

A Mediterranean Journey

By Tom Reyman

The French shipping company Compagnie de Navigation Paquet or CNP was established in 1860 to provide transportation of freight and passengers from its home port of Marseille, France and Morocco. During the later years of the 1800's and into the early 1900's, the shipping service expanded to ports around the Mediterranean Sea as well as The Canary Islands and the cities around the Black Sea.

One of the frequent stops was at Alexandria, Egypt, the main seaport for Egypt. To reach this port from other parts of Egypt, including Cairo, goods and passengers needed to use the Egyptian railroad system.



The registered cover above was sent from Cairo on December 19, 1908, addressed to Valence, France. From Cairo the mail would have travelled by train to Alexandria to meet the CNP ship to sail to the home port of Marseille and there to be transferred to the Paris-Marseille Railroad. The destination of Valence, in the French government department of Drome, is a city on the railroad line and on the Rhone River about 245 km (about 150 miles) North of Marseille. The cover was delivered on December 25.

Tom Reyman is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.