

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT RONCHAMP (Haute-Saône)

The Romans were probably the first settlers, occupying a camp on a strategic hill west of Belfort and overlooking the road to Germania. In the fourth century, a sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary was erected on the same hill, the Colline de Bourlément, on the site of the earlier Roman temple. During the Middle-Ages it was replaced by the Chapelle de Bourlément.



In the eighteenth century, the chapel became a pilgrimage destination and was renamed the chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut (Our Lady of the Heights). During the French Revolution, it was sold as a national property, but in 1799 forty families in Ronchamp decided to buy it in order to restore its original spiritual vocation.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the Bishop of Besançon took charge of enlarging and embellishing this place of pilgrimage.



The village of Ronchamp featuring, in the foreground, the river Rahin, the market place and the church of Notre-Dame du Bas and, on the horizon (inset), the 19<sup>th</sup> century Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut.





## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT RONCHAMP (Haute-Saône)



Pilgrims arriving at the Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut, Ronchamp which was expanded in 1859 through the addition of a Gothic-revival extension.



On 30 August 1913 the chapel was struck by lightning and the ensuing fire destroyed part of the building



# CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT RONCHAMP (Haute-Saône)



The chapel was rebuilt in neo-Gothic style in 1926. The card was purchased from the nearby café/restaurant and souvenir shop operated by Paul Burcez.



During the Battle of Bourlément (September - October 1944) between the Allies and the retreating Germans the chapel was severely damaged



In 1949, an estate company formed by descendants of the families who had bought the chapel 150 years ago saw the light. With the support of and a proposal from the Besançon Diocesan Commission for Sacred Art, the company called upon Le Corbusier, the only architect capable of giving a new spirit to contemporary sacred architecture.

In spring 1950, Le Corbusier came to the hill. The surrounding landscapes and the history of the site affected the architect and found an echo in his thoughts and feelings. On the 4 April 1954, the first stone of the future chapel was laid and, on the 25 June 1955, the new chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut was consecrated.



Left: the Swiss-French architect Charles-Edouard Jeanneret otherwise known as Le Corbusier.



Right : Jacques Combet, designer and engraver of the Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut issue.



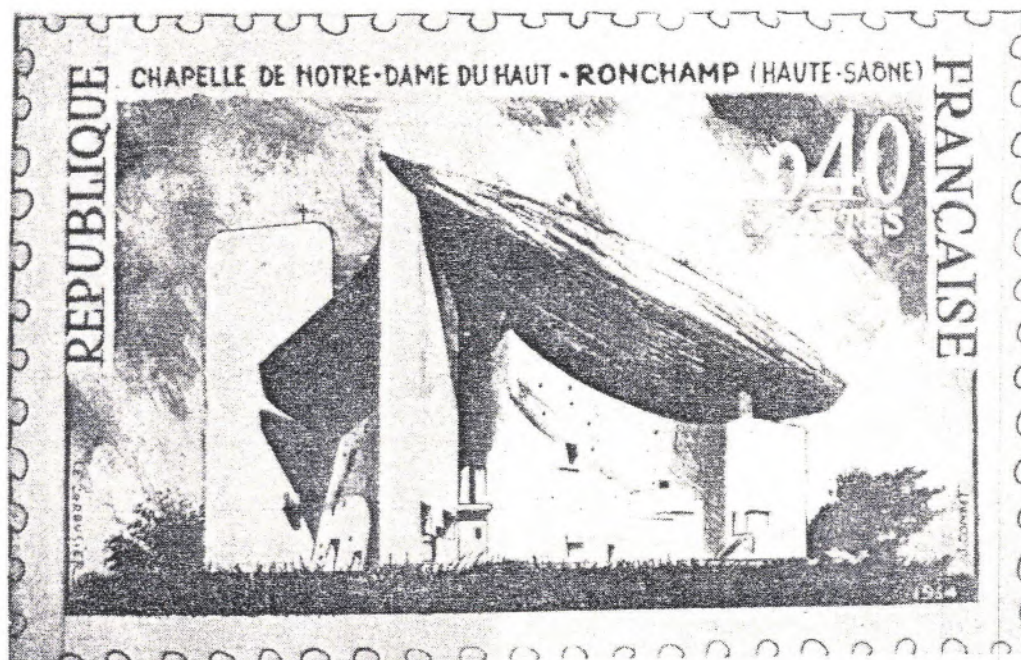
The photograph used in the production of the above postcard was taken by the German photographer Hans Freytag and was the inspiration for Jacques Combet's 1964 stamp design.

