

1856

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN GENOA AND NICE



The regular service between Genoa and Nice, starting in 1849, used the Sardinian steamships: Dante, Eden, Virgilio, Galileo, Colombo, Salvatore, etc.

This letter, Genoa to Nice, is noted per "Dante".



20 AP



April 20, 1856. Letter posted at Genoa and directed "via Sea from the East". Eastbound mail received the "VIA DI MARE - PONENTE" mark, or "via Sea from the West".

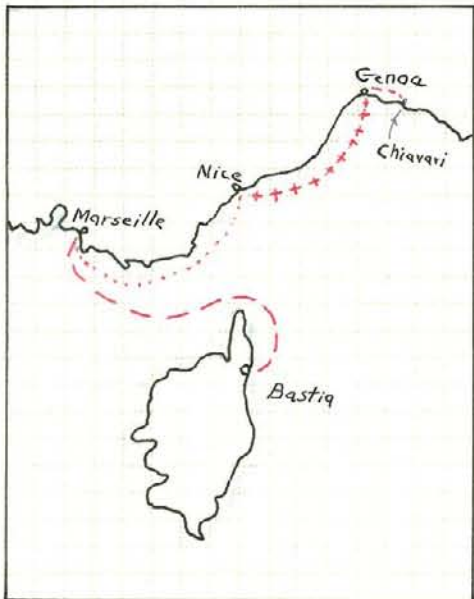
Date stamp aboard ship "Nice - Sea".

"20 AP": Date backstamp.

1859

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE DE BASTIA (CORSIKA)

Service to the Italian Coast



July 26, 1859. Letter posted at Bastia on the Island of Corsica. Date stamped, and small numbers "277" cancel stamp. 50 centimes rate.



S 46a

July 29, 1859. Transit backstamp at Marseille, mainland terminus of the Bastia-Marseille Line.

July 31, 1859. Cachet of the Nice Line.



VIA DI NIZZA

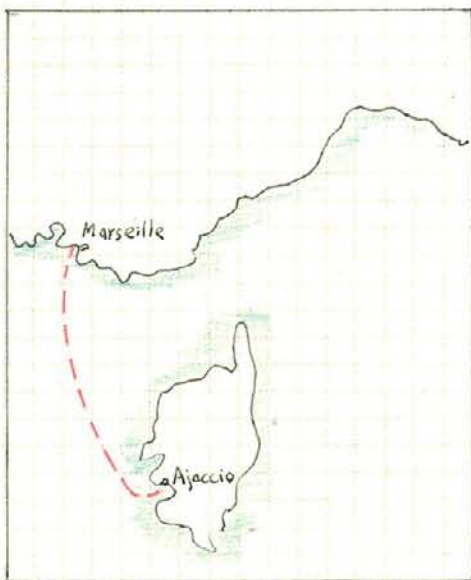


Aug. 1, 1859. Letter backstamped incoming, Nice-Genoa and "Via Nice" in Italian.

Aug. 2, 1859. Chiavari receipt.

1871

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
SERVICES DE LA CORSE (Corsica)
Ajaccio, Corsica to Marseille



October 16, 1871. Letter written at Ajaccio, Corsica and put aboard the steamer of the Compagnie Valery which plied between Ajaccio and Marseille.



salles 432

Oct. 17, 1871. Letter stamped incoming at Marseille as from the "AJACCIO - BATEAU A VAPEUR".

Adhesive cancelled with the 2240 of Marseille.

1869

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
SERVICES DE LA CORSE (Corsica)

Italian Mail from Sardinia (Island)

Mail from the Island of Sardinia to France cleared through Ajaccio on Corsica, thence to Marseilles aboard steamer of the Compagnie Valery. We see Sardinian cities of Cagliari, Sassari and Porto-Torres. Italian stamps of 40 centesimi, equivalent to 40 centimes French, paid the rate per 10 grams.



P.D.

Jan. 18, 1869. Letter posted paid in Italian stamps at 40c. (see above). Sardinian (Island) city of Sassari.



Jan. 18. Salles 459. Entry into France. Mail from Italy (Sardinia) entering at Ajaccio, Corsica.

Backstamps:



Jan. 18. Transit at Ajaccio, Corsica.

Jan. 20. Ambulant (RR), Marseilles to Lyon.

Jan. 21. St. Etienne arrival.



1870

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

ITALIE - MARSEILLE, Entry Marks from 1861

These marks are seen after October 1861 on mail entering France at Marseilles from the Italian provinces carried aboard "la ligne indirecte d'Italie". Sardinia and Tuscany letters were so carried, and the covers bear Sardinian or Italian stamps. As there were no postal agents aboard, the stamps were cancelled "2240" upon arrival at Marseilles.

Rates were as follows:

40 centimes per fraction of 10 grams, prepaid

6 decimes (60 c.) per fraction of 10 grams, unpaid.



