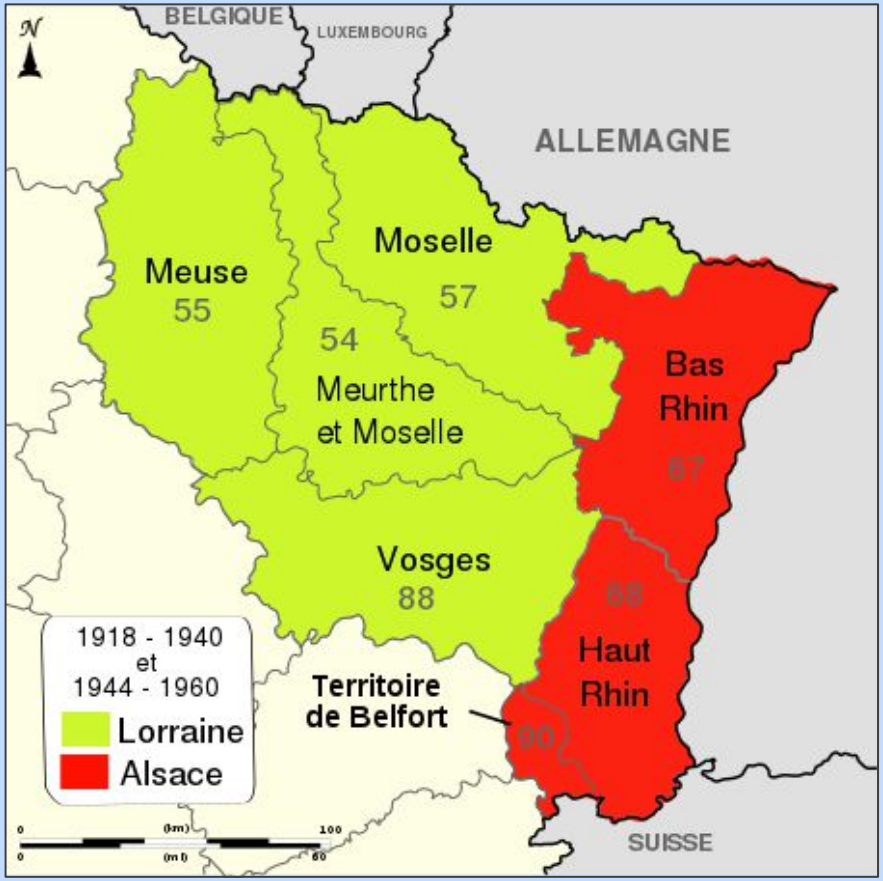


Late use: A typographical overprint in the shape of a target was affixed so as to completely hide the initial German imprint on both the wet stamp and the dry stamp.



Strasbourg. 10 July 1922





Before and after the 1870-71 War

After WW1

THE END