

*Postal relations between  
Papal States and Tuscany  
1814—1862,  
including Transit Mail*



*New Orleans meeting 2013*

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1849 (MAY 5) ALGIER to ROME, redirected to FLORENCE. Sent by ship **Sphinx** of the company **Charles & Auguste Bazin** from Algier to Marseille. Followed overland via Antibes to Sardinia as per VIA DI NIZZA to Genoa, then carried by commercial ship via Leghorn (CORRISP. EST.A DA GENOVA) to Civitavecchia and to destination. Redirected to Florence, where the marking **C.P.** was applied (Credito Pontificio). According to the Tuscan-Papal Convention, Rome charged 35 bajocchi for a letter coming from France overland via Sardinia and Tuscany (1 ½ fogli: 23 x 1,5 = 34,5 ~ 35). Florence credited "Rimb.[orso] b[aj] 41" to Rome (=38 crazie) + 3 crazie for Tuscan domestic, total of 41 crazie asked to the addressee.

**“1 cover – 2 letters”**



*Venice to Ancona, 16.4.1851, franked to the Papal border with a stamp of the 1<sup>st</sup> Austrian issue of 6 Kr CM, and subsequently charged 10 baj (letter within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Papal distance)*

*the same letter was re-used, folded on the other side and written for a new letter*

*from Ancona to Leghorn 20.4.1851, prepaid 5 baj “impostazione” to the Tuscan border, and charged later 6 crazie domestic fee on arrival*

**Currency and weight in the two countries**

**Papal States**

1 scudo = 10 paoli romani = 100 bajocchi

1 ounce = 28.292 g = 24 denari (1 denaro = 1.18 g), single letter = ¼ ounce or 6 denari

**Tuscany**

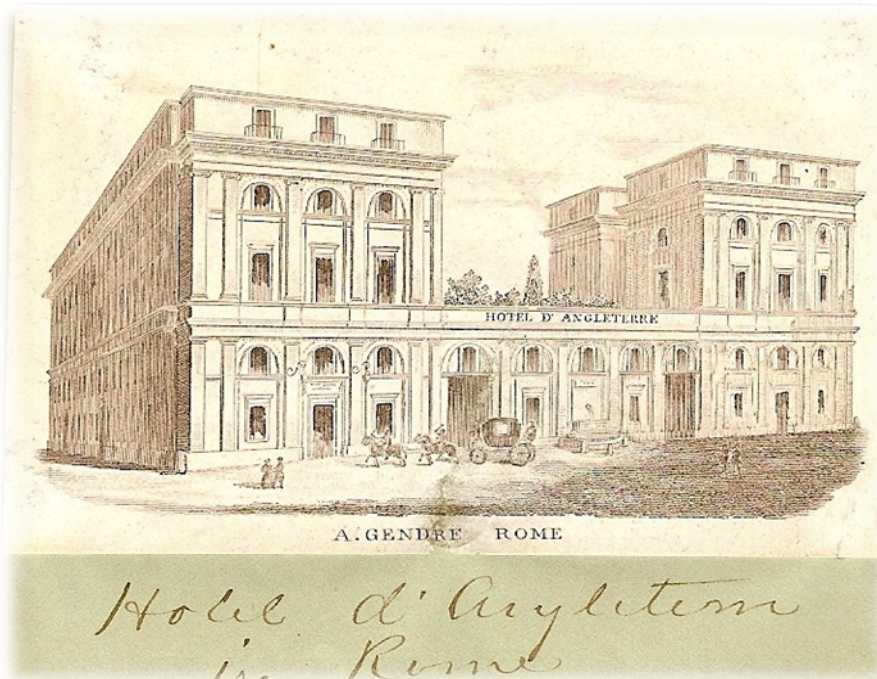
usually expressed in Lire, soldi and denari – 1 Lira = 20 soldi, 1 soldo = 12 denari  
from 1836 on the letters we find the rates in crazie, 1 crazia = 20 denari, 12 crazie = 1 Lira

1 ounce = 28.292 g = 24 denari of 1.18 g; 6 denari = 7 g, 12 denari = 14 g



## Summary

- 1 — Time prior to the first postal convention.
- 2 — The postal convention of 1823.
- 3 — The postal convention of 1841.
- 4 — The Papal entry in the Austrian-Italian Postal League 1852.
- 5 — The new postal agreement of 1853.
- 6 — The relations during and after the Second Independency War.



# 1) Time prior to the first postal convention.

After the Congress of Vienna (1815) the Papal States bordered with the Kingdom of Lombardy Venetia, the Duchy of Modena, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and the Kingdom of Naples.

Tuscany had the longest common borderline with the Papal States and due to ancient business, cultural and social traditions the most important relations from all the Old Italian States to the Church State: with the Romagne region at north east, with Umbria and (partially) with the Marche in the center and with Lazio in the south. So Tuscany was the only State that had direct exchange with all the four Papal regions, Lombardy Venetia and Modena only with Romagne, and Naples only with Lazio and in a very small part with Marche.

This is important to understand also the necessity for exchanging mail between the two countries and not only that: they were two central Italian States, where people, goods and also the post had to transit between North and South of the Italian Peninsula.



Fig. 1: Papal States and Tuscany (Serz & Co., Nürnberg, 1851)

The Papal Superintendent of the Postal Administration, Rusconi, in June 1814 communicated that the postal exchange between Rome and Florence three times a week<sup>1</sup>, with two exchanges via Acquapendente and one via Perugia - Arezzo. In 1816 there was added one more, a courier that joined Florence with Leghorn and continued also to Perugia.

The postal relations can be divided into the following periods:

1. 1814 – 1824: from the return of Ducal Sovereignty to a bilateral postal convention
2. 1824 – 1841: first Tuscan Papal postal convention
3. 1841 – 1852: second Tuscan Papal postal convention
4. 1852 – 1853: Austrian – Italian Postal Union
5. 1853 – 1859: third Tuscan Papal postal convention

6. 1859 – 1862: relations during the Second Italian Independence War and end of the Tuscan Postal Administration.

<sup>1</sup> Gallenga, p. 258



Up to the first bilateral postal agreement, in other words the first ten years, the letters were prepaid only to the border. According to the Notification of the Tuscan Postal Administration<sup>2</sup> of May 23, 1814 there were to follow these rates:

- single letter up to 6 denari weight (7 ½ g) 2 crazie  
next steps: 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 crazie (weight scales: denari 6-8, 8-12, 12-18, 18-24, 1 ounce)
- registered letters (per consegna) up to 6 denari: 10 crazie  
next steps: 11, 13, 16 and 18 crazie

There was also notice about a possibility to prepay the letters: 6 crazie for a single letter, if registered 20 crazie (following steps: 9, 12, 18, 27, 36, registered 18, 24, 36, 54, 72). But I don't know on which basis this was possible, as there was no postal convention in act.

On the Papal side the so-called "impostazione" (also called "impostatura") was the fee for sending letters to abroad (prepayment to any border) of 2 ½ baj, and was valid since the Notification of the Superintendent of the Papal Postal Administration A. Rusconi of August 16, 1814<sup>3</sup>.

It is still completely unclear about the rates that were applied on arrival. I have not found any source about arrival fee, in any case they were different (always higher) to the outgoing rates, the impostazione. And it is to say that there are known only few letters in this period.



Fig. 2: The content of a Letter from Bologna to Leghorn, 9.11.1835, with precise indications how to write...

<sup>2</sup> Alfani, p. 113

<sup>3</sup> Mathà, Thomas: "L'impostazione pontificia", in: *Bollettino prefilatelico e storico postale*, n. 133, 2005



Papal States to Tuscany

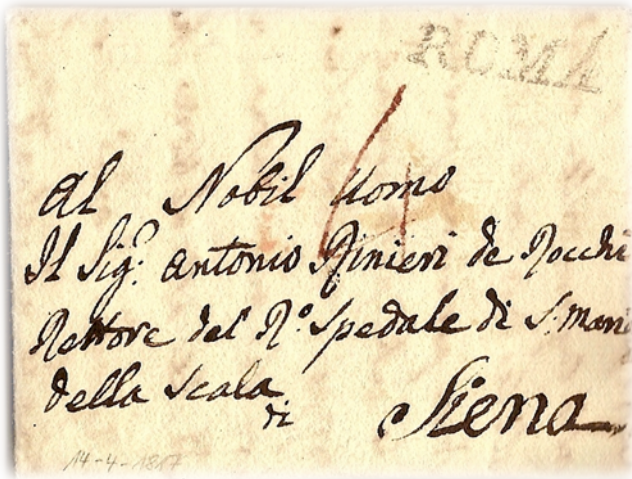


Fig. 3: Rome to Siena 14.4.1817, prepaid 2 ½ baj (little red marking on the back) to the border, rated 4 crazie (6 soldi and 8 denari) on arrival.



Fig. 4: Narni to San Casciano 26.3.1821, prepaid 2 ½ baj to the border (manuscript backside). There is no sign of a rate in Tuscany.

