

Express service in Italy

1890-2001 and its precursors from XV century

In the past “*Espresso*” meant a person responsible for delivering correspondence faster than the regular postal service. Before the official birth of the “*Express Courier*” the sender indicated the requirement for speedy delivery on the letter with phrases like “*Cito Cito*”, “*Volando*”, “*Per staffetta*”, “*Subito*”, “*Celeriter*”. With “*Condannata*” letters the sender committed the addressee to paying an additional fee if the letter arrived by the deadline indicated on the title page. The service had been popular in the Italian area since the pre-unification states: it was used in Lombardy–Venetia, which was the first to regulate the service, and in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, even if a “*Staffette*” service was instituted at the end of the 1700s and early 1800s, initially for the Court and later also for private mail. The regular express service was introduced by Italian Royal Mail on July 21st, 1890, five years after the UPU Congress of Lisbon in 1885 which defined the principles. It ended on December 31st, 2001 and was replaced by other services for the express delivery of correspondence. In the first decades of life the service was meticulously regulated by a set of rules and written and disseminated by the Postal Bulletin with modifications dictated by the desire to improve the service and make it more efficient. The initial requirements included “*Espresso*” on the letter, a registered number, labels, special stamps and a special postmark. The first of the 48 “*Mod. 24*” labels was issued in 1893; in all, there were 31 bilingual labels, 8 in French, 8 in Italian and one in three languages. On June 1st, 1903 the first special ordinary stamp to the value of 25 c. was issued for inland postage while on September 1st, 1908 the first ordinary special stamp of 30 c. was issued for postage abroad; some other commemorative express stamps were issued. 13 special stamps were issued for inland service and 8 for abroad. No distinction was made between the values to be used for service inland and abroad from the 5 l. stamp issued on August 16th, 1945. The inland rates changed 29 times, from 25 c. to 3,600 l., and rates for abroad changed 30 times, from 30 c. to 3,600 l. This collection is the synthesis of an express service starting from letters of the XVth century with phrases indicating the requirement for quick delivery and continuing up to the 2001, year of the end of service.

Plan of the collection

1. PRECURSORS	2-12
2. INLAND POSTAL RATES	13-72
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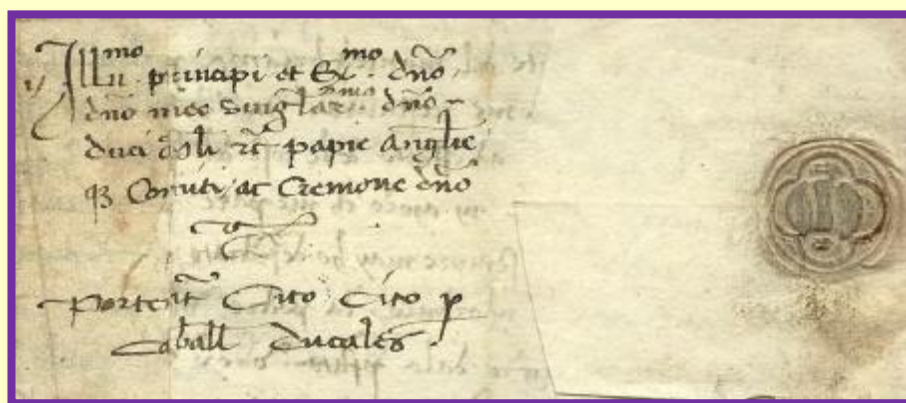
BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (i) “*Espresso e anche un po’ urgente*” of F. Filanci and C. Romiti
- (ii) “*The Postal History of Sicil*” of P. Vollmeier
- (iii) “*Guida alla prefilatelia*” of A. Cattani
- (iv) “*Simon Taxis and the Posts of the State of Milan during the Renaissance*” of G. Migliavacca and T. Bottani
- (v) “*The Social Republic*” of L. Sirotti
- (vi) “*Aerofilatelia Italiana - catalogo storico descrittivo 1898-1941*” of Fiorenzo Longhi

1. Precursors



Aug. 30th, 1498 Letter from Ferrara to Milano, addressed to the **Duke of Milan Ludovico Maria Sforza** called "**Il Moro**" with inscription *Cito-Cito* which means urgency, plus *Citissime* and reinforced with very rare use of the word *Celeriter* (iv)

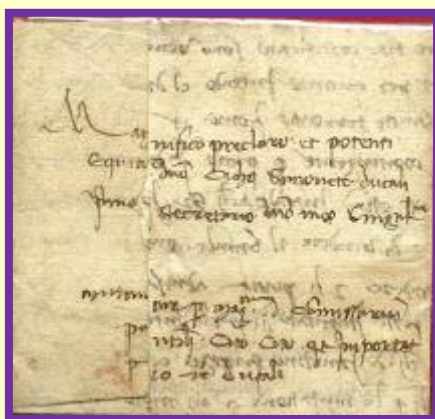


Oct. 20th, 1459 letter from Bernareggio to Cremona, addressed to the **Duke of Milan, Francesco Sforza** with the Latin inscription *Portant Cito-Cito p. Caballantes Ducales* to state the urgency and the employ of a ducal estaffette (iv)

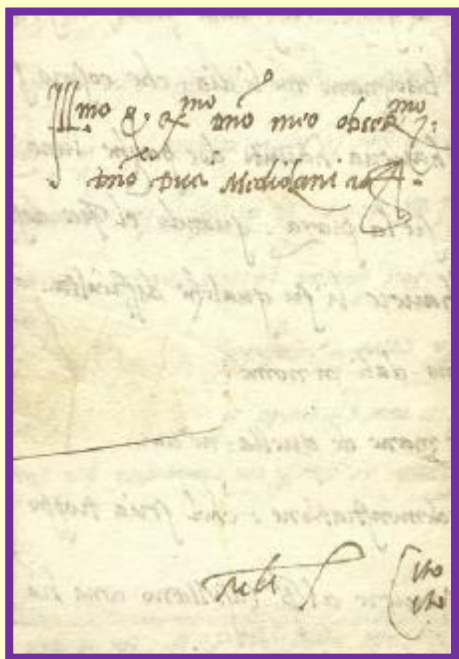
1. Precursors

Cito-Cito during XV century

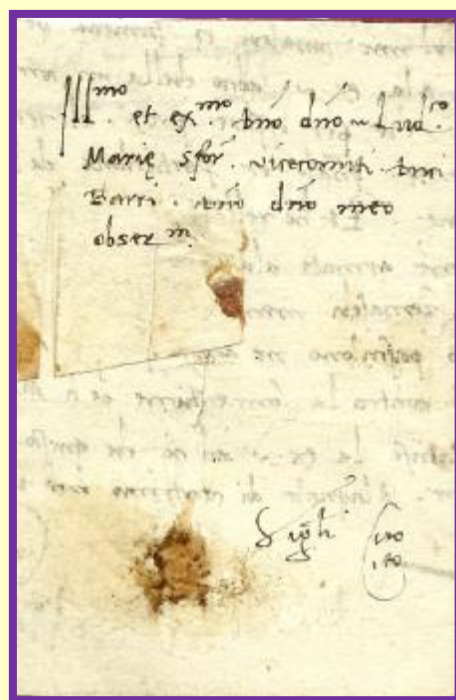
The Latin word *cito* means: soon, quickly, immediately. Its repetition reinforces the sense of urgency.



May 18th, 1472 letter to Milano addressed to the Ducal Secretary Chicco Simonetta, with inscription *Cito* repeated twice (iv)



Jun. 24th, 1475 letter from Pavia to Milano, addressed to the **Duke of Milan Galeazzo Maria Sforza** with inscription *Cito* repeated twice (iv)



May 5th, 1494 letter from Carvaggio to Milan, addressed to the **Duke of Milan Ludovico Maria Sforza** called "**Il Moro**" with the Latin inscription *Cito-Cito* which means urgency (iv)

The word *volando* means flying and brings a very good idea of the highest speed one could imagine for a rider at that time: the flight of a bird.



Jul. 7th, 1544 wrapper from a bundle of letters from Milano to Asti with inscription *Volando* repeated twice to reinforce the sense of urgency and “parte la stapheta de Milan adi siete de julio y a horas diez y siete” (iv)

Oct. 4th, 1593 letter sent by means of mounted courier from Ferrara by someone Paris Ferrari to Gio. Batta. Ladeschi the Secretary and Councilor of State of S. A. Serenissima with inscription for mounted courier *Volando* written into a triangle and the additional inscription “Leave October 4th at 03.00 p.m.”. The presence of one triangle means that it was paid one extra fee for fast delivering (iv)



"Symbols of rope and gallows"

al fmo y exmo señor my señor el
marq de legasto capitan general
por la m^{te} ca en y talia y subrogar
tinjente en el estado de milom
C my señor

F3] en

parte la fuseta alv xx de milom
julio oras x bolando p^o alex^o (q^o
q^o
d^o
u^o)

Giorda questa carta de alex^o del 1^o gub^o qua in
rito logi 20 julio a hor 19¹/₂ 1544

Don mo^o r^o s^o

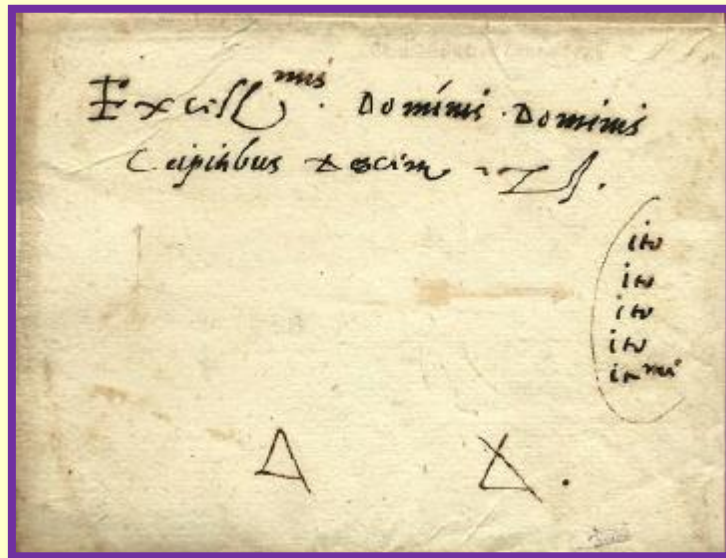
anallari tle post
con ogni diligenza
et ciscaduno di
vede chi nò fan
r p l
partito ad
vna noct
tre p pancia / d
p cūm alimach. abru

Dec. 2nd, 1545 wrapped from a bundle of letters signed up by **Symon de Tassis** from Alessandria to Milano, via Pavia, Tortona, Alessandria, with symbols for dispatch riders, four stirrups and rope and gallows: this the handwritten admonishment: “Imperial mounted couriers, the present letters must be dispatched diligently, riding day and night. Be careful, because everyone will pay his debit as showed below (Gallows symbol) in case of improper behavior or dispatching delay” (iv)

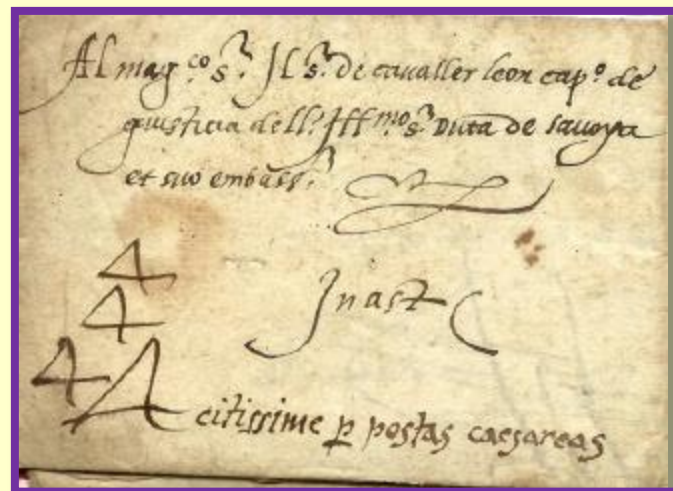
1. Precursors

"Symbols of Stirrup" in XVI century

This symbols repeated several times, entered in use to state the number of estaffettes required to dispatch one mail. It should not be confused with one only triangle which is the symbol for one extra fee for fast delivery.



Mar. 12th, 1528 wrapper from a letter from Padova addressed to Consilium of Ten with symbols of stirrups repeated twice and inscriptions *Cito* repeated four times plus *Citissime* (iii)

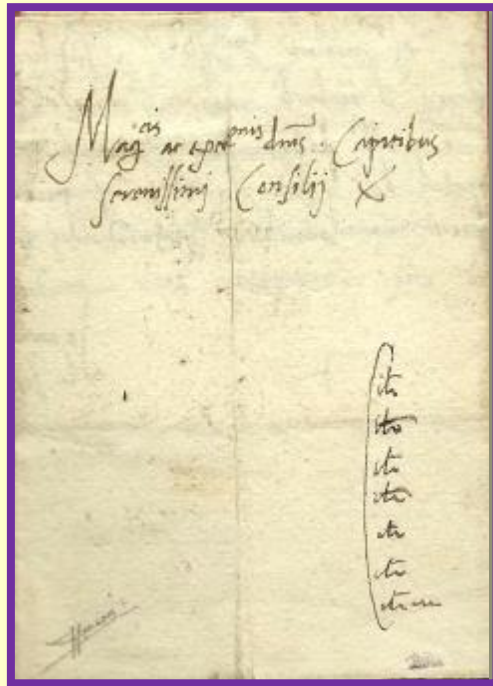


Jun. 27th, 1540 letter dispatched by Imperial Postal Service "*Citissime P. Postas Cesareas*" from Como by the Governor of Milan Marquis del Vasto addressed to the Captain of Justice and Ambassador of the Duke of Samoja in Asti (iv)

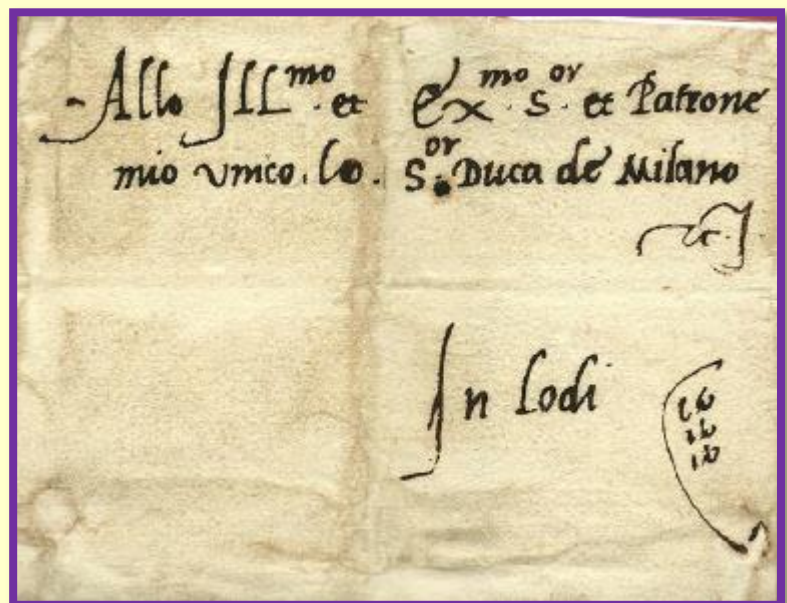
1. Precursors

"Cito-Citissime" in XVI century

The inscription *Cito* repeated several times, during this century, entered in use as reinforcement coupled with its superlative *Citissime* to state the highest urgency and speed possible.

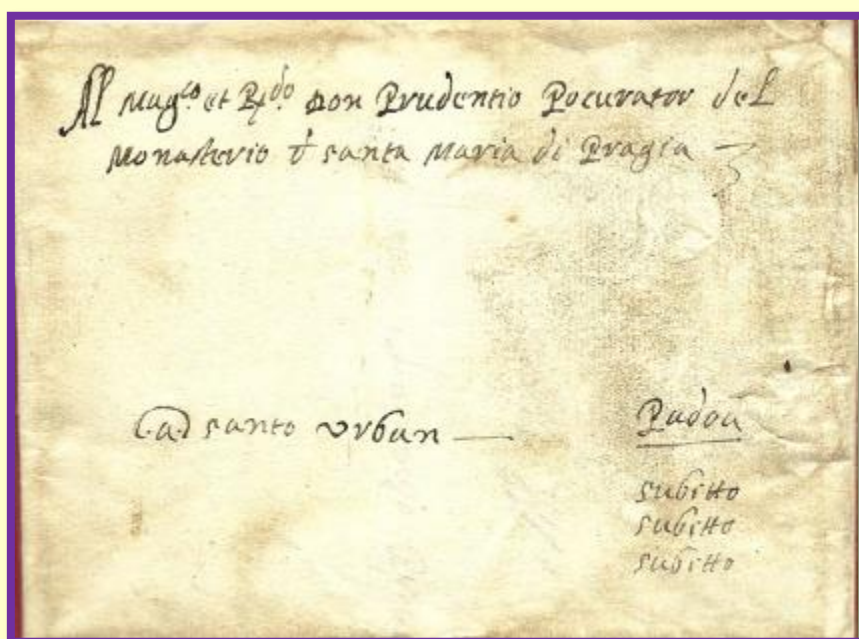


Jul. 15th, 1500 letter from Padova by Marco Gradenigo addressed to the "Consilium of Ten" with inscriptions *Cito* repeated six times plus *Citissime* (iii)

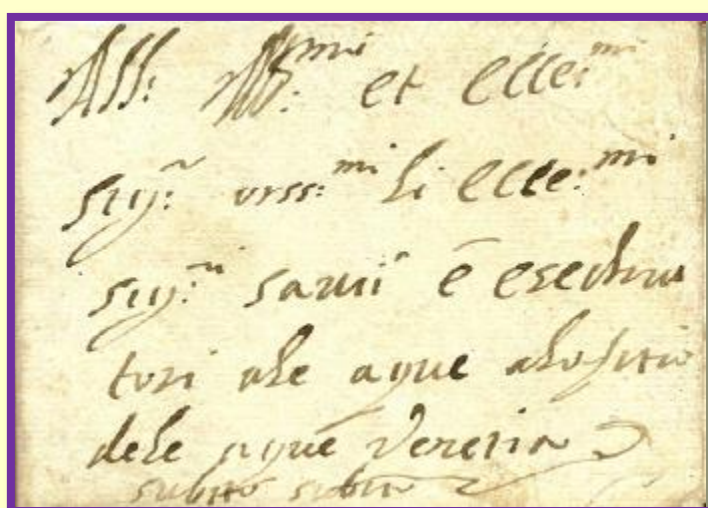


Dec. 27th, 1530 letter from Roma to Lodi addressed to the Duke of Milan Francesco Sforza with inscriptions *Cito* repeated six times plus *Citissime*

The use of Latin gradually disappear and people starts to speak Vulgar Italian. The change of language changes also some inscriptions. The words: *Subito* or *Subitto* state now the urgency for the mail.

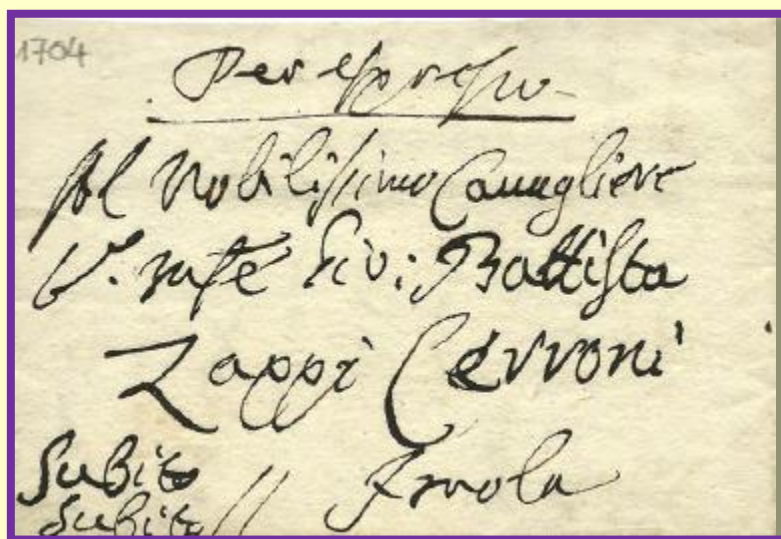


Aug. 7th, 1600 letter from Venezia to Padua with inscription *Subitto* repeated three times (iii)

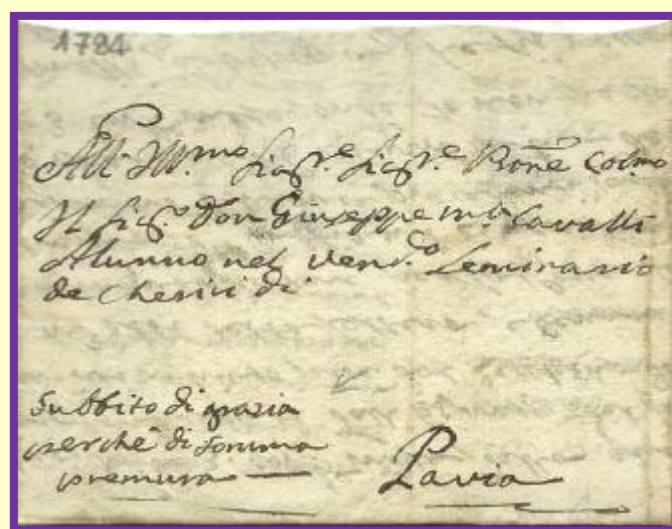


Oct. 17th, 1656 letter from Dolo to Venezia, with inscription *Subito* repeated twice (iii)

These new inscription sound more gracious and less imperative in emphasizing urgency. *Di Premura* or *Di Grazia* entered in use with the meaning of please.