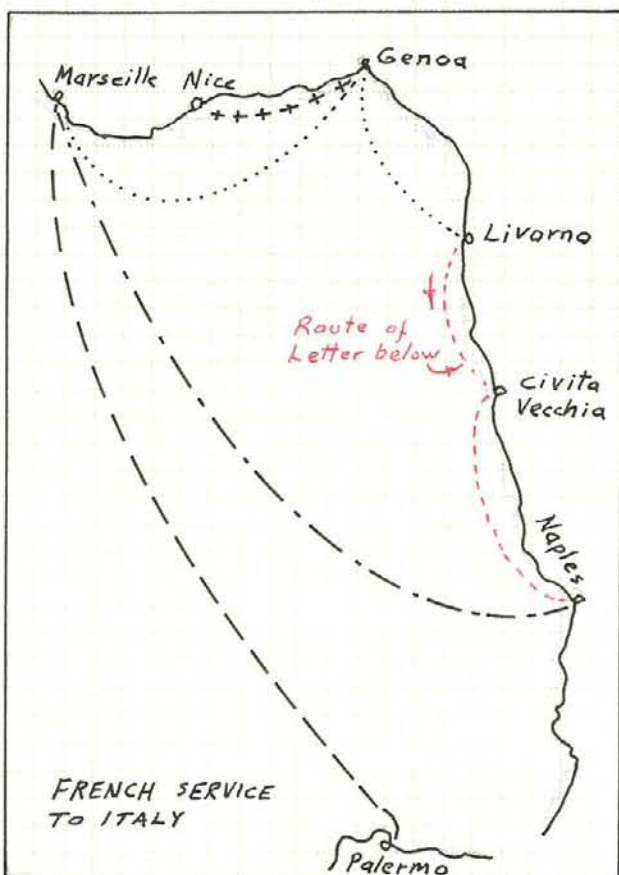
May 2, 1870. Letter datelined at Palermo and posted aboard ship.



May 4, 1870. Italian stamps cancelled by the French Bureau number "2240" of Marseilles. 20c. x 2 = 40 centimes, equivalent to 40 centimes, paid all the way. Entry mark, Salles 856), transit at Port of Marseilles.

1852

PACKET SERVICE TO THE ITALIAN COAST
Via Particolare Marittima MARK



Tuscany Period. This mark was applied at Livorno from 1851-1853. V.P.M. signifies Via Particolare Marittima or "Via Commercial Vessels", in this case the steamship line servicing the West coast of Italy from Marseille (see map).



October 9, 1852. Letter posted at Livorno. Rate prepaid by 5 Crazie Tuscany stamps, Scott #3 and 6, cancelled by dumb grid. Docket notes letter received at Naples October 13, 1852.



1848

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
PACKET SERVICE TO THE ITALIAN COAST
Entry Marks at Livorno (Leghorn), Tuscany
LIVORNO/VIA DI MARE

About 1844 there appeared at Livorno (Leghorn) three postmarks of essentially the same type, namely a circular mark LIVORNO/VIA DI MARE, indicating arrival, departure, or transit through Livorno by "steamers of commerce". These marks, appearing from 1844 to 1866 in red or black, have within a large A, B, or C whose significance is not known. The letter "C" is the most common.

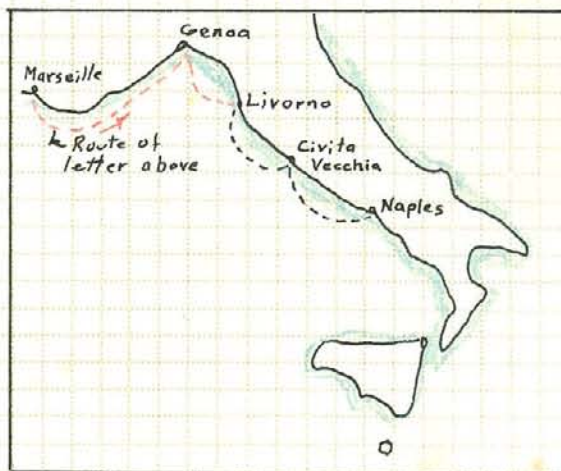


March 21, 1848.
Letter posted at Marseilles, unpaid. Sender noted routing by Paquebot de la Mediterranee namely, by one of the French packets on the Marseilles to Naples route (see map).



Livorno maritime receipt mark signifying "via di Mare" or "by sea".

March 23, 1848. Livorno receipt backstamp. 16 decimes due.



1855 - 56

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
PACKET SERVICE TO THE ITALIAN COAST

Entry Marks at Livorno (Leghorn) ,Tuscany

LIVORNO / VIA DI MARE

The large circular marks LIVORNO / VIA DI MARE (or "By commercial steamer") appear in black or red with A, B, or C in the center from 1844-66. They frequently appear as entry marks on the French packet line Marseilles-Genoa-Livorno-Civita Vecchia-Naples.



Sept. 20, 1855.
LIVORNO/VIA DI MARE (in black) used incoming, probably from Genoa as 7 decimes due.



July 22, 1856.
Letter headed at Genoa.

