



MOROCCO POSTAL HISTORY (1852-1925)

An overview of the Postal History of that fascinating country still
philatelically unknown

SUMMARY

- A LITTLE HISTORY
- THE BEGINNING OF THE DIFFERENT P.O. AND THEIR STARTING DATES
- CLOSURE DATES
- STAMPS USED BY THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O (French, British, Spanish and German)
- CANCELLATIONS OF THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O.
- THE LOCAL AND CHERIFIAN P.O.

A LITTLE HISTORY

- 1844 FRENCH MOROCCAN WAR
- 1860 SPANISH MOROCCAN WAR
- 1880 CONFERENCE OF MADRID
- 1906 CONFERENCE OF ALGESIRAS
- 1911 AGADIR CRISIS
- 1912 PARTITION OF MOROCCO INTO TWO ZONES : FRENCH AND SPANISH PROTECTORATES
- 1923-1958 THE INTERNATIONAL STATUTE OF THE CITY OF TANGIER
- 1956 MOROCCAN INDEPENDANCE

THE BEGINNING OF THE DIFFERENT P.O. AND THEIR STARTING DATES

- 1852 FRENCH P.O. OF TANGIER
- 1857 BRITISH P.O. OF TANGIER
- 1870 SPANISH P.O.
- 1891 LOCAL POST
- 1892 CHERIFIAN POST
- 1899 GERMAN P.O.

CLOSURE DATES

- 1911 END OF THE LAST LOCAL POST COURIER SERVICE
- 1913 MERGER OF THE CHERIFIAN POST AND THE FRENCH P.O
- 1914 GERMAN P.O. OF THE FRENCH ZONE OF PROTECTORATE AND TANGIER
- 1915 FRENCH AND SPANISH P.O. IN THE EACH OTHER'S ZONE
- 1919 GERMAN P.O. IN THE SPANISH ZONE OF PROTECTORATE
- 1938 BRITISH P.O. IN THE FRENCH ZONE OF PROTECTORATE
- 1957 BRITISH P.O. OF TETUAN (31/01) and TANGIER (30/04)

STAMPS USED BY THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O (French, British, Spanish and German)

- FRENCH P.O : French stamps until 1890, from 1891 French stamps overprinted in Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)
- BRITISH P.O : GB stamps until 1886, Gibraltar stamps until 1898 and then overprinted Morocco Agencies
- SPANISH P.O : Spanish stamps until 1903, then overprinted Marruecos
- GERMAN P.O : German stamps overprinted in Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)

CANCELLATIONS OF THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O : THE FRENCH P.O.

- 1852 TANGER *
- 1855 TANGER ALGERIE (bureau de distribution)
- 1884 TANGER MAROC
- 1887 (1/05) TANGER MAROC (bureau de recette)
- 1893 (23/04) TANGER MAROC (bureau de recette principale)
- Between 1893 and 1902 opening of 14 offices (distribution) all attached to Tangier: name of the office and MAROC
- Between 1852 and 1881 : maritime (ambulant) TANGER ORAN
- Maritime entries : OUTRE-MER-MARSEILLE since 1856, MAROC MARSEILLE since 1878 and UNION MARSEILLE in 1883

TANGER * 29/10/1852



TANGER ALGERIE 14/04/1863



OUTRE-MER MARSEILLE 15/11/1873

cover from Tangier to Bordeaux 8/11/1873 cancelled 2240 at Marseille



TANGER ORAN 25/02/1876



MAROC MARSEILLE 9/12/1878

cover from Casablanca to Italy, second weight step, cancelled at Marseille on transit,
strike Purifié Frioul



TANGER MAROC 24/03/1886 (bureau de distribution) registered cover from Tangier to Lyon first weight step



TANGER MAROC 14/12/1888 (bureau de recette)

second weight step registered cover from Tangier to Germany



UNION MARSEILLE 27/10/1890



French stamps overprinted in Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)
Second weight step registered cover from Tetouan to Paris 9/12/1900
The Général André was the War Minister at the time of the Dreyfus case



CANCELLATIONS OF THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O : THE BRITISH P.O.

