

Knight's Postal Markings

by
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I have been trying to build up a listing of the postal markings used by the Knight's in operating their postal service and the listing is now quite substantial. Dr Ganado wrote articles for the PSM magazine on how the service operated and what the rates were.

A list of early items related to the Lazara correspondence is included, having been obtained from a small book by Robson Lowe. ROUTE PADUA - MALTA.

“There are only 19 letters in this section between 3 October 1789 and 20 August 1790 one of which (22 March 1790) has the handstamp VENEZIA. This letter and nine others have rates in black, eight having a double rate, the second being in bajocchi. One letter was endorsed “*P. Venise*”.

			bajocchi
1.	3 October 1789	2.6	25 (15?)
2.	27 November 1789	4.8	10
3.	31 December 1789	–	25 (15?)
4.	4 February 1790	3.17	8
5.	18 February 1790	2.6	15 (25?)
6.	4 March 1790	3.17	8
7.	10 March 1790	4.19	12
8.	22 March 1790	1.18	– (VENEZIA handstamp)
9.	25 March 1790	3.17	8
10.	19 April 1790	8	8

The fourth, sixth and ninth of these are identically charged. The first and fifth also show identical rates but these were shown differently by Robson Lowe with the Malta rates being 92 (2.6 inverted) and y.6. The use of bajocchi indicates that this was the charge by the Papal States who used this currency. The charge could have been applied at Rome at Raggio (on the Straits of Messina). 100 bajocchi = 1 scudo, 5 bajocchi = 12 Maltese grani.

It is possible that the nine letters with a bajocchi rate were carried from Padua to Rome by the Papal couriers, hence the charge in bajocchi. In Rome the letters could have been put on one of the ships of the Knight's of Malta who paid the bajocchi charge and wrote their own charge in tari and grani.

OTHER PLACES TO MALTA: There are two letters to record. Modena to Malta on 21 January 1790 which has no endorsements. Firenze (Florence) to Malta 19

April 1790 which has three rates. “baj. 8” (the charge to Rome?), “8” (Rome to Messina) and “3.17” (arrival charge).

Note that the two latter charges are identical to three of the letters listed above. This may well indicate transmission by the same route as those other letters.”

Other letters with Maltese rates but not related to the Lazara correspondence.

1.	GENOA 7 May 1718	1:13:?		–	Earliest known marking???
2.	GENOA 26 January 1765	2.9.		4	4 on the front.
3.	GENOA 9 February 1765	2.9.		4	4 on the front.
4.	GENOA 2 March 1765		4		4 on the front.
5.	GENOA 10 April 1765		4		4 on the front.
6.	GENOA 27 April 1765		4		4 on the front.
7.	GENOA 11 May 1765		4		4 on the front.
8.	GENOA 29 June 1765		4		4 on the front.
9.	GENOA 17 August 1765	2.9.		4	4 on the front.
10.	GENOA 31 August 1765	2.9.		4	4 on the front.
11.	GENOA 14 Sept. 1765	2.9.		4	4 on the front.
12.	GENOA 28 Sept. 1765	2.9.		4	4 on the front.
13.	1765, 1st. October EL from Rome to Malta with a fair ROMA mark on the front and what may be the earliest recorded Malta postage charge on a postal letter – “1:8” on the reverse in manuscript, which must be 1 tari and 8 grani to pay. Rare. Photo. This was Lot 164 in the “Disraeli” sale by Cavendish on 11 June 1994 and was sold for £110.00 plus charges to book bid. Clearly it was not the earliest recorded item.				
14.	GENOA 5 October 1765	1.8		–	–
15.	ROME 5 November 1765	1.8		–	ROMA in yellow on front.
16.	GENOA 16 November 1765	2.9		4	4 on front
17.	GENES 28 December 1765	2.9		4	4 on front
18.	NAPLES 1766	18.		–	18 is on reverse
19.	GENES 11 January 1766	2.9		4	4 on front
20.	GENES 1 February 1766	2.9		4	4 on front
21.	GENES 22 March 1766	2.9		4	4 on front
22.	NAPLES 29 March 1766	18		–	Only one m/s marking
23.	GENES 10 May 1766 2.9.		4		4 on front
24.	NAPLES 7 June 1766 18.		–		Only one m/s marking
25.	NAPLES 21 June 1766	1.?		–	Also has 1/2. 1/16 marks
26.	VIENNA 21 June 1766	2.9		8.4 and 12	8.4 and 12 on front