Apr. 9th, 1704 letter from Bologna to Imola with inscription
Subito repeated twice plus *Per Espresso*



May 5th, 1784 letter from Sale to Pavia, with inscription *Subito di grazia*
and *di Soma Premura* which mean respectively:
"Immediately for Kindness and with the because outmost urgency"

1. Precursors

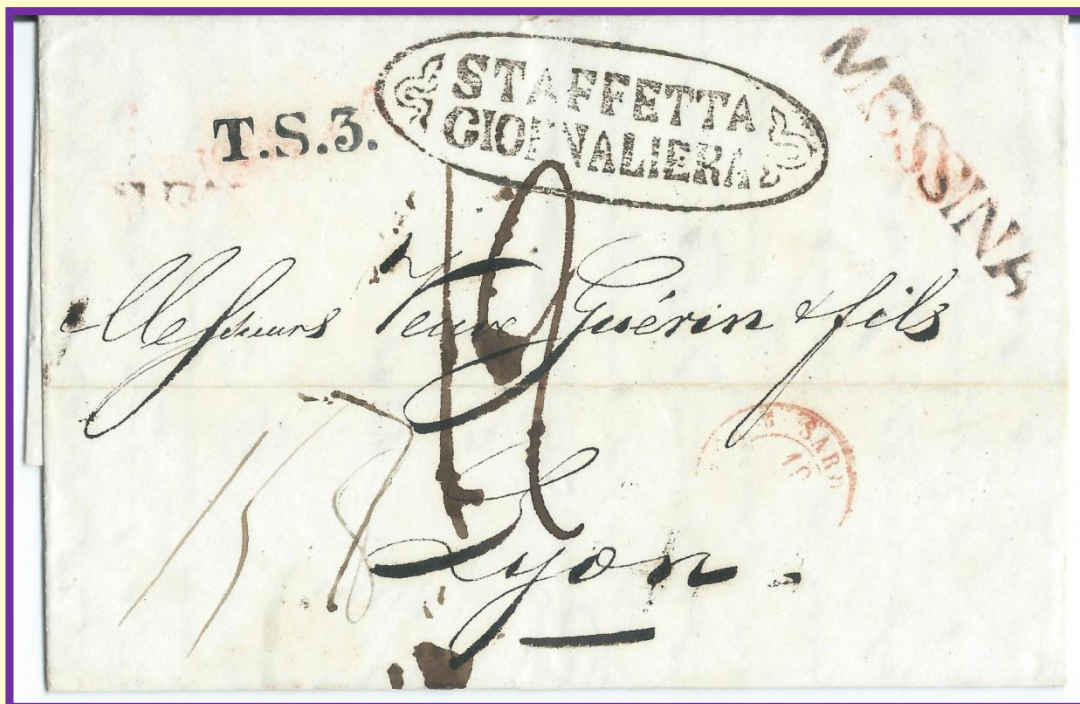
"Staffetta"

Over XVIII° and XIX° century, espresso was not yet one additional postal service, it was the mere indication of one expressed or defined person for urgent mail dispatching. Under the enlightened rule of Maria Theresa of Austria and her son Joseph II, in South Tyrol among 1700 and 1800 a branch of the Thurn und Taxis was delivering mail from Bolzano to Trento, and by Fedrigotti of Ochsenfeld from Rovereto to Roverbella. The service was provided using bandwagons, that were so-called "MALLEPOSTE", it was also possible having an additional "Express Service" carryout by "Express Courier". The below mail, may have been delivered using one of such "Express Courriers" or "Per Staffetta Espresso"

Jun. 20th, 1770 letter from Bolgiano to Trento with inscription
Per Staffetta Espresso



A "Staffetta" service was provisionally introduced by an official notice of 8 May 1840 between Naples and Villa S. Giovanni on the mainland, extended to Messina – Palermo. There were five services a week from Palermo to Messina linking up with this "Staffetta"; three were by the mountain road with the Messina mail-coach, and two by sea. Letters sent by this service paid twice the normal rate on departure. It was a real "Express Service" organized in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, a real example of precursor; in the Italian territory, of what was to setting up only after twenty years in the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia.



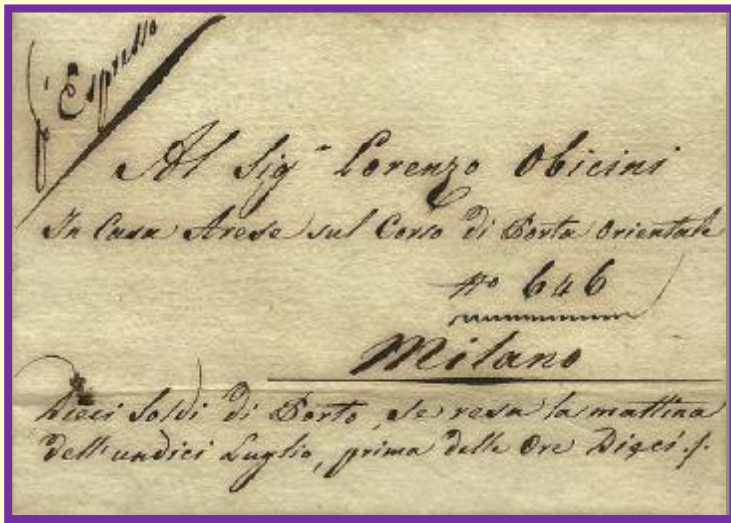
May 8th, 1840 letter from Messina to Lyon via Naples, the back of the letter shows a tax of 40 Grana, paid by the sender, of which 15 Grana for the P.A. Naples. The letter reached Naples on 10 May 1840. The addressee in Lyon had to pay 12 cents for the Naples-Rome-Lyon stage

One of the three known "Staffetta Giornaliera" from Messina (ii)

1. Precursors

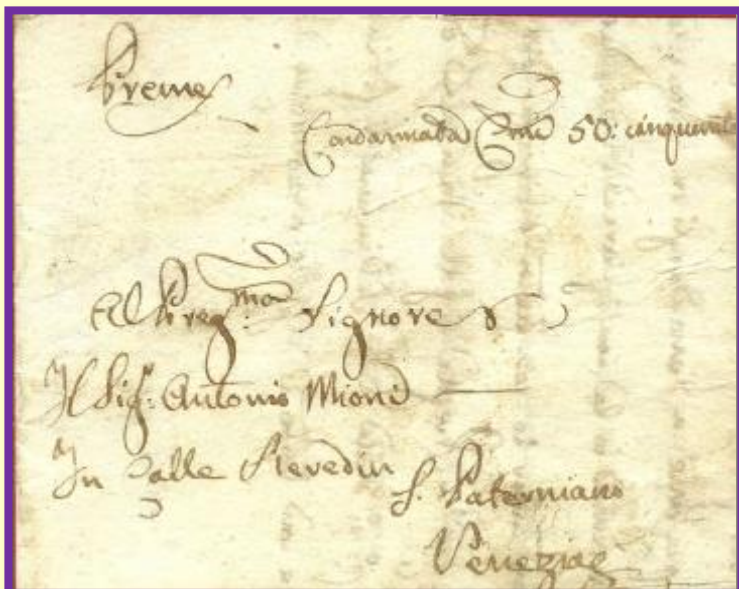
"Raccomandata" and "Condannata"

Early in the century in Kingdom of Lombardo - Veneto the urgency was usually empathized recommending the letter to the kindness of the dispatcher. Sometimes the reward to the dispatcher was conditioned (Condannata) by the delivery to the addressee within a fixed day and hour. This deferred payment and shipment modality through an expressed person represent the real special delivering service.



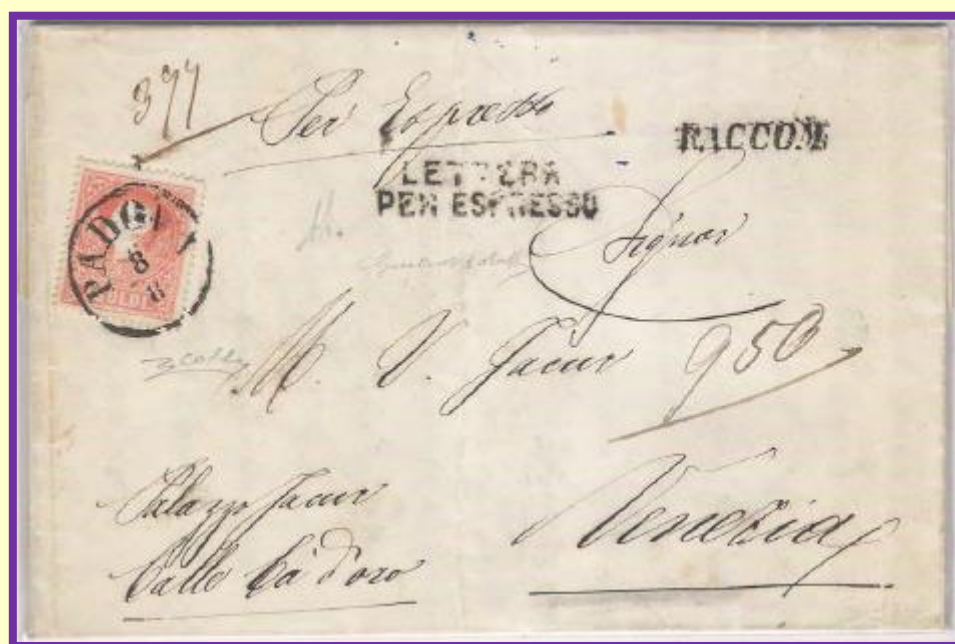
Jul. 10th, 1817 letter from Pavia to Milano, with inscription
"will receiving 10 coins if delivered within July 11th before 10.00 a.m."
plus the inscription for urgency *Per Espresso*

Oct. 24th, 1841 letter from Treviso to Venezia with inscription "Recommended under the kind care of someone Giulio Fabris for a fast delivering" and extra fee of 32,00 S.



Oct. 9th, 1823 letter from S. Donà to Venezia with inscription
Preme and *Condannata c.mi 50*

A special delivering service was introduced in Italian territory only at the end of 1859 in the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia then occupied by Austro- Hungarian Empire; the service was officially introduced the 1st October 1859. The new service, foresaw that the letters just arrived at the station of mail were delivered to the addressee by means of special courier. These letters were marked "to be transported by express" and needed to be registered, as the alone express service was not provided itself; it was always exclusively in addition at registration mail. For delivery these letters were due 15 S. Austrian for delivery during the day and 30 S. for the night. The only additional fee of Express Service could be charged to the addressee. The service was discontinued at end of 1866 when Veneto region was annex to Italy.



Jun. 8th, 1860 letter from Padua to Venice with 5 s. e 10 s. (at back side)
of Kingdom of Lombardo Veneto with rare stamp

**LETTERA
PER ESPRESSO**

Recorded less than 10 letters (i)

2. Inland postal rates

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Cover from Venezia to Roma, Jun. 24th 1893 – Rates: letter 20 c.
Recorded few express stamped with first issue stamp of the King Umberto I



Registered double rate
cover from Milano to
Alzate con Verzago,
Sep. 26th 1897

Rates: letter 40 c. (20 c.
each 15 g.),
registration 25 c.
(over franked for 10 c.)

Official label of 1896

The letter was found in the mailbox (as indicated by handwritten in the upper left, indicating the weight expressed in ports "2") franked with 1 lira and without any indication as to the demand for extra services.

The letter was verified by the verifier of "Milano Ferrovia" on Sep. 27th and found in excess of postage has been assigned express delivery and recommendation according to Postal Regulations.

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Cover from Salza Irpinia (Avellino) to Napoli, Apr. 18th 1900 – Rates: letter 20 c.
Official label of 1893
bilingual for abroad and inland



Registered triple rate cover from Firenze to Montepulciano, Jul. 5th 1900
Rates: letter 60 c. (20 c. each 15 gr.), registration 25 c.
Official label of 1899

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Insured cover
from Como to
Verona, Jul.
19th 1901

Rates: letter 20
c., registration
25 c.,
insurance 1 l.
each 300 l.

Official label
of 1900



Cover from Colico (Como) to Belluno, Sep. 18th 1901

Rates: letter 20 c.

Private handwritten label

The express mails were transported in special envelopes magenta, Model 147-C that traveled out dispatch and distinct from the ordinary correspondence. In case instead of dispatches were transported by rail agents it was used the envelope Mod 147-B.

Amministrazione Delle Poste e Dei Telegrafi (Mod. 147 B)

CORRISPONDENZE DA RECAPITARSI PER ESPRESSO

Dal (1) _____ di _____

All'Ufficio *(2) Ambulante*

di Nizza Marittima

Contenuto _____

N. _____ oggetti _____

_____ firma _____

(1) Ufficio postale - Ufficio postale ambulante - Messaggero del treno num. _____
 (2) Postale e telegrafico.

GENOVA 14 GEN 1901

Jan. 14th 1901
 Envelope mod.
 147-B to Nizza
 Marittima with
 T.P.O. stamp
 Genova-
 Ventimiglia

Recorded only 3
 envelope like this

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Cover from Roma to town,
Jan. 28th 1901 readdressed to
Caserta

In arrival the cover was
taxed for 15 c. to pay the
difference between district
and inland rate

Rates: reduced district letter
5 c., letter 20 c.

Official label of 1900

The express delivery was
done only in the district



Double rate manuscript from Casa Calenda to Larino, Aug. 6th 1902

Rates: manuscript 40 l. (from 50 g. to 500 g.)

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Cover from Mantova to town, Mar. 3rd 1903

Rates: reduced district letter 5 c.

Official label of 1902



Cover in free postage from Vicenza to Santorso, Dec. 19th 1903

The black oval mark "R Poste – Prefetto di Vicenza" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

Official label of 1903

Uncommon use of ordinary stamp for express in that time

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Cover from Carmigliano (Firenze) to Pistoia, Apr. 21st 1903

Rates: letter 20 c.

Official label of 1900 sky-blue bilingual for abroad and inland



Cover from
Roma to Torino,
Feb. 9th 1904

Rates: letter 20 c.

One of the first
date of use
known for 25 c.
sold from Jan.
1904

The first special
stamp issued on
Jun. 1st 1903

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Cover from S. Valentino (Chieti) to Roma, Jul. 7th 1906 – Rates: letter 15 c.
Red boxed handstamp of Roma with registration number 716 and handwritten forwarding time 7 50

Cover from Wien to
Milano, Sep. 6th
1908 readdressed to
Treviglio paying
only express fee



1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Postage free telegram Roma to Milano, Apr. 25th 1910

Red boxed handstamp of Milano with registration number 780

Redstamp "Ministero pubblica istruzione Ufficio telegrafico" and blackstamp "Roma Centro - Espressi"



Cover from Viareggio to Milano, Sep. 14th 1909

Rates: letter 15 c.

Red boxed handstamp of Milano with registration number 149 and handwritten forwarding time 22

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)

Cover from Roma to
Parma, May. 30th 1910
readdressed to
Bruxelles, May. 31st
1910 added 10 c. to
pay the difference
between inland and
abroad rate

Rates: letter for inland
15 c., letter for abroad
25 c.

Postmark "Roma
Ferrovia – Espressi"

Express for inland
readdressed and
undelivered



Postage free telegram from Roma to town, Nov. 29th 1911
readdressed to Cesena paying only express fee
Postmark "Roma Ferrovia – Espressi"

"Espresso – Urgente"

This service was launched with the intention as to further expedite Express Service. It was started May 1st, 1913 but as a result of its high cost, it was little used by the large public and soon was discontinued just over a year after, on 31st December 1914. For this reason, have come to us only very few postal documents of "Espresso Urgente"



"Espresso-urgente" cover from Milano to Sirmione, Jul. 10th 1913
With "Espresso-urgente" handwritten and two of three peculiar elements:

1. The darker green Mod. 24 label
2. The clearer green numbered label, first of three parts

Rates: letter 15 c., urgent express 40 c.

Recorded less than ten known "Espresso – Urgente" covers (i)

"Espresso – Urgente"



"Espresso-urgente" cover from Palermo to Roma, Sep. 16th1913
With "Espresso-urgente" handwritten and the three peculiar elements:

1. The darker green Mod. 24 label
2. The clearer green numbered label, first of three parts
3. The special express stamp

Rates: letter 15 c., urgent express 40 c.

Recorded less than ten known "Espresso – Urgente" covers (i)

"Espresso – Urgente"



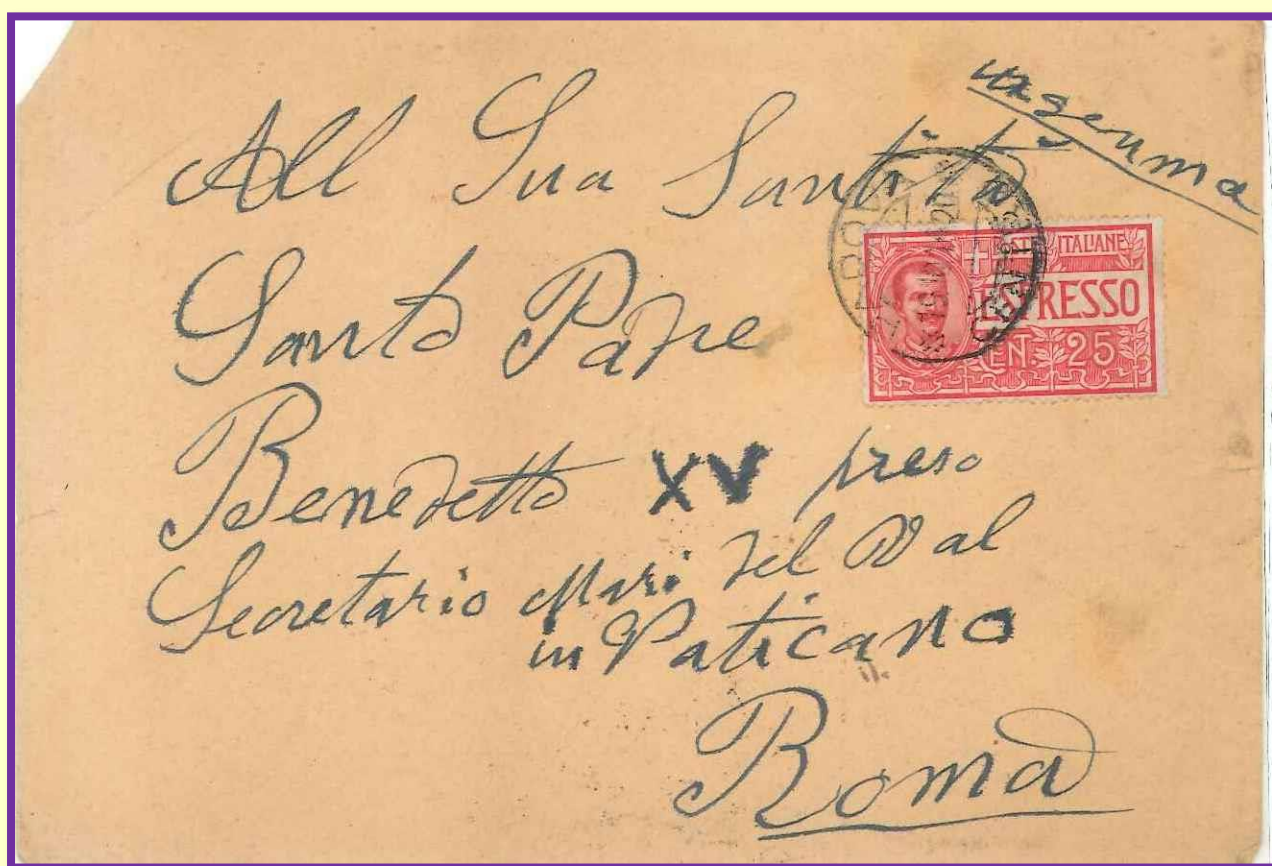
"Espresso-urgente" cover from Venezia to Padova, Nov. 21st 1913
With "Espresso-urgente" handwritten and the three peculiar elements:

1. The darker green Mod. 24 label
2. The clearer green numbered label, first of three parts
3. The special express stamp

Rates: letter 15 c., urgent express 40 c.

Recorded less than ten known "Espresso – Urgente" covers (i)

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Postage free cover from Padova to Holy Father Benedetto XV, Oct. 19th 1914

The correspondence addressed to Holy Father is postage free except for the special delivery of express



Lettercard from Torino to Roma, Jul. 27th 1915 – Rates: lettercard 15 c.

