

1840/85 – The mail service in the North Africa ports

Alexandria, Tunis, Algiers, Bone, Philippeville, Oran, Tangier 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 as the reference port for East Indies traffics as well as the the raising of the colonial politics with the French occupation of Algerie and the first Italian interest shown towards Tunisie and Libya,.

The Egypt, particularly, met a period a great economic rise that supported the settling of a large foreign community, about 60.000 people, leading the most important European countries to open their post offices and establish steam navigation companies.

Scope and Plan of Collection: This collection has the objective of offering a view of the mail system, in 1840/85 years, in the North Africa ports according to the following navigation lines.

I-Alexandria *British Lines:* 1a ALEXANDRIA-MALTA-GIBRALTAR-SOUTHAMPTON by “P. & O. Co.” **1b** ALEXANDRIA-MALTA-MARSEILLE known as “Marseille Line” by “P. & O. Co”, **1c** ALEXANDRIA-BRINDISI “India bag” by “P. & O. Co. ; **French Lines:**, **2a** “Levant line” + “Ligne annexe” PIRAEUS-ALEXANDRIA **2b** ALEXANDRIA-MESSINA-MARSEILLE by “Messageries Nationales”, **2c** MARSEILLE-SMYRNA-ALEXANDRIA- by “Syria Line” **Austrian Lines:** **3a** ALEXANDRIA-CORFU (or BRINDISI until 1869)–TRIEST by “Lloyd Co.” **3b** Syria Line CONSTANTINOPLE- ALEXANDRIA – **Italian Lines:** **4a** ALEXANDRIA-BRINDISI by “ Adriatico Orientale Co.”. **4b** GENOA-LEGHORN-NAPLES-MESSINA-ALEXANDRIA by “Rubattino”. **Ottoman Line- Vapori dell’Ammiraglio :** **5a** CONSTANTINOPLE-ALEXANDRIA- **Egyptian Lines :** **6a** ALEXANDRIA-RHODES-SMYRNA-CONSTANTINOPLE by “Azizieh Line” and “Khedivial Packet Line” “ **Russian Line:** **7a** “Steam Navigation and Trading Company”–“ROPiT Line” ALEXANDRIA-CONSTANTINOPLE-ODESSA.

II-Tunis- *Italian Lines :* 1a GENOA-CAGLIARI-TUNIS **1b** TUNIS-TRIPOLI di BARBERIA-MALTA operated by “Rubattino Co.”; **1c** PALERMO-TUNIS by “Florio Co.” ; **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:* 1° 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 .

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

VIII –Tangier-*French Line:* 1a : “*Courrier de l’Espagne*” ORAN-NEMOURS-GIBRALTAR-TANGIER-CADIZ

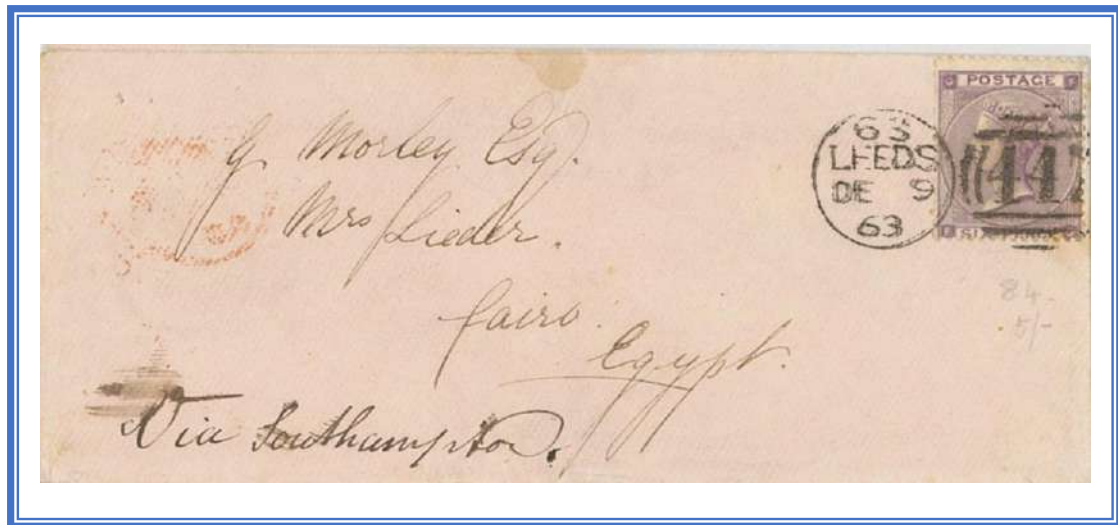
Bibliography: R. Salles: “Le Paquebots de la Mediterranée”; Zanaria–Serra-Dal Negro: “Catalogo storico-postale dei francobolli in uso negli Uffici Italiani all'estero 1852-90”, Umberto del Bianco: “ Il Lloyd Austriaco e gli annulli marittimi dell’Austria-Ungheria; Hany Salam: “The Egyptian Maritime Postal History 1845-90”

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" obliterators 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.

-Alexandria-Southampton - Peninsular & Oriental Co

Cover from [LEEDS \(GB\)](#) -Dec. 9 1863- to [CAIRO](#). It, franked to pay the single rate 6 pence, was carried, as per endorsement via [London](#) (Dec. 10 on reverse) to [Southampton](#) where was embarked on the “[P & O Co.](#)” steamer arriving, via [Gibraltar](#), in [Alexandria](#) to be dispatched to Cairo.



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](#) .

*“Peninsular & Oriental” : Alexandria -Southampton and Alexandria-Marseille
Suez- Hong Kong*



Letter from **MANILA** (Phippines) -Apr. 30 1859- to **CADIZ** (Spain) paid the 4 reales rate to destination. It, endorsed “Via de del Istmo” , was carried, by the “P&O” British packet, via Hong Kong, Singapore and Galle, to **Suez** and, overland, to **Alexandria** where was embarked on the “P&O” packet for **Gibraltar** to be dispatched via **San Roque** to Cadiz (Jy 6).



Front of letter from **MANILA** (Phippines) -June 6 1861- to **San SEBASTIAN** (Spain) paid the rate 4 reales to destination. It, endorsed “via de Marsella” and “Istmo de Suez”, was carried, by “P&O” British packet, via Hong Kong, Singapore and Galle, to **Suez** and, overland, to **Alexandria** where was embarked on the “P&O” packet for Marseille to be dispatched to Spain.

-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*

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** –March 14 1864- to **GENOA** franked, to pay the 60 c. rate for carriage by British packet, with D.L.R 60c. tied by the forwarding mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLES**” and alongside the c.d.s. “Alessandria d’Egitto – Poste Italiane 11 Marzo 1864”. It was embarked on the **British packet** for Marseille to be dispatched to **Genoa** by inland way –on reverse ambulant c.d.s. “**DA SUSAA TORINO** -22 Mar. 64”_ . ©

Letters with D.L.R. printing and transported by English steamship are extremely rare: only two letters known.

*"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." Gibraltar-Southampton and Alexandria-Brindisi

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA**-Nov. 12 1870- to **HONEDALE** (Pennsylvania-USA) prepaid the 8 d. rate for British sea carriage via *Southampton and Liverpool* to **New York** with 4 d. pair tied by the British consular P.O. "Boi" mark. It was embarked on the "P&O" packet and carried via **Gibraltar**, **Southampton** and **London** -"2 cents" credit to USA noted- to **Liverpool** where on Nov.19 was placed on board the **Cinard SS "China"** arriving in **New York** on Dec. 2 -rechange mark "New York Paid All ".



Letter from **CAIRO**-Mar. 10 1871- to **NEW YORK** unpaid the Egyptian inland rate as in 1859/73 in Cairo operated a British P.O.- that forwarded the mail to Alexandria by private courier. It franked 10 pence (6 d. for England + 4 d. for sea carriage) was carried by the "P&O" packet via **Brindisi**, to **Liverpool** to be embarked on the **Cunard SS "Java"**.

"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 one pi. stamp (2) tied by the Egyptian P.O. for internal double rate to **Alexandria** where was added 40 c.(2) Italian stamps paying the double rate for sea carriage by the "P & O" packet to Brindisi where it was disembarked on Mar. 3, arriving in **Rome** the following 4th.



Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -Sep 4 1871- to **NEW YORK** prepaid the 80 c. single rate to destination. It, endorsed "via Brindisi" was *directly posted on the "P&O" steamer* arriving on 6th in **Brindisi** where the Italian franking was tied by the small cartridge "**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**". Then by train via **Verona** (Sep. 7) and **Ostende** to **Liverpool** to be embarked (Sep. 12) on the **Cunard SS" Abyssinia**" arriving in New York the following Sep. 23th

"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.

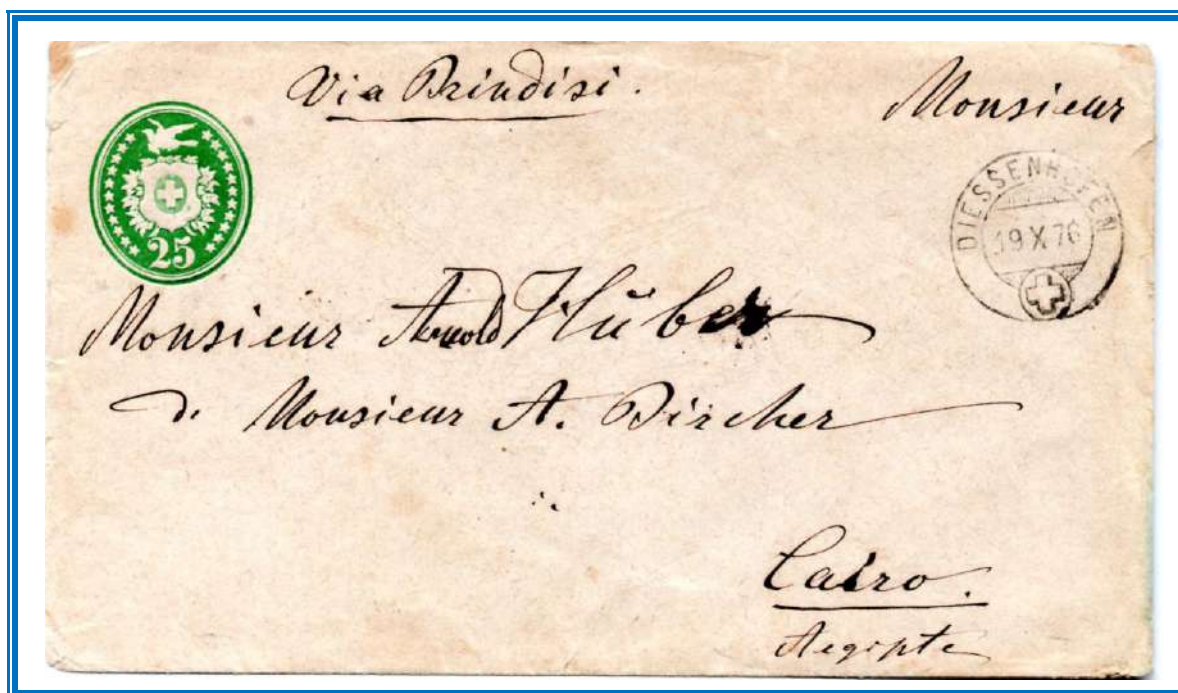
"P. & O. Co. Line"- Alexandria-Brindisi



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." Line - Alexandria-Brindisi

25 c. Postal Stationery from **DIESENHOFEN** (Switzerland) -Oct 19 1876 - to **CAIRO** paying the single U.P.U. rate for Egypt. It was carried via **Geneva** and **Turin** to **Brindisi** to be embarked, as per endorsement, on the **Penisular & Oriental** packet arriving in **Alexandria** the following Oct. 25 .