- The mail was stamped A26, small then large, at Gibraltar
- 1872 TANGIER (with the inverted N)
- 1878 TANGIER A
- Between 1886 and 1907 opening of 8 offices all attached to Tangier : name of the office and MOROCCO; oval cancellation for the registered covers

The earliest known letter from Morocco
handled by the British Postal Agency and sent via Gibraltar
from Casablanca to London 3/10/1860



The Gibraltar Post Office issued 4 stamps on 26/09/2007 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Gibraltar P.O. and the first British Postal Agency in Morocco and the centenary of the end of their responsibility for this postal service after the handover to London :
the previous shown cover illustrates the 1£ value



On 1 January 1907, the Gibraltar Post Office ceased to have responsibility for the British postal service in Morocco, but Gibraltar stamps and postal stationery remained valid until 28 February 1907. This postcard from Fez was used on the last day of its validity.

stamp4-back

On 1 January 1857, the Gibraltar Post Office was created through the amalgamation of the maritime Packet Agency and the Overland Post Office, to handle all Gibraltar's mail. The P.O. initially used the last Gibraltar datestamp of the Packet Agency, shown here.

stamp3-back

On 3 September 1857, British postage stamps were first placed on sale at the Gibraltar Post Office, to prepay letters. They were cancelled with a distinctive obliterator consisting of the letter "G" in a barred oval.

stamp2-back

On 1 April 1857, the first British Postal Agency in Morocco was established in Tangier, and placed under Gibraltar's control. The envelope shown is the earliest known letter from Morocco handled by the British Postal Agency and sent via Gibraltar.

stamp1-back

Large A26

cover from Tangier to Lyon 3/08/1883



TANGIER (with the inverted N) and Small A26 cover from Tangier to Ireland 19/01/1873



TANGIER A

cover to Gibraltar 16/11/1882



Bermuda stamps overprinted GIBRALTAR in 1886

All the offices received datestamps and A26 handstamps

Cover from Tangier to USA 19/03/1886



GIBRALTAR STAMPS UNTIL 1898

second weight step registered cover from Tangier to Victoria (British Columbia)
6/12/1892



GIBRALTAR STAMPS UNTIL 1898

second weight step registered cover from Tangier to Buenos Aires 29/01/1896
Argentina was, for the UPU, a country of category B (40 cts first weight step instead 25 cts)



GIBRALTAR STAMPS OVERPRINTED MOROCCO AGENCIES FROM 1898

Cover from Mazagan to San Francisco 15/09/1898



GIBRALTAR STAMPS OVERPRINTED MOROCCO AGENCIES FROM 1898

Registered cover from Mazagan to USA 5/06/1905



CANCELLATIONS OF THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O : THE SPANISH P.O.

- CORREO ESPAÑOL EN AFRICA with the name of the city
- C. ESPAÑOL EN MARRUECOS with the name of the city
- CORREO ESPAÑOL EN AFRICA or CORREO ESPAÑOL with the name of the city and with (or without) a full center losange of 84 points
- For the registered covers oval handstamp CORREO ESPAÑOL EN AFRICA CERTIFICADO or C. ESPAÑOL EN MARRUECOS CERTIFICADOS with the name of the office or rectangular of two different sizes

