Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world’s material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors’ organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz (dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl). You are welcome!

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ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden
Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg
Egypt postage stamp 1914: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg
African Postal Heritage: Morocco

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For the postal history of (Western) Sahara see APH Paper Nr 6.
Billig’s specialized catalogues, Vol. VI: Handbook of the Private Local Posts (editors Hurt and Williams, published in 1950 and published by Fr. Billig, Jamaica 3, New York:

“Before the formation, under French guidance, of the Administration Cherifienne des Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones, in September 1911, and the issue of adhesive stamps in May, 1912, the Sultan of Morocco had established a postal service. It came into being under a decree of November 22, 1892, for most of the country’s chief towns. Even previous of this there had been a Moorish post, inaugurated in 1885, between Tanger and Fez. From 1892, however, the use of handstruck franks was introduced and the post offices were opened up gradually until the full service was attained in January, 1893. This post, carried by runners, was mostly of an official
nature and usually registered, the rate being 8 mou (equal to 8 centimes) per ½ oz. The
following francs were in use, denoting prepayment” ... “These posts of the Sultanate were fused
with the French Administration des Postes et Télégraphes on October 1, 1913. They ran from
towns and places in the interior of Morocco to the extra-territorial offices of the European Powers.
The chief offices were at Tanger and Fez”.
In total there were 13 offices in 13 cities, and each one had two hand stamps, one octagonal and
one circular. These are the ‘Cachets Maghzen’. (Hadida, 2014, p. 56).
Hadida gives an example of what he calls a forerunner, issued in 1892 (1310 in Arab) in

Hadida, 2014, p.58

Morocco Maroc Sultan S.M.Moulay-Hafid 1912 PPC
http://www.ebay.ca/itm/French-Morocco-CHERIFEN-LOCAL-POST-FEZ-Blue-/371097102833?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item56671c69f1
http://www.stevedrewett.com/images/6543.jpg : “MOROCCO AGENCIES - 1890 (circa) local ‘Sultan Post’ cover from FEZ. 1890’s (circa) stampless local cover (slightly reduced at left) struck by violet octagonal ‘Sultan Post’ cancel of FEZ”.


Post stamps. May 25, 1912 Type 1 and Febr 1913 Type 2; printed by Lecocq, Methorel & Chr. Bernard, Paris. Des.: P. Leyat.


http://www.ebay.fr/itm/Maroc-Postes-Cherifennes-1912-Yvert-1-2-3-4-5-6-Cote-95-euros-/111659616004?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_71&hash=item19ff6e8704
1C. – 10C. and 50C.:  

https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcR3UNUt71X0zsCiLzXmVY59SHsR9-AKvJNRQOCpNdGlgCCSM8e2jTw
November 1913: 05 and 010 on 50m:

05: 50 C.: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/740/888_001.jpg  
010: 50C: http://stampauctionnetwork.com/ll/fl13525.cfm
Mixed franking with French postal services, 16/12/1912 from Meknes to Oran. Hadida 2014, p. 62

Hadida, 2014, p. 62

Idem from Fez to Reims, 13/07/1912 Hadida 2014, p. 63

Hadida, 2014, p. 63
Mixed franking with French postal services, 21/6/1913 from Arbaoua via Tanger to Grenoble.


http://stampauctionnetwork.com/l/f13525.cfm, nr 490; Military Troops in Morocco, 1913, from Sefrou via Tanger to France (Lyon)

“Yvert #12, 13, 1913 10c Vermilion, 25c Blue Tetouan & El Ksar el Kebir locals, the former with missing corner perfs., tied to 1913 registered cover sent from Sefrou to Lyon by light Sefrou c.d.s. postmark, on the reverse are French Morocco five 5c on 5c (#28) and one 10c on 10c (#29) tied by Tanger c.d.s. postmarks, with Tanger registry label, Lyon receiver, light vertical file fold not affecting stamps, fine;ascarcecommercialusage;signedCalves”
6 MOROCCO’S PRIVATE AND CONSULAR MAIL COMPANIES, 1892-1901

