SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF PONTIFICAL STATE POSTAL MARKINGS

FINDING GUIDE

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Figure 1. The three and six bajocchi values from the first issue of the Pontifical State are used here on a cover that traveled from Ancona to Trieste via steamship. The date of mailing is January 4, 1852, just four days after postage stamps were introduced in the Pontifical State.

COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

The National Postal Museum's Specialized Collection of Pontifical State Postal Markings consists of approximately 2,000 stamps, covers, and fragments in twenty-seven volumes. It includes a wide variety of postmarks, cancellations, auxiliary markings, and official cachets from the former Pontifical State. Approximately 90% of the known straightline town cancels are represented, either on cover, fragment, or stamp.

PROVENANCE & PROCESSING HISTORY

The Specialized Collection of Pontifical State Postal Markings was donated to the National Philatelic Collection in two parts. The first gift, made in 1953 by Irvin Hermanoff, William Winokur, Seymour Winokur, and Lawrence Hollander, consisted of 8 volumes (Acc. No. 200460). Two years later, Hermanoff and the Winokur brothers made a second donation of 2,389 objects (Acc. No. 209392). (Both gifts were arranged through and appraised by Finbar Kenny, general manager of the New York philatelic firm of Julius and Henry Stolow.) In 1963, museum specialist Frank Welch reorganized and remounted the collection into its current configuration of 27 volumes. At that time, covers from Parma were stripped out and Pontifical State covers from other museum collections were added.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Pontifical State once comprised 16,000 square miles of central Italy, over which the Pope ruled as a temporal sovereign for more than a millennium. Comprising the regions of Romagna, Marche, Umbria and Lazio, it was bounded on the north by the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venice and the Duchy of Modena, on the west by the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and on the southeast by the Kingdom of Naples. The population of the Pontifical State was just over 3,000,000 persons, and the government operated a highly-developed postal system that issued stamps in 1852, 1867, and 1868.

The Pontifical State collapsed during Italian unification, when General Cadorna's army invaded Rome in September 1870 and proclaimed the city as the capital of the new Italian kingdom. This launched a fifty-nine-year cold war known as the "Roman Question," during which Pope Pius IX and his successors declared themselves "prisoners in the Vatican" and sequestered themselves in the Apostolic Palace to protest the loss of their territories.

After the fall of Rome, the pontifical posts were integrated into the Italian system and Italian stamps were used on the Vatican's mail. It was not until the Lateran Accords, signed February 11, 1929, that the Vatican and Italy formally recognized each other's right to exist and Vatican City became politically independent. Two days later, the Vatican reestablished its own post office (Poste Vaticane). It joined the Universal Postal Union on June 1 and signed a postal treaty with Italy on July 29, allowing Vatican mail to be routed through Rome. The first stamps were issued and the post office opened to the public on August 1, 1929. Today's Vatican City State is the last remaining vestige of the former Pontifical State.

Volume 1. 28 pages containing approximately 62 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "A": **Acqualagna** (4 pages); **Acquapendente** (6 pages); **Acquasparta** (1 page); **Acquaviva** (1 page); **Acuto** (1 page); **Alatri** (1 page); **Albano** (4 pages); **Alfonsine** (1 page); **Allumiere** (1 page); **Amandola** (2 pages); **Amelia** (6 pages).

Volume 2. 34 pages containing approximately 86 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "A": **Anagni** (3 pages); **Ancona** (19 pages); **Anticoli** (1 page); **Apiro** (1 page); **Appignano** (1 page); **Arcevia** (2 pages); **Argenta** (1 page) **Arnara** (1 page); **Arquata** (1 page); **Arsoli** (1 page); **Ascoli** (3 pages).

Volume 3. 37 pages containing approximately 81 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "A" and "B": **Ascoli** (4 pages); **Assisi** (1 page); **Bagnacavallo** (1 page); **Bagnaja** (1 page); **Bagnara** (1 page); **Bagnorea** (1 page); **Barbarano** (1 page); **Barchi** (1 page); **Bassano di Sutri** (1 page); **Bassano in Teverina** (1 page); **Bassiano** (1 page); **Bastia** (1 page); **Bauco** (1 page); **Bazzano** (1 page); **Belforte** (1 page); **Benevento** (1 page); **Bevagna** (1 page); **Bologna** (17 pages).

