

The first formular cards

Background

The first postal cards, with a value stamp, were issued by Austria/Hungary, in late 1869. 31 countries followed until GPU in Bern 1874. Before that, Prussia had, in 1865, permitted the use of printed cards where a stamp could be affixed. During the next five years, 1870-1874, 12 countries and post districts issued formular cards without a printed value stamp but with space for, or sold with, an added stamp.

Of some 165 main types 24 are from the Old German States, 54 from the German Empire, 33 from Spain, 11 from Luxemburg, 16 from Chile and 20 from France. USA, The Netherlands and Russia issued only a few formular cards.

The reasons for issuing formular cards, and not postal cards with a value stamp, were different. Some countries/post districts had more than one currency and preferred to use already available stamps to be affixed. Some countries did not have the technique to print cards with a value stamp and others had several different local postages and postages to foreign countries; using stamps was easier.

The space for the stamp (if any), the address, "postal card" in the relevant language and the coat-of-arms (if any) are all on the same side of the formular card.

Most of the formular cards from the Old German States, the early cards from the German Empire and Luxemburg had all very similar card size, size of the space for the stamp, colour and overall appearance. The formular cards from other countries show a large variety in size, text, overall appearance and paper.

Number of formular cards issued 1870-1874 from different countries and post districts, according to literature.

1865	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874
Prussia	NDP* F9+6+5	NDP* F5	Russia F2	Heligoland F2	Heligoland F2
	Baden F2	German Empire F2	German Empire F37	German Empire F14	German Empire F1
	Bavaria F2	Netherlands F1	Bavaria F1	Bavaria F1	Netherlands F1
	Württemberg F1	Spain F1	Spain F1	Spain F31	
	Luxemburg F2	Chile F3	Chile F13	Luxemburg F5	Luxemburg F4
	France F8			France F10	France F2

*NDP: Norddeutsches Postgebiet; North German Postal District

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The Exhibit

The formular cards are presented by country or post district, in chronological order. Similarities and differences are pointed out and commented upon. When item number is given the numbering by Ascher (A), Higgins & Gage (H&G) or Frech (F) is mainly used. Examples of usage is shown of local, domestic and foreign mail; as early use as possible.

The exhibit ends before September 1874 when the first GPU-meeting was held in Bern; from that on the formular cards have almost disappeared completely.

Rarity

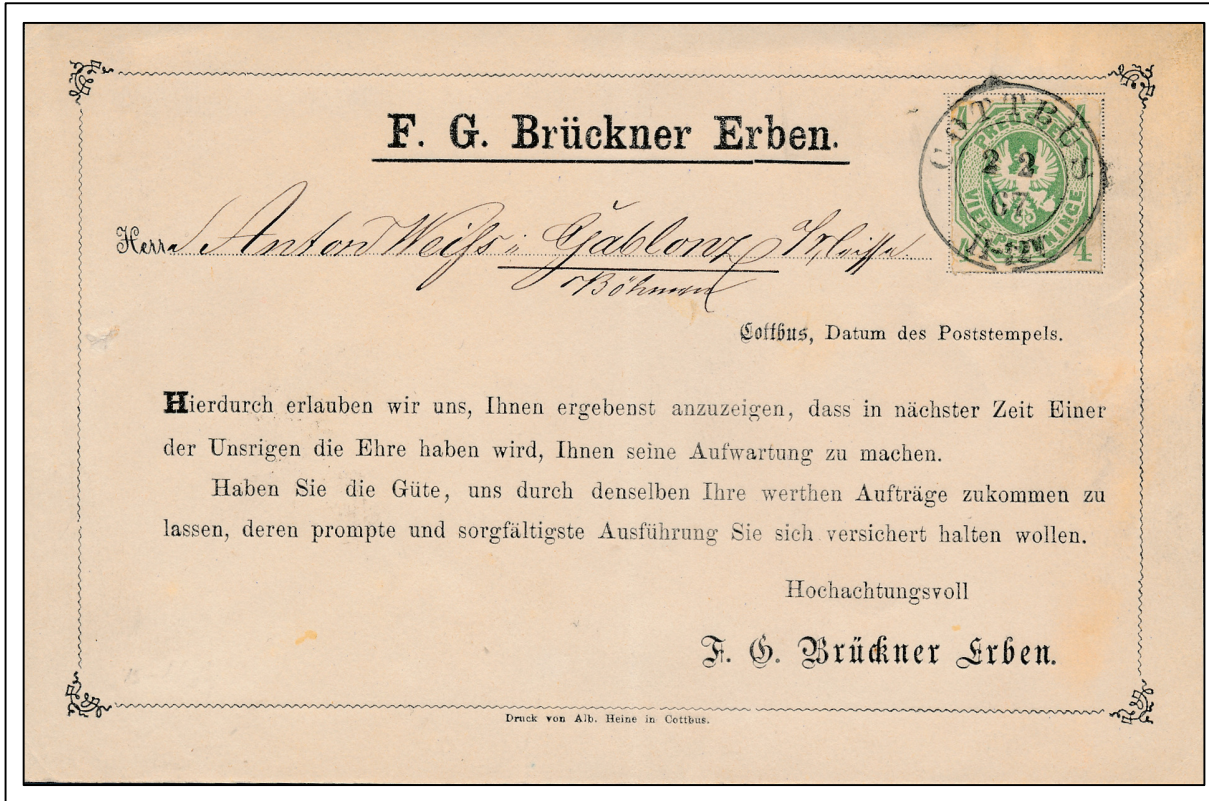
Examples of rare cards are the first-day card from NDP, the NDP card used outside the NDP, the used cards from occupied France 1870/71, some of the French "balloon cards" from the siege of Paris in 1870, the very early cards from the German Empire, the first Dutch card sent to England, the former unknown card from Chile with a watermark, the early used French cards from 1873, some of the very first cards from Spain and the used cards from Heligoland.

Main references (other references are used for each individual country, shown at the bottom of the pages):

- (A) Ascher (1925/28) *Großer Ganzsachen-Katalog 1925 & 1928. Band I&II*. Borna–Leipzig Verlag von Robert Noske. 1360 pp.
- (F) Frech, H. (2015) *Die Correspondenzkarten und Postkartenformulare der Ehemaligen Postvereinsländer und des Deutschen Kaiserreiches*. Private publisher, Hausach. 672 pp.
- (H&G) Higgins & Gage (1966) *World Postal Stationery Catalog*. 372 chapters.

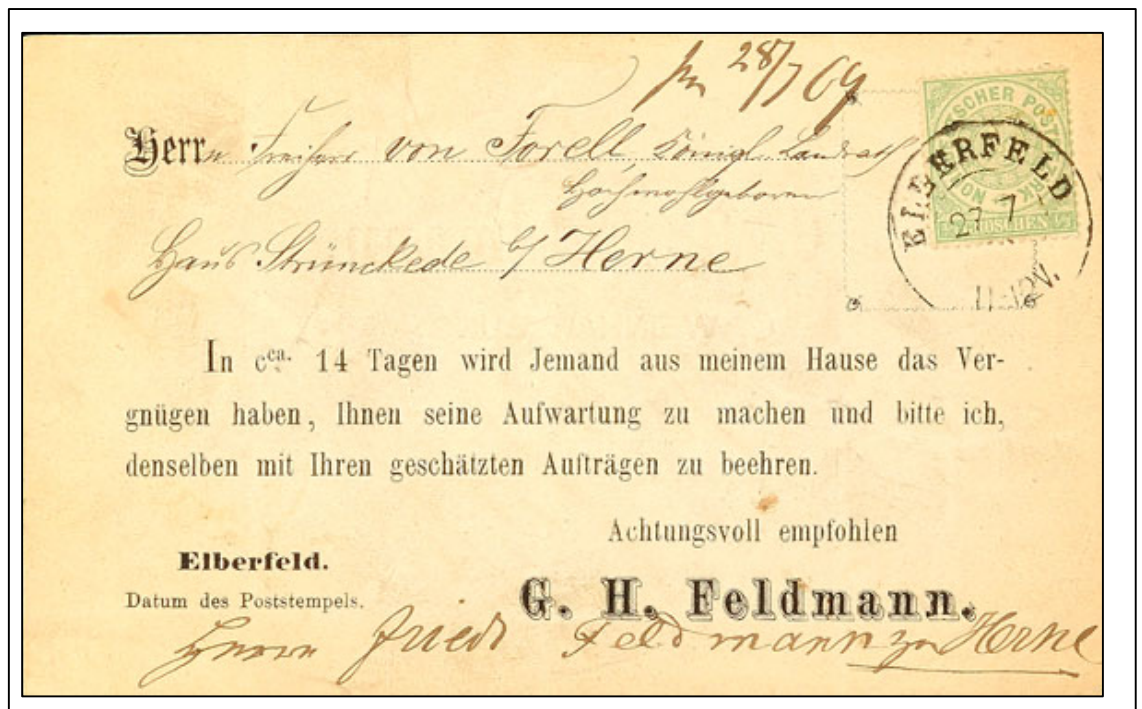
Prussia 1865-1870 - "Open cards" ("Vertreter-karten")

Prussia gave¹ already in May 1865 a possibility to send messages on "open cards", with the address, the message and a stamp at the same page. This possibility remained in NDP until 1870 when the formular cards were issued. The "open cards" were mainly used by companies announcing that one of their representatives, "Vertreter" in German, would soon pay a visit.



An "open card" sent on February 2, 1867 with a local, Prussian postage of 4 Pfennige, between Brandenburg and Northern Bohemia.

An "open card" sent on July 27, 1869 with a local NDP postage of 1/3 Groschen within North Rhine-Westphalia.



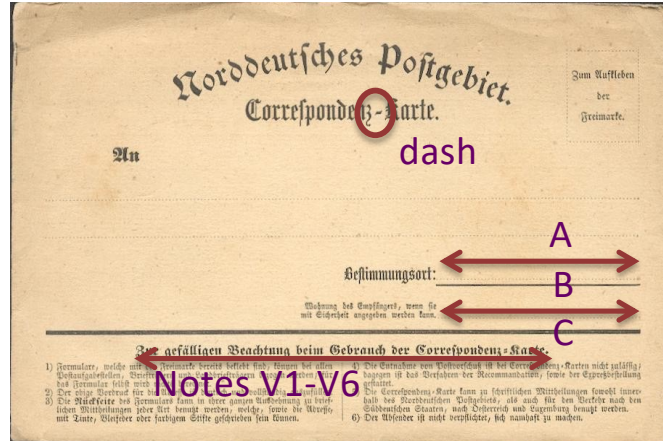
¹Reference: *Ausführung der Bekanntmachung wegen Zulassung offener Karten mit gebruckten Anzeigen*, Amts-Blatt No. 26 des Königlichen Post-Departements, May 30, 1865

North German Post District (Nord-Deutsches Postgebiet, NDP) 1870-71

The North German Postal District (1868-1871) included a number of Old German States, i.e., Braunschweig, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony and Thüringen.

NDP issued 14 formular cards in 1870 and 1871, starting on July 1, 1870, with space for or with an affixed stamp of different values. The stamp box has the inscription: "For affixing the stamp". The cards all have the approximate size of 163 x 108 mm, the title "Norddeutsches Postgebiet. Correspondenz-Karte" and six notes with instructions. These cards are described by (H&G) and (F) in great detail but only mentioned by (A).

The main differences between the cards are the type of dash between "Correspondenz" and "Karte", the lengths of the last two address lines (A & B) and the title above the notes (C), the type of the six notes, the font of "Bestimmungsort" and the space between back side lines.



Notes 1-3:

Notes 4-6:

V1	V2	V3 & V6	V4	V5	V3	V6
Form Posta das I Der I Die I lichen mit I	Form allen werde Der o Die I lichen mit I	Form Posta für de Der o Die I lichen mit I	Form allen den; f Der o Die I brieffli Adress	Form allen werde Der I zufäll Die I lichen mit I	Die G lässig; bestellu Die G halb d Südde Der A	Die G lässig; preßbe Die G halb d Südde Der A

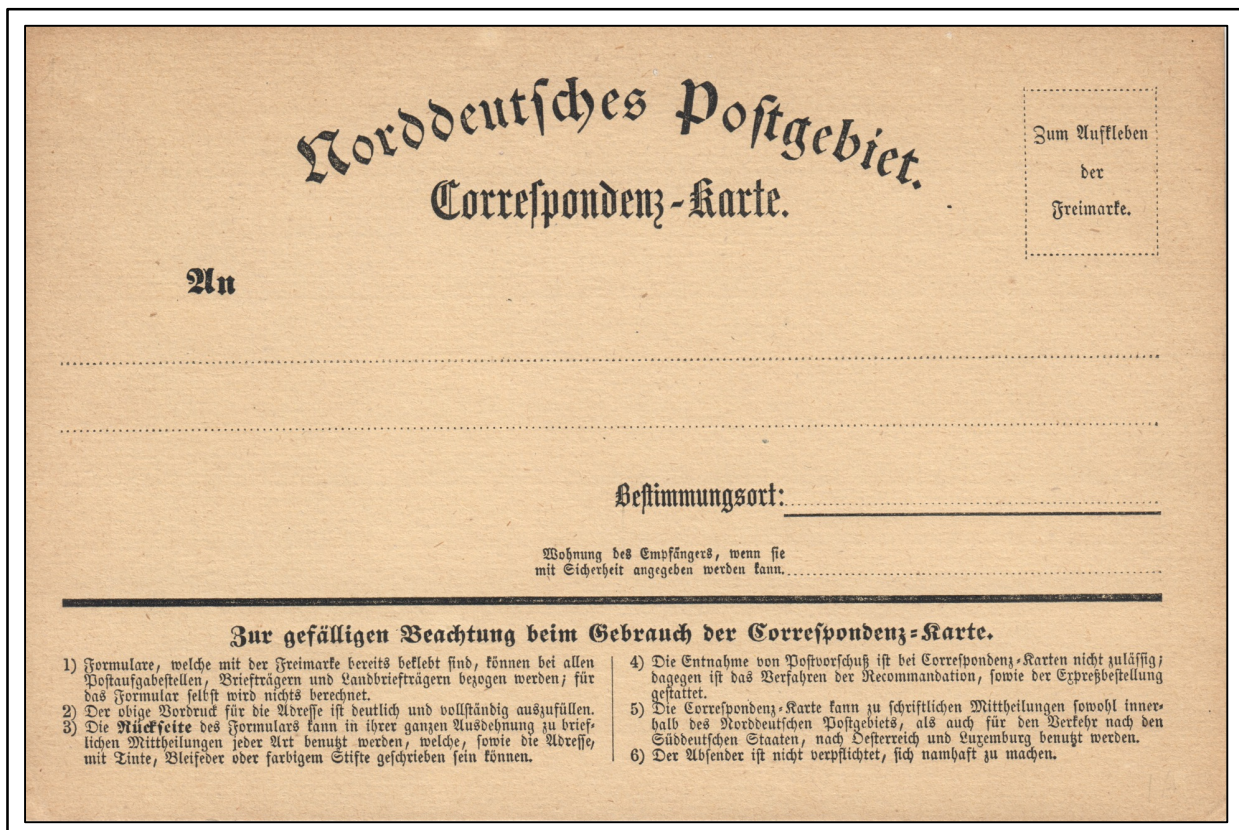
(the notes are copied from the cards on the next pages)

The numbering of the NDP-cards was created by Kalckhoff (1911) after the lengths of the address lines A & B and the type of notes. H&G (1966) and Frech (2015) use the same numbers. The cards are here shown in chronological order.

