1871 Commune of Paris Prisoners' Mail

by

Louis Fiset

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Purpose and Intent: The purpose of this article is to document a collection of 92 letters to and from multiple prisoners taken in the aftermath of the fall of the 1871 Commune of Paris. The contents have been translated from French. The intent is to provide a narrative describing the conditions and daily life of the prisoners as revealed in their own words, written during their captivity over a four-month period, between May and September 1871.

The correspondence, to and from family members, employers, and officials has been in hibernation for more than six decades. Select items have had success as single frame exhibits over the past decade. But only now has the collective story told by the collection appeared in the literature. Representative letters are shown in the article to document the postal history, while relevant quotations help tell the tragic story provided in the narrative. A census of prisoner locations is included.

The letters in the collection represent more than half of the number of similar items known to exist in collectors' hands and archives. Relevant details have been provided elsewhere (Fiset 2012).

Source

- Fiset, Louis (2012). "1871 Commune of Paris Prisoners' Mail," *France and Colonies Phiatelist,* [July].