

1840/85

# The mail service in the North Africa ports

*Alexandria, Tunis, Algiers, Bone, Philippeville, Oran, Tanger and Tripoli of Barbary*

**INTRODUCTION:** During the nineteenth century the ship traffic knew an unprecedented intensity, encouraged by the arrival of the steam navigation that was, by then, able to ensure not only more security but even shorter journeys and a more certain length of them.



Regarding the Mediterranean sea, a decisive turning points were the choice of Suez, still before the channel opening, as the reference port for East Indies traffics as well as the the raising of the colonial politics with the French occupation of Algeria and the first Italian interest shown towards Tunisie and Libya, together with the strengthening of traffics with the declining Ottoman Empire.

The Egypt, particularly, under the guide of the governor Mohamed Ali Pasha to whom the Sublime Porte had recognized the vice roy (Khedivè) title with a large self-government, met a period a great economic rise that supported the settling of a large foreign Community, about 60.000 people, leading some of the most important European countries to open their post offices and establish steam navigation companies.

**SCOPE:** This collection has the objective of offering a view of the mail system, in years 1840/85, in the Egyptian port of Alexandria, according to the following list of steam navigation lines.

## PLAN OF COLLECTION

**I-Alexandria** **1. British Lines:** **1a** ALEXANDRIA-MALTA-GIBRALTAR-SOUTHAMPTON by "Peninsular & Oriental Co."; **1b** ALEXANDRIA-MALTA-MARSEILLE known as "Marseille Line" by "Peninsular & Oriental Co", working until 1870; **1c** ALEXANDRIA-BRINDISI "India bag" by "Peninsular & Oriental Co.

**2. French Lines:** **2a** "Levant line" + "Ligne annexe" PIRAEUS-ALEXANDRIA; **2b** ALEXANDRIA-MESSINA-MARSEILLE by "Messageries Nationales"; **2c** MARSEILLE-SMYRNA-ALEXANDRIA- by "Syria Line"

**3. Austrian Line:** **3a** ALEXANDRIA-CORFU (or BRINDISI until 1869)-TRIEST by "Lloyd Austriaco"; **3b** Syria Line CONSTANTINOPLE- ALEXANDRIA

**4. Italian Lines:** **4a** ALEXANDRIA-BRINDISI by "Compagnia Adriatico Orientale", working until 1871; **4b** GENOA-LEGHORN-NAPLES-MESSINA-ALEXANDRIA by "Rubattino".

**5. Ottoman Line-Vapori dell'Ammiraglio:** **5a** CONSTANTINOPLE-ALEXANDRIA;

**6. Egyptian Lines: Azizieh Line and Khedivial Packet line:** **6a** ALEXANDRIA-RHODES-SMYRNA-CONSTANTINOPLE.

**II-Tunis- Italian Lines:** **1a** GENOA-CAGLIARI-TUNIS; **1b** TUNIS-TRIPOLI di BARBERIA-MALTA operated by "Rubattino Company"; **1c** PALERMO-TUNIS by "Florio" Company; **French Line:** **2a:** TUNIS- BONE-PHILIPPEVILLE

**III-Algiers- French Lines:** **1a** MARSEILLE-ALGER; **1b** CETTE-ALGER both by the "Messageries Impériales/Maritimes" and "Valery Co. Companies.

**IV-Oran- French Lines:** **1a** MARSEILLE-ORAN and MARSEILLE-ALICANTE-ORAN by the "Imperialés/Messageries Maritimes" Companies

**V- Philippeville (Skikda) - French line:** **1a** MARSEILLE-PHILIPPEVILLE-BONE

**VI-Bone- French Lines:** **1a** BONE-PHILIPPEVILLE-MARSEILLE; **1b:** BONE-TUNIS by "ligne annexe Courier de l'Est".

**VII-Tripoli of Barbary- Italian Lines:** **1a:** TUNISI-TRIPOLI-MALTA by "Rubattino Co." From 1877 that crossed in Malta; **2a:** "Florio Co." packet for Siracusa and Messina.

**VIII-Tangeri:** Spanish maritime service and coastal service ORANO-CADICE.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- (i) Raymond Salles: "Le Paquebots de la Mediterranée" and "La Poste Maritime Francaise- Tome I";
- (ii) Zanaria-Serra-Dal Negro: "Catalogo storico-postale dei francobolli in uso negli Uffici Italiani all'estero 1852-90";
- (iii) Umberto del Bianco: "Il Lloyd Austriaco e gli annulli marittimi dell'Austria-Ungheria;
- (iv) Hany Salam: "The Egyptian Maritime Postal History 1845-89"



## Alexandria-Malta-Gibraltar-Southampton

- Peninsular &amp; Oriental Co. -



Sheet letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -June 6 1845- to [MALTA](#) with disinfection cuts and “PURIFIE’ AU LAZARET-MALTA” mark impressed on arrival. It, as for red crayon notation, prepaid 5 pence and, care of the British Post Office-red circular “[ALEXANDRIA JU 6 1845](#)”- was embarked on the “P&O” [Liverpool](#) for the call of Malta.



*Southampton-Gibraltar-Malta Alexandria-*

*- Peninsular & Oriental Co. -*



Entire letter from [GIBRALTAR](#) -Sept 29 1859- to [ALEXANDRIA](#) paid the rate to destination with Victoria 1856 4+6 pence tied by "A26" obliterations and bleu Gibraltar cds of despatch alongside. It was embarked on the "P.&O. Co." steamer coming from Southampton and proceeding to [Alexandria](#) where was disembarked the following Oct. 3.



G. Morley Esq.  
Mrs. Lieder.

Sais Egypt.

Via Southampton.

1844

63 LEEDS DE 9 63

POSTAGE







Monsieur  
 Monsieur J. J. Maisonneuve  
 Monsieur etc  
 In Alicante  
 Espagne



D.

Letter dated January 1867 shipped from **ALEXANDRIA** –British Post Office- to **ALICANTE** (Spain), franked for ten pence tied by “Boi” mark. It was placed on board on the “**P & O Co**” **British steamer** to **Southampton** with a call in **Gibraltar** where was disembarked (Ja 20 1867) to be dispatched to **Alicante** (Ja 22 ) via **San Roque** .



*-Alexandria-Marseille – Peninsular & Oriental Co.*

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** – July 7 1863- to **Nantes**, franked to pay the 1,20 fr. triple rate to destination with Napoleon 40 c. (n. 16) + 10 c. (n. 13) x 3 + 40 c. (n. 23) + 10 c. (n. 21) tied by lozenge gros chiffres “5080”, It, as per endorsement, care of the French P.O., was embarked on the “**P&O Line**” British packet for **Marseille** where arrived the following 10, receiving the d.c. “**AMB.MARS. 2 PAQ.AN.V.SUEZ 10 Juin 1863**”. (J.Potion n. 1880); then by train to Nantes.



*-Alexandria-Marseille – Peninsular & Oriental Co.*

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** – Oct. 8 1864- to **BASEL** (Switzerland), franked to pay the 90 c. rate to destination with Napoleon 80 + 10 c. tied by lozenge “5080”. It, as per endorsement, care of the French P.O., was embarked on the “**P&O Marseille Line**” British packet for **Marseille** where arrived the following 15, receiving the d.r. “**AMB.MARS. 2 PAQ. AN.V. SUEZ 31 Juil 1864**” (J.Potion n. 1880); then by train to Basel - red mark “**BUREAU FRANCAIS A BALE 16 Oct 64**”, and Swiss black mark.



Unpaid Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** –French Post Office SEP 5 1860- to **PALMA DE MAIORCA** (Spain). Endorsed “Par bateau anglais voie Marseille” it was carried by the “**P & O Co**” **British steamer** to **Marseille** (Sep 11), then overland via **Toulouse**, **Cette**, **Perpignan** and **La Junquera** ( Sep 11) to **Barcelona** to be embarked for Palma de Maiorca (Sep 16), where was charged the tax due of 12 reales.



*"Peninsular & Oriental Marseille Line"*

*Alexandria-Malta-Marseille*



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Jy 24 1864- to [THUSIS](#) (Switzerland), franked to pay the 90 c. rate to destination. It, care of the French P.O., was embarked on the first sailing packet, the "[P&O Marseille Line](#)" British one, for [Marseille](#) where arrived the following 31, receiving the d.r. "[AMB.MARS. 2 PAQ.AN.V.SUEZ 31 Juil 1864](#)". (J.Potion n. 1880); thence via [Parigi](#), [Besançon](#) and [Chur](#) to Thusis.



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) Jan. 23 1870 [LIEGE](#) (Belgium), franked to pay the double rate 1,20 F. to destination. It, care of the French Post Office, was embarked on the first sailing ship, the "[P & O Marseille Line](#)" British one, for Marseille where arrived the following 29 receiving the "[AMB.MARS. PAQ.ANGL. 29 Janv. 1870](#)". (J.Potion n. 1867); then via [Paris](#), to Liege (Ja. 30).



*"Peninsular & Oriental Marseille Line"**Alexandria-Malta-Marseille*

Front of letter -Oct. 18 1867- from CAIRO to MANCHESTER, franked with one piaster Egyptian stamp to pay the inland rate for Alexandria where, care of the British Post Office, was added a six pence stamp paying the rate via Marseille to destination by the "P & O Marseille Line" packet.

*"Messageries Imperiales"**Marseille-Messina-Alexandria*

Fragment of letter from QUEENSTOWN (Ireland G.B.) to CAIRO franked to pay the six pence rate to the disembarkation port. It, as per endorsement, was forwarded via Marseille by French packets. On arrival in Alexandria the French Post Office added two 20 parà Egyptian stamps to pay the 40 parà inland rate for Cairo.



*"P&O -Marseille Line" - Alexandria-Malta-Marseille*

Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Jy 4 1875- to [MALTA](#), franked to pay the single rate with 4 pence stamp tied by the British Post Office "Boi" mark. It was embarked on a "P&O" [British Packet](#) for Marseille or Southampton, both with a call at Malta (July 9)



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -SEP 12 1866- to [LONDON](#), franked to pay the simple rate with six pence stamp tied by the British Post Office "Boi" mark. It, as per endorsement "per english steamer via Marseilles" was embarked on the "P&O [Marseille Line](#)" [packet](#) for [Marseille](#), from where, via Paris, was dispatched to London.



*"Peninsular & Oriental Co" Alexandria-Brindisi*

Letter from **CAIRO** – Mar. 10 1871 – to **NEW YORK** lacking of the Egyptian franking for the inland rate, as in 1859/73 also in Cairo operated a British Post Office. – c.s. "Cairo MR 10 1871- that took care to forward the mail to the embarking port of **Alexandria** by private courier. It, franked ten pence (6 pence to England + 4 pence for transatlantic carriage) was dispatched, as per endorsement, by a "**P&O Co**" steamer via **Brindisi**, **Ostende** and **London** to **Liverpool** to be embarked on March 18 on the **Cunard SS "Java"** proceeding for New York



*"P & O Co." Line - Alexandria-Malta-Marseille*

Letter from [ZAGAZIG](#) -Aug 19 1866- to [SULLY-SUR-LOIRE \(France\)](#) franked with one piaster Egyptian stamp to pay the inland rate and with "Napoleon" 40c. for carriage to France by British packets. Both stamps were tied by the Egyptian datetamp " ZAGASIK POSTE VICEREALI EGIZIANE 19 Ago 1866"; then it was carried to Alexandria where after receiving by the French P.O. the lozenge "5080" was embarked on the "**P&O Co.**" **British packet** arriving in Marseille - red mark "**AMB MARSEILLE PAQ.ANG.**" 1 SEPT 1866" to be forwarded via Paris to destination.



Letter from [PORT SAID](#) -May 12 1870- to [MARSEILLE](#) franked with one piaster stamp (2), tied by the Egyptian P.O., to pay the double internal rate to [Alexandria](#) where the French P.O. added 40 c. (2) stamps paying the double rate for [sea carriage](#) by the first sailing ship that was the "**P&O Co.**" **British packet** arriving in Marseille where it was disembarked on May 20 receiving the red mark "**MARSEILLE PAQ.ANG.**" 20 Mai 1870".



*"P & O Co." Line - Alexandria-Brindisi*

Letter from [CAIRO](#) -Mr. 30 1871- to [ROME](#) franked with one piaster stamp (2), tied by the Egyptian P.O., to pay the double internal rate to [Alexandria](#) where the Italian P.O. added 40 c. (2) Italian stamps paying the double rate for sea carriage by "P&O Co." British packet to [Brindisi](#) where it was disembarked on Mar. 3 arriving in Rome, via [Naples](#), the following 4.



*"P & O Co." Line - Alexandria-Brindisi*

*Suez - Calcutta and Galle - Sydney*



Letter from **ROME** -Feb. 3 1871- to **SYDNEY** franked with V. Emmanuel D.L.R. 40 c. (2) to pay the 80 c. rate to destination. It was carried via **Foggia** to **Brindisi** to be embarked on the **"P&O Co." British Packet** arriving in **Alexandria** the following Feb. 10 -circular Alexandria British P.O. mark-; then by railway to Suez to be embarked on the **"P&O Co." packet** for Calcutta with a call at **Galle (Ceylon)**, where it was transferred to the **"P&O Co." Australian line packet** arriving in Sydney 23 days later.



## "P. &amp; O. Co. Line"- Alexandria-Brindisi



Letter "via di Brindisi" from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Oct. 2 1872- to [DIJON](#) franked 1,20 F. for single rate to destination with 80+40 tied "5080" and alongside the rare forwarding mark "[ALEXANDRIE PAQ. ANGL 2 Oct 72](#)". It was embarked on the "[P & O Line](#)" British packet for [Brindisi](#) arriving the following 5 ; thence, by railway, to [France](#) – exchange border mark impressed "[PAQ.ANG.V.BRINDISI –A.MOD.](#)".



Letter "via di Brindisi" from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Ja 23 1875- to [PARIS](#) franked 1,20 F. with "Ceres" 40 c. x 3 tied "5080" and alongside the rare forwarding mark "[ALEXANDRIE PAQ. ANGL 2 Oct 72](#)". It was embarked on the "[P & O Line](#)" British packet for [Brindisi](#) where arrived the following 27 and thence by railway to [France](#) –exchange border mark impressed "[PAQ.ANG.V.BRINDISI –A.MOD.](#)".



*"P.&O. Co." - Alexandria - Brindisi*

Letter from [SIUT \(Egypt\)](#) -June 3 1878- to [PARIS](#) franked with 1874/75 Bulaq two piasters tied by the “**POSTE KHEDIVE EGIZIANE SIUT**” mark. It was carried to [Alexandria](#) to be embarked on the “**P&O Co.**” **Packet** arriving, via [Brindisi](#), on the following June 10 in Paris.