Volume 4. 37 pages containing approximately 91 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "B" and "C": **Bologna** (10 pages); **Bolsena** (2 pages); **Bomarzo** (1 page); **Bondeno** (4 pages); **Bracciano** (2 pages); **Brisighella** (1 page); **Budrio** (2 pages); **Cagli** (4 pages); **Caldarola** (3 pages); **Calvi** (1 page); **Camerano** (1 page); **Camerino** (6 pages).

Volume 5. 34 pages containing approximately 70 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "C": **Camerino** (2 pages); **Campagnano** (1 page); **Campofilone** (1 page); **Canale Monterano** (1 page); **Canemorto** (1 page); **Canepina** (1 page); **Canino** (1 page); **Cantiano** (2 pages); **Capranica** (2 pages); **Caprarola** (1 page); **Carbognano** (1 page); **Carpineto** (1 page); **Casola Valsenio** (1 page); **Castel Bolognese** (1 page); **Castel del Rio** (1 page); **Castelfidardo** (3 pages); **Castel Franco** (1 page); **Castel Maggiore** (1 page); **Castelnuovo di Porto** (2 pages); **Castel San Pietro** (4 pages); **Castignano** (1 page); **Castro** (1 page); **Cave** (1 page); **Ceccano** (2 pages).

Volume 6. 30 pages containing approximately 65 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "C": **Celleno** (2 pages), **Cellere** (1 page), **Cento** (11 pages), **Cervia** (4 pages), **Cesena** (9 pages), **Cingoli** (3 pages).

Volume 7. 36 pages containing approximately 80 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "C": **Cingoli** (1 page), **Cisterna** (2 pages), **Città della Pieve** (3 pages), **Città di Castello** (4 pages), **Civita Castellana** (6 pages), **Civita Lavinia** (1 page), **Civitanova** (5 pages), **Civitavecchia** (13 pages), **Codigoro** (1 page).

Volume 8. 36 pages containing approximately 108 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "C" and "F": **Codigoro** (1 page), **Collepardo** (1 page), **Colmurano** (1 page), **Comacchio** (8 pages), **Comunanza** (1 page), **Conselice** (1 page), **Contigliano** (1 page), **Copparo** (2 pages), **Cori** (2 pages), **Corinaldo** (3 pages), **Corneto** (5 pages), **Cotignola** (1 page), **Crespellano** (1 page), **Fabbrica** (1 page), **Fabriano** (1 page), **Faenza** (6 pages).

Volume 9. 29 pages containing approximately 69 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "F": **Faenza** (1 page); **Falvatera** (1 page); **Fano** (5 pages); **Fara** (2 pages); **Farnese** (2 pages); **Ferentino** (3 pages); **Fermignano** (1 page); **Fermo** (14 pages).

Figure 2. Lugo in Emilia-Romagna was part of the Pontifical State from 1202 until 1859, when it voted to join the Kingdom of Sardinia. This cover front from September 1860 shows the postage stamps of Sardinia cancelled with the old style Pontifical State handstamps.

Volume 10. 33 pages containing approximately 66 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "F": **Ferrara** (6 pages), **Fiano** (1 page), **Fiastra** (1 page), **Ficano** (1 page), **Ficulle** (2 pages), **Filacciano** (1 page), **Filettino** (1 page), **Filottrano** (1 page), **Foligno** (5 pages), **Fontana** (1 page), **Forli** (4 pages), **Forlimpopoli** (1 page), **Fossombrone** (8 pages).

Volume 11. 32 pages containing approximately 64 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "F" and "G": **Fossombrone** (5 pages), **Frascati** (4 pages), **Frosinone** (4 pages), **Fumone** (1 page), **Fusignano** (1 page), **Gallese** (1 page), **Gallignano** (1 page), **Gavignano** (1 page), **Genazzano** (1 page), **Genzano** (4 pages), **Giulianello** (1 page), **Giuliano** (1 page), **Gorga** (1 page), **Gradoli** (1 page), **Grotte di Castro** (1 page), **Grottamare** (1 page), **Gualdo** (1 page) **Gualdo Tadino** (2 pages).

Volume 12. 29 pages containing approximately 58 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "G," "I" and "J": **Guarcino** (2 pages), **Gubbio** (6 pages), **Imola** (12 pages), **Ischia** (2 pages), **Jesi** (7 pages).

Volume 13. 30 pages containing approximately 60 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "J," "L" and "M": **Jesi** (2 pages), **Lojano** (1 page), **Loreto** (5 pages), **Loro** (2 pages), **Lugnano** (1 page), **Lugo** (7 pages), **Macerata** (9 pages), **Maenza** (2 pages), **Marano** (1 page).

