

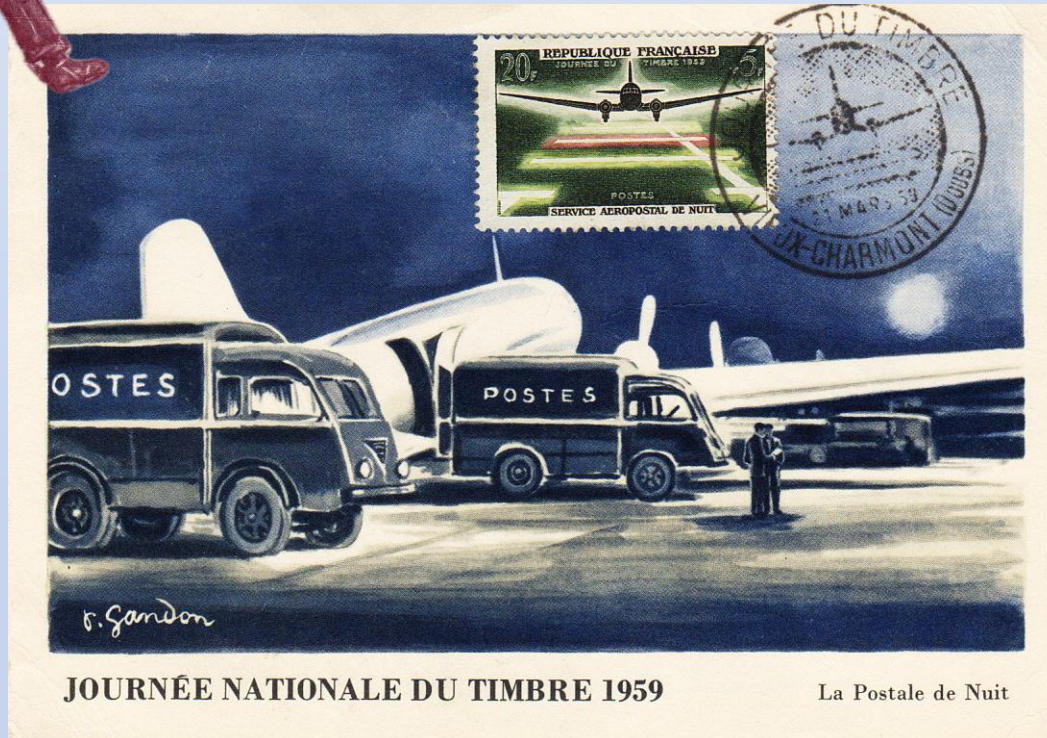


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Stamp Day Celebrations in 20<sup>th</sup> Century France



Larry Rosenblum  
Presented to the  
Philatelic Society of  
Lancaster County  
February 2025



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



Similar celebrations date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This German card celebrates the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Philatelist's Day in 1937, so the celebration dates back to the 1890s. It has a special cancel.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



„TAG DER BRIEFMARKE“ 1935

VERANSTALTET VOM VERBAND ÖSTERREICHISCHER PHILATELISTEN-VEREINE

OFFIZIELLE POSTKARTE



- The first national Stamp Day was in Austria on December 1-3, 1935.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



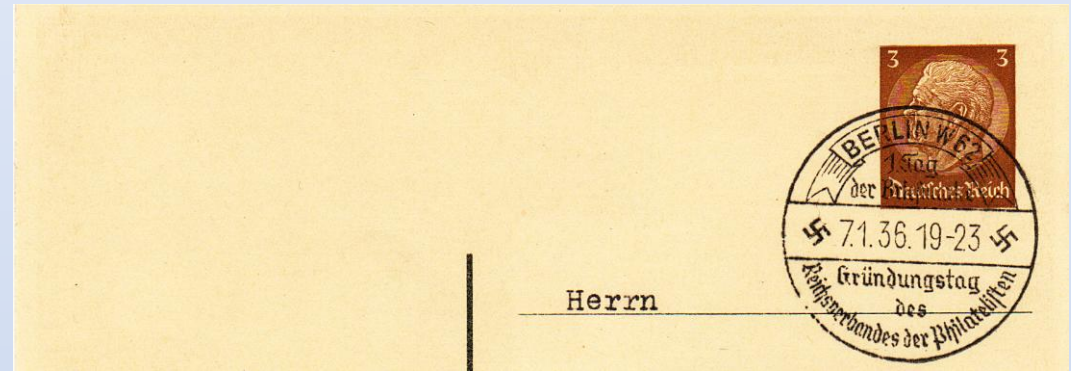
- Austria celebrated Stamp Day again in December, 1936. In addition to official postcards, celebrants could create their own cards and covers.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



- Germany first celebrated Stamp Day on January 7, 1936.
- The card is stamped-to-order.
- The German Philatelic Society proposed to the F.I.P. that all member nations have the option of having an official Stamp Day annually on the first weekend after January 7. It was approved starting in 1937.
- January 7 was the birth date of Heinrich von Stephan, founder of the Universal Postal Union.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



- This German card, printed in a French version as well as German, was created for 1937, postmarked January 10.
- The uniform date was not continued in later years; each country picked its own date.
- France deferred to 1938 because an international exhibition was planned for 1937.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



- Belgium issued the first stamp for Stamp Day.
- It is a reissue of an existing stamp in a different color. It features the heir-apparent, Prince Badouin.
- Stamp day in 1937 was also celebrated in Austria, The Netherlands, and probably other countries.

