

The postal rates and the franking system in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



27th February 1811. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Pesaro (Department of Metauro). Registered letter chargé fourth rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate *L.1,08*.
Calculation: 70 Cents for letter sent to the Department in fifth distance + 38 Cents for the registration fee.

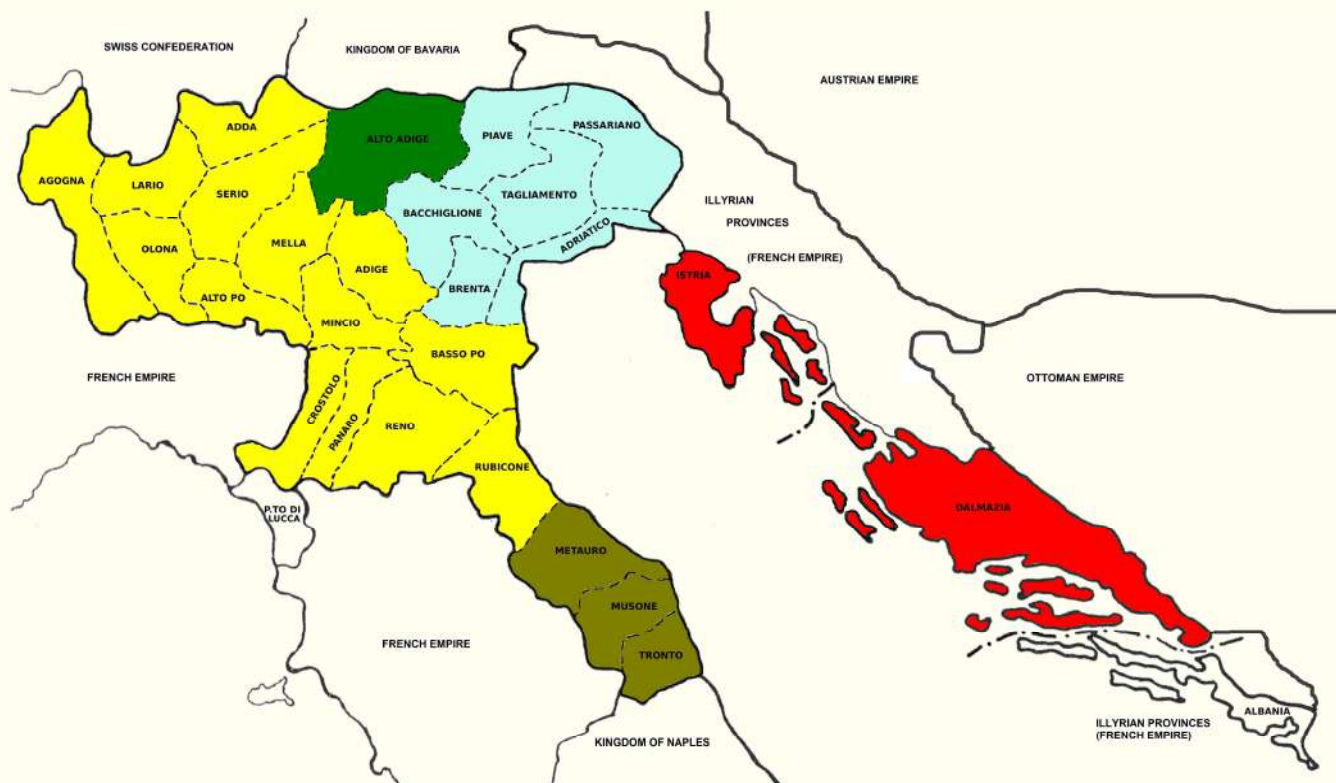
Only two items recorded

Plan of the exhibit

The aim of the exhibit is to show the postal rates and the franking system during the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy, according to the postal laws in use, as the chart below shows.

Chapters	Main subject	Sheets
Plan and key references and own researches		1- 2
1 st rate period from 19 th March 1805 to 31 st July 1805	the currency was the Milanese Soldo (20 Milanese Soldi = 1 Milanese Lira), the unit of weight was the ounce; the domestic letters were divided into those held within department and those to other departments.	3 - 12
2 nd rate period from 1 st August 1805 to 31 st January 1807	there was a considerable tightening of postal rates for the interior.	13 - 36
3 rd rate period from 1 st February 1807 to 30 th April 1809	the Italian Lira was adopted instead of Milanese Soldo; the new criterion of taxation based on the system weight/distance was adopted instead of the old one; a conventional distance between a department and the other was introduced.	37 - 60
4 th rate period from 1 st May 1809 to 30 th June 1811	the division of the first group of letters weighting less than ¼ ounce and those with weight ¼ ounce was introduced and all the rates were increased.	61 - 96
5 th rate period from 1 st July 1811 to 26 th April 1814	the metric system was introduced in the weights, moving from ounces to grams; the weight ranges were reduced and a further fee increase was applied; the calculation of distances was made in kilometres, according to the shortest path really travelled, always divided into eight distance bands.	97 - 120
Total sheets		120

The Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy in its territorial evolution



- Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy as it was at its inception in March 1805
- Departments created as a result of the annexations of March 1806
- Departments created as a result of annexations of March 1806, annexed to the French Empire (Illyrian Provinces) on 14th October 1809
- Departments created as a result of annexations of April 1808
- Department created after the Treaty of Schönbrunn of 14th October 1809, lost in the autumn of 1813

Own researches

❖ Marco Panza

- *Postal rates in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 – 1814*, The London Philatelist, November 2021 – **Article awarded the Tapling Medal 2022**
- *La franchigia postale nell'Italia Napoleonica*, Cursors Anno IX - n. 19 - AISP Milan, May 2016
- *Tariffe, franchigie, leggi e decreti postali nel Regno d'Italia Napoleonico 1805-1814*, book published by CFB Italy, September 2018

Literature

❖ Archivio di Stato, Bergamo:

- *Raccolta Leggi 1805 – 1814*
- *Prefettura del Dipartimento del Serio, Serie Finanze, cartella 866, fascicolo 53*
- *Archivio CCIAA, Busta 518, classe 1, fascicolo 12*
- *Instruction Général sur le Service des Postes 1808*

❖ Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, Milan:

- *Legge 4 Fiorile anno VI Repubblicano (23 April 1798)*
- *Legge 6 Brumaio anno VII Repubblicano (27 October 1798)*
- *Legge 9 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano (26 December 1800)*

❖ Federico Borromeo, *I luoghi della posta, Quaderni di storia postale*, ISSP, Prato, 1998 and updating 2018

❖ Michèle Chauvet, *Introduction à l'Histoire Postale des origines à 1849*, J.F. Brun 2016

❖ James Van der Linden, *Catalogue Marques de passages 1661 - 1875*, Soluphil, Paris - Luxembourg 1993

Notes about the philatelic description and presentation

- ❖ In the following pages the transit stamps are illustrated only the first time they appear on the letters
- ❖ The most important letters are framed in red

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

1.1 - Letters within a Department

On 19th March 1805, when the Italian Republic was transformed into the Kingdom of Italy with its capital at Milan, the new Government adopted the postal rates that were applied in Cisalpina Republic by the **Legge 5 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano** (26th December 1800).

The postal rates, that could be payment rate by the addressee or prepaid rate "Port Payé - P.P. by the sender, were expressed in Milanese Soldi and they were calculated according to the weight of the letters. Domestic letters were divided into those serviced within a department and those addressed to other departments.

The mark "**Déboursé**" was only used in the French Empire, not in the Kingdom of Italy. The rates paid by the addressee and the prepaid "Port Payé" rates were the same. One Milanese Lira was subdivided into 20 Milanese Soldi and 1 Milanese Soldo was subdivided into 12 Denari.

		Domestic		To and from Foreign Countries		
Weight in oz	Weight in g	Within department	To others departments	Abroad	From abroad (1)	From abroad (2)
1/4	7,50	1,6	3,0	2,0	4,0	6,0
3/8	11,25	2,3	4,6	3,0	6,0	9,0
1/2	15,00	3,0	6,0	4,0	8,0	12,0
5/8	18,75	3,9	7,6	5,0	10,0	15,0
6/8	22,50	4,6	9,0	6,0	12,0	18,0
7/8	26,25	5,3	10,6	7,0	14,0	21,0
1	30,00	6,0	12,0	8,0	16,0	24,0
Chargé Letters			Surcharge of 10 Soldi			

Rates over 1 oz were calculated with the same weight bands.

- (1) From neighbouring States within Italy or from Grigioni
- (2) From foreign Countries of Italy and outside Italy



29th July 1805. From Bologna to Sant'Agata (Department of Reno). Tenth rate letter, weighing 1½ oz: rate **8 Soldi**, rounded down to one Denaro.

The only letter as far as I know sent within a Department in this period.

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

I.2 - Letters between Departments

Although eight years had already passed since the fall of the Serenissima Republic of Venice, the Napoleonic postal service still used the marks of the old Republic.



←
Up to 07.1808

17th June 1805. From Bergamo (Department of Serio) to Milan (Department of Olona). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **3 Soldi**.

the weight

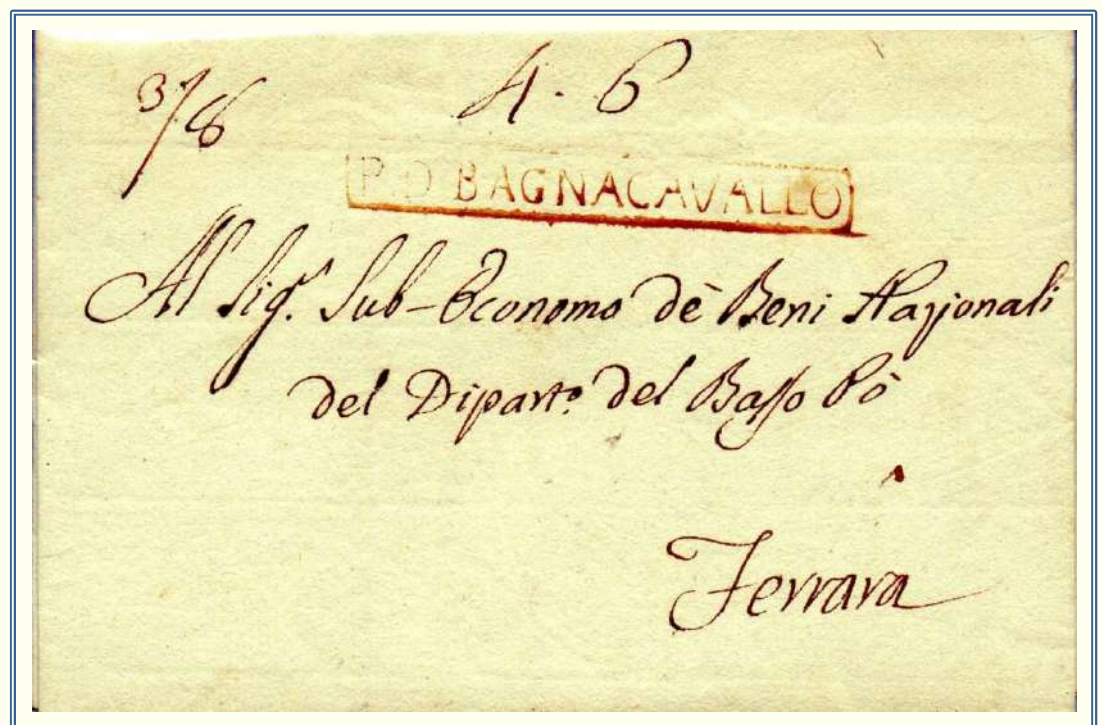
3/8

3/8 oz.

.... and the rate

A. B

4 Soldi and 6 Denari



5th May 1805. From Bagnacavallo, near Bologna (Department of Reno) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz, as indicated on the front of the letter: rate **4 Soldi and 6 Denari**.



28th March 1805. From Reggio (Department of Crostolo) to Modena (Department of Panaro). Third rate letter, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ oz: rate 6 Soldi.



27th March 1805. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Santa Vittoria, near Reggio (Department of Crostolo). Twenty-first rate letter, weighing 3 oz: rate 33 Soldi.

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

1.3 - Letters sent abroad

11th April 1805.

From Cremona (Department of Alto Po) to Naples. Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **2 Soldi**. No indication of any Kingdom of Naples fee collected on arrival.



2 Soldi

franca per Venezia

A Sua Eccellenza
Il sig. Cavaliere Giovanni de' Lazara
Padova

13th April 1805. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Padua (at that time Austrian Empire). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **3 Soldi**. *franca per Venezia* (free of charge to Venice).

14th July 1805. From Forlì to Fermo, near Ascoli (at that time Papal States). Initially the letter was sent to Fermo. Triple rate letter, 1/2 oz: rate **4 Soldi**. Then, it was redirected to Force and rated **5 Soldi**, as if it were a letter weighing 5/8 oz.



First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

I.4 - Letters from neighbouring States of Italy

The neighbouring States of Italy were: Venice and its territory, Parma – Piacenza, Genoa, Tuscany, Lucca and Papal State. The only foreign Country of Italy was the Kingdom of Naples.



15th July 1805. From Piacenza (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Milan (Department of Olona). **4** Soldi were charged on delivery in Milan, as required for a single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz.



18th July 1805. From Rome (at that time Papal States) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **6** Soldi were charged on delivery, as required for a single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz.

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

1.4 - Letters from neighbouring States of Italy
1.5 - Letters from foreign Countries of Italy and outside Italy

The neighbouring States of Italy were: Venice and its territory, Parma – Piacenza, Genoa, Tuscany, Lucca and Papal State. The only foreign Country of Italy was the Kingdom of Naples.



13th April 1805. From Genoa (Conquered Department of Genova, part of French Empire) to Bologna (Department of Reno). **8 Soldi** were charged on delivery in Bologna, as required for a triple rate letter, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.



12th June 1805. From Vienna (Austrian Empire) to Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid **16** Kreuzer up to the Austrian Empire border, for letter weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 lot (postal reform 15th November 1803). **6 Soldi** were charged on delivery in Lodi, as required for a double rate letter, weighing $\frac{3}{8}$ oz.

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

I.6 - Letters sent to French Empire

On 17th March 1803 the postal convention between the French Republic (later French Empire) and the Italian Republic (later Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy) was signed in Paris. On the letters from Italian Republic the mark **L.I.** (Lettere Italiane i.e. Italian Letter) was struck, while on the letters from abroad in transit through the Italian Republic and on those from former Venetian territories the mark **L.T.** (Lettere Transito i.e. Transit Letter) was struck. On 4th May 1803 the Government of French Republic established the new rules and the new rates for letters coming from Italian Republic and letters from abroad in transit through the Italian Republic.

**The rates for letters weighing less than 6 g.
according to the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803).**

Letters from Italian Republic (with mark L.I.)		Letter from abroad in transit through the Italian Republic and from former Venetian territories (with mark L.T.)	
to	rates in décimes	to	rates in décimes
Vercell	3	Vercell	5
Turin	5	Turin	7
Genève	7	Genève	8
Chambery	7	Chambery	10
Lyon	9	Lyon	12
Paris	13	Paris	16

Letters weighing 6 g. to < 8 g. pay 1 décimes in addition to the basic rate; letters weighing 8 g. to 10 g. pay 1,5 times the basic rate; letters weighing > 10 g. to < 15 g. pay 2,0 times the basic rate; letters weighing 15 g. to < 20 g. pay 2,5 times the basic rate, and so on. To all other destinations, the rate was: the amount for the above-mentioned towns plus the amount due from these postal offices to the place of destination, according to the internal postal law.

Transit mark **L.I./MILANO** (**Lettere Italiane/Milano - Italian Letter/Milan**) struck on letters sent to France and to other countries under French domination. It was used in red, lilac and blue ink.



03.1803 - 05.1805



9 Décimes

26th April 1805. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Lyon. 9 Décimes were charged on delivery in Lyon, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g sent to Lyon, according to the article 8 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803).

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

I.7 - Letters from French Empire

According to the postal convention of 1803, letters sent to the Italian Republic could be:

a) franked up to destination; b) not franked up to destination. In this case, according to article 4 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), the rate paid by the addressee was the rate for the Italian route (in Soldi), plus the rate for the French route (in Décimes converted into soldi at the exchange rate established by the article 40 of postal convention: **1 Décime = 1,477 Soldi**).

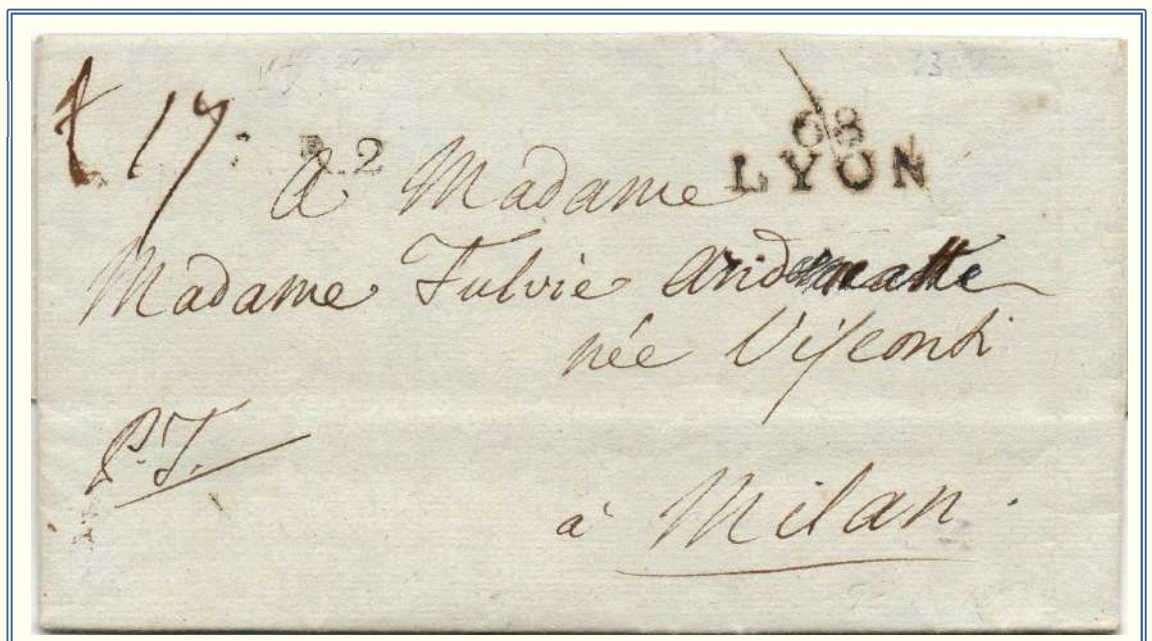
In order to determinate the competencies had to be paid by the Italian Republic/Kingdom of Italy to the French Republic/French Empire for these letters, France and the Italian Départments Conquis were divided into four districts (called rayons in French), as shown in the map. The letters from France "must bear as a distinguishing mark the following mark L.R.1, which means the letters of the first ray, and so on L.R.2, L.R.3, L.R.4". The Italian Republic/Kingdom of Italy recognized to France, for each 30 g. of letters carried, for letters from: **L.R.1: 11 Décimes; L.R.2: 21 Décimes; L.R.3: 30 Décimes; L.R.4: 38 Décimes** (art. 31 post. conv.).



The weight:



>7 grams



17th April 1805. From Lyon to Milan (Department of Olona). Letter sent unpaid up to destination. **17** soldi were charged on delivery in Milan, calculated as follow: 7 Décimes up to French Empire border, for letter weighing more than 7 g. and distance between 400-500 km., according to the French postal law of 14th Floréal An X (4th May 1802); 6 Soldi for letter weighing up to 7,5 g. coming from Country outside Italy. 7 décimes converted into soldi: $7 \times 1,477$ (rate exchange) = 10,339 Soldi, rounded up to 11 Soldi, as required by the postal law. 11 Soldi + 6 Soldi = **17** Soldi.

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

I.8 - Letters in free frank

In the first period the Postal Law 9th Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano (26th December 1800) was in force. This is the third and final Postal Law of the Cisalpine Republic, which brought order and uniformity in the whole subject, treated previously by Law 4th Fiorile anno VI Repubblicano (23rd April 1798) and by the Law 6th Brumaio anno VII Repubblicano (27th October 1798).



18th April 1805. From Ostiglia, near Mantua, to Mantua. Letter sent by the Magistrates Court of Ostiglia to Royal Commissioner of Mantua. The handwritten word D'uffo indicates the exemption of payment.

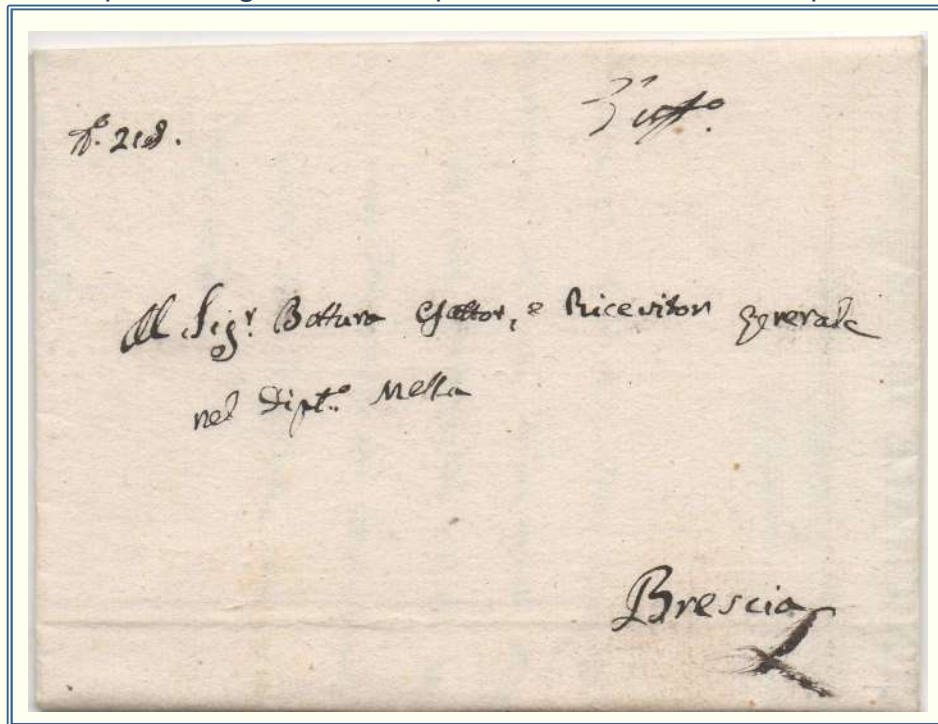


22nd June 1805. From Medicina, near Bologna, to Lugo, near Ravenna. Letter sent from the township of Medicina to the township of Lugo. The handwritten word D'uffo indicates the right of exemption. The boxed mark **MUNICIPALITÀ/DI MEDICINA** was used by the sender to confirm its authority, although it was not required by postal rules.

First rate period
19th March - 31st July 1805

I.8 - Letters in free frank

It remained in force until the end of the first rate period of the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy (July 1805). Cornerstone of the Law was the granting of an exemption from the payment to the authorities who sent letters to other authorities. However, the letters sent to individuals who held these positions were subject to the payment: the exemption was granted to the position held and not to the person that covered it.



25th July 1805. From Manerba (Garda Lake) to Brescia. Letter sent from the township of Manerba to the Municipal debt Collector in the Department of Mella. The handwritten word *D'uff.* indicates the right of exemption. The letter is addressed to Mr. Bottura, so named for an individual, but with the indication of his role. For this reason the post office accepted the free frank.



7th July 1805. From Bologna to Modena. Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Reno to a private citizen of Modena. The handwritten word *D'uff.* indicates the right of exemption. However, the letter should have been rated because it was addressed to a private citizen. The law stated: "...ma paga quelle lettere che sono dirette a qualunque individuo, sebbene costituito in autorità" (the letter is rated if it's addressed to the private citizen, even if he's an authority).

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.1 - Letters within a Department

By the Law 17th July 1805 a considerable tightening of postal rates for the interior was enacted, as shown in table below. The rates are always in Milanese Soldi.

Following the Treaty of Pressburg on 26th December 1805, in **March 1806** the territories of the former Venetian Republic (the provinces of Vicenza, Rovigo, Treviso, Belluno, Venice, Padua and Friuli) and Istria were annexed and the Decree n. 74 of 9th May 1806, extended these rules to the above mentioned territories, included the departments of Istria and Dalmatia.

The rates of letters abroad and from abroad don't change, as well as those of the letters "Chargé". Moreover the cachets with names indicating the department of origin or, in the absence of the cachet, handwritten addition are introduced.

Weight in oz	Weight in g	Domestic		To and from Foreign Countries		
		Within department	To others departments	Abroad	From abroad (1)	From abroad (2)
1/4	7,50	4,0	5,0	2,0	4,0	6,0
3/8	11,25	6,0	7,6	3,0	6,0	9,0
1/2	15,00	8,0	10,0	4,0	8,0	12,0
5/8	18,75	10,0	12,6	5,0	10,0	15,0
6/8	22,50	12,0	15,0	6,0	12,0	18,0
7/8	26,25	14,0	17,6	7,0	14,0	21,0
1	30,00	16,0	20,0	8,0	16,0	24,0
Chargé Letters		Surcharge of 10 Soldi				

Rates over 1 oz were calculated with the same weight bands.

- (1) From neighbouring States within Italy or from Grigioni
- (2) From foreign Countries of Italy and outside Italy



3rd August 1805. From Bologna to Medicina (Department of Reno). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 of oz: rate 4 Soldi.

4

4 Soldi



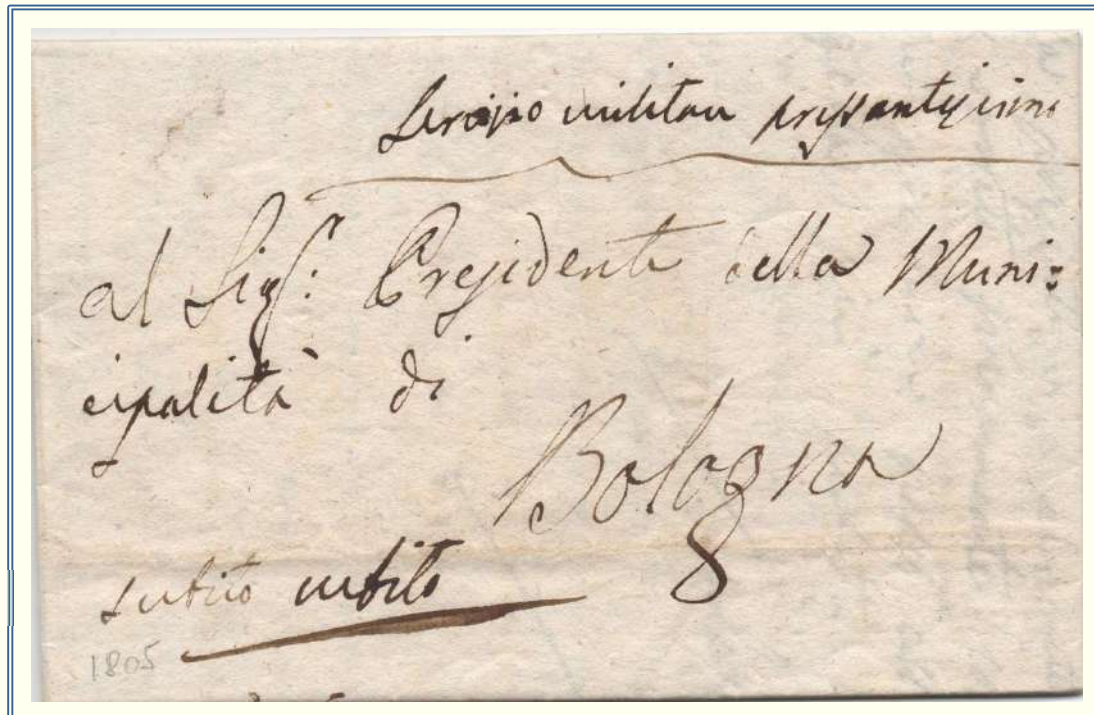
21st October 1806. From Reggio to Luzzara (Department of Crostolo). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **4 Soldi**, written on the back. Transit mark **GUASTALLA**. The handwritten word "**D'Uff.**" indicates the alleged right to the free frank. However, the Registers were not part of the authorities, listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 21st, 1805, that were entitled to the mark and the free frank. Consequently, the letter was taxed.



