

## 4 The boundary marker stone

In **1338**, Provence (which is not yet France) helps the surrender of the valleys of Nice. This means that the future county, which Puget Théniers belongs to, decides to leave the protection of the Counts of Provence to seek the protection of the House of Savoy. In this way a boundary is established which passes notably between Puget Théniers and Entrevaux which remains Provençale. It is not until 1860 that the provinces of Savoy and Nice are annexed to France.

Behind the church, a boundary marker stone can be seen which marked the boundary between the Kingdom of Piedmont - Sardinia (Savoy) and the Kingdom of France (respectively symbolised by **the Savoy Cross and the Fleur de Lys**, (vandalised in this instance). This marker stone was originally situated on the left bank of the river Var, upstream from the village in the direction of Entrevaux, whilst the marker stone visible at the entrance of the Goods Hall comes from the Rigaudon pass on the Gourdan mountain (dominating Puget on the right bank) where a copy now replaces it.

### Boundaries and geographical criteria

Sculpted by an illiterate stone mason who reversed the date template, this stone was placed on the border that was redrawn in 1760. The new straighter delineation was established by common accord between the two states. It brought considerable modifications to a capricious border using stronger topographical elements : the dividing line being the waters of the Var and Verdon, from the Col de la Cayolle to Dalluis, a succession of peaks and valleys between Daluis and the confluence of Riolan and the Esteron, then the main stream of the Esteron and lastly the Var to its estuary.

Map 11, Kingdom of France, Kingdom of Piedmont- Sardinia

County of Nice between 1760 and 1860

Present border (since 1947) between France and Italy

Western limit of the present department of the Maritime Alps