Volume 14. 39 pages containing approximately 85 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "M": **Marino** (1 page), **[Castello del] Massaccio** (1 page), **Massa Fiscaglia** (1 page), **Massa Lombarda** (1 page), **Matelica** (4 pages), **Medicina** (2 pages), **Mercatello** (1 page), **Migliaro** (1 page), **Minerbio** (1 page), **Mogliano** (1 page), **Molinella** (1 page), **Mondavio** (1 page), **Mondolfo** (1 page), **Monsampolo** (1 page), **Montalboddo** (2 pages), **Montalto** (2 pages), **Montalto di Castro** (1 page) **Mont'Appone** (1 page), **Monte Cassiano** (1 page), **Monte Castrilli** (1 page), **Monte Corsaro** (1 page), **Monte di Neve** (1 page), **Monte Fano** (1 page), **Montefiascone** (1 page), **Monte Fiore** (1 page), **Montefortino** (1 page), **Monte Giorgio** (1 page), **Monte Granaro** (1 page), **Monte Grimano** (1 page), **Montelanico** (1 page), **Monte Lupone** (1 page) **Monte Marciano** (2 pages).

Volume 15.   43 pages containing approximately 86 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "M," "N" and "O": **Monte Milone** (3 pages), **Monterosi** (1 page), **Monterotondo** (1 page), **Monte Rubbiano** (3 pages), **Monte San Giovanni in Campis** (3 pages), **Monte S. Martino** (1 page), **Monte S. Pietrangeli** (1 page), **Monte Santo** (5 pages), **Monte San Giusto** (1 page), **Mte. S. Vito** (1 page), **Montesicuro** (1 page), **M. Olmo** (2 pages), **Montopoli** (1 page), **Mordano** (1 page), **Morolo** (1 page), **Morrovalle** (1 page), **Narni** (5 pages) **Nepi** (1 page), **Nettuno** (1 page), **Nocera** (2 pages), **Norma** (2 pages), **Offagna** (1 page), **Offida** (2 pages), **Olevano** (1 page), **Onano** (1 page).

Volume 16.   34 pages containing approximately 70 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "O" and "P": **Orte** (2 pages), **Orvieto** (3 pages), **Osimo** (4 pages), **Otricoli** (1 page), **Palestrina** (4 pages), **Paliano** (1 page), **Palo** (1 page), **Palombara** (2 pages), **Panicale** (1 page), **Patrica** (1 page), **Pausula** (4 pages), **Pennabilli** (2 pages), **Penna S. Giovanni** (1 page), **Pergola** (7 pages).

Volume 17.   44 pages containing approximately 93 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "P" and "R": **Pergola** (3 pages), **Perugia** (8 pages), **Pesaro** (6 pages), **Petriolo** (1 page), **Petritoli** (1 page), **Piansano** (1 page), **Piglio** (1 page), **Piperno** (2 pages), **Pofi** (1 page), **Poggio Mirteto** (2 pages), **Poli** (1 page), **Pontecorvo** (1 page), **Pontelagoscuro** (3 pages), **Portomaggiore** (2 pages), **Porto S. Giorgio** (1 page), **Proceno** (1 page), **Prossedi** (1 page) **Ravenna** (3 pages), **Recanati** (3 pages), **Rieti** (2 pages).

Volume 18.   29 pages containing approximately 68 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "R": **Rieti** (1 page), **Rimini** (4 pages), **Riolo** (1 page), **Ripatransone** (3 pages), **Ripe S. Ginesio** (1 page), **Ripi** (1 page), **Roccagorga** (1 page), **Roccamassima** (1 page), **Roccasecca** (1 page), **Roma** (15 pages).

Volume 19.   34 pages containing approximately 74 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "R" and "S": **Roma (Direzione di Roma)** (1 page), **Roma (Roma Gircondario)** (2 pages), **Roma (Geprano Ambulanza)** (3 pages), **Ronciglione** (3 pages), **Rotella** (1 page), **Russi** (2 pages), **Sant'Agata Feltria** (1 page), **Sant'Agata Ferrarese** (1 page), **Sant'Agata Ravennate** (1 page), **Sant'Agata Sul Santerno** (1 page), **San Alberto** (1 page), **San Anatolia** (2 pages), **San Elpidio** (3 pages), **Sant'Angelo in Pontano** (1 page), **Sant'Angelo in Vado** (1 page), **S. Arcangelo** (3 pages), **San Benedetto** (2 pages) **San Ginesio** (2 pages), **San Giovanni in Persiceto** (1 page), **San Giusto** (1 page), **San Lazzaro** (1 page).