6

6 Soldi

9th November 1806. From Medicina to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **6 Soldi**, written on the back.



19th December 1805. From Bologna to the town. (Department of Reno). Triple rate letter, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ oz: rate **8** Soldi.

The letter was probably urgent, because the sender wrote "subito, subito", "immediately, immediately".



18th March 1806. From Cento to Bologna (Department of Reno). Fourth rate letter, weighing $\frac{5}{8}$ oz: rate **10** Soldi.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.1 - Letters within a Department

The rates paid by the addressee and the prepaid rates "Port Payé" by the sender were the same.

12

12 Soldi



22nd January 1807. From Bologna to Castel Guelfo (Department of Reno). Prepaid rate Port Payé P.P./BOLOGNA/D'ITALIA, fifth rate letter, weighing 6/8 oz: rate 12 Soldi, written on the back.



17th October 1806. From Crevalcore to Medicina (Department of Reno). Fifth rate letter, weighing 6/8 oz: rate 12 Soldi.

The handwritten word *D'uff.* is on both letters and indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the **Municipalities** had not rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated 21st September 1805.

For this reason the letters were taxed.

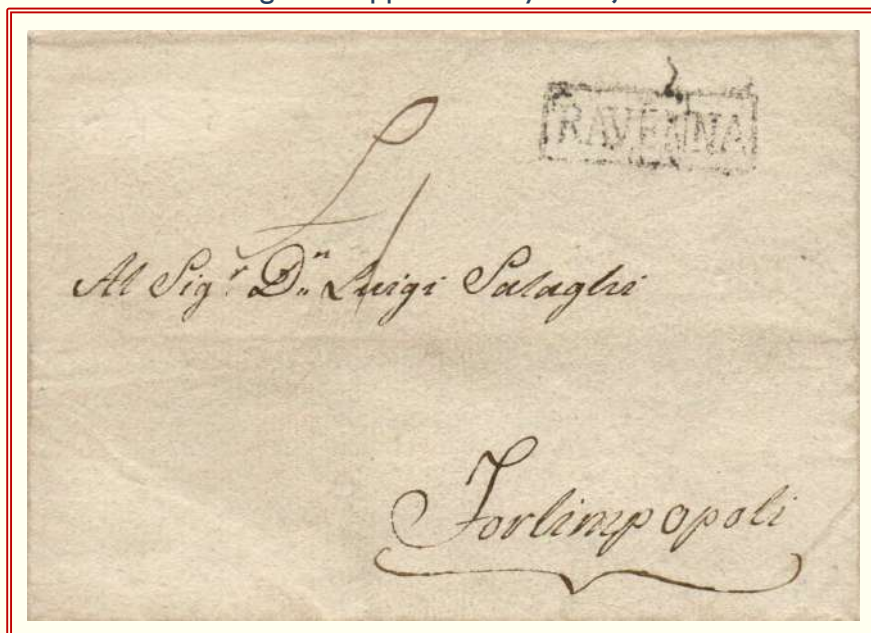
Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.1 - Letters within a Department

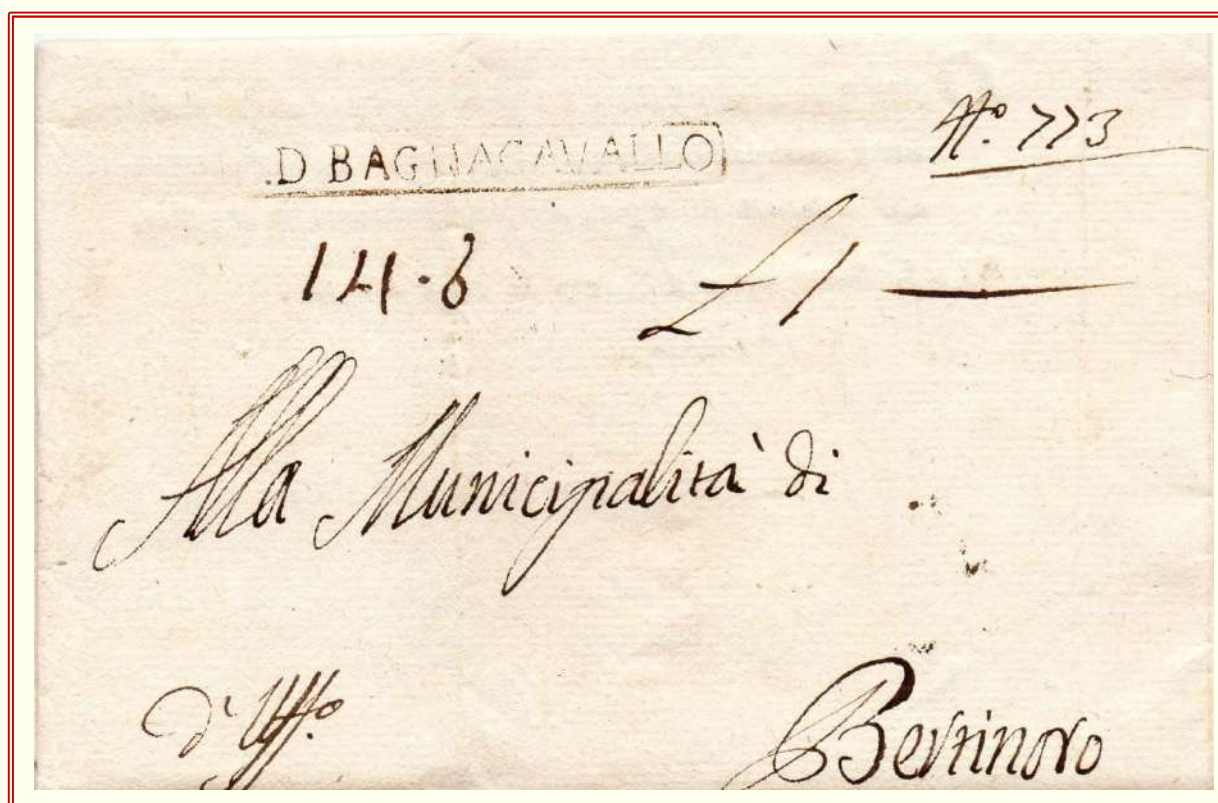
Throughout 1806, the new currency, the Milanese Soldo, and the old papal currency, the Bajocco, coexisted in some departments of Romagna. The example of the department of Rubicone, as shown by the two letters, is very significant, as in some municipalities the new currency was used, while in others the Bajocco still circulated.

The rate exchange was approximately: 1 Bajocco – 1,14 Soldi



1 Lira

25th April 1806. From Ravenna to Forlimpopoli (Department of Rubicone). Ninth rate letter, weighting 1 3/8 oz: rate Lit. **1,00**, equal 20 Soldi.



14th September 1806. From Bagnacavallo to Bertinoro (Department of Rubicone). Ninth rate letter, weighing 1 3/8 oz: rate Lit. **1,00**, equal 20 Soldi, converted on delivery to **14** Bajocchi and **6** Denari (**14-6**).

Second rate period
1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.1 - Letters within a Department
2.2 - Letters between Departments



27

22 Soldi

20th August 1805. From Lugo to Bologna (Department of Reno). Tenth rate letter, weighing 1 ½ oz:
rate 22 Soldi.



7th February 1806. From Reggio (Department of Crostolo) to Milan (Department of Olona).
Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate 5 Soldi.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.2 - Letters between Departments

Until October 1806, during the first months after the annexation of Venetian provinces, sometimes the old venetian stamps of taxation were used.

In this case the rate was prepaid because the addressee was the Postmaster of Venice, a diagonal line was drawn, indicating that the rate has been prepaid and the stamp of rate struck on the front.



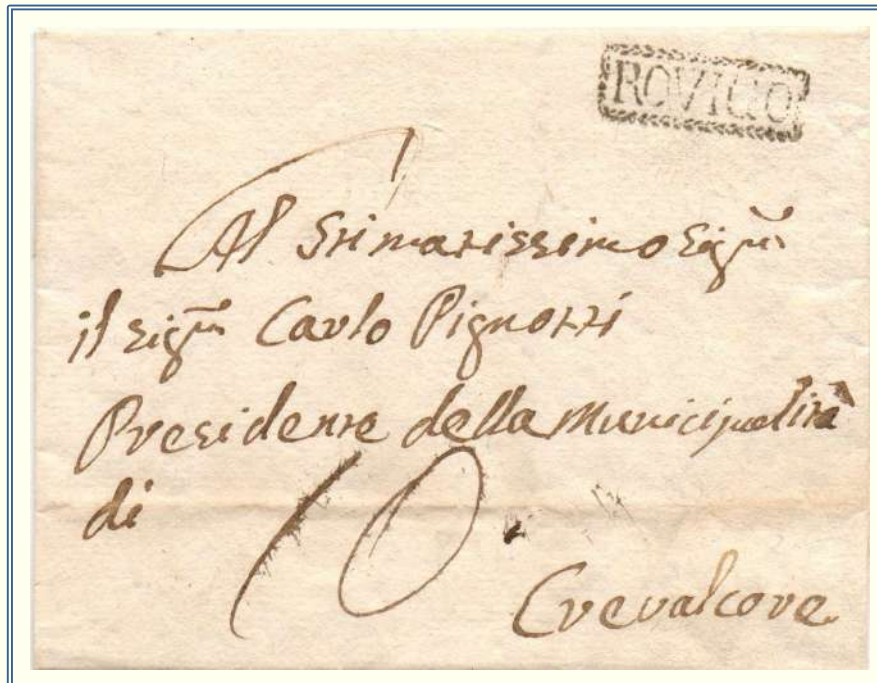
01.1806 - 10.1806



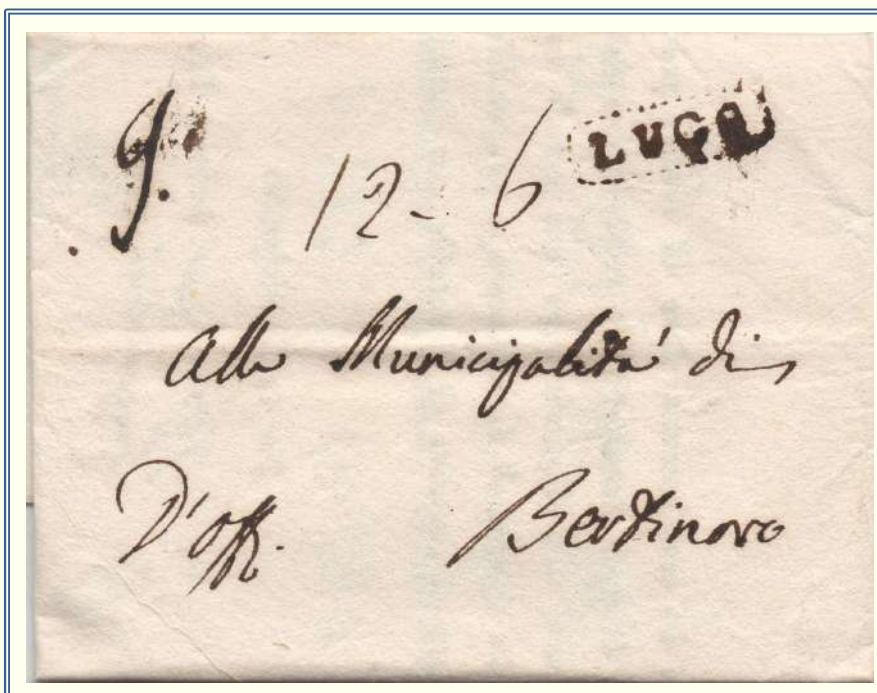
30th August 1806. From Caldier now Caldiero, near Verona (Department of Adige) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate 5 Soldi.



1st July 1806. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Modena (Department of Panaro). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate 7 Soldi and 6 Denari.

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

29th October 1806. From Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Crevalcore, near Bologna (Department of Reno). Triple rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate **10** Soldi.



22nd July 1806. From Lugo, near Bologna (Department of Reno) to Bertinoro, near Forlì (Department of Rubicone). Fourth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **12** Soldi and **6** Denari (**12-6**).

The handwritten word *D'uff.* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but **the Municipalities** had not rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated 21st September 1805.

For this reason the letter was taxed.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.2 - Letters between Departments

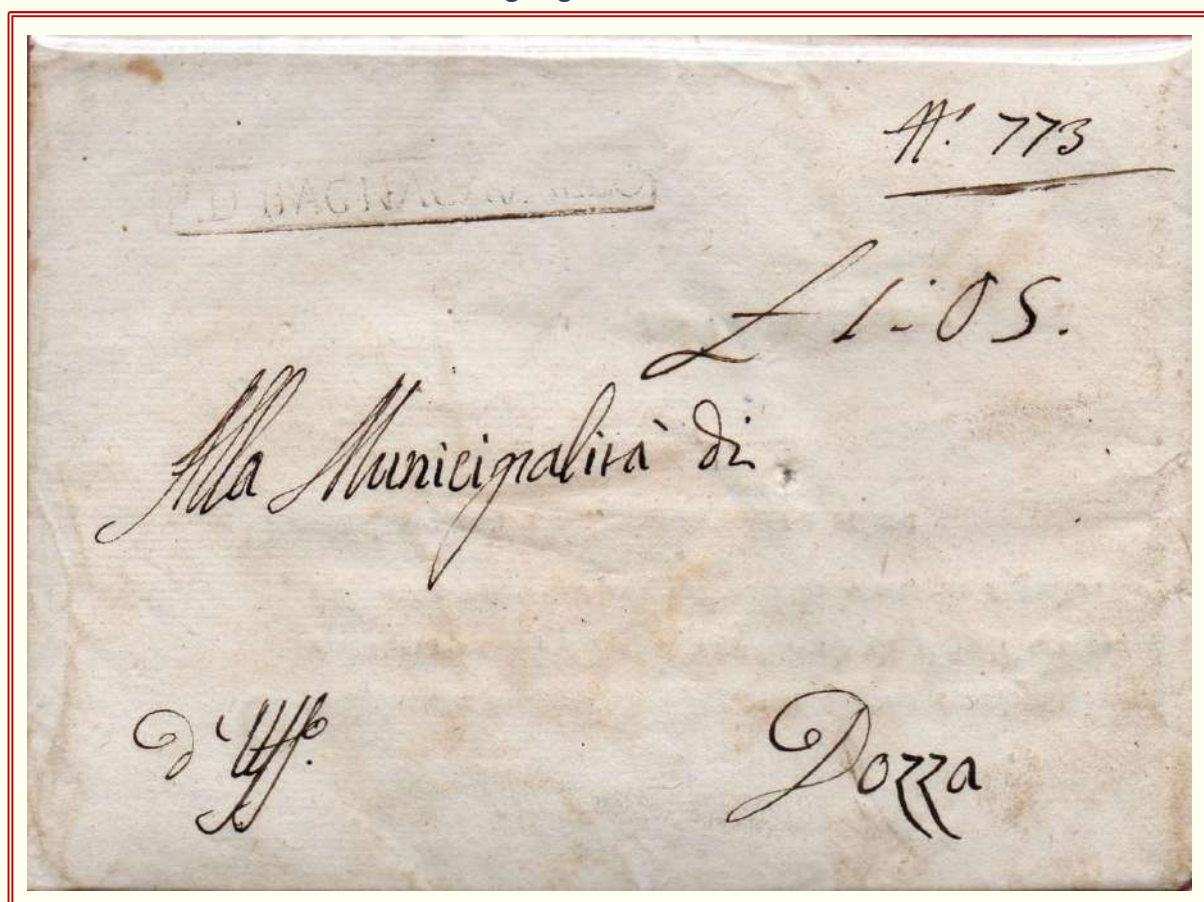
Since August 1803 up to March 1807, in Milan when the letters were not pulled out by the addressee, they were in storage for three months and a mark indicating the reference quarter was put on. The four marks were different from each other, so that they could be recognised immediately.

D.G. Ter.º3^e means "Distribuzione Generale terzo trimestre" (General Distribution third quarter).



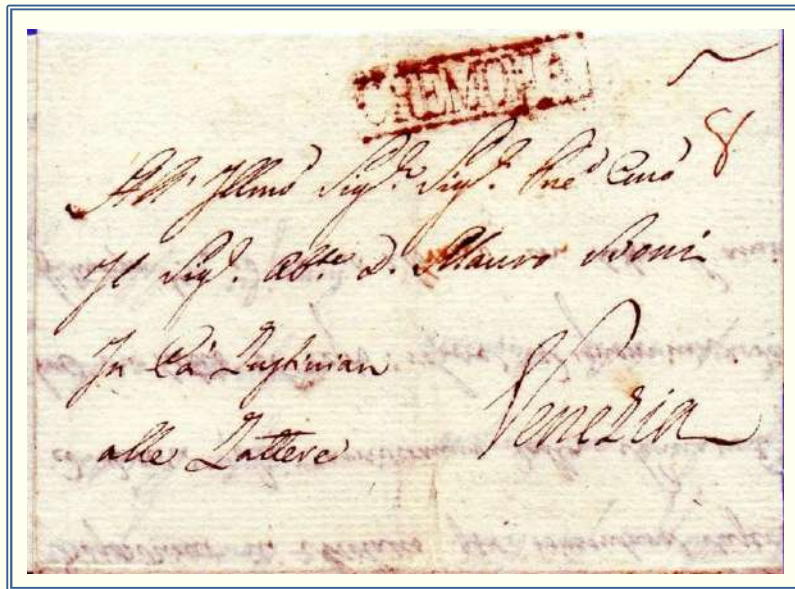
08.1803 - 03.1807

29th October 1806. From Modena (Department of Panaro) to Milan (Department of Olona). Seventh rate letter, weighing 1 oz: rate **20 Soldi**.



12th September 1806. From Bagnacavallo, near Ravenna (Department of Rubicone) to Dozza, near Bologna (Department of Reno). Eight rate letter, weighing 1 ¼ oz: rate Lire **1,05**. Calculation: 20 Soldi for seventh rate letter, 1 oz; 1 Soldi for 1/4 oz more, 20 soldi + 1 Soldo = 21 Soldi, equal to Lire 1,05 (1 Soldo = 5 cent.).

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807



2 Soldi

8

8 Kreuzer

8th December 1805. From Cremona (Department of Alto Po) to Venice (at that time Austrian Empire). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **2 Soldi**. Prepaid **8 Kreuzer** up to the Austrian Empire border for letter weighing up to 1/2 lot (postal reform 15th November 1803).



40

40 Grana

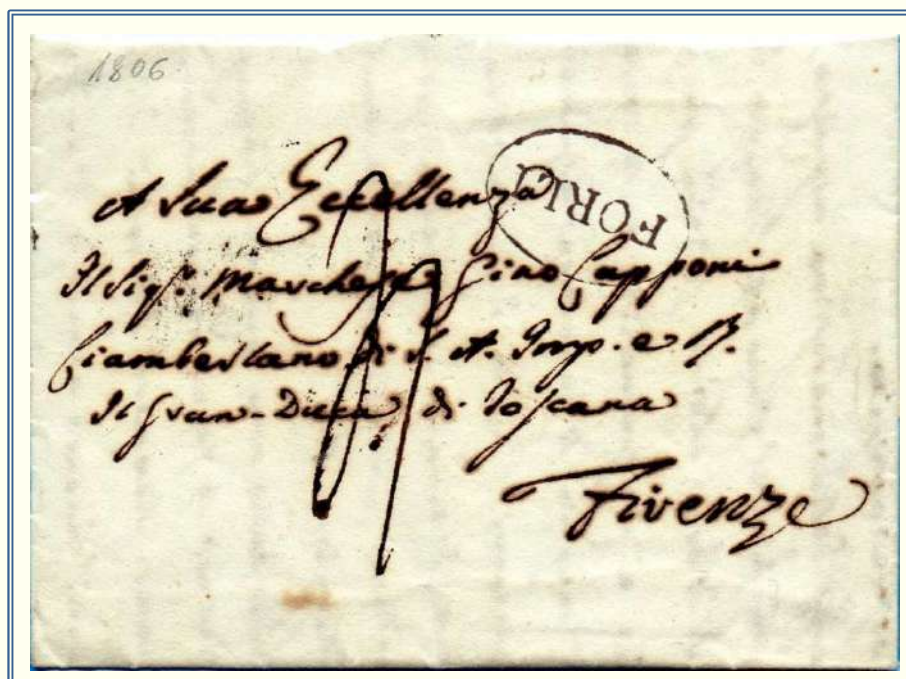


10th August 1805. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Naples (Kingdom of Naples). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **3 Soldi**. **40 Grana** were charged on delivery, as required for a rate of a letter weighing 1 oz, for the Kingdom of Naples dues. Surely the letter was the first of a bunch of letters, sent to the same addressee, weighing in total 1 oz.

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807



15th September 1805. From Sondrio (Department of Adda) to Bolzano (Austrian Empire). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: **3** Soldi. Prepaid **16** Kreuzer up to the Austrian Empire border, for letter weighing ½ - 1 lot (postal reform 15th November 1803).



19th October 1806. From Forli (Department of Rubicone) to Florence (Conquered Department of Arno, part of French Empire). Third rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate **4** Soldi.

Second rate period
1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.4 - Letters from neighbouring States of Italy

Da Venezia

Not recorded



2nd March 1806. From Venice (at that time Austrian Empire) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). **6 Soldi** were charged on delivery in Ferrara, as required for a double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz. No indication of any Austrian Empire fee collected on departure.



23rd October 1805 – From Sinigaglia (at that time Papal States) to Bologna (Department of Reno). **6 Soldi** were charged on delivery, as required for a first rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz. No indication of any Papal States fee collected on departure. The rare mark **SINIGAGLIA** was struck on departure.



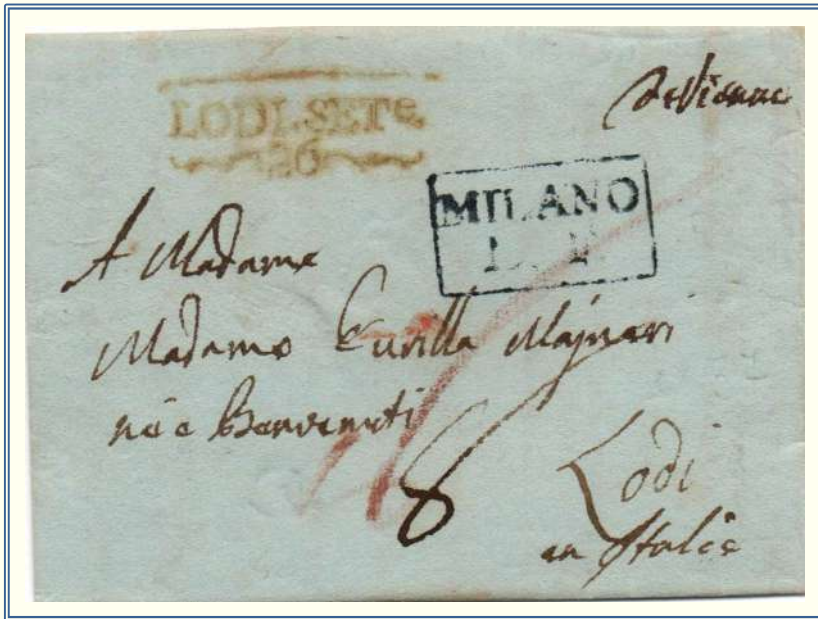
5th March 1806. From Trieste (Austrian Empire) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). Prepaid **6** Kreuzer up to the Austrian Empire border. **12** Soldi were charged on delivery, as required for a fifth rate letter, weighing 6/8 oz.



19th March 1806. From Trieste (Austrian Empire) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). Prepaid **12** Kreuzer up to the Austrian Empire border. **16** Soldi were charged on delivery, as required for a seventh rate letter, weighing 1 oz.

Second rate period
1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

**2.5 - Letters from foreign Countries
of Italy and outside Italy**



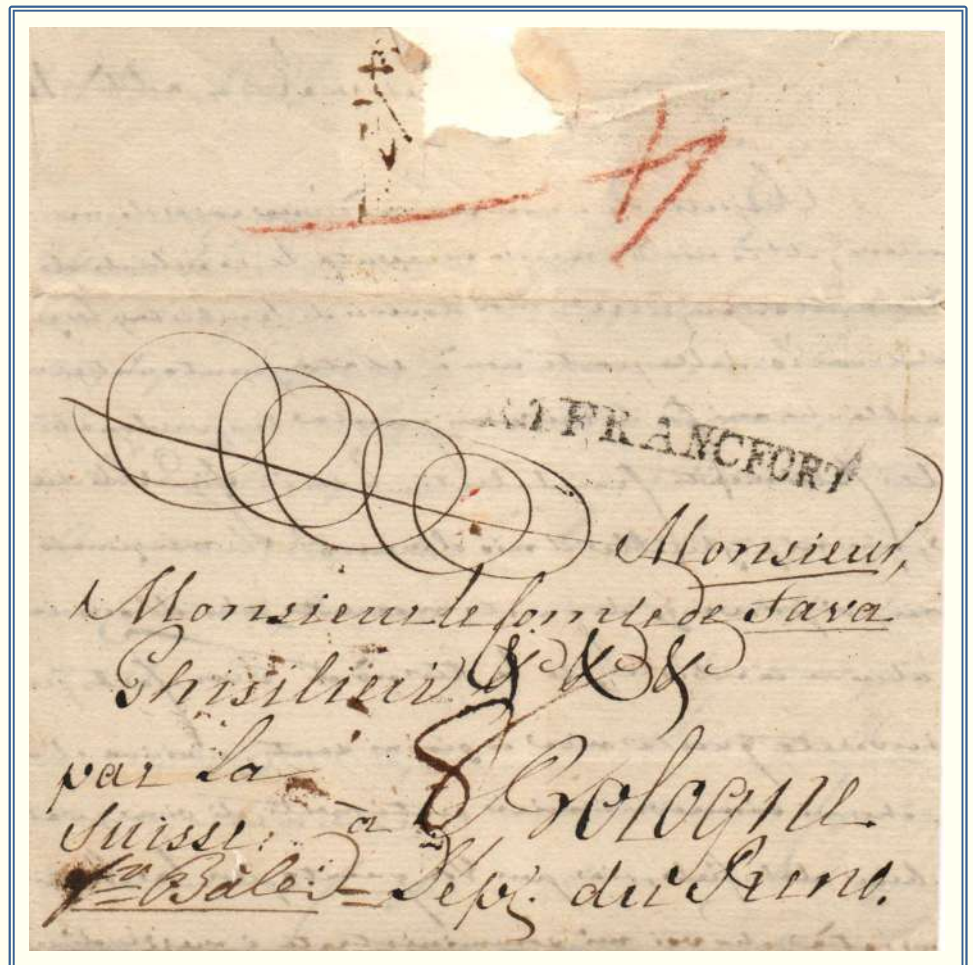
Transit boxed mark *MILANO/L.F.* (*Lettres Foraines - Foreign Letters*) was struck on letters from abroad. It was used in black, blue and brown ink.



05.1804 - 04.1806

14th September 1805. From Vienna (Austrian Empire) to Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona).

