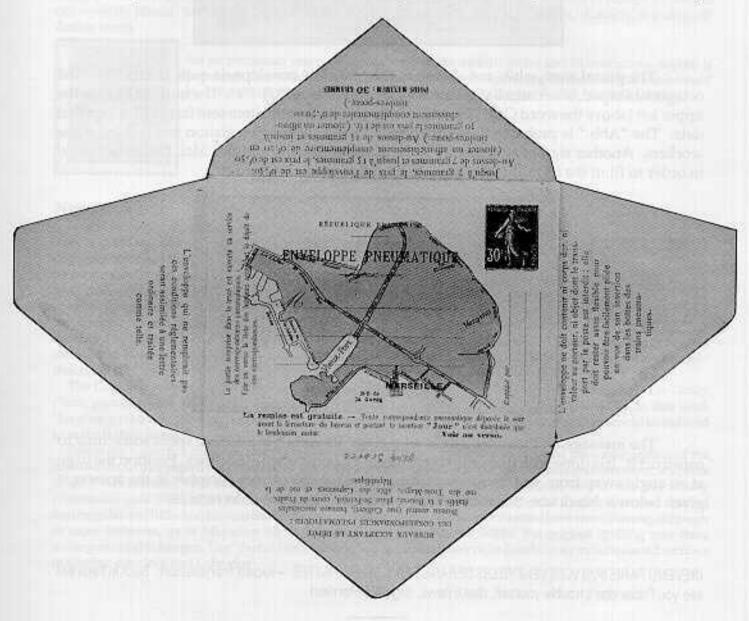
## PNEUMATIC MAIL CONTINUED. . .

Dr. Arlinghaus's excellent article on French pneumatic mail in the last issue brought some interesting responses. Most informative was a packet of material lent us by our colleague Nathaniel H. Gordon. He sent us two articles from Linn's Stamp News, "Paris pneumatic post moved messages quickly" (October 17, 1988) and "The pneumatic mail services of Germany" (June 4, 1990) and three pneumatic mail items, two of which are reproduced below.

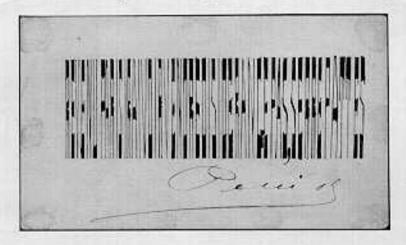
From the articles we learn that the first pneumatic tubes appeared in England in the 1850's. Germany too had an early beginning of pneumatic mail service or "rohrpost". In 1865 a modest system was installed in Berlin by the Siemens and Halske engineering firm. Although Munich, Dresden, Hamburg, Cologne, Leipzig and Breslau all introduced pneumatic mail service, Berlin's was by far the most successful. By the beginning of World War II, the Berlin rohrpost reportedly had 94 stops and almost 155 miles of tubing. It remained in operation even after the city was divided and it is still in use today albeit for internal post office business only.



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)