The postage for domestic mail was 1 Groschen in the Northern states and 3 Kreuzer in the Southern states. On July 1, 1872, it was reduced to ½ Groschen and 2 Kreuzer.

NDP's First Card, #1

Dash type a), curved: **B-K** Address lines A+B=51+50 mm. C=103 mm. Notes V1.





Early use of NDP's first card #1, July 2, 1870, with a one Kreuzer stamp affixed, for local mail within the Southern German States. The card was sent locally within Frankfurt that in 1870 was a part of the Prussian state of Hesse-Nassau.



Second earliest known use of NDP's first Formular card

Earliest known date used: June 17 (F), June 18 (H&G).

Card #1 was issued on July 1, 1870. The cards were distributed and sold before July 1; from June 18 in Berlin but earlier in some other cities (F). This card was used on June 18, 1870, between Hirschberg in Thuringia and Berlin, with a postage of 1 Groschen. Card size 109x164 mm.

Dash type a). Address lines A+B=51+68 mm. C=103 mm. Notes V1



NDP's second issued Formular card #3, issued in July 1870. Earliest known date used: July 9, 1870 (F). This card was used a week later within Thuringia with a postage of one Groschen.

Misprint type I. The digit 2 is missing in front of the second note (F).



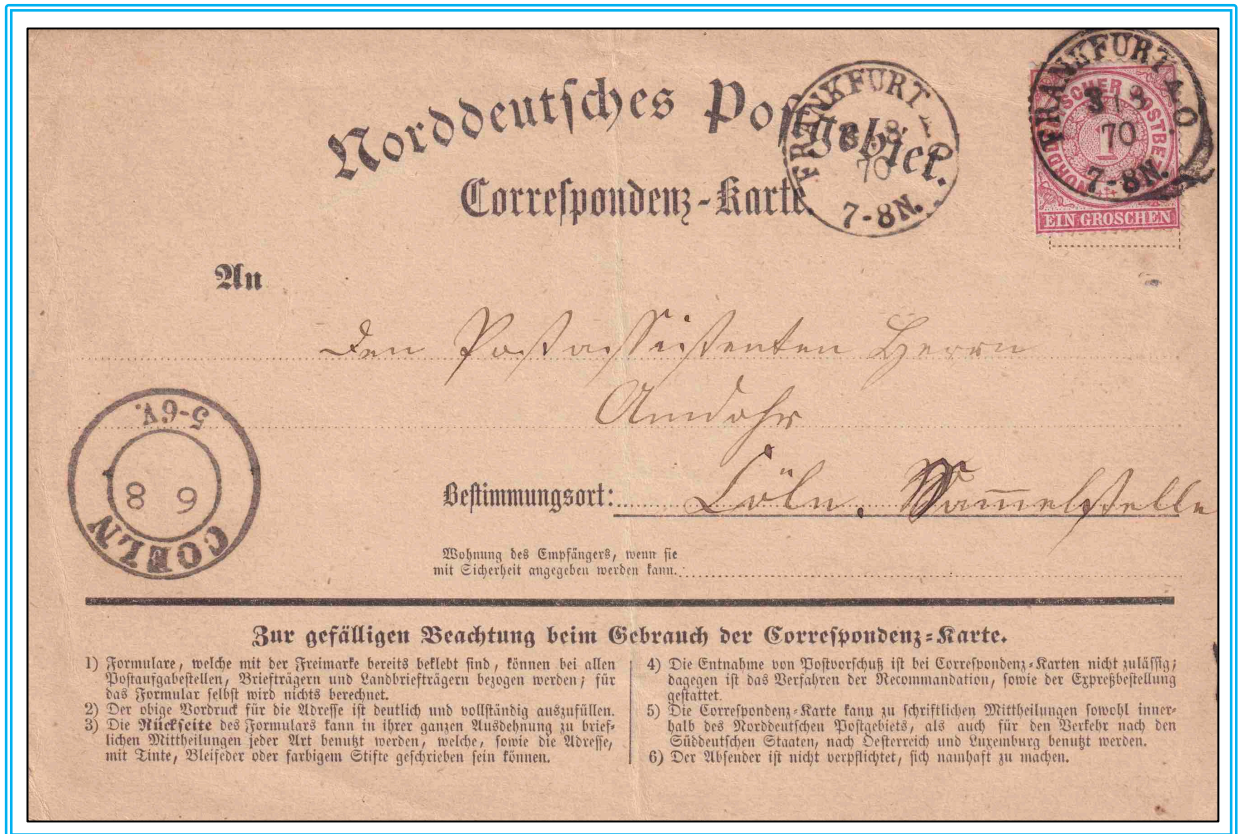
The card was used in September 1870 between Schlesvig-Holstein and the city of Hamburg with a postage of 1 Groschen.

North German Post District (NDP) – third card, #4, use from Alsace

NDP #4. Dash type a). Address lines A+B=76+66 mm. C=103 mm. Notes V1

NDP's third issued formular card, #4, issued in July 1870. Earliest known date used (F): July 29, 1870.

This card was used within Prussia, **already five days later, on August 3, 1870.** The postage is, correctly, 1 Groschen.



NDP's third issued formular card #4, used from Strasbourg in Alsace to Frankfurt in 1871, with a postage of 15 centimes of "occupation stamps". Cards sent from Alsace are rare.



NDP organized a mail system in occupied France 1870/71 with special NDP Cartes de Correspondance and "occupation stamps". From Alsace and German-Lorraine, however, NDP cards were used, with the "occupation stamps".

North German Post District (NDP) – fourth & fifth card – #2 and #13

NDP's fourth and fifth cards, #2 & #13, were issued in late November 1870. They were printed by Pickenhahn & Son in Chemnitz and have a different dash and type of K in "= Karte" at the second line.

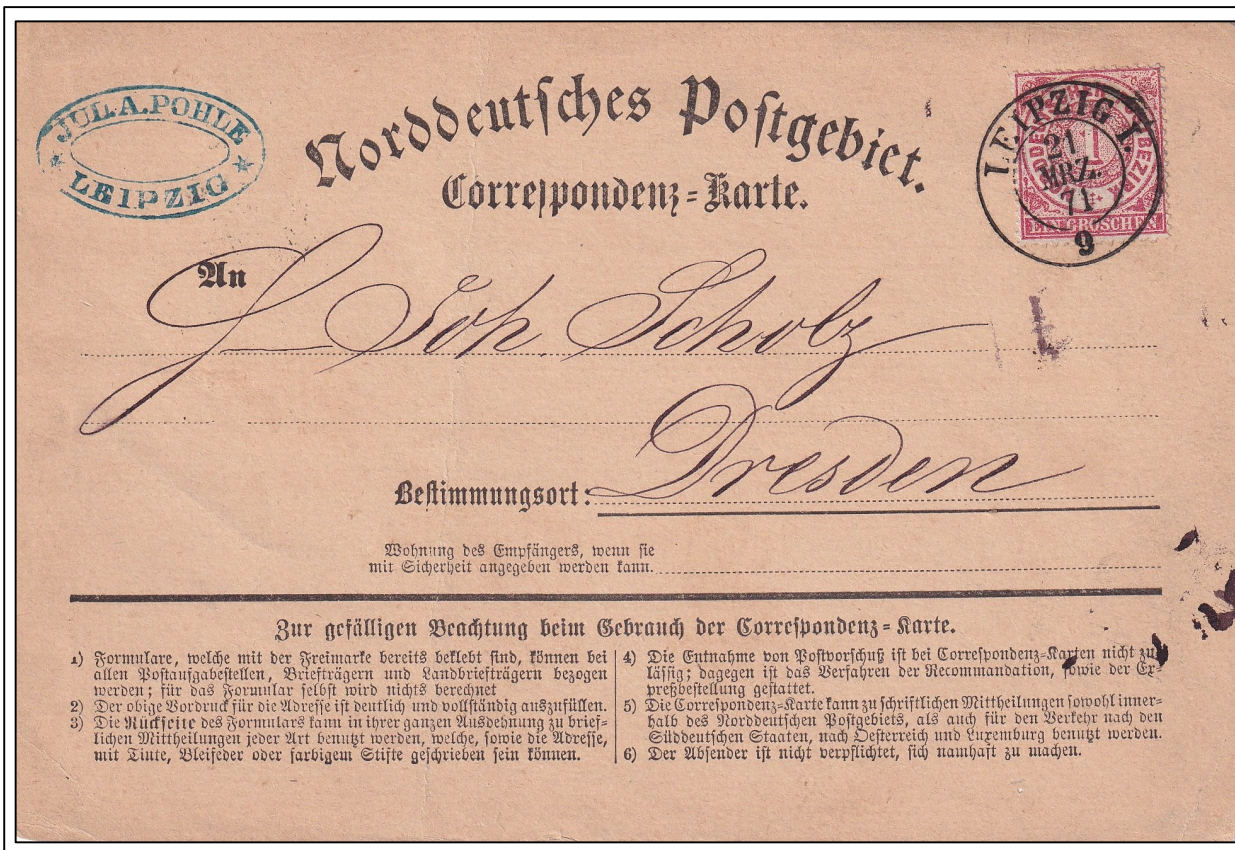
NDP #2. Dash type c) double: **N = K** Address lines A+B=51+50 mm. Notes V2

Formular card #2, issued 1870 from NDP. The third and the last address lines have a length of 51 and 50 mm, respectively. The notes are of type V2.

Earliest known date used: November 30, 1870. This card was used in March 1871 within Saxony.



NDP #13. Dash type c) double. Address lines A+B=76+68 mm. C=91mm. Notes V2



Formular card #13, issued 1870 from NDP. The third and the last address lines have now a length of 76 and 68 mm, respectively. The title above the notes is short: C=91mm. Earliest known date used: December 1, 1870. This card was used in March 1871 within Saxony.

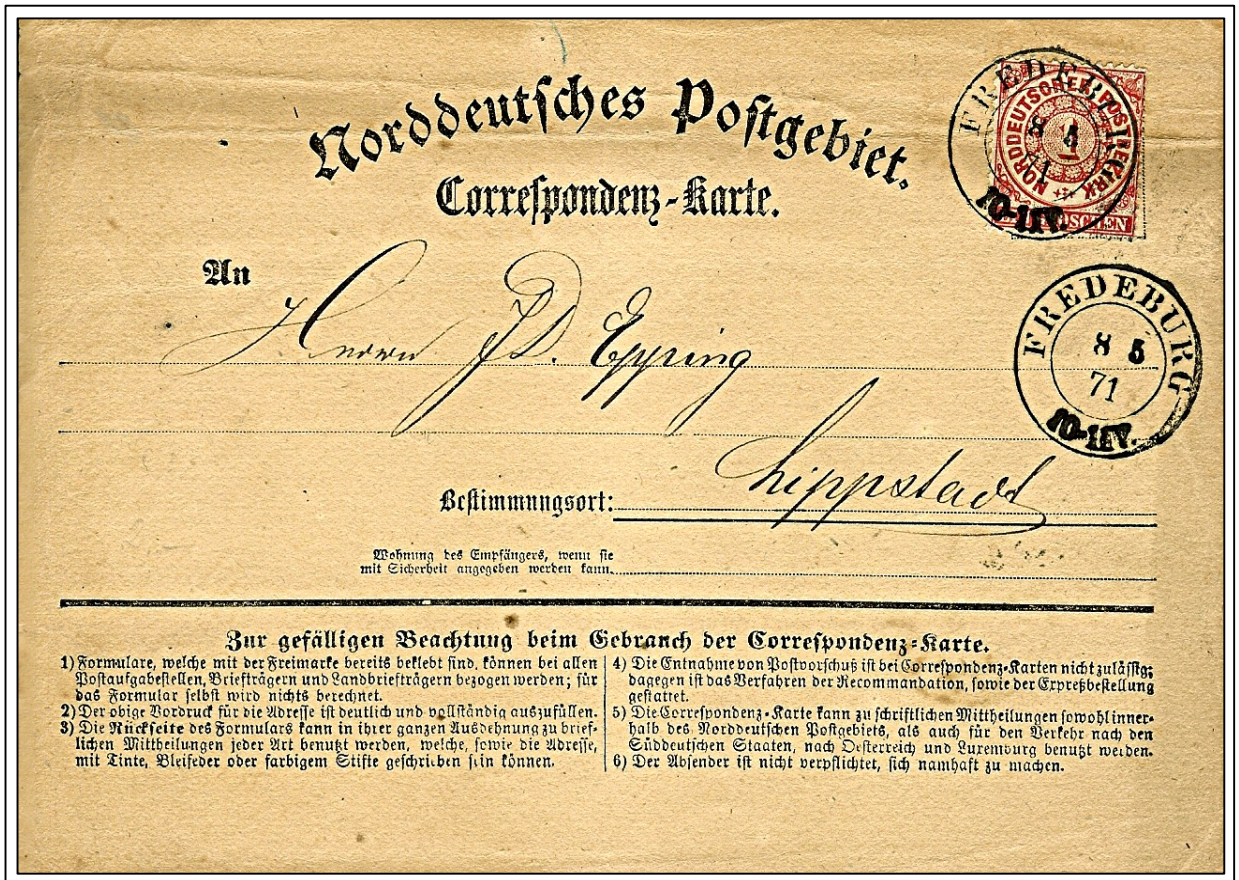
North German Post District (NDP) – sixth & seventh card – #6 and #9

NDP's sixth and seventh cards, #6 & #9, were issued in December 1870. They were printed by Bruns in Minden and Baensch Jr. in Magdeburg, respectively. They have the same dash and type of K in "-Karte on the second line as the first three cards.