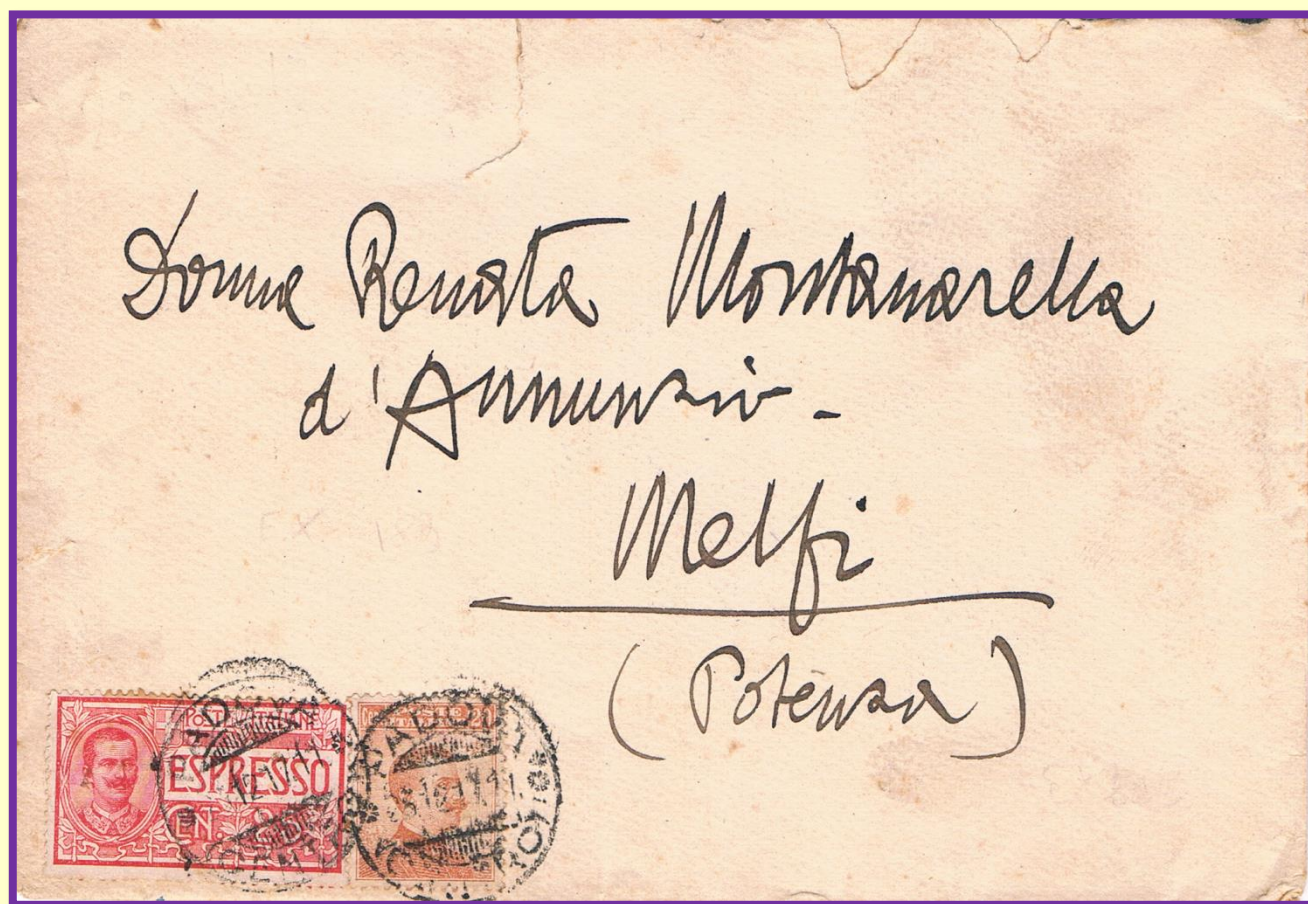
Red boxed handstamp of Roma

with registration number 109 and handwritten forwarding time 7,10

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



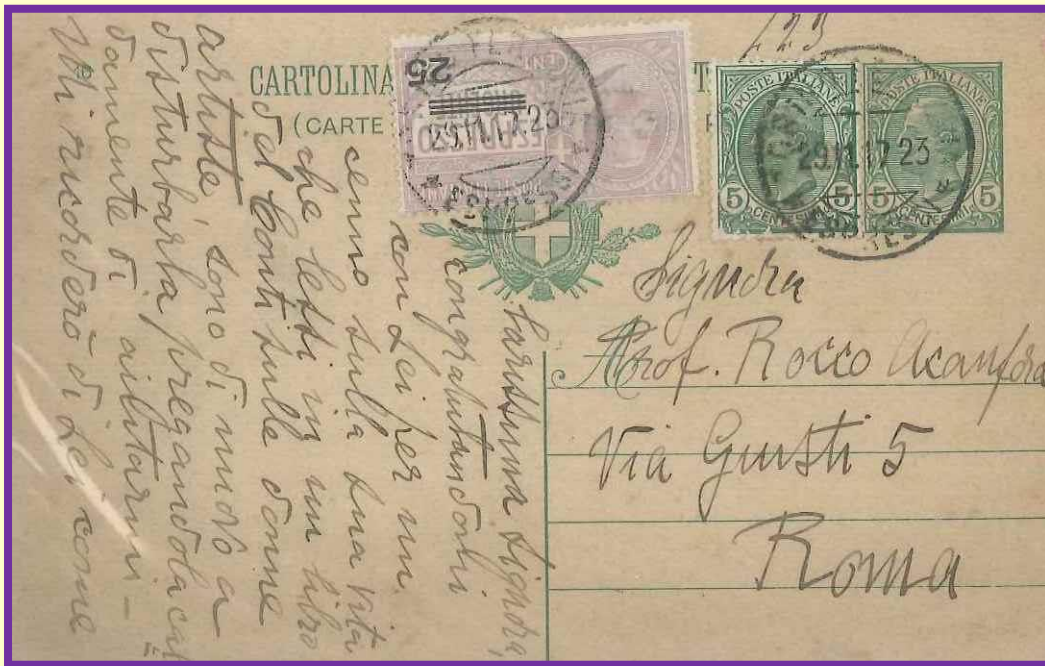
Postcard of the Royal Army in free postage from **Posta Militare 12** to Viareggio, Aug. 18th 1918
In arrival on Aug. 21st apposed express stamp to have special delivery



Cover from Padova to Melfi, Dec. 21st 1917 – Rates: letter 20 c.
Written by Gabriele D'Annunzio to his daughter Renata Montanarella

2. Inland postal rates

1st express inland rate: 25 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Feb. 28th 1919)



Postcard from Torino to Roma, Nov. 29th 1917

Rates: postcard 10 c.

Postmark "Torino – Espressi"

25/40 c. for inland was issued on Nov. 30th 1917 overprinting the value issued and never used for "espresso-Urgente"

2nd express inland rate: 50 c. (Mar. 1st 1919 – Dec. 31st 1921)



Cover from Roma to town, Jun. 6th 1920 readdressed to sender

Rates: reduced district letter 5 c., registration 30 c.

Express stamps were cancelled by pencil because the special delivery was already made

2nd express inland rate: 50 c. (Mar. 1st 1919 – Dec. 31st 1921)



Advertising postcard from Trieste to Guastalla, Jul. 4th 1919 – Rates: postcard 15 c.



Private "BUSTA LETTERA POSTALE" from Bologna to Pesaro, Oct. 5th 1921 – Rates: letter 40 c.

The "Busta Lettera Postale" envelope was sold 5 c. less than the value of stamp

The special stamp "B.L.P." overprinted are valid only on these covers

Unusual use of special stamps for abroad on inland cover

2nd express inland rate: 50 c. (Mar. 1st 1919 – Dec. 31st 1921)



Cover from Genova to Spezia, Apr. 28th 1920 – Rates: letter 25 c.

Postmark "Genova Centro – Espressi"

Recorded unusual use of only special express stamps



Pneumatic cover from Roma to Torino, Nov. 12th 1919

Rates: letter 25 c., pneumatic 10 c.

25 c. Fake of Milano (1920)



Postcard from Paderno Dugnano (Milano) to Milano, Mar. 25th 1920 – Rates: postcard 15 c.

The fake express stamp was made to defraud the Postal Administration, discovered and seized in Milan in 1920

The stamp hasn't watermark and with perforation 11,5

Recorded less than 3 documents franked with fake of Milan

2. Inland postal rates

3rd express inland rate: 60 c. (Jan. 1st 1922 – Mar. 15th 1925)



Cover from Bologna to Napoli, Dec. 1st 1924

Rates: letter 50 c.

Handmade registration number and rare use of advertising stamp "De Montel" on express cover

60 c. for inland was issued on Oct. 6th 1922 due to rate increase



Private lettercard from Fonzano to Roma, Jan. 28th 1922 – Rates: letter 40 c.
The "Busta Lettera Postale" envelope was sold 5 c. less than the value of stamp
The special stamp "B.L.P." overprinted are valid only on these covers

3rd express inland rate: 60 c. (Jan. 1st 1922 – Mar. 15th 1925)



Special registered cover of “Cassa Nazionale d’Assicurazione per gli infortuni sul lavoro”
from La Maddalena to Sassari,

Dec. 31st 1924 (last day of validity of these special stamps)

Special stamp of 1 l. – Rates: letter 50 c., registration 50 c.

The special stamps for “Enti Parastatali” were issued to account the costs of ordinary postage or registered one, but could not be used for special delivery of express, for it was necessary use special stamps (i)

3rd express inland rate: 60 c. (Jan. 1st 1922 – Mar. 15th 1925)



Postage free official telegram from Belluno to Puos d'Aipago, Mar. 6th 1922

The black oval mark "R. Poste – Intendenza finanza - Belluno" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only



Envelope Mod. 62 containing a telegram delivered "per posta" from Gressoney-La-Trinité to Agnano, Jul. 18th 1924
Official label of 1917

4th express inland rate: 70 c. (Mar. 16th 1925 – Aug. 31st 1926)

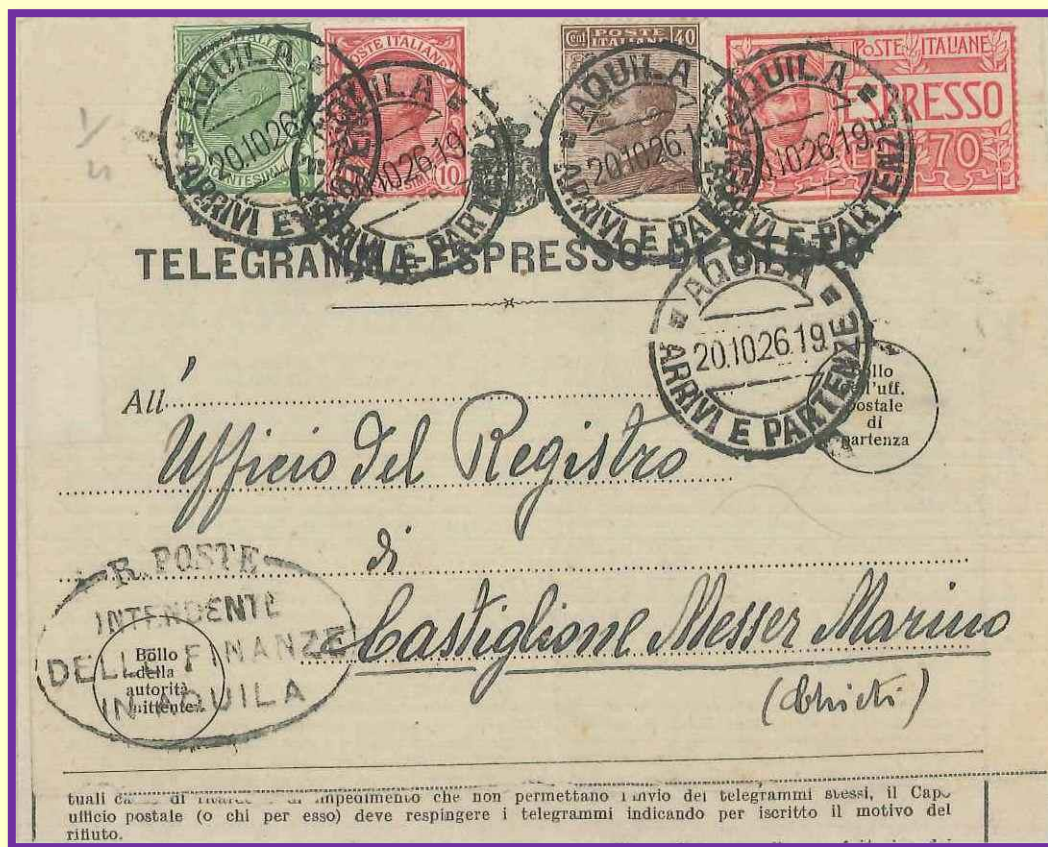


Private lettercard from Torino to Milano, Apr. 30th 1926 – Rates: letter 60 c.
Handmade registration number "3046" and private arrival handstamp
70/60 c. for inland was issued on Apr. 11th 1925 overprinting 60 c.



Postage free insured cover from Roma to Firenze, Apr. 11th 1925
The black oval mark "R. Poste – Presidenza del Senato" have got the right to postage free for
basic rate letter and insurance

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Postage free telegram from Aquila to Castiglione, Oct. 20th 1926
Black stamp "R. Poste – Intendenza delle finanze in Aquila"
70 c. for inland was issued on Jun. 27th 1925



Air mail cover from
Roma to Cagliari,
May. 17th 1930

Rates: letter 50 c., air
mail 50 c.

Postmark "Roma
Ferr.– Espressi
Transito"

Handmade
registration number
"755"

1,25 l. for inland was
issued on Sep. 20th
1926 due to rate
increase

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Registered cover from Monza to Roma, Nov. 29th 1929

Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l.

The cover addressed to **Benito Mussolini, Italian Prime Minister** haven't any kind of postage free at time

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Postage free registered
cover from **Roma**
Quirinale to Milano,
Mar. 27th 1930

The violet oval mark
"R.R. Poste – Roma e
Cavaliere d'Onore di
S.M. La Regina" have
got the right to postage
free for basic rate letter
and express too

Violet mark “Carteggio
Reale (6)” and pink
label of service
registration

Official label of 1925

Postage free cover from **Roma Senato** to Firenze, Apr. 11th 1925

The black oval mark “R. Poste – Presidenza del Senato” have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)

Cover from Ragusa to
Genova, Dec. 10th 1932

Rates: letter 50 c.

On arrival to Genova,
the express letter was
entrusted to one of the
Private Delivery
Agency. The first part of
the receipt, with number
of registration, was
sticked on the verso (the
second part, signed by
addressee was
detached).



Interesting and rare mark inviting all addressees to call the Agency to denounce all factors asking for tips.



Registered fifth rate cover from Firenze to Ciggiano, Oct. 17th 1931

Rates: letter 2,50 l. (50 c. each 15 g.), registration 1,25 l.

Official label of 1905

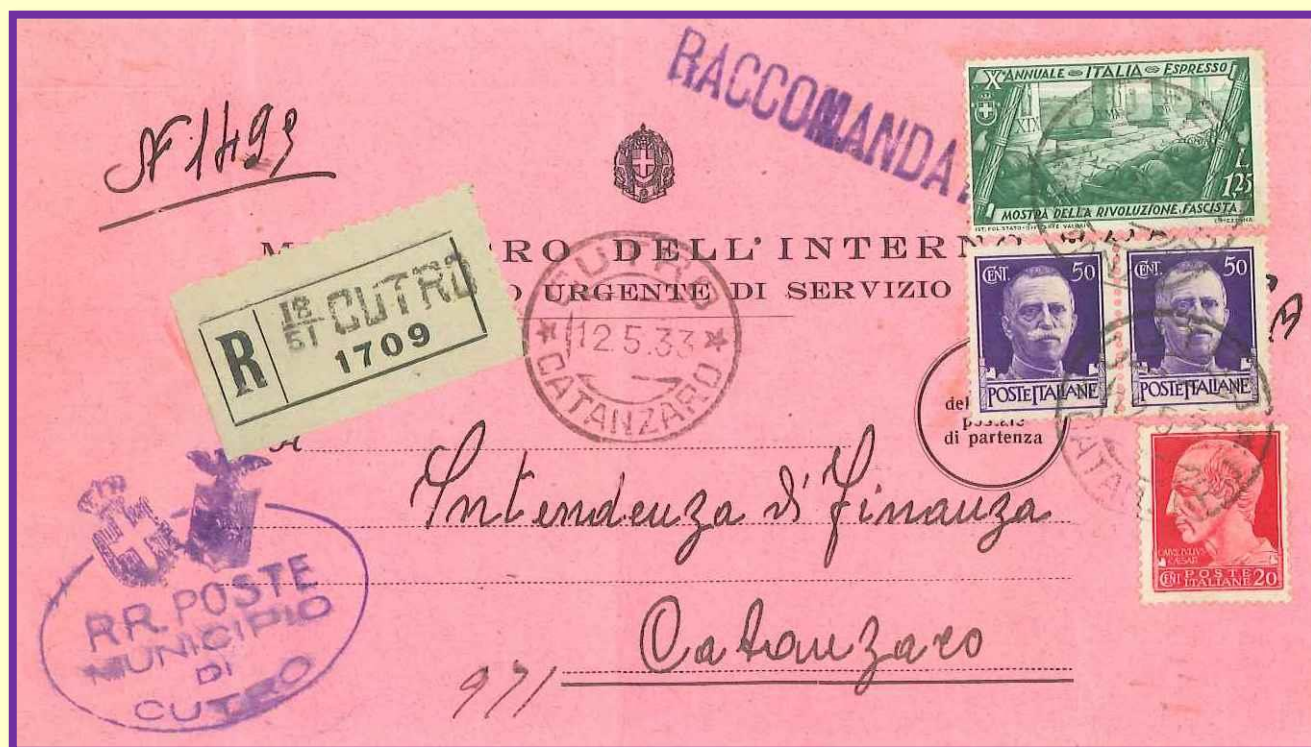
5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Air mail cover from Brindisi to Selva Val Gardena, Aug. 20th 1932

Rates: letter 50 c., air mail 50 c.

2,25 l. + 1 l. for inland was issued on Apr. 6th 1932



Registered cover from Cutro to Catanzaro, May. 12th 1933

Rates: letter 50 c., open registration 60 c. (over franked 10 c.)

1,25 l. for inland was issued on Oct. 27th 1932

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Air mail cover from Gorizia to Zara, Sep. 6th 1933 – Rates: letter 50 c., air mail 50 c.

Official label

Due to a rates change, this stamp was used 16 month only (issued on Jan. 21st 1933)



Cover from Napoli to Parma, Jul. 8th 1933 – Rates: letter 50 c.

Postmark "Napoli Ferrovia – Espressi Transito"

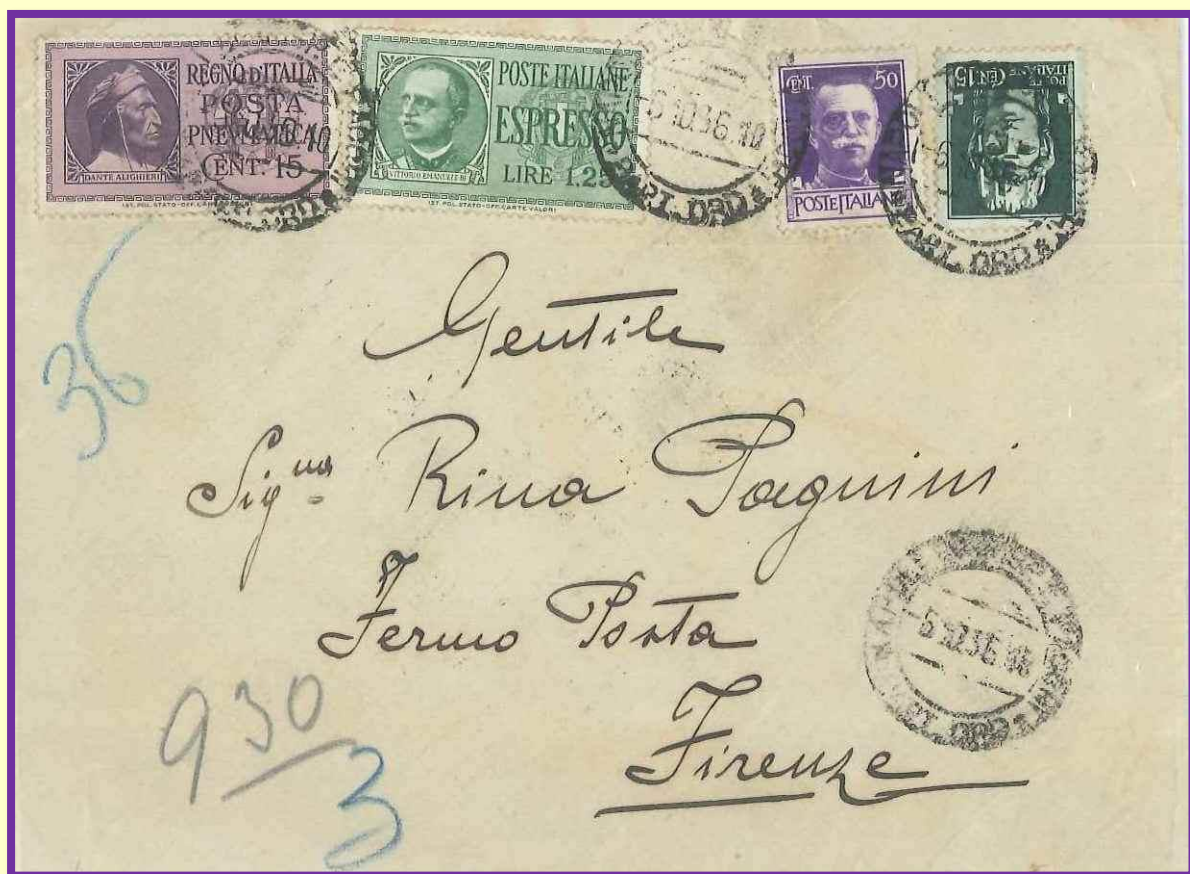
Black delivery handstamp of Parma forwarding time only

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)

Pneumatic poste
restante cover
from Napoli to
Firenze, Oct. 5th
1936

Rates: letter 50 c.,
pneumatic 15 c.,
poste restante
prepaid 15 c.