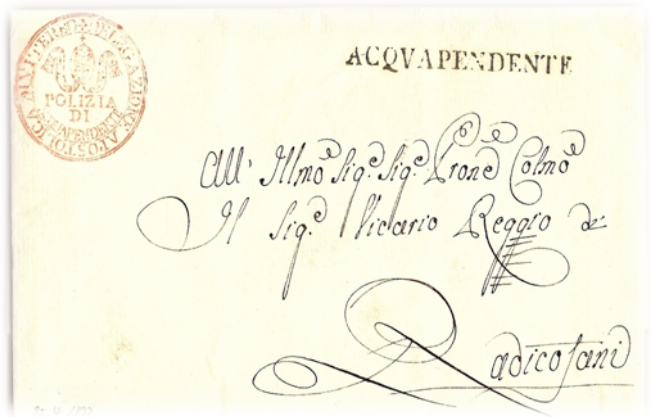


Fig. 5: Acquapendente to Radicofani 25.4.1822, postage free in Tuscany and Papal States.

Tuscany to Papal States



Fig. 6: Florence to a Rome 14.4.1818, registered letter, with the markings PER CONSEGNA (Florence) and RACCOMANDATO (Rome), prepaid 11 crazie to the border, over 6 denari weight. Charged on arrival for 16 bajocchi (usually for registration the rate was double the letter fee, so it could be 5 + 2 ½ = rounded 8, x 2).





Fig. 7: Florence to Bologna 28.4.1818, registered as per handstamp "PER CONSEGNA" (Tuscany), double Tuscan and Papal registration numbers, prepaid to the border 13 crazie (8-12 denari weight), charged on arrival 24 bajocchi.

and 18 denari weight (14,1 -21,2 g), in Papal States rated 10 bajocchi, 2x5 baj (ex A. Del Bianco).



Fig. 9: Radicofani to Soriano 8.10.1822, prepaid 2 crazie for a single letter to the border, 5 bajocchi papal rate.



Fig. 8: Florence to Rome 20.8.1822, prepaid 5 crazie (8 soldi and 4 denari) to the border for a letter between 12

## 2) The first Tuscan Papal Postal Convention of 1823

This important agreement was signed on December 28 of 1823 and entered into force provisionally on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1823 (after ratifying acts officially on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1824).<sup>4</sup>

### Routes

Two exchanges at Acquapendente, one at Perugia and three at Bologna (a week)

### Exchange offices

Papal States: Rome, Bologna, Perugia, Viterbo, Acquapendente

Tuscany: Florence, Siena, San Quirico, Radicofani, Arezzo, Castel Fiorentino, Cortona, Leghorn.

### Transit

For the Sardinian transit mail to Naples, and other foreign mail to Rome, the Papal States paid a transit fee to Tuscany of 11 bajocchi for 30 g. On the other side, Tuscany paid for Papal transit of Neapolitan

<sup>4</sup> Alfani, p. 138.

and Sicilian mail directed to Sardinia, France and beyond 8 bajocchi for 30 g (2 baj for a single letter). Journals, Printed Matter and books were free of any transit fee. The Tuscan Courier could also transit without any charge at Bologna to continue for Mantua, where the Papal mail was collected.

### Rates

There is no direct mention of rates in the convention. The Notification on the Papal Side of Camerlengo Pacca of March 23, 1824 is relating:

- a) prepaid to the border: impostazione, 2 ½ baj [up to 1832, afterwards 5 baj]
- b) prepaid to destination: impostazione + 6 baj, total 8 ½ baj [after 1832 11 baj]
- c) prepaid to destination and registered: impostazione + 6 baj + 10 baj, total 18 ½ baj [after 1832 21 baj]

Fig.10: Exchange Offices and routes according to the Convention of 1823



A circular of the Tuscan Superintendent of September 7, 1824<sup>5</sup> was reporting the Tuscan rates, valdi from October 1, 1824:

up to 5 denari:	10 soldi
6 denari:	15 soldi
8 denari:	1 Lira
12 denari:	1 Lira 10 soldi
18 denari:	2 Lire 5 soldi
24 denari:	3 Lire
Registered mail:	
single letter:	double rate + 1 paolo for registry
6 denari:	Lire 2
8 denari:	Lire 3
18 denari:	Lire 4.10
24 denari:	Lire 6

The letters were exchanged in closed mail bags to the exchanged offices, and the postal administration handed the bags to the other without any debit, including transit fees (so the Papal States consigned free the Neapolitan and Sicilian letters and Tuscany the Sardinian).

In April 1825 the rate for printed matters was changed<sup>6</sup>. For every sheet for “extraordinary printed matters” Tuscany asked 5 soldi, for periodicals (newspapers) 3 soldi.

As mentioned above, outgoing rates for both Tuscany and Papal States are clearly known, incoming rates are quite difficult to understand, in particular way for Papal States. In the same time period they are officially known for other Italian States, but – very uncommon – not for the most important neighbour state Tuscany (letters from Sardinia had to pay 15 baj, from Lombardy Venetia, Parma and Modena 9 baj, from Naples 8 baj).

<sup>5</sup> Alfani, p. 145

<sup>6</sup> Alfani, p. 146



## Summary

Type of letter	Papal States	Tuscany
prepaid to border	2 ½ baj	2 crazie
prepaid to destination	8 ½ baj	6 crazie
registered letter	18 ½ baj	20 crazie

### A new marking for Transit Mail from Tuscany

Roman States introduced in 1818<sup>7</sup> 3 postal markings for Tuscan transit mail, used in Bologna (for Romagna), Viterbo (for Lazio) and Perugia (for Umbria). These markings are of oval type, with the following inscription: AMMINISTR.[azione] GENER[ale] DELLE POSTE PONT [ificie] / S . E . O . F / [place]. SEOF stands for *Stati Esteri Oltre Frontiera*, what means literally Foreign States beyond the border, to indicate that it is transit mail beyond the Tuscan border. The Bologna marking was used also for transit mail arriving from Milan. Usually it was applied on the front of the letter, only in seldom cases also on the backside of the cover.



Fig. 11: The SEOF markings

The marking used in Bologna is the common one, and it was used for all the mail coming from German States, Switzerland, France, UK, Belgium, USA etc. coming to Romagna through Florence. As it was of large use, there was added a second type in 1839.<sup>8</sup>

The Perugia and Viterbo markings are among the rarest Italian transit markings; from the Perugia type is only known one letter, and from the Viterbo 3. As they were minor exchange offices for mail to Papal States, also foreign transit mail must have been really scarce.

The first and last known dates in literature are indicated for 1818 and 1848. I can confirm this for my archive database.

<sup>7</sup> Van der Linden indicates as first known date from Perugia 1818.

<sup>8</sup> Mainoldi/Fedele p. 326



Fig. 12: Bruxelles to Bologna 18.7.1845, via France, Sardinia and Tuscany, with entry marking SEOF/Bologna, type 2.



Fig. 14: Barcellona to Civitavecchia 19.2.1828, via France, Sardinia and Tuscany, with the SEOF / Viterbo. As the region of Lazio (excluding Rome) had not really important cities, also foreign mail coming from Tuscany was scarce.



Fig. 13: Genoa via Tuscany and Perugia to Spoleto 7.3.1818, the only known cover with the SEOF / Perugia.



Fig. 14-A: Sedan to Civitavecchia 24.11.1831, via Sardinia (Pont de Beauvoisin), Turin, Genoa, Florence, and in open mail bag via Viterbo (SEOF) to destination. Charged 26 bajocchi on arrival.

### Papal States to Tuscany



Fig. 15: Rome to Pisa 27.7.1824, postage free in Papal States (confirmed by marking S . P . = Sacra Penitenziaria; see Gallenga, I bolli di Roma, p. 69, n. 9), charged on arrival for 15 crazie for a letter between 18 and 24 denari weight.



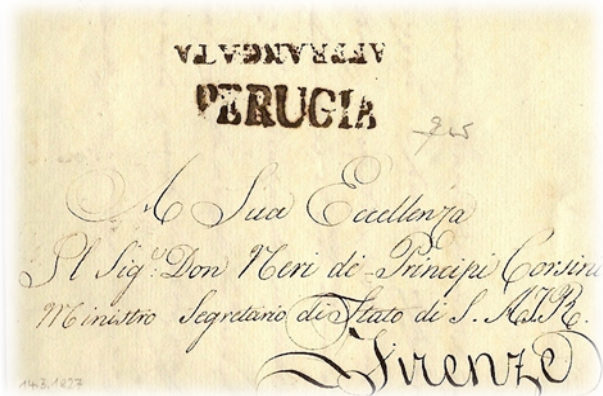


Fig. 16: Perugia to Florence 14.3.1827, prepaid to destination (AFFRANCATA), on the back 13 bajocchi.



Fig. 17: registered letter Rome to Leghorn 23.6.1827, prepaid 35 bajocchi. Unfortunately I can not explain this rate according to the rate tables.