CORREO ESPAÑOL EN AFRICA CERTIFICADO

Registered cover from Alcazarquivir to Spain 1/10/1872



C. ESPAÑOL EN MARRUECOS

Second weight step cover from Tangier to London 8/02/1873



CORREO ESPAÑOL EN AFRICA

(with a full center losange of 84 points)
cover from Tangier to Lyon 9/09/1879



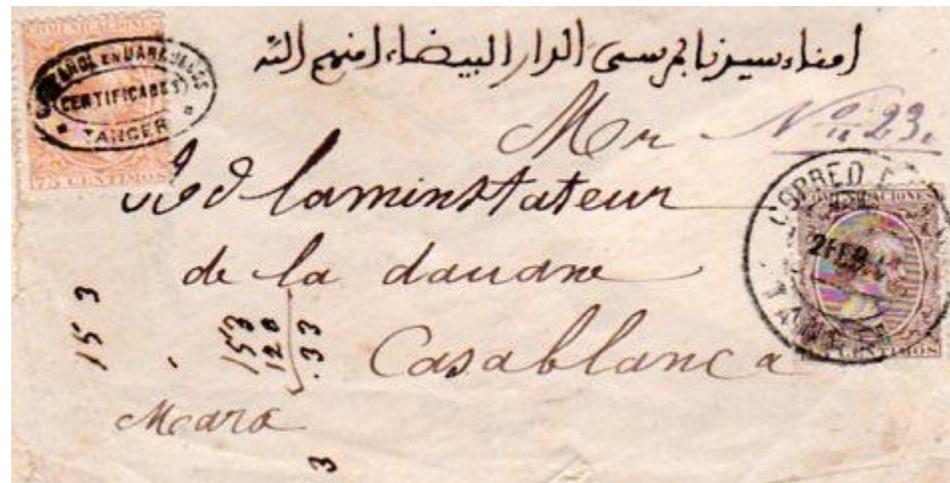
CORREO ESPAÑOL

cover from Tetuan to Lyon 13/10/1882



C. ESPAÑOL EN MARRUECOS CERTIFICADOS

Registered cover from Tangier to Casablanca 2/02/1890 (registration fees 75 cts)



Front from a registered parcel post from Mogador to Hamburg 22/11/1896
8th weight step, the highest franking recorded to date with Spanish stamps used in Morocco



Spanish stamps overprinted CORREO ESPAÑOL MARRUECOS

Registered cover from Tangier to Paris 13/04/1906

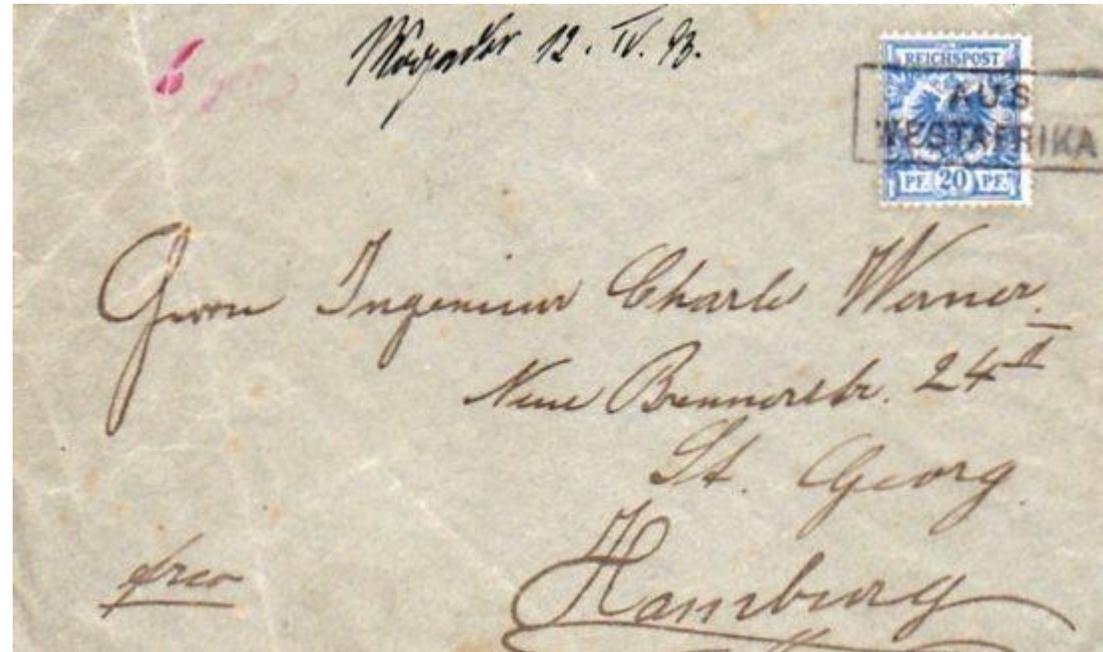


CANCELLATIONS OF THE FOUR FOREIGN P.O : THE GERMAN P.O.