Before the early 20th Century Morocco was not yet part of the UPU. Besides the Cherifien Post and the four Postal services of Great Britain, France, Spain and Germany there were private mail companies, serving local postal needs. The first initiative was taken by Mr Isaac Brudo in Mazagan (1891/1900), followed by Marx (1893/1911) and Abudarham (1894/1901) in other centres, and also by others, whose lifespan was much shorter. In total there have been 20 private couriers from town to town. As Morocco was not yet part of the UPU, mail to overseas destinations or to a city in Morocco not served by a private courier line had to be remitted to one of the four foreign Post Offices, who completed the franking with their own stamps. In combination with post stamps by one of the private couriers these are mixed frankings. (Information given by Maurice Hadida, 2014, p. 47/48). He provides a map on p. 49.

Hadida, 2014, p. 49
Tanger (Tangier)-Larache (Larache)

Billig: “This British service was brought into being, on account of the very poor sea communications between the two ports, some time in 1897. It ran via Arzila”.


Tanger-El Ksar,
Billig: “This sea post was opened to avoid the previous detour overland via Laraiche, and was suppressed when the European Powers established postal services in Morocco.”
German Wikipedia: “1898 von unbekannter spanischer Firma gegründet”
(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)
Tanger-Arcila (Arzila).

Billig: “Spanish post, opened December 1, 1895, and closed in 1898” German
Wikipedia: “1895 von Aaron Cohen gegründet”
(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

5C: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=D&cat=23710 (2x)
50C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5710.jpg
50C: http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/163/339/241_001.jpg
5 Pes: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=D&cat=23710

10C: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/163/339/354_001.jpg
20C: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/163/339/347_001.jpg
**Tanger-Tetuan**

Billig: “Post of Salvador Hassan. Hassan was a Portuguese banker, whose head office was in Tetuan, with branches in Tangier and El Ksar. The post had a very short life”. 1897.


20C.: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=
**Tanger-Casablanca**

Billig: not mentioned

5C.: http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol2/html/moroc.htm 1907 Bogus Issue Inscription 'poste maroc'. The values 5 c green and black, 10 c red and black, 20 c blue and black, 30 c brown and black and 50 c violet and black exists, 5 more values were surcharged

10C.: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/904/486_001.jpg


30C.: http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/904/521_001.jpg

50C.: http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/904/542_001.jpg

**Tetouan-Chechouan**

Billig: “French service. This post was operated by M.J.M. Benchimon, and the stamps were first issued on March 1, 1896

German Wikipedia: “1896 von Josué Benchimol gegründet, im darauf folgenden Jahr von einer spanischen Firma übernommen”

Tetuan-Sheshuan

Billig: “Spanish Service. This service ran only a few weeks”, 1897.
25C.: illustration not yet found
50C.: http://stampauctionnetwork.com/t/f13525.cfm,
75C.: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5732.jpg block of four:
1 Peseta: illustration not yet found
2 Pesetas: illustration not yet found
Tetouan-El Ksar,

Billig: “Post of Si Allal Abdi, Manager of the French P.O. at Tetuan. This service was originated by Salvador Hassan, a Portuguese banker and ceased in the summer of 1898”. 1897 German Wikipedia: “1897 vom franz. Unternehmer Si Allal Abdi gegründet” (http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=


El Ksar (Alcazar) – Ouazzan (Wazan)

French Service [El Ksar – Ouazzan]

Billig: “French Service. This post was organized by M. Galantuomini, an agent of Borgeaud, Rentemann & Co. and was administered by M. Sirfatty, of El Ksar. The post operated twice weekly, and the service ceased because [in] Ouezzan, being a holy city, the “believers” were forbidden to make use of the post. The services lasted only one month”. November 1896.