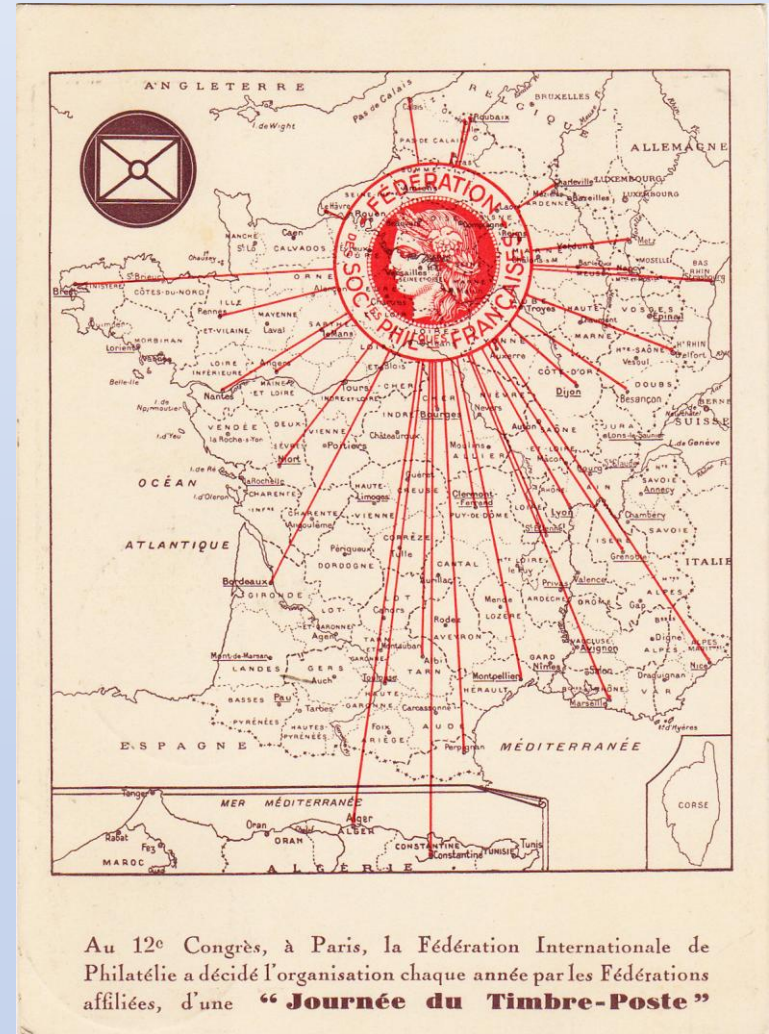


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



- France's first Stamp Day was on January 16, 1938.
- The *Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques Françaises* (FSPF) published this card for 1938.





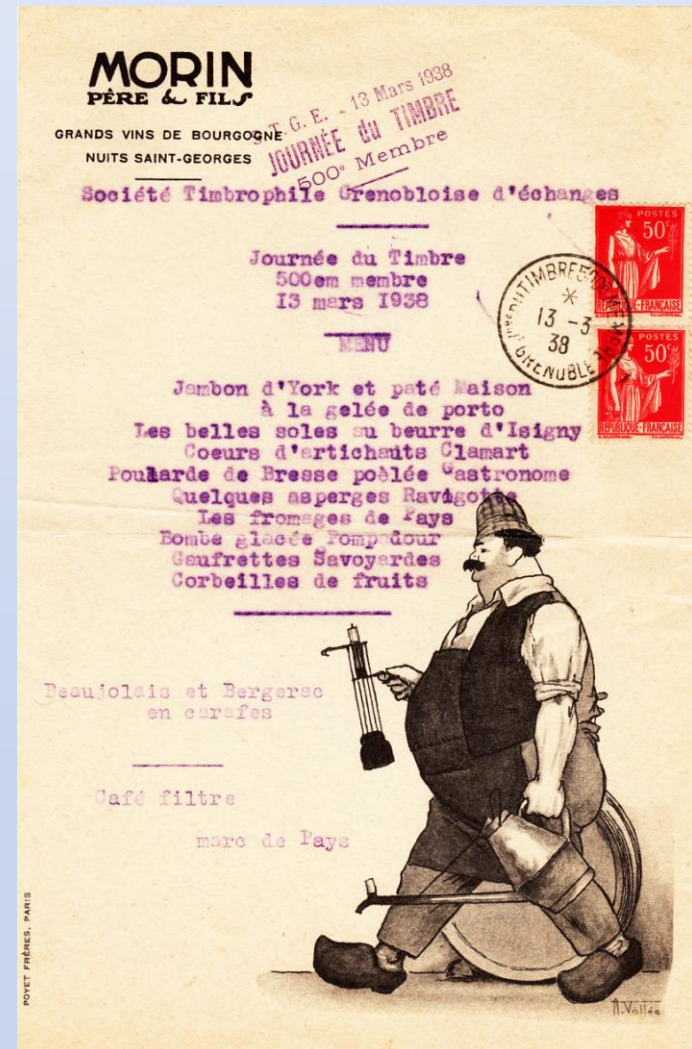


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



- The Grenoble Stamp Exchange Society held a lavish dinner in March, 1938 to celebrate both Stamp Day and the acquisition of their 500<sup>th</sup> member.
- The Post Office obliged with a cancel noting both events.



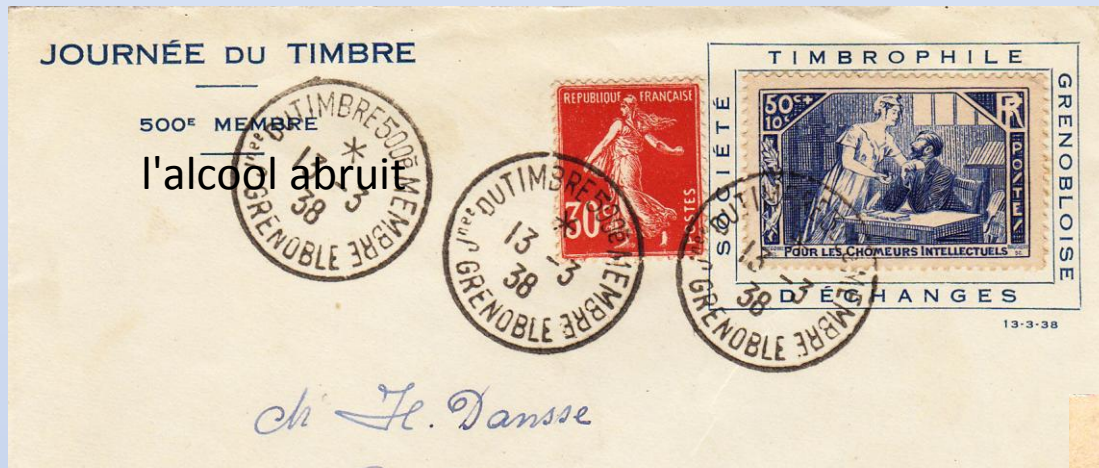


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



The Grenoble Stamp Exchange Society created covers and cards with a pseudo-*porte timbre* as an identifier.



