

2. MAIL (SEA) ROUTES FROM/TO THE LEVANT

2.1 - ANTIQUE LETTERS - CONVOYS to/from THE LEVANT (XV CENTURY)

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

ROUTE OF CONVOY TO SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

The *Muda di Siria* was part of the *muda di mercato* that will leave Venice in the Spring and Autumn. The Route was from **Venice** down the Adriatic and Ionian seas to **Candia**; then east to Syria, docking either at **Tripoli** (seaport for **Aleppo**). or at **Beirut** (seaport for **Damascus**). In the 1400s, Venetians developed strong commercial ties with the Mamluk rulers of Syria; importing valuable products like silk, glassware, and textiles. They had trading posts in Aleppo, Damascus, Tripoli and Beirut, which were the terminals of the Silk Road a network of trading routes of 4,600 miles from eastern China west to the Mediterranean (see map Bottom Right).

I laus do 1483 in alepo

(Above COPY start of Text: Date, Origin)

(Below COPY end of Text: Depart. Date, Sender's Name)

di 19 lujo *zuan alvise morosini*

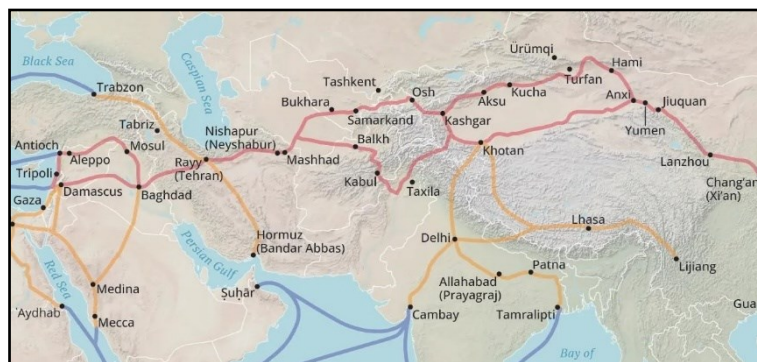


VENICE to ALEPPO Route

*Spectabili et generoso domino/ marino maurozeno/ dei
domini domini*

*Recevuta adj 22 novembrjo 1483, per la/ nave propria, zuan
mandrjno, de 19/lujo 1483*

zuan alvise morosini



SILK ROAD Route

1483 – Antique Entire Letter from ALEPPO Syria to VENEZIA

Entire Letter sent 19 July 1483 from ALEPPO by *Zuan Alvise Morosini* to his brother *Marino Morosini* in VENICE. It is addressed to “*Spectabilj et gineroso domino/ marino maurozeno, quantdam Magnifici/ et domini domonizi*” Below is a note by a different hand “*Recevuta adj 22 novembrjo 1483, per la/ nave propria, zuan mandrjno, de 19/lujo 1483*”. (see arrow) e.g. Received 22 Nov.1483 via his own ship, *Zuan Mandrjno*, July 19, 1483. This is a commercial letter. The Text refers to silk trade, in particular to silk cloths and silkworms.

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

L'aus d'ro 14 d'f m a l'p'

(COPY start of Text: Date, Origin)

ad m aucto fud aluipr m

(COPY end of Text: Depart. Date, Sender's Name)

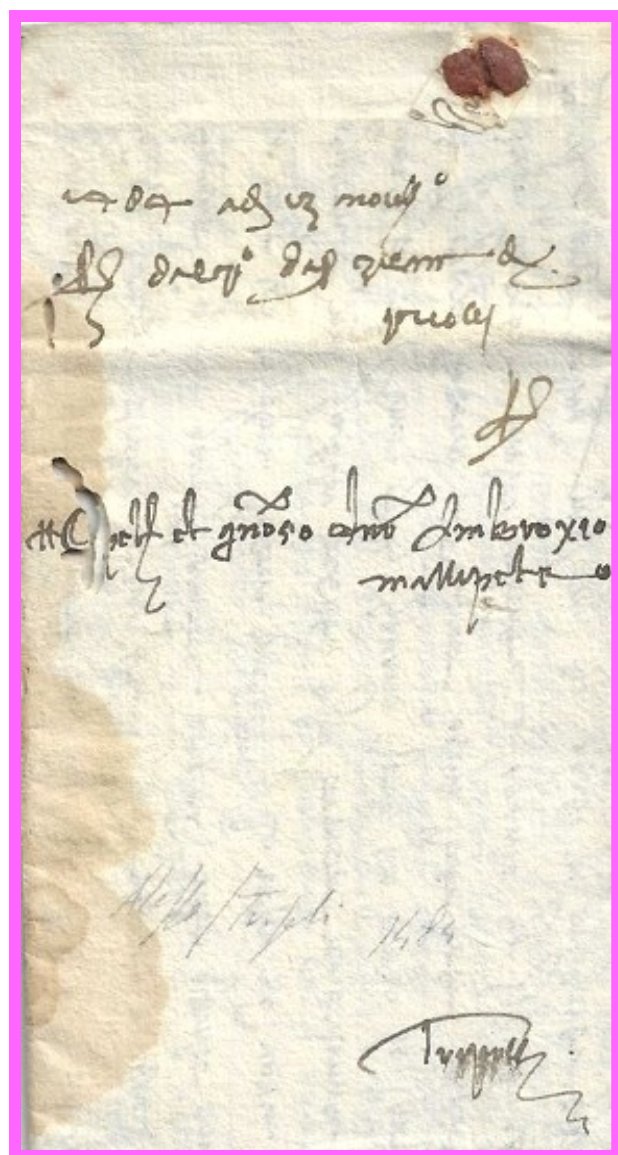
y Spectabili. et generoso dno
 marino mauro suo dno
 in domini domini p'f

 y d'z. noacno d'z. d'z. aucto
 p'z. d'z. d'z. d'z.

1485 – Antique Entire Letter from **ALEPPO** Syria to **VENEZIA**

Entire Letter dated 22 August 1485 sent by Zuan Alvise Morosini, Venetian Consul of ALEPPO to his brother Marino Morosini in VENICE. Letter is addressed to 'spectabili et generoso domino Marino Mauroceno'. Below is a note by a different hand "Recevuta adj 7 novembrjo 1485 ae 22 agosto". (see arrow) e.g. Received 7 Nov. 1485 of 22 August. This is a commercial letter referring to silk trade. The Route followed was overland from **Aleppo** to **Tripoli** then with the returning Autumn muda along the south coast of Asia Minor to **Candia**, then NW through the Ionian & Adriatic Seas to **Venice**. (*Venice Postal Historyy, Maritime Routes by Franco Rigo*).

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



ALEPPO to TRIPOLI Route

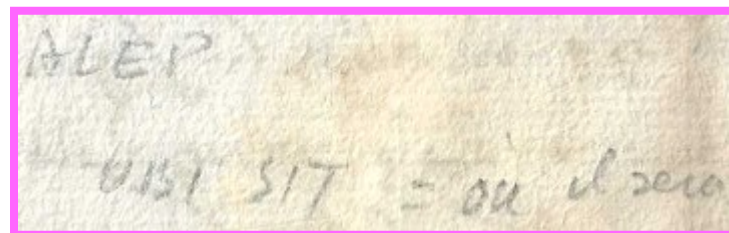
1484a di 13 marzo dal' Zuan M. /no Al.

(COPY start of Text: Date, Origin)

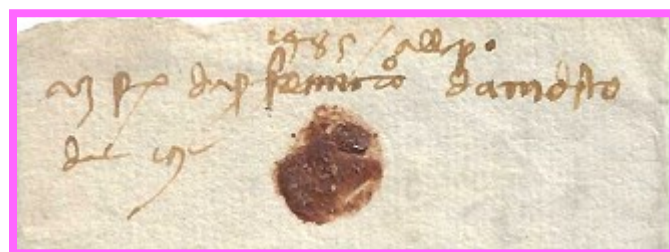
1484 - Antique Entire Letter from **ALEPPO** (Syria) to **TRIPOLI** (now Lebanon)

Entire Letter dated 6 March 1484 by *Zuan Alvise Morosini* from **ALEPPO** to the port of **TRIPOLI** (presently in Lebanon) addressed to *Ambrogio Malipiero*, who had served as the Venetian Vice-Consul in Tripoli 1482 -87. On top is a note by a different hand "1484a di 13 marzo dal' Zuan M. /no Al." (see arrow) e.g. 12 Mar. 1484. There are 31 letters in the State Archives of Venice addressed *Ambrogio Malipiero* mainly from Aleppo, Beirut and Damascus. These are commercial letters dealing with the cotton trade and reveal the deep interwovenness of the Venetian merchants in Syria. (source: *Profit & Commitment: Lorenzo Dolfen and the Commercial Family in Venetian Long-Distance Trade, c.1399-1475* by Dr. Georg Christ).

