

Sicily 1859–1860



Display to The Royal Philatelic Society London

7 May 2015

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Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

Display of Francesco Lombardo on 7 May 2015
at the Royal Philatelic Society London



10 January 1859, letter weighing up to 1 ounce (26.7 grams) from Messina to Genoa, prepaid 88 grana to the port of disembarkation of Genoa, charged 60 centesimi on delivery (20-30 grams), as noted on the cover. The letter, placed aboard the French packet "Capitole" on 10 January in Messina, was disembarked on 14 January 1860 in Genoa. **First recorded date of use of the 50 grana postage stamps.**

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

Structure of the presentation.

The kingdom of Two Sicilies had 2 independent postal Administrations:

- The Neapolitan postal Administration issued its postage stamp on 1st January 1858.
- The Sicilian postal Administration that issued its stamps on 1st January 1859.

The Sicilian postal Administration was the last Italian postal Administration to issue its postage stamps, but it is generally believed that these stamps were the most beautiful among the different issues of the Old Italian States. The Juvara's engraving of the head of the king "Ferdinando II" is universally considered a masterpiece and the seven values of the issue, with their lively colours and nuances make each document prepaid with these postage stamps something that is worthwhile admiring. To this purpose we must remember that for cancelling these Postage stamps a specially shaped obliterator was prepared that, when properly applied, framed the image of the king "Ferdinando II" without dirtying the royal effigy.

On 11 May 1860 Garibaldi and its volunteers landed in Marsala and in 3 months acquired the entire Sicily. In the areas conquered by Garibaldi immediately ceased the use of the Sicilian postage stamps. The last recorded use of the Sicilian postage stamps in Sicily is 23 July 1860, it refers to a letter carried by the French packets from Messina to Genoa, therefore the Sicilian postage stamps were in use only for one year and a half.

This display of the postage stamps of Sicily is the most complete ever assembled and it illustrates the different aspects of their preparation and of their postal use in 52 frames organized as follows:

- a) The preparation of the postage stamps and presentation of the 7 values, the related plates, the different types of paper used, the different colours and nuances and the different varieties like double printing, printing "recto verso" etc.
- b) The postal history of the issue is structured as follows:

1st January 1859, the 1st day of use of the postage stamps.

1. Rates of letters mail sent abroad beyond Italy, this section presents all recorded foreign destinations of letters prepaid with Sicilian stamps. It includes also the letters sent to the Lombardy Venetia that were charged on delivery like the letters sent to destinations in the Austrian Empire.
2. Rates of letters sent to the Old Italian States.
3. Rates to the kingdom of Naples that had a different postal administration.
4. Domestic mail. This section examines mail exchanged via mare and the mail exchanged overland organized in relation to the 8 postal routings. The handstamps of the postal offices existing along each routing are also presented.
5. Use of the Sicilian issue after the landing of Garibaldi in Sicily up to the end of their usage in Messina that was the last postal office to use the Sicilian stamps.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The Postage stamps of Sicily.

The purpose of this section is to illustrate how the Juvara engraving was selected among other proposed postage essays, in addition it wants to describe for each of the 7 values of the issue the different plates, the different types of paper used and the different colours and nuances.

No postal documents are presented in this section, the postal documents are presented and explained in the postal history section.

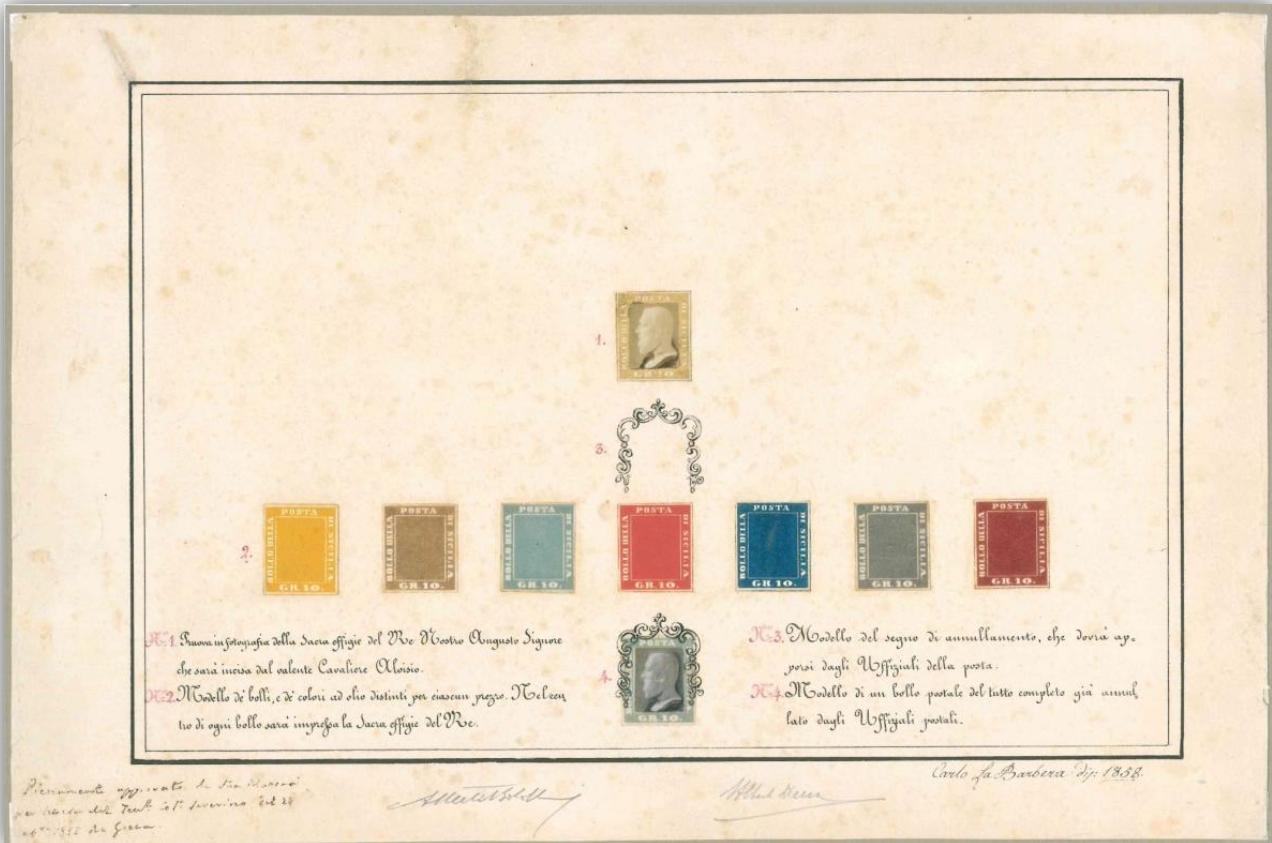
The section is structured as follows:

1. The different essays of postage stamps proposed, essays of the chosen engraving of Aloysio Juvara, printer's proofs, trials of colours. The famous "Scrigno Juvara" presented to the King for the final approval of the chosen postage stamps and for the approval of the specially shaped obliterator framing the royal effigy.
2. ½ grano. 1st and 2nd plate, paper of Naples, paper of Palermo, retouched postage stamps. The most rare nuances are presented. Reconstruction of the 1st and of the 2nd plates.
3. 1 grano. 1st plate, 2nd and 3rd plate. Many stamps of the 1st plate had been retouched, some stamps were further retouched to determine what is called 1st plate "second stato". This "second stato", in the position 18 of the plate presents the most famous of the Sicilian retouches. Reconstruction of the plates are presented also for different colours of the stamps. In these reconstructions 3 stamps with the grand retouch of position 18 are presented.
4. 2 grana. 1st plate, 2nd plate, 3rd plate, paper of Naples and of Palermo. In this section the reconstruction of the 3 plates are presented for different nuances of the 2 grana postage stamp.
5. 5 grana. 1st plate and 2nd plate, paper of Naples and of Palermo. The entire sheet of 100 stamps of the 5 grana 2nd plate is presented.
6. 10 grana, this stamp was printed on Naples paper and only one plate was prepared.
7. 20 grana printed on Naples paper, only one plate was prepared. The section presents the only retouch of the plate and reconstructions of the plate.
8. 50 grana printed on Naples paper, only one plate was prepared, the different colours and the 2 retouches of the plate are presented with the reconstructions of the plate.
9. Many recorded printing varieties, like the double printing, printing "recto verso" etc. are presented.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

Essays and printer's proofs.

In one frame the different essays: The Barone's essays, the Juvara's essays, the Lesache's essays, the Pampillonia's essays are presented. The frame illustrates also the printing's proofs and the colour trials of the Juvara engraving. The "Scrigno Juvara" purpose was to show to the king the selected colours of 7 values of the issue and the cancellation trials of the specially shaped obliterator aimed not to stain the royal effigy.



The "Scrigno Juvara" presents the cancellation trials and the colours trials approved by the king.



Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The ½ grano postage stamp.

The one frame of ½ grano postage stamps presents the two plates and the use of the paper of Naples and of the Palermo paper. It illustrates also the rarest nuances, the retouches and the reconstruction of the two plates of the ½ grano postage stamp.



Block of 24 of ½ grano 1st plate, Naples paper.

The largest recorded block.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 1 grano 1st plate.

The 1st plate of the 1 grano postage stamp, printed on Naples paper, is presented in one frame. The 1st plate of the 1 grano presents the most significant and famous of the retouches of Sicily. This plate presents 22 postage stamps that were retouched, the most significant retouches were in the positions 16 and 87 of the plate of 100 postage stamps. This plate was further retouched (2^o stato of the plate) and the retouch in the position 18 is the most famous of the retouches of the Sicilian postage stamps.

This frame in addition to presenting the different nuances of this stamp, presents also the reconstruction of the plate for different colours. In these reconstructions three examples of the retouch 18 are present.



The only recorded strip of 4 of 1 grano 1st plate in mint condition.

The strip presents the retouches 31, 32 and 34 of this plate.



1 grano 1st plate 2nd "stato" in mint condition



1 grano 1st plate 2nd "stato" strip of 5.