Letter from **SIUT (Asyut-Egypt)** -**June 3 1878-** to **PARIS (France-Algerie)** franked with "Bulaq " 1874/75 two piasters stamp tied " **POSTE KHEDIVIE EGIZIANE SIUT 3 GIU 78**" It was carried to Alexandria to be embarked on the **"P & O"** packet arriving, via **Brindisi** 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*

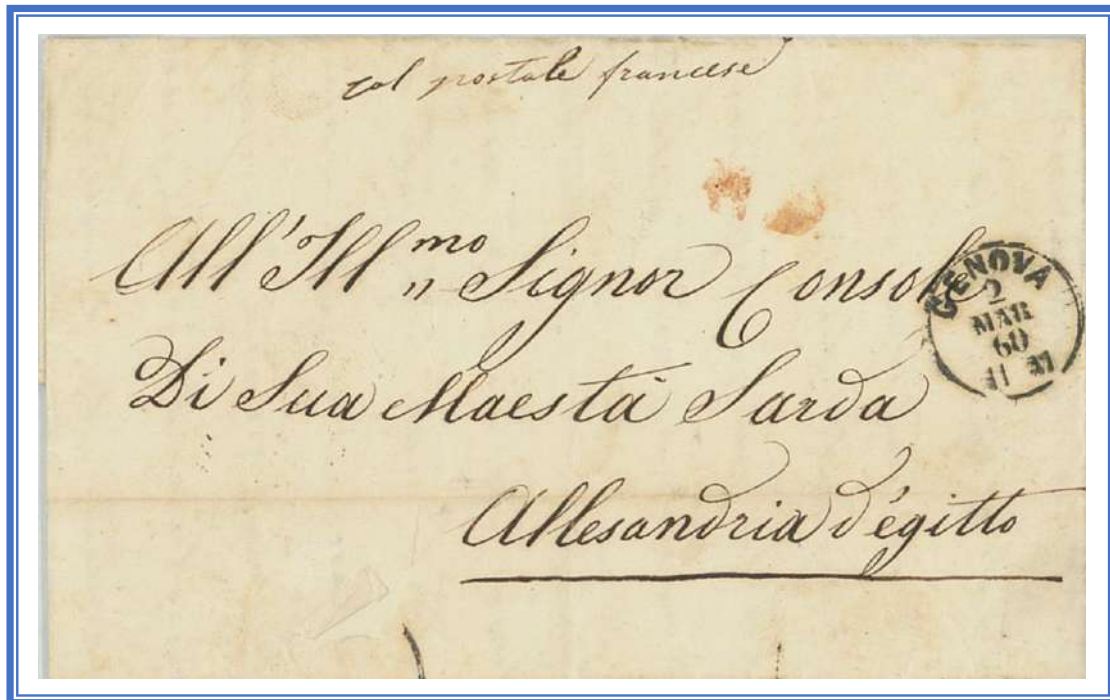
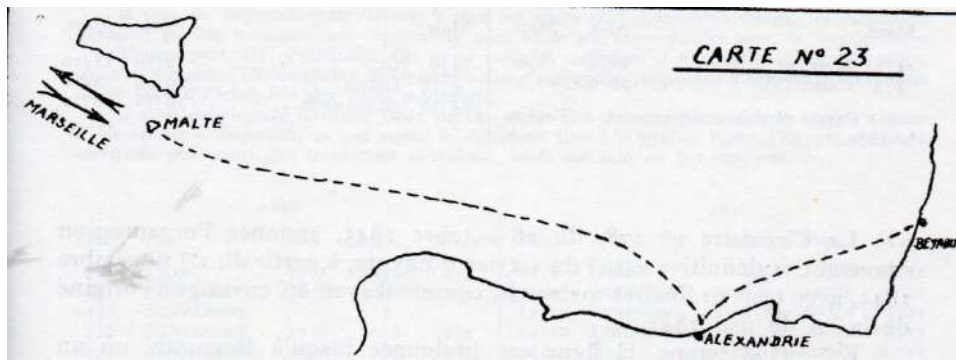
Messageries Impériales- "Italian Line" and "Egypt Line"



Letter from **LEGHORN** – Aug. 6 1859- to **ALEXANDRIA** underpaid (90 crazie instead of 91)* the seven-fold rate for Alexandria by French packets with five pairs of 9 crazie stamp tie by “P.D.” mark and alongside the “Livorno 6 Ago. 1859” c.d.s. As per endorsement “Con vapore postale francese” it was embarked on Aug. 6 on the “**Italian Line**” French packet “**Pausilippe**” arriving the following Aug. 10 in **Malta** where was transferred to the “**Egypt Line**” French packet “**Indus**” coming from Marseille and proceeding to Alexandria (Aug. 14). ©

***At that time -Provisional Government of Tuscany- the rate of 13 crazie for each 7,5 gr. (Convention April 1851) was still requested for letters carried by French packets to the French P.O. in Alexandria.**

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.

I-2b Alexandria

FRENCH PACKETS - Merchant Ships

"Compagnie Ch. BAZIN et Leon GAY" - Steamer "Byzantin"
that in years 1858/65 worked the routes for Egypt e Syria



Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** – Oct. 15 1864 to **LEGHORN**, franked 60 c. single rate 3 for carriage to Italy by French packets. The letter was carried, as for endorsement, by the “Bazin et Gay Co.” merchant ship “Byzantin”



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 “3704” and alongside “Alexandrie Egypte 16 Nov 1861”. The letter was delivered, as for endorsement, to the “Bazin et Gay Co.” merchant ship “Byzantin”.

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.

Messageries Impériales - Egypt Line

Letter from [ZAGAZIG](#) – Feb. 21 1868- to [MARSEILLE](#) overpaid the inland rate for Alexandria with a 3 piasters franking tied by “POSTE VICE-REALI-ZAGASIK 21 FEB 68”. The 3 p. rate, instead of 1 p., was, was, most likely, intended including the registration fee but, in any case in Alexandria was not added any franking and the French Post Office delivered it, unpaid for sea carriage, to the **Egypt line French steamer “Moeris”**, proceeding to [Marseille](#) (March 5) where on arrival was noted 6 decimes tax to be paid by the recipient.

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.

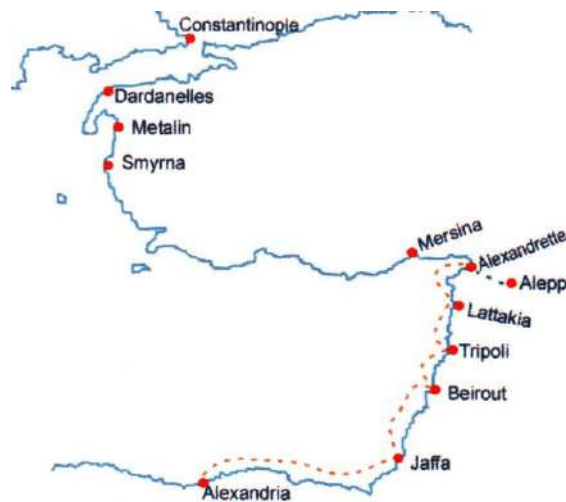
Messageries Impériales Egypt Line and indirect Italian Line

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.) ©

Messageries Impériales- Egypt Line

Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** – Dec. 9 1865 to **MARSEILLE** franked by the French Consular P.O. with Napoleon 1863 10+20 +400 +80 c. tied by gros chiffres “5080” paying the triple rate to destination. 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).

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).

I-2b Alexandria

FRENCH PACKETS

“Egypt Line” and merchant “Fraissinet Company” Line



Letter from LENZBURG (Switz.) -June 28 1870- to ALEXANDRIA paid the 60 c. via France rate with Helvetia 10 c. x 6. It was carried via Aarau and Basel to Marseille where on Jy 1st was embarked on the “ Fraissinet Co.” “Gyptis” steamer proceeding for Constantinople and transferred, at the call of Messina, to the Egypt Line SS “Moeris” arriving on Ju. 9 in Alexandria and the same day in Cairo (French P.O. mark on reverse). ©



Letter from VERVIERS (Belgium) -Ja. 28 1878-to ALEXANDRIA paid the UPU rate 25 c. It was routed via France and in Marseille –“MARSEILLE ETRANGER B.che du Rh.” c.s.- on Feb. 1st embarked on the Fraissinet “Afrique” packet proceeding for Constantinople and transferred, at the call of Messina , to the “Egypt Line” French packet arriving on Feb. 6 in Alexandria.

2c Alexandria

FRENCH PACKETS

Messageries Maritimes - "Syrie Line"



Letter from CAIRO – Dec 24 1877- to ROME franked to pay the 1 ½ pi. U.P.U. rate. It was carried to Alexandria where, as per endorsement “via Napoli”, was embarked on the “Syrie Line” steamer coming from Smyrna for Marseille with a call in Naples where was dispatched by railway to Rome.

