

## INVITATION

We wish to invite You

at the presentation of the volume by Mario Mentaschi and Thomas Mathà  
“Letter Mail from and to the Old Italian States 1850 al 1870”

which will take place  
**SATURDAY 8 MARCH 2008**  
**local time 11:30**

in the room “Meeting” by Fiera Milano City (entrance Porta Gattamelata)  
Milanofil (pavilion 17)

**Mario Mentaschi - Thomas Mathà**

## LETTER MAIL FROM AND TO THE OLD ITALIAN STATES 1850-1870

320 pages  
717 b/w illustrations  
hardbound in colour  
high quality glossy paper  
format A4 21 x 29.7  
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For the first time a book devoted to the **international routes and rates** of mail from and to the Old Italian States published in Italy. To allow reaching a broader audience, the authors have preferred to write it **in English**.

The aim of this book is to explain the **postal rates and routes of mail from and to the Old Italian States from 1850 to** the introduction of the Sardinian / Italian rates in 1859-1861. In two cases the analysis was extended to 1866 (for Austrian Venetia), and **1870** (for the Papal States). In fact the conquest of Rome, in September 1870, signalled the end of the last Old Italian State.

The countries are divided by continent, and are presented in alphabetical order. Within each country the following information is presented in chronological order.

- In relation to the direct postal Conventions, their effective dates and salient points are indicated. Whenever a direct Convention existed, the postal rates of the two countries were generally equal, except for the rounding of the different currencies.
- When mail was carried with the mediation of a third country, the rates of outgoing mail were generally different from those of the incoming mail. It was also possible to have the mediation of more countries for the same destination.
- The postal routes are indicated when a given mediation allowed for different routings.

The currency in use is indicated with its **parity to the main currencies**, as this will allow a better understanding of the accountancy markings. In addition, the different **weight units** and their **conversion** into grams are stated in order to explain the respective **weight progressions** of letters and printed matter.

The set of **Analytical Indexes** was designed to make this volume as user friendly as possible, with a view to allow a quick reference to any desired subject.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- \* Introduction
- \* Brief Summary of the Old Italian States
- \* Letter Mail from and to Europe: Austrian Empire - Belgium - Denmark - France - Gibraltar - Greece - Ionian Islands - Malta - Norway - Old German States (Federation of Northern German States) - Ottoman Empire (Moldavia - Turkey - Walachia) - Portugal (Madeira) - Russian Empire - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - The Netherlands - United Kingdom
- \* Letter Mail from and to North America: Canada, New Brunswick, Novascotia, Newfoundland - United States of America
- \* Letter Mail from and to Central America: Bahamas (British Central America) - Cuba (Spanish Central America) - Guatemala - Haiti - Mexico - Puerto Rico (Spanish Central America) - St. Thomas (Danish Central America) - Trinidad (British Central America)
- \* Letter Mail from and to South America (Atlantic Coast): Argentina - Brazil - New Granada / Colombia - Uruguay - Venezuela
- \* Letter Mail from and to South America (Pacific Coast): Chile - Ecuador - Peru
- \* Letter Mail from and to Africa: Accra - Algeria (France) - Canary Islands (Spain) - Egypt (Ottoman Empire) - Lagos - Mauritius - Morocco - Seychelles - Tunisia (Ottoman Empire)
- \* Letter Mail from and to Asia: Ceylon - China - Hong Kong - India - Singapore - Syria (Ottoman Empire)
- \* Letter Mail from and to Australia: New Zealand - Victoria, New South Wales
- \* Rate Tables
- \* Abbreviations
- \* References to Reproductions of Covers
- \* Bibliography
- \* Analytical Index of Countries of Origin / Destination and of Routings
- \* Analytical Index of Origins and Destinations
- \* Analytical Index of Postal Markings
- \* The authors



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## THE AUTHORS

Dr. Ing. Mario Mentaschi, FRPSL, born in 1942, is a retired manager and lives in Vicenza, Italy. He started studying postal history of the Old Italian States about thirty years ago and is today one of the leading experts of the Italian Postal History 1850-1870. He wrote numerous articles in Italian postal history magazines; his studies resulted so far in his book *Lire, soldi, crazie, grana & bajocchi* (2003) which has obtained gold medals in the FIP international exhibitions "Singapore world stamp championship 2004", with felicitations of the Jury, and "Pacific Explorer 2005" held in Sydney. In 2004 the book was also awarded the Fulvio Apollonio prize of the "Unione Stampa Filatelica Italiana". He exhibited in various international stamp exhibitions and obtained several gold medals. Mr. Mentaschi is a FIP judge for postal history, he is a fellow of the "Royal Philatelic Society London", a member of the "Accademia Italiana di filatelia e storia postale" and a fellow of the "International Postal History Fellowship".

Dr. Thomas Mathà, FRPSL, born in 1972, is a city manager and lives in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy. Since a very early age he developed a keen interest in postal history and published his first book about Postal History of the Allied Occupations of Trieste 1947-1954 in 1992. In the last 10 years he specialized in Postal History of Old Italian States, with a special emphasis on Roman States, publishing articles in Italian and international magazines. With his collection he obtained large gold medals at the international stamp exhibitions "Amphilex 2002", "España 2004", "Sidney 2005" and "Washington 2006". In 2005 he was awarded the Gran Prix of the National Italian Stamp Exhibition "Villa Manin Fil 2005". He serves as a national judge for postal history and youth class. Mr. Mathà is a fellow of the "Royal Philatelic Society London", a member of the "Deutscher Altbriefsammler-Verein", the "International Association of Philatelic Experts" (AIEP), the "Italy & Colonies Study Circle" and a fellow of the "International Postal History Fellowship".



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