NDP #6. Dash type a). Address lines A+B=73+73 mm. C=103 mm. Notes V1

Formular card #6; a larger size than normal: 117 mm high. It is a card type I, with no lines on the back side, first used on December 20, 1870 (F).

This card was used between Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia with a correct postage of 1 Groschen.



NDP #9. Dash type a). Address lines A+B=78+69 mm. C=104 mm. Notes V4

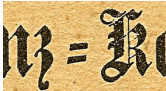


Formular card #9, issued 1870 from NDP. The third and the last address lines have now a length of 78 and 69 mm, respectively. The notes are of type V4. The B in "Bestimmungsort" is now type 12.

Earliest known date used: February 2, 1871.

North German Post District (NDP) – January 1871 – eight & ninth card

NDP's eight and ninth cards, #14 & #5, were issued in January 1871. They were printed in Düsseldorf and Hannover, respectively. They have a different, double, dash and type of K.

NDP #14. Dash type c) double:  Address lines A+B=78+69 mm. C=109 mm. Notes V3.

Formular card #14, issued 1871 from NDP.

The title above the notes is long: C=109 mm.

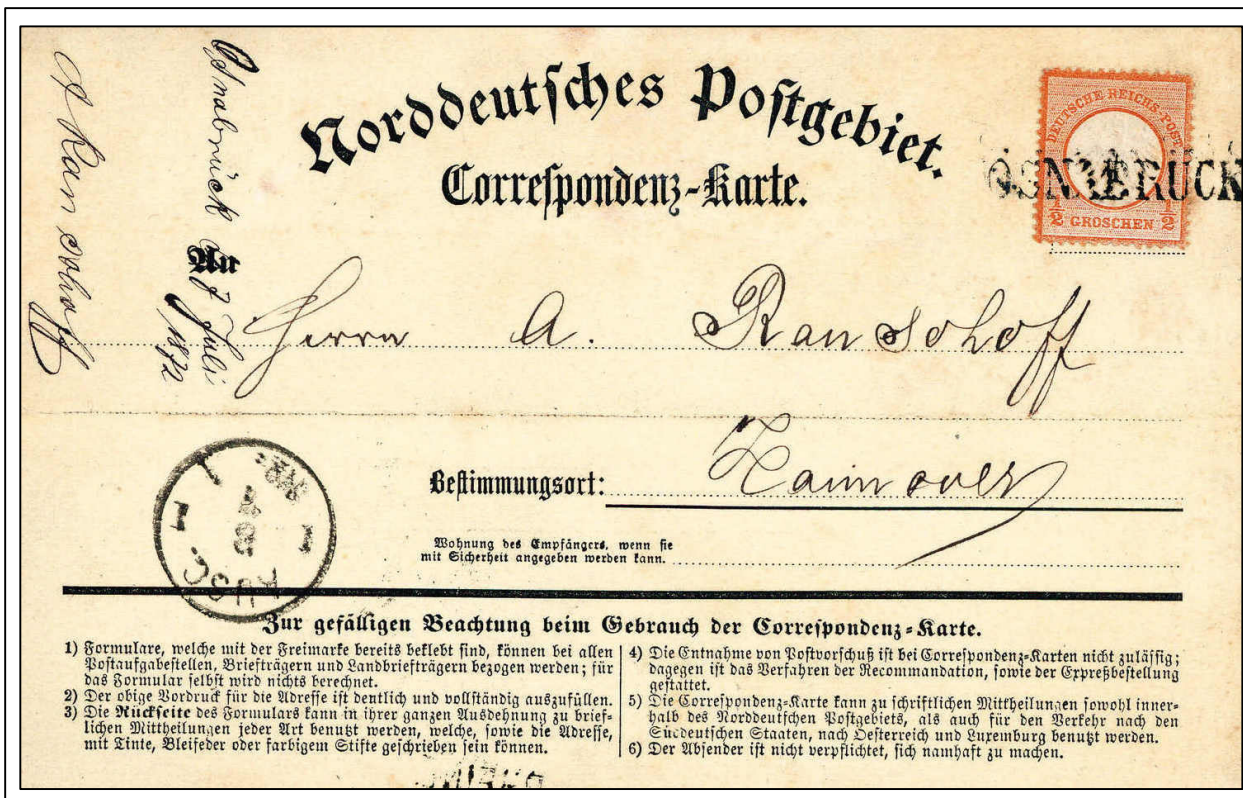
This card is larger than normal: 165x 117 mm.

Earliest known date used: January 31, 1871.

This card was used in March 1871 within Westphalia.



NDP #5. Dash type a). Address lines A+B=76+67 mm. C=95 mm. Notes V1



Formular card #5, issued 1871 from NDP. The third and the last address lines have a length of 76+67 mm. The notes 1-3 are of type V1. Shorter note title line. Earliest known date used: January 27, 1871 (F). This card was used locally 1872 within Lower Saxony with a postage of ½ Groschen.

North German Post District (NDP) – tenth & eleventh card - #10 & #11

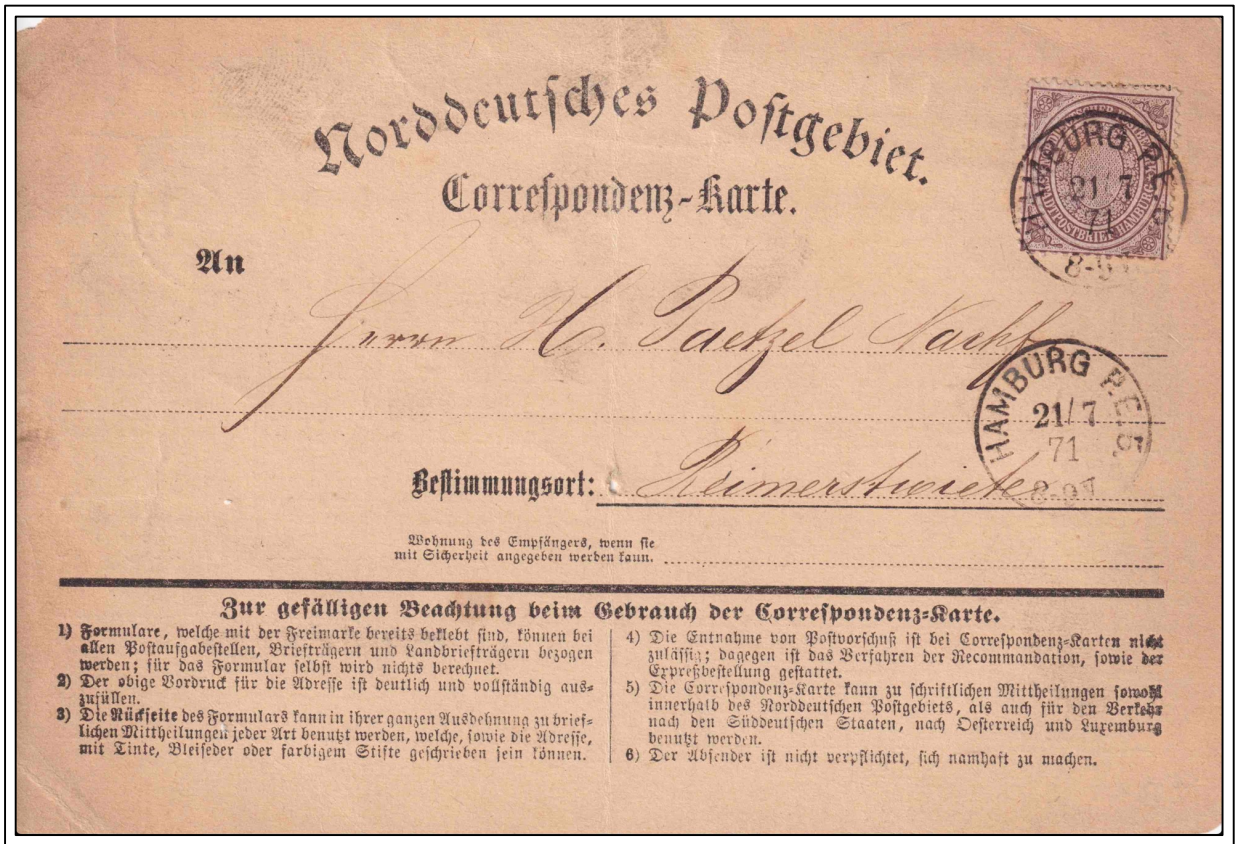
NDP's tenth and eleventh cards, #10 & #11, were issued in January 1871, in Hamburg and Frankfurt am main, respectively.

NDP's #10. Dash type a) cont. Address lines A+B=76+67 mm. Notes V5

Formular card #10, issued by Ober-Postamt in Hamburg. The third and the last address lines have now a length of 76 and 67 mm, respectively. The notes are of type V5.

Earliest known date used: January 28, 1871.

The card was used within the city of Hamburg with a stamp for city mail.



NDP's #11. Dash type b1) straight: **u3-Ka** Address lines A+B=75+67 mm. Notes V6



This card was used outside the NDP and has an affixed stamp with a value of 3 Kreuzer for the use between Southern Hessen (that did not belong to NDP) and Baden.

First card with (a small) C. 154 at bottom right.

C. 154.

North German Post District (NDP), February-March 1871 – cards #7 & 8
 NDP's twelfth and thirteen card, #7 & #8, were issued in February-March 1871. They were printed in Gumbinnen and Schwerin, respectively. They have the same dash and "K" as the first cards.

NDP's #7. Dash type a). Address lines A+B=78+68 mm. Notes V1

NDP's card #7, issued 1871 from NDP. The third and the last address lines have now a length of 78 and 68 mm, respectively. The notes are of type V1.

Earliest known date used: February 25, 1871 (F). This card was used in April 1871 within Prussia, with a postage of 1 Groschen.



NDP's #8. Dash type a). Address lines A+B=78+69 mm. C=105 mm. Notes V3

"Bestimmungsort", type 1: **Bestimmungsort:**



NDP's card #8, issued in March 1871. A very different font for *Bestimmungsort* in front of the third address line.

Earliest known date used: March 3, 1871. This card was used in April 1871 from Mecklenburg to Thuringia, with a postage of 1 Groschen.

North German Post District (NDP), July 1871 – fourteenth card - #12

NDP's fourteenth card, #12, was issued in July 1871. It was printed in Breslau by Friederich. It has a short, straight dash and a "K" like the first cards.

Dash type b2) straight:  Address lines A+B=75+67 mm. C=93 mm. Notes V1

NDP's last and fourteenth card #12, issued in July 1871

The title above the notes is short: C=93 mm. The notes are of type V1. Earliest known date used: July 3, 1871.































A large C.154. bottom right at the last line.

C. 154.

(C. 154. refers to the Announcement in Amtsblatt 37, Norddeutsches Postverwaltung, June 16, 1870).

An overview of the 14 cards from NDP, in chronological order, with the numbering by Kalckhoff (1911).
First Date (FD) recorded, printing place and differences in the printed text.

NDP-cards				Address lines		Titleline-notes					
Order (F)	Card No.(K)	First Date (F)	Printed or issued (K)	Dash	K-type	A	B	C	Notes	Bestimmungsort	C 154
1	1	1870-06-17				51	50	101.5-104.5			
2	3	1870-07-09	Geh. Ober-Hofdruckerei, Berlin.				68		V1	3	
3	4	1870-07-29				76-77	68	102			
4	2	1870-11-30	Pickenhahn & Son, Chemnitz			51	50	104.5	V2+V6	2	
5	13	1870-12-01				75.5	68	93			
6	6	1870-12-20	Bruns, Minden			73.5	73	103	V1	8	
7	9	1870-12-29	Baensch Jr., Magdeburg			78		104	V4	12	
8	14	1871-01-31	OPDn Düsseldorf, Köln, Koblenz und Trier			78		109	V3+V3	18	
9	5	1871-01-27	Klindworth'schen Hofbuchdruckerei, Hannover			77		95	V1	4	
10	10	1871-01-28	Ober-Postamt, Hamburg			76		104	V2	19	
11	11	1871-02-02	Osterrieth in Frankfurt am Main			74-75	66-70	98	V3+V6	2	C.154
12	7	1871-02-25	Krauseneck, Gumbinnen			77.5		103	V1	11	
13	8	1871-03-07	Sandmeyer, Schwerin			78		105	V3+V3	1	
14	12	1871-07-03	Friederich, Breslau			74		93	V1	16	C.154

Reference

Kalckhoff, F. (1911) *Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-Karten der Norddeutschen Bundespost*, Arge B.D.Ph.e.V. Norddeutscher Postbezirk Elsaß-Lothringen und Feldpost 1870/71. Heft 18, Verlag von Hugo Krötsch & Co., Leipzig 1911

Bavaria (Bayern) 1870 – type I & II, varieties a & b

The old German state of Bavaria was an independent kingdom between 1806 and 1918. The kingdom issued its first formular card on July 1, 1870. The size is 166 x 111mm and the title is "Bayern. Correspondenz-Karte". The card has a space for an affixed stamp and two circular spaces for departure and arrival cancellations. The bottom third of the card has six paragraphs with instructions. The formular card is not listed by (H&G) but mentioned by (A). The card was printed in at least two types; the main difference between the types is a thick line (or none) under the postal address line.

