

Military Mail of the Post-Napoleonic Papal States: 1815–1870

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Purpose: This military postal history study examines military mail of the Papal States after the establishment of European national boundaries by the 1815 Congress of Vienna, with the goal of setting forth its rates, routes, and markings that separate it from civilian mail of the era. With a delineated territorial responsibility and the removal of foreign troops, the Papal States established a coherent military force that lasted until the unification with Italy in 1870.

Scope: For this era, the term “military” includes three branches of service: army, navy, and military police (initially *carabinieri*, later *gendarmerie*) who reported to the Minister of Arms. This exhibit has mail from all three service branches.

Plan:

Title page & naval mail	p. 1
Minister of War	p. 2
First Division	p. 3-6
Second Division	p. 7-9
Third Division	p. 10-12
Military Police	p. 13-15
Italian unification	p. 16

Highlights: Covers with philatelic significance are highlighted with a **red box**. *Blue italics indicate personal research.*



Year: 1865 **Route & Rate:** From Maritime magistrate in Civitavecchia to Pontifical consul in Barcelona (Spain) at a combined cost of 9 baj (9 near franking) plus 8 Spanish Reals (blue 8R^s on upper right).

Significance: *Only known letter from the Papal States military sent overseas and the only known naval mail from a non-ship naval unit. At the time this letter was sent, gummed stamps were mandatory on all international mail from the Papal States, so the absence of stamps is intriguing.*

Postal Notes: PP indicates postage paid to destination. Markings on back show it left Civitavecchia 31 Dec 1865 to Marseille (3 Jan 86) then Lyon (3 Jan 86) entering Spain at LaJonquera (4 Jan) and arriving at Barcelona (5 Jan).