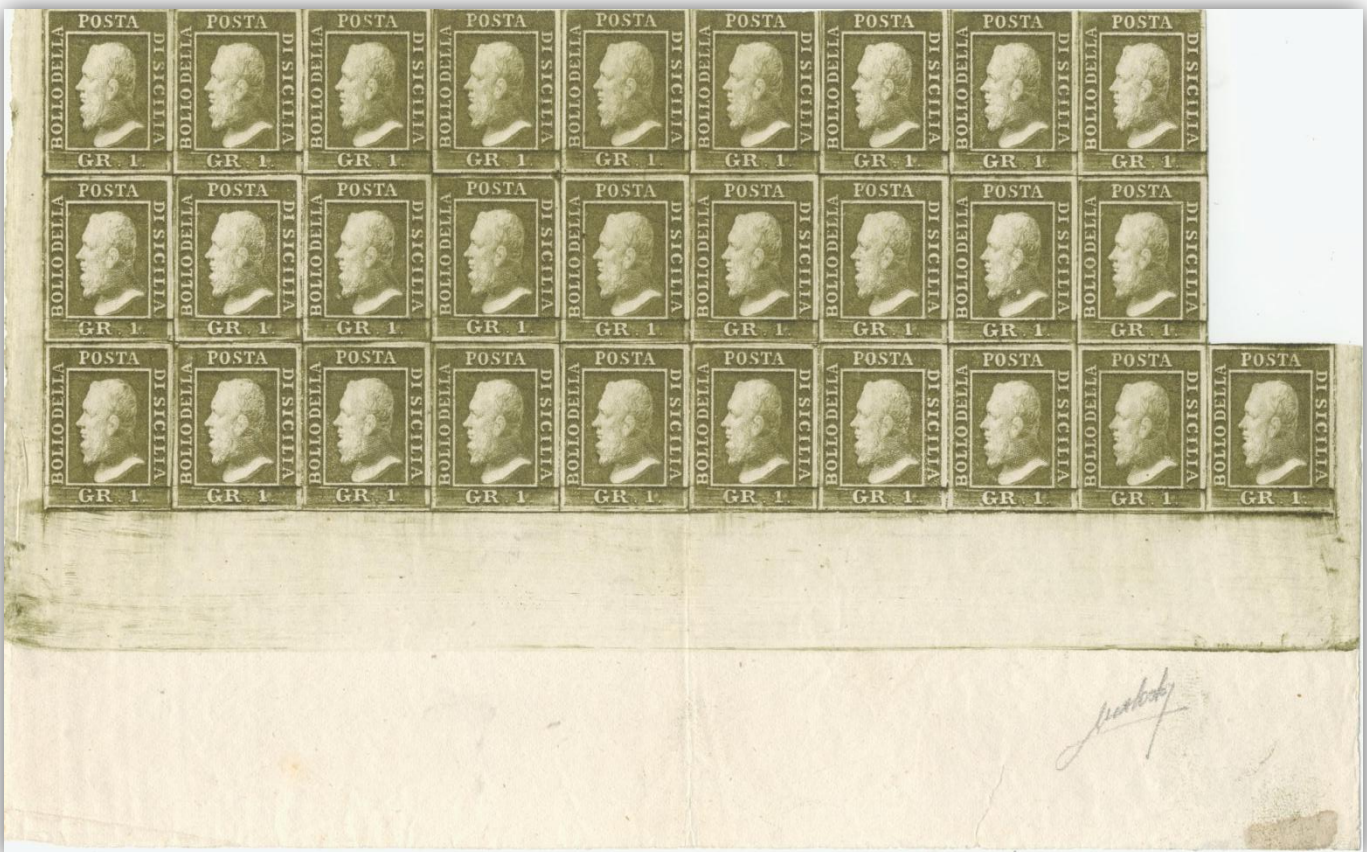
Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 1 grano 2nd and 3rd plate.

In two frames the different paper used (Napoli and Palermo), the different nuances, the retouches of the 1 grano of the 2nd and of the 3rd plate are presented. The reconstruction of the two plates are also presented.



Block of 10 of the 1 grano dark olive green, 2rd plate, Palermo paper pos. 41/50

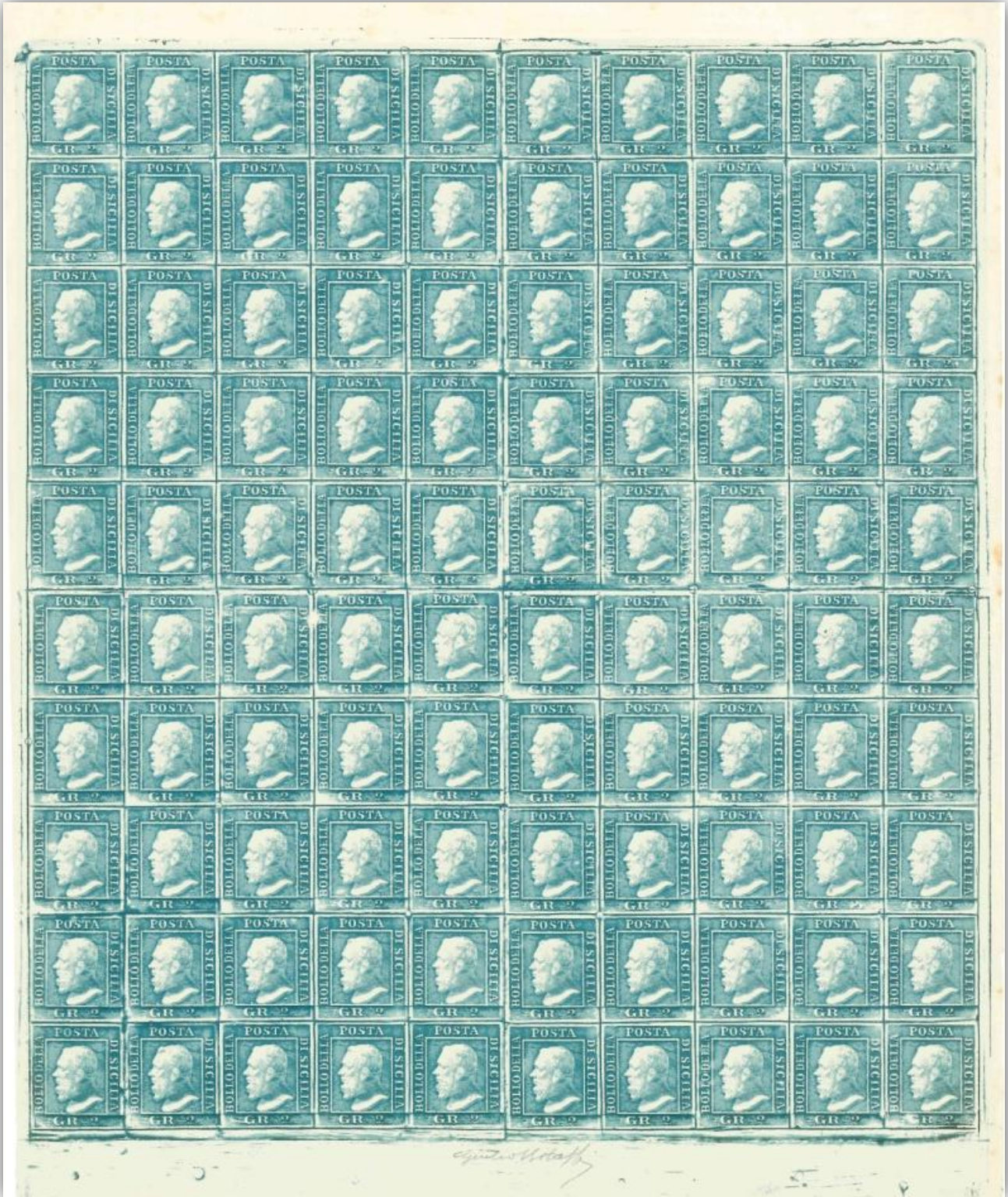


Block of 28 of the 1 grano dark olive green, 3rd plate, Palermo paper.
The largest recorded block.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 2 grana postage stamp.

In three frame the 3 plates of the 2 grana are illustrated. The presentation includes the different papers used (Naples and Palermo), the different colours and nuances, the retouches and the reconstructions of the plates for the different paper used and also for different colours.

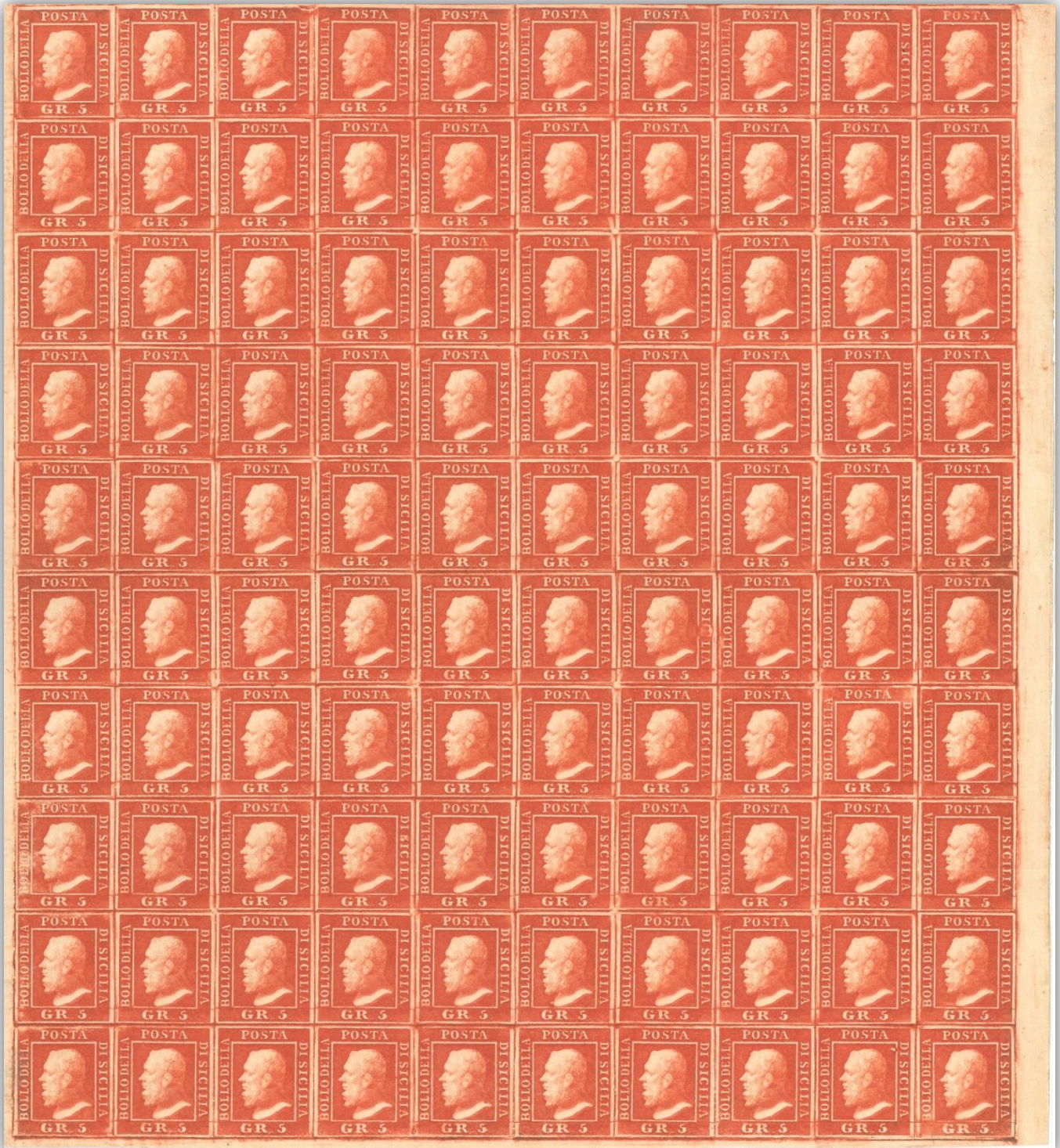


The entire sheet of 100 postage stamp of the 2 grana blue 1st plate, Palermo paper.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 5 grana 1st and 2nd plate.

