[slations!](https://meta.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:Translate&group=Centralnotice-tgroup-InternationalWomensMonth)]

Timeline of postal history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Jump to navigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#mw-head)[Jump to search](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#searchInput)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | This article **needs additional citations for**[**verification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability). Please help [improve this article](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit) by [adding citations to reliable sources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Referencing_for_beginners). Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *Find sources:* ["Timeline of postal history"](https://www.google.com/search?as_eq=wikipedia&q=%22Timeline+of+postal+history%22) – [news](https://www.google.com/search?tbm=nws&q=%22Timeline+of+postal+history%22+-wikipedia) **·** [newspapers](https://www.google.com/search?&q=%22Timeline+of+postal+history%22+site:news.google.com/newspapers&source=newspapers) **·** [books](https://www.google.com/search?tbs=bks:1&q=%22Timeline+of+postal+history%22+-wikipedia) **·** [scholar](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=%22Timeline+of+postal+history%22) **·** [JSTOR](https://www.jstor.org/action/doBasicSearch?Query=%22Timeline+of+postal+history%22&acc=on&wc=on) *(May 2019) (*[*Learn how and when to remove this template message*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Maintenance_template_removal)*)* |

This is a partial [timeline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronology) of significant **events in postal history**, including [dates and events](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_history) relating to [postage stamps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamp).

First century[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=1)]

* [*Cursus publicus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursus_publicus), the state-run courier (and transportation) service of the Roman Empire was established by [Augustus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus).

Fifteenth century[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=2)]

* 1497 - [Franz von Taxis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_von_Taxis)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-auto1-1) established a postal service on behalf of Emperor [Maximilian I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) of the [Holy Roman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire)

Sixteenth century[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=3)]

* 1516 - [Henry VIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_VIII_of_England) established a "Master of the Posts"[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-2)
* 1520 - [Manuel I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_I_of_Portugal) creates the public mail service of Portugal, the **Correio Público-Public Post Office**.
* 1558 18 October - [Sigismund II Augustus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigismund_II_Augustus) established [Poczta Polska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poczta_Polska" \o "Poczta Polska), a postal service of the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish%E2%80%93Lithuanian_Commonwealth).

Seventeenth century[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=4)]

* 1635 31 July - [Charles I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_I_of_England) made the [Royal Mail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Mail) service available to the public for the first time with postage being paid by the recipient.
* 1639 - The [General Court of Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Court_of_Massachusetts) designates the [tavern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tavern) of [Richard Fairbanks](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Richard_Fairbanks_(American_colonist)&action=edit&redlink=1) in [Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston) as the official repository of overseas mail, making it the first postal establishment in the [13 colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13_colonies).
* 1647 7 January - [H. Morian](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=H._Morian&action=edit&redlink=1)Granted license på have a postal monopoly "[Posten Norge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Posten_Norge" \o "Posten Norge)".
* 1654 - [Oliver Cromwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Cromwell) grants monopoly over service in England to "[Office of Postage](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Office_of_Postage&action=edit&redlink=1)".
* 1660 - [General Post Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Post_Office) established in [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) by [Charles II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_England).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-3)
* 1663 - England's Imperial Post Office is established in the Colony of Barbados.
* 1663 - Portugal's Correio-Mor das Cartas do Mar is established in [Rio de Janeiro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) by the 7th High-Courier of the Kingdom of Portugal, [Luís Gomes da Mata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lu%C3%ADs_Gomes_da_Mata).
* 1671 - King [Louis XIV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XIV) grants monopoly over service in Paris to the family Pagot and Rouillé.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-auto-4)
* 1675 - Beat Fischer von Reichenbach granted permission to operate a private postal service in Bern, Switzerland.
* 1680 - The first [penny post](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penny_post) system, known as the [**London Penny Post**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Penny_Post), for local delivery was introduced by [William Dockwra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Dockwra) in London.
* 1690 – Leon II Pajot builds a privately operated postal center on 9 [rue des Déchargeurs](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rue_des_D%C3%A9chargeurs&action=edit&redlink=1) in Paris[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-auto-4) - International Horse Carriages carry Mail from Paris to Pajot et Rouillé or [Thurn und Taxis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thurn_und_Taxis) Post relais around western Europe. The building, the [Hôtel de Villeroy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%B4tel_de_Villeroy_(Paris,_1st_arrondissement)) still exists, it is used today for private apartments and for the exposition center Cremerie de Paris, the private courtyard can be visited by the public certain days in the summer.

Eighteenth century[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=5)]

* 1738 the Parisian postal family Pajot & Rouille had become one of the wealthiest families in France.  
  The Royal French minister of finance [cardinal de Fleury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_de_Fleury) estimates that the postal wealth should belong to the Kings of France and nationalizes the privately run postal enterprise.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-auto-4) The postal service also leaves the historic Pajot & Rouille buildings (formerly [Hôtel de Villeroy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%B4tel_de_Villeroy_(Paris,_1st_arrondissement))) located on rue des Dechargeurs / rue des Bourdonnais.
* 1775 - The [Continental Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Congress) appoints [Benjamin Franklin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Franklin) to be the first [United States Postmaster General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Postmaster_General).
* 1792 20 February - The US [Postal Service Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_Service_Act) establishes the [United States Post Office Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Post_Office_Department).

