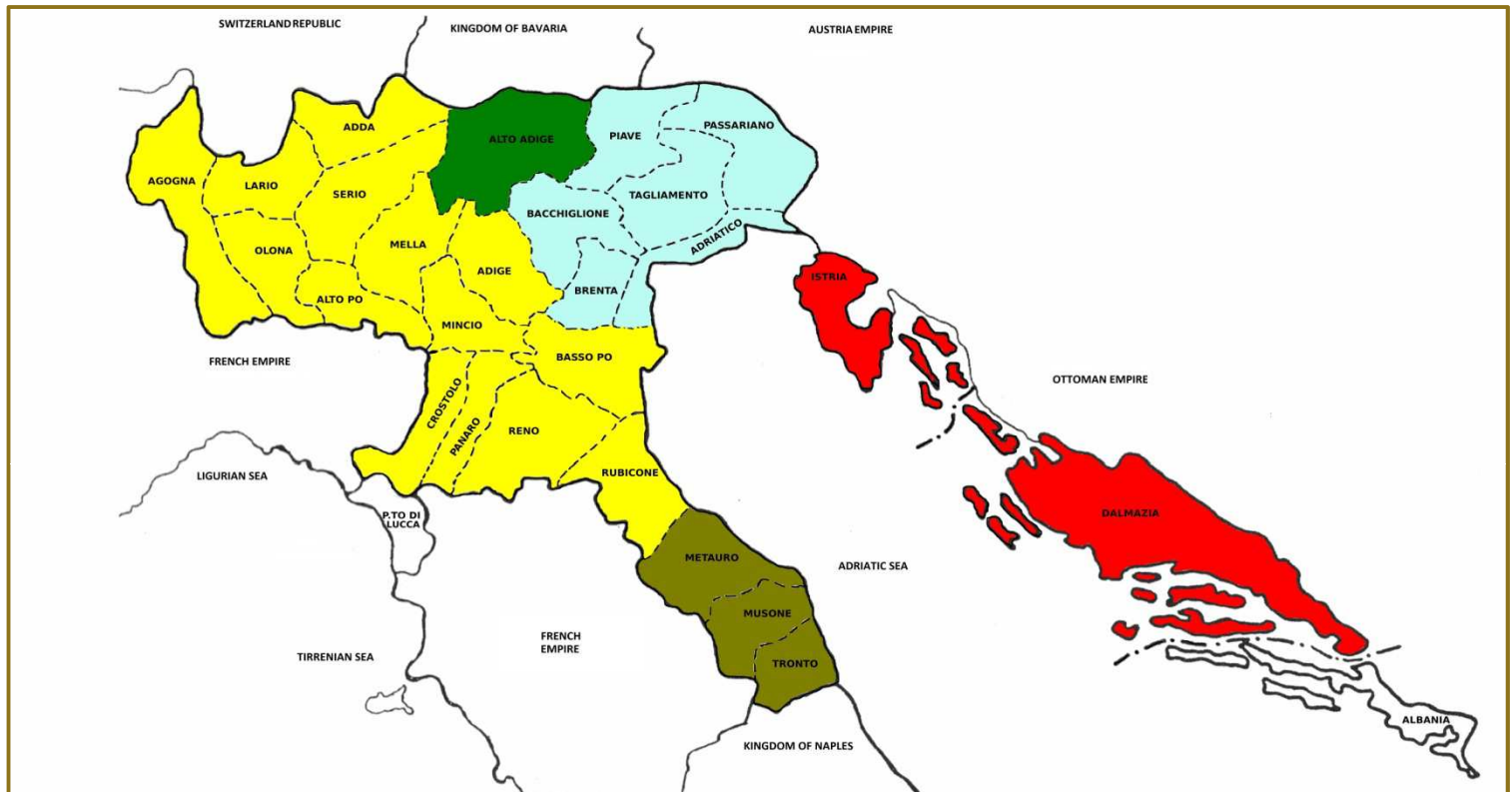


The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

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 annexations of March 1806 |
| | Departments created as a result of annexations of March 1806, later annexed to the French Empire on 1809 |
| | Departments created as a result of annexations of April 1809 |
| | Department created after the Treaty of Schönbrunn of October 14 th , 1809, lost in the autumn of 1813 |

Historical outline

On March 18th, 1805 the Italian Republic was transformed the Kingdom of Italy with capital Milan and the throne was taken over by the Emperor of France, Napoleon I.

On June 8th, 1805 the Kingdom was divided into departments, districts, cantons and municipalities. The departments were a total of fourteen: the departments of Adda and Adige were added to the twelve of the former Italian Republic.

Following the Treaty of Pressburg on December 26th, 1805, on March 1806 the territories of the former Venetia and Istria were divided into the following departments: Adriatico, Brenta, Bacchiglione Tagliamento, Piave, Passariano, Istria and Dalmatia.

On April 1808 the provinces of Urbino, Ancona, Macerata and Camerino were organized in the Metauro, the Musone and the Tronto departments.

On October 14th, 1809 by the Peace of Schönbrunn, Istria and Dalmatia were incorporated into the Illyrian Provinces, directly under the administration of the French Empire. On May 1810 Trentino and South Tyrol formed the department of Alto Adige, lost in the fall of 1813.

The Kingdom of Italy ceased to exist in April 1814.

Plan of the exhibit

This exhibit shows the postal rates and the free franks during the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy, according to the postal laws in use.

The exhibit is divided according to the rates periods and shows the application of rates, depending on the distance that existed between the sender and the addressee and on the weight of the letters.

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| ❖ Historical outline, plan and key literature references | pages | 2 |
| ❖ 1 st period from March 19 th , 1805 to July 31 st , 1805 | pages | 5 |
| ❖ 2 nd period from August 1 st , 1805 to January 31 st , 1807 | pages | 12 |
| ❖ 3 rd period from February 1 st , 1807 to April 30 th , 1809 | pages | 17 |
| ❖ 4 th period from May 1 st , 1809 to June 30 th 1811 | pages | 25 |
| ❖ 5 th period from July 1 st , 1811 to April 26 th , 1814 | pages | 23 |
| ❖ The letters in postal free franks | pages | 12 |
| | Total pages | 96 |

Key literature references consulted in the preparation of this exhibit

❖ 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*

❖ Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, Milan:

- *Legge 4 Fiorile anno VI Repubblicano (23 Aprile 1798)*
- *Legge 6 Brumaio anno VII Repubblicano (27 Ottobre 1798)*
- *Legge 9 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano (26 Dicembre 1800)*

❖ Marco Panza

- *Il bollo di contabilità postale “L.R. (Lettre rayon) 1/2/3/4”*, Il Postalista, October 2nd, 2014
- *Le lettere “Chargé” nel Regno d’Italia napoleonico*, Il Postalista, January 22nd, 2015
- *Lo scambio delle lettere tra il Regno d’Italia napoleonico ed i Départements Conquis italiani facenti parte dell’Impero Francese*, Il Postalista, May 21st, 2015
- *La franchigia postale nell’Italia Napoleonica*, Cursorsores Anno IX - n. 19 - AISP Milano, May 2016
- *The transit cachets in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy*, Il Postalista, April 5th, 2017

❖ Bagni - Caimmi – Cavalieri, *La franchigia postale durante l’occupazione napoleonica nelle Romagne – 1796/1815*, Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale, 1986 – 1988

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

❖ Fedele Clemente, *La voce della posta, Quaderni di storia postale*, ISSP, Prato, 1996

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

❖ O. Paolo Vollmeier:

- *I bolli di transito di Milano*, Tip. A. Ronda, Milano 1973
- *Catalogo dei bolli postali del territorio Lombardo - Veneto dalle origini all’introduzione del francobollo*, Sirotti Editore, Milano 1980

❖ Stuart J. Woolf, *Napoleone e la conquista dell’Europa*, Editori Laterza. 2008

Notes about the philatelic description and presentation

- ❖ In the following pages the transit cachets are illustrated only the first time they appear on the letters
- ❖ The most important letters are rounded by

First period March 19th - July 31st, 1805

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

On March 19th, when the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy was established, the new Government adopted the postal rates, payment rate by the addressee and prepaid rate "Port Payé - P.P.", that were applied in Cisalpina Republic by the *Legge 5 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano* (December 26th, 1800), regulated in the chapter named "*Poste delle Lettere e de' Corrieri*". The postal rates were expressed in Soldi of Milan, and they were depending on the weight of the letters. The domestic letters were divided into those held within department and those to the others departments. The rates paid by the addressee and the prepaid rates "Port Payé" were the same.

| Weight in ounces | Domestic | | Foreign Countries | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Within department | To the others departments | Abroad | From abroad (1) | From abroad (2) |
| 1/4 | 1,6 | 3,0 | 2,0 | 4,0 | 6,0 |
| 3/8 | 2,3 | 4,6 | 3,0 | 6,0 | 9,0 |
| 1/2 | 3,0 | 6,0 | 4,0 | 8,0 | 12,0 |
| 5/8 | 3,9 | 7,6 | 5,0 | 10,0 | 15,0 |
| 6/8 | 4,6 | 9,0 | 6,0 | 12,0 | 18,0 |
| 7/8 | 5,3 | 10,6 | 7,0 | 14,0 | 21,0 |
| 1 | 6,0 | 12,0 | 8,0 | 16,0 | 24,0 |
| Chargé Letters | | Surcharge of 10 Soldi | | | |

The rates of the letters above the weight of 1 ounce were calculated with the same progression.

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

1.1 - Letters within Department

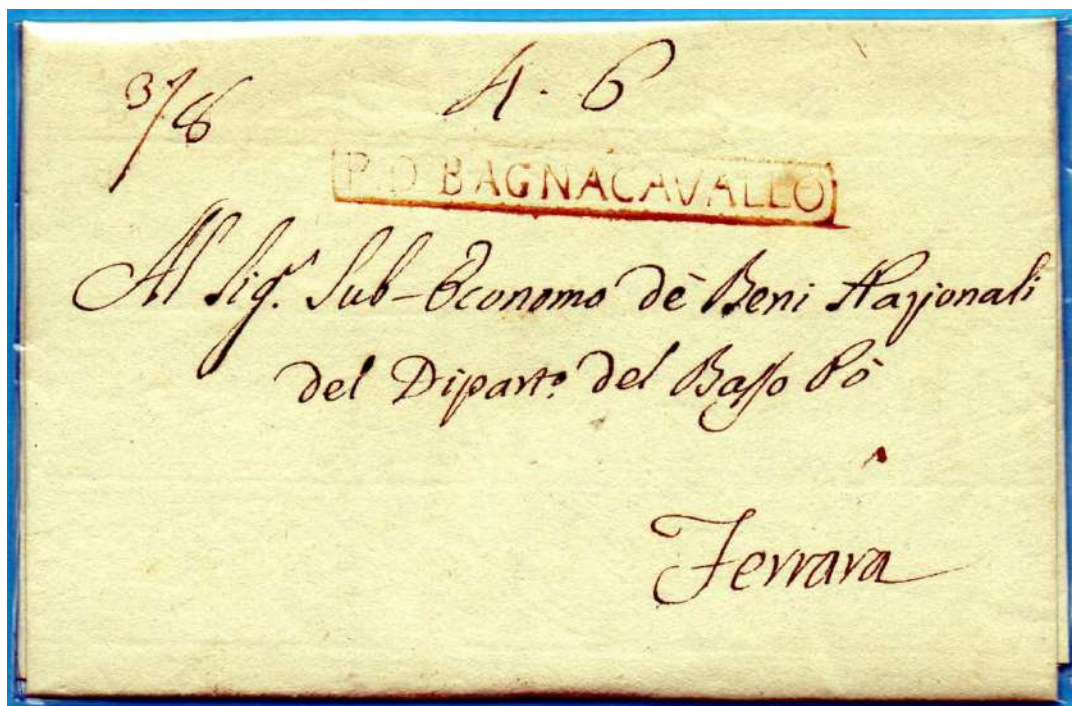


July 29th, 1805. From Bologna to Sant' Agata (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight of 1 ounce and 3/8, ninth rate letter, rate 8 Soldi.**

1.2 - Letters between Departments



July 10th, 1805. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: weight $\frac{1}{4}$ of ounce, single rate letter, rate 3 Soldi.**



May 5th, 1805. From Bagnacavallo, near Bologna (Department of Reno) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). **Tariff: weight $\frac{3}{8}$ of ounce, as indicated on the front of the letter, double rate letter, rate 4,6 Soldi.**

First period
March 19th - July 31st, 1805

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

March 27^h, 1805. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Santa Vittoria, near Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: weight 3 ounces, twenty-first rate letter, rate 33 Soldi.**



1.3 - Letters sent abroad



April 13th, 1805. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Padua (at that time Austrian Empire). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 3 Soldi.** Franca per Venezia.



Transit cachet **L.I./MILANO** (Lettre Italienne). This type was in use until May 1805 and it was put on letters sent to France and to other countries under French domination. It was used in red and blue ink.



April 26th, 1805. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Lyon (French Empire). **Tariff: weight 1/2 ounce, triple rate letter, rate 4 Soldi.**



July 14th, 1805. From Forlì to Fermo, near Ascoli (at that time French Empire). Initially the letter was sent to Fermo. **Tariff: weight 1/2 ounce, triple rate letter, rate 4 Soldi**; then, it was redirected to Forze and rated **5 Soldi**, as if it were a letter weighting 5/8 of ounce.

1.4 - Letters from abroad (from neighbouring States of Italy)



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

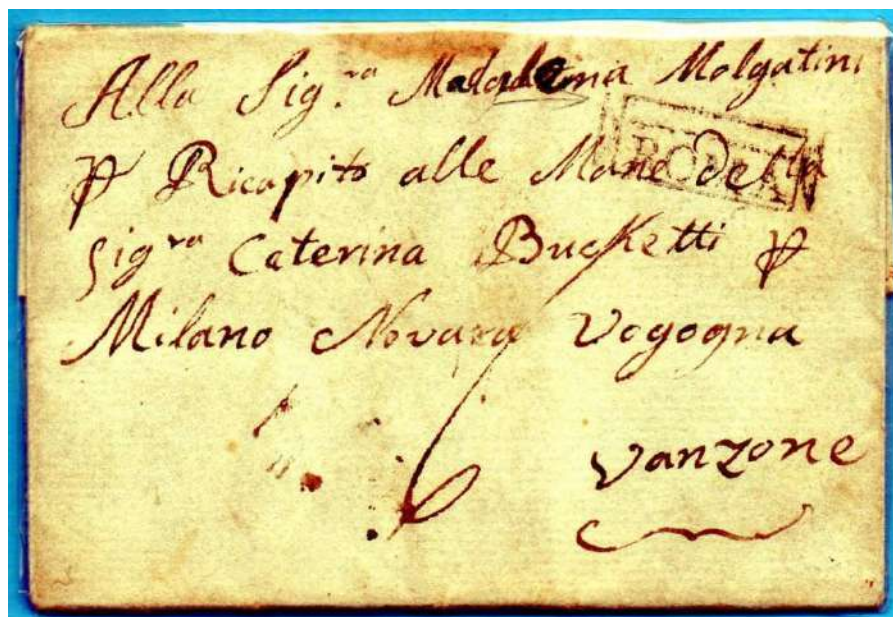
First period
March 19th - July 31st, 1805

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



June 12th, 1805. From Vienna (Austrian Empire) to Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid **16 Kreuzer** to the Austrian Empire border. **Tariff: 6 Soldi** were charged on delivery in Lodi, as required for a double rate letter, weight 3/8 of ounce.