(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)
Spanish Service [Alcazar-Wazan]

Billig: “Spanish service. Judged by the dates on used copies known this post is believed to have operated for only 6 weeks”. 5C green, 10C orange, 20C rose, 25C yellow, 50C red, 75C grey-blue, 1 Peseta, violet, 2 Pesetas blue-green.

5C: illustration not yet found
10C: illustration not yet found
25C: illustration not yet found
50C: illustration not yet found
2 Pesetas: illustration not yet found

Tanger-Fez (via Laraiche, El Ksar and Meknes)

Billig: “Post of Gautsch & Cie. This service, the second private post inaugurated in Morocco, was begun on July 1, 1892, and was operated by native runners, who left Tangier on Mondays and Fridays, arriving at Fez, 240 kilometers distant, via Laraiche, El Ksar and Meknes, on Thursdays and Mondays. The service was run in cooperation with the French official posts. On January 1, 1893, the service was taken over entirely by the French Government, but the stamps remained in use until April 1, at which time the French stamps were available. The vignette on the stamps is a view of Cape Spartal, near Tangier”. “Postmark…: Tangier, Fez, Alcazar, Mequinez, Laraiche (the three latter scarce”.

German Wikipedia: “1892 gegründet vom franz. Unternehmen Charles Gautsch et Cie., die Firma wurde Ende 1892 an die franz. Staatspost verkauft, welche den Dienst weiterführte und die Marken von Gautsch bis 1. April 1893 aufbrauchte”

(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)
5, 10, 15, 25, 50C and 1 Fr: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/029/534/170_001.jpg?v=4

5C.: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=D&cat=23710
25C.: http://thumbs3.ebaystatic.com/m/mPHOZJ4eBDGhUXOF_TD7Z0w/140.jpg
50C.: http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt/africa/morocco/private/tanger-fez.jpg
5 Francs (and others): http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/273/286/655_001.jpg
Fez-Mequinez

Billig: “French service twice weekly, working with the British P.O., where stamps were also sold. Existed from January 1897 to May 27, 1901. Proprietor M. Bensimon, master of the Jewish school in Fez. Post closed when the German P.O. opened in Mequinez”. 
German Wikipedia: “Postdienst von Messaoud Bensimon, ab 1897, es wurden sowohl Frei- als auch Portomarken ausgegeben”
(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

1897

5C, green and 50C:
http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=
(2x)
5C: olive: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=D&cat=23710
10 C. and 15C:
http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=
(2x)
25C: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/738/913_001.jpg
1F.: http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt/africa/morocco/private/fez-mequinez.jpg

112
Maurice Hadida shows a cover sent from Mequinez via Fez to Florida USA (July 1898) with mixed franking, including British Morocco stamps. Hadida, 2014, p. 55.

Postage due 1898:
Fez-Sefro

German Wikipedia: “1894 gegründet, Betreiber unbekannt”
(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/171/129/455_001.jpg
http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5657.jpg

5C.: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/167/999/455_001.jpg
10C.: http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/167/994/062_001.jpg
1 Pes.: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/167/995/972_001.jpg
South Morocco

Mazagan-Marakech-I,

Billig: “Post of Isaac Brudo. The route of this post was through Sidi Smain, Sidi ben Nour, Et Thine and Cheida”. 1891 (Jan.) 25c. red on greyish or cream paper and on white paper.


(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

Billig: “1892 (Sept.). Provisional Issue

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/168/286/914_001.jpg

http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/168/288/538_001.jpg
http://l.colnect.net/images/f/1891/761/Mazagan-to-Marakech.jpg
Maurice Hadida shows a registered cover sent from Mazagan to Marrakech 19-08-1892, franked with the first two issues. Hadida, 2014, p. 50.

Hadida, 2014, p. 50.


http://www.delcampe.net/items/?language=D&cat=23710 (2x)
http://www.delcampe.net/items/?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=
Maurice Hadida shows a cover from Marrakech via Mazagan to Algiers, 21-02-1894/25-02-1894, with mixed franking, the rising sun issue of Mazagan-Marrakech together with a post stamp of the French postal services. Hadida, 2014, p. 51.


