

Jeu de mail in France

The map is a visual display featuring coloured round stickers that mark various jeu de mail locations. The borders are decorated with reader cards from over 50 departmental and municipal archives we visited, offering a detailed visual overview of our research progress.

The orange stickers mark towns or villages with mail courts or roads where people played the mail game, highlighting key areas of active jeu de mail engagement, especially in the south of France, where the 'mail à la chicane' variant was common.

The yellow stickers denote castles where royals and aristocrats created mail alleys in their gardens to enhance the grandeur of their estates and families.

The blue stickers, pending confirmation, mark villages or towns with roads named 'mail', which over time evolved from game-related alleys into scenic promenades shaded by mature trees, with some avenues retaining the name 'mail' even after the game's decline.

After further research, a black sticker replaced the blue one when the name mail had no reference to the game.

The research is far from over; there is still much to uncover in the fascinating world of jeu de mail.