July 23. Back date stamped as above incoming at Livorno and also stamped with VIA DI MARE in red. 14 decimes due for a double letter.

1837

MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
ENTRY MARKS INTO GENOA
VIA/DI MARE/ (A) = (Sud) America

A very scarce mark occasionally appears on letters arriving at Genoa inbound from South America. Del Bianco rates these postmarks as 8 in a scale of 10, the latter being the rarest.



18 October 1837. Docket notes letter was posted this date at Lima, Peru. Sender noted on reverse:

"Maestro d'Afsia del Captain Berifso", or Master of the "Asia", Captain Berisso to indicate ship that was to transport letter to Italy.

VIA
DI MARE
(A)

24. MAREO

March 24, 1838. Letter marked with the scarce VIA/DI MARE/ (A) (via the sea, America) mark and backstamped with the date at Genoa.

1843

MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
ENTRY MARKS INTO GENOA

VIA/DI MARE/(A)=(Sud) America



October 10, 1843. Letter datelined at Lima, Peru and headed "por Dos Hermanas vapor Pachietto", or Packet Steamer Dos Hermanas. Endorsed on the face "Por Pachetto, or By Packet.

VIA
DI MARE
(A)

26. MAGGIO

May 26, 1843. Letter incoming at Genoa marked with the scarce VIA/DI MARE/ (A) and back-date stamped.

Lire .4 due for an unpaid Ship Letter.

1850

MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
ENTRY MARKS INTO GENOVA

VIA/DI MARE/(A)=(Sud) America



March 5, 1850. Letter datelined at Buenos-Ayres. Footnote states "Via p l'Assicaronone", Italian ship bound for Genoa.

VIA
DI MARE
(A)

19 MAG

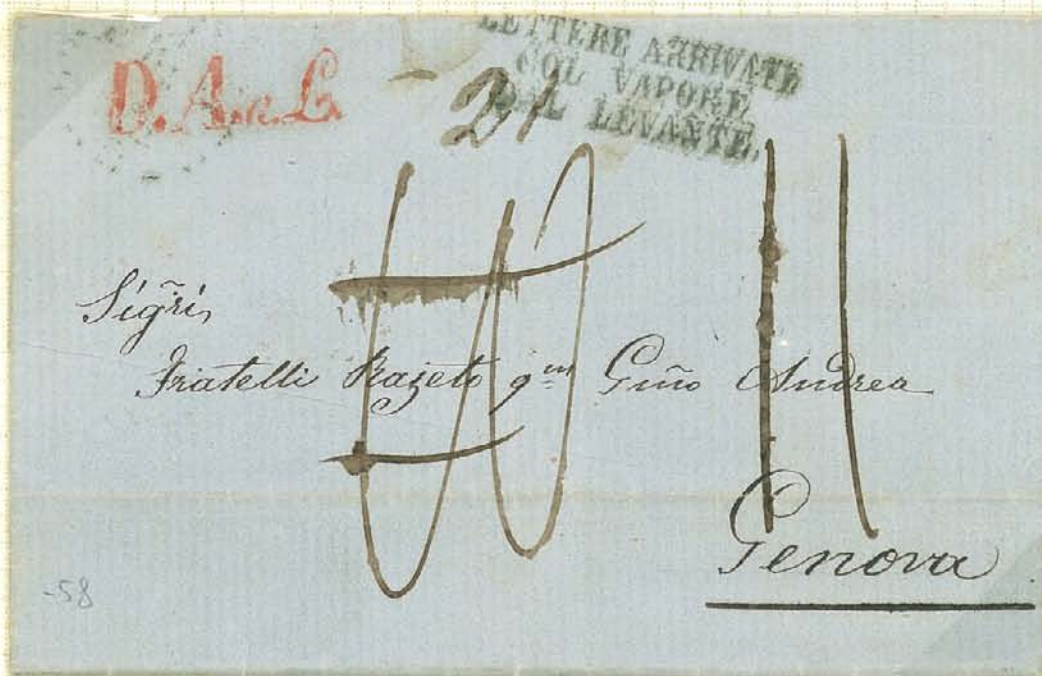
May 19, 1850. Letter incoming at Genoa was marked with the scarce VIA/DI MARE/ (A) = "Via the Sea, America" and the date backstamped. Del Bianco rates this sea postmark as 8 in a scale of rarity of 10.

Lire .4 due for an incoming unpaid Ship Letter.

1858

SARDINIAN POSTAL HISTORY
CONSTANTINOPLE TO GENOA VIA TRIEST

Entry Mark: LETTRE ARRIVATE/COL VAPORE/DAL LEVANTE



April 22, 1858. Letter datelined at Constantinople.



D.A.L.

April 29. Letter backstamped at Triest, apparently private handling Constantinople to Triest.

Letter marked at Triest with this rare (perhaps 7 known) Austrian marking "Da Austriaco a Liguria". (Cf: Koerber Auction Ap. 30, 1976, Lot 1829).

LETTRE ARRIVATE
COL VAPORE
DAL LEVANTE.