Among other accolades, the chapel was classified as a National Historic Monument in 1967 and as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016.



## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

### MAQUETTES



The first *maquette* incorporates a cut-out of the photograph by Hans Freytag with the background and inscriptions in gouache. The design was adopted and the authorisation to print signed by the Minister of Posts, Jacques Marette, on 23 May 1964.



The second *maquette*, likewise in gouache, was accompanied by a photographic reduction featuring a dove near the value. The design was rejected.

Note that both *maquettes* feature the 0,40 value of the second issue



1f25

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



Monochrome colour trial printed 20 May 1964



Presentation proof in issued colours of *vert foncé, bleu et bistre*  
(Notice des PTT N° 19, 1964)



Official imperforate printing

Within the design of the stamp Le Corbusier is attributed as the artist and Jacques Combet as the engraver. No credit is given to Hans Freytag the photographer whose photo inspired Combet.



1f25

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

The single printing on the Chambon three-colour rotary press N° 9 took place from 27 May to 29 June 1964.



The press number '9' and the press operator's ident 'U' appear in the bottom margin



-1.6.64

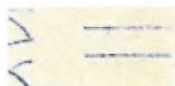
The printing date is a combination of Chambon Type IV numerals (day and month) which are 4 mm high and Type V numerals (year), which are 4.25 mm high.



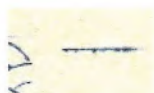
1f25

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

Each revolution of the cylinder printed three sheets of 50 stamps. Each sheet, A, B and C, can be identified by the presence (Sheets A and B) or the omission (Sheet C) of reference marks above the printing date.



Sheet A is identified by two strokes



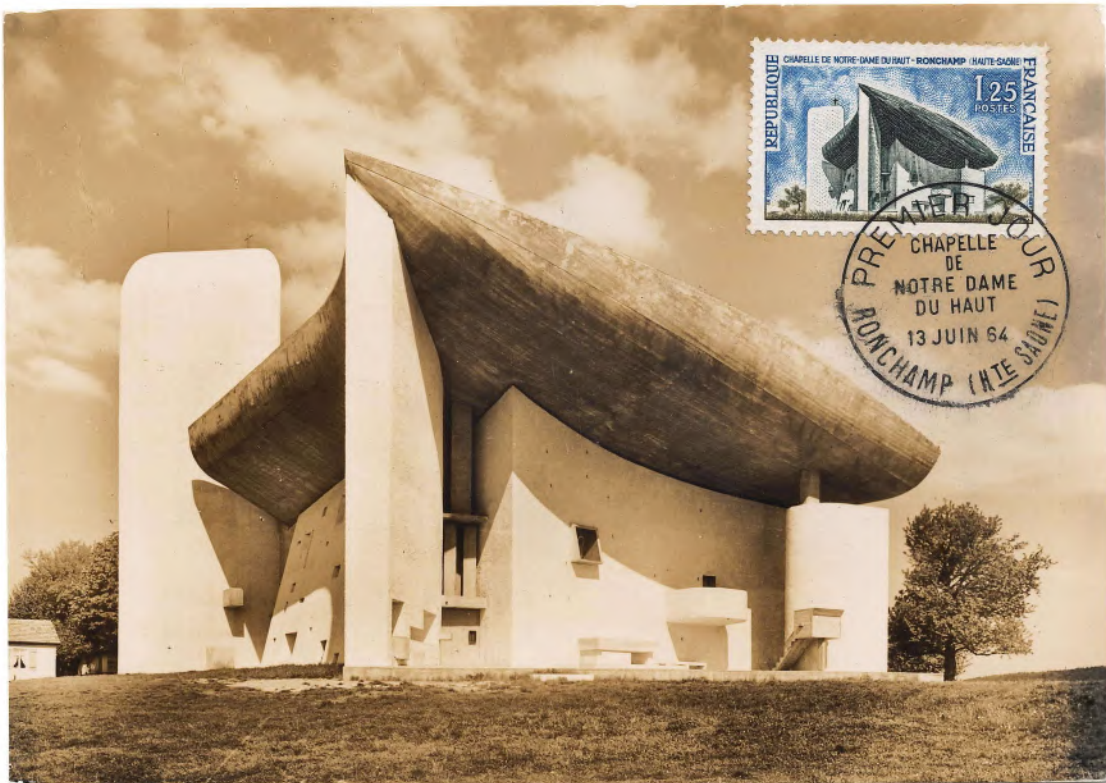
Sheet B is identified by one stroke and by a variation of the Type V numerals in bold

