

Express service in Italy

1890-2001 and its precursors from XV century

In the past “*Espresso*” meant a person responsible for delivering correspondence faster than the regular postal service. Before the official birth of the “*Express Courier*” the sender indicated the requirement for speedy delivery on the letter or paying an additional fee if the letter arrived by the deadline indicated on the title page. The service had been popular in the Italian area since the pre-unification states: it was used in Lombardy–Venetia and in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, even if a “*Staffette*” service was instituted at the end of the 1700s and early 1800s, initially for the Court and later also for private mail. The regular express service was introduced by Italian Royal Mail on July 21st, 1890, five years after the UPU Congress of Lisbon in 1885 which defined the principles. It ended on December 31st, 2001 and was replaced by other services for the express delivery of correspondence. In the first decades of life the service was meticulously regulated by a set of rules and written and disseminated by the Postal Bulletin with modifications dictated by the desire to improve the service and make it more efficient. The initial requirements included “*Espresso*” on the letter, a registered number, labels, special stamps and a special postmark. The first of the 48 “*Mod. 24*” labels was issued in 1893; in all, there were 31 bilingual labels, 8 in French, 8 in Italian and one in three languages. On June 1st, 1903 the first special ordinary stamp to the value of 25 c. was issued for inland postage while on September 1st, 1908 the first ordinary special stamp of 30 c. was issued for postage abroad; some other commemorative express stamps were issued. 13 special stamps were issued for inland service and 8 for abroad.

This collection is the synthesis of an express service starting from letters of the XVth century with phrases indicating the requirement for quick delivery and continuing up to the 2001, year of the end of service.

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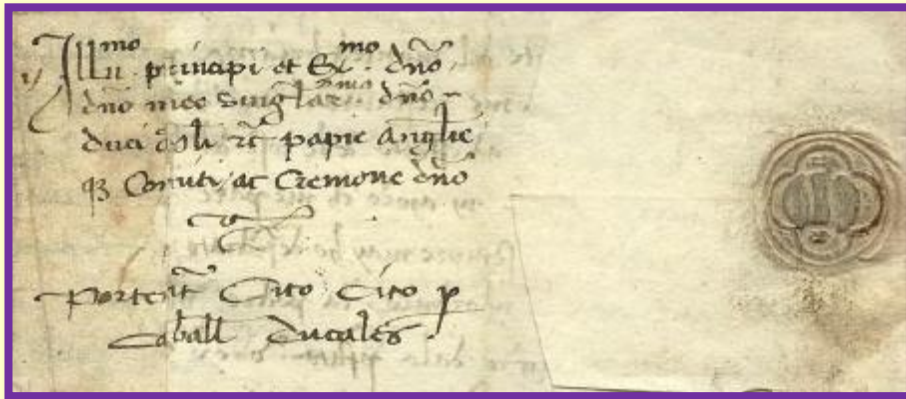
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

1. Precursors

1.1 Cito-Cito

Before the official birth of the “Express Courier” the sender indicated the requirement for speedy delivery on the letter with phrases like “CitoCito”, “Volando”, “Per staffetta”, “Subito” or “Celeriter”. With “Condannata” letters the sender committed the addressee to paying an additional fee if the letter arrived by the deadline indicated on the title page. Lombardy–Venetia, was the first State to regulate the service, and in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, even if a “Staffette” service was instituted at the end of the 1700s and early 1800s, initially for the Court and later also for private mail.

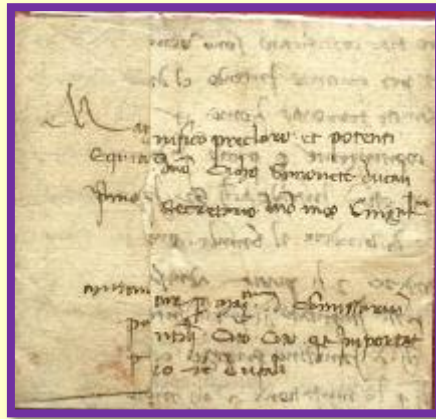


Oct. 20th, 1459 letter from Bernareggio to Cremona, addressed to the **Duke of Milan, Francesco Sforza** with the Latin inscription ***Portant Cito-Cito p. Caballantes Ducales*** to state the urgency and the employ of a ducal estaffette (iv)

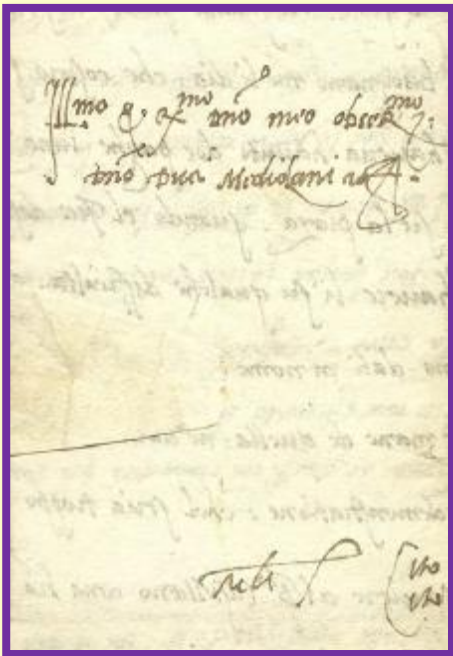


Aug. 30th, 1498 Letter from Ferrara to Milano, addressed to the **Duke of Milan Ludovico Maria Sforza** called “Il Moro” with inscription ***Cito-Cito*** which means urgency, plus ***Citissime*** and reinforced with very rare use of the word ***Celeriter*** (iv)

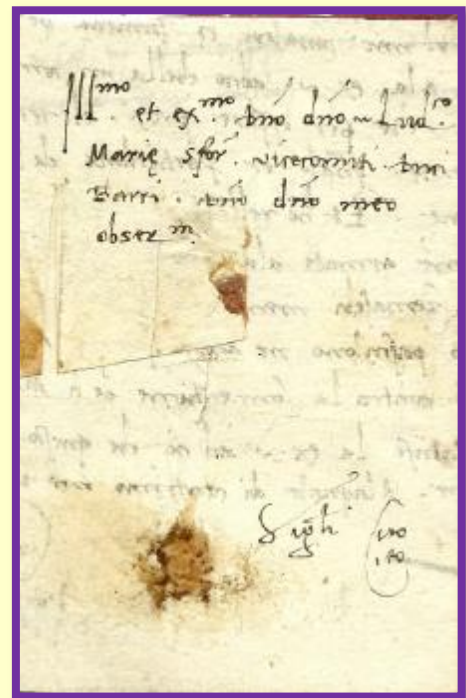
The Latin word *cito* means: soon, quickly, immediately. Its repetition reinforces the sense of urgency.



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



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



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

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

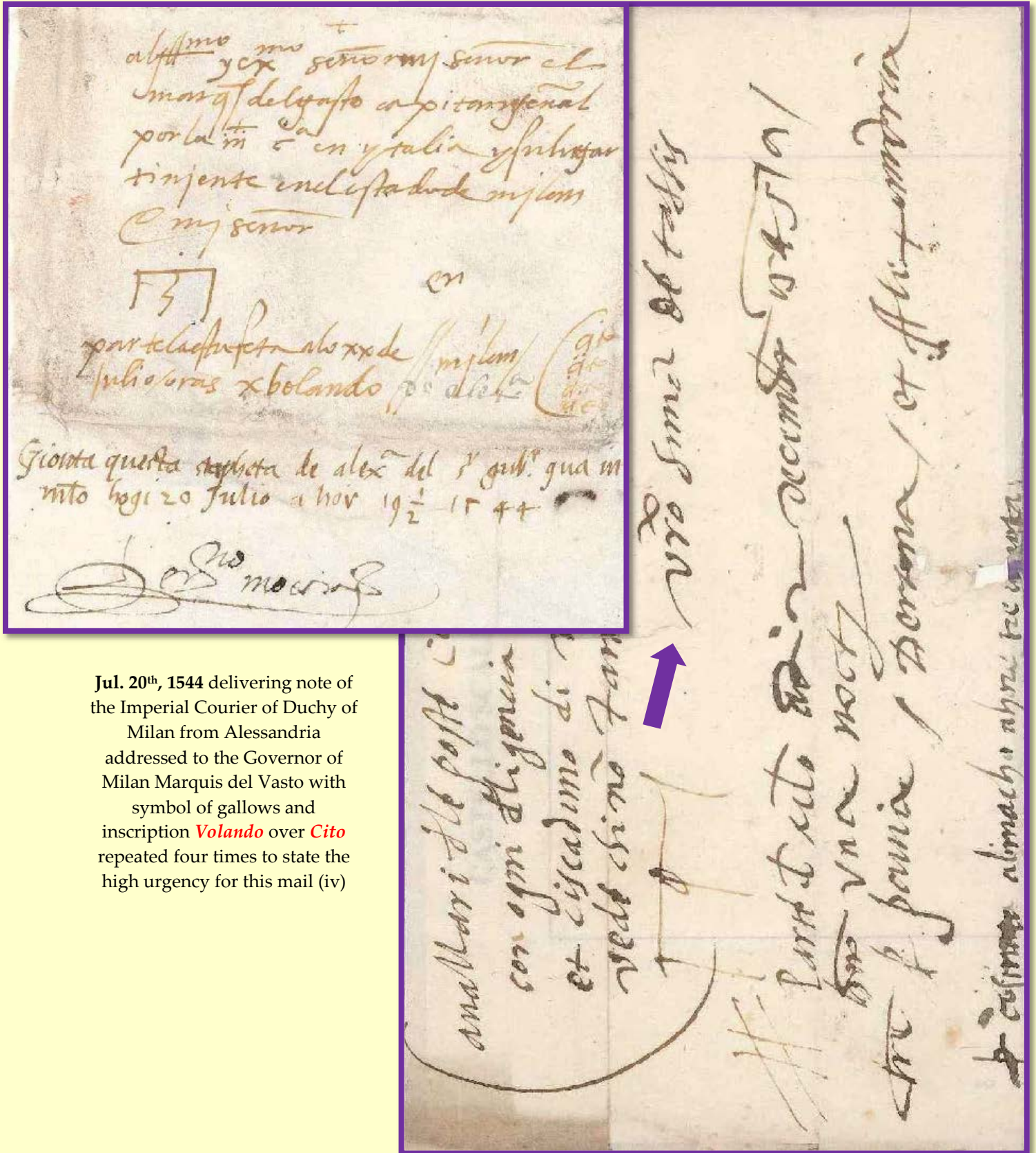


Jul. 7th, 1544 wrapper from a bundle of letters from Milano to Asti with inscription *Volando* repeated twice to reinforce the sense of urgency and “parte la stapheta de Milan adi siete de julio y a horas diez y siete” (iv)

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



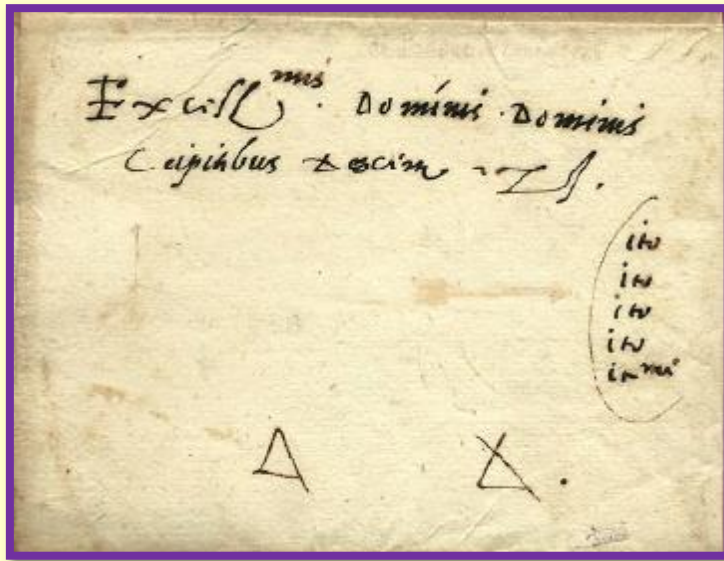
These symbols entered in use to show to the mounted courier or servant designated for mail dispatching his own inflicting penalty in case of delay, an admonishment to quicken one's step.



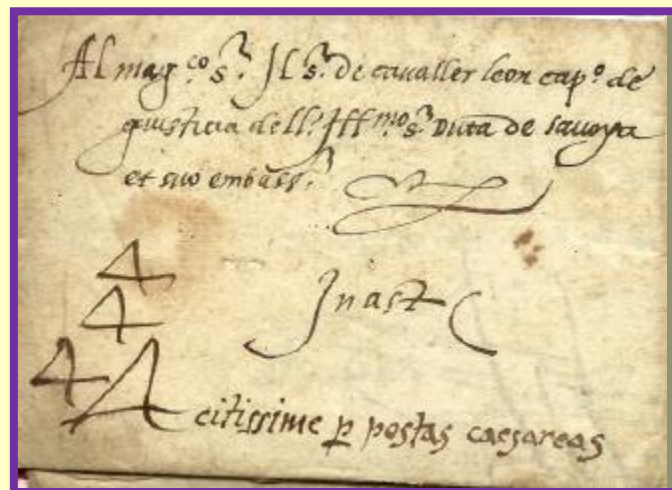
Jul. 20th, 1544 delivering note of the Imperial Courier of Duchy of Milan from Alessandria addressed to the Governor of Milan Marquis del Vasto with symbol of gallows and inscription **Volando** over **Cito** repeated four times to state the high urgency for this mail (iv)

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

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

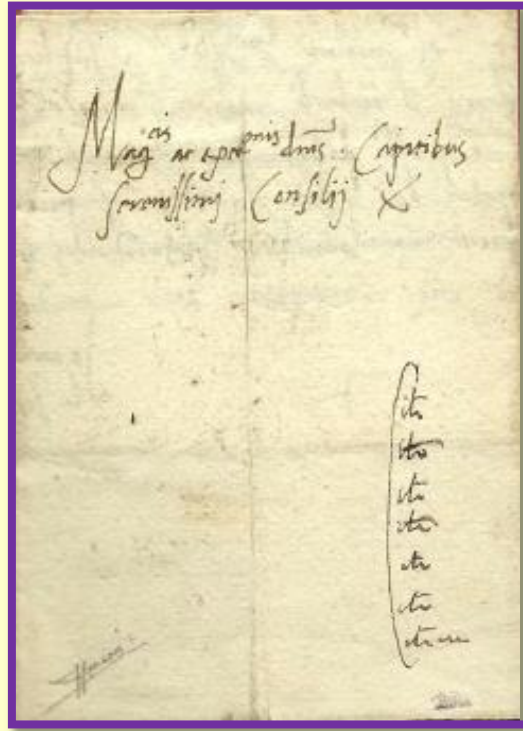


Mar. 12th, 1528 wrapper from a letter from Padova addressed to Consilium of Ten with symbols of stirrups repeated twice and inscriptions *Cito* repeated four times plus *Citissime* (iii)



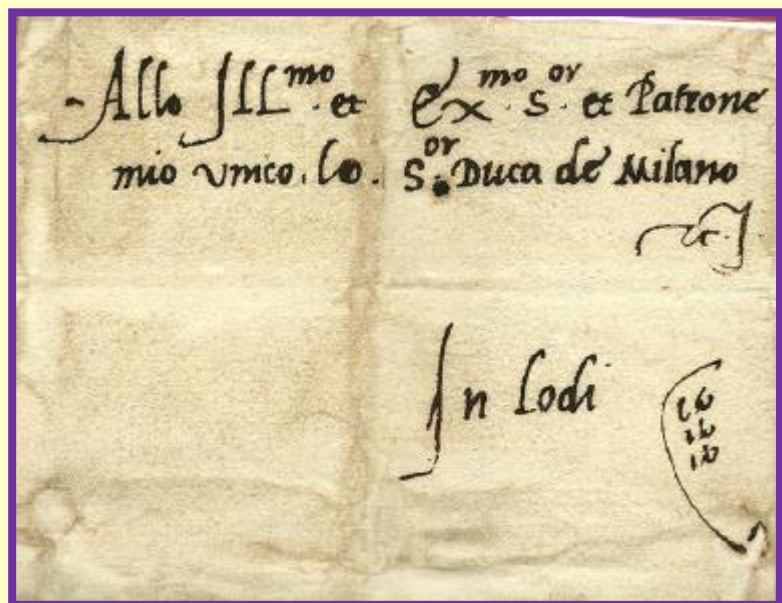
Jun. 27th, 1540 letter dispatched by Imperial Postal Service "*Citissime P. Postas Cesareas*" from Como by the Governor of Milan Marquis del Vasto addressed to the Captain of Justice and Ambassador of the Duke of Samoja in Asti (iv)

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

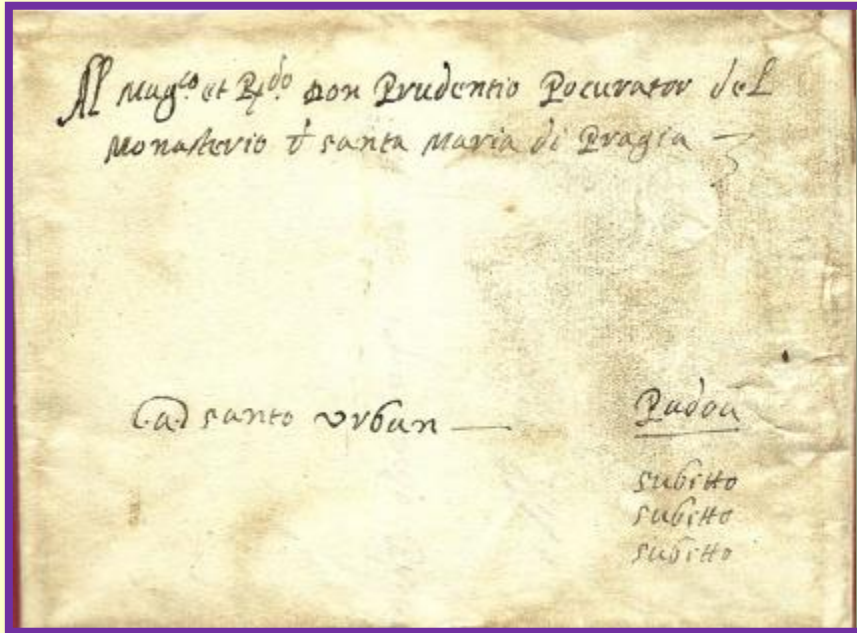


Jul. 15th, 1500 letter from Padova by Marco Gradenigo addressed to the "Consilium of Ten" with inscriptions *Cito* repeated six times plus *Citissime* (iii) (e)

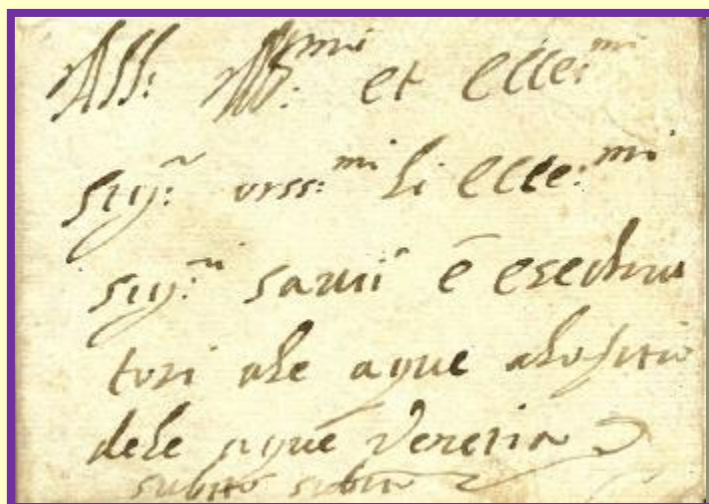
Dec. 27th, 1530 letter from Roma to Lodi addressed to the Duke of Milan Francesco Sforza with inscriptions *Cito* repeated six times plus *Citissime*



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

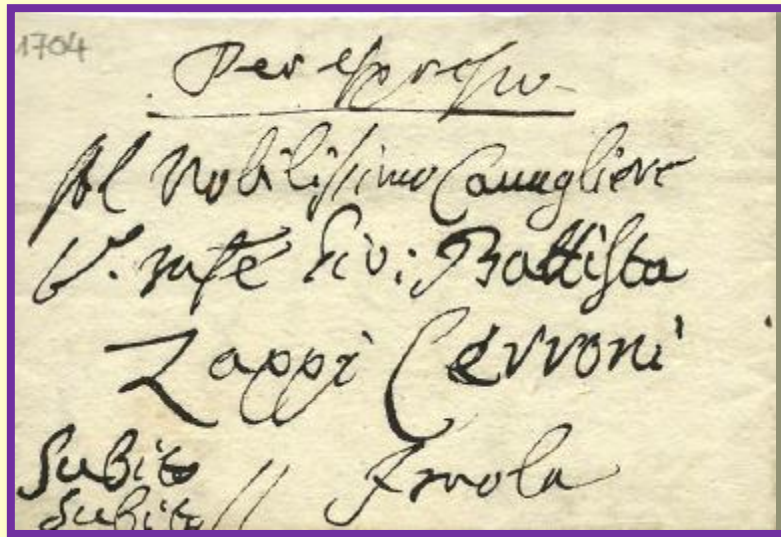


Aug. 7th, 1600 letter from Venezia to Padua with inscription *Subitto* repeated three times (iii)

