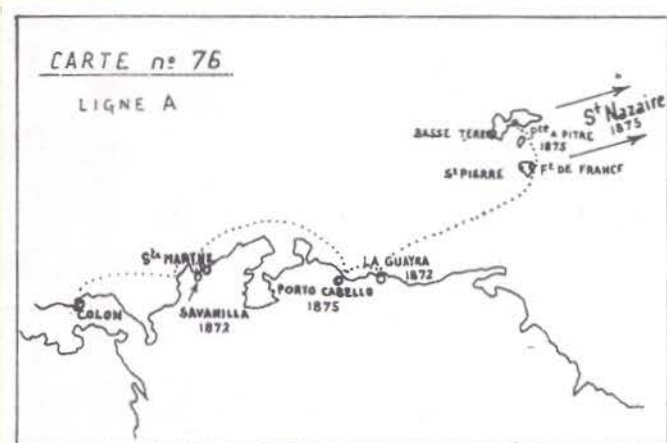


French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

La Compagnie Generale Transatlantique was formed in Paris in 1861 to run shipping lines between France and the Caribbean.

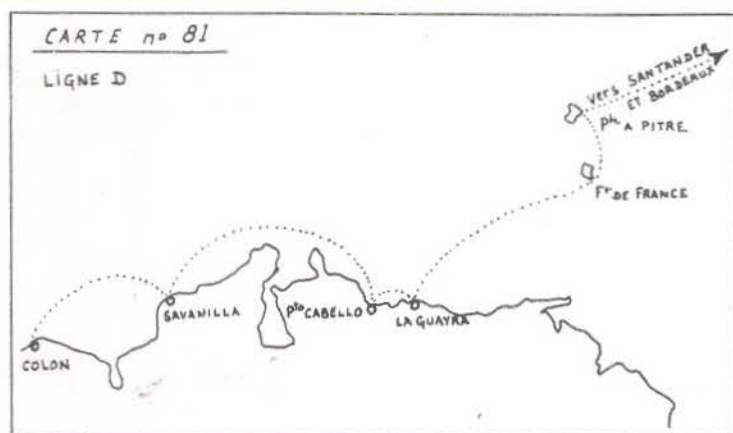
Ligne A.

Ligne A was established in 1865 to run between St. Nazaire and Colon and continued until Nov. 1932, a total of 67 years. Colon was chosen because it was at the end of the overland route from Panama and, of course, at the end of the Panama Canal when it opened in 1915. Porto Cabello and La Guayra in Venezuela were added to the route in 1872.



Ligne D.

Ligne D started in 1875 and operated between Bordeaux and Colon until April 1940. Port of Spain was added to the ports of call in August 1886.



Venezuela.

French Maritime Mail.

An entire from La Guayra in Venezuela to Bordeaux,
written, in french, on 5th March 1862, before La
Compagnie Generale Transatlantique had started its
regular Atlantic sailings.



This entire sailed on the 'Bolivar' and is rated 12 centimes in manuscript for collection on delivery. The double ring 'OUTRE-MER / PAUILLAC' mark was applied as a Ship Letter mark when landed in France on 8th April 1862 and it was then backstamped in Bordeaux on arrival the following day.

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Venezuela.

Ligne A. Colon - St. Nazaire.

An entire from La Guayra in Venezuela to Bordeaux. It was received at the French Postal Agency at La Guayra and rated with the charge mark of 12 decimes to pay by the recipient.

This was the rate from 1st July 1871 to 1881.



This cover would have sailed on the 'Nouveau-Monde' as marked, which left Colon on April 1st and arrived at St. Nazaire on the 29th April and collected the paquebot mark 'La Guayra' - Salles type 1374 - on the 6th April 1872.



French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Venezuela.

Ligne A. Colon - St. Nazaire.

A cover from Caracas to London with a Venezuelan 25 centimos stamp and postmarked 7th Sept. 1886.



This cover would have sailed on the 'France' which left Colon on Sept. 3rd and arrived at St. Nazaire on the 25th Sept. and collected the paquebot mark 'Venezuela - Paq.Fr. A No.2' - Salles type 1420 - on the 8th Sept.



FIG. 1420/2.

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Venezuela.

Ligne A. Colon - St. Nazaire.

A 10 Centimos postal stationery card from Venezuela to Leipzig in Germany, posted in Caracas in November 1893.



This card would have sailed on the 'France' which left Colon on 3rd November 1893 and arrived at St. Nazaire on 23rd November. The card received a nice transit mark in Paris on the 24th November and a receipt mark in Leipzig the following day. A paquebot mark of 'Ligne A No. 2' - Salles type 1406 - was applied on 7th November.



FIG. 1406/2.

Venezuela.

French Maritime Mail.

Ligne A.

A cover to Bordeaux with the 25 centimos 'Columbian Exposition' stamp.



Although the cover is marked 'Per vap frances France', it would have sailed on the 'Versailles' as this had temporarily replaced the 'France' from August 1895 to Sept. 1896. The paquebot mark - Hoskings type 1408 - was applied on 7th June.