Letter marked incoming at Genoa with this arrival mark. Not recorded in the literature, this appears to be a unique strike.



May 2, 1858. Genoan arrival backstamp.

1861

CONSTANTINOPLE TO SWITZERLAND VIA TRIEST

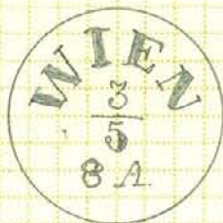
Entry Mark: LETTRE ARRIVATE/COL VAPORE/DAL LEVANTE



April 24, 1861. Letter datelined at Constantinople.

LETTRE ARRIVATE
COL VAPORE
DAL LEVANTE

Arrival mark at Triest. This is an extremely scarce mark, only one other seen (in this collection, arrival at Triest April 29, 1858). These two covers are the basis for the assumption that this is a Triest mark.



May 3. Transit backstamp at Vienna, normal routing for a Triest arrival.



May 5. Swiss transit and arrival backstamps.



1858

MAURITIUS TO GENOA VIA TRIESTE
"Da Austriaco a Liguria"



Dec. 27, 1858. Letter datelined Dec. 24, at Port Louis, Mauritius and directed to Genoa "per British Mail via Trieste". This large oval shows port tax had been paid at Port Louis. Letter went to Aden by British packet, thence to Suez and overland across Egypt to Alexandria. It went by Italian packet to Trieste.

Letter marked at Trieste with this rare (perhaps 7-8 known) mark "Da Austriaco a Liguria" (from Austria to Liguria, i.e. section of Sardinia where Genoa is located).

D.A.a.L.

Cf: Koerber Auction April 30, 1976, Lot 1829, Ditto, May 19, 1979, Lot 837 (this cover).



Feb. 10, 1859. Arrival backstamp at Genoa. Rate handstamp "10".

10

1849

MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO THE WEST COAST OF ITALY

The company of the "Tuscan packet ships" sailed from Naples to Livorno, thence to Genoa and Marseille.

The letter below was directed per "Vapore Maria Antonetta", one of the ships of the Tuscan Line.