1,25 l. for
inland was
issued on Sep.
1st 1932



Cover from Pavia to Roma **Via Foligno 40**, Oct. 10th 1940 – Rates: letter 50 c.

Stamped: "Al fattorino spetta per fuori dazio l. 1,80 di giorno,... di notte o tempo piovoso"

For day delivery outside the city limits, more to pay to the factor 1,80 l.,... overnight or rainy weather

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



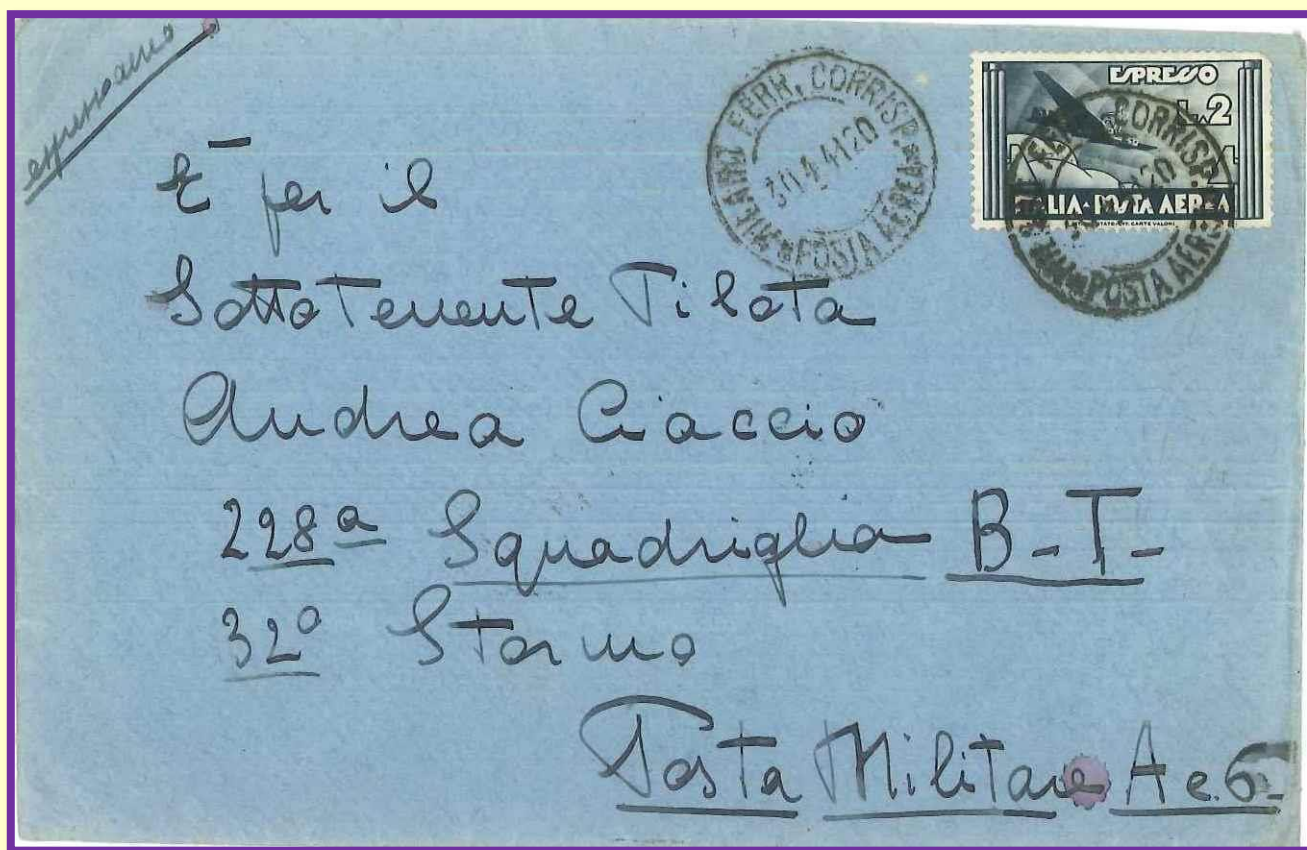
Bookseller's order form from Modena to town, Jun. 23rd 1940 – Rates: bookseller's order form 5 c.
Postmark "Modena Ferrovia – Espressi"



Registered air
mail cover
from Sesto
Pusteria to
Cagliari, Oct.
29th 1941

Rates: letter 50
c., registration
1,25 l., air mail
1 l. (50 c. each
15 g.)
(over franked
25 c.)

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Air mail cover from Milano to Posta Militare, Apr. 30th 1941 – Rates: letter 50 c., air mail for express 25 c.

Some stamps were issued from January 1933, cumulating letter basic rate, air mail single rate and express rate, to induce the users to use also the Air Mail service; air mail single rate was reduced from May 1934 for express letters



Official military free postcard from Ufficio Posta Militare N. 22 to S. Antimo, Aug. 24th 1943

Rates: air mail 50 c.

1,25 l. for inland overprinted P.M. was issued on Jun. 1943

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Cover from Bari to Putignano, Dec. 27th 1943

Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l.

Due to the shortage of definite stamps, this letter was stamped with parcel stamps

Official label



Registered cover from Bergamo to town, Sep. 21st 1944

Rates: reduced district letter 5 c., registration 1,25 l.

1,25 l. for inland was issued on Jun. 5th 1944

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Registered braille papers from Venezia to Barcolo, Oct. 28th 1943
Rate: Braille papers 5 c., registration for braille papers 10 c.



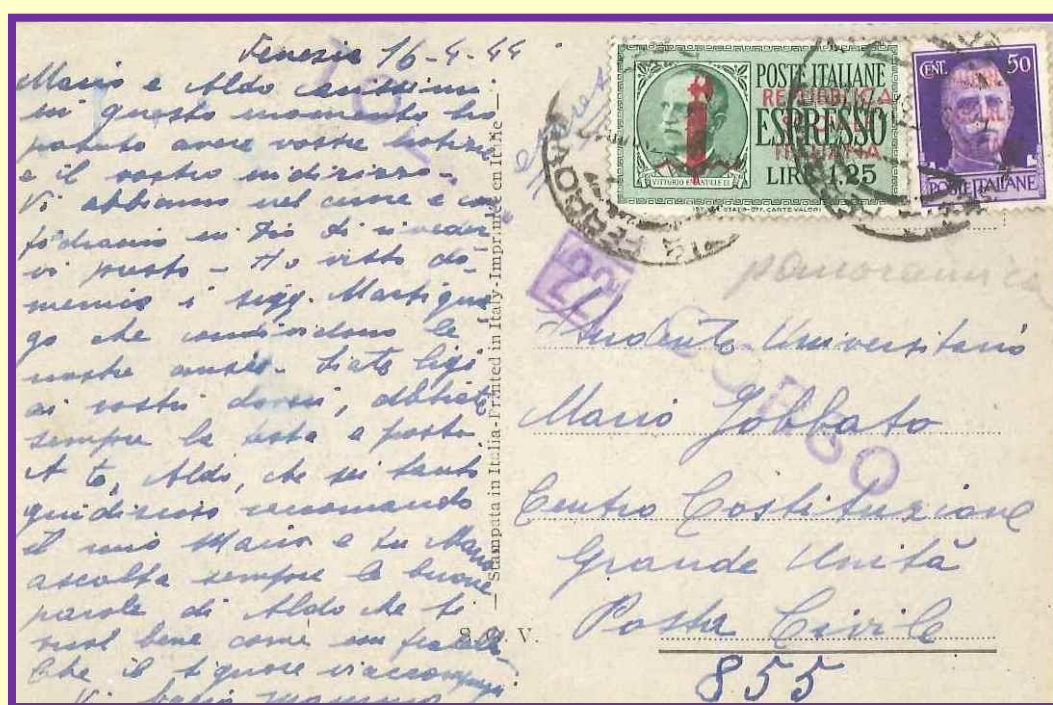
Braille papers from Belluno to Bologna, Dec. 16th 1943
Rate: Braille papers 5 c.

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Insured cover from Somma Lombardo to Sassuolo, Oct. 26th 1943

Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l., insurance 1 l. for first 200 l. and more 50 c. each 100 l.



Postcard cover from Venezia to Posta Civile 855, Apr. 16th 1944

Rates: postcard written as cover 50 c.

1,25 l. for inland red overprinted **REPUBBLICA SOCIALE ITALIANA** was issued on Jan. 22nd 1944

Censorship handstamp "22" and stamp "Tolta di corso"

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Postage fee cover from **Posta da Campo N. 713** to Valdagno, Jan. 1st 1944
Ovalmark "Poste Italiane – Segreteria particolare del Capo del Governo"

Recorded only few express postage free of R.S.I. (v)

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Front of cover from Provaglio d'Iseo (BS) to Brescia, Feb. 24th 1944
Rates: letter 50 c.

The cover was taxed on arrival with postage due overprinted GNR
for the simple port of the letter and the express fee since the departure zone was "devoid of stamps"

Rare use of postage due as express fee

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Registered poste restante cover from Martina Franca to Taranto, Jul. 3rd 1944
Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l.



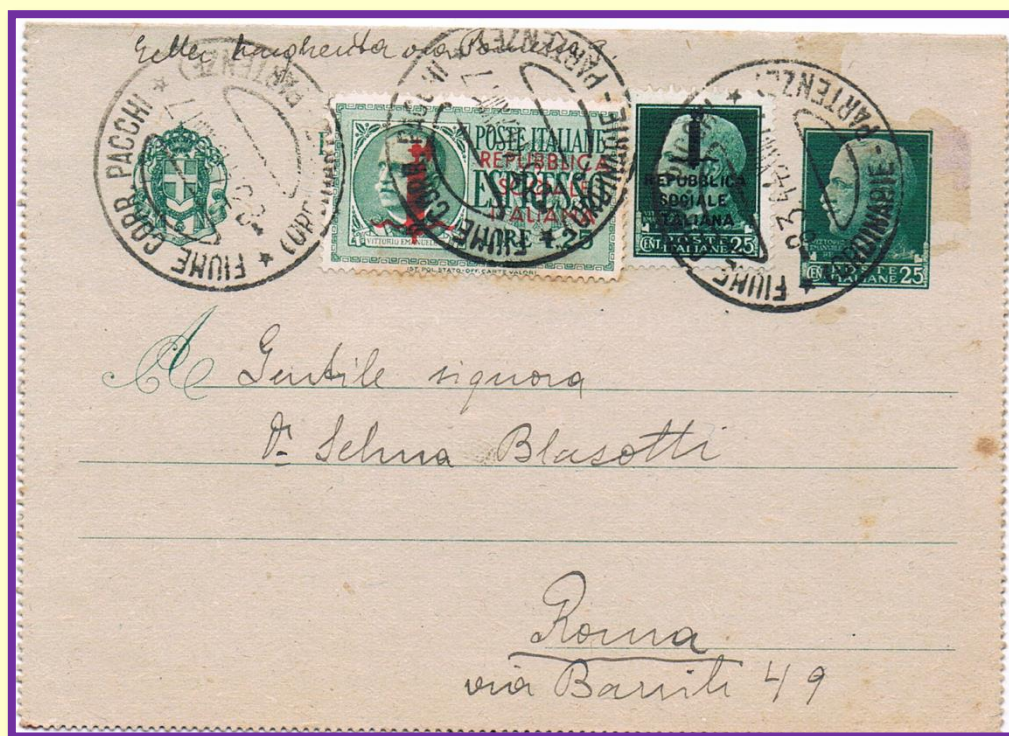
Cover from Mondovì (Cuneo) to Tradate, May. 23rd 1944

Rates: letter 50 c.

Handmade stamp "R. P. PAGATO" to indicate cash payment of 1.75 l.

Official label

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Lettercard from Fiume to Roma, Mar. 8th 1944 – Rates: lettercard 50 c.



Registered cover from Roma to Stroncone, Mar. 13rd 1944
Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l.

5th express inland rate: 1,25 l. (Sep. 1st 1926 – Sep. 30th 1944)



Registered cover from Busto Arsizio (Varese) to Milano, Sep. 23rd 1944

Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l.

1,25 l. for inland red overprinted G. N. R. was issued on Jan. 23rd 1944

Official label



Postcard from Parma to Castenedolo, Mar. 21st 1944 – Rates: postcard 30 c.

Official label

6th express inland rate: 2,50 l. (Oct. 1st 1944 – Mar. 31st 1945)

W.W. second, Italy divided: Republic of North Italy



Insured cover from Genova to Sesto Calende, Feb. 12th 1945
 Rates: letter 1 l., registration 1,50 l., insurance 1,50 l. for first 200 l.

7th express inland rate: 5 l. (Apr. 1st 1945 – Jan. 31st 1946)



Cover from Milano to Palestro, Apr. 1st 1945 – Rates: letter 1 l.

Postmark "Milano Fer. Corrisp – Espressi"

First day of the new rate but applied the old one, not taxed



Postcard from Bressanone to Roma, Sep. 14th 1945 – Rates: postcard written as letter 1 l.

New rate but applied the old one, not taxed

7th express inland rate: 5 l. (Apr. 1st 1945 – Jan.31st 1946)



Cover from Roma to Milano, Oct. 25th 1945 – Rates: letter 2 l.

5 l. was issued on Aug. 16th 1945. The first stamp without specification inland or for abroad



Cover from R. Torpediniera Monzambano to Asinara, Sep. 23rd 1945

Rates: letter 2 l.

Official label

Stamps was annulled on board by pencil

8th express inland rate: 10 l. (Feb. 1st 1946 – Mar. 24th 1947)



Fourth rate cover from Roma to Pineta di Sortenna, Jun. 22nd 1946 – Rates: letter 16 l. (4 l. each 15 g.)
Official label



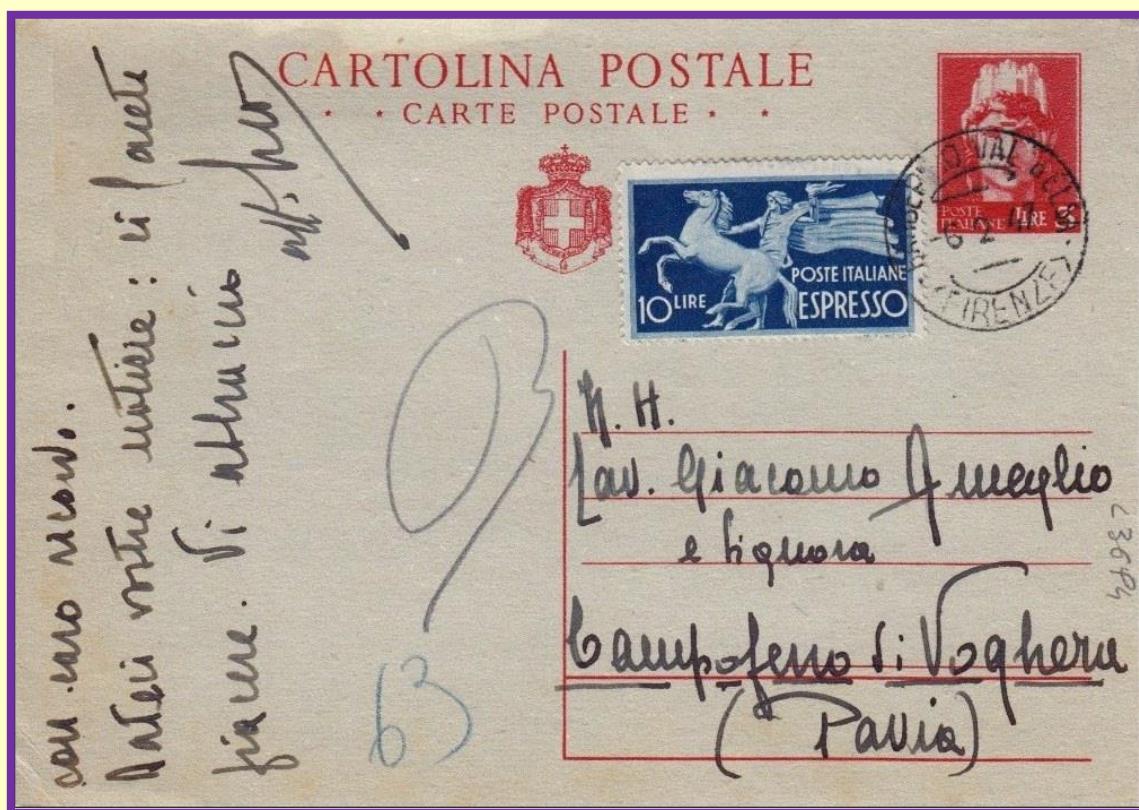
Air mail cover
from Roma to
Oristano, Sep.
2nd 1946

Rates: letter 4 l.,
air mail 4 l.

10 l. was issued
on Oct. 1st 1945

Postmark "R.
Nomentano –
Espressi"

8th express inland rate: 10 l. (Feb. 1st 1946 – Mar. 24th 1947)



Postcard from Barberino Val d'Elsa to Campoferro di Voghera, Feb. 6th 1947 – Rates: postcard 3 l.



Postage free cover from Milano to Roma, Jan. 8th 1947

The black oval mark "Poste – Ufficio lavoro Genio Militare Milano" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter

5 l. was issued on Oct. 1st 1945

2. Inland postal rates

10th express inland rate: 25 l. (Aug. 1st 1947 – Oct. 10th 1948)



Postcard from Foggia to Napoli, Aug. 25th 1947

Rates: postcard 8 l.

Postmark "Foggia Centro – Espressi"

Unusual use of multiple express stamps



Postage free cover from Napoli to Crispano, Apr. 5th 1948

The black oval mark have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

Official label - Postmark "Napoli Corr. e Pacchi – Espressi"

10th express inland rate: 25 l. (Aug. 1st 1947 – Oct. 10th 1948)



Cover from Paternò (Catania) to Parma, Apr. 13th 1948 - Rates: letter 10 l.

15 l. was issued on Jul. 28th 1947

Unusual use of twin values of 10 l. Democratica stamps

11th express inland rate: 35 l. (Aug. 11th 1948 – Apr. 9th 1949)



Sample without value from Reggio Emilia to Pescara, Mar. 12th 1949

Rates: Sample without value 10 l.

Postmark "Reggio Emilia – Espressi"

11th express inland rate: 35 l. (Aug. 11th 1948 – Apr. 9th 1949)



Double rate cover from Roma to Imola, Feb. 19th 1949

Rates: letter 30 l. (15 l. each 15 g.), registration 35 l.