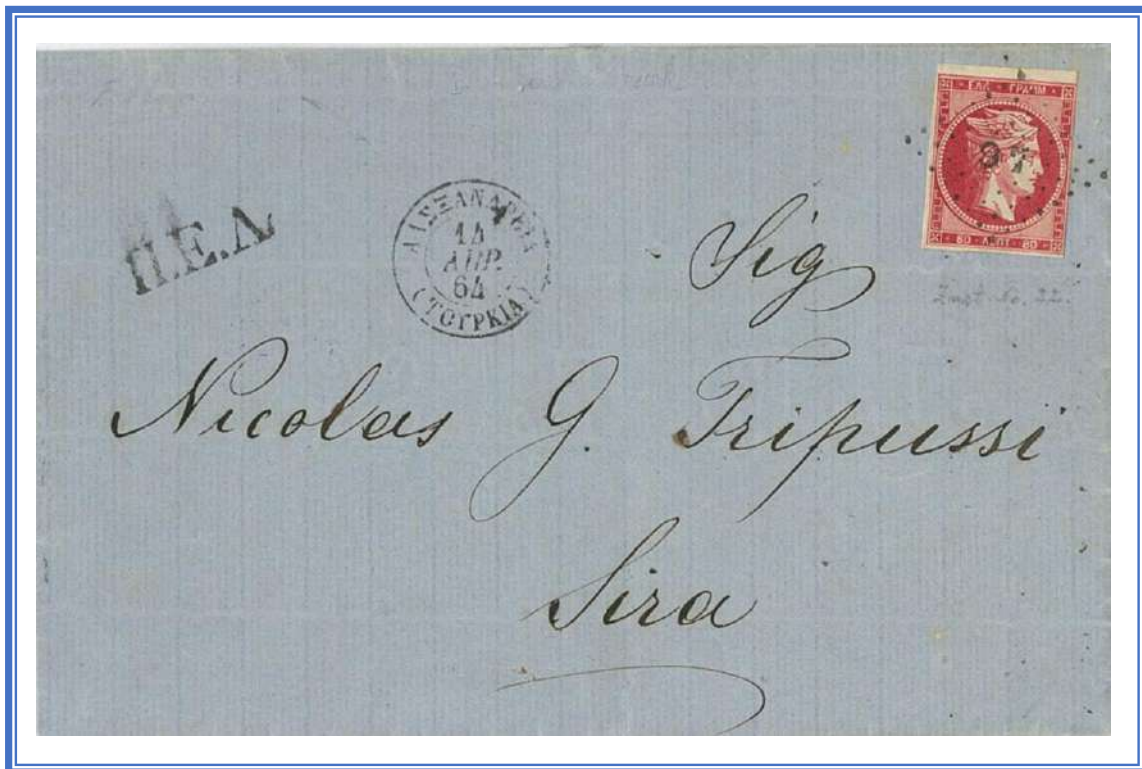


Letter from SUEZ-Jy 8 1885- to ATHENS paid the UPU 2 pi.. rate for registered mail with 1884 1 pi. pair tied by the s.c. “SUEZ -Caisse 8 J1 85” and alongside the boxed “RACCOMANDATO”. It was carried to the French P.O. in Alexandria -“ALEXANDRIE RECOMMANDES” on reverse- and embarked on the Syrie Line French steamer for Marseille with a call at Syra island –S.c. 30 Jy 85(Julian calendar 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*.

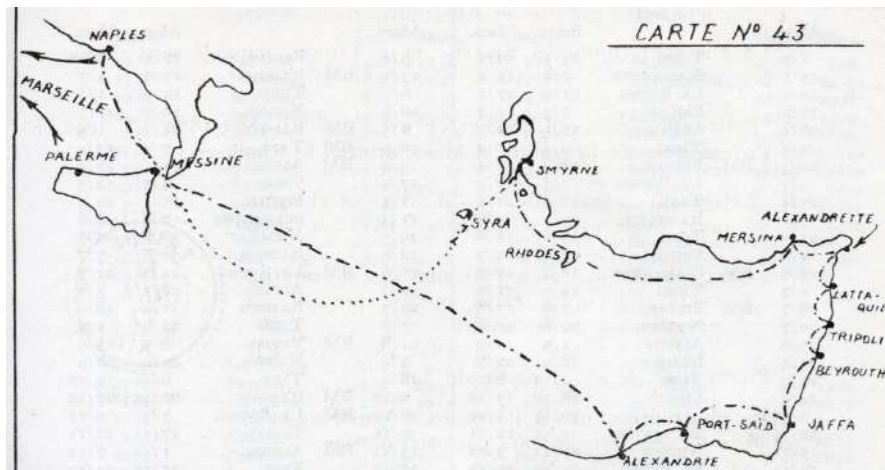


Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -Apr. 14- to **SYRA** island (Greece) -Apr. 19- franked to pay the rate to destination with “Hermes” 80 lepta tied by numeral “97” and alongside the d.c. of the Greek P. O. “Alexandria 14 Ap. 1864” (Julian calendar)*. Lacking of transit postmarks we can think the letter carried 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 following 3 September, where received the entry mark "**PAQUEBOTS /DE LA/MEDITERRANEE**" (Salles 726) and, erroneously, the d.c. "ALGER BATA VAP."

“Syrie” Line and “Rubattino Co.” Line Alexandria-Naples-Genoa



Letter from **PORT SAID** -Oct 3 1863 - to **BOLOGNA**. It was posted on board of the “Syrie” line **French packet** coming from Smyrne and proceeding to Marseille, with a call in Port Said, having the 40 c. stamp tied by the “lozenge ancre” mark and alongside the octagonal “**PORT SAID PAQ.FR. X n- 4- 3 Oct 73**”. The letter had to be disembarked at the call of Naples of the “Syrie line” * but, *most likely*, cause of the cholera epidemic then current in Naples, it, at the call of **Alexandria**, was delivered to the Italian Post Office that embarked the letter on the **Italian Packet “Egitto”** of the “**Rubattino Co.**” proceeding for **Genoa** arriving in **Naples** (Oct. 15) where, after receiving two fumigation cuts, was dispatched by railway to **Bologna**.

* see “Syrie line” map in the preceding page.



“Lloyd Austriaco” Egypt Line Alexandria -Triest

Letter from **TRIEST** -OCT 25 1849- to **ALEXANDRIA**- prepaid - “franca” by ink on left corner- the “27” triple rate to destination noted on reverse ; d.c. red postmark “Triest



Franco 25 Feb, 1849”. As per endorsement it was embarked on the **Lloyd packet** arriving in **Alexandria** the following Mar. 4th “ALEXANDRIEN MARZ 4” straight line mark impressed by the Austria Post Office on arrival.

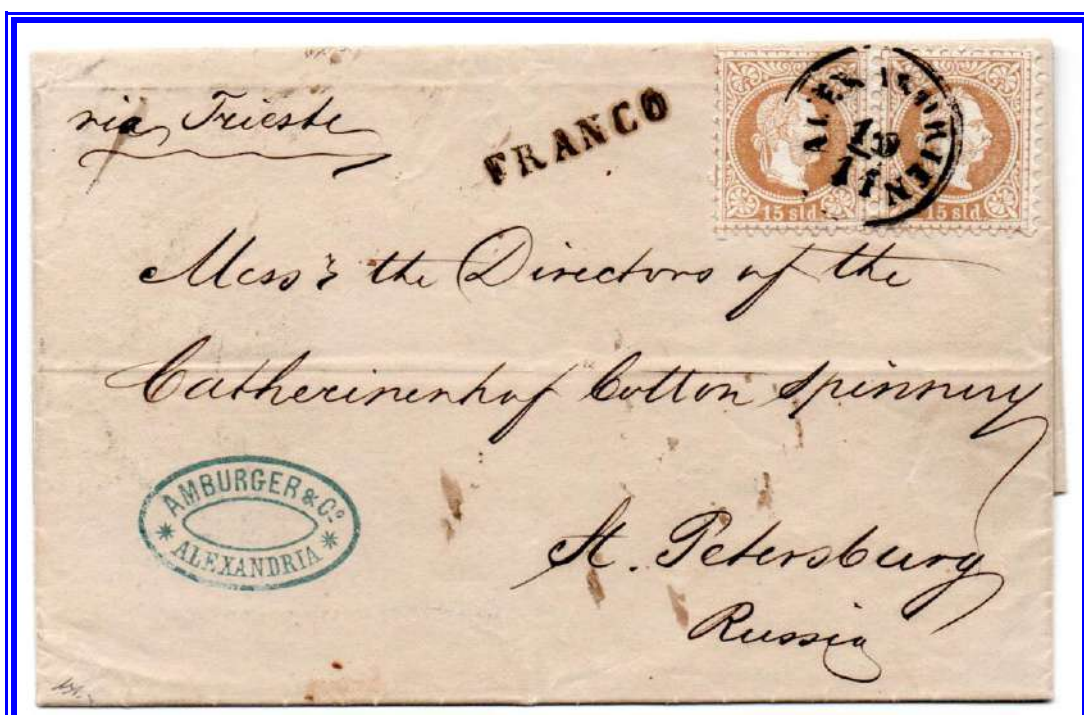


"Lloyd Austriaco" - Alexandria-Corfù-Triest

Letter from [GRATZ](#) (Austria) - December 7 1853 (?) - to [CAIRO](#), franked with 9 kreuzer pair paying the inland rate (9 kr.) and the maritime carriage (9 kr.). It was dispatched 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". Noted by ink cross meaning fully paid for inland dispatch to Cairo.©

"Lloyd Austriaco" Egypt Line Alexandria - Triest

Both letters from ALEXANDRIA to the Russian Empire. The first one, unpaid -Jy 16 1853-- to ABO-TURKU (Finland,) endorsed "via Trieste & St.Petersburg" was delivered to the Austrian P.O.- "ALEXANDRIEN 21/7" cds- and carried by the "Lloyd" ship to Trieste -mark AT (Autriche transit)- At the Austrian/Russian exchange office noted by ink 9 kr. (sea carriage) and 12 kr. (domestic transit) = 21 kr. equal to 23,75 kopeks. plus 10 k. for domestic rate noted on reverse "33 ¾"; the second one paid 30 s. for fully rate -FRANCO- was carried by "Lloyd" to Trieste and by railway to St. Petersburg .



"Lloyd Austriaco" - Alexandria-Corfù-Triest



Letter from **CALCUTTA**- Aug 21 1856- to **GENOA** - franked to prepay (red boxed **India Paid**) the 8 anna single rate to Alexandria. It, endorsed by red ink "per Peninsular" and "from Alexandria to Triest by Austrian steamer" was carried by a "P&O" packet to **Suez**, then to **Alexandria** where was embarked on the "Lloyd" Austrian packet for **Triest**. On arrival noted 9/9 meaning 9 kreuzer debited for sea carriage and 9 for inland rate. Then it was dispatched via **Milan**, where was impressed the exchange mark D.(iritto) A.(ustriaco) a.(ustriache) L.(ire) (Van der Linten 869) debited on arrival in Genoa (Oct 5) with tax due 10 decimes.