- 1890/1899 mail carried by the steamships of the German maritime companies : ATLAS Linie, O.P.D.R and Woermann, rectangular cancellations on German stamps AUS WEST AFRIKA or AUS WEST AFRIKA MIT HAMBURGER DAMPFER or oval of the Woermann Cy with DEUTSCHE SEEPOST LINIE HAMBURG WESTAFRIKA and the number of the line
- 20/12/1899 opening of 7 offices including Tangier the main agency
- 1910/1911 opening of 9 more agencies
- UPU rates until 15/11/1907, then German domestic rates for mail to Germany

AUS WESTAFRIKA

cover from Mogador to Hamburg 12/04/1893



AUS WESTAFRIKA MIT HAMBURGER DAMPFER

cover from Mazagan to Hamburg 24/06/1895



WOERMANN LINE
DEUTSCHE SEEPOST LINIE HAMBURG WESTAFRIKA
third weight step cover from Mogador to Hamburg 10/09/1899

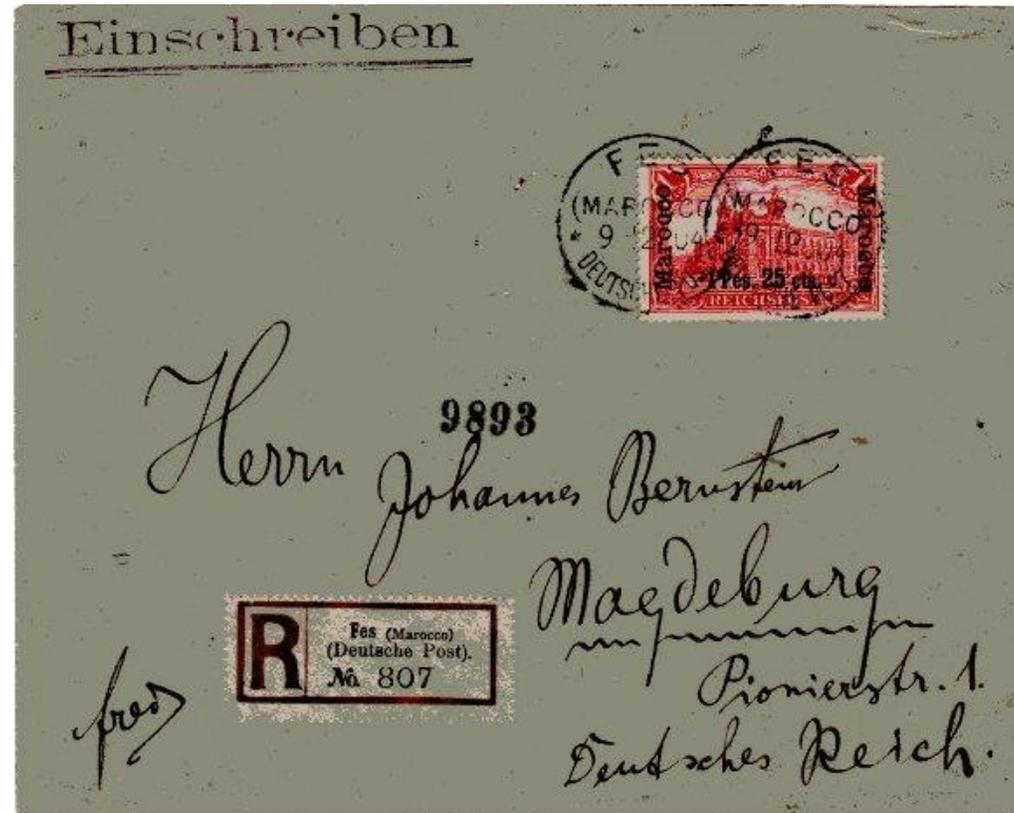


First issue (20/12/1899 – 30/09/1900) : German stamps from 1899 overprinted MAROCCO
and Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)

