

Adélaïde ARGOUAC'H, "French Post Office and political tensions of the French Revolution. Intellectual and political biography of Louis Augustin Bosc d'Antic between 1770 and 1793" [«Les Postes et les dynamiques politiques de la Révolution française. Biographie intellectuelle et politique de Louis Augustin Bosc d'Anti entre 1770 et 1793 »], master thesis of modern history, directed by Jean-Luc Chappey, university of Paris 1 –Panthéon Sorbonne, 2014, 175 p.

At the crossroad of administrative history, political history and human history, the present study object is new, as for the documents that are examined as for the followed problematics. Officially created on the 19th June 1464, Post Office is deeply linked to the French kingdom. Omnipresent, essential, they cover France with their trading posts, and, when the Revolution begun, these relays represented for the politics as many teaching units essential to imbue the land of Liberty. Through their history, the French Revolution period, though very few emphasized in the history of the Post, causes to the Post some renewals.

This important administration has never been studied in a human and political way. We must now understand how the history of the Posts, which are the one and only link between the capital and the rest of the kingdom, can renew the political history, beyond their simple and traditional role of messenger. Such an enterprise needs some very precise chronological limits and an information conveyor: Louis Augustin Bosc d'Antic (1759 - 1828)

Arrived in Paris in 1778, he gradually climbs the ladder within the Post Office and Horses service, becoming the manager of the Post Office Head, on the 11th may 1792. In a society where the letters are a vital reflex, tireless writer, Louis Bosc builds to himself a real social network.

Fully aware of his ideological role, Louis Bosc embodies alone the narrow relation between politics and mail, especially during the revolutionary times. Firmly managing the best information and communication network of France, he consciously aims to influence, thanks to his position, on the political dynamics of his time, by making a vehicle of propaganda from the Post Office.

The political role of Post Office, by coming closer to la Gironde, school of thoughts among which Bosc has a lot of friends, is efficient enough to be noticed, and secret enough so that Post Office won't be scandalously defeated in the same time as the party they support through Bosc. This political role is emphasized by the absolute friendship between the famous revolutionary couple Jean Marie and Manon Roland, and Louis Bosc.

In a first part, this essay focuses on Post Office, their organization inside the French Revolution. This complete administration is indeed a beautiful and well organized mechanism of which the essentials pieces are in Paris.

The second part intends to study the way of Louis Bosc to move among the postal administration, when the radicalization of the French Revolution goes with a taste for honor and an increasing of slander.

The main post office of Paris keeps at that time an intensive correspondence, with the liaison points of province, and knows of all his employees.

And in the end, the last part of this study wishes to emphasize the influence of Post Office in the political dynamics of the years 1792 and 1793, especially through the study of the different ways of propaganda of la Gironde, such as le Bureau d'Esprit Public, teaching enterprise based on a large network of correspondence on all the territory. The political involvement of Post Office is tested during the proscription of les Girondins from the 31st may to the 2nd June 1793, time when Post Office is very closely watched.