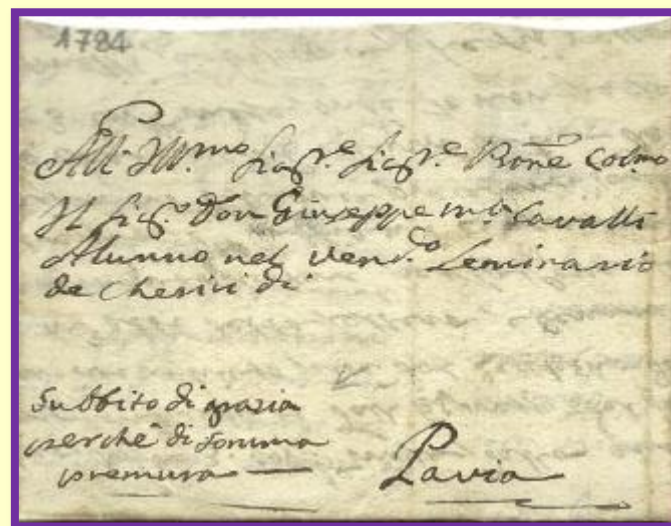


Oct. 17th, 1656 letter from Dolo to Venezia, with inscription *Subito* repeated twice (ii)

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



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



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

Over XVIII° and XIX° century, espresso was not yet one additional postal service, it was the mere indication of one expressed or defined person for urgent mail dispatching. Generally, the service was provided using bandwagons, it was also possible having an additional "Express Service" carryout by "Express Courier". The below mail, may have been delivered using one of such "Express Courriers" or "Staffetta Espresso"

Jan. 25th, 1737 cover of three letters from Napoli to Aversa, Capua and Gaeta with inscription *Staffetta Espresso* (e)

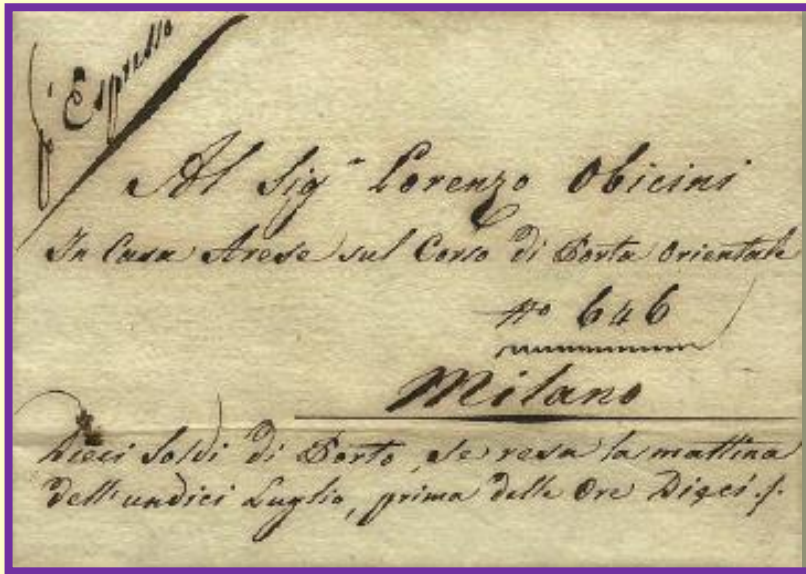


A "Staffetta" service was provisionally introduced by an official notice of 8 May 1840 between Naples and Villa S. Giovanni on the mainland, extended to Messina – Palermo. There were five services a week from Palermo to Messina linking up with this "Staffetta"; three were by the mountain road with the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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

**LETTERA
PER ESPRESSO**

Express fee paid without stamps (15 soldi by the day or 30 soldi by night)

Recorded less than 10 letters (i) (e)

2. Inland postal rates

2.1 Kingdom of Italy

The regular express service was introduced by Italian Royal Mail on July 21st, 1890, five years after the UPU Congress of Lisbon in 1885 which defined the principles. It ended on December 31st, 2001. In the first decades of life the service was meticulously regulated by a set of rules and written and disseminated by the Postal Bulletin with modifications dictated by the desire to improve the service and make it more efficient. The initial requirements included "Espresso" on the letter, a registered number, labels, special stamps and a special postmark. On June 1st, 1903 the first special ordinary stamp to the value of 25 c. The inland rates changed 29 times, from 25 c. to 3,600 l.

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



Cover from Venezia to Roma, Jun. 24th 1893

Rates: letter 20 c.

Recorded few express stamped with first issue stamp of the King Umberto I

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

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

Official label of 1896

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



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

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



Registered cover from Pavia to Blevio, Aug. 1st 1897

Rates: letter 20 c., registration 25 c.

Official label of 1896



Cover from Genova to town, Jun. 4th 1898

Rates: reduced district letter 5 c.

Official label of 1893

bilingual for abroad and inland (e)

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



Registered triple rate cover from Firenze to Montepulciano, Jul. 5th 1900

Rates: letter 60 c. (20 c. each 15 gr.), registration 25 c.

Official label of 1899



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

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

Official label of 1900

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

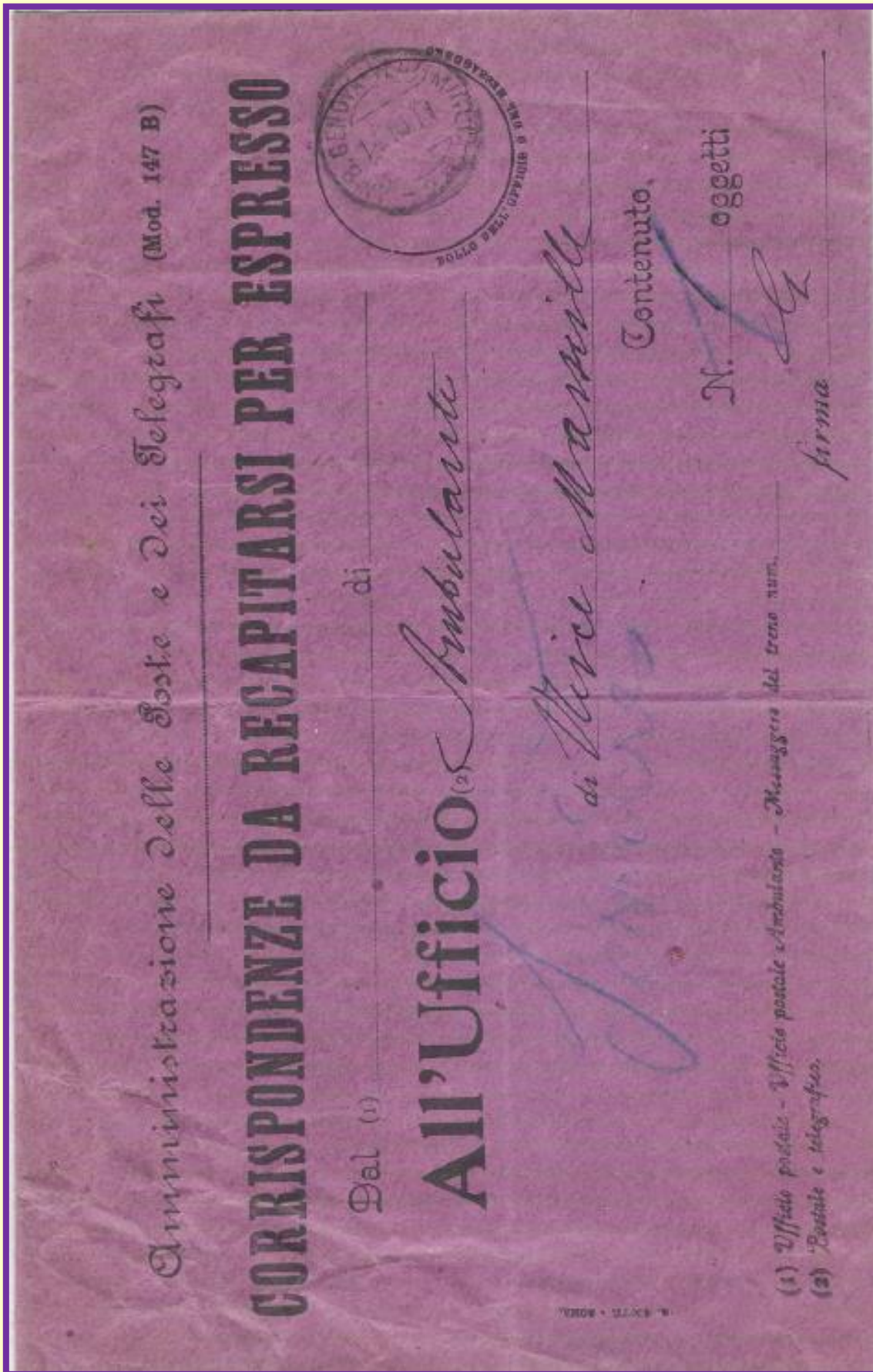


Cover from Salza Irpinia (Avellino) to Napoli, Apr. 18th 1900 – Rates: letter 20 c.
Official label of 1893
bilingual for abroad and inland



Cover from Colico (Como) to Belluno, Sep. 18th 1901
Rates: letter 20 c.
Private handwritten label

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



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

Recorded only 3
envelope like this

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



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

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

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

Official label of 1900

The express delivery was done only in the district



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

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

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



Cover from Mantova to town, Mar. 3rd 1903
Rates: reduced district letter 5 c.
Official label of 1902



Cover in free postage from Vicenza Santoro, Dec. 19th 1903
The black oval mark "R Poste – Prefetto di Vicenza" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only
Official label of 1903

Uncommon use of ordinary stamp for express in that time

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



Cover from Roma to Torino, Feb. 9th1904

Rates: letter 20 c.

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

The first special stamp issued on Jun. 1st 1903

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



Cover from S. Valentino (Chieti) to Roma, Jul. 7th 1906 – Rates: letter 15 c.
Red boxed handstamp of Roma with registration number 716 and handwritten forwarding time 7.50

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



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

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

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

Postmark "Roma Ferrovia – Espressi"

Express for inland readdressed and undelivered



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

“Espresso – Urgente”

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



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

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

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

Recorded less than ten known “Espresso – Urgente” covers (i) (e)

“Espresso – Urgente”



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

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

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

Recorded less than ten known “Espresso – Urgente” covers (i) (e)

"Espresso – Urgente"

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

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

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

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

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

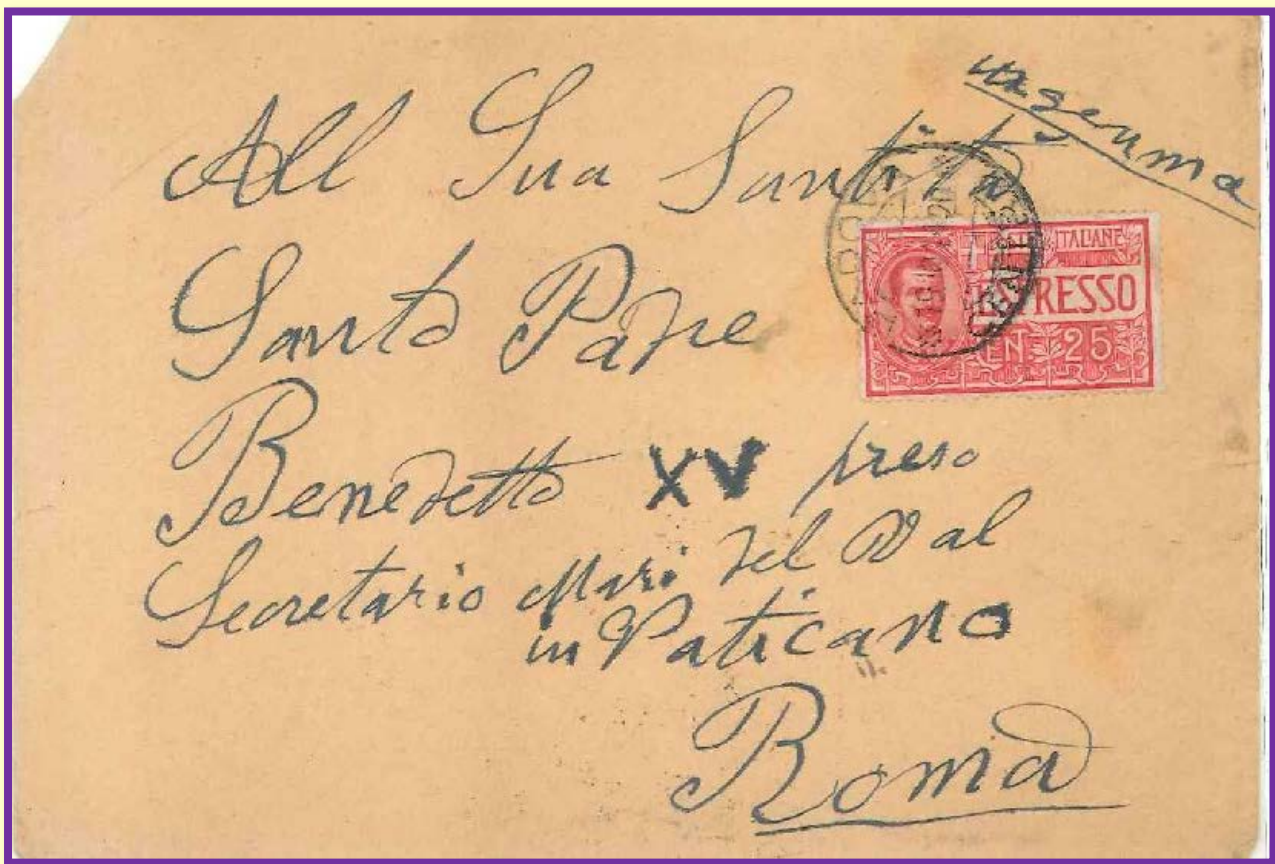
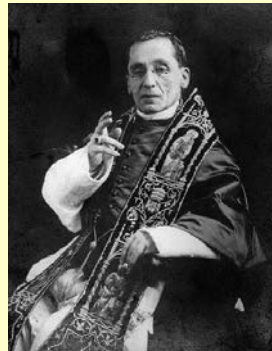


Lettercard from Torino to Roma, Jul. 27rd 1915 – Rates: lettercard 15 c.
 Red boxed handstamp of Roma
 with registration number 109 and handwritten forwarding time 7.10



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

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



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

Rate: letter 15 c. (Under franked cent. 15 c.) (e)

Letter it was erroneously franked for special delivering, perhaps about wrong conviction of sender that correspondence addressed to the Pope enjoyed a exemption excluding Express service, but Article. 12 of Law 214 of 13 May 1871 on the Prerogative of the Pope (Law of Guarantees) stated instead the unlimited exemption only for correspondence sent by the Pope (concept repeated in Article. 1 Law on free postage of 14 June 1874), while it was only with the Royal Decree no. 316 of 11 March 1920 (art. 77) that it was established that even the correspondence addressed to the Pope (as well as the one addressed by the King of Italy) would have enjoyed unlimited allowance (including therefore also of costs of any express service). As is normal, even in the absence of postage, the letter was not taxed, probably for the respect of the recipient (for the same why the letters were taxed from abroad tax-free).

Postmark at backside in red ROME RAILWAY / (EXPRESS) October 1914
(At 11, with day unreadable) and boxed in black ROME RAILWAY EXPRESS
/ DELIVERED AT FATT. HOURS completed manuscript indication "11")

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



Cover from Padova to Melfi, Dec. 21st1917 – Rates: letter 20 c.
Written by Gabriele D'Annunzio to his daughter Renata Montanarella



Postcard from Torino to Roma, Nov. 29th1917 - Rates: postcard 10 c.
Postmark "Torino – Espressi"

25/40 c. for inland was issued on Nov. 30th1917 overprinting the value issued and never used for "espresso-Urgente"

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



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



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

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

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

Unusual use of special stamps for abroad on inland cover

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



Cover from Genova to Spezia, Apr. 28th 1920 – Rates: letter 25 c.
 Postmark “Genova Centro – Espressi”
 Recorded unusual use of only special express stamps



Pneumatic cover from Roma to Torino, Nov. 12th 1919
 Rates: letter 25 c., pneumatic 10 c.

25 c. Fake of Milano (1920)

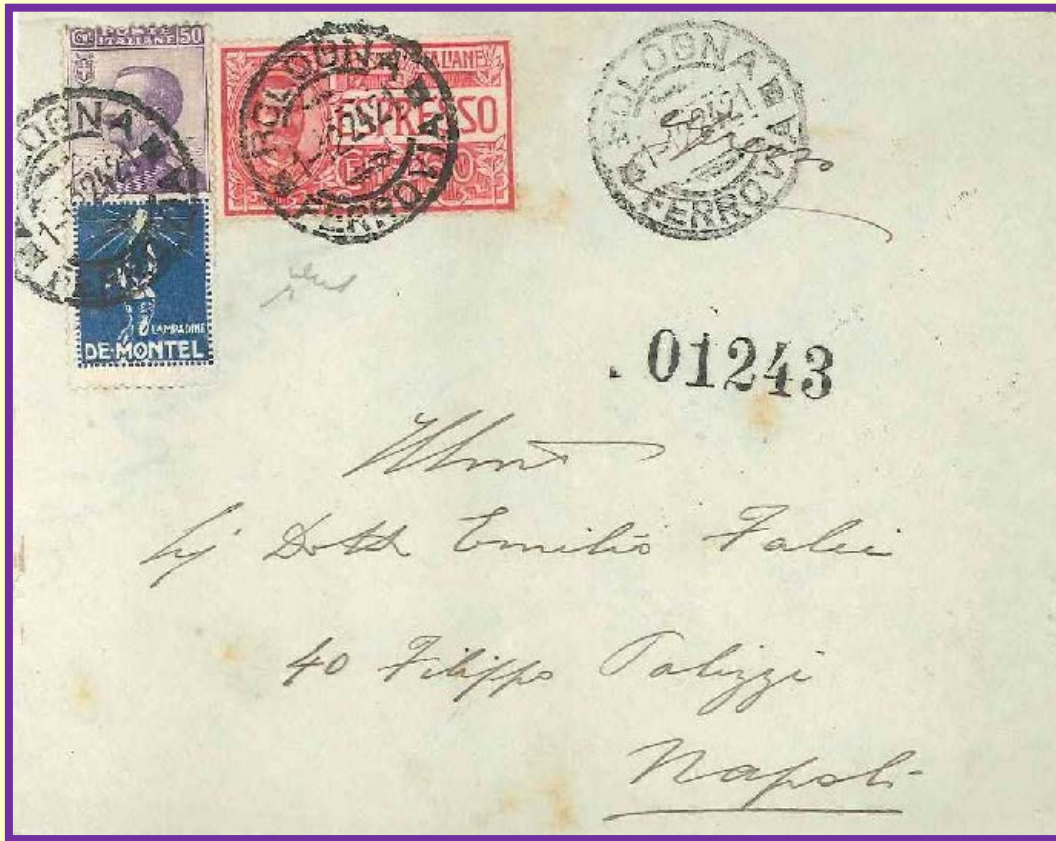


Postcard from Paderno Dugnano (Milano) to Milano, Mar. 25th 1920 – Rates: postcard 15 c.

The fake express stamp was made to defraud the Postal Administration, discovered and seized in Milan in 1920
The stamp hasn't watermark and with perforation 11,5

Recorded less than 3 documents franked with fake of Milan (e)

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



Cover from Bologna to Napoli, Dec. 1st 1924

Rates: letter 50 c.