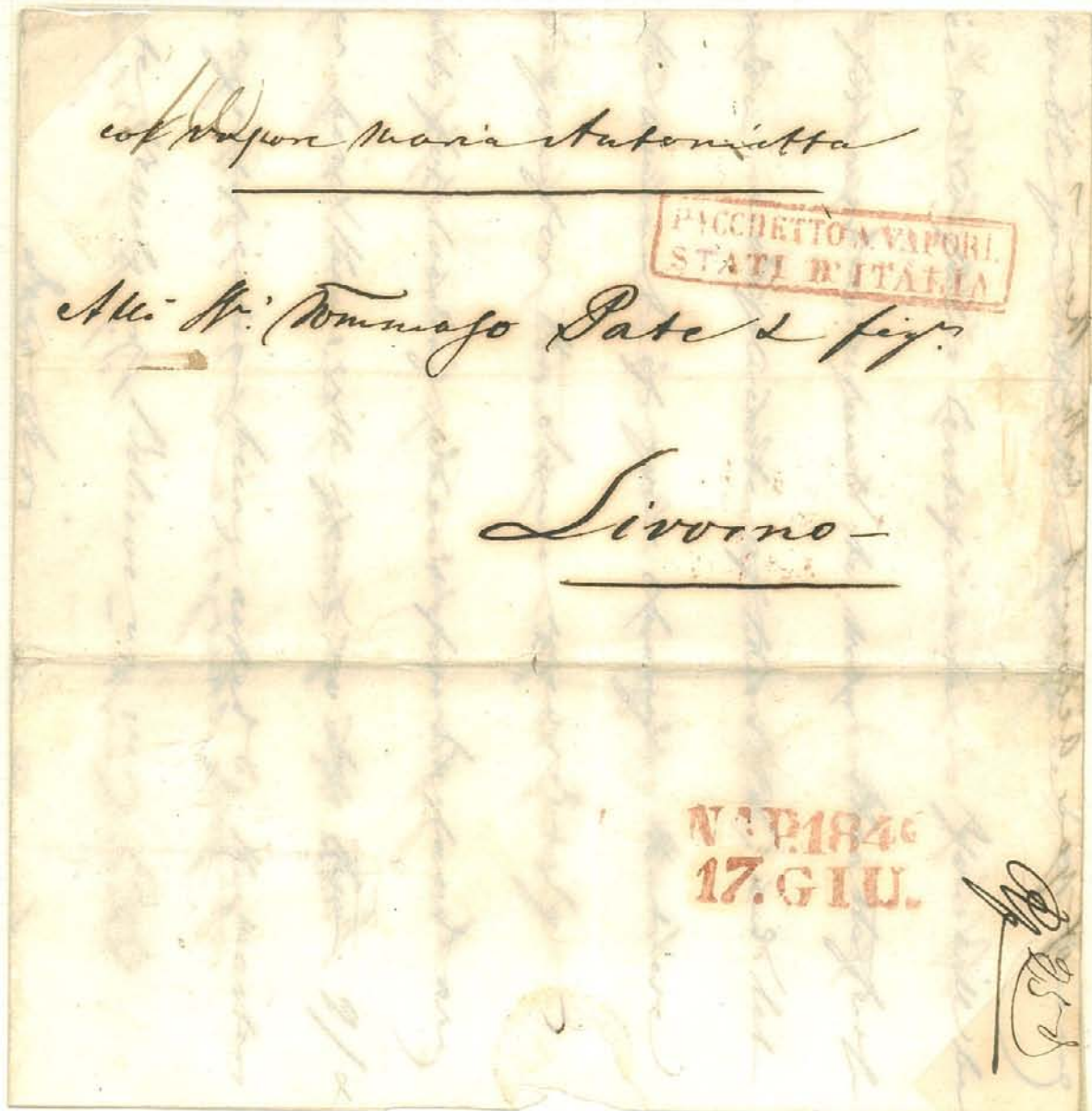
PACCHETTO A VAPORE
STATI D'ITALIA

BIANCO
194

NAP 1849
17 GIU.

Handstamp applied at Naples indicating "Steam Packet, Italian State".

June 17, 1849. Letter received at Naples. Docket notes receipt at Livorno on June 19.



1867

MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
ITALIAN POST OFFICES IN EGYPT - ALEXANDRIA
ITALIAN STEAMERS VIA BRINDISI



July 24, 1867. Letter posted in Cairo and noted on face, "Via Brindisi", indicating routing by the Italian steamers out of Alexandria to Brindisi on east coast of Italy. Letter did not enter Egyptian postal service, but was carried privately to the Italian "post office abroad" at Alexandria.



60 centesimi stamp of Italy "used abroad" canceled by the "234" number of Alexandria.



July 28, 1867. Circular date stamp of the Italian Post Office at Alexandria, Egypt. Letter marked PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/ITALIANI showing transit by Italian Postal steamer.



August 1. Transit backstamp at Brindisi.



August 3, 1867. Receipt backstamp at Genoa.

1855

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
PACKET SERVICE TO THE ITALIAN COAST
Service Étranger (S.E.) MARKS

Mail incoming by sea by other than French Packets from the coast of Italy bore "Foreign Service" (Service Etranger, abbreviated S.E.) marks.



July 15, 1855. The writer "par Virgil", of the Sardinian line. The shipping line is indicated by the large oval cachet in deep blue.



5645

July 16, 1855. Receipt stamp at Marseille. D. Siciles (Deux or Two Sicilies) Service Etranger (S.E.) mark. Covers normally bear the 15 or 30 decimes charge according to weight. This one appears to bear it in three steps, 5, 2, and 8 totalling 15.

1855

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE INDIRECTE D'ITALIE (OU LIGNE REGLEMENTAIRE)

Septembre 1851 - Aout 1864

Paquebot Oronte

January 26, 1855. A letter datelined at Cipro (Italian for Cyprus) and sent under cover to a forwarding agent at Marseilles by the steamer Vesure. It is endorsed: Par le Vesure.

The forwarding agent Jacques Tardieu at Marseilles struck his oval cachet (NL Rowe) and put the letter into the mail, unpaid.



February 19. The paquebot Oronte of the Ligne Indirecte d'Italie (2nd variant) departed from Marseilles.

Da Marsiglia
VIA DI MARE



February 21. Oronte arrived at Genoa, backstamp. Letter noted by the handstamp as "From Marseilles by Sea."

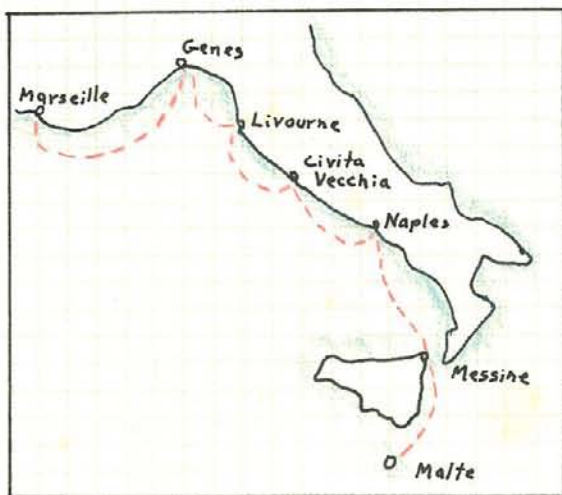
.14 lira due.

1855

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE INDIRECTE D'ITALIE (OU LIGNE RÉGLEMENTAIRE)

Septembre 1851 - Aout 1864

D. SICILES (Two Sicilies) MARKS



The French maintained a steamship line under the Administration of Posts from Marseilles to Malta with five ports of call in Italy.

MES^A1855
10 MAR^O

March 10, 1855. Letter to Paris put into post unpaid and directed to French Packet Service "Col. postale francese". The packet Vatican had left Malta on March 8, and cleared Messina on March 10.