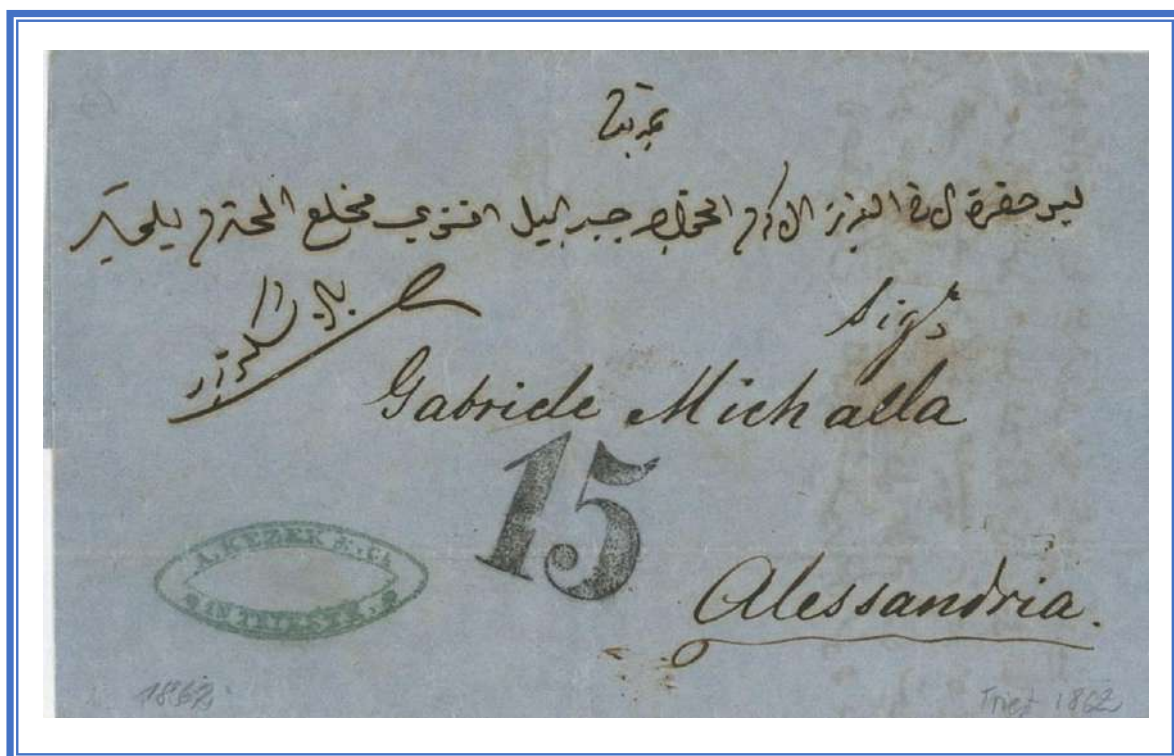


Letter from **CALCUTTA**- May 3 1857- to **GENOA** - franked to prepay (red boxed **India Paid**) the 8 anna single rate to Alexandria. It, endorsed "per steamer Nubia, via Triest" was carried by a "P&O" packet to **Suez**, then to **Alexandria** where was embarked on the first sailing ship of the Austrian "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

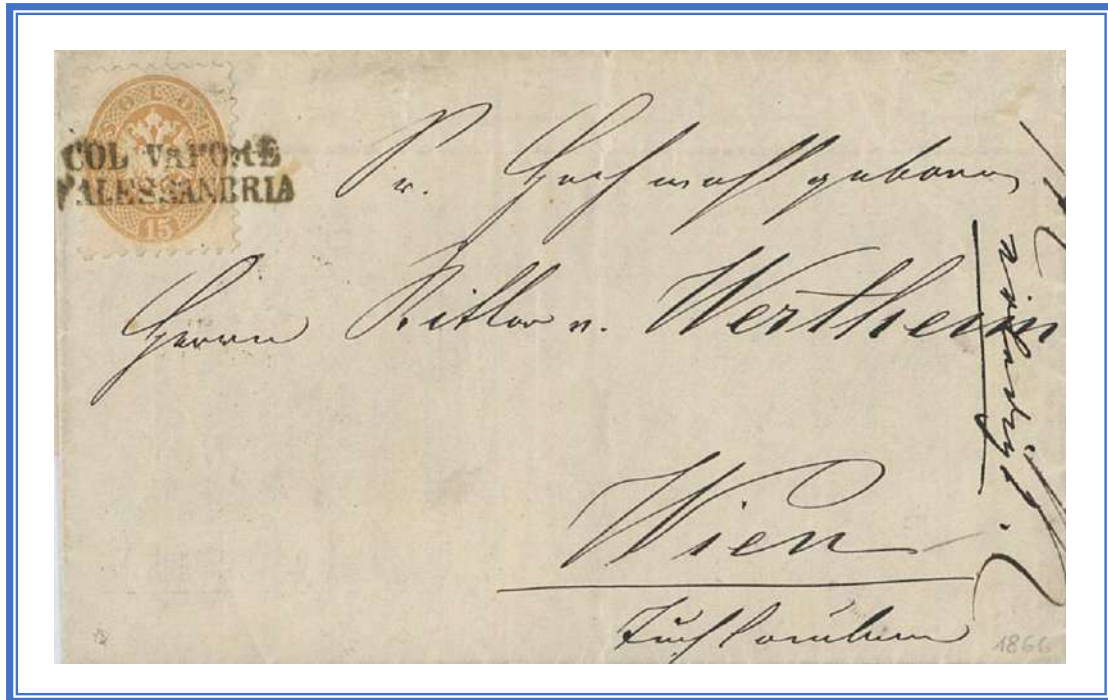


Unpaid letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -Ap. 2 1862- to **Triest**. It endorsed "Vapore Diretto" was posted on board the "Lloyd steamer" arriving the following 8 in **Triest** where, after receiving the provenance mark "COL VAPORE D'ALESSANDRIA", paid the tax due 15 soldi.



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 24th 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 Austriaco” Egypt Line Alexandria - Triest

Letter from CAIRO – Ap. 10 1865 – to WIEN. It paid cash the one piaster “Posta Europea” rate, “**POSTA EUROPEA – CAIRO 10 APR: 1865**” cds alongside, for carriage to Alexandria where the Austrian P.O., after adding the 30 soldi franking to pay the sea carriage and the inland rate from Triest to Wien, embarked the letter on the “Lloyd Co.” steamer for Triest. On reverse Wien arrival mark (21 - IV). ©

"Lloyd Austriaco" Egypt Line Alexandria - Triest

Letter from CAIRO -June 17 1866- to TRIEST. It, endorsed "Col Vap. Aust. Diretto" was addressed, paying the inland rate with Egypt one p. stamp tied by "Poste Vicereali Egiziane-Cairo" cds, to Alexandria where the Austrian P.O. -"Alexandrien 19/6 cds" - embarked the unpaid letter on the "Lloyd Co." steamer for Triest. On arrival noted tax due 15 Nkr. ©



Letter from CAIRO -Ja 18 1868- to TRIEST. 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 "LloydC." steamer arriving in Triest the following 23. ©

"Lloyd Co." - Alexandria-Corfù-Triest

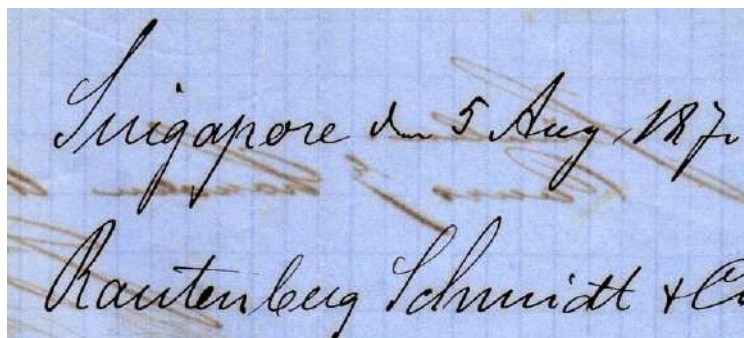
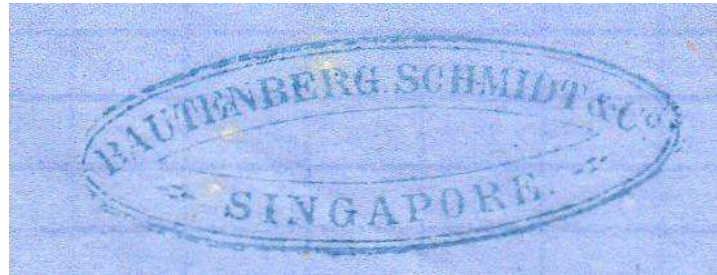


Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** -JY 19 1867- to **TRIEST**, franked to pay the 15 soldi simple rate with Lombardy-Venetia issue used in Levant. It was embarked on board the "Lloyd Co." steamer arriving on 25 in **Triest** .



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." - Alexandria-Corfù-Trieste



Letter from **SINGAPORE** (Malaysia) –dated inside Aug. 5 1870- to **COLOGNE** (Prusse). It was forwarded to **Alexandria** -Austrian Post Office- where after paying 15 soldi simple rate for destination in G.A.P.U. area with Austrian Levant 15 soldi tied by "ALEXANDRIA 10/9" c.d.s. was embarked on the "Lloyd Co." packet for **Triest** to be dispatched to Cologne



"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.



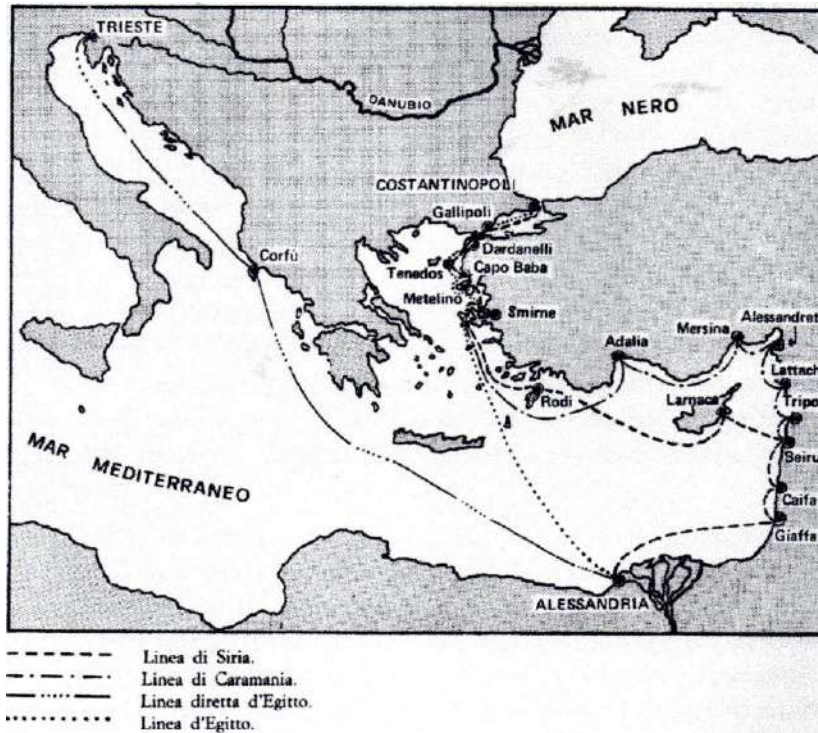
Letter from **JAROTSCHIN** (German Empire)- Nov. 22 1876- to **ALEXANDRIA**, franked to pay the 30 pf. U.P.U. with 10 pf. strip x 3. It was carried to **Triest** - "Triest 23 Nov. 76" oval mark on reverse- to be embarked on the **Austrian Lloyd packet** arriving in Alexandria the following Nov 30; Austria 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 2nd (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." 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.2nd



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 **CARRARA (Italy)** -Jy 22 1864- to **ALEXANDRIA**, paid the 10 cent. rate for “printed matter” mail with DLR 1 c. two strips x 5. It was carried to Ancona – forwarding mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**”- and embarked on the “**Adriatico Orientale**” packet for **Alexandria** ; on reverse “**Alessandria d’Egitto/Poste Italiane/3 Ago/64**” .

“Adriatico Orientale Co.”



