

ALAWITE TERRITORY
Third Airmail Overprints

Tartous
24 May 1926



In order to provide a clearer designation of the airmail nature of the stamps, four values with new overprints depicting an airplane in red were issued on 1 May 1926. Examples shown here flown to Damascus, where it was received on the following day.

ALAWITE TERRITORY
Airmail Surcharges

Lattaquie
12 August 1929
21 August 1931

Par Avion Via Beyrouth Marseille

PAR AVION
البريد الجوي



Messieurs Francis J. Field, Ltd.

SUTTON

COLDFIELD

ENGLAND



L. Bassingthwaite

41 Dereham Rd

Norwich (England)



Due to postal rate increases, some new denominations were overprinted for airmail (with the plane in black on the 1 piastre stamp printed in red). In addition, some of the regular stamps surcharged with new denominations were overprinted. These latter have "Alaouites" in upper and lower case letters as opposed to all capitals for the others. Dates of issue were June 1929 to January 1930.

ALAWITE TERRITORY
Late Use of Alaouites Stamps

Lattaquie
14 August 1936

Rouad
15 February 1936

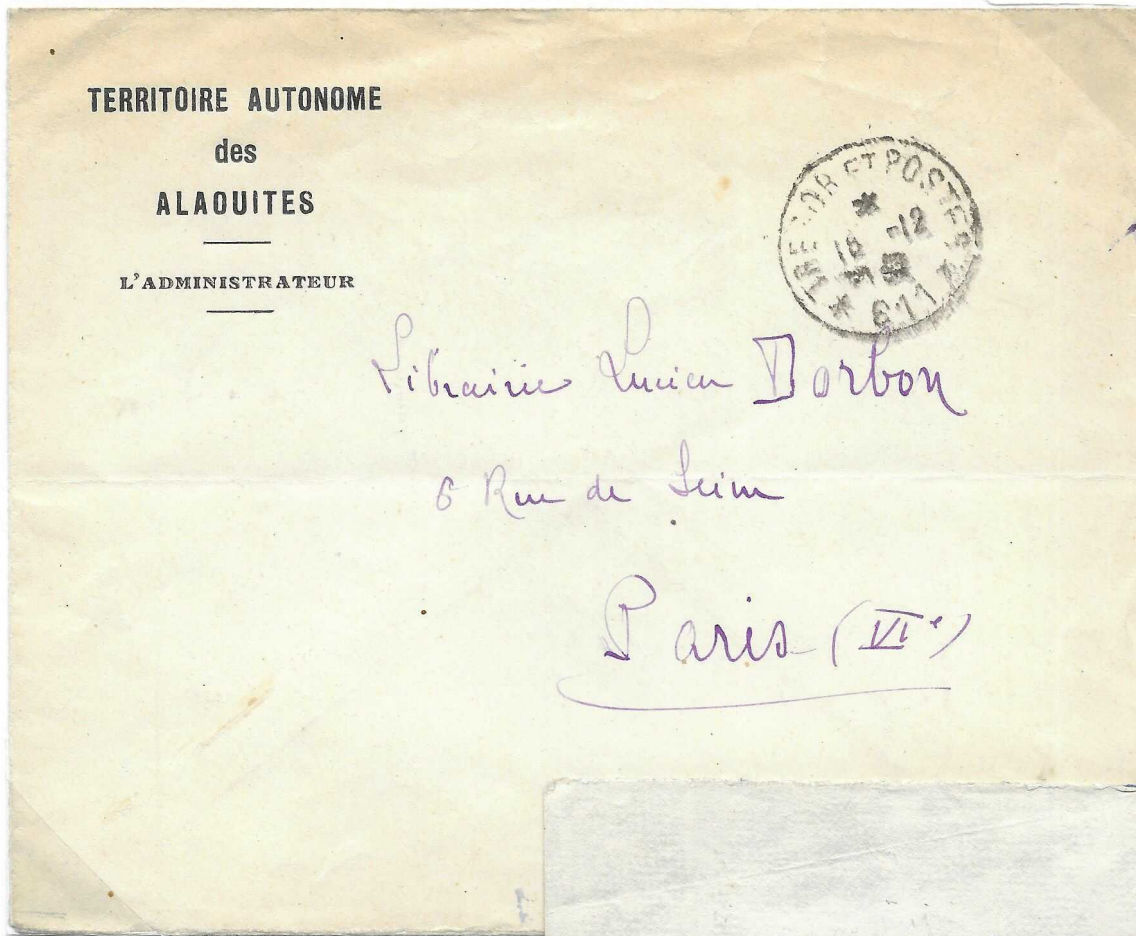


The name of Alaouites was changed to Lattaquie on 15 April 1930. However, the earlier stamp issues were not demonetized and continued in use. These examples were still properly being used on covers to Beirut more than five years after the change.