**-1.6.64**

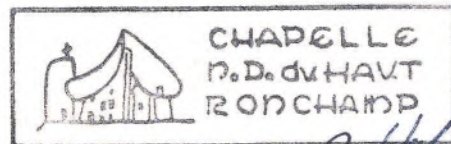


1f25

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



Société Immobilière de N.-D.-du-Haut.  
Tous droits de reproduction réservés.  
Photographe Freytag.



*René Bolle-Reddat*

Accreditation of the original photograph  
to Hans Freytag

Chapel cachet and signature of the  
chaplain, Abbé René Bolle-Reddat



1f25

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

1f50 PARIS PNEUMATIC POST (First Step: 0-7 grams)

13 June 1964 - 14 January 1965

According to some sources the Ronchamp issue was intended to meet the 1f25 Paris Pneumatic Post rate which had been in force since 1 January 1960. However, the rate was increased to 1f50 on 13 June 1964, the very day the 1f25 stamp was put on sale.



From Paris XVI (Annexe 3) the letter travelled via Paris 100 and Paris XV to Paris 69 at Antony, a bureau d'entrée, from where it was delivered by motorised transport to Fresnes.

22 September 1964



1f25

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

1f25 INTERNAL REGISTERED LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

19 May 1964 - 17 January 1965



Postage: 0,25

Registration Fee: 1fr

Limoges to Paris

23 December 1964



1f25

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

1f25 INTERNAL REGISTERED LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

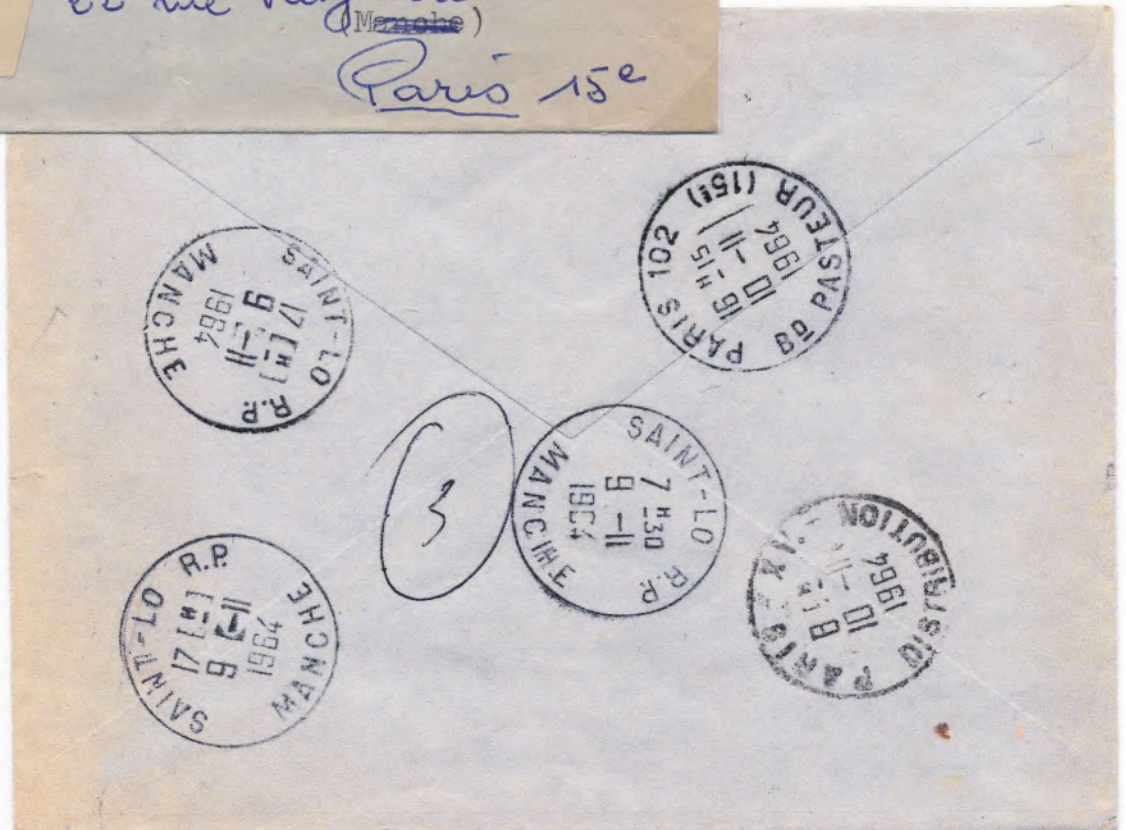
19 May 1964 - 17 January 1965

Postage: 0,25  
Registration Fee: 1fr



Caen to St Lô and  
forwarded to Paris by  
the Hôpital Mémorial  
France-États-Unis

7 November 1964





# CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

ENVELOPPE PRÉ-TIMBRÉE À  
VALIDITÉ PERMANENTE

0,53€ Internal Letter Rate  
(First Step: 0-20 grams)

In 2005 the design was reprised  
for use on postal stationery  
envelopes. The original value was  
excised and the stamp size was  
increased from 21.5 x 35.5mm  
to 24 x 40mm. Two phosphor  
bands were applied to the left  
of the stamp.



Photo: Marc PAYGNARD

CHAPELLE DE NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT RONCHAMP  
(Haute-Saône)

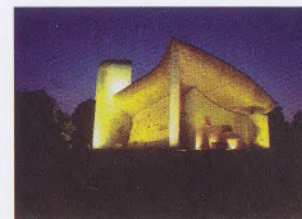
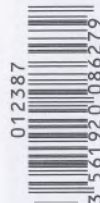


FRANCE 20 g



Photographer: Marc Paygnard

Issued: 2 June 2005



CHAPELLE DE NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT RONCHAMP  
(Haute-Saône)

LA POSTE

Enveloppe pré-timbrée à validité permanente prévue pour un envoi jusqu'à 20 grammes  
Enveloppe agréée par LA POSTE – Agrément N° 809 - Lot 42J/0507245

Photos: Marc PAYGNARD

Copyright: France and Colonies Philatelic Society



o,40

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



Monochrome colour trial



Presentation proof in issued colours of brun, vert et bistre-rouge  