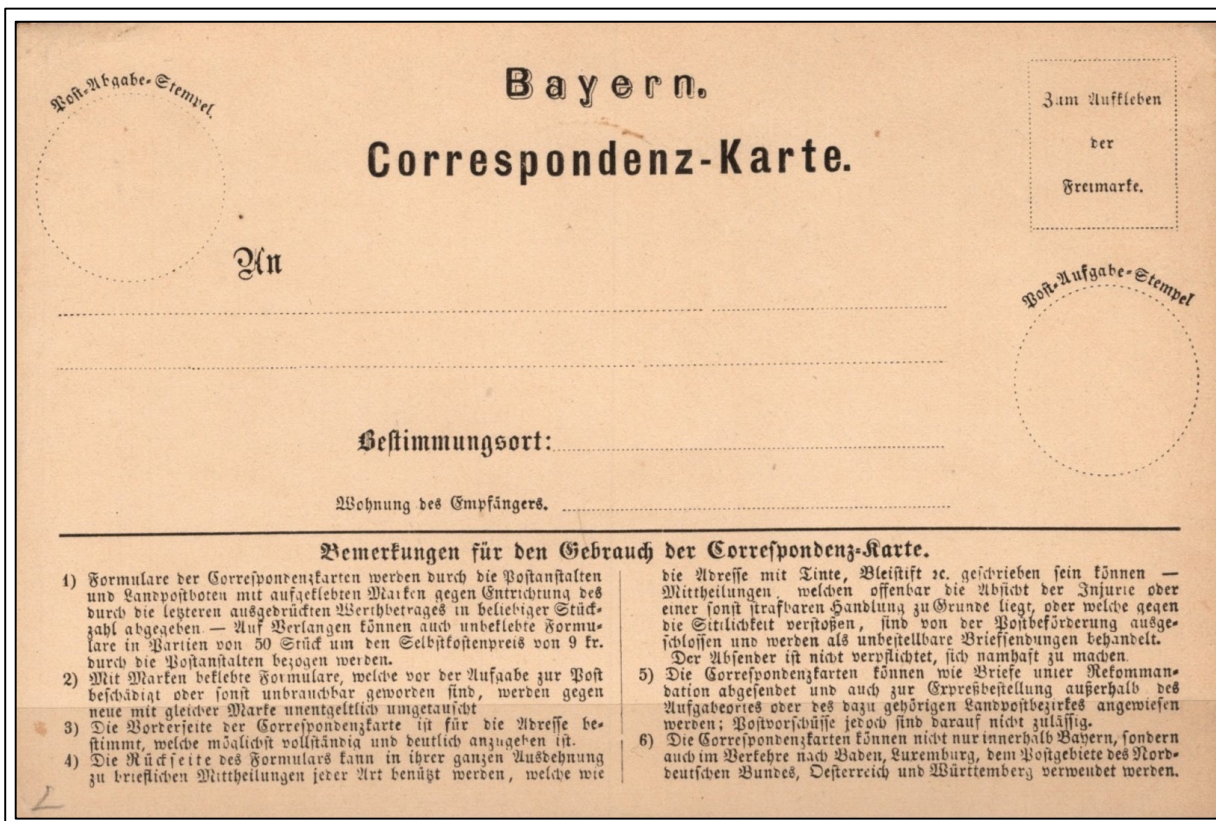
Card #1, type I, with a thick line under the third address line.

This card was used already in Mid-July 1870, from the state of Pfalz to the state of Württemberg, with a postage of 3 Kreuzer.

In 1870 Pfalz belonged to the kingdom of Bavaria.



e



Formular card #1, type II, without a thick line under the third address line.

The text in the stamp box is the same as in NDP and Baden.

This card is variety d) with a latin "e" in "verstossen" in note 4 (F).

Bavaria (Bayern) 1870 – Field post

During the Franco-German war 1870-71 the kingdom of Bavaria organized a postal service for its troops with separate field postal cards.

Bavaria's field post card #1, type I, with a thick line under the third address line.

The top of the card has the same text as the formular card. "Feldpost" has replaced the stamp box in the top right corner.

The card has notes at the bottom, explaining how to use the card and for the sender to state to which troop he belongs.

Bayern.

Feldpost.

Correspondenz-Karte.

In _____

Bestimmungsort: _____

Wohnung des Empfängers. _____

Bemerkungen für den Gebrauch der Correspondenz-Karte.
 Der Absender wolle bezeichnen, welchem der nachstehenden Truppentheile er angehört:

. Armeecorps Bataillon (Division)

. Division Compagnie (Escadron, Batterie)

. Regiment

Bavaria's field post card #1, type II, without a thick line under the third address line.

The card was delivered to the field post office "III" on August 12, 1870, and sent to Munich.

This is much earlier use than (F) says for a Bavarian field post card type II, September 2, 1870.

Bayern.

Feldpost.

Correspondenz-Karte.

In Herrn H. Ackermann
 Lauffelder
 München

Bestimmungsort: München

Wohnung des Empfängers. Kommandplatz

Bemerkungen für den Gebrauch der Correspondenz-Karte.
 Der Absender wolle bezeichnen, welchem der nachstehenden Truppentheile er angehört:

1. ^{tes} Armeecorps Bataillon (Division)

2. ^{te} Division 2. ^{te} ^{te} Compagnie (Escadron, Batterie)

1. ^{tes} ^{tes} Regiment 3. ^{tes} Schrappe

1871. A. Grack in Frankfurt
 1870. A. Grack in Frankfurt

MÜNCHEN
 17
 AUG.
 9-10 AM
 70

FELDP
 III
 12/8

Baden Post District (Badischer Postbezirk) 1870 - card #1

The old German state of Baden was an independent Grand Duchy between 1806 and 1918. The Grand Duchy of Baden issued its first formular cards in August 1870. The size is 145-150 x 107-110 mm and the title is "Badischer Postbezirk. Correspondenz-Karte". The card has a large space for an affixed stamp. The bottom fourth of the card has four paragraphs with instructions. The formular cards are not listed by (H&G) but mentioned by (A) and described by (F).

The first formular card, issued on August 10, 1870, from the Duchy of Baden, printed on yellowish paper. Four address lines, four notes and a printing note "E.3." in the bottom right corner.

This card has a size of 153 x 108 mm. It has an affixed stamp of 1 Kreuzer, for local use.

Two dashes between "Correspondenz" and "Karte". Cards with only one dash are falsifications (A).

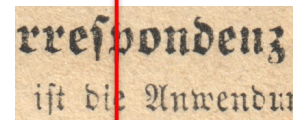


Baden's first formular card sent within the state of Baden with a postage of 3 Kreuzer for domestic mail.

The card size is 149 x 106 mm.

This card was used on August 14, i.e. it is fifth-day card.

The two cards are type I (F), with "p" in "Correspondenz" above the "die" at the line beneath.



Baden Post District (Badischer Postbezirk) 1870 - card #2

The second formular card from Baden was issued a week later than the first, on August 17, 1870, now printed on a reddish paper. The postage was 1 Kreuzer for local mail and 3 Kreuzer for domestic mail. The 1 and 3 Kreuzer stamps were larger than the stamps in NDP. Because of that the stamp box on the cards from Baden is exceptionally large. Baden never issued postal cards with a value stamp on its own. From 1872 the postal services of Baden became part of the German Postal district, "Deutsches Reichs-Post-Gebiet".

Baden's second formular card, issued on August 17, 1870.

Used in September 1870 as field post without postage. Sent from Woerth in Alsace to Pilsen in Bohemia. Stamped with the rare K.PR.FELDPOST-RELAIS III double-ring postmark.

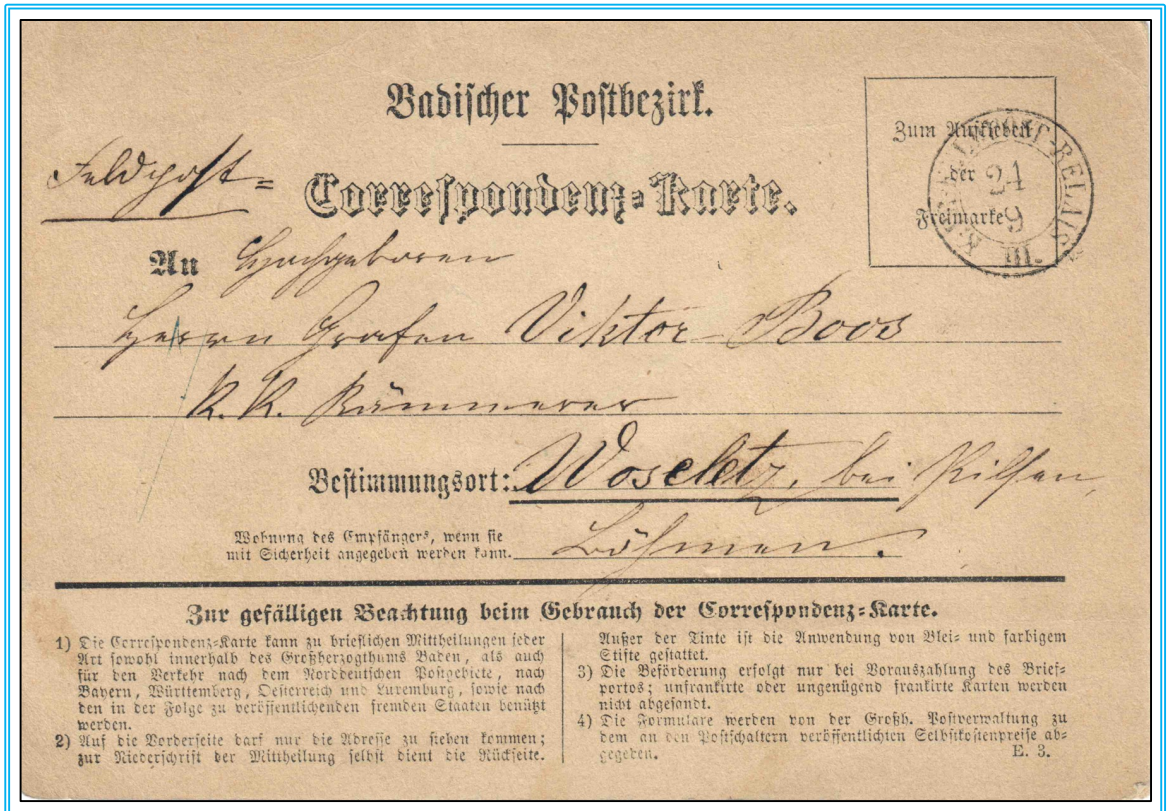
e

The stamp box instructions are:

"For gluing the stamp", in German.

The card size is 152 x 104 mm.

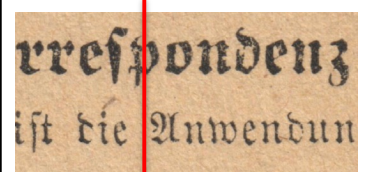
The card is type I.



Baden's second formular card with an affixed stamp with a value of 3 Kreuzer for domestic use or use to other states.

The size is 144 x 108 mm.

This card is type II (F), with "p" in "Correspondenz" between the "die" and the "Anwendung" at the line beneath:



NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Field Post Card #1 (K16)

During the German-Franco war 1870/71 a large part of eastern France was occupied. For the German troops a field post system was organized, with open mail as formular cards, "Feldpostkarten". Six slightly different formular cards were used for mail from the army and one for mail to the army, numbered 15-20 (K), or 1-7 (F), with no stamps but special field post cancellations.

"Field Post-Card" #16 (K), or #1 (F). *Bestimmungsort* type 3, 21.5 mm. Notes with five lines.

Printed by Geh. Ober-Hofbuchdruckerei (R. von Decker) in Berlin (F).

Card size 108x162 mm. "First Date Seen" (FDS) 5.8.1870 (F).

"Field Post-Card" #1 used in late August 1870, before entering the field post system, from Bitterfeld in Saxony to Hamburg.

This card was folded in the middle; the cards were too large for ordinary pockets.



"Field Post-Card" #1 used in late September 1870, to the same address in Hamburg.

Sent from Chalons-sur-Marne near the Royal Prussian Field Post Relay No 13 in Bar-le-Duc, in western Lorraine, arriving in Hamburg a week later.

References: (K) Kalckhoff, F. (1911) *Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-Karten der NDP, Arbeitsgemeinschaft in B.D.Ph.e.V. NDP Heft 18, Verlag von Hugo Krötzsch & Co, Leipzig 1911. 58pp.*

(F) Frech, H-P (2015) *Die Correspondenzkarten und Postkartenformulare der Ehemaligen Postvereinsländer und des Deutschen Kaiserreiches. Private publisher, Hausach. 672 pp.*

(G) Glasewald, A. E. (1913) *Die Post im Kriege. Beiträge zur Geschichte der Feldpost. Private publisher, Gössnitz. 241 pp.*

NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Field Post Cards #2 (K17)

"Field Post-Card" #17 (K), or #2 (F). *Bestimmungsort* type 2, 24.5 mm. Notes with five lines.
 Printed by Osterrieth in Frankfurt am Main (F).
 Card size 104x167 mm. **Type I**, grey, raw cardboard. FDS August 10, 1870.



Field Post Card #2 sent from the Royal Prussian Field Post Expedition of the 20. Infantry Division on September 7, 1870, arriving in Witzenhausen in the state of Hesse five days later.

"Field Post-Card" #17 (K), or #2 (F). **Type II**, brown-yellow cardboard. FDS October 25, 1870.