Postage-free cover from Milano to Mantova, Mar. 14th 1949

The oval mark "Poste Italiane – Ispettorato agrario compartimentale di Milano" indicates the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

35 l. was issued on Sep. 18th 1948

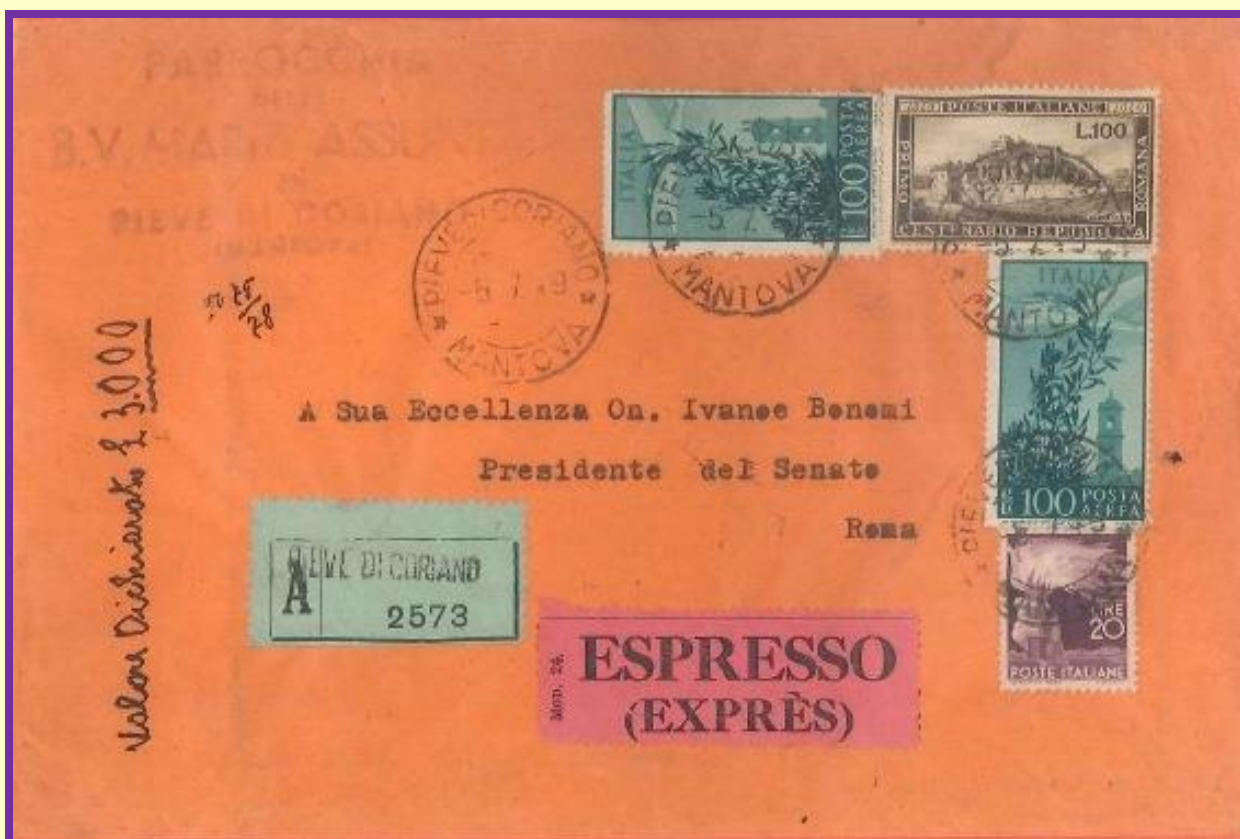
12th express inland rate: 40 l. (Apr. 10th 1949 – Jul. 31st 1951)



Third rate cover from Rovigo to Torino, Dec. 3rd 1949

Rates: letter 60 l. (20 l. each 15 gr.)

Official label - Postmark "Rovigo C. P. – Espressi"



Insured fifth rate cover from Pieve di Cadore to Roma, Jul. 5th 1949

Rates: letter 100 l. (20 l. each 15 g.), registration 35 l., insurance 10 l. for first 300 l. and more 5 l. each 100 l.

Official label

12th express inland rate: 40 l. (Apr. 10th 1949 – Jul. 31st 1951)



Air mail cover from Firenze to Carbonia, May. 27th 1951 – Rates: letter 20 l., air mail 10 l.

60 l. was issued on Dec. 6th 1947

Posted on Ambulante Milano-Firenze-Roma



Registered cover from Verona to town, Sep. 24th 1949

Rates: letter 20 l., registration 35 l., registered A.R. 40 l.

30 l. was issued on Jul. 3rd 1946

Official label

12th express inland rate: 40 l. (Apr. 10th 1949 – Jul. 31st 1951)



Registered air mail cover from Domodossola (Novara) to Napoli, Jul. 1st 1950

Rates: letter 20 l., registration 45 l., air mail 20 l. (10 l. each 5 g.)

Official label

Unusual use of three different services for inland: Express, Registration, Air mail

13th express inland rate: 50 l. (Aug. 1st 1951 – Sep. 30th 1957)



Postage free registered cover from Catania to Palermo, May. 20th 1952

The black oval mark "Poste Italiane – Corpo delle Foreste Ispett. Ripartimentale di Catania" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

Official label

Rare use of ordinary stamp for express



Registered fourth rate cover from Vicenza to Schio, Aug. 22nd 1951

Rates: letter 100 l. (25 l. each 15 g.), registration 55 l.

Official label

13th express inland rate: 50 l. (Aug. 1st 1951 – Sep. 30th 1957)

A very special label "Mod. 24" was issued for **parcels**. Its use on cover is rare, recorded less than 10 covers



Third rate cover from Caserta to town, Jun. 10th 1954 – Rates: letter 75 l. (25 l. each 15 g.)

50 l. was issued on Dec. 9th 1951

16th express inland rate: 150 l. (Jan. 1st 1966 – Mar. 30th 1974)



Registered rate
cover from
Firenze to
Milano, Nov. 26th
1973

Rates: letter 50 l.,
registration 130 l.

150 l. was issued
on Mar. 15th 1966

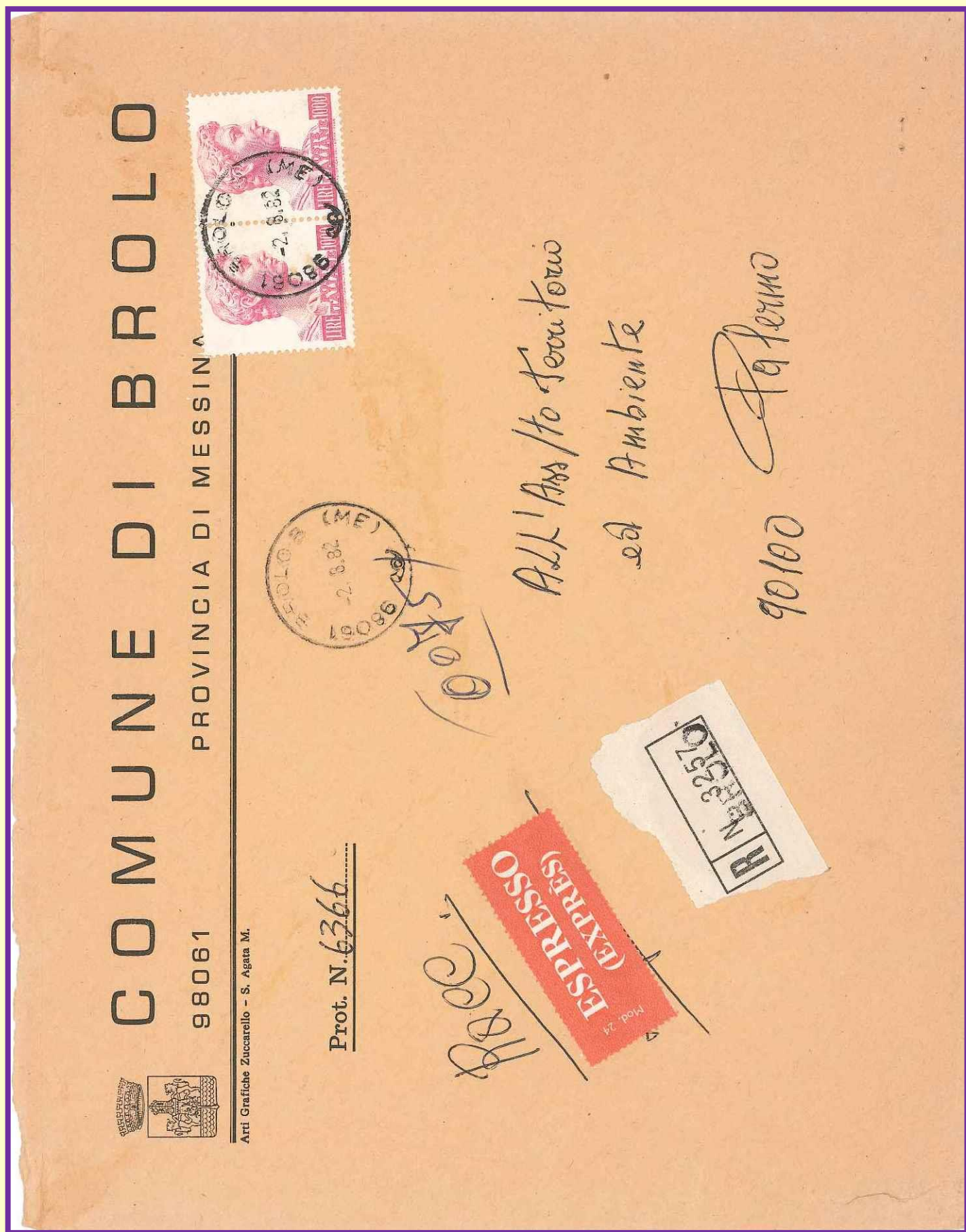
Registered
double rate
cover from
Alessandria
to Sesto
S.
Giovanni,
Dec. 30th
1967

Rates: letter
100 l. (from
20 g. to 100
g.),
registration
130 l.

Official
label



21st express inland rate: 700 l. (Oct. 1st 1981 – Sep. 30th 1982)

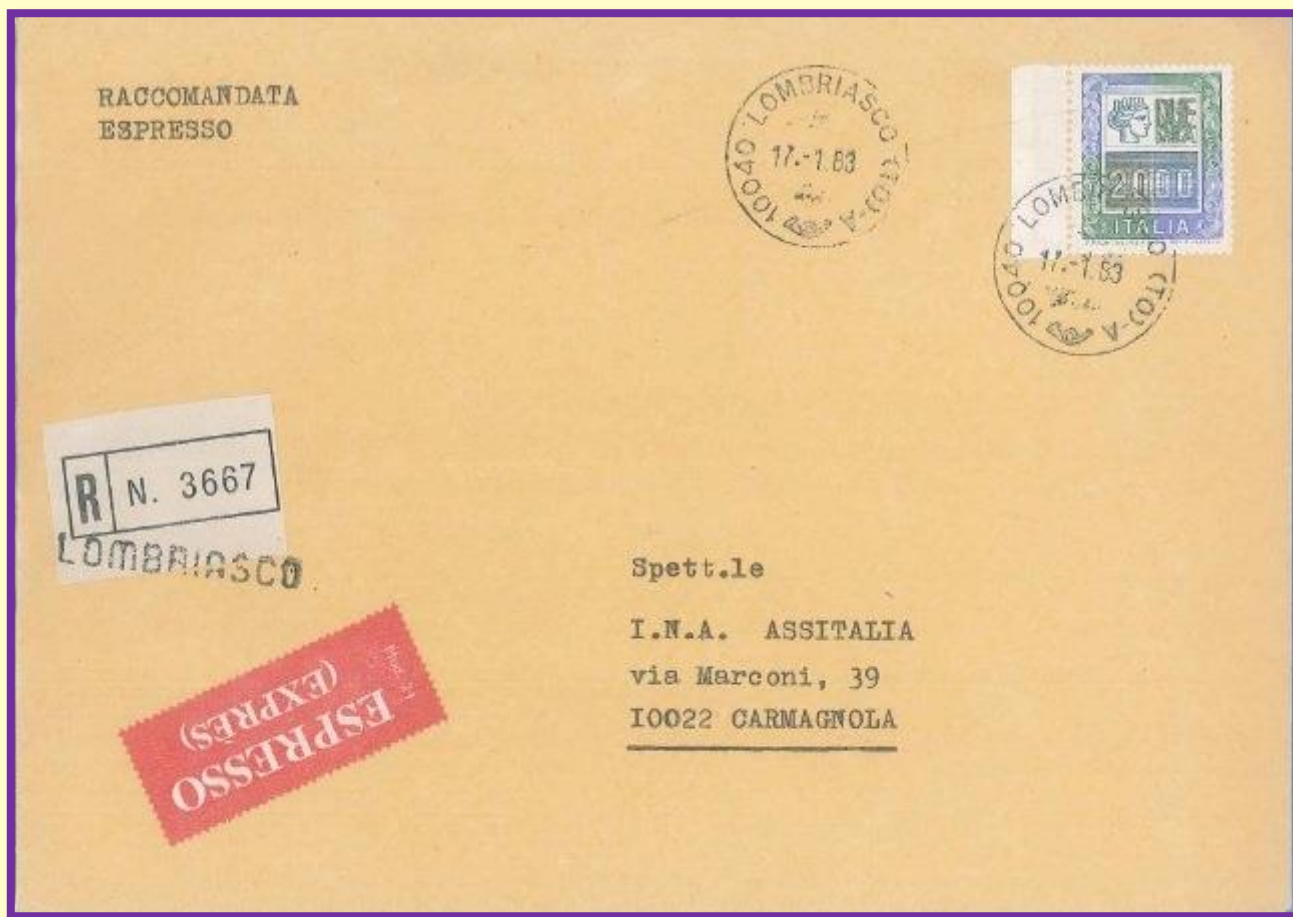


Registered fourth rate cover from Brolo to Palermo, Aug. 2nd 1982

Rates: letter 700 l. (from 50 g. to 100 g.), registration 600 l.

Official label

22nd express inland rate: 800 l. (Oct. 1st 1982 – Jan. 31st 1983)



Registered fourth rate cover from Lombriasco to Carmagnola, Jan. 17th 1983
Rates: letter 600 l. (from 20 g. to 50 g.), registration 700 l. (under franked 100 l.)

23rd express inland rate: 1.000 l. (Feb. 1st 1983 – May. 31st 1984)



Postal order from S. Arpino,
May. 30th 1984

Rates: letter 400 l.

Official label

24th express inland rate: 1.500 l. (Jun. 1st 1984 – Nov. 12th 1985)



Postage free official cover from Torino to town, May. 25th 1985

The black oval mark "Poste Italiane – Uff. Scolastico interregionale" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

26th express inland rate: 2.400 l. (Nov. 16th 1986 – Dec. 31th 1989)



Cover from
Milano to
Bema, Jul. 9th
1988

Rates: letter
650 l.

Official label

28th express inland rate: 3.000 l. (Jul. 1st 1990 – May. 4th 1997)



Postage free official insurance cover from Chieti to Napoli, Feb. 22nd1993
 The black oval mark “Poste Italiane – Regione Abruzzo e Molise Carabinieri” have got the right to postage free for
 basic rate letter only
 Official label

29th express inland rate: 3.600 l. (May. 5th 1997 – Dec 31st 2001)



Double rate
cover from
Venezia to
Bussolengo,
Jul. 13rd 2000

Rates: letter
1.500 l.
(from 20 g. to
100 g.)

Official label



Cover from Roma to Milano, Feb. 19th 2001 - Rates: letter 800 l.

Official label

One of the last special delivery in Italy - Rare use of TP label express

3. Postal rates for abroad

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Registered cover from Verona to Trebitsch (Austria), Aug. 30th 1895

Rates: letter for UPU "A" zone 25 c., registration 25 c.

Official label

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900



Registered cover from Firenze to Stabio (Switzerland), Mar. 3rd 1896

Rates: letter for UPU "A" zone 25 c., registration 25 c.

Official label of 1898

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Postcard from Venezia to Munchen (Germany), Sep. 24th 1897 – Rates: postcard for UPU “A” zone 15 c.
Official label of 1896

Less than fifteen express covers for abroad before 1900 known



Cover from Livorno to Schaffhouse (Switzerland), Oct. 16th 1899 – Rates: letter for UPU “A” zone 25 c.
Official label of 1899

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Cover from Verona to Augsburg (Germany), Oct. 18th 1900 – Rates: letter for UPU “A” zone 25 c.

Official label

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900



Registered cover from Bergamo to Greiz (Germany), Nov. 15th 1900

Rates: letter for UPU “A” zone 25 c., registration 25 c.

Official label of 1899

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Cover from Milano to Enschede (Holland), Nov. 12th 1908 – Rates: letter 25 c.
30 c. for abroad was issued on Sep. 1st 1908 eighteen years after the beginning of the service

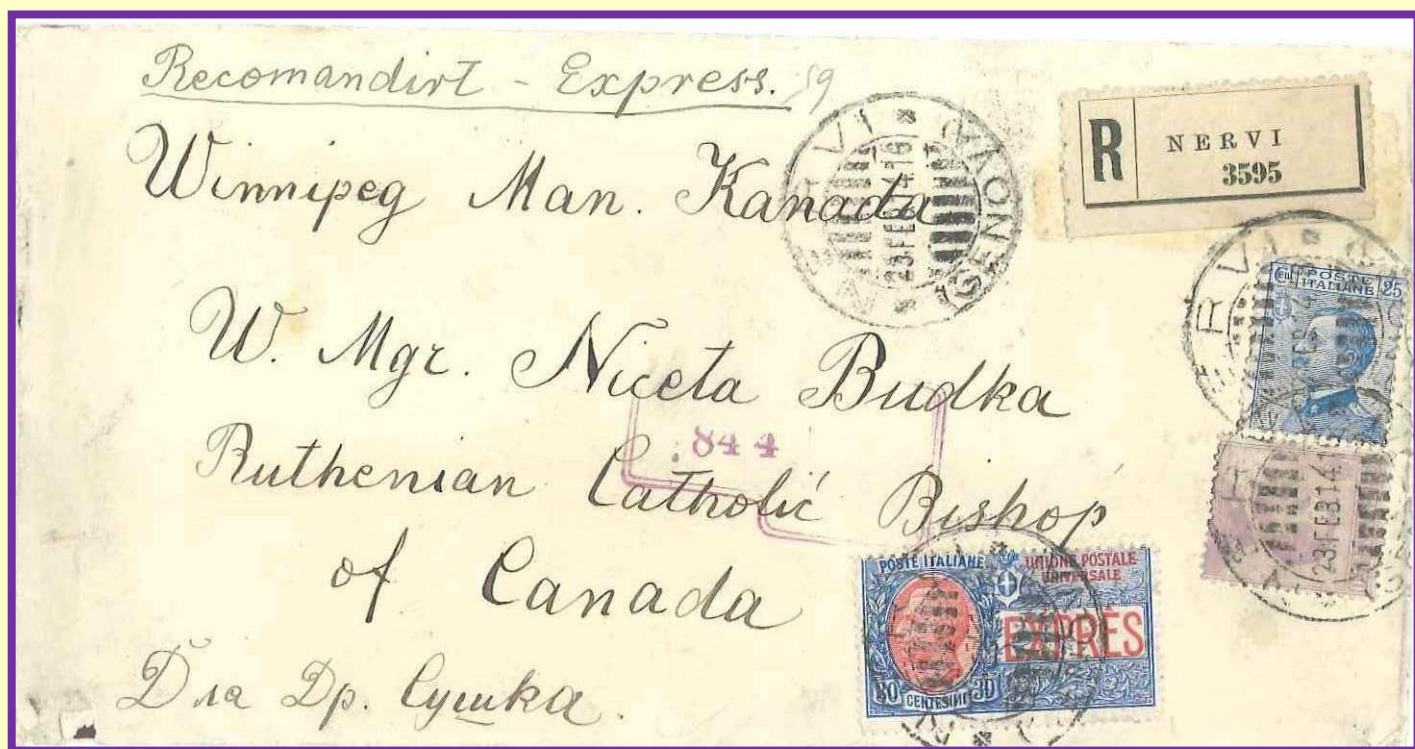


Postcard from Roma to Munchen (Germany), Jan. 6th 1909 – Rates: postcard 10 c.
Postmark "Roma Centro – Espressi"

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Registered cover from S. Giorgio Richinvelda to London (England), Apr. 15th 1920 – Rates: letter 25 c., registration 25 c.
Cover addressed to King of England George V



Registered double rate cover from Nervi to Winnipeg (Canada), Feb. 23rd 1914
Rates: letter 50 c. (25 c. each 15 g.), registration 25 c.

