

SYNOPSIS: PAPAL STATES MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY 1815-1870

Sarasota

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Authorship: There was **no** prior literature on Papal States military mail published anywhere until I began writing on the topic. And, as the article mentions, there is very little identifiable Papal States military mail. My current personal census is less than 200 pieces out of 20,000+ examined covers; with over 30% of that total are military police (*carabinieri*) covers. This creates some uncertainty in reaching conclusions, as there is may only be one cover for any given military unit.

The article was written for the philatelic specialty audience of the *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*. Terms unique to the military and its operational methods for the era needed little or no explanation in the article. This readership has less familiarity with the Papal States mail. Therefore, the article addresses a generalized military postal history, while the philatelic details of the mail are addressed in the captions for each cover. My personal goal was to continue to place my research out where others could give me feedback. The covers were specially selected to maximize the variety of different unit types.

Originality, Significance, and Research: The article's scope was limited to the post-Napoleonic period, since that represented the period when the Papal States had a relatively modern army and a functioning modern postal system. Difficulties have been mentioned above. The article holds philatelic interest for military postal history as well postal and philatelic history applications for the Papal States specialist. This work is significant for those interested in the Papal States mail, as it provides information not found in any other reference. It did achieve my purpose as stated in the paragraph above. Several readers passed me their contacts in Europe who were working on related philatelic issues.

Technical Matters: The article includes references. All images are covers of above-average quality from this era and area. Lesser quality covers were so illegible they could not be reproduced. The images used are entirely from my personal collection.