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



(COPY Inside Fold: Pencil written notation ALEP-UBI SIT)

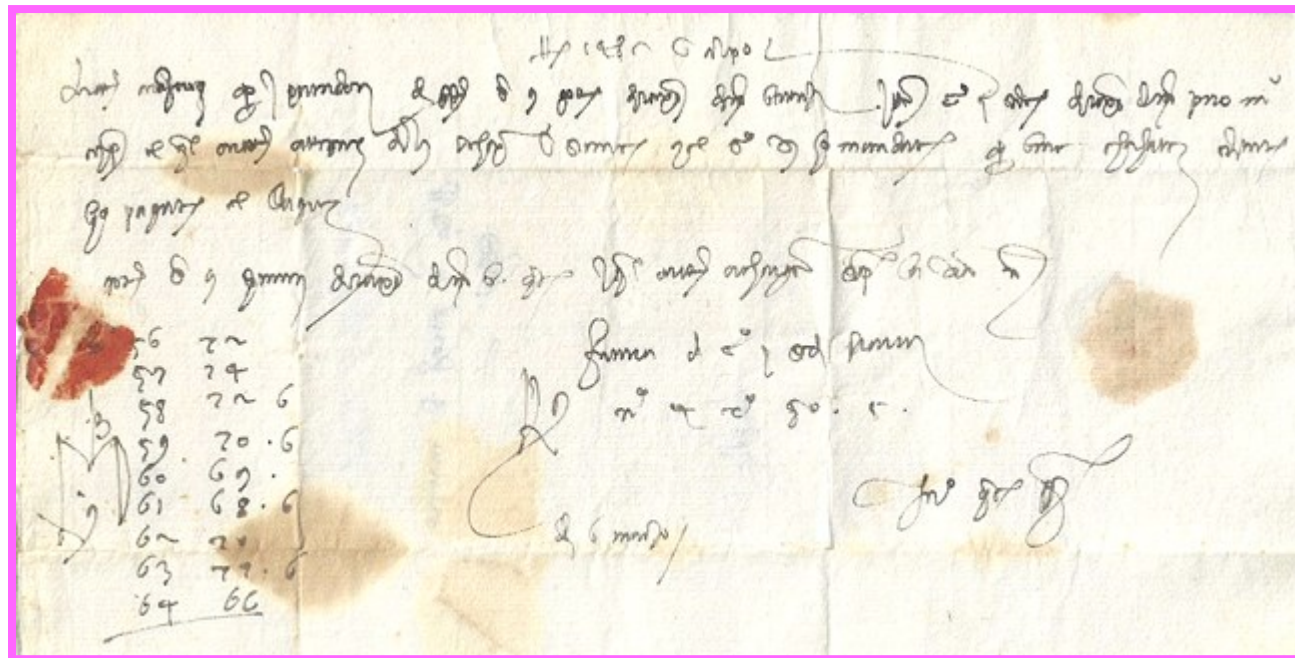


(COPY Back Fold, see Year, Origin, Sender's name)

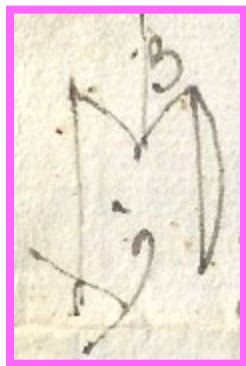
1485 - Antique Entire Letter from **ALEPPO** (Syria) via **TRIPOLI** to **VENICE**

Entire (folded) Letter written in Italian by *Francesco Da Mosto* sent in 1485 from ALEPPO Syria to VENICE, addressed to *Ambrogio Malipiero* the Venetian Vice-Consul in Tripoli from 1482-87. It is interesting to mention that instead of showing the Place of Destination (most probably Tripoli), the sender writes Ubi sit (see arrow, plus on the Right see handwritten note UBI SIT = ou il sera e.g. wherever he may be). On reverse, is a small red wax seal by the Sender, plus an arrival note with the Year, Origin, Sender's name (see Above).

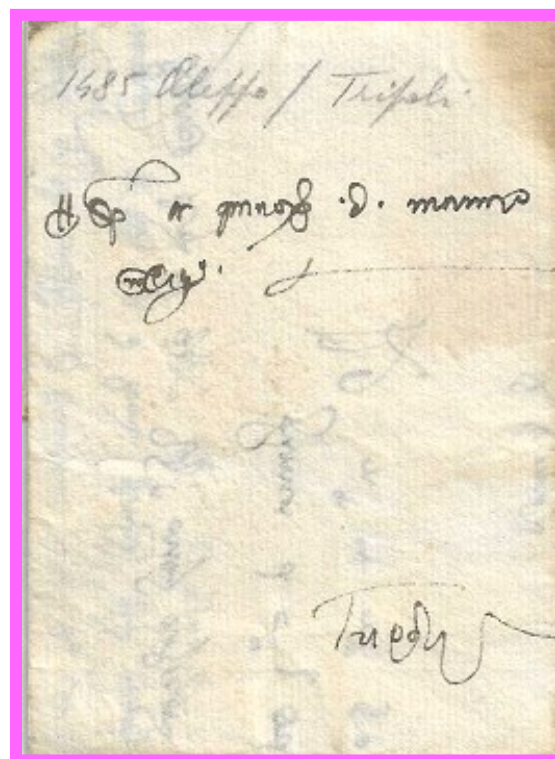
2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



(COPY of Text, Year, Origin, Initials, Date)



(enlarged COPY
sender's Initials)



1485 - Antique Entire Letter from ALEPPO (Syria) to TRIPOLI (Lebanon)

Entire Letter dated 6 March 1485 (date appears at the top of the text, see arrow Below). It was sent from ALEPPO, by B. M. initials of the sender that appear on the bottom left of the Text (see Above Left and Top Left, Copies of the Merchant; s Mark with his B, and large M. initials). It was addressed to *Angnolo di Marmo*, a Venetian merchant at the port of TRIPOLI. The text's content deals with commercial matters. On the reverse are traces of the sender's red wax seal.

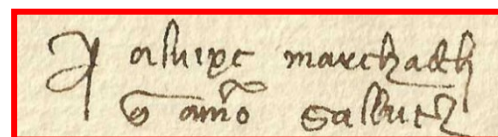
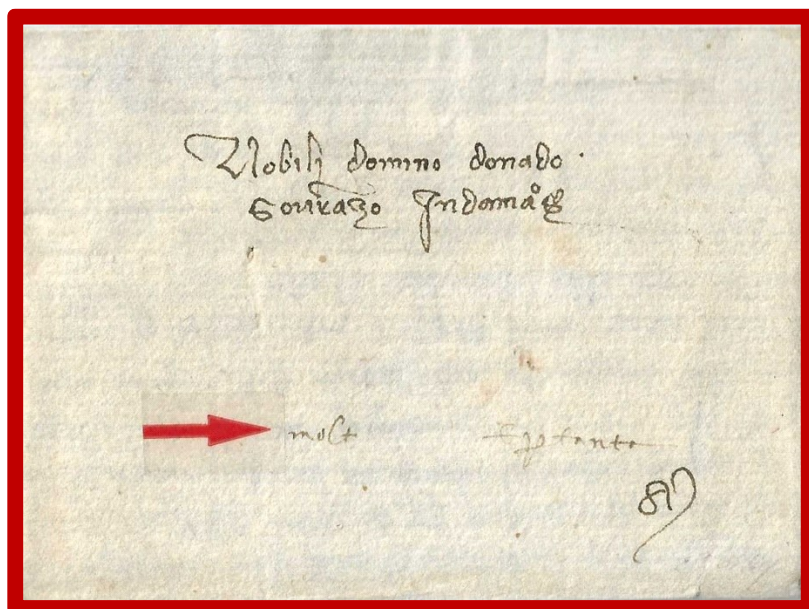
2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

ROUTE OF CONVOY TO SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

Route followed from **Lissa** (Isle in Adriatic) was south the Ionian Sea to Candia, then Syria, docking at **Beirut** seaport for Damascus. In the 1400s, Venetians developed strong commercial ties with the Mamluk rulers of Syria & Egypt (1250 to 1517), establishing trading posts in Aleppo, Damascus, Tripoli, Beirut, Alexandria. & Cairo. They used handbooks advising them on tariffs, prices, weights and measures. Interpreters, known as *dragomans*, were often available, though many merchants also learned Arabic



Adriatic Sea
Isle of LISSA



(COPY end of Text: Sender's Name)

Certificato Storico—Finanziario di "Qualità Bolaffi" n. 43 del 07/04/2017			1890
Denominazione: "Lettera del Quattrocento — Da Lissa per Damasco"			Bolaffi and Honorem
Punti: 35+2	Stato di conservazione: 80%	Punti Scala Bolaffi: 28+2=30	
Periodo: ▶ Data: 1402, 21 settembre	Secolo: XV		Bolaffi oltre 100
Partenza: Lissa, Dalmazia	Transito: —	Arrivo: Damasco	

(COPY of Certificate with Date, Original on back)

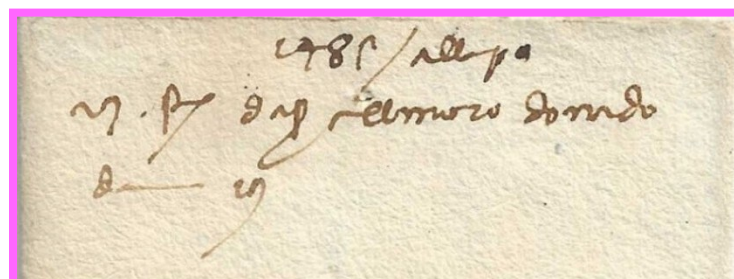
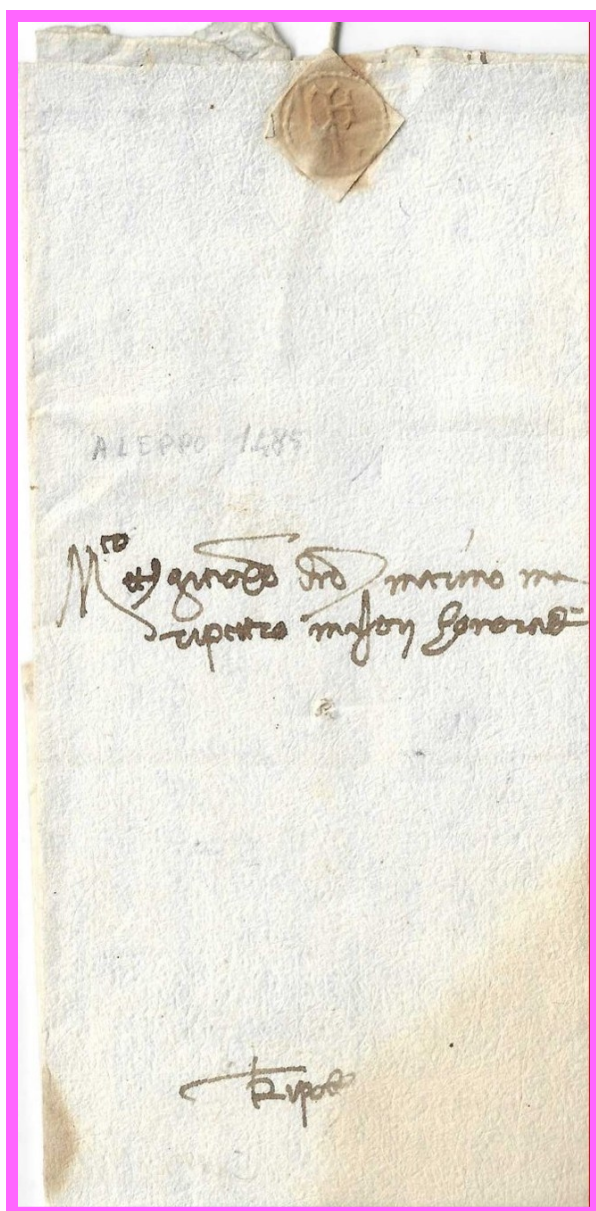
1402 – ANTICA LETTERA Entire letter from **LISSA** Island (Dalmatia) to **DAMASCUS**

Entire letter dated 21 Sept. **1402**, from LISSA Isle, Venetian possession in Dalmatia to DAMASCUS. Letters from places outside the large trading centers are rare. The sender *Alvise Marcadelli* informs *Donato Soranzo* that one of his 'bundles' will depart soon with the ship *Ser Andrea Lorendano*. On cover is the indication "**molto importante**" (see arrow). Author *Georg Christ* states: "The core period of *Donato Soranzo's* documented commercial activity are the years 1402-16, when he resided in Syria...active in Cotton trade". (source: Profit & Commitment-Long-Distance Trade 1399-1475). **Certificate** Inst. Filatel.. *A. Bolaffi*. Cert. n. 43/2017 (on back).