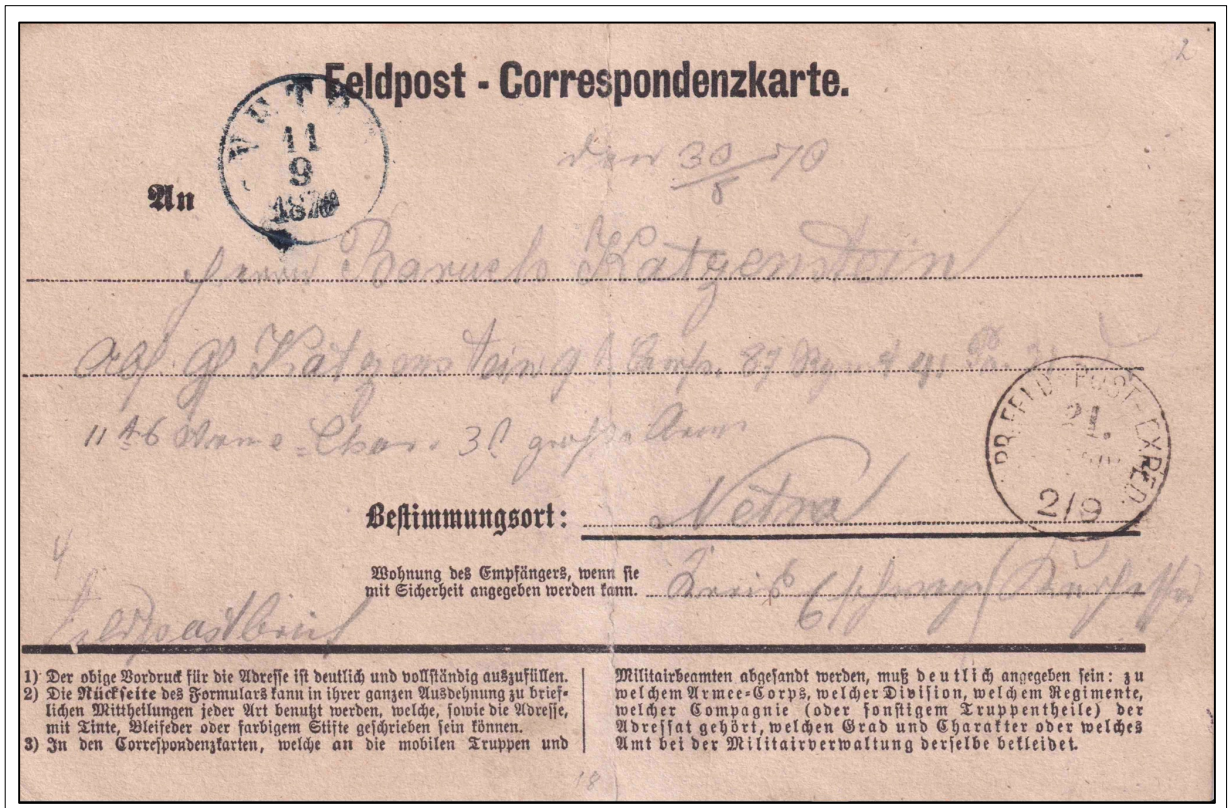


Field Post Card #2-II sent in early November 1870 from Clermont en Argonne Oise, some 25 km west of Verdun, near the Royal Prussian Field Post Relay No 26, arriving in Berlin three days later.

NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Field Post Cards #3 & #5 (K18 & K20)

“Field Post-Card” #18 (K), or #3 (F). *Bestimmungsort* type 2, 21.5 mm. Notes with **five** lines.
 Title line printed in font “Grotesk”. Probably printed in Chemnitz (F).
 Card size 105x162 mm. Thick, white cardboard. FDS August 19, 1870.

Field Post Card #3 sent from the Royal Prussian Field Post Expedition of 21. Infantry Division on September 2, 1870, arriving in Netra in Grand Duchy of Hesse nine days later.



“Field Post-Card” #20 (K), or #5 (F). *Bestimmungsort* type 13, 26.5 mm. Notes with **six** lines.
 No vertical line in the middle, between the notes. Probably printed in Magdeburg (F).
 Card size 109x164 mm. Brown-yellow cardboard. FDS August 3, 1870.
 “Character” with a “c” in the third note – unique to this card.



Field Post Card #5 sent in early October 1870 from the Royal Prussian Field Post Expedition of 1. Garde Infantry Division, arriving in Berlin eight days later.

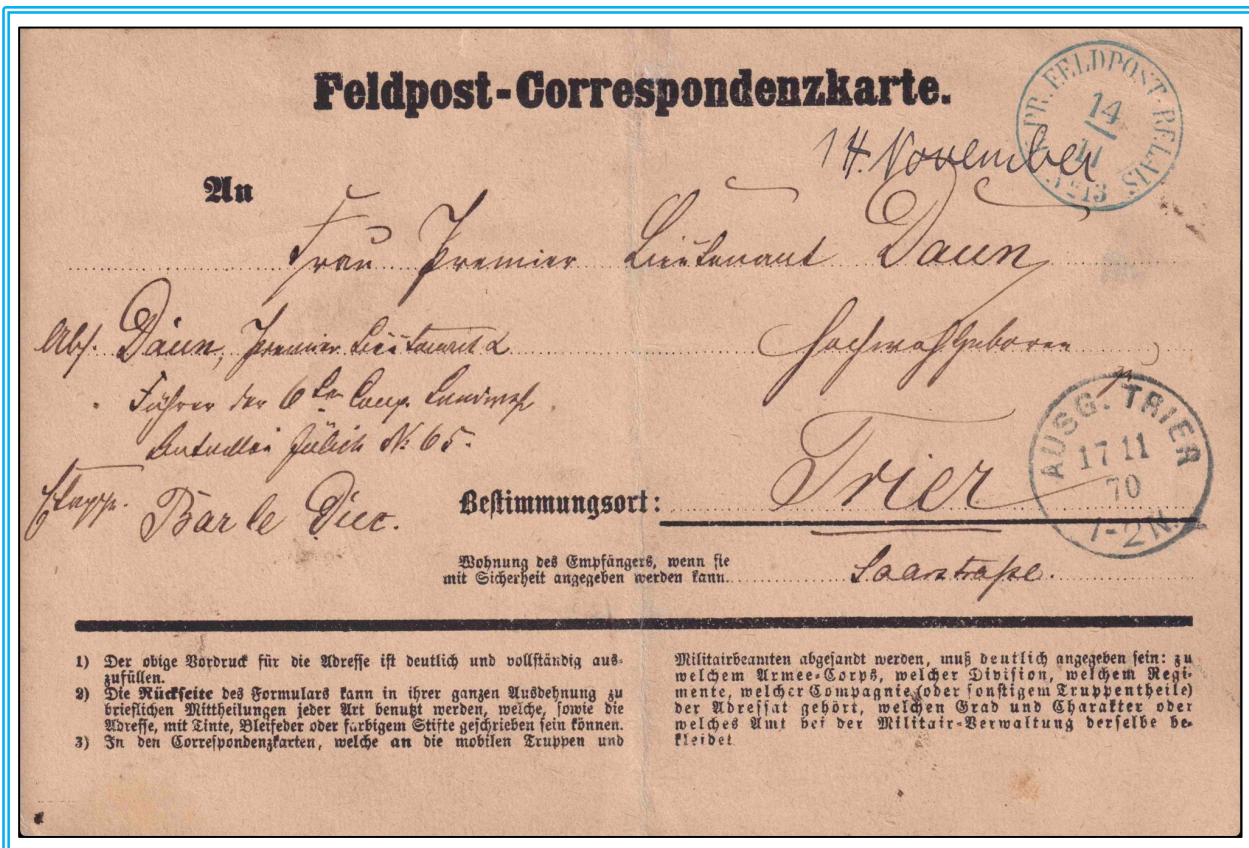
NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Field Post Cards #4 (K19)

"Field Post-Card" #19 (K), or #4 (F). *Bestimmungsort* type 2, 24.5 mm. Notes with six lines.
 No vertical line in the middle, between the notes. Large (7mm) vertical spacing between the notes.
 Printed by Carl Kühn & Söhne in Berlin (F).
 Card size 108x168 mm. **Type I:** Address lines as lines. FDS August 27, 1870 (F).

Card #4 sent in late October from Montmenard near the Royal Prussian Field Post Relay No 31, in Nanteuil-sur-Marne, to Leipzig.



Type II : Address lines of dots with large spacing. FDS November 29, 1870 (F). Card size 110x166 mm.



Card #4-II, sent in Mid-November, 1870 from Bar-le-Duc near the Royal Prussian Field Post Relay No 13, in western Lorraine, arriving three days later in Trier.

This card was used earlier than previously known FDS (F).

NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Field Post Cards 6 & 7 (- & K15)

"Field Post-Card" #6 (F), not numbered by (K). *Bestimmungsort* type 13, 26.5 mm. Notes with **six** lines.

This card was a gift from queen Augusta of Prussia to her regiment; 20.000 were issued, 10 cards to each soldier (K).

Card size 108x163 mm. FDS August 13, 1870 (F).

Field Post Card #6 sent on April 6, 1871, from Villers-Saint-Frambourg in the region of Picardie, some 50 km north of Paris, via the Royal Prussian Field-Post Expedition Reserve "Garde Corps", arriving in the city of Kaufbeuren in the kingdom of Bavaria three days later.

Feldpost - Correspondenzkarte.

4. Garde = Grenadier = Regiment Königin.

An *von Julius Probst*

abfand. 1 Comp.
MÜLLHAUSEN
IN THÜRINGEN
614

Bestimmungsort: *Kaufbeuren.*
Bayern.

Wohnung des Empfängers, wenn sie mit Sicherheit angegeben werden kann.

1) Der obige Vordruck für die Adresse ist deutlich und vollständig auszufüllen.
2) Die **Rückseite** des Formulars kann in ihrer ganzen Ausdehnung zu brieflichen Mittheilungen jeder Art benutzt werden, welche, sowie die Adresse, mit Linte, Bleifeder oder farbigem Stifte geschrieben sein können.
3) In den Correspondenzkarten, welche **an** die mobilen Truppen und Militairbeamten abgesandt werden, muß deutlich angegeben sein: zu welchem Armeekorps, welcher Division, welchem Regimente, welcher Compagnie (oder sonstigem Truppentheile) der Adressat gehört, welchen Grad und Charakter oder welches Amt bei der Militairverwaltung derselbe bekleidet.

"Field Post-Card" #15 (K), or #7 (F) for mail to the soldiers. Notes with **six** and **seven** lines.

Card size 108x162 mm. **Type I:** colon after "sein" in note 2. FDS August 8, 1870 (F).

Feldpost - Correspondenzkarte.

An den *Lieutenant*
von Oscar Haun
3^{te} Comp.

MÜLLHAUSEN
IN THÜRINGEN
18 9 70 5-6N

4^{tes} Armeekorps. te Compagnie.

7^{te} Division. 14^{te} Brigade te Schwadron.

tes Aufst. Inf. Regiment No 93 Batterie.

1) Correspondenzkarten **an** die mobile Armee werden portofrei befördert und sind bei sämmtlichen Norddeutschen Postanstalten käuflich zu haben (5 Stück à 3 Pfennige).
2) In den Correspondenzkarten muß deutlich angegeben sein: zu welchem Armeekorps, welcher Division, welchem Regimente, welcher Compagnie (oder sonstigem Truppentheile) der Adressat gehört, welchen Grad und Charakter oder welches Amt bei der Militairverwaltung derselbe bekleidet.
3) Die **Rückseite** des Formulars kann in ihrer ganzen Ausdehnung zu brieflichen Mittheilungen jeder Art benutzt werden, welche, sowie die Adresse, mit Linte, Bleifeder oder farbigem Stifte geschrieben sein können.
4) In **Privat-Angelegenheiten** ist eine Recommendation der Correspondenzkarten nicht gestattet.

Field Post Card #7 sent from Thuringia on September 16, 1870, to a lieutenant in the 4th army corps, 7th division, regiment No 93.

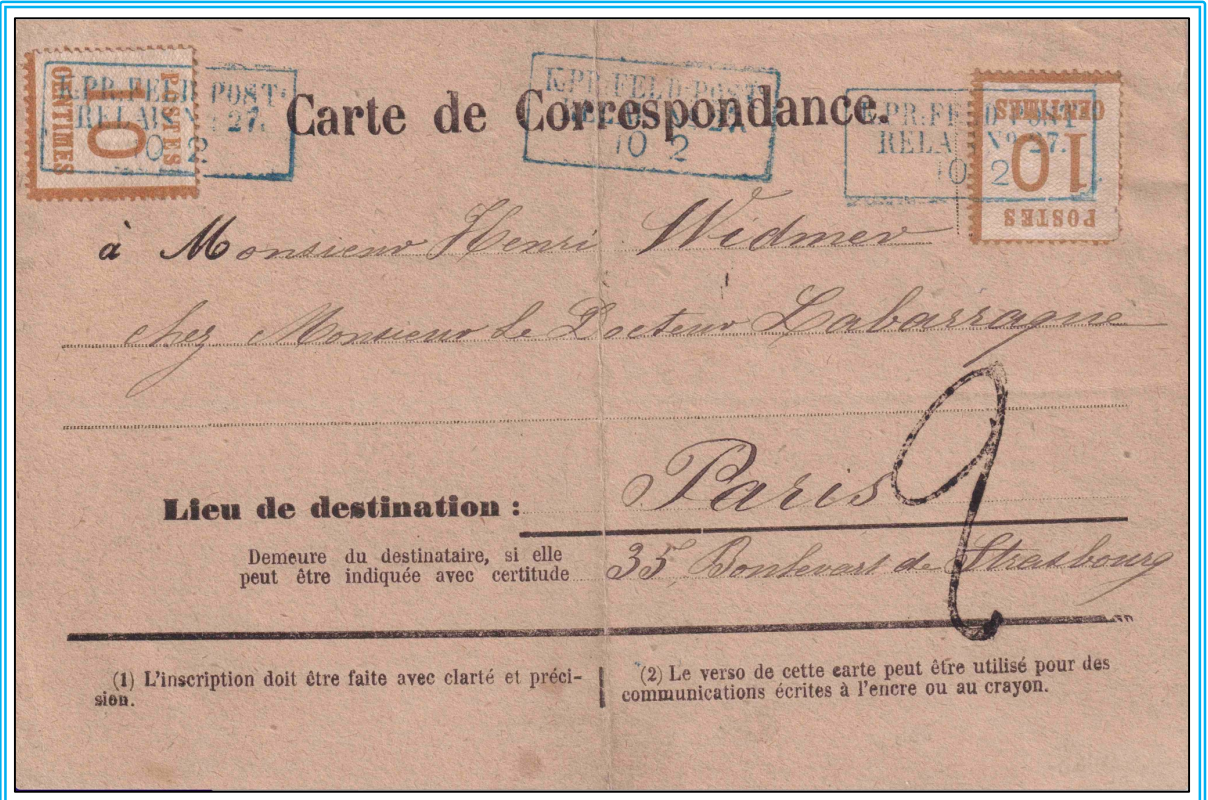
NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Carte de Correspondance #1(K#23)

For the French inhabitants of the occupied parts of France, during and after the German-Franco war 1870/71, a mail system was organised by NDP with special postal cards, "Correspondence Card", in French. A series of five cards were issued, printed in different cities, together with special "occupation-stamps".