1.5 - Letters from abroad
(from foreign Country of Italy)



June 14th, 1805. From Rome to Vanzone (Department of Agogna). **Tariff: 6 Soldi** were charged on delivery, as required for a single rate letter, weight 1/4 of ounce. Interesting indication, by the sender, of the route of the letter by way of Milan, Novara, Vogogna.

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

By the Law July 17th, 1805 there is a considerable tightening of postal rates for the interior, as you can see in the diagram below.

The rates are always in Soldi of Milan and the “*n. 74 Decree regarding the postal service of Venetian Provinces annexed to the Kingdom*” dated May 9th, 1806, established the extension of these rules to the former Venetian territories (the provinces of Vicenza, Rovigo, Treviso, Belluno, Venice, Padua and Friuli) and to 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 ounces | Domestic | | Abroad | Abroad | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Within department | To the others departments | | From abroad (1) | From abroad (2) |
| 1/4 | 4,0 | 5,0 | 2,0 | 4,0 | 6,0 |
| 3/8 | 6,0 | 7,6 | 3,0 | 6,0 | 9,0 |
| 1/2 | 8,0 | 10,0 | 4,0 | 8,0 | 12,0 |
| 5/8 | 10,0 | 12,6 | 5,0 | 10,0 | 15,0 |
| 6/8 | 12,0 | 15,0 | 6,0 | 12,0 | 18,0 |
| 7/8 | 14,0 | 17,6 | 7,0 | 14,0 | 21,0 |
| 1 | 16,0 | 20,0 | 8,0 | 16,0 | 24,0 |
| Chargé Letters | | Surcharge of 10 Soldi | | | |

The rates of the letters above the weight of 1 ounce were calculated with the same progression.

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

2.1 - Letters within Department

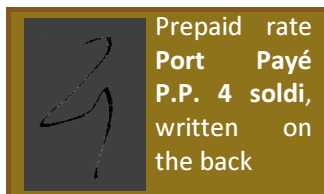


August 3rd, 1805. From Bologna to Medicina (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 4 Soldi.**

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



The handwritten word "D'Uff." indicated the alleged right to the free frank. However, neither the Conservatore del Registro in Reggio nor the Ufficiale del Registro in Forlì, were part of the authorities, listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 23rd, 1805, that were entitled to the mark and the free frank. Consequently, the letter was taxed.



October 21st, 1806. From Reggio to Luzzara (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P., weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, 4 soldi.** Transit cachet "GUASTALLA".



October 13th, 1806. From Cremona to Codogno (Department of Alto Po). **Tariff: weight 1/2 an ounce, triple rate letter, rate 8 Soldi.**

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



March 18th, 1806. From Cento to Bologna (Department of Reno).
Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 10 Soldi.

The handwritten word "D'Uff." indicated the alleged right to the free frank, but the Municipalities had not rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 23th, 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



January 22nd, 1807. From Bologna to Castel Guelfo (Department of Reno).
Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé (P.P.), weight 6/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 12 Soldi.



Prepaid rate
Port Payé -
P.P. 12 soldi,
written on
the back

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

The handwritten word "D'Uff." indicated the alleged right to the free frank, but the Municipalities had not rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 23th, 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



October 17th, 1806. From Crevalcore to Medicina (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 6/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 12 Soldi.**



August 20th, 1805. From Lugo to Bologna (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight one ounce and 1/2, tenth rate letter, rate 22 Soldi.**

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

2.2 - Letters between Departments



September 22th, 1806. From Padua (Department of Brenta) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 5 Soldi.**



July 1st, 1806. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Modena (Department of Panaro). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 7,6 Soldi.**
Cachet on arrival "MOD^a 03".

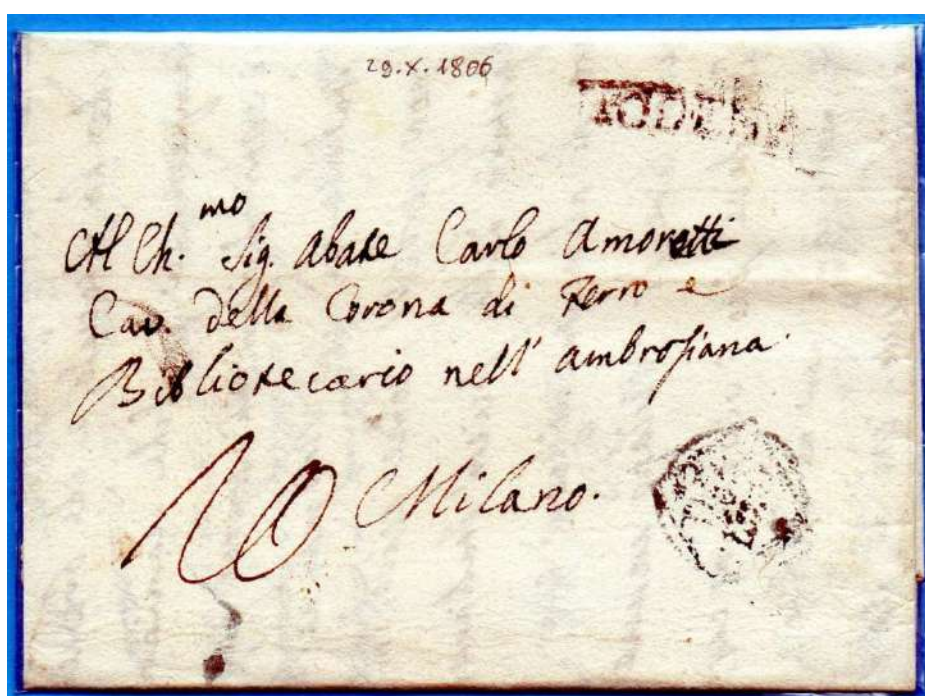
Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



October 29th, 1806. From Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Crevalcore, near Bologna (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1/2 an ounce, triple rate letter, rate 10 Soldi.**



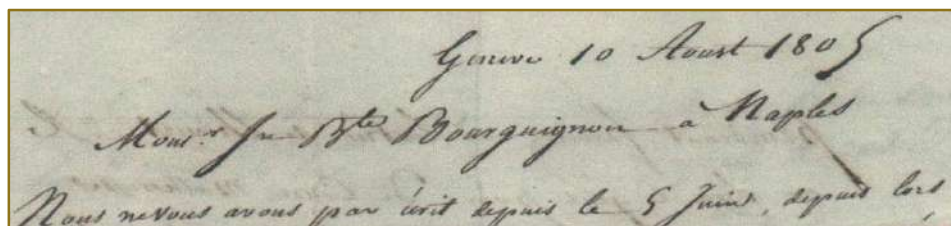
October 29th, 1806. From Modena (Department of Panaro) to Milan (Department of Olona). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce, seventh rate letter, rate 20 Soldi.** Cachet on arrival "MIL.°OTO31".

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

August 10th, 1805. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Naples (Kingdom of Naples). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 3 Soldi. 40 Grana** were charged on delivery, as required for a rate of a letter weighting 1 ounce, for the Kingdom of Naples transit.



Surely the letter was the first of a bunch of letters, sent to the same addresser, weighting in total 1 ounce. The letter was written in Genève (Geneva), then was carried by a private traveller to Milan, where it was delivered to the post office to be sent.



September 15th, 1805. From Sondrio (Department of Adda) to Bolzano (Austrian Empire). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 3 Soldi. 16 Kreuzer** were charged on delivery for the Austrian Empire transit.

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



October 19th, 1806. From Forlì (Department of Rubicone) to Florence (Conquered Department part of French Empire). **Tariff: weight 1/2 an ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 4 Soldi.**



May 20th, 1806. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Chambéry (French Empire). **Tariff: weight 6/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 6 Soldi. 8 Décimes** were charged on delivery for the French Empire transit. Transit cachet "**L.I./MILANO**".



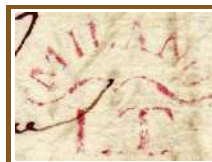
June 18th, 1806. From Gallia Lomellina (Department of Agogna) to Racconigi (Conquered Department part of French Empire). **Tariff: weight 7/8 of ounce, sixth rate letter, rate 7 Soldi.** Transit cachets **NOVARA** and **L.I./MILANO**. Interesting indication, by the sender, of the route of the letter by way of Cazale Monferrato, Torino.

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

October 19th, 1806. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to dep. Bouches du Rhone (French Empire). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce, seventh rate letter, rate 8 Soldi.. 26 Décimes** were charged on delivery for the French Empire transit.



Transit cachet **MILANO/L.T.** Lettre Transito was in use until June 1813. Initially it was put only on letters going abroad from abroad thru Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy. Aftermath, it was put on all letters sent abroad.



September 25th, 1805. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Paris (French Empire). **Tariff: weight 2 ounces and 5/8, eighteenth rate letter, rate 19 Soldi.** Transit cachet "**L.I./MILANO**".



Transit cachet **L.I./MILANO** (Lettre Italienne). This type was in use from September 1805 until July 1811 and it was put on letters sent to France and to other countries under French domination. It was used in red and violet ink. The reference date of this cachet is 17 days before the Vollmeier's study.

Second period

August 1st 1805 - January 31st, 1807

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

2.4 - Letters from abroad (from neighbouring States of Italy)



March 2nd, 1806. From Venice (at that time Austrian Empire) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). **Tariff: 6 Soldi** were charged on delivery in Ferrara, as required for a double rate letter, weight 3/8 of ounce.

September 14th, 1805. From Vienna (Austrian Empire) to Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona). Prepaid **16 Kreuzer** to the Austrian Empire border. Transit cachet **MILANO L.F.**. **Tariff: 8 Soldi** were charged on delivery, as required for a triple rate letter, weight ½ an ounce. Cachet on arrival "**LODI SETE**".



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

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

The reform of 1807 marks the complete revolution of the postal system and rates. On January 12th, 1807 a new law is enacted "no. 46 Decree on Finance for 1807", that changes the former cisalpino criterion of taxation (weight/origin), transforming it into one based on weight/distance, as the table below shows.

This law also introduced the currency reform: the Italian Lira was divided into cents, instead of Soldo of Milan. The exchange rate was 1 Soldo equal to 5 cents and then 20 Soldi were equal to 1 Italian Lira.

These rates were applied also to the departments of Metauro, Musone and Tronto, which coincide with the Marche, starting from August 12th, 1808 by the "no. 254 Decree which applies the postal system of the kingdom to the three new departments". The rates of letters to 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 ounces | Domestic | | | | | | | | Abroad | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | Abroad | From Abroad (1) | From Abroad (2) |
| 1/4 | 10 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 26 | 30 | 34 | 38 | 16 | 28 | 40 |
| 3/8 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 26 | 30 | 34 | 38 | 42 | 20 | 32 | 44 |
| 1/2 | 15 | 21 | 27 | 33 | 39 | 45 | 51 | 57 | 24 | 42 | 66 |
| 5/8 | 20 | 28 | 36 | 44 | 52 | 60 | 68 | 76 | 32 | 56 | 80 |
| 6/8 | 25 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 75 | 85 | 95 | 40 | 70 | 100 |
| 7/8 | 30 | 42 | 54 | 66 | 78 | 90 | 102 | 114 | 48 | 84 | 120 |
| 1 | 35 | 49 | 63 | 77 | 91 | 105 | 119 | 133 | 56 | 98 | 140 |
| distances | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th | 7 th | 8 th | | | |
| Below the rate that should be paid for every 1/8 of ounce more | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 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

3.1 – First distance letters



August 25th, 1808. From Sinigaglia to Corinaldo (Department of Metauro). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 10 cents.** On the front, the boxed cachet "POSTA DEL REGNO D'ITALIA SINIGAGLIA" in use only from August 1807 to November 1808.

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

The handwritten word "D'Uff.º" indicated the alleged right to the franchise. However, neither the Archive of Monte Scudolo nor the General Curator of General Archive in Forli, were part of the authorities, listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 23rd, 1805, that were entitled to the mark and the franchise. Consequently, the letter was taxed.



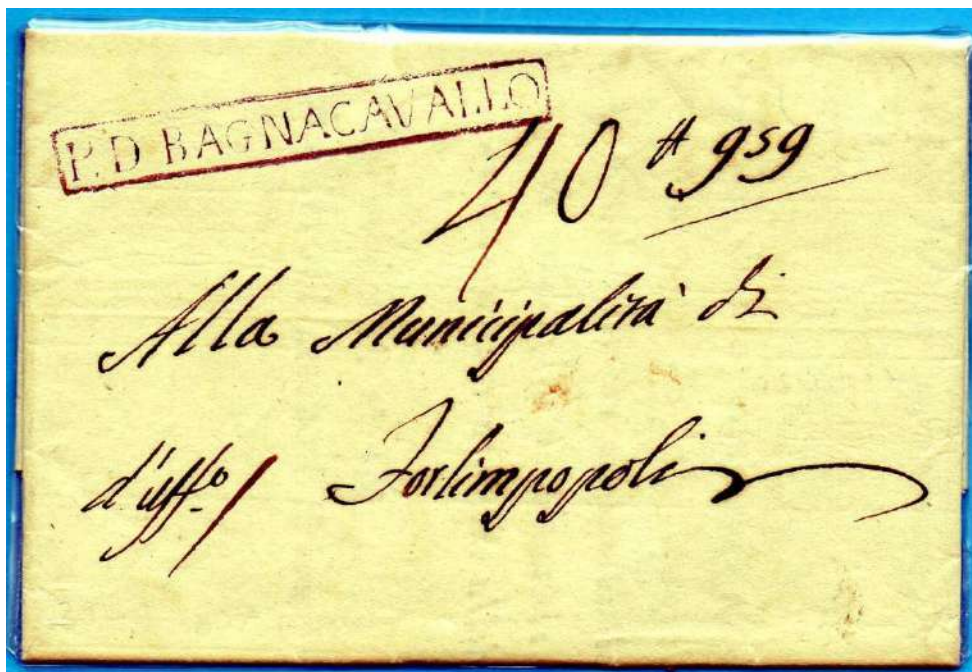
May 9th, 1808. From Monte Scudolo, near Republic of Saint Marino, to Forli (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 14 cents.**



March 11th, 1807. From Bologna to Cento (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 20 cents.**



May 7th, 1808. From Bagnacavallo to Faenza (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 6/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 25 cents.**



September 13th, 1807. From Bagnacavallo to Forlimpopoli (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and 1/8, eighth rate letter, rate 40 cents: 35 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 5 cents for 1/8 of ounce more.**

The handwritten word "D'uff." is on both letters and indicated 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 23th, 1805. For this reason the letters were taxed.

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

The handwritten word "D'Uff.^o" is on the letter and indicated the alleged right to the franchise, but neither the General Attorney, nor the Judge of Peace had rights, because they were not listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 23th, 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.