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



(enlarged COPY Embossed Seal)

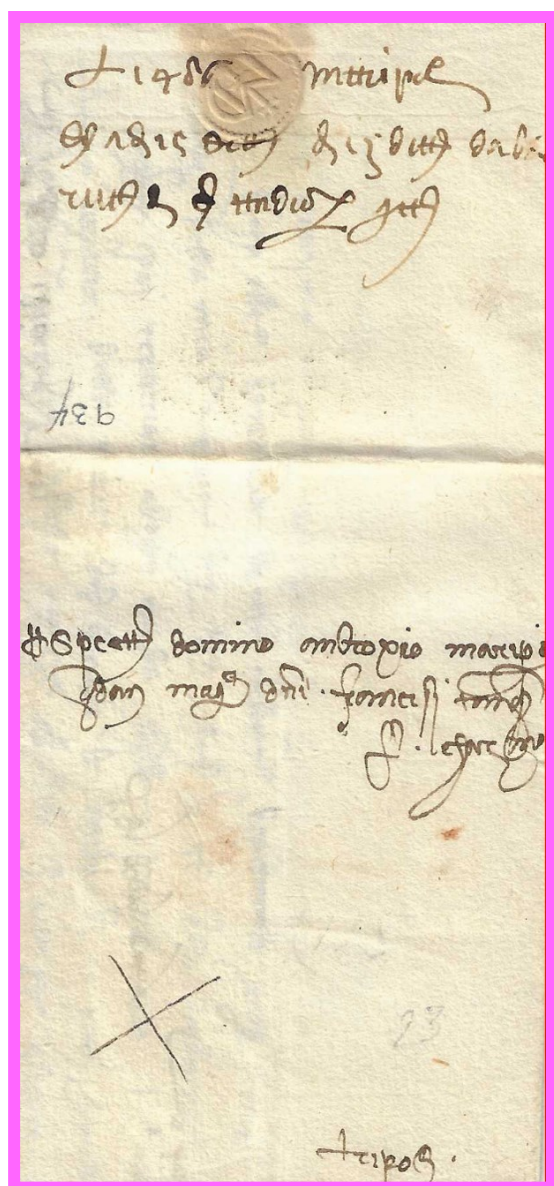


(COPY Back: Year, Origin, Sender).

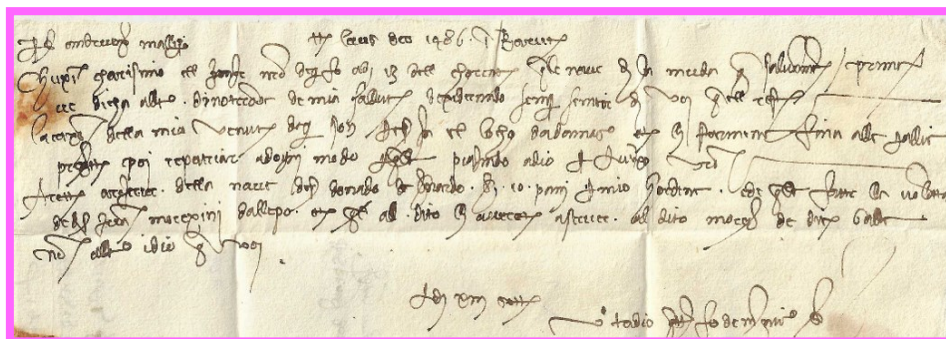
1485 - Antique Entire Letter from **ALEPPO** (Syria) to **TRIPOLI** (Lebanon)

Entire Letter dated 1 Sept. 1485, sent by *Almoro Donado* from ALEPPO (Syria) to the port of TRIPOLI. The letter is addressed to *Soranzo*, with the mention '*Magistrato di Marina major*' (Navy Magistrate Major). On the reverse, on a closing paper the letter has a nice Embossed Seal with sender's A.D. initials, (see Above).

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



(enlarged COPY Embossed Seal)



(reduced COPY of TEXT Date, Origin, Sender's Name)

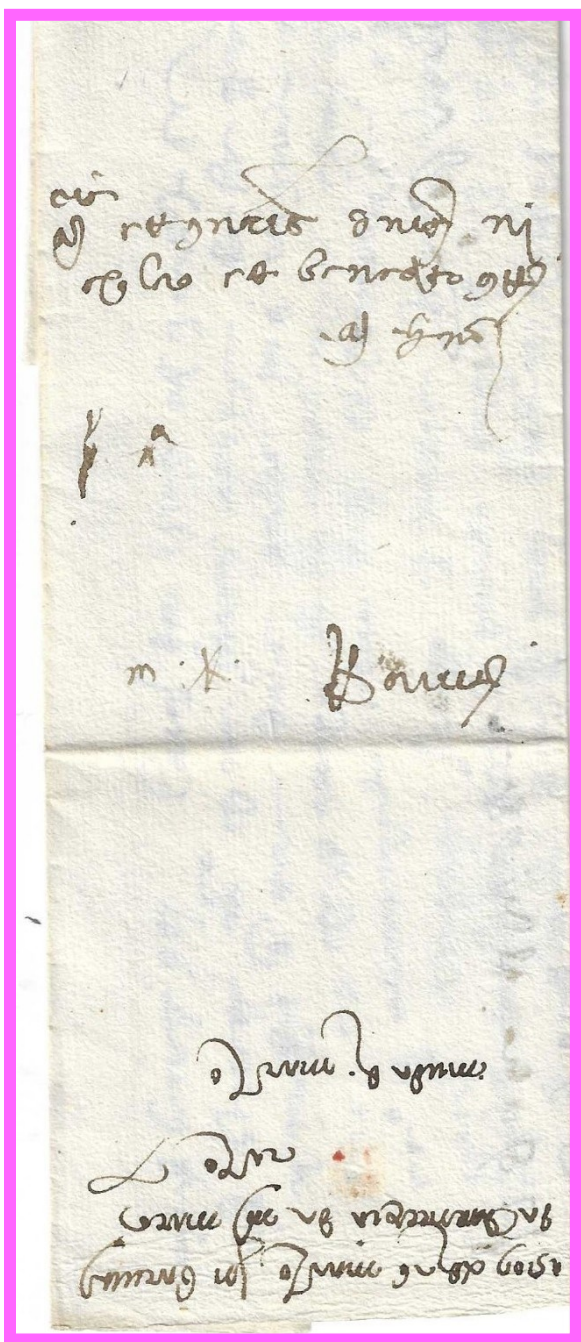
1486 – Antique Entire Letter from **BEIRUT** to **TRIPOLI** (now Lebanon)

Entire Letter sent 13 Sept. 1486 from the port of BEIRUT by *Tadeo Gritti* to *Ambrogio Malipietro* in TRIPOLI of Syria (now Lebanon). He informs him that on that very day their goods (wool cloth), arrived in Beirut on the Autumn muda from Venice without any mishaps. He also informs that some crates were lost during transport from Damascus to Beirut, and he will try to locate them. On back is a note in a different hand with the date of receipt of 25 Oct. (local calendar), plus a small Embossed Seal.

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

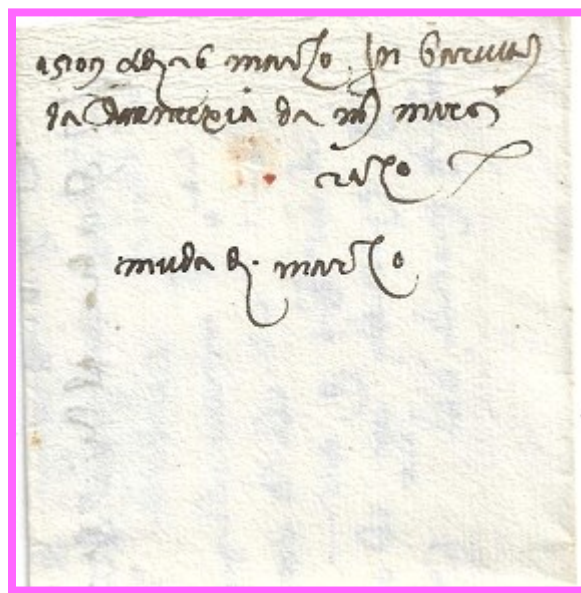
HISTORICAL CONTEXT - LAST DECADES OF MAMLUK RULE

In 1509, Syria & Egypt were ruled by the Mamluks (1250 to 1517). During the last 20 years many factors threatened their strong commercial relationship with Venice. Destabilizing forces were disrupting trading activities e.g. the rise of the Safavids in Persia. At the same time, the Portuguese began bringing spices to Lisbon through the Sea Route around Africa. (see: Benjamin Arbel, “*The Last Decades of Mamluk Trade with Venice: Importations into Egypt & Syria*”, Mamluk Studies Review, 8/2 (2004).