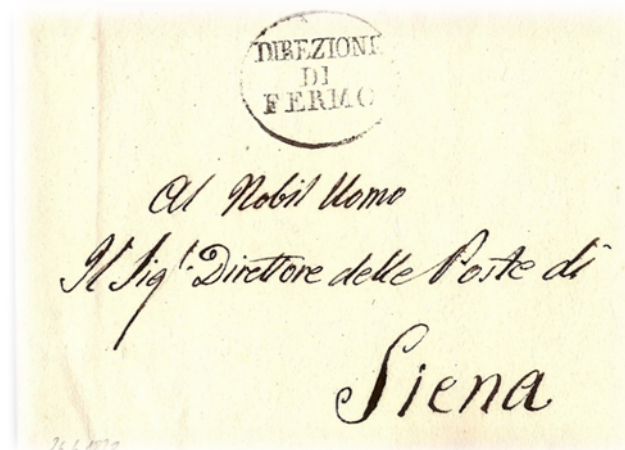


Fig. 18: Fermo to Siena 26.6.1828, postage free in both countries, exchanged between postal officers

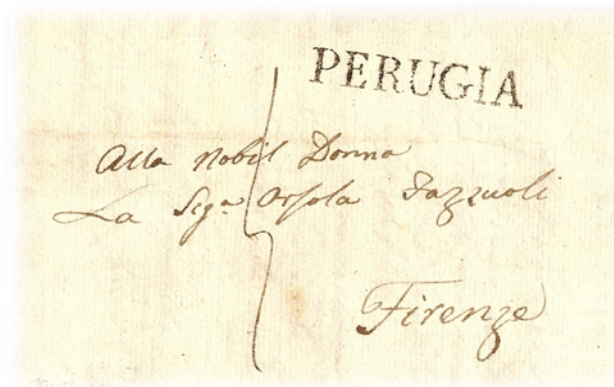


Fig. 19: Perugia to Florence 10.12.1828, without any sign of Papal rate (as a double letter 5 baj), charged 5 crazie in Tuscany (between 12 and 18 denari).

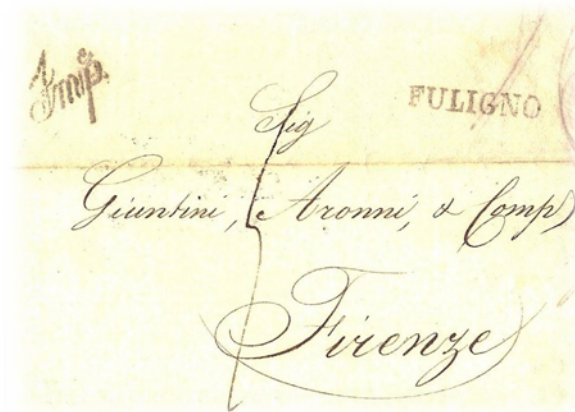
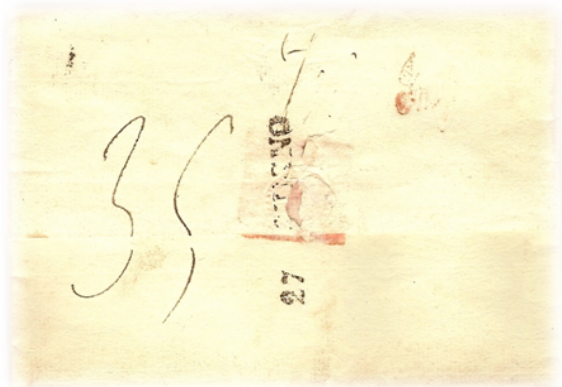


Fig. 20: Foligno to Florence 20.12.1829, impostazione of 2 ½ baj prepayment in Papal States and 5 crazie Tuscan due.



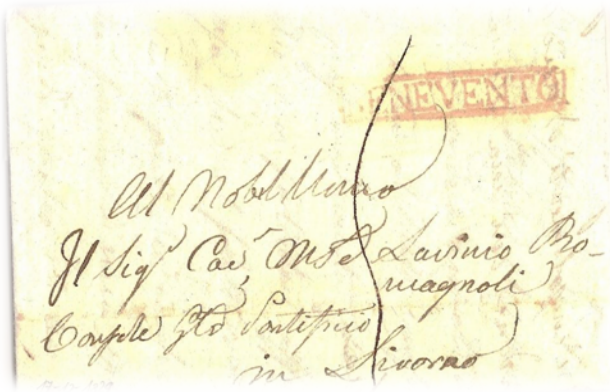


Fig. 21: Benevento, the Papal enclave in Kingdom of Both Sicilies, to Leghorn 17.12.1829, without any papal due, 5 crazie on arrival.



Fig. 24: Rome to Castiglion Fiorentino 11.2.1832, prepaid 10 bajocchi (4 times impostazione, so letter of 1 ounce), on arrival tuscan due of 20 crazie.



Fig. 22: Naples to Leghorn 22.3.1831, carried privately to Rome, double letter fee in Papal States (more than 7 ½ g) and prepaid 5 baj, in Tuscany charged 18 crazie.



Fig. 25: Rome to Leghorn 12.2.1833, prepaid 15 bajocchi (triple impostazione), charged 12 crazie (letter of 14 denari).



Fig. 23: Ascoli via Macerata to Florence 30.6.1831, prepaid to border 5 bajocchi (> 7 ½ g), in Tuscany weight of 8 denari and charged 8 crazie.

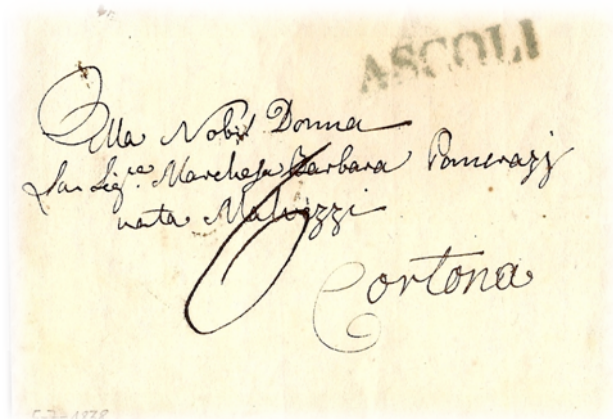


Fig. 26: Ascoli to Cortona 5.7.1838, the Papal due is not shown on the cover, Tuscan fee of 6 crazie for a letter between 8 and 12 denari.



Fig. 28: registered letter, Rome to Florence 26.6.1840, prepaid to destination, 10 baj letter fee (double weight) and 27 baj Tuscan part and registration fee

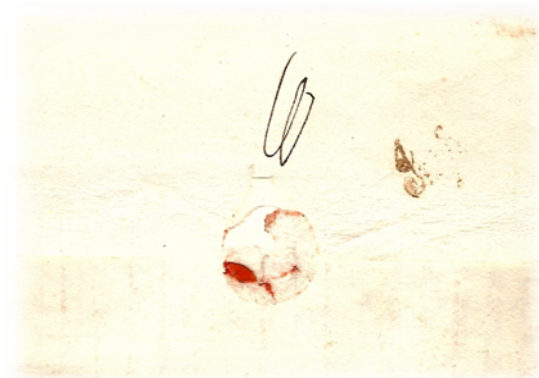


Fig. 27: Rome to Siena 8.1.1839, double impostazione of 10 bajocchi and double Tuscan courier fee of 6 ½ bajocchi, for 13 baj, total 23 bajocchi.



Fig. 29: Fermo to Florence 9.7.1840, prepaid to destination 18 bajocchi, in this case with a single 18 note (a previous rate was cancelled).





Fig. 29: Bologna to Florence 20.2.1841, the papal fee (5 baj) is not on the cover; on arrival due of 4 crazie, redirected to Bologna and therefore "richiamata" (recalled) in Lire / 6. 8 (0 Lire, 6 soldi, 8 denari), expressed in Papal States in 10 bajocchi.

Tuscany to Papal States

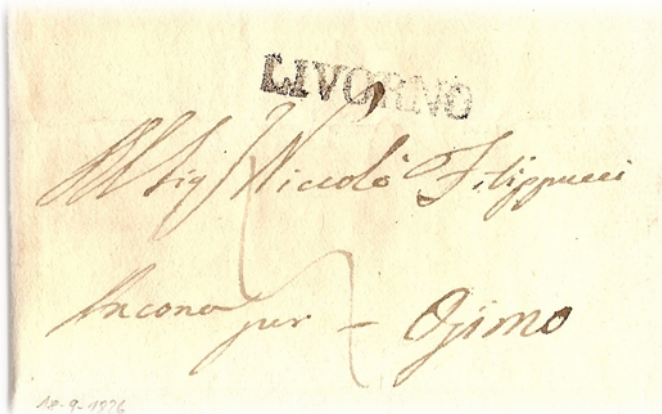


Fig. 30: Leghorn to Osimo 18.9.1826, the Tuscan fee (2 crazie) is not on the cover, 4 bajocchi papal rate at destination.



Fig. 30: Genoa to Florence 13.8.1827 and redirected to Ferrara; Sardinian fee of 10 soldi to the Tuscan border, 5

crazie Tuscan domestic; "richiamata" and handed to the Papal Post, charged on arrival 13 bajocchi.