Chiffre Taxe: Billig: Postage Due 1897 (Jan.).

5c: http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt/africa/morocco/private/mazagan-marrakech.jpg
10c: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=D&cat=23710
20c: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/256/706/067_001.jpg
30c: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/166/895/354_001.jpg
40c: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/166/895/413_001.jpg
50c: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/166/895/413_001.jpg
1 Pes.: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/161/860/128_001.jpg
Maurice Hadida shows a mixed franking with a Chiffre Taxe post stamp of Marrakech-Mazagan to Lyon, sent on 22/01/1900. Hadida, 2014, p. 53.
Billig: “1898 Typo. By Gelard & Fils. Lyons. “...”On July 16, Brudo disposed of his post to the French postal authorities in Morocco. They continued to use his stamps… until July 15, 1902”. 

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/256/930/425_001.jpg?v=1
Maurice Hadida shows a cover from Marrakech via Mazagan to Livorno, Italy, with mixed franking, Marrakech-Mazagan and a post stamp of the French postal services, with post mark 5/02/1900. Hadida, 2014, p. 52.
Mazagan-Marakech-II

Billig: Anglo-Italian Consular Post. “This post was started by the Italian Consul, Signor Morteo, in conjunction with Mr. Spinney agent for the British post office, in competition with Brudo [Mazagan-Marakech I]. The post began operations April 25, 1897 and closed down on March 20, 1900. The stamps were on sale at the British post offices in Mazagan and Marrakech, and the Italian P.O. at Mazagan.”
Billig: 1897 Provisional Issue

5C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5672.jpg
10C: http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/738/455_001.jpg (Marakech)
10C: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/842/101_001.jpg (Mazagan)
10C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5678.jpg
25C: (x4) and 50C:
http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=(2x)
75C: http://www.cavendish-auctions.com/oldsite/site2_images/lot_images/727/727_0071.jpg
1Fr: http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt/africa/morocco/private/mazagan-marakech.jpg

20 cent.: 50C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5681.jpg
20 cent.: 50C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5680.jpg

http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=G&catLists%5B0%5D=23710&searchString=&page=all&useAsDefault=
Mixed franking from Marrakech via Mazagan to Tangier, using both stamps of the Italian Consulate’s local service (Carlo Morteo and Spinney) and stamps of Gibraltar. August 1897. Hadida, 2014, p.54.
Mixed franking Marrakech/Mazagan (Italian Consular Postal Services) to Triest, also using Gibraltar/Morocco Agencies post stamp of the British mail service.

http://www.chrisrainey.com/index.php?s=240&clr=1

Mixed franking with a post stamp from the French postal services, from Mazagan via Tanger to Strasbourg, April 1899.
Mazagan-Azemour-Marakech

Billig: “Post of M. Messod Bensimhon”… July 1897. “The service was suspended in 1899. Remainders were sold to dealers and are found bearing postmarks dated after the post ceased operating – usually in violet”.


“Le premier timbre marocain MAZAGAN-MAROC 1891.
le service des postes était fait par des entreprises particulières, qui fonctionnèrent entre 1891 et 1909 et dont la
pluspart employèrent des timbres spéciaux, ces timbres ne pouvaient affirmer que la correspondance d'une ville à
l'autre et portent généralement le nom de ces villes comme indiqués sur mes timbres imprimés localement.
Après le succès de la poste locale de Mazagan-(Maroc)Marrakech, fondée par Isaac Brudo, qui incita le sultan Hassan
1er à vouloir la lui acheter en 1892 et parce que Brudo refusa ce sacrifice prématuré, que le sultan réagit en fondant
enfin une poste chérifiennne.
La 1e et la 2e ligne : MAZAGAN-MARKECH. Les timbres d' ISAAC BRUDO 1899.
La 3e Ligne : MAZAGAN-AZEMOUR-MARKECH 1897.
MAZAGAN- MARRAKECH 1893.
MAZAGAN-MARRAKECH (5 & 10 centimos) 1893 MAZAGAN- (MAROC) MARRAKECH 1891 est :
(Le 1er timbre marocain Postes locales).”
: “SEGORBE 1894 MELILHA EJERCITO LOCAL STAMP, ARMY
EXPEDITION, MOROCCO, MARRUECOS”
(blue): http://thumbs3.ebaystatic.com/d/i225/m/mJcjWdThzh2kJBuIRE0coTUg.jpg; "LUCHANA 1894 MELILLA
EJERCITO LOCAL STAMP, ARMY EXPEDITION, MOROCCO, MARRUECOS”.
(blue) http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/0000/167/707/420_001.jpg
(red) http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/0000/167/654/396_001.jpg