Prepaid **16** Kreuzer up to the Austrian Empire border, for letter weighing ½ - 1 lot (postal reform 15th November 1803). The letter was considered coming from neighbouring state of Italy instead of from a foreign country of Italy. For this reason **8** Soldi instead of 12 Soldi were charged on delivery, as required for a triple rate letter, weighing ½ oz. Transit mark *MILANO L.F.*. Mark on arrival *LODI.SETE/26*.



fco Bâle



10th October 1805. From Frankfurt (Rhine Confederation) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid

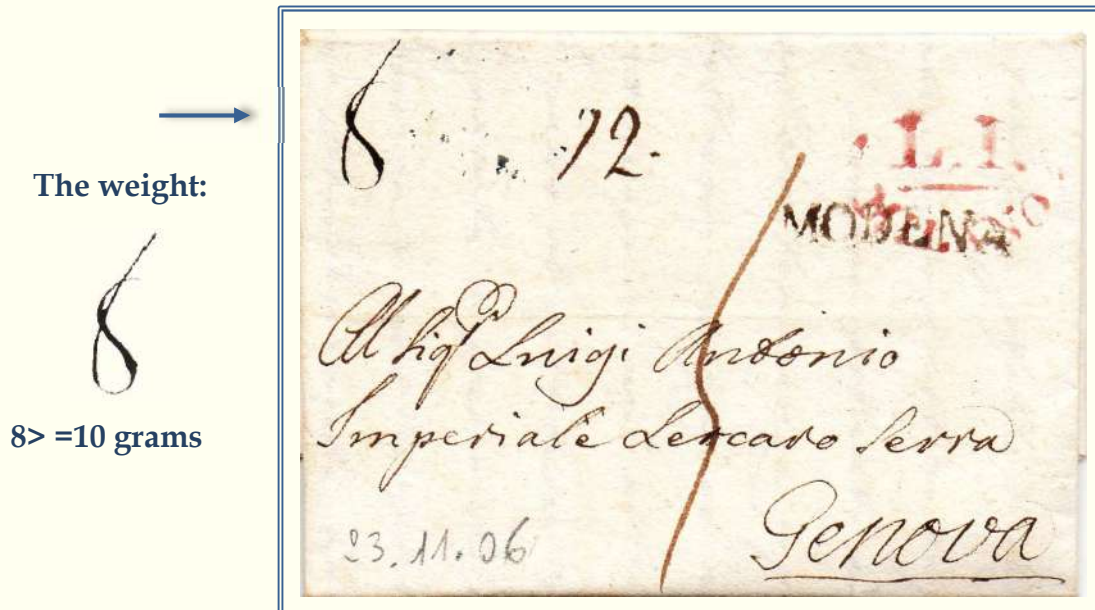
4 Rh. Kr. up to Basel (Switzerland). **8** Soldi were charged on delivery, as required for a third rate letter, weighing ½ oz. The correct rate should have been **12** Soldi, but the postal official considered the letter as coming from Switzerland, he wrote *fco Bâle* and applied the rate for letters from neighbouring States of Italy.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.6 - Letters sent to French Empire

As explained above (see sheet nr. 9), the towns of Vercell, Turin, Genève, Chambéry, Lyon and Paris were collectors for letters going from Italian Republic and afterwards from Kingdom of Italy. The total fee was the sum of the specific rate established for one of each six towns, plus the fee established for inland route from these towns to the final destination.



23rd November 1806. From Modena (Department of Panaro) to Genoa (Conquered Department of Genova, part of French Empire). 5 Décimes were charged on delivery, as required for a letter weighing > 8 g. up to 10 g. and distance 100 – 200 km., according to the French postal law of 4th May 1802.

Transit mark **L.I./MILANO.**



18th June 1806. From Gallivola Lomellina, near Pavia (Department of Agogna) to Racconigi, near Turin (Conquered Department of Po, part of French Empire). 7 Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing less than 6 g.. The rate is as follows: 5 Décimes for letter sent to Turin weighing less than 6 g., according to the article 8 and 10 of the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), plus 2 Décimes for internal route from Turin to Racconigi (distance up to 100), according to the French postal law of 4th May 1802.

Transit marks **NOVARA** and **L.I./MILANO.**

The weight

6

6 > < 8 grams



20th May 1806. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Chambéry. **8** Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing 6 – 8 g sent to Chambéry, according to the article 8 of French Empire postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). Calculation: 7 Décimes for letters sent to Chambéry weighing less than 6 g, plus 1 additional Décimes for letters weighing between 6 and 8 g. In the upper left-hand corner of the letter, the number 6 indicates that the letter weighed more than 6 g. Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.



Transit mark **L.I./MILANO** (**Lettere Italiane** – Italian Letters) was struck on letters sent to France and to other countries under French domination. It was used in red and violet ink.

L. I.
MILANO

09.1805 – 07.1811

28th October 1806. From Verona (Department of Adige) to Lyon. **9** Décimes were charged on delivery in Lyon, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g sent to Lyon, according to the article 8 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.



26th December 1806. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Annonay, near Lyon.

12 Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing less than 6 g. The rate is as follows: 9 Décimes for letters sent to Lyon weighing less than 6 g., according to the article 8 and 10 of the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), plus 3 Décimes for internal route from Lyon to Annonay (distance 50-100), according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806. Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.



25th September 1805. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Paris. **13** Décimes were charged on delivery in Paris, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g sent to Paris, according to the article 8 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.

The weight



8 < 10 grams



29th November 1805. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Paris. **20** Décimes were charged on delivery in Paris, as required for letter weighing 8 – 10 g, according to the articles 9 and 10 of the French Empire postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). The rate is as follows: 13 Décimes for a letter sent to Paris weighing less than 6g, increased by 6,5 Décimes, rounded 7,0 Décimes, as a letter weighing between 8 and 10g (1 ½ rate letter). Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.



27th January 1807. From Forlì (Department of Rubicone) to Department of Vosges, maybe to Épinal. **36** Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing 11<15g.. The rate is as follows: 9 Décimes for a letter sent to Lyon weighing less than 6g, increased by 9 Décimes as a letter weighing between 11 and <15g (2nd rate letter) according to the articles 8 and 10 of the French Empire postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). 18 Décimes were added for the route from Lyon to Épinal via Paris (distance 600-800 km), according to the French Empire postal law of 24th April 1806. In the upper left-hand corner of the letter, the number 11 indicates that the letter weighed 11<15g. Transit mark **MILANO/L.I.**

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.6 - Letters sent to French Empire

The transit mark **MILANO/L.T.** was also struck on letters sent from the former venetian territories, although they were part of the Kingdom of Italy.

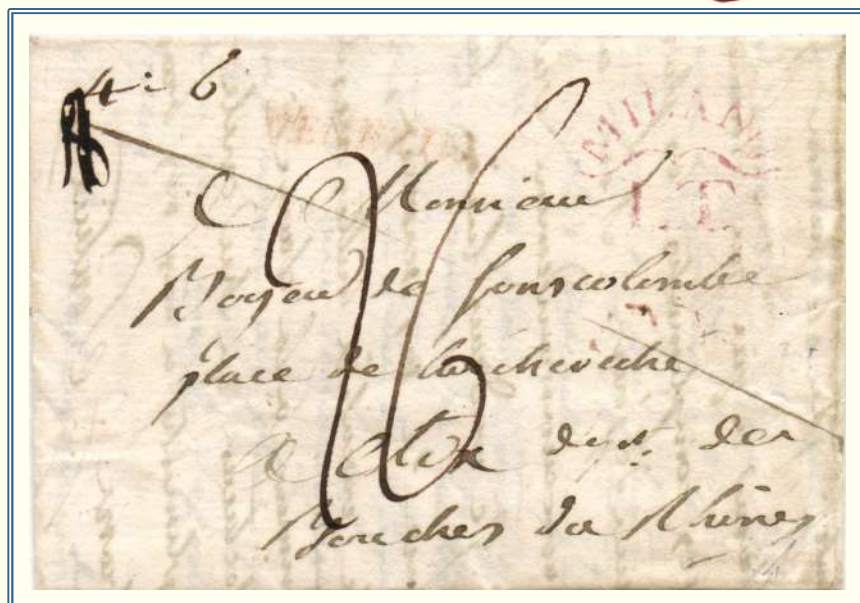
The weight

4 > 6

4 > <6 grams



4th August 1806. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Lyon (French Empire). **12** Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing less than 6 g, according to the articles 9 and 10 of the French Empire postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). Transit mark **MILANO/L.T.**



Transit mark **MILANO/L.T.** (**Lettere Transito - Transit letters**) was struck only on letters going abroad from abroad thru Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy and on letters from the former venetian territories.

MILANO
L.T.

03.1803 - 06.1813

19th October 1806. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Aix Dep. Bouches-du-Rhône (French Empire). **26** Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing 8 – 10 g, according to the articles 9 and 10 of the French Empire postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). The rate is as follows: 12 Décimes for a letter sent to Lyon weighing less than 6g, increased by 6 Décimes as a letter weighing between 8 and 10g (1 ½ rate letter). 8 Décimes were added for the route from Lyon to Aix (distance 300-400 km). In the upper left-hand corner of the letter, the number 8 indicates that the letter weighed 8 - 10g. Transit mark **MILANO/L.T.**

The postal rates and the franking system in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

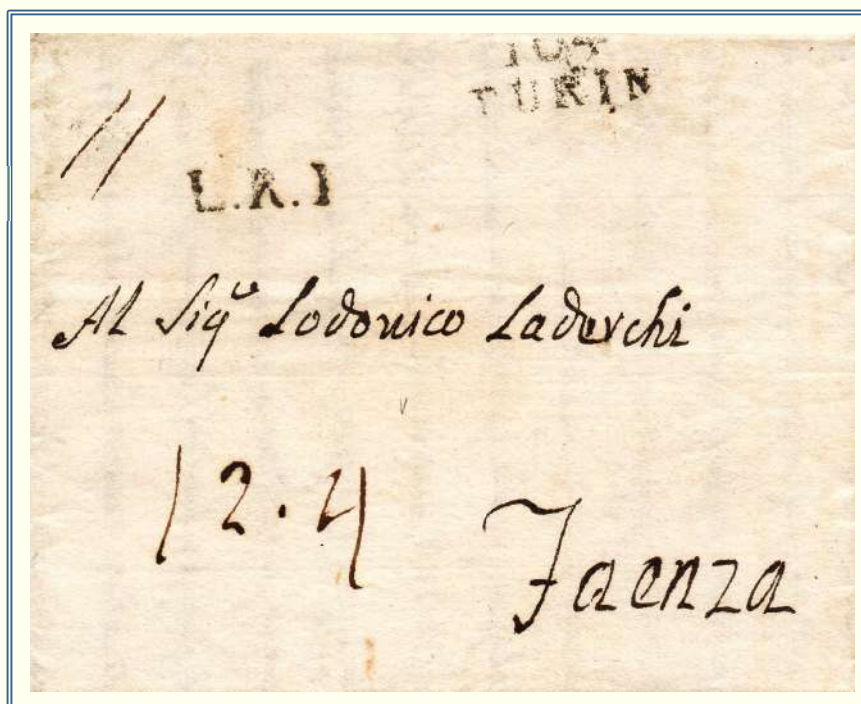
1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

The postal convention between the French Republic (later French Empire) and the Italian Republic (later Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy), signed in Paris on 17th March 1803, established the possibility to send letters unpaid or prepaid up to destination.



L.R. I

05.1803 - 04.1814



30th December 1805. From Turin (Conquered Department of Po, part of French Empire) to Faenza, near Forlì (Department of Rubicone). Letter sent unpaid up to destination. **11** Soldi were charged on delivery in Milan, calculated as follow: 3 Décimes up to French Empire border, for letter weighing less than 6 g. and distance between 100 - 200 km., according to the French postal law of 14th Floréal An X (4th May 1802); 6 Soldi for letter weighing up to 7,5 g. coming from Country outside Italy. 3 Décimes converted into soldi: $3 \times 1,477$ (rate exchange) = 4,431 Soldi, rounded up to 5 Soldi, as required by the postal law. 5 Soldi + 6 Soldi = **11** Soldi. This rate was converted into **12** Bajocchi and **4** Denari (**12 . 4**), currency still in use at that time in Romagna. The mark of accounting **L.R. 1, Lettre Rayon 1**, was struck on departure.



2nd November 1805. From Genoa (Conquered Department of Gênes, part of French Empire) to Modena (Department of Panaro). Letter sent unpaid up to destination. **11** Soldi were charged on delivery in Milan, calculated as the letter above. The mark **L.R. 1, Lettre Rayon 1**, wasn't struck on departure.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.7 - Letters from French Empire

The postal convention between the French Republic (later French Empire) and the Italian Republic (later Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy), signed in Paris on 17th March 1803, established the possibility to send letters unpaid or prepaid up to destination.



12th December 1806. From Parme (Conquered Department of Taro, part of French Empire) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Letter sent unpaid up to destination. **11** Soldi were charged on delivery in Milan, calculated as follow: 3 Décimes up to French Empire border, for letter weighing less than 6 g. and distance between 100 - 200 km., according to the French postal law of 14th Floréal An X (4th May 1802); 6 Soldi for letter weighing up to 7,5 g. coming from Country outside Italy.
3 Décimes converted into soldi: $3 \times 1,477$ (rate exchange) = 4,431 Soldi, rounded up to 5 Soldi, as required by the postal law. 5 Soldi + 6 Soldi = **11** Soldi. **L.R. 1, Lettre Rayon 1**, was struck on departure.



8 décimes

15th June 1806. From Marseille (French Empire) to Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.12P./MARSEILLE**, single rate letter, weighing < 6 g and distance 600 – 800 km. up to destination: rate **8** Décimes, written on the back, according to the French postal law of 14th Floréal An X (4th May 1802).
A double diagonal line indicate that the rate has been prepaid.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.8. - Letters in free frank

The Law 26th December 1800 has been in force up to 21st September 1805, when were introduced a new Decree.



22nd August 1805. From S. Giovanni to Nonantola, near Bologna. Letter sent from the township of S. Giovanni to the township of Nonantola. The handwritten word ex Uff. indicated the right of exemption.

Decree nr. 123 21st September 1805

Two new words were introduced by the Decree nr. 123 dated 21st September 1805: “franchigia” and “contrassegno”. The **Franchigia (free frank)** was the exemption from payment of fee on **letters that are received** from the exempted person and it can be unlimited or limited. **Unlimited free frank:** it operated for all letters received, even those from abroad, and it was reserved only to Ministers and to Secretary of State.



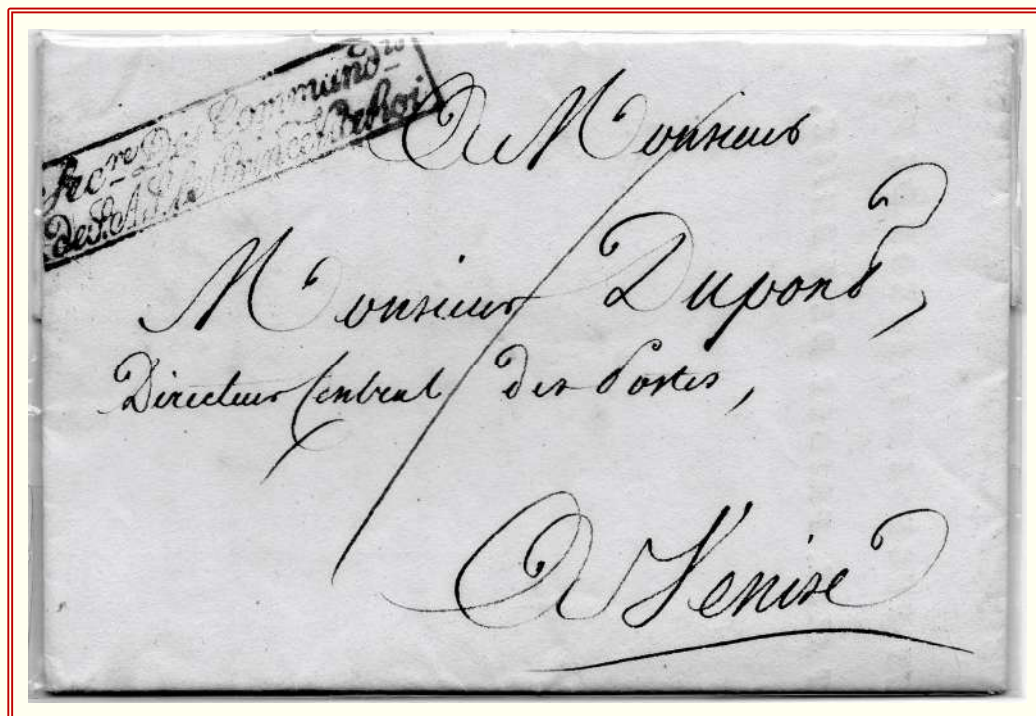
12th November 1806. From Cremona to Milan. Letter sent from Prefecture of Cremona to Minister for War. The prefect enjoyed the mark when he wrote to the other authorities. The Minister for War enjoyed unlimited free frank. On the front, stamp of mark “**Prefettura/Dell’Alto/Po**” and the handwritten word “**D’Uff. /**” indicating the right of exemption.

Second rate period

1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807

2.8. - Letters in free frank

Limited free frank: it operated only for the letters from within the Kingdom and it was reserved to the General Managers of the various branches of the public administration (Public Instruction, Waters – Bridges and Roads, Police, Customs, State Property, Post, Census, Mint, Prefects and Vice Prefects and a few others).



24th December 1806. From Milan to Venice. Letter sent by Étienne Pierre, earl Mejean, Secretary of His Imperial Highness Prince of France Eugene Napoleon, Vice – King of Italy, to Mr. Dupont, Central Director of Post in Venice who, for his appointment, was entitled to limited exemption.



3rd September 1806. From Milan to Novara. Letter sent by Prefect of Police of Department of Olona to the Prefect of Department of Agogna. Both authorities enjoyed limited free frank. On the front, the mark **Prefettura di Polizia Dipart./d'Olona** indicating the right of exemption.

Second rate period**2.8. - Letters in free frank****1st August 1805 - 31st January 1807**

The **Contrassegno (Mark)** is the exemption from payment of fee for **letters that are sent**, and it is communicated to the addressee by placing a special mark. All the authorities mentioned above also enjoyed the Mark when they wrote to other authorities or public officials and to the offices and the managements which depended on them.



28th January 1806. From Lodi, near Milan, to Casalpuusterlengo, near Cremona. Letter sent by Vice Prefecture of Lodi to the Municipality of Casalpuusterlengo. On the front the mark **Vice/Prefettura/di/Lodi** and the handwritten word **D'Uffo** indicating the right of exemption.



27th December 1806. From Padua, to Forlì. Letter sent by Prefecture of Padua to the Prefect of Department of Rubicone. On the front the handwritten word **D'Uffo** indicating the right of exemption.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.1 – First distance band letters

The reform of 1807 marked the complete revolution of the postal system and rates. On 12th January 1807 a new law "**Decree n°. 46 on Finance for 1807**", was enacted, that changed the former cisalpine criterion of taxation based on the system weight and origin, into one based on weight and distance between Departments. To understand how the distances between departments were established, please refer to the table attached to Decree n°. 46 and visible via the QR code:

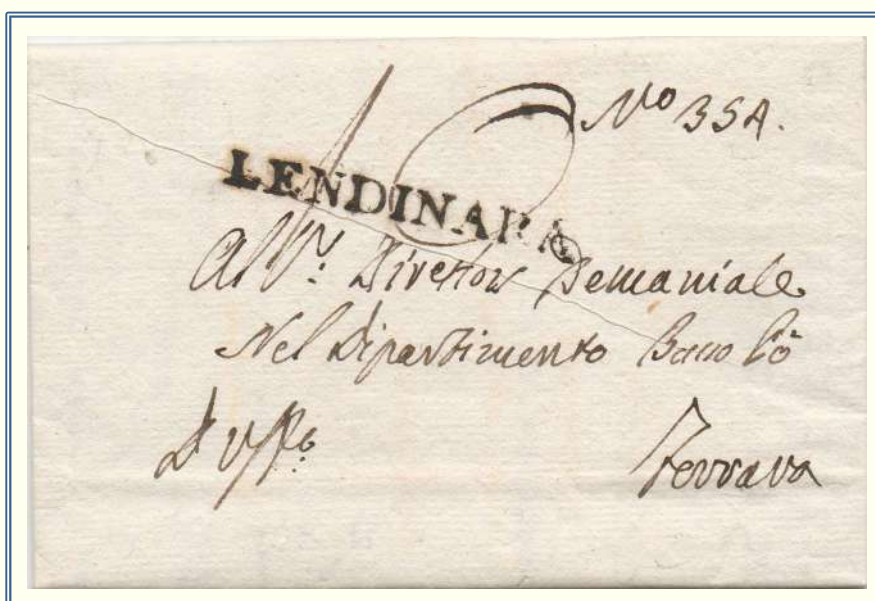


This law also introduced currency reform: the Italian Lira was adopted instead of Milanese Soldo and it was divided into 100 cents. The exchange rate applied was 1 Milanese Soldo equalled 5 cents and 20 Soldi were equal to 1 Italian Lira.

In **April 1808** the Marche were annexed and organized in the Metauro, the Musone and the Tronto departments and according to the decree n. 254 these rates were also applied from 12th August 1808. The rates of letters to/from foreign countries increased, as well as those from abroad, while the surcharge of the letters "Chargé" decreased from 10 Soldi (50 Cents) to 38 Cents.

Weight in oz	Weight in g	Domestic								To and from Foreign Countries		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	Abroad	From abroad (1)	From abroad (2)
1/4	7,50	10	14	18	22	26	30	34	38	16	28	40
3/8	11,25	14	18	22	26	30	34	38	42	20	32	44
1/2	15,00	15	21	27	33	39	45	51	57	24	42	66
5/8	18,75	20	28	36	44	52	60	68	76	32	56	80
6/8	22,50	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	40	70	100
7/8	26,25	30	42	54	66	78	90	102	114	48	84	120
1	30,00	35	49	63	77	91	105	119	133	56	98	140
Distance bands		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	Each additional 1/8 oz:		
		5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	8	14	20
Chargé Letters		Surcharge 38/100										

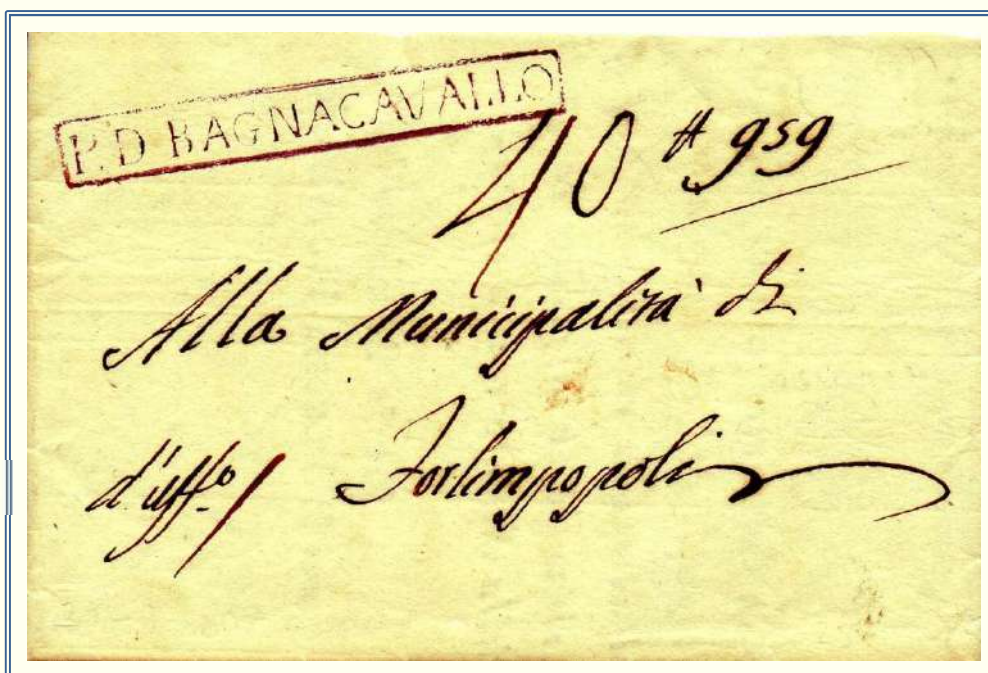
- (1) From abroad neighbouring provinces
- (2) From abroad non-neighbouring provinces and foreign states



11th July 1807. From Lendinara to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **10** Cents.

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

7th May 1808. From Bagnacavallo to Faenza (Department of Rubicone). Fifth rate letter, weighing 6/8 oz: rate 25 Cents.



13th September 1807. From Bagnacavallo to Forlimpopoli (Department of Rubicone). Eighth rate letter, weighing 1 1/8 oz: rate 40 Cents. 35 Cents for the first oz + 5 Cents for the additional 1/8 oz. The handwritten word *D'uff.* is on both letters and indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but neither the Major, nor the Municipality had rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 21st, 1805. For this reason the letters were taxed.

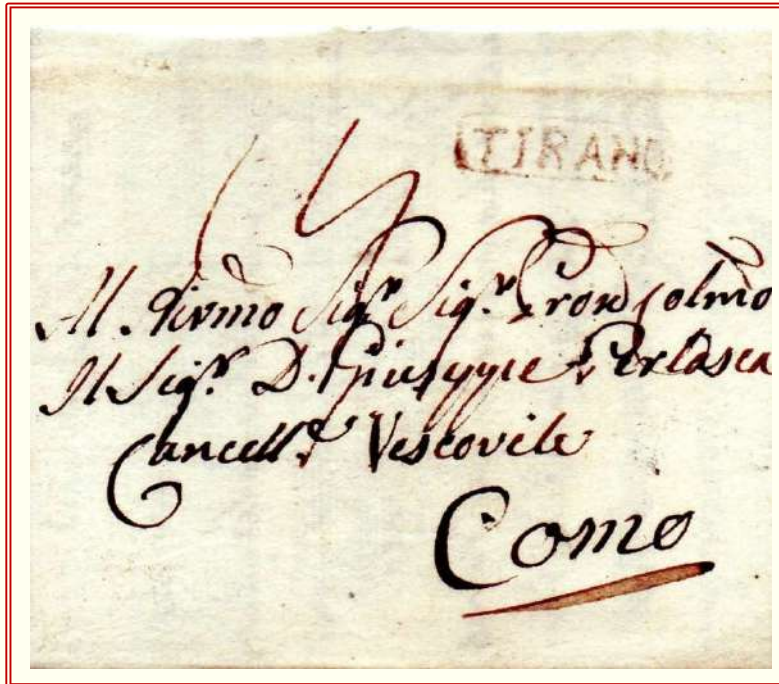


3rd March 1809. From Budrio to Bologna (Department of Reno). 11th rate letter, weighing 1 3/8 oz: rate **5** Décimes (50 Cents). 35 Cents for the first oz + 15 Cents (3 x 5 Cents) for the additional 3/8 oz.

The handwritten word *D'uffo* is on the letter and indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but neither the General Attorney, nor the Judge of Peace had rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated 21st September 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



4th July 1808. From San Ginesio to Santangiolo (Department of Tronto). 24th rate letter, weighing 3 1/8 oz: rate **120** Cents. 35 Cents for the first oz + 85 Cents (17 x 5 Cents) for the additional 17/8 oz.



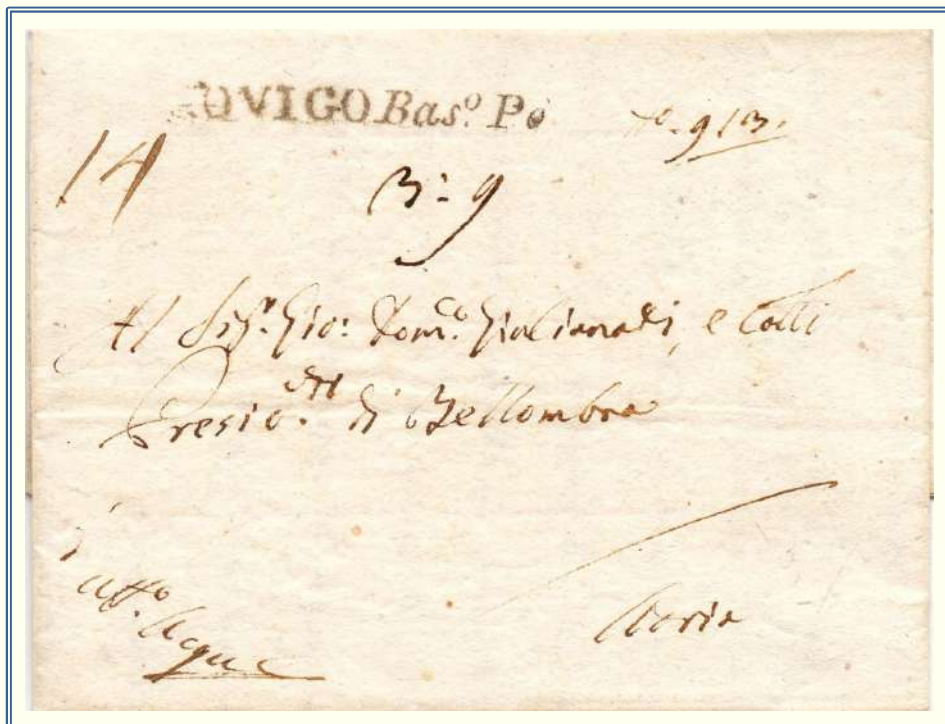
TIRANO

From 07.1807

Only 10 examples
recorded with
this mark

ex coll. Provera

24th May 1808. From Tirano, near Sondrio (Department of Adda) to Como (Department of Lario). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **14** Cents. The rare boxed mark **TIRANO** was struck on departure.