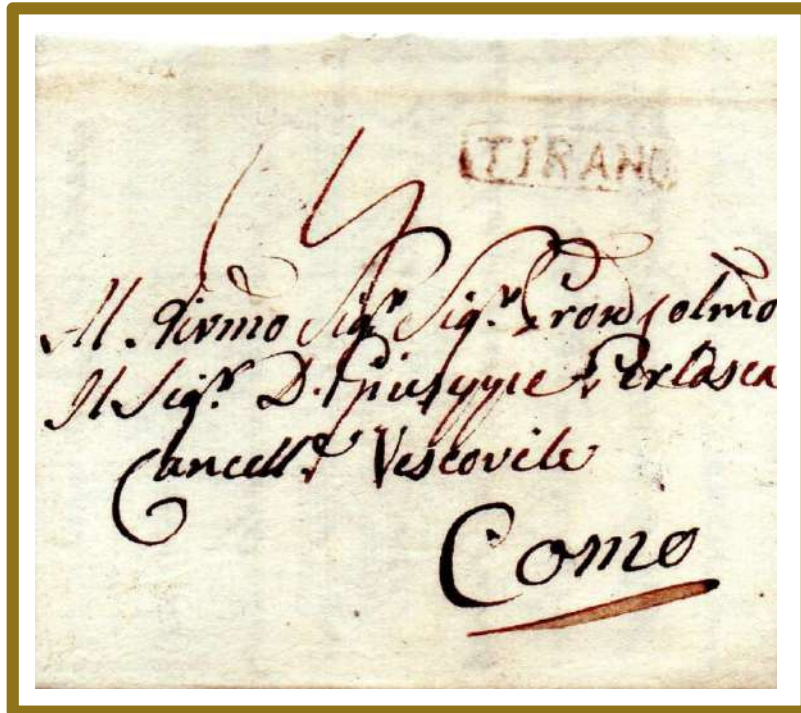


March 3rd, 1809. From Budrio to Bologna (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and 3/8, eleventh rate letter, rate 50 cents: 35 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 15 cents (5 cents x 3/8 of ounce more).**



August ..., 1807. From Bologna to Nonantola (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and 5/8, twelfth rate letter, rate 60 cents: 35 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 25 cents (5 cents x 5/8 of ounce more).**

3.2 - Second distance letters



May 24th, 1808. From Tirano, near Sondrio (Department of Adda) to Como (Department of Lario). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 14 cents.** The rare boxed cachet “TIRANO” was applied at the departure.



November 1st, 1808. From Offida, near Ascoli (Department of Tronto) to Ancona (Department of Metauro). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 18 cents.**

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



December 20th, 1807. From Ficarolo, near Ferrara, (Department of Basso Po) to Verona (Department of Adige). **Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 28 cents.** Transit boxed cachet “FERRARA/28 DEC”



The handwritten word “D’Uff.°” indicated the alleged right to the free frank, but the Municipality had no rights, because it was not listed in the decree n. 123 dated September 23th, 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.

April 22nd, 1809. From Casola Valsenio, near Bologna (Department of Reno) to Cesena (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 3/4 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 35 cents.**



June 2nd, 1808. From Ponzano, near Treviso (Department of Tagliamento) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and 2/8, ninth rate letter, rate 63 cents: 49 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 14 cents (7 cents x 2 for 2/8 of ounce more).** Transit cachet “TREVISO”.

3.3 - Third distance letters



January, 8th, 1808. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Agordo, near Belluno (Department of Piave). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 18 cents.**

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



August 1st, 1807. From Mantua (Department of Mincio) to Bologna (Department of Reno). **Prepaid rate “Port Payé” (P.P.). Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, 22 cents** written on the back; on the front wordings handwritten “*franca*” e “*Serv.^o Me*”.



May 8th, 1808. From Vicenza (Department of Bacchiglione) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: weight 1/2 ounce, triple rate letter, rate 27 cents.**

The handwritten word “*D’Ufficio*” indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Tax Officer enjoyed the **limited franchise**, only if he received letters from authorities **within his department**, as established by the decree n. 123, dated September 23th, 1805. For this reason the letter was taxed.



May 16th, 1807. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Brescia (Department of Mella). **Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 36 cents.**



May 16th, 1807. From Modena (Department of Panaro) to Forlì (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 6/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 45 cents.**

3.4 - Fourth distance letters



September 20th, 1807. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Alone, near Brescia (Department of Mella). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 22 cents.**

Initially the letter was rated for 20 cents to collect by the addressee and then the rate was cancelled and subjected to prepaid rate, because the letter was sent to the Minister of War, who enjoyed the franchise.



Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P. 26 cents, written on the back

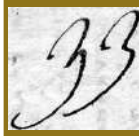
July 30th, 1808. From Ferrara (Department of Basso Po) to Milan (Department of Olona). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé (P.P.), weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, 26 cents.**

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

On the front, a diagonal line and the handwritten word "Franca" indicating that the rate has been prepaid.



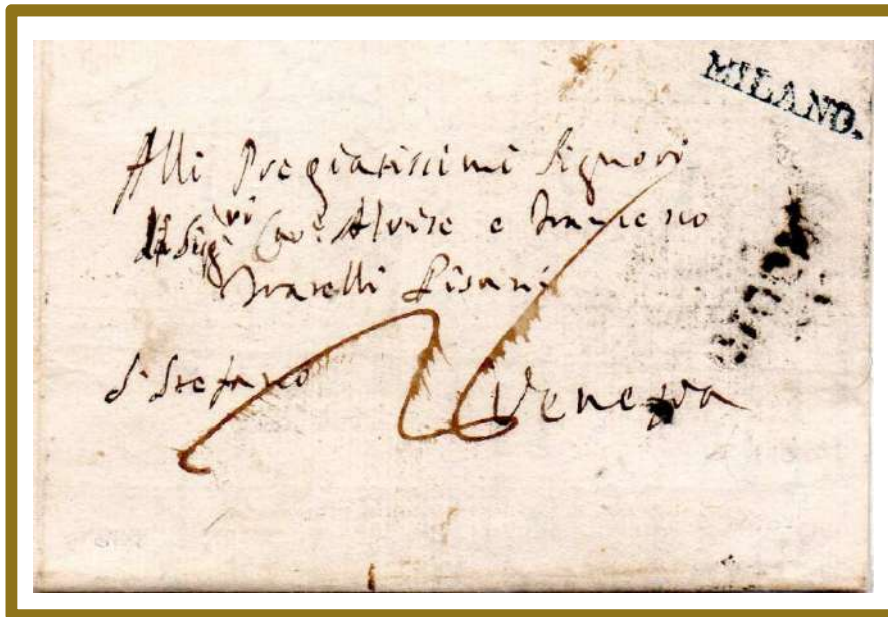
Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P. 33 cents, written on the back

October 22th, 1808. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff:** Prepaid rate Port Payé (P.P.), weight 1/2 an ounce, triple rate letter, rate 33 cents.



April ..., 1807. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff:** weight 5/8 of ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 55 cents.

3.5 - Fifth distance letters



June 3rd, 1807. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 26 cents.** The rare cachet “MILANO”, in use only on June 1807, applied at the departure. **First date known.**



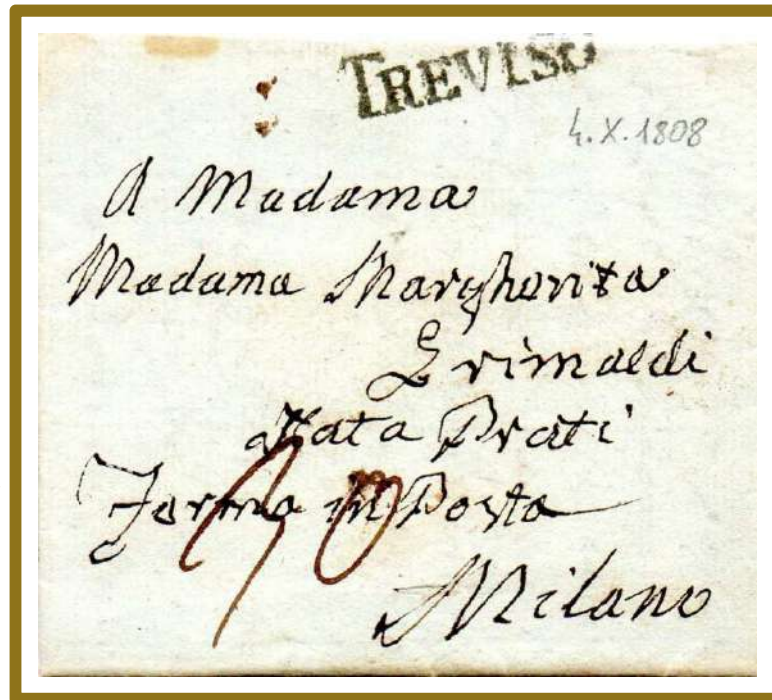
On the front, a diagonal line and the handwritten word “Franca” indicating that the rate has been prepaid.



Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P. 30 cents, written on the back

February 17th, 1809. From Vicenza (Department of Bacchiglione) to Milan (Department of Olona). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé (P.P.), weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter , rate 30 cents.**

3.6 - Sixth distance letters



On the front handwritten wording **Ferma in posta**. For this service there was not an additional fee.

October 4th, 1808. From Treviso (Department of Tagliamento) to Milan (Department of Olona). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 30 cents.**

3.7 - Seventh distance letters

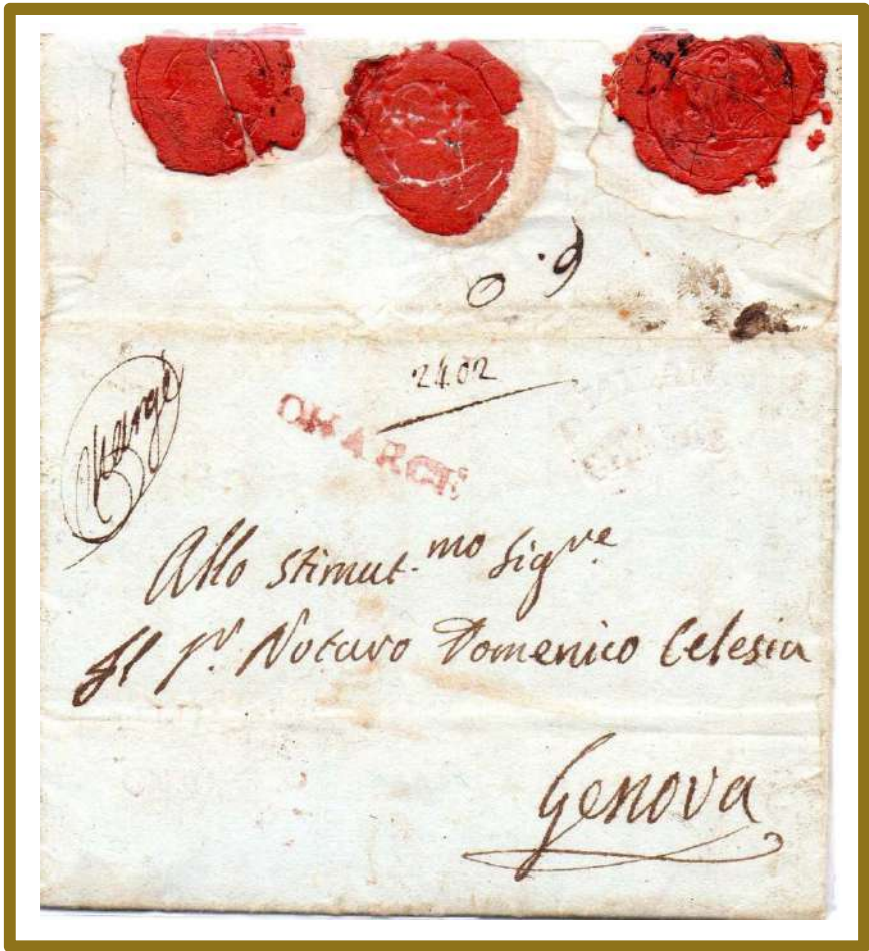


October 17th, 1808. From Vigevano, near Novara (Department of Agogna) to Pesaro (Department of Metauro). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 34 cents.**

Registered letter “Chargé”

The registration of a letter needed the procedure of *chargément* on the register of the post: the postmaster received personally the letter to be registered and, after it has been entered in the register, put the duty cachet **CHARGÉ** on the front.

On the left/centre side of the letter, the rare cachet **CHARGE'** and the equally rare handwritten word “Chargé”.

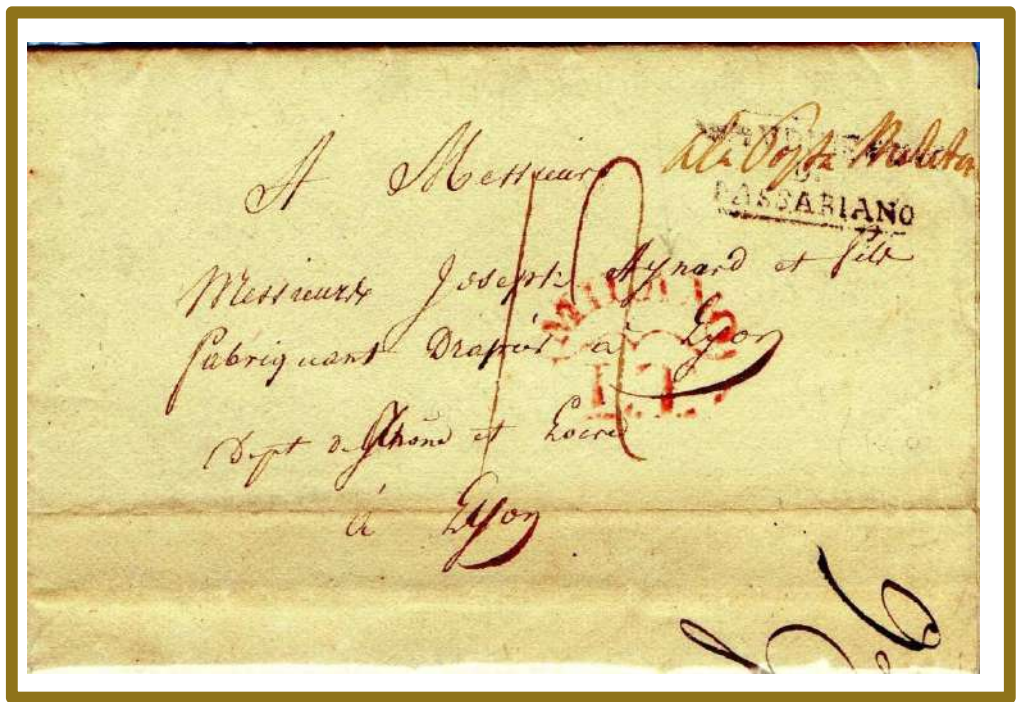


On the right side of the letter, the rare cachet **MILAN/P.P./CHARGE'** in albino (embossing)



September 15th, 1808. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Genoa (Conquered Department part of French Empire). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé P.P., weight 3/8 of ounce, registered double rate letter, “CHARGÉ” abroad 6.0 décimes written on the back: 20 cents for double rate letter sent abroad + 38 cents for registration fee, equal to 58 cents, 6.0 décimes rounded,** as it was not so uncommon.

Letters sent abroad



←

Probably the letter was delivered to the civil post, where the cachet **Udine di Passariano** was put on the letter, with the handwritten words "**Ala Posta Militare**". After that, the letter was sent, by military post, to the Military Office in Milan, where the letter was given to the civil post to be sent to Lyon.

September 7th, 1808. From Gemona, near Udine (Department of Passariano) to Lyon (French Empire). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter sent to France, rate 12 cents.** On the front the transit cachet **MILANO L.T.**



September 5th, 1808. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Hodimont (French Empire). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter sent to Belgium, rate 20 cents.** On the front the transit cachet "**L.I./MILANO**".

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



February 28th, 1807. From Legnago, near Verona (Department of Adige) to Montpellier (French Empire). **Tariff: weight ½ an ounce, triple rate letter sent to France, rate 24 cents.** On the front the transit cachet “**MILANO/L.I.**”.