Letter *from **ALEXANDRIA** -Nov. 19 1864- to **MILAN**, franked to pay the 60 c. simple rate for carriage by Italian packets with DLR 40+10+10 c.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 24th. Then by train to **Milan** (25 Oct).

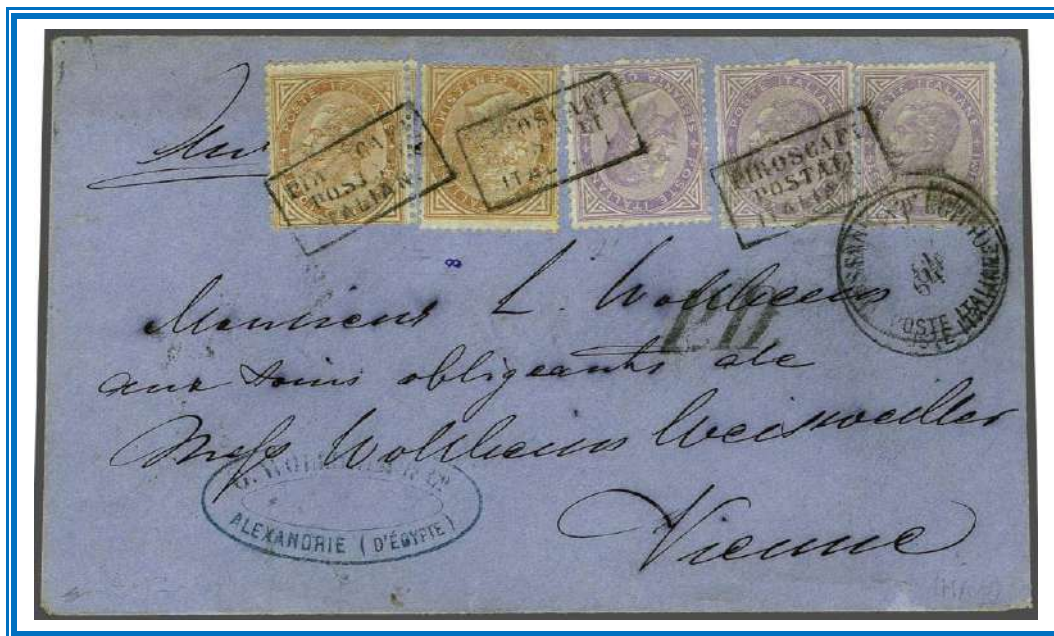
**interesting contents regarding the Egyptian tournée of the great dramatic actress Adelaide Ristori*



“Adriatico Orientale Co.”



Mourning letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) –Feb. 16 1865- to [VERONA](#), franked to pay the 1 Lira single rate for carriage by Italian packets to Austrian Empire with D.L.R. 60 c. +40 c. tied by the boxed forwarding mark **“PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI”** and alongside the Italian P.O. handstamp. It was embarked on the **“Adriatico Orientale”** packet arriving in Ancona to be dispatched by railway to Verona. ©



Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) –Dec. 24 1864- to [WIEN](#), franked to pay the 2 Lire double rate for carriage by Italian packets to Austrian Empire with D.L.R. 60 c.(3) +10 c. (2) tied by the boxed forwarding mark **“PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI”** and alongside the Italian P.O. postmark. It was embarked on **“Adriatico Orientale”** packet. On reverse the disembarkation mark in Ancona(27) and the railway travelling post office mark for Wien ©

“Adriatico Orientale Co.”

Unpaid letter addressed from **PESCIA** - Ja. 26 1867- to the Italian Consul in **CAIRO** . It was carried by railway to Brindisi (Ja. 28) to be embarked -forwarding boxed mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**”- on the “**Adriatico Orientale**” **Italian packet** for **Alexandria**. On arrival the Italian P.O. (Feb. 2) after noting only the tax due for maritime carriage (40 c.) delivered it to the Italian Consulate -circular mark “**R. AGENZIA e CONSOLATO D'ITALIA in ALESSANDRIA**” which shipped it by consular franchise to the Italian Consul in Cairo. ©



"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^o 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**”. (See the next page)

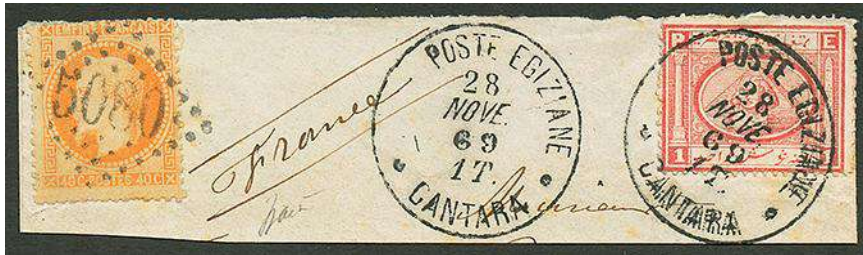


Both of the letters from CAIRO to ITALY (Florence and Leghorn), paid the internal one piaster rate to Alexandria - Italian P.O. where was added the rate of 40 c. for carriage to Brindisi . Both of the Egyptian stamps were tied by “**REGIE POSTE EGIZIANE** - CAIRO-“



“Adriatico Orientale Co.”

The postmark ,with the *chiselled word* “**REGIE**”, has been provisionally used from the first days of July to the end of November.



Fragment of letter addressed to France with a mixed franking Egypt/France tied by the circular

“----- **POSTE EGIZIANE** CANTARA 28 Nov. 69” with “**REGIE**” *chiselled*.

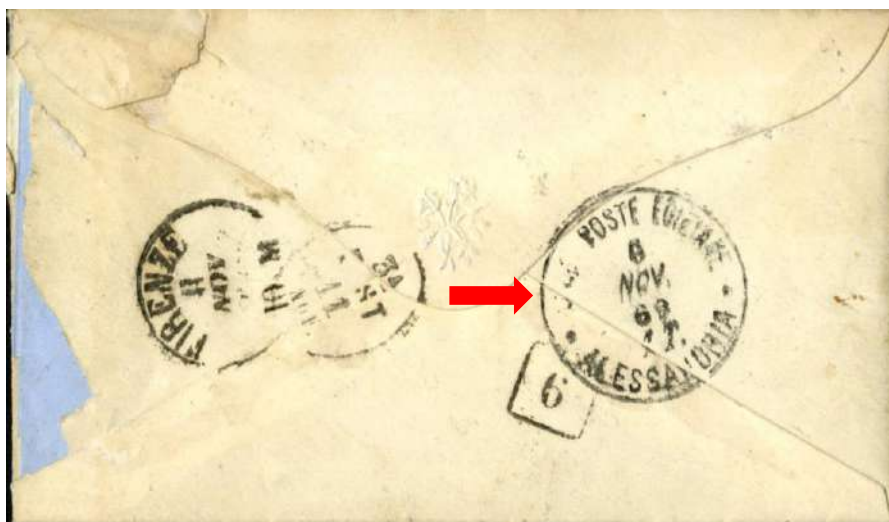


Letter from **CAIRO** - Nov. 30 1869- to **MILAN** franked with one piaster Egyptian stamp paying the internal rate to Alexandria - Italian P.O. – where was added the Italian rate of 40 c. for sea carriage for Brindisi by the “**Adriatico Orientale**” packet. The Egyptian stamp was cancelled by the circular “----- **POSTE EGIZIANE**-CAIRO- 29 Nov 69” with “**REGIE**” *chiselled*.

“Adriatico Orientale Co.”

Letter from **CAIRO** -Nov 5 1869- to **FLORENCE** paid cash - “POSTE VICE REALI EGIZIANE –CAIRO 5 Nov. 69 “ postmark - the Egyptian rate for carriage to **Alexandria** where the Italian Post Office added the 40 c. rate for sea carriage for Brindisi by the “**Adriatico Orientale Co.**” Italian packet . On reverse the Egyptian Post cds “ - - - - - **POSTE EGIZIANE 6 NOV 69 - ALESSANDRIA**” with “**REGIE**” chiselled.

Very interesting and uncommon the usage, at the same time, of the postmark bearing the words “REGIE POSTE” with “REGIE” chiselled , together to the postmark bearing the “POSTE VICE REALI” wording,



“Adriatico Orientale Co.” and “Ligne d’Italie”



Letter* from **ALEXANDRIA** -Feb 4 1868- to **MARSEILLE** franked to pay the 2, 40 Lit quadruple rate by Italian packets with 60 cent. two pairs tied by numeral “235” with alongside the boxed forwarding mark “**PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI**” and the Italian Post Office circular mark “ALESSANDRIA D’EGITTO-POSTE ITALIANE” 4 FEB 68”. It was placed on board of the **Compagnia “Adriatico Orientale”** packet and disembarked in **Brindisi** to be dispatche overland to Naples where on Feb, 8 was delivered to the “Saintonge” French packet arriving in Marseille the following Feb 11. - **provenance mark “ITALIE.MARSEILLE 11 Fevr. 1868** - ©

“Adriatico Orientale Co.”

Letter from **MILAN** - Dec. 19 1869- to **CAIRO** underpaid the rate to the disembarkation port (20 c. instead of 40 c.) –“P.P. –Porto Parziale”- postmark. It was carried by railway to Brindisi (Dec. 20) to be embarked on the “Adriatico Orientale” Italian packet for Alexandria. On arrival the Italian P.O. had to tax the letter but, in absence of the Italian arrival postmark, we can suppose that, most likely, the letter had been directly delivered to the Egyptian P.O. –“ALESSANDRIA-V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE 24 DIC. 1869” postmark and, after paying the one piaster domestic rate, it was carried 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.

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.

The "Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company"- "ROPiT" Line
 Alexandria - Constantinople - Odessa



Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** – April 3 1866- to **ALEXANDRETTE** franked ROPiT 2 pi. having alongside the cancellation of Alexandria "PORT ALEKSANDRIYA". It was placed on board of the **Russian "ROPiT" packet** to be disembarked in **Alexandrette** where the stamp was tied by the "782" triangle of dots and, on the reverse, impressed the circular postmark of Alexandrette.
 Signed S. Sorani. Ex Jeidel, Lars Alund and J. Chalhoub.