Ch. H. Dansse  
10 Rue Albert de Munn  
Bordeaux

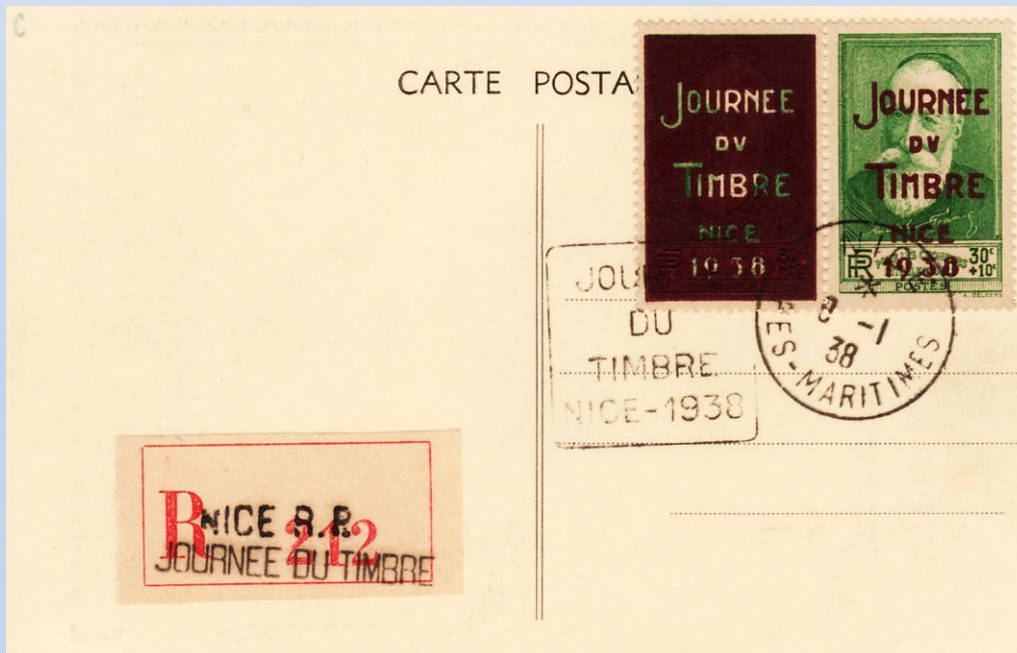




# Stamp Day Journée du Timbre



The Nice Philatelic Club celebrated in 1938 with 10 different cards and obliterated stamps.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



- French stamps circle the world on the FSPF card for 1939.
- The Winged Victory of Samothrace stamp is from 1937.
- The card is over-franked by 15c; proper postage is 70c plus 30c for general delivery.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



LA SALLE BREA

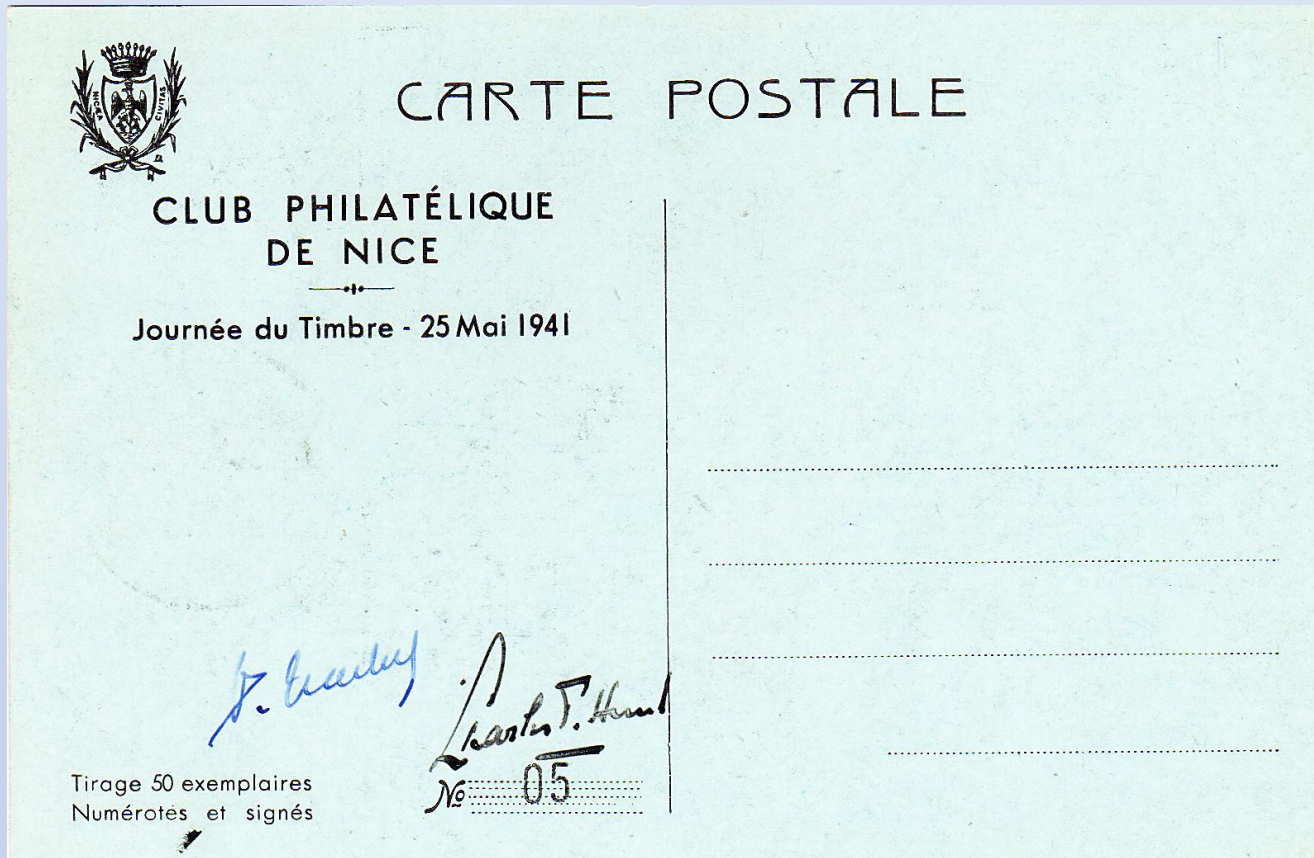
There were no official Stamp Days in 1940 and 1941, but Nice celebrated anyway in May, 1941 in *Palais Brea*.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre

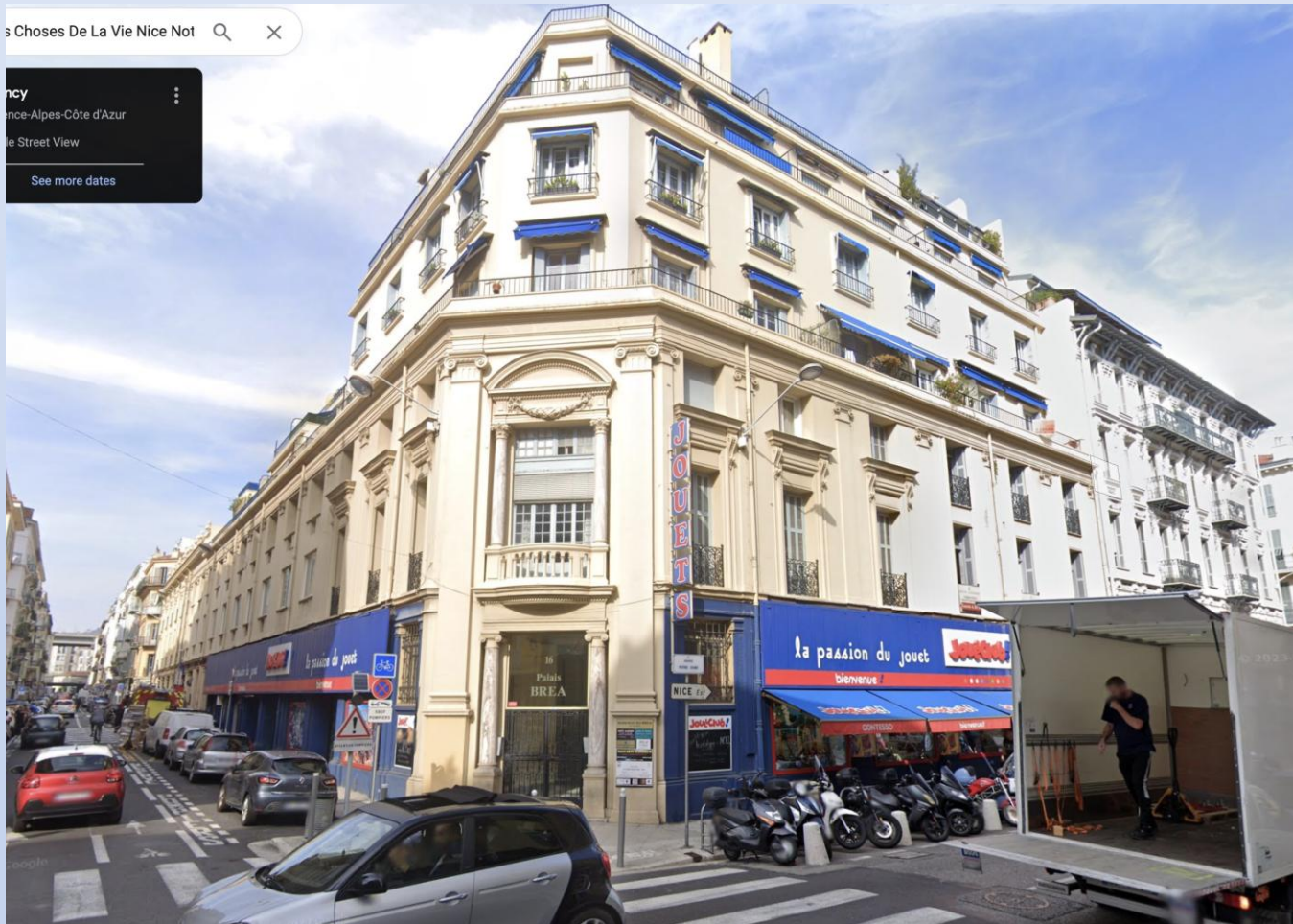


The card was numbered and signed on the back. Only 50 copies were made.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



*Palais Brea* today. Times have changed since 1941. (Google street view picture.)



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



The FSPF and the Vichy government together sponsored Stamp Day in 1942 with the theme “Stay Together,” as the government tried to improve morale.



This was the first pictorial cancel.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



The flying postmen make their debut on this “philatelic phantasy” from the city of Valenciennes may have been intended to bring a smile during those dark times.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre

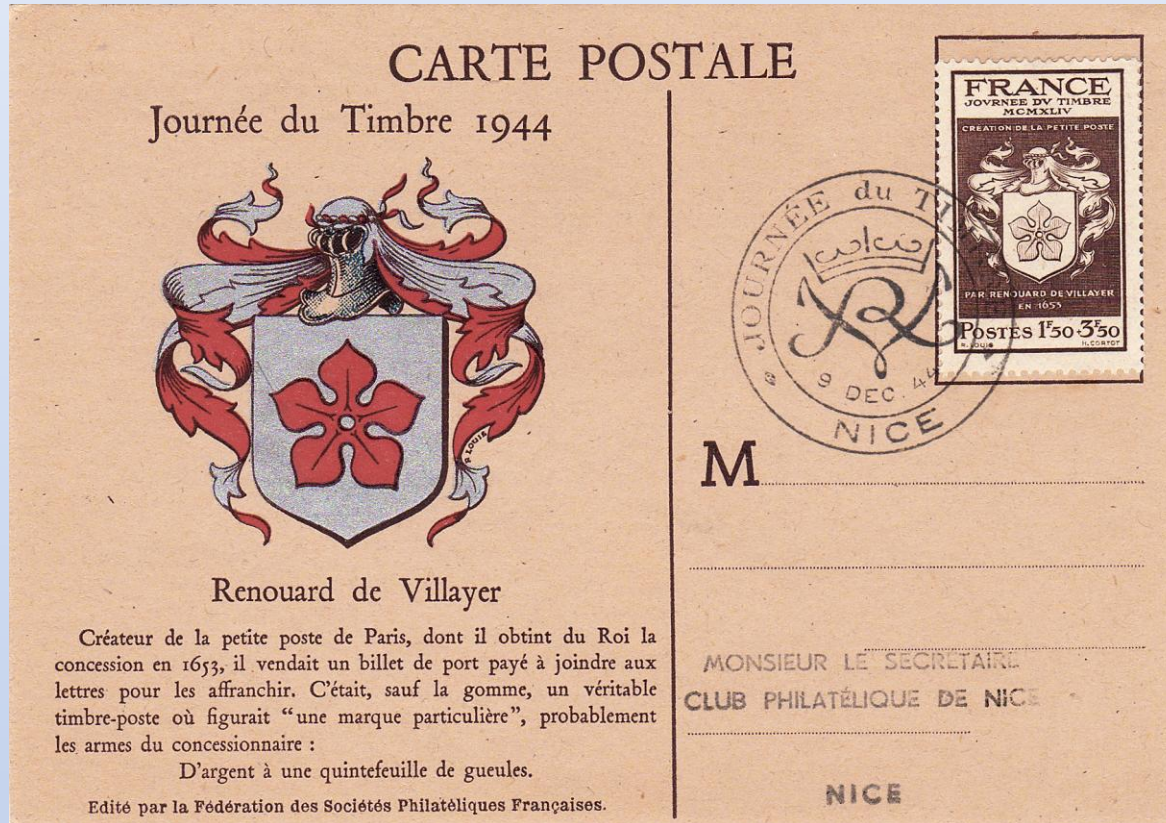


A shortage of paper to make postcards resulted in lettercards being used in 1943. Each of the 50 cities could have their own illustration in the top panel.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



After Liberation in 1944, the post office began the practice of issuing a special stamp for the Stamp Day celebration. This one features the coat of arms of Renouard de Villayer, who founded the innovative Paris City Post in 1653, though it failed quickly.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



Starting in 1945, stamps were issued for other areas in the French Community. These were a different color from the French stamps and had the name incorporated into the design. French West Africa (A O F) only got a stamp that year, but Algeria and Tunisia got stamps until they neared independence in the late 1950s.



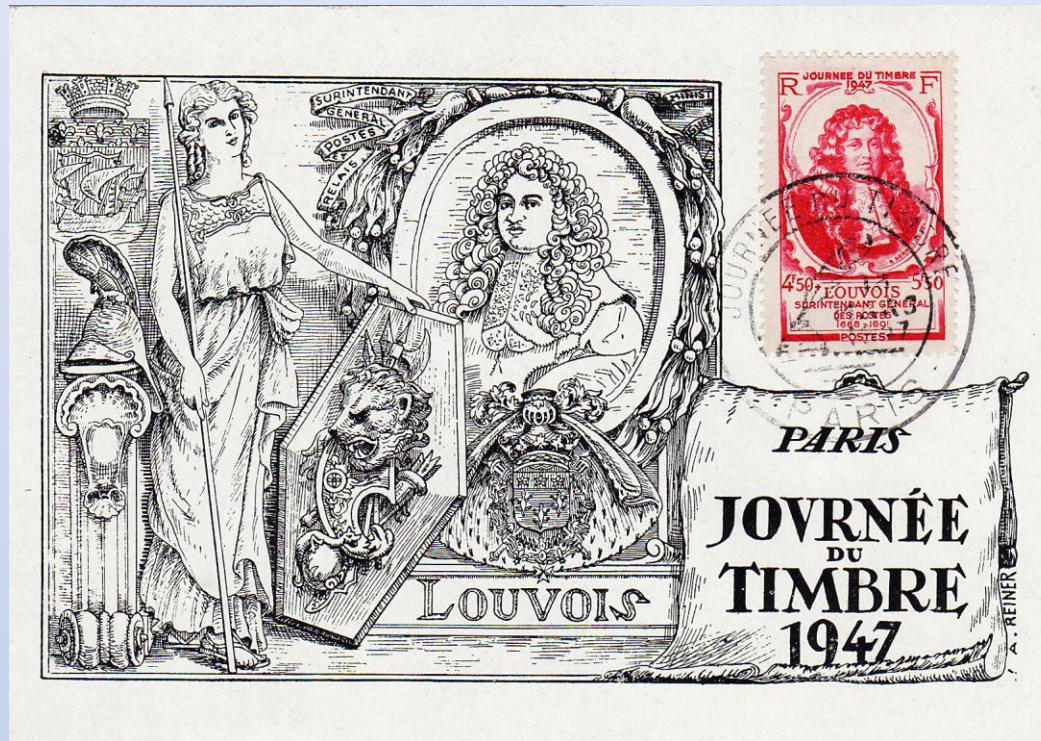


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



Theme: Famous People - 1947



François Michel Le Tellier, Marquis of Louvois, a minister of Louis XIV, bought the office of General Superintendent of the Posts in 1668 and soon centralized postal operations. Nine stamps feature famous people.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



Theme: Transporting the Mail - 1955



In 1955, the balloon mail of the Franco-Prussian War was remembered.

Fifteen stamps feature mail transportation.