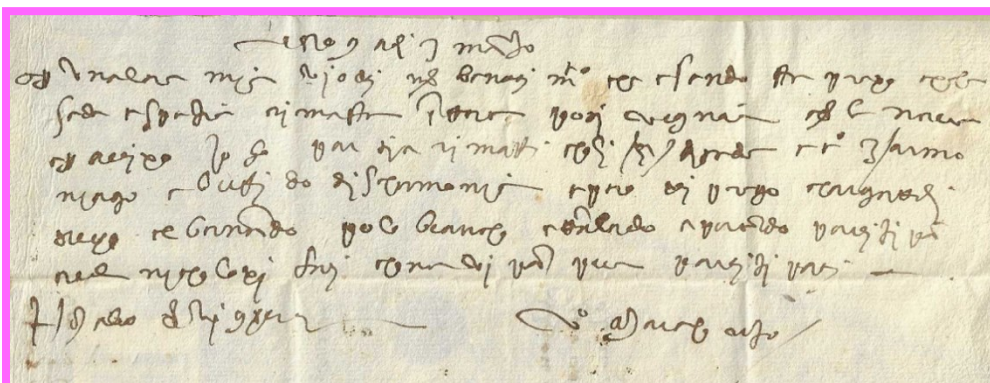
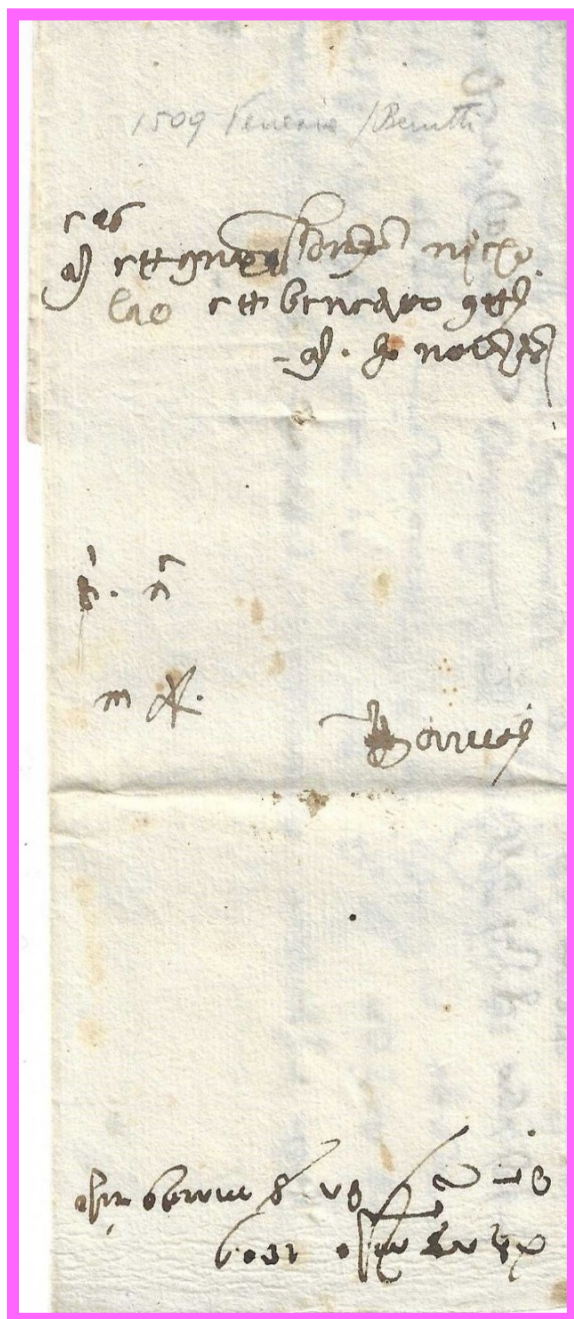
1509 - Antique Entire Letter from **VENICE** to **BERUTTI** (Beirut)

Entire letter sent on 3 March 1509 by *Martino Rizo* from **VENICE**, addressed to *Bernado (Gritti?)* in **BEIRUT**. The letter deals with export of precious metals in the form of gold and silver coins and artifacts. On the back is a receiving date of 26 March 1509 (see arrow), plus the mention “*muda di marzo*” (see arrow) indicating this letter traveled with the March Merchant Convoy. These convoys travel between Spring and Autumn, avoiding winter season. During the Mamluk times, Beirut as the port of Damascus profited from the increased trade with Venice.

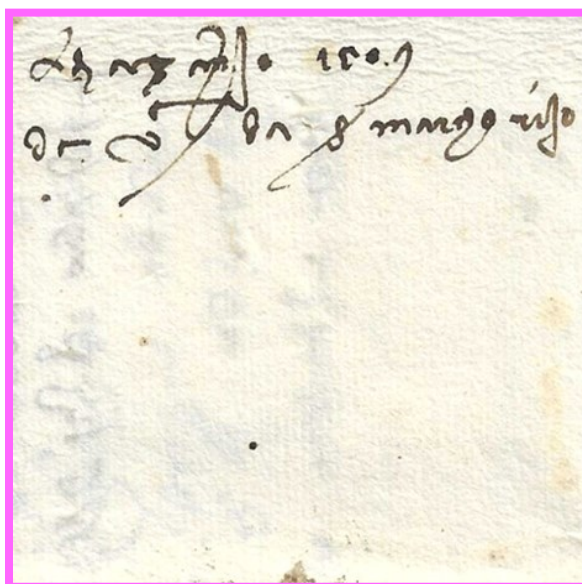


(COPY Back: Date, Origin, Sender Muda di Marzo).

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



(reduced COPY of TEXT with Departure Date & Sender)

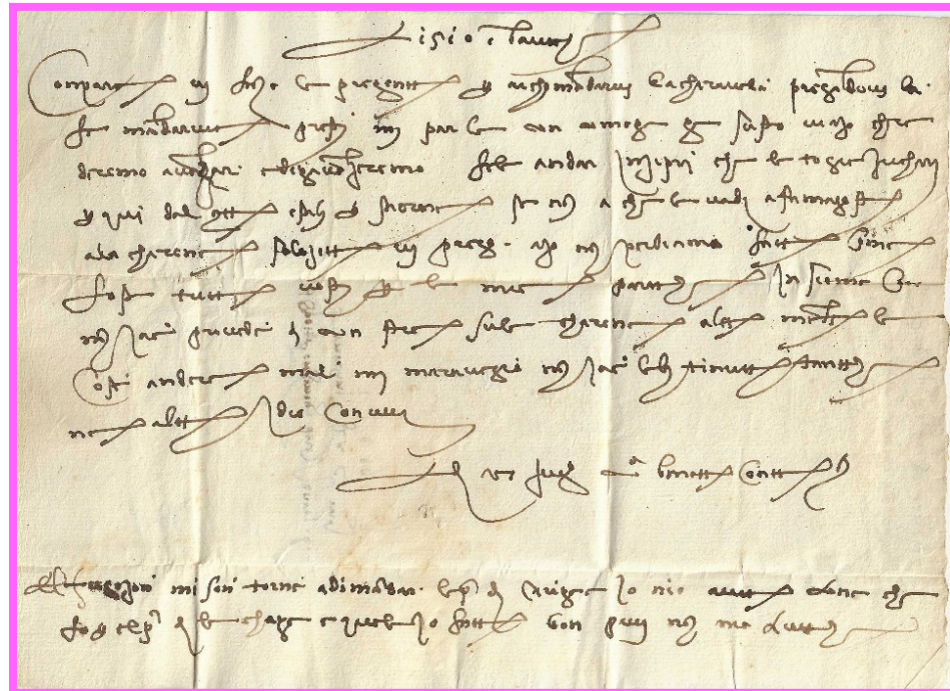
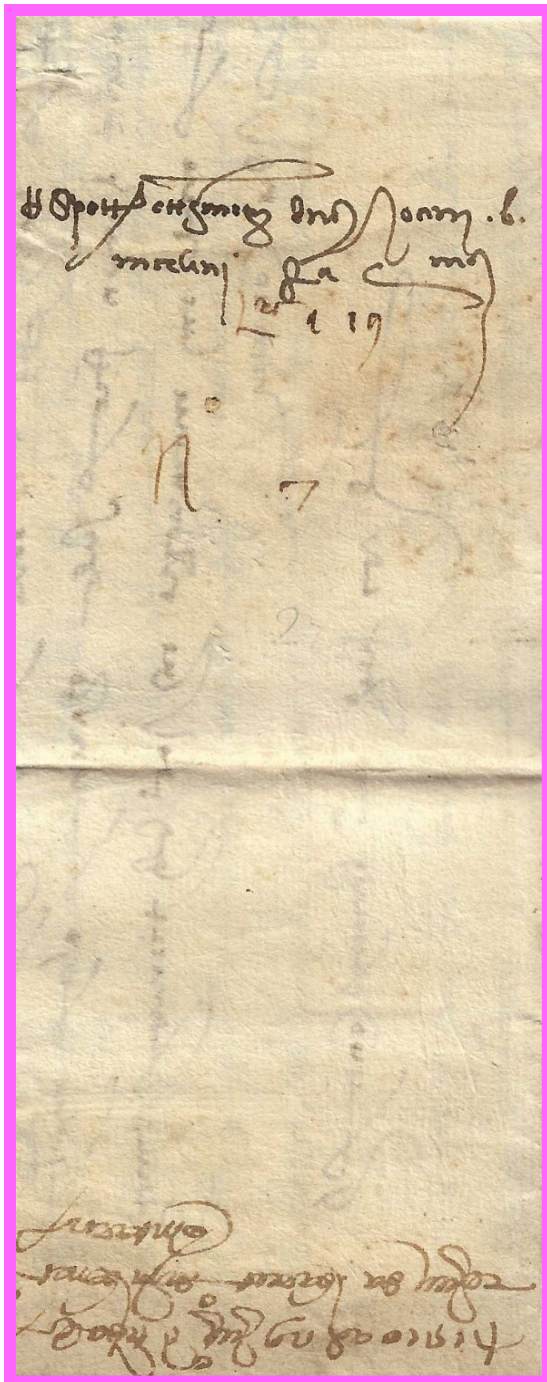


(COPY reverse Fold: Receiving Date, Sender).