*"P.&O. Co." Alexandria-Brindisi*

Official letter with sender's cachet (CHANCELLERIE FEDERALE SUISSE) from [BERNE \(Switzerland\)](#) – Aug 3 1883- to [ALEXANDRIA](#) franked with 1882 “Helvetia” 25 c. strip x 3 to pay the U.P.U. rate to destination. It was carried by train to [Brindisi](#) where on Aug. 5 was embarked on the “[P&O Co.](#)” packet arriving, the following Aug. 10, in Alexandria (Italian P.O. mark on reverse)



Swiss “Bundesrath” seal on reverse



*"P.&O. Co." Alexandria-Brindisi*

Front of letter shipped from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Feb. 16 1883- to [MILAN](#) franked to pay the double rate, with Italian Levant two stamps, 1878/79 20 c. orange + 20 c. yellow\* tied by numeral mark "235". Lacking of transit and arrival marks, it is almost certain that the letter has been embarked on the "P&O Co" British Packet and carried to [Brindisi](#) where was dispatched to Milan by railway. ©

\* rare mixed franking "twins" two Kings (two letters known) *Zanaria-Serra-Dal Negro book page 246*



CARTE N° 21

A hand-drawn map of the Mediterranean Sea with a dashed line indicating a travel route. The route starts at MARSEILLE, goes to TOULON, LIVOURNE, CIVITA VECCHIA, NAPLES, MALTE, then across the sea to CONSTANTINOPLE, BARDAMELLES, SMYRNE, PIREE, SYRA, and finally ALEXANDRIE. The map includes outlines of the coastlines of France, Italy, Greece, and Egypt.



Letter from [LEGHORN](#) -Feb. 3 1844- to [ALEXANDRIA](#); it was embarked the same day on the [French packet "Minos"](#) coming from Marseille for Constantinople with a call at the [Syra island](#) where the letter was transferred to the ["Ligne annexe" Pireo-Alessandria packet](#) arriving on the following Feb. 15 to be delivered to the French post Office and charged by tax due 11 decimes.



## P&amp;O and French Italian Line



Unpaid single rate letter -June 19 1854- from [ALEXANDRIA](#) to [LEGHORN](#) (Grand Duchy of Tuscany). It was posted at the British P.O. (on reverse blue circular Alexandria mark) and embarked on the “**P&O**” packet arriving in [Marseille](#) – “INDE OR. MARSEILLE 27 JUIN 54” d.c. mark to be embarked the following June 29 on the steamer “Bosphore” for Leghorn (Jy 2). Taxe due 17 crazie debited notation .



Unpaid letter from [PISA](#) (Grand Duchy of Tuscany) –Mar. 8 1859-- [ALEXANDRIA](#) ; it endorsed “Par le Paquebot Poste Français” was carried to [Leghorn](#) (mark on reverse) to be embarked on the **French packet “Vatican”** for [Malta](#) where was transferred to the first scheduled **French packet** arriving in Alexandria on Ap. 3. Then care of the French P.O. it was delivered to the local “**Posta Europea**” service –see oval mark “**Direzione della Posta Europea Alessandria d’Egitto**” and carried to [Cairo](#). Taxed 9 decimes to be paid by the recipient.



## Egypt Line



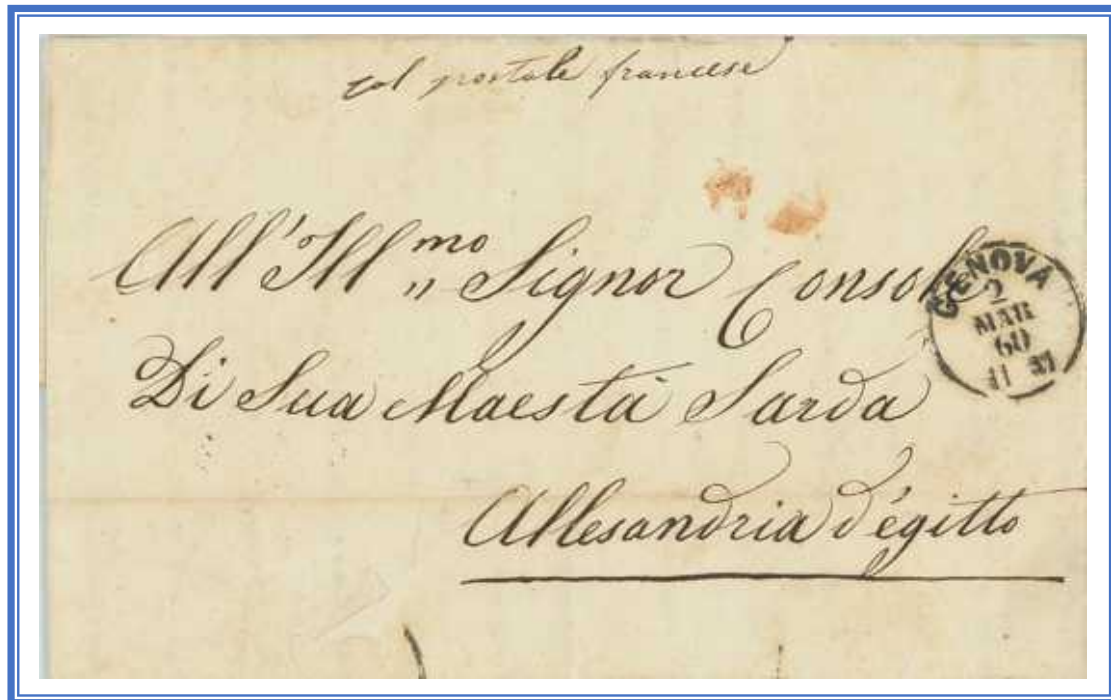
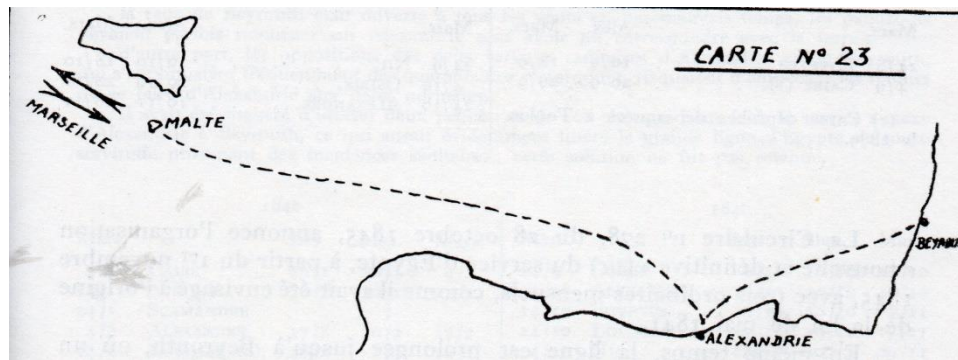
Unpaid double rate letter dated Oct. 6 1852 from [ALEXANDRIA](#) to [LEGHORN](#) (grand Duchy of Tuscany). It was posted at the French P.O. and embarked on the “[Osiris](#)” [packet](#) arriving in [Marseille](#) the following October 15th, then was forwarded overland to [Antibes](#) - French/Sardinia exchange mark on reverse- arriving on October 20 in Leghorn where was taxed at 30 soldi.



Letter unpaid from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Aug. 22 1854-to [PARIS](#); it was posted to the French P.O. and embarked on the [packet](#) “[Louqsor](#)” arriving on Aug. 19 in [Marseille](#), reaching Paris on 31. Taxed for double rate 20 c. to be paid by the recipient.



## Egypt Line



Letter from **GENOA** -March 2 1860- to **ALEXANDRIA**; it, the same day, was embarked on the **French packet "Capitole"** coming from Marseille for **Malta**, where was transferred the **French Egypt Line packet** arriving in Alexandria on the following 12. No tax noted; the rate was prepaid (P.D. mark)



Letter from **GENOA** -Oct. 10 1861- to **ALEXANDRIA** franked, paying the simple rate for French packets carriage, with Sardinia 80 c. Also lacking of transit and arrival marks it is possible to assert that, most likely, the letter was embarked on the **"Hermus" steamer** coming from Marseille for **Malta** (Oct.. 16) where was transferred to the Egypt Line **"Indus"** arriving in **Alexandria** on Oct. 20.



*Steamer "Byzantin" - "Compagnie Ch. BAZIN et Leon GAY"*

Letter dated Nov. 14 1861 from **ALEXANDRIA** to **LEGHORN**, franked 3,20 Francs -quadruple rate for carriage to Italy by the French packets- with "Napoleon" 80 c. x 4 tied by the numeral "3704" and alongside the d.r. mark "Alexandrie Egypte 16 Nov 1861". The letter was delivered, as for the handwritten endorsement, to the "**Bazin et Gay Co.**" merchant ship "**Byzantin**" that, in years 1858/65, worked the routes for Egypt and Syria.\*

\*Cfr. Raymond Salle "LA POSTE MARITIME FRANCAISE -TOME II -Le Paquebots de La Méditerranée" pag.277. It could be, in fact, of letters taking the goods shipped and that sometime, as likely in this case, paid also the rate for the carried parcel.



*Messageries Impériales Egypt Line and indirect Italian Line*

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** –June 9 1863- to **GENOA** franked, to pay the simple rate for French packets carriage, with Sardinia 40 + 10 c. and Italy 15 c. litho (2) tied by blue boxed postmark with forwarding instructions “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI**” and alongside the Italian Post Office cancel. It was placed on board on the “**Peluse**” steamship to Marseille with a call at **Messina** where the letter was transferred to the “**Capitole**” steamship, coming from Malta for Marseille and disembarked at the call of **Genoa** (17 June.) ©



## Alexandria-Marseille



Letter from **CAIRO** –May 7-1864 to **NAPLES**, with the bleu “Posta Europea” handstamp paying the inland rate to **Alexandria**, where the Italian Post office added stamps for 80 c. according to the required tariff for carriage to Italy by French packets. It, having the Italian stamps tied by the forwarding boxed mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI**” and alongside the Italian P.O. cancel, on May 9, was placed on board of the **steamer “Moeris”** and transferred, at the Messina call, to the **steamer “Quirinal”**, coming from Malta and proceeding to Marseille with a call in Naples (15). ©



*Messageries impériales - Egypt line*

Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) Dec. 9 1864- to [PARIS](#) franked with 40+10 c. to pay the simple rate. It was embarked on the **French packet "SAID"** arriving in [Marseille](#) the following 15 to be dispatched to [Paris](#) (Dec. 16). At the exchange office it was realized a lacking of franking referred to weight -AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT boxed mark- and so was noted by ink tax due 15 decimes (1,50 Fr.) to be paid by the recipient.



Letter -dated Sep-18 1868- from [CAIRO](#) to [MARSEILLE](#). It was handcarried from Cairo to [Alexandria](#) where, franked to pay the single rate to destination, was posted on board of the **French steamer "Moeris"** having the stamp tied by the lozenge "anchor" mark and receiving alongside the octagonal cancel "**Alexandrie Paq. Fr. V Nr.2-19 Sept. 68**". Arrival in Marseille the following 25.



## Egypt Line



Letter from **MARSEILLE** –Sep 9 1864- to **ALEXANDRIA** franked for 50 c. to pay the inland and maritime carriage; It was posted the same day on board of the French packet “Said” leaving Marseille for Alexandria, having the stamps tied by the lozenge “anchor” mark and alongside the d.c. of the packet “Meinam” \*( instead of “Said” ) by the postal agent .The letter was disembarked in Alexandria the following 15 to be delivered by the French Post Office.

\* The “Meinam” steamer had left Marseille on 14 August 1864 for the new line Suez-Reunion-Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, having completed the last voyage in the Mediterranean sea on 25 May. (R. Salles- Les paquebots de la Méditerranée).The use of her datestamp on this voyage of the “Said” is surprising since the “Said” had her own instruments which was in use in other voyage that year, and even one would expected that “Meinan” to take all her equipment with her; though perhaps it was left behind during the long voyage round the Cape, to be brought across the Isthmus by the postal agent after the “Meinan” had reached Suez in November 1864. An explanation might be that, since the sailing from Marseille on Sep. 9 carried the first mail for Reunion and Mauritius, it carried also the agent for the Meinan with his postal equipment; and may be he acted as agent aboard the “Said” working, together to the mail to be embarked in Suez also that , like this one, addressed to Alexandria.



*Messageries Impériales Egypt Line and indirect Italian Line*

Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Aug 5 1867- to [FLORENCE](#) franked, to pay the 1,20 Lire double rate for French packets carriage, with DLR 60 c. pair tied by “234” dots and alongside the boxed postmark with forwarding instructions “[PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI](#)” and the Italian Post Office cancel. It, on Aug. 8 , was placed on board of the “[Godavery](#) ” steamship to Marseille with a call at [Messina](#) where the letter was transferred to the “[Pausilippe](#)” steamship, coming from [Malta](#) for [Marseille](#) and disembarked at the call of [Leghorn](#) to be carried to Florence.17 June.) ©



## Egypt Line



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#)- Feb. 19 1866-to [BORDEAUX](#) franked 40 c. paying the inland and maritime carriage. It was embarked on the **French packet "Moeris"**, arriving in [Marseille](#) the following 26 to be dispatched [via Lyon](#) to Bordeaux.



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Mar. 19 1864- to [THUSIS \(Switzerland\)](#); it prepaid the 90 c. rate for maritime and inland carriage and was embarked on the **French packet "Said"**, on her maiden voyage, arriving in [Marseille](#) the following 24 to be dispatched [via Lyon](#) and [Chur \(Coira\)](#) to Thusis.



## Egypt Line



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Nov. 28 1871- to [CREST \(France\)](#);it franked to pay the single rate with Napoleon 80 c. tied by lozenge gros chiffres “5080” and alongside the d.c. mark of the French P.O., was embarked on the **packet “Niemen”** arriving the following 4 December in [Marseille](#), to be dispatched to Crest (Dec.5)



Letter from [CAIRO](#) –Aug. 17 1874- to [AIX en PROVENCE](#); it paid the one weight step rate with 1873 Ceres 80 c. tied by lozenge gros chiffres “5019” and alongside d.c, “Le Caire Bau Francaise”. It was posted at the French Post Office in [Cairo](#), then was forwarded to [Alexandria](#) and embarked on Aug. 18 on the **French packet “Peluse”** reaching [Marseille](#) the following 24, then by train- **“Marseille a Lyon Rapide”** was delivered in Aix on the same day.



*Messageries Impérialies-Syria Line*

Letter from **ALEP** -bleu straight line **POSTE FRANCAISE ALEP**- to **ALEXANDRIA** franked to pay the 50 c. simple rate to France "Napoleon" 40 +10 c. tied by losange petits chiffres "3766" of Alexandrette with alongside the d.c. mark "Alexandrette Syrie -9 Oct 58". The letter was carried to the near port of Alexandrette (now Iskenderun) where was embarked on the **Syria line French steamer "Tamise"**, coming, via **Smyrna**, from **Marseille** and proceeding to Alexandria (Oct. 17).