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Cover from Firenze to Paris (France), Jun. 4th 1904 - Rates: letter 25 c.
Express stamps were cancelled by pencil and express delivery service wasn't done due to underfranked



Cover from Firenze to Zurich (Switzerland), May. 3rd 1916 - Rates: letter 25 c.
Express stamps were cancelled by pencil and express delivery service wasn't done due to underfranked

1st express rate for abroad: 30 c. (Jul. 21st 1890 – Jan. 31st 1921)



Postcard from Milano to Bale (Switzerland), Dec. 18th 1915 – Rates: postcard 10 c.
Postmark “Milano Partenza – Espressi”



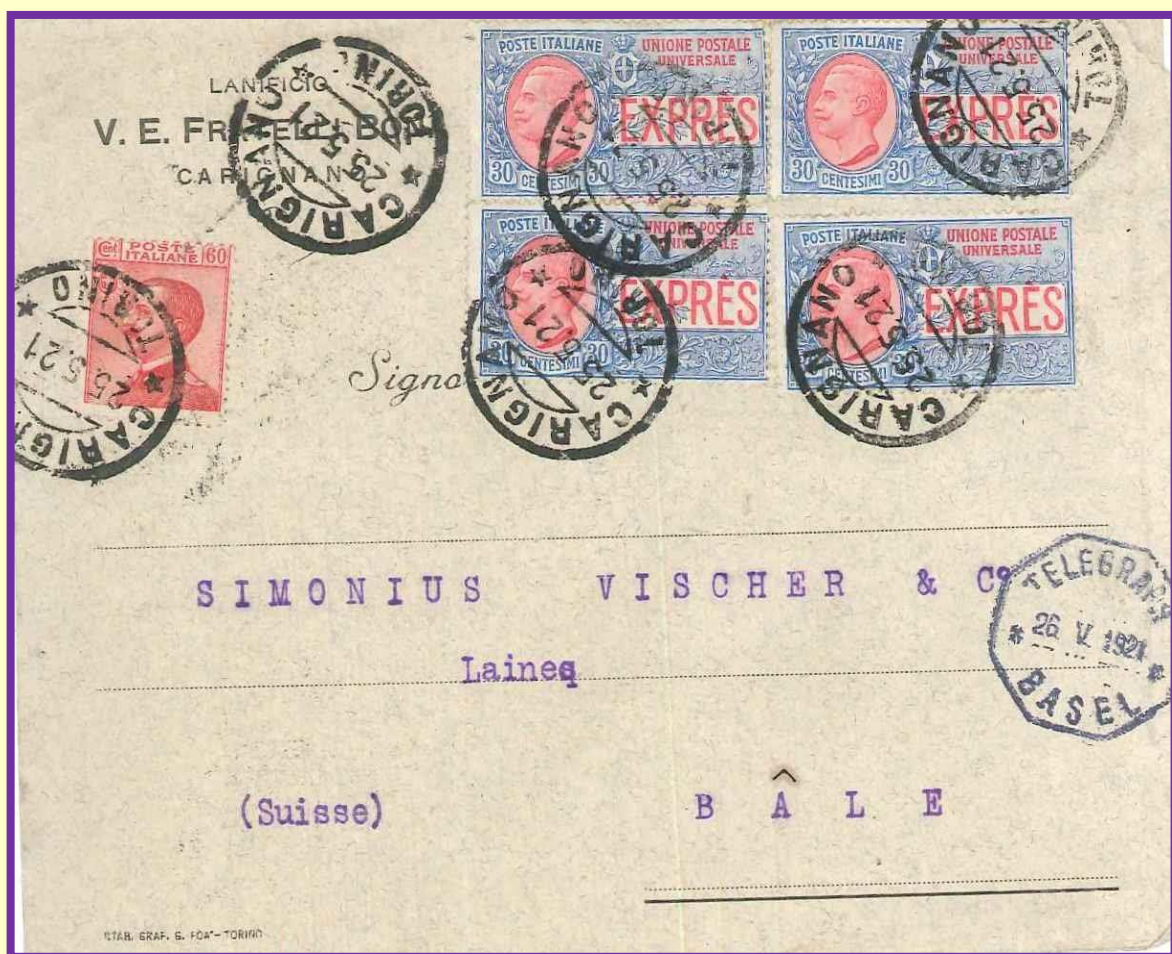
Parcel post from Torino to Budapest (Hungary), Nov. 20th 1913
Rates: Parcel custom fee 4,30 Kg. 1,45 l.
Official label

2nd express rate for abroad: 1,20 l. (Feb. 1st 1921 – Dec. 31st 1921)

Cover from
Carignano to
Bale
(Switzerland),
May. 25th 1921

Rates: letter 60 c.

The express fee
was quadrupled
due to economic
crisis; the 1,20 l.
special stamp
was issued only
nine month later



3rd express rate for abroad: 1,60 l. (Jan. 1st 1922 – Dec. 31st 1922)

Cover from
Genova to
Langnau
(Switzerland),
Mar. 2nd 1922

Rates: letter 80 c.

Postmark
"Genova centro –
Espressi"

1,20 l./30 c. for
abroad was
issued on Oct. 3rd
1921



3rd express rate for abroad: 1,60 l. (Jan. 1st 1922 – Dec. 31st 1922)

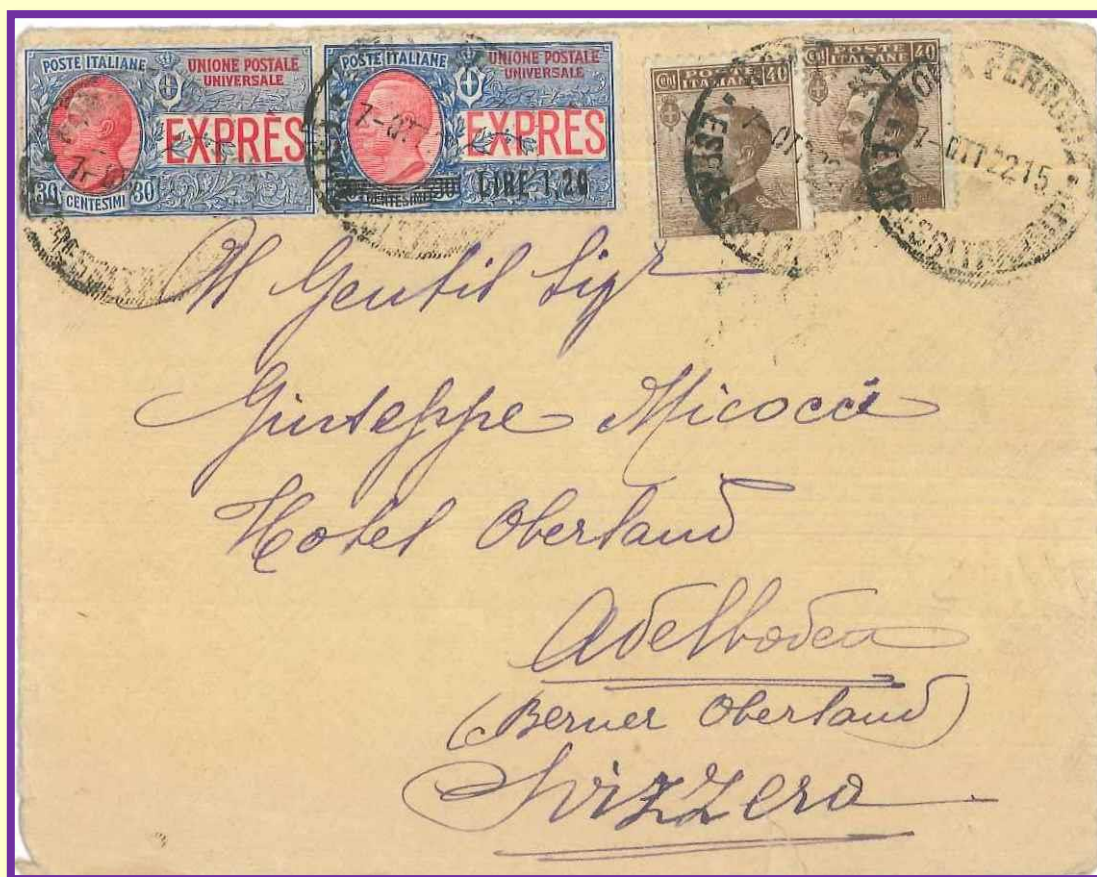


Cover from Roma to Berlin (Germany), Dec. 5th 1922
Rates: letter 80 c., registration 80 c.



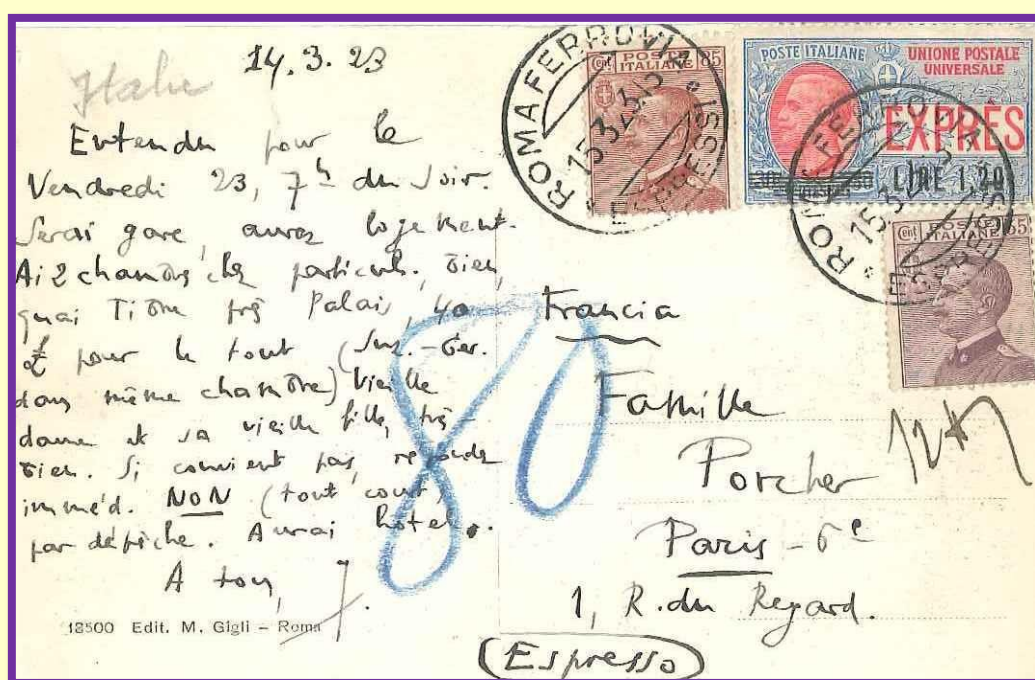
Registered cover from Roma to Madrid (Spain), Oct. 10th 1922
Rates: letter 80 c., registration 80 c.

3rd express rate for abroad: 1,60 l. (Jan. 1st 1922 – Dec. 31st 1922)



Cover from Roma to Avelboeu (Switzerland), Oct. 7th 1922 - Rates: letter 80 c.
Postmark "Roma Ferrovia – Espressi Transito"
Rare use of different express stamps (i)

4th express rate for abroad: 2 l. (Jan. 1st 1923 – Dec. 31st 1925)



Postcard from Roma
to Paris (France), Mar.
15th 1923

Rates: postcard 60 c.

Postmark "Roma
Ferrovia– Espressi"

4th express rate for abroad: 2 l. (Jan. 1st 1923 – Dec. 31st 1925)



Cover from
Milano to Praha
(Cecoslovacchia,
Jun. 17th 1925

Rates: reduced
rate letter 75 c.

From Jun. 1st
1922 the letter to
Austria,
Hungary,
Romania and
Cecoslovacchia
had a reduction
for the basic rate
by the Portorose
Agreement of
Nov. 23rd 1921

1,60 l./30 c. for
abroad was
issued on May.
8th 1924



Cover from Cortina
d'Ampezzo to Wien
(Austria), Aug. 12th
1925

Rates: reduced rate
letter 75 c.

From Jun. 1st 1922
the letter to Austria,
Hungary, Romania
and Cecoslovacchia
had a reduction for
the basic rate by the
Portorose
Agreement of Nov.
23rd 1921

2 l. for abroad was
issued on Feb. 6th
1924

4th express rate for abroad: 2 l. (Jan. 1st 1923 – Dec. 31st 1925)

Cover from Catania
to Ulm a Donau
(Germany), Feb. 2nd
1925

Rates: letter 1 l.



5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Cover from
Milano to
Berlin
(Germany),
Nov. 11th 1928

Rates: letter
1,25 l.

2,50 l. for
abroad was
issued on Jul.
26th 1926

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Cover from Milano to Sodertälje (Sweden), May. 12th 1928 - Rates: letter 1,25 l.
Official Swedish label, bilingual



Cover from
Torino to
Sacramento
(USA), Jan.
22nd 1930

Rates: letter
1,25 l.

Official label

In arrival
stamp "Fee
claimed
Sacramento,
California"
to indicate
the fee paid
to special
delivery

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)

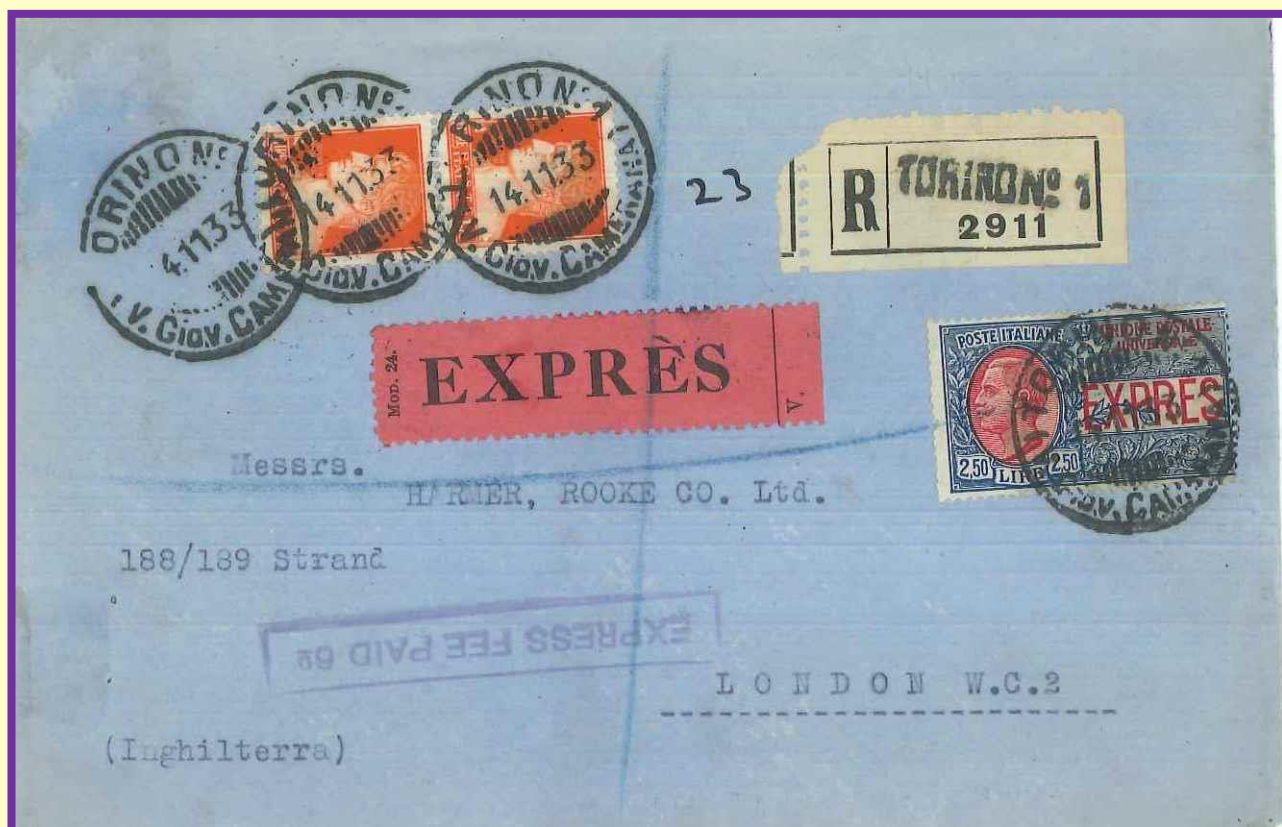


Cover from Dillingen a Donau (Germany) to S. Giorgio in Piano, Jun. 5th 1931
readdressed to Regensburg (Germany), Jun. 26th 1931 adding two special stamps



Registered cover from Genova to Den Haag (Netherlands), Oct. 19th 1932
Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,50 l., air mail 1,50 l.
Official label

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Registered double rate cover from Torino to London (England), Nov. 14th 1933

Rates: letter 2 l. (1 l. each 15 g.), registration 1,50 l.

Incoming stamp "Express fee paid"



Registered cover from Firenze to Saint Louis (USA), Jun. 4th 1933

Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,50 l.

2,50 l. for abroad was issued on Oct. 27th 1932

Official label and incoming stamp "Special delivery"

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Air mail registered cover from Napoli to Il Cairo (Egitto), Feb. 18th 1933

Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,50 l., air mail 1,50 l.



Air mail cover from Napoli to Greiz (Germany), Aug. 11th 1933

Rates: letter 1,25 l., air mail 75 c.

Redstamp "Mitluftpost Befordert - Luftpostamt - Berlin C2"

Official label

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Air mail cover of Nord Atlantic Cruise from Milano to town, via Roma and Amsterdam, Jun. 13th 1933
Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,50 l., airmail fee European countries by aircraft of Crociera 19,75 l.

Special stamp "Crociera aerea del decennale – Italia Nord America" of
5,25 l. + 19,75 l. issued on May. 20th 1933

The cover is one of 31 covers carried by I-DINI seaplane from Roma to Amsterdam
The seaplane I-DINI had a tragic accident during landing in Amsterdam and could not continue the cruise (vi)

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Insured cover from Mervia to S. Glas (Austria), Nov. 14th 1935

Rates: letter 4,25 l. (1,25 l. first 20 g. and more 75 c. each 20 g.), registration 1,50 l., insurance 1,85 l. each 300 "franchi oro"

2,50 l. for abroad was issued on May. 14th 1933

Official label

Air mail cover from
Roma to Stockholm
(Sweden), Maj. 21st
1935

Rates: letter 1,25 l., air
mail 60 c.

Swedish official label
and Italian one



5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Registered double rate cover from Trieste to Praha (Czechoslovakia), Sep. 13th 1937

Rates: letter 2 l. (1 l. each 20 g.), registration 1,50 l.

Official label

Registered
air mail cover
from Firenze
to Berlin
(Germany),
Jan. 1st 1937

Rates: letter
1,25 c., air
mail 60 c.

Official label

Postmark
"Firenze
Ferrovia –
Espressi
Trans."

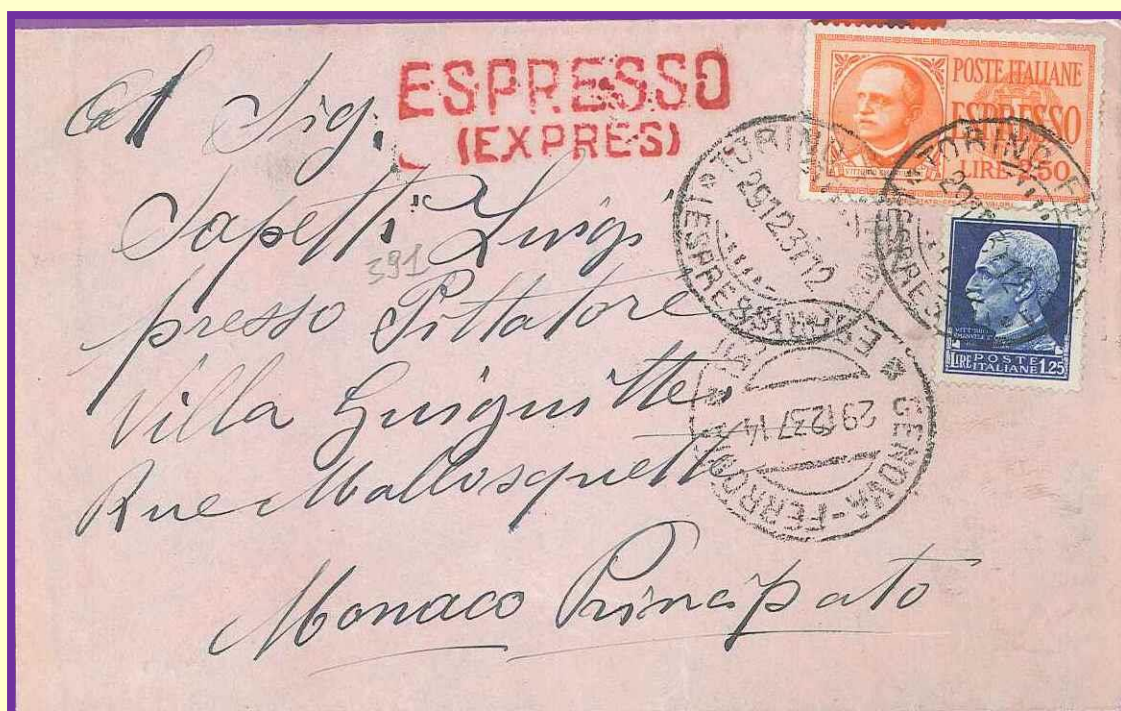


5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Air mail registered postcard from Grottammare to Praha (Czechoslovakia), Jun. 22nd 1937

Rates: postcard 60 c., registration 1,50 l., air mail 50 c.



Cover from Torino to Principality of Monaco, Dec. 29th 1937 - Rates: cover 1,25 l.

Postmark "Torino Ferrovia – Espressi"

Very rare destination



Manuscript air mail catapulted cover from Roma to Buenos Aires (Argentina), May. 21st 1937

Rates: manuscript 1,25 l., air mail 12,75 l. (A.O.), catapulted mail 8,75 l.

Noted catapulted mail with "PAR AVION EXPRESS" label (vi)

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)

Cover from Wien to
Viareggio, Sep. 14th 1938
readdressed to Zurigo,
Sep. 15th 1938
adding special
stamp

Swiss official label



Cover from Fidenza to Berna (Switzerland), Dec. 21st 1940 - Rates: cover 1,25 l.
On 21st Dec. the cover was franked as internal cover and the following day the postage was integrated for 75 c. and
2,50 l. considering not valid express of 1,25 l.
Swiss official label

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Registered cover from Trieste to Salzburg (Austria), Jan. 27th 1940

Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,50 l.

Official label

The two special stamps by 1,25 l. for inland weren't cancelled because it wasn't permitted use it for abroad, stamps were highlighted with a blue pencil mark. Postal officer did require to apply the special orange stamp by 2,50 l. for abroad not with standing that the charge was correct

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Postage free cover from Genova to Geneve (Switzerland), Oct. 16th 1942

The cover addressed to Comité International de la Croix-Rouge – Service des Secours is postage free for basic rate letter only as established by "Foglio d'ordini" n. 70 of June 11th, 1942

Official label

This is the only possible use of this special stamp for abroad isolated

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Cover from Torino to Berlin (Germany), Apr. 23rd 1941

Rates: letter 1,25 l.