Third weight step registered cover from Tangier to Greece 18/05/1900



Second issue (1/10/1900 – 30/09/1905) : German stamps from 1900 (Reichpost) overprinted MAROCCO and Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)
Fourth weight step registered cover from Fez to Germany 9/12/1904



Third issue (1/10/1905 – 1911) : German stamps from 1905 (Deutsches Reich) overprinted
MAROCCO (gothic) and Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)
Registered cover with AR from Mazagan to Tangier 14/11/1907



PARCEL POST FROM CASABLANCA TO GERMANY 17/03/1906 EARLIEST DATE KNOWN TO DATE

516. Casablanca (Marocco)
(Deutsche Post)

Unbei Ci-joint Wertangabe Valeur assurée Nachnahme Montant du remboursement Anzahl der Zoll-Inhalts-Erklärungen
 Nur bei Wert- bez. Nachnahme- packeten.
 Anzahl der Zoll-Inhalts-Erklärungen

1. Frank

10

17 3

An
A *Frau Hauptmann Roschmann*

(Bestimmungsort) in *Ulmer Th. Donau (Württemberg)*
 (Lieferbestimmung) in
 Wohnung (Straße und Hausnummer) *Villa Honold, Aussenball 173*

Postgewicht *3* kg
 Poids *3*

Post-Leitvermerk:
 Agglomément: *Hamburg 7*

A. 20.



Postvermerk über die Aushändigung
 Indication de la personne à laquelle le colis a été remis

Eingangsverzeichnis N. Lagerbuch
 Registre d'arrivée.
 No. *35 a*

17 3

Quittance du destinataire (Personne)
 Quittance du destinataire (Personne)

Die umstehend bezeichnete Sendung empfangen zu haben, bescheinigt durch
 Reçu l'envoi désigné ci-contre

Name
 Nom

Margit 189

14 4 06 9 10






Fourth issue (1911) : German stamps from 1905 (Deutsches Reich) overprinted MAROKKO (gothic)
and Spanish currency (centimos and pesetas)
MONEY ORDERS FROM ALKASSAR 27/04/1913 and CASABLANCA 19/05/1913 TO FEZ
The frankings correspond to a rate of 1% of the total amount of the money order



AGADIR CRISIS (1/07/1911 – 15/11/1911)

KAISER DEUTSCHES MARINE SCHIFFSPOST N°80 (SMS PANTHER)

Cover from Agadir to Germany 27/09/1911 Printed Matter Rate



WW I : Cover from Larache to Danmark 11/10/1915

reminder : at the beginning of the WW I all the German offices in the French Zone of Protectorate and Tangier were closed on 4/08/1914, the four offices in the Spanish Zone of Protectorate remained open until 16/06/1919 when they were closed after the treaty of Versailles. The four offices were Alcazar, Arsila, Larache and Tetuan. No item from Alcazar and Arsila are known to date; less then 10 items known to date from Larache and Tetuan.