Letters from abroad – from neighbouring foreign provinces



On the front the cachet of accounting, put at the departure, “L.R. 1”, Lettre Rayon 1

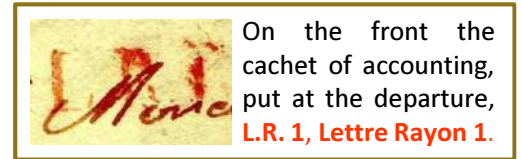


December 2nd, 1808. from Florence (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Reggio di Modena (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, it was charged on delivery of 28 cents.** Transit cachet “**113/LIVOURNE**”.

Third period

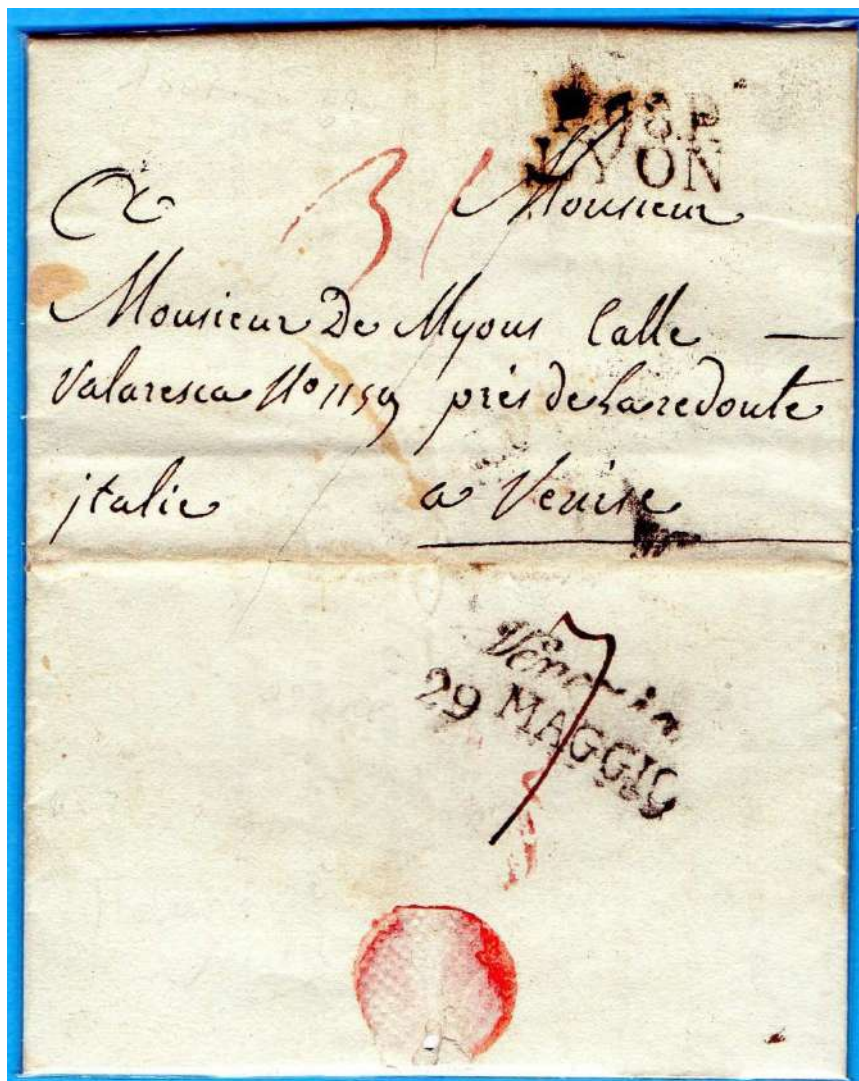
February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



On the front the cachet of accounting, put at the departure, L.R. 1, Lettre Rayon 1.

April 18th, 1809. From Parma (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Cremona (Department of Alto Po). **Tariff: 42 cents were charged on delivery, as required for a triple rate letter, weight ½ an ounce.**



May 22th 1807. From Lyon (French Empire) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). Prepaid **31 décimes**. **Tariff: 7 décimes was charged on delivery, as required for a fifth rate letter, weight 3/4 of ounce, written on the back, with the arrival cachet "Venezia/29 MAGGIO".**

Third period

February 1st, 1807 – 30th April, 1809

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

Letters from abroad – from not neighbouring foreign provinces



September 25th, 1808. From Trieste (Austrian Empire) to Brescia (Department of Mella). Prepaid **23 Kreuzer**, **Tariff: 40 cents** were charged on delivery, as required for a single rate letter, weight $\frac{1}{4}$ of ounce.

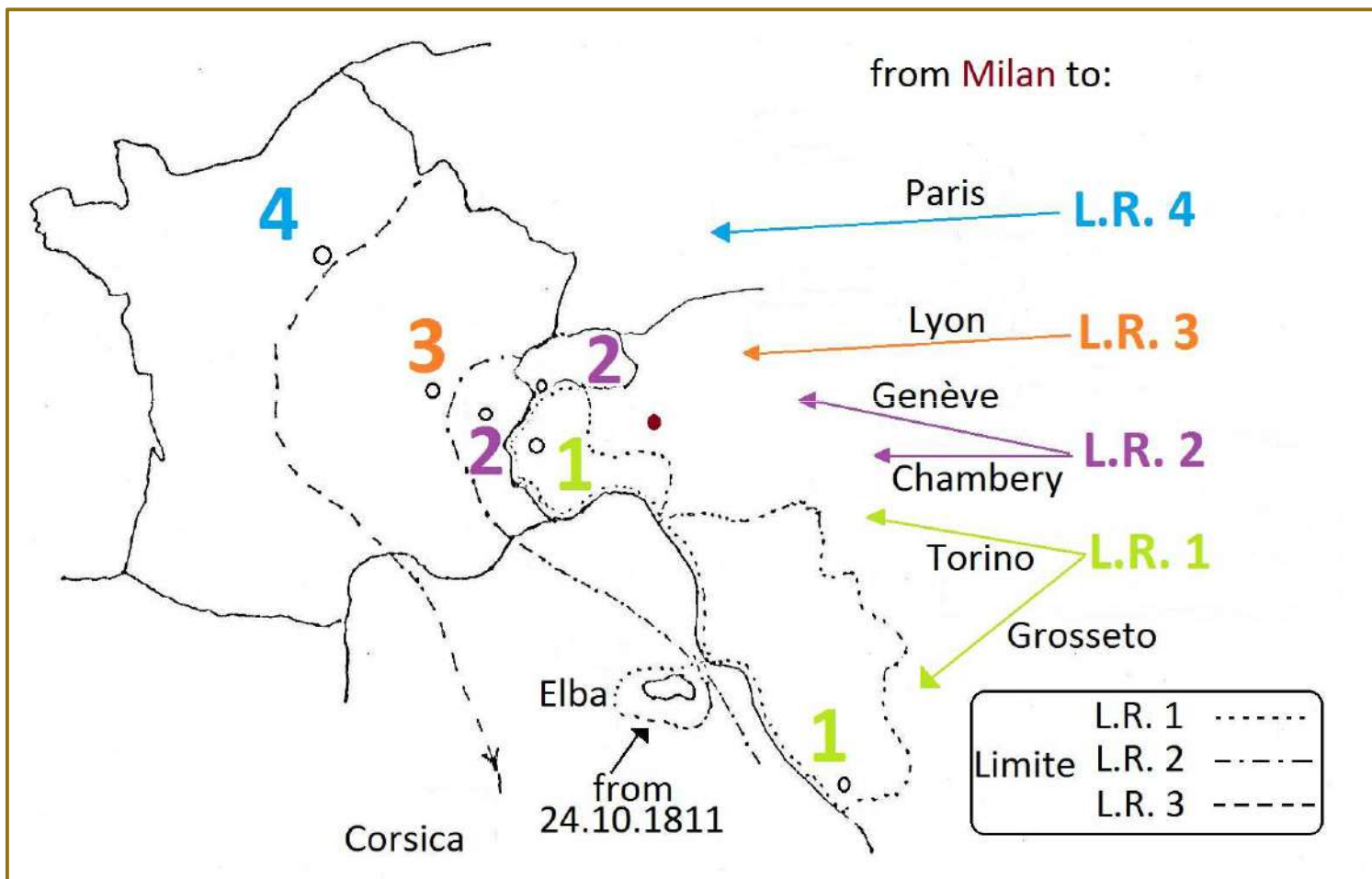
At the departure cachet of accounting
L.R. 4 Lettre Rayon 4.



May 14th, 1808. From Amiens (French Empire) to Brescia (Department of Mella). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and $\frac{3}{8}$, ninth rate letter, rate 1 Italian Lira and 80 cents: 4,5 x 40 cents.**



May 14th, 1808. From Sedan (French Empire) to Bologna (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and 3/8, ninth rate letter, rate 1 Italian Lira and 80 cents: 4,5 x 40 cents.** At the departure cachet of accounting "L.R. 4", **Lettre Rayon 4**.



The postal convention between the French Empire and the Kingdom of Italy provided a classification of correspondences, sent with the payment by the addressee, in 4 beams of rates; putting the below cachet allowed the regulation of accounts between the two states that exchanged the correspondence.

Fourth period

May 1st, 1809 – 30th June, 1811

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

The "n. 46 Decree general finance for 1809" on March 27th, 1809 maintains the existing fee structure, introducing a bracket of weight, with the division of the first group of letters weighting up to ¼ ounce and those with weight ¼ ounce, as per table.

They were applied from May 1st, as the Kingdom was going through a serious crisis, also because of the offensive of the Austrian army, who advised her not to exacerbate the public opinion with new duties.

Since October 1st, 1810 are apply to the department of Alto Adige, in the execution of the "Decree 172 which extend to the department of Alto Adige laws and decrees on the postal service" on August 14th, 1810 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 March 27th, 1809". The distances to Alto Adige were regulated on those applying to the department of Adige and this one was in second distance from the department of Alto Adige.

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

| Weight in ounces | Domestic | | | | | | | | Abroad | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | Abroad | From Abroad (1) | From Abroad (2) |
| Up to ¼ | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | | | |
| 1/4 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 60 | 16 | 28 | 40 |
| 3/8 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 20 | 32 | 44 |
| 1/2 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 24 | 42 | 66 |
| 5/8 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 32 | 56 | 80 |
| 6/8 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 110 | 40 | 70 | 100 |
| 7/8 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 110 | 120 | 48 | 84 | 120 |
| 1 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 110 | 120 | 130 | 56 | 98 | 140 |
| Distances | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | | | |
| Below the rate that should be paid for every 1/8 of ounce more | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 8 | 14 | 20 |
| Chargé Letters | Surcharge 38/100 | | | | | | | | | | |

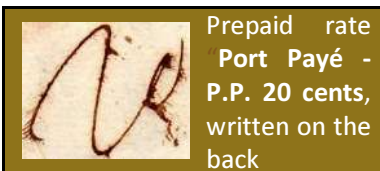
- (1) From abroad neighbouring provinces
- (2) From abroad non neighbouring provinces

4.1 – First distance letters



Prepaid rate
Port Payé -
P.P. 15 cents,
written on the
back

October 12th, 1809. From Verona to Brenzone (Department of Adige). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P., weight up to 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 15 cents.**



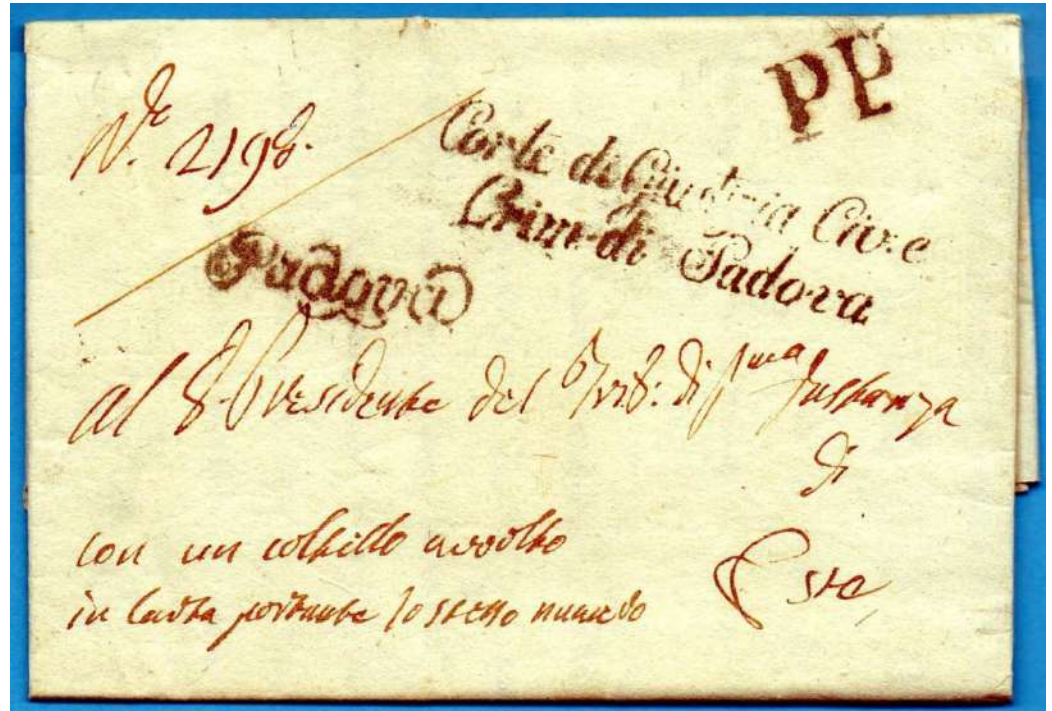
Prepaid rate
Port Payé -
P.P. 20 cents,
written on the
back

September 18th, 1810. From Fermo to San Genesio (Department of Tronto). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P., weight 1/4 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 20 cents.**

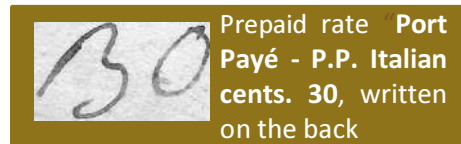


April 17th, 1811. From Ancona to Pergola (Department of Metauro). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, triple rate letter, rate 25 cents.**

The handwritten word "D'uff." is on both letters and indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the Judge of Peace had no rights, because he was not listed in the decree n. 65 dated April 4th, 1810. For this reason the letters were taxed.



Letter with the peculiar
 annotation: "With a knife
 wrapped in the paper
 with the same number"



Prepaid rate Port
 Payé - P.P. Italian
 cents. 30, written
 on the back

August 4th, 1810. From Padua to Este (Department
 of Brenta). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé (P.P.),**
 weight 1/2 ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 30
 cents.



September 29th, 1810. From Mantua to San Martino dell'Argine (Department of
 Mincio). **Tariff weight 6/8 of ounce, sixth rate letter, rate 40 cents.**

The handwritten word "D'Uff." indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the
 correspondence between majors enjoined this right if travelling "under wrapper", that is
 grouped together with others letters and not individually, as it probably happened in this
 case (Decree nr. 65 dated April 4th, 1810). For this reason the letter was taxed.



March 16th, 1810. From Forli to S. Arcangelo (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 7/8 of ounce, seventh rate letter, rate 5 décimes.**



67
Prepaid rate
Port Payé -
P.P. 67 cents,
written on
the back

May 19th, 1810. From Bologna to S. Agata (Department of Reno). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P., weight 1 ounce and 1/8, ninth rate letter, 67 cents: 60 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 7 cents for 1/8 of ounce more.**

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



120.
Prepaid rate Port
Payé - P.P. Italian
cents. 120, written
on the back

June 15th, 1810. From Macerata to Tolentino (Department of Musone). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P., weight 2 ounces, sixteenth rate letter, rate 120 cents. The correct rate would be 116 cents: 60 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 56 cents (8 x 7 cents for one ounce more). But the postmaster simply doubled the rate established for a letter weighting one ounce.**

The handwritten word "D'Uff.o" indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but neither the Intendent, nor the Judge of Peace had rights, because they were not listed in the Decree nr. 65 dated April 4th, 1810; therefore the letter was taxed.