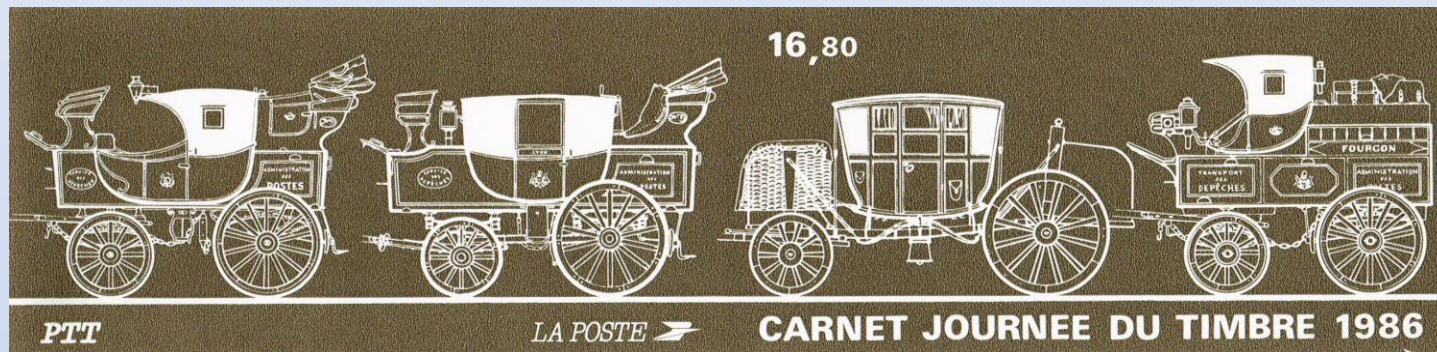


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



Theme: Transporting the Mail - 1986



In 1986, the stamp picturing the Briska mail coach was the first issued in booklet as well as sheet format. The sheet stamp was a different color.

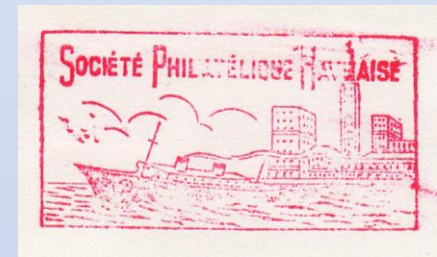


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



Theme: Delivering the Mail - 1969



This hand-painted cachet done by an artist in Le Havre was sent to the U.S. The stamp features an omnibus used to transport mailmen to their route (1830). Ten stamps on this theme.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Delivering the Mail - 1993

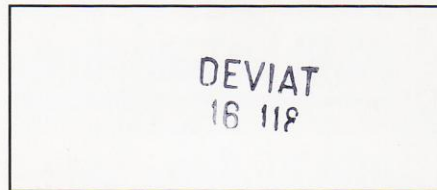


**LA POSTE :**  
**PREMIER RÉSEAU FINANCIER**  
**DE FRANCE**

- 17000 bureaux de Poste
- 6000 conseillers financiers professionnels.

**LA POSTE :**  
**PREMIER TRANSPORTEUR**  
**DE MESSAGERIE DE FRANCE**  
**de 0 à 30 kgs**

- 100.000 facteurs
- 1000 commerciaux en relation avec les entreprises.



**LA POSTE** 



The 1993 stamp pictured the inept rural postman from Jacques Tati's 1949 film *Jour de fête* (*The Big Day*). This is the outside of a calendar produced by La Poste.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



### Theme: Delivering the Mail - 1993

JANV 94		FÉVR 02		MARS 03		AVRIL 04		MAI 05		JUIN 06	
S 1	J. de l'AN	M 1	Ella	M 1	Aubin	V 1	Hugues	D 1	F. TRAV.	M 1	Justin ☺
D 2	Épiphanie	M 2	Présentation	M 2	Charles le B.	S 2	Sandrine	L 2	Boris ☺	L 2	Blandine
L 3	Geneviève	J 3	Blaise ☺	J 3	Guénolé	D 3	PÂQUES ☺	M 3	Phil., Jacq.	V 3	Kévin
M 4	Odilon	V 4	Véronique	V 4	Casimir ☺	L 4	Isidore	M 4	Sylvain	S 4	Cloïlde
M 5	Édouard ☺	S 5	Agathe	S 5	Olive	M 5	Irène	J 5	Judith	D 5	Fête Dieu
J 6	Mélaïne	D 6	Gaston	D 6	Colette	M 6	Marcellin	V 6	Prudence	L 6	Norbert
V 7	Raymond	L 7	Eugénie	L 7	Félicité	J 7	J.-B. de la S.	V 7	Gisèle	M 7	Gilbert
S 8	Lucien	M 8	Jacqueline	M 8	Jean de D.	V 8	Julie	D 8	VICT. 45	M 8	Médard
D 9	Alix	M 9	Apolline	M 9	Françoise	S 9	Gautier	L 9	Pacôme	J 9	Diane ●
L 10	Guillaume	J 10	Arnaud ●	J 10	Vivien	D 10	Fulbert	M 10	Solange ●	V 10	Landry
M 11	Paulin ●	V 11	N.D. Lourdes	V 11	Rosine	L 11	Stanislas ●	M 11	Estelle	S 11	Barnabé
M 12	Tatiana	S 12	Félix	S 12	Justine ●	M 12	Jules	J 12	ASCENSION	D 12	Guy
J 13	Yvette	D 13	Béatrice	D 13	Rodrigue	M 13	Ida	V 13	Rolande	L 13	Antoine de P.
V 14	Nina	L 14	Valentin	L 14	Mathilde	J 14	Maxime	S 14	Matthias	M 14	Élisée
S 15	Rémi	M 15	Mardi-Gras	M 15	Louise	V 15	Paternelle	D 15	Denise	M 15	Germaine
D 16	Marcel	M 16	Cendres	M 16	Bénédicte	S 16	Benoît-J.	L 16	Honoré	J 16	J.-F. Régis ☺
L 17	Roseline	J 17	Alexis	J 17	Patrice	D 17	Anicet	M 17	Pascal	V 17	Hervé
M 18	Prisca	V 18	Bernadette ☺	V 18	Cyrille	L 18	Parfait	M 18	Éric ☺	S 18	Léonce
M 19	Marius ☺	S 19	Gabin	S 19	Joseph	L 19	Emma ☺	J 19	Yves	D 19	Romuald
V 20	Sébastien	D 20	Carême	D 20	PRINT.	M 20	Odette	V 20	Bernardin	L 20	Silvère
J 21	Agnès	L 21	P. Damien	L 21	Clémence	M 21	Anselme	S 21	Constantin	M 21	ÉTÉ
S 22	Vincent	M 22	Isabelle	M 22	Léa	V 22	Alexandre	D 22	PENTECÔ.	J 22	Alban
D 23	Barnard	M 23	Lazare	M 23	Victorien	S 23	Georges	L 23	Didier	M 23	Audrey ☺
L 24	Fr. de Sales	J 24	Modeste	J 24	Cath. de Suè.	D 24	Jour du Souv.	M 24	Donatien	V 24	Jean-Bapt.
M 25	Conv. S.-Paul	V 25	Roméo	V 25	Annonciation	L 25	Marc ☺	M 25	Sophie ☺	S 25	Prosper
M 26	Paule	S 26	Nestor ☺	S 26	Larissa	M 26	Alida	V 26	Bérenger	D 26	Anthelme
J 27	Angèle ☺	D 27	Honorine	D 27	Rameaux ☺	M 27	Zita	J 27	Augustin	L 27	Fernand
V 28	Th. d'Acquin	L 28	Romain	L 28	Gontran	M 28	Valérie	V 28	Germain	M 28	Irénée
S 29	Gildas	M 29	Gwladys	M 29	Armédée	V 29	Catherine	D 29	F. Mères	J 29	Pierre, Paul
D 30	Martine	J 30	Benjamin	J 30		S 30	Robert	L 30	Ferdinand	M 30	Martial ☺
L 31	Marcelle							M 31	Visitation		