Volume 20.   33 pages containing approximately 72 items postmarked by cancels of **Roma** (33 pages).

Volume 21.   35 pages containing approximately 70 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "S": **Senigallia** (15 pages), **Sermoneta** (1 page), **Serra de' Conti** (1 page), **Serra San Quirico** (1 page), **Serrone** (1 page), **Sezze** (2 pages), **Sgurgola** (1 page), **Sigillo** (8 pages), **Sirolo** (2 pages), **Sonnino** (1 page), **Soriano** (2 pages).

Volume 22.   31 pages containing approximately 62 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "S": **San Leo** (2 pages), **San Lorenzo (Frosinone)** (1 page), **San Lorenzo (Viterbo)** (1 page), **S. Martino** (1 page), **San Severino** (6 pages), **San Stefano** (1 page), **San Vittoria** (2 pages), **Sarnano** (1 page) **Sassocorvaro** (1 page), **Sassoferrato** (4 pages), **Savignano** (2 pages), **Scandriglia** (1 page), **Scheggia** (3 pages), **Segni** (5 pages).

Volume 23.   31 pages containing approximately 64 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "S" and "T": **Spello** (1 page), **Spoleto** (24 pages), **Staffolo** (2 pages), **Subiaco** (2 pages), **Supino** (1 page), **Sutri** (2 pages), **Talamello** (1 page).

Volume 24.   31 pages containing approximately 66 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "T": **Terni** (7 pages), **Terracina** (6 pages), **Tivoli** (4 pages), **Todi** (5 pages), **Tolentino** (7 pages), **Tolfa** (1 page), **Torre (de Gaetani)** (1 page).

Figures 3 (top) and 4 (bottom). Two covers bearing evidence of disinfection during epidemics, probably of cholera. The top cover was slitted in the front to admit fumes of chlorine or sulfur, both of which were thought to be effective in sanitizing the mail. The bottom, a registered cover from Senigallia in the Marches to Rome, was handstamped with the pontifical arms and the words "Netta Dentro e Fuori," meaning "Cleaned inside and out."

Volume 25.   28 pages containing approximately 63 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "T" and "U": **Torrice** (1 page), **Toscanella** (4 pages), **Tossignano** (1 page), **Treja** (8 pages), **Trevi** (1 page), **Trivigliano** (1 page), **Umana** (1 page), **Urbania** (4 pages), **Urbino** (6 pages), **Urbisaglia** (1 page).

Volume 26.   33 pages containing approximately 66 items postmarked by town cancels beginning with "V" and "Z": **Valentano** (2 pages), **Vallecorsa** (1 page), **Vallerano** (1 page), **Valmontone** (2 pages), **Velletri** (7 pages) **Vergato** (1 page), **Veroli** (2 pages), **Vetralla** (3 pages), **Verucchio** (1 page), **Viano** (1 page), **Vico** (2 pages), **Vignanello** (2 pages), **Viterbo** (4 pages), **Vitorchiano** (3 pages), **Zagarolo** (1 page).

Volume 27.   29 pages containing approximately 79 items postmarked by miscellaneous town cancels or bearing various auxiliary markings and cachets: **Miscellaneous** (1 page), **Anagni** (1 page), **Bologna** (1 page), **Cento** (1 page), **Ferrara** (1 page), **Imola** (1 page), **Macerata** (1 page), **Romagna** (1 page), **Different Pontificia Markings** (4 pages), **Posta Militare** (2 pages), **Stampligliature di Disinfezione** (2 pages), **Gendarmeria Pontificia** (2 pages), **Dopo La Partenza** (2 pages), **Affrancata** (1 page), **Assicurata (black and red varieties)** (2 pages) **P.D., P.P, and T.P.** (1 page), **ADated Cancels** (1 page), **Pontifici Brigata** (1 page), **Distaccemento Cacciatori di Subiaco** (1 page), **Giriglia Azzurra** (1 page), **Giriglia Rossa** (1 page).

Figure 5. This 1811 cover originated from Velletri, about 25 miles southeast of Rome. Three years previously, Napoléon had ordered the invasion and occupation of the Pontifical State, which he then divided into *départements* and *préfectures*. As indicted by the postal marking, Velletri was located in Département 116 (du Tibre). The cachet at lower left is that of the *sous-préfet*, or magistrate, in Velletri, indicating that this was official mail entitled to free postage. The Pontifical State remained under French occupation until Napoléon's surrender to the British-led allies at Fontainebleau in 1814.

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