

**Elise NALE, “Joseph Bukiet, the postal work 1933-1966” (Joseph Bukiet (1896-1984), l’œuvre postale, 1933-1966), Master’s thesis in History of Architecture, Pantheon-Sorbonne – Paris 1, 2014, 360 p.**

Leaving his native Poland in 1914 Joseph Bukiet has the intention to follow the teaching of Parisian architecture schools. Firstly graduate of the Special School of Architecture in 1918, he eventually succeeds and with the support of his former trainer Charles Risler the entrance examination of the National School of Fine Arts (Leon Jaussely workshop) where proves to be a gifted student and won several awards prizes and medals. After graduation (1922), this brilliant career allows it to be directly engaged as head of the agency of his former teacher Leon Jaussely (1923), his destiny is heading to postal architecture. Indeed, the latter weakened by illness entrusts to Joseph Bukiet - became a partner of the agency in 1930 - leading the work that the PTT administration had initially given to him. The young architect then forms a complex architecture that requires both a detailed knowledge of functional requirements which by nature requires each postal building, while respecting a symbolic identity chosen by the PTT administration. With the experience gained during the preparatory years (1930-1932) and the success of the projects it carries out the architect ensures good judgment and good relations with the administration of PTT. For these reasons and with the support of several influential figures he has the honor of being appointed architect PTT framework of Paris in 1933, function reserved to a restricted circle of architects already experienced. Following his appointment, he takes care of the tasks entrusted by the PTT administration for nearly three decades (1933-1966), which is a relatively long period and, more importantly, is a key moment in the history of postal architecture. Indeed, in the tradition of his predecessors Joseph Bukiet develops an architectural language that is part of the research of the whole body of the architects of PTT for the renewal of the postal architecture. Joseph Bukiet is thus placed in the rationalist vein of his elders. Indeed, he developed an architecture governed by modern construction techniques (reinforced concrete, translucent concrete vault) architecture. However, as an architect-engineer leading it also develops its own solutions in terms of development, distribution and lighting.

From an aesthetic point of view Joseph Bukiet turns during the inter-war period, like Michel Roux-Spitz, to a modern classicism applied to particularly important buildings where the harmony of proportions and regularity of facades are particularly successful. However, it remains in a regionalist way for building of small towns or cities rooted in a strong local identity. On the other hand, Joseph Bukiet also helps to renew the postal architecture with formal proposals remain effective after the Second World War. Moreover, the architect implements a freer creative expression for postal equipment industrial vocations. In the work of Joseph Bukiet they reflect the architectural modernity in which the architect instead. Furthermore, the architect thinks the building as a whole and the elegant simplicity that drives the front of its buildings is repeated in the interior fittings. In addition, Joseph Bukiet proves to be an architect whose production illustrates some interesting formal experiments while expressing the greatness of the PTT administration.