Rare use of express stamp of 1,25 l. as ordinary one

Cover from Parma
to Amburgo
(Germany), Feb. 9th
1943

Rates: reduced rate
letter 1 l. to
Germany from Jan.
1st 1942

Band and marks of
Military Censorship
both Italian and
German one



5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Registered cover from Bressanone (Bolzano) to Wolfsburg (Germany), May. 10th 1944

Rates: reduced rate letter 1 l. to Germany from Jan. 1st 1942, registration 1,50 l.

Official label

Band and marks of Military Censorship both Italian and German one



Registered cover from Ferno to Rheine (Germany), Dec. 2nd 1944

Rates: reduced rate letter 1 l. to Germany from Jan. 1st 1942, registration 1,50 l.

From Sep. 1st 1944 express service to abroad was suspended due to W.W. second (i)

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Registered cover from Roma to Zurich (Switzerland), May. 25th 1944 - Rates: letter 1,5 l., registration 1,50 l.

Official label

Express service to abroad was suspended (i) as explained by notes of Censor



Registered cover from Castelrotto (BZ) to Wien (Austria), Jun. 17th 1944

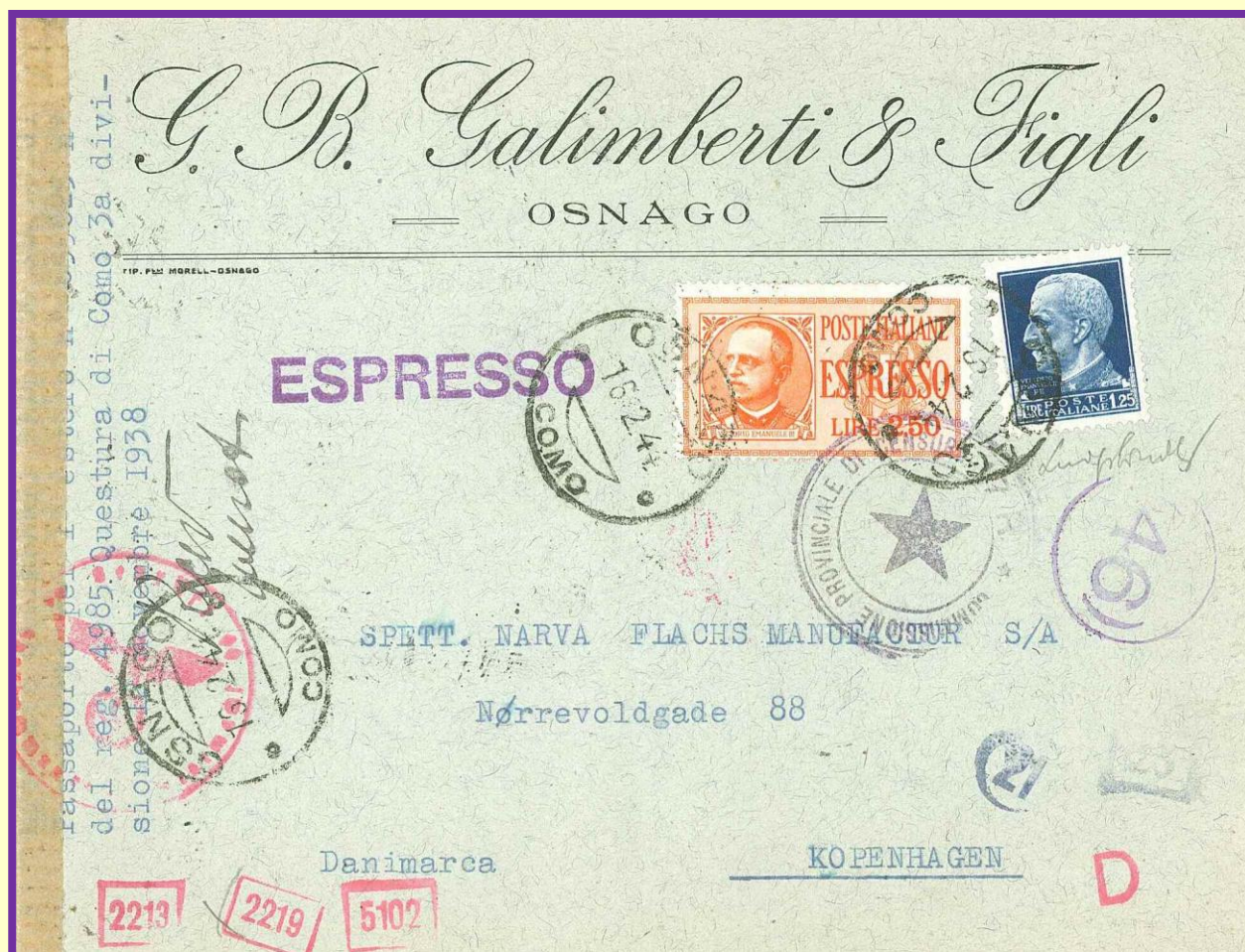
Rates: letter 1,25 l.
registration 1,25 l.

Official label

5th express rate for abroad: 2,50 l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



Postcard from Firenze to Berlin (Germany), Mar. 18th 1943
Rates: postcard to Germany 50 c.



Cover from Osnago to Copenhagen (Denmark), Mar. 18th 1943

Rates: letter 1,25 l.

The only cover of RSI period send to Denmark (v)

6th express rate for abroad: 10 l. (Oct. 15th 1945 – Mar. 31st 1946)



Registered cover from Roma to Bienne (Switzerland), Dec. 18th 1945

Rates: letter 5 l., registration 10 l.

Official label and Swiss express stamp, trilingual

7th express rate for abroad: 30 l. (Apr. 1st 1946 – Aug. 31st 1947)

Cover from Milano to Zurigo (Switzerland) Jul. 9th 1947

Swiss express stamp, trilingual

Franked as inland express, under franked for 24 l., was taxed on arrival by 5x20 c. postage due stamps



7th express rate for abroad: 30 l. (Apr. 1st 1946 – Aug. 31st 1947)



Cover from Samolaco to Alpachdorf (Switzerland), Nov. 8th 1946

Rates: letter 15 l.

Swiss express stamp, trilingual

Rare use of 45 stamps

8th express rate for abroad: 60 l. (Sep. 1st 1947 – Aug. 10th 1948)

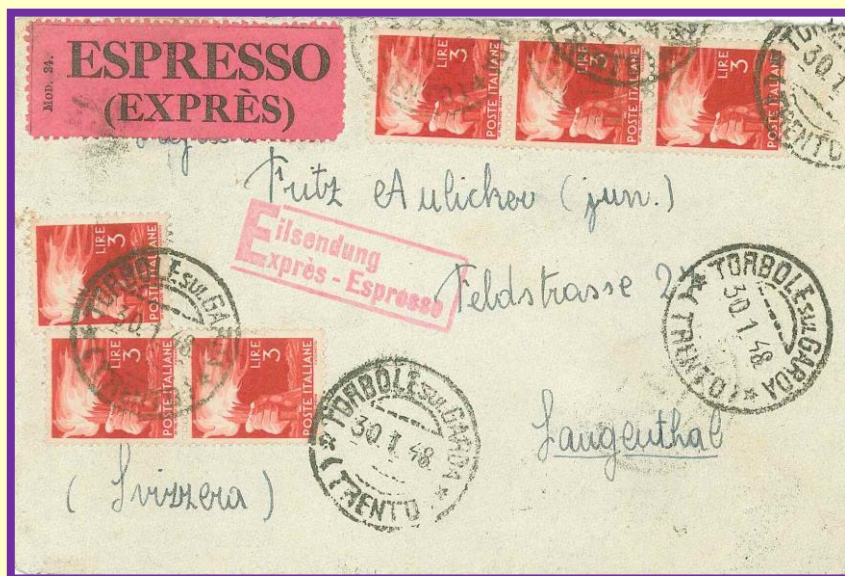


Cover from Genova to Geneve (Switzerland), Jan. 1st 1948 – Rates: letter 30 l.
Official label and Swiss express stamp, trilingual
Postmark “Genova Corrispondenze – Espressi”



Air mail cover from Roma to Istanbul (Turkey), Oct. 11st 1947
Rates: letter 30 l., air mail 20 l.

8th express rate for abroad: 60 l. (Sep. 1st 1947 – Aug. 10th 1948)



Cover from Torbole sul Garda to Langenthal (Switzerland), Jan. 30th 1948

Rates: letter 30 l.

Official label and Swiss express stamp, trilingual

8th express rate for abroad: 60 l. (Sep. 1st 1947 – Aug. 10th 1948)



Air mail registered cover from Roma to New York (USA), Dec. 21st 1947
Rates: letter 30 l., registration 40 l., air mail to USA 60 l. (over franked 10 l.)
Official label



Air mail cover from Milano to Buenos Aires (Argentina), Jun. 28th 1948

Rates: letter 30 l., air mail 200 l. (100 l. each 15 g.) (over franked 10 l.)

Official label

Unusual use of twin values of 100 l.

9th express rate for abroad: 80 l. (Aug. 11st 1948 – Aug. 31th 1951)



Registered cover from Roma to Zurich (Switzerland), Oct. 9th 1948

Rates: letter 40 l., registration 60 l.

Official label

Cover from Roma to Geneve (Switzerland), Jan. 18th 1949

Rates: letter 40 l.

Swiss official label



9th express rate for abroad: 80 l. (Aug. 11st 1948 – Aug. 31th 1951)



Air mail cover
from Roma to
Stockholm
(Sweden), Feb.
8th 1949

Rates: letter 40
l., air mail 25 l.

Official label

Postmark
"Roma Centro
C. A. –
Espressi"



Air mail
registered cover
from Roma to
Buenos Aires
(Argentina), Feb.
18th 1950

Rates: letter 55 l.,
registration 60 l.,
air mail to
Argentina 130 l.
(over franked 20
l.)

Official label

10th express rate for abroad: 85 l. (Sep. 1st 1951 – Sep. 30th 1957)



Cover from Roma to Athens (Greece), Sep. 5th 1954

Rates: letter 60 l. (over franked 5 l.)

Postmark "Roma Centro C.P. – Espressi"



Air mail cover from Genova to Zurich (Switzerland), May. 2nd 1952 - Rates: letter 60 l.

Official label

Postmark "Genova Corrispondenze – Espressi"

11th express rate for abroad: 100 l. (Oct. 1st 1957 – Jul. 31st 1965)



Cover from Urbignacco to Karkkila (Finland), Sep. 5th 1959

Rates: letter 60 l.

75 l. was issued on Apr. 13th 1958

Official label



Cover from
Forlì to
Goteborg
(Sweden), Jul.
4th 1963

Rates: letter 70 l.

Swedish official
label

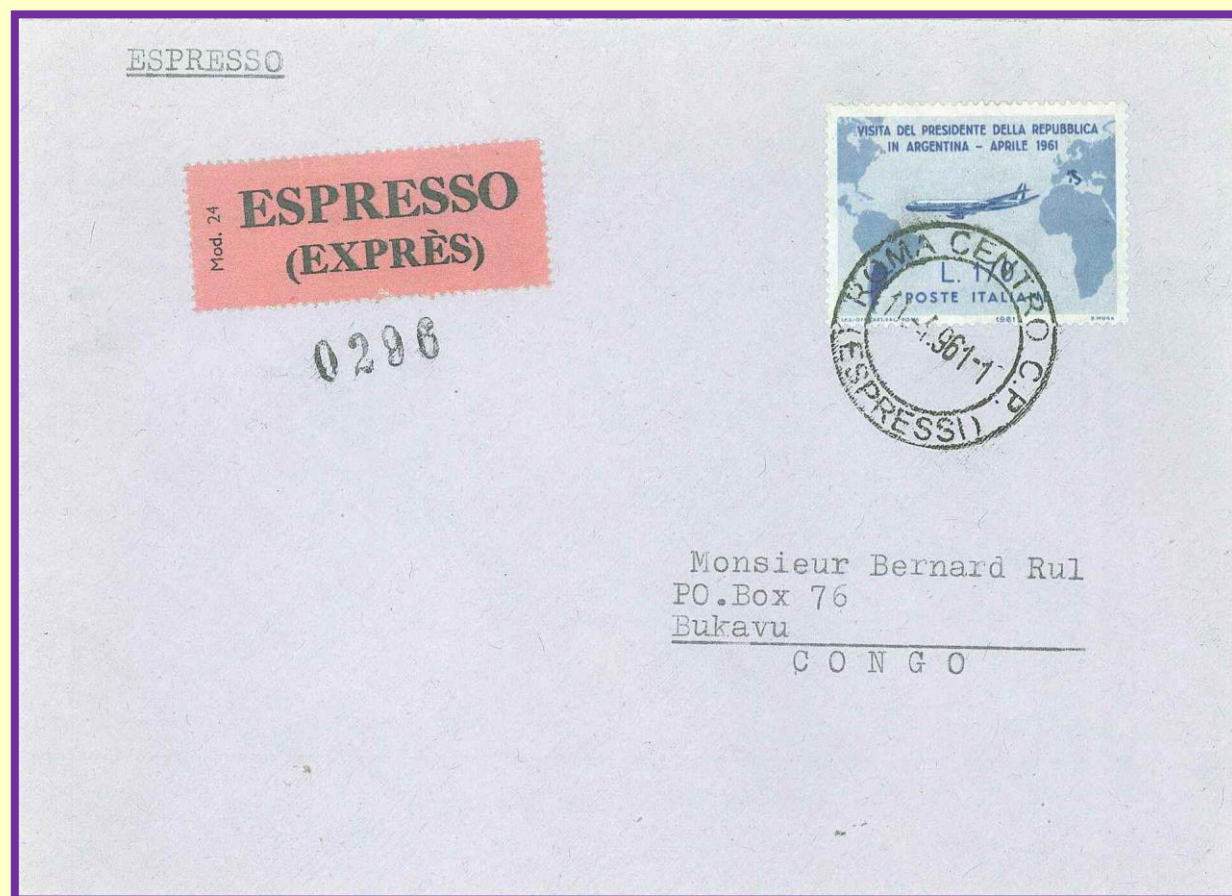
11th express rate for abroad: 100 l. (Oct. 1st 1957 – Jul. 31th 1965)



Registered third rate cover from Torino to Dortmund (Germany), Jan. 8th 1962

Rates: letter 150 l. (70 l. first 20 g. and more 40 l. each 20 g.), registration 90 l.

Official label

11th express rate for abroad: 100 l. (Oct. 1st 1957 – Jul. 31th 1965)

Cover from
Roma to
Bukavu
(Congo), Apr.
11th 1961

Rates: letter
70 l.

Official label

Postmark
"Roma
Centro C. P. –
Espressi"

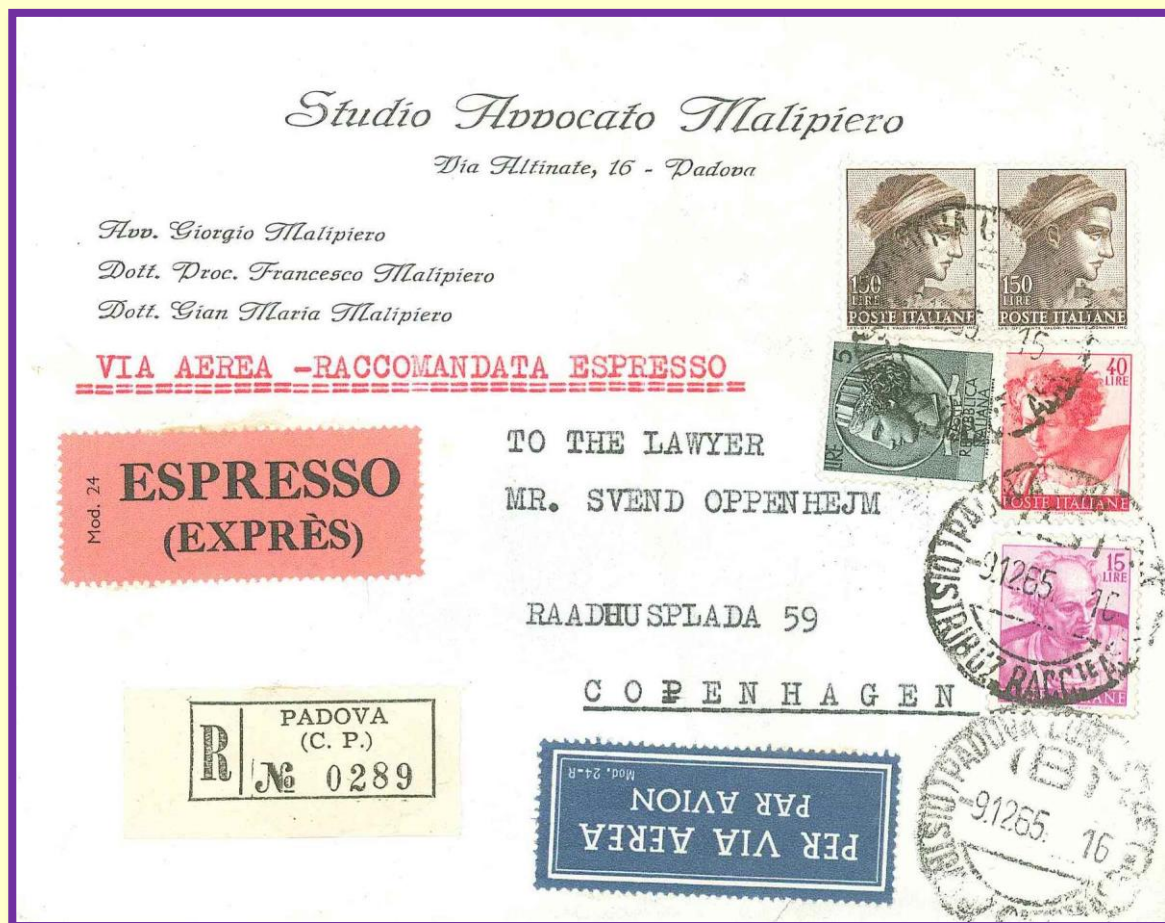
Parcel
post from
Schio to
Renaix
(Belgie),
Jan. 3rd
1961

Rates:
Parcel
custom fee
0,63 Kg.
325 l.

Official
label

CEDOLETTA (Coupon) Può essere distaccata dal destinatario (Peut être détaché par le destinataire)		ESPRESSO (EXPRESS) (BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION)		PESO (Poids) Grammi (Grammes) 0.630
MITTENTE (Expéditeur) Nome, Cognome e indirizzo (Nom et adresse) ILMA S.P.A. Via Venezia 132 SCHIO (Venezia)		DESTINAZIONE (Destination) (Rue) 12, Boulevard du 4 Mars (in lettere) N. 12		SCHIO 428
Valore dichiarato (in lettere) Lire it. rien.= Per l'estero ripetere qui sotto il valore ragguagliato in franchi o lire Valeur déclarée (en lettres) Francs or rien.=		Valore dichiarato (in lettere) Lire it. rien.= Per l'estero ripetere qui sotto il valore ragguagliato in franchi o lire Valeur déclarée (en lettres) Francs or rien.=		00059
Destinazione (Destination) (Rue) 12, Boulevard du 4 Mars (in lettere) N. 12		Prov. o Stato BELGIQUE		00059
Assegno Lire it. (Remboursement) rien.=		Diritti doganali (Droits de douane)		Impronta del suggello o piombo di chiusura
Per i pacchi diretti fuori dello Stato indicare l'Ufficio di uscita <i>Muslame Hanoum</i>		Empreinte du cachet de fermeture		00059

12nd express rate for abroad: 135 l. (Aug. 1st 1965 – Dec. 31st 1965)

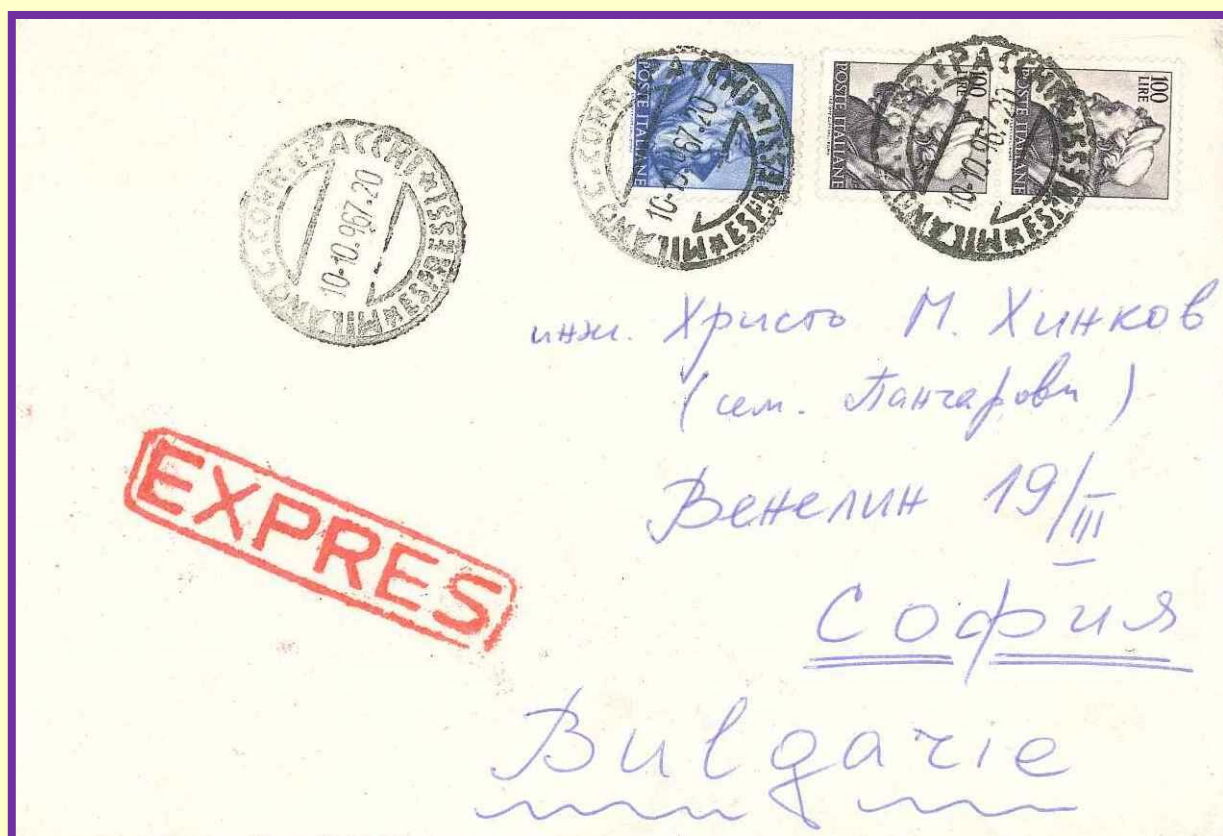


Air mail
registered cover
from Padova to
Copenhagen
(Denmark), Dec.
9th 1965

Rates: letter 90 l.,
registration 90 l.,
air mail 45 l. (15 l.
each 15 g.)