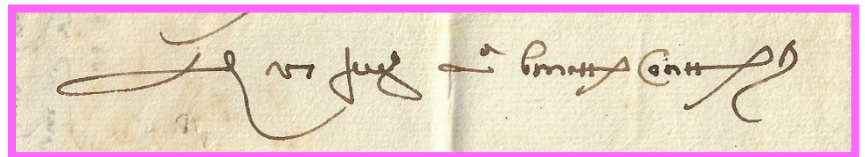
1509 - Antique Entire Letter from **VENICE** to **BERUTTI** (Beirut)

2nd Entire letter sent by *Martino Rizo* from **VENICE** on 3 March 1509 and received on 26 March 1509 in **BEIRUT**, addressed to *Bernado* (*Gritti?*). Both the sender *Martino Rizo* and the recipient *Bernado* (*Gritti?*) are the same as the previous letter. These two letters are almost identical in content; the practice of sending copies of the same letter to a given destination was to increase the chances of reception. Front has Sender's markings.

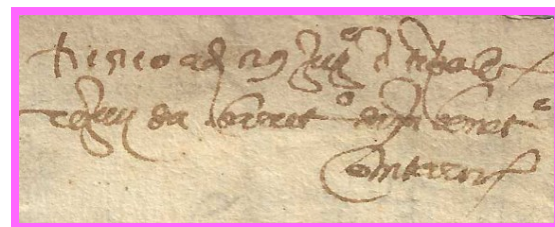
2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



(reduced COPY of Text: Date (Year), Origin)



(COPY end of Text: Date (Month), Sender's Name)

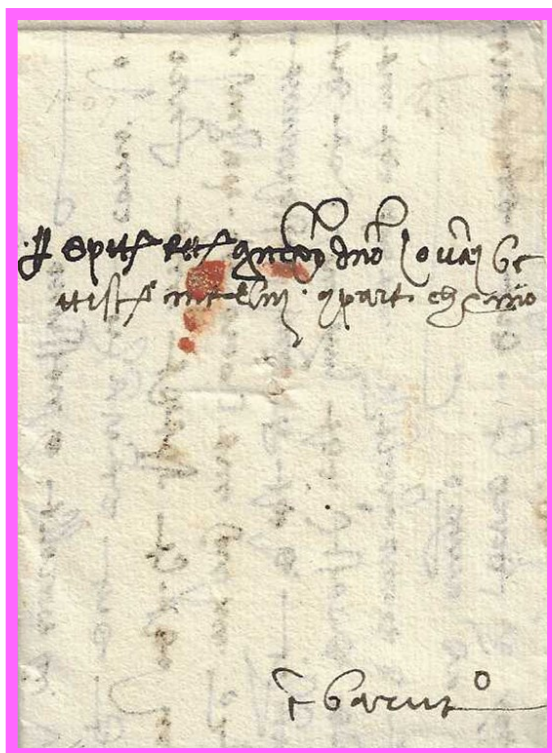


(COPY Back Fold: Receiving Date, Sender).

1510 – Antique Entire Letter from BEIRUT to PADOVA

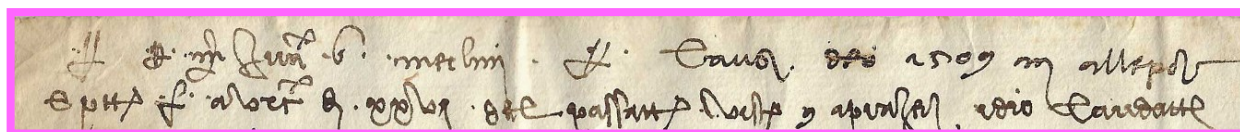
Entire letter sent on 6 June 1510 by *Benetto Contarini* “*Adj vi Jugno, vostro benetto Conttareno salute*” (see arrow Middle Right) from BEIRUT, addressed to *Giovan Battista Merlini* in PADOVA. He informs him that the goods have been dispatched by caravel, but that the vessel must be sent back immediately, as the other purchased goods are now ready for shipment. On the Back fold is a note by a different hand with the Date of receipt 29 June 1519, Origin and Sender's Name (see arrow Bottom Right).

2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)

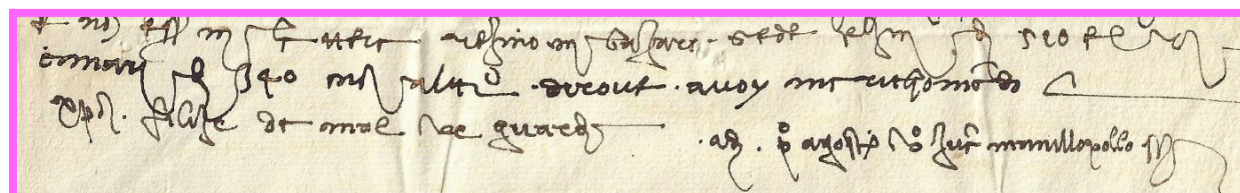


1509 - Antique Entire Letter from **ALEPPO** (Syria) to **BERUTTI** (Beirut)

Entire Letter sent in 1509 (see arrow Below) on 9 August by *Zuan Mannillopolo* (see arrow end of Text). from ALEPPO (Syria) addressed to *Ludovico (Alvise) Gritti* in the port of BEIRUT. This is a commercial letter as the text refers to merchandise quantity figures. During the last years of the Mamluk rule (1250 to 1517), large quantities of metals were imported into Syria in the form of gold and silver coins and/or artifacts.

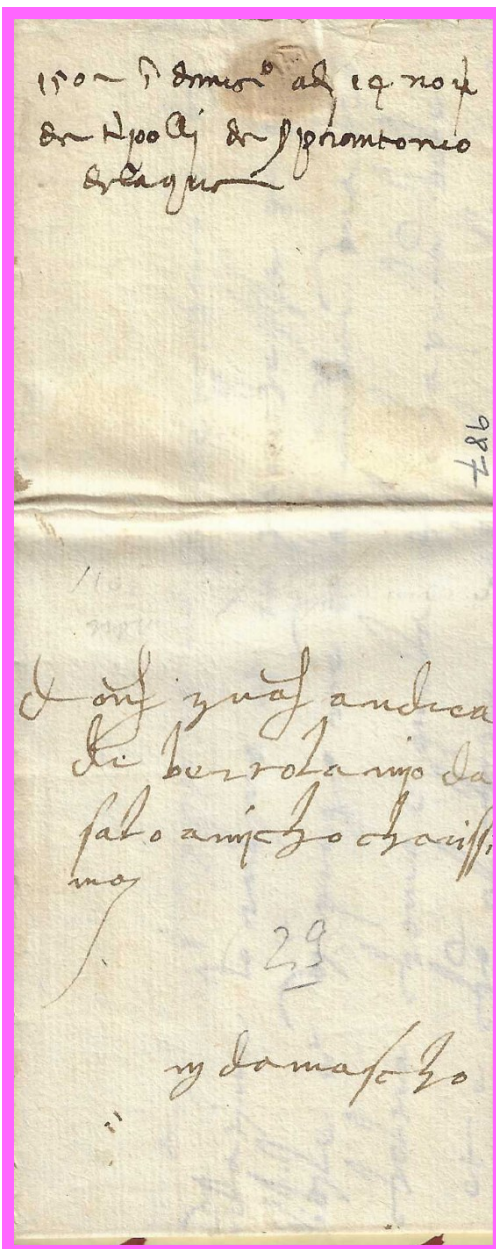


(reduced COPY start of Text: Date (Year), Origin)

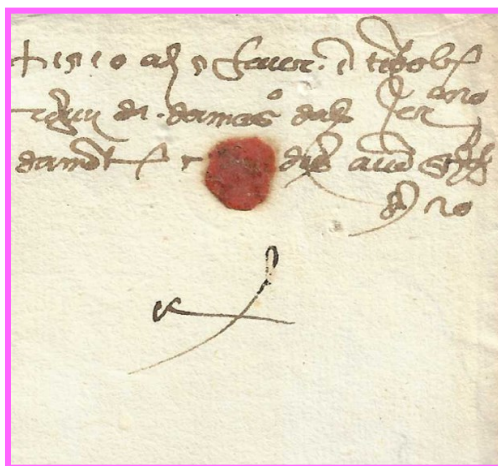


(reduced COPY end of Text: Date (Month), Sender's Name)

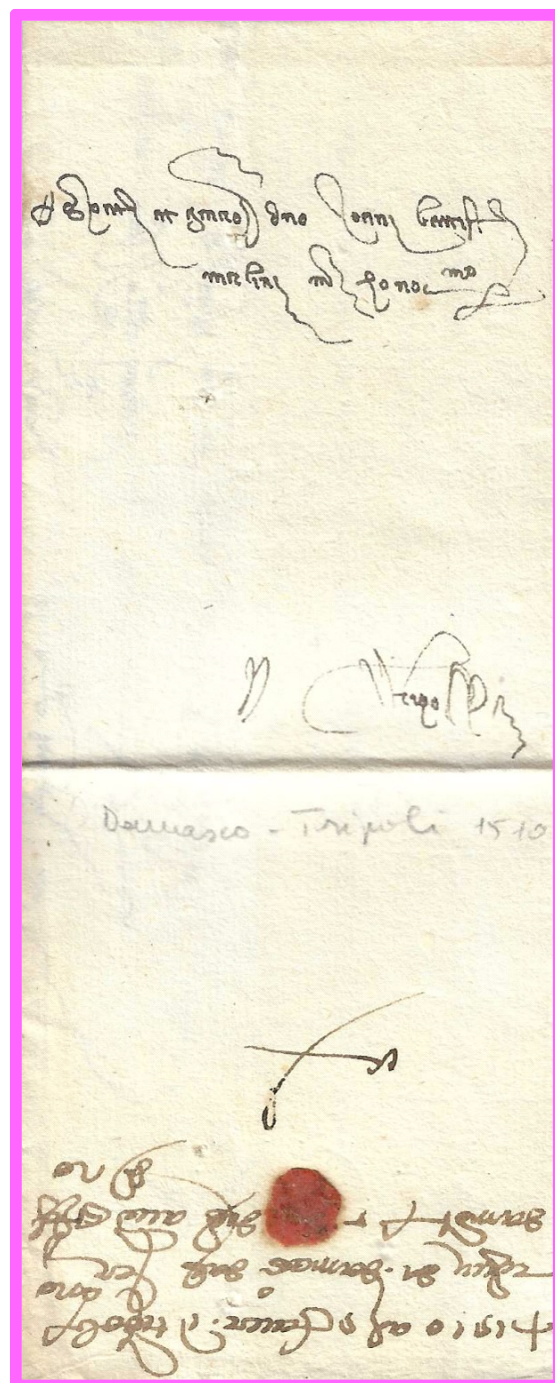
2.1.1 - CONVOY of SYRIA (*Muda di Siria*)



Route TRIPOLI to DAMASCUS



(COPY Back Fold: Receipt Date, Sender)



1502 – Antique Entire Letter from **TRIPOLI** (now Lebanon) to **DAMASCUS** (Syria)

Entire Letter sent 9 Nov. 1502 fr TRIPOLI by *Piero Antonio dell' Acqua* (see arrow Mid Right) to *Gian Andrea de Bartolomeo da Salo* in DAMASCUS. Text refers to his request to receive goods, including rubies, carpets, and a fur blanket, likely to be sent by galley to wealthy nobles of Venice. On Back fold is a note by a different hand with the Date of receipt 14 Nov. 1502, Origin and Sender's Name (see arrow Top Left). There are traces of a closing red Wax Seal.