1820s[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=6)]

* 1821 - Carlo Meratti, an Italian, living in Alexandria, establishes a post office to send and receive mail to and from foreign countries.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_postal_history#cite_note-5)
* 1825 - The US establishes a [dead letter office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_letter_office).
* 1828 - Hellenic postal service established.

1830s[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=7)]

* 1830 – First [mail train](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travelling_Post_Office) in [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland).
* 1831 - Independent Irish and Scottish Post Offices united under the [Postmaster General of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmaster_General_of_the_United_Kingdom), 31 years after the [Act of Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Union_1800)
* 1839 5 December - [Uniform Fourpenny Post](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Fourpenny_Post) starts throughout the [UK](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland).

1840s[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=8)]

* 1840 10 January - [Uniform Penny Post](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Penny_Post) starts throughout the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland).
* 1840 1 May - United Kingdom issues the [Penny Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penny_Black) and [Two Pence Blue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Pence_Blue), the world's first [postage stamps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamp).
* 1840 6 May - The Penny Black and Two Pence Blue, world's first [postage stamps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamp), become valid for the pre-payment of postage.
* 1842 1 February [City Despatch Post](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=City_Despatch_Post&action=edit&redlink=1) New York local post.
* 1843 1 March - [Zürich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canton_of_Zurich) issue their first stamps: [Zurich 4 and Zurich 6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zurich_4_and_Zurich_6).
* 1843 1 August - [Bull's Eyes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bull%27s_Eye_(postage_stamp)), first stamps of [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil)
* 1843 30 September - [Geneva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva) issue their first stamps: [Double Geneva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_Geneva).
* 1845 - Creation of the [New York Postmaster's Provisional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Postmaster%27s_Provisional)
* 1845 - The US [star routes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_routes) begin operation.
* 1847 1 July The United States issues its first stamps.
* 1847 21 September [Mauritius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mauritius) issues its first stamps, the [Mauritius "Post Office"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritius_%22Post_Office%22) stamps, or the Red Penny and Blue Penny.
* 1848 - first use of [Perot Provisionals](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Perot_Provisional&action=edit&redlink=1) in [Bermuda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda)
* 1849 1 January - first stamps of [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Second_Empire)
* 1849 1 July - first stamps of [Belgium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgium), known as the ["Epaulettes" type](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epaulettes_(stamp))
* 1849 1 November - first stamps of [Bavaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Bavaria)

1850s[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Timeline_of_postal_history&action=edit&section=9)]

* 1850 1 January [New South Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales) issues its first stamps.
* 1850 1 January Spain issues its first stamps.
* 1850 3 January [Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_(Australia)) issues its first stamps.
* 1850 7 April Federal Switzerland issues its first stamps.
* 1850 1 June Austria and [Kingdom of Lombardy–Venetia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Lombardy%E2%80%93Venetia) issue their first stamps.
* 1850 29 June [Saxony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Saxony) issues its first stamps.
* 1850 1 July [British Guiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Guiana) issues its first stamps.
* 1850 15 November [Prussia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia) issues its first stamps.
* 1851 1 April Denmark issues its first stamp.
* 1851 23 April - The [Province of Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Province_of_Canada) issues its first stamp, the [Three-Penny Beaver](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Three-Penny_Beaver&action=edit&redlink=1), designed by [Sandford Fleming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandford_Fleming).
* 1851 - Kingdom of Hawaii issues [Hawaiian Missionaries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaiian_Missionaries), first stamps.
* 1852 - [New Brunswick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Brunswick) issues its first stamps.
* 1852 - The [Netherlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands) issues its first stamps.
* 1852 - [Scinde Dawks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scinde_Dawk" \o "Scinde Dawk) in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_India)
* 1852 - first stamps of [Barbados](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbados)
* 1852 - US issues its first [stamped envelopes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamped_envelope).
* 1853 - first stamps of [Portugal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_of_Portugal)
* 1853 1 November - first stamps of [Tasmania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tasmania)
* 1854 - first stamps of [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_India)
* 1854 - first stamps of Western Australia
* 1855 - first stamps of [South Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Australia)
* 1855 - US initiates [registered mail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Registered_mail) service.
* 1855 - US makes prepayment of postage compulsory.
* 1855 - first stamps of [New Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand)
* 1856 1 August - first stamps of [Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Federal_Republic_of_Mexico)
* 1856 21 August - first stamps of [Corrientes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corrientes)
* 1856 - first stamps of [Danish West Indies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish_West_Indies)
* 1856 - [British Guiana 1c magenta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Guiana_1c_magenta) issued
* 1857 - 1 April - [Ceylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceylon)([Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka)) issues its first stamp.
* 1857 - [Newfoundland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newfoundland_and_Labrador) issues its first stamps.
* 1858 29 April - [Buenos Aires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buenos_Aires) issues its first stamps.
* 1858 1 May - [Argentine Confederation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentine_Confederation) issues its first stamps.
* 1858 21 July - [Moldavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moldavia) issues its first stamps, just a year before the state's dissolution.
* 1858 28 October - [Cordoba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%B3rdoba,_Spain) issues its first stamps.
* 1858 - London is divided into postal districts, precursor of British [Postcode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UK_postcodes) System.
* 1859 - [Bahamas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahamas) issues its first stamps.