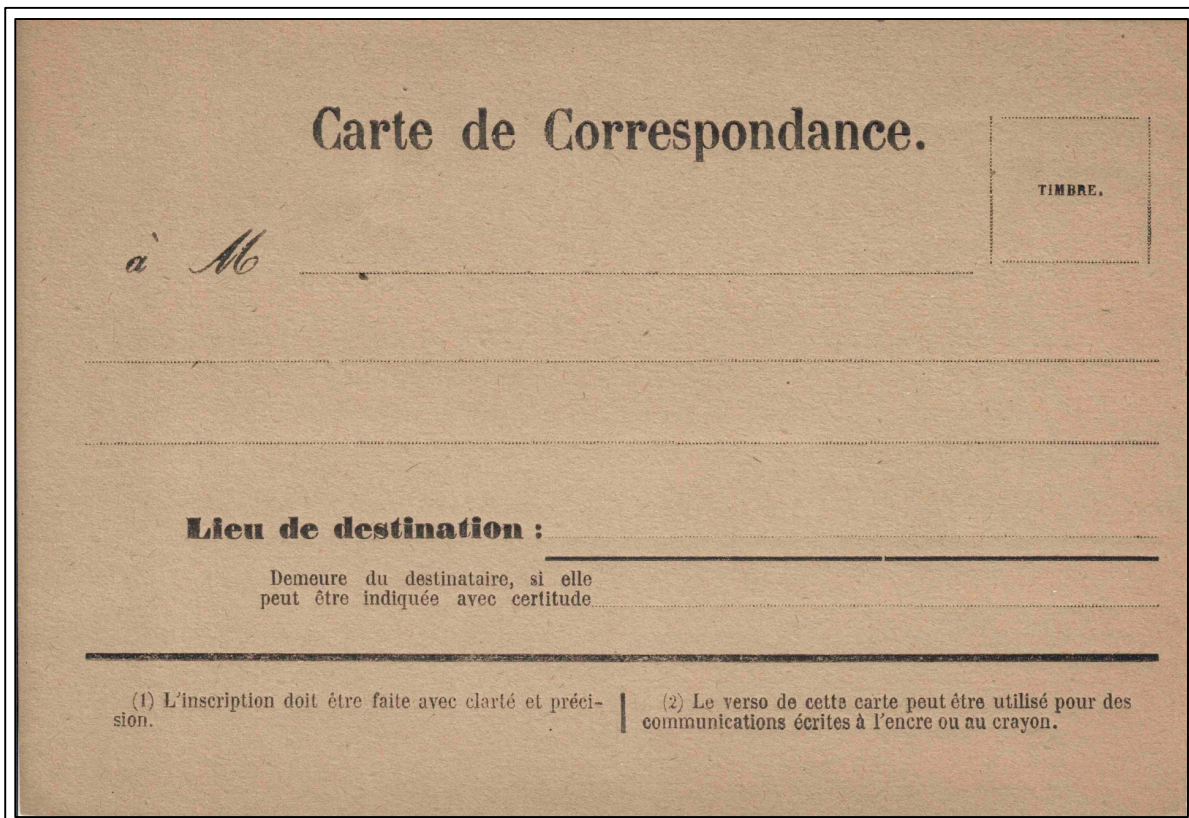
Formular card CdC #1 (F), #23 (K), FDS 16.9.1870, printed in Reims (F). An 86-88 mm long first headline, five address lines, two two-line notes. First line of notes ends with "préci-"/"des".

Card **type I**, "c" in "crayon" beneath "t" in "utilisé" (F).

The cards were introduced by a *Bekanntmachung* (Announcement) on September 29, 1870 but were used earlier than that.



- e The card was sent in early 1871 as a rare card from occupied Sedan to Paris, with a postage of 20 centimes, as two 10 c "occupation stamps". Cancellation by K.PR FELDPOST / RELAIS N° 27 / 10 2 (71) / Alsace N° 5.



Formular card CdC #1 (F), card **type II**, with "c" in "crayon" beneath "u" in "utilisé" (F). The cards have a stamp box, with the text "STAMP" in French. All the CdC cards have a square stamp box even though the "occupation stamps" are not square.

After the armistice, these cards were not meant to be used after March 23, 1871 (AdP).

References: (K) Kalckhoff, F. (1911) *Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-Karten der NDP, Arbeitsgemeinschaft in B.D.Ph.e.V. NDP Heft 18, Verlag von Hugo Krötzsch & Co, Leipzig 1911. 58pp.*

(F) Frech, H-P (2015) *Die Correspondenzkarten und Postkartenformulare der Ehemaligen Postvereinsländer und des Deutschen Kaiserreiches. Private publisher, Hausach. 672 pp.*

NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Carte de Correspondance #2

For the French inhabitants of the occupied parts of France, during and after the German-Franco war 1870/71, a mail system was organised by NDP with special postal cards, "Correspondence Card", in French. A series of five cards were issued, printed in different cities, together with special "occupation-stamps". The cards were introduced by a "*Bekanntmachung*" (Announcement) on September 29, 1870 but were used earlier than that.

Formular card CdC #2 (F), not known by (K). Printed in Château-Thierry.
95 mm long first headline, five address lines, two- and three-lines notes.
First line of notes ends with "et"/"utilisé". No stamp box (type II).



This card was sent in early 1871 as a field-post card, without additional postage, to Brühl near Cologne. Ex. Mazánek. Signed *Spalink BPP* on the back.

Used cards #2 are rare; only four are known (M). This particular card is shown by Frech (2015).

References:

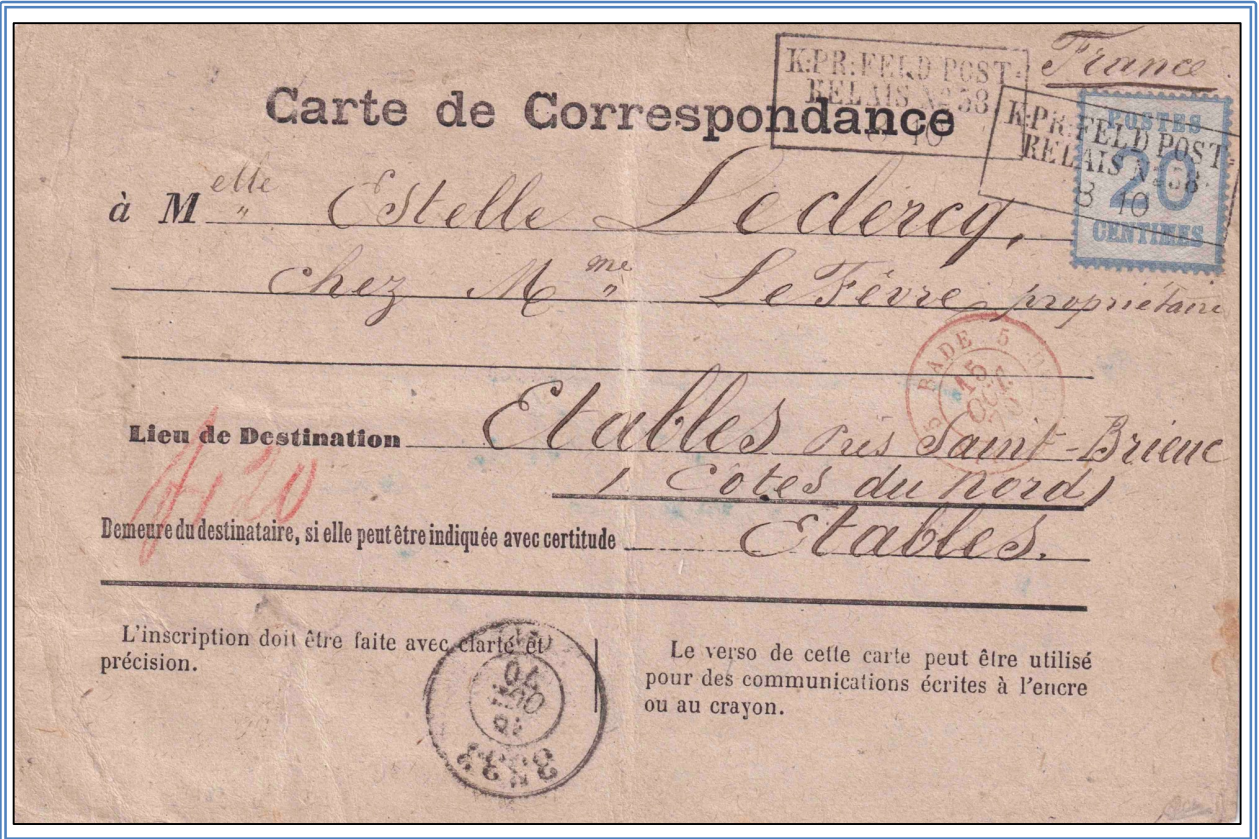
- (K) Kalckhoff, F. (1911) *Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-Karten der NDP*, Arbeitsgemeinschaft in B.D.Ph.e.V. NDP Heft 18, Verlag von Hugo Krötzsch & Co, Leipzig 1911. 58pp.
- (F) Frech, H-P (2015) *Die Korrespondenzkarten und Postkartenformulare der Ehemaligen Postvereinsländer und des Deutschen Kaiserreiches*. Private publisher, Hausach. 672 pp.
- (M) Mazánek, J. (2019) *Norddeutscher Bund / Deutsches Reich – Frankreich 1868 bis 1871. Korrespondenz im Frieden und im Krieg*. Arge NDP. 196 pp.

NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Carte de Correspondance, #3 & #4(K#21)

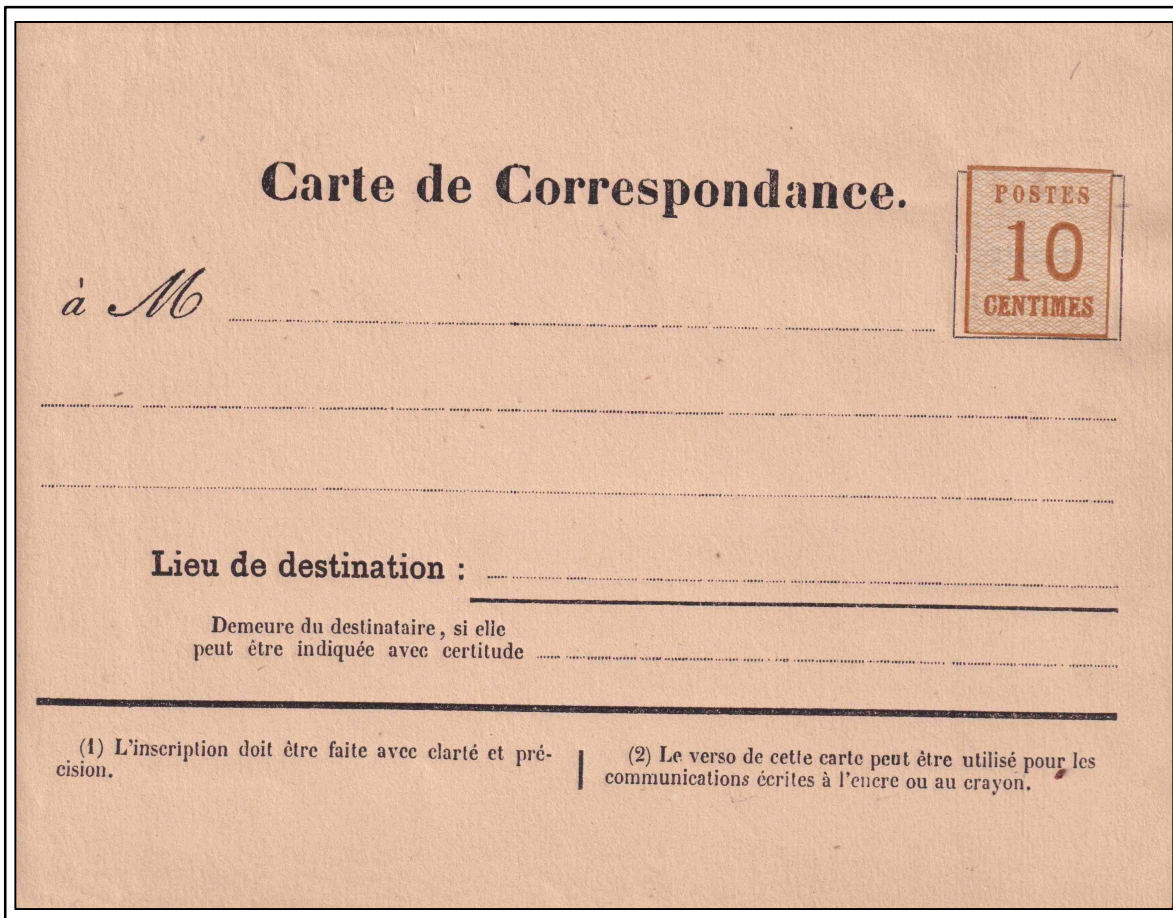
Formular card
CdC #3 (F), not
known by (K).
FDS 17.9.
1870.

92 mm long
first headline,
six address
lines, two
two/three-
lines notes.
No stamp box.
First line of
notes ends
with et-
/utilisé.

Printed in
Meaux, issued
through
Fieldpost-
Relay No. 58.



The card was sent on October 8, 1870 from Meaux, outside Paris, with transit through Germany (red cancellation Bade (Basel) – Strasbourg 5), to Etables in Bretagne. Correct postage of 20 centimes confirmed in red F.20.



Formular card CdC
#21 (K),
#4 (F),
FDS 17.9. 1870.

82 mm long first
headline, five
address lines, two
two-line notes.
A square stamp box
with full lines.
The 10c stamp is a
later reprint.