## Egypt Line and merchant "Fraissinet Company" Line



Letter from [LENZBURG](#) -June 28 1870- to [ALEXANDRIA](#); franked to pay the 60 c. single rate to destination, according to the 1865 tariff, with Helvetia 10 c. x 6- It was carried via [Aarau](#), and [Basel](#) to France -travelling office mark "**Lyon a Avignon**"- for Marseille, where on Jy. 1st was embarked on the "**Compagnie Fraissinet**" "**Gyptis**" steamship proceeding for Constantinople and transferred, at the call of [Messina](#), to the French "**Egypt Line**" "**Moeris**" packet arriving in Alexandria the following June 9 and, the same day, in Cairo -"Le Caire 9 Juil 70 Bureau Francaise" mark on reverse. ©



## Messageries Maritimes -Syria Line



Letter from [CAIRO](#) -Dec. 24 1877- to [ROME](#) franked with Egyptian stamps paying the 1,20 piaster simple rate. It was dispatched to [Alexandria](#) where on the following 25, as per endorsement "Via Napoli", was embarked on the [circular Syria line French steamer](#) coming from [Smyrna](#) for [Marseille](#) with a call in [Neaples](#) where was disembarked (Dec. 30) and thence dispatched by railway to Rome (Dec. 31).



Letter from [SUEZ](#) -Jy 8 1885- to [ATHENS](#) paid the UPU 2 piastres rate for registered mail with 1884 Egyptian stamp 1 piaster paire tied by the s.c. mark "SUEZ-Caisse 8 JL 85" and alongside the boxed "RACCOMANDATO". It was carried to the French P.O. in Alexandria -"Al" and embarked on the [Syria line French steamer](#) for [Marseille](#) via [Smyrna](#) with a call in [Syra island](#) s.c. "Syra 30 Jy 85-(Julian calendar date corresponding to the Gregorian Jy 18)) and thence dispatched via [Piraeus](#) to Athens. (2.8/21.7).



## Syria Line



Unpaid letter from **PIRAEUS** -Sep. 12 1872- to **ALEXANDRIA**. Lacking of transit marks we can think the letter carried in closed bag by **French packets** via **Syra** and **Smyrna**. On arrival (Sep 20) it paid the tax due 40 lepta with a “Hermes” stamp tied by the d.c. postmark of the Greek P. O. showing the date 20 September\*.



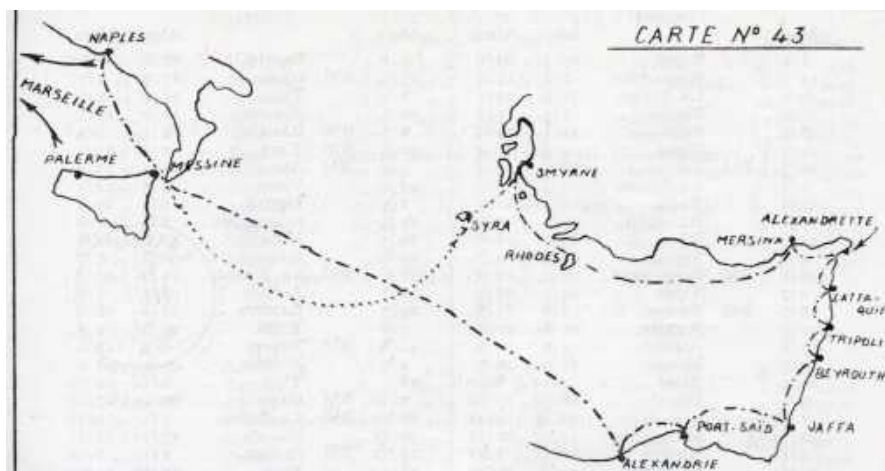
Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -Apr. 14- to **SYRA** island (Greece) -Apr. 19- franked to pay the rate to destination with “Hermes” 80 lepta tied by numeral “97” and alongside the d.c. of the Greek P. O. “Alexandria 14 Ap. 1864” (Julian calendar)\*. Lacking of transit postamarks we can think the letter carried via **Smyrna** by **French packets**.

\* the Julian calendar, used in Orthodox area, that was 12 days earlier respect the Gregorian one; so used in western Europe.



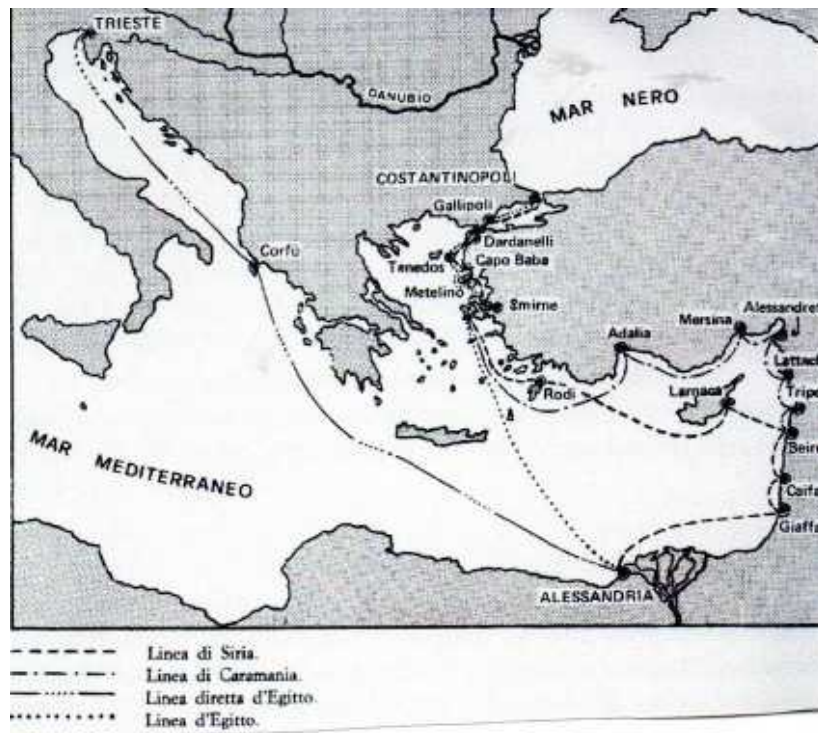
## Messageries Maritimes

## Syria Line



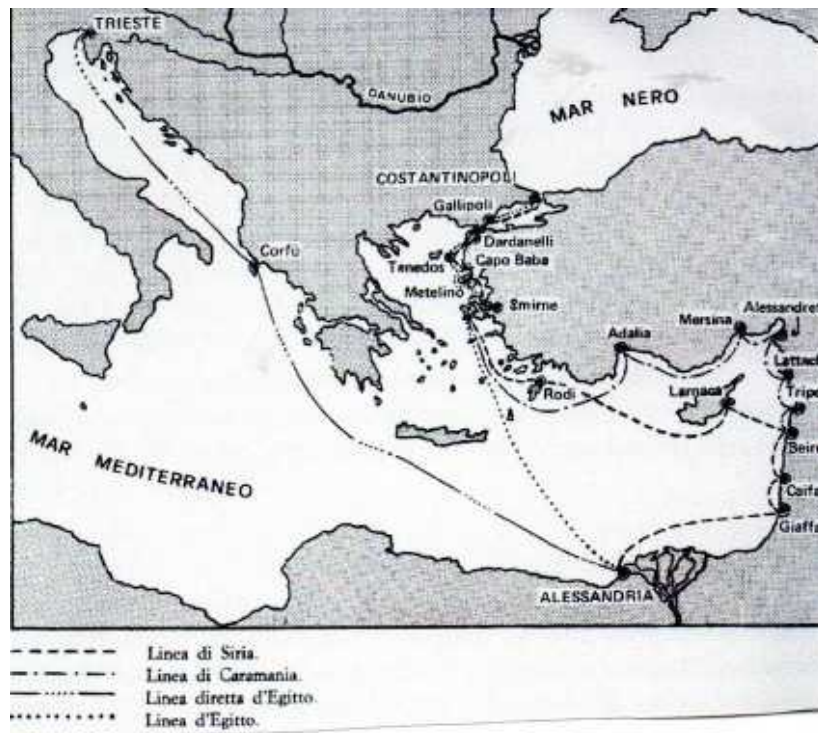
Letter from [BEYROUTH](#) -Aug. 23 1877- to [MARSEILLE](#), franked to pay the 30 c. simple rate was embarked on the [French Syrie Line packet](#) coming from Smyrna with a call at [Alexandria](#) (27 August) and arrival in [Marseille](#) the followig 3 September, where received the entry mark "[PAQUEBOTS /DE LA/MEDITERRANEE](#)" (Salles 726) and, erroneously, the d.c. "ALGER BATA VAP."



*"Lloyd Austriaco" Egypt Line Alexandria - Triest*

Unpaid letter from **TRIEST** -Nov. 26 1851- to **ALEXANDRIA**. It, as per handwritten endorsement **"Col vapore Austriaco"** was embarked on the **"Lloyd" steamer** arriving in Alexandria the following Dec. 3- Austria Post Office straight line **"ALEXANDRIEN 3 DEC."** on reverse. On delivery tax due 9 kreuzer.



*"Lloyd Austriaco" - Alexandria-Corfù-Triest*

Letter from [GRATZ](#) (Austria) - December 7 1853 (?) - to [ALESSANDRIA](#), franked with 9 kreuzer two copies paying the inland rate (9 kr.) and the maritime one (9 kr.). It was carried to [Triest](#) to be embarked on the **Lloyd steamer** arriving in Alexandria the following 17. On reverse the Austrian Post Office mark "DEC. 17 - ALEXANDRIEN". ©



## The "Lloyd" Line - Alexandria - Corfù - Triest



Unpaid Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -July 16 1853- to **ABO-TURKU** (Finland, then Russian Empire). It, endorsed "Via Triest & St. Petersburg", was delivered to the Austrian Post Office in Alexandria -circular "ALEXANDRIEN 21/6"- and embarked on the "Lloyd austriaco" steamer arriving the following 26 in **Triest** - mark **AT** (Autriche transit- Van der Linden n. 221), where was dispatched to the Austrian /Russian border -exchange Office "Szczakowa 29.7" postmark and noted by red ink **12 kr.** (domestic transit rate) and **9 kr.** (sea carriage) = 21 kreuzer equivalent to 23,75 kopecs. Then via **St. Petersburg** to Abo/Turku. On delivery the recipient paid 23,75 kopecs plus 10 kopecs for russian domestic rate: total 33,75 kopecs noted on reverse "**33 3/4**".



D. A. L. H.  
 Supr. S. Spagno & Co.  
 Genova  
 CEVA & CASSELLA  
 CALCUTTA

D. A. L.  
 Messrs. Emelaz  
 Enva  
 PAID  
 175.

Letter from **CALCUTTA**- May 3 1857- to **GENOA** - franked to prepay (red boxed **India Paid**) the 8 anna single rate to Alexandria. It, endorsed “per steamer Nubia, via Triest” was carried by a “**P&O**” packet to **Suez**, then to **Alexandria** where was embarked on the first sailing ship of the Austrian “**Lloyd**” packet for **Triest** instead of the endorsed British “Nubia”. On arrival noted 9/9 meaning 9 kreuzer debited for sea carriage and 9 for inland rate. Then it was dispatched via **Milan**, where received the exchange mark D.(iritto) A.(ustriaco) a.(ustriache) L.(ire) 18 Kr. debited on arrival in Genoa (June 11) with tax due 10 decimes.



## The "Lloyd" Line - Alexandria - Corfù - Triest



Unpaid letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Ap. 2 1862- to [Triest](#). It endorsed "Vapore Diretto" was posted on board the "Lloyd steamer" arriving the following 8 in [Triest](#) where, after receiving the provenance mark "COL VAPORE D'ALESSANDRIA", paid the tax due 15 soldi.



1864-Unpaid letter from [TRIEST](#) to [ALEXANDRIA](#) - It was carried by the "Lloyd steamer" arriving the following March 7 in [Alexandria](#), (circular postmark on reverse), where paid the tax due 15 soldi.



## The "Lloyd" Line- Alexandria-Corfù-Triest



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Dec. 18 1866- to [VIENNA](#), franked to pay the 15 soldi simple rate and posted on board of the “[Lloyd austriaco](#)” steamer arriving on 24<sup>th</sup> in [Triest](#) from where, after receiving the provenance mark “[COL VAPORE D'ALESSANDRIA](#)“, was dispatched to [Vienna](#) (Dec. 26).



Unpaid letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Feb. 27 1867- to [VIENNA](#). It was carried by the “[Lloyd](#)” steamer arriving in [Triest](#) on the following March 7. It was taxed “20” showing the provenance from States united by postal conventions. (Van der Linden n. 3164).



*"Lloyd Austriaco" - Alexandria - Corfù - Triest*



1858 (?) Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** to **GROS BAUDIS** (Silesian -Kingdom of Prussia). It was embarked on the **Lloyd steamer** for **Triest** where, on arrival, was noted by ink the rate 9/9 Kreuzer CM meaning 9 Kr. for sea carriage + 9 Kr. for inland rate in the area of the Postal Union with the German States (G.A.P.U.). The total amount of 18 Kr. CM was debited to Prussia recognized in North German currency corresponding to 6 ¼ silbergros as noted by pen and by a bleu boxed mark (Van der Linden n. 3092).



Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -Feb 25 1865- to **STOLP** (Pomeranie-Prussia) franked with Levant 15 soldi pair tied tied by Alexandria circular mark, paying the 30 soldi rate to destination: 15 s. for sea carriage and 15 s. for transit in G.A.P.U. area. It was embarked on the **Lloyd packet** arriving in **Triest** to be dispatched **via Berlin** (March 8) to Stolp (March 10)



*"Lloyd Co." - Line Alexandria - Corfù - Triest*

Letter from **CAIRO** -Ja 18 1868- to **TRIESTE**. As per endorsement "**Col Vapore Aust. Diretto**" it was addressed, paying the one piaster inland Egyptian postage rate, to **Alexandria** where the Austrian P.O., after adding the 15 soldi rate for sea carriage, embarked the letter on the "**Lloyd**" steamer arriving in Triest the following 23. ©



*"Lloyd Co." - Alexandria-Corfù-Triest*

Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -JY 19 1867- to [TRIEST](#), franked to pay the 15 soldi simple rate with Lombardy-Venetia issue used in Levant. It was embarked on board the "[Lloyd Co.](#)" steamer arriving on 25 in [Triest](#) .



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) – Jy 15 1870- to [TRIEST](#) franked for simple rate to destination with 15 soldi of the Levant issue. It was carried by the "[Lloyd Co.](#)" steamer arriving in [Triest](#) the following 22.