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

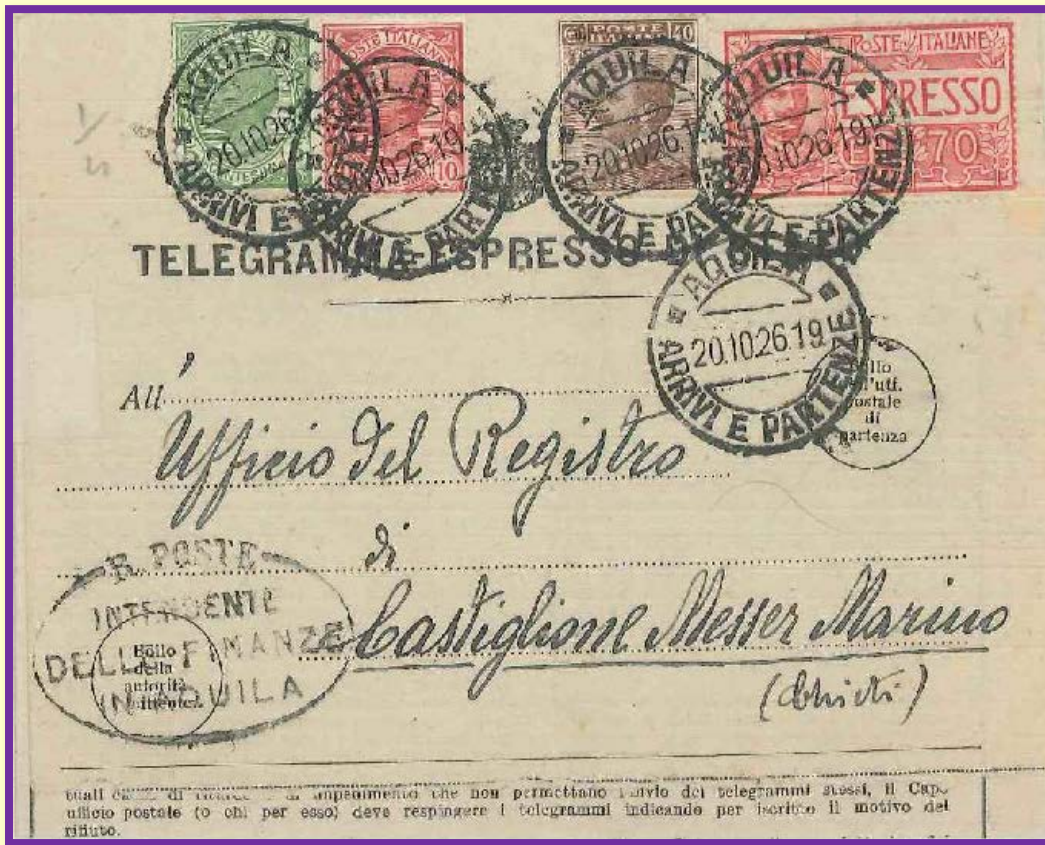


Postage free insured cover from Roma to Firenze, Apr. 11th 1925
 The black oval mark "R. Poste – Presidenza del Senato" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter and insurance



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

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



Postage free telegram from Aquila to Castiglione, Oct. 20th 1926

Black stamp "R. Poste – Intendenza delle finanze in Aquila"

70 c. for inland was issued on Jun. 27th 1925



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

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

Postmark "Roma Ferr.– Espressi Transito"

Handmade registration number "755"

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Official label of 1925



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

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

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

Cover from Ragusa to Genova, Dec. 10th 1932

Rates: letter 50 c.

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



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

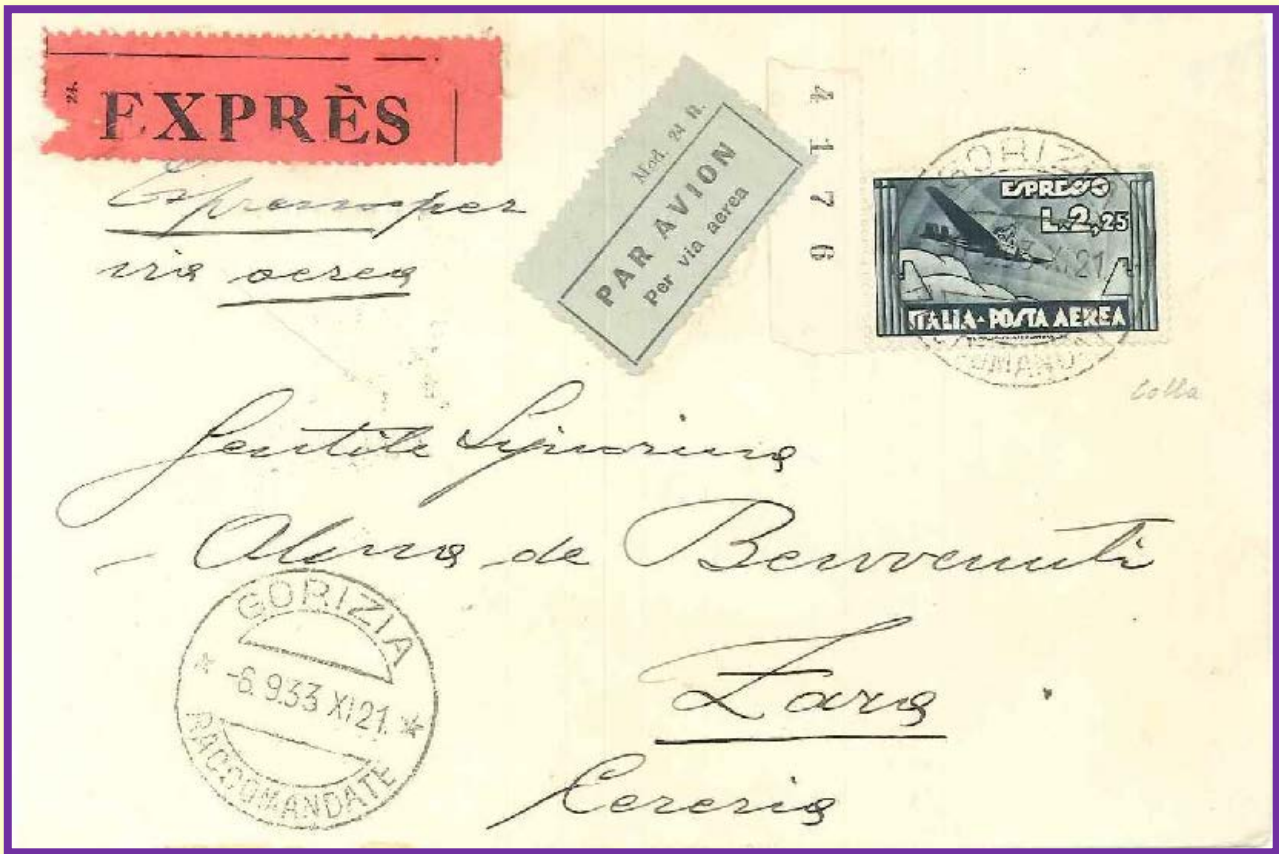


Air mail cover from Brindisi to Selva Val Gardena, Aug. 20th 1932

Rates: letter 50 c., airmail 50 c.

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

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



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

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



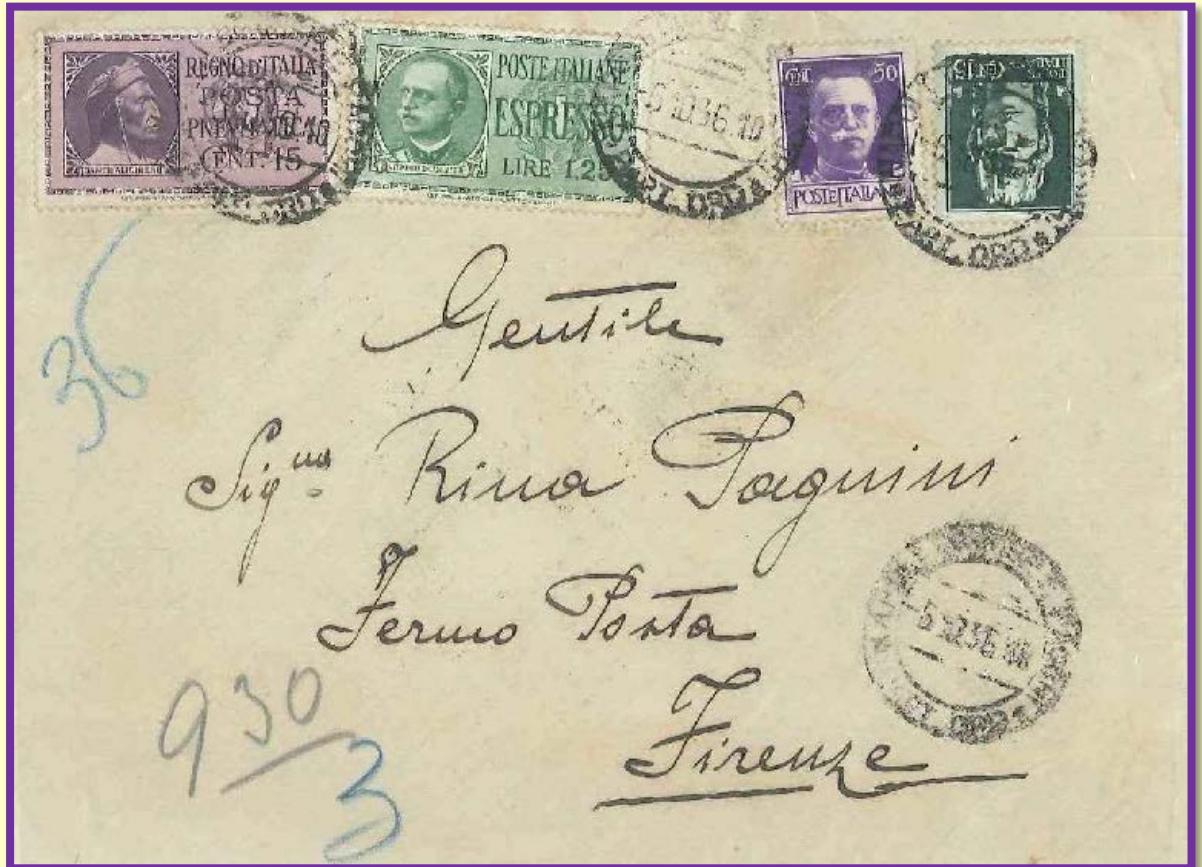
Cover from Napoli to Parma, Jul. 8th 1933 – Rates: letter 50 c.
Postmark "Napoli Ferrovia – Espressi Transito"
Black delivery handstamp of Parma forwarding time only

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

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

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

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



ESPRESSO AEREO
RACCOMANDATO

R
SESTO PUSTERIA
3979

DOT. PR

UGO BASSO

VIA CAPRERA 1

CAGLIARI

AF2

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

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



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



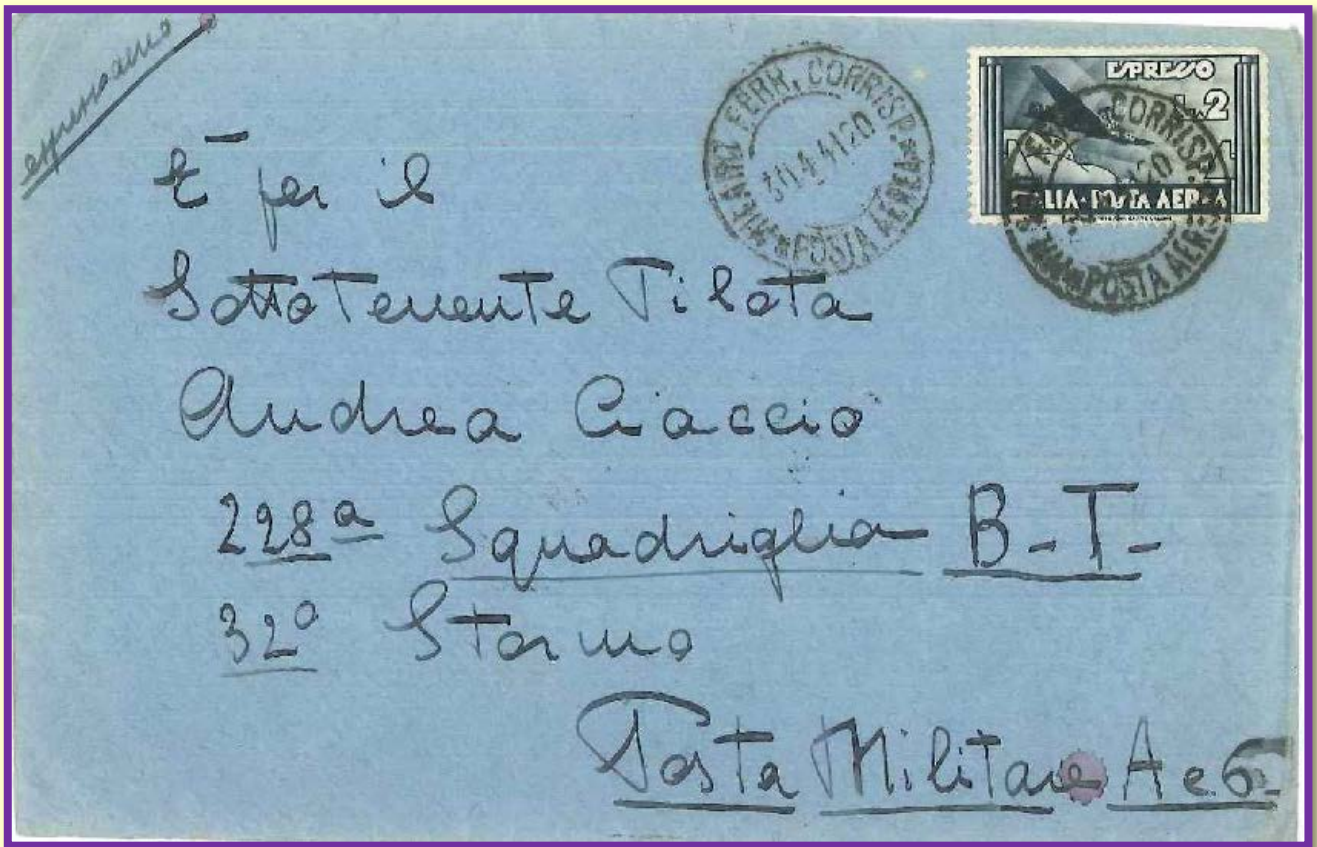
Cover from Pavia to Roma Via Foligno 40, Oct. 10th 1940 – Rates: letter 50 c.

Stamped: "Al fattorino spetta per fuori dazio l. 1,80 di giorno,... di notte o tempo piovoso"
For day delivery outside the city limits, more to pay to the factor 1,80 l.,... overnight or rainy weather



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

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



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

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



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

Rates: airmail 50 c.

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

2.2 RSI/Lieutenancy

On 23rd September 1943 Benito Mussolini instituted the Italian Social Republic in the part of the territory occupied by the Germans forces. It included the regions of central and northern exception of Trentino Alto - Adige, the province of Belluno, Friuli and Venezia Giulia, Istria, de facto annexed to the Third Reich. On 5th June 1944, after the liberation of Rome, the King Vittorio Emanuele III retires to private life, appointing his son Umberto II Lieutenant General of the Kingdom.

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



Cover from Bari to Putignano, Dec. 27th 1943

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

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

Official label

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

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

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



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



Registered braille papers from Venezia to Barcolo, Oct. 28th1943
Rate: Braille papers 5 c., registration for braille papers 10 c. (e)

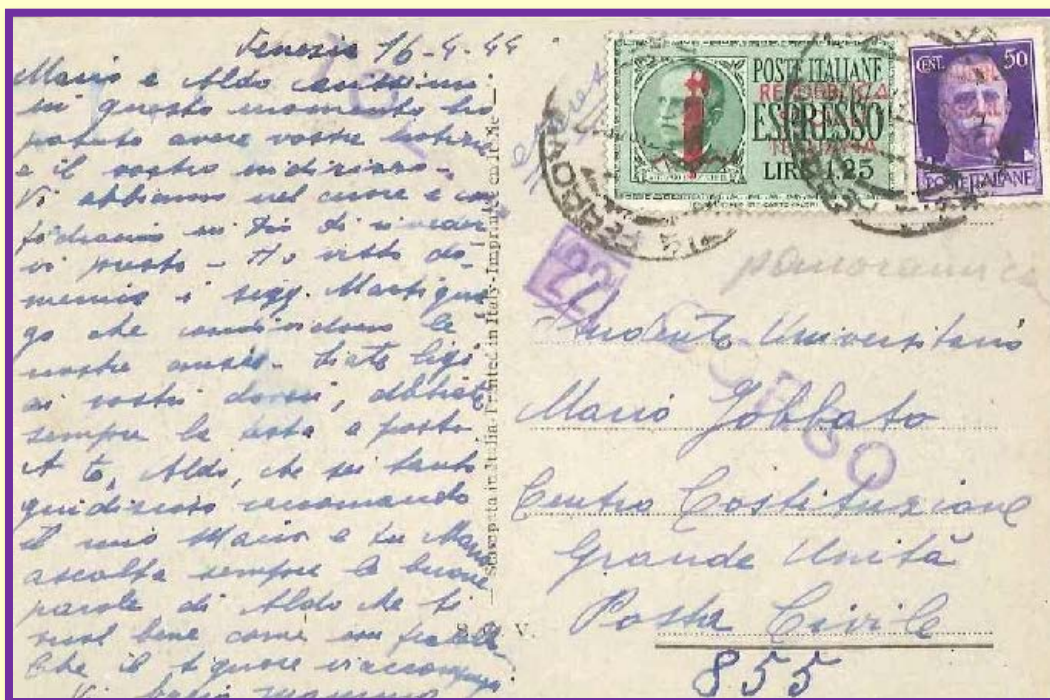


Braille papers from Belluno to Bologna, Dec. 16th1943
Rate: Braille papers 5 c. (e)

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



Insured cover from Somma Lombardo to Sassuolo, Oct. 26th 1943
 Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l., insurance 1 l. for first 200 l. and more 50 c. each 100 l.



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

Rates: postcard written as cover 50 c.

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

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

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



Registered cover with mark from Trieste to Saluzzo, May. 12th 1944

Rates: letter 50 c., registration 1,25 l. and 50 c. mark fee

Very rare use of G.N.R. in Trieste (e)

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

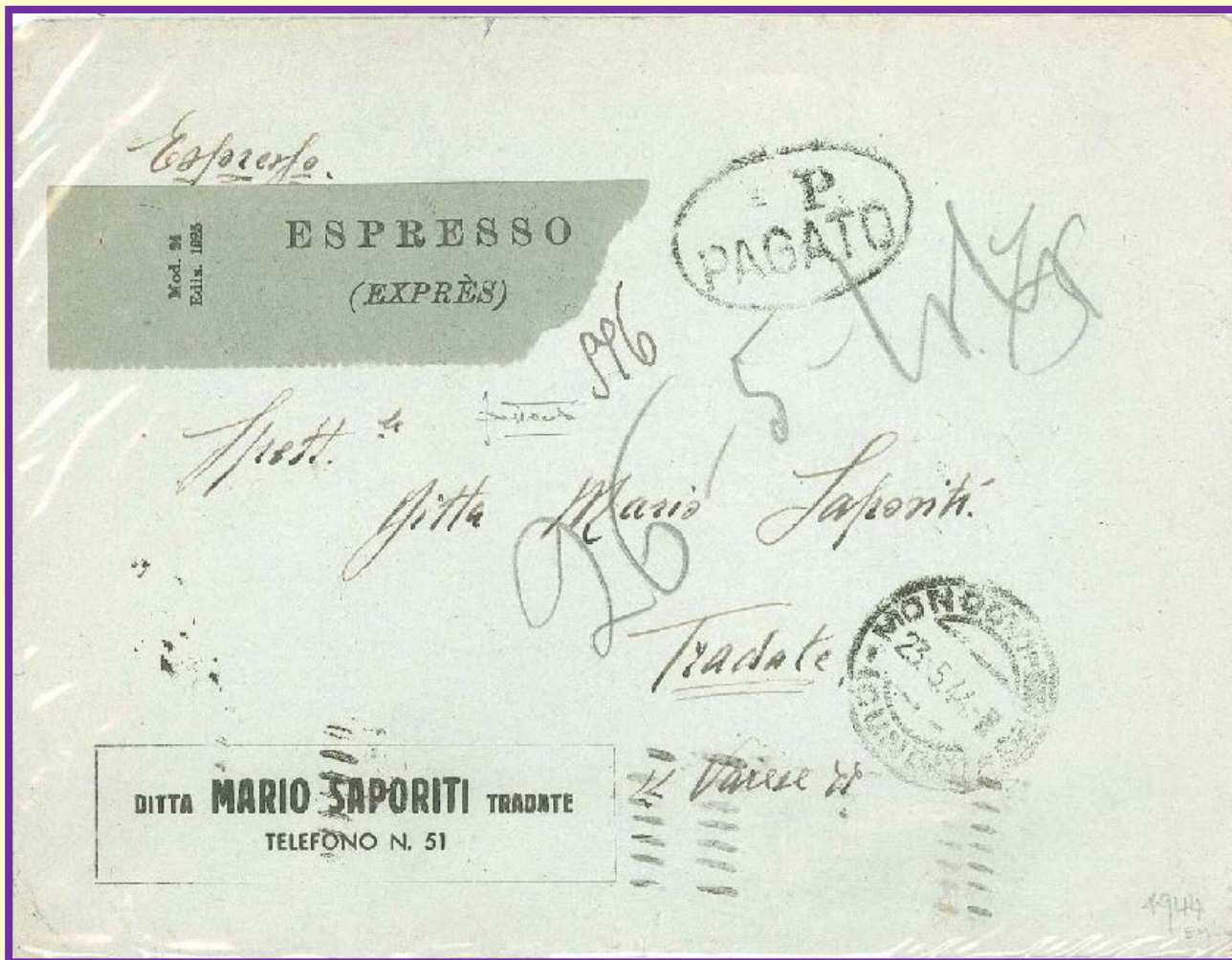


Front of cover from Provaglio d'Iseo (BS) to Brescia, Feb. 24th 1944 – Rates: letter 50 c.
The cover was taxed on arrival with postage due overprinted GNR
for the simple port of the letter and the express fee since the departure zone was "devoid of stamps" (e)

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



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



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

Rates: letter 50c.