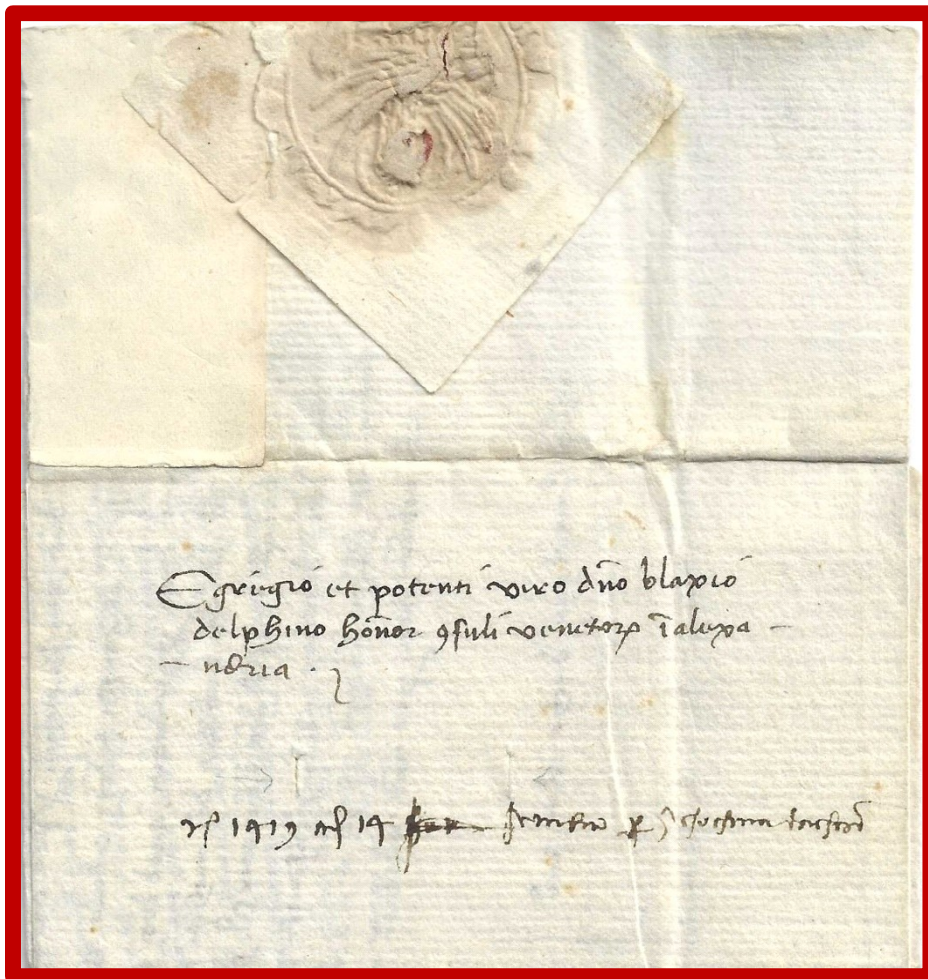
1510 – Antique Entire Letter from **DAMASCUS** (Syria) to **TRIPOLI** (now Lebanon)

Entire Letter sent 28 Jan. 1510 by *Jeronimo da Monte* “Adj xxviii Ziner, Vostro Jeronimo da monte from DAMASCUS to Giovan Battista Merlini in TRIPOLI. He informs him of the ruling in his favor, and that his cargo will therefore be returned to him, along with the ten packages ordered. On Back fold is a note by a different hand with Date of receipt, 5 Feb. 1510, Origin and Sender's Name (see arrow Bottom Right). Traces of Wax Seal; on lower center watermark is visible.

2.1.2 - CONVOY of EGYPT (*Muda di Egitto*)

ROUTE OF CONVOY TO EGYPT (*Muda di Egitto*)

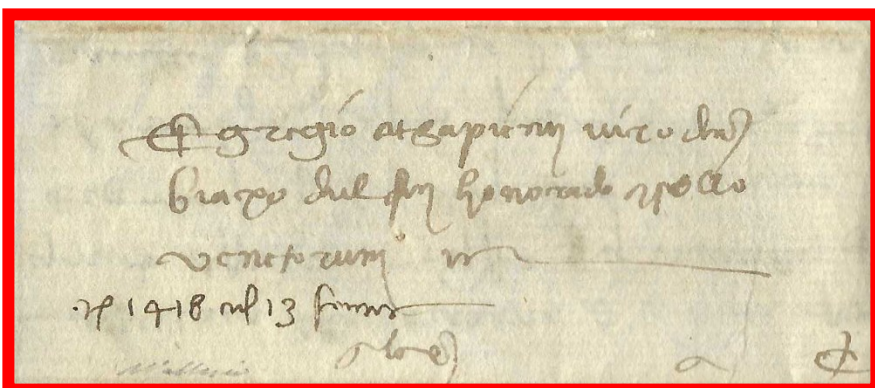
The *Muda di Egitto* will leave Venice in the Spring and Autumn. Route was from **Venice** along the Adriatic and Ionian seas to **Candia**, then SE to **Alexandria**. For the Return trip it followed a sheltered route along the coasts of Syria & Minor Asia. Only in late November could sail directly to Candia by catching a favorable South wind. (*VENICE a Maritime Republic, 1973 by F.C. Lane*). In the early 1400's, Egypt was under Mamluk rule, Venice established trading colonies in *Alexandria*, and *Cairo*. These cities were the terminals of the **Spice Trade**, that run from the "spice islands" through the Indian Ocean, Red Sea and up the Nile (see Map Bottom Right).



1419 – Antique Entire Letter from **VENICE** to **ALEXANDRIA** (Egypt)

Entire Letter from VENICE sent 14 Sept. 1419 by *Giacomo Lauredano* to *Biagio Dolphino* Venetian Consul in ALEXANDRIA. *Biagio* was from an old noble family who was also a trader in gemstones. He did not complete his 2-year term, as he fell ill and died in Apr. 1420. His private archive - of 80 letters received in Alexandria 1418-20 - was brought to the state archives in Venice. Most letters are from his nephew *Lorenzo Dolfin*, who played a central role in his gem business. (source: *Trading Conflicts: Venetian Merchants and Mamluk Officials in Late Medieval Alexandria* by *Georg Christ*, Leiden, 2012). There is a large Embossed Seal of a Winged Lion.

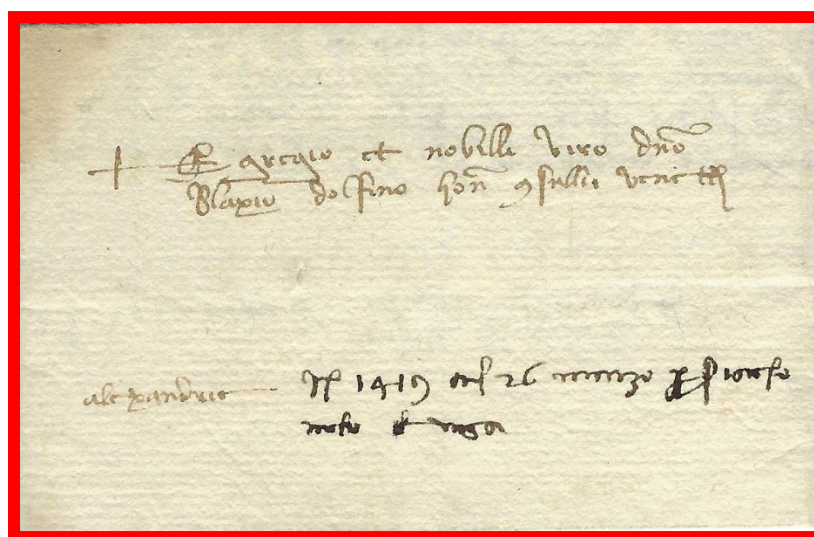
2.1.2 - CONVOY of EGYPT (*Muda di Egitto*)



(reduced COPY Embossed Seal, P.M. initials, closing string)

1418 – Antique Entire Letter from **ALEXANDRIA** to **VENICE**

Entire Letter dated 13 Feb. 1418 from ALEXANDRIA to nobleman *Blasio Dolfino* residing in VENICE, sent by the muda of *Philipo Michaeli*. Letters from Alexandria to Venice are rare for such an early date. At the end of 1418, *Biagio* was appointed Venetian consul in Alexandria for the 2nd time. However, he did not complete his term, as he fell ill and died in Apr. 1420. His private archive (of 80 letters received in Alexandria 1418-20) was brought to the state archives in Venice. Most letters are from his nephew & heir *Lorenzo Dolfino*.