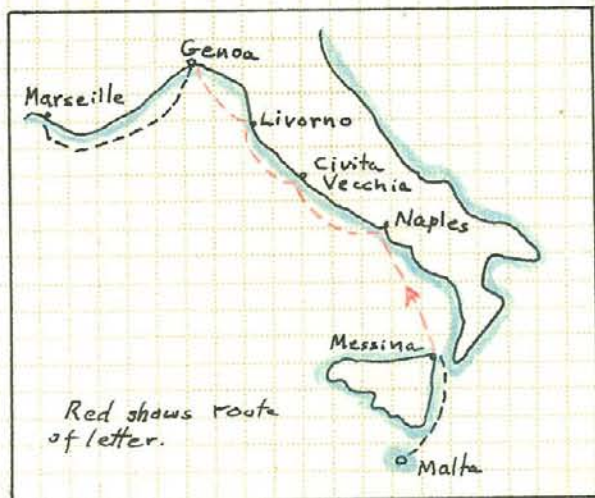
March 14, 1855. The Vatican arrived Marseilles on Mar. 14. This Two Sicilies mark was used on mail arriving from Messina on "Indirect" Line from Italy.



March 16, 1855. Paris receipt backstamp. 15 decimes, single rate, due.

1857

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE INDIRECTE D'ITALIE (OU LIGNE REGLEMENTAIRE)
Septembre 1851 - Aout 1864



2nd Variant: The Bulletin des Postes No. 2 of October 1855 confirmed the new schedule of La Ligne des Cotes d'Italie (called indirecte). Trips outbound, Marseille to Malta were timed to arrive on Sunday to coincide with the departure of the paquebots of the Ligne de Levant and d'Egypte. They returned on Thursday after the arrival of these paquebot lines. Thus, no time was lost for outbound or inbound mail and passengers.

MES 1857
13 FEB 57

Feb. 13, 1857.
Letter posted
at Messina. The
steamer Oronte
had left Malta
Feb. 12, and
cleared Messina
the next day.



ARRIVO 17 FEB 57 II M GENOVA

PIROSCAPI
POSTALI
FRANCESI

q

Feb. 17. Arrival datestamp at Genoa.
Italians marked letter indicating it had
been carried by French Postal Steamer.

2 decimes due. "22"
manuscript on back notes
prepaid French steamer
charges, 2 d. = local charge.

1857

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE INDIRECTE D'ITALIE (OU LIGNE REGLEMENTAIRE)
Septembre 1851 - Aout 1864

A circular, unnumbered, of December 9, 1854, set out the new schedule resulting from the Convention of November 28, 1854. The Bulletin des Postes No. 2 of October 1855 confirmed the schedule. Biweekly trips always left from Marseille on Monday and returned from Malta every Thursday.

Going:

Marseille	Genoa	Livorno	Civ.Vec.	Naples	Messina	Malta
Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sunday

Return:

Malta	Messina	Naples	Civ.Vec.	Livorno	Genoa	Marseille
Thurs.	Friday	Sat.	Sun.	Monday	Tues.	Wednesday.



MESSINA 1857
3 APR

PIROSCAFI
POSTALI
FRANCESI



q

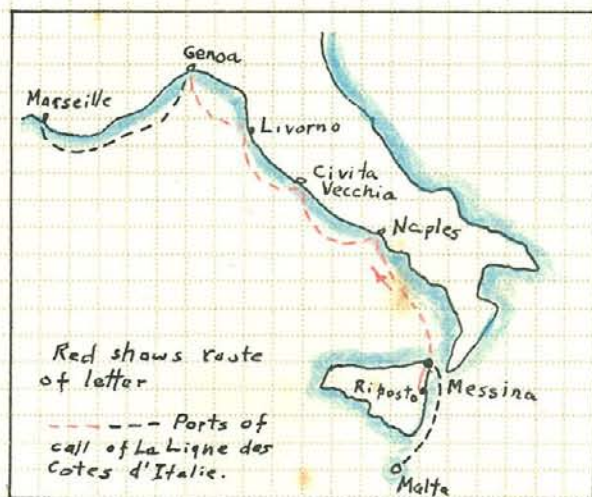
April 3, 1857. Letter posted at Messina. The paquebot Capitole had left Malta April 2 (Thursday) and cleared Messina April 3.

Italians marked letter "French Postal Steamer".

April 7. Arrival date at Genoa coincides with arrival day Tuesday, April 7. 2 decimes due, local.

1858

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
LIGNE INDIRECTE D'ITALIE (OU LIGNE REGLEMENTAIRE)
Septembre 1851 - Aout 1864



3rd Variant: Circular No. 53 of the Bulletin des Postes announced the new schedule conforming to the Convention of May 29, 1857 for La Ligne des Cotes d'Italie. Ports of call remained as before, the new time schedule being necessary to coincide with the packets from Constantinople at Messina and from Smyrna or Alexandria at Malta.

March 13, 1858. Letter posted at Riposto, Sicily and travelled overland to the nearby port city of Messina. Endorsed "p. Vapore Postale Francese".