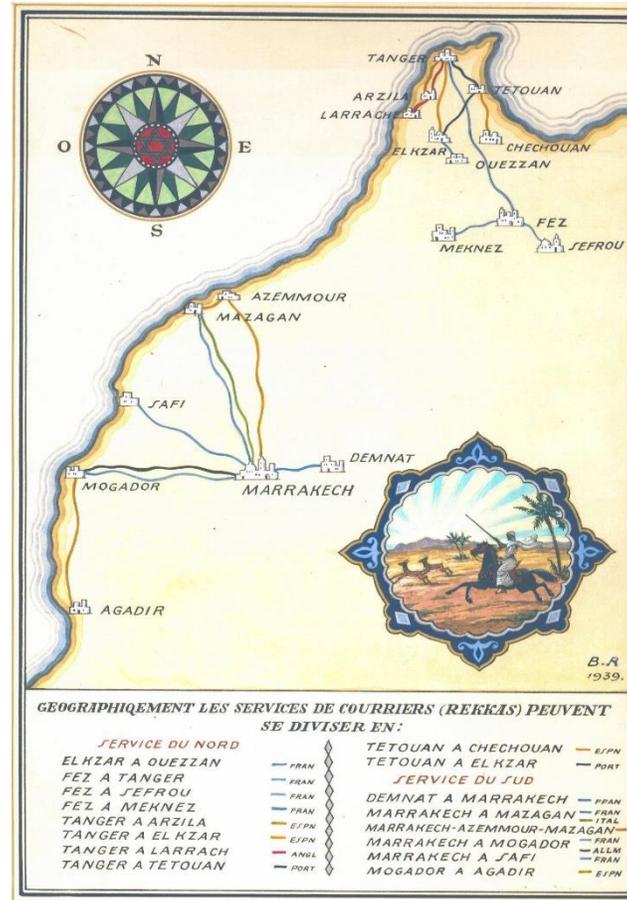
THE LOCAL POST

- The first initiative was taken by Mr. Brudo in Mazagan
- 20 private couriers from town to town were created between 1891 and 1906
- Some of them generated several stamps issues including due stamps for both of them
- With the exception of the couriers of Brudo (1891/1900), Abudarham (1894/1901) and Marx (1893/1911) their lifespan was short (2 to 4 years) and even very short (4 to 15 months)

THE MIXED FRANKINGS

- Morocco was not part of the UPU; so, the mail to overseas or a city of Morocco not served by a private courier line and franked by the local posts stamps had to be remitted to one of the four foreign P.O. who completed the franking with their stamps : these are the mixed frankings.
- Mixed frankings are generally scarce; those where the local post provided the final leg of the route, are doubly so.

MAP OF THE 20 LOCAL COURIER POSTS AND NATIONALITIES OF THEIR ENTREPRENEURS



THE FIRST LOCAL POST : ISAAC BRUDO FROM MAZAGAN TO MARRAKECH

January 1891 – July 1900

Registered cover from Mazagan to Marrakech 19/08/1892 franked with the first two issues



Cover from Marrakech to Algiers 21/02/1894

Mixed franking with French P.O. franked with the third issue (*rising sun type*)



Cover from Marrakech to Italy 5/02/1900

Mixed franking with French P.O. franked with the fourth issue (*gazelle hunting type*)



THE BRITISH AND ITALIAN CONSULATES LOCAL POST SERVICE :
CARLO MORTEO AND SPINNEY FROM MAZAGAN TO MARRAKECH (April 1897– July 1900)
Registered cover from Marrakech to Tangier 1/08/1897
Mixed franking with British P.O.



Mr. M. BENSIMON FROM FEZ TO MEQUINEZ

(January 1897 – May 1901)

Cover from Mequinez to USA 10/07/1898

Mixed franking with British P.O.



THE CHERIFIAN POST

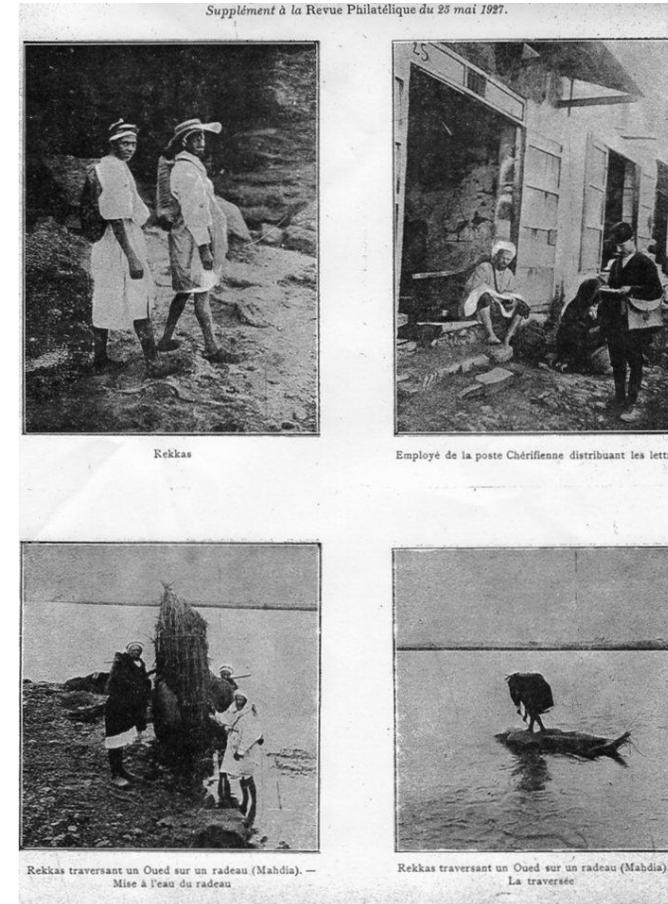
- 1892 creation of the Cherifian Post by H.M the King of Morocco, mail carried by the rekkas (intrepid and tireless foot-postmen)
- 13 offices opened in 13 cities, each one had two handstamps : one octagonal and one circular; these are the CACHETS MAGHZEN
- 6 colours : violet, black, blue, red, green and orange (in increasing order of rarity)
- In total there exist 156 strikes (78 octagonal and 78 circular)
- Handstamps replaced in 1912 by stamps
- 1913 (1/10) merger with the French P.O. to create the Cherifian Office of Posts
- Same rules as the Local Posts/UPU (see mixed frankings slide 48)