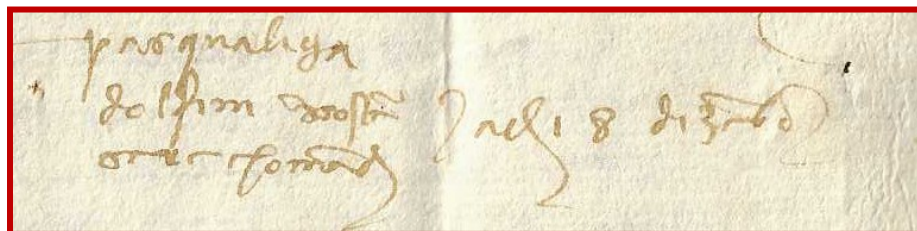
1418 – Antique Entire Letter from **VENICE** to **ALEXANDRIA** (Egypt)

Entire Letter dated 23 Dec. 1418 by *Francesco Querini* – “your brother-in-law, who sends his regards” addressed to (Egrerio et nobilli) **Blasio Dolfino** in ALEXANDRIA. Letter has a note ‘Recevuta 1419 adj 26 marzo (per Proioche) muda di vinegia’ received 26 March 1419, by *Proioche*, *Muda di Venezia*. A journey of three months, having been undertaken in the middle of winter. *Querini* informs him of the bankruptcy of the broker *Leonardo* and - as the creditors are demanding payment of their outstanding balance – he asks *Blasio* to send him a letter of authorization for at least 19 soldi to settle *Leonardo*’s debts.

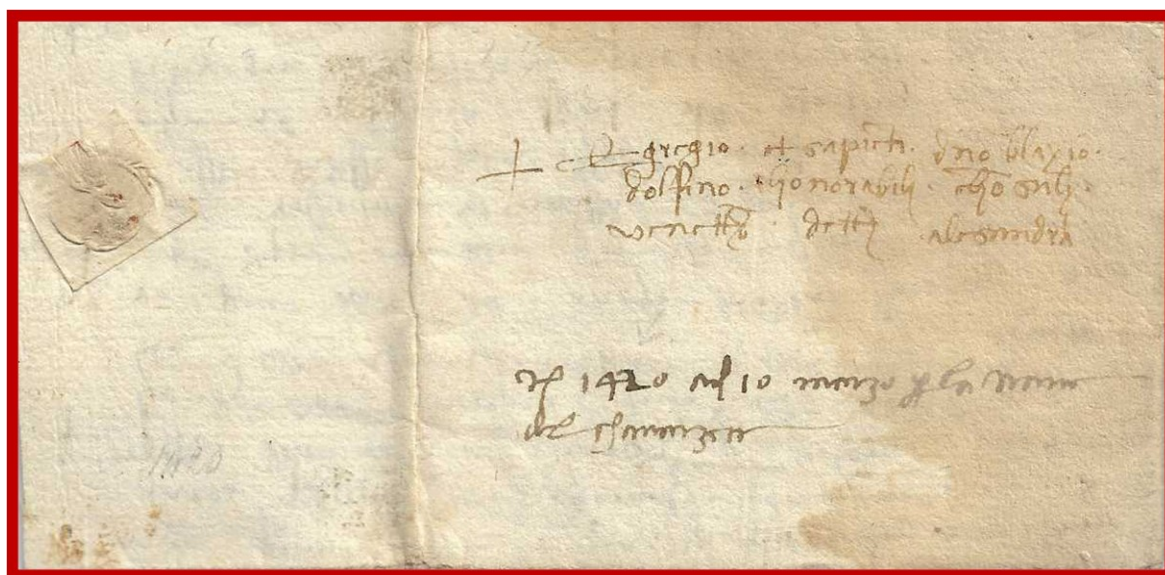
2.1.2 - CONVOY of EGYPT (*Muda di Egitto*)



(enlarged COPY Seal)



(COPY end of Text Sender,'s Name Depart.Date)



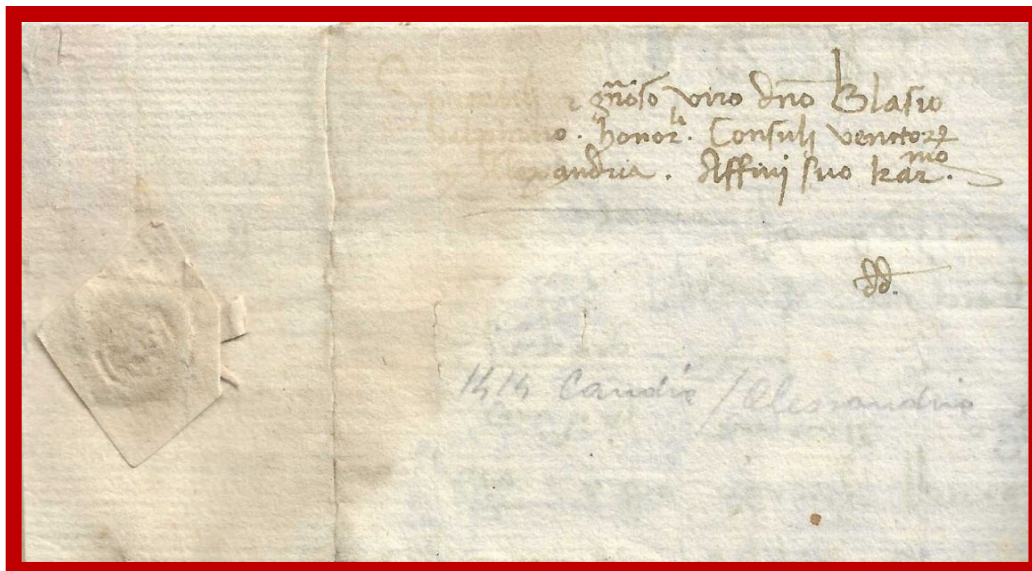
1419 – Antique Entire Letter from **VENICE** to **ALEXANDRIA** (Egypt)

Entire Letter sent from VENICE on 18 Dec. 1419 by *Pasqualina Dolfino* to her husband *Biagio Dolphino* Venetian Consul in ALEXANDRIA “*Egregio et sapienti domino blaxio dolfino honorabili consol venetto dedit Alessandria*“. The letter was carried by two different ships, the last being "Caverzere" and was disinfected (see stains on left side). It also has a note by a different hand with the Date of receipt 1420 adi 10 marzo;(see arrow). This is a private family letter, concerning *Pasqualina's* breast illness which has been overcome, plus the problems caused by their tenants in Venice. On the left is a small Embossed wafer Seal of a Fir Tree.

2.1.2 - CONVOY of EGYPT (*Muda di Egitto*)

1419 – Antique Entire Letter from CANDIA (Crete) to ALEXANDRIA (Egypt)

Entire Letter sent from CANDIA on (Oct. 19?), 1419 and addressed to *Biagio Dolphino* the Venetian Consul in ALEXANDRIA. The sender is *Leonardo (lunardo) Dolfin* a relative of his, who transmitted messages for *Biagio* between Venice and Alexandria. Letter has a rare postal note: 'dd' (see arrow) meaning 'dato solo all persona destinataria' to be given only to the recipient. It is stained on one corner and on the back has a small closing Embossed Seal with traces of the tying cord. Of the surviving 80 letters the Consul Biagio Dolfino received in Alexandria between 1418-20, only 4 are from Candia. Return trip to Candia was by sailing along the sheltered coasts of Syria & Minor Asia. Only in late November they sailed directly to Candia by catching a South wind.



X^e Nome. de l' 19^e X^e 19^e Anno in die

(enlarged COPY of Date, Origin)



CANDIA to ALEXANDRIA Sea Route

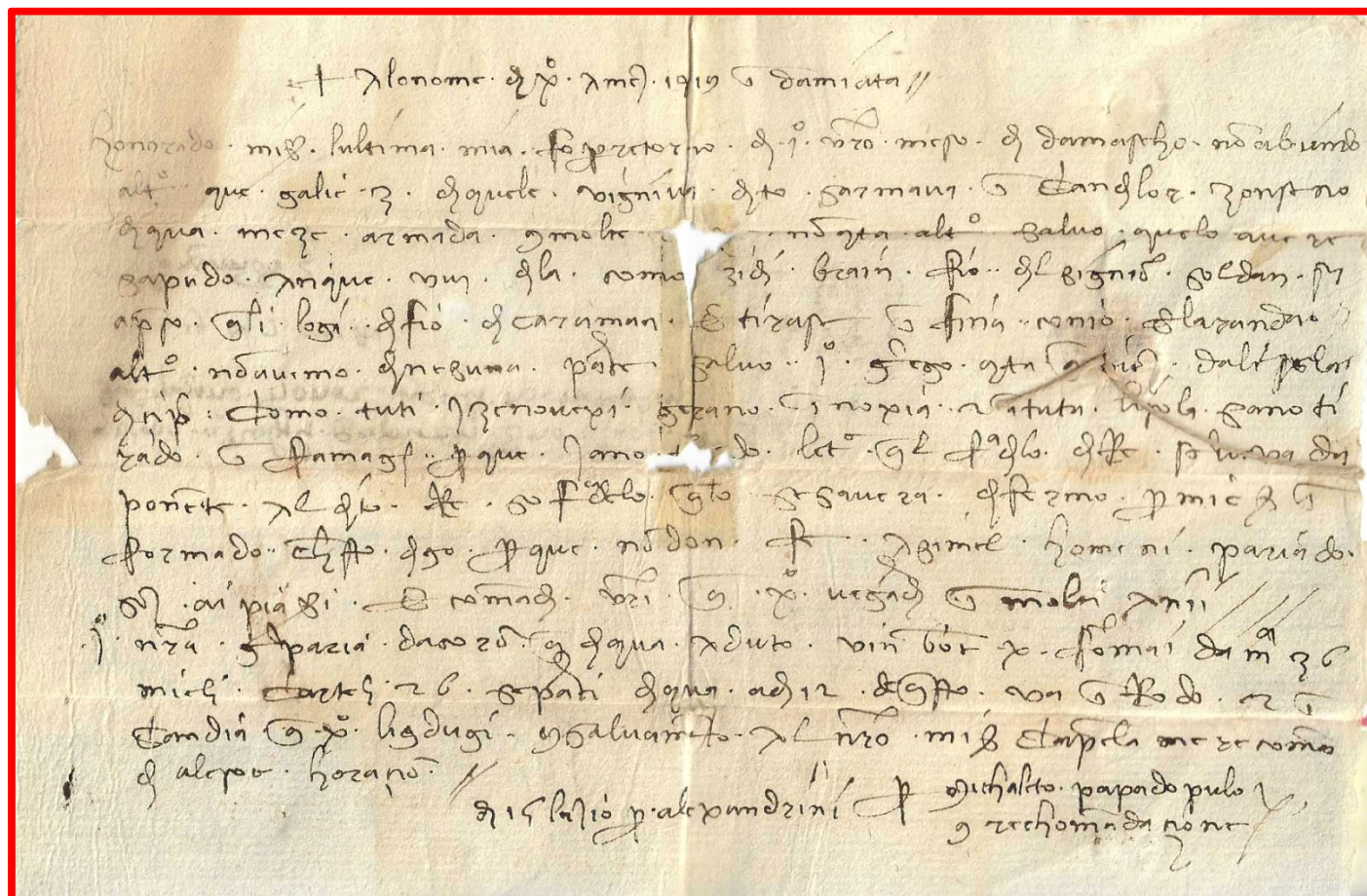
2.1.2 - CONVOY of EGYPT (*Muda di Egitto*)