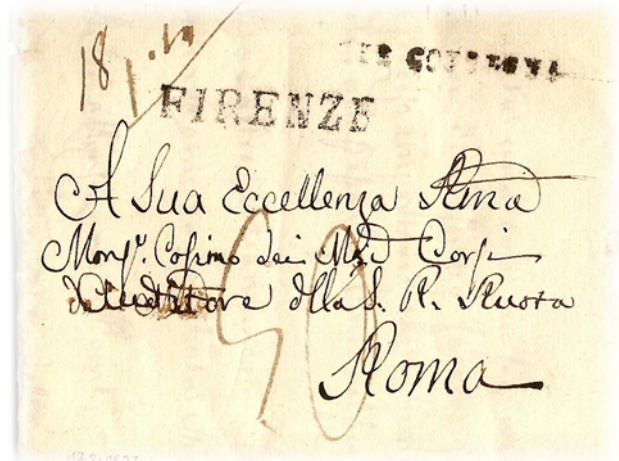


Fig. 31: registered letter, Florence to Rome 17.2.1827, prepaid 18 crazie (letters of 1 ounce), charged in Rome 50 bajocchi.



Fig. 32: Montepulciano to Rome 19.8.1831, prepaid 2 crazie to the border; disinfection in Rome NETTA/DENTRO E FUORI), charged 5 bajocchi on arrival.

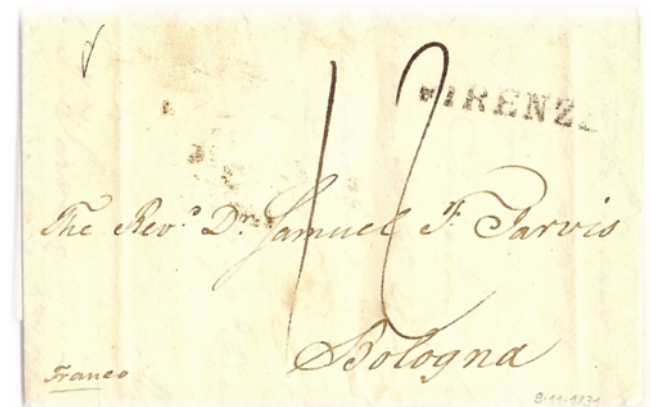


Fig. 33: Florence to Bologna 9.11.1831, prepaid 8 soldi (5 crazie), on arrival papal fee of 12 bajocchi (triple weight).





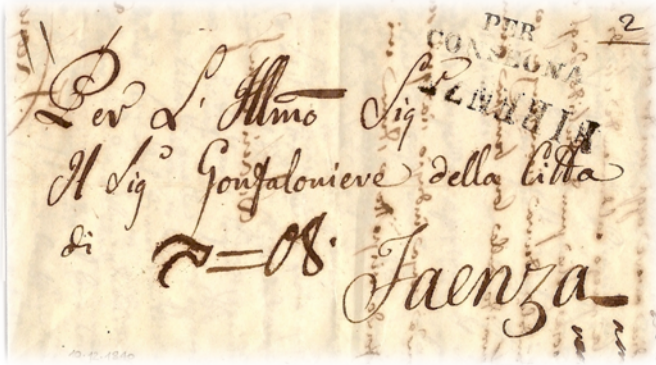


fig. 40: registered letter Florence to Faenza 10.12.1840, prepaid to the border 11 crazie (3 crazie letter fee and 8 for registered cover), charged 8 bajocchi, 4 baj letter fee, doubled for registration.

### Some remarks on these letters

Unfortunately we have not precise sources for papal rates on arrival, but the shown letters can be interpreted as follows:

- letters within the third papal distance (*Romagne*): 4 baj (8 baj if registered)
- letters within the second papal distance (*Umbria and Marche*): first 4, later 6 baj
- letters within the third papal distance (*Lazio*): 5 baj, sometimes 7 baj

The complete prepaid letters are very scarce, and more frequent from Papal States to Tuscany than viceversa (unknown to me). The registered letters from Papal States to Tuscany are always prepaid to destination, the Tuscan letters to Papal States always only prepaid to border.



Fig. 41: Receipt for a postal coach from Bologna to Florence January 19, 1846.



### 3) The new postal convention of 1841

After eight years the two States wanted to renew the old postal convention, because there was a lot of discussion about administrative troubles concerning non accepted or refused letters.<sup>9</sup> They were serious problems in the handling of postal matters; for instance, the Papal Post in 1839 had 2130 letters from foreign countries non accepted, for a total of 1.449 scudi due, and a major part of the letters came from Tuscany. So with this new convention both parties wanted to clear the situation.

The convention was signed in Rome on August 12, 1841<sup>10</sup>, but was brought into force more than a month earlier, July 1<sup>st</sup> (art. 33), for a period of 3 years, to be confirmed tacitly. The most important new points in order to the old conventions were:

- 1) a more detailed regulation for exchange post offices and methods between the two states
- 2) a precise rule about Tuscan and Papal transit and indication of the rates
- 3) articles about refused letters and the administrative way out

Exchange post offices (art. 3) that are entitled to form letter packets.

#### *Papal States:*

- 1) Rome
- 2) Acquapendente
- 3) Perugia
- 4) Bologna

#### *Tuscany:*

- 1) Florence
- 2) Siena
- 3) San Quirico
- 4) Radicofani
- 5) Arezzo
- 6) Cortona
- 7) Castiglion Fiorentino

Florence and Rome can exchange in closed mail between each other and the other offices, Acquapendente with Radicofani, S. Quirico and Siena, Perugia with Arezzo, Cortona and Castiglion Fiorentino. Only both capitals exchanged under closed mail, and the other cities in open mail.

Acquapendente had 5 exchanges per week, of which 3 by courier or coach and 2 by "staffette/velociferi" (art. 4)

Perugia: 3 weekly exchanges, of which 2 by staffette/velociferi and 1 by courier or coach (art. 5)

Bologna: 5 weekly exchanges by courier or staffette toscane or "Tuscan-Austrian" courier (art. 6)

Closed mail bags were to form depending on provenience, and category (letters, printed matters, etc.) to be followed by form sheets (*fogli d'avviso*) (art. 8).

According to article 9 the normal mail was exchanged without any return or due, so letters had to be paid to the border, but under art. 17 was introduced the possibility to prepay to destination, including also Papal or Sardinian fees. In the convention nothing is said about these rates, but is stated that they will be exchanged by communication between the postal administrations. Anyway, the prepaid letters had to be marked with a special handstamp P.D., and with special bags.

In the articles 10-16 was ruled Tuscan and Papal transit.

a) Rate for Tuscan or papal transit: for 30 g letters 15 soldi and 4 denari = 12 bajocchi; for newspapers, printed matters and books for one sheet 1 soldo and 4 denari = 1 bajocco

The papal transit was not applied on the correspondence sent beyond France, where prepayment was obligatory.

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<sup>9</sup>Fedele, C. and Gallenga, M.: *Per servizio di Nostro Signore. Strade, corrieri e poste dei papi dal medioevo al 1870*, p. 375.

<sup>10</sup>The whole text is published in Alfani, V.: *Toscana. Organizzazione postale dal 1700 al 1851*, Prato, 2007, p. 182.

b) Papal letters to Sardinia: beside the Tuscan transit was to pay a fee of 1,40 Francs per 30 g letters and 5 centimes for 1 sheets of printed matters.

c) Other letters from foreign countries to Papal States (always of 30 g weight):

1) from France and French colonies of Northern Africa: 2 Fr 40 cent

2) from Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Colonies and Belgium: 3 Fr 60 cent

3) printed matters, per sheet (countries beyond France): 5 centimes

4) to Great Britain: 1 Fr 40 cent

5) to Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and Colonies: 5 Fr (1.40 Sardina + 3.60 France)

The samples were charged for one third of the normal letter fees, but never less than the rate for a single letter (art. 19).

To avoid non accepted letters or cash problems, in the articles 20-23 were established new rules for refused letters.