ALAWITE TERRITORY
Official Mail

Tresor et Postes 611
18 December 1925

Poste aux Armees 611
3 November 1925



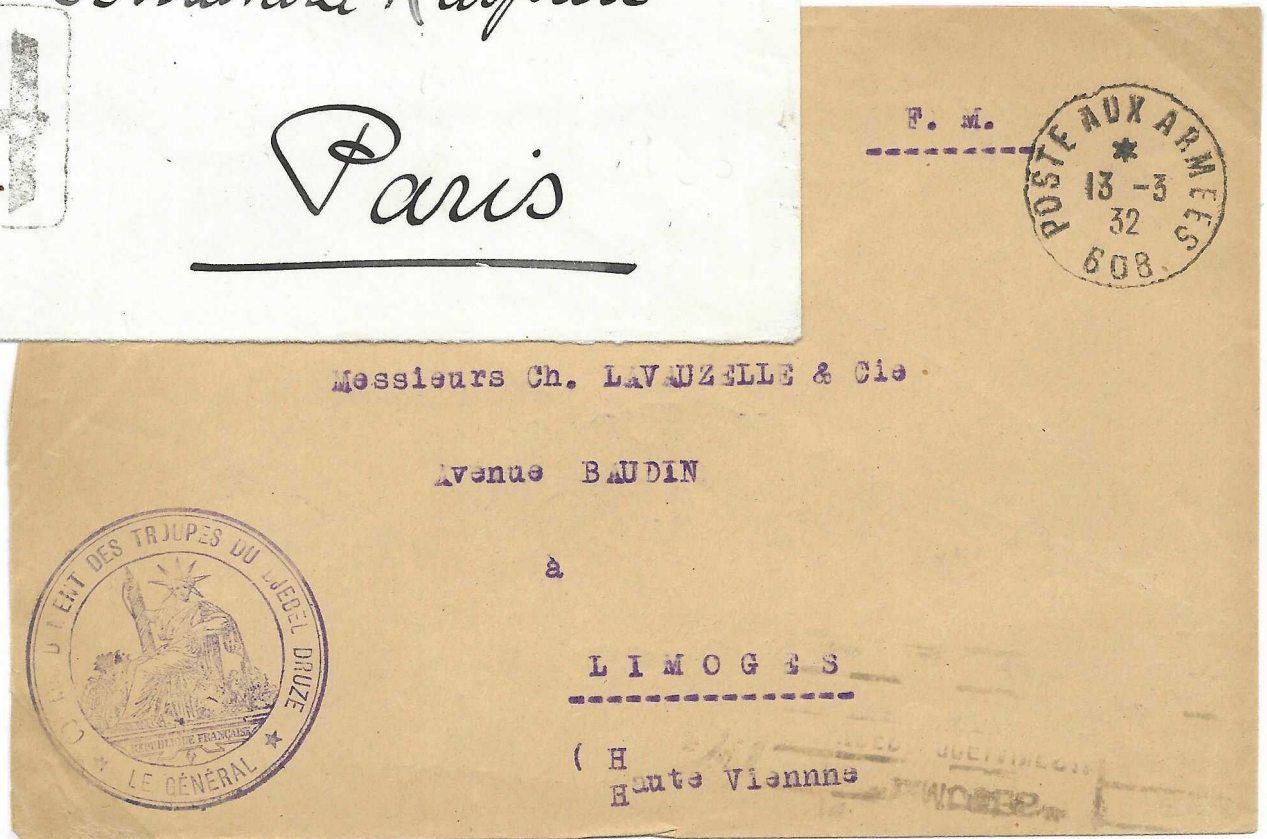
French administrators in the Alawite Territory were served by FPO #611, which was located at Latakia.

DJEBEL DRUZE

In the mid-1920s, the Druze sect was granted some degree of autonomy in their lands around the Druze Mountain in the far south of Syria. However, this did not extend so far as to establish a separate postal service or issue stamps. As a result, mail that can be identified as coming from the Djebel Druze is quite scarce. It, like Latakia, was reabsorbed into Syria in 1937.