Official label

13nd express rate for abroad: 180 l. (Jan. 1st 1966 – Mar. 30th 1974)



Cover from Milano to Copus (Bulgaria), Oct. 10th 1967 - Rates: letter 90 l.
Postmark "Milano Corr. e Pacchi – Espressi"

13nd express rate for abroad: 180 l. (Jan. 1st 1966 – Mar. 30th 1974)



Double rate cover
from Agordo to
Locarno
(Switzerland),
Jun. 12th 1967

Rates: letter 90 l.
first 20 g. and 55
l. other 20 g.

Official label

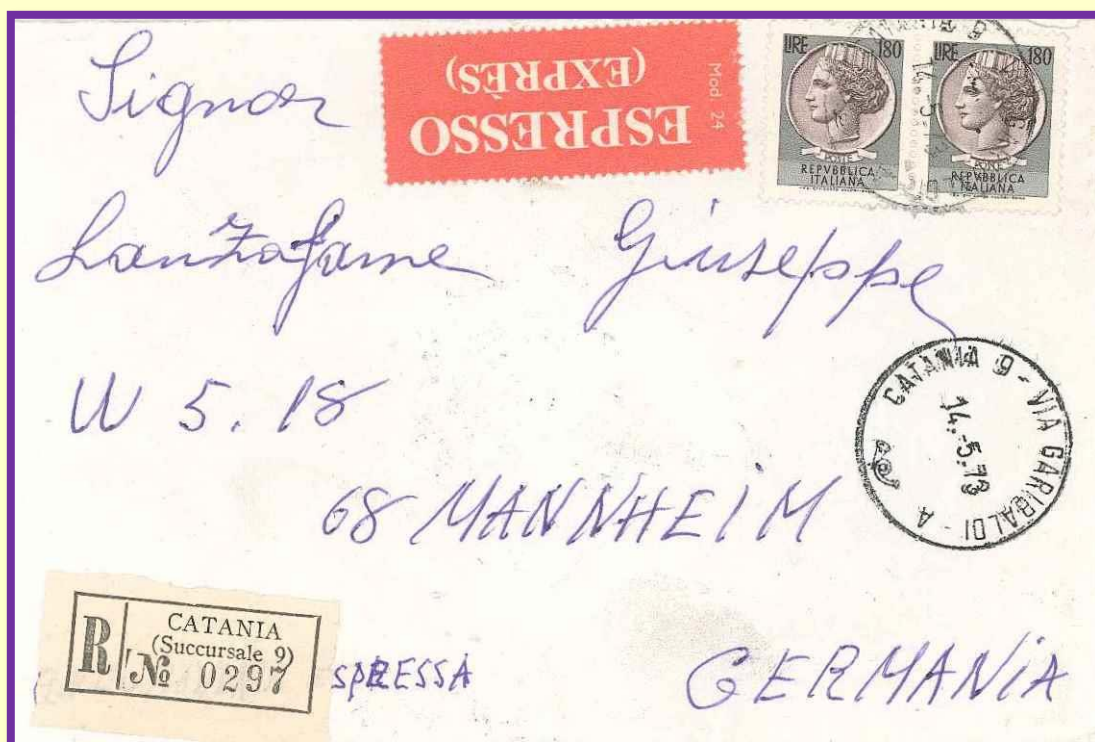


Air mail
cover from
Bologna to
Valencia
(Spain),
Apr. 29th
1972

Rates: letter
90 l. (over
franked 10
l.)

Official
label

13nd express rate for abroad: 180 l. (Jan. 1st 1966 – Mar. 30th 1974)

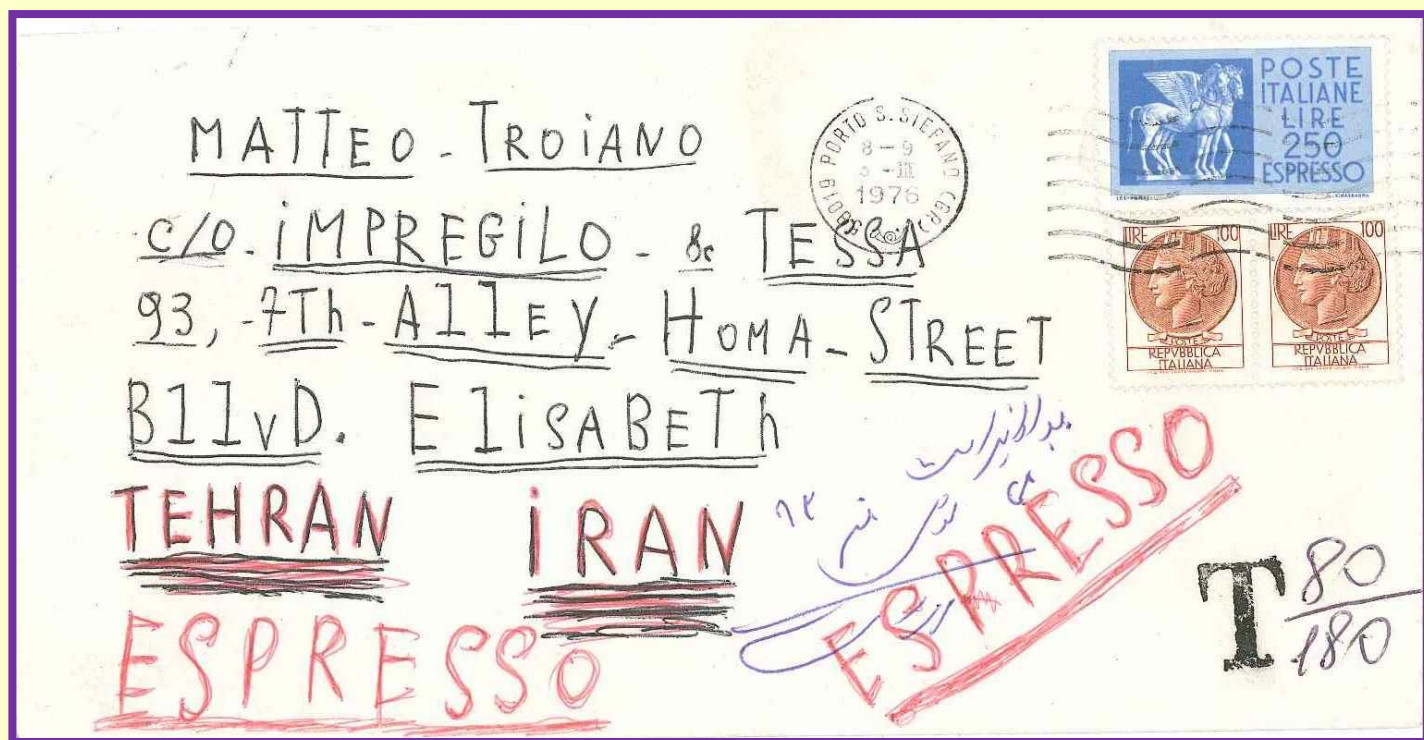


Registered cover from Catania to Frankfurt (Germany), May. 14th 1973
Rates: letter 50 l. (internal rate for cover to Germany), registration 130 l.
Official label



Registered postcard from Perugia to Luxembourg, Jun. 23rd 1973
Rates: postcard 40 l. (internal rate for postcard to Luxembourg), registration 130 l.
Official label

16th express rate for abroad: 350 l. (Jan. 1st 1976 – Sep. 30th 1976)



Cover from Porto S. Stefano to Tehran (Iran), Mar. 3rd 1976

Rates: letter 180 l. (under franked 80 l., taxed on arrival)

250 l. was issued on Mar. 31st 1974

17th express rate for abroad: 400 l. (Oct. 1st 1976 – Jun. 30th 1978)



Air mail cover from Padova to Melburne (Australia), Jun. 12th 1978

Rates: letter 200 l., air mail 150 l.

Official label

Postmark "35100 Padova C. P. – Espressi"

18th express rate for abroad: 450 l. (Jul. 1st 1978 – Dec. 31st 1980)



Cover from
Sperlonga to
Glostrup
(Denmark), Jul.
10th 1978

Rates: letter 220
l. (under
franked 70 l.)

300 l. was
issued on
Apr. 15th 1976

Official label

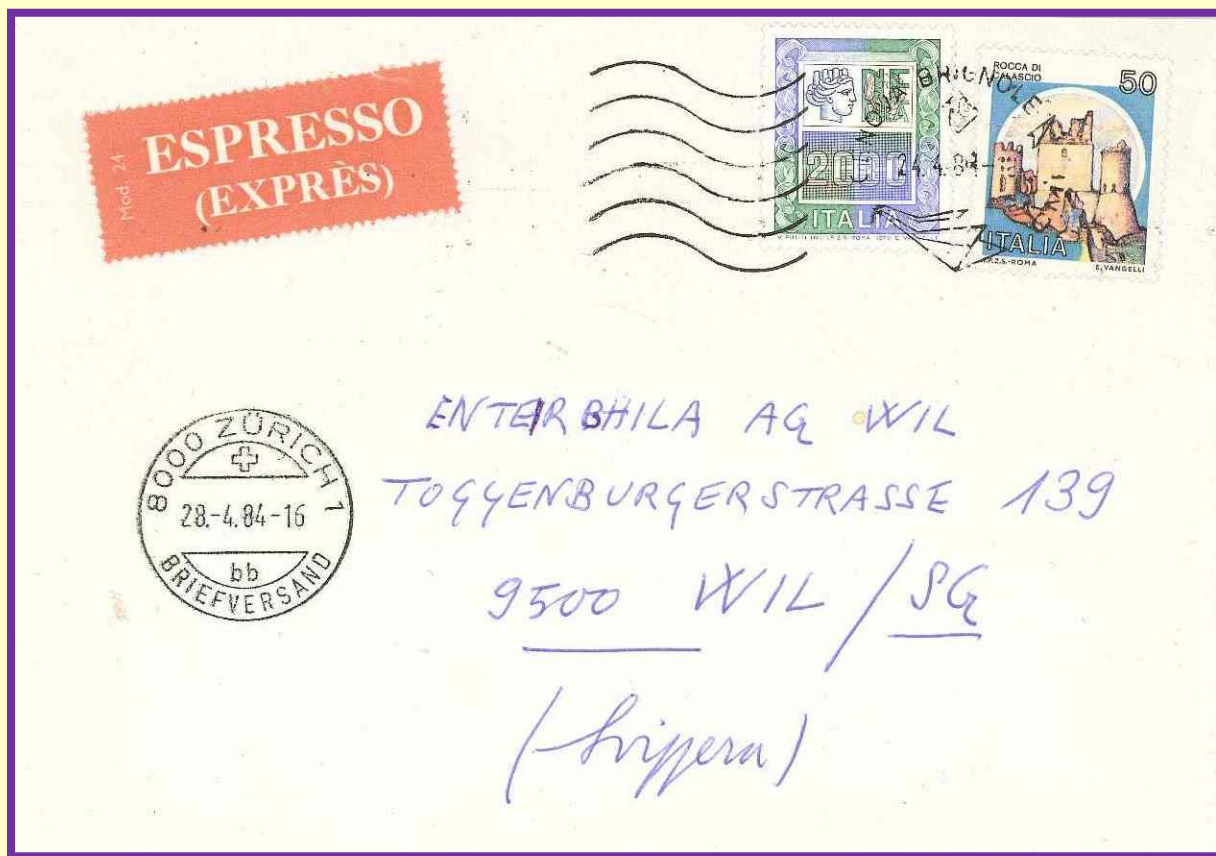


Air mail cover from Roma to Stockholm (Sweden), Jan. 27th 1979

Rates: letter 220 l., air mail 180 l. (45 l. each 50 g.)

Official label

23rd express rate for abroad: 1.500 l. (Jan. 1st 1984 – Dec. 31st 1984)

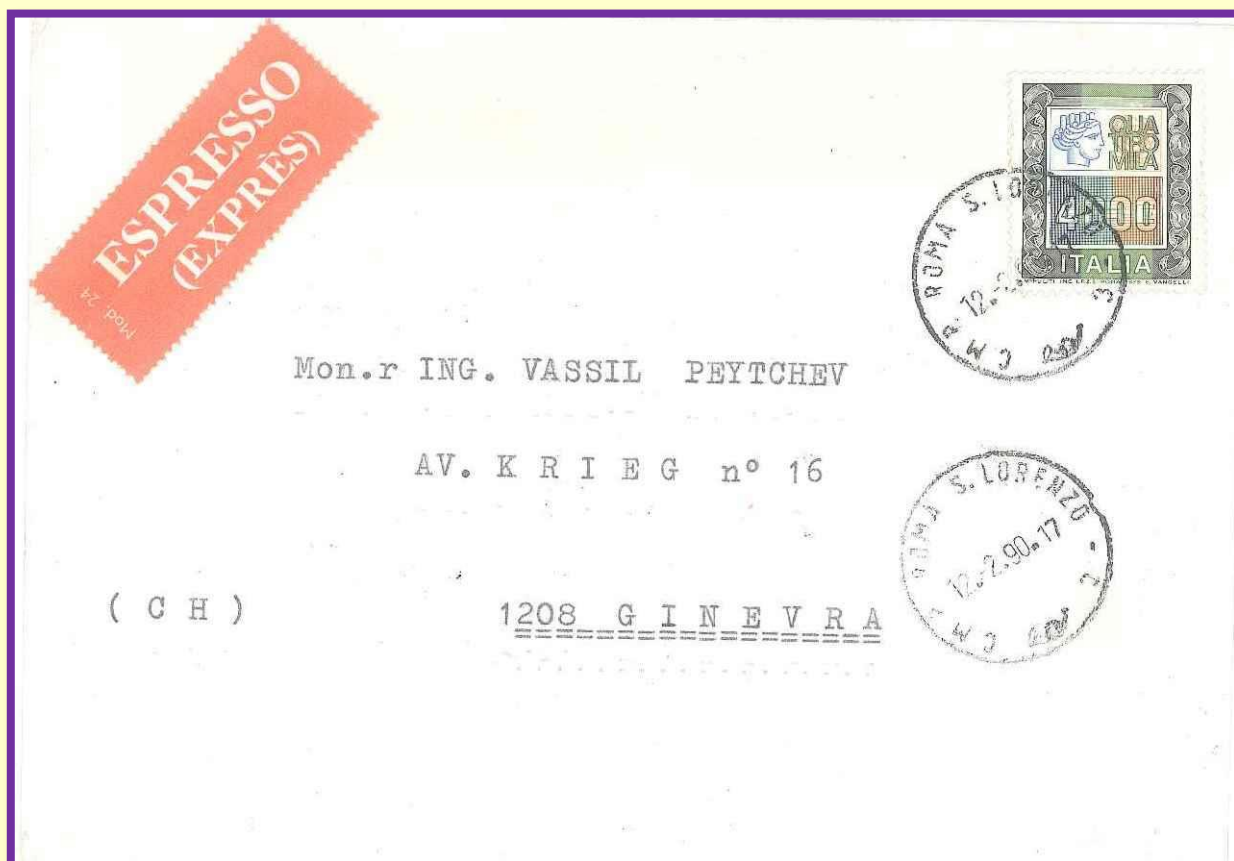


Cover from
Genova to
Zurich
(Switzerland),
Apr. 28th 1984

Rates: letter 550 l.

Official label

28st express rate for abroad: 2.900 l. (Jan. 1st 1990 – Jun. 30th 1990)



Cover from Roma to Ginevra (Switzerland), Feb. 12th 1990

Rates: letter 800 l. (over franked 300 l.)

Official label

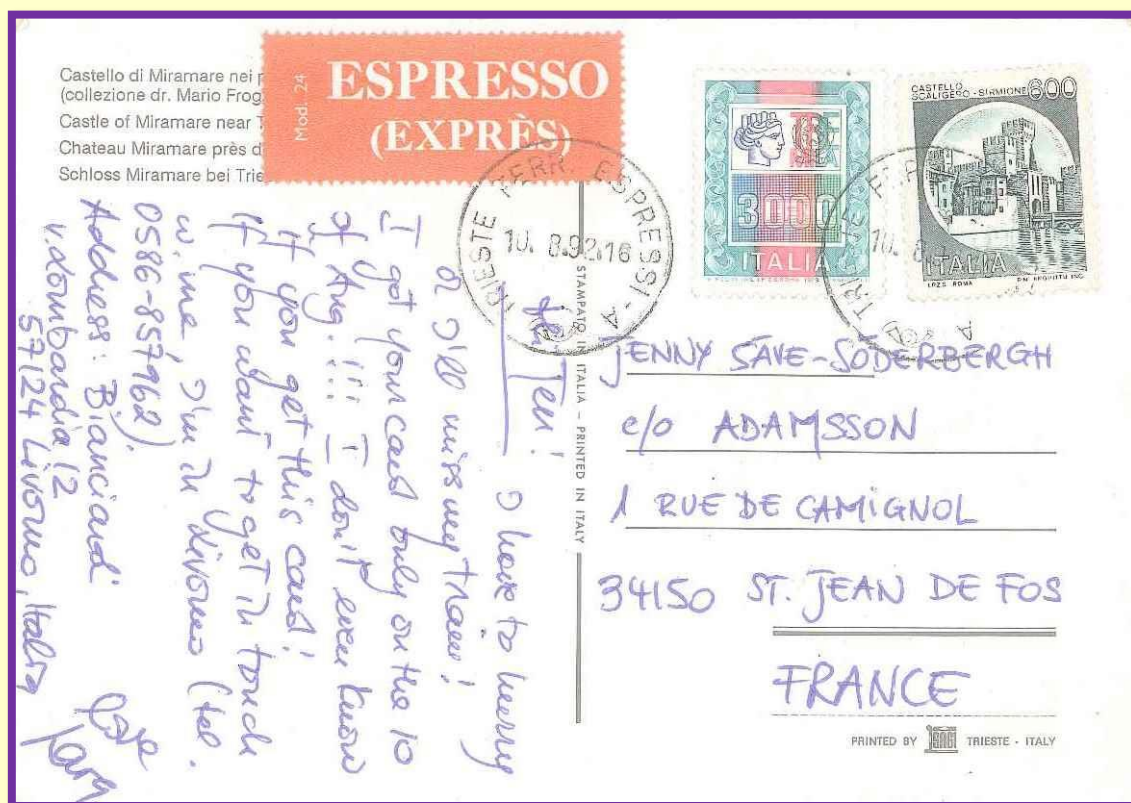
29th express rate for abroad: 3.000 l. (Jul. 1st 1990 – May. 4th 1997)



Air mail registered cover from Ravenna to San Jose (USA), Jan. 31st 1994

Rates: letter 7.700 l. (from 250 g. to 500 g.), registration 3.200 l., air mail 6.000 l. (over franked 100 l.)

29th express rate for abroad: 3.000 l. (Jul. 1st 1990 – May. 4th 1997)



Postcard from
Trieste to St. Jean
De Fos (France),
Aug. 10th 1992

Rates: postcard
600 l.

Official label

Postmark "Trieste
Ferr. Espressi"

30th express rate for abroad: 3.600 l. (May. 5th 1997 – Dec 31st 2001)



Registered
cover from
Milano to
Miami
(USA), Dec.
24th 2001

Rates: letter
1.000 l.,
registration
5.200 l. (over
franked 200
l.)

Official label

One of the
last special
delivery for
abroad