1st October 1807. From Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Adria (Department of Adriatico). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **14** Cents, converted on delivery on **3** Bajocchi and **9** Denari (**3 : 9**), currency still in use at that time in Romagna, after 31 months.



12th March 1808. From Verona (Department of Adige) to Allone, near Brescia (Department of Mella). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **18** Cents.

MIRA

01.09.1806
31.12.1807

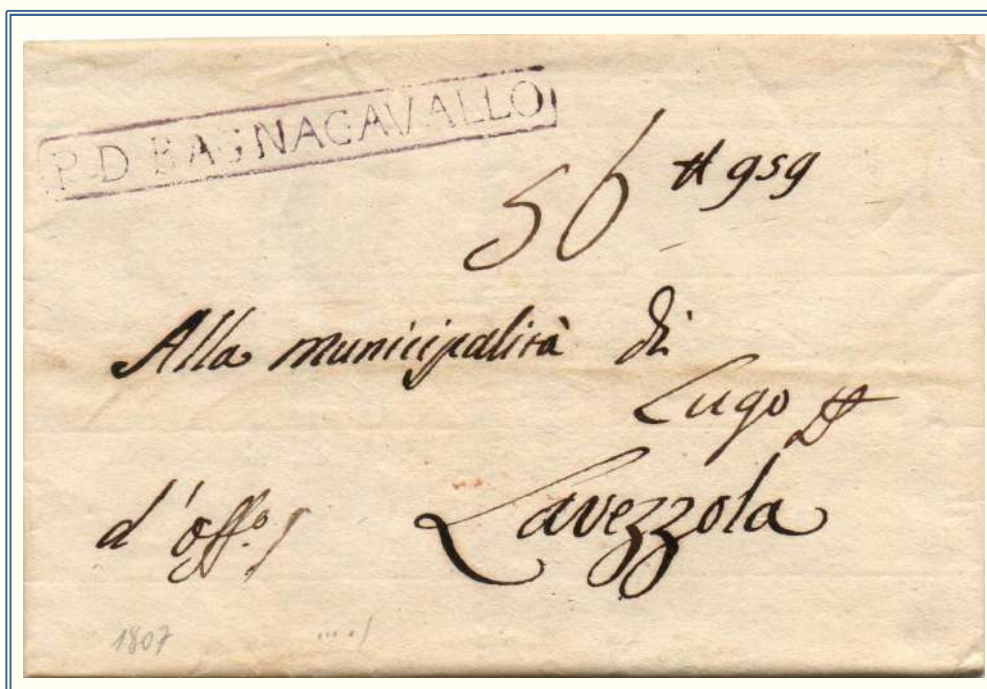
Only a few examples
recorded with this mark
put on transit
and on the back

35 Cents.



20th September 1807. From Padua (Department of Brenta) to Gambarare, near Venice (Department of Adriatico). Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP**, fifth rate letter, weighing 6/8 oz: rate **35** Cents, written on the back.

The handwritten word */D'uff.º/* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Municipality had no rights, because it was not listed in the decree n. 123 dated 21st September 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



13th September 1807. From Bagnacavallo, near Bologna (Department of Rubicone) to Lavezzola, near Ravenna (Department of Reno). eighth rate letter, weighing 1 1/8 oz: rate **56** Cents.

The handwritten word *d'off.* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Municipality had no rights, because it was not listed in the decree n. 123 dated 21st September 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



2nd June 1808. From Ponzano, near Treviso (Department of Tagliamento) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Ninth rate letter, weighing 1 2/8 oz: rate **63** Cents. 49 Cents for the first ounce + 14 Cents (2 x 7 Cents) for the additional 2/8 oz. Transit mark **TREVISO**.



8th January 1808. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Agordo, near Belluno (Department of Piave).
Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate 18 Cents.



8th May 1808. From Vicenza (Department of Bacchiglione) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Triple rate letter, weighing 1/2 oz: rate 27 Cents.

The handwritten word *d'ufficio* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Tax Officer enjoyed the **limited free frank**, only if he received letters from authorities **within his department**, as established by the decree n. 123, dated 21st September 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



16th May 1807. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Brescia (Department of Mella). Fourth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **36** Cents.



10th July 1808. From Modena (Department of Panaro) to Forlì (Department of Rubicone). Fifth rate letter, weighing 6/8 oz: rate **45** Cents.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.4 – Fourth distance band letters



8th January 1808. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Modena (Department of Crostolo). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **22** Cents.

P.P.

26 Cents.



30th July 1808. From Ferrara (Department of Basso Po) to Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **26** Cents, written on the back.



22nd October 1808. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Venice (Department of Adriatico).

Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, triple rate letter, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce: rate **33** Cents, written on the back.

A diagonal line and the handwritten word *Franca* (free of charge) indicate that the rate has been prepaid.

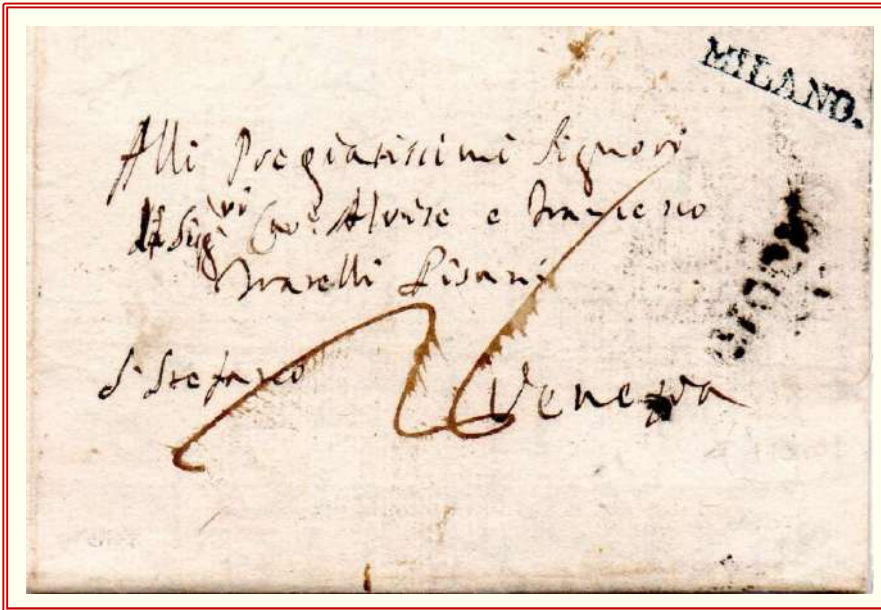


... **April 1807.** From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Fifth rate letter, weighing $\frac{6}{8}$ oz: rate **55** Cents.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.5 – Fifth distance band letters



MILANO.

Only 10 examples recorded with this mark

First date known.
01.06 - 30.06.1807

3rd June 1807. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **26** Cents. The rare mark **MILANO**, in use only on June 1807, applied on departure.



30

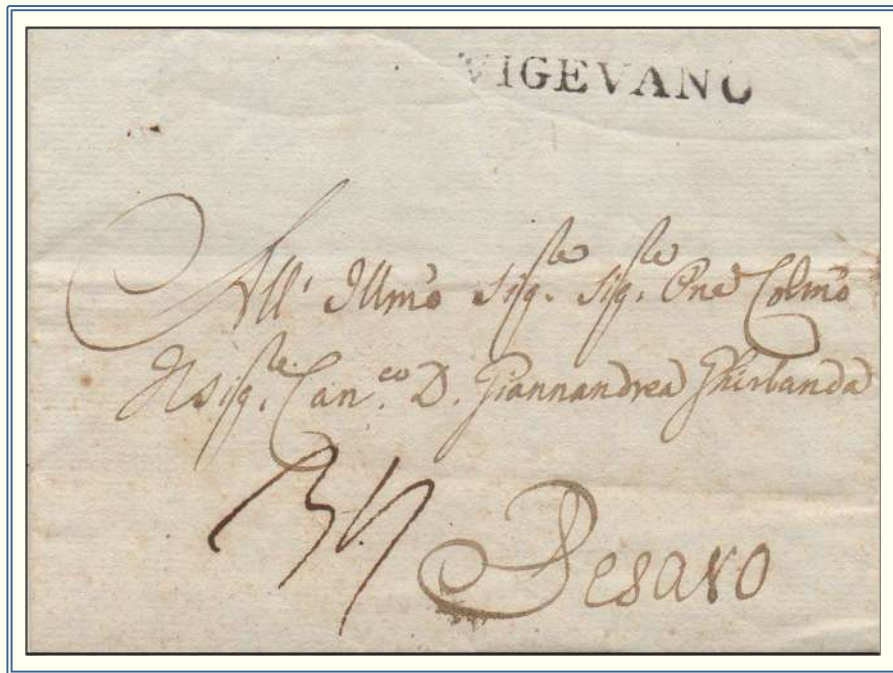
30 Cents.

22nd June 1807. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **30** Cents, written on the back.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.6 – Seventh distance band letters



17th October 1808. From Vigevano, near Novara (Department of Agogna) to Pesaro (Department of Metauro).
Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate 34 Cents.



3rd March 1807. From Capo D'Istria (Department of Istria) to Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid rate Port
Payé P.P., Third rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate 51 Cents, written on the back but not very readable.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

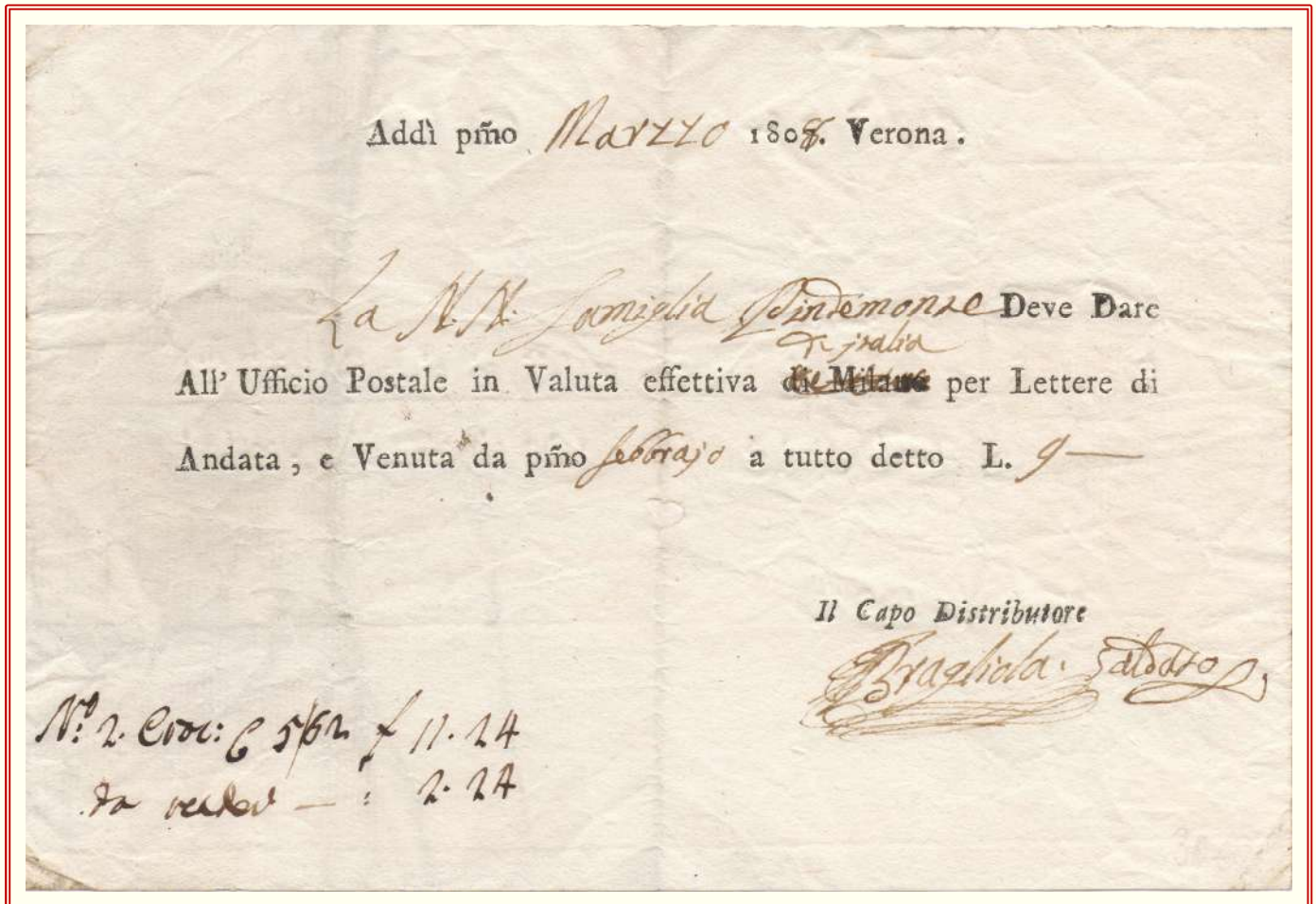
3.7 - Postal account statement

As required by postal rules, those who had a significant exchange of correspondence, such as merchants, shopkeepers, lawyers, entrepreneurs and nobles, were able to pay their monthly debt on the first day of the following month.



Pindemonte was an important noble family in Verona since 1325. The most famous exponents were the poets and men of letters Ippolito and Giovanni. Pindemonte Palace in Verona.

**Only example recorded in
the Napoleonic period**



1st March 1808. Verona.

The noble Pindemonte family must give Lire 9– to the post office in currency of Italy for letters mailed and received from first February up today

The Postmaster

Bragliola Paid

Nr. 2 Corr (Correspondences): C 5/62 L. 11.24

To be cred (credited)

L. 2.24

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.8 - Registered letter "Chargé"

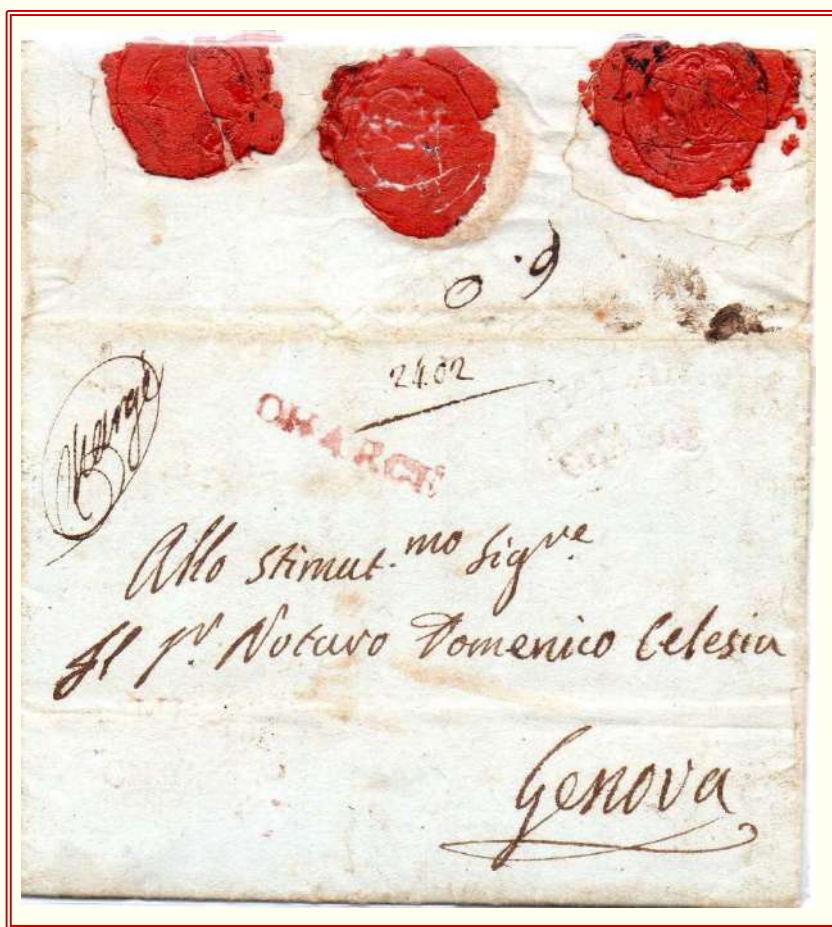
These letters were called Chargé (i.e. loaded) because the registration of a letter needed the procedure of **chargément** (i.e. loading) onto the register of the post office.

The postmaster personally received the letter to be registered and, after it has been entered in the register, put the duty mark **CHARGÉ** and wrote the registration number on the front of the letter.

When the letter arrived at the destination post office, the manager registered it in a book called "Chargément Recette» (Loading receipt).

After registration, the postmaster had to send a notice to the addressee to collect the letter. It could only be delivered to the addressee or to a person with a special power of attorney drawn up before a notary or a public official.

The rate applied to registered letters was calculated by adding the ordinary letter rate to a surcharge determined by the postal rules in use.



6.0

6.0 Décimes

The only example with these marks, as far as I know

CHARGÉ

08.1803 – 03.1808

Chargé

Not recorded

P. MILAN
CHARGÉ P.

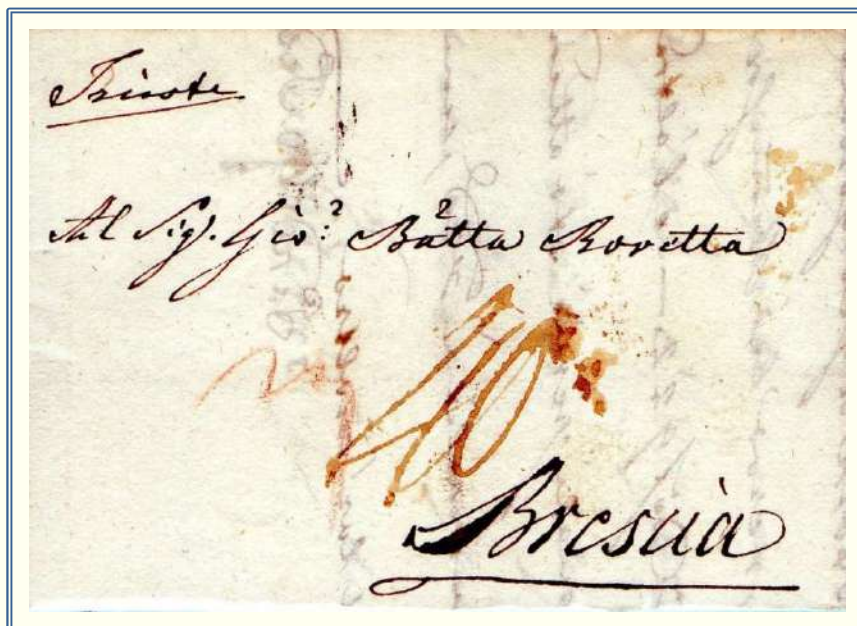
1808 – 1814

15th September 1808. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Genoa (Conquered Department of Genova, part of French Empire). Prepaid rate Port Payé **MILAN /P.P. /CHARGE**, registered double rate letter, **CHARGÉ** addressed abroad, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **6.0** Décimes written on the back. 20 Cents for the double rate letter sent abroad, + 38 Cents for the registration fee, equal to 58 Cents, or 6.0 Décimes rounded up, which was not uncommon.

The postal rates and the franking system in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

Third rate period
1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.9 - Letters from non neighbouring
provinces and foreign States



25th September 1808. From Trieste (Austrian Empire) to Brescia (Department of Mella). Prepaid **23** Kreuzer up to Austrian Empire border; **40** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz.



20th November 1807. From Frankfurt (Rhine Confederation) to Verona (Department of Adige). **44** Cents. were charged on delivery, as required for a second rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz.

Third rate period

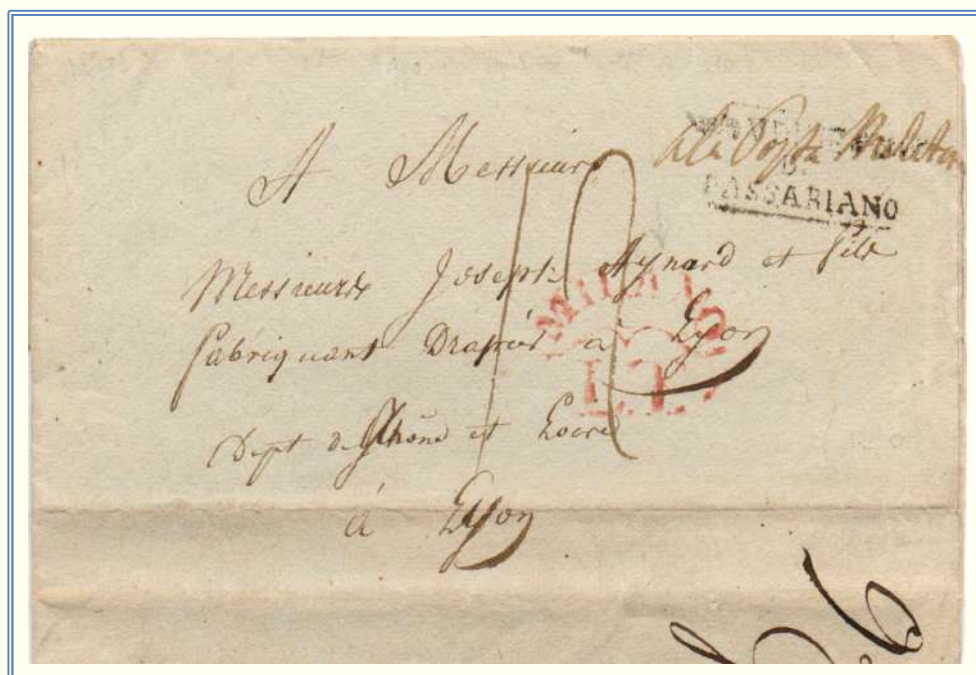
1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

For letters sent to French Empire the convention of 17th 1803 and the French postal law of 4th May 1803 continue to be apply (see sheet nr. 9).



30th May 1807. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Chambéry. **7** Décimes were charged on delivery in Chambéry, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g, according to the article 8 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). Transit mark **MILANO L.I.**



7th September 1808. From Gemona, near Udine (Department of Passariano – former Venetian territories) to Lyon (French Empire). **12** Décimes were charged on delivery in Lyon, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g, according to the articles 9 and 10 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). On the front the transit mark **MILANO L.T.**



28th February 1807. From Legnago, near Verona (Department of Adige) to Montpellier (French Empire).

14 Décimes were charged on delivery. The rate is as follows: 9 Décimes for letters sent to Lyon weighing less than 6 g., according to the article 8 and 10 of the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), plus 5 Décimes for internal route from Lyon to Montpellier (distance 200-300), according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806. Transit mark **L.I. /MILANO**.



5th September 1808. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Hodimont, now borough of Verviers (Conquered Department of Southern Netherland, part of French Empire). **20** Décimes were charged on delivery. The rate is as follows: 9 Décimes for letters sent to Lyon weighing less than 6 g, plus 1 additional Décime for letter weighing between 6 and 8 g., according to the article 8 and 10 of the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), plus 10 Décimes for internal route from Lyon to Hodimont (distance 600-800 and weight between 6 and 8 g), according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806. Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.11 - Letters from French Empire

Following the change of currency and the sharp increase in rates for letters from abroad, including those from the French Empire, only the rates of the Kingdom of Italy were applied to letters arriving from the latter, without counting the part relating to the French section.



29th January 1809. From Siena (Conquered Department of Ombrone, part of French Empire) to Milan (Department of Olona). **28** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz.

L. R. I

On both letters the mark of accounting
L.R. 1, Lettre Rayon 1, was struck on departure.



16th July 1807. From Ivree, near Turin (Conquered Department of Dora, part of French Empire) to Faenza (Department of Rubicone). **42** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a triple rate letter, weighing 1/2 oz.

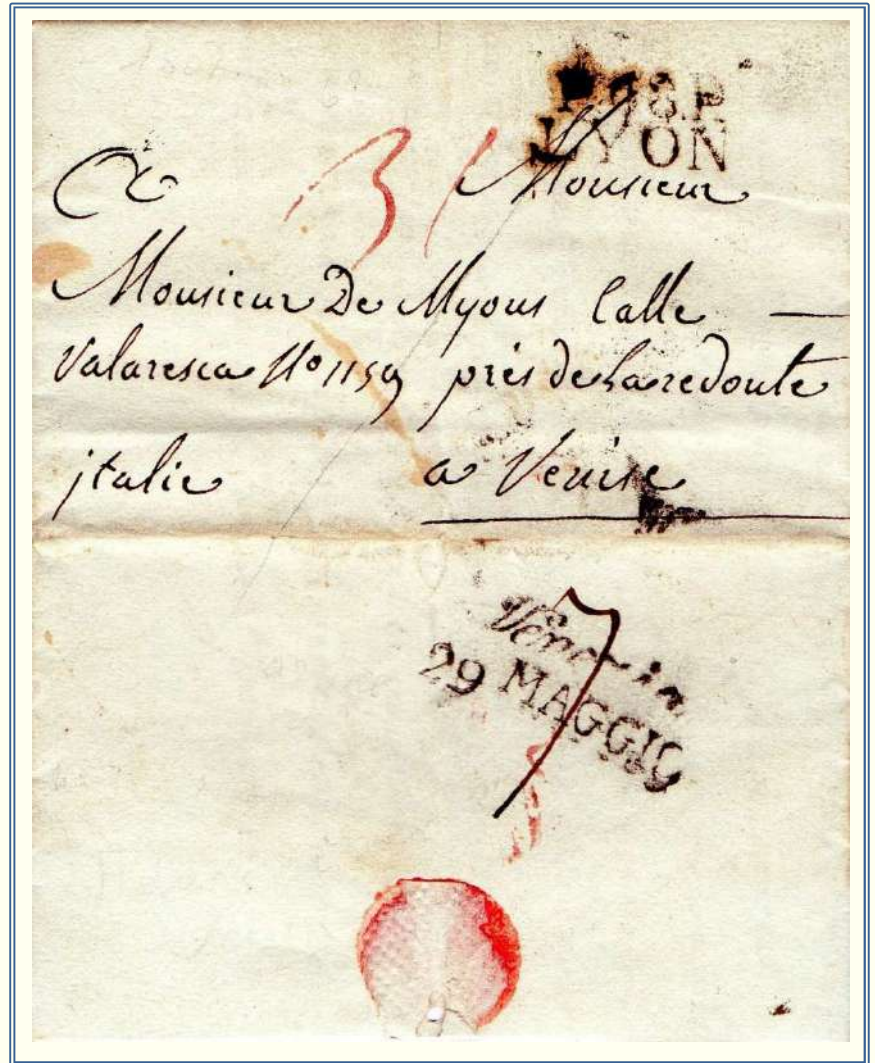
Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.11 - Letters from French Empire

According to the article 3 of the French postal law of 4th May 1803, letters sent to the former Venetian territories, were to be prepaid up to Italian border.

22nd May 1807. From Lyon (French Empire) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P68P/LYON**, double rate letter, weighing 6 < 8 g and distance 300 - 400 kms. up to French Empire border: rate **7 Décimes**, written on the back, according to the French postal law 24th April 1806. **32** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz., coming from neighbouring province.



30th October 1807. From Sedan (French Empire) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Ninth rate letter, weighing 1 3/8 oz: rate L. **1,80**. 140 Cents for the first oz + 40 cents. (2 x 20 Cents) for the additional 2/8 oz. On departure the mark of accounting **L.R. 4, Lettre Rayon 4**.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

3.11 - Letters from French Empire

According to the article 4 of French postal law of 4th May 1803, letters sent to Italian Republic/Kingdom of Italy could be sent prepaid up to destination.

The transit mark **P.P.P.** (**Port Payé Passe Paris**) was struck in transit.



10

10 Décimes

8th April 1809. From Chaumont (French Empire) to Verona (Department of Adige). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P50P/CHAUMONT**, first rate letter, weighing < 6 g. and distance 800 - 1000 kms, prepaid up to destination: rate **10** Décimes, written on the back, according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806.

P.P.P.

1801 - 1813

14

14 Décimes



25th March 1807. From Anvers (Department of Deux-Néthes, French Empire) to Mantua (Department of Mincio). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P93P/ANVERS**, double rate letter, weighing 11 - <15 g and distance >1200 kms up to destination: rate **14** Décimes, written on the back, according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806.