*"Lloyd Co." Line - Alexandria-Triest*

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** a Dec. 15 1873 to **VAININGEN an der ENZ** (Wurttemberg) franked 15 Kr. for unified rate in area of the Austria/Germany Postal Union (G.A.P.U.)\*



5 soldi postcard sent on July 29 1877 from **ALEXANDRIA** to **LEIPZIG** (Germany) paying the unified rate to State member of the G.A.P.U.\*. It was carried by the "Lloyd" steamer arriving the following Aug. 8 in **Triest** to be dispatched to Germany.

\*German Austrian Postal Union/Deutsch Österreichischer Postverein



*"Lloyd Co." Line Triest-Alexandria"*



Letter from **FRANKFURT** (German Empire) -Feb. 28 1872- with endorsement "Via Triest"- to **ALEXANDRIA**, paid the rate 10 kr. for destination in G.A.P.U. area, equivalent to 15 Austrian kreuzer. It was embarked in **Triest** on the **Lloyd steamer** arriving in Alexandria the following March 9. On reverse mark of the Austrian Post Office. Noted "2" for G.A.P.U inland mail.



Letter from **JAROTSCHIN** (German Empire)- Nov. 22 1876- to **ALEXANDRIA**, franked to pay the 30 pf. U.P.U. with 10 pf. strip x 3. It was carried to **Triest** - "Triest 23 Nov. 76" oval mark on reverse- to be embarked on the **Austrian Lloyd packet** arriving in Alexandria the following Nov 30; Austria P.O. circular mark on reverse-.



*"Lloyd Co."*

*Egypt Line Triest - Corfu - Alexandria*

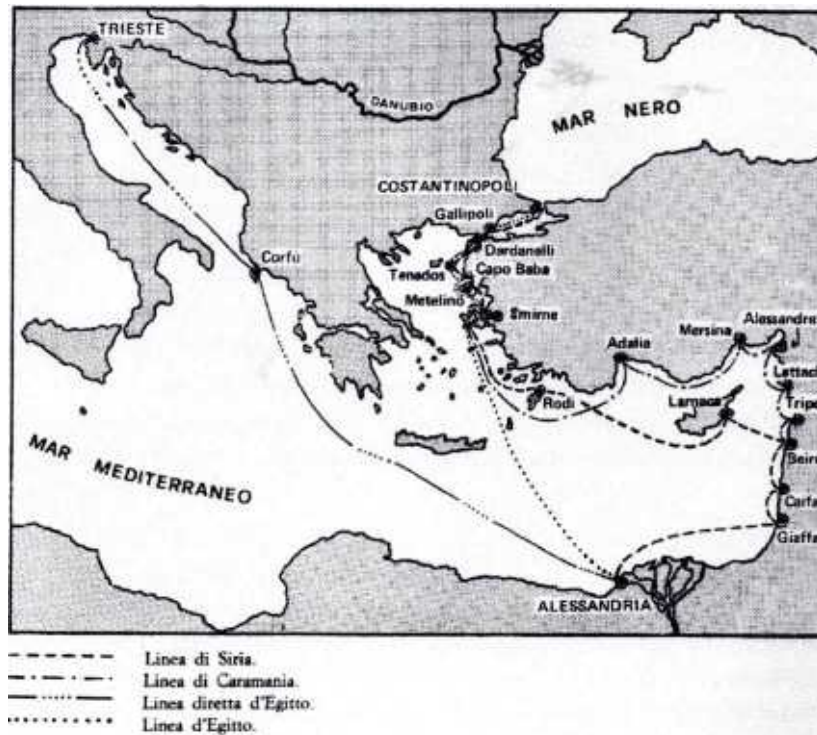


Letter from [ARGOSTOLI](#) (Kefalonia island) to [CAIRO](#) dated July 9 1875 (Julian calendar)\*. It was franked to pay the 30 lepta rate to destination and forwarded to [Corfu](#) (Jy 10) to be placed on board of the **Lloyd packet** coming from Triest and proceeding to [Alexandria](#), where was disembarked on July 18 (Julian) receiving the arrival mark of the Egyptian P.O. (JY 30-Gregorian calendar); then dispatched to Cairo on the same day.

\*the "western" Gregorian calendar chosen in Egypt was 12 days earlier compared to the Julian one used in orthodox area.



*"Lloyd Co." - Syria Line Constantinople-Alexandria*



Letter with full contents dated Apr. 23 1855 from BEIRUT to ALEXANDRIA; as for oval cancel “AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO-BERUTTI”, it was dispatched to Alexandria by the “Lloyd” Syria Line packet coming from Constantinople for Alexandria with a call in Beirut .The rate was paid cash to the Beirut agency.



"Lloyd Co." Syrie Line - Alexandria-Constantinople



Letter from CONSTANTINOPLE-Nov 16 1864- to ALEXANDRIA paid the 45 soldi triple rate to destination with 1864 Levant 10 soldi (4) +5 tied by the circular cancel "**LLOYD AGENZIA/COSTANTINOPOLI -16/11**". It was embarked on the "Lloyd Syrie Line **packet**" arriving in Alexandria on Nov. 20th. ©



Letter shipped on March 28 (1865?) from ALEXANDRIA to CONSTANTINOPLE franked to pay the 15 soldi simple rate for letters exchanged among the Levant Austrian Post Offices. It was carried by a **Lloyd packet** arriving in Constantinople on the following April 2<sup>nd</sup> (arrival mark on reverse).



*"Lloyd Co." Syria line**Odessa - Alexandria*

1866. Letter –with the oval sender’s cachet “**PAUL ZIZINIA –Odessa**” - from **ODESSA (Russia)** – to **ALEXANDRIA**. It was handcarried by a forwarder to **Constantinople** where was delivered to the Austrian Lloyd Post Office – circular “ **LLOYD AGENZIA COSTANTINOPOLI 23 /5**” - to be **embarked on the Company’s steamer** for Egypt arriving the following June 2 in Alexandria –On reverse arrival mark of the Austrian Post Office.



*The Count Etienne Zizinia was at that time the chief of the Alexandria Greek community and, over all, the most important trader of the Egyptian cotton with branch agencies in the Mediterranean and Black sea.*



*"Lloyd Co." Syria line and "Messageries Maritimes" Egypt line*



Letter from JERUSALEM - Feb. 13 1884 - to MONTPELLIER (France), franked, to pay the simple U.P.U. rate with Austria Levant stamp 10 soldi tied by the circular "GERUSALEMME/JERUSALEM - 13/2 1884". It was carried to Jaffa where was embarked on the **Lloyd packet** proceeding to Alexandria where was disembarked and taken charge by the Austran Post Office - on reverse "**ALEXANDRIEN 22/2 84**" to be transferred to the French packet for Marseille and thence to Montpellier (1 Mars). ©



Letter from JERUSALEM -SEP 9 188 - to ANDOVER (Massachusetts USA), franked, to pay the simple U.P.U. rate with Austria Levant 10 soldi tied by the circular "GERUSALEMME -9.9 1885". It was carried to Jaffa and embarked on the **Lloyd packet** proceeding to Alexandria where care of the Austrian P.O. -on reverse "**ALEXANDRIEN 22/2 84**" -was transferred to the "**P&O**" **British packet** for Brindisi to be carried via Mont Cenis -red d.c. "Modane-Paris 19 Sep" to Liverpool to be carried by the Cunard packet to Boston ( Oct. 3 1885).



*"Lloyd Co." Candia Line - Greek-Oriental Line and Egypt Line*



Letter from **LA CANEA/CHANIA** (Crete island) -Mars 19 1875 - to **ALEXANDRIA**, franked to pay the 30 soldi triple rate for mail carried by Lloyd among Levant offices with L.V. 15 soldi (2) tied by two lines **"CANEA/19 MAR."** It was embarked on the **"Canea Lloyd" line steamer** for the **Syra island** where was placed on board of the **"Greek Oriental Lloyd" line steamer** for **Smyrna** to be transferred to the **"Egyptian line Lloyd" steamer** arriving in **Alexandria** the following Mars 28 (Alexandrien datestamp on reverse).



*"Lloyd Co." Candia Line - Greek-Oriental Line and Egypt Line*



Letter from **CANDIA/HERAKLION (Crete island)** -Ja. 20 1867 - to **ALEXANDRIA**, franked to pay the 10 soldi simple rate rate for mail carried among Levant offices with Levant 5 soldi pair tied by datestamp "**CANDIA/20/1**." It was embarked on the "**Canea Lloyd**" steamer for **Syra island** where was placed on board of the "**Greek Oriental Lloyd**" steamer for **Smyrna** (28/1) to be transferred to the "**Egypt Lloyd**" steamar arriving in **Alexandria** on the Febr. 3rd ("**Alexandrien**" datestamp on reverse).



Registered cover from **ALEXANDRIA**- to **CANDIA(Crete)** franked to pay the 20 soldi single rate plus registration fee with 1867 10 s. pair tied by "**ALEXANDRIEN/RECOM 3/4**" datestamp and framed "**RECOM/N.o**" with manuscript "292". It was embarked on the "**Lloyd Egypt line**" packet and carried via **Smyrna** and **Syra** to Candia



## "Adriatico Orientale Co."



Letter from **CAIRO** -Apr. 19 1863- to **FLORENCE** , franked to pay a double rate with Sardinia 40 c. pair + single tied by bleu Italian Post Office postmark and alongside the circular mark dated 17 April "Posta Europea/Cairo", that had arranged the mail carriage to Alexandria. On reverse the Italian Cairo Consulate seal, the boxed forwarding postmark "PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI" and the transit marks in **Ancona** (24), **Bologna** (25) and on arrival in Florence (26). ©



Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -SEP. 18 1863 to **TURIN**, franked to pay the 60c. simple rate by Italian packets with Sardinia 40 + 10 cent. pair tied by the bleu circular of the Italian Post Office and alongside the boxed forwarding mark "PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI". The letter was placed on board of the **Compagnia "Adriatico Orientale"** packet and disembarked in **Ancona** on the following 24 to be dispatched to Turin (Sep. 24).



## "Adriatico Orientale Co."



Letter from [MILAN](#) – July 19 1863- to [ALEXANDRIA](#), franked to pay the 60 centesimi simple rate by Italian packets with Italy 15 c. litho “lilliput cut” x 4 tied by the d.c. “Milano P. GARIBALDI -19 LUG 1863”. It was carried to [Ancona](#) where, after receiving the red boxed forwarding mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**”, was placed on board the “**Adriatico Orientale**” Italian packet arriving in Alexandria the following Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) – June 19 1863- to [LEGHORN](#), franked to pay the 60 centesimi simple rate by Italian packets with Italy 15 c. litho strip x 4 tied by the blue boxed forwarding mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**” and alongside the Italian Post Office circular cancel. On reverse the disembarkation [Ancona](#) mark (June 25) and the [Bologna](#) transit on the same day. ©



*"Adriatico Orientale Co."*

Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Oct. 19 1864- to [MILAN](#), franked to pay the 60 c. simple rate for carriage by Italian packets with 60 c. tied by the boxed forwarding mark "[PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI](#)" and alongside the Italian Post Office circular. It was placed on board the [Company "Adriatico Orientale"](#) packet, arriving in [Ancona](#) on 24<sup>th</sup>. Then by train -ambulant railway mark "Bologna/Torino -25 Ott." - to [Milan](#).



*"Adriatico Orientale Co."*



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -Dec. 24 1864 - to [WIEN](#) franked to pay the 2 Lire double rate to Austrian Empire with DLR 60 c. (3) + 10 c. (2) tied by the boxed postmark with forwarding instructions "[PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI](#)" and alongside the circular of the Italian Post Office. On reverse the disembarkation mark in [Ancona](#) (27) and the railway travelling post office mark for [Wien](#). ©



*"Adriatico Orientale Co."*

Letter from FLORENCE -Feb 26 1869- to ALEXANDRIA franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate for Italian packet carriage with DLR Victor Emmanuel 20c. tied by numeral mark and Florence cds alongside. It was carried by railway, via Foggia (Feb 27), to Brindisi ( Feb 28) to be embarked on the "Adriatico Orientale" Italian steamer arriving in Alexandria the following Mar. 5. On reverse Italian Post Office circular mark.



Letter from FLORENCE -Mar. 12 1869- to ALEXANDRIA paid the 40 c. simple rate for Italian packet carriage with Victor Emmanuel 20 c. pair tied by numeral mark and Florence cds alongside. It was carried by railway, via Foggia (Mar. 14), to Brindisi (Mar. 14) to be embarked on the "Adriatico Orientale" Italian steamer arriving in Alexandria the following Mar. 19. On reverse Italian Post Office circular mark.



## "Adriatico Orientale Co."



Letter from **CAIRO** -Nov. 16 1866- to **LEGHORN**, franked with one piaster Egyptian stamp (1° issue) paying the inland rate for **Alexandria** (Nov. 17) where the Italian Post Office added the 60 c. rate for Italian packet carriage. It, as per endorsement "Per il Vap Postale Italiano" and the forwarding boxed mark "PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI" was placed on board the **Compagnia "Adriatico Orientale" steamer** and disembarked in **Brindisi** to be dispatched by railway to Leghorn (Nov. 24).



Letter from **PORTO SAID** -Dec. 8 1869- **GENOVA**, franked with one piaster Egyptian stamp paying the inland rate for Alexandria where the Italian Post Office added the 40 c. rate for Italian packet carriage. It was placed on board the **Compagnia "Adriatico Orientale" steamer** and disembarked on the following 13 in **Brindisi** to be dispatched by railway to Genoa.



*"Adriatico Orientale Co."*

The postmark "**REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE**" had been used from the middle of May 1869 in the Egyptian Post Offices, but the "Sublime Porta" thought this inscription showed a strong desire of autonomy of the Viceroy and the Egyptian population and expected the elimination of the word "**REGIE**". So the postmark, with the *chiselled* word "**REGIE**", has been provisionally used from the first days of July to the end of November.



Both of the letters were shipped from **CAIRO** to **ITALY** (Florence and Milan), paying the internal rate with one piaster stamp to Alexandria - Italian P.O. - where was added the Italian rate of 40 c. for sea carriage for Brindisi by the "**Adriatico Orientale**" packet. The **upper** letter had the Egyptian stamp tied by the circular "**REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE** - CAIRO- 27 Maggio 69", whereas the **below one** received the circular "----- **POSTE EGIZIANE**-CAIRO- 29 Nov 69" with "**REGIE**" *chiselled*.





*"Adriatico Orientale Co."*

Letter from **MILAN** -Dec. 19 1871 - to **CAIRO**, franked to pay the 20 c. reduced rate to the disembarkation port (**P.P.** -Porto Parziale- postmark) for handwritten document . It was carried by railway to Brindisi to be embarked on the "**Adriatico Orientale Co.**" packet arriving on Dec 24 in **Alexandria** where was added one piaster Egyptian stamp tied by circular "V.R. Poste Egiziane Alexandria - 24 dec. 71" paying the internal rate to **Cairo**.