The handwritten wording "Per Espresso" indicated that the delivery of the letter was done by the person expressly appointed.

October 13rd, 1810. From Salò to Gargnano (Department of Mella). **Tariff: weight 2 ounces and 5/8. Twenty-first rate letter, rate 1 Italian Lira and 50 cents: 60 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 90 cents (13 x 7 cents for 13/8 of ounce more). In fact, the correct rate would be 1 Italian Lira and 51 cents, rounded down to a cent, with the dual display of taxation, in figures and in words.**

4.2 - Second distance letters



October 21st, 1810. From Verona, (Department of Adige) to Brescia (Department of Mella). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P., weight up to 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 20 cents.**



Prepaid rate
Port Payé -
P.P. Italian
cents. 20,
written on
the back



June 12nd, 1810. From Polesella, near Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 25 cents.** On the front the rare cachet “POLESELLA B. - Po” with the handwritten integration “B. - Po”.

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
 Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

July 9th, 1810. From
 Ravenna (Department of
 Rubicone) to Imola
 (Department of Reno).
**Tariff: weight 3/8 of
 ounce, triple rate letter,
 rate 30 cents.**



The handwritten word
 "D'Ufficio" indicated
 the alleged right to the
 free frank, but the
 Congregation of Charity
 had not rights, because
 it was not listed in the
 decree n. 65 dated April
 4th, 1810. For this
 reason the letter was
 taxed.



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

On the front, Saint Andrew
 Cross and the handwritten
 word "Franca" indicating that
 the rate has been prepaid.

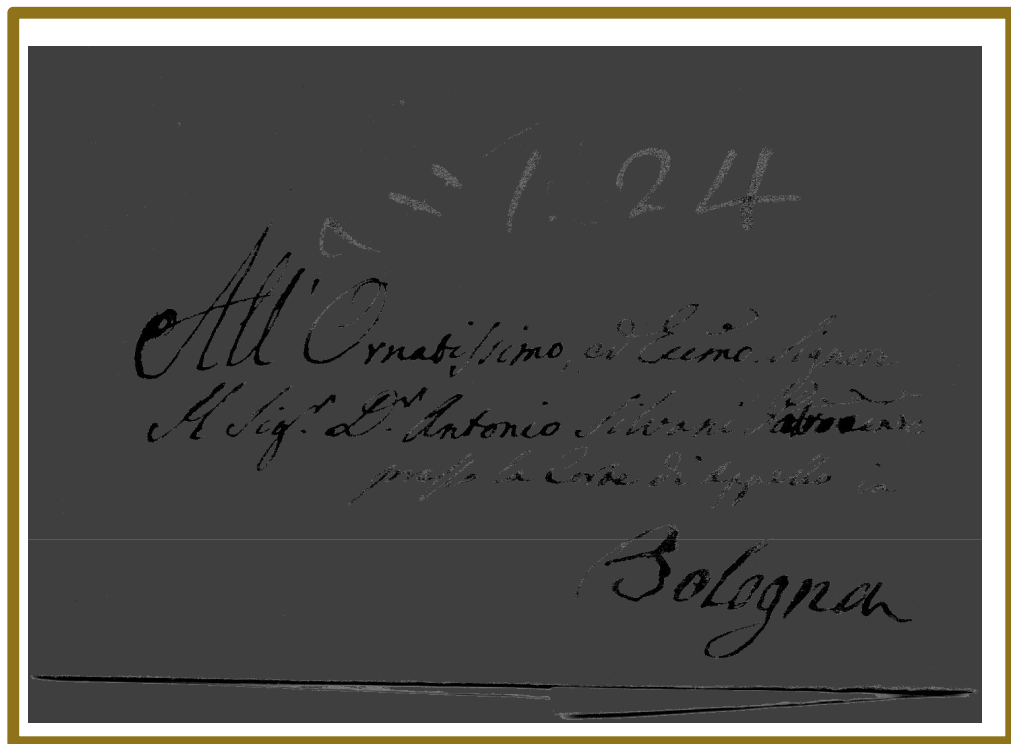


April 25th, 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Novara (Department of Agogna). **Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 40 cents.** Handwritten words: “*Servizio Mre*”.



July 26th, 1810. From Cremona (Department of Alto Po) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: weight 7/8 of ounce, seventh rate letter, 60 cents.**

The handwritten word “*D’Uff.*” indicated the alleged right to the free frank, but The Prefect was entitled to the **limited exemption** and **limited marking** to those letters, sent and / or received to / from officials (such as the Superintendent of Finance), but **within its own department**, as prescribed by the decree n. 65 dated April 4th, 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



January 3rd, 1811. From Forli (Department of Rubicone) to Bologna (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1 ounce and 7/8 of ounce, fourteenth rate letter 1 Italian Lire and 24 cents: 70 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 54cents (6 x 9 cents for 6/8 of ounce more).**



Prepaid rate
Port Payé -
P.P. Italian
Lire 1,87,
written on
the back

June 25th, 1809. From Rovigo (Department of Basso Po) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: Prepaid rate Port Payé P.P., weight 2 ounces and 5/8 of ounce, twenty-first rate letter 1 Italian Lire and 87 cents: 70 cents for a letter weighting 1 ounce + 117 cents (13 x 9 cents for 13/8 of ounce more).** On the front the handwritten word "Franca" and the rare cachet "PP" that it means that the postal rate has been prepaid.

4.3 - Third distance letters



November 10th, 1810. From Brescia (Department of Mella) to Bolzano (Department of Tirolo). **Tariff: weight up to 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 25 cents.**



August 13th, 1810. From Ferrara (Department of Basso Po) to Brescia (Department of Mella). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 30 cents.**



May 11th, 1810. From Ferrara (Department of Basso Po) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: weight ½ ounce. Triple rate letter, rate 35 cents.**



May 26th, 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: weight ½ an ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 40 cents.**

The handwritten word "D'Uffo" indicates 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 April 4th, 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



December 13th, 1809. From Ancona (Department of Metauro) to Ferrara (Department of Basso Po). **Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce. Fifth rate letter, rate 50 cents.**



May 25th, 1811. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Faenza (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 1ounce, eighth rate letter, rate 80 cents.**

The handwritten word "*D'Uff.*" indicates the alleged right to the free frank, but the major and the General Receiver of Department enjoyed this right if the letter travels "under wrapper", that is grouped together with others letters and not individually, as it probably happened in this case (Decree nr. 65 dated April 4th, 1810). For this reason the letter was taxed.

4.4 - Fourth distance letters

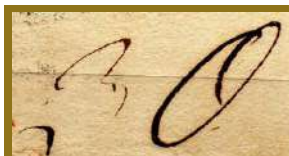


June 10th, 1809. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Alone, near Brescia (Department of Mella). **Tariff: weight up to 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 30 cents.** Interesting indication, by the sender, of the route of the letter by way of: "Mantua to Salò".

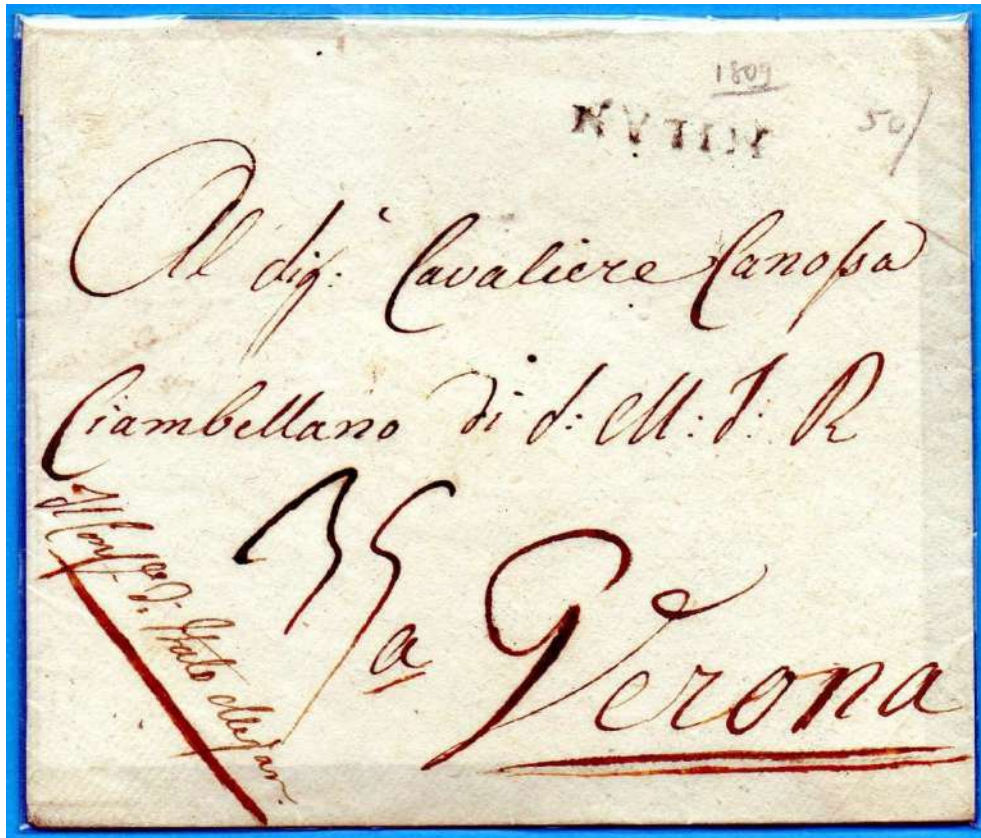
Interesting indications:
Franca di porto and
con £ 185,00 d'Italia.



May 15th, 1811. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Reggio (Department of Crostolo). **Tariff: prepaid rate Port Payé (P.P.), weight up to 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, 30 cents.** Initially the letter was rated for 30 cents to collect by the addressee and then the rate was cancelled and subjected to prepaid rate, because the letter contained money.



Prepaid rate Port
Payé - P.P. Italian
cents 30, written
on the back



June ... , 1809. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Verona (Department of Adige).
Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 35 cents.



June 19th, 1811. From Lodi, near Milan (Department of Olona) to Trento (Department of Alto Adige).
Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, triple rate letter, 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 April 4th, 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.

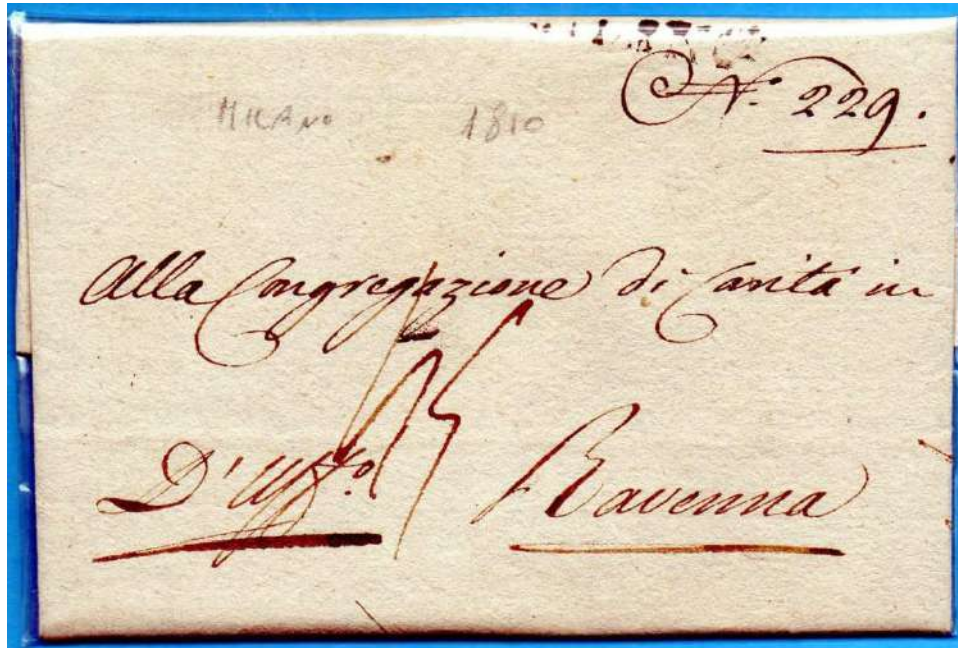
4.5 - Fifth distance letters



December 27th, 1809. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Venice (Department of Adriatico). **Tariff: weight up to 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 35 cents.**



January 13th, 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Rimini (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 40 cents.**



December 4th, 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) a Ravenna (Department of Rubicone). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, triple rate letter, 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 April 4th, 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



May, 27th, 1809. From Venice (Department of Adriatico) to Milan (Department of Olona). **Tariff: weight ½ an ounce, fourth rate letter, rate 60 cents.**



April 4th, 1811. From Cesena (Department of Rubicone) to Milan (Department of Olona). **Tariff: Port Payé P.P., weight 5/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, prepaid rate 70 cents.** The letter was sent prepaid rate because the addressee was the Minister of Worship.

4.6 - sixth distance letters



May, 27th, 1809. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Pesaro (Department of Musone). **Tariff: weight up to 1/4 of ounce, first rate letter, rate 40 cents.**

Registered letter “Chargé”

On the top of the letter, the rare boxed cachet **RACCOMAND** and the equally rare handwritten word *Chargé*.



February 27th, 1811. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Pesaro (Department of Metauro). **Tariff: weight 1/2 an ounce. Registered letter “CHARGE, rate 1 Italian Lira and 8 cents: 70 cents for fourth rate letter sent to the Department in fifth distance + 38 cents for registration fee.**

Letters sent abroad



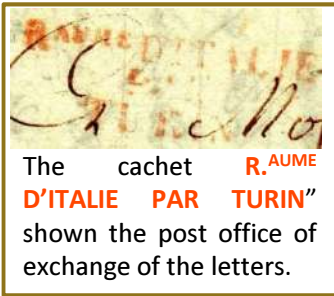
August 12th, 1810. From Milan (Department of Olona) to Svitto (Switzerland). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter sent to Switzerland, rate 16 cents.** It was charged on delivery of **8 soldi** for Swiss transit.



August ..., 1810. From Bologna (Department of Reno) to Livorno (Conquered Department part of French Empire). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter sent to Tuscany, rate 20 cents.** It was charged on delivery of **5 décimes** for Tuscany transit.

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



On the front
handwritten wording
poste restante.



On the front, the cachet **L.T.MILANO** showing the route of the letter by way of Milan and the cachet **R.AUME D'ITALIE PAR PLAISANCE** showing the post office of exchange of the letters.