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

Official label



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



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

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

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

Official label

6th express inland rate: 2,50 l. (Oct. 1st 1944 – Mar. 31st 1945)
W.W. second, Italy divided: Republic of North Italy



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

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



Cover from Milano to Palestro, Apr. 1st 1945 – Rates: letter 1 l.
Postmark "Milano Fer. Corrisp – Espressi"
First day of the new rate but applied the old one, not taxed



Cover from R. Torpediniera Monzambano to Asinara, Sep. 23rd1945
Rates: letter 2 l.
Official label
Stamps was annulled on board by pencil (e)

2.3 Italian Republic

The birth of the Italian Republic took place following the results of the institutional referendum of 2 and 3 June 1946, held to determine the form of status to be given to Italy after the Second World War and which saw 54.3% of citizens favorable to the republic and 45.7% of citizens favorable to the monarchy.

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

Fourth
rate cover
from
Roma to
Pineta di
Sortenna,
Jun. 22nd
1946

Rates:
letter 16 l.
(4 l. each
15 g.)

Official
label (e)



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

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

10 l. was issued
on Oct. 1st 1945

Postmark "R.
Nomentano –
Espressi"

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



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



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

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

5 l. was issued on Oct. 1st 1945

9th express inland rate: 15 l. (Mar. 25th 1947 – Jul. 31st 1947)



Cover from Napoli to Angris (Salerno), May 19th 1947

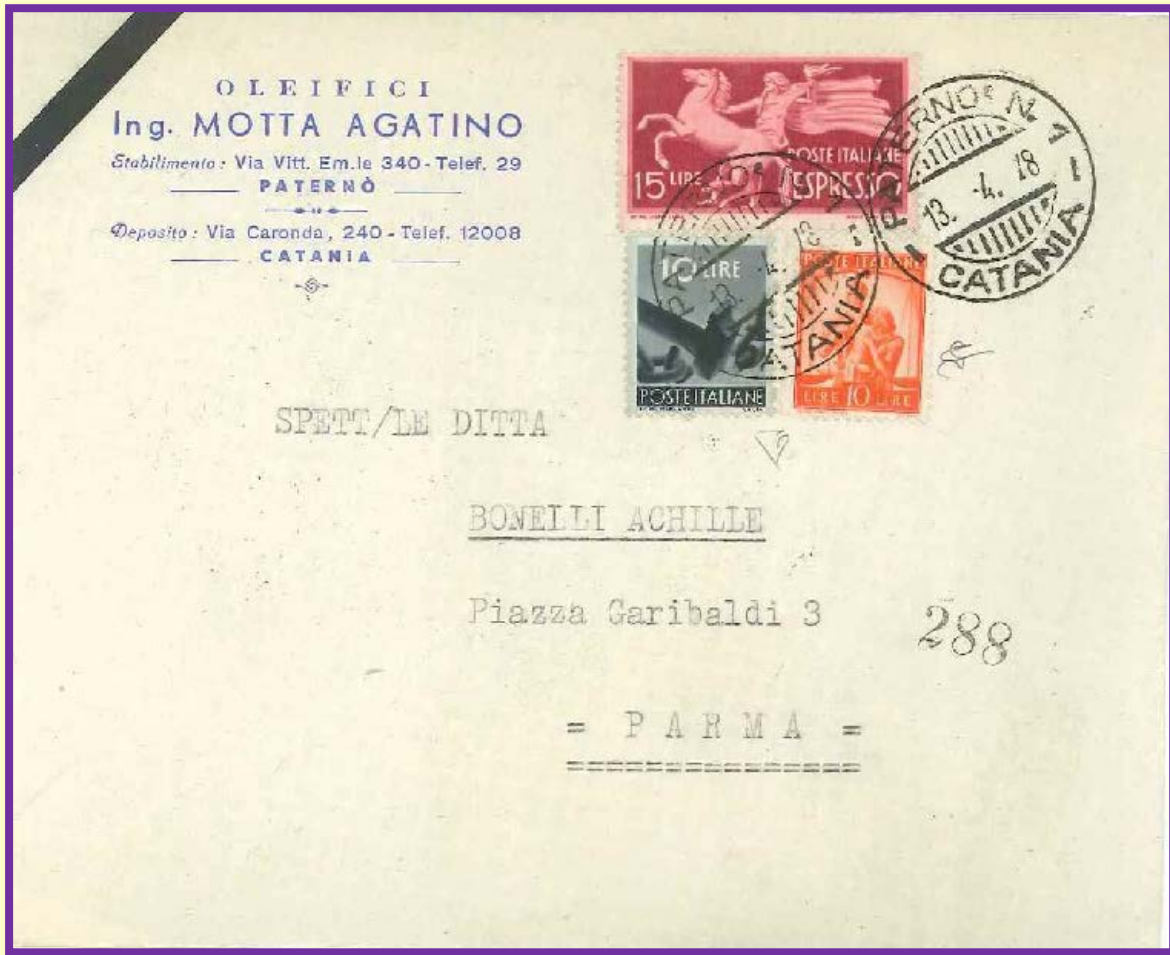
Rates: letter 6 l. (15 l. each 15 g.), registration 15 l.

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



Postage free cover from Napoli to Crispano, Apr. 5th 1948
The black oval mark have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only
Official label - Postmark "Napoli Corr. e Pacchi – Espressi"

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



Cover from Paternò (Catania) to Parma, Apr. 13th 1948 - Rates: letter 10 l.
15 l. was issued on Jul. 28th 1947

Unusual use of twin values of 10 l. Democratica stamps (e)

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



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

Rates: Sample without value 10 l.
Postmark "Reggio Emilia – Espressi"

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



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

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

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



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

The oval mark "POSTE ITALIANE ISPETTORATO AGRARIO COMPARTIMENTALE DI MILANO" indicates the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

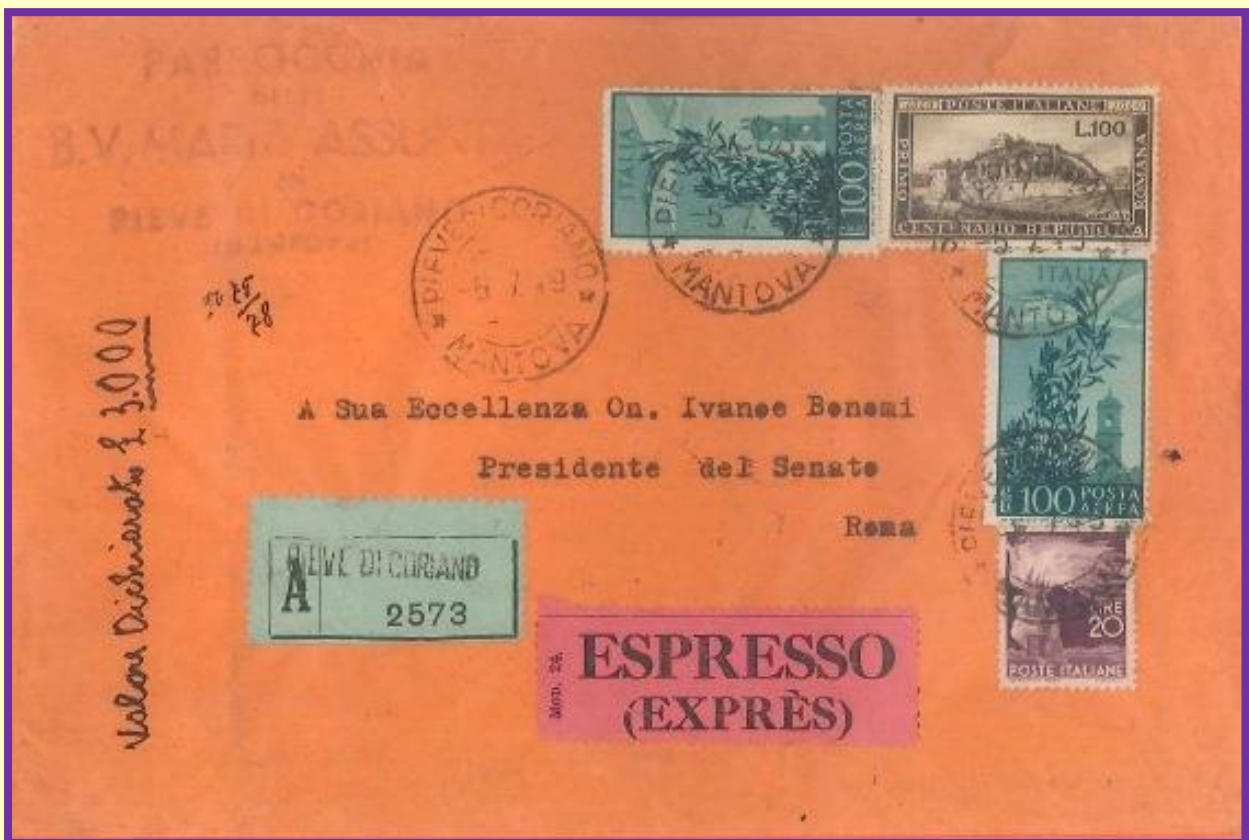
12th express inland rate: 40 l. (Apr.10th 1949 – Jul. 31st 1951)

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

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

Official
label

Postmark
"Rovigo C.
P. –
Espressi"
(e)



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

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

Official label

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



Airmail cover from Firenze to Carbonia, May. 27th 1951 – Rates: letter 20 l., airmail 10 l.

60 l. was issued on Dec. 6th 1947

Posted on Ambulante Milano-Firenze-Roma (e)



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

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

30 l. was issued on Jul. 3rd 1946

Official label

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



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

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

Rare use of ordinary stamp for express (e)



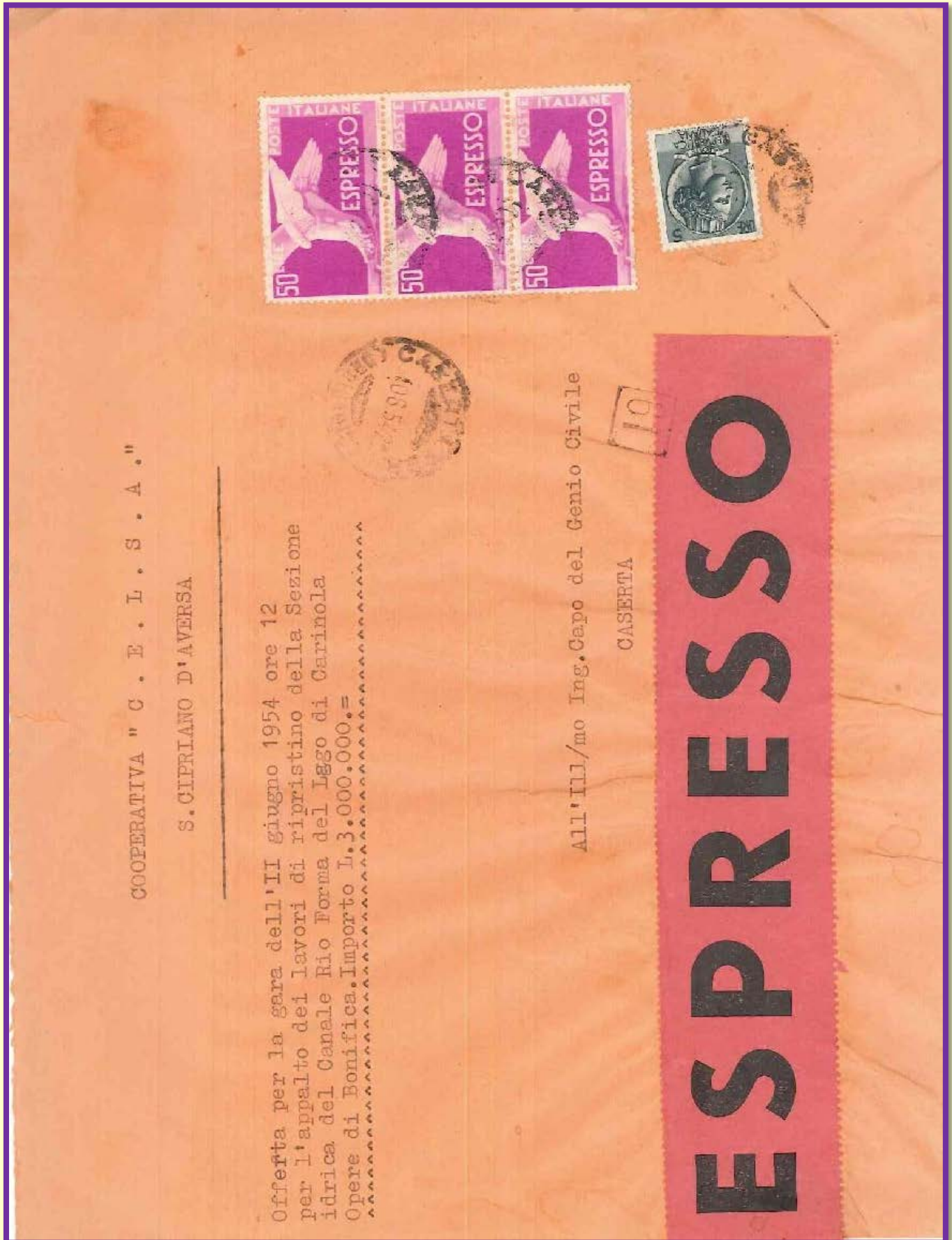
Postage free registered cover from Cagliari to Roma, Feb. 2nd 1956

The black oval mark "Poste Italiane – Tribunale militare territ." have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

Rare use of ordinary stamp for express

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

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



Third rate cover from Caserta to town, Jun. 10th1954 – Rates: letter 75 l. (25 l. each 15 g.)

50 l. was issued on Dec. 9th 1951

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



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

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

Official label

14th express inland rate: 75 l. (Oct. 1st 1957 – Jul. 31st 1965)



Registered third rate cover from Firenze to Udine, Dec. 11th 1958

Rates: letter 75 l. (25 l. each 15 g.), registration on 85 l.

Official label

15th express inland rate: 120 l. (Aug.1st 1965 – Dec. 31st 1965)



Registered cover from Modena to Napoli, Dec. 5th 1965

Rates: letter 40 l. (each 20 g.), registration 90 l.

Official label

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



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

Rates: letter 50 l., registration 130 l.

150 l. was issued on Mar. 15th 1966

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



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

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

Official label

17th express inland rate: 250 l. (Mar. 31st 1974 – Dec. 31th 1975)



Postcard from S. Pietro al Natisone (Udine) to Trieste, Nov. 11th 1974

Rates: postcard 40 l. (overfranked 10 l.)

Official label



Registered third rate cover from Napoli to Cava dei Tirreni (Salerno), Jul. 3rd 1974

Rates: cover 300 l. (from 100 g. to 250 g.), registration 130 l. (overfranked 95 l.)

Official label

18th express inland rate: 300 l. (Jan. 1st 1976 – Oct. 31th 1976)

Cover from Napoli to city, May 31st 1976

Rates: cover 150 l.

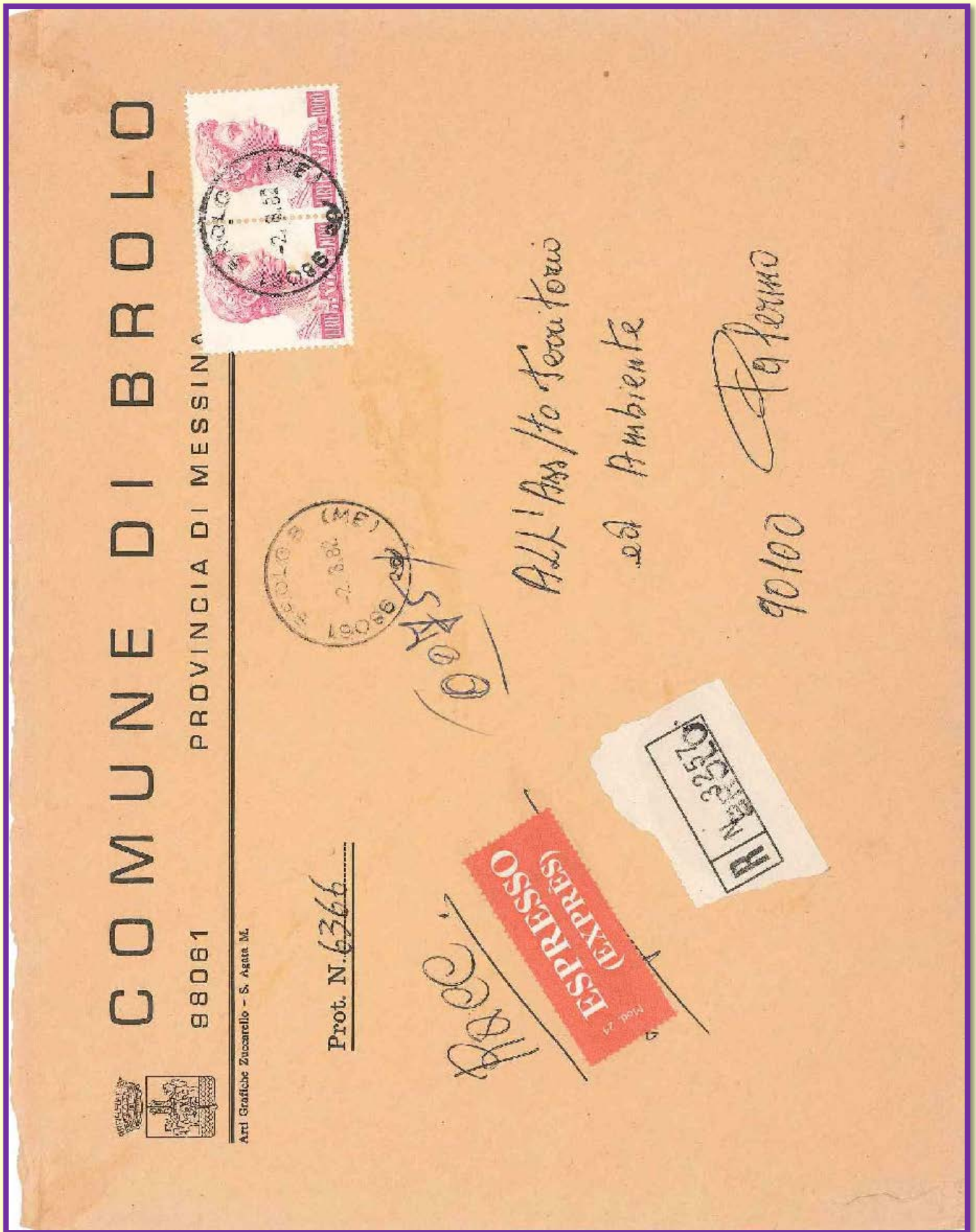


19th express inland rate: 350 l. (Nov. 1st 1976 – Dec. 31th 1980)



Registered cover from Milano to Invernigo (Como), Sep 29st 1979
Rates: cover 170 l., registration 350 l.

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

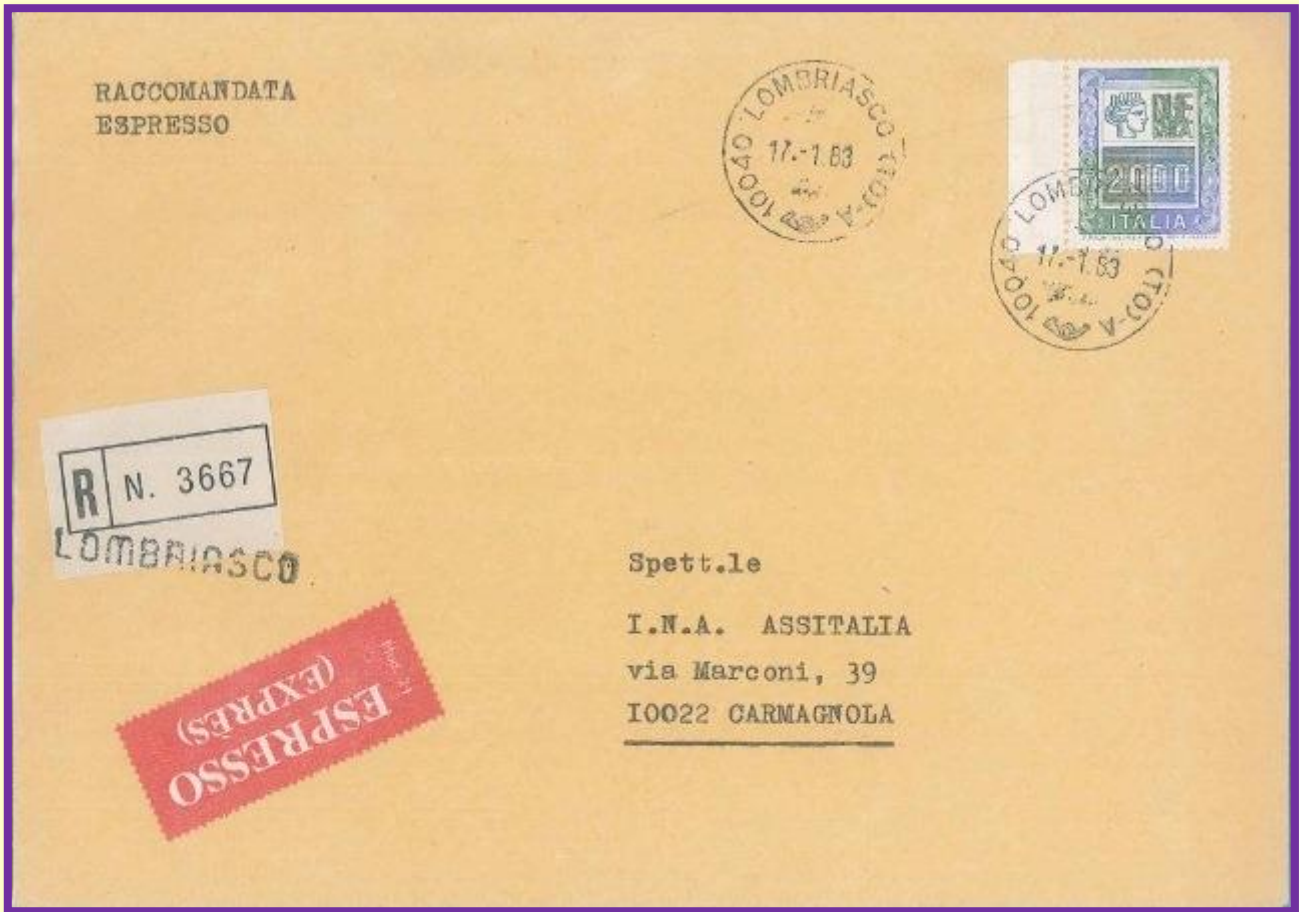


Registered fourth rate cover from Brolo to Palermo, Aug. 2nd 1982

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

Official label

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



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

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



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

Rates: letter 400 l.