Third rate period

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

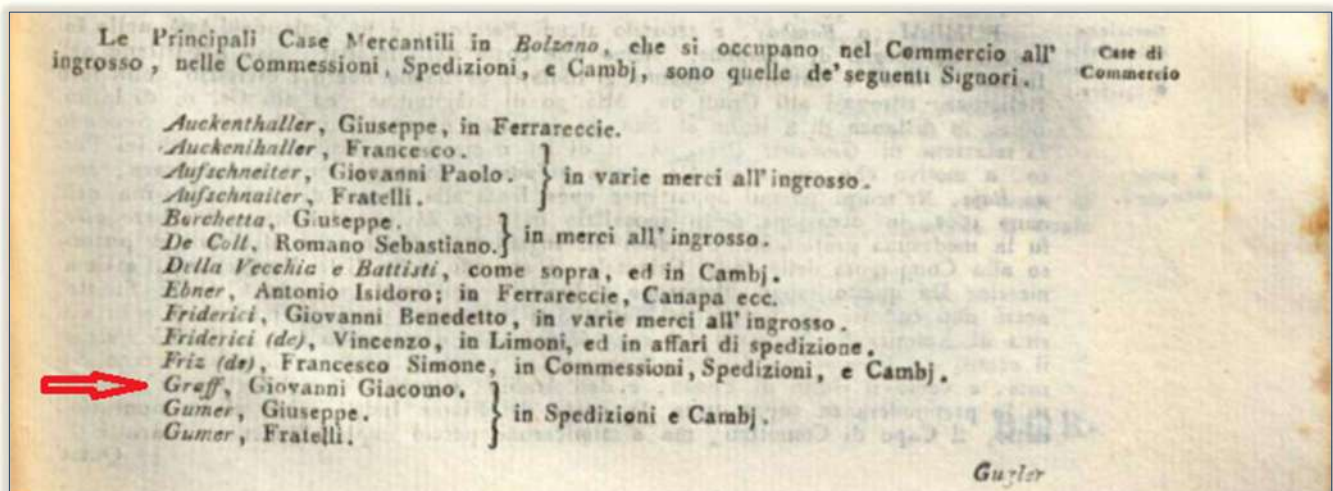
3.12 - Letter carried by Forwarder

The Forwarder or Forwarding Agent arose to ensure faster communication between traders than the postal service did. This allowed a quicker deal closing.



23rd August 1808. From Nuremberg (Kingdom of Bavaria, part of Rhine Confederation) to Verona (Department of Adige). The letter was carried up to Bolzano by the forwarder as indicated on the back “*per mezzo Gio. Giacomo Graff di Bolzano*” (by Gio. Giacomo Graff/from Bolzano). **40** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz, for letter from foreign State.

Giovanni Giacomo Graff was a forwarder from Bolzano, as the reproduced document below shows, and where he worked from 1775 to 1820.



“The main merchant houses in Bolzano that deal in wholesale trade, commission, shipping and exchange are those of the following gentlemen.

.....

Graff, Giovanni Giacomo in shipping and exchange”

From the book “Il mentore perfetto de’ negozianti (The perfect shopkeeper’s mentor)” p. 341 – Trieste 1793

The postal rates and the franking system in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

Third rate period

3.13 - Sample without value

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809

According to the article XII **Law 5 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano** (26th December 1800), the postal rates applied to the samples were:

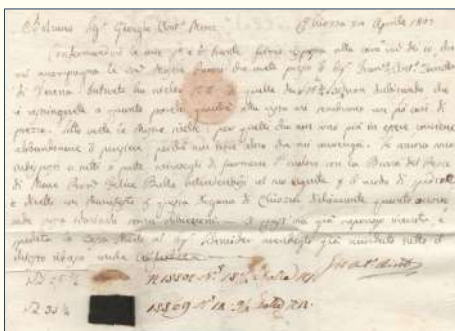
- the same rate of letters if the weight was less than ½ an oz;
- the half rate of letters if the weight was between ½ an oz and 2 oz;
- the rate of parcels if the weight was more than 2 oz.

The sample had to be presented to the postmaster for taxation; those found in the post box were taxed like a normal letters according to their weight and the postmaster wrote on the letter "not presented for franking".

Subsequent postal laws made no reference to sample: the regulations of the Law of 26th December 1800 therefore were applied.



13th May 1807. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Alone, near Brescia (Department of Mella): sample sent in fourth distance. Fourth rate sample, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **22** Cents. The rate of letters weighing 5/8 oz was 44 cents. The postmaster wrote on the front of letter *mostra di niun valore* (sample without value) and taxed it for half rate of letter.



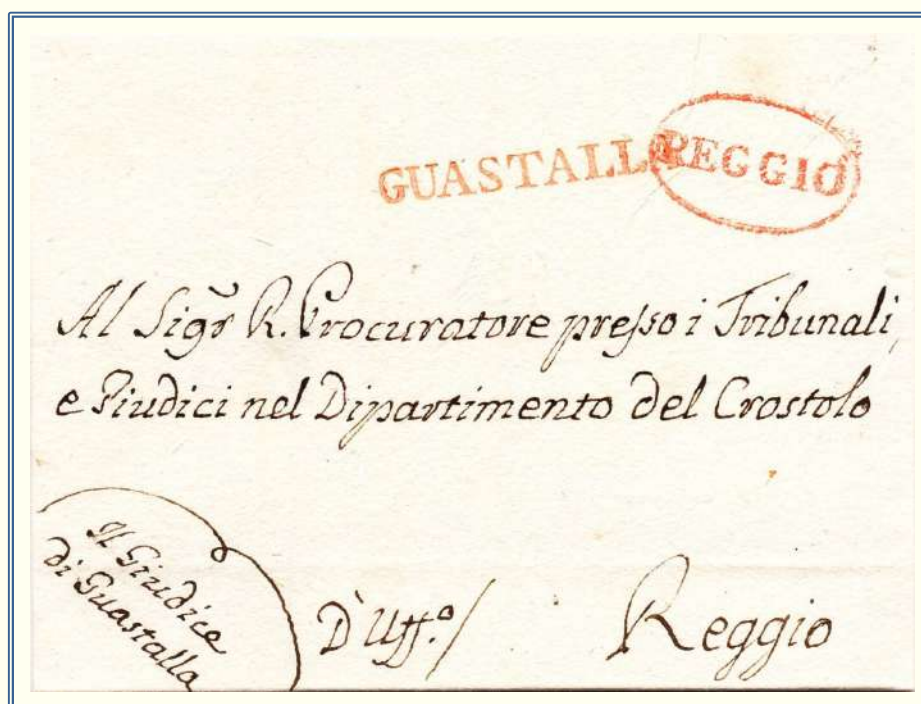
One of two original cloth sample



24th April 1807. From Chiozza, now Chioggia, near Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Bolzano (at that time Austrian Empire). **12** Cents were charged on departure, as required for a triple rate sample, weighing ½ oz. The rate of letters weighing ½ oz was 24 cents. **14** Kreuzer were charged on delivery.

1st February 1807 – 30th April 1809In this period the Decree nr. 123 dated 21st September 1805 was still in force.

3rd October 1807. From Correggio, near Reggio Emilia, to Reggio. Letter sent by the Police of Correggio to the Prefect of Reggio. In this cases, when a public office wrote to the authority on which it depended, the postal law provided that the mark of the sender should be put on, with the handwritten word D'Uff. to indicate the right of exemption. Lacking the mark of the sender, this letter should have been taxed.



15th September 1807. Letter sent by the Judge of Guastalla near Reggio Emilia, to General Attorney at the Court of Justice of Department of Crostolo in Reggio Emilia. The Judge depends on an authority that enjoyed exemption (Tribunal); he did not prepay the letter because he put on the handwritten word D'Uff. and his title *Il Giudice di Guastalla* (The Judge of Guastalla).



10th April 1809. From Milan to Novara. Letter sent by Prefecture of Police Department of Olona to Prefect of Department of Agogna. Both authorities enjoyed the limited free frank. On the front, the stamp of mark *Prefettura di Polizia Dipartim.º D'Olona* indicating the right of exemption.



31st January 1809. From Montecchio to Barco, both villages near Reggio Emilia. Letter sent by the Registrar of Census in Montecchio to Major of Barco. The Registrar of Census and the Majors were not entitled to the free frank, which they enjoyed by the previous postal law. The letter should have been taxed.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.1 – First distance band letters

The "Decree n. 46 general finance for 1809" enacted on 27th March 1809 maintained the existing fee structure. It introduced weight brackets, with the division of the first group of letters weighing less than ¼ ounce and those weighing ¼ ounce, as per table.

On **14th October 1809**, according to the Peace of Schönbrunn, Istria and Dalmatia were incorporated into the Illyrian Provinces, directly under the administration of the French Empire.

In **May 1810** Trentino and South Tyrol formed the department of Alto Adige, lost in the autumn 1813.

Since 1st October 1810 rates were applied to this department, in the execution of the Decree 172 on 14th August 1810 and of the Decree 228 with which extends to the department of Alto Adige price table of the rate of letters annexed to the decree of 27th March 1809. The distances to Alto Adige were based on those applying to the department of Adige, which was located in second distance from the department of Alto Adige.

The rates abroad and from abroad and the letters "Chargé" remained unchanged.

Weight in oz	Weight in g	Domestic								To and from Foreign Countries		
		15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	Abroad	From abroad (1)	From abroad (2)
< ¼	< 7,50	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50			
¼	7,50	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	60	16	28	40
3/8	11,25	25	30	35	40	45	50	60	70	20	32	44
½	15,00	30	35	40	50	60	70	80	90	24	42	66
5/8	18,75	35	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	32	56	80
6/8	22,50	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	40	70	100
7/8	26,25	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	48	84	120
1	30,00	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	56	98	140
Distances		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th			
Each additional 1/8 oz:												
		7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	8	14	20
Chargé Letters										Surcharge 38/100		

- (1) From abroad neighbouring provinces
- (2) From abroad non neighbouring provinces and foreign states

15

15 Cents.



12th October 1809. From Verona to Brenzone (Department of Adige). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, single rate letter, weighing < ¼ oz: rate **15** Cents, written on the back.

30

30 Cents.



5th July 1810. From Badia to Verona (Department of Adige). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, Fourth rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate **30** Cents, written on the back.



35

35 Cents.

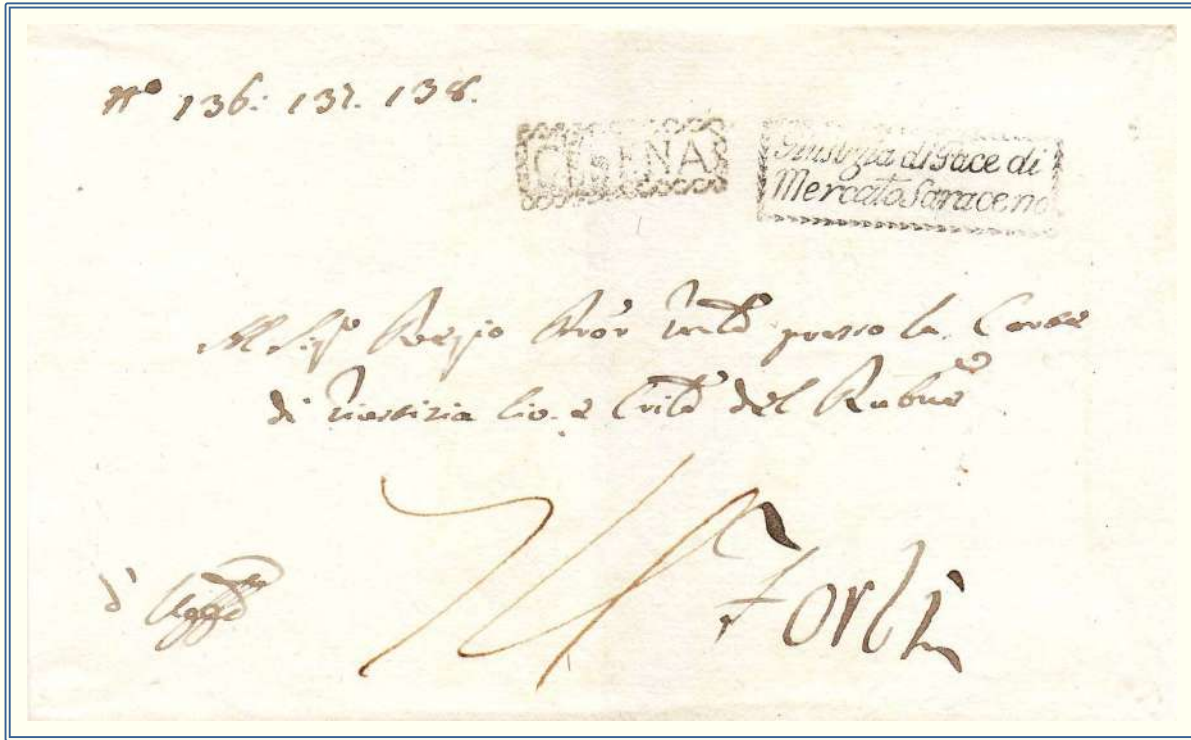
22nd December 1810. From Padua to Cittadella (Department of Brenta). Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP**, fifth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **35** Cents, written on the back.



24th September 1809. From Bagnacavallo to Cervia (Department of Reno). Eighth rate letter, weighing 1 oz:
rate **60** Cents.



7th September 1810. From Bologna to Imola (Department of Reno). Ninth rate letter, weighing 1 1/8 oz:
rate **67** Cents. 60 Cents for the first oz + 7 Cents for the additional 1/8 oz.



22nd May 1811. From Mercato Saraceno to Forlì (Department of Rubicone). Tenth rate letter, weighing 1 2/8 ounce: rate **74** Cents. 60 Cents for the first oz + 14 Cents (2 x 7 Cents) for the additional 2/8 oz.



88
88 Cents.

16th November 1809. From Bologna to Sacerno (Department of Reno). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P./BOLOGNA/D'ITALIA**, 12th rate letter, weighing 1 ½ oz: rate **88** Cents. 60 Cents for the first oz + 28 Cents (4 x 7 Cents.) for the additional ½ oz, written on the back.



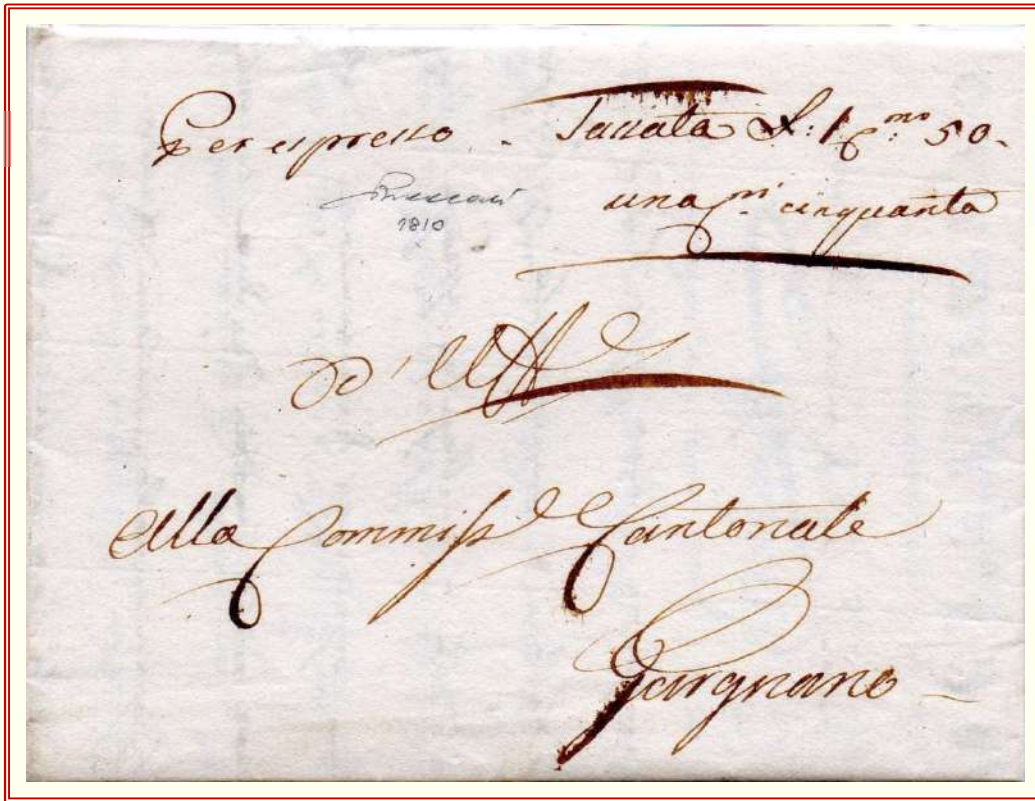
95
95 Cents.

22nd August 1810. From Bologna to Medicina (Department of Reno). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P./BOLOGNA/D'ITALIA**, 13th rate letter, weighing 1 5/8 oz: rate **95 Cents**. 60 Cents for the first oz + 35 Cents (5 x 7 Cents.) for the additional 5/8 oz, written on the back.



120
120 Cents.

15th June 1810. From Macerata to Tolentino (Department of Musone). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, 16th rate letter, weighing 2 oz: rate **120 Cents**, written on the back. The correct rate would be 116 Cents: 60 Cents for the first oz + 56 Cents (8 x 7 Cents) for the additional 1 oz, but the postmaster simply doubled the rate established for a letter weighing 1 oz.



13th October 1810. From Salò to Gargnano (Department of Mella). 21st rate letter, weighing 2 5/8 oz: rate L. **1,50**. 60 Cents for the first oz + 90 Cents (13 x 7 Cents) for the additional 13/8 oz. In fact, the correct rate would be L. 1,51, rounded down to the nearest cent, with the dual display of taxation, in figures and in words. The words *Per espresso* indicated that the delivery of the letter was done by the person expressly appointed. For this service there was not an additional fee.



On the back:

the weight

2 $\frac{6}{8}$

2 oz. 6/8

.... and the rate

L. 1,56

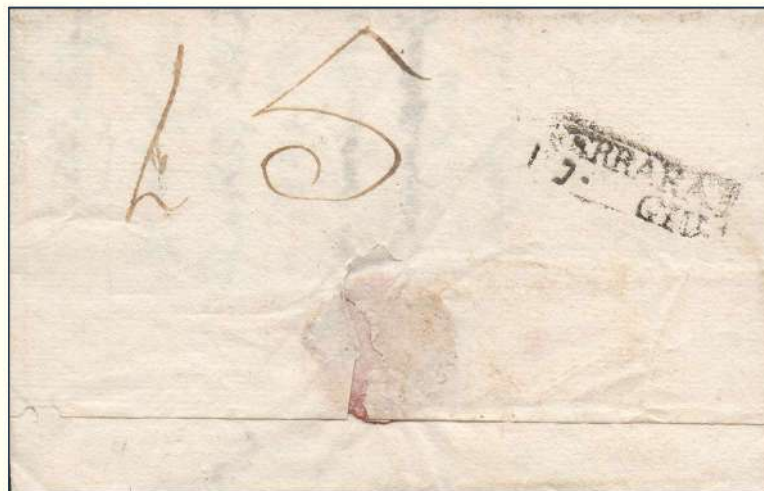
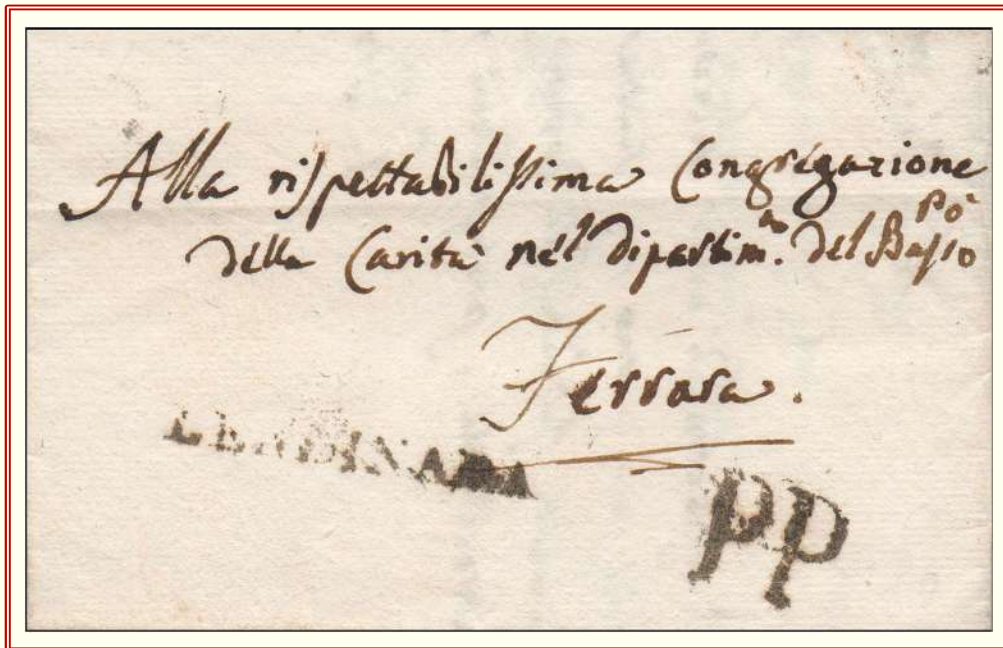
L. 1,56 Cents.

24th August 1809. From Brescia to Chiari (Department of Mella). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, 22nd rate letter, weighing 2 6/8 oz, as indicated on the back: rate L. **1,56**. 60 Cents for the first oz + 96 Cents (14 x 7 Cents) for the additional 14/8 oz, written on the back.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.1 – First distance band letters

The only letter as far as I know with this high rate in this period.



31st May 1809. From Lendinara to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP**, 71st rate letter, weighing 8 7/8 oz: rate L. **5**. 60 Cents for the first oz + 441 Cents (63 x 7 Cents) for the additional 63/8 oz, written on the back. In fact, the correct rate would have been L. 5,01, rounded down to the nearest cent.



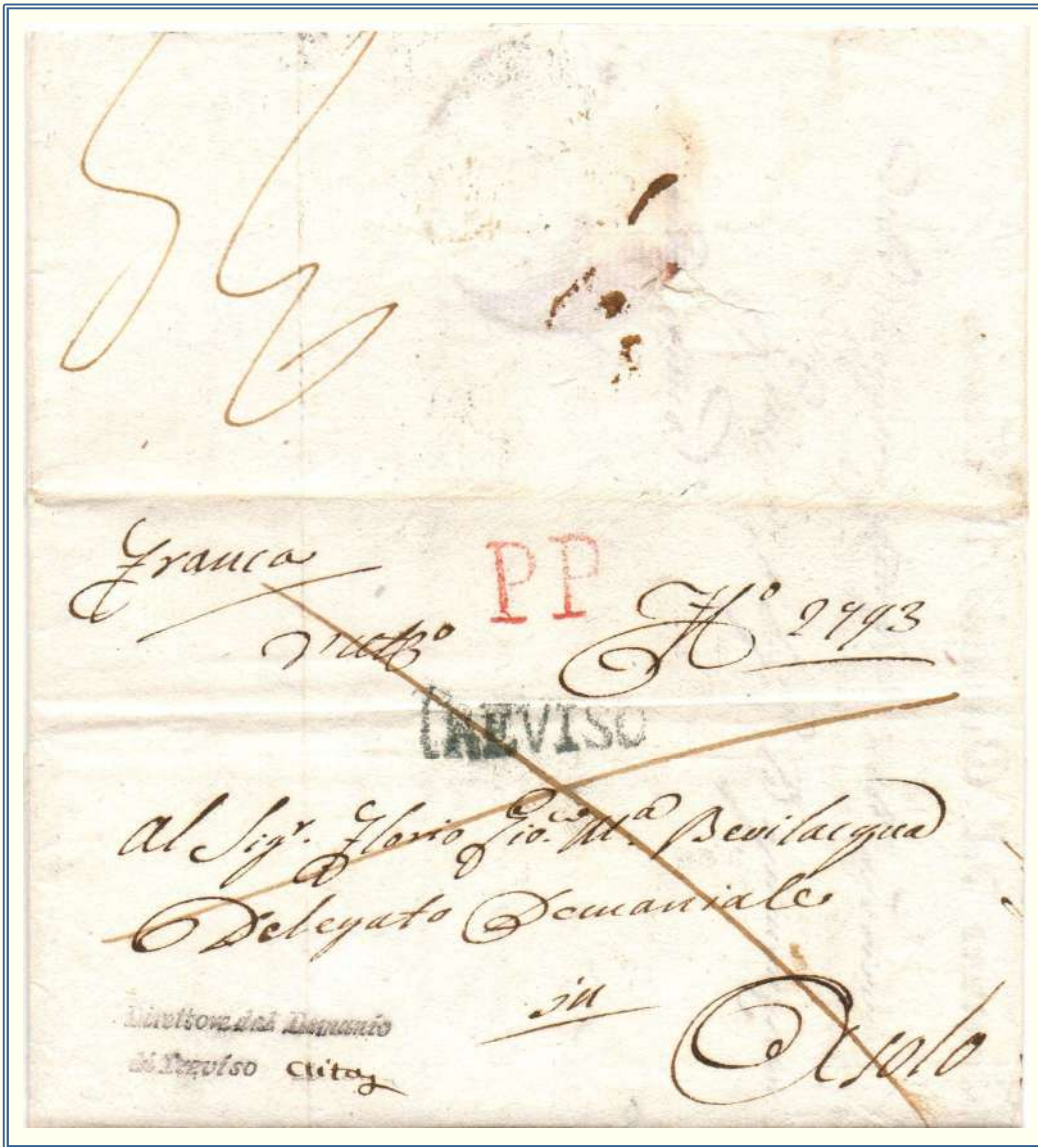
12th June 1810. From Polesella, near Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Double rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **25** Cents. On the front the rare mark **POLESELLA B. - PO** with the handwritten integration **B. - PO**.



24th September 1810. From Bergamo (Department of Serio) to Milan (Department of Olona). Triple rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **30** Cents.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.2 – Second distance band letters



2nd July 1810. From Treviso (Department of Tagliamento) to Asolo, near Vicenza (Department of Bacchiglione). Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP**, fourth rate letter, weighing 1/2 oz: rate **35** Cents, written on the back.

Saint Andrew Cross and the handwritten word *Franca* indicates that the rate has been prepaid.

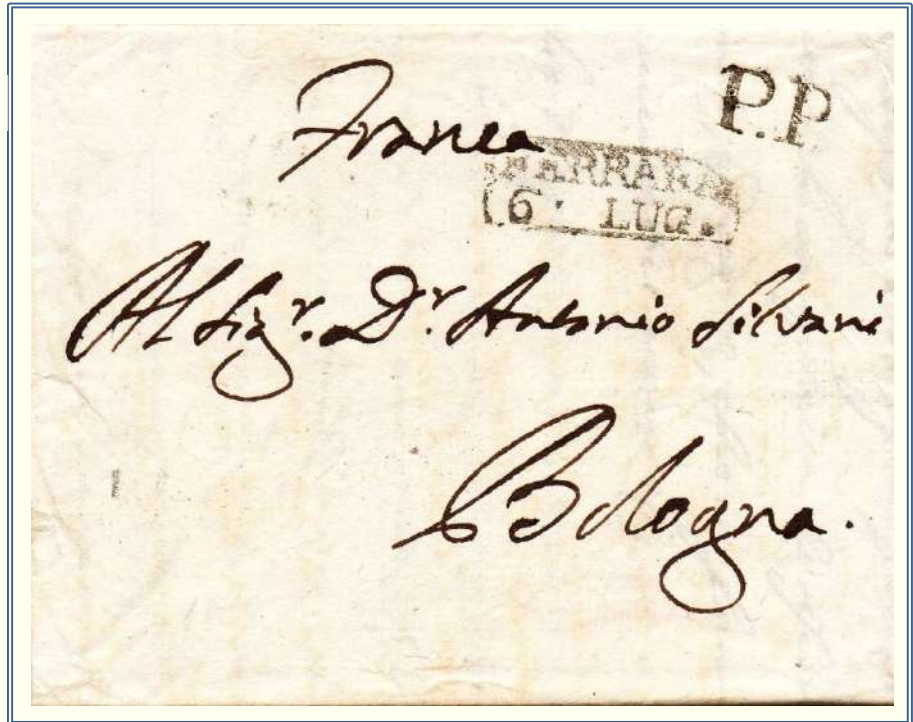


20th June 1810. From Lodi, near Milan (Department of Alto Po) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). Fifth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **40** Cents.