The 5 grana of the 1st and of 2nd plate is presented illustrating the different papers used (Naples and Palermo), the different colours and the retouches. The reconstruction of the 1st plate is presented. The entire sheet of 100 postage stamps of the 2nd plate of the 5 grana is also presented.



The entire sheet of 100 stamps the 5 grana bright vermillion, 2nd plate, Palermo paper.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 10 grana postage stamp.

The 10 grana is here illustrated. Only one plate was prepared for the 10 grana that was printed on the paper of Naples. The different nuances and the retouches are presented. Also the reconstruction of the plate is presented.



Half sheet of 50 postage stamps dark blue of the 10 grana.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 20 grana postage stamp.

The 20 grana postage stamp was printed, using only one plate, on Naples paper.

The different nuances and the only retouch of the plate are presented. The reconstruction for different nuances and the only recorded entire sheet are also presented. (It was cut and restored. ex Rothschild).



Reconstruction of the sheet of 100 stamps of the 20 grana.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

The 50 grana postage stamp.

The 50 grana postage stamp was printed on Naples paper using only one plate. Different nuances, the 2 retouches and the reconstruction of the plate are presented.



Block of 12 of the 50 grana brown lake.



Block of 9 of the 50 grana chocolate.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

Printing varieties of the Sicilian postage stamps.

In 4 sheets most of the recorded printing varieties are presented.



½ grano orange 2nd plate
The only recorded printing
“recto verso”



2 grana 2nd plate ultramarine
printing “recto verso”



1 grano olive green, 2nd plate, double printing

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1st day of use of the postage stamps.

On 1st January 1859 the postage stamps of Sicily were issued and new rates for the domestic mail were introduced in Sicily. On 1st January 1859 only Palermo and Messina received new date stamps that allowed to determine when the mail was posted. The other Postal Offices (officine postali) used the prephilatelic handstamps with the name of the Office, without date. To determine the date of sending it is necessary either to look at the date inside the written letter or at the date of delivery, when indicated.

This frame presents the only recorded printed matter and the only recorded registered letter posted on 1st January 1859. This frame illustrates also the first date of application of the new rates for unpaid letters addressed within Sicily. A few unpaid letters posted on 1st January 1859 in postal offices that had not the date stamps to confirm the date of posting, are also presented.



1st January 1859, newspaper of one sheet, from Palermo to Montevago (district of Sambuca), prepaid ½ grano to destination. First day of use of the date stamp “PALERMO / PARTENZA”.

The only recorded printed matter sent on 1st January 1859.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1st day of use of the postage stamps.

About 10 letters prepaid with the postage stamps on 1st January 1859 are recorded.



1st January 1859, letter of one sheet from Palermo to Riposto, prepaid 2 grana to destination. First day of the new letter rates, of the use of the postage stamps and of the Palermo date stamp.



1st January, 1859, registered letter (assicurata with old terminology) of 1/2 sheet from Messina to Siracusa, prepaid 3 grana, doubled to account for the registration fee, to destination.

The only recorded registered dated 1st January 1859.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1. Letter prepaid to destination beyond Italy.

This section presents all the recorded destinations of letters fully prepaid or partially prepaid with the postage stamps of the Sicilian issue.

In addition to an agreement with the Papal States in 1818, the only convention agreed by the Two Sicilies kingdom with a foreign country was the 1854 Convention with France. This convention allowed to send either prepaid or unpaid letters to France and to other countries beyond France with the French mediation. Letters to Spain had to be prepaid to the Franco-Spanish border because the Franco-Spanish Convention did not allow for full payment to destination.

Article 30 of the Franco-Bourbon Convention indicated that it was possible to carry letters in closed mail to the Mediterranean ports called by the French packets, paying ten centimes of French franc for each kg and each km, of straight line distance from the port of embarkation and the port of disembarkation. This article allowed to send letters prepaid to the port of disembarkation of countries that had not a Convention with France. Letters paid to the port of disembarkation were charged the domestic rate of the country of destination.

This section has been structured as follows:

1. 1. Letters to France, prepaid or unpaid to destination: to Marseille and beyond Marseille.
1. 2. Letters to other countries with the France mediation, fully prepaid, partially prepaid or unpaid in accordance to the Franco- Bourbon Convention of 1854: USA, Egypt, The Netherlands, UK, Spain, Bavaria and Prussia.
1. 3. Letters carried by the French packets prepaid to the port of disembarkation: Greece and Malta.
1. 4. Letters prepaid to the Bourbon border, addressed to the Austrian Empire. Most letters were prepaid only the inland postage and were charged on delivery for the foreign postage. In this section also the letter sent to a Lombardy Venetia destination are presented because they were charged on delivery like the letters sent to Austria.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1. 1. Letters to France.

Letters could be sent to France either prepaid or unpaid, rates for each 7.5 grams were as follows:

	Prepaid letters Grana	Unpaid letters French francs
To the Marseille district	29	1.30
Beyond Marseille	35	1.50



3 May 1859, quadruple-rate letter (22.5-30 grams) from Palermo to Marseille, prepaid 116 grana (29x4) to destination. The letter was carried by the Sicilian packet "Archimede" of the Florio line to Messina where it was put on board of a French packet that disembarked the letter in Marseille.

The only recorded quadruple-rate letter to Marseille and the only recorded letter carrying a strip of five 20 grana postage stamps.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1. 2. Letters to the other countries with the French mediation.

This section illustrates letters addressed to USA, Egypt, UK, Spain, The Netherlands, Bavaria and Prussia with the French mediation in accordance with the 1854 Franco – Bourbon Convention.



27 January 1859, single rate letter from Palermo to Boston, readdressed to New York, prepaid 47 grana to destination. The letter was carried by a non contract packet to Marseille where the octagonal marking confirming a non-French carriage was impressed. In Havre the letter was placed on board the American packet "Fulton" of the Havre line and disembarked in New York on 26 February. The red date stamp confirming full payment was struck in Boston. The letter was finally re-addressed to New York where 3 cents domestic rate was charged. The cover bears the blue octagonal marking confirming American service from Havre and indication of the 12 cents credited by France to USA for carriage from Havre by an American packet. **Only 2 letters to USA prepaid with Sicilian postage stamps recorded (ex Rothschild)**

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1.3. Letters carried by the French packet, paid to the port of disembarkation.

Article 30 of the Franco-Bourbon Convention indicated that it was possible to carry letters in closed mail to the Mediterranean ports called by the French packets, paying ten centimes of French franc for each kg and each km, of straight line distance from the port of embarkation and the port of disembarkation. This article allowed to send letters prepaid to the port of disembarkation of countries that had not a Convention with France: Greece and Malta. Letters paid to the port of disembarkation were charged for the domestic rate of the country of destination.

The rates for carriage of letters to the port of disembarkation in Greece were as follows:

Letter of one sheet	21 grana
Letter of 1 ½ sheet	31 grana
Letter of 2 sheets	42 grana

A higher rate was established for letters addressed to the island of Siros.

To these rates for letters originating beyond Messina the carriage to Messina had to be added.

The rates for carriage of letters to the port of disembarkation in Malta were as follows:

Letter of one sheet	10 grana
Letter of 1 ½ sheet	14 grana
Letter of 2 sheets	20 grana

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1. 3. Letters carried by the French packet, paid to the port of disembarkation.



24 March 1859, letter of one sheet from Palermo to Syros, prepaid 25 grana to the port of disembarkation in Greece: 23 grana for sea carriage, 2 grana for domestic carriage to Messina, 10 lepta was charged on delivery, as required for letters of less than 7.5 grams distributed within the port of disembarkation. The letter was carried from Palermo by the Sicilian packet "Archimede" of the Florio line to Messina where it was put on board the French packet "Pausilippe", as per endorsement, to be disembarked on 27 March in Malta, where it was transferred to the French packet "Oronte" that disembarked the letter in Syros on 30 March 1859 (22 March 1859 in accordance to the Julian calendar).

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1. 4. Letters addressed to the Austrian Empire.

Even though the Franco-Bourbon convention allowed to prepay letter to destination in Austria, most letters addressed to Austria and to the Lombardy Venetia were paid to the Two Sicilies border and up to July 1859 were charged on delivery 15 kreuzer or soldi for each Wiener lot (17.5 grams).

This section is organized as follows:

1. 4. 1 Letters prepaid to destination with the French mediation.
1. 4. 2 Letters to Austria prepaid to the Papal border prior July 1859.
1. 4. 3 Letters to Austria prepaid to the Papal border after July 1859:
Overland Through Tuscany and Lombardy
By Austrian Lloyd packets from Ancona.
1. 4. 4. Letters to Lombardy Venetia prepaid to the Papal border prior July 1859.
1. 4. 5. Letters to Venetia prepaid to the Bourbon border after the Sardinian occupation of Lombardy, Lloyd carriage from Ancona to Trieste.
1. 4. 6 Letters to Lombardy Venetia, carried by sea to Genoa.
1. 4. 7. Letters carried to Lombardy after its transfer to Sardinia that took place on July 1859.
1. 4. 8. Letter to Genoa readdressed to Milan

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

1. 4. 1 Letters prepaid to destination with the French mediation.