## Company "Rubattino"

Alexandria-Genoa and Genoa-Tunis



Letter from **CAIRO** -SEP 23 1875- to **TUNIS** franked to pay the U.P.U. simple rate to destination with two piasters Egyptian stamp tied by Cairo circular mark. It was forwarded to **Alexandria** to be embarked on the "Rubattino Co." SS "Egitto" proceeding to Genoa with a call at **Leghorn** where it was transferred to the **steamer of the same Company** coming from **Genoa** for Tunis. On reverse transit marks in Leghorn and Cagliari and arrival in Tunis on Oct. 11.





Postcard 10c. from [ROME](#) -Ap. 2-1877-to [ALEXANDRIA](#) with 5 c. added to pay the rate for Alexandria. It was carried via [Brindisi](#) by “P&O” British packet.



Colombia 2 c. U.P.U. postcard from [BOGOTA](#) -JAN. 18 1883- to [ALEXANDRIA](#). It was forwarded to Savanilla (Ja 29) where on Feb. 3 was placed on board of the [Ligne A French packet](#) “Washington” coming from [Colon](#) – octagonal red mark “[COLOMBIE LIG. A. -PAQ.FR. N° 1- 3 Fevr. 83](#)”- and proceeding to [Saint Nazaire](#) where was disembarked the following Feb. 24. Then it was dispatched to [Marseille](#) to be embarked on the [French packet](#) to Alexandria.



## Constantinople-Alexandria by "Azizieh Company"



Cover from [ALEXANDRIA](#)-Oct. 24 1870- to [CONSTANTINOPLE](#) paid the 3 piastres triple "port to port" rate with *Boulaq* 1 + 2 p. Egyptian stamps. It was embarked on the [Egyptian "Azizieh" Company line packet](#) arriving the following 28 in [Constantinople](#) where received the Egyptian Consular P.O. mark.



*"Khedivial Packet Boat Post" PPK**Alexandria-Rhodes-Smyrna-Constantinople*

Letter from [CONSTANTINOPLE](#) -Nov. 10 1875- to [CAIRO](#). It was posted to the Egyptian Consular P.O. paying the U.P.U. 1,20 piaster rate with two Egyptian stamps tied by the circular mark “V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE - COSTANTINOPOLI 10 NOV 75”. It was embarked on the Egyptian “[Khedivial line packet](#)” for [Alexandria](#) where was disembarked (see mark on reverse) and forwarded to Cairo.



## Constantinople - Alexandria



Undated letter (1860 ?) addressed from **CONSTANTINOPLE** to **ALEXANDRIA** franked with the **UFFICIO POSTALE VAPORI AMMIRAGLIATO** “adhesive” showing a 6 piastres rate. ©

*In years 1840/62 there were Italian controlled shipping companies with headquarters in Constantinople that, under contract with the Turkish Government, carried mail along different Levant routes.*

*In 1857, among the different systems to pay the mail carriage rate, was used an adhesive printed in claret colour showing a ship within an oval set in a rectangular frame with ornamental corners and the inscription **UFFICIO POSTALE VAPORI AMMIRAGLIATO**, having, below the ship, the letters PP (Porto Piastre). The amount of the postage rate to be paid was shown by noting it, either in ink or pencil, after the PP writing.*

*According with Umberto del Bianco\*, exceptionally and only for a shorty time, this ship service worked in the Mediterranean sea reaching Alexandria.*

*\*UMBERTO del BIANCO: “Il collegamento marittimo terrestre Costantinopoli-Gemlek-Brussa e l’Ufficio Vapori Ammiragliato” in memories of the “Accademia Italiana di Studi Filatelici e Numismatici” Vol. II°-Fascicoli 3 e 4 - 1985*



*"Rubattino Co."*

*Genoa-Leghorn-Cagliari-Tunis*



Letter from **TUNIS** -January 28 1862- to **TURIN** franked with Sardinia 40 + 20 c. paying the simple rate to destination. ©



*"Rubattino Co"*

*Tunis-Cagliari.Leghorn-Genoa*



Letter from **TUNIS** to **GENOA** franked to pay the triple rate 1,20 Lira with DLR 40 c. pair + 30 c. +10 c. ©.



*"Rubattino Co."**Genoa-Leghorn-Cagliari-Tunisi and viceversa*

Letter from **LEGHORN**-July 19 1866- to **TUNIS** franked to pay the 40 c. simply rate with DLR 20/15 c. pair tied by numeral mark. It was posted on board of the **"Rubattino" steamer** and at the call of **Cagliari** (Jy 22) received the boxed mark **"PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI"**. On reverse d.c. "Tunisi Poste Italiane 23 luglio 1866" impressed on arrival.



Letter from **TUNIS** -Jan 26 1870- to **LEGHORN**, paid the 80 c. double rate with DLR 80 c. franking tied by the numeral "235" and alongside the d.c. of the Italian P.O. in Tunis. It was embarked on the **Compagnia "Rubattino" steamer** arriving, via **Cagliari** (Jan. 27), to Leghorn the following Jan. 29.



*"Rubattino Co."**Cagliari-Tunis-Leghorn-Genoa and Cagliari-Naples*

Letter from [TUNIS](#) -Feb. 15 1871- to [GENOA](#), franked to pay the 20 c. reduced rate for "handwritten paper" with DLR 10 c. pair and alongside the d.c. mark of the Italian Post Office. It was dispatched via [Cagliari](#) (Febr. 16) to Genoa (Febr. 18) by the **"Rubattino Co." steamer**.



Letter from [CASTELLAMMARE di STABIA](#) -Oct. 21 1876- to [TUNIS](#) franked to pay the 30 c. simple rate to destination with 20 + 10 c. stamps. It was dispatched [via Naples](#) by a **"Rubattino Co." packet** to [Cagliari](#) where was transferred to a **steamer of the same Company** coming from [Genoa](#) and proceeding to Tunisi (Oct.23).



"Rubattino Co."

Tunis-Cagliari-Leghorn-Genoa and Cagliari-Naples



Letter from **TUNISI** - July 24 1878- to **MARSEILLE** franked to pay the 30 c. simple rate to France. It was dispatched by the "Rubattino Co.", via **Cagliari** (25) to **Genoa** and thence by sea carriage to Marseille – red provenance mark "ITALIE -MARSEILLE 29 Juil 78"-.



Registered letter from **TUNIS** -Feb. 8 1882- to **NAPLES**, franked to pay a double rate plus registration fees with a mixed franking 10+10 cent e 25+25 cent. Estero "two Kings". It was dispatched via **Cagliari** where was transferred to a **steamer of the same Company** arriving in Naples the following 12.



"Rubattino Co."

Genoa-Leghorn-Cagliari-Tunis



Letter from **LEGHORN** - Feb. 16 1866- to **TUNIS** franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate with DLR 40 c. It was posted on board of the steamer and at the call of **Cagliari** (JY 22) the stamp was tied by the boxed mark "**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**". On reverse d.c. "Tunisi Poste Italiane 19 Feb. 66" impressed on arrival.



Letter from **TUNIS** to **GENOA** franked with "Esterio" 10 c. pair- It was posted on board of the "**Rubattino Co.**" steamer receiving at the transit call in **Cagliari** -22 Novembre 1880- the boxed cancel "**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**".



"Rubattino Co."

Tunis-Cagliari-Leghorn-Genoa-



Letter from **TUNIS** -Jy 27 1881- to **GENOA** franked to pay the simple rate with Umberto I° "Esterio" 20 c. and dispatched by the **Rubattino Co**" steamer. On reverse **Cagliari** transit (28 Jy) and arrival in Genoa (30 Jy) marks.



Letter dated Ap. 23 1885 from **TUNIS** to **CAGLIARI** franked with Umberto I° "Esterio" 10 + 5 cent. paying the simple rate. It was posted on board of the **"Rubattino Co."** steamer proceeding to **Genoa** with a call in **Cagliari** where, on arrival, the stamps were cancelled by the boxed mark **"PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI"** receiving also alongside the provenance straight line **"Da Tunisi"**. ©



*Compagnia "Rubattino Co."*

*Genoa-Leghorn-Cagliari-Tunis*



Letter from **TUNIS**- May 19 1886- to **SIENA** franked "tricolor" with Umberto I° "Esterio" 10+5+25 paying the double rate. It was posted on board of the "**Rubattino Co.**" steamer proceeding to **Genoa** with a call in **Leghorn** for Siena.



*"Rubattino Co." Cagliari-Tunis-Leghorn-Genoa and Cagliari-Naples*

*"Peirano & C." Brindisi-Corfu'*



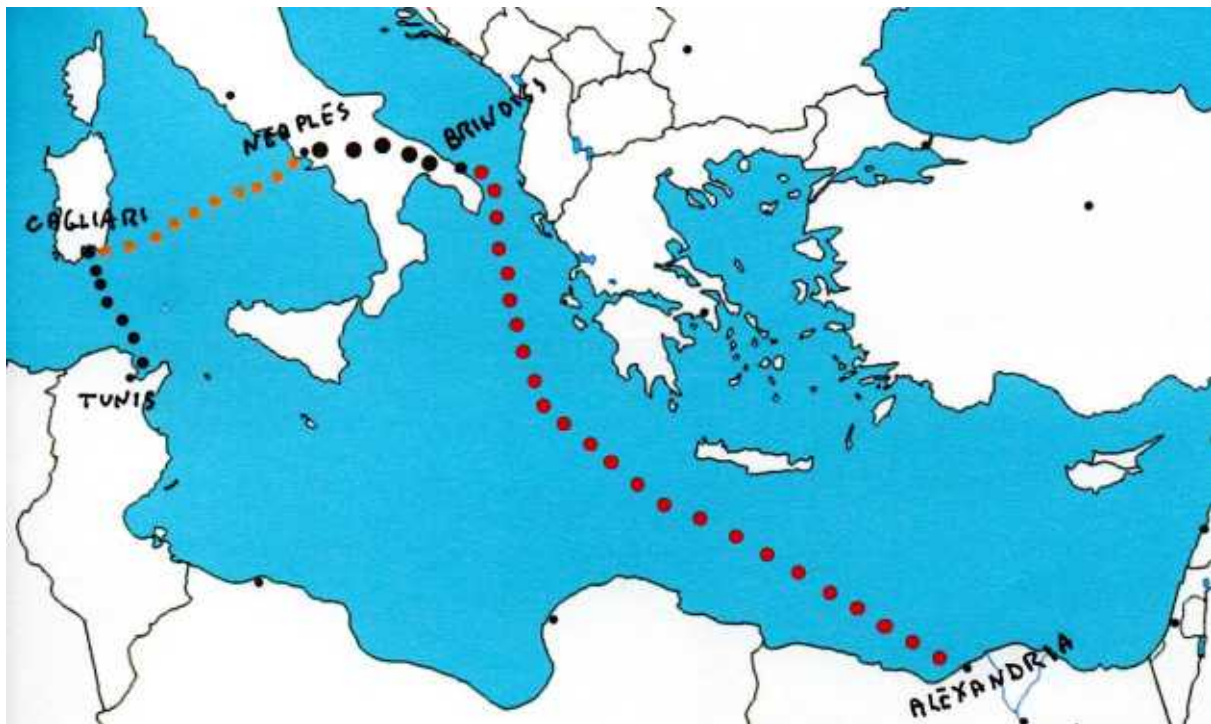
Letter from **TUNIS** -Sep-24 1879- to a **MESSENA** country (Greece). It was franked with the 25 c. foreign simple rate and placed on board the **"Rubattino Co."** steamer for **Cagliari** (Sep. 25) where was delivered to the **steamer of the same Company** to **Naples** and thence, by railway to **Brindisi** to be carried by the **"Peirano & C"** steamer to **Corfu** and by the **"Ionian Island Greek Co."** to **Corintho** (Sep. 20)\* for the following inland way.

\*September 20 of the Julian calendar corresponding to October 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Gregorian one.



*"Rubattino Co." and "Peninsular & Oriental Co."*

*Tunis-Cagliari/Cagliari-Naples/Brindisi-Alexandria*



Letter from the Italian Post Office in **TUNIS** -Feb. 4 1880- to **ALEXANDRIA** franked 25 c. to pay the foreign rate. It was carried by the **"Rubattino Co."** steamer to **Cagliari** -cursive mark **"Coi Postali Italiani"**-where was transferred to a **steamer of the same Company** to **Naples**., thence by railway to **Brindisi** to be embarked on the **"P & O Co."** steamer arriving in Alexandria on the following Feb. 12.



*"Florio Co." and "Rubattino Co."*

*Tunis-Palermo/Palermo-Messina/Messina-Alexandria*



Letter from the Italian Post Office in **TUNIS** –Ja 16 1880– to **CAIRO** franked 25 c. to pay the foreign rate. Forwarded “Coi Postali Italiani”, it was placed on board of the “Florio Co.” steamer for **Palermo** –arrival circular mark Ja 18– where was embarked on the **packet of the same Company** for **Messina** to be to be transferred to the **“Rubattino Co.” packet** coming from Genoa and proceeding to **Alexandria** (27 November) where was dispatched to Cairo (Nov 28).



*"Rubattino Co."*

*Tunis-Cagliari-Leghorn-Genoa*



Letter from [La GOLETTA \(Tunis port\)](#)-Ap. 28 1880- to [DREßKAU \(Germany\)](#) franked to pay the 25 c. foreign rate with "Estero" stamps 20+5 c. tied by numeral bars "3336" ed alongside the very scarce circular "Goletta 28 aprile 1880". It was placed on board the "[Rubattino Co.](#)" steamer for [Genoa](#) to be dispatched to destination.