First line of notes
ends with pré-/les.

This was the first
common issue,
issued from the
postal
administration in
Nancy (F).

References: (K) Kalckhoff, F. (1911) Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-Karten der NDP, Arbeitsgemeinschaft in B.D.Ph.e.V. NDP Heft 18, Verlag von Hugo Krötzsch & Co, Leipzig 1911. 58pp.

(F) Frech, H-P (2015) Die Correspondenzkarten und Postkartenformulare der Ehemaligen Postvereinsländer und des Deutschen Kaiserreiches. Private publisher, Hausach. 672 pp.

NDP - Occupied France 1870/71, Carte de Correspondance #5 (K#22)

Formular card
CdC #22(K),
#5(F)
FDS 18.11.1870.
This was the
second common
issue, issued
from the postal
administration
in Reims (F).

A square stamp
box with a note
"TIMBRE"
(stamp).

The first lines of
notes (1) and (2)
ends with "et"
and "pour",
respectively.

The size of the
card is 111 x
161 mm.

Carte de Correspondance.

à M. _____

Lieu de destination : _____

Demeure du destinataire, si elle
peut être indiquée avec certitude _____

(1) L'inscription doit être faite avec clarté et précision. | (2) Le verso de cette carte peut être utilisé pour les communications écrites à l'encre ou au crayon.

The only known NDP correspondence card with single franking of 10 centimes in the imperial post area, sent completely without any complaints about missing additional postage.

Carte de Correspondance.

à M. _____

Lieu de destination : _____

Demeure du destinataire, si elle
peut être indiquée avec certitude _____

(1) L'inscription doit être faite avec clarté et précision. | (2) Le verso de cette carte peut être utilisé pour les communications écrites à l'encre ou au crayon.

POSTES
10
CENTIMES

CHATEAU-SALINS
28 11
71
6-71

Formular card
CdC #22 (K), #5 (F),
sent in October 1871
from Lorraine in
occupied France to
Stuttgart in
Württemberg with a
postage of 10
centimes.

The size of the card is
somewhat small, 97 x
152 mm.

References: (AdP) Archiv für deutsche Postgeschichte 2/1987
(K) Kalckhoff, F. (1911) Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-Karten der NDP,
Arbeitsgemeinschaft in B.D.Ph.e.V. NDP Heft 18, Verlag von Hugo Krötzsch & Co, Leipzig 1911. 58pp.
(F) Frech, H-P (2015) Die Correspondenzkarten und Postkartenformulare der Ehemaligen Postvereinsländer
und des Deutschen Kaiserreiches. Private publisher, Hausach. 672 pp.

France 1870, late September - early October – par ballon (non) monté

France issued special formular cards in 1870, as “balloon cards”, to be used during the siege of Paris 1870-71 for communication by balloon between Paris and the unoccupied parts of France.

(The first formular cards called “carte postale” were issued in 1873.)

The size limit is 70 x 110 mm, which is the limit set by the decree of 26th of September 1870. The decree also put a limit to the weight at 3 grams. The decree required a stamp to be affixed. The postage was set at 20 centimes for a destination within France or Algeria if sent by a manned balloon and 10 centimes if sent by an unmanned balloon. Cards to foreign countries had the same postage as for letters.



The first formular cards could be a small piece of card where “par ballon monté” had been written by hand.

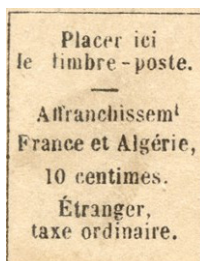
This card is an example of such a card with a thick cardboard, size 62 x 100 mm, no lines or printed text.

The card was mailed on October 1, for Belgium, and most probably sent on October 7 with balloon No. 7, “George Sand”, that landed in Crémercy, after a five hours flight of 110 km towards Belgium (L). Arrival cancellation of October 9 from St. Joffe in Brussels

The red P.D. in a box means “Paye Depart”, paid to the destination, i.e. the postage of 30 centimes to Belgium is correct.

The first formular card issued by France in late September 1870 during the siege of Paris, card #1 (P&B).

The text in the stamp box in the top left corner:



The red P.D. in a box confirmed the postage to England of 30 centimes.



The first formular card #1 (P&B), very thick cardboard, size 68 x 105 mm, weight 3.2 grams, five address lines with initial text “M, -, à, par, dép”.

Balloon cards sent in September, and cards sent to England, are rare.

References: (P&B) Le Pileur, J. & de Beaufond, E.H. (1947) *Catalogue des Ballons Montés du Siege de Paris (1870-1871)*, Yvert & Tellier (eds), Amiens 1947

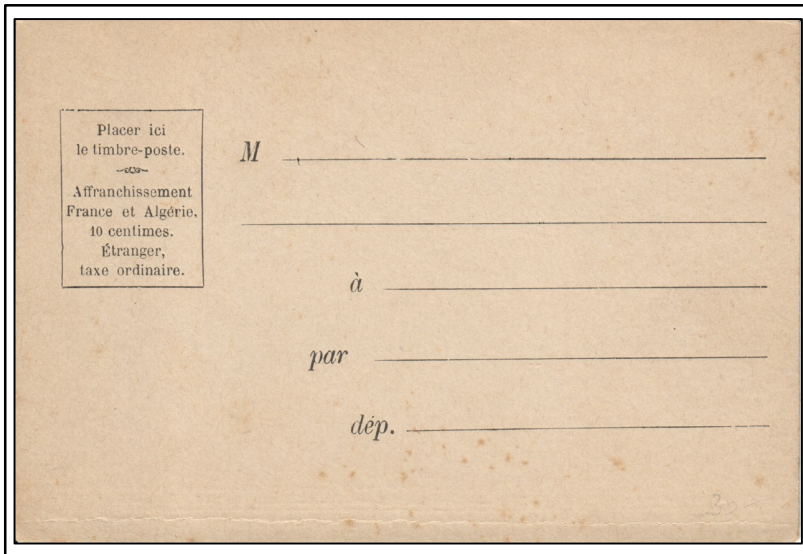
(Phil.net) *Les Ballons Montés*, www.philatelistes.net

(W) Wikipédia (2014) *Timbres de France 1870*, http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timbres_de_France_1870.

(L) Lhéritier, G. (2000) *Collection 1870. Ballons Montés. Boules de Moulins*. Édition 2000, Valeurs & Références, Paris

France 1870, mid October – varieties of card #1

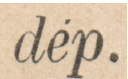
Varieties of the first formular card issued by France in late September 1870 during the siege of Paris, card #1 (P&B). The varieties seem to be used from mid-October 1870.



A variety of the first formular card #1 (P&B), thick cardboard, size 70 x 107 mm, weight 3.2 grams, with a stamp box in the top left corner, five lines with initial text "M, -, à, par, dép.". The initial "à" at the 3rd line 15 mm to the right of M at the 1st line. No printer's note.



The text in the stamp box is slightly different from the original card #1.

The initial text "dep." at the last line is also different from the first card and the second variety. 

A second variety of the first formular card #1 (P&B), thin cardboard, size 67 x 103 mm, weight 1.8 grams, five lines with initial text "M, -, -, à, Dép". The initial "à" at the 4th line beneath "M" on the 1st line. No printer's note. No text in the stamp box. C
Postage now 10 centimes. The postage was changed on October 15, from 20 c. to 10 c. for cards sent by manned balloons, "ballons montés", (P).

This card was used on October 16, 1870, from Paris, Pl. Belleville. It was, most probable, sent on October 18 with Ballon No. 15. Le Victor Hugo ("Cachets de départ du 16 au 18 octobre") (Phil.net) that departed at 11.45 from Jardin des Tuileries, 7 km from the post office at Place Belleville) and arrived at 17.30 in Coevre, près de Vaubéron (Aisne), 100 km north-east of Paris. From there the card travelled some 140 km north with normal postal services to the final destination, Arras, where it arrived on October 22.



A third variety of the first formular card #1 (P&B), thin cardboard, size 67 x 110 mm, weight 1.6 grams. The printed text is exactly the same as on the original card #1 but with the font in bold. No printer's note. Postage 20 centimes for travelling with a manned balloon. The text in the stamp box is the same as on the first variety. C

This card was used on October 30, 1870, from Paris, La Maison Blanche. It travelled from Gare d'Orleans on November 2 with Ballon No. 22. "Le Fulton" 300 km south-west in 5h45. From there the card travelled with normal postal services some 600 km to the west and reached its final destination in three days. The card is severely damaged at the right edge.

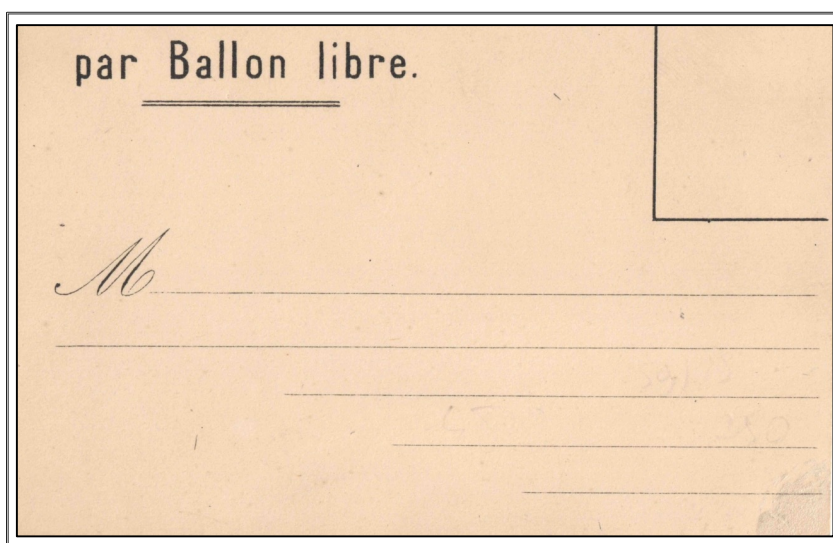
References: (P) Le Pileur, J. (1943) "La Poste par Ballons Montés 1870-1871", Association des Aeronautes du Siège de Paris, de l'Académie de Philatélie, Yvert & Tellier (editors), Amiens, pp.176
(P&B) Le Pileur, J. & de Beaufond, E.H. (1947) Catalogue des Ballons Montés du Siege de Paris (1870-1871), Yvert & Tellier (eds), Amiens 1947
(Phil.net) Les Ballons Montés, www.philatelistes.net
(W) Wikipédia (2014) Timbres de France 1870, http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timbres_de_France_1870

France 1870, late September - early October – “par Ballon libre”

France issued special formular cards in 1870, as “balloon cards”, to be used during the siege of Paris 1870-71 for communication by balloon between Paris and the unoccupied parts of France.

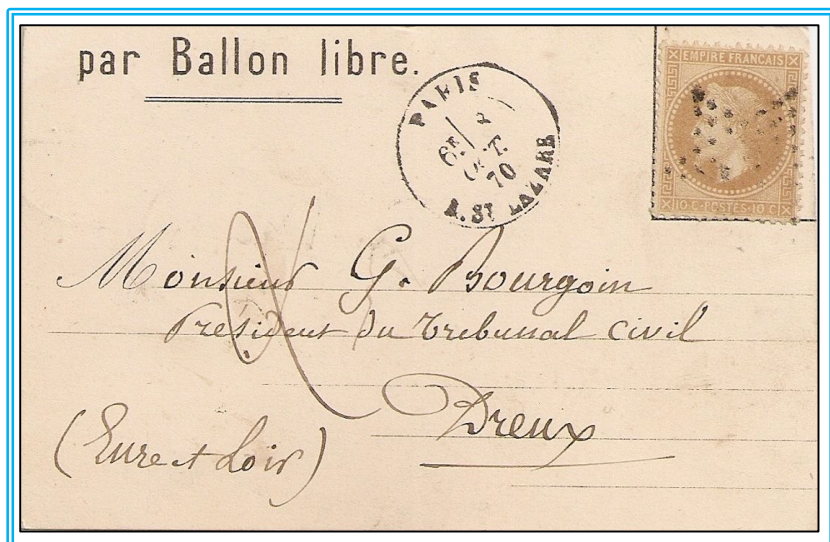
Formular card #2 (P&B) has the title “par Ballon libre.”, by “free” balloon, i.e. it was meant to be sent by an unmanned balloon, for a postage of 10 centimes.

The first, and only, attempt on September 30 failed, however (M). These cards were, instead, sent by manned balloons.



Thick cardboard, size 69x105-108 mm, weight 2.4 grams, with an empty stamp box in the top right corner, five address lines with an initial, fancy “M” at the first line.

No printer’s note.



Formular card #2 used on October 8 and sent by a manned balloon, even though the title line says, “with a free balloon”. The postage, 10 centimes, still is for cards sent by an unmanned balloon.

This card was used on October 8, 1870, from Paris, Rue St Lazare. It was most probably sent by Ballon No. 10.

“Le Louis Blanc” (Phil.net) and landed in Béciers, in Belgium, 290 km north of Paris. From there the card travelled with normal postal services to its final destination Dreux, some 80 km west of Paris. The card carries a cancellation at the back side from a train towards Paris on October 20, 1870.