Post aux Armees 608
13 March 1932
26 October 1933



These covers are examples of official mail from Djebel Druze. The upper cover has a corner card of the "State of Djebel Druze." The lower example is from the Provost of the territory. Both were sent to France via fieldpost office 608 in Rayak.

DJEBEL DRUZE
Military Mail
Syrian Franking

Poste aux Armees 608
28 April 1937

Soueida
12 December 1940

LOUIS J. PATAKY
Sous-Officier Service du Génie
Secteur Postal: 608 Soueida
(Djebel Druze) Armée Française du Levant

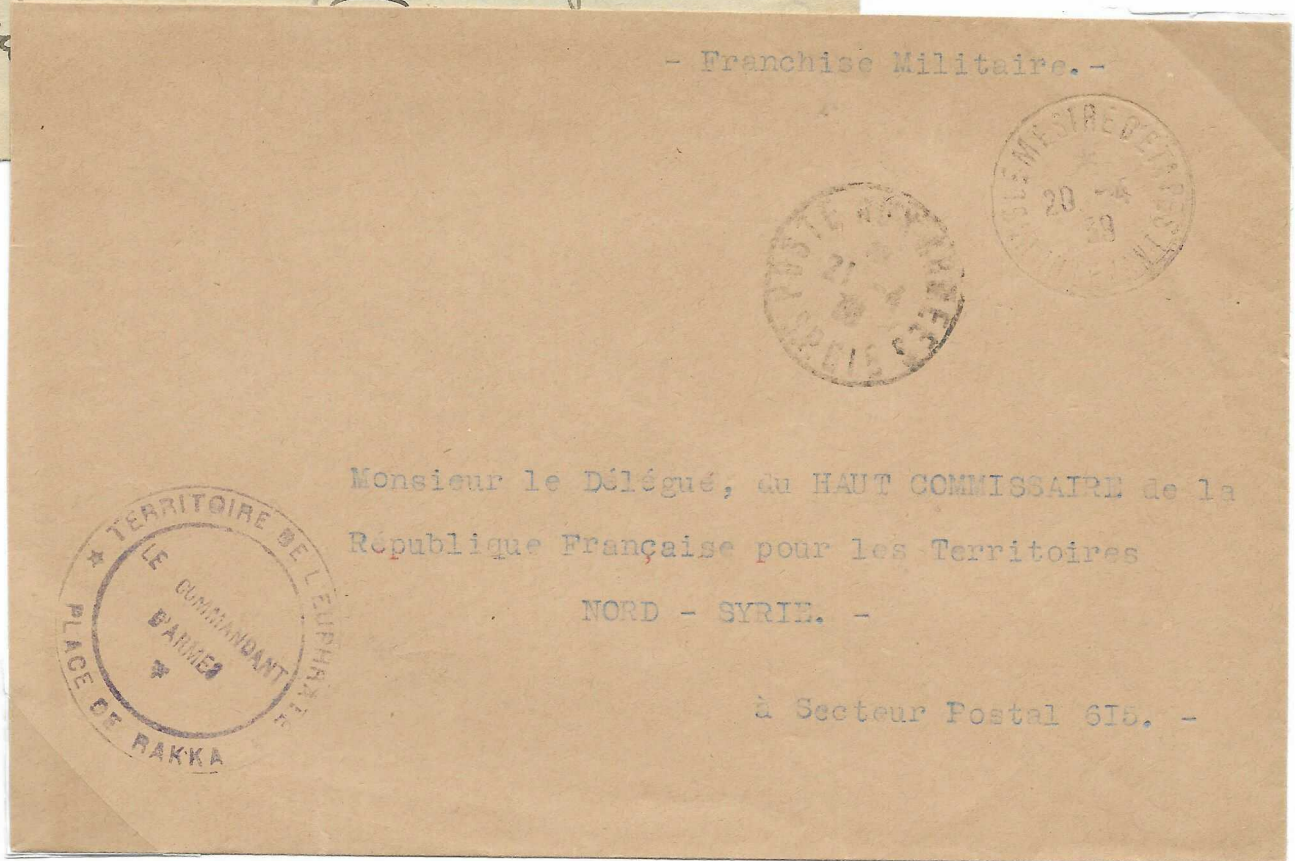
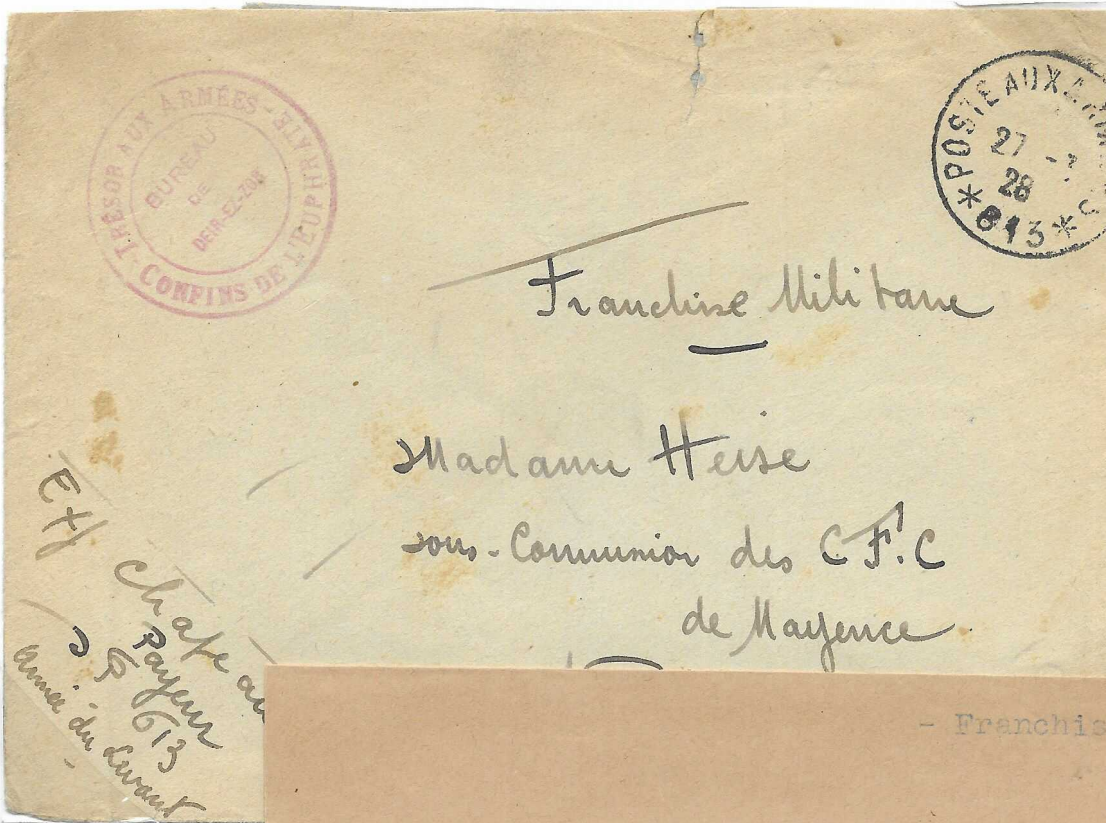


