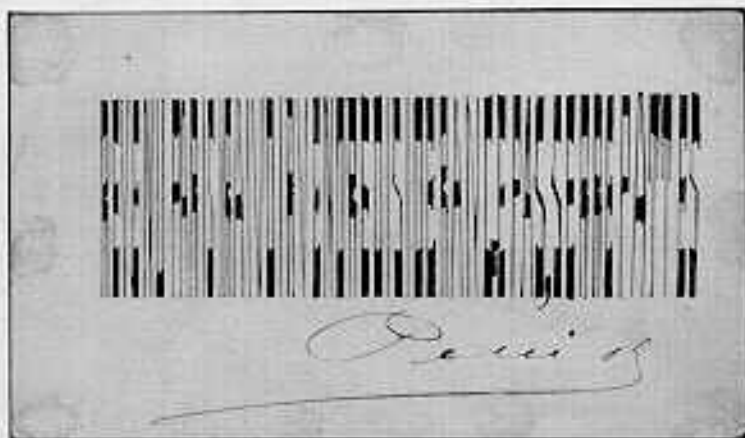




In France, besides Paris, pneumatic mail service was installed in Marseille. It operated from 1910 to 1964. The scarce, open envelope illustrated above is from Marseille. On the front it has a nice map of the city. On the flaps it contains information for its proper use, postal rates, the routes and a warning.



The postal card, while not as rare as the Marseille envelope, is quite intriguing. The octagonal shaped, blue cancellation carries the date of "18 AOUT '84". The number 69/1 in the upper left (above the word CARTE) indicates that it was the 69th item sent from office 1 on that date. The "Abb." is probably the abbreviation for the destination station as a guide for the workers. Another sign of authenticity is the crease across the middle. Mail had to be folded in order to fit in the 65 millimeter pneumatic cylinders that carried it.



The message on the other side is engaging. Its author must have spent some time to construct it. It is done with finesse and care, utilizing faint pencil guidelines. Position the page at an angle away from you for easier reading. (In case you cannot decipher it, the answer is given below). No doubt, this card was as much fun to prepare as to receive.

(REVENU PARIS IRAI VOIR VENDREDIS DERANGE PAS, SERRE PATTES – loose translation: Back in Paris will see you Friday don't trouble yourself, shake paws, signed Perrier)