

Synopsis: Papal States: An Interesting Bisect Cover and Some Detective Work

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Authorship:

The article was written for a specialist audience (*Vatican Notes* by the Vatican Philatelic Society). It builds on information in earlier *Vatican Note* articles (1950s and 1960s) that bisects existed and were used. Those articles lacked both examples and discussions of usage.

Originality, Significance, and Research:

In personal research, uninvolved over 11,000 Papal States covers, I have only found three examples with bisect stamps and this is the only one with the bisect on the obverse. (As a side note, this is also one of the handful of covers with an intact wax seal I have seen to date.) The far more common stamp found on the obverse of covers is the 1 bajoccho.

This work is significant for those interested in the Papal States mail, as it provides information not found in any other reference. Again, through personal research, I discovered the ties between the use of honorifics and the relationship between the sender and recipient.

Over the years of researching everything I could find related to the Papal States post, I saw a downward trend in articles on the papal post as well as obvious (and sometimes even acknowledged) lacunae that had not been acted upon.

This article is part of preserving information within this specialty.

Technical Matters:

The original cover is a part of my Papal States collection and I created the accompanying front and back images. All other imagery was provided by the staff at *Vatican Notes*. As a matter of editorial policy, they augment articles with historic photographs, maps, and images of related stamps as a method of increasing the journal's appeal to the society's members.

The image of the double circle postmark was included by the staff as they had a clearer image of a Camino cancel compared to the one on the cover. I did not have any such alternative image.

This cover is above-average quality for the era.