Parity of the currency was ruled under art.25:

84 French Francs = 100 Lire fiorentine = 15,80 Scudi romani

1 scudo = 5,31 Francs = 6,32 Lire toscane

## **The letter rates**

### **From Papal States to Tuscany**

a) paid to the tuscan border: impostazione of 5 bajocchi for 6 denari weight

on arrival in Tuscany:

- up to 6 denari: 6 crazie
- from 6 to 8 denari: 8 crazie
- from 8 to 12 denari: 10 crazie
- from 12 to 18 denari: 15 crazie
- from 18 to 24 denari: 22 crazie
- one ounce: 30 crazie

if registered ("per consegna"): + 8 crazie

b) prepaid to destination: 11 ½ baj for 6 denari weight (5 baj impostazione + 6 ½ to the Tuscan courier)

if registered: double rate

### **From Tuscany to Papal States**

a) paid to the Papal border:

- up to 6 denari: 3 crazie
- from 6 to 8 denari: 4 crazie
- from 8 to 12 denari: 6 crazie
- from 12 to 18 denari: 8 crazie
- from 18 to 24 denari: 12 crazie
- one ounce: 16 crazie

if registered: + 8 crazie additional fee



on arrival in Papal States: 5 bajocchi for 6 denari weight

b) prepaid to destination:

- up to 6 denari: 6 crazie
- from 6 to 8 denari: 9 crazie
- from 8 to 12 denari: 12 crazie
- from 12 to 18 denari: 18 crazie
- from 18 to 24 denari: 27 crazie

one ounce: 36 crazie

if registered:

- up to 6 denari: 20 crazie
- from 6 to 8 denari: 18 crazie
- from 8 to 12 denari: 24 crazie
- from 12 to 18 denari: 36 crazie
- from 18 to 24 denari: 54 crazie
- one ounce: 72 crazie

When the Notification of rates signed by Cardinal Tosti came into effect on November 15 of 1844, the rates for Tuscany were reported as follows:

1. from Civitavecchia to Leghorn by French Packets, obligatory prepayment: 13 baj for 7 ½ g
2. prepaid letters by courier: 11 ½ baj for 7 ½ g
3. unpaid letters from Tuscany to charge: first and third distance, 7 baj for 7 ½ g; second distance: 8 baj
4. from border cities (Acquapendente and Bologna) had a low rate of 2 bajocchi for single letters from Tuscany
5. letters from Lucca and Massa Carrara had to pay 8 baj in the 1st and 3rd distance, 9 baj in the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A circular of the Tuscan Postal Superintendent of March 17, 1847 indicates that mostly all the Tuscan rates to Roman States were confirmed, but new rates are to find for ship mail from Civitavecchia to Leghorn, paid to landing harbor:

- a) with French Packets up to 6 denari: 10 crazie; every denaro 2 crazie (one ounce 48 crazie)
- b) with Mercantile Ships: 4 crazie, than 5, 7, 10, 15 and 20 crazie

In 1848<sup>11</sup> the Ministry of Finance of the Papal States decided to apply new rates for prepaid letters to Lucca, as this little State was integrated to Tuscany. So we see the actual rates also for whole Tuscany:

- a) from 1st and 3rd distance: 7 ½ baj + 5 baj impostazione = 12 ½ baj
- b) from 2nd distance: 8 bajocchi + 5 baj impostazione = 13 baj

The Papal Post signed the prepaid due always in bajocchi on the back, mostly followed by the little marking "Imp.e" (Impostazione) in red or black. The Tuscan Post, on the contrary, marked the fee on the front of the letters, mostly on the left upper corner of the letter. Very seldom the Papal administration was writing on the letters the weight, also for the heavier ones, but for the Tuscan administration a weight notice is standard.

The registered letters ("assicurata" for Papal States, "per consegna" for Tuscany) are scarce also under this convention (according to my statistic less than 5 % of the correspondence), and still much rarer the printed matters. I can say that prepaid letters are not as scarce as under the prior convention. But the conditions were not equal: from Tuscany to Papal States the fee was 6 crazie (or 8 bajocchi), from Papal States to Tuscany 11 ½ bajocchi (later 12 and 13 baj).

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<sup>11</sup>Fedele & Gallenga, p. 395.

**From Papal States to Tuscany**

Prepaid to the border

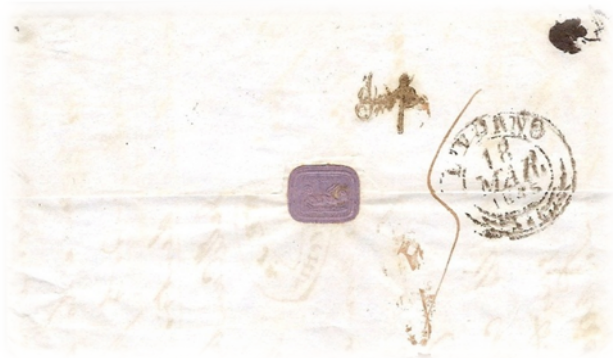
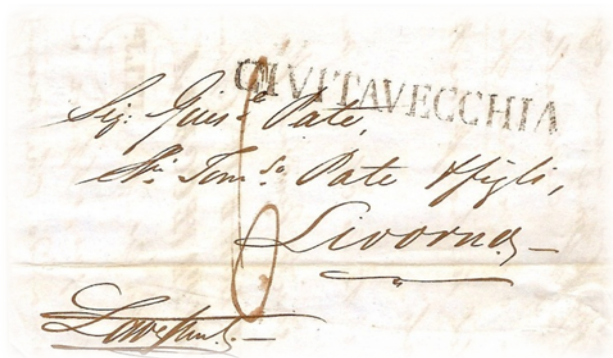


Fig. 42: Civitavecchia to Leghorn 14.3.1845, single letter, prepaid 5 bajocchi and charged 6 crazie

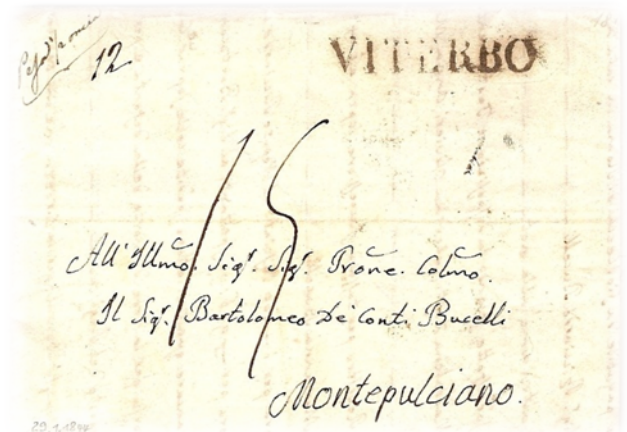


Fig. 44: Corneto via Viterbo to Montepulciano 29.1.1844, ½ ounce weight (12 denari), prepaid to the border double impostazione 10 bajocchi, on arrival charged 15 crazie.



Fig. 43: Rome to Cottigliano 13.5.1843, prepaid 10 baj (letter of 8 denari), charged 10 crazie

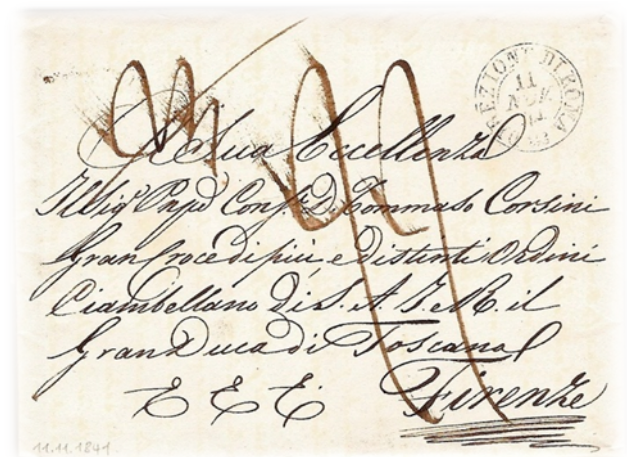


Fig. 45: Rome to Florence 11.11.1841, over 6 denari weight, paid to the border 10 bajocchi and charged on arrival 22 crazie (24 denari weight).





Fig. 46: Ravenna to Florence 17.5.1843, 2 ¼ ounce weight, prepaid to the border 45 bajocchi (9 impostazioni), charged on arrival 68 crazie

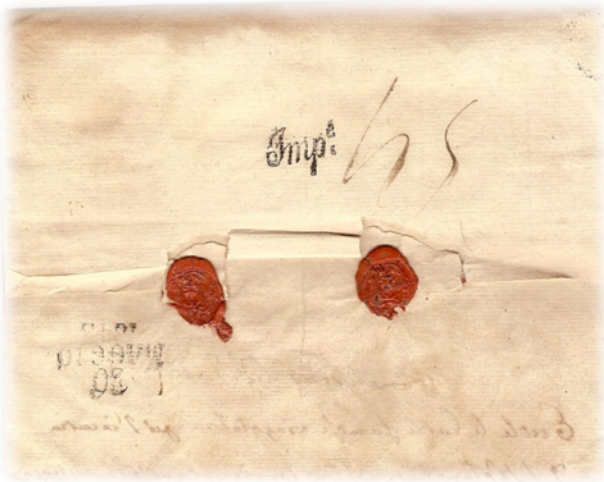


Fig. 47: Rome to Florence 14.12.1846, 5 impostazioni of total 25 bajocchi for 1 ¼ ounce weight, charged 38 crazie



Fig. 48: Ancona to Leghorn 26.8.1848, prepaid to border 15 bajocchi (triple impostazione), charged 15 crazie (12 denari)



Fig. 49: registered letter Fermo via Perugia to Siena 29.7.1848, prepaid 5 baj impostazione, doubled fo registration, charged on arrival 14 crazie (4 crazie for a letter up to 8 denari + 8 crazie registration)



Prepaid to destination



Fig. 50: Macerata to Siena 9.3.1842, prepaid 11 ½ baj, splitting 5 baj impostazione and 6 ½ baj to the Tuscan courier



Fig. 52: registered letter Imola to Florence 17.9.1851, prepaid 13 bajocchi + 5 baj for registration, total 18 baj