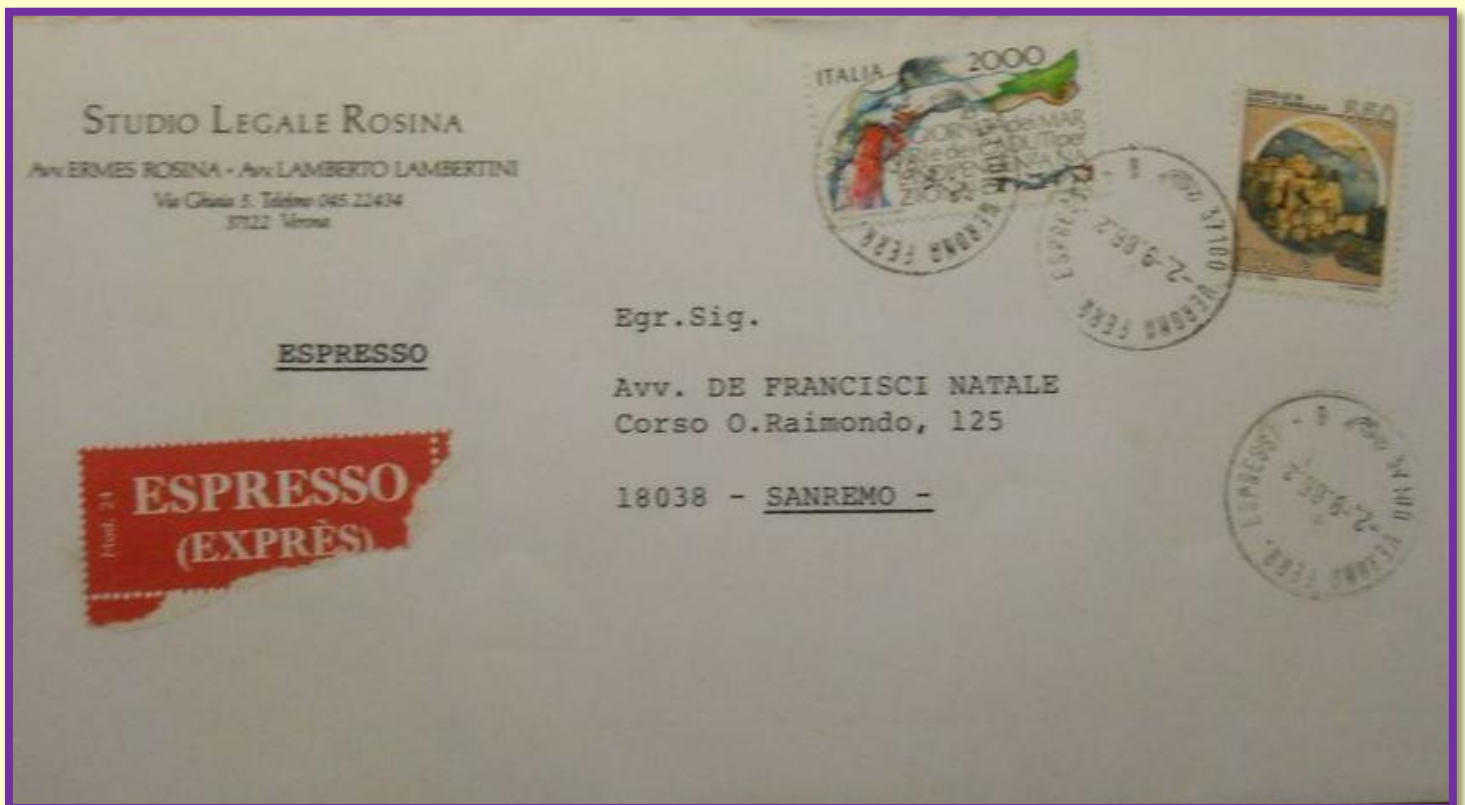
Official label

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



Postage free official cover from Torino to town, May. 25th 1985
The black oval mark "Poste Italiane – Uff. Scolastico interregionale" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

25th express inland rate: 2.000 l. (Nov.13th 1985 – Nov. 10th 1986)



Cover from Savona to Verona, Aug. 2nd 1986
Rates: cover 550 l.

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



Cover from
Milano to
Bema, Jul. 9th
1988

Rates: letter
650 l.

Official label

27th express inland rate: 2.800 l. (Jan. 1st 1990 – Jun. 30th 1990)



Cover from Savona to Napoli, May 17th 1990

Rates: cover 700 l.

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



Postage free official insurance cover from Chieti to Napoli, Feb. 22nd 1993

The black oval mark "Poste Italiane – Regione Abruzzo e Molise Carabinieri" have got the right to postage free for basic rate letter only

Official label

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



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

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

Official label



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

Official label

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

3. Postal rates for abroad

3.1 Kingdom of Italy

The first ordinary special stamp of 30 c. was issued on Sep. 1st 1908 eighteen years after the beginning of the service and other commemorative express stamps were issued. 8 special stamps were issued for abroad. No distinction was made between the values to be used for service inland and abroad from the 5 l. stamp issued on August 16th, 1945. The inland rates changed 30 times, from 30 c. to 3,600 l.

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



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

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

Official label

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900



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

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

Official label of 1898

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900 (e)

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



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

Less than fifteen express covers for abroad before 1900 known



Cover from Livorno to Schaffhouse (Switzerland), Oct. 16th 1899 –

Rates: letter for UPU “A” zone 25 c.

Official label of 1899

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900

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



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

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900



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

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

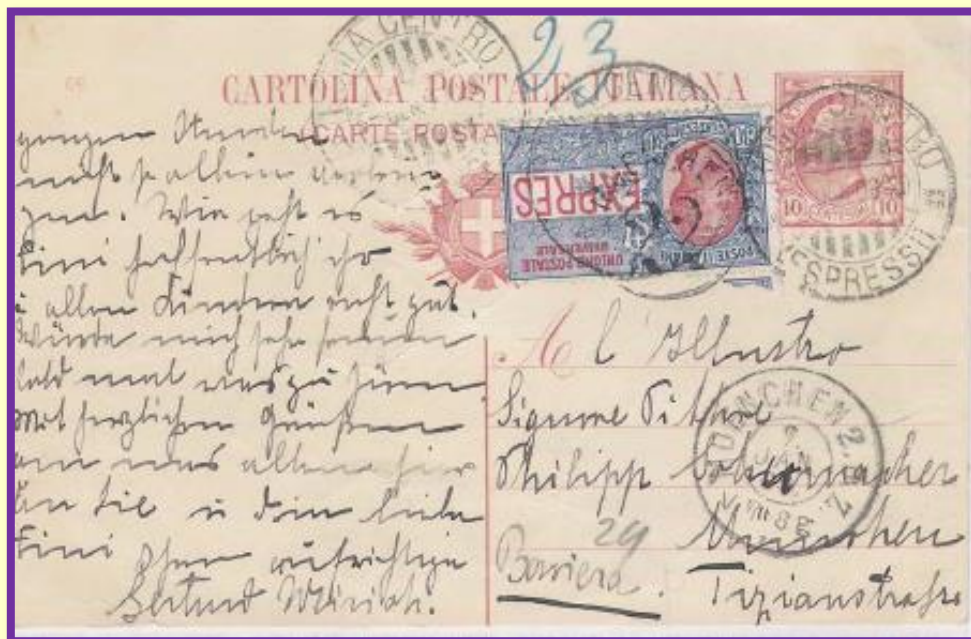
Official label of 1899

Recorded less than fifteen known express cover for abroad before 1900

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



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



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

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



Registered cover from S. Giorgio Richinvelda to London (England), Apr. 15th 1920

Rates: letter 25 c., registration 25 c.

Cover addressed to King of England George V



Parcel post from Torino to Budapest (Hungary), Nov. 20th 1913

Rates: Parcel custom fee (4,30 Kg.) 1,45 l.

Official label (e)

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



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



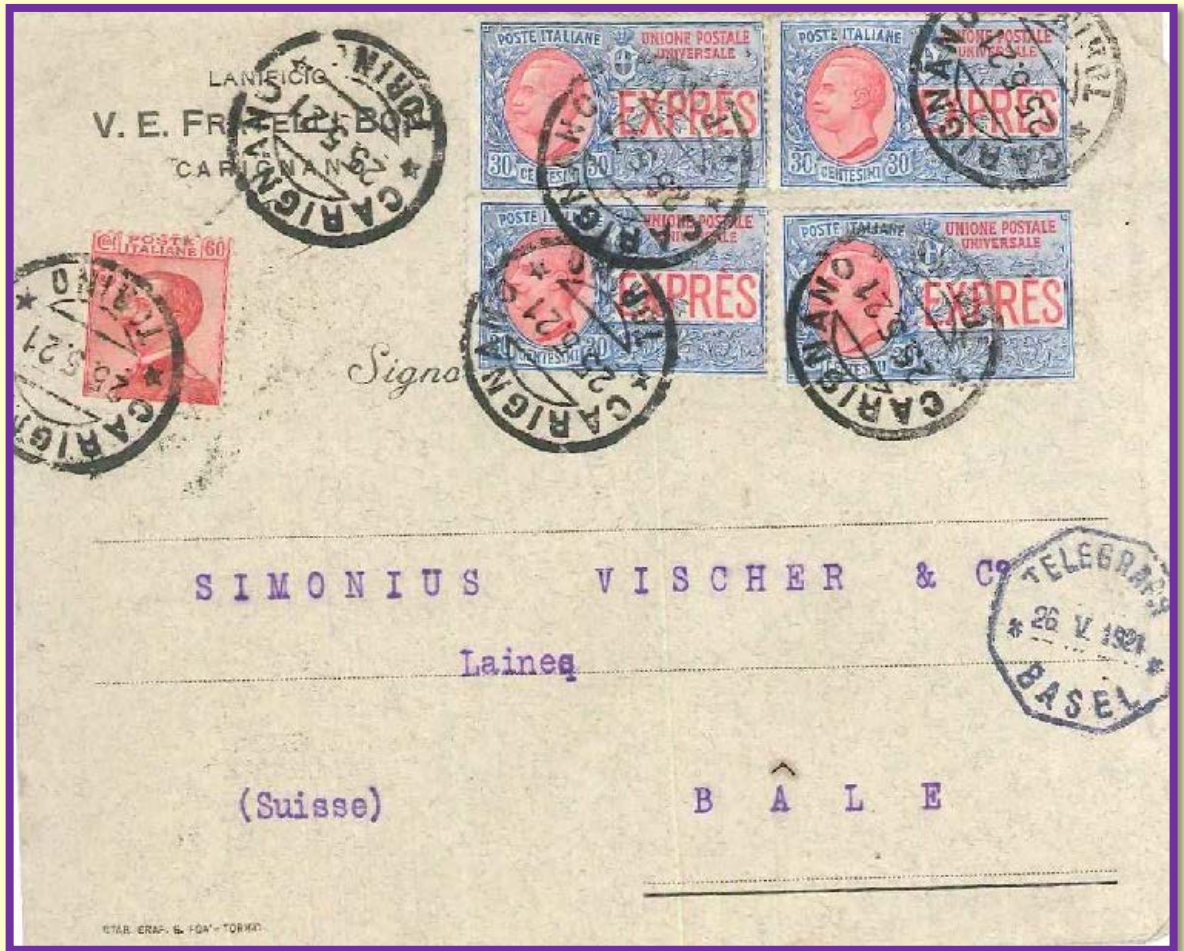
Cover from Firenze to Zurich (Switzerland), May. 3rd 1916 - Rates: letter 25 c.
Express stamps were cancelled by pencil and express delivery service wasn't done due to underfranked

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

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

Rates: letter 60 c.

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



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



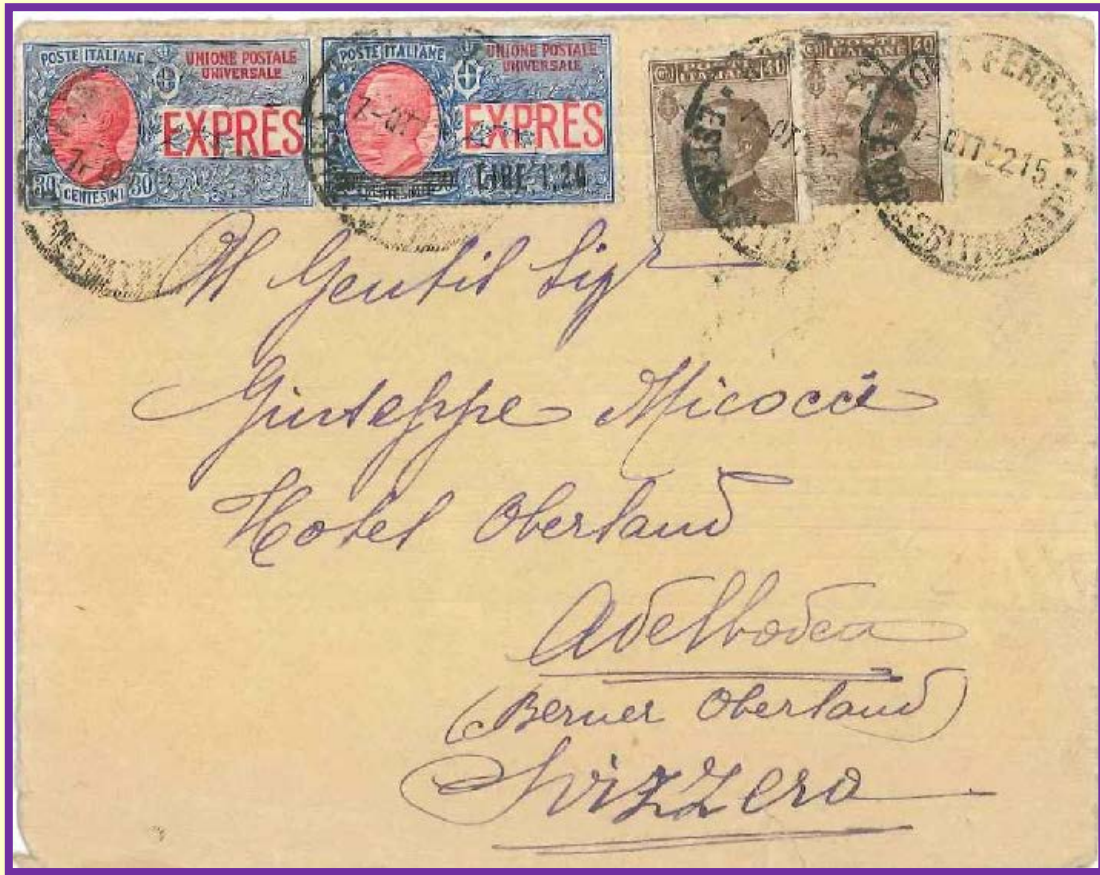
Cover from Genova to Langnau (Switzerland), Mar. 2nd 1922

Rates: letter 80 c.

Postmark "Genova centro - Espressi"

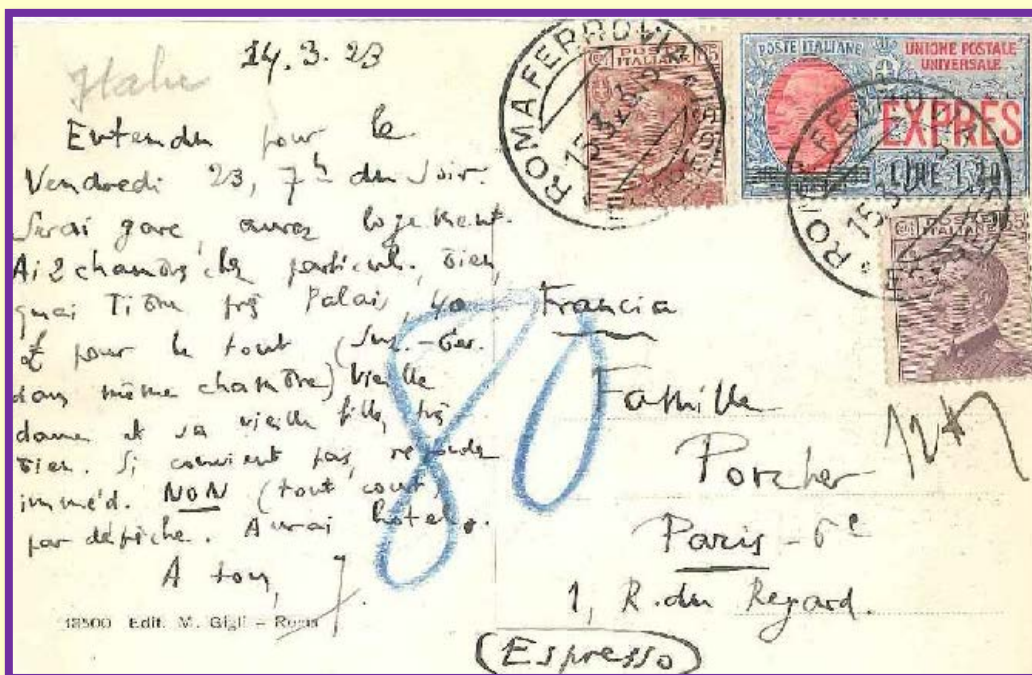
1,20 l./30 c. for abroad was issued on Oct. 3rd 1921

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



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

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



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

Rates: postcard 60 c.

Postmark “Roma Ferrovia– Espressi”

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



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

Rates: reduced
rate letter 75 c.

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

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

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

Rates: reduced
rate letter 75 c.
From Jun. 1st
1922 the letter
to Austria,
Hungary,
Romania and
Cecoslovacchia
had a reduction
for the basic
rate by the
Portorose
Agreement of
Nov. 23rd 1921

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



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

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

Rates: letter 1 l.



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



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

Rates: letter
1,25 l.

