

Letter from Professor Luciano de Zanche

Padova, 12 th April, 1991

(With apologies for the late reproduction of this letter due to lack of space in previous editions — Editor)

I have just read your interesting article on the MS F.A.'s endorsements on Malta Mail and want to make a few comments.

1. It must be pointed out that the R.A. was **not** a carrier: his intervention was limited to receiving and forwarding letters, entrusting them to private people or official postal services. This is the reason why I cannot agree with you writing (Fig.1 of your text) "the F.A. carried it from Trieste". In my opinion such letter reached Messina privately carried (a vessel, maybe) or 'under cover'.

2. I agree with your remark about the possibility that some times an agent collected and forwarded also internal mail, but in my experience these are only exceptions to a general rule.

3. The inscription 'per 1/2' does not imply that the F.A. bore half of the mailing costs. In Italian, per 1/2 = *per mezzo* – by means of.

4. Re the letter reproduced in Fig.5, T. Rizzo was possibly a F.A. of Constantinople. It is not unusual that both the sender and the F.A. lived in the same town.

5. Re Fig.6 perhaps, the F.A.'s name is Moise Badoer.

6. It is true that in my experience, only in some cases the sender wrote both the addresses, of the F.A. and of the addressee.

I send you herewith photostats of a few pages of the *Bollettino Prefilatelico*, reproducing the list of the F.A.'s I discovered since the publication of my book. I will take advantage of your article when again updating the list.

Yours sincerely
Luciano De Zanche

Malta

1809	J.Chabot & Co	Fiume/Norwich	MS
1812	Edw. Hayes & Co	Smirne/Rochester	MS
1835	E. Zammit	Livorno/Alessandria	MS
1843	L.P. Vella	Marseille/Malta	B
1844/46	Frate Pietro Paolo	Licudia/Tunesi	MS

1844	Fratelli Xerri	Messina/Alssandria	B
1848/57	Danzell & Gingell	Livorno/Alessandria	MS/B
1842/52	G. Sonnino	Livorno/Alessandria	B/MS
		Alessandria/Marseille	
1848/50	Bismot & Co	Livorno/Malta	B
		Alessandria/Tunesi	
1824/57	Cons. Sardo	Tripoli/Nizza	B/MS
		Tripoli/Trieste	
		Hong Kong/Torino	
1870	Salomone Nataf	Tripoli/Algeri	B

Comments by Dr. Giovanni Bonello, LL.D.

I feel very honoured that Professor De Zanche, perhaps the leading European authority on Forwarding Agents, has shown interest in my modest feature on *Manuscript Forwarding Agents' Markings on Malta Mail* carried in the April 1991 issue of this magazine.

Most of Professor De Zanche's comments I accept unreservedly.

Of course a Forwarding Agent was not a 'carrier'. I made that quite clear from the various definitions of a Forwarding Agent which I reproduced. When I used the term 'carried by', I did not wish to imply that the mail was transported personally by the F.A. I used the words in the accepted meaning of 'the act by which something is enabled to be received and/or forwarded'.

The point made by me that there were 'internal Forwarding Agents' i.e., those who operated inside national frontiers, is, I believe, still valid, even if I agree with Prof. De Zanche that national F.A.'s are to be considered quite exceptional; e.g. the Austrian Consulate in Malta which took care to forward the correspondence of its nationals in quarantine, and recorded its intervention on the letter.

It was quite disingenuous of me not to have realised that 'per 1/2' is Italian shorthand for *per mezzo* = through the agency of. I apologise.

Prof De Zanche's intuition about Badoer is proved right. A closer examination of the manuscript confirms that the F.A. was Moise Badoer.

I am unwilling, however, to agree that the sender wrote both the address of the FA and the addressee only in isolated cases. In my experience, this was not such a rare occurrence.