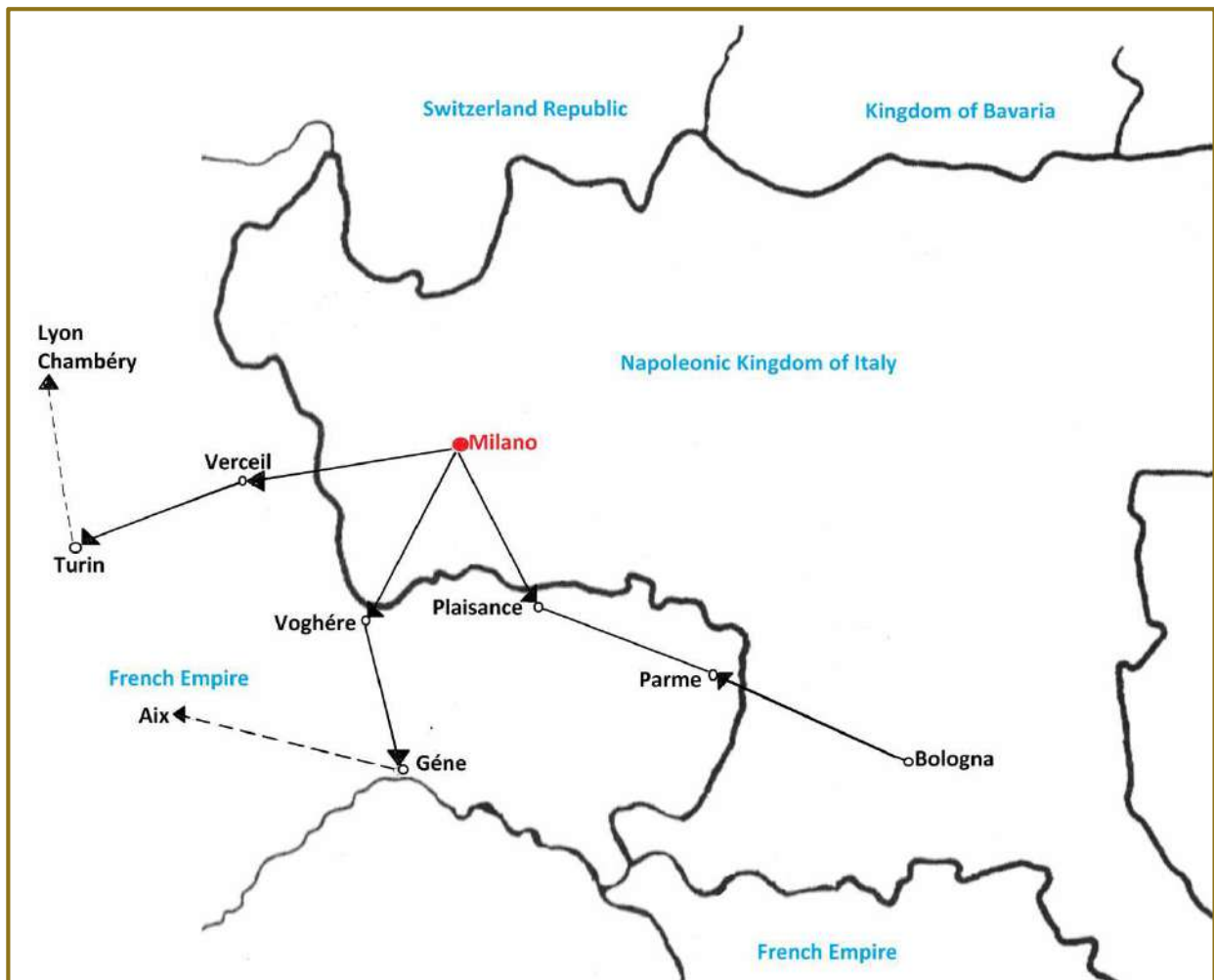
Fourth period
May 1st, 1809 – 30th June, 1811

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



On the front, the cachet **L.T. MILANO** and the cachet **R. AUME D'ITALIE PAR VERCEIL** showing the post office of exchange of the letters.

November 4th, 1809. From Vigevano, near Pavia (Department of Agogna) to Ivrea (Conquered Department part of French Empire). **Tariff: weight 7/8 of ounce, sixth rate letter, rate 5 décimes.** The exact rate would be 48 cents, but has been rounded up, as often happened.



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



December 12th, 1809 From Florence (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Jesi via Ancona (Department of Metauro). **Tariff: weight 3/8 of ounce, double rate letter, rate 32 cents.**



May 3rd, 1809. From Florence (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to **Bologne en Italie** (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight ½ ounce, triple rate letter, sent from Florence on April 29th, 1809 (fourth period) but arrived in Bologna on May 3rd, 1809 (fifth period), where it has been rated for 42 cents with the cachet of accounting "L.R. 1", Lettre Rayon 1.**

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

March 7th, 1810. From Rome (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Recanati, near Macerata (Department of Musone). **Tariff: weight 6/8 of ounce, fifth rate letter, rate 70 cents.**



Letters from abroad - from
non neighbouring provinces

May 22nd, 1810. From Rome (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Cento, near Bologna (Department of Reno). **Tariff: weight 1/4 of ounce, single rate letter, rate 40 cents.**



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

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

On the front the cachet **30^{ME}DIVISION** does not have a military meaning, but it certified a civil relationship between the territories of 30th Division and those of the Kingdom of Italy. It was placed in the stations of exchange, in this case in Foligno, deputy for East direction (Marche).



October 8th, 1810. From Amelia (Conquered Department part of French Empire) to Macerata (Department of Musone). **Tariff: weight 5/8 of ounce, fourth rate letter, 80 cents.** 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.

The 30th Territorial Division



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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
 Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



The cachet **AGDP** means **Amministrazione Generale delle Poste** and it was put when the letters had to be charged.



August 22nd, 1809. From Barletta, near Bari (Kingdom of Naples) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid **6 décimes** (written on the back) to the Kingdom of Naples border via Naples, as confirmed by the Neapolitan cachet **AGDP**. **Tariff: 120 cents were charged on delivery, as required for a sixth rate letter, weight 7/8 of ounce.**



January 28th, 1810. From Fulda (Kingdom of Westfalia) to Bologna (Department of Reno). Prepaid **8 RnKr** written on the back. **Tariff: 160 cents was charged on delivery, as required for a eighth rate letter, weight 1 ounce and 1/8.** On the front transit cachet **"R. 4 MUNCHEN"**.

By the "n. 119 Decree on the fee of the letters" on May 21st, 1811 all tariff setting was again restored and well conformed to that applied throughout the French Empire. In fact, the art. 16 of the Finance Act on May 19th, 1811, mentioned in the decree, stated: "**The tax of the 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 a department and the other, 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 in the 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, and a further tariff increase that greatly penalized the longer distances, compared to the previous pricing.

In addition, the rates were rounded up to the higher decimal, according to art. 3 (for example: the double rate letter sent in first distance: 22 cents the rate provided for in the table, 30 cents the fee charged).

For registered letters the cost was twice the rate of ordinary letters (Article 7 of the Decree). The Act was implemented on July 1st, 1811.

| Weight in grams | | 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 km. | First | Second | Third | Fourth | Fiveth | Sixth | Seventh | Eighth | |
| | Up to 50 | 50-100 | 100-200 | 200-300 | 300-400 | 400-500 | 500-600 | 600-800 | |
| Below the rates to be paid every 5 grams over the 20 grams | | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | |
| Chargé letters | | | Twice the rate of ordinary letters | | | | | | |

The tariffs 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 on June 19th, 1811, signed by the General Director of Posts, Minonzi, established which were the post offices near the borders up to which the tax should be applied for the letters sent to Countries not part of the French Empire.

5.1 – First distance letters

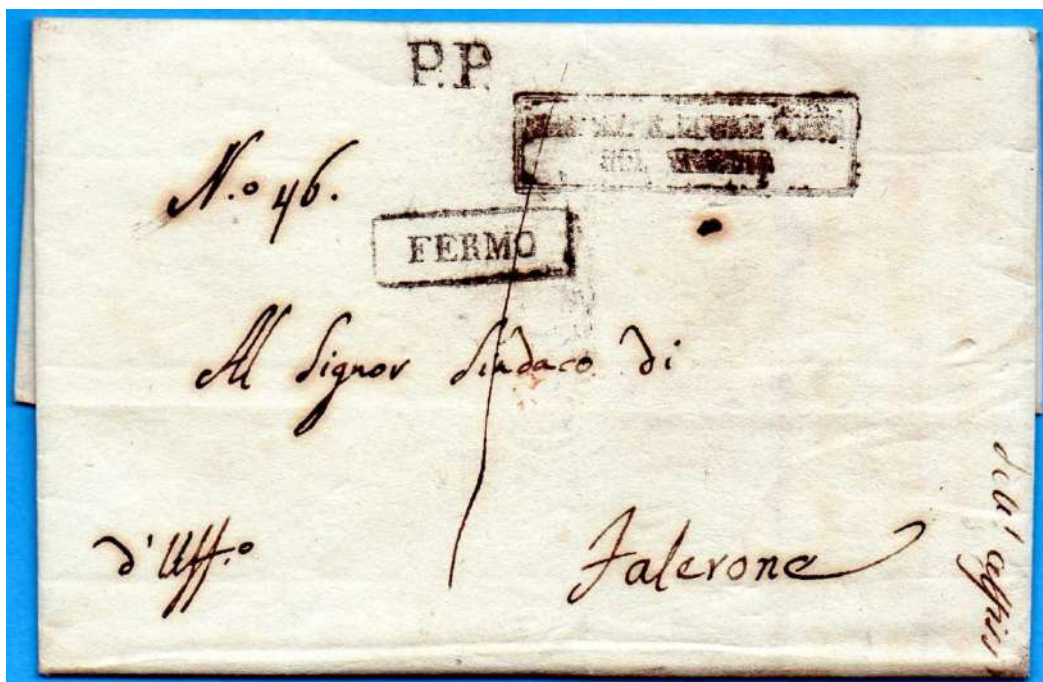


October 9th, 1811. From Toscolano, near Brescia, to Brescia. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, rate 2 décimes.** At the departure boxed cachet "Posta Gargnano".



February 27th, 1812. From Faenza, near Bologna, to Forlì. **Tariff: weight between 8 and 11 grams, triple rate letter, rate 3 décimes.**

The handwritten word "D'uff." is on the letter and indicated the alleged right to the free frank. By the law of 1805, that letter would have enjoyed the free frank, because the Judge of Peace wrote to the Authority on which it depended. By the decree of April 1810, the Judge of Peace enjoyed the exemption only for the letters received by the authorities who have the mark.



Prepaid rate Port Payé - P.P. Italian décimes 4, written on the back

July 18th, 1812 From Fermo, near Ancona to Falerone. **Tariff: P.P. Port Payé, weight between 11 and 15 grams, fourth rate letter, rate 4 décimes.**

Fifth period

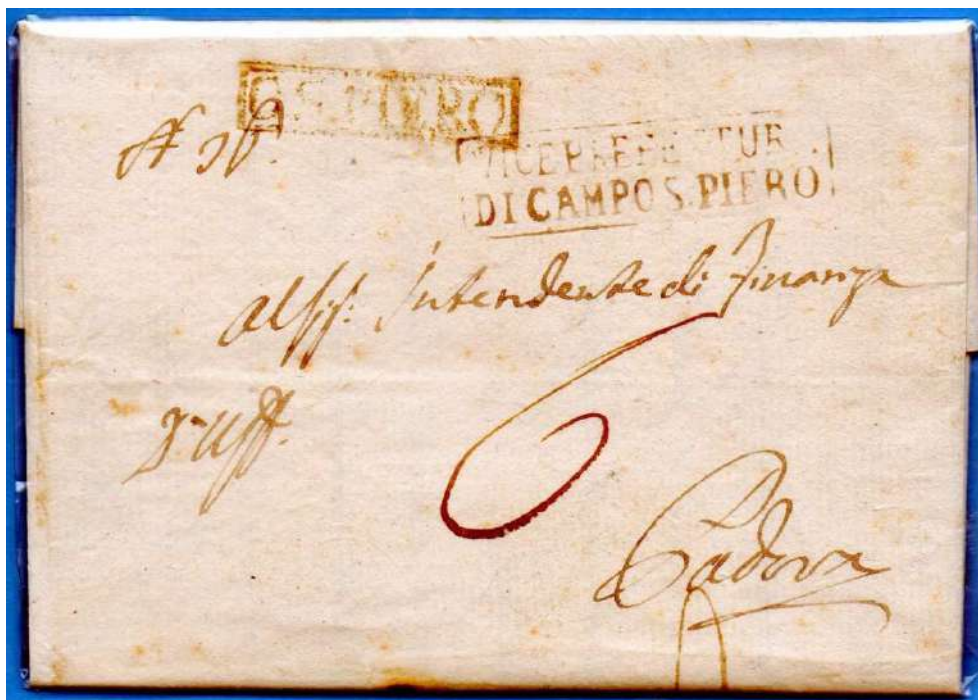
July 1st, 1811 – 26th April, 1814

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



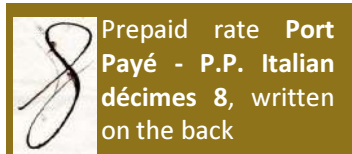
February 17th, 1813. From Chiozza, near Venice, to Loreo, near Rovigo. **Riservata e pressante**. Tariff: weight between 15 and 20 grams, fifth rate letter, rate 5 décimes.

The handwritten word "D'uff." indicated the alleged right to the free frank. But the Judge of Peace enjoyed the exemption only for the letters received by the authorities who enjoyed the mark (Decree nr. 65 dated April 4th, 1810). For this reason the letter was taxed.



January 7th, 1814. From Camposampiero to Padua. Tariff: weight between 20 and 25 grams, sixth rate letter, rate 6 décimes: 5 décimes for letters up to 20 grams + 1 décimes for each 5 grams over the first 20 grams.

The handwritten word "D'uff." 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 April 4th, 1810. For this reason the letter was taxed.



Prepaid rate Port
Payé - P.P. Italian
décimes 8, written
on the back

June 22th, 1813. From Bologna to Lugo, near Ravenna. **Tariff: P.P. Port Payé, weight between 30 and 35 grams, eighth rate letter, rate 8 décimes: 5 décimes for letters up to 20 grams + 1 décimes for each 5 grams over the first 20 grams.**



October 7th, 1812. From Ariano, to Ferrara. **Tariff: weight between 35 and 40 grams, ninth rate letter, rate 9 décimes: 5 décimes for letters up to 20 grams + 4 décimes (1 décimes x 4 for each 5 grams over the first 20 grams).** Initially the letter was rated 80 cents, immediately canceled by some diagonal strokes of pen.

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

5.2 – Second distance letters



August 24th, 1812. From Pesaro to Ancona. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, rate 3 décimes.**



February 27th, 1813. From Monte Scudolo, near Republic of Saint Marino, to Forlì. **Tariff: weight between 6 and 8 grams, double rate letter, rate 4 décimes.** On the front the rare cachet “MONTE SCUDOLO” in the first month of use.

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



November 15th, 1811. From Pergola, near Urbino, to Ancona. **Tariff:** weight between 11 and 15 grams, fourth rate letter, rate 6 décimes.

October ..., 1811. From Milan to Codogno, near Piacenza. **Tariff:** weight between 15 and 20 grams, fifth rate letter, rate 8 décimes.



August 14th, 1811. From Cagli, near Urbino, to Ancona. **Tariff:** weight 25 grams, sixth rate letter, rate 9 décimes: 75 cents for letters up to 20 grams + 15 cents (15 cents for each 5 grams over the first 20 grams). On the front transit boxed cachet "FANO".