I-7a Alexandria

RUSSIAN PACKET

The "Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company"-*"ROPiT"* Line
Alexandria - Constantinople - Odessa

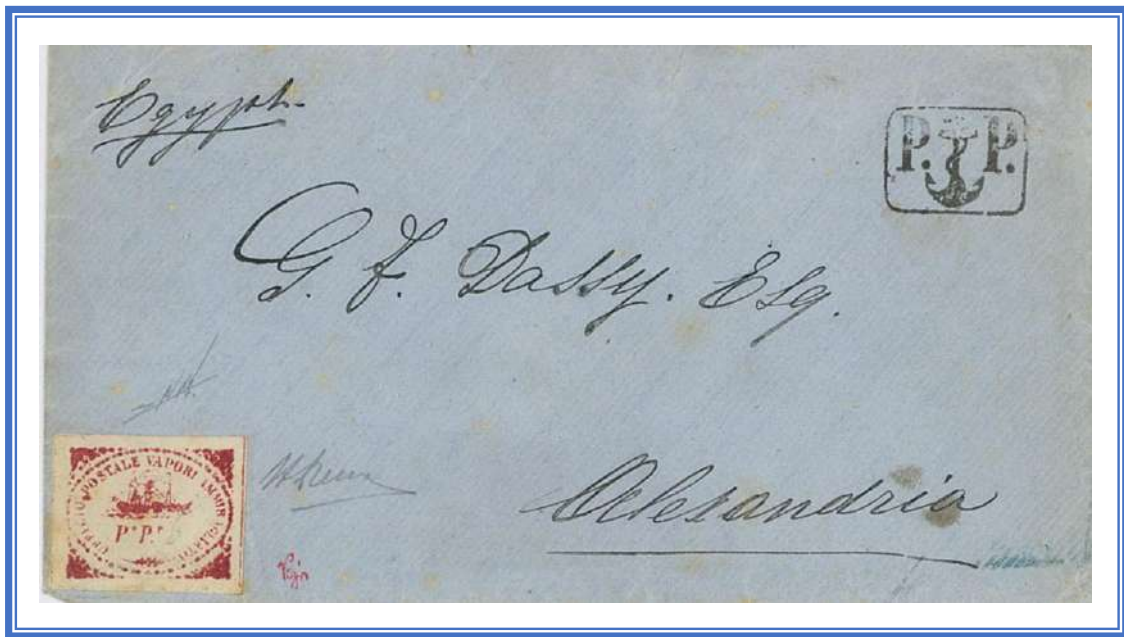


Numeral cancel "785" and circular mark of Alexandria



Letter from **LATAKIA** –March 11 1871- to **ALEXANDRIA**, franked with a pair of 1868 Levant 3 kcs tied by triangle of dots in bleu. It was embarked on the Russian "**ROPiT**" packet proceeding to **Alexandria**. On reverse rare "**ALEXANDREISKOE AGENTSVO ROPiT 17/3 1871**" impressed on arrival, and also the Latakia blu cancel. ©

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.

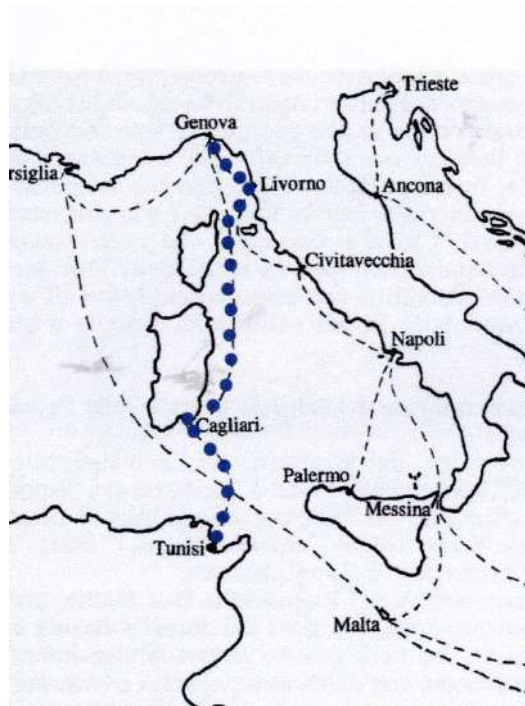
*In 1857, among the different systems to pay the mail carriage rate, was used an adhesive printed in claret colour showing a ship within an oval set in a rectangular frame with ornamental corners and the inscription **UFFICIO POSTALE VAPORI AMMIRAGLIATO**, having, below the ship, the letters PP (Porto 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- Feb 9 1867- to GENOA franked single rate with two 10 c. pair to pay the single rate. It ,posted on board, at the call of Cagliari had the stamps tied by the boxed “PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI” receiving also “da Tunisi” and “FRANCOBOLLO INSUFFICIENTE” marks. Noted also “2”(rates) and “80” c. to be paid on delivery in Genoa. ©



Letter from TUNIS - Feb 19 1868- 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.”

Tunis-Cagliari-Leghorn-Genoa and Cagliari-Naples



Registered letter from **TUNISI** – Feb. 8 1882- to **NAPLES** franked to pay a double rate plus registration fees with a mixed franking “two Kings” 10 +10 cent. + 25+25 “Estero”- It was dispatched by the **“Rubattino Co.”** to **Cagliari** (19), 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 "Esterò" 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° "Esterò" 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° "Esterò" 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° "Estero" 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.

©

II-1a Tunisi

ITALIAN PACKETS

*"Rubattino Co." Tunis-Cagliari and Cagliari-Naples;
"Florio Co.," Naples-Palermo; "Peirano & C." Brindisi-Corfù*



Letter from TUNIS -July 16 1873- to a PALERMO. It was franked with the 40 c. simple rate and placed on board the "Rubattino Co." steamer for Cagliari (17) where the stamp was tied by the cursive mark "Coi Postali Italiani" with alongside "Da Tunisi"; thence was delivered to the steamer of the same Company to Naples to be carried, by the "Florio Co." packet, to Palermo (Aug. 20).



Letter from TUNIS -Sep-24 1879- to a MODONE (Messenia - Greece) paid the 25 c. foreign rate. It was embarked on the "Rubattino" steamer for Cagliari (Sep. 25) where was delivered to the same Company packet to Naples and Brindisi to be carried by the "Peirano" line to Corfu and by the "Ionian Island Greek Co." to Corintho (Sep. 20)* for the inland way. *September 20 of the Julian calendar corresponding to October 2nd 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 (19) –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.” packet** arriving in Alexandria the following Feb. 12.



“ Florio Co.” and “ Rubattino Co.”

Tunis-Palermo/Palermo-Messina/Genoa-Messina-Alexandria



Letter from the Italian P.O. in TUNIS -Ja 16 1880 -to CAIRO paid 25 c. for foreign rate. Forwarded “*Coi Postali Italiani*”, it was carried by the “*Florio co. steamer*” to Palermo (Ja. 18) where was transferred to a *steamer of the same Company* for Messina to be embarked on the “*Rubattino Co.*” *packet* coming from Genoa and arriving in Alexandria the following Jan. 27 and in Cairo (Jan 28).



"Rubattino Co."

Tunis-Cagliari-Leghorn-Genoa



Letter from [La GOLETTA \(Tunis port\)](#)-Ap. 28 1880- to [DREBKAU \(Germany\)](#) 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 14th (arrival mark on reverse).

"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 1st) 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 transferred 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 "Courier 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 "**Courier 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).

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 28th.

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

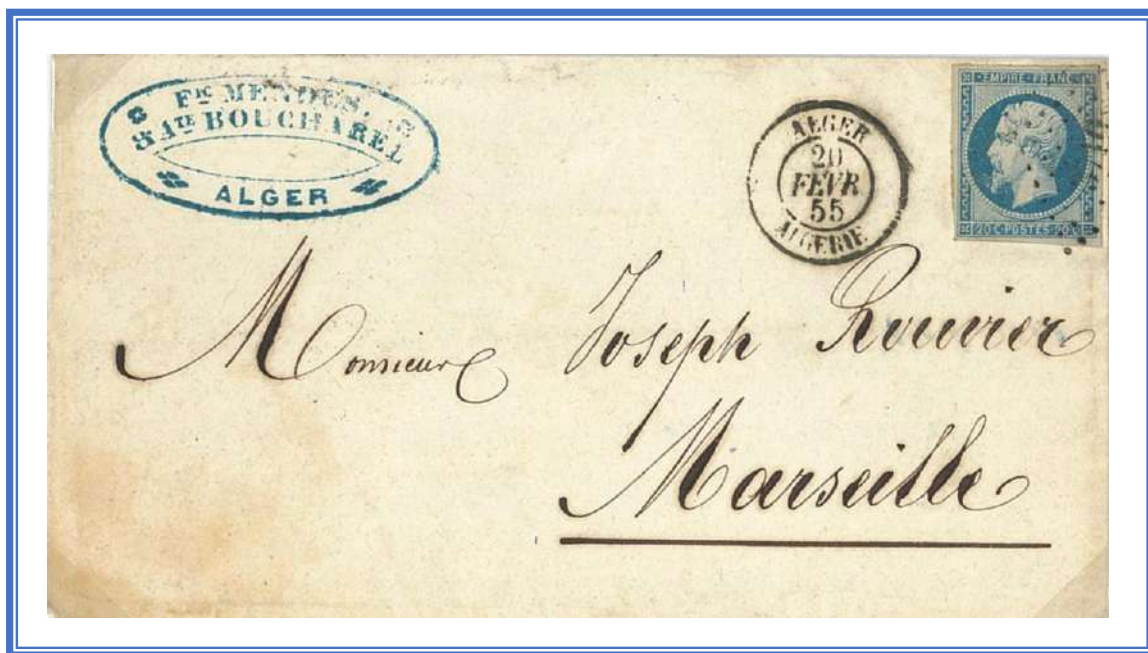
Letter from **MARSEILLE** -Oct. 14 1874- to **TUNIS**, franked to pay the 60 c. rate for the French Post Office in Tunis. It was posted on board of the **steamer** for **Bone** – d.c. “**MARSEILLE BOITE MOBILE**”- where was disembarked the following 17 having the stamps tied by the losange “gros chiffres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

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.

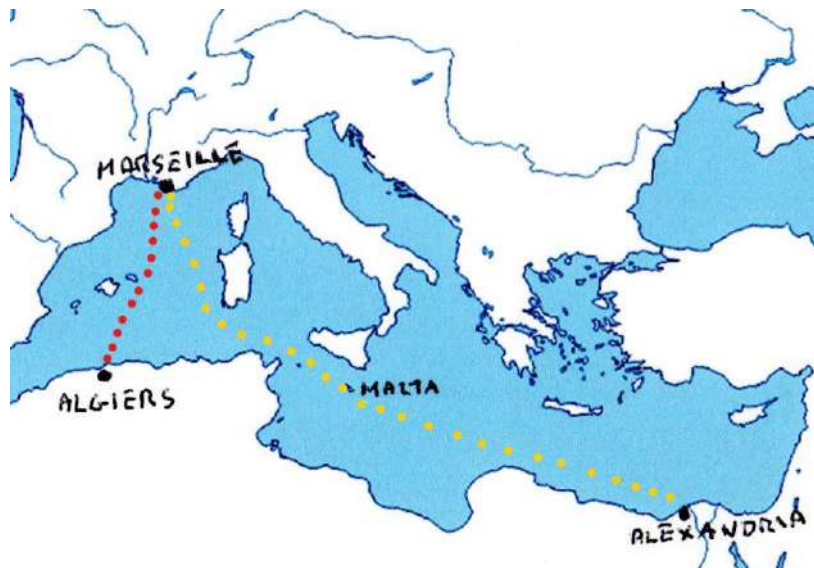


1861-Letter from **ALGIERS** to **ANTWERPEN** (Belgium) franked to pay the 80 c. rate with “Napoleon” 20c. x 4. It was posted on board the **French steamer** for **Marseille** where on arrival the stamps were tied by the “lozange 1896” receiving alongside the provenance mark “**ALGER BATA VAP. 27 Juil 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**Marseille – Algiers*

Front of letter from **ZAGASIK** (Egypt) -Jan. 1 1869- to **KOLLEHA** (Algerie) franked with one piaster Egyptian stamp to pay the inland rate for **Alexandria** (Ja. 3) where the French Consular Post Office added a 40 c. stamp paying the simple rate for France territories. It was embarked on the **British packet** arriving, the following Ja. 11, in Marseille where, after receiving the “**PAQ. ANGLAIS 11 Janvier – 1 MARSEILLE 1-**” postmark, was placed on board of the **French packet** proceeding to **Algiers** to be dispatched to Kolleha.



