

MAIL BETWEEN USA AND FRANCE IN WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Purpose and Scope

This postal history exhibit illustrates the impact of World War II on transmission of the mails from the United States to France and from France to the United States. It emphasizes interruptions, suspensions, and resumptions of service in both directions. Included are air and surface letter mail, printed matter, special services mail, and transit mail to and from France passing through the New York exchange office. Coverage starts from the beginning of the War in 1939 and ends with full resumption of service in August 1945.

Importance

France was one of three overrun countries in World War II in which postal relations with the United States occurred in the presence of occupying German forces. This exhibit, which spans the entire War, examines a complex postal history resulting from challenges posed by a nation first partitioned into an occupied zone and a neutral zone (Vichy), and later into a fully occupied country.

Organization

The exhibit is divided into five chapters based on the status of German forces in France. Covers within sections, appear in roughly chronological order.

Key items

Covers of special philatelic or historical note have been matted in red **and annotated in bold.**

Plan

1 Pre-Occupation 1939-1940

- 1.1 USA to France
- 1.2 France to USA
- 1.3 Monaco to USA

2 Occupied France

- 2.1 USA to France
- 2.2 Transit Mail to France
- 2.3 France to USA

3 Vichy France 1940-1942

- 3.1 USA to France
- 3.2 USA to Monaco
- 3.3 France to USA
- 3.4 Monaco to USA
- 3.5 Transit Mail via New York
- 3.6 Internment Camp Mail
- 3.7 German Censorship Madrid

4 Suspension of Mail 1942-1944

- 4.1 USA to France
- 4.2 USA to Monaco
- 4.3 Transit Mail to Switzerland via Marseille
- 4.4 France to USA

5 Resumption of Mail Service

- 5.1 USA to France
- 5.2 Transit mail to France via New York
- 5.3 Transit Mail to Switzerland via France
- 5.4 Radiograms
- 5.5 France to USA