Franca →

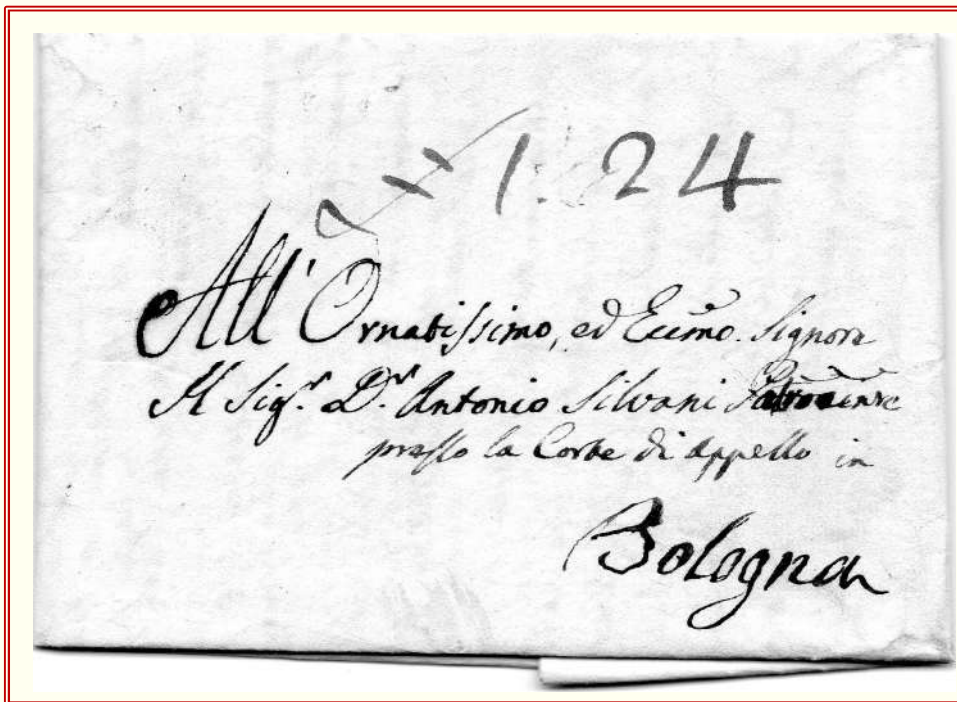
60

60 Cents.



6th July 1809. From Ferrara (Department of Basso Po) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, seventh rate letter, weighing 7/8 oz: rate **60** Cents, written on the back.

The handwritten word *Franca* indicated that the rate has been prepaid.



On the back:
the calculation of the rate

70
30
18
—
124

3rd January 1811. From Forlì (Department of Rubicone) to Bologna (Department of Reno). 14th rate letter, weighing 1 7/8 oz: rate L. **1,24**.

70 Cents for the first ounce + 54 Cents (6 x 9 Cents) for the additional 6/8 oz.



L. 1.87
1 Lira and 87 Cents.

25th June 1809. From Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP**, 21st rate letter, weighing 2 5/8 ounces: rate L. **1,87. 70** Cents for the first ounce + 117 Cents (13 x 9 Cents) for the additional 13/8 oz, written on the back.



P.P.
VERONA

Handwritten scribbles

**3 Lire and
30 Cents.**

31st January 1810. From Verona (Department of Adige) to Mantua (Department of Mincio). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P./VERONA**, 37th rate letter, weighing 4 5/8 oz: rate L. **3,30. 70** Cents for the first oz + 261 Cents (29 x 9 Cents) for the additional 29/8 oz, written on the back. In fact, rounded down to the nearest cent.



25 Cents.

19th November 1810. From Venezia (Department of Adriatico) to Belluno (Department of Piave). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, single rate letter, weighing <1/4 oz: rate **25 Cents**, written on the back.

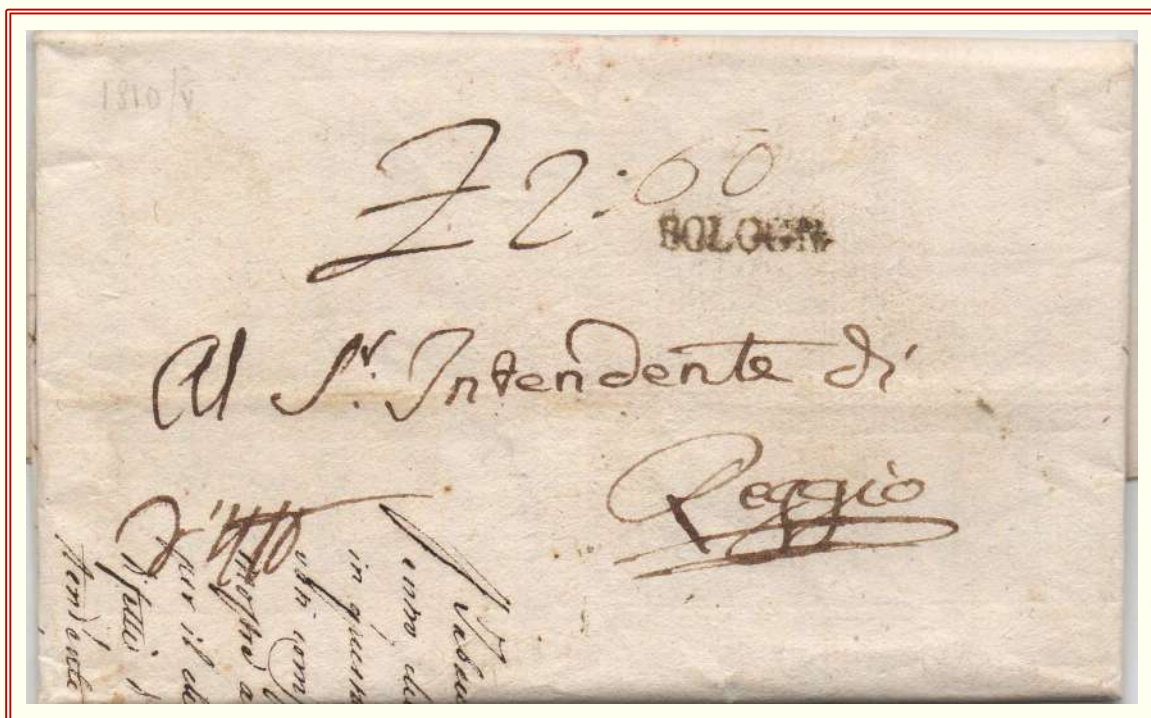


14th September 1810. From Vicenza (Department of Bacchiglione) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Triple rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **35 Cents**. ex coll. Provera



25th May 1811. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Faenza (Department of Rubicone). Eighth rate letter, weighing 1 oz: rate **80** Cents.

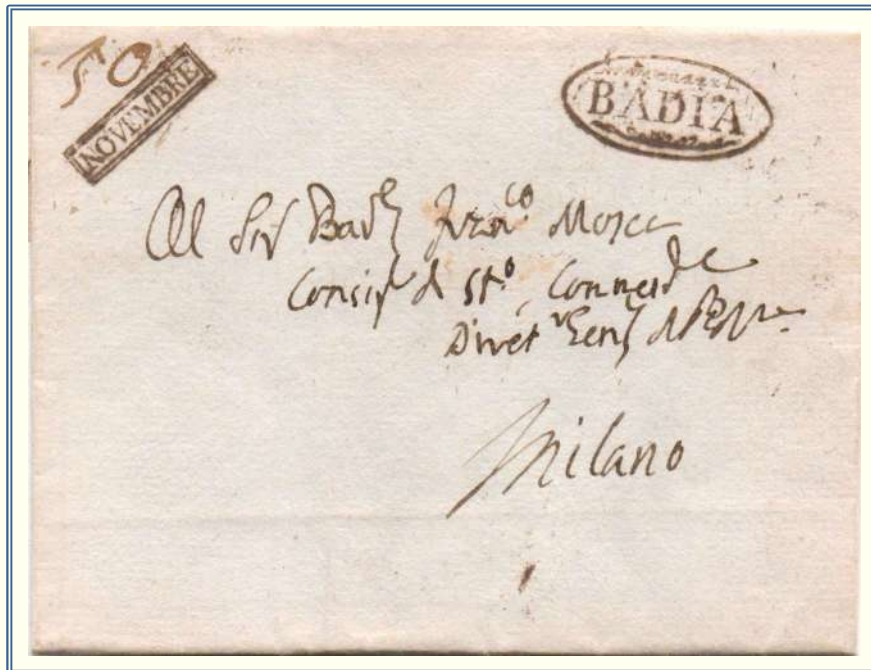
The handwritten word *D'uff.* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the mayor and the General Receiver of Department enjoyed this right if the letter travelled “under wrapper” and not individually, as it probably happened in this case (Decree nr. 65 dated 4th April 1810). For this reason the letter was taxed.



27th May 1810. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). 26th rate letter, weighing 3 2/8 oz: L. **2,60**. 80 Cents for the first oz + 180 Cents (18 x 10 Cents) for the additional 18/8 oz.

30

30 Cents.



13th November 1809. From Badia, near Rovigo (Department of Adige) to Milan (Department of Olona).
Single rate letter, weighing < 1/4 oz: rate **30** Cents.

Letter sent by the Secretary
of Prince Eugène de
Beauharnais.



... June 1809. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Verona (Department of Adige). Double rate letter,
weighing 1/4 oz: rate **35** Cents.



19th June 1811. From Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona) to Trento (Department of Alto Adige).
Triple rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate 40 Cents.

The handwritten word *D'uff.o* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Tax Officer was entitled to the **limited free frank** to those letters received from officials, but **within its own department**, as prescribed by the decree n. 65 dated 4th April 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



6th October 1809. From Fermo (Department of Tronto) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). Fourth rate letter, weighing 1/2 oz: rate 50 Cents.

The handwritten word *D'uff* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the State Property Management had no rights, because he was not listed in the decree n. 65 dated 4th April 1810. For this reason the letters was taxed.

40

40 Cents.

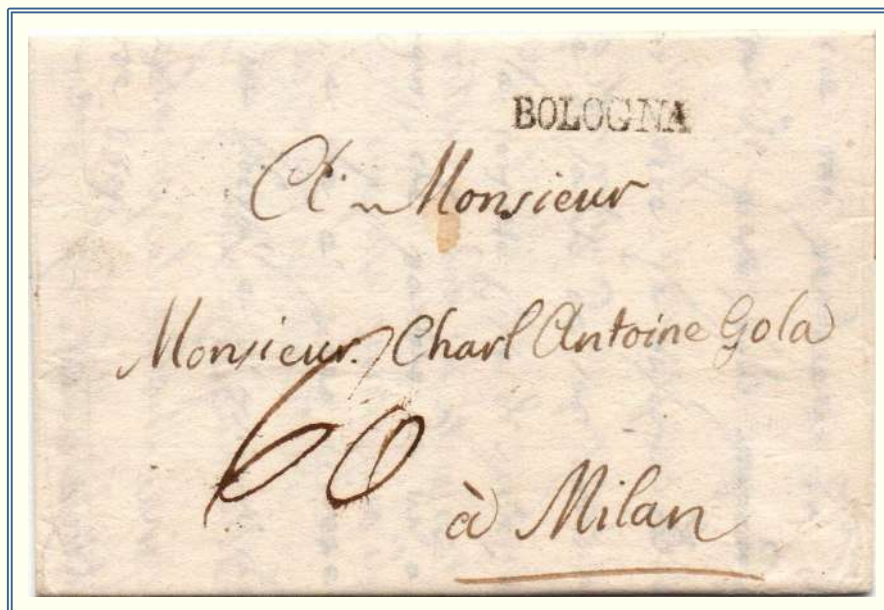


11th October 1809. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, double rate letter, weighing $\frac{1}{4}$ oz: rate **40** Cents, written on the back.



4th December 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) a Ravenna (Department of Rubicone). Triple rate letter, weighing $\frac{3}{8}$ oz: rate **45** Cents.

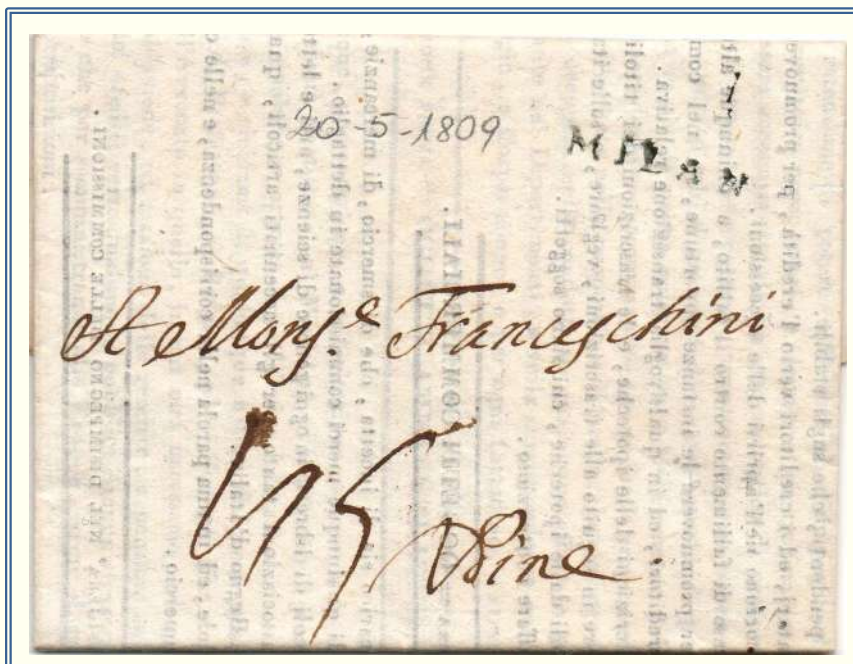
The handwritten word **D'uff.º** indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Congregation of Charity did not have rights, because not listed in the decree n. 65 dated 4th April 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



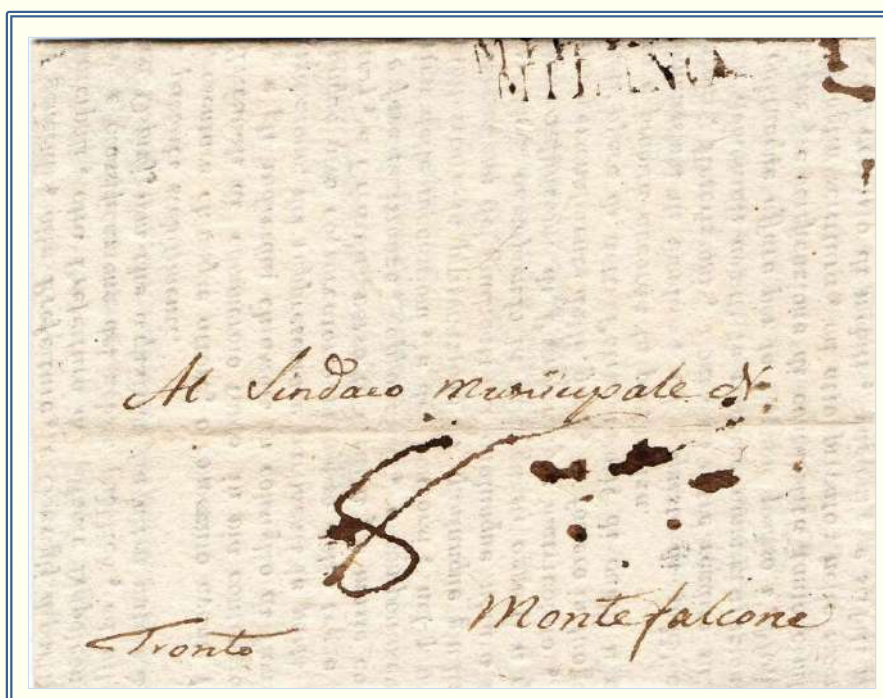
15th December 1809. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Milan (Department of Olona). Fourth rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate 60 Cents.



4th April 1811. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid rate Port Payé P.P., fifth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate 70 Cents, written on the back. The letter was sent prepaid because the addressee was the Minister for Worship.



20th May 1809. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Udine (Department of Passariano). First rate letter, weighing < ¼ oz: rate **45** Cents.



20th March 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Montefalcone (Department of Tronto). Fourth rate letter, weighing ½ oz: rate **8** Décimes (80 Cents).

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.7 – Registered letters “Chargé”

When the post offices were not equipped with Chargé or Raccomandata (Registered letter) stamps, as in the case of Department of Serio (Bergamo) and Department of Mella (Brescia), the postmaster wrote on the letter the sentence *Per consegna* (To delivery) or the graphic sign # to indicate that it was a registered letter.

Sometimes he indicated both, as in the case of the following letter.

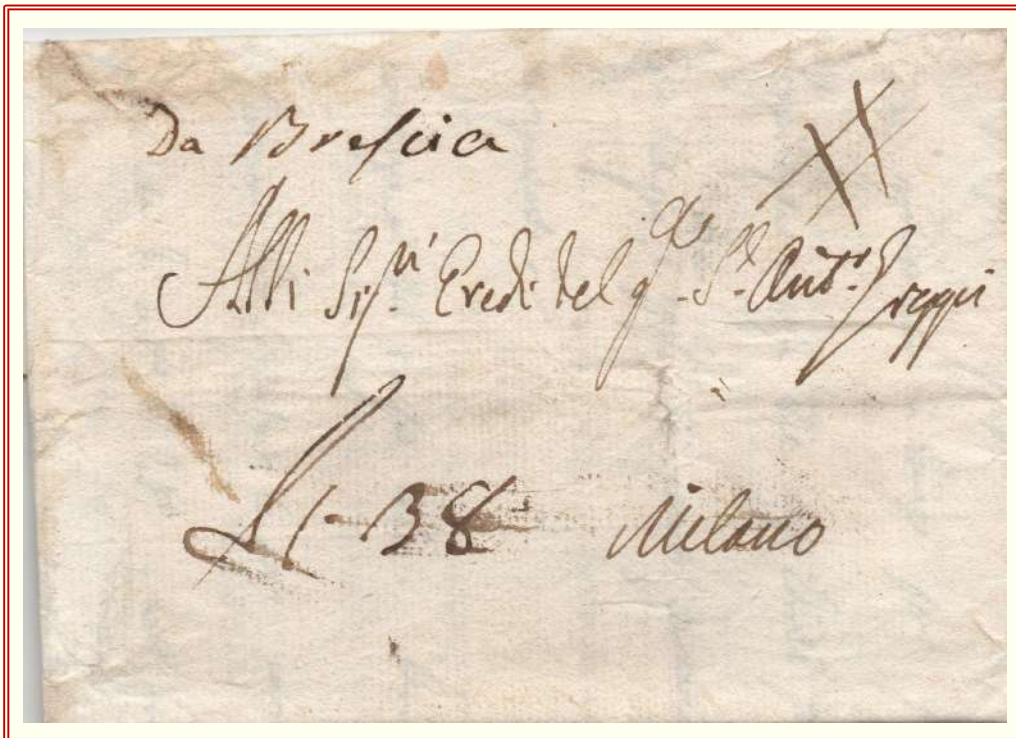
Per Consegna

#

Only example recorded with these graphic signs



6th October 1810. From Bergamo (Department of Serio) to Brescia (Department of Mella). Registered letter chargé second rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **63** Cents. Calculation: 25 Cents for letter sent to the Department in second distance band + 38 Cents for the registration fee.



Da Brescia

X

Only example recorded with these graphic signs

12th February 1810. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Milan (Department of Olona). Registered letter chargé tenth rate letter, weighing 1 2/8 oz: rate **L. 1-38**. Calculation: 80 Cents for the first oz + 20 Cents (2 x 10 Cents) for the additional 2/8 oz for a letter sent to the Department in third distance + 38 Cents for the registration fee.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.8 – Registered letters
“Chargé” from foreign States

The registered letters coming from abroad were subject to the ordinary rate letter plus a surcharge for registration, as in two examples below.

Italian fee +
Registration fee =
 Total due on delivery



Austrian fee +
Registration fee =
 Total due on departure

15th June 1810. From Prague (Austrian Empire) to Verona (Department of Adige). Prepaid **30** Kreuzer up to the Austrian Empire border: 24 Kreuzer + 6 Kr. registration fee. **L. 1,18** was charged on delivery, as required for a registered letter chargè, comprising 80 Cents for a letter weighing 5/8 oz and incoming from a foreign state, plus 38 Cents for registration fee. The uncommon mark **ILLYRIE** struck on transit.

Only example recorded

CARICATO P.P.
 03.1810

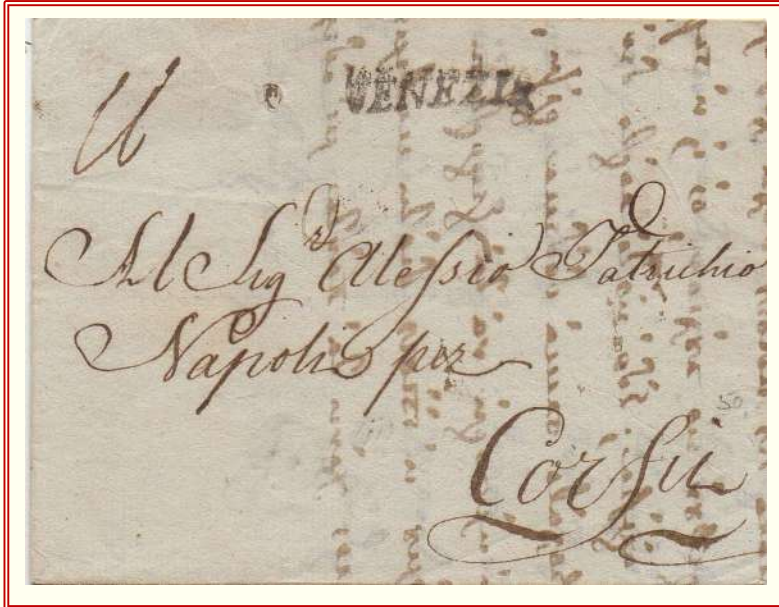
RAGUSA
D^{TO} D. ALBANIA

07.1808 – 03.1810

60.
 77.



21st March 1810. From Ragusa (Department of Albania – Illyrian Provinces - French Empire) to Ancona (Department of Metauro). On departure prepaid rate **P.P.** registered letter **CARICATO** (the Italian for “chargé”) and **#**, rate **77** Décimes. 60 Décimes for a letter sent a distance between 1.200/1.400 kms, weighing 40-45 g and 17 Décimes for the registration fee, written on the back. **L. 1,58** was charged on delivery, as required for registered letter chargè: 120 Cents for a letter weighing 7/8 oz and incoming from a foreign state, plus 38 Cents registration fee.



14th May 1810. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Corfù (Ionian Islands – French Empire). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **16 Cents**.

22nd February 1810. From Roveredo, now Rovereto, near Trento (Department of Adige) to Augusta (Augsburg). Tenth rate letter sent to Confederation of Rhine, weighing 1 3/8 oz: rate **8 Décimes (80 Cents)**. **8 Rh.Kr.** charged on delivery for the Austro-German due. On the front the stamp **vRoveredo** used only five months in the Napoleonic period.



... 1810. From Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona) to Eperies en Hongrie, now Prešov, Republic of Slovakia. Triple rate letter, weighing 1/2 ounce: rate **24 Cents**. **14 Kreuzer** were charged on delivery. Interestingly the sender has indicated the route for the letter by way of Wien, Presbourg and Leutschau.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

Letters to French Empire could be sent either prepaid on departure or paid on arrival, according to the convention of 17th March 1803 and the French postal law of 24th April 1806.

16
16 Cents.



7th November 1810. From Padua (Department of Brenta) to Pisa (Conquered Department of Mediterraneo, part of French Empire). Single rate letter sent to Tuscany, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **16 Cents**, **unusually written on the back**. **7** Décimes were charged on delivery for Tuscany dues (letter coming from distance 400-500 km.).



... August 1810. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Livorno (Conquered Department of Mediterraneo, part of French Empire). Double rate letter sent to Tuscany, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **20 Cents**. **5** Décimes were charged on delivery for Tuscany dues (letter coming from distance 200-300 km.).

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

Letters to French Empire could be sent either prepaid on departure or paid on arrival, according to the convention of 17th March 1803 and the French postal law of 24th April 1806. The mark **R.AUME D'ITALIE PAR TURIN** struck on both letters, shows the post office of exchange of these letters.

32
32 Cents.



8th June 1810. From Novara (Department of Agogna) to Turin (Conquered Department of Po, part of French Empire). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P./NOVARA**. Fourth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **32** Cents written on the back.

**R.AUME D'ITALIE
PAR
TURIN
1808 - 1814**



19th August 1809. From Mantua (Department of Mincio) to Turin (Conquered Department of Po, part of French Empire). *poste restante - pressée*. 5 Décimes were charged on delivery in Turin, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g sent to Turin, according to article 8 of French postal law of 4th May 1803.



ROYAUME D'ITALIE
PAR
VERCEIL

1808 - 1814

4th November 1809. From Vigevano, near Novara (Department of Agogna) to Ivrea (Conquered Department of Sesia, part of French Empire). 5 Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing less than 6 g. The rate is as follows: 3 Décimes for letters sent to Verceil weighing less than 6 g., according to the article 8 and 10 of the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), plus 2 Décimes for internal route from Verceil to Ivrea (distance 0 – 50 km.), according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806.

Transit mark **L.I./MILANO** and the mark **R.^{AU}ME D'ITALIE PAR VERCEIL** shows the post office of exchange of the letter.



The map shows the post offices where the exchange of letters coming from the Kingdom of Italy took place. All the post offices indicated on the map were in charge of exchanging letters from Milan, with the exception of Parma, that was exchange post office for those coming from Bologna.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

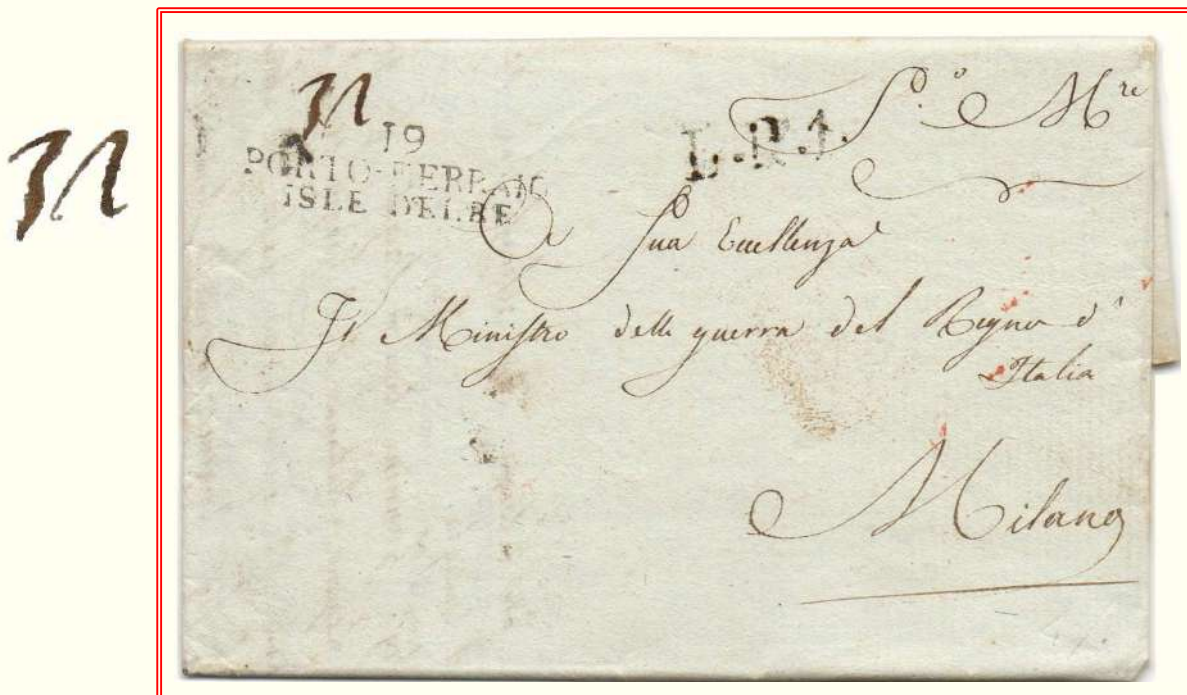
4.11 - Letters from French Empire

The mark of accounting **L.R.1 - Lettre Rayon 1** was struck on departure on the letters.