MES 1858
15 MAR 1858

March 15, 1858. Letter went aboard French packet. The steamer Capitole had left Malta on March 14, arriving Messina March 15 where it received this date stamp.

PIROSCAFI
POSTALI
FRANCESI

Italians marked letter indicating it had been carried on a French Postal steamer.

ARRIVO 19 MAR 58 GENOVA

q

March 19, 1853. Arrival backstamp at Genoa. Manuscript "16" on back notes prepaid French steamer charges. 2 decimes (Lire .2) due for local delivery.



1859

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
PACKET SERVICE TO THE ITALIAN COAST

Anglo-French Currency Stamps - 1856 - 1875

In line with the 2nd Anglo-French postal convention of 1856, a series of 14 differently shaped stamps for French use and 10 for British use was prepared. These incorporated in the lower portion the credit due to the country whose initials appeared in the upper half in French francs and centimes per ounce of mail handled.



Jan. 18, 1859.
letter posted and
backstamped at
Naples, and directed
via Marseilles
per "Vesuvio", a
steamship of the
Neopolitans.



Jan. 20. Receipt
stamp at Marseilles.
D. SICILES. D = Deux
(or Two), Service
Etranger (S.E.) mark.



French marked
letter with con-
vention rate credit
per ounce of mail
carried.



Jan. 21-22. Transit marks
through France. Backstamps.

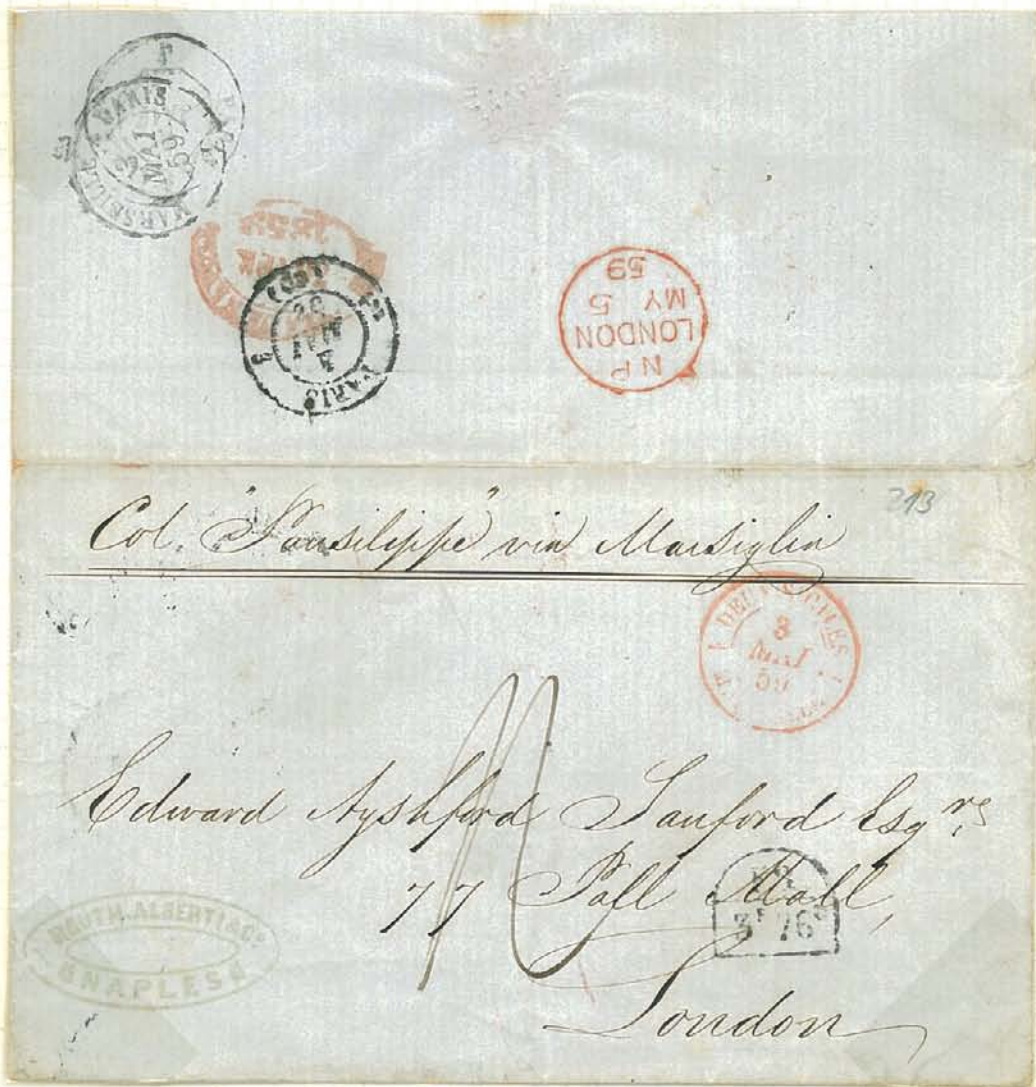
Jan. 24. Receipt at
Wellington, 1 shilling due
Readdressed to London and 1d.
inland postage prepaid.