3 February 1859, single-rate letter from Palermo to Baden (Austria), prepaid 20 grana to destination. The letter was carried to Naples by the Sicilian packet "Corriere Siciliano" and to Marseille by a non contract packet of the "Compagnia Calabro Sicula" as confirmed by the octagonal blue date stamp struck in Marseille on 16 February. The letter reached Baden on 22 February. **The only recorded letter prepaid with the 20 grana of the position 72 presenting the only retouch of the 20 grana plate of 100 postage stamps.**

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. Letter mail sent to the Old Italian States.

This section has been structured as follows:

2. 1. Letters sent to the Kingdom of Sardinia.
2. 2. Letters sent to the grand Duchy of Tuscany.
2. 3. Letters sent to the Papal states.

This section illustrates letters originating in Sicily and addressed to the other Italian States excluding Lombardy Venetia that has been examined with Austria.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. 1. Letters sent to the Kingdom of Sardinia.

This section has been structured as follows :

- 2. 1. 1 .Letters carried by the French packets from Messina, prepaid to the port of disembarkation of Genoa. It is worth while noticing that most of the 70 recorded letters prepaid with the rare 50 grana have been found in the archives of the letters carried to Genoa from Messina by the French packets, in this section 7 letters with the 50 grana and the only 2 recorded letters with two 50 grana are presented.
- 2. 1. 2. Letters carried via mare to Genoa by non contract packets.
- 2. 1. 3. Letters carried via mare to Naples and then overland to Sardinia.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. 1. 1. Letters carried to Genoa by the French packets.

Letters carried from Messina to Genoa by the French packets, prepaid to the port of disembarkation, received in Genoa the red handstamp “PIROSCAFI / POSTALI / FRANCESI” struck in the Office that received the closed bags carried by the French packets. The Sicilian progression up to the weight of one ounce (26.7 grams) was based on the volume of the letter afterward on the weight. Letters weighing one ounce required a prepayment of 88 grana. Under the weight of one ounce the progression was 11 grana for each ½ sheet:

letters of one sheet were prepaid	22 grana,
letters of 1 ½ sheet	32 grana
letters of 2 sheets	44 grana
letters of 3 ½ sheets	77 grana
letters of one ounce	88 grana
afterward 11 grana for each 1/8 of ounce.	



12 March 1860, letter weighing upto 1 ½ ounce (40.1 grams) from Messina to Genoa, Prepaid 132 grana to the port of disembarkation, charged 80 centesimi (30 - 40 grams of weight) on delivery, as noted on the cover. The letter was on 12 March placed aboard the French packet “Capitole” and it was disembarked in Genoa on 16 March 1860. **One of the two recorded letters with two 50 grana postage stamps. The only recorded letter with 132 grana postage stamps.** (Ex Rothschild).

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. 2. Letters sent to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

This section is structured as follows:

- 2. 2. 1. Letters carried by the French packets from Messina to Leghorn.
- 2. 2. 2. Letters carried by the Sicilian packet (Florio line) to Naples and then carried either via mare to Leghorn by a packet of the “Calabro Sicula” or overland through the Papal States. With the same condition letters could be carried overland through Calabria.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. 2. 1. Letters carried from Messina to Leghorn by the French packets.



6 January 1860, letter of 1 ½ sheet from Catania to Leghorn, prepaid 32 grana to the port of disembarkation of Leghorn: 29 grana sea carriage and 3 grana for Catania – Messina carriage. As noted on the cover, 30 centesimi was charged on delivery for a letter weighing less than 10 grams. The letter was disembarked in Leghorn, on 12 January, by the French packet “Capitole”.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. 3. Letters sent to the Papal States.

Letters could be sent from Sicily to the Papal States as follows:

- 2.3.1. Letters carried by a French packet from Messina prepaid to the port of disembarkation of Civitavecchia
- 2.3.2. Letters carried from a Sicilian port to Civitavecchia by a Sicilian packet of the Florio line.
- 2.3.3. Letters from a Sicilian port to Naples by a Sicilian packet of the Florio line and then overland to the Papal States. Rates were equal to the ones indicated above.
- 2.3.4. Overland through Calabria. Rates were equal to the ones indicated above.
- 2.3.5. Prepaid to destination in accordance to the Papal-Bourbon Convention of 1818.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

2. 3. 5. Letters prepaid to destination.



26 January 1859, letter of one sheet from Palermo to Rome, prepaid 30 grana to destination in accordance to the Papal – Bourbon Convention. The cover bears the black oval “FRANCA” and the red boxed “PD” of Palermo.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

3. Letters carried from Sicily to the Neapolitan kingdom.

From 1st January 1859 the uniform domestic rates in effect in the kingdom of Naples from 1st January 1858, were extended to letters sent from Sicily to the Neapolitan kingdom when they were carried to Naples by the Sicilian packets or overland through Calabria. It was possible to send unpaid letters, but they were charged 50% more than the prepaid letters.

The section is structured as follows :

3. 1. From 1st January 1859 the domestic rates were extended to letters sent from Sicily to the Neapolitan kingdom when they were carried to Naples by the Sicilian packets or overland through Calabria.

Letters of one sheet	2 grana
Letters of 1 ½ sheet	3 grana
Letters of 2 sheets	4 grana
Letters of 1 ounce	8 grana

It was possible to send unpaid letters, but they were charged 50% more than the prepaid letters.

3. 2. Letters carried to Naples by the non contract packets (battelli commerciali) were charged double the rate indicated for carriage by the contract packet of the Florio line. Letters could be sent unpaid, they were charged on delivery 1.5 times the rate of the prepaid letters.

Letters of one sheet	4 grana
Letters of 1 ½ sheet	6 grana
Letters of 2 sheets	8 grana
Letters of 1 ounce	16 grana

3. 3. It was also possible to send letters by the French packets from Messina to Naples, prepaid to destination with the following rates:

Letters of one sheet	11 grana
Letters of 1 ½ sheet	16 grana
Letters of 2 sheets	22 grana
Letters of 1 ounce	44 grana

For letters weighing over one ounce the progression was 5,5 grana, rounded 5 or 6 grana, for each 1/8 ounce

Letters originating beyond Messina or Palermo had to pay the carriage to Messina or Palermo.

3. 4. Letters from Sicily with postage stamps not cancelled by the Sicilian Administration. The postal regulations of the Two Sicilies kingdom established that the letters prepaid with postage stamps of the Sicilian Postal Administration had to be cancelled with the Sicilian obliterations, while letters prepaid with Neapolitan postage stamps had to be cancelled with Neapolitan obliterations. As a consequence the prepaid Sicilian letters that were directly handed to the packet, without being obliterated in Sicily were charged in the Neapolitan Kingdom as the unpaid letters. These letters received in Naples the red boxed marking "Pacchetto a vapore di Sicilia fuori valigia" and the red marking "AGDP". The two above indicated marking were struck also on unpaid letters directly handed to the packets.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

3. 1. Carriage by the Sicilian packets of the Florio line from Palermo.



18 June 1859, registered letter of one sheet from Palermo to Naples, prepaid 2 grana doubled to account for the registration fee. The letter was carried to Naples by a Sicilian packet of the Florio line.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

3. 2. Carriage by the non contract packets from Palermo.



3 January 1859, letter of one sheet from Palermo to Naples, prepaid 4 grana to destination, as required for carriage by a non contract packet. The letter was disembarked in Naples by the packet "Vesuvio" of the "Real Delegazione de Pacchetti a Vapore" on 4 January. **The only recorded letter with the circular date stamp of Palermo struck in red (this colour was used for unpaid letters) it is the first recorded date of application of the new rates for letters carried by the non contract packets.**

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

3. 4. Letters sent from Sicily to the Neapolitan kingdom with postage stamps not cancelled.



13 January 1859, letter of 3 sheets from Palermo to Naples, prepaid 6 grana to destination. The letter was directly handed to the Sicilian packet "Corriere Siciliano" of the Florio line, the postage stamps were not obliterated. On arrival in Naples, on 14 January, the red boxed handstamp "Pacchetto a vapore di Sicilia fuori valigia" and the red "AGDP" were struck and the letter was charged 9 grana on delivery as an unpaid letter.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. Domestic Mail addressed within Sicily.

The rates that depended only on the volume of the letter and not on the distance were introduced in Sicily only on 1 January 1859, these rates had been introduced in the Neapolitan kingdom from 1 January 1858. Independently from distance, the rate of letters were determined as follows:

- 2 grana letter of one sheet,
- 3 grana letter of 1 ½ sheet,
- 4 grana letter of 2 sheets, then 1 grano for each ½ sheet
- From letters weighing 1 ounce (26.73 grams) the progression was 1 grano for each 1/8 ounce.

These rates were reduced 50% for letters addressed within the postal district.

Registered letters and printed matter had to be prepaid, while letters could be sent unpaid.

The rate of printed matter was ½ grano for each sheet.

The registration fee doubled the letter rate.

Postage due charged on delivery of unpaid letters was 1 ½ the rate of prepaid letters.

Mail addressed within Sicily is organized in relation to the 8 overland routings that connected the 83 Sicilian Postal Offices (Officine Postali). In addition the Florio Company carried mail “via di mare” connecting Palermo with different Sicilian ports. This section is organized by routing and within each routing all the marking of the Post Offices along the routing are presented. Within each routing the domestic rates of letters, of registered letters (assicurate with old terminology) and of printed matter are illustrated.