The rare mark of control **B**, in use up to 1810, was struck on arrival.

21st December 1809. From Florence (Conquered Department of Arno, part of French Empire) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate 28 Cents.



12th February 1810. From Porto-Ferraio –Isle d'Elba (Conquered Department of Arno, part of French Empire) to Milan (Department of Olona). Second rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate 32 Cents.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.11 - Letters from French Empire

The mark of accounting **L.R.1 - Lettre Rayon 1** was struck on departure on the letters.



27th May 1810. From Plaisance (Conquered Department of Taro, part of French Empire) to Allone, near Brescia (Department of Mella). Triple rate letter, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ oz: rate **42** Cents.



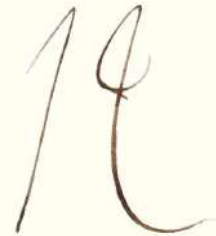
17th October 1809. From Florence (Conquered Department of Arno, part of French Empire) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Seventh rate letter, weighing $\frac{7}{8}$ oz: rate 84 Cents.

Fourth rate period

1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.11 - Letters from French Empire

According to the article 3 of the French postal law of 4th May 1803, **letters sent to the former Venetian territories** were to be prepaid up to Italian border, while letters sent to the others territories of Kingdom of Italy could be prepaid up to destination, according to the article 1 of the above mentioned French postal law.



12 Décimes

24th September 1810. From Rheims, now Reims (French Empire) to Vicenza (Department of Bacchiglione, former venetian territory). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.49P./RHEIMS** and **P.P.P. (Port Payé Passe Paris)**, single rate letter, weighing < 6 g and distance > 1200 kms. up to French Empire border: rate **12** Décimes, written on the back, according to the French postal law 24th April 1806. **40** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a double rate letter, weighing ¼ oz., coming from foreign state.



8 Décimes



23rd May 1809. From Valence (French Empire) to Verona (Department of Adige). Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.25P./VALENCE**, single rate letter, weighing < 6 g and distance 500 – 600 kms. up to destination: rate **8** Décimes, written on the back, according to the French postal law 24th April 1806.



30th July 1810. From Rome (Conquered Department of Tevere, part of French Empire) to Faenza, near Bologna (Department of Reno). Single rate letter, weighing 1/4 oz: rate **40** Cents.

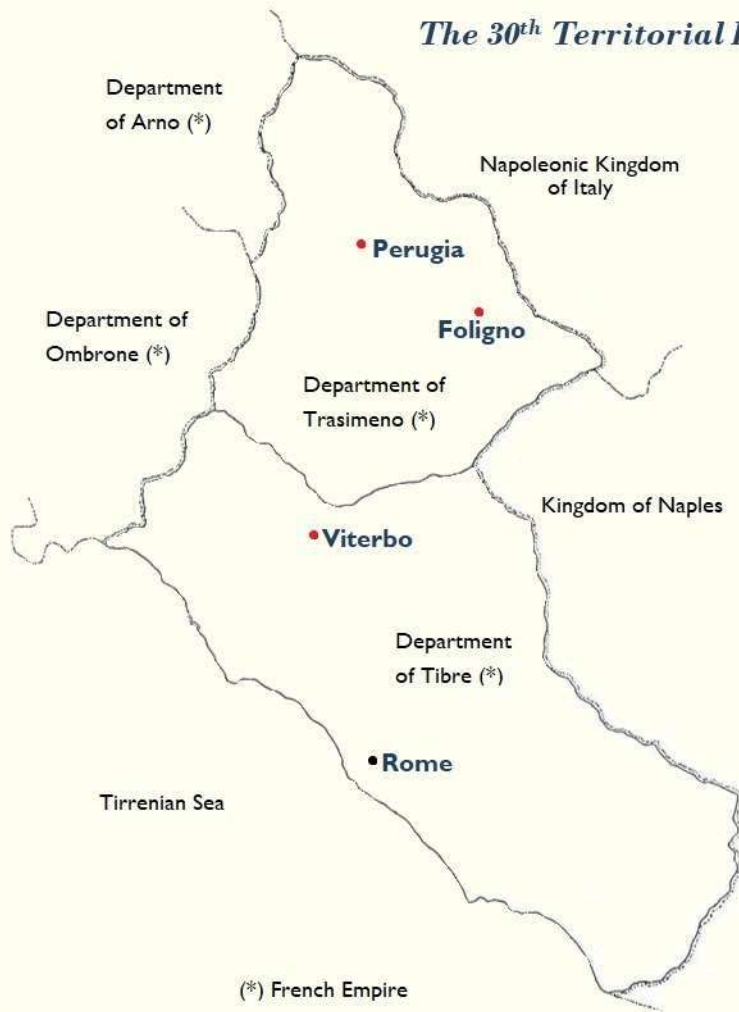


23th May 1810. From Rome (Conquered Department of Tevere, part of French Empire) to Macerata (Department of Musone). Double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz: rate **44** Cents.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.12 - Letters from non neighbouring provinces and foreign States

The mark **30^{ME}/DIVISION** did not have a military meaning, but it certified a civil relationship between the territories of 30th Division and those of the Kingdom of Italy. The stations of exchange were Foligno, Perugia and Viterbo, where the mark was put on letters.



Station of exchange	Letter sent to the department of:
Foligno	Metauro, Musone, Tronto
Perugia	Basso Po, Crostolo, Panaro, Reno, Rubicone, Adige, Adriatico, Bacchiglione, Brenta, Passariano, Piave, Tagliamento
Viterbo	Adda, Agogna, Alto Po, Lario, Mella, Mincio, Olona, Serio

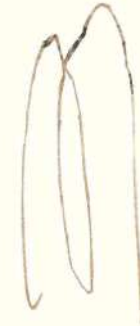


8th October 1810. From Amelia (Conquered Department of Trasimeno, part of French Empire) to Macerata (Department of Musone). Fourth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz: rate **80** Cents. In this case the mark **30^{ME}/DIVISION** was put in Foligno, deputy for East direction. On the front another sign of fee, L. 3,20, probably the total amount to be collected for all the letters that are part of the same envelope.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

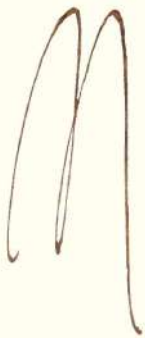
4.12 - Letters from non neighbouring
provinces and foreign States

On the front of both letters the uncommon mark **P.P./TRIESTE/ILLYRIE**, struck on departure.



4 Décimes

18th October 1810. From Trieste (Illyrian Provinces – French Empire) to Venice (Department of Adriatico).
On departure prepaid rate **P.P./TRIESTE/ILLYRIE** letter sent a distance 100/200 kms, weighing 6-8 g: rate **4**
Décimes, written on the back. **40** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a first rate letter,
weighing 1/4 oz.



4 Décimes



10th September 1810. From Trieste (Illyrian Provinces – French Empire) to Venice (Department of Adriatico).
On departure prepaid rate **P.P./TRIESTE/ILLYRIE** letter sent a distance 100/200 kms, weighing 6-8 g: rate **4**
Décimes, written on the back. **44** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a double rate letter,
weighting 3/8 oz.



22nd March 1811. From Braunseifen (Moravia – Austrian Empire) to Verona (Department of Adige). Prepaid **14** Kreuzer to the Austrian Empire border via Vienna. **44** cents were charged on delivery, as required for a double rate letter, weighing 3/8 oz.



11th June 1811. From Trieste (Illyrian Provinces – French Empire) to Forlì (Department of Rubicone). No amount paid on departure because the sender enjoyed the free frank, as the oval mark with eagle shows. **80** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a fifth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz. The letter was taxed on delivery because the Prefect of Department did not enjoy the free franks for letters from abroad. On the front of letter the uncommon mark **TRIESTE/ILLYRIE**, struck on departure.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.12 - Letters from non neighbouring provinces and foreign States

The Neapolitan mark *REGNO* was struck in Naples on front of the letters came from postal offices of the Kingdom and sent out of

1803 - 1812

10 grana



12th September 1809. From Barletta, near Bari (Kingdom of Naples) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid **10** Grana (written on the back) for simple letter coming from Terra di Bari up to the Kingdom of Naples border via Naples, as confirmed by the Neapolitan mark *REGNO*. **80** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a fourth rate letter, weighing 5/8 oz.

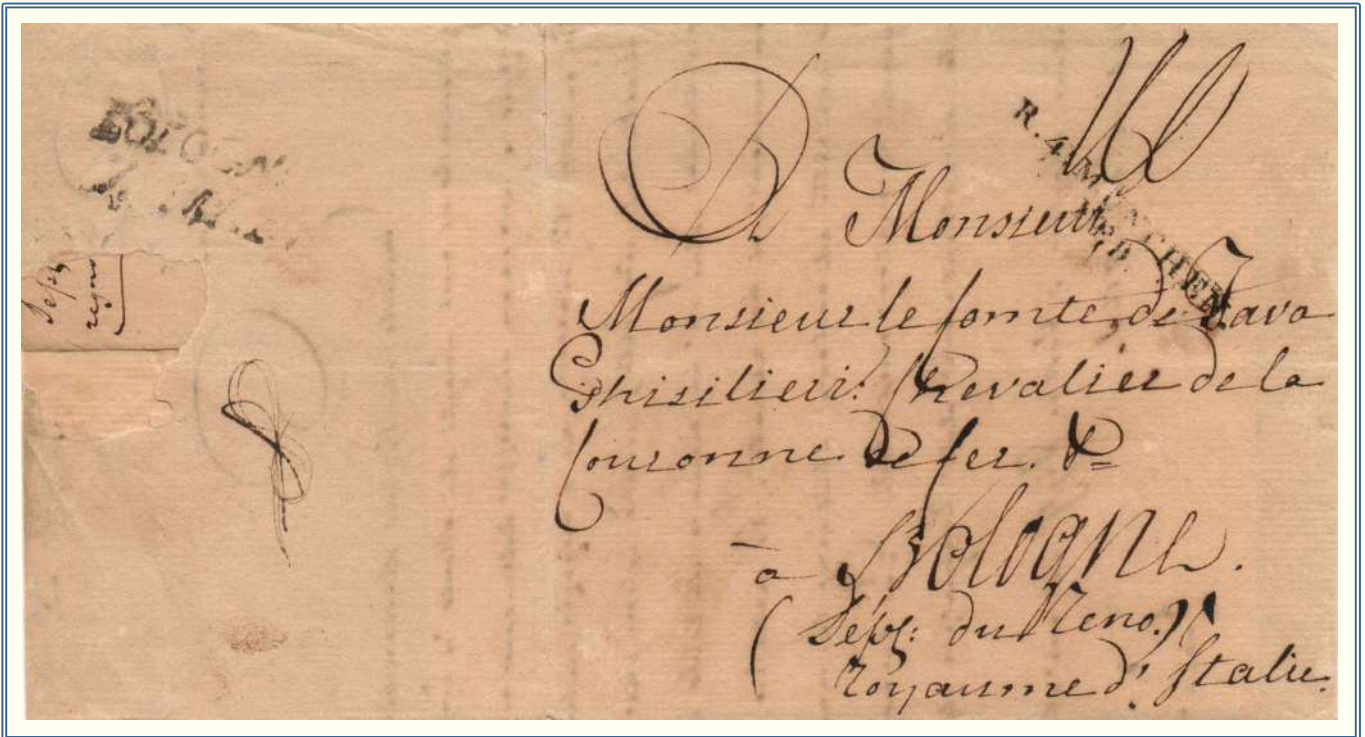


6 grana

22nd August 1809. From Barletta, near Bari (Kingdom of Naples) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid **6** grana (written on the back) for simple letter coming from Terra di Bari up to Naples and not up to the Kingdom of Naples border, as confirmed by the Neapolitan mark *REGNO*. **120** Cents were charged on delivery, as required for a sixth rate letter, weighing 7/8 oz.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.12 - Letters from non neighbouring
provinces and foreign States



28th January 1810. From Fulda (Grand Duchy of Frankfurt) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid 8 Rh. Kr. written on the back. 160 Cents were charged on delivery, as required for eighth rate letter, weighing 1 1/8 oz. On the front transit mark R. 4 MÜNCHEN (Rayon 4 München).



28th March 1810. From Altona, near Hamburg (Conquered Department Bouches d'Elbe, part of French Empire) to Verona (Department of Adige). Prepaid 17 Shilling written on the back. L. 1,8 charged on delivery, as required for eighth rate letter, weighing 1 3/8 oz. On the front transit mark R. 4 HAMBURG (Rayon 4 Hamburg).

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.13 - Letters in free frank

In this period the Decree nr. 123 dated 21st September 1805 had been in force up to March 1810. It established exactly which authorities had right to the exemption and the Mayors had not right to exemption. However it's no so uncommon to find letters with no taxation, as the following example shows.



23th September 1809. From Osimo to Castelfidardo, both villages near Ancona. Letter sent by the Mayor of Osimo to Mayor of Castelfidardo. The handwritten word *D'uff.* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Mayors had no rights, because it was not listed in the decree; so the letter should have been taxed.

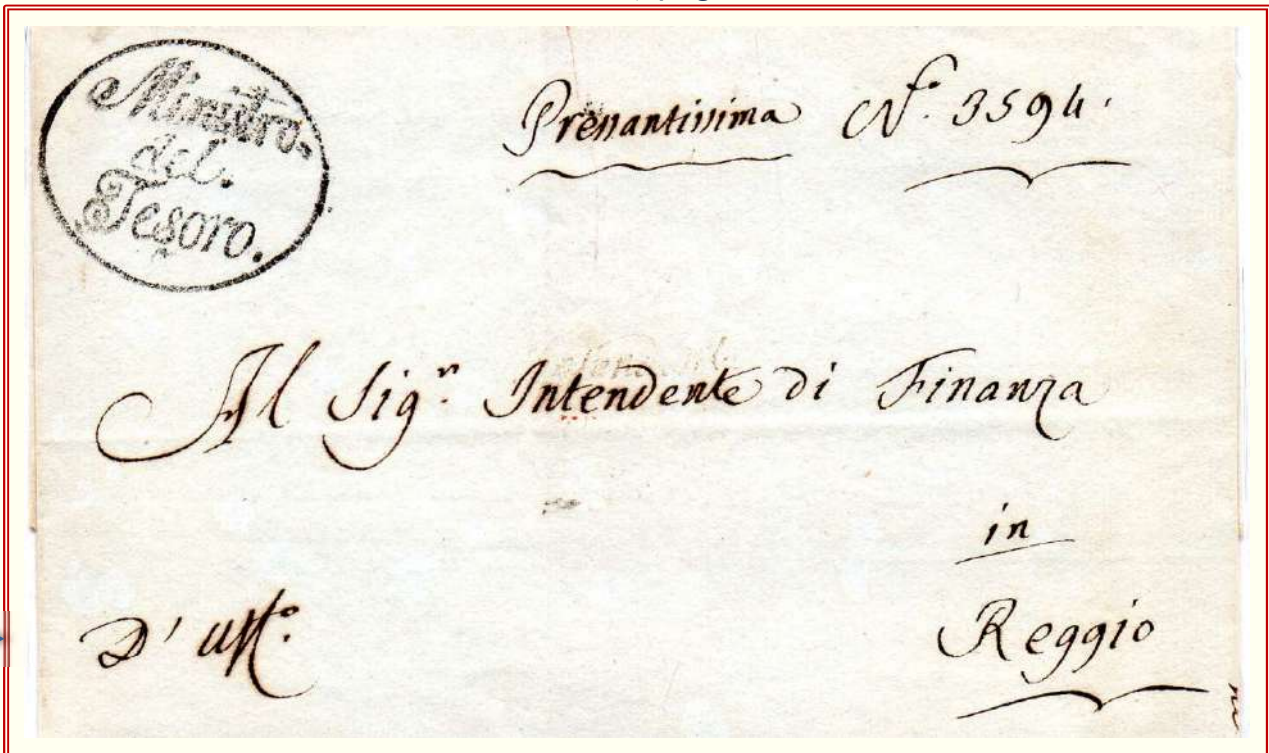


10th January 1810. From Macerata to Loreto, near Ancona. Letter sent by Prefect of Department of Musone to Mayor of Loreto. On the front the stamp of mark **PREFETTURA DEL MUSONE** and the handwritten word *D'uff* indicating the right of exemption.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.13 - Letters in free frank

On 4th April 1810 the Decree nr. 65 was issued. This law is the only provision of the Napoleonic period enacted to regulate only the **free frank** and the **mark**. The legislation is very long (40 articles) and it is very complex, with a series of articles really complicated to understand and then to be applied, moreover it increases the number of authorities enjoying free frank and mark.



... **August 1810**. From Milan to Reggio. Letter sent by the Minister for the Treasury to Director of Finance in Reggio. **Pressantissima** (Very urgent). The Minister enjoyed the unlimited mark, while the Director of Finance enjoyed the free frank for letters sent by the Ministers. On the front, the oval mark **Ministro/del/Tesoro**, with the handwritten word **D'uffo**.



11th September 1810. From Reggio to Bibbiano, near Reggio. Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Crostolo to Mayor of Bibbiano. The Prefect enjoyed the limited mark, while the Mayor enjoyed the free frank for letters sent by the Prefects. On the front, the oval mark **Prefetto/DEL CROSTOLO/34**.

Fourth rate period
1st May 1809 – 30th June 1811

4.13 - Letters in free frank

The concepts of **limited free frank**, **limited mark** were introduced and were extended to a number of individuals that were excluded in the previous decrees.



14th June 1811. From Recanati, near Macerata, to the town. Letter sent by the Mayor of Recanati to the Cantonal military conscription Commission in Recanati. Both enjoyed the limited free frank to the correspondence between them. On the front, the handwritten word *D'Uff.^o* indicating the right of exemption.



5th February 1811. From Modena to Fanano, near Modena. Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Panaro to Mayor of Fanano. The Prefect enjoyed the limited mark, while the Mayor enjoyed the free frank for letters sent by the Prefects. On the front, the oval mark **Prefetto/DEL PANARO/35**.

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.1 – First distance letters

By **Decree n. 119** on 21st May 1811 all tariff settings were again restored and brought into line with those that applied throughout the French Empire. In fact, the art. 16 of the Finance Act of 19th May 1811, mentioned in the decree, stated: "**The taxation of letters will be settled in the Kingdom according to the rules and prices in the Empire**".

Under the new legislation, the calculation of distances, first based on conventional distances between one department and another, was made in kilometres, according to the shortest path really travelled by couriers and pedestrians, always divided into eight distance bands (Art. 1 of the Decree).

The metric system was introduced for weights, moving from ounces to grams, with the grouping of the weight ranges (reduced from eight to five), the reduction of the intervals of weight, as shown in table below. Additionally, the rates were rounded up to the higher decimal point, according to art. 3.

The fee was **written in Décimes** (i. e. units of ten cents). For registered letters the cost was twice the rate of ordinary letter. The Act was implemented on 1st July 1811.

In **April 1814** the Kingdom of Italy ceased to exist after the fall of Napoleon I.

Weight in g		Rates in cents of Italian Lira							
0 - 6	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	
6 - 8	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	
8 - 11	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	
11 - 15	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	
15 - 20	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	235	
Distances in kms	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	
	Up to 50	50-100	100-200	200-300	300-400	400-500	500-600	600-800	
Every additional 5 g									
	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	
Chargé letters	Twice the rate of ordinary letters								

The rates which were applied to letters to and from abroad, were identical to those established for the interior, because the rates were uniform throughout the Empire (Article 4 of the Decree). A directive of 19th June 1811, signed by the Postmaster-General, Minonzi, established which were the post offices near the borders up to which the tax should be applied for the letters addressed to Countries not part of the French Empire.



9th October 1811. From Toscolano, near Brescia, to Brescia. Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **2** Décimes. On departure the boxed mark **Posta/Gargnano**.



13th November 1812. From Mirandola, near Modena, to Modena. Triple rate letter, weighing 8 - 11 g:
rate **3** Décimes.

The handwritten word *D'uffo* indicates the alleged right to the free frank. But the letter was sent to a private citizen by the Mayor: for this reason, the letter was taxed.



4 Décimes

18th July 1812. From Fermo, near Ancona to Falerone. Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, fourth rate letter, weighing
11 - 15 g: rate **4** Décimes, written on the back.

The handwritten word *D'uffo* indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the sender, the Delegate of State property, did not enjoy the exemption and the receiver, the Mayor, was entitled to the **limited free frank** for those letters received “under wrapper”, according to the decree n. 65 dated 4th April 1810.

For this reason, the letter was taxed.

8 Décimes

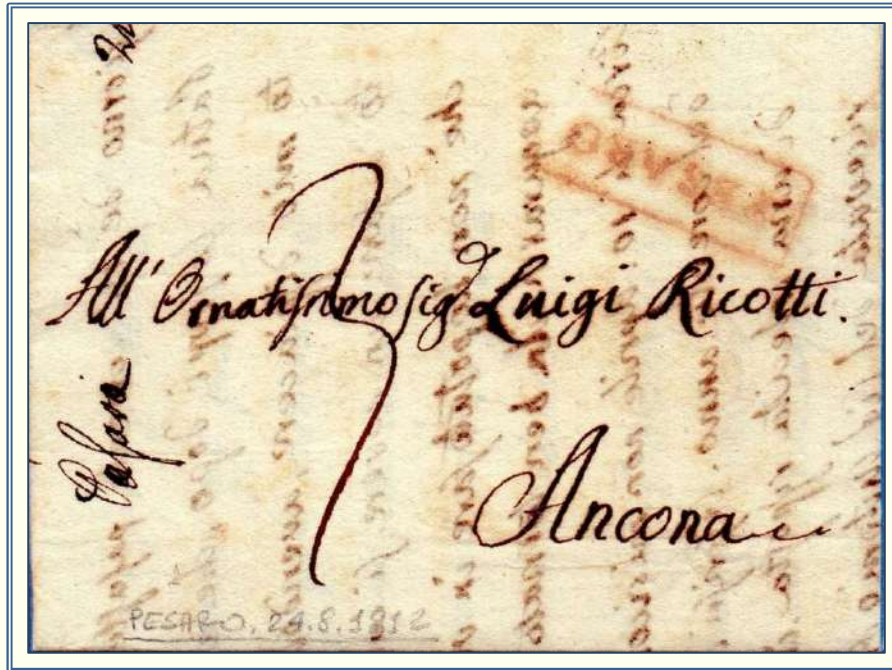


22nd June 1813. From Bologna to Lugo, near Ravenna. Prepaid rate Port Payé *P.P./BOLOGNA/D'ITALIA*, eighth rate letter, weighing 30 - 35 g: rate **8** Décimes, written on the back. 5 Décimes for the first 20 grams + 3 Décimes (3 x 1 Décime) for every 5 g above 20 g.



7th October 1812. From Ariano to Ferrara. Ninth rate letter, weighing 35 - 40 g: rate **9** Décimes. 5 Décimes for the first 20 grams + 4 Décimes (4 x 1 Décime) for every 5 grams above 20 g. Initially the letter was rated at 80 Cents, but this was immediately canceled by some diagonal pen strokes.

The letter was rated, despite the indication of the sender at the top of the letter and the word *D'uffo*, because the sender did not enjoy the mark and the addressee did not enjoy the free frank.



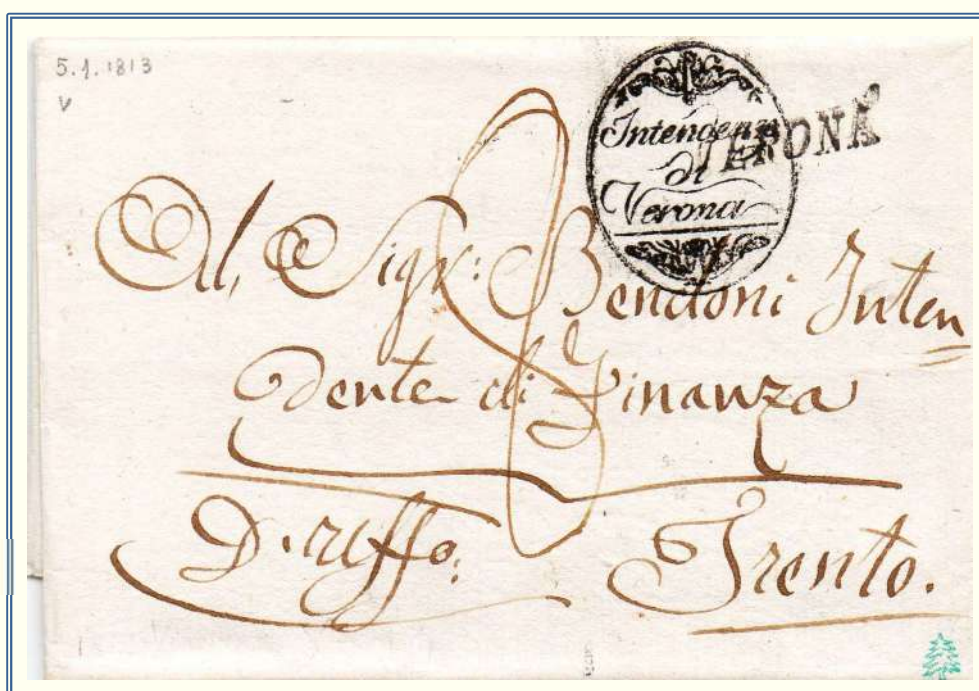
24th August 1812. From Pesaro to Ancona. Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g:
rate 3 Décimes.



27th February 1813. From Monte Scudolo, near Republic of Saint Marino, to Forlì. Double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g: rate 4 Décimes. On the front the rare mark **MONTE SCUDOLO** in the first month of use.

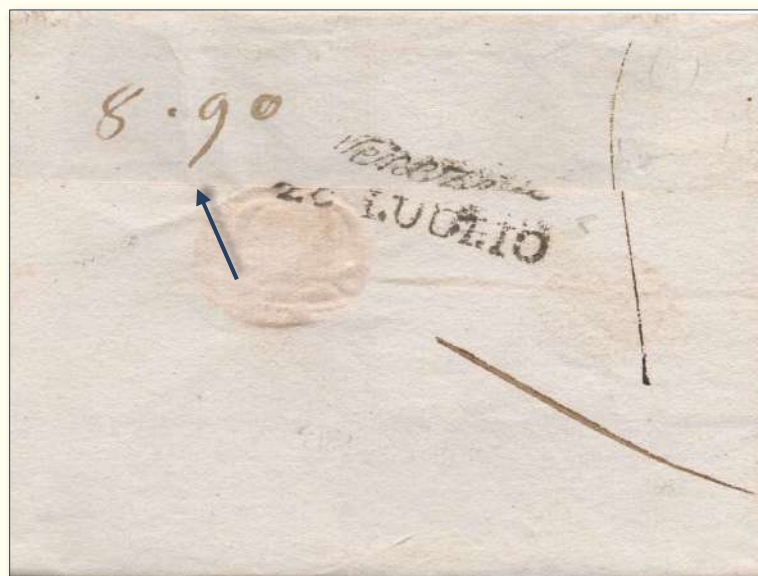
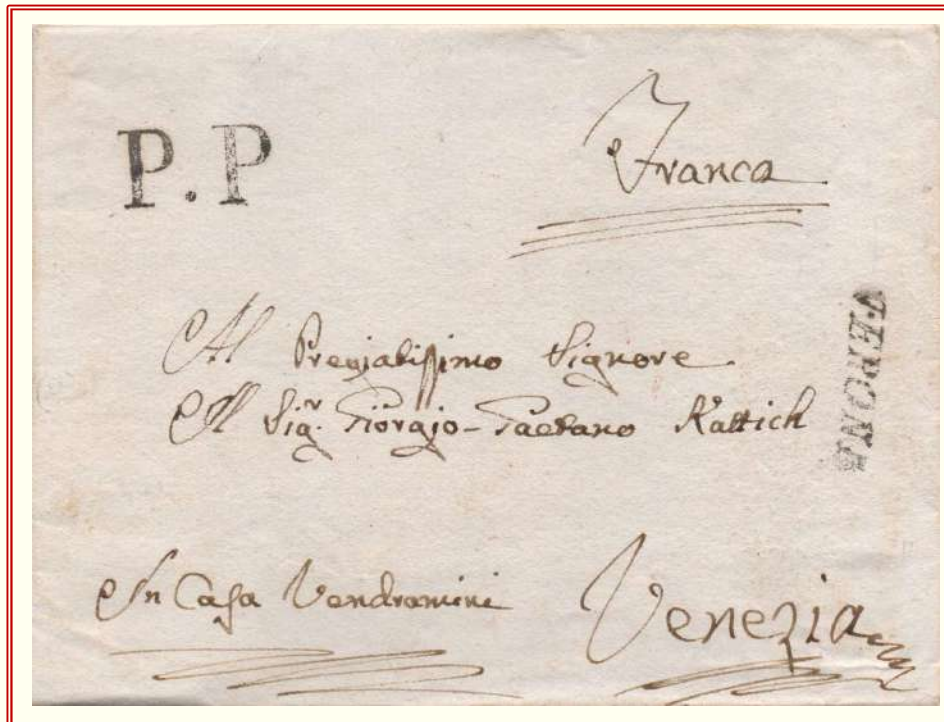


5th April 1813. From Maniago, near Udine, to Treviso. Fourth rate letter, weighing 11 - 15 g: rate 6 Décimes.