(Notice des PTT N° 3, 1965) signed by the designer and engraver Jacques Combet

A trial imperf printing of the o,40 value took place on 21 July 1964 from which a sheet was signed the following day by the Minister of Posts, Jacques Marettte, authorising printing to proceed; however, the decision was postponed. As the original *maquettes* had been inscribed o,40 it is assumed that the value corresponded to a proposed increase in the letter tariff that was aborted at the last minute.



A second imperf printing took place on 3 November 1964



o,40

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

From August 1964, after the printing of the previous 1f25 value, the marginal reference to the printing press was expressed in a different format eg T.D.3-6.  
where T.D. = *taille douce*, 3 = number of colours, 6 = press number



Sheet A is identified  
by two strokes



Sheet B is identified  
by one stroke



Sheet C is identified by  
absence of strokes



o,40

# CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



Chambon Type IV  
numerals, 4 mm high,  
on Press T.D.3-6

First printing: 2 November 1964 - 15 January 1965



Combination of Chambon  
Type X and X<sup>bis</sup> numerals,  
between 3.5 and 4.5 mm high,  
(note different '5's)  
on Press T.D.3-5

Second Printing: 23 April - 12 May 1965



0,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



Third Printing: 10 March - 4 April 1966

18.3.66

Chambon Type IV numerals, 4 mm high on Press T.D.3-4



Fourth Printing: 2 - 20 February 1967

13.2.67

Unlisted type Chambon numerals (figures 3 and 6 are noticeably wider) on Press T.D.3-1

The stamp was first issued at Ronchamp on 6 February 1965 and put on general sale in France two days later



o,40

# CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

o,40 FOREIGN POSTCARD RATE

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



Ronchamp to Berlin, Germany  
 10 April 1967



Levallois-Perret to Qiryat-Bialic, Israel  
 24 February 1965



0,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

0,40 FOREIGN POSTCARD RATE

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



Paris to Hulzen, Netherlands, and forwarded to Bussum  
19 May 1965



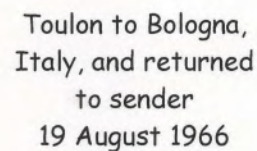
Paris 16 to Torremolinos, Spain, and forwarded to Paris 6 with cachet of the hotel 'El Pinar'

4 October 1966



CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



St Raphaël to Parga,  
Greece, and returned  
to sender  
18 August 1967



0,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

0,40 FRENCH NORTH AFRICA LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



Mortain to Tunis  
Tunisia  
22 December 1965

Monsieur Raymond FRESNE.