THE REKKAS

INTREPID AND TIRELESS FOOT-POSTMEN



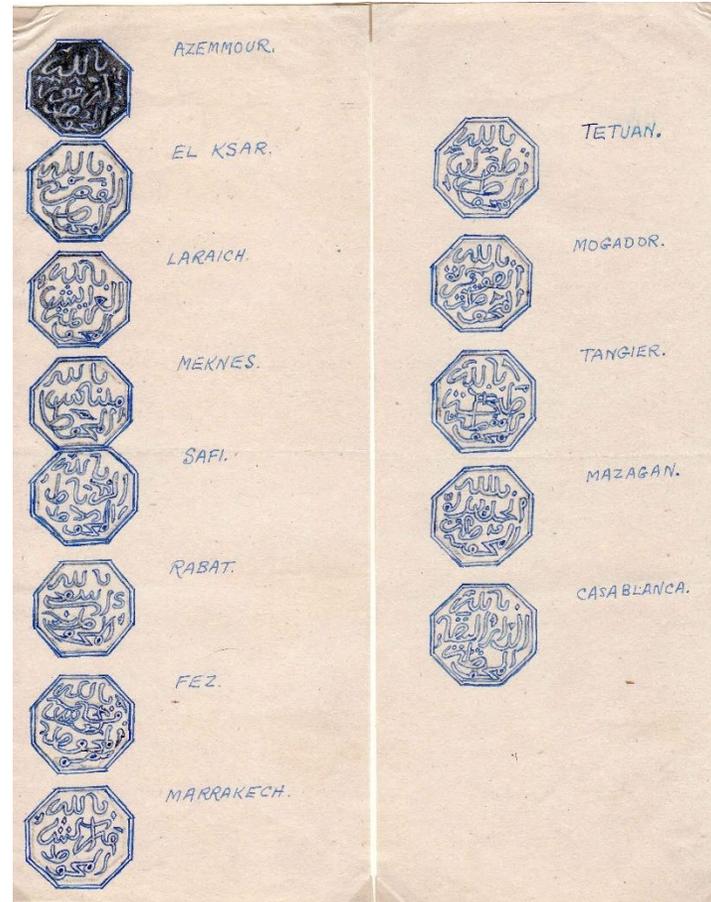
Le Maroc illustré
Professions Marocaines. - Les Rekkas
(Marocains assurant le transport des lettres de ville à ville)



FORERUNNER MARRAKECH 1310 (1892)



THE 13 OCTAGONAL HANDSTAMPS



OCTAGONALS : THE 6 COLOURS



CIRCULARS : THE 6 COLOURS



Registered cover from Agourai by Meknes to Oran 16/12/1912
Mixed franking with French P.O.



Cover from Fez to Reims 13/07/1912
Mixed franking with French P.O.



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THANK YOU VERY MUCH