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

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

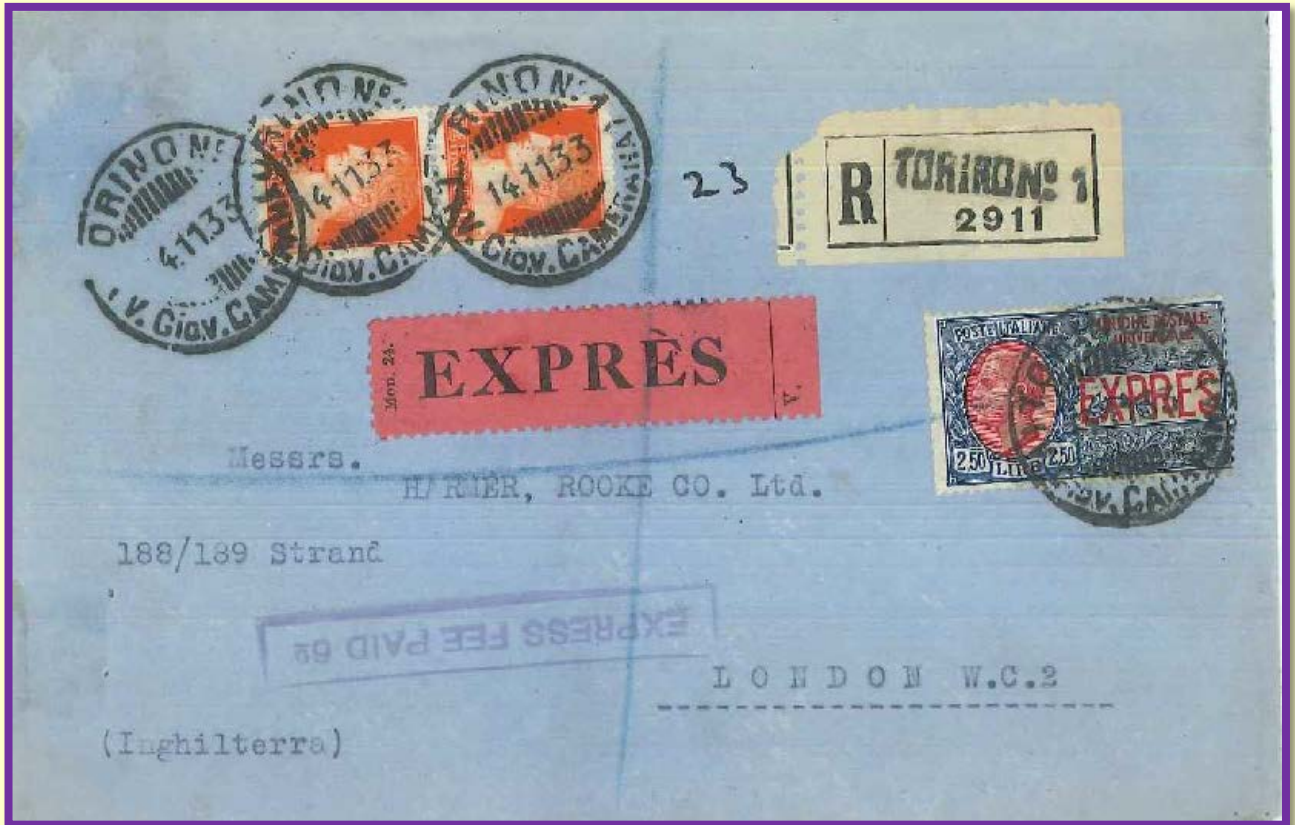


Air mail cover from Roma to Berlin (Germany), Jun. 5th 1932
Rates: letter 1,25 l. and air mail 1,50 l.
Official label



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

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



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

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

Incoming stamp "Express fee paid"



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

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

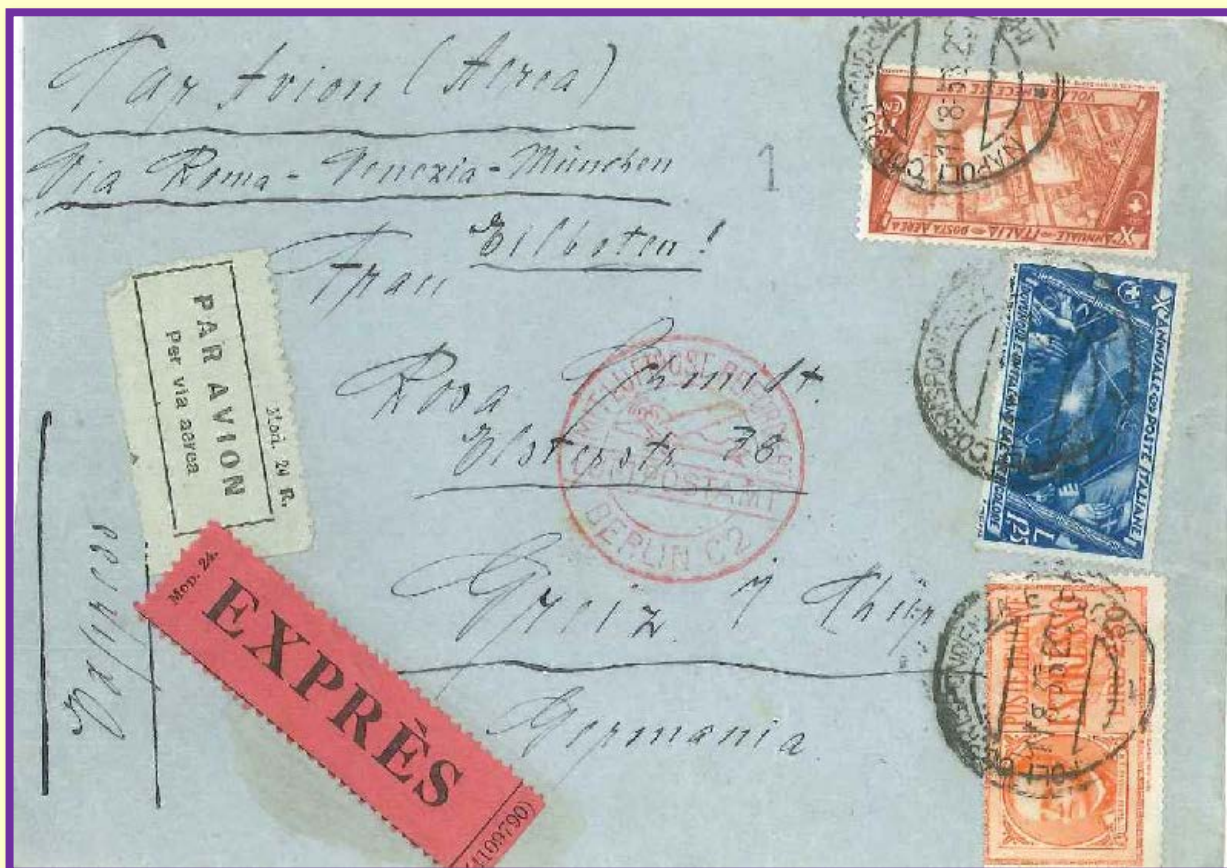
2,50 l. for abroad was issued on Oct. 27th 1932

Official label and incoming stamp "Special delivery"

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



Airmail registered cover from Napoli to Il Cairo (Egypt), Feb. 18th 1933
Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,50 l., airmail 1,50 l.



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

Rates: letter 1,25 l., airmail 75 c.

Redstamp "Mitluftpost Befordert - Luftpostamt - Berlin C2"

Official label

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Official label

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

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

Official label

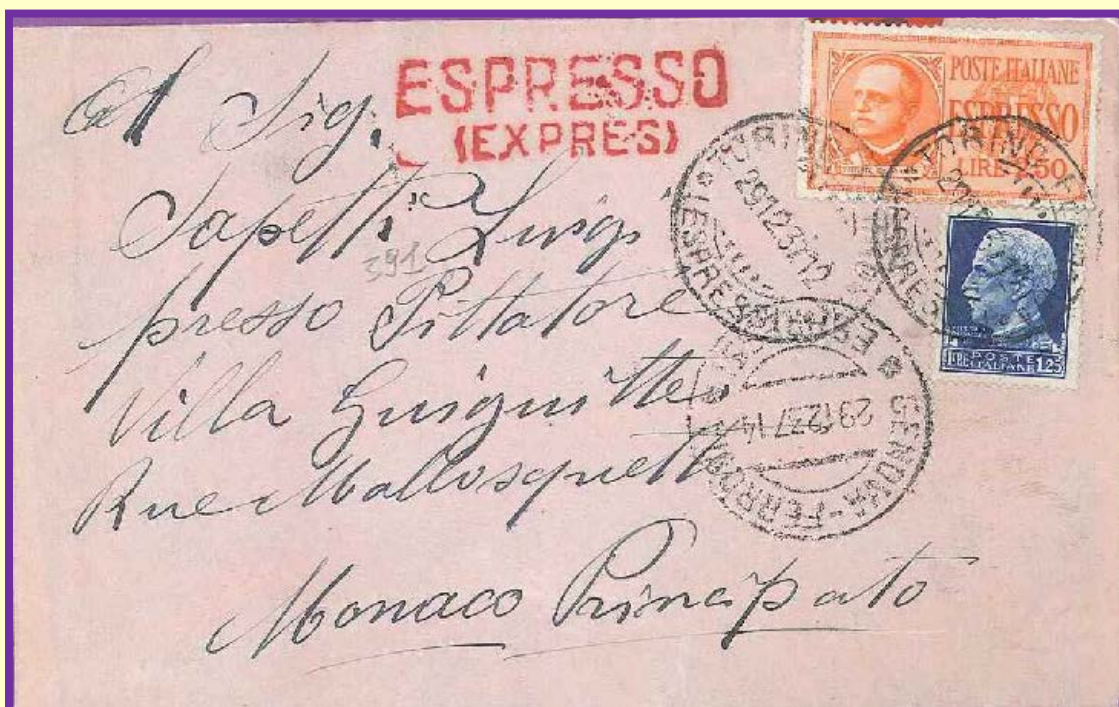
Postmark
"Firenze
Ferrovia –
Espressi
Trans."



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



Insured cover from Merano to S. Glas (Austria), Nov. 14th 1935
 Rates: letter 4,25 l. (1,25 l. first 20 g. and more 75 c. each 20 g.), registration 1,50 l.,
 Insurance 1,85 l. each 300 "franchi oro"
2,50 l. for abroad was issued on May. 14th 1933
 Official label

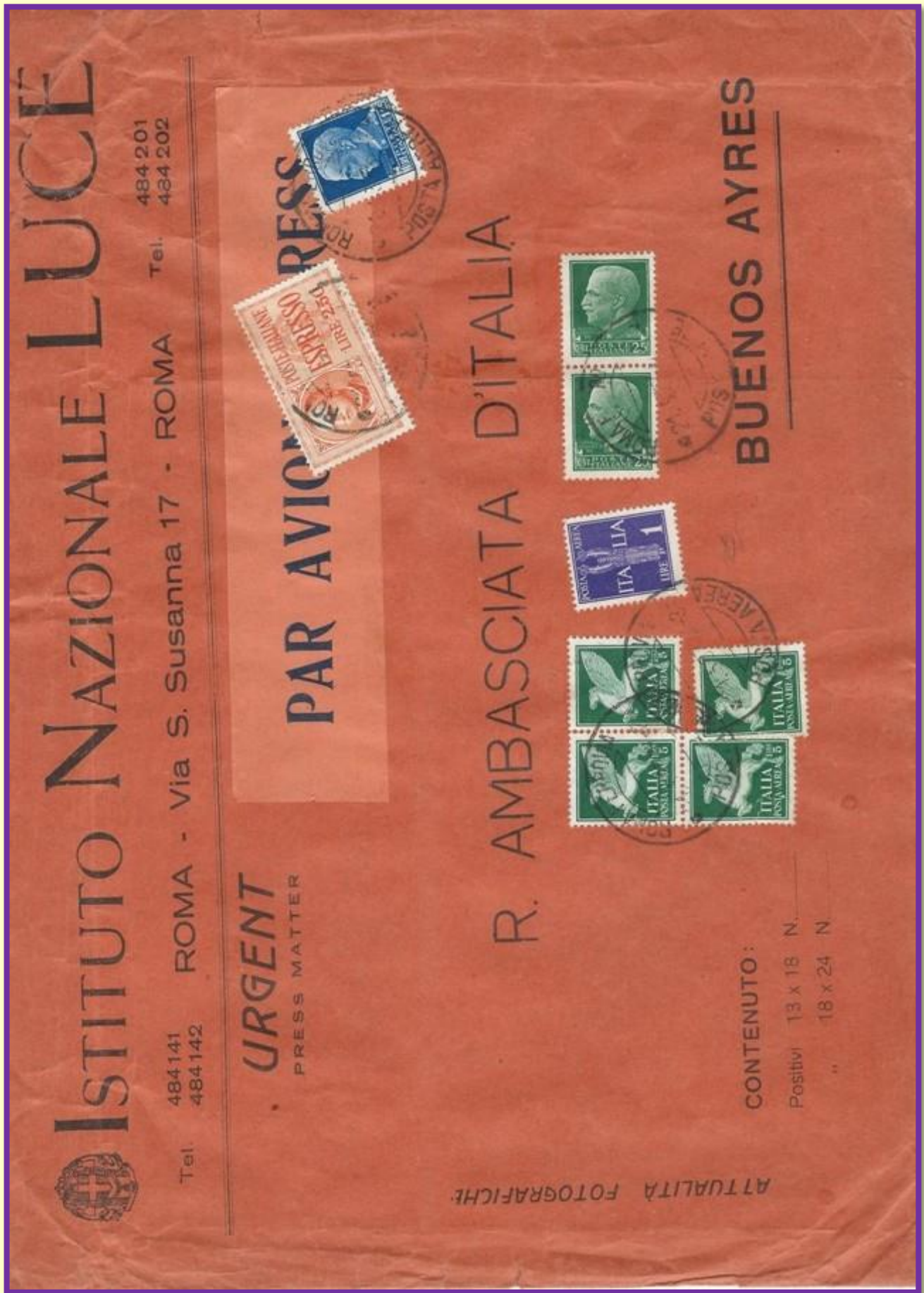


Cover from Torino to Principality of Monaco, Dec. 29th 1937

Rates: cover 1,25 l.

Postmark "Torino Ferrovia - Espressi"

Very rare destination



Manuscript airmail catapulted cover from Roma to Buenos Aires (Argentina), May. 21st 1937
 Rates: manuscript 1,25 l., airmail 12,75 l. (A.O.), catapulted mail 8,75 l.
 Noted catapulted mail with "PAR AVION EXPRESS" label (vi) (e)

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

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

Swiss official label (e)

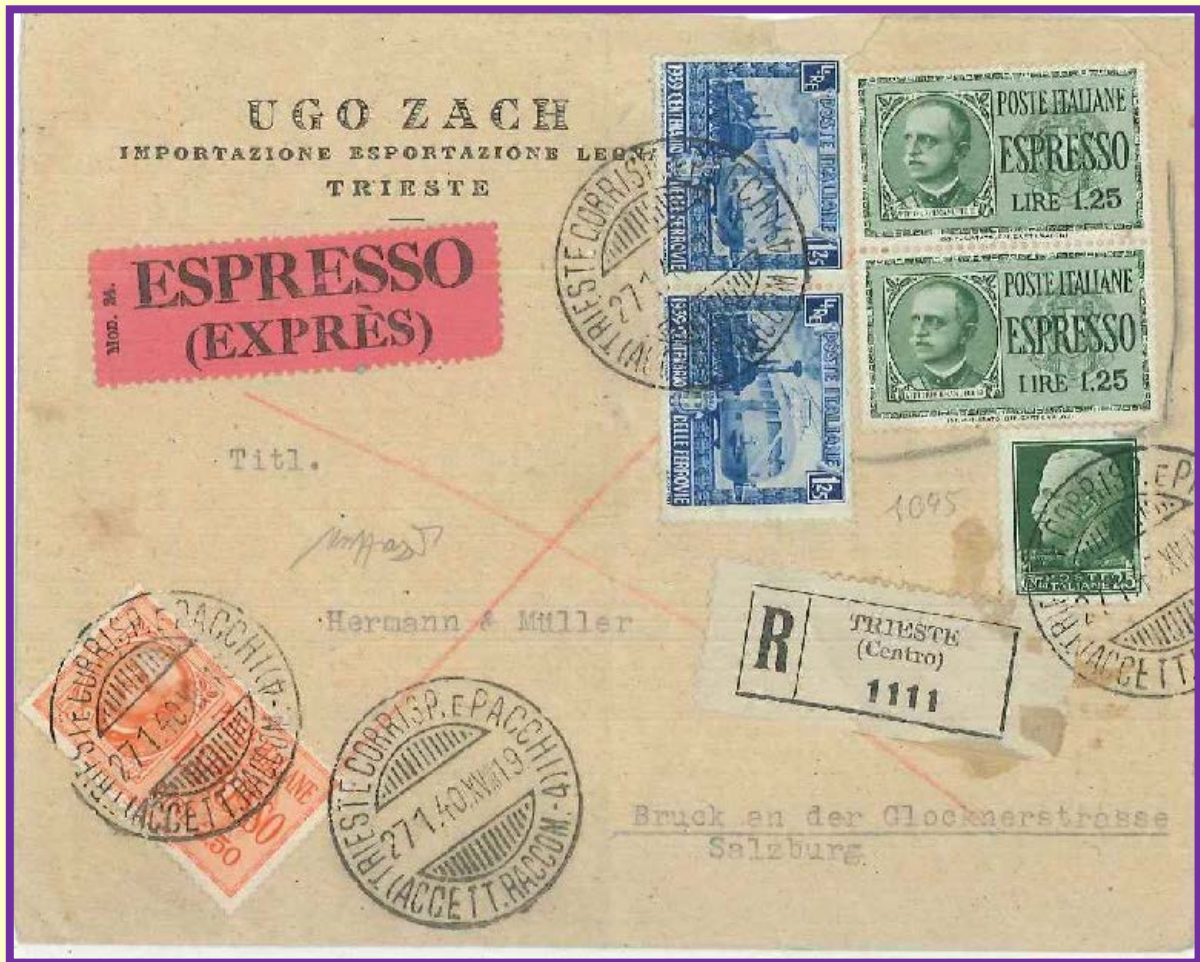


Cover from Fidenza to Berna (Switzerland), Dec. 21st 1940 - Rates: cover 1,25 l.

On 21st Dec. the cover was franked as internal cover and the following day the postage was integrated for 75 c. and 2,50 l. considering not valid express of 1,25 l.

Swiss official label

5th express rate for abroad: 2,5 0l. (Jan. 1st 1926 – Aug. 31st 1944)



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

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

Official label

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

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



Postage free cover from Genova to Geneve (Switzerland), Oct. 16th1942

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

Official label

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

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



Cover from Torino to Berlin (Germany), Apr. 23rd 1941
 Rates: letter 1,25 l.
Rare use of express stamp of 1,25 l. as ordinary one

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

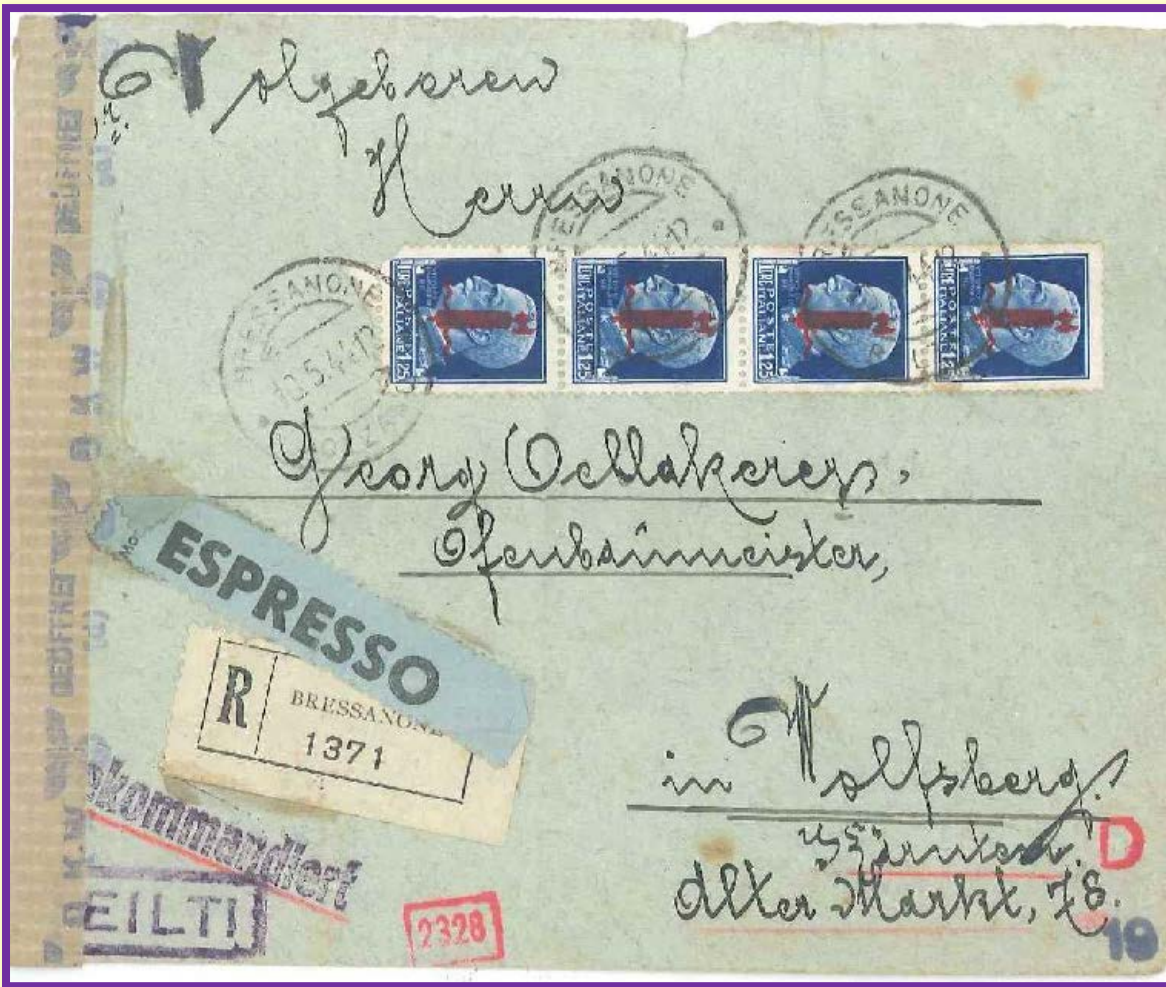
Rates: reduced rate
 letter 1 l. to
 Germany from Jan.
 1st 1942

Band and marks of
 Military Censorship
 both Italian and
 German one



3.2 RSI/Lieutenancy

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



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

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

Official label

Band and marks of Military Censorship both Italian and German one



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

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

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

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



Registered cover from Roma to Zurich (Switzerland), May. 25th1944 - Rates: letter 1,5 l., registration 1,50 l.