19, Rue Larbi Zarrouk.

à TUNIS.

(Tunisie).



Marseille to Rabat  
Morocco  
28 December 1966



o,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

o,40 FRENCH ORIENT LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



Paris to Phnom-Penh, Cambodia  
1 March 1965



On reverse, the cachet of the  
Conférence des Peuples Indochinois  
held in Phnom-Penh, March 1965



0,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

0,80 EUROPEAN AIRMAIL LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



Postage: 0,60

Airmail Fee: 0,20

Dinard to Budapest, Hungary

9 March 1966



0,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

0,80 EUROPEAN AIRMAIL LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

18 January 1965 - 12 January 1969



First Flight Paris-Dusseldorf-Hamburg by Lufthansa  
31 March 1965



Postage: 0,60

The sender was unaware that there was a concessionary 0,30 rate for mail to Germany

Airmail Fee: 0,20

Perpignan to Hamburg, Germany  
29 March 1965



o,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

o,80 INTERNATIONAL MANDATE RECEIPT FEE

19 May 1964 - 21 January 1968

CADRE RESERVE AUX ENDOSSEMENTS  
VAK VOOR ENDOSSEMENTEN

CHAPELLE DE NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP (HAUTE-SAONE) FRANCE 0.40 POSTES

QUITTANCE DU DESTINATAIRE  
KWIJTING VAN DE BESTEMMELING

Reçu la somme indiquée d'autre part.  
Ommestaande som ontvangen.

A Le Touquet, le 15.1 19 66  
Te de

Signature du destinataire  
Handtekening v. d. bestemming

H. Husson

Timbre du bureau payeur  
Stempel v. h. betaal-kantoor

REGISTRE D'ARRIVÉE  
REGISTER VAN AANKOMST

N° 13

PARIS 15 JAN 1966

U. d. d. ROTARY - E. DE GRAEVE

BELGIQUE - BELGIE

359 30 fonds en souffrance  
liggende gelden

Mandat de Poste International  
Internationale Postwissel  
(en chiffres - in cijfers)

de la somme de  
ten bedrage van 486,04

(en monnaie du pays de destination)  
(in de munt v/h. land van bestemming)

(en toutes lettres) - (in volle letterschrift)

Quatre cent quatre vingt six francs  
français 04.

payable à  
bataalbaar aan

MADAME HUSSON HELENE  
VVE LAMBERT FUGENE  
CHEZ MR WAGNER LUCIEN  
RUE DE PARIS 169  
LE TOUQUET P. DE C.

FRANCE

Indication du service d'émission - Dienstaanwijzingen

710 00001

Numero  
Nummer 3530

Somme versée - Gestorte som

482 Fr.

Date 13/1/66  
Datum

Signature de l'agent  
Handtekening v. d. bestende

Bureau  
Kantoor

UNION DES CHEQUES

Brussels to Le Touquet

13 January 1966







o,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

1f70 REGISTERED LETTER RATE (Second Step: 20-100 grams)

18 January 1965 - 31 July 1966



Postage: o,70

Registration Fee: 1f

Joinville-Polangis to Le Mesnil-Esnard

17 May 1965



o,40

# CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

## REMAINDER STOCK

The o,40 Ronchamp was withdrawn from sale on 27 April 1968 and all remainder sheets were forwarded to the post office at Ronchamp for sale to visitors until stocks were exhausted.



o,40 remainder stock  
on postcard  
from Ronchamp to  
Issy-les-Moulineaux,  
4 April 1969



o,40 remainder stock  
on postcard  
from Ronchamp to  
Eiken, Switzerland  
26 July 1969





20f CFA/o,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

1f CFA = 0,02 French Francs

The metropolitan issue was issued in France on 6 February 1965 but it was not until 24 September 1967 that it was put on sale at Saint-Denis, Réunion



Presentation proof overprinted 20f CFA.