Jan. 25. London
receipt back-
stamp.

1859

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
PAQUEBOTS OF THE NEAPOLITANS

Franco-British Exchange Marks



30 APR
1859

April 30, 1859. Letter posted at Naples. Noted "Col. Tausilippe" of the Neapolitan Steamship Line via Marsiglia (Marseille).

DEUX SICILES
3 MAJ
59
MARSEILLE

May 3, 1858. Transit at Marseille. Entry Mark from the Two (Deux) Sicilies.

MARSEILLE A PARIS
3 MAI
59
B

May 3, 1859. Marseille to Paris, RR mark. Night train.

PARIS
A MAI
59
(60)

May 4, 1859. As this letter was destined for England, Paris office marked debit to British of 3 francs 76 centimes.

FR.
3^F 76^C

PARIS A CALAIS
4 MAI
59
J

May 4. Paris to Calais, day trip, Brigade J.

NP
LONDON
MY 5
59

May 5. Letter received at London, 1/- due from recipient.

1869

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY

GENOA - Italian obliterations on French stamps FRANCIA/VIA DI MARE

Due to increased maritime relations between Marseille and Genoa much mail was put into the steamers at the last moment uncancelled, and was obliterated at Genoa with these FRANCIA/VIA DI MARE straight line marks in black or red, as well as the GENOVA circular date stamps.



FRANCIA
VIADI MARE



Letter posted paid at
Marseilles to Genoa, and
endorsed "per Santa
Margherita".

September 27, 1869.
Genoa receipt back-
stamp.

1864

FRENCH MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
MARSEILLE & GENOVA FRANCIA/VIA DI MARE



June 18, 1864. Letter posted paid at the port of Marseille and noted "Voie de mer" = "By Sea". 40 centimes stamp pays the correct rate, Marseille to Genoa. PD = Payee au Destination. 2240 is the French office number of Marseille (gross chiffre).

**FRANCIA
VIADI MARE**



S. 659
Bianco 43

June 20, 1864. Marked incoming at Genoa as "PAID/BY SEA". Backstamped with the cds at Genoa. The FRANCIA mark in red is scarcer than the same in black, although the latter is not common.

1865

NAPLES
ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION STEAMER MARKS
PIROSCAFI-POSTALI / NAZIONALI



Feb. 16, 1865. Letter datelined at Messina on the island of Sicily. It was endorsed "por Vapore via Napoli", or "per Steamer via Naples".



PIROSCAFI-POSTALI
NAZIONALI

Feb. 18, 1865. Bianco 228. Letter cancelled in transit at Naples, and this straight-line mark is so noted as normally used in conjunction with the c.d.s. on maritime (steamer) mail arriving at or in transit through the port of Naples.



Feb. 21, 1865. Arrival backstamp at Genoa.

1875

ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION STEAMSHIP MARKS
PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/INTERNO
TRANSATLANTIC, SOUTHAMPTON TO N.Y. North German Lloyd. S.S. Main



PIROSCAFI
POSTALI
INTERNO

NAPOLE
30
SET
75
10 N.

September 29, 1875. Letter dated at Palermo, Sicily. Also note oval corner handstamp, lower left. It was handed directly to the letter bag of the Italian postal steamer that plied the West Coast of Italy.

September 30. Steamship arrived at Naples where the 40 centesimi U.P.U. rate adhesive was cancelled by the Piroscafi Postali Interno (Internal Postal Steamer) boxed mark indicating handling by Italian postal steamer.

October 5. S.S. Main of the North German Lloyd departed from Southampton, England.

NEW YORK
20 OCT
17
PAID

Arrived New York October 17. Steamship Main (Ger.,) leist, Bremen Oct. 2 and Southampton 5th to Oelrichs & Co. Experienced heavy westerly gales with high sea the greater part of the passage. (N.Y. Times.)

1875

MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY
ITALIAN STEAMSHIP MARKS



November 10, 1875. Letter datelined at Naples and posted directly aboard one of the steamships of the Italian Line. The 20 centessimi stamp, Issue of 1867, paid the internal rate, and was cancelled aboard ship by PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/ITALIANI showing transit by Italian Postal Steamer.



November 11. Palermo arrival backstamp.

1882

NAPLES

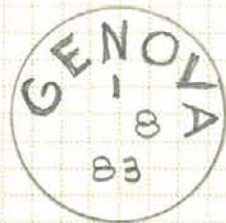
ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION STEAMER MARKS

PIROSCAFI/POSTALI/INTERNO



PIROSCAFI
POSTALI
INTERNO

December 29, 1882. Letter datelined at Palermo in Sicily. This mark (Bianco 225) is noted as being used at Naples, known on provincial letters from islands in the Gulf. This mark indicates handling by Italian postal steamer.



January 8, 1883. Arrival backstamp at Genoa.