The section is structured as follows:

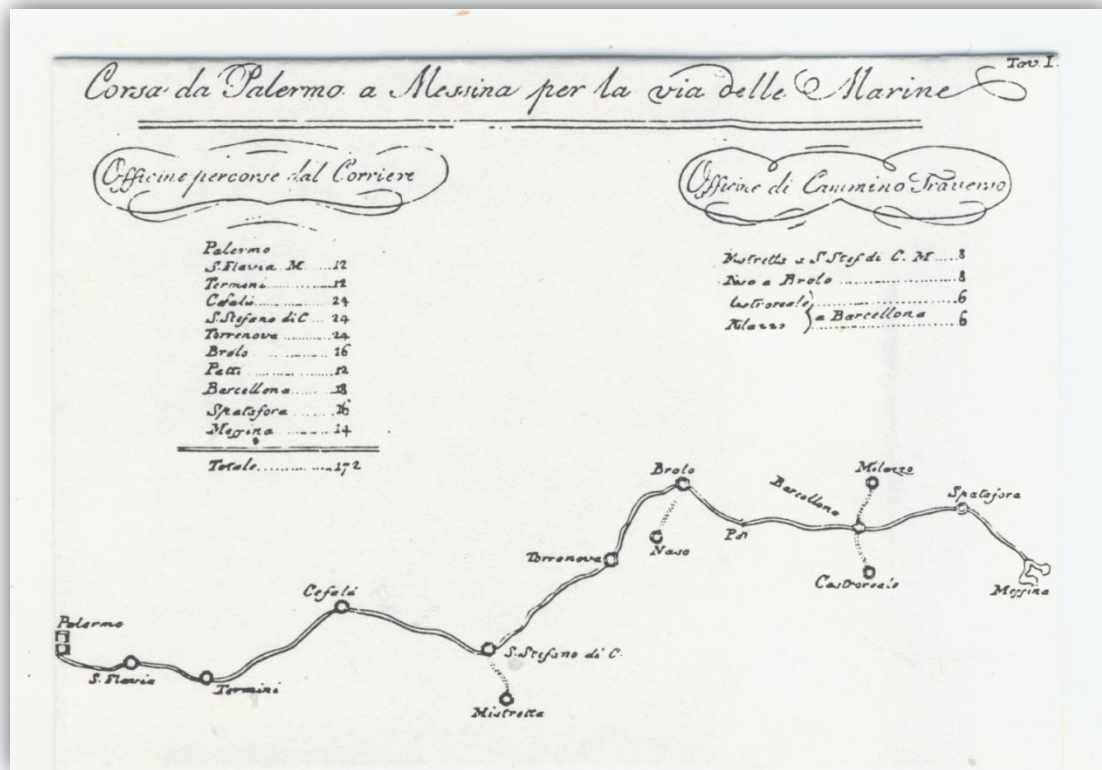
- 4. 1. Palermo – Messina routing “via delle marine” (routing along the sea)
- 4. 2. Palermo – Messina routing “via delle montagne” (routing through the mountains)
- 4. 3. Palermo – Licata
- 4. 4. Palermo – Mazara
- 4. 5. Palermo – Catania
- 4. 6. Palermo – Noto
- 4. 7. Palermo – Siracusa
- 4. 8. Messina – Siracusa
- 4. 9. Sea connections by the Florio packets:
 - . weekly connection Palermo, Messina, Catania and Siracusa.
 - . monthly connection Palermo, Trapani, Favignana, Girgenti, Pantelleria.
 - . monthly connection Palermo, Messina and Lipari.

From the main routings originated secondary routings called “cammini traversi”.

An introductory sheet illustrating each routing and the related “cammini traversi” is presented for each “cammino”.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 1. The Palermo – Messina routing along the sea “via delle marine”.



This routing connected Palermo to Messina along the sea. As illustrated by the map, the following Postal Offices were connected by this routing: Palermo, Santa Flavia, Termini, Cefalù, Santo Stefano di Camastra, Terranova, Brolo, Patti, Barcellona, Spadafora and Messina. From the main routing originated four branches (cammini traversi): Santo Stefano di Camastra – Mistretta, Brolo – Naso, Barcellona – Milazzo and Barcellona –Castroreale.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 1. The Palermo – Messina routing along the sea “via delle marine”.



February 1859, registered letter of one sheet from Spadafora to Palermo, where the letter arrived on 9 February, prepaid 4 grana: 2 doubled to account for the registration fee.

The cover bears the oval handstamp of Spadafora recorded only on 2 registered letters.

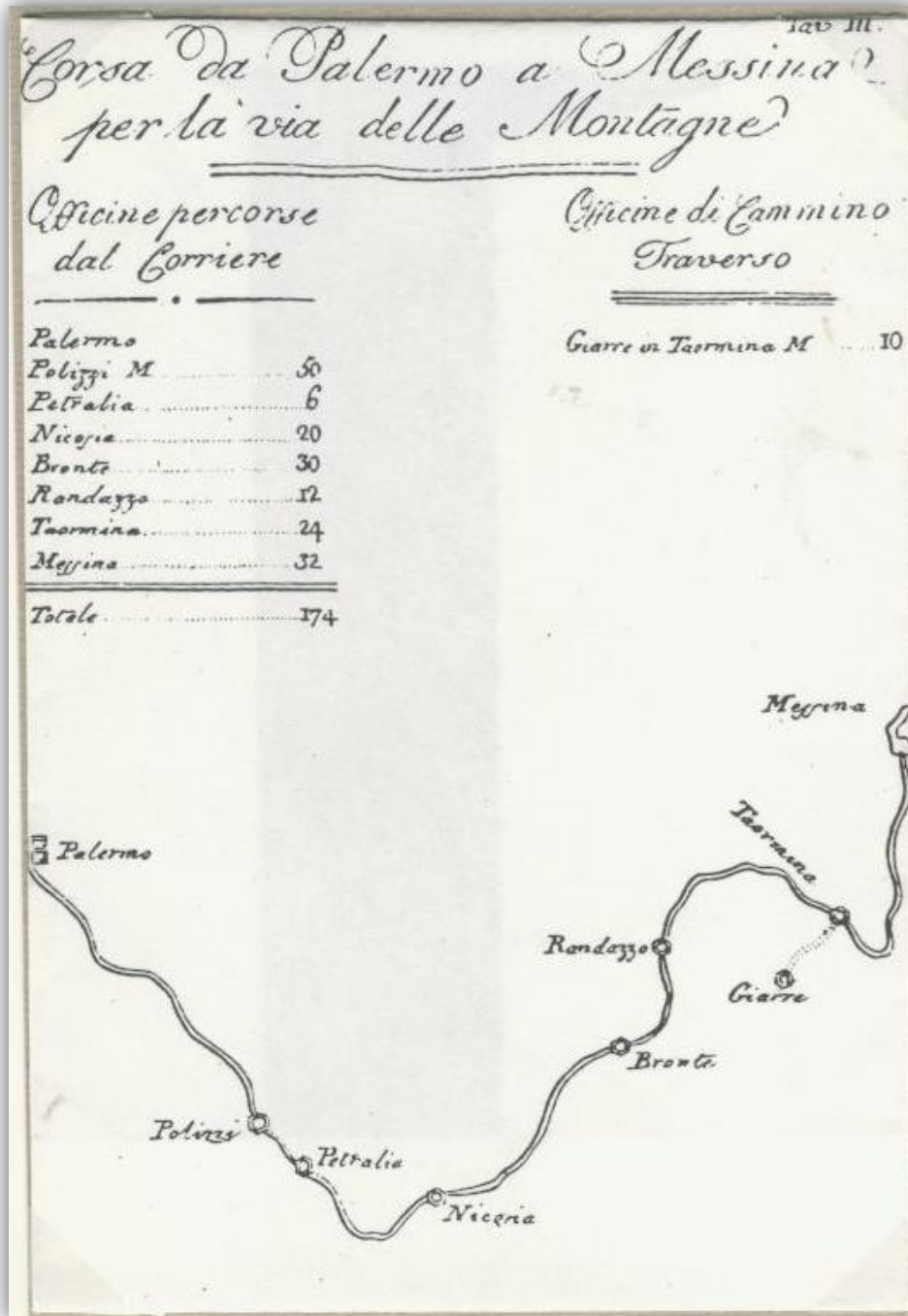


April 1859, registered letter of two sheets from Termini to Palermo, where the letter arrived on 27 April, prepaid 8 grana: 4 grana doubled to account for the registration fee.

The cover bears the oval handstamp of Termini recorded only on 2 registered letters.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 2. The Palermo – Messina routing through the mountains “via delle montagne”.



This routing connected Palermo to Messina through the mountains. As illustrated by the map, the following Postal Offices were connected by this routing: Palermo, Polizzi, Petralia, Nicosia, Bronte, Randazzo, Taormina, Messina. One branch originated from the main routing: Taormina- Giarre.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 2. The Palermo – Messina routing through the mountains “via delle montagne”.



March 1860, letter of one sheet from Petralia Sottana to Palermo, prepaid 2 grana to destination. The letter was erroneously charged 3 grana as an unpaid letter, a control ascertained that the letter was correctly prepaid then the taxation was crossed out and the oval “CORRETTA” impressed on the cover. The postage stamps were cancelled in Petralia Sottana by the handwritten “annullato”. The letter was delivered in Palermo on 21 March 1860 where the required obliterator was applied.