The calendar notes religious (Catholic) and secular holidays; other days have one of the Saints of the Day.

Starting this year, two identical stamps were issued, one regular and one semi-postal. They both appeared in a seven-tenant booklet, and the semi-postal was also issued in sheet format. Both were same color. This continued through 1998.

#### VACANCES SCOLAIRES

ZONES	HIVER	PRINTEMPS	ÉTÉ	TOUSSAINT	NOËL
A	26/02/94 au 13/03/94	24/04 au 08/05	08/07 au 05/09	23/10 au 01/11	22/12/94 au 04/01/95
B	19/02/94 au 06/03/94	17/04 au 01/05	06/07 au 05/09	23/10 au 01/11	22/12/94 au 04/01/95
C	12/02/94 au 27/02/94	10/04 au 24/04	06/07 au 05/09	23/10 au 01/11	22/12/94 au 04/01/95



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Processing the Mail - 1978



This the stamp shows a postman picking up the mail deposited in a Dufayel column with advertising above the mail receptacle.

The newspaper photo, from which the stamp image may have been copied, emphasizes

the use of the automobile. The newspaper is dated October, 1899.

Four stamps feature mail processing.



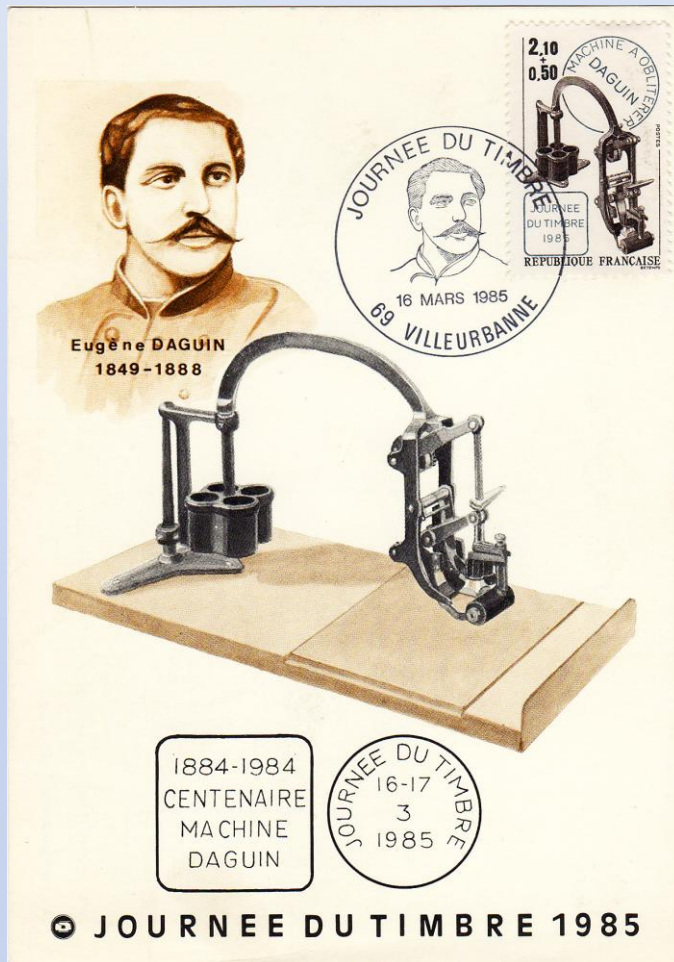


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Processing the Mail - 1978



The two-part Daguin canceler was used to produce cancels in various formats from 1884 to the 1970s. It could cancel 3,000 letters per hour, nearly 1 per second. Originally having a double-CDS, the boxed slogan cancel was introduced in 1923.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: The Letter in Art - 1983



The purpose of a stamp is to go on a letter. A series of Stamp Day stamps pictures art that contains a letter; all but one contains at least one person.

Rembrandt's ink drawing is titled "Man Dictating a Letter to his Scribe" and is held by the Louvre.

Five stamps feature art containing a letter.