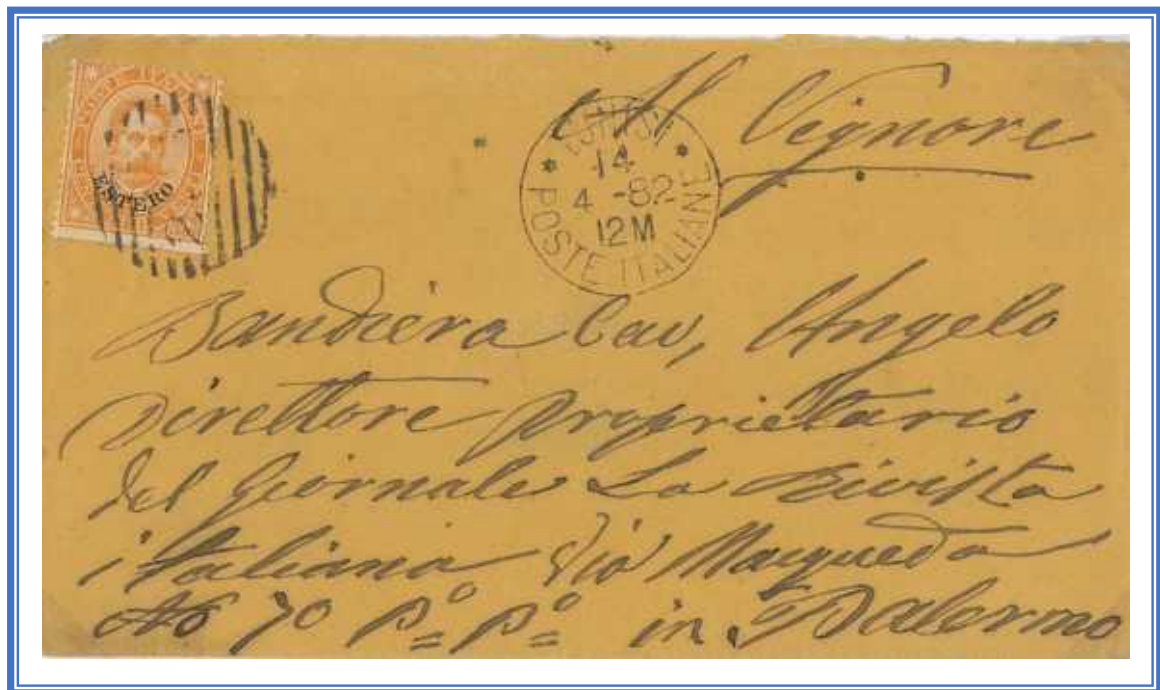
*"Florio Co."**Palermo-Trapani-Tunis*

Unpaid letter from **PALERMO** -March 13 1864- to **TUNIS**. It was embarked on the **"Florio Co."** Italian packet arriving in Tunisi on the following 14<sup>th</sup> (arrival mark on reverse).



*"Rubattino Co."*

*Palermo-Trapani-Tunis*



Letter from the Italian Post Office in **TUNIS** -Ap. 14 1882- to **PALERMO** franked to pay the simple rate with Umberto I° "Estero" 20 c.- It was embarked on the "**Florio Co.**" Italian steamer arriving in Palermo on the following 16<sup>th</sup>.



"Florio Co." Constantinople-Venice,

"Rubattino Co." Genoa-Tunis



Letter from **CONSTANTINOPLE** -Ap- 25 1879- to **TUNIS**, paid the U.P.U. tariff with a 50 parà stamp tied by the bleu d.c. mark "Costantinopoli-Turquie- 25 Avril 1879". It was placed on board of the "**Adriatica Co.**" Italian packet for Venice and disembarked at the call of **Brindisi** where received the boxed mark "**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**"; thence by railway to **Leghorn** (May 1<sup>st</sup>) to be transferred to the "**Rubattino Co.**" coming from Genoa and proceeding to **Tunis** (May 4).



Letter from **CONSTANTINOPLE** -Mar.- 3 1880- to **TUNIS**, paid the 50 parà U.P.U. rate with a 20(2) + 10 p. stamps tied by the bleu d.c. mark "Costantinopoli-Turquie- 3 Mars 1879". It was placed on board of the "**Florio Co.**" packet for Venice and tranferred at the call of **Syra** to the **same Company packet** for **Palermo** (Mar. 9); thence by the "**Florio Co.**" packet to **Tunis** -Italian P.O.( Mar. 11 )



*"Messageries Maritimes" Malta- Marseille and "Bazin Co." Marseille-Bone*

*Compagnie "Courrier de l'Est" Philippeville -Bone- Tunis*



Letter from **ROME (Papal States)** –Oct. 15 1853- to **TUNIS**, paid the 38 bajocchi double rate to destination with 8 bay two vertical pairs + 6 bay tied by d.c. of Rome ad alongside the red boxed "P.D.". It was carried to **Civitavecchia** to be embarked, most likely, on the French packet "**Hellespont**" coming from Malta for **Marseille**- red d.c. provenance mark "**E. PONT. 1 MARSEILLE 1 - 22 Oct 1853**"- where was transferred to the "**Bazin Co.**" packet for **Bone** and thence carried by the "**Courrier de l'Est**" coastal service to Tunis (Oct 29)- arrival mark of the French post office on reverse-. ©



*"Messageries Impériales Co." Algiers-Philippeville*

*"Courrier de l'Est" Philippeville-Bone-Tunis*



Letter from [MARSEILLE](#) - Feb. 25 1870- to [TUNIS](#), franked to pay the 40 c. rate. It was directly posted on board of the steamer "[Marseille Boite Mobile](#)" mark and disembarked in [Philippeville](#) (March 1) where the stamp was tied with the gros chiffres "5055" cancel; then by the coastal service to [Bone](#) (March 2) and Tunis (March 5).



*Compagnie "Courrier de l'Est"      Tunis-Bone-Philippeville*

*"Messageries Maritimes" Philippeville-Marseille*



Unpaid letter from **TUNIS** – June 4 1851- to **MARSEILLE** – forwarding mark d.c. “**Tunis par Bone-Algerie 4 Juin 1851**”. It was carried by the French packet to **Bone** (June 5) and then to **Philippeville** where was embarked for **Marseille** (June 10)- Tax due handwritten by ink 3 decimes (30 cent.).



Unpaid letter from **TUNIS** -July 1<sup>st</sup> 1871-to **MARSEILLE**, carried by the French coastal service to **Bone** – red disembarking “**Tunis par Bone-Algerie 2 Jul 1871**”, then to **Philippeville** where it was embarked for Marseille (July 9). Tax due paid on delivery 6 decimes (60 cent.).



## Tunis-Bone-Philippeville and Philippeville-Marseille



Unpaid letter from **TUNIS** – July 3 1869- to **MARSEILLE**, carried by the French coastal service to **Bone**-disembarking red mark “**TUNIS PAR BONE-ALGERIE** 4 Jul 1869”, thence to **Philippeville** to be embarked for Marseille (9 luglio) where, on delivery, paid the tax due 6 decimes.



Letter from **TUNIS** -Jy 23 1873- to **MARSEILLE**, franked to pay the 60 c. simple rate with Ceres 30 c. pair tied by “gros chiffrés 5107” and alongside the French Post Office datestamp “Tunis 29 Jul 73”. It was carried to **Bone** –red provenance mark “**Tunis-Bone Algerie 30 Jul 73**” and then forwarded to **Philippeville** to be embarked on the **French packet** for Marseille (2 August 73).



## Compagnie "Courrier de l'Est" Tunis-Bone-Philippeville

*"Messageries Impériales" Philippeville-Marseille*

Letter from **TUNIS** -April 17 1864- to **MARSEILLE**, franked to pay the 60 c. simple rate by the French Post Office – d.c. “perlé “Tunis 17 Avril 64” and dispatched by the coastal service to **Bone** – red disembarking mark “**Tunis par Bone-Algerie 18 Avril 1864**”, where the stamps were tied by the Bona lozange “gros chiffres 5015”; then to **Philippeville** to be embarked to Marseille ( April 22 ).



Letter from **MARSEILLE** -March 22 1867- to **TUNIS** franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate. It was dispatched, by the **Messageries Impériales packets**, via **Bone** (March 25) arriving in Tunis the following 28<sup>th</sup>.



*Compagnie "Courrier del l'Est" Tunis-Bone-Philippeville*

*"Messageries Maritimes" Philippeville-Marseille*



Letter from [SMYRNA](#) -Sep. 24 1880- to [TUNIS](#), franked to pay the simple 25 c. U.P.U. rate with Levant stamp tied by the French Post Office cancel "[SMYRNA- TURQUIE D'ASIE](#) -24 SEP. 80". It, on Sep. 26, was embarked on the [Levant line French packet](#) arriving on Sep. 30 in [Marseille](#) to be transferred to the [French packet](#) for [Philippeville](#) and thence, by the coastal service, to [Tunis](#) (arrival Oct. 4 on reverse).



*“Compagnie Valery” Marseille-Bone  
and  
Tunis-Bone-Philippeville*



Letter from **MARSEILLE** -Oct. 14 1874- to **TUNIS**, franked to pay the 60 c. rate for the French Post Office in Tunis. It was posted on board of the **steamer** for **Bone** – d.c. “**MARSEILLE BOITE MOBILE**”- where was disembarked the following 17 having the stamps tied by the losange “gros chiffres 5015”, then by the coastal service to **Tunis** –d.c. “perlé” “Tunis 19 Oct. 74”



*Marseille-Tunis*

Letter from [LONDON \(Twickenham\)](#) -Oct. 4 1852- to [TUNISI](#), franked to pay the 1/3 d. rate to destination with Victoria one penny, two pence and one shilling tied by “35 bars”. As per handwritten endorsement it was forwarded via [Marseille](#) where, most likely for reason of State, as for it addressed to the British Consul in Tunis, it, as noted by ink on reverse “Steamer of War for the Bey”, was delivered to a **war ship of the Mediterranean fleet** arriving in Tunis the following Oct. 15.



*“Messageries Impériales” + coastal service Marseille-Bone-Tunis*

Letter from **LONDON** -Dec. 23 1868- to **TUNIS** franked to pay the 13 pence rate to destination. According to the endorsement “Via Marseille”, it was carried to **Marseille** to be embarked on the **French packet** for **Bone** (28/12) where was transferred to the **coastal service steamer** arriving in **Tunis** the following January 1<sup>st</sup>. The boxed mark “L1”, apposed in London, shows the 1 penny payment for late posted mail (late fee).



*Line Marseille-Algiers*

Letter from **ALGIERS** -Feb. 20 1855- to **MARSEILLE**, franked to pay the 20 c. simple rate with “Napoleon” 20 c. tied by lozange “petit chiffres 3710” and alongside the d.c. “Alger 20 Fevr. 58”. It was embarked on the “**Messageries Impériales**” steamer arriving in Marseille on the following 23.



## Messageries Impériales Algiers - Marseille



Letter from **ALGIERS** -Feb.5 1858 – to **WHISBY (Great Britain)** franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate to destination with “Napoleon” 20 c. x 2 tied by lozange “3710”. It was embarked on the following 6 on a “**Messageries Impériales**” steamer arriving in **Marseille** (Feb.8); thence via **Paris** and **Calais** (Feb. 9) to **London**- red circular mark “Feb. 10.- London PAID”- to be dispatched to Whisby.



1861-Letter from **ALGIERS** to **ANTWERPEN** (Belgium) franked to pay the 80 c. rate with “Napoleon” 20c. x 4. It was posted on board the **French steamer** for **Marseille** where on arrival the stamps were tied by the “lozange 1896” receiving alongside the provenance mark “**ALGER BATA VAP. 27 JUIL 61**”. Then it was dispatched by railway - “**FRANCE PAR AMBULANT MIDI -29 JUIL 61**” to Antwerpen (July 29)”



*Messageries Impériales Algiers - Marseille*

Unpaid letter from **ALGIERS**–Oct 25 1847- to **JACOBSTAD-PIETARSAARI** (Finland then Russian Empire). It was carried by **the French packet** to **Marseille** (Oct. 29) then via **Lyon** (Oct. 31), **Strasbourg** and **Bale** –“**STRASBORUG a BALE NOV. 1**” ambulant d.c. mark- to **Zeliz** (Slovakia-Austrian Empire) and **Prussia** where was debited by red ink “**17**” sgr. –corresponding to 55,25 kopecs – , then to **Russia** to be dispatched via **St. Petersburg** and **Vyborg** to **Jacobstadt**. The domestic rate amounted 10 kopecs so, on delivery, the recipient paid the tax due 55,25 + 10 kopecs = 65,25 kopecs, noted by ink **65 ¼** on reverse.



## Messageries Impériales Algiers -Marseille



Unpaid letter from **BOUFARIK (Algerie)** –Apr. 23 1863 – to **BARKHAUSEN (Prussia)**. It was carried to **Algiers** and embarked on the **French packet** for **Marseille** and dispatched to **Paris** –d.c. “Marseille-Lyon –Avr. 30” and “Lyon-Paris May 1st” entering in **Aachen** in the German postal system –red ambulant mark “**PER AACHEN AUS FRANKREICH 2/5** “. On arrival was charged 5 silbergroschen .



Unpaid letter from **SIDI BEL ABBES (Algerie)\*** June 19 1860- to **COPENHAGEN**. It was carried to **Algiers** to be **embarked** for **MARSEILLE** (23/6) and thence, by railway, to **Hamburg** –Danish exchange Office -K.D.O.P.A HAMBURG 26/6 - for **Copenhagen** (27/6 ) where was noted the tax due 35 skilling equivalent to 1,20 FF to be paid from the recipient.

*\* according to the provenance it is possible to retain that the sender was a Danish citizen enlisted by the Foreign Legion.*



## Messageries Impériales

## Algiers - Marseille



Letter from [ALGIERS](#) -Dec. 7 1862- to [ROME](#), paid the 1 Franc simple port for the Papal State with “Napoleon” 20 c. tied by lozenge “gros chiffres 5005” and alongside the d.c. mark “7 dec. 62”. It was embarked on the [Messageries packet](#) for Marseille (Dec. 11) to be transferred to the [the French line steamer](#) for Italy arriving in [Civitavecchia](#) –provenance mark on front- and thence to Rome (dec. 15).



Letter from [ALGIERS](#) -Oct 2 1869- to [ROME \(Papal State\)](#) paid the 50 c. single rate to destination with “Napoleon” 20 c. pair tied by lozenge “5005” mark and alongside d.c. “Alger-Algerie - 2 Oct. 69”. It was embarked on the [French steamer](#) for [Marseille](#) where was transferred to the [Italian line packet “Vatican”](#) for [Civitavecchia](#) and Rome –“Roma -Via di Mare Ott 6.” provenance mark on reverse.

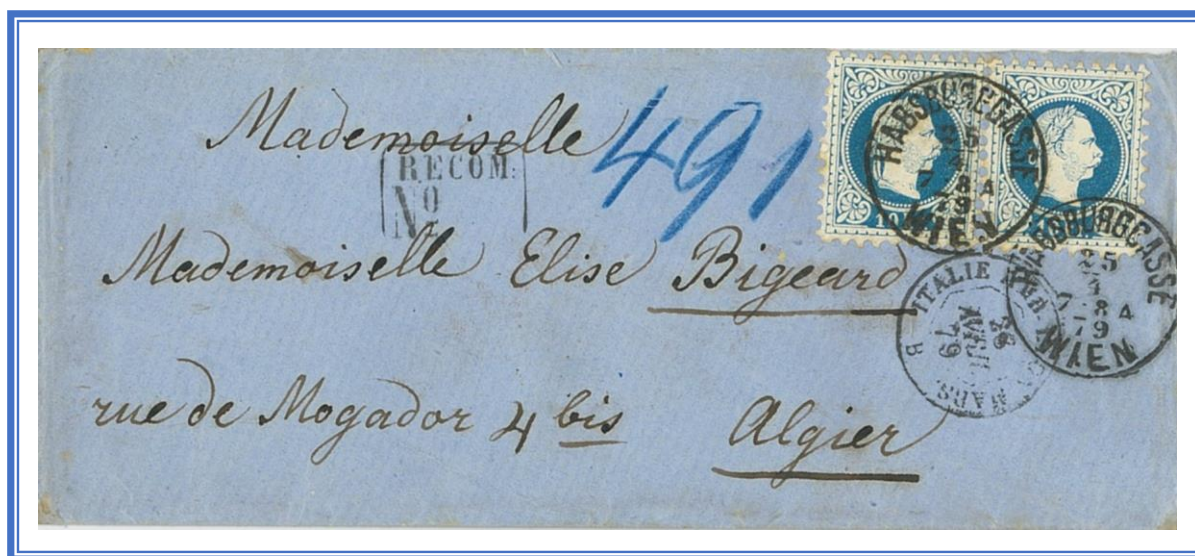


*“Valery Compagnie”**Marseille-Algiers*

Letter from **KOVNO** (Russian Empire)-Dec. 2 1874 (Julian calendar)- to **ALGIERS** paid the 15 kopecks rate to France with Russia 1866-70 issue 10+5 k. tied by cyrillic mark “Kovno 2 Dek. 1874”. It was dispatched by railway arriving in **Paris** on Dec. 16 –blue ambulant mark “**RUSSIE/ERQUELINES-PARIS** dec. 16 1874” (Van der Linden n. 2842)- then, via Lyon, to **Marseille** to be embarked on the “**Valery Co.**” packet to **Algiers**.