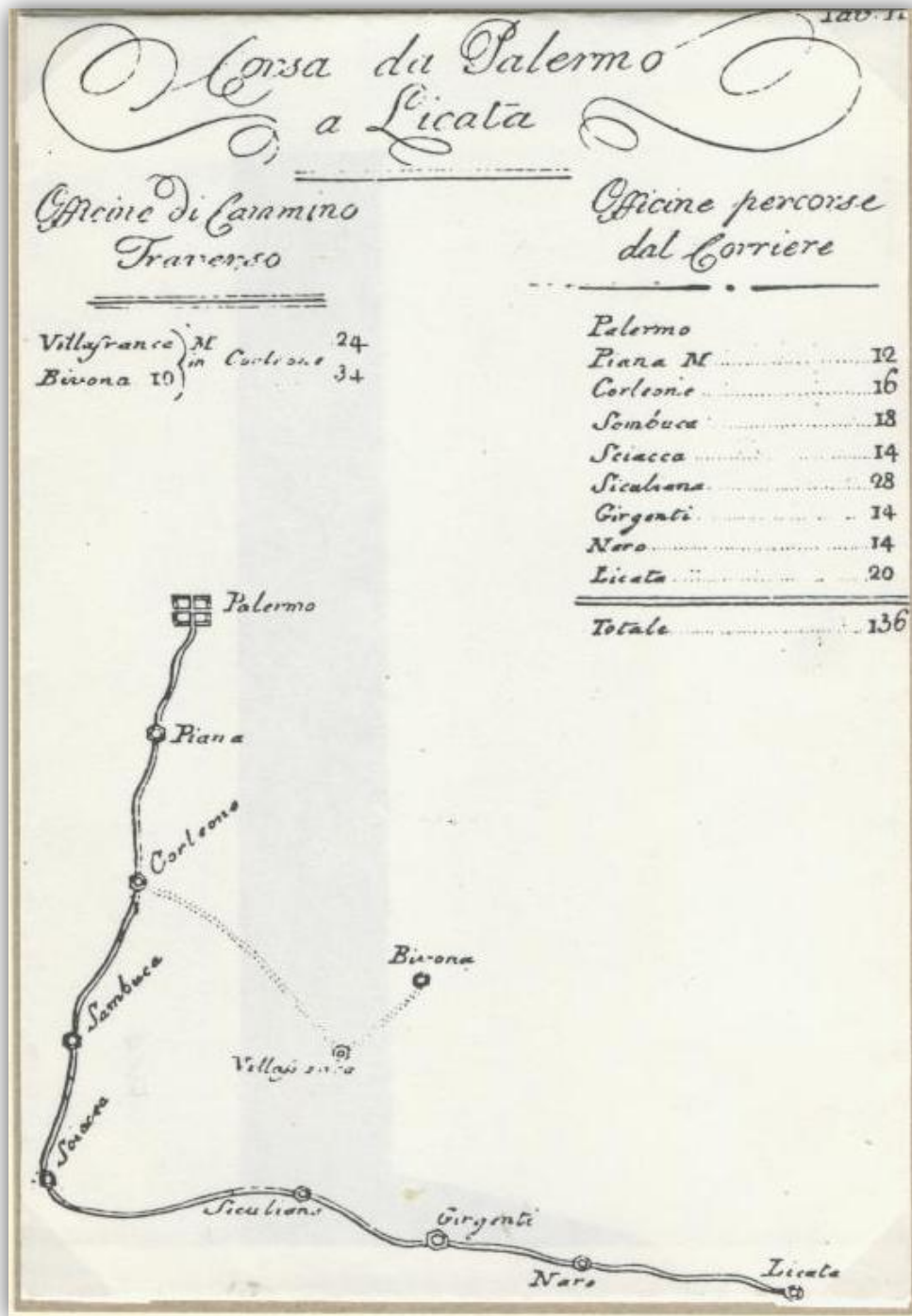


May 1860, registered letter of one sheet from Petralia Soprana to Girgenti, prepaid 4 grana to destination: 2 grana doubled to account for the registration fee. The letter transited Palermo on 24 May.

Only 3 registered letters recorded from Petralia Soprana.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 3. The Palermo – Licata routing.



This routing connected Palermo to Licata. As illustrated by the map, the following Postal Offices were connected by this routing: Palermo, Piana, Corleone, Sambuca, Sciacca, Siculiana, Girgenti, Naro and Licata. One branch (cammino traverso), originating in Corleone, connected this office with Villafranca and Bivona.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 3. The Palermo – Licata routing.



Letter of 1 ½ sheet from Piana to Messina, prepaid only 2 grana instead of the required 3 grana then the boxed “AFFRANCATURA / INSUFFICIENTE” and the integration of the rate of 1 grano as noted on the cover. The letter transited Palermo on 21 April 1859.

Only two letters recorded sent from the Piana post office.

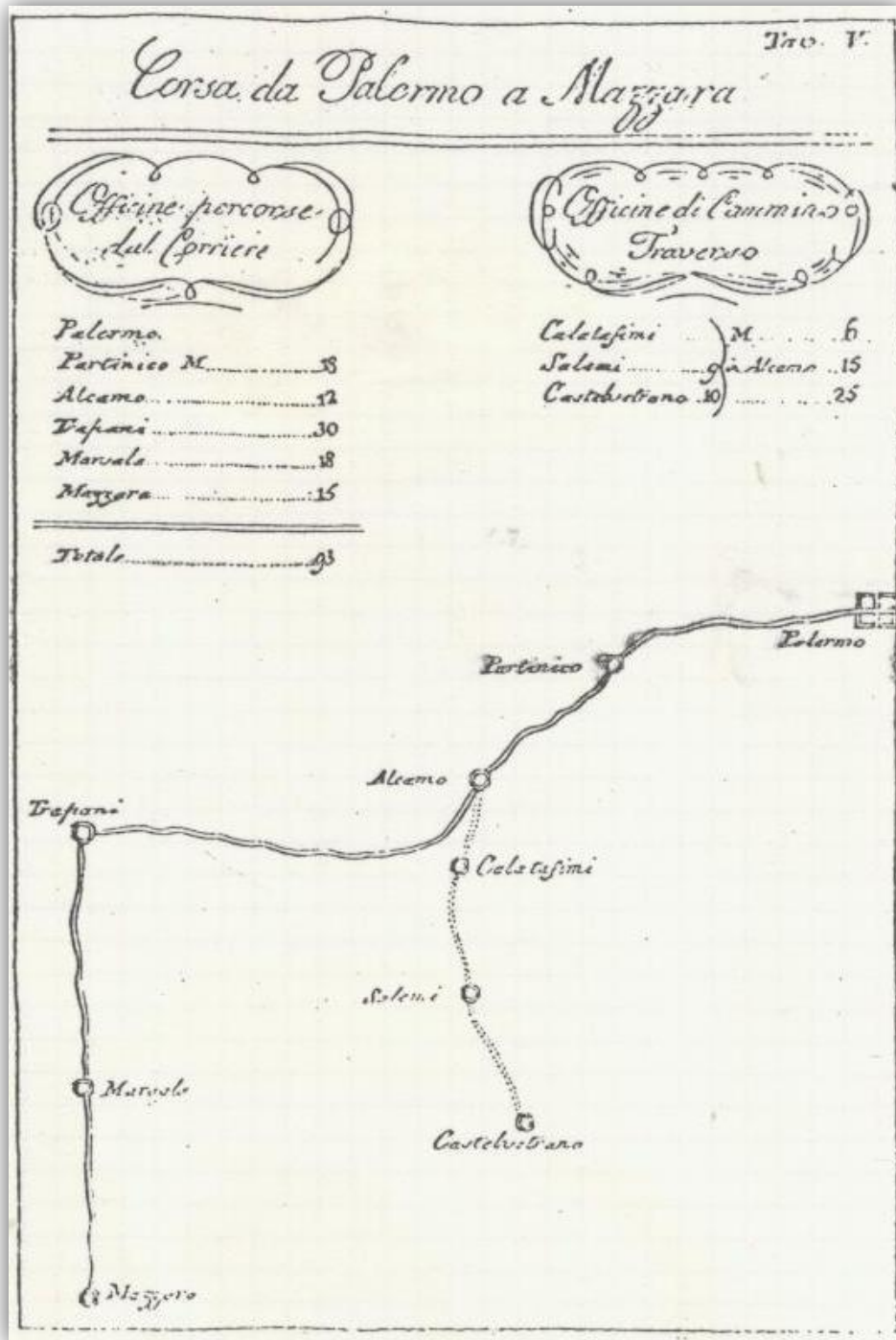


Registered letter of 3 sheets from Bivona to Palermo, prepaid 12 grana: 6 grana for a letter of 3 sheets doubled for accounting the registration fee. The letter arrived in Palermo on 25 November 1859.

Only 2 registered letters from Bivona recorded.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 4. The Palermo – Mazara routing.



This routing connected Palermo to Mazara. As illustrated by the map, the following Postal Offices were connected by this routing: Palermo, Partinico, Alcamo, Trapani, Marsala and Mazara. One branch (cammino traverso), originating in Alcamo, connected this Post Office with Calatafimi, Salemi and Castelvetrano.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 4. The Palermo – Mazara routing.



Registered letter of 3 sheets from Alcamo to Palermo, prepaid 12 grana: 6 grana for a letter of 3 sheets doubled for accounting the registration fee. The letter arrived in Palermo on 20 May 1859.

One of the 2 registered letters recorded originating in Alcamo.

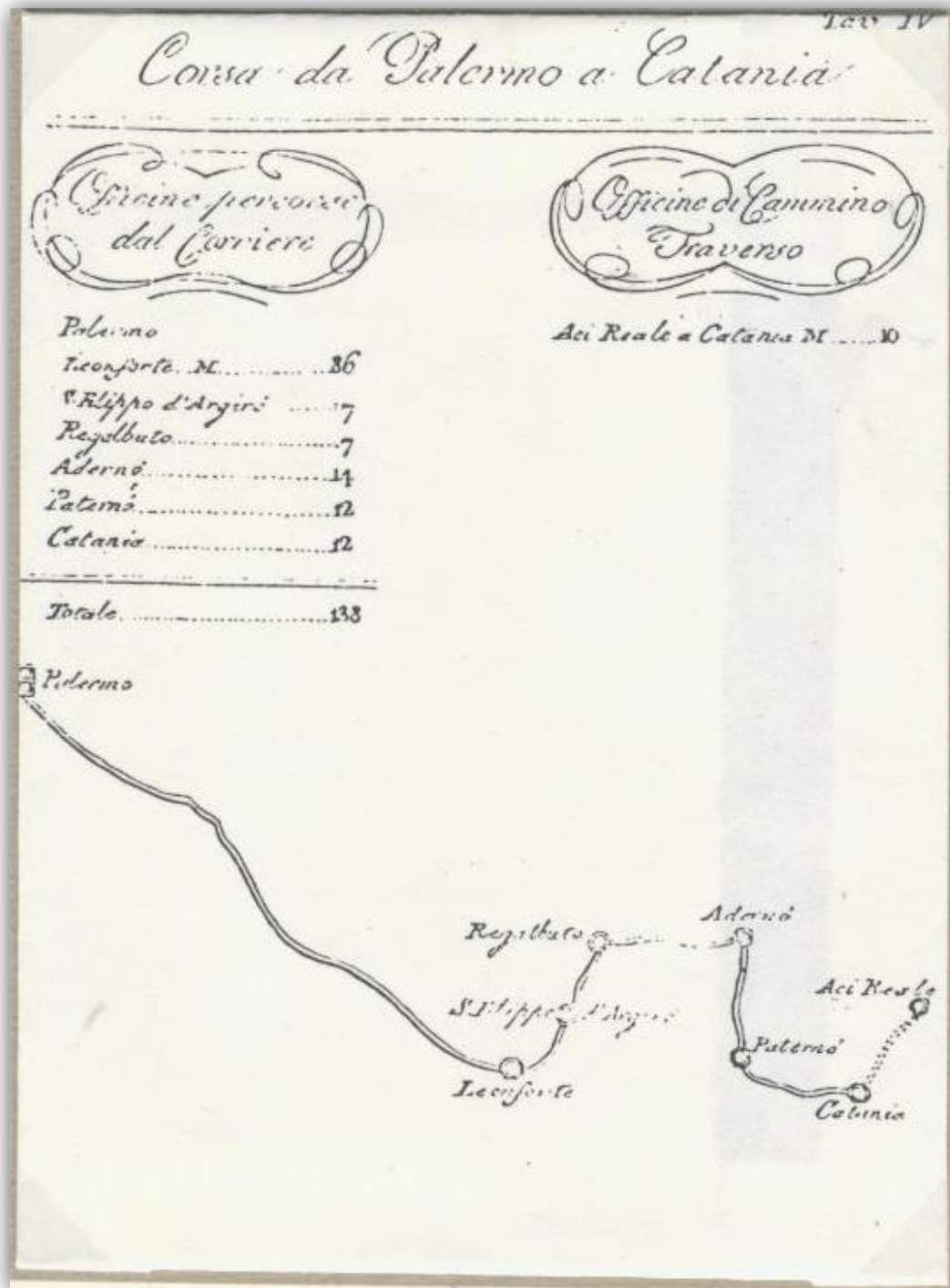


Registered letter of 1 ½ sheet from Alcamo to Mazara, prepaid 6 grana: 3 grana for a letter of 1 ½ sheet doubled for accounting the registration fee.