Official label

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



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

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

Official label

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



Cover from Osnago to Copenhagen (Denmark), Mar. 18th 1944
Rates: letter 1,25 l.

Rare use of Express stamp of 2,50 l. during the last month of RSI
The only cover of RSI period send to Denmark (v) (e)

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



Registered cover from Bordighera to Geneve (Switzerland), Mar. 16th 1944
Rates: letter 1,25 l., registration 1,25 l.

Rare use of 2,50 l. Express with overprint of Genova (pos. 34 of sheet) (e)

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



Registered cover from Pistoia to Los Angeles (USA), Jan. 2nd 1946
Rates: letter 5 l., registration 10 l.



Registered cover from Bolzano to Chicago (USA), Dec. 21st 1945
Rates: letter 5 l., registration 10 l.

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



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

Rates: letter 5 l., registration 10 l.

Official label and Swiss express stamp, trilingual

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

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

Swiss express stamp, trilingual

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



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



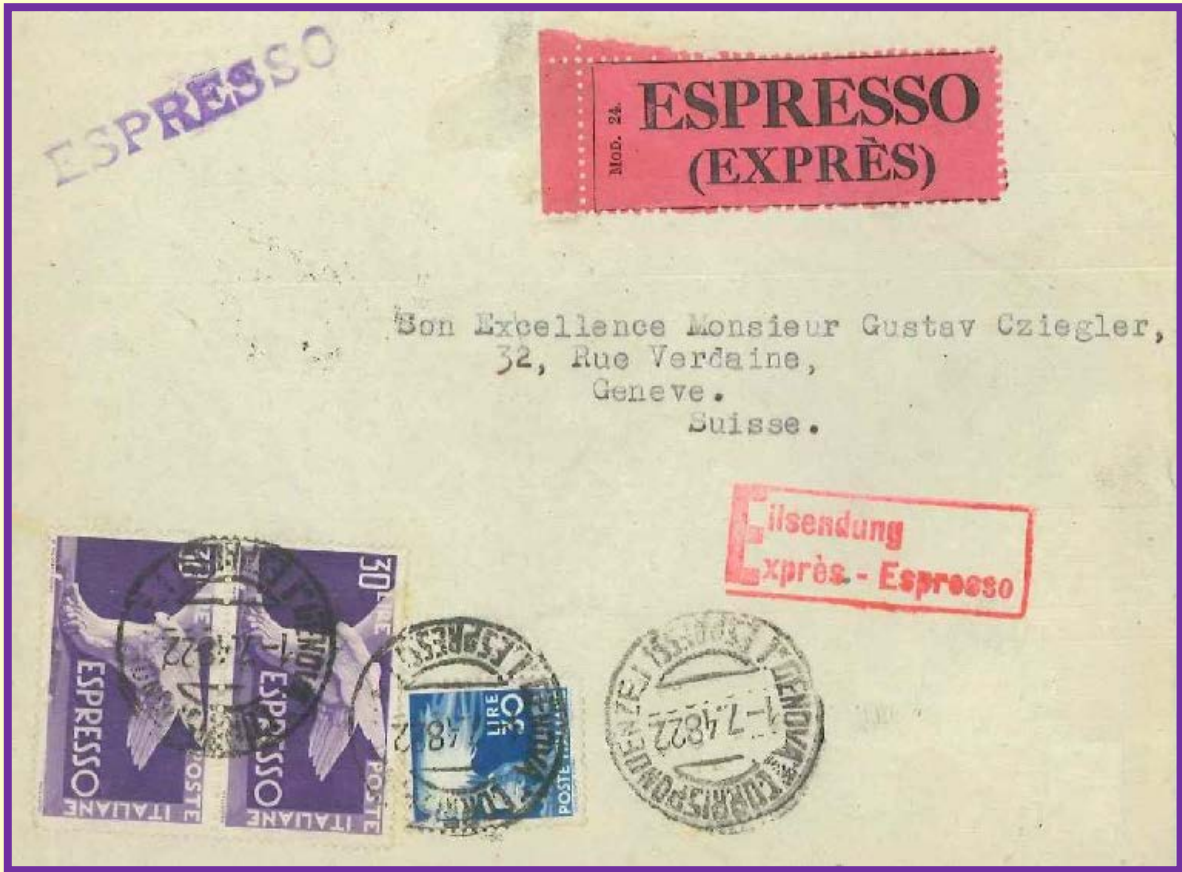
Cover from Samolaco to Alpnachdorf (Switzerland), Nov. 8th 1946

Rates: letter 15 l.

Swiss express stamp, trilingual

Rare use of 45 stamps

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



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



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

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



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

Rates: letter 30 l.

Official label and Swiss express stamp, trilingual

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



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



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

Rates: letter 30 l., airmail 200 l. (100 l. each 15 g.) (overfranked 10 l.)

Official label

Unusual use of twin values of 100 l. (e)

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



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

Rates: letter 40 l., registration 60 l.

Official label

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

Rates: letter 40 l.

Swiss official label



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



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

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

Postmark "Roma Centro C.P.- Espressi"

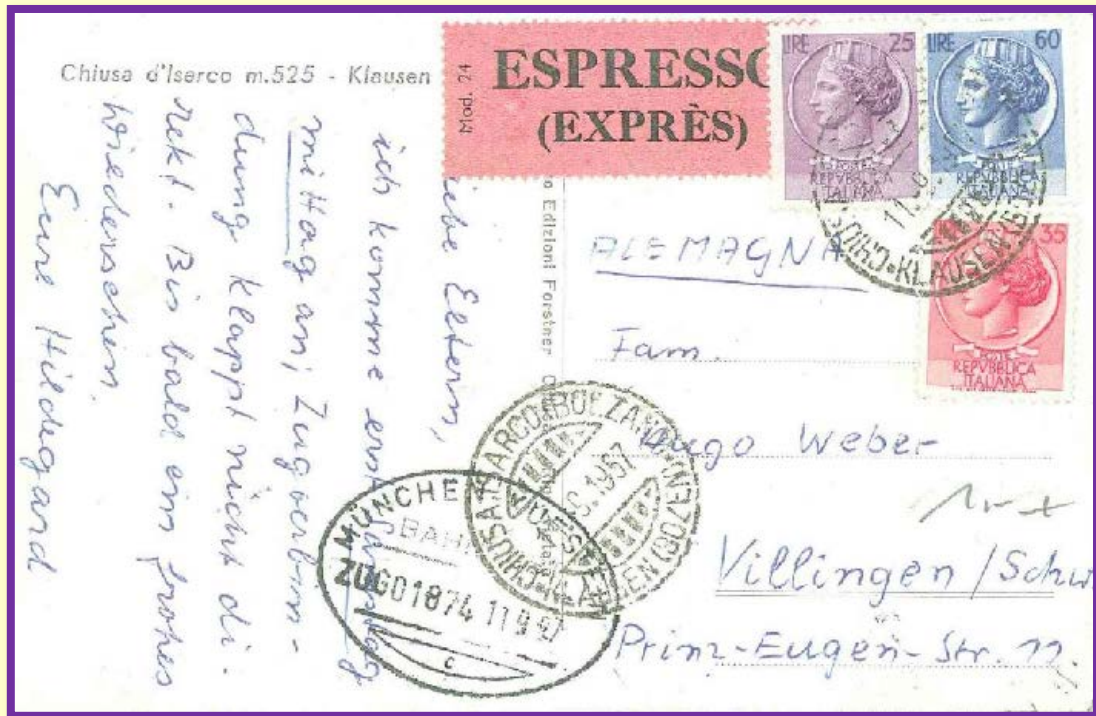


Air mail cover from Genova to Zurich (Switzerland), May. 2nd 1952 - Rates: letter 60 l.

Official label

Postmark "Genova Corrispondenze – Espressi"

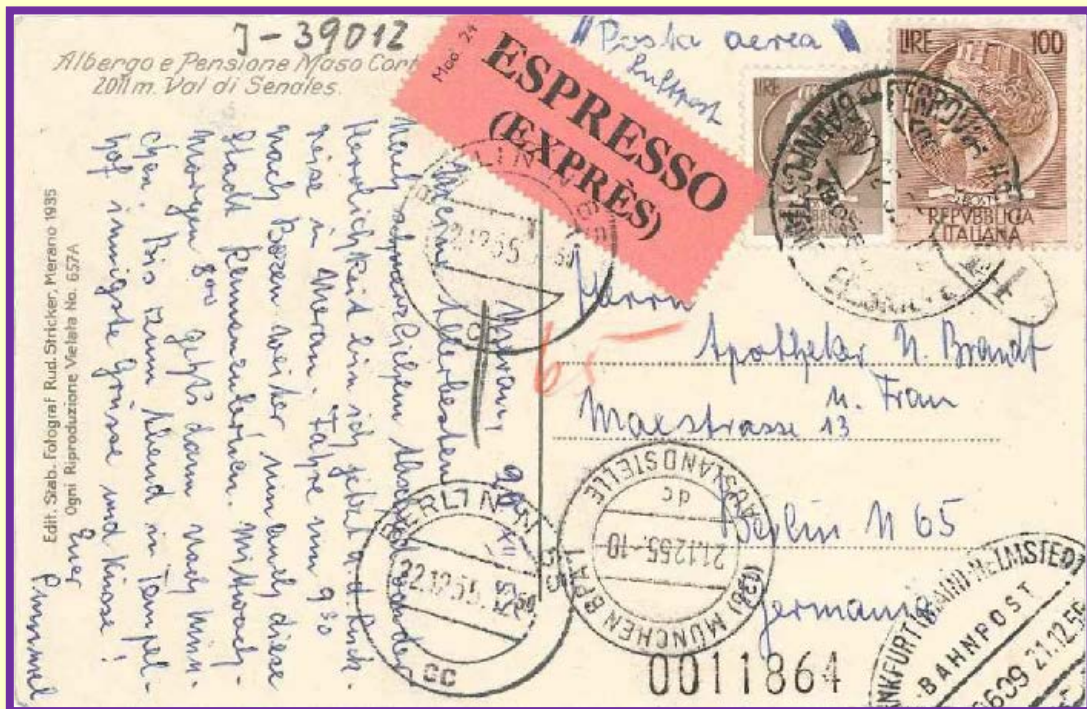
10th express rate for abroad: 85 l. (Sep. 1st 1951 – Sep. 30th 1957)



Postcard from Chiusa d'Isarco to Villingen (Germany), Sep. 11th 1957

Rates: postcard 35 l.

Official label



Postcard from Bolzano to Berlin (Germany), Dec. 10th 1955

Rates: postcard 35 l.

Official label

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



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

Rates: letter 60 l.

75 l. was issued on Apr. 13th 1958

Official label



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

Rates: letter 70 l.

Swedish official label

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

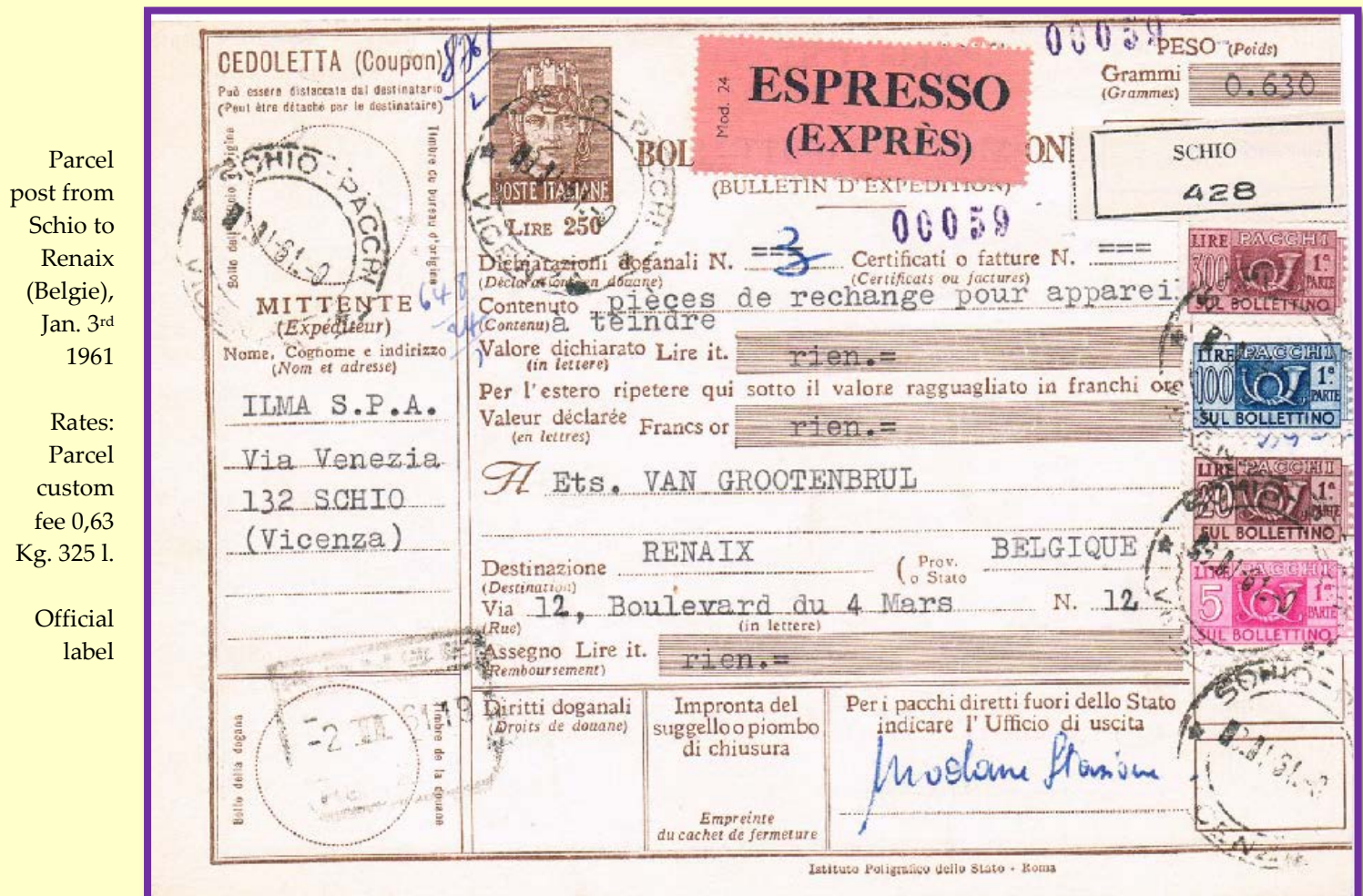


Cover from Roma to Bukavu (Congo), Apr. 11th 1961

Rates: letter 70 l.

Official label

Postmark "Roma Centro C. P. - Espressi" (e)

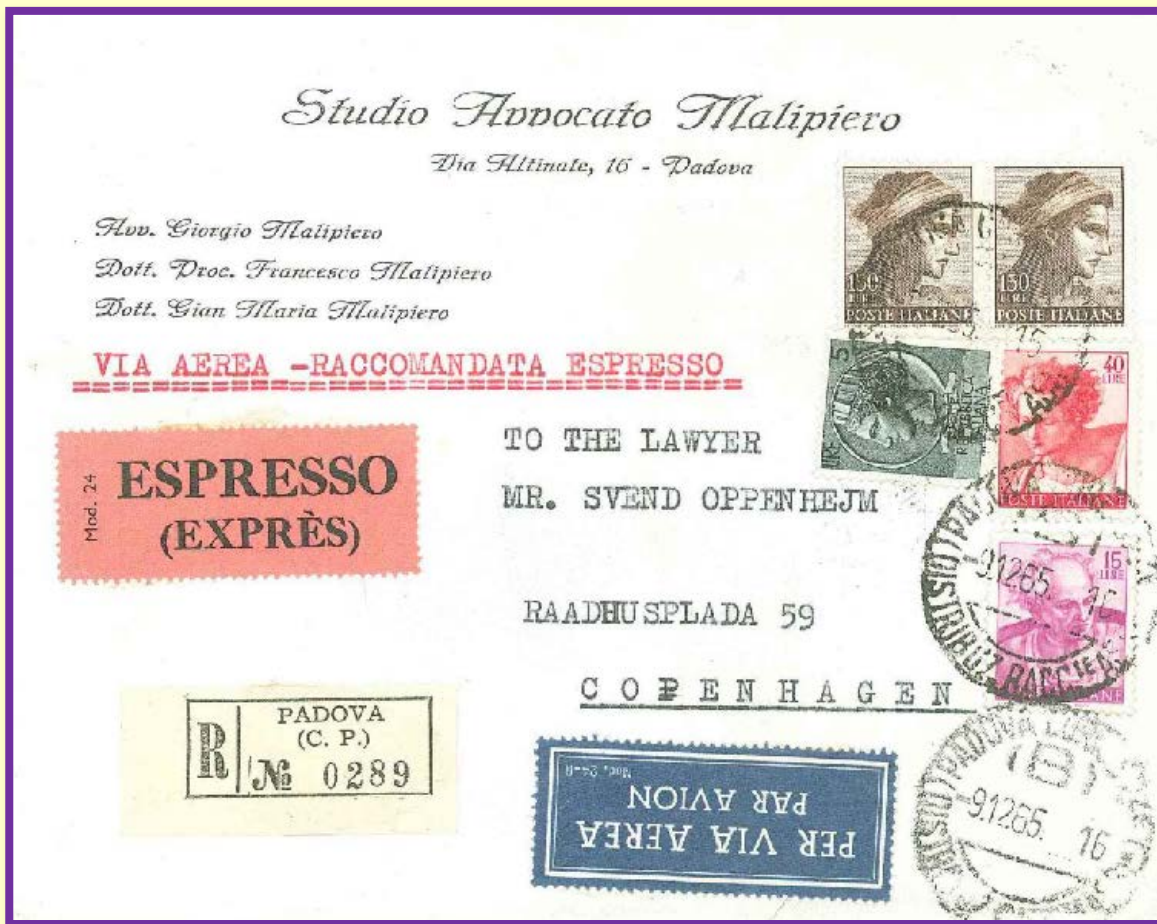


Parcel post from Schio to Renaix (Belgie), Jan. 3rd 1961

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

Official label

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

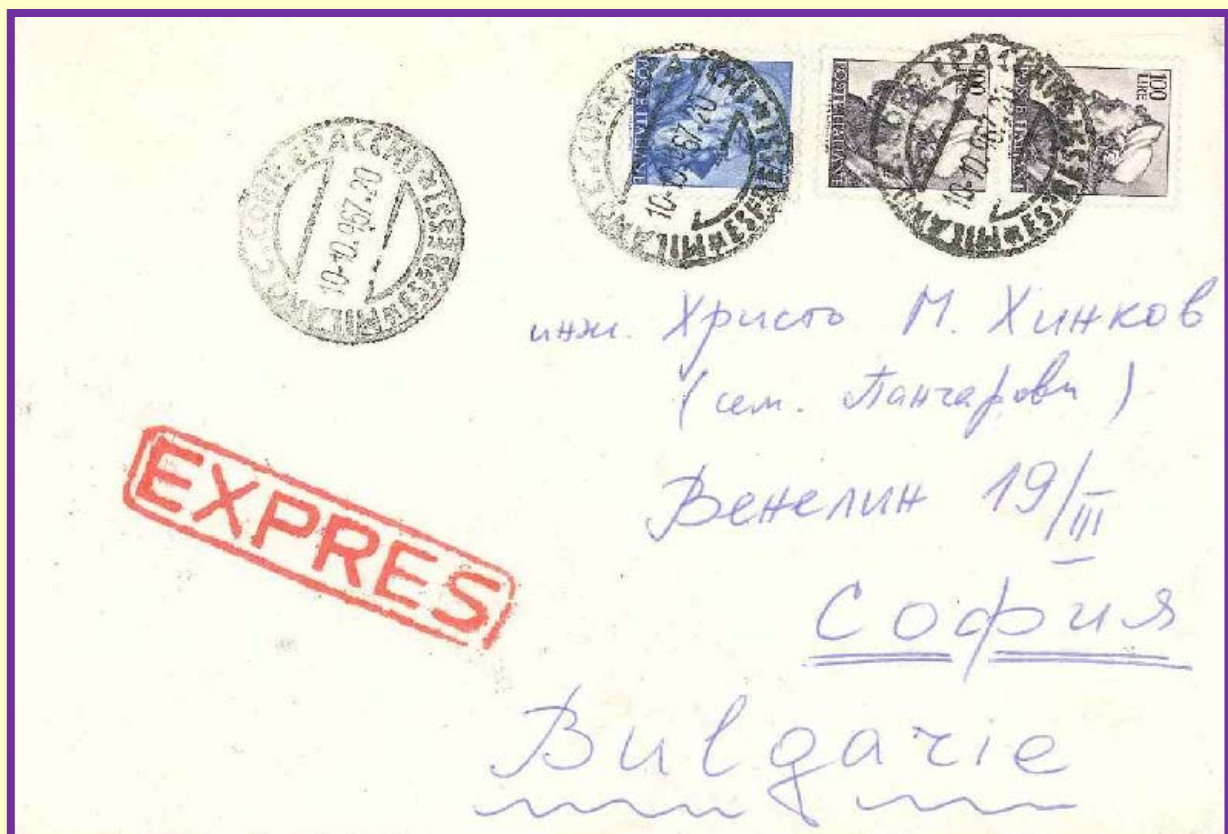


Air mail registered cover from Padova to Copenhagen (Denmark), Dec. 9th 1965

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

Official label

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



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

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



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

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

Official label



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

Rates: letter 90 l.