\* the Julian calendar, used in Orthodox area, was 12 days earlier respect the Gregorian one used in western Europe; so according to the Gregorian calendar the letter was posted in Kovno on Dec. 14.



*"Valery Compagnie" and Messageries Impériales**Marseille-Algiers*

Registered letter from **VIENNA** -Ap. 25 1879 - to **ALGIERS**, franked to pay the UPU rate to destination with "Franz Joseph" 1867 issue 10 kr. pair tied by "Hasburgasse Wien 25.4. 1879" and alongside the boxed "Recom. No." and blue crayon notation "469". It was forwarded via Italy –"Italie Lyon par Mars" travelling office exchange mark- to **Marseille** (Apr. 26) to be embarked on the "**Valery Co.**" steamer for Algiers where arrived the following MAY 1.



Letter from **ALGIERS** -Oct 17 1867- to **VIENNA**, franked 40 c. with "Napoleon" 20c. x 2 tied by the lozange "5005" mark and alongside the d.c. "Alger-Algerie 12 Oct. 1867". It was embarked on the **French** steamer for **Marseille** (Oct. 22), thence via **Lyon** to **Paris**, where was impressed by the exchange office the red boxed mark "**AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT**" and noted by red crayon "16", most likely the kreuzer amount (equivalent to 40 c.) to be added by the recipient. On reverse arrival mark in Vienna (Oct. 25).



*"Rubattino" and "Florio" Co. and Compagnie "Valery"*

Letter from **TRIPOLI OF BARBARY**– Ap. 30 1878– to **ALGIERS**. It franked 30 c. to pay the rate to Italy, was posted at the Italian Consular Post Office to be embarked on the **"Rubattino Co."** Italian packet coming from **Tunis** and proceeding to **Malta** where the letter was transferred to the **"Florio Co."** Italian steamer and carried via **Syracuse** to **Naples**. There was placed on board of the **Syrie Line French packet "Erymanthe"** arriving in **Marseille** the following May 7 -red Italian/France custom mark "Marseille/Italie Mai 7 1878". Thence to Algiers (May 3) by a **"Valery Co"** packet. Noted by pen "0.75", the full rate due to destination.



## Messageries Impériales

## Marseille - Algiers



Letter from [MANHEIM](#) (Baden-Germany) -Feb. 26 1864- to [ALGIERS](#). It was forwarded to [France](#) – exchange mark d.c. “Amb. D. BADE-STRASB. 26 Fevr. 64” and [via Paris](#) (Fe. 27) carried by railway to [Marseille](#) to be embarked on the “[Messageries](#)” steamer for [Algiers](#) (March 3). The letter, franked to destination (P.D.) with a Baden Brand Duchy 9 kreuzer stamp, was noted “6” by red ink.\*.



Letter from [MANHEIM](#) (Baden-Germany) -Feb. 11 1868- to [ALGIERS](#). It was forwarded to [France](#) – exchange mark d.c. “Amb. D. BADE-STRASB. 12 Fevr. 68” and [via Paris](#) (Fe. 27) carried by railway to [Marseille](#) to be embarked on the “[Messageries](#)” for [Alger](#) (Feb. 16). The letter, franked to destination (P.D.) with a Baden Grand Duchy 9 kreuzer stamp, was noted “6” by red crayon\*. ©

\* the “6” notation shows the fee of rate an G.A.P.U. area.

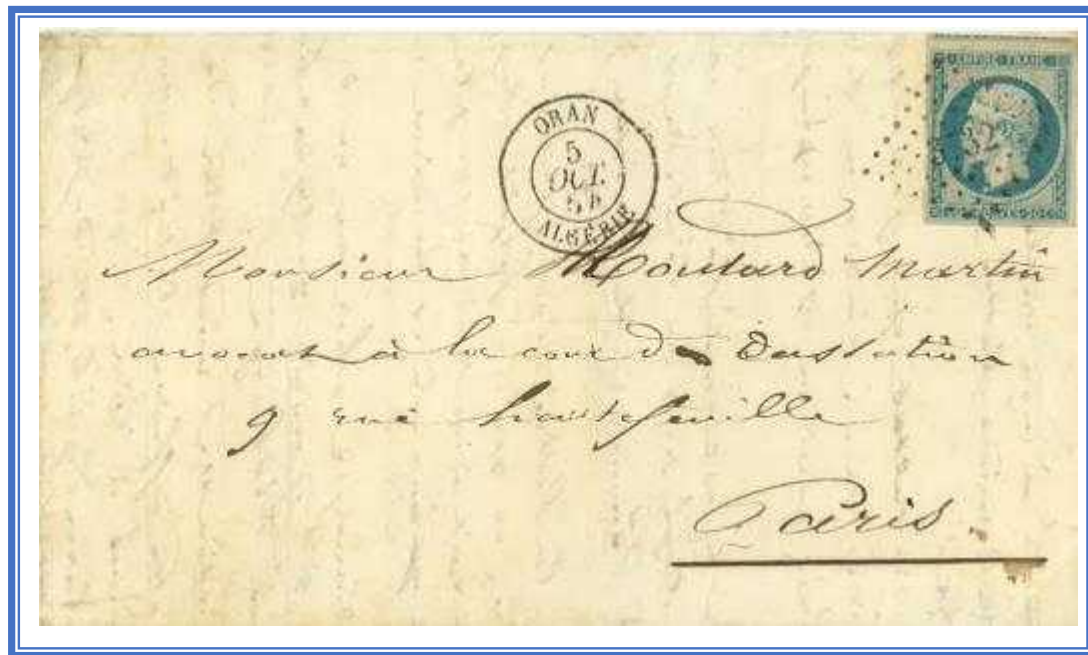


*Messageries Impériales Marseille- Oran*

Letter from **GENOA** –May 5 1862- to **ORAN** (Algerie) franked to pay the single rate to destination with Sardinia 40 c. It was carried by a French arranged **merchant ship** to **Marseille** where the stamp was tied by Marseille lozenge petit chiffres “1896” mark receiving also the red custom cancel “**ITALIE-MARSEILLE 6 MAI 62**”; then it was embarked on the **French packet** arriving in Oran the following May 10. ©



## Messageries Impériales Marseille – Oran



Letter from **ORAN** –Oct 5 1854- to **PARIS** franked to pay the 20 c. single rate with 1853 “Napoleon” 20 c. tied by the lozenge ” petits chiffres” mark “3732” and alongside the d.c. “Oran - Algerie 5 Oct. 54” It was embarked on the **French packet** for **Marseille** arriving in Paris the following 10.



Letter from **ORAN** (Algerie) -April 30 1869- to **AURORA (Indiana-USA)**, franked to pay the 80 c. (80 c. was equal to 15 cents US dollar) simple rate from France to United States with “Napoleon” 20 c. strip x 4 tied by the lozenge “5051” mark and alongside the s.c. “Oran-Algerie 30 Avril 69”. It was carried by the “**Messageries Maritimes**” steamer to **Marseille** (May 4) and then forwarded via **Paris** –“3” showing the credit to USA for inland rate- and **Calais** to **Queenstown** (Ireland) to be embarked, on May 7, on the “**Inman Line**” SS “**City of Brooklyn**” arriving in **New York** on the following 17.



## Messageries Maritimes      Marseille-Oran



Letter from [BIRMINGHAM](#) -Ja. 4 1864- to [MOSTAGANEM](#) (Algeria) franked to pay the 4 pence simple rate to France. According to the handwritten endorsement, "[via Marseille x Oran](#)" it was carried via [London](#) a [Marseille](#) (6 Janv.), where was embarked on the [French steamer](#) for Oran, thence, by the coastal service, it was dispatched to Mostaganem (13 Janv.)



*Messageries Maritimes Marseille - Alicante - Oran*

Letter from **ORAN** -Ja. 9 1869- to **MALAGA (Spain)**, erroneously franked paying only the inland rate with “Napoleon” 20 cent. tied by the lozenge “5051” and alongside the d.c. “Oran-Algerie - Ja 9 1859”. The first step rate from France to Spain was, 40 c. and so the Post Office impressed the red boxed mark “**AFFRANCHISSEMENT INSUFFISANT**”. The letter, placed on board of the **French steamer** proceeding to **Marseille** was disembarked at the call of **Alicante** and carried to the near Malaga. No tax due notation.



Letter from **ALICANTE** -March 27 1877- to **ALGIERS**, franked to pay 25 c. peseta, the UPU rate to France. It was placed on board of the “**Mesaggeries Maritimes**” **French steamer**” coming from **Marseille** and proceeding to **Oran** where was disembarked receiving the red provenance mark –“**ORAN - ESPAGNE 28 MARS 77**”-.Then by the coastal service to Algiers (March 31).



## Compagnie "Valéry" Marseille-Oran



Letter from **ORAN** -Jy 17 1872- to **GENOA** paid the 40 c. simple rate to Italy. It was posted directly on board arriving on the following 21 in **Marseille** where received the lozenge gros chiffres "2240" and the provenance mark "**Oran BAT. A VAP. 21 Jul 72,**" thence to Genoa (Jy 22).



Letter from **ORAN** -Sep 2 1874- to **AURILLAC** (France), franked to pay the simple rate to destination with a 25 cent. stamp tied by lozenge gros chiffres "5015" and alongside the d.c. "Oran-Algerie -2 Set-1874". It was embarked on the **French steamer** arriving in **Marseille** the following 12, thence by **railway** to Aurillac.



*“Messageries Maritimes” and “Valery Company” Marseille–Oran*



Letter from **MANHEIM** (German Empire) -June 8 1874- to **ORAN** franked 3 groschen to destination. It was forwarded via **France** – red exchange mark “ALLEMAGNE – BELFORT 9/6” (Van der Linden n. 34), then to **Marseille** (June 10) where it was embarked on the “**Valery Co.**” **French packet** proceeding to Oran.



Letter from **NEWCASTLE on TYNE** –June 30 1871-to **ORAN** (Algeria) paid the 3 pence simple rate to France (PD) with one penny red strip x 3. It was forwarded via **London** (Jy 1), **Calais** (Jy 1) **Avignon** and **Marseille** to be embarked on the “**Messageries Maritimes**” **French packet** arriving in Oran on Jy 8.



*"Valery Company" Marseille- Oran*

Letter from **ORAN** -August 7 1872- to **BANDOL (Var)** overpaid the 20 c. simple rate with 1871 "Ceres" 15 c. + Napoleon 5 c. and 1 c. (5) tied by "gros chiffres" "5051" mark and alongside the d.c. "**ORAN ALGERIE** 7 Aout 72". It was embarked on the "**Valery Co.**" packet arriving in **Marseille** the following 10 ; then to Bandol (11/8).



*"Valery Company" Marseille- Oran*

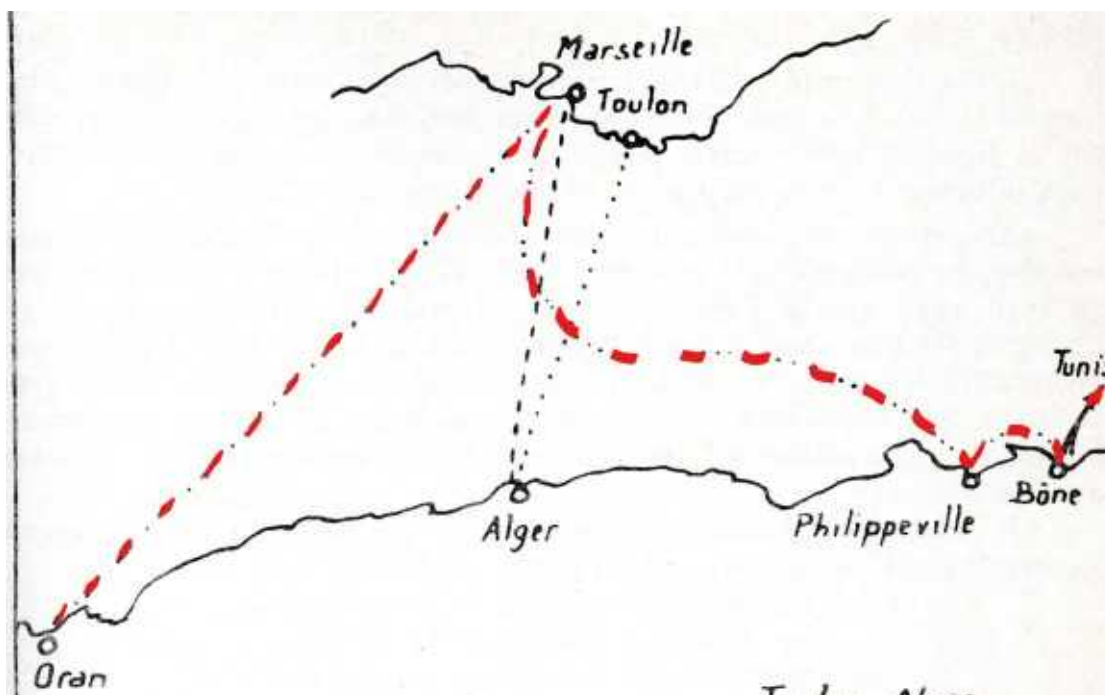
Letter from **TRIEST** -Mars 5 1874 - to **ORAN** paid the 25 kreuzer simple rate to France with 1867 "Franz Joseph" 5 kr. red pale + 5 kr. carmine + 15 kr. brown tied by Triest oval mark. It was forwarded via Italy to Marseille where was embarked on the "Valery Co." packet arriving in **Oran** on Mars 11.