One of the 2 registered letters recorded originating in Alcamo.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 5. The Palermo – Catania routing.



This routing connected Palermo to Catania. As illustrated by the map, the following Postal Offices were connected by this routing: Palermo, Leonforte, San Filippo, Regalbuto, Adernò, Paternò and Catania. One branch (cammino traverso) connected Catania to Aci Reale.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 5. The Palermo – Catania routing.



Registered letter of one sheets from Adernò to Catania, prepaid 2 grana to destination: 2 grana doubled to account for the registration fee. **Only 4 registered letter from Adernò recorded.**

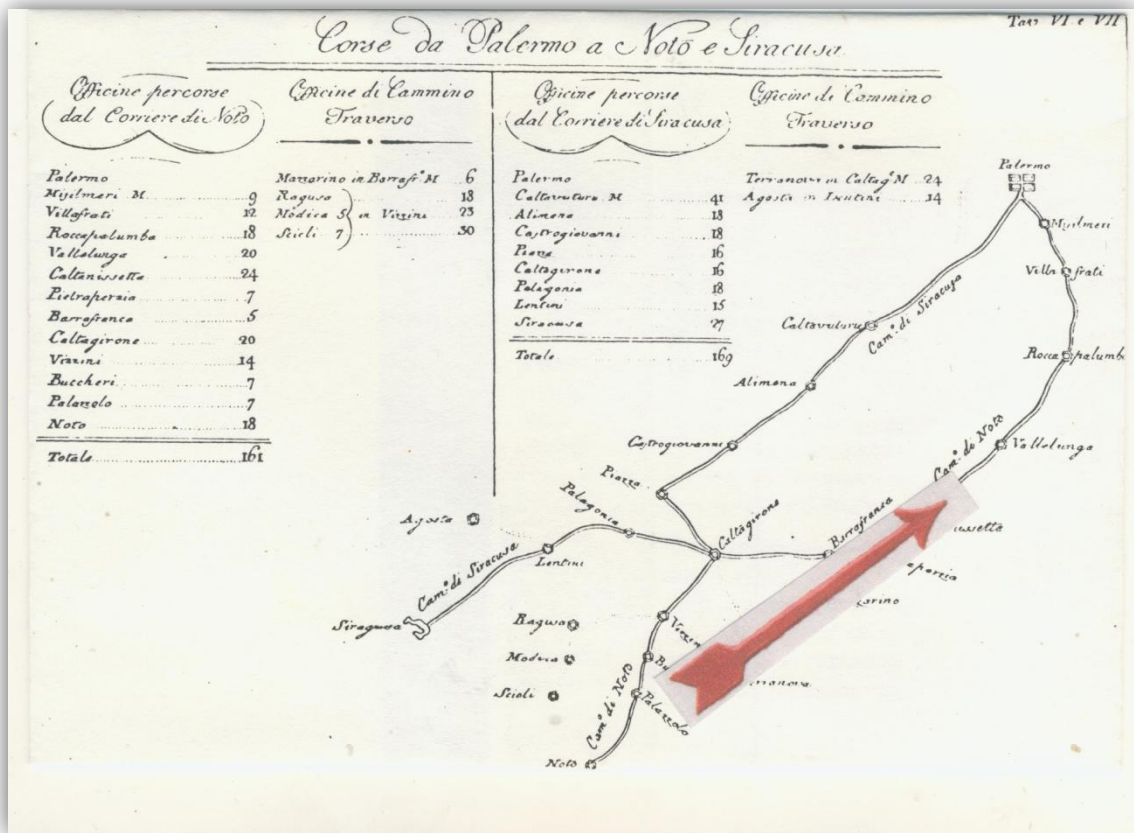


November 1859, registered letter of 2 sheets from Paternò to Messina, prepaid 8 grana: 4 grana doubled to account for the registration fee. The letter arrived in Messina on 8 November 1859.

The only recorded registered letter from Paternò.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 6. The Palermo – Noto routing.



The Palermo – Noto routing connected the following Post Offices: Palermo, Misilmeri, Villafrati, Roccapalumba, Vallalunga, Caltanissetta, Pietraperzia, Barrafranca, Caltagirone, Vizzini, Buccheri, Palagonia and Noto. This routing had 2 branches (cammini traversi): Barrafranca – Mazzarino and Vizzini, Ragusa, Modica and Scicli.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 6. The Palermo – Noto routing.



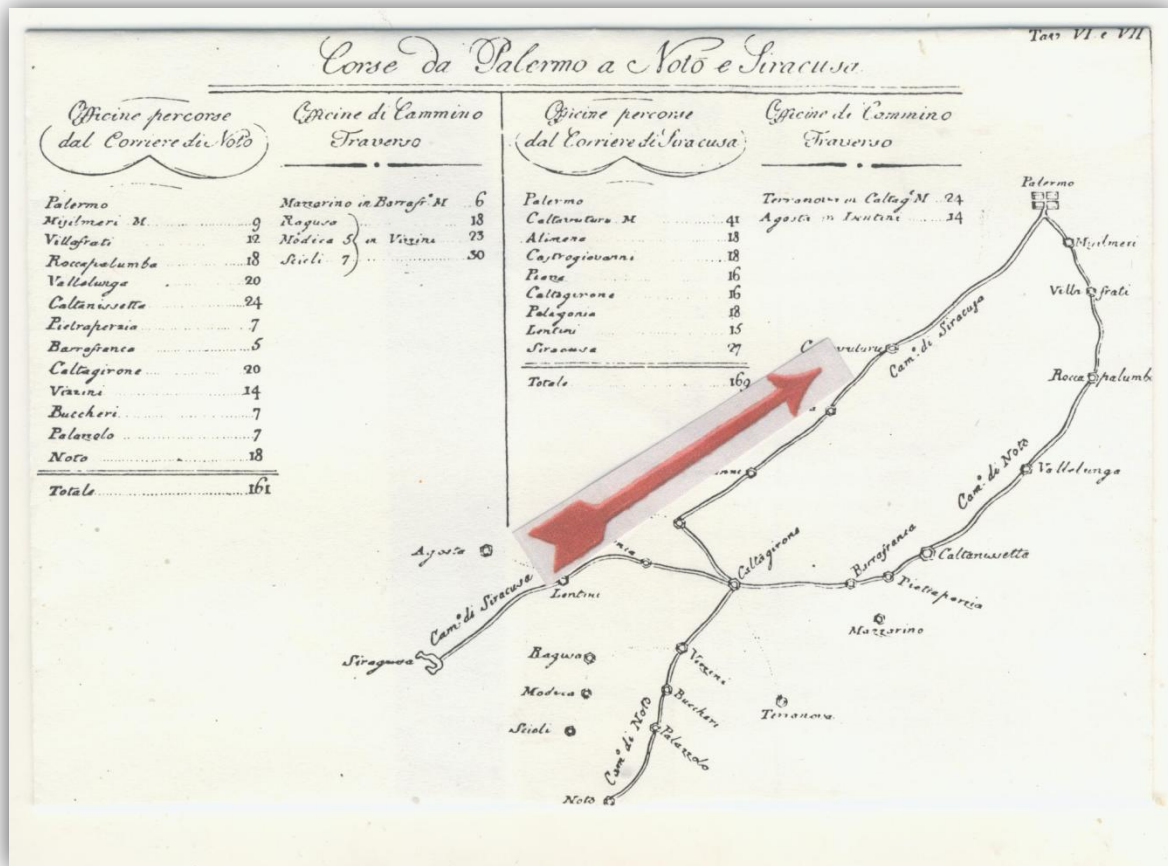
February 1860, registered letter weighing one ounce (26.7grams) from Vallelunga to Palermo, prepaid 8 grana doubled to account for the registration fee.



January 1859, registered letter of one and half sheets from Pietrapertusa to Palermo, prepaid 3 grana doubled to account for the registration fee.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 7. The Palermo – Siracusa routing.



The Palermo – Siracusa routing connected the following Post Offices: Palermo, Caltavuturo, Alimena, Castrogiovanni, Piazza, Caltagirone, Palagonia, Lentini and Siracusa. This routing had 2 branches (cammini traversi): Caltagirone – Terranova and Lentini – Augusta.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 7. The Palermo – Siracusa routing.