April 3rd, 1812. From Comacchio, near Ravenna, to Ferrara. **Tariff: weight 35 grams, eighth rate letter, rate Italian Lire 1 and 20 cents: 75 cents for letters up to 20 grams + 45 cents (15 cents x 3 for each 5 grams over the first 20 grams).**

5.3 – Third distance letters



On the front handwritten wording **Ferma in posta.**



May 17th, 1812. From Venice to Udine “**Ferma in Posta**”. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, rate 4 décimes.**

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

**The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814**



April 26th, 1814 the last day of Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy. From Verona to Milan. **Tariff: weight between 6 and 8 grams, double rate letter, rate 45 cents.** By the postal law, the letter was supposed to bring on the front the cachet of the departure town (Verona) and the rate should be rounded up to the higher decimal. These peculiarities are to be attributed to the political situation of the moment: Napoleon the first resigned on April 11th, and Eugène de Beauharnais abdicated on 26th.



August 21st, 1811. From Padua to Brescia. **Tariff: weight between 6 and 8 grams, double rate letter, rate 5 décimes.**

The handwritten wording **Per Espresso** indicated that the delivery of the letter was done by the person expressly appointed.



June 26th, 1812. From Venice to Udine "Per Espresso". **Tariff: weight between 8 and 11 grams, triple rate letter at first sent to place in third distance (Udine), rate 6 décimes.** Then the letter was redirected via Sacile to Bibone, place in second distance from Udine. **Rate 4 décimes for this second sending.** The fee was 33 cents, but it has been rounded up to the décimes higher, as required by postal rules.

Fifth period

July 1st, 1811 – 26th April, 1814

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



Prepaid rate
Port Payé P.P.
Italian décimes
8, written on
the back

January 2nd, 1812. From Bologna to Milan “*Servizio Militare*”. **Tariff: prepaid Port Payé (P.P./BOLOGNA/D’ITALIA), weight between 11 and 15 grams, fourth rate letter, prepaid 8 décimes;** on the front double diagonal lines indicated that the letter was free of rate for the addressee.

5.4 – Fourth distance letters



February 19th, 1810. From Fano, near Pesaro, to Modena. **Tariff: prepaid Port Payé (P.P.), weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, 50 cents.** On arrival boxed cachet “22/MODENA FEBBRAIO”.

50

Prepaid rate Port
Payé P.P. Italian
cents 50, written
on the back

Fifth period

July 1st, 1811 – 26th April, 1814

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

October 19th, 1812. From Milan to Roveredo, near Trento. **Tariff: weight between 6 and 8 grams, double rate letter, rate 6 décimes.**



November ..., 1811. From Venice to Milan. **Tariff: prepaid Port Payé (P.P.), weight between 8 and 11 grams, triple rate letter, 8 décimes;** on the front double diagonal lines indicated that the letter was free of rate for the addressee.

Prepaid rate Port Payé P.P. Italian décimes 8, written on the back

5.5 – Fifth distance letters

July 7th, 1813 From Milan to Ferrara. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, rate 6 décimes.** Initially rated for 5 décimes, as a letter to be sent to a place in fourth distance, then the rate was immediately canceled and it was rated for 6 décimes.



5.6 – Sixth distance letters

July 7nd, 1812. From Urbino to Adro, near Brescia. **Tariff:** weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, rate 7 décimes.



September 3rd, 1812. From Udine to Roveredo. **Tariff:** weight between 6 and 8 grams, second rate letter, rate 8 décimes.

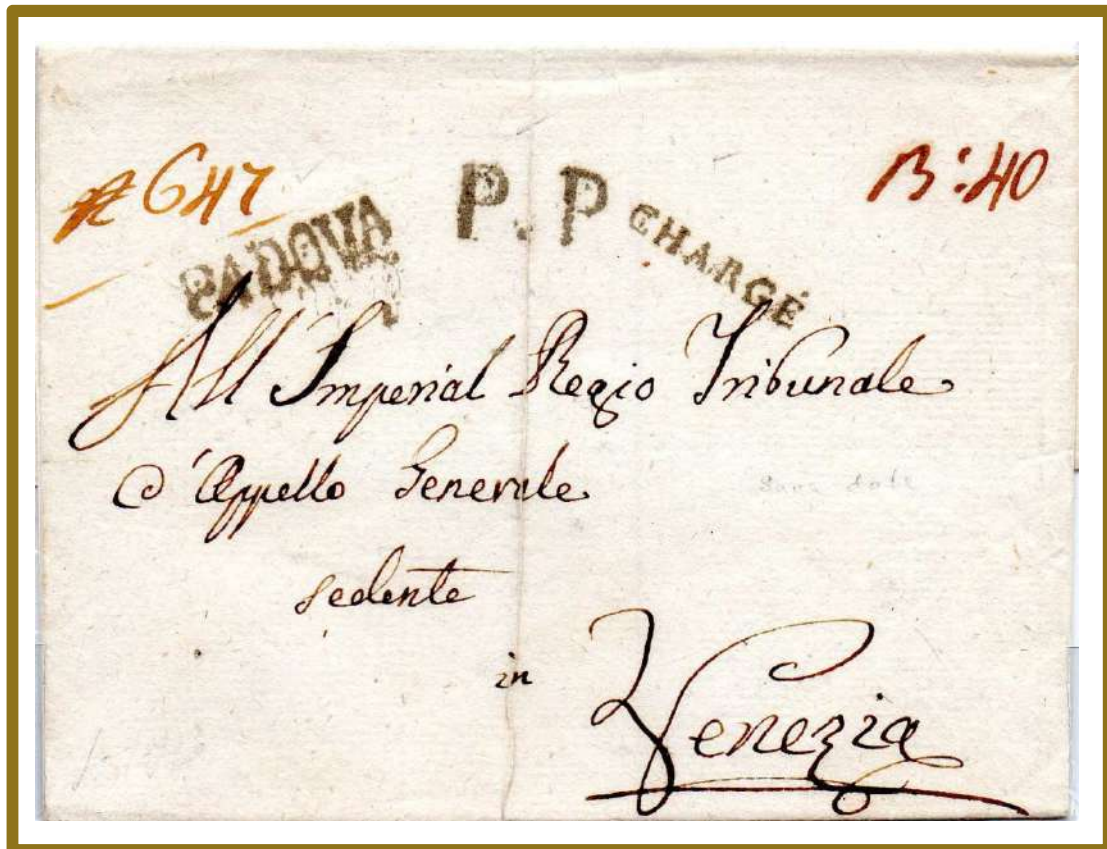
5.7 – Seventh distance letters

May 22nd, 1813. From Milan to Camerino, near Macerata. **Tariff:** weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter, rate 8 décimes. Transit cachet "MACERATA 26 MAG.º".



Registered letter “Chargé”

On the top of the letter,
the rare cachet *CHARGÉ*.



..... 1813. From Padua to Venice. **Tariff: prepaid in Port Payé (P.P.), weight 80 grams, registered letter “CHARGE”, 3 Italian Lire and 40 cents:**

- 50 cents for letter up to 20 grams;

- 1 Italian Lira and 20 cents (12 x 10 cents for each 5 grams over the first 20 grams)

Total ordinary rate: 1 Italian Lira and 70 cents, 17th rate letter.

The registered rate was the double of the ordinary rate: 3 Italian Lire and 40 cents, as indicated on the front of the letter.

Letters sent abroad

For letters sent to Switzerland the rate was calculated from place of departure to Como.



August 11th, 1813. From Milan to Svitto. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent to Switzerland. Rated 2 décimes to Como.** It was charged on delivery of **6 soldi** for Swiss transit.



May 17th, 1812. From Milan to Bellinzona. **Tariff: weight between 8 and 11 grams, double rate letter sent to Switzerland. Rated 3 décimes to Como.** It was charged on delivery of **4 soldi** for Swiss transit.

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

The postal rates and the free franks in the
Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

For letters sent to Naples the fee was calculated from place of departure to Bologna.

On arrival two cachets were put on: **AGDP**,
Amministrazione Generale delle Poste and
boxed cachet of control **L**.

May 8th, 1812. From Reggio to Naples.
Tariff: weight between 11 and 15 grams,
fourth rate letter sent to Kingdom of
Naples, rated 40 cents to Bologna.



For letters sent to Ligurian Departments the fee was calculated from place of departure to destination.



October 9th, 1811. From Milan to Genoa. Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent to **Conquered Department part of French Empire**, rate 40 cents. 14 **décimes** were charged on delivery in Genoa. On the front, the cachet **R.AUME D'ITALIE/PAR/GENES** indicating the station of exchange of letter and the cachet **L.I./MILANO**.

For letters sent to Piedmont Departments the fee was calculated from place of departure to destination.



May 13th, 1813. From Milan to Vercelli. **Tariff:** weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent to Conquered Department part of French Empire, rate 3 décimes.



August 17th, 1811. From Ponteviso, near Brescia, to Casale, near Vercelli. **Tariff:** weight between 6 and 8 grams, double rate letter sent to Conquered Department part of French Empire, rate 5 décimes.

On the front of both letters, the cachet **R. AUME D'ITALIE PAR VERCEIL** indicating the post office where the letter was exchange and the cachet **L.T./MILANO**, showing the route of the letter by way of Milan.

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

**The postal rates and the free franks in the
 Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814**

For letters sent to Tuscany and to Rome the fee was calculated from the place of departure to Bologna.

December 13th, 1813. From Milan to Florence. **Tariff: weight between 0 to 6 grams, single rate letter sent to Conquered Department part of French Empire. Rated 5 décimes to Bologna. 5 décimes were charged on delivery in Florence.**



March 4th, 1813. From Loreto, near Ancona, to Rome. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent to Conquered Department part of French Empire, rated 6 décimes to Bologna. 2 décimes were charged on delivery in Rome.**

For letters sent to French Empire the fee was calculated from place of departure to destination.

On the front, the cachet **R.AUME D'ITALIE PAR CHAMBERY** showing the post office where the letter was exchange and the cachet **L.T./MILANO**, indicating the route of the letter by way of Milan.

January 6th, 1812. From Legnago, near Verona, to Saint Germer (French Empire) "Poste restante". **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent to French, rate 8 décimes.**

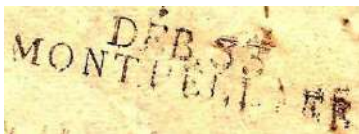


Fifth period
July 1st, 1811 – 26th April, 1814

The postal rates and the free franks in the
 Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814



the cachet
DEB. 33 MONTPELLIER
 was put on the back as a
 control cachet to verify the
 exact amount of rate.



October 1st, 1813. From Udine to Saint Martin, near Montpellier (French Empire). **Tariff: weight between 8 and 11 grams, triple rate letter sent to France, rated 17 décimes of Italian Lire.** The exact fee would have been 165 cents, rounded up to 17 décimes Italian Lire, according to postal rules.



On the back, put on arrival, the boxed cachet of accounting T.4^E, indicating that the letter was classified in the fourth beam of rates



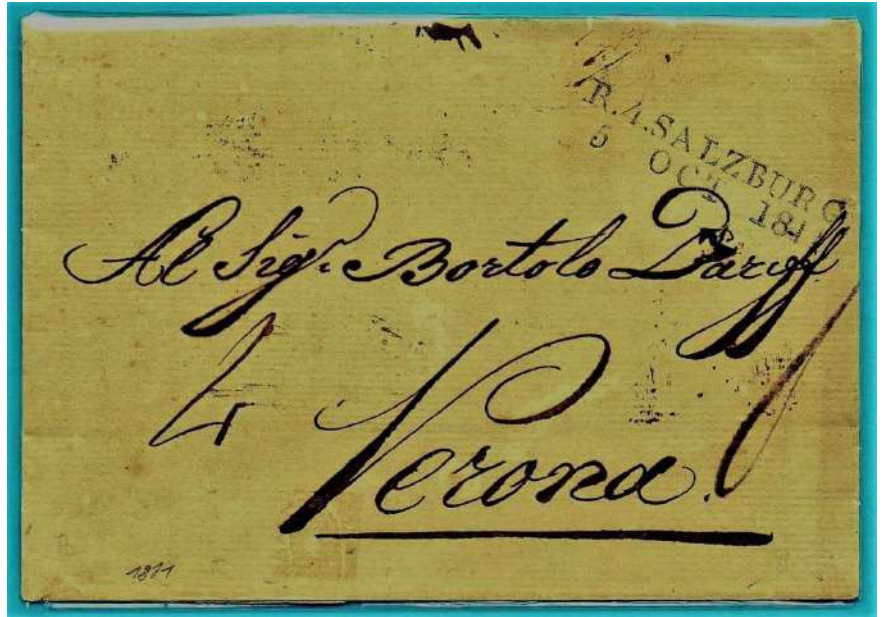
Prepaid rate Port
 Payé P.P. Italian Lira
 2, written on the back

September 9th, 1812. From Milan to Paris (French Empire). **Tariff: prepaid Port Payé MILANO/P.P, weight between 8 and 11 grams, triple rate letter sent to France, rated 2 Italian Lire.** The exact fee would have been 195 cents, rounded up to 2 Italian Lire, according to postal rules.

Letters from abroad



October 5th, 1811. From Salzburg to Verona. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent from Austrian Empire, charged 4 décimes on delivery in Verona.** At the departure it was charged of **12 kreuzer** to Kingdom of Italy border, written on the back.



July 10th, 1811. From Fleurier to Verona. **Tariff: 6 décimes were charged on delivery, as required for a triple rate letter sent from Switzerland, weight between 8 and 11 grams.** On the back rate **9 soldi** 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.

Fifth period

July 1st, 1811 – 26th April, 1814

The postal rates and the free franks in the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy 1805 - 1814

For letters sent from the French Empire and the Conquered Department the fee was calculated from place of departure to destination.



February 28th, 1812. From Voghera, near Pavia, to Milano. **Tariff: weight between 15 and 20 grams, fifth rate letter sent from Conquered Department part of French Empire, charged of 8 décimes.** On the front, the of accounting **L.R. 1**, put at the departure.



On the front, the cachet "30^{ME}/DIVISION" was placed in the stations of exchange, in this case in Foligno, deputy for East direction (Marche).

February 22nd, 1813 From Rome to Ancona. **Tariff: weight between 0 and 6 grams, single rate letter sent from Conquered Department part of French Empire, rate 5 décimes.**



January 30th, 1813. From Lyon to Milan. **Tariff: weight between 0 e 6 grams, single rate letter sent from Department of French Empire, rate 7 décimes.**



December 4th, 1812. From Rome to Verona. **Tariff: weight between 8 and 11 grams, double rate letter sent from Department of French Empire, rate 8 décimes.**

On the front, the cachet "30^{ME}/DIVISION was placed in the stations of exchange, in this case in Perugia, deputy for Nord-East direction (Emilia-Romagna and Veneto).

The postal free frank has always been a prerogative of the sovereign conceded to establishment; Napoleon did not intend to abolish it, but only to regulate it well.

Evidently he shared the opinion that it was a powerful mean of consensus in the bureaucratic apparatus, coming from middle-class people, but also chosen on the base of ties of loyalty to the emperor.

The legislation on the letters in postal franchise was regulated by the following laws during the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy:

- Law 9 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano (December 26th, 1800);
- Decree on Post letters nr. 123 on September 21st, 1805;
- Decree on the free frank and on the mark nr. 65 on April 4th, 1810.

Law 9 Nevoso anno IX Repubblicano (December 26th, 1800)

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 4 Fiorile anno VI Repubblicano (April 23rd, 1798) and by the Law 6 Brumaio anno VII Repubblicano (October 27th, 1798).

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.