5th January 1813. From Verona to Trento. Fifth rate letter, weighing 15 - 20 g: rate 8 Décimes (ex coll. Provera).

The handwritten word *D'uff.* indicated the alleged right to the free frank, but the Tax Office was entitled to the **limited free frank** to those letters received from officials, but **within its own department**, as prescribed by the decree n. 65 dated 4th April 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



24th July 1813. From Verona to Venice. Prepaid rate Port Payé **P . P**, 59th rate letter, weighing 290 grams: rate Lire 8,85. 75 Cents for the first 20 g + 810 Cents (54 x 15 Cents) for each 5 g above 20 g, rounded up to the higher decimal as required by postal rules, i. e. L. **8,90**, written on the back.

The letter was so heavy because into it there was another letter, as it's described in the text:

“Eccole adunque copia legale della predetta lettera, che io ho creduto bene,, di produrla in atti notarili,....”
“Here is the copy of the letter above mentioned, and I thought that would be good,, to send it to you in the form of a notarial deed”

Fifth rate period
1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.3 – Third distance letters

15th July 1811. From Roveredo, now Rovereto, to Bolzano. Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 grams:
rate **4** Décimes.



26th April 1814 - the last day of Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy. From Verona to Milan. Double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g: rate **45** Cents. By the postal law, the rate should be rounded up to the higher decimal. This peculiarity is to be attributed to the political situation of the moment: Napoleon the first resigned on April 11th, and Eugène de Beauharnais abdicated on 26th.

21st August 1811. From Padua to Brescia. Double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g:
rate **5** Décimes.





26th June 1812. From Venice to Udine **Per Espresso**. Triple rate letter at first sent to place in third distance (Udine), weighing 8 - 11 g: rate **6** Décimes. Then the letter was redirected via Sacile to Bibone, place in second distance from Udine. **4** Décimes for this second sending. The fee was 33 Cents, but it has been rounded up to the higher decimal, as required by postal rules.



8 Décimes

2nd January 1812. From Bologna to Milan. Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P./BOLOGNA/D'ITALIA**, fourth rate letter, weighing 11 - 15 g: rate **8** Décimes, written on the back. On the front double diagonal lines indicates that the letter was free of charge for the addressee.

50

50 Cents.



19th February 1810. From Fano, near Pesaro, to Modena. Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.**, single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **50** Cents, written on the back. On arrival boxed mark **22/MODENA FEBBRAIO**.



19th October 1812. From Milan to Roveredo, near Trento. Double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g: rate **6** Décimes.



A handwritten number "8" in brown ink, written in a simple, slightly stylized cursive script.

8 Décimes

... **November 1811**. From Venice to Milan. Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP**, triple rate letter, weighing 8 - 11 g: rate **8** Décimes, written on the back. On the front double diagonal lines indicates that the letter was free of charge for the addressee.



7th July 1813. From Mantua to Venice. Fourth rate letter, weighing 11 - 15 g: Rate **10** Décimes (1 Italian Lira).



7th July 1813. From Milan to Ferrara. Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **6** Décimes. Initially rated 5 Décimes, as a letter to be sent to a place in fourth distance, then the rate was immediately delated, and it was rated for 6 Décimes.



7 Décimes



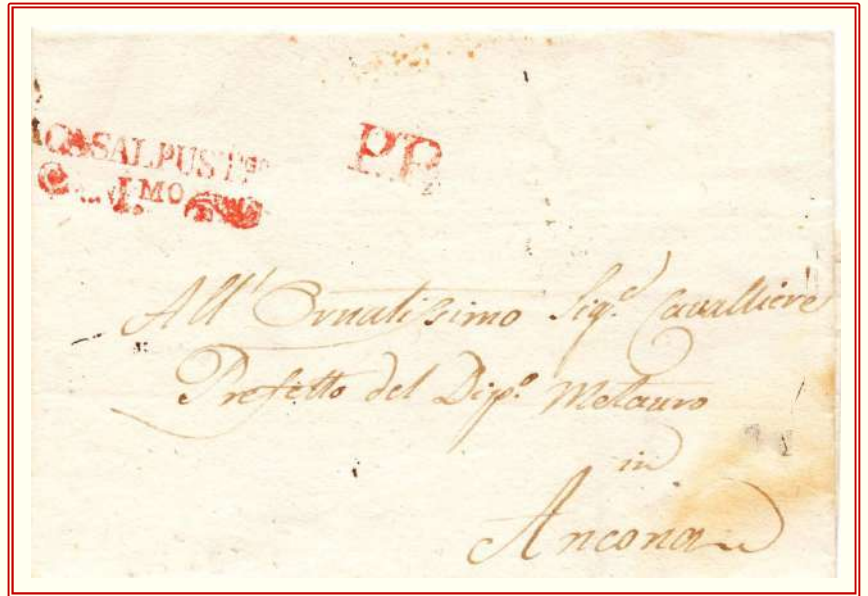
31st July 1811. From Bergamo to Chioggia, near Venice. Prepaid rate Port Payé **PP.**, double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g: rate **7** Décimes, written on the back. On the front double diagonal lines and the handwritten word *Franca* indicate that the letter was free of charge for the addressee.

Fifth rate period
1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.6 – Sixth distance letters
5.7 – Seventh distance letters



7 Décimes



17th March 1813. From Casalpuusterlengo, near Milan, to Ancona. Prepaid rate Port Payé **P.P.** (the rare mark in the first months of use), single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **7** Décimes, written on the back.



22nd May 1813. From Milan to Camerino, near Macerata. Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **8** Décimes. Transit mark **MACERATA 26 MAG.º**.

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.8 – Registered letters “Chargé”

These letters were called Chargé (i.e. loaded) because the registration of a letter needed the procedure of **chargément** (i.e. loading) onto the register of the post office.

The postmaster personally received the letter to be registered and, after it has been entered in the register, put the duty mark **CHARGÉ** and wrote the registration number on the front of the letter.

When the letter arrived at the destination post office, the manager registered it in a book called “Chargément Recette» (Loading receipt).

After registration, the postmaster had to send a notice to the addressee to collect the letter. It could only be delivered to the addressee or to a person with a special power of attorney drawn up before a notary or a public official.

The rate applied to registered letters in this period was twice of the ordinary letter rate.



CHARGÉ

01.1810

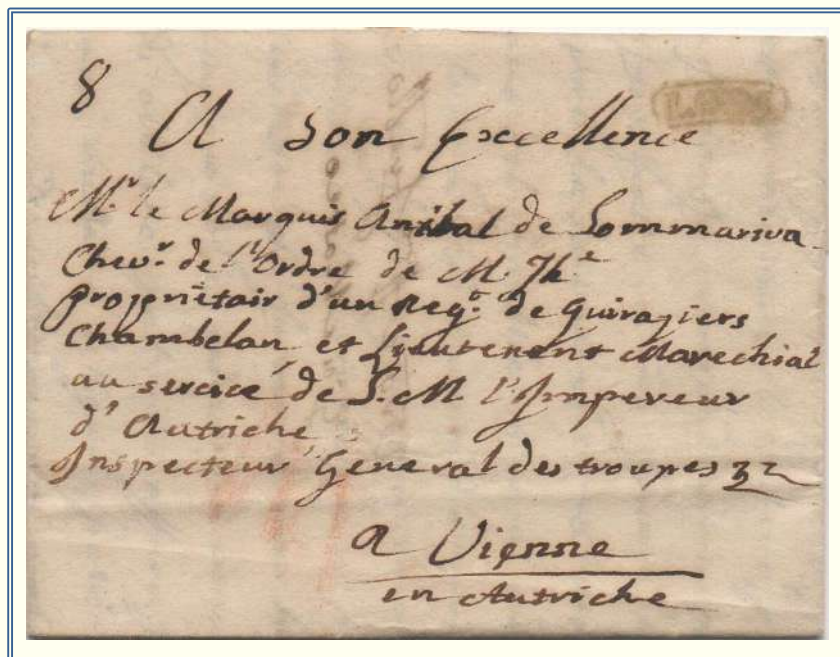
03.1814

Only 10 examples recorded with this mark

..... **1813**. From Padua to Venice. Prepaid rate Port Payé *P.P.*, 17th rate registered letter **CHARGÉ**, weighing 80 g. Rate L. **3:40**: 50 Cents for the first 20 g, L. 1,20 (12 x 10 Cents) for each 5 g in excess of 20 g. Total ordinary rate: L. 1,70. The registered rate was twice of the ordinary rate, i. e. L. 3,40, as indicated on the front of the letter.

Fifth rate period**5.9 - Letters sent abroad****1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814**

According to the directive of 19th June 1811, signed by the Postmaster-General, Minonzi, for letters **sent to Austrian Empire** the fee was calculated from place of departure up to Udine.



12th January 1812. From Lodi (near Milan) to Vienna (Austrian Empire). Double rate letter sent to Austrian Empire, weighing 6 - 8 g: rate **8** Décimes. The exact fee would have been 77 cents, rounded up to 8 décimes, according to postal rules. **14** Kreuzer were charged on delivery.

According to the directive of 19th June 1811, signed by the Postmaster-General, Minonzi, for letters **sent to Duchy of Lucca and Portoferraio** the fee was calculated from place of departure up to Bologna

In 1806 the former Duchy of Massa - Carrara and Garfagnana, already included in the Kingdom of Italy, was handed over to the Principality of Lucca and Portoferraio. Although the Duchy was governed by Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi, Napoleon's sister, it never became a department of the Empire, but retained its autonomy.



22nd July 1811. From Padua to Massa di Carrara (Duchy of Lucca and Portoferraio, not French Empire as indicated on the letter). Single rate letter sent to a distance 400 - 500 kms, Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **7** Décimes.

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

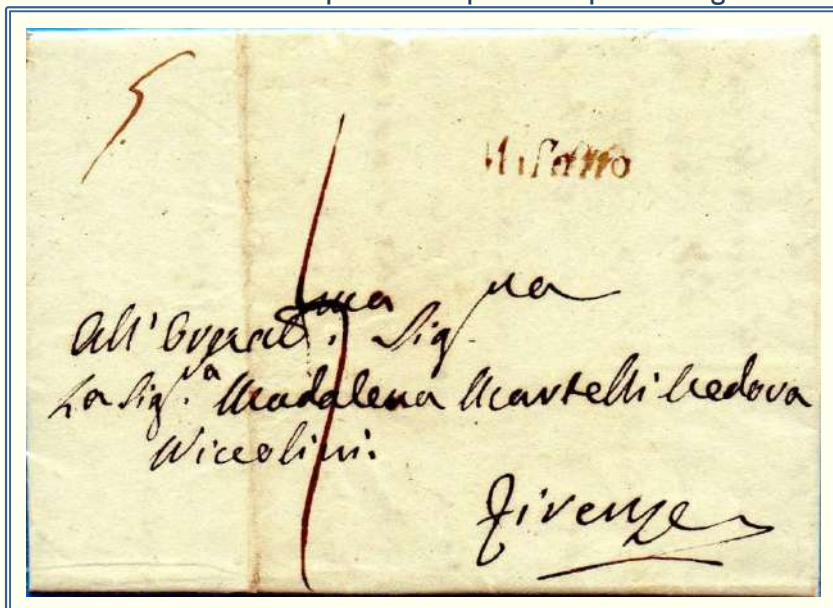
5.9 - Letters sent abroad

According to the directive of 19th June 1811, signed by the Postmaster-General, Minonzi, for letters sent to Tuscany, Rome and Naples the fee was calculated from place of departure up to Bologna.

13th December 1813. From Milan to Florence (Conquered Department of Arno, part of French Empire). Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g, as indicated in the left top of letter (5 g.):

rate 5 Décimes up to Bologna.

5 Décimes were charged on delivery in Florence.



4th March 1813. From Loreto, near Ancona, to Rome (Conquered Department of Tevere, part of French Empire). Single rate letter, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate 6 Décimes up to Bologna. 2 Décimes were charged on delivery in Rome.

On arrival two marks were put on: the rare mark of control **L** and the one indicating the number of the postal journey of the month on which the letter reached Naples: in this case the number 3.



01.1812
07.1812



07.1807
12.1815

8th May 1812. From Reggio to Naples. Fourth rate letter sent to Kingdom of Naples, weighing 11 - 15 g: rate 40 Cents up to Bologna.

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

Letters to French Empire paid at destination are sent according to the convention of 17th March 1803 and the French postal law of 4th May 1803.

On the front of both letters, the mark **R.^{AUME} D'ITALIE PAR VERCEIL** indicating the post office where the letter was exchange.



13th May 1813. From Milan to Vercelli (Conquered Department of Sesia, part of French Empire). 3 Décimes were charged on delivery in Vercell, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g sent to Verceil, according to the article 8 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803).

R.^{AUME} D'ITALIE
PAR
VERCEIL 1808 - 1814



17th August 1811. From Ponteviso, near Brescia, to Casale, near Vercelli (Conquered Department of Marengo, part of French Empire). 5 Décimes were charged on delivery for letter weighing less than 6 g. The rate is as follows: 3 Décimes for letters sent to Verceil weighing less than 6 g, according to the article 8 and 10 of the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803), plus 2 Décimes for internal route from Verceil to Casale (distance 0-50 Km), according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806.

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

Letters to French Empire paid at destination are sent according to the convention of 17th March 1803 and the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803) and that of 24th April 1806.

6th January 1812. From Ancona, to Parme (Conquered Department of Taro, part of French Empire) via Milan (**MILANO L.T.**). Third rate letter, weighing 8 - 10 g. 5 Décimes were charged on delivery in Parme. On the front, the mark **R.AUME D'ITALIE PAR PLAISANCE** showing the post office where the letter was exchange.



R.AUME D'ITALIE
PAR
PLAISANCE

1808 - 1814

R.AUME D'ITALIE
PAR
GENES



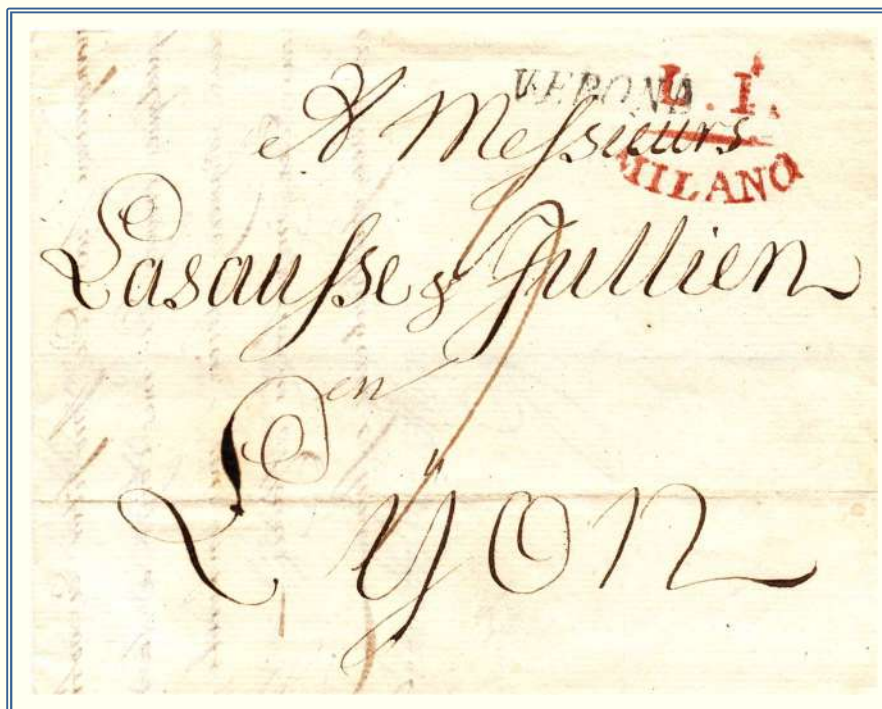
9th October 1811. From Milan to Genoa (Conquered Department of Genova, part of French Empire). Fifth rate letter, weighing 40 - <45 g, as indicated in the left corner of the letter: 15 Décimes were charged on delivery in Genoa. On the front, the mark **R.AUME D'ITALIE/PAR/GENES** indicating the station of exchange of letter and the mark **L.I./MILANO**.

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

Letters to French Empire paid at destination are sent according to the convention of 17th March 1803 and the French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803) and that of 24th April 1806.



5th May 1812. From Verona to Lyon. **9** décimes were charged on delivery in Lyon, as required for letter weighing less than 6 g sent to Lyon, according to the article 8 of French postal law 4th May 1803.



1st October 1813. From Udine to Saint Martin, near Montpellier. **17** Décimes were charged on delivery, The rate is as follows: 12 décimes for letter sent to Lyon weighing less than 6g, according to the article 8 of French postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). 5 décimes were added for the route from Lyon to Saint Martin (distance 200-300 km) according to the French postal law of 24th April 1806. Transit mark **MILANO/L.T.**

Fifth rate period

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814

5.10 - Letters sent to French Empire

Letters to French Empire could be sent either paid on arrival or prepaid on departure, according to the convention of 17th March 1803.

The weight



8 < 10 grams



7th September 1811. From Milan to Paris. **20** décimes were charged on delivery in Paris, as required for letter weighing 8 – 10 g, according to the articles 9 and 10 of the French Empire postal law of 14th Floréal An XI (4th May 1803). The rate is as follows: 13 décimes for a letter sent to Paris weighing less than 6g, increased by 6,5 décimes, rounded 7,0 décimes, as a letter weighing between 8 and 10g (1 ½ rate letter).

Transit mark **L.I./MILANO**.

**MILANO
P. P.**

04.1805
04.1814



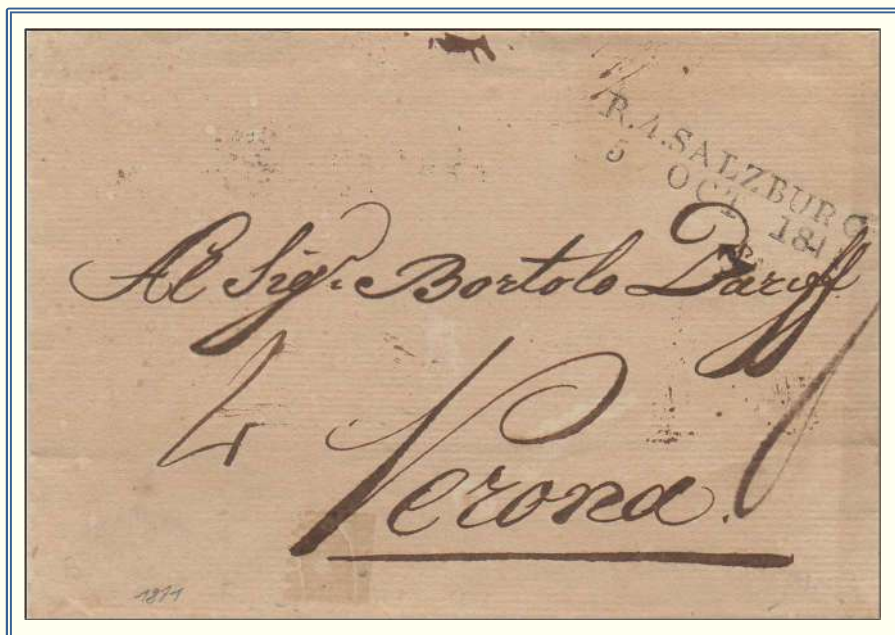
2
italian Lire



9th September 1812. From Milan to Paris Prepaid rate Port Payé **MILANO/P.P.**, fourth rate letter, sent a distance 800 – 1000 km, weighing 11 - 15 grams: rate **L. 2,00**, written on the back.



12 Rhein. Kreuzer

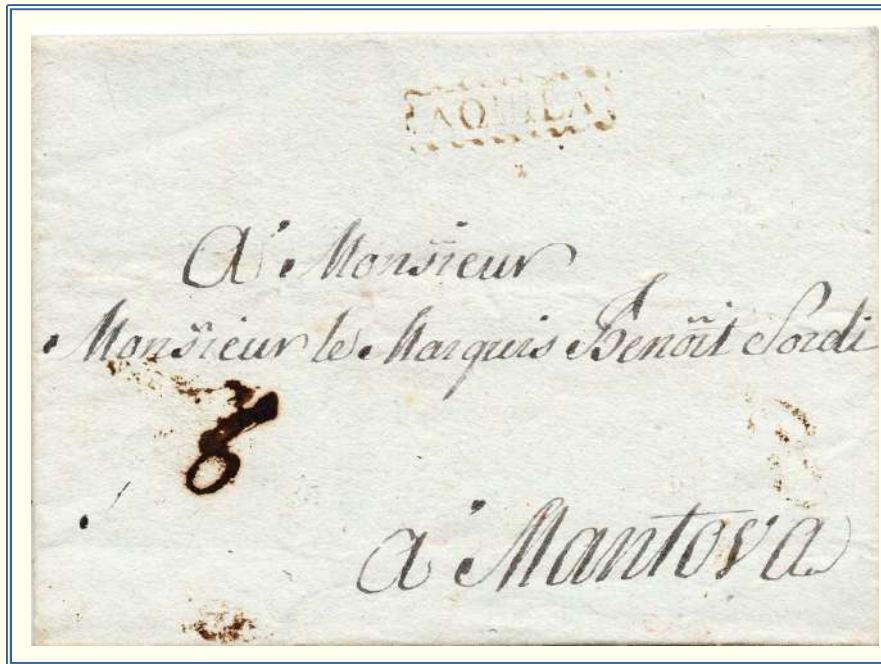


5th October 1811. From Salzburg (Kingdom of Bavaria, part of Rhenish Confederation) to Verona. Single rate letter sent from Austrian Empire, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **4** Décimes charged on delivery in Verona. **12** Rhein. Kreuzer were charged on departure up to Kingdom of Italy border, written on the back.



8 Rhein. Kreuzer

28th July 1811. From Augsburg (Kingdom of Bavaria, part of Rhenish Confederation) to Roveredo, now Rovereto, near Trento. Single rate letter sent from Confederation of Rhine, weighing 0 - 6 g: rate **4** Décimes charged on delivery in Roveredo. **8** Rn. Kr. were charged on departure for the Austro-German due, written on the back.



30th January 1813. From Aquila (Kingdom of Naples) to Mantua. Double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g; rate **8** Décimes charged on delivery in Mantua. No indication of any Naples fee collected on departure.



10th July 1811. From Fleurier (Canton of Neuchâtel) to Verona.

6 Décimes were charged on delivery, as required for a triple rate letter sent from Switzerland, weighing 8 - 11 g.

On the back prepaid rate **9** Soldi up to Kingdom of Italy border:

Franco Milan. The rate **18** Soldi written on the back, probably indicates a total rate of a group of letters.



25th March 1812. From Genève (Conquered Department of Lemano, part of French Empire) to Milan. Double rate letter, weighing 6 - 8 g.; rate **7** Décimes were charged on delivery. On the front, the mark of accounting **L.R.2**, struck on departure.

U.F.

1808 - 1813

Only 5 examples recorded with this mark and the only recorded in black colour.

the weight

between 11 - 15 g.

.... and the rate

1 Italian Lira and 80 cents.

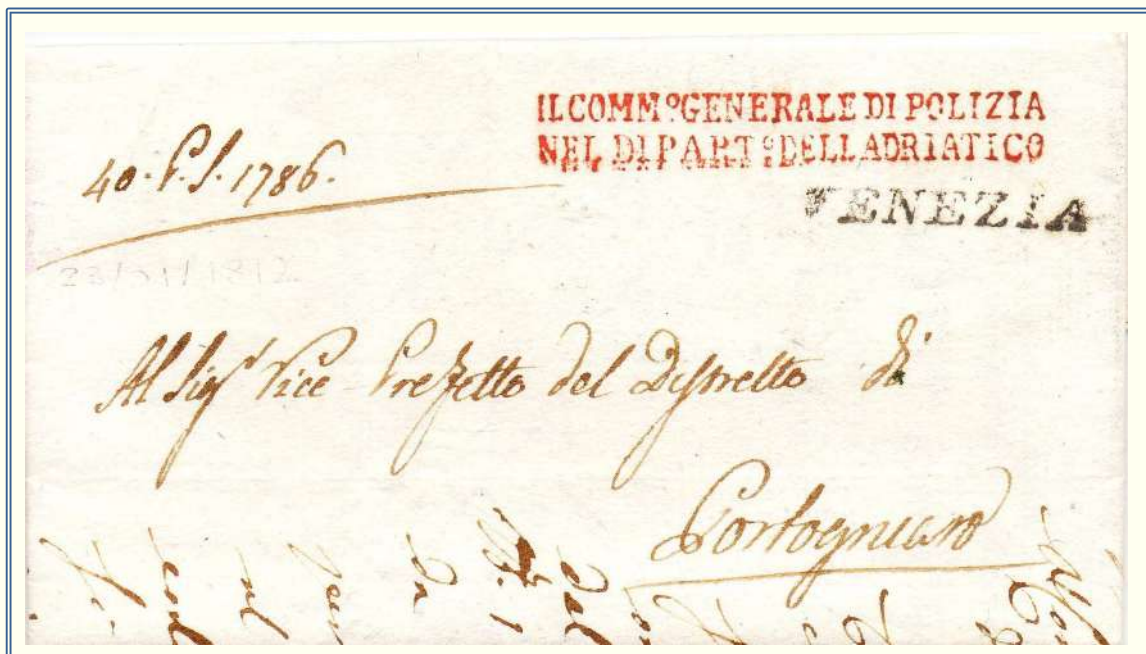


.. July 1812. From Auterive, near Toulouse (Department of Haute Garonne, French Empire), to Milano and then redirected to Bassano, near Vicenza. Double rate letter, weighing 11 - 15 g and distance between 600 - 800 km.: rate **18** Décimes charged on delivery.

The mark **U.F.** (Ufficio Forense – Post office for letters from abroad) was struck on transit in Milan.

1st July 1811 – 26th April 1814In this period the Decree nr. 65 dated 4th April 1810 was still in force.

12th May 1812. From Milan to Venice. Letter sent by the Minister for the Treasury to Prefect of Department of Adriatico. The Minister enjoyed the unlimited mark, while the Prefects enjoyed the limited free frank. On the front, the oval mark **MINISTRO/DEL/TESORO**, with the handwritten word **D'uff.**



22nd January 1812. From Venice to Portogruaro, near Venice. Letter sent by the General Commissioner of Police to Vice Prefect of Department of Adriatico. The General Commissioner enjoyed the limited mark, while the Vice Prefect enjoyed the limited free frank.

On the front, the mark **IL COMM. GENERALE DI POLIZIA/NEL DIPART. DELL'ADRIATICO**.



13th April 1812. From Senigallia, near Ancona, to S. Lorenzo in Campo, near Pesaro. Letter sent by the Mayor of Senigallia to the Mayor of S. Lorenzo in Campo. Both enjoyed the limited free frank for the correspondence between them “under wrapper”.



5th October 1813. From Senigallia to Montealbodo, both villages near Ancona. Letter sent by the Royal Compensation Fund to the Mayor of Montealbodo. The Royal Compensation Fund enjoyed the limited mark for letters sent to the Mayor. On the front, the handwritten word *D'uff* and the round mark **DELEGAZIONE PER RICEVITORIA/REGIA CASSA/D'AMMORTIZZ./A-C**, indicating the right of exemption.