Official label

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



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

14th express rate for abroad: 250 l. (Oct. 1st 1970 – Mar. 24th 1975)



Cover from Brescia to Basel (Switzerland),
Jan. 19th 1971

Rates: letter 90 l.
(under franked 70 l.)

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

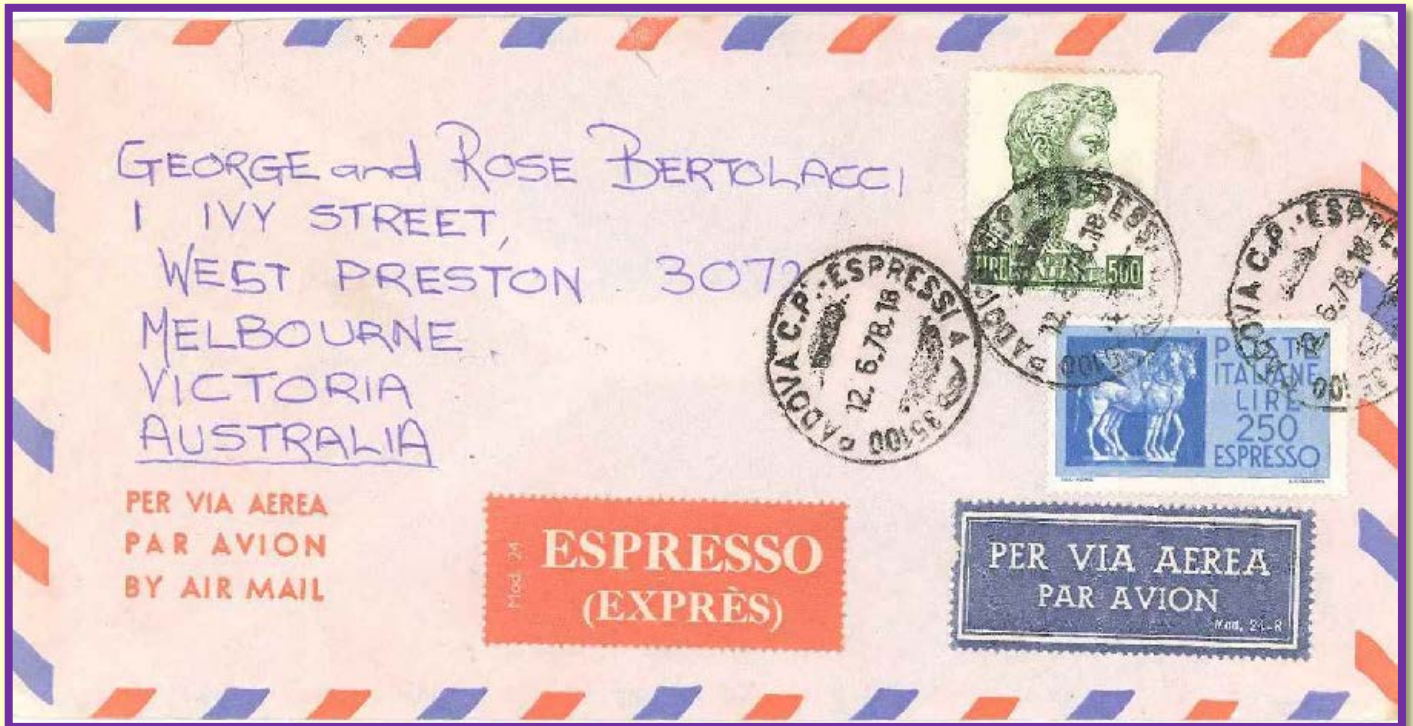


Cover from Porto S. Stefano to Tehran (Iran), Mar. 3rd 1976
Rates: letter 180 l. (under franked 80 l., taxed on arrival)
250 l. was issued on Mar. 31st 1974



Air mail cover from S. Giuliano Terme (Pisa) to Ithaca (USA), Jun. 11th 1976
Rates: letter 180 l., air mail 80 l. (overfranked 40 l.)
300 l. was issued on Apr. 15th 1976

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



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

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

Official label

Postmark "35100 Padova C. P. – Espressi"

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



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

Rates: letter 220 l. (underfranked 70 l.)

300 l. was issued on Apr. 15th 1976

Official label

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



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

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

Official label

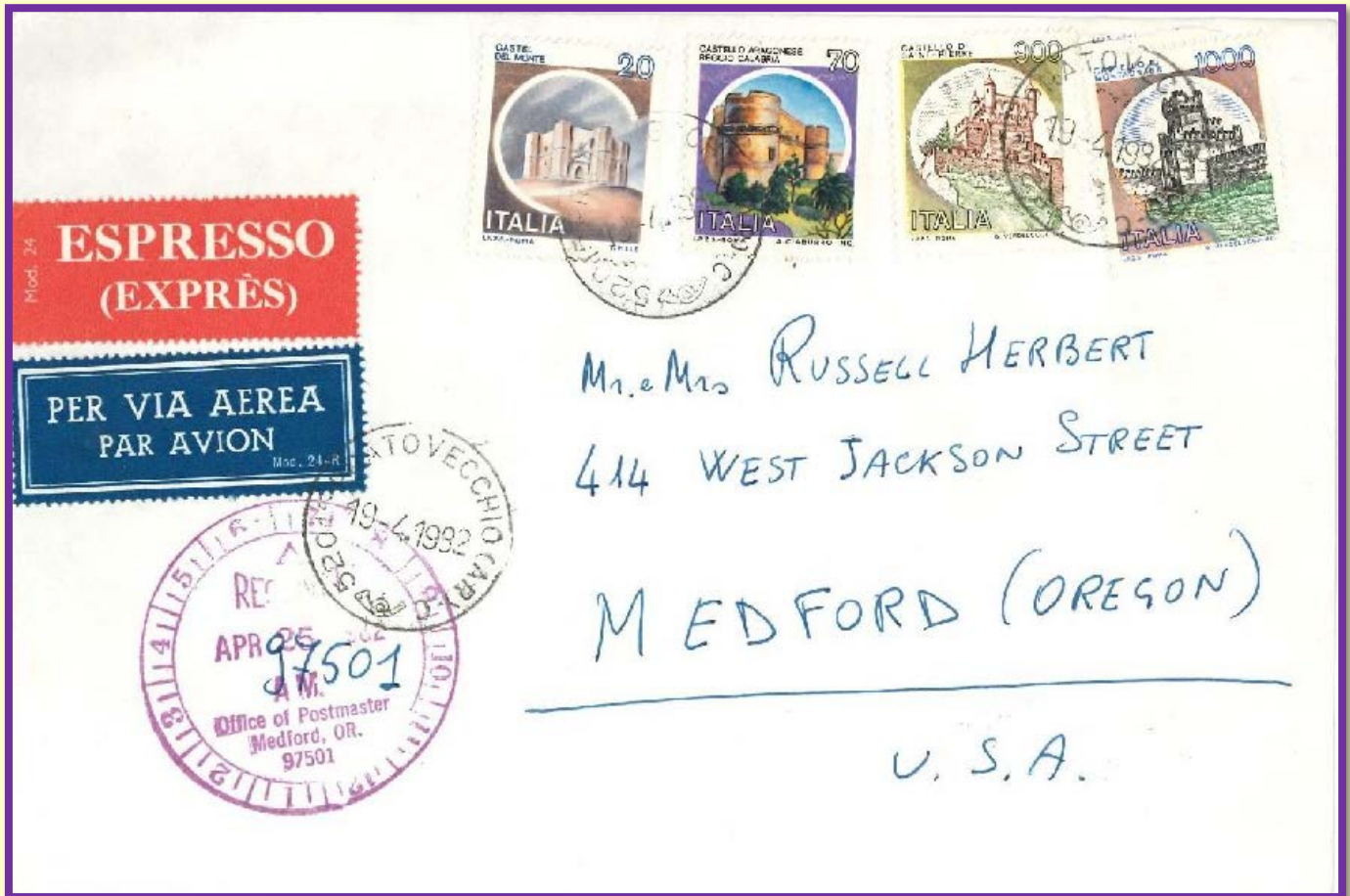
20th express rate for abroad: 900 l. (Aug. 1st 1981 – Feb. 9th 1982)



Cover from Bologna to Basel (Switzerland), Dec. 14th 1981

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

21th express rate for abroad: 1.000 l. (Feb. 10th 1982 – Dec. 31st 1982)



Air mail cover from Prato Vecchio (Arezzo) to Medford (USA), Apr. 19th 1982
Rates: letter 450 l., air mail 540 l.

22nd express rate for abroad: 1.200 l. (Jan. 1st 1983 – Dec. 31st 1983)



Cover from Casamicciola (Napoli) to Samoast (Germany), Aug. 8th 1983

Rates: letter 1.200 l. (from 50 g. to 100 g.)

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

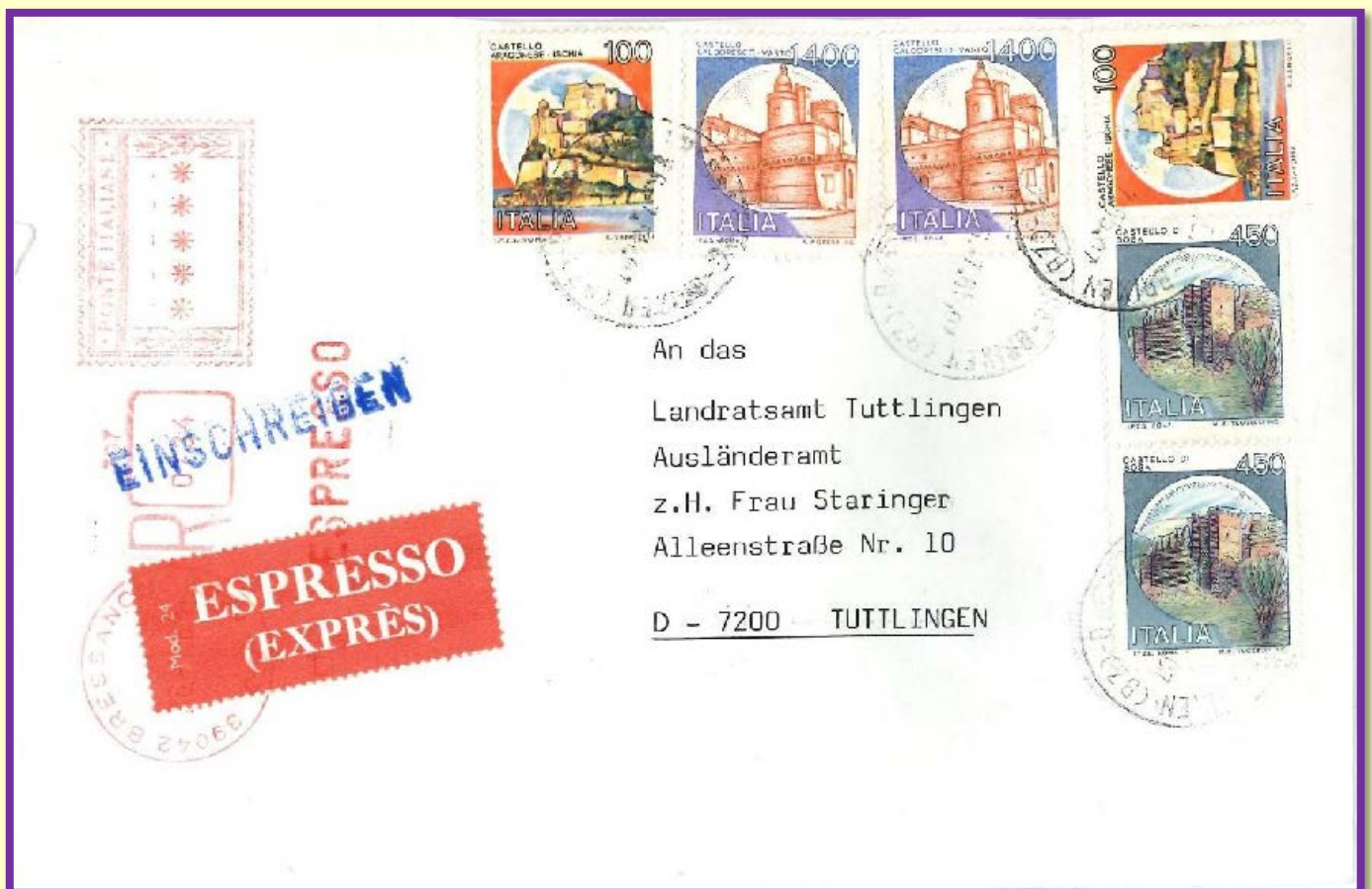


Cover from Genova to Zurich (Switzerland), Apr. 28th 1984

Rates: letter 550 l.

Official label

24th express rate for abroad: 1.700 l. (Jan. 1st 1985 – Dec. 31st 1985)



Cover from Bressanone (Bolzano) to Tuttlingen (Germany), Jul. 26th 1985
Rates: letter 600 l., registration 1.700 l. (underfranked 100 l.)

25th express rate for abroad: 2.000 l. (Jan. 1st 1986 – Dec. 31st 1986)



Registered cover from Marina di Pietrasanta (Lucca) to Duderstadt (Germany), Nov. 19th 1986
Rates: letter 650 l.

26th express rate for abroad: 2.400 l. (Jan. 1st 1987 – Feb. 28th 1988)



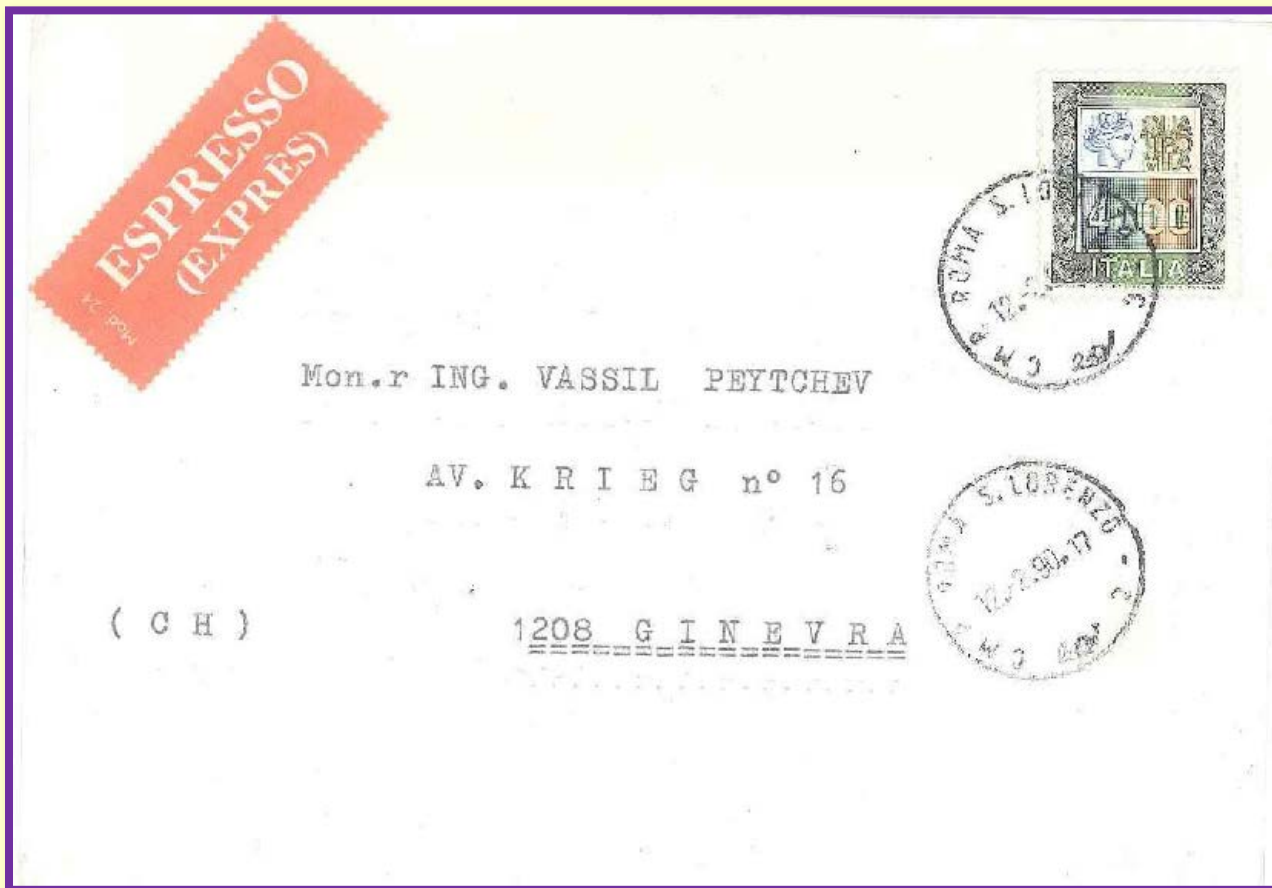
Insured cover from Torino to Huningue (France), Feb. 7th 1987
Rates: letter 600 l. reduced for France, insurance 6.000 l.

27th express rate for abroad: 2.500 l. (Mar. 1st 1988 – Dec. 31st 1989)



Registered cover from Punta Marina (Ravenna) to Nenenburg (Germany), Aug. 9th 1989
Rates: letter 750 l., registration 2.400 l.

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



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

Rates: letter 800 l. (overfranked 300 l.)

Official label

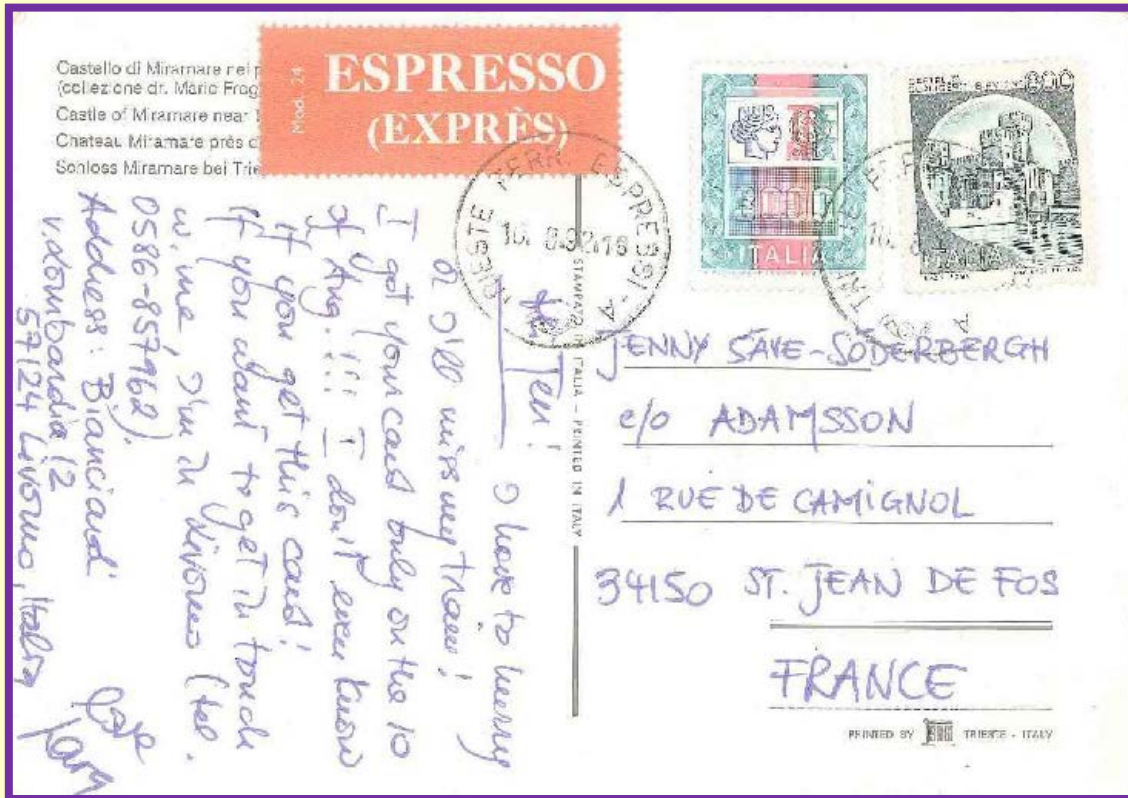
29th express rate for abroad: 3.000 l. (Jul. 1st 1990 – May. 4th 1997)



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

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

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



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

Rates: postcard 600 l.

Official label

Postmark "Trieste Ferr. Expressi"

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



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

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

Official label

One of the last special delivery for abroad