27.	VIENNA 23 June 1766	1.8/3		6 and 8	6 on front and the 8 on the rear in brown crayon. The 1.8 deleted and the 3 is below this. Rate error?
28.	NAPLES 21 July 176618		—		No other markings.
29.	PARIS 19 August 1766	3		—	3 on reverse. On the address side there is a word written and it has been suggested by the owner that the 3 and the word are written by the same person.
30.	ROME 16 September 1766	1.8		—	Only one m/s marking
31.	VIENNA 18 October 1766	2.9		4 and 8	4 on front and 8 on rear in brown crayon. Also an 80 on front which has been deleted by lines.
32.	VIENNA 16 Nov. 1766	2.9	4 and 8		Another 4 on the reverse which has been deleted.
33.	VIENNA 24 November 1766	2.9		4 and 8	4 on front and 8 on rear in brown crayon.
34.	VIENNA 1 December 1766	2.4		3 and 8	3 on front and 8 on rear in blue crayon.
35.	VALENCIA 1767	9.9		3 and 30	3 is erased, 30 underlined – and 6 above address apparently in same writing 6, Valencia handstamp. On reverse 9.9.
36.	VIENNA 14 March 1767	??3		6 and 8	6 on front and 8 on rear in blue crayon.
37.	GENOA 21 March 1767	1.12		1/2	
38.	VIENNA 28 May 1767	2.9	4 and 8		4 on front and 8 on rear in blue crayon.
39.	GENES 18 July 1767	1 8	3		3 on front. Also an unclear h/s in yellow.
40.	MARS 29 August 1767	1 II 8=		—	Only one m/s marking on front.
41.	GENES 20 February 1768	1.2		—	NAPOLI in yellow on front.

42.	VIENNA 25 February 1768	1.3		24 and 18	24 on front and 18 on rear in blue crayon. There is a further marking 1.-3/16 which may be postal on the rear.
43.	ROME 30 May 1768	1.12		–	ROMA in yellow on front. The reverse may have a 1/ deleted and the 1.12 written below.
44.	VIENNA 24 October 1768	2.9		4 and 8	4 on front and 8 on rear in brown crayon. Also a marking, possibly in code, on front deleted and replaced by a cross between a 3 and a 6. A further 4 has Roma after it on the front.
45.	VIENNA 6 March 1769	2.4		4 and 8	4 on front and 8 on rear.
46.	VIENNA 6 March 1769	2.4		4 and 8	4 on front and 8 on rear in brown crayon.
47.	VIENNA 22 May 1769	5.2	10 and 8		10 on front and 8 on rear in brown crayon.
48.	MADRID 9 July 1770 Posta lti. 4g			–	Must have been applied in
49.	MADRID 4 August 1770	9.9		<u>30</u> and 3	The 3 has been applied in Malta.
50.	NAPLES 3 November 1770	1.2		–	Unclear yellow h/s on front.
51.	PARIS 15 January 1771	2.9		4	4 on front.
52.	PARIS 12 February 1771	2.9		4	4 is on front.
53.	VIENNA 31 January 1771	2.4		3 and 8	3 and 8 on front. 8 in brown crayon deleted by two black ink lines.
54.	PARIS 9 February 1773	–		15s	15s in front.
55.	PALERMO 19 July 1774	8		–	Only one marking.
56.	NAPLES 6 October 1776	18		–	Only one m/s marking.
57.	NAPLES 14 October 1776	1.2		–	Only one m/s marking.
58.	NISMES approx. 1785	3		8	This is a rare envelope.

59.	VALLETTA 10 Sept. 1786	46?		–	To GOZZO. The only internal entire to show a rate mark so far in this period.
60.	VENICE 6 Aug. 1700		7 and 2		Both marks are probably
61.	PALERMO 11 June 1793	1.S?		–	Only one m/s marking.
62.	PALERMO 21 March 1797	1.S?		–	Only one m/s marking.
63.	PALERMO 1805	2		–	To George and Edmund Noble. PALERMO handstamp. On reverse 2.
64.	LONDON 1806	2n3		–	Letter to George and Edmund Noble. On front 2n3 with large* inspectors handstamp. On reverse Foreign Office cds.

1775 Letter from Malta to Monsieur De La Croix, geneologista de l'ordre de Malte, Ave Phelippeaux au Marais A Paris. Handstamps Rome and DE MALTHE. On reverse 1.4. This item is included in the listing on the assumption that the 1.4 may be a sign that amount was prepaid. It may be a transit or delivery marking.

The purpose of this listing is twofold. Firstly to show what is known to exist and stop collectors being misled. Only recently an auction catalogue described entire numbered 13 above as “Believed to be the earliest recorded Maltese postage due marking”, but the fact that it is number 13 above shows that it clearly is not. The second purpose is again to try and stimulate someone into carrying out further research on this mail which, hopefully, will lead to a better understanding of exactly how the system worked. In fact most of the items listed are owned by myself but I have reason to believe that there are many more in collectors hands, in some cases identified as what they are and in others the owners not knowing the significance of the markings.

2014 MALTEX XV PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The fifteenth edition of Maltex 2014 is once again being held at the 'Green Lounge' of the Hotel Phoenicia. The dates are 16th to 19th October. The inauguration and blessing of the Exhibition will be held on Thursday 16th at 18.00 hrs whereas the Exhibition will be opened to the public on 17th and 18th (09.00 to 18.00 hrs) and 19th (09.00 to 12.00 hrs). **All the members of the Society are invited to the official opening.**