Particular letters

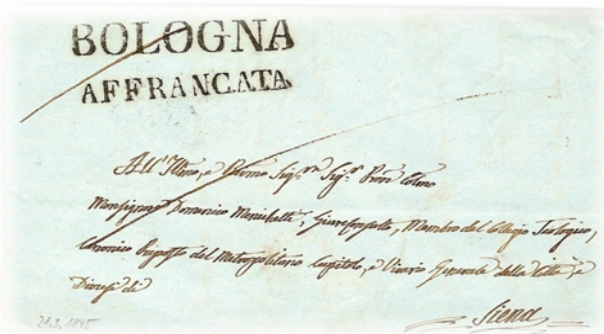


Fig. 51: Bologna to Siena 21.3.1845, prepaid 11 ½ baj, indication "6.5 / 5" (baj)

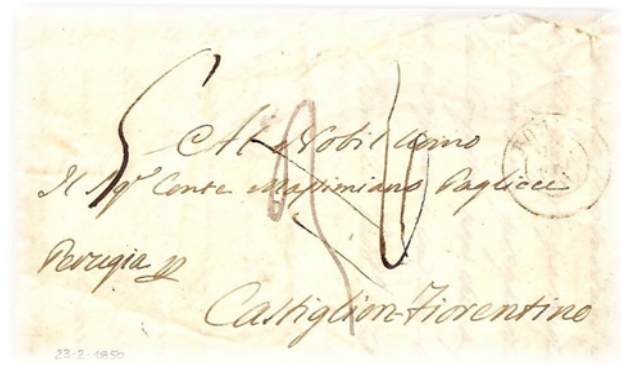


Fig. 53: Rome to Castiglion Fiorentino 23.2.1850, not carried via Acquapendente but via Perugia (a shorter way), prepayment on the front of the letter (5 baj). First charged 3 crazie, but corrected in 6 crazie.





Fig. 54: Macerata to Bologna 10.7.1850, charged 4 bajocchi (from the second to the third papal distance); redirected via Arezzo and Pescia to Montecatini; the handstamp C.P. stands for "corrispondenza pontificia" and was used in Florence. But in this case the better content would be "credito pontificio", Papal credit, because it is followed by the credit signed for Papal States of 7 bajocchi. The addressee had to pay the Tuscan fee of 6 crazie from the border and the Papal credit of 7 bajocchi, or 5 crazie, for a total of 13 crazie.



Fig. 55: Bologna to Florence 28.5.1850, redirected first to Prato and then to Genoa, Sardinia. The impostazione of 5 bajocchi is not on the cover, but the Tuscan fee of 6 crazie. It is missing also the Tuscan credit to Sardinia and the final fee on arrival.



Fig. 56: Bologna to Leghorn 10.1.1851, prepaid to the border 7 ½ bajocchi (the special fee for border cities as Bologna, Cento and Ferrara) and charged on arrival 8 crazie (letter of 6 denari).

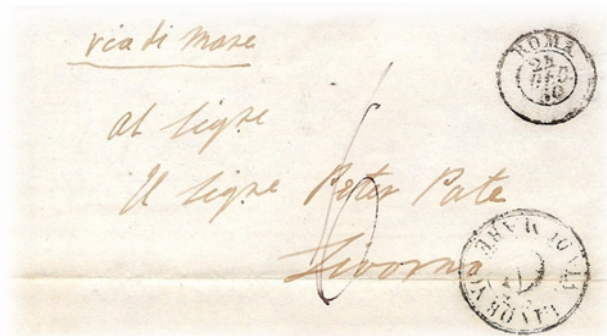


Fig. 57: Rome to Leghorn 24.12.1850, send by packet mail, prepaid 13 bajocchi (5 baj impostazione + 8 baj ship fee with French Packets). At Leghorn it was marked LIVORNO / VIA DI MARE / C and charged 6 crazie Tuscan due.



Fig. 58: Civitavecchia to Leghorn 4.12.1846, carried by the famous forwarding agent John T. Lowe (from the family of Robson Lowe); it was endorsed "Castor", the name of the French Packet to be shipped from Civitavecchia to Leghorn. The letter was handed probably to the captain of the vessel who cared about the direct return to the person on arrival.





Fig. 59: Bologna to Prato 17.6.1850, without any sign of the impostazione, charged on arrival 6 crazie; it turned than back to the sender; Papal States had a debit of 10 crazie against Tuscany (6 crazie + 4 crazie), and therefore the handstamp "Dritto Toscano L." and the fee - 10 were applied. It was converted into 13 bajocchi (after the handstamp RICHIAMATA of Bologna).

## From Tuscany to Papal States

Prepaid to the border



Fig. 61: Siena to Roccanolfi 25.10.1850, single letter prepaid 3 crazie to the border and charged 7 bajocchi (Roccanolfi near Spoleto is located in the first distance)



Fig. 60: Bologna to Lucca 5.7.1850, prepaid 7 ½ baj (special rate for the border city). On arrival charged 15 crazie in red ink, for a letter between 12 and 18 denari.



Fig. 62: Florence to Rome 16.11.1850, 3 crazie to the border and 7 bajocchi accordint to Tosti rate of 1844 (Rome was first distance)

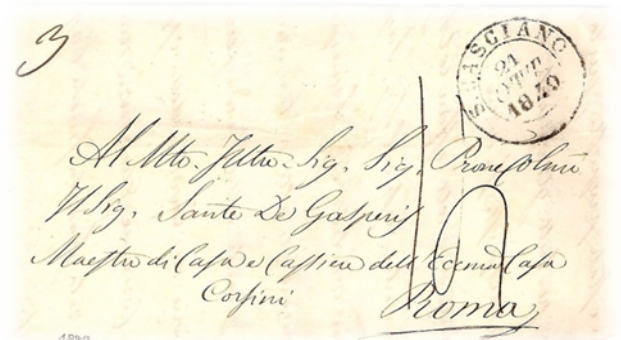


Fig. 63: San Casciano to Rome 21.10.1849, single letter of a 6 denari in Tuscany and prepaid 3 crazie to the border, in the Papal States considered over 6 denari and charged 2x7=14 bajocchi



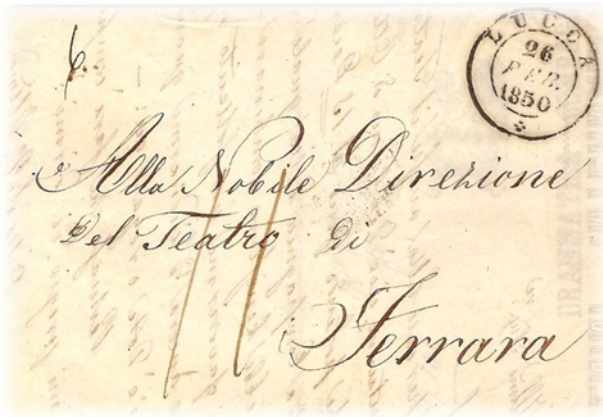


Fig. 63: Lucca to Ferrara 26.2.1850, 8 - 12 denari weight, paid 6 crazie to the border. In Ferrara charged 11 bajocchi, because it was considered of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  sheets, so  $7 + 7 \times 0,5 = 3,5 = 10,5$  rounded to 11 bajocchi.



Fig. 64: a similar letter, Florence to Rome 27.2.1849, single in Tuscany and prepaid 3 crazie, in Rome it was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  sheets and charged 11 bajocchi



Fig. 65: Pisa to Pesaro 24.2.1850,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  ounce weight (3 ounce and 18 denari) and prepaid 5 Lire toscane, or 60 crazie, on arrival charged for 1 scudo and 28 bajocchi (16 x 8 baj).

## Particular letters

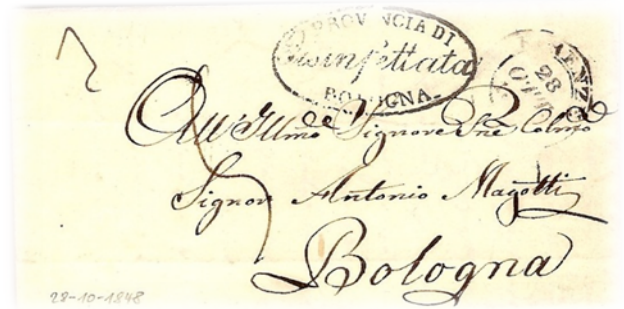


Fig. 66: Florence to Bologna 28.10.1848, prepaid 3 crazie to the border, charged in Bologna according to the special rate of the Tosti decree minus 2 bajocchi for border cities, 5 bajocchi instead of 7.

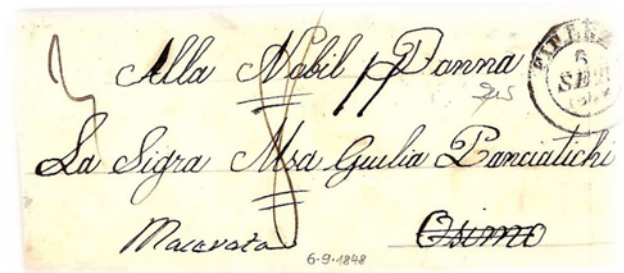


Fig. 67: Florence to Osimo 6.9.1848, single letter, 3 crazie to the border, and 8 bajocchi because Osimo (Marche) was in the second distance. Than redirected to Macerata, and charged 11 bajocchi including the internal fee.