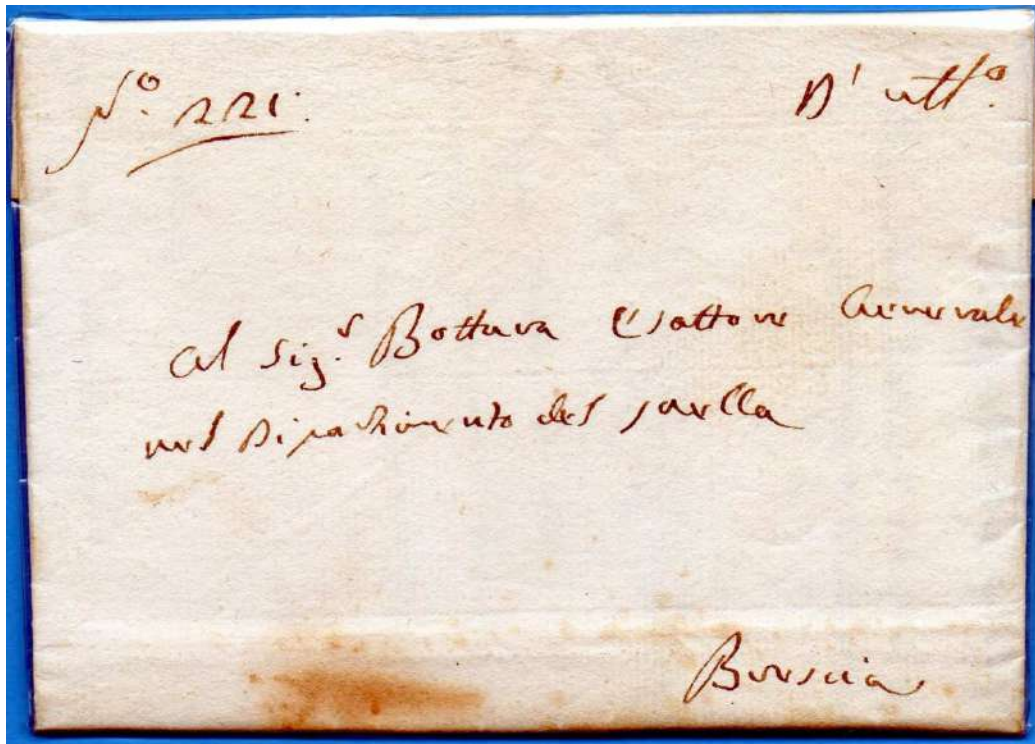
April 18th, 1805. From Ostiglia to Mantua. Letter sent by the Magistrates Court of Ostiglia to Royal Commissioner of Mantua. The word handwritten "D'uffo." indicated the exemption of payment.



June 22th, 1805. From Medicina, near Bologna, to Lugo, near Ravenna. **Letter sent from the township of Medicina to the township of Lugo. The word handwritten “D’uff.” indicated the right of exemption.** The boxed cachet “Municipalità di Medicina” was used by the sender to confirm its authority, although it was not required by postal rules.



July 7th, 1805. From Bologna to Modena. **Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Reno to a private citizen of Modena.** The word handwritten “D’uff.” indicated 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 the authority).



July 22th, 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 word handwritten "D'uffo." indicated the right of exemption. **The letter is addressed to Mr. Bottura, so named for an individual, but with the indication of the role.** For this reason the post office accepted the free frank.



August 22nd, 1805. From S. Giovanni to Nonantola, near Bologna. **Letter sent from the township of S. Giovanni to the township of Nonantola.** The word handwritten "D'uffo." indicated the right of exemption.

Decree nr. 123 dated September 21st, 1805

With respect to the law of 1800, two new words are introduced: “**franchigia**” and “**contrassegno**”.

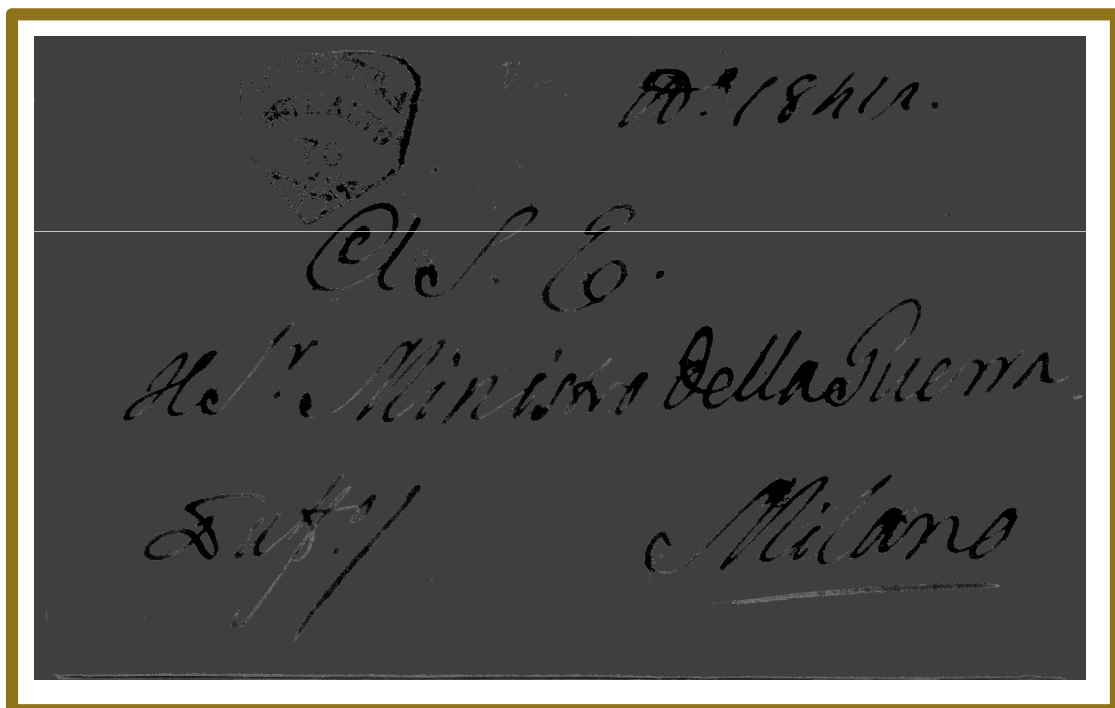
The **Franchigia (free frank)** is the exemption from payment of fee on **letters that are received** from the exempted person and it can be:

- **unlimited**: the franchise operated for all letters received, even those from abroad, and it was reserved only to Ministers and to Secretary of State;
- **limited**: the franchise 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).

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.

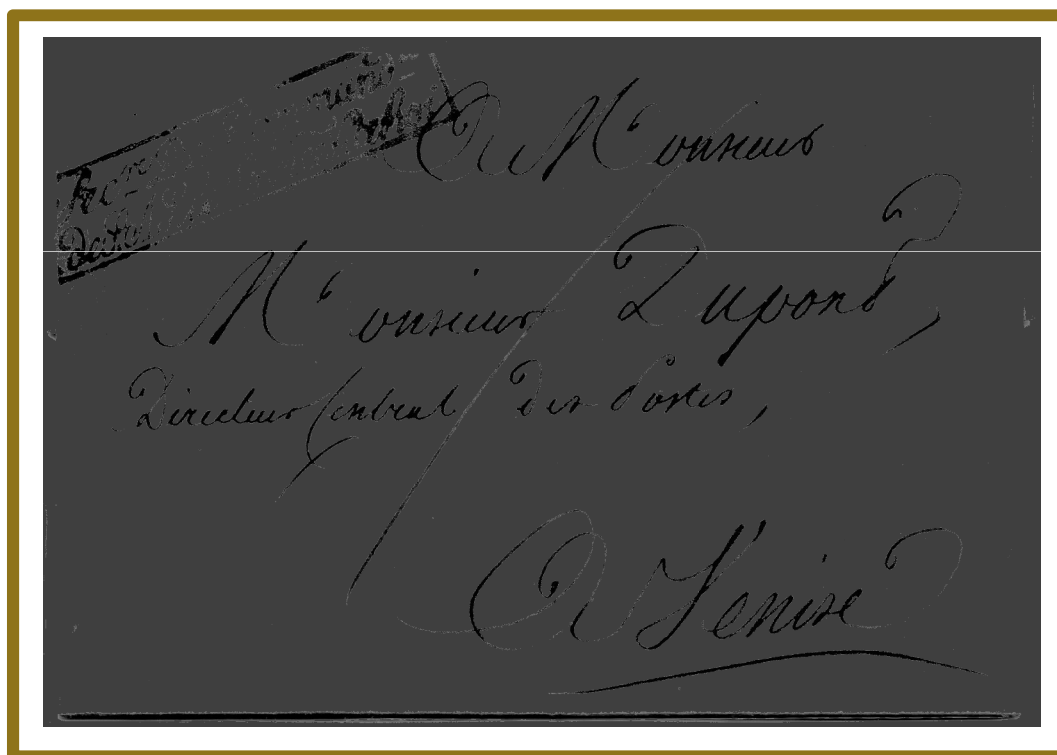
Please note that there was no longer the distinction between the letters sent to the Authority (previously exempt), and those sent to the individuals who held the office (previously subject to payment).



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



October 24th, 1809. From Forli to Milan. Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Rubicone to **Minister of War, who enjoyed the unlimited franchise.**



December 24th, 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.**



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



October 3rd, 1807. From Correggio 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 word handwritten “D’Uffo” to indicate the right of exemption. Then, this letter should have been taxed.**



October 17th, 1807. Letter sent by Judge of Peace in Carpineti near Reggio Emilia, to General Attorney at the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice of Department of Crostolo in Reggio Emilia. **The Judge of Peace depends on an authority that enjoyed exemption (Tribunal); he did not prepay the letter because he put on the word handwritten “D’Uff.” and his title “Il Giud.º di Pace in Carpineti”.**



October 25th, 1808. From Appignano to Monte Cassiano, both villages near Macerata. Letter sent by the Major of Appignano to Major of Monte Cassiano. **The Majors were not entitled to the franchise, which they enjoyed by the previous postal law. The letter should have been taxed.** On the front boxed cachet “TREJA”, collection centre of correspondence of various villages, including Appignano.

Decree nr. 65 dated April 4th, 1810

This law is the only provision of the Napoleonic period enacted to regulate only the **franchise** and the **mark**.

The legislation is very long (40 articles) and it is very complex, with a series really complicated to understand and then to be applied, moreover it increases the number of authorities enjoying franchise and mark.

The **unlimited franchise** was extended to the other authorities, which, in the previous law, enjoyed the limited exemption or had no right.

The concepts of **limited franchise and mark**, **franchise "under wrapper"** were introduced, under which the franchise and the mark were extended to a number of individuals and publications that were excluded in the previous decree.

The wrapper means the grouping, with two crossed strips of paper, fastened by wax, with in which the letters were enclosed.

The letters were delivered to the director of the post office who verified every right to the franchise; he put on the cachet of the post office and then closed again the letters under wrapper, writing in the middle of the band the common destination.

In order to provide to the distribution, the wrappers were almost all torn, thrown, and consequently lost.



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



May 12th, 1812. From Milan to Venice. Letter sent by the Minister of the Treasury to Prefect of Department of Adriatico. **The Minister enjoyed the unlimited mark, while the Prefects enjoyed the limited franchise.** On the front, the oval mark “Ministro/del/Tesoro”, with the wording handwritten “D’Uff”.



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



July 11th, 1811. From Ferrara to Migliaro, near Ferrara. Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Basso Po to the Major of Migliaro. **The Prefect enjoyed the limited mark, while the Major enjoyed the free frank for letters sent by the Prefects.** On the front, the oval mark “*Prefetto/DEL BASSO PO/36*”.



October 13th, 1813. From Ancona to Belvedere, near Ancona. Letter sent by the Prefect of Department of Metauro to the Major of Belvedere. **The Prefect enjoyed the limited mark, while the Major enjoyed the free frank for letters sent by the Prefects.** On the front, the oval mark “*Prefetto/DEL METAURO/39*”.



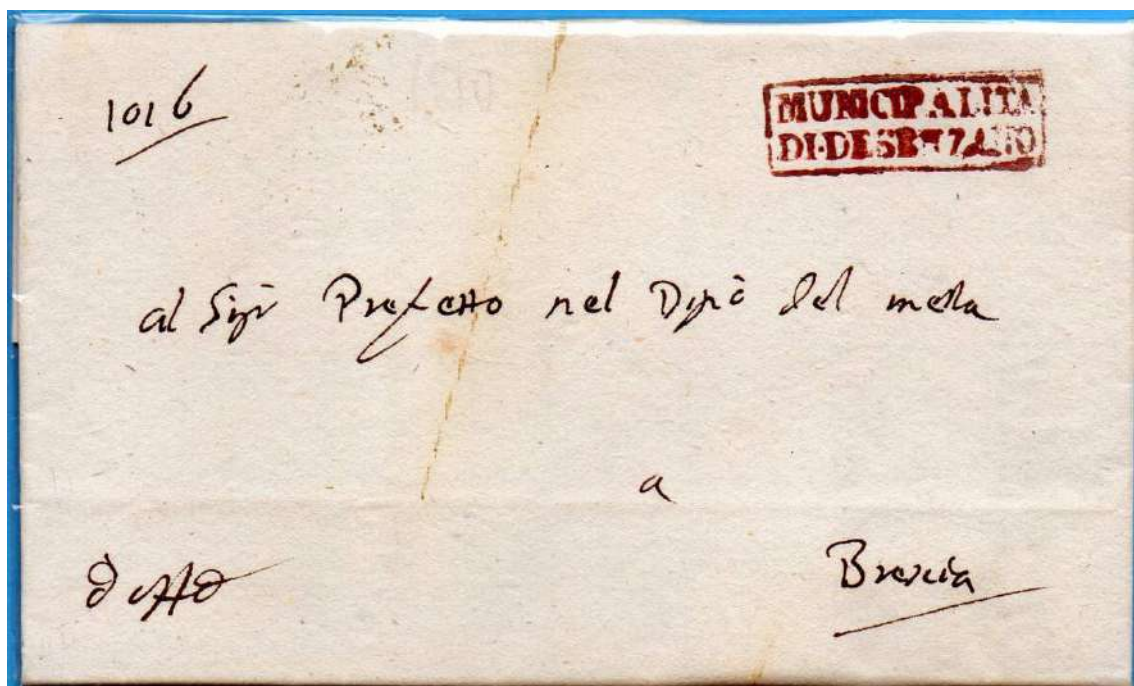
November 24th, 1811. From Sarnano, near Macerata, to Montefortino, near Ascoli. Letter sent by the Major of Sarnano to the Major of Montefortino. **Both enjoyed the limited franchise for the correspondence between them “under wrapper”**. On the front, the word handwritten “*D’Uff.*” indicating the right of exemption.



August 15th, 1813. From Toano, near Reggio, to Reggio. Letter sent by the Major of Toano to the Tax Officer of Reggio. **The Major enjoyed the limited mark (Sindaco di Toano) for letters sent to the Tax Officer**. On the front, the word handwritten “*D’Uff.*” indicating the right of exemption. On the front boxed cachet “CASTELN°NEMONTI”, collection center of correspondence of various villages, including precisely Toano.



January 29th, 1811. From San Ginesio to Camporotondo, both villages near Macerata. Letter sent by the Mayor of San Ginesio to the Major of Camporotondo. **Both enjoyed the limited free frank “under wrapper” to the correspondence between them.** On the front, the word handwritten “D’Uff.º” indicating the right of exemption.



October 26th, 1810. From Desenzano, Garda Lake, to Brescia. Letter sent by the township of Desenzano to the Prefect of Department of Mella. **The township enjoyed the limited mark for letters sent to the Prefects, while the Prefect enjoyed the franchise.** On the front, the word handwritten “D’Uff.º” indicating the right of exemption.