"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).

III-1a Algiers

FRENCH PACKETS

"Messageries Maritimes" (since July 1871) "Valery Co" Marseille-Alger



Letter from **MARSEILLE** – March 1871- to **ORAN** paid the 20 c. single rate with Bordeaux 20 c. It was posted on board of the packet proceeding to Marseille (*"Marseille Bateau a Vap. 11 Mars 1871"* provenance cds.) where, on arrival, the stamp was tied by the "5005" gros chiffres" mark; then by coastal service to Oran-



Letter from **ALGIERS** – July 1871- to **GENES (Italie)** paid the 40 c. single rate to Italy with Bordeaux 40 c. It was posted on board of the packet proceeding to Marseille (*"Alger Bateau a Vap. 14 Jul 1871"* provenance cds) where, on arrival, the stamp was tied by the "2240" gros chiffres" mark; then to Genoa (15/7).

“Valery Company” Marseille-Algiers

Letter from **KOVNO** (Russian Empire)-Dec. 2 1874 (Julian calendar *)- to **ALGIERS** paid the 15 kopecs rate to France with Russia 1866-70 10+15 k. tied by cyrillic mark “Kovno 2 Dek. 1874”.It was dispatched by railway arriving in **Paris** on Dec. 16 – ambulant mark **“RUSSIE/ERQUELINES-PARIS dec. 16 1874”** - 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.



Letter from **MANCHESTER** -Nov 6 1875- to **SETIF** (Algerie) franked to pay the UPU rate to France with 3 pence tied by “498” bars and alongside the dc. **MANCHESTER PAID** . It, endorsed “via Marseille” , was carried by train to **Marseille** to be embarked for **Algiers** , then to Setif (Nov. 14).

"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 lozange “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 Brooklin**” arriving in **New York** on the following 17.

Messageries Maritimes Marseille - Oran

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



Letter from **ANVERS (Belgie)** Ju 12 1869- to **ORAN** franked to pay the 30 c. rate to France. It was carried by railway via **Paris** and **Lyon** to **Marseille** to be embarked on the **French packet** for Oran.

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).

“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.

Messageries Impériales Marseille – Oran

Letter from **MARSEILLE** –May 10 1870- to **ARZEW (Algerie)** paid the 20 c. single rate with Bordeaux 5 c. x 4 . It was posted on board of the packet proceeding to Oran (“**Marseille Bateau a Vap. May 10 1870**” despatch cds) where, on arrival the stamps were tied by the “5051” gros chiffres” mark.

“Valéry Company”

Letter from **ORAN** -Aug. 7 1872- to **BANDOL (Var)** overpaid (25 c. instead of 20 c.) simple rate with “Ceres” + “Napoleon” stamps tied by “5051” and alongside “**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 Trieste 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

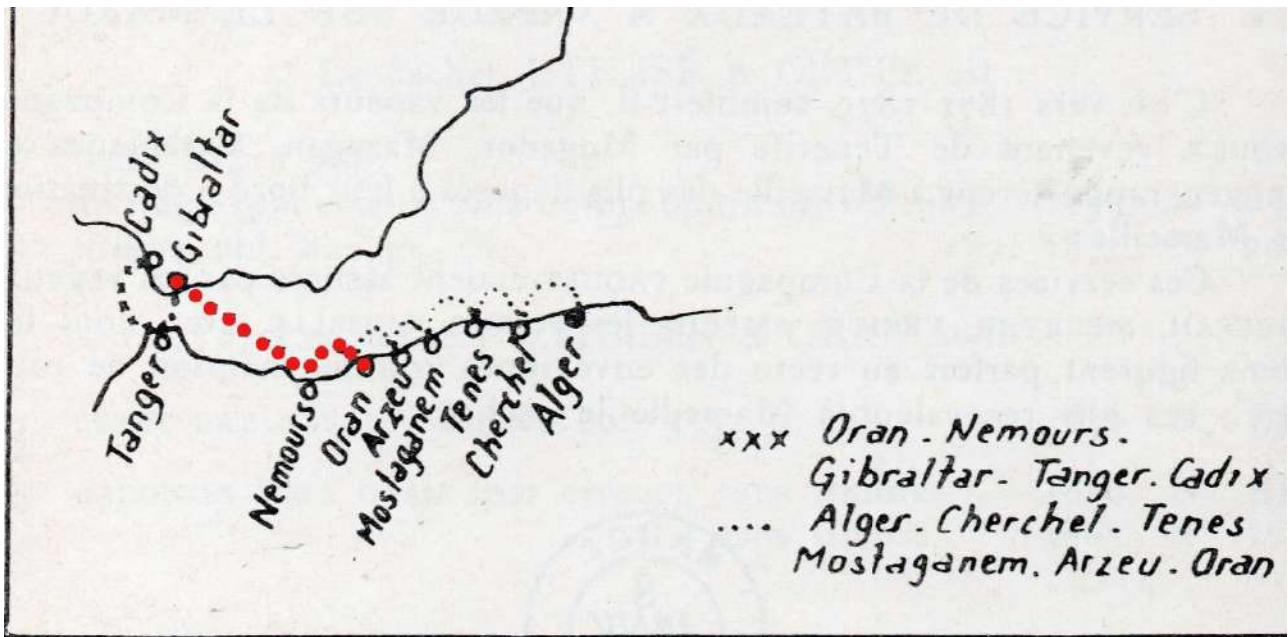


IV- 1a Oran

FRENCH PACKETS

“*Courrier de l'Espagne*”

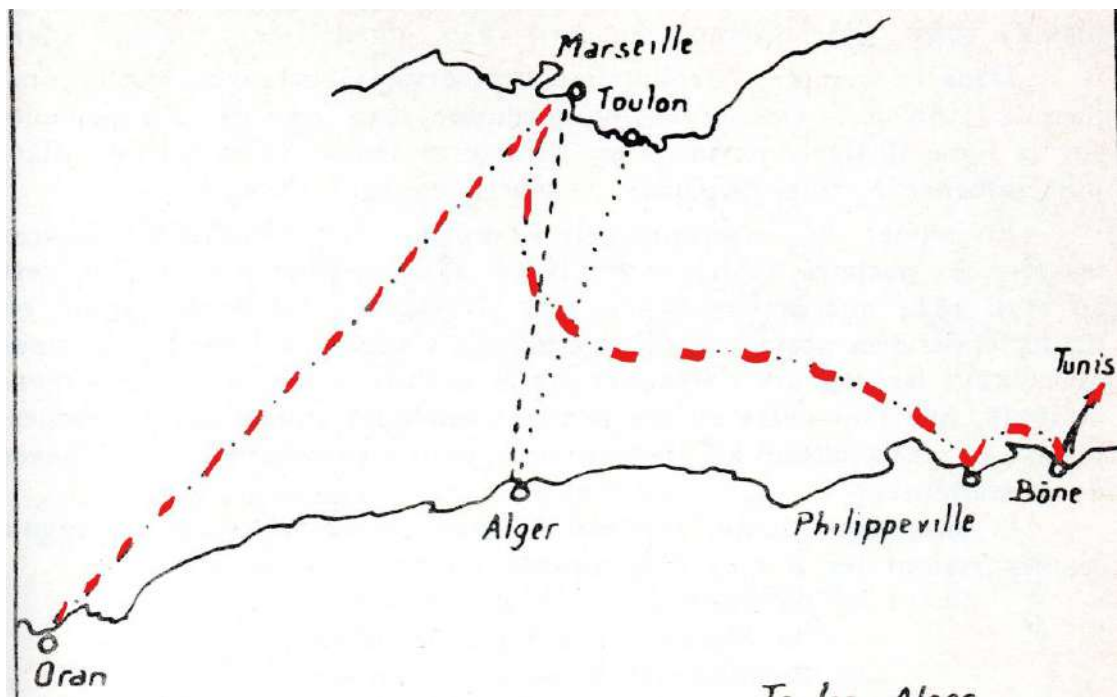
Oran-Nemours-Gibraltar-Tangier-Cadiz



Letter from **GIBRALTAR** -MY 13 1859- to **ORAN** (Algerie) paid the internal rate with G.B. 1858/59 2 d. stamp tied by “G” obliterator with “Gibraltar” cds at left. It, according to the ink endorsement “P. Vapor Francés” was carried by the French “*Courrier de l'Espagne*” packet coming from Cadiz and proceeding, via **Gibraltar**, to Oran where was disembarked the following May 15 -cds. “**ESPAGNE- ORAN 15 Mai 58**”-.Tax due “8” decimes on arrival.



Messageries Impériales Oran- Marseille-Bone-Tunis

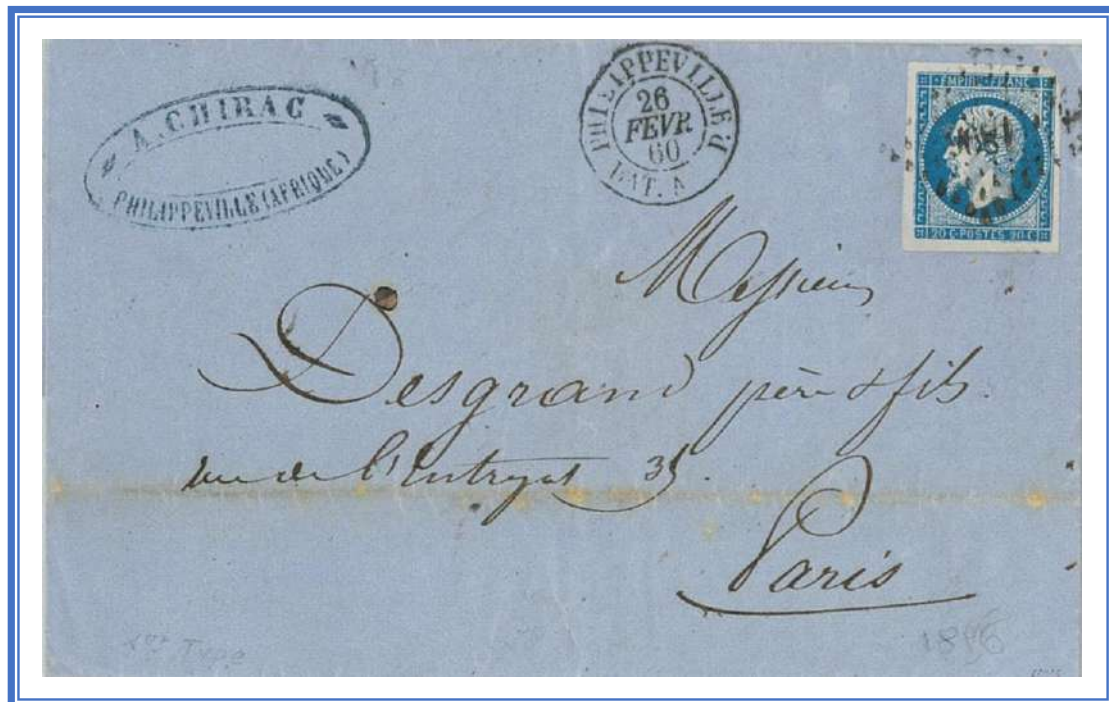


Letter from **ORAN** -Oct 14 1868 -, franked to pay the 40 c. simple rate to **TUNIS** with “Napoleon” 20 c. pair . It was posted on board of **the steamer for Marseille** where received the provenance mark “**ORAN BATEAU A VAPOR -17 Oct 68**”, having also the franking tied by the Marseille lozenge “2240”. 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**(cassè) –(Pothion 497 A), then by **railway** to Paris.