Fig. 68: registered letter Florence to Fano 5.5.1849, prepaid 12 crazie: 4 crazie letter fee (6 - 8 denari) + 8 crazie registration; charged 18 baj in Papal States (9+9), but according to Tosti the fee would have been only 16 bajocchi (8 baj for second distance + 8 bajocchi registration).



Fig. 69: Printed matter ("un foglio stampone") Radicofani to Bologna of 1841, prepaid 2 crazie to the border and charged 1 bajocchi on arrival.

#### Prepaid to destination



Fig. 70: Florence to Bologna 13.11.1845, 6 crazie single letter; handstamp P.D. as mentioned in the convention, the Papal Post marked AFFRANCATA (Bologna).



Fig. 71: Leghorn to Rome 1.2.1847, 6 crazie and handstamp P.D. The small handstamp C.R. is a sender's marking, Roman Consulate of Leghorn.

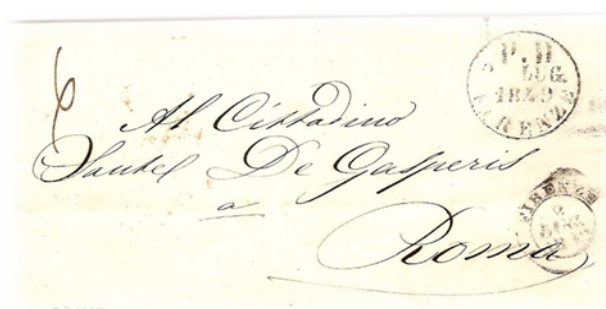


Fig. 72: Florence to Rome 2.7.1849, 6 crazie, with a new circular datestamp including P.D.

## 4) The Papal entry in the Austrian-Italian Postal League 1852

The master convention for the Austrian-Italian Postal League (AIPL) was signed between Tuscany and Austria in Florence on 5.11.1850, and they created an important postal network, extended a few months later also to Modena and Parma. The Papal States signed a special convention with Austria on March 30th of 1852 and joined so the League with effect of October 1, 1852.

For the relations between Papal States and Tuscany the effect was the extension of all the rules of the League also to the correspondence between these two countries: the single weight of the letters became 17 ½ g, 3 distances with flat rates of 2, 5 and 8 bajocchi or 2, 4 and 6 crazie, registration fee of 5 baj or 4 crazie, printed matter 1 baj or 1 soldo, additional fee for unpaid letters of 2 baj or 2 crazie.

But Tuscany was not happy about this situation, because the special Tuscan conditions for the transit letters to/from Sardinia were not included in the convention<sup>12</sup>. Tuscany wanted more money for the letters between the Papal States and Sardinia (and beyond, first of all for France and United Kingdom).

<sup>12</sup> Gallenga, p. 425



## 5) The new Postal Agreement of 1853

Only in July, 31 1853 the new Postal Agreement was signed. In the first part of the convention were mentioned the main reasons: the revision of the 1841 Treaty became necessary according to the entry of the Papal States in the Austrian-Italian Postal League and the new Tuscan-Sardinian convention of 1852.

The summary:

- I. Postal communication between Tuscany and Papal States
- II. Handling of the Tuscan-Papal correspondence
- III. Tuscan-Papal correspondence carried by ship
- IV. Handling of the transit mail by Tuscany or Papal States
- V. Rules of the cash account
- VI. General disposal

But what were the significant changes in order to the 1850 League? A first view would say no: the rates of the AIPL were confirmed also for the Tuscan-Papal mail; the principles and methods for AIPL were also basics in this convention (art. 8). I found the following new points:

- the exchange post offices
- the maritime mail between Leghorn and Civitavecchia
- transit rules for mail outside of the AIPL

The convention came into effect on 1st of July 1853, and was valid until March 31, 1856, with a tacital annual renewal, but every party could communicate the end one year before.

### *Exchange post offices*

#### **Tuscany**

#### **Papal States**

##### Surface Mail

Florence, Pitigliano, Leghorn, Cortona, Lucca, Castiglion fiorentino, Siena, San Sepolcro, Arezzo, Montepulciano, Radicofani, Rocca S. Casciano, S. Quirico, Marradi

Rome, Città di Castello, Bologna, Città della Pieve, Perugia, Faenza, Acquapendente, Forlì

##### Ship mail

Leghorn

Civitavecchia

Florence exchanged with Rome, Bologna, Acquapendente, Perugia

Leghorn with Rome, Bologna, Civitavecchia (only by ship)

Siena with Acquapendente and Roma

Arezzo, Cortona and Castiglion Fiorentino with Perugia

Radicofani, S. Quirico, Pitigliano with Acquapendente and Roma

San Sepolcro with Città di Castello

Montepulciano with Città della Pieve

Rocca S. Casciano with Forlì

Marradi with Faenza

Lucca with Rome and Acquapendente

## Ship mail

The convention is introducing a periodic shipping of the mail between Civitavecchia and Leghorn, and a flat rate of 2 crazie or 2 bajocchi, for every unit of a single letter (and for the samples), and for the printed matters an additional fee of 100% of the respective rate, so 1 bajocco or 1 soldo, for every weight as stated in the convention. This ship fee was to prepay in the Post Office using postage stamps or in cash, and, if not prepaid, could also be paid to the addressee, but in this case the additional fee was to add. The ship fee was to be handed to the captain of the ship (art. 21).

## Transit mail

This was, as I said before, an important point for Tuscany. All the transit fees (Tuscan and Papal) for mail from Papal States and the Kingdom of Both Sicilies to Tuscany (art. 24) and beyond, and viceversa, are established in appendix C (fig. 70) of the convention. For other letters, not indicated in the appendix, that one of the postal administration is accepting and shipping in transit mail, the fee is defined case to case, in order that nobody is losing a part of a fee (art. 23). To the Papal States was credited as transit fee for letters from the Kingdom of Both Sicilies and going to Tuscany 2 baj for 1 kg of letters (and ½ baj for 20 kg of printed matters). Another important rule was that the registered letters could not be accepted in transit mail, if this or other conventions did not allow to prepay completely such mail (treated therefore as normal letters). In the articles 26-31 are to find indications about wrongly sent mail, missent, refused or other letters.

At the end of the convention was defined the parity between French Franc and Lira fiorentina in 84 to 100. The Papal States had to pay to Tuscany a change fee of 2% for the transit letters (art. 33).



*Corsini Palace, Florence (from the internal of a letter)*







## 6) The relations during and after the Second Independency War.

The 1853 Tuscan-Papal Postal Convention was very important in this turmoil times during the so-called Second Independency War 1859-1861, when at the end the new Italian Kingdom was formed. In the postal relations between Papal States and Tuscany this convention was still applied also after the integration of the territory of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and remained officially valid until September 30, 1861 (Rescritto Ministro delle Finanze of 19.9.1861). From October 1st, 1861 also the papal letters to Tuscany were treated as letters to the new Kingdom of Italy.

### Mail up to October 1, 1852

#### Papal States to Tuscany



Fig. 74: Bologna to Florence 12.8.1852, 1 ½ sheets, according to the Tosti 1844 rate impostazione of 7 ½ baj (5 + 2 ½ baj); Tuscan due of 6 crazie.



Fig. 75: Rome to Florence 6.3.1852, double letter (8 denari), 10 baj impostazione, Tuscan domestic fee of 10 crazie.



Fig. 76: Recanati to Chiatina 9.4.1852, prepaid to destination 11 ½ baj according to the convention of 1841, of which 5 baj impostazione and 6 ½ baj to the Tuscan courier.

#### Tuscany to Papal States



Fig. 77: S. Marcello to Corneto 31.8.1852, 4 crazie to the Papal border, double letter in the Papal States and charged 2 x 7 = 14 baj



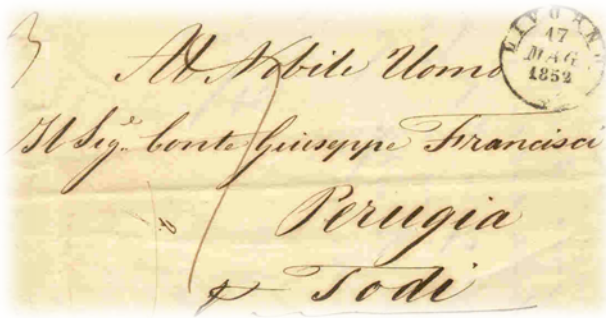


Fig. 78: Leghorn to Todi 17.5.1852, 3 crazie to the border, 7 baj Papal due



Fig. 81: Perugia to Florence 23.2.1853, also in this case the AIPL rate of 5 baj was applied.