The overprints were applied to sheets from the fourth printing dated 8, 13, 14, 15 and 17 February



20f CFA/o,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

o,40 INTERNAL LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

13 January 1969 - 3 January 1971



Saint-Denis to Paris

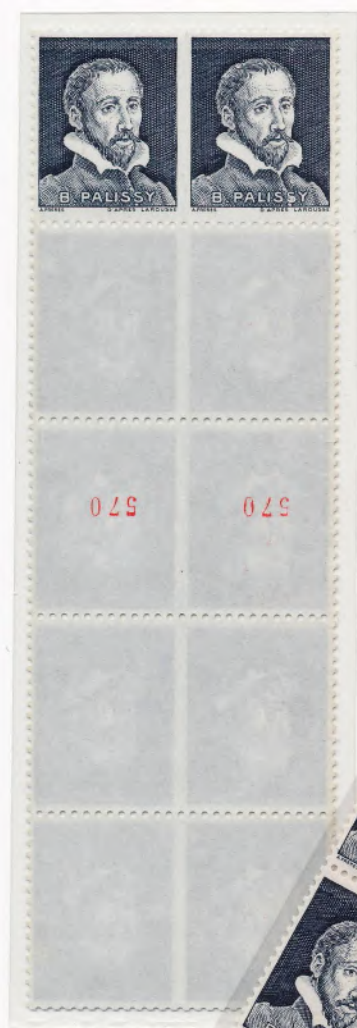
11 February 1969



## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

## Large Format Counter Coil Test Label

The portrait of Bernard Palissy first appeared in 1949 on test labels which were designed by André Frères from an illustration in the *Dictionnaire Larousse*. It was printed in its double effigy format in 1964 for the testing and calibrating of experimental counter dispensing machines for use in post offices and tabacs.



First printing in grey with double dorsal accountancy numbers in red

Printed: Dates known 12 and 13  
November 1964



o,40

CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

Large Format Counter Coil Test Label



Second printing in blue with double  
dorsal accountancy numbers in blue.

Printing dates unknown



## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



The coil printings from the T.D.6 press are composed of upright images whereas the images of the sheet printings from the T.D.3 presses are on their side.

The *feuille-modèle* printed on press T.D.6-3 on 3 December 1968

The right margin is annotated with the approved ink numbers viz 1507 violet-brun, 1313 vert and 1714 bistre. All the inks are from the Lorilleux palette

The different *molettes* (rocker dies) used in preparing the printing cylinders together with the opposing directions of ink application have created features that distinguish the two formats.

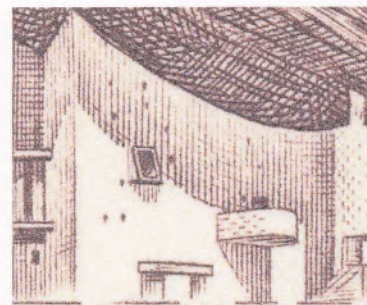
T.D.3 Sheet Printing



Left: Lines creating shadows are continuous

Right: Lines creating shadows are broken

T.D.6 Coil Printing



Left: Bush is in full leaf

Right: Bush is exfoliated





o,40

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

According to Jean-Luc Trassaert there were 1885 coils printed, each composed of 1000 stamps. The dates recorded are 25 March and 12 and 16 April 1968. However, the counter dispenser project was aborted and the coils put into store until 14 November 1970 when twenty of them were delivered to the post office at Ronchamp for sale to the public.



The first batch of coils sold in 1970 were characterised by pulled vertical perfs which were interpreted by some as the result of the sheets being separated by hand rather than guillotined.



Commentators originally claimed that the 1885 coils were the product of four distinct printings identifiable by the changes in perforation, inks and gum and were catalogued as such. Although these differences do exist it is now accepted that they are not indicative of specific printings.



o,40

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

In response to complaints from dealers and the philatelic press a further consignment of 1013 coils was made available in April 1971 and distributed to post offices elsewhere in France.