Separate stamps were never issued for the mountainous Djebel Druze, probably because of its remoteness and low literacy factor among the inhabitants. In fact, any mail from this area is exceedingly elusive. Upper example was mailed by a French engineer at FPO 608 in Soueida, the main (and based on maps, possibly the only) town in the territory. Lower cover represents civil mail franked with 11.50 piastres of various Syrian stamps and sent to Michigan. Transit backstamp of Damascus on 15 December.

EUPHRATES TERRITORY

Poste aux Armees 613
27 March 1928

Vaguemestre d'Etapes/10 Levant
20 April 1939



Another partly autonomous area was the Euphrates Valley in eastern Syria. Separate stamps were never issued , but markings can be found indicating use in this territory. Upper cover from FPO #613, which was opened at Deir el Zor on 1 April 1924. Lower cover sent from Rakka in the "Territory of the Euphrates" to Aleppo.

LATAKIA

On 15 April 1930, the name of the Alawite Territory was changed to Latakia (Lattaquie in French). This reflected the fact that not all of the inhabitants of the area were members of the Alawi sect, so that a geographic designation was more appropriate. Thus, the name of the capital city was adopted for the territory. As of 5 December 1936, Latakia was absorbed back into Syria, and its stamps became invalid on 1 March 1937.

Lattaquie
14 January 1936
19 February 1936



The first Latakia stamps were overprints inscribed in French and Arabic on the current Syrian definitives and issued in 1931. Upper example shows the two lowest denominations properly used to pay the printed matter rate on a wrapper to France. Lower cover has mixed Alawite and Latakia issues but was underpaid to London.

LATAKIA
Mixed Franking

Lattaquie
25 July 1933
22 September 1936



Mr. David M. Hallier,

~~West Side Y. M. C. A.,~~

~~9200 Franklin Blvd.,~~

~~Cleveland, Ohio,~~



2206 L



Mr. Beyj. Baroody

B. P. 153

Beyrouth

Because there were still large supplies of "Alaouites" stamps still in the post offices and in the hands of customers, examples of mixed franking with "Lattaquie" overprints are frequently seen. The above examples sent to Ohio and Lebanon.

LATAKIA
Overprints on Syria

Banias
15 December 1935

Tartous
25 December 1936

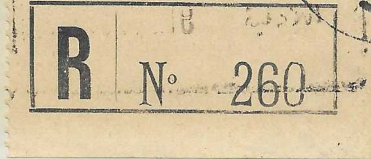


The current Syrian airmails were overprinted "Lattaquie" and issued on 19 November 1931. These stamps are usually found along with the regular issues, as shown on the upper cover from Banias to Beirut. Lower cover was sent by airmail from Tartous to Argentina, an unusual destination.

LATAKIA
Overprints on Syria

Lattaquie
10 April 1933

Rouad
26 November 1934



Export Department

Capehart Corporation

35475

إلى السيد صبر الدين الشامي
صندوق البريد ٢٥

جناب حجة السادة الامام جده ونظري علم الدين

دام بقاءكم اجمعين



Examples of commercial use of "Lattaquie" stamps on registered cover from Latakia to Indiana and on letter from Rouad to Tripoli, Lebanon.

LATAKIA
Military Mail

Postes aux Armees 608
12 June 1938

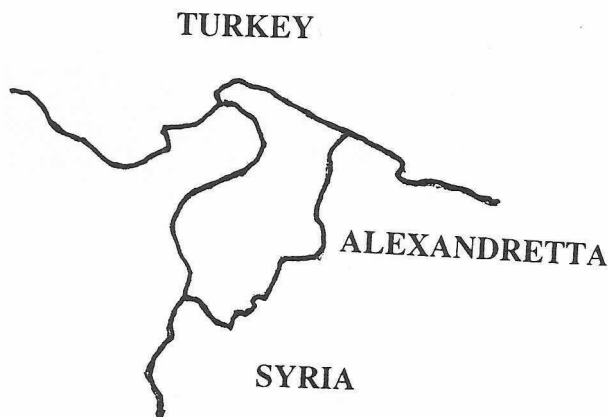


French forces in Latakia were served by FPO #608, which was located at the city of the same name.

ALEXANDRETTA

In early 1938, the French created a separate district of Alexandretta out of the northern coastal area of Syria, reflecting the fact that this territory contained a substantial number of ethnic Turks who preferred separation rather than being a minority among the Arabs in the coming independent Syria. In fact, by 9 September 1938, the French had agreed to turn over the territory to Turkey. Officially, the transfer was made on 21 July 1939, with the name of Hatay being adopted for the territory, and the name of the city Iskenderun.

Alexandrette
21 December 1938



The first Alexandretta stamps were overprints "Sandjak d'Alexandrette" on the current Syrian definitives and issued in 1938. This cover sent to Beirut, where it was received on 31 December 1938.

ALEXANDRETTA
Overprints on Syria

Antioche
6 June 1938

Alexandrette
26 July 1938



Additional examples of overprints on Syria. Postal stationery envelope sent from Antioch to Damascus. Lower cover sent by air from Tripoli, Lebanon to Marseilles, France and then by surface to the addressee in Illinois.

ALEXANDRETTA
Overprints on Syria

Antioche
9 June 1938

Saouk-Olouk
17 September 1938



Alexandretta overprints used from other towns are quite elusive. Examples shown above are covers from Saouk-Olouk to Beirut and from Antioch to New York.

ALEXANDRETTA
Surcharges on Syria

Alexandrette
31 October 1938



Due to changes in postal rates, two new values were created by surcharging the earlier stamps. These are shown (with an additional unsurcharged value) on a registered cover from Alexandretta to France, where it was received on 7 November 1938.