Fig. 79: Filigara to Rome 8.7.1852, 3 crazie prepaid to the Papal border, 7 baj domestic fee

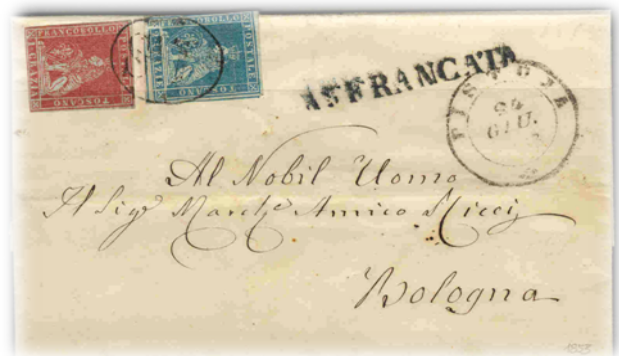


Fig. 82: Pistoia to Bologna 24.6.1853, prepaid to destination 3 crazie, confirmed by the Papal handstamp AFFRANCATA.

### From October 1, 1852

Up to the new Tuscan-Papal convention of 1853

In the new convention period (August 1853)

Papal States to Tuscany



Fig. 80: Bologna to Florence 20.10.1852, in the first month of the AIPL, 5 baj prepaid to destination, as per handstamp P.D.



Fig. 83: Perugia to Arezzo 31.10.1859, 2 baj, first distance

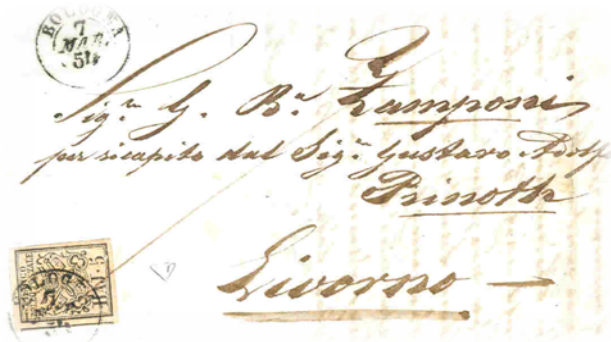


Fig. 84: Bologna to Leghorn, 7.3.1854, 5 baj, 2<sup>nd</sup> distance



Fig. 88: Leghorn to Ferrara, 5.4.1856, 6 crazie, 3<sup>rd</sup> distance



Fig. 85: Ancona to Florence 7.4.1855, 16 baj double letter, 3<sup>rd</sup> distance

### Unpaid letters

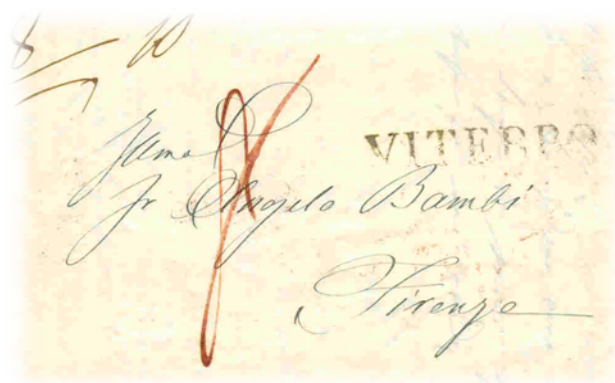


Fig. 89: Viterbo to Florence (third distance), 17.6.1856, 8 baj + 2 baj additional fee, total 10 baj, or 8 crazie

### Tuscany to Papal States



Fig. 86: Pistoia to Bologna, 21.6.1856, 2 crazie, 1<sup>st</sup> distance



Fig. 90: Leghorn to Osimo (third distance), 29.4.1858, 6 crazie + 2 crazie additional fee, total 8 crazie, or 10 bajocchi



Fig. 87: Florence to Bologna, 5.1.1855, 4 crazie, 2<sup>nd</sup> distance



## Partially prepaid letters

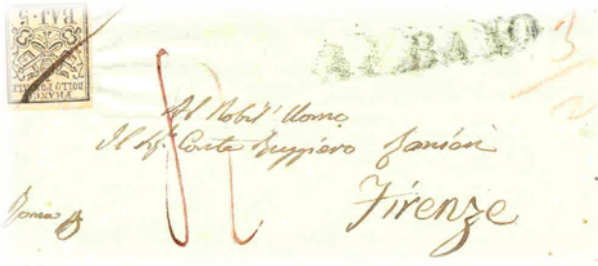


Fig. 91: Albano to Florence 28.7.1854, prepaid for 5 instead of 8 baj (third distance), charged for 5 baj (3 baj missing + 2 baj additional fee) converted into 4 crazie



Fig. 93: Rome to Siena 17.7.1861 (in the Kingdom of Italy, but still under the 1853 Tuscan-Papal convention) 8 baj letter fee (third distance) + 5 baj registration fee

## Printed matters



Fig. 92: Newspaper wrapper Rome to Leghorn 4.7.1853, 1 baj

## Ship Mail



Fig. 94: Leghorn to Civitavecchia 20.1.1852, endorsed "Col Vapore Fran.[cese] Ville de Marseille". The handstamp V.P.M. (via postale marittima) of Leghorn indicates that the letter was carried by mercantile vessels, in this case french. The handstamp CIVITAVECCHIA / DALLA VIA DI MARE confirms this on arrival where 11 baj was charged, according to the 1844 Tosti rate.

## Registered letters



Fig. 92: Florence to San Ginesio 28.12.1853, prepaid 10 crazie, 6 crazie letter fee (third distance) + 4 crazie registration fee



Fig. 95: Florence to Civitavecchia, via Leghorn by the French Packet "Vatican". Prepaid 8 crazie, 6 crazie for third distance and 2 crazie for the captain.

## During and after the Provisional Government of Tuscany

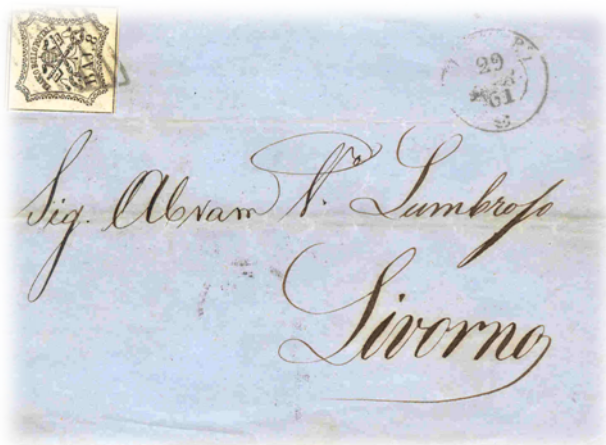


Fig. 96: Viterbo to Leghorn 29.4.1861, 8 baj



Fig. 97: Florence to Rome 6.3.1860, 40 centesimi

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Rome to Ancona by Mail Coach July 17, 1840 - the fee was 8 scudi



Si trova vendibile nella Tipografia G. Banzo via di S. Maria in Campanaro N. 34.  
è via di Campanaro N. 85

ROMA IL DI 17 Luglio 1840.

Colla presente privata scrittura stipolata in doppij Originali da valere, e tenere dalle infrascritte parti Contraenti nel più efficace modo di ragione, è stato fissato, e convenuto quanto appresso.

1. Il Proprietario di Vittoria *Nicola Lucajoli* domiciliato a *Roma* in *Via la Stellata* al N. *21* promette, e si obbliga di servire *un signore*

*Gustav Liegl* nel Viaggio che vuole intraprendere da *Roma in Ancona*  
con mettere a sua disposizione durante il detto Viaggio *una Piazza nell'Internò* *o Padriola*  
*della Vittoria*

condott da buon Vetturin pel prezzo convenuto di *Scudi Otto Romani*

mediante il qual pagamento, che sarà eseguito *meta alla partenza e meta all'Arrivo*  
restano gli obblighi al detto proprietario di Vittoria o su garzon *qui appresso dichiarati.*

2. Ogni giorno, durante il detto Viaggio dovrà fornire a numero *un* *Padrone*

*con dargli il pranzo la sera Cammerò*  
*con un buon letto Biancheria di Bogato*  
*Suma Banca e tutto l'occorrent*

3. Tutte le spese d'ajuti nel passaggio di Fiumi, Ponti, e Montagne, come quelle di Barriere, saranno a carico de Vetturin Conductor

4. La Buonamano a Vetturin Conductor sarà *a seconda del servizio*

5. Che il prescritto Viaggio sarà eseguito nel corso di Giorni *4 1/2* compiti, o siano Notti *quattro* a contare dal giorno in cui è stata fissata la partenza.

6. La Partenza da *Roma* è fissata per la mattina del di *alle ore*

7. Nel caso che la partenza *venisse ritardata sarà pagato per ciaschedun giorno*  
pel *mantenimento delle bestie.*

8. Per *tutti quei giorni di più che al predetto Signor* gli piacesse di restar term in qualche Città, e che foss *costretti per casi fortuiti, è restat convenut, che*

9. Che il Vetturin Conductor dovrà andar sempre in buoni Alberghi, partendo ogni mattina di buon ora per arrivare ogni giorno prima di notte all'Albergo ove dovrassi pernottare.

10. E per l'osservanza di ciò si sono volontariamente sottoscritte ambo le parti, come appresso

*Nicola Lucajoli affermo come sopra*  
*Lauptr Conductor que parvise a Ancona*  
*Mercoledì 22 Luglio 1840 le matin.*

*Gustav Liegl*



*The old Letter Box at the Post Office in Cortona, Tuscany  
(picture taken by the author in 2007)*