These coils show clear evidence of separation by guillotine; furthermore, different shades of ink are reported



Coil printed in lighter colours and with the foreground in a distinct shade of ochre instead of bistre



0,40

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

In February 1972, a further 276 coils were issued to various philatelic counters. Yellow gum had been applied to the paper of the previously issued coils but the 1972 consignment had been printed on paper with white gum, both shiny (*gomme normale*) and matt (*gomme tropicale*). 558 coils from the total printing remained unissued.



Coil with yellow gum



Coil with white gum

The 0,40 sheet issue had been withdrawn from sale on 27 April 1968. On 28 December 1972 the coils were similarly withdrawn and the remaining 558 coils were destroyed.



# CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



The slogan postmark 'RONCHAMP Carrefour touristique Porte de Bourgogne' featuring the Chapelle de Notre-Dame du Haut was introduced on 22 February 1971 and applied by a SECAP cancelling machine. It was the first 'flamme illustrée' used at the Ronchamp office.



Letter franked with  
the 0,40 coil issue

Ronchamp to Paris

20 March 1972



Letter from Abbé  
René Bolle-Reddat,  
the chapel's chaplain,  
franked with  
the 0,40 coil issue

Ronchamp to Puteaux

30 June 1971

ABBÉ RENÉ BOLLE-REDDAT  
Chaplain de N.D du Haut  
70, RONCHAMP ( Hte - Saône )

Docteur y. miellet  
100, rue de la République  
92. Puteaux



o,40

## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

By the time the coil issue had been put on general sale (April 1971) the o,40 value no longer had a rôle to play in the revised tariffs introduced at the beginning of the year. Most of the purchasers were philatelists but the stamp is occasionally encountered on commercial mail with a complementary o,10 value to make up the new o,50 *pli urgent* internal letter rate.

o,50 *PLI URGENT* LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)

4 January 1971 - 15 September 1974

o,40 coil issue with  
o,10 *Blason de Troyes*

Paris 9 to Bordeaux

25 September 1973

Monsieur R. STERN  
79 rue Camille Godard

N'HABITE PAS  
L'ADRESSE INDICÉE

Monsieur Roedel Daniel  
~~3 rue de Courrai~~  
75019 Paris  
Inconnu au 3<sup>e</sup> Tr

N'HABITE PAS À L'ADRESSE INDICÉE  
RETOUR À L'ENVOYEUR

o,40 coil issue with  
o,10 *Blason de Troyes*

Paris 9 to Paris 19

19 January 1973



0,40  
CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

0,80 URGENT LETTER RATE (First Step: 0-20 grams)  
16 September 1974 - 1 August 1976

Certain stamp dealers realised that they had overstocked with the Ronchamp coil. One way to dispose of them was to frank large packets containing auction catalogues. During the 1970s complete strips of 10 or 11 of this and other coils were to be encountered particularly on mail from Bertrand Sinais and Cérès.



ATTENTION  
ROULETTE

The envelope has been franked with two copies of the coil printing. To the right of the stamps can be seen a small cachet 'ATTENTION ROULETTE' suggesting that the sender might be a philatelist. The address on the reverse confirms the sender as being L. Boscus, a stamp dealer in Bordeaux.

Bordeaux to Paris  
16 January 1976



0,40  
CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP

**SANS VALEUR**

The *sans valeur* or *timbre fictif* printings were used by post office trainees during practical sessions at the PTT Training Schools. They were substitutes for the real stamps currently in use and hence were printed in the same values and colours.



The large format issues were produced using both rotary and flat plate processes. Firstly, the quantity of paper required was perforated on a rotary recess press. Once guillotined into sheets, the paper was then transferred to a flat plate typography press for printing.



0,40 Fictif printed on 12 and 13 November 1964 on press T.D.3-12.

Type 1: Light brown and deep green, SANS VALEUR in thin lettering, normal paper.



0,40  
CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP  
SANS VALEUR



0,40 Fictif printed on 14 and 15 October 1969 on press T.D.3-8.  
Type 2: Dark brown and light green, SANS VALEUR in thick lettering, paper with optical brightener



Training school envelope N° 192 with Type 2 0,40 Fictif  
cancelled Ambulants Cours 27 December 1969



## CHAPELLE de NOTRE-DAME DU HAUT - RONCHAMP



Photograph taken in September 2018

Note the two bushes flanking the chapel have matured since being featured in the stamp



Ronchamp Post Office in the Place Jean Lagelée