Messageries Impériales Marseille - Philippeville

Mourning letter from **ROME (Papal State)** –Feb 11 1865- to **PHILIPPEVILLE (Algerie)** paid the reduced rate to France for mail sent from French troops in Papal State. It, having the stamp tied by the Papal grid and alongside the “**CORPS EXP.D’ITALIE 2e DIVISION 11 Fevr. 1865**” mark, was carried by French packet to **Marseille** to be embarked for 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.**” 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 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 Jul 1875”. It was carried by the **coastal service** to **Philippeville** where was transferred to the **Messageries Maritimes** for **Marseille** (29 Jul), 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. 1st).

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. 1st 1878) and delivered again to **“Rubattino Co.”** packet coming from **Alexandria** and proceeding to **Genoa** (Ja 5). ©

"Florio Co." Malta-Genoa

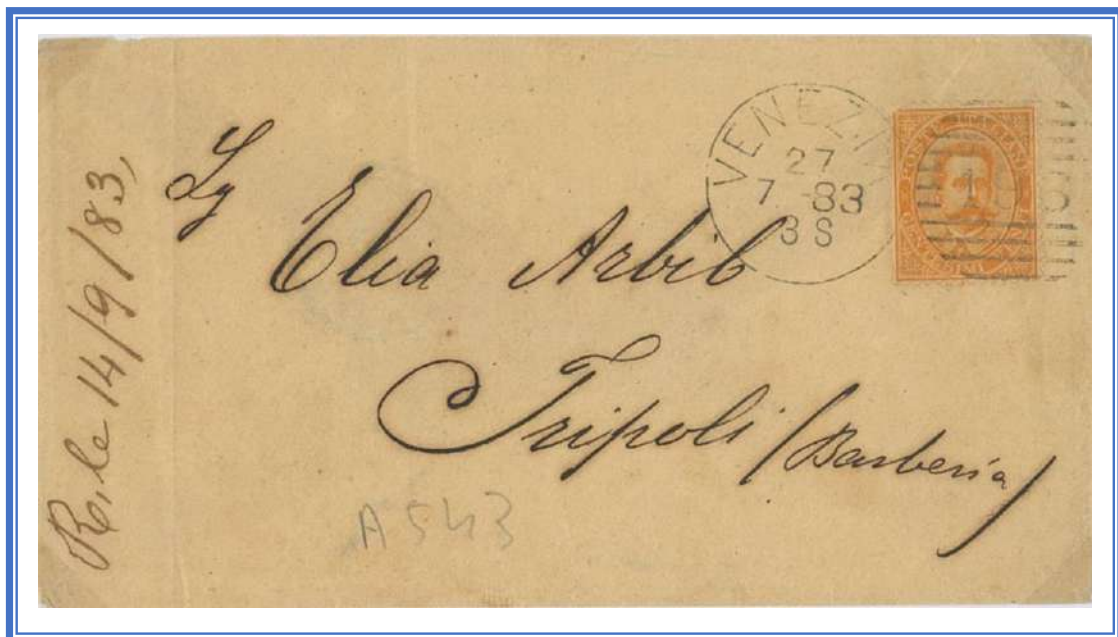
Letter, with full contents, dated June 13 1870, from **TRIPOLI in BARBERY** to **GENOA**. It was dispatched by the sender – see oval red mark- to **MALTA** by a courier belonging, most likely, to the same company, which after apposing its forwarding mark “**JACOB di J.TAJAR-MALTA**”, delivered it to 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- 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



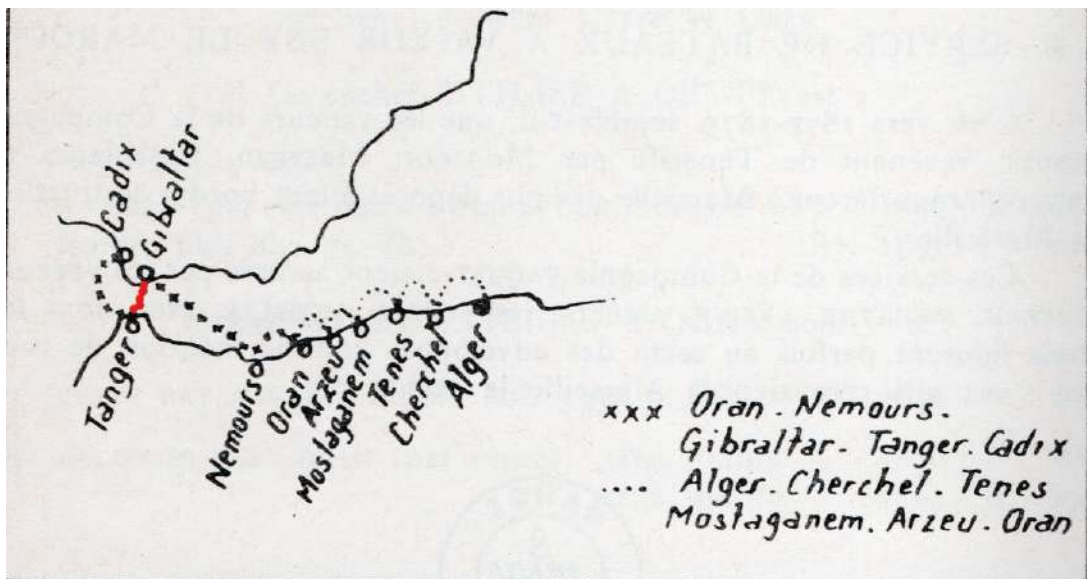
Letter from **CAIRO** -Ja 28 1880- to **TRIPOLI** of **BARBARY** franked to pay the U.P.U. simple rate to destination with one piaster Egyptian stamp. It was forwarded to **Alexandria** and delivered to the **"Rubattino Co." steamer** proceeding to **Genoa** with a call in **Messina** (Feb.4) where was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

VIII-Tangier

FRENCH PACKETS

“Courrier de l’Espagne”

Oran-Nemours-Gibraltar-Tangier-Cadiz



Letter from **GIBRALTAR** -JY 19 1859- to **TANGIER** (Morocco) franked with G.B. 1858/59 2 d. stamp tied by “A26” obliterator with “Gibraltar” cds at left. It, most likely, was carried by the French “**Courrier de l’Espagne**” packet coming from Algeria and proceeding to Cadiz with a call at **Tangier** where was delivered to the British Post Office opened in April 1857.



VIII-Tangier

FRENCH PACKETS

“Courrier de l’Espagne”

Cadiz-Tangier-Gibraltar-Nemours-Oran

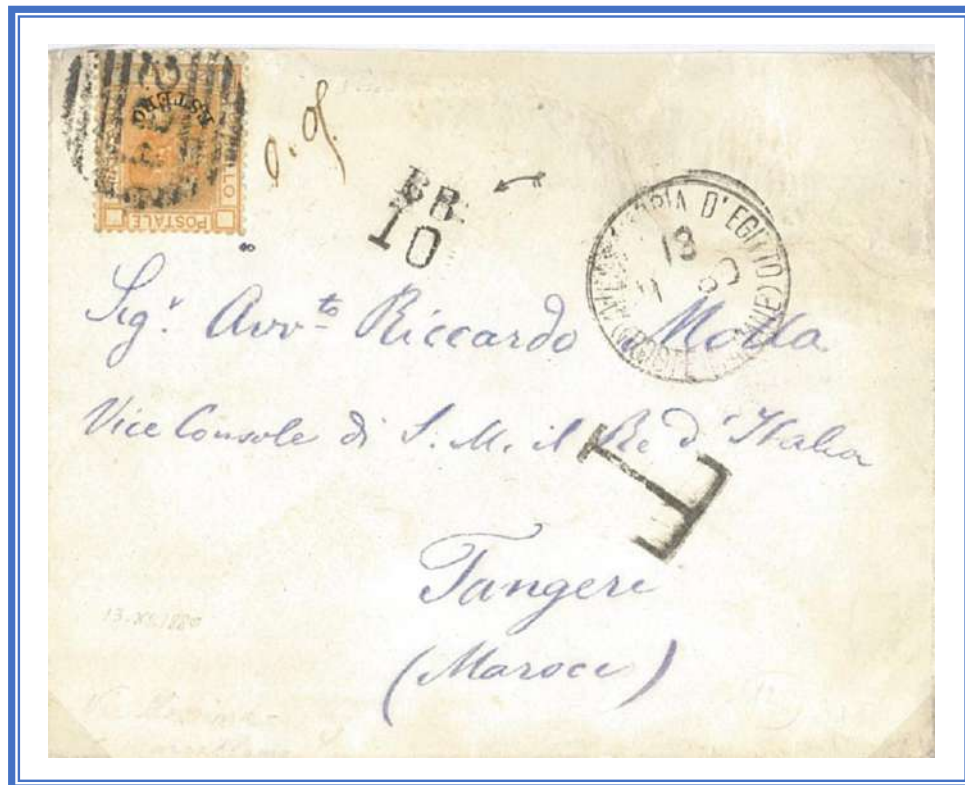


Unpaid letter from **TANGIER** – Feb. 5 1859 – to **MAREUIL-SUR-AY (France)**. It, most likely, was handcarried to **Gibraltar** –where was posted –circular “**Gibraltar FEB 7 1859**” postmark - to be dispatched to the Spanish/France border – “**ESPAGNE/PAR St JEAN-DE-LUZ 15 FEVR. 59**”-. Then by railway to destination where on arrival the recipient paid 5 decimes (50 c.).



Peninsular&Oriental

Letter from [ALEXANDRIA](#) -November 10 1880- to [TANGIER](#) (Morocco), franked to pay the 5 c. rate for printed matter and dispatched via [Brindisi](#) by the “[Peninsular & Oriental Co.](#)” steamer. On reverse arrival mark in Tangier (26 nov) ©

“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).