FIG. 1408/2.
- retour -

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Martinique.

Ligne A. Colon - St. Nazaire.

A mourning cover from St. Pierre on Martinique to
Isere in France with a 5c. and a 50c. Martinique
French colonies type stamps.



This cover would have sailed on the 'France' which left
Colon on 3rd Nov. 1900 and arrived at St. Nazaire on
24th Nov. and backstamped in Grenoble a couple of
days later. A feint paquebot mark of 'Ligne A No. 2' -
Salles type 1408 - was applied on 10th. Nov.



FIG. 1408/2.
- retour -

Venezuela.

French Maritime Mail.

Ligne A.

A cover from Caracas to Kentish Town, London, with a
50 centimos 1900 overprint stamp.



Another cover that would have sailed on the 'Versailles' that left Colon on 3rd Dec. and arrived at St. Nazaire on 24th Dec. The receiving datestamp from Kentish Town shows that it arrived there on Boxing Day. A fine paquebot mark of 'Ligne A No. 1' - Hoskings type 1408 - was applied on 8th. Dec.



FIG. 1408/2.
- retour -

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Venezuela.

Ligne A. Colon - St. Nazaire.

A 10 centimos postal stationery card with an additional 5 centimos stamp, both with the 1900 overprint, used to Germany in January 1901.



This card would have sailed on the 'France' which left Colon on 4th Jan. 1901 and arrived at St. Nazaire on 23rd Jan. and Alenstein in Germany a couple of days later. A paquebot mark of 'Ligne A No. 2' - Salles type 1408 - was applied on 7th. Jan.



FIG. 1408/2.
- retour -

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Martinique.

Ligne D. Colon - Bordeaux.

A 10 cent French Colonies Postal Stationary Card, written in French, from St. Pierre in Martinique to Brussels in Belgium.



This card would have sailed on the Ville de Marseille which left Colon on 23 June 1885 and called at Martinique on July 5th where it collected the ships marking 'Ligne D - Paq. Fr. No 1.' - Salles type 1471/1.

It arrived in Brussels on July 21st 1885.



FIG. 1471/1.

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Trinidad.

Ligne D. Colon - Bordeaux.

A cover from Port of Spain to Paris posted on 30th
December 1901 rated 2 1/2d.



This cover was posted in Port of Spain on Dec. 30th
1901 and would have caught the 'Labrador', where it
was cancelled with the Salles type 1476 'Colon a
Bordeaux L.D. No.3' on Dec. 31st.
This ship arrived in Bordeaux on Jan. 19th. but the Paris
receipt mark on the reverse is unclear.



FIG. 1476 (retour).

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Guadeloupe.

Ligne D. Colon - Bordeaux.

A commercial cover from Pointe-a-Pitre in Guadeloupe to
Branne in France posted on 31st March 1888.



This letter would have been collected by the V.Marseille
on 3rd April 1888 when it collected the 'Ligne D
Paq.Fr.No.3' mark - Salles Type 1474.

It is backstamped in Bordeaux on 17th April when it
landed and was delivered to Branne the following day.



FIG. 1474/3.

Venezuela.

French Maritime Mail.

Ligne A.

A cover from Caracas to Bordeaux, postmarked on July 8th 1901 and with a 50 centimos stamp from the 1900 overprint set.



This cover would have sailed on the 'Versailles' which left Colon on the 4th July and arrived in St. Nazaire on 27th July. It picked up the paquebot mark - Hoskings type 1406 on 8th July.



FIG. 1406/2.

Venezuela.

French Maritime Mail.

Ligne D.

A 10 Centimos Venezuelan postal stationery card from Caracas to Berne in Switzerland, posted in September 1893.



This card would have sailed on the St. Laurent, which left Colon on the 22nd Sept. and arrived at Bordeaux on the 15th Oct. It was then forwarded to Berne where it arrived on the 17th Oct. The paquebot mark - Salles type 1474 - was added at La Guayra on the 26th Sept.



FIG. 1474/3.



French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Peru.

Ligne D. Colon - Bordeaux.

A postcard written in Callao, Peru, on 3rd Jan. 1902 with a Peru 10 Centivos stamp and cancelled by a Panama postmark of 17th Jan., addressed to Hamburg.



This card would have caught the St.-Laurent, which left Colon on the 24th January and where the 'Ligne D Paq.Fr.No1' - Salles Type 1473 was applied. The St.-Laurent arrived at Bordeaux on the 17th Feb. and the card arrived at Hamburg the following day.



FIG. 1473/1.

French Maritime Mail from the Caribbean.

Trinidad.

Ligne D. Colon - Bordeaux.

This Postal Stationary Card - H&G 3 - was posted in Port of Spain on 30th April 1902 for delivery to Hamburg in Germany.



This card would have caught the 'St Germain' on the 1st May, where it received the French paquebot mark - Salles type 1473/1 and arrived in Bordeaux on the 17th May and Hamburg 2 days later. This mark was in use from 1894 to 1904.



FIG. 1473/1.