References:

(M) Maury, A (1907) *Histoire des Timbre-Poste Français. Enveloppes, Bandes, Cartes etc.*

(P&B) Le Pileur, J. & de Beaufond, E.H. (1947) *Catalogue des Ballons Montés du Siege de Paris (1870-1871)*, Yvert & Tellier (eds), Amiens 1947

(Phil.net) *Les Ballons Montés*, www.philatelistes.net

(W) Wikipédia (2014) *Timbres de France 1870*, http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timbres_de_France_1870

France 1870, mid October – “Par Ballon non monté”

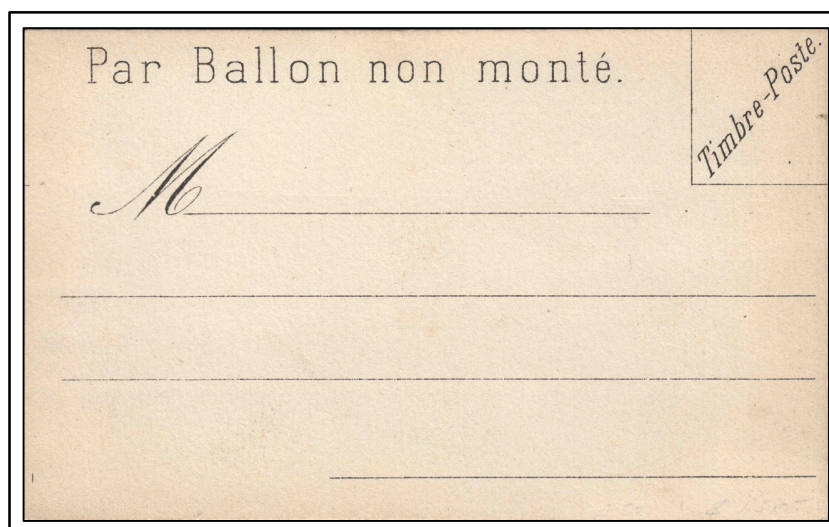
The fourth formular card #4 (P&B) has the title “Par Ballon non monté.”, by Balloon without a pilot, i.e. it was meant to be sent by an unmanned balloon, for a postage of 10 centimes. These cards were, instead, sent by manned balloons even though the postage was too low.

The fourth formular card #4 (P&B), thin white paper, size 68 x 110 mm, weight 1.4 grams.

It has a box for a stamp (“Timbre-Poste”) in the top right corner and an “M”, for “Monsieur”, at the first address line. Four address lines.

No printer’s note.

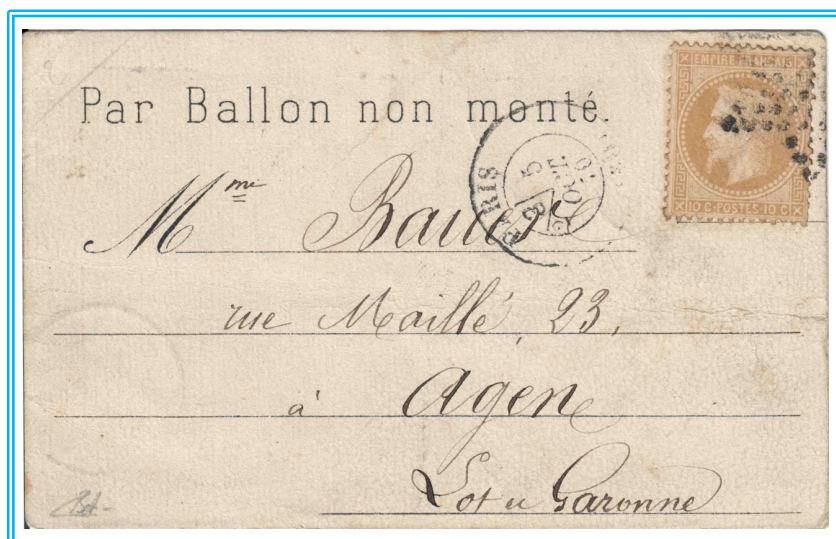
Intended postage 10 centimes as for cards to be sent by unmanned balloons.



This formular card #4 was used on October 5, 1870, from St-Ouen, a northern suburb to Paris, to be sent to the south-west of France. The postage is 10 centimes as for cards to be sent by an unmanned balloon.

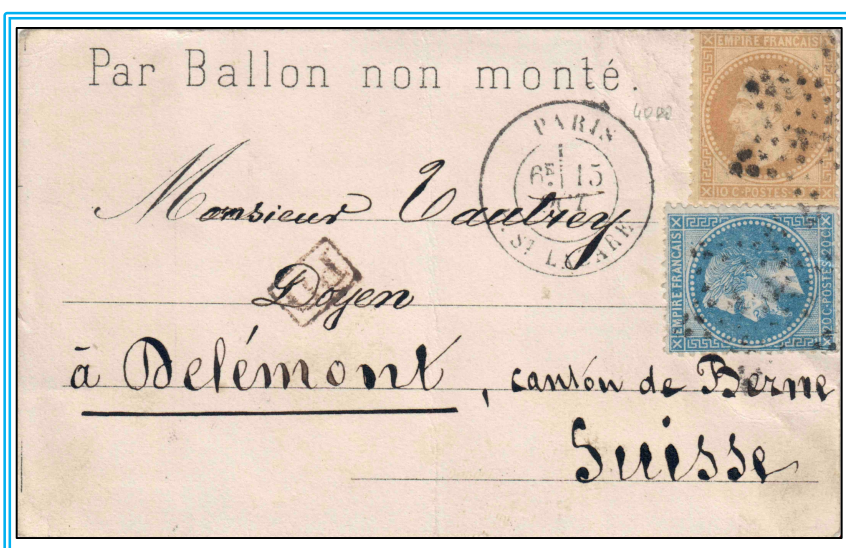
The back side of the card has an arrival cancellation on October 21 from Agen.

It took more than two weeks to find its final destination, starting with a short balloon trip with the wind out of Paris.



The card was sent by Ballon No. 6. L’Armand-Barbés that departed on October 7 from Place Saint-Pierre (some 4 km from St-Ouen) and landed 98 km north of Paris. From there the card travelled with normal postal services, around the besieged Paris, to its final destination on October 21, some 700 km south of Paris.

C



This formular card #4 was used on October 15, 1870, from St-Lazare, in central Paris, to be sent to Switzerland. The postage is 30 centimes as for cards to be sent to a foreign country. Correct postage is confirmed by the red “PD” in a box.

The card was most probably sent on October 16 by Ballon No. 13 or 14, that both landed in Belgium.

The back side of the card has an arrival cancellation from October 23 from Delemont.

Balloon cards sent to Switzerland are rare.

France 1870, October – “Par Ballon non monté” - varieties

The fourth formular card #4 (P&B) has the title “Par Ballon non monté.”, by Balloon without a pilot, i.e. it was meant to be sent by an unmanned balloon, for a postage of 10 centimes. These cards were, instead, sent by manned balloons even though the postage was too low.

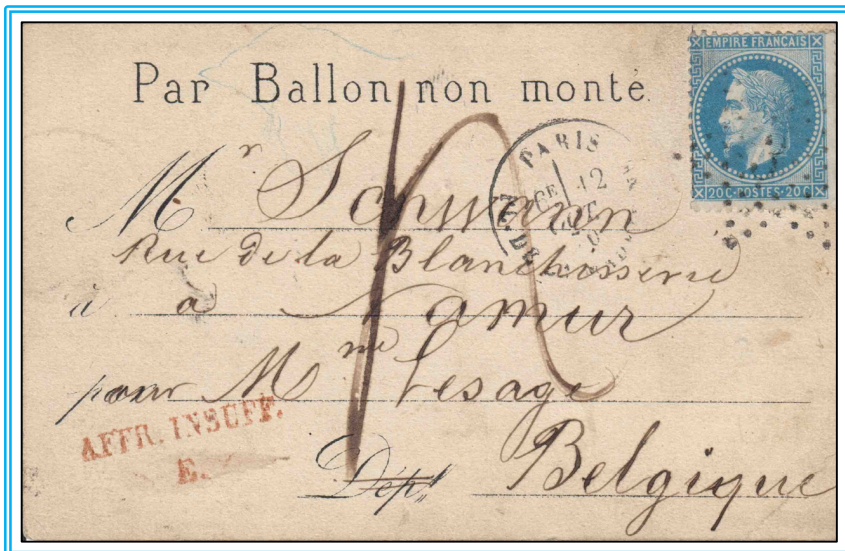
A variety of the fourth formular card #4 (P&B), with a different font in the title line and with text in front of the lines: “a”, “par”, “Dept”.

This card is printed on a much thicker cardboard; weight 2.3 grams, size 70 x 110 mm.

This variety of formular card #4 was used on October 12, 1870, from Place de la Madeleine in Paris, and sent to Belgium, with an insufficient postage of 20 centimes, instead of 30 centimes.

The back side of the card has an arrival cancellation on October 18. It took only six days to Belgium, starting with a balloon trip with the wind.

C



The card was most probably sent by one of the two balloons leaving on October 16 from Gare d'Orleans headed for Belgium (M). Those two balloons actually reached Belgium (M).



C

The card was most probably carried by Le Vauban, leaving on October 27 from Gare d'Orleans, landing four hours later 248 km to the east. The card then travelled by train, around Paris, to the coast of the English Channel, more than 700 km to the west.

The sixth formular card #6 (P&B), thin white paper, size 68 x 110 mm, weight 1.7 grams. with the first line in capital letters.

Four address lines. Text in front of the lines shifted to the left: a large “M”, “a”, “par” and “Département d”.

This formular card #6 was used on October 26, 1870, from Belleville in Paris, and sent to Cherbourg, with a postage of 10 centimes, for travelling with an unmanned balloon. The back side of the card has an arrival cancellation of November 2 in Cherbourg.

This particular card was shown in the books by Maury (1907) and Le Pileur (1943).

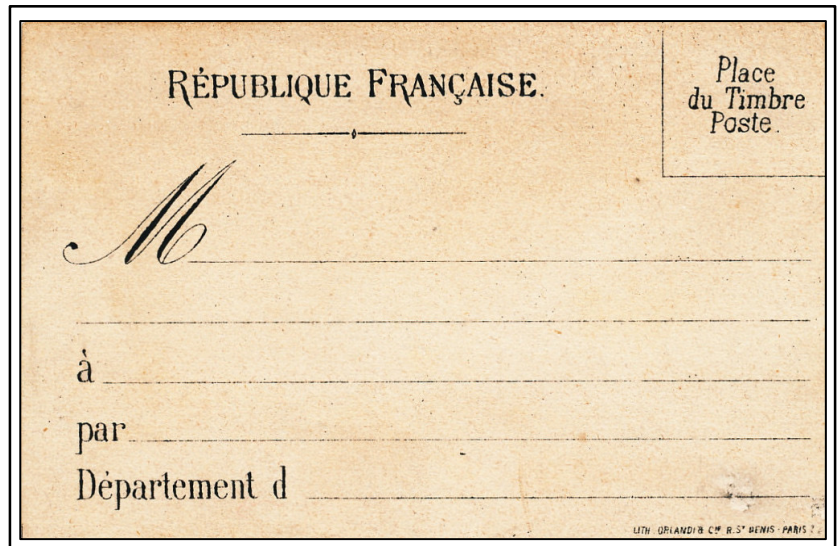
France 1870 – late October - “République Française” – varieties

Formular card #7 (P&B) issued by France in 1870 during the siege of Paris. The title is now, for the first time, “République Française”.

A stamp box with new text, “Place for the stamp”, and five address lines starting with a fancy “M” at the first address line. The last line starts now with the full word “Département”. The back side is blank. The cards #7 weigh only 2.0 grams; the card size is 70 x 110 mm .

The card has a note at bottom right, naming the printer: *Lith. Orland & Co in S^t Denis.*

The last address line ends with a single “d”.



A variety of formular card #7, without the first title line and the line beneath. The large M is thinner but has a larger loop. Another printer in the note at bottom right.

The last line now ends with “de”.

A postage of 10c for “Ballon non Monté”. Posted on October 18, probably sent by the balloon No. 16, “La République Universelle”, on October 19, 256 km to north-east, after a two hours flight. The card arrived on October 24 at its final destination Bourg-en-Bresse 500 km to the south.

This variety is not recorded by (P&B).

A second variety of formular card #7 (P&B), the same text but in a new font. A new, short wavy line below “RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE”.

Only four address lines.

“Department” shortened to “Dèp”.

The cardboard is somewhat thinner, and the card is 4 mm shorter; weight 1.8 g, size 70 x 106 mm.

Sent from Paris by “Ballons Monté” with a postage of 20 c. Two rare cancellations: “ARAL” and “Armée du Rhin 13^o Corps” from October 27. Travelled most probably with “Le Colonel Charras” on October 29, 308 km east-south-east. An arrival cancellation says that the card reached its final destination at the Atlantic coast on November 3.



References: (D) Décrets du 26 septembre 1870. Le Gouvernement de la Défense Nationale. Expédition des correspondances de Paris par ballons montés et non montés. – Avis au public. Paris le 27 Septembre 1870.

(B) Bulletin Mensuel de l'Administration des Postes, no 28, July 1871.

(P) Philatelistes.net (2014). Les Ballons Montés, www.philatelistes.net.

(P&B) Le Pileur, J. & de Beaufond, E.H. (1947) Catalogue des Ballons Montés du Siege de Paris (1870-1871), Yvert & Tellier (eds), Amiens 1947

France 1870 – “Correspondance Aérienne”. A variety



Formular card #8 (P&B) has the title “République Française”, and a new decorative line. The stamp box has the same text as on cards #7.

“Correspondance Aérienne” is printed in the top of the back side, followed by the same decorative line as on the front side.

The top of the back side:



Formular card #8 is printed on very thick cardboard, size 70 x 110 mm, weight 2.4 grams. Five address lines with initial text “M, -, à, par, Département d”.

The printer is mentioned to the left at the bottom: Lith. Orland & Co in St Denis.

This card is very early used, with a postage of 10 c., already on October 1, travelled most probably with “Victor Hugo” on October 18, 117 km to north-east, and arrived in Lyon on October 23.

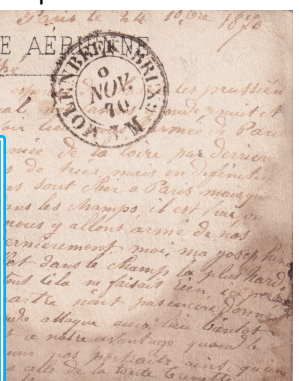


The back side, with “Correspondance Aérienne”:

Variety of Formular card #8 (P&B) has the same back side, but another front page. The front page is the same front page as card #7 with the title “République Française” but a blank back side.

This card could also be seen as a **variety of the Formular card #7 (P&B)** with the same back side as card #8. The card is somewhat shorter, 108.5 mm, and the cardboard is thinner; weight 1.9 grams.

The postage was 30 centimes to Belgium, confirmed by the red stamp “PD”.



The card was posted on October 24, travelled with “Le Vauban” on October 27, 308 km to the east, and arrived in Brussels on November 6.