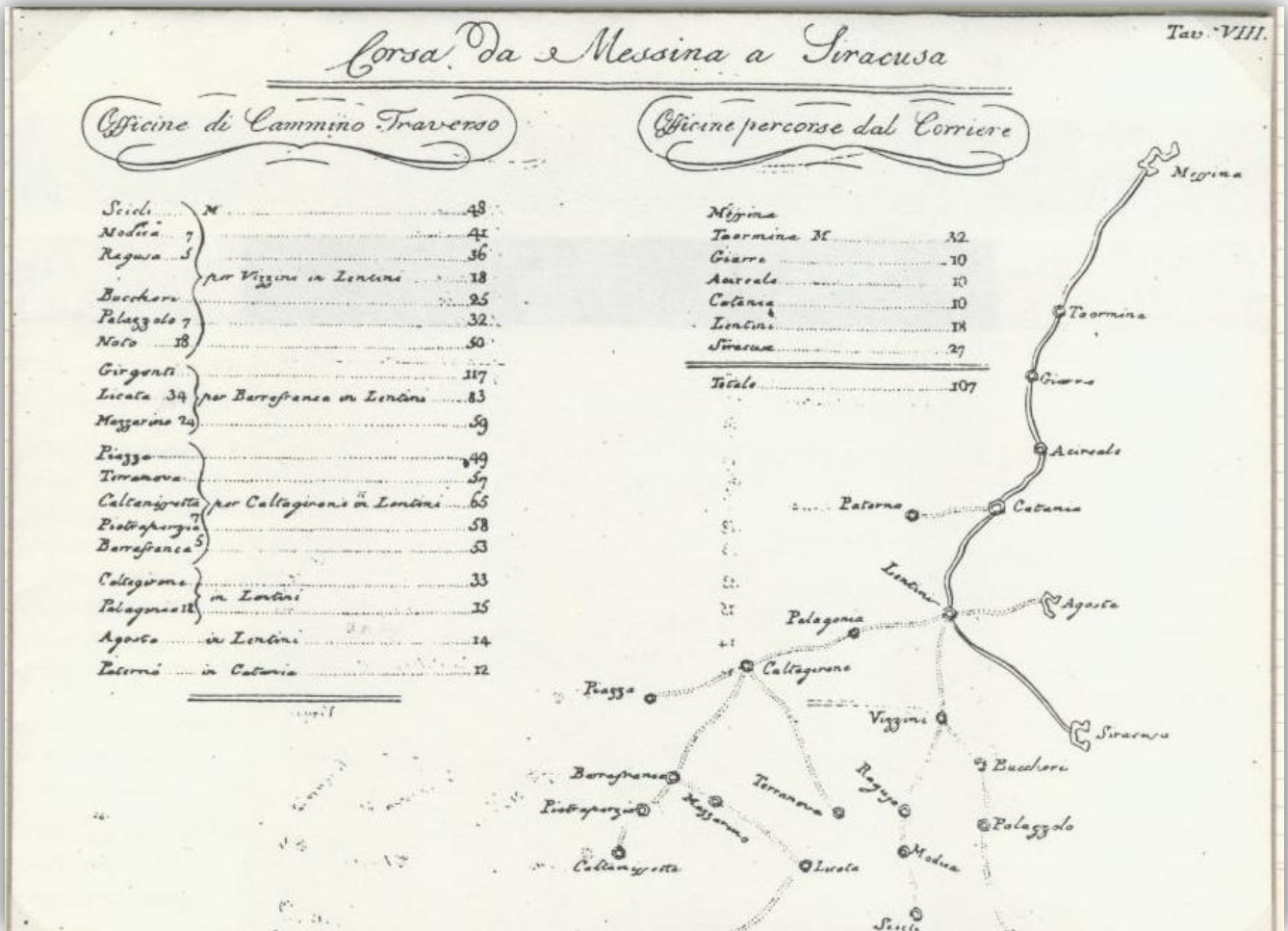
Letter of one sheet from Siracusa to Calascibetta, prepaid 2 grana to destination.



March 1860, registered letter weighing one ounce (26.7grams) from Piazza to Catania, prepaid 8 grana doubled to account for the registration fee.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 8. The Messina – Siracusa routing.

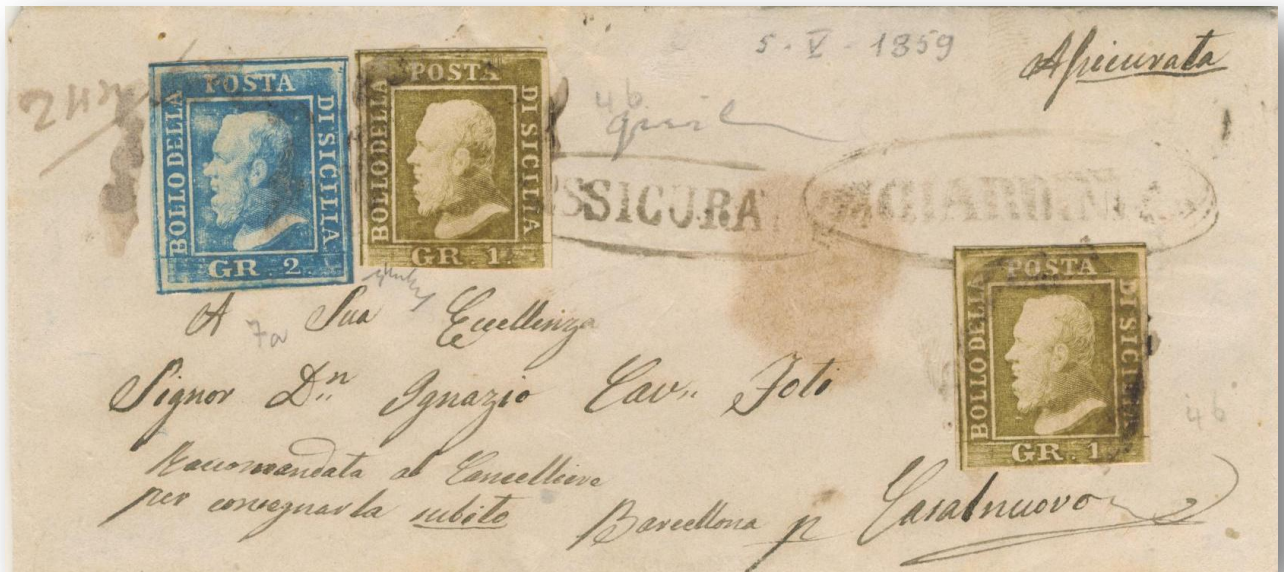


This routing connected Messina to Siracusa. As illustrated by the map, the following Postal Offices were connected by this routing: Messina, Taormina, Giarre, Acireale, Catania, Lentini, Siracusa.

As shown by the map Branches originated in Catania and Lentini, the Post Offices connected by these branches were already indicated in previous routings, the related documents are presented in these previous routings.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 8. The Messina – Siracusa routing.



Registered letter of one sheet from Giardini to Casalnuovo via Barcellona, prepaid 4 grana: 2 grana for letter of one sheet doubled for accounting the registration fee. **Only 3 registered letter from Giardini recorded.**



1 November 1859, letter of 1 ½ sheet from Catania to Messina prepaid 3 grana.
The postage stamp of 1 grano 1st plate II stato presents the retouch of the position 18.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 8. The Messina – Siracusa routing.



Letter of 2 sheets from Palazzolo to Catania, prepaid 2 grana to destination. The letter transited Noto on 16 June 1859.



Registered letter of one sheet from Vizzini to Nicosia via Catania, prepaid 4 grana: 2 grana for letter of one sheet doubled for accounting the registration fee.

Only 2 registered letter from Vizzini recorded.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 9. Sea connections among Sicilian ports by the Florio packets.

The Palermo – Messina connection

Letters carried by the Sicilian packets of the Florio line from Messina to Palermo can be recognized because they were delivered the day after they have been posted.



17 May 1859, wrapper of printed matter of one sheet from Messina to Palermo prepaid ½ grano to destination. The printed matter, carried by the Sicilian packet "Archimede" of the Florio line, was disembarked in Palermo on 18 May 1859.



19 July 1859, registered letter of 3 sheets from Messina to Palermo, prepaid 12 grana: 6 grana doubled to account for the registration fee. The letter carried by the Sicilian Packet "Etna" of the Florio line, was disembarked in Palermo on 20 July 1859.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

4. 9. Sea connections among Sicilian ports by the Florio packets.

Letters carried from Catania to Messina by the Sicilian packets of the Florio line arrived the day after their posting.



2 September 1859, letter of 1 ½ sheet from Catania to Messina, prepaid to destination only 2 grana instead of 3 grana, therefore the boxed black handstamp “AFFRANCATURA /INSUFFICIENTE” and the integration of 1 grano charged on delivery. The letter was carried by a Sicilian packet of the Florio line, as confirmed by the delivery on 3 September 1859.



13 August 1859, registered letter of 1 ½ sheet from Messina to Catania prepaid 6 grana: 3 grana doubled to account for the registration fee. The letter, carried to Catania by the Sicilian packet “Corriere Siciliano” of the Florio line, was disembarked on Catania on 14 August 1859.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

5. The last dates of use of the Sicilian postage stamps.

The aim of this section is to illustrate the postal system in Sicily from the disembarkation of Garibaldi to the end of the usage of the Sicilian postage stamps.

Garibaldi disembarked in Marsala on 11 May 1860, from that day the Postal system was disrupted also on the part of Sicily not taken by Garibaldi's military: the quantity of letters carried to destination decreased significantly because the transportation of mail became difficult. On 3 June 1860 the Sicilian postage stamps were put out of use by Garibaldi and they were not any more used in the locations seized by the Garibaldi's military. Letters prepaid with the Sicilian postage stamps addressed to locations under Garibaldi control were delayed or even not distributed. From 3 June 1860 the only recorded mail prepaid with Sicilian postage stamps originating in location not yet seized by Garibaldi was carried by sea. The last location to use the Sicilian postage stamps was Messina that continued to exchange letters with locations beyond Sicily. When the use of the postage stamps ceased the rates did not change, but letters prepaid to destination were prepaid cash and this was confirmed by the handstamp "FRANCA", registered letter were prepaid cash double the letter rate and carried the handstamp "ASSICURATA", nothing changed for unpaid letters.

The analysis of Mail prepaid with Sicilian postage stamps in the last period of use is developed as follows:

- 5. 1. Use from 11 May 1860, the date of the disembarkation of Garibaldi in Sicily, to 3 June 1860 when Garibaldi put the Sicilian postage stamps out of use.
- 5. 2. After the Garibaldi occupation letters prepaid with the Sicilian postage stamps were stopped or delivered with significant delay.
- 5. 3. Letters sent beyond Sicily from the Messina office that kept on operating up to 23 July 1860.
- 5. 4. Letters sent after the end of the use of the postage stamps.

Sicily, 1st January 1859 – July 1860

5. 3. Letters sent beyond Sicily from the Messina post office.



16 July 1860, large piece of letter from Messina to Genoa franked with 131 grana, originally prepaid to the port of disembarkation of Genoa 176 grana as required for a letter weighing 2 – 2 ¼ ounce (53.5 – 60.2 grams) carried, by the French packets. It was charged on delivery 1.20 lire as required for letter weighing 50 – 100 grams. The letter was disembarked in Genoa by the French packet “Vatican” on 20 July 1860.

The highest recorded franking without the 50 grana postage stamp.