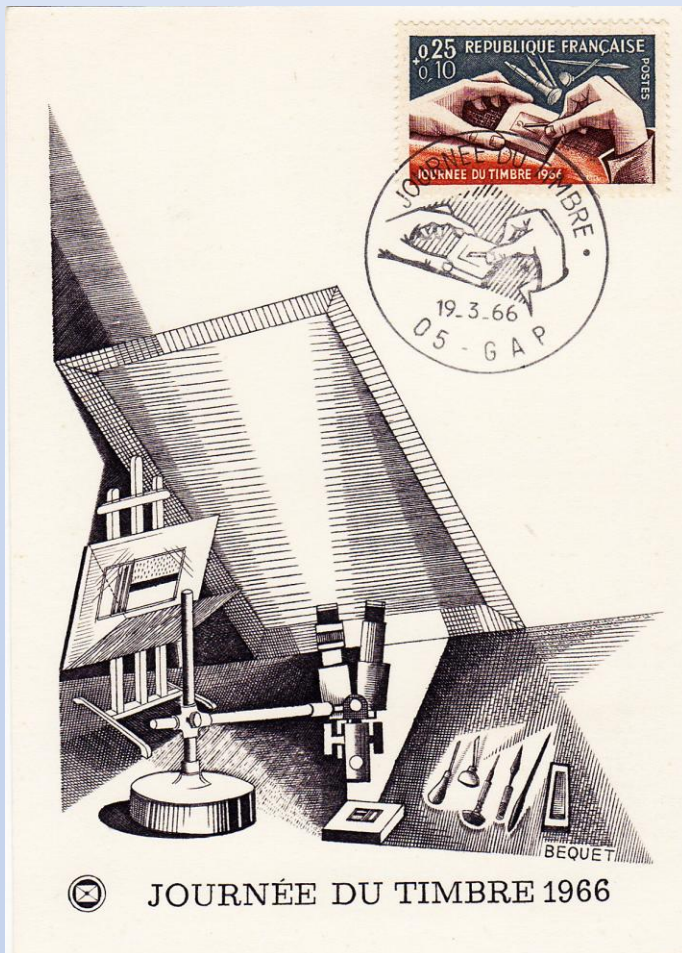


# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Stamp Creation - 1966



The process of recess engraving is shown on this stamp, showing the engraver cutting into a die with a burin. The stamp was designed and engraved by Pierre Béquet, and the card and almost certainly the cancel were done by him.

This is the only stamp on the subject of stamp creation.



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Stamp-on-Stamp - 1976



The Peace and Commerce series, known as Type Sage, was commemorated on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The denomination has been replaced by the two dates. The card shows the three designs submitted by Jules Sage. The one at the bottom was accepted and modified slightly.

There were five stamp-on-stamp designs, the remainder being issued in the 1990s.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Stamp-on-Stamp - 1994

Two classic Marianne stamps were the subject of stamp-on-stamp designs in this format: Marianne by Dulac and Marianne by Gandon. In both cases it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the stamp. The Dulac booklet cover is below.







# Stamp Day

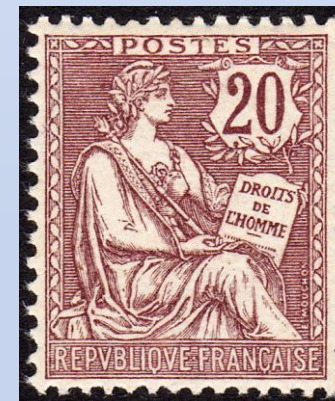
## Journée du Timbre



## Theme: Stamp-on-Stamp - 1997



The final three stamp-on-stamp designs were adapted from three issues at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The original stamp, designed and engraved by Louis Mouchon, is shown below. The margin of the block is signed by the designer, Charles Bridoux.





# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre



## The End of Postal Themes - 1999



In 1999, stamps for Stamp Day changed to popular current themes and introduced new formats. The next year, the series was renamed *Fête du Timbre* (Stamp Festival), and it continues to this day. The Stamp Festival stamps vary widely in number and format.

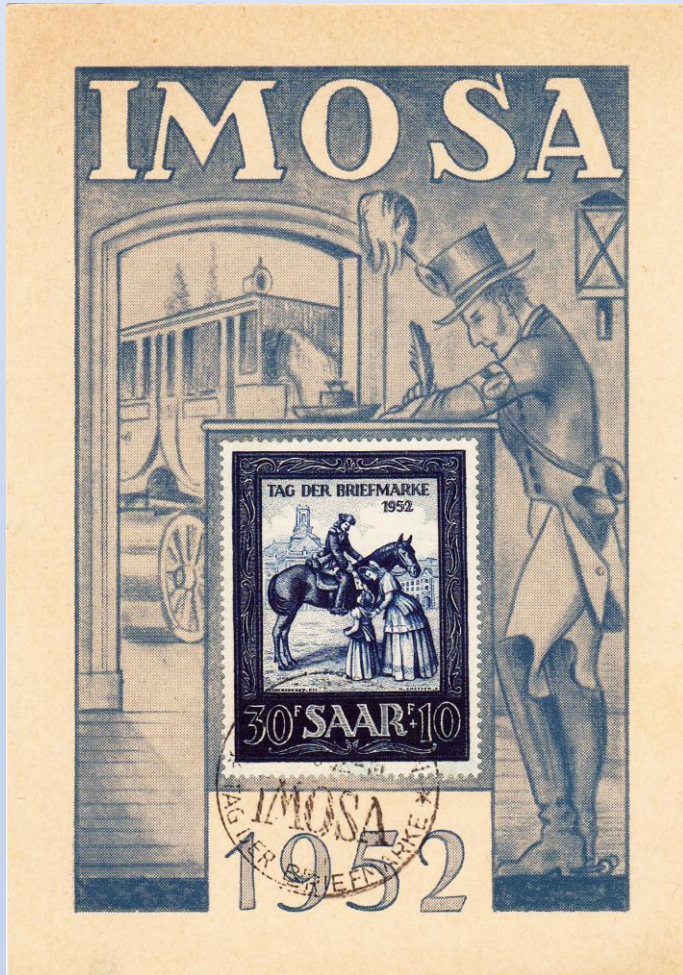
And one more...



# Stamp Day

## Journée du Timbre

### Saar - 1952



After World War II, the German area Saarland became a protectorate of France, generally known as Saar, with its own currency and stamps provided by France. Stamp Day stamps were issued from 1950 to 1956. After a plebiscite, Saar was returned to Germany on 1 January 1957.

Many of the stamps for Saar were oversized, including 6 of the 7 Stamp Day stamps.