*Beautiful company seal on reverse*





## Messageries Impériales Oran- Marseille-Bone-Tunis



Letter from **ORAN** -Oct 14 1868 -, franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate to **TUNIS** with “Napoleon” 20 c. pair . It was posted on board of **the steamer for Marseille** where received the provenance mark “**ORAN BATEAU A VAPOR** -17 Oct 68”, having also the franking tied by the Marseille lozenge “2240”. Then was transferred to the **packet for Bone** (Oct.21) and Tunis (Oct. 23 ).



## Messageries Maritimes Marseille- Philippeville



Letter from [PHILIPPEVILLE](#) -Dec. 13 1854- to [PARIS](#) paid the simple rate with Napoleon 5 c. strip x 4 tied by lozenge “petits chiffres 3734” and alongside d.c. “Philippeville–Algerie Dec 13 54”. It was embarked on the **steamer** for [Marseille](#) and then, by **railway**, to Paris.



Letter from [PHILIPPEVILLE](#) - dated Feb. 21 1860- to [PARIS](#) paid the 20 c. simple internal rate. It was posted on board the **French steamer** for [Marseille](#) where, on arrival, the stamp was tied by the “petits chiffres 1896” Marseille lozenge mark, receiving also the provenance mark “**PHILIPPEVILLE BAT. A**(cassé) –(Pothion 497 A), then by **railway** to Paris.



*Messageries Maritimes Marseille- Philippeville*

Letter from [CASTELLAMARE di STABIA \(Italy\)](#) -Nov. 9 1865- to [PHILIPPEVILLE](#) paid the 40 c. simple rate to France. It was carried via [Naples](#) to [Genoa](#) (Nov. 13) by a “[Florio Co](#)”. [Italian packet](#), then to [Turin](#) to be dispatched by railway –red d.r “[AMBULANT LYON\\_MARSEILLE](#)”- to [Marseille](#) where, after receiving a disinfection cut on the second stamp, was [embarked on the packet](#) for Philippeville. ©



*“Messageries Impériales”**Bone - Philippeville and Philippeville - Marseille*

Letter from **BONE** -SEP 1<sup>st</sup> 1868- to **GENOA** franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate to Italy with “Napoleon” 20 c. pair tied by lozenge gros chiffres “5015” and alongside the d.c. “Bone-Algerie 1<sup>o</sup> Settembre 68”. It was embarked on the **coastal service steamer** for **Philippeville** where was transferred to the “**Messageries**” **steamer** arriving in **Marseille** (Sep. 4 ), thence via **Lyon** and **Turin** to Genoa (Sep. 6).



*"Messageries Maritimes" Bone - Philippeville and Philippeville - Marseille*



Letter from **BONA** -June 14 1858- to **St JUST en CHAVALET** (France), franked to pay the simple rate with "Napoleon" 20 c. tied by petit chiffres "3716" and alongside the d.c. "Bone-Algerie 14 Juin 58". It was embarked on the **coastal service steamer** for **Philippeville** where was transferred to the **Messageries steamer** to **Marseille**.



Letter with relief wording "VICE CONSOLE D'ITALIA", from **BONE** -July 28 1871- to **MARSEILLE** . It was franked to pay the 40 c. double rate with Ceres 15+25 cent. tied by lozenge gros chiffres "5015". Lacking of the transit mark in **Philippeville** and the arrival one in **Marseille**, it is possible to affirm that the letter, after paying the rate at the post office, had been carried privately.



*“Valery Company” Bone - Philippeville - Marseille and Marseille - Naples*

*“Florio Co.” Naples-Palermo*



Letter from **BONA** -Jy 26 1875- to **PALERMO**, franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate to Italy with 40 c. tied by lozenge gros chiffres “5015” and alongside the d.c. “Bone-Algerie 26 Juil 1875”. It was carried by the **coastal service** to **Philippeville** where was transferred to the **Messageries Maritimes** for **Marseille** (29 Juil), then, on the same day, was delivered to the French **Syria line SS “Ebre”** proceeding to Smyrna with a call in **Naples** (Jy 31) to be transferred to a **“Florio Co” steamer for Palermo** (Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>).



*Cette - Algiers by "Arnaud Co." and Oran - Marseille by "Valery Co."*



Letter from **BARCELONA** -Aug 3 1864- to **BLIDAH (Algerie)**, franked to pay the 12 cuartos rate to France with 1864 Isabel 12 c. It was forwarded by railway via **La Junquera** (Aug. 3)- **Spain/France border exchange mark** "ESPAGNE-LE PERTHUS AMB. 4 Aout 64"- and **Toulouse** to **Cette (Sète)** where was embarked on the **French "Arnaud Co." packet** arriving in **Algiers** to be dispatched to the near **Blidah** (Aug. 8)



Letter from **ORAN** -Feb 5 1872 - to **MOTRILL (Spain)** franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate with "Ceres" 15 + 25 c. tied by the lozange "5051" mark and alongside the s.c. "Oran-Algerie 5 Fevr.". It was placed on board of the "**Valery Co.**" steamer for **Marseille** and disembarked at the call of **Cartagena** where was dispatched to **Motril**.



*"Rubattino Co." Tunis-Tripoli-Malta-*

Letter from **TRIPOLI in BARBARY** – Dec. 28 1877- to **GENOA** franked to pay the 30 c. simple rate with “Esterio” 30 c. tied by blue diamonds and alongside the bleu d.c. “Tripoli di Barberia 28 Dic. 1877”- It was carried by the **Company “Rubattino”** steamer coming from **Tunisi** for **Malta** where it was transferred to the **“Florio Co.” steamer**, to be disembarked at the call of **Siracusa** (Ja. 1<sup>st</sup> 1878) and delivered again to **“Rubattino Co.”** packet coming from **Alexandria** and proceeding to **Genoa** (Ja 5). ©



*"Florio Co." Malta-Genoa*

Letter, with full contents, dated June 13 1870, from **TRIPOLI in BARBARY** to **GENOA**. It was dispatched by the sender – see oval red mark- to **MALTA** by a courier belonging, most likely, to the same company, which after apposing its forwarding mark “**JACOB di J.TAJAR-MALTA**”, delivered it to the Malta Post Office paying the four pence rate with a 1858/64 one penny strip x 4 tied by bars “A25” and alongside the circular “Malta Ju 17 1870” and the “**2 3/4**” notation showing the fee of the four pence credited to the Italian Post Service for the carriage to Genoa. Then the letter was embarked on the “**Florio Co.**” packet proceeding to Palermo and, at the call of Syracuse (June 18), transferred to **other steamer** of the same Company to be carried, via **Naples** (June 20), to Genoa (June 22).

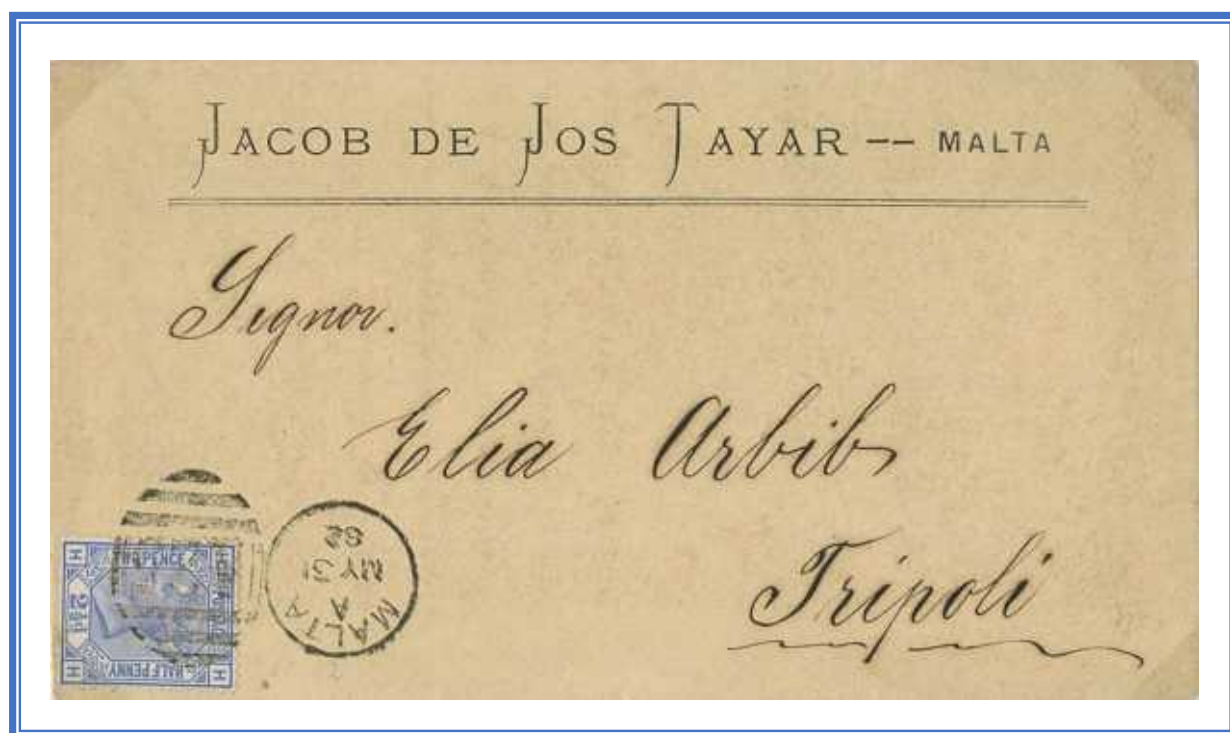


*"Rubattino Co." Tunis-Malta-Tripoli and Alexandria -Genoa*

*"Florio Co." Malta-Genoa*



Postal card 5 kr. from [GABLONZ an der NEISSE](#) (Silesia – Austrian Empire) – Dec. 6 1883- to [TRIPOLI in BARBARY](#). Lacking of transit marks, it is possible to affirm that, most likely, it had been carried to [Messina](#) or [Syracuse](#), and thence forwarded by the *"Florio Co." steamer* to Malta to be transferred to the *"Rubattino Co." steamer* proceeding to [Tunis](#) with a call at Tripoli where was disembarked on the following 16. ©



Letter from [MALTA](#) – May 31 1882- to [TRIPOLI in BARBARY](#) franked to pay the 2 ½ pence simple rate. It was embarked on the *"Rubattino" steamer* proceeding to Tunis with a call at Tripoli, where it was disembarked the following June 1<sup>st</sup> (see on reverse).



"Rubattino Co." Tunis- Tripoli in Barbary-Malta

"Florio Co." Malta-Genoa



1883-Front of letter from **TRIPOLI in BARBARY** to **LONDON**, (that most likely had on reverse the 2 c. lacking of franking) franked for 32 cent. to pay the rate for sample of no commercial value (2 c. + registration fees 30 c.). It was carried by the "**Rubattino Co.**" packet coming from **Tunis** to **Malta** to be embarked on the "**Florio Co.**" packet for the calls of **Syracuse** or **Messina** where was forwarded, via France, to London (Dec. 23 1883) ©



Letter from **VENICE** -Jy 27 1883- to **TRIPOLI in BARBARY** franked to pay the 20 c. simple rate. It, most likely, was dispatched to **Syracuse** to be embarked on the "**Florio Co.**" steamer for **Malta**, where was transferred to the **Rubattino Co.** packet proceeding to **Tunis** with a call at **Tripoli**. On reverse the arrival mark "Tripoli di Barberia Poste Ital.e 6 ago. 83".



*"Rubattino Co." Tunis-Malta-Tripoli and Alexandria Genoa*

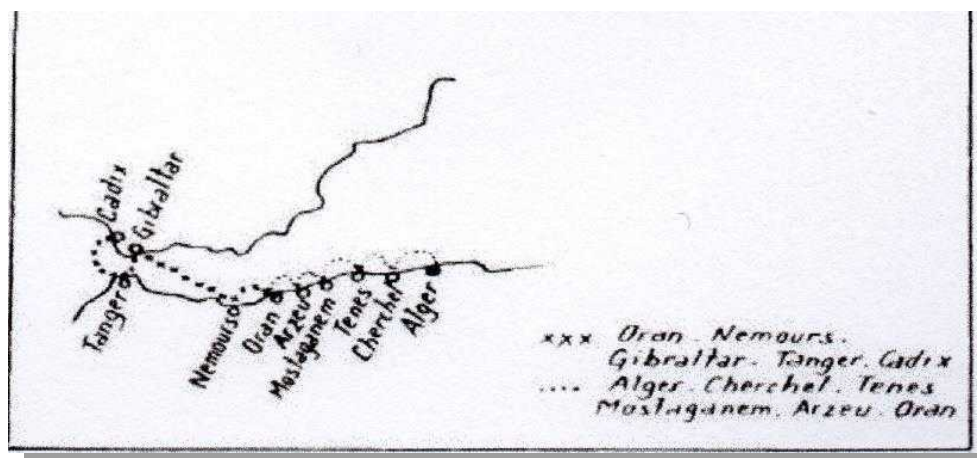
*"Florio Co." Malta-Genoa*



Letter from [CAIRO](#) -Ja 28 1880- to [TRIPOLI of BARBARY](#) franked to pay the U.P.U. simple rate to destination with one piaster Egyptian stamp. It was forwarded to [Alexandria](#) and delivered to the **"Rubattino Co." steamer** proceeding to [Genoa](#) with a call in [Messina](#) (Feb.4) where was transferred to the **"Florio Co." steamer** for [Malta](#) and thence to [Tripoli](#) by **"Rubattino Co." packet** proceeding to [Tunis](#) with a call in Tripoli.



## Tangier-Cadiz-St Roque



1861- Sheet letter with commercial contents signed "Gillard in [Tang\(er\)](#)" addressed to [Alicante \(Espana\)](#). It, most likely, was handed to someone, travelling to [Spain by the steamer for Cadiz/St Roque](#), which, on landing, franked the letter, for the simple inland rate, with Isabel 4 cuartos and delivered it to the Spanish office in St. Roque, having the stamp tied by "Rueda de carreta 63" and alongside impressed the d.c. "San Roque 20 Jun 61"; then it was dispatched to [Alicante](#) -arrival mark on reverse on Jun 24.



1893

4

POSTA ITALIANA

4

CATANIA

10

11 - 1893

POSTE ITALIANE

all'ultimo sig.  
 M. avv. Riccardo Motta  
 V. Console di S. M. il Re d'Italia  
 Tangier  
 marocco.

*"Compagnia Navigazione Generale Italia" ex Rubattino and Florio*



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) - November 1880- to [TANGIER](#) (Morocco) insufficiently franked 20 cent.; on front handwritten "0,05" and marked "10" meaning, respectively, the wanting franking fee and the tax due to be paid. It was dispatched to [Messina](#) (Nov. 17) by the "[Navigazione Generale Italia](#)" [Company](#) steamer for the following forwarding to destination via [Barcelona](#) (mark on reverse).