Mogador-Marrakech-I
Billig: 1892 (Aug). Post of Maimaran. This post, organized by Maimaran, a French merchant, ran via Ain Taftecht and N’zain Chichaoua and was of short duration, being suppressed by the
Sultan in Nov. 1902.

http://zenius.kalnieciai.lt/africa/morocco/private/mogador-maroc.jpg

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Mogador-Marrakech-II

Billig: “Post of W. Marx & Co. This German post was run in conjunction with the firm of Nissian Coriat, of Marrakech. The service began on January 1, 1893, letters first being unstamped but they were impressed with the cachet of Marx & Co. The post was closed in 1909”.


1895
Billig: Litho by Klingenberg, Detmold, Germany

5C, and 10C, and 15C.: http://www.delcampe.net/items?language=D&cat=23710 (3x)
15C: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/0170/738/628_001.jpg?v=1
50C:
1 Peseta: http://stampauctionnetwork.com/f/f13525.cfm
1896 Provisional Issue
10: 15C black and violet surcharge
10: 50C Black surcharge
10: 1Pes. Black surcharge

1899 Billig: Litho by Klingenberg, Detmold, Germany


1900 Provisional Issue

http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5704.jpg
5 : 10C. http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/738/588_001.jpg?v=1
5: 10C. http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko#media/Mogador_10c.jpg
5 :10C: http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/170/738/577_001.jpg?v=1

http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v43/photos/4522.jpg
Saffi (Safi)-Marakech
Französische Unternehmen von Isaac Brudo und Joseph André, ab 1898
(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v33/photos/5949.jpg
**Marrakech-Demnat**

Billig: “Post of C. Firbach. This post was opened in October 1906. It quickly became important, but the Caïd of Demnat created difficulties, and caused the service to close in 1907. Most of the stamps remained were destroyed in a fire at Marrakech...There were two printings” (red on greyish paper and vermilion on white paper).

German Wikipedia: “Postdienst von Charles Firbach, ab 1906”
(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgeschichte_und_Briefmarken_von_Marokko)

http://www.delcampe.net/page/item/id,191354058,var,MAROC--Postes-locales--DEMNAT-a-MARRAKECH-lie-de-vin--neuf-TB.language,E.html
http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~wyatt/stamp-list.html
http://www.ebay.ca/sch/sf.html?_nkw=French%20Morocco%20Local%20Post%20Demnat%20to%20Marrakech%201906%20Block&itemid=221498843913

http://stamppautionnetwork.com/so/so43478.cfm
Mogador-Agadir

Billig: “This post was organized by M. Ed. Maley David.” 1900.

5C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5687.jpg
10C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5688.jpg
20C: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5689.jpg
1 Peseta: http://www.maison-timbre.fr/vo/documents/vente_sur_offre/v36/photos/5691.jpg

For background information about the local and private mail services in Morocco
HTTP://WWW.TIMBRES-DU-MAROC.INFO/BLOG/574/LAVERNEMENT-DES-ET-PRIVEES-DU-MAROC: HISTOIRE POSTALE, POSTES LOCALES, POSTES LOCALES ET PRIVÉES DU
(In French). These are two illustrations in this publication about the postmen, called ‘rekkas

Courrier Rekkas sur Carte Postale