

**A.I.S.P. AWARD
TO “LETTER MAIL”
BY MENTASCHI AND MATHÀ**



“Letter Mail from and to the Old Italian States 1850-1870” received one of the two awards for literature 2009 signed by the Italian Association for Postal History. The volume was presented at “Milanofil” one year ago.

Written by Mario Mentaschi and Thomas Mathà, the work analyses the letters which, from the middle of the nineteenth century, have travelled, both from and to, the way between Italy, still divided, and the rest of the world.

The two experts: “We are really happy, even because A.I.S.P. is the most important Italian association for postal history; moreover, this is the first official recognition not connected to an exhibition by an Italian philatelic organization”.

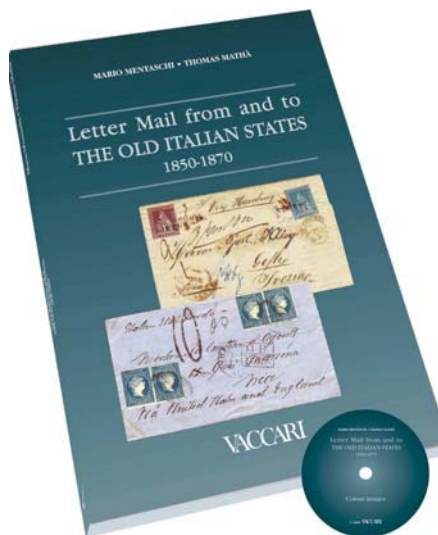


Mario Mentaschi - Thomas Mathà

**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
printed 2008

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English text



+ CD with full colour illustrations

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AWARDS RECEIVED

Sindelfingen 2008 - golden horn
Montenegrofila 2008 - gold
Prague 2008 - gold + special prize
APS Stampshow 2008 - gold + reserve grand
Efiro 2008 - gold

The volume has been sent to other exhibitions "not competing" as one of the authors,
Mario Mentaschi, was one of the Judges.

Mario Mentaschi and Thomas Mathà, for the presentation of their collection,
have been awarded the Tilleard medal by the Royal Philatelic Society of London.



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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.

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Mario Mentaschi - Thomas Mathà

CORRISPONDENZE DA E PER GLI ANTICHI STATI ITALIANI 1850-1870

216 pages - softbound - format A4 21x29.7 - printed 2008
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The present volume is the **translation in Italian** of the work written in English by Mario Mentaschi and Thomas Mathà **"Letter Mail from and to the Old Italian States 1850-1870"**.

Following the great demands, and the success that the book is obtaining by the readers and at the most important international exhibitions, here is this publication to accompany the original work in English, that is the translation of the **descriptive text** and of the **analytical index of postal markings**. The other parts (rate tables, reproductions of covers, bibliography) and the other analytical indexes (origins, destinations, routings) have not been translated as they are quite easy to use even in English.

The reproduction of the images and the CD with the illustrations in colours are enclosed only in the original work.

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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