DAMIETTA to ALEXANDRIA Route

1419 Antique Entire Letter from DAMIATA (DAMIETTA Port on eastern Nile Delta) to ALEXANDRIA

Entire Letter sent 15 July 1419 (see arrow Bottom Right) by *Alexandreto Papadopulo*. from DAMIATA (on Nile Delta) to ALEXANDRIA addressed to Venetian Consul *Biagio Dolphino*. It informs him that his envoy arrived in Damascus, could only find 3 ships, then sailed to Damietta led by Capt. *Sarmano*. Also informs that twelve ships sailed on 12 July to Rhodes and Candia '*Che Cristo le conduca a Salvamento*'. On cover is the arrival date "*Recevuta 1419 ad 7 Agosto*" (see arrow Below), while on back is the seal that still holds part of the '*filo canapis*' (hemp thread), as well as the name of *Alexandris Leondarhis da Candia* who delivered the letter.



(reduced COPY end of Text: Depart. Date, Sender's Name)

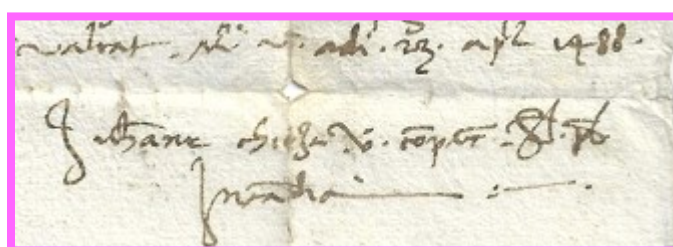
2.1.3 - CONVOY of CANDIA (*Muda di Candia*)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – CANDIA’S STRATEGIC LOCATION

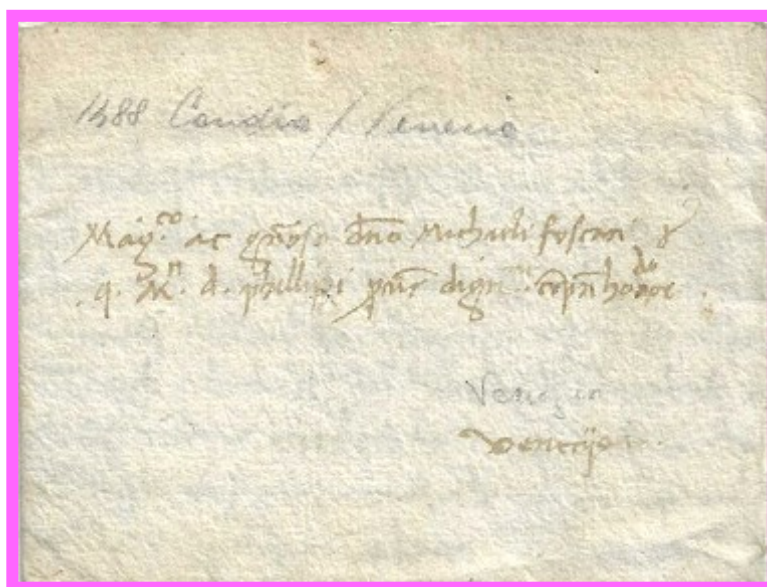
Candia was under Venetian rule from 1205 to 1669. Its major exports were Oil & Wine. However its importance lies in its strategic location in relation to the shipping lanes of the profitable Venetian trade with the Levant. Every year, two ‘*mudae*’ convoys of merchant ships passed through Candia on their way to/from the Levant.



View of CANDIA Crete by Nicolas J. Visscher c.1684



(COPY end of Text: Date, Sender's Name)



1488 - Antique Entire Letter from CANDIA (CRETE) to VENEZIA

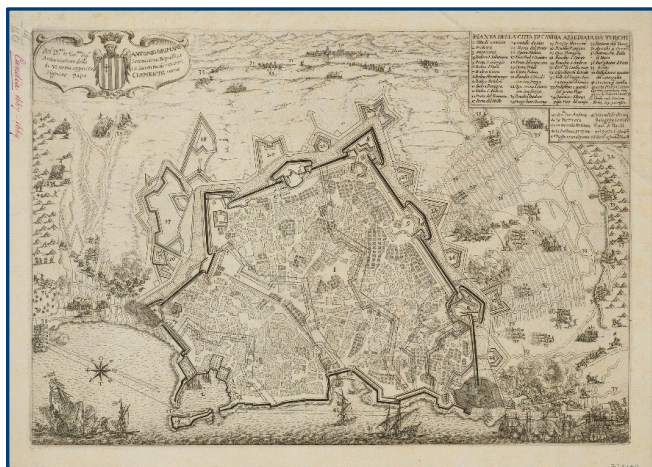
Entire letter dated 23 April 1488 from CANDIA by Zuhane Chioza addressed to Michaeli Foscari in VENICE; requesting payment (600 & 800 ducats) from commercial transactions. Chioza's letters provide a vivid portrait of the operation of a Venetian company. He mentions economic issues of the day. In particular, he refers to balance of credit and debt, and the constraints imposed by the head office in Venice. Other concerns include

maintenance of the ships, the lack of barrels and ample materials for the wine trade. Merchant ships would arrive at Candia with goods to be traded in exchange for wine or other produce.

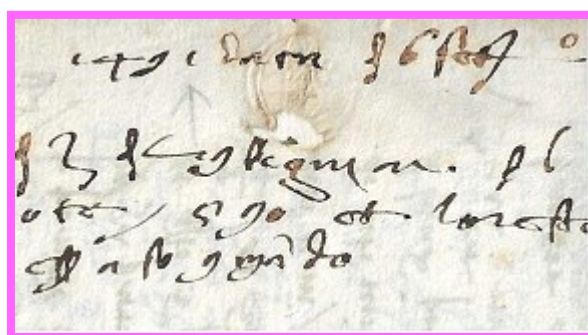
2.1.3 - CONVOY of CANDIA (*Muda di Candia*)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – CANDIA’S FORTIFICATIONS

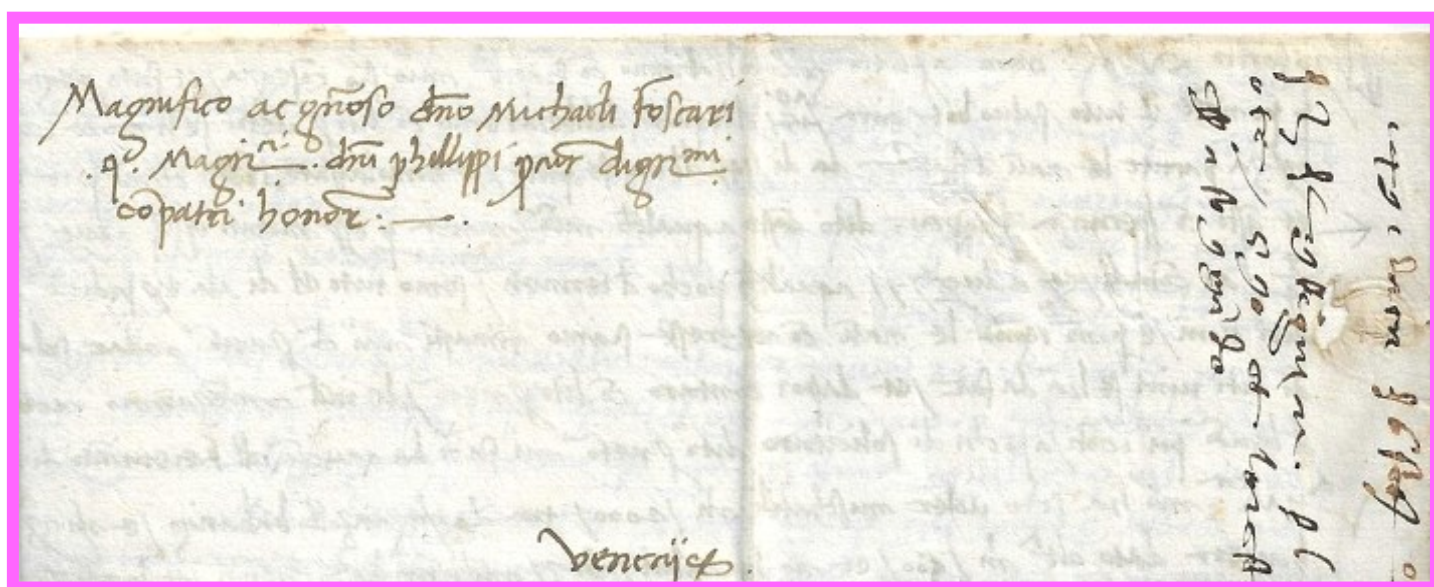
Candia’s importance lies in its strategic location in relation to the shipping lanes of the profitable Venetian trade with the Levant. Its importance further increased after the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans in 1453 and the Venetians needed to fortify Candia. The construction of these fortifications lasted from 1540-70. The walls of Candia had a total length of over 4 km. of a triangular shape, with 7 bastions. The port was also protected by a big fortress “*Castello del Molo*”. Candia became one of the best fortified cities.



Fortifications of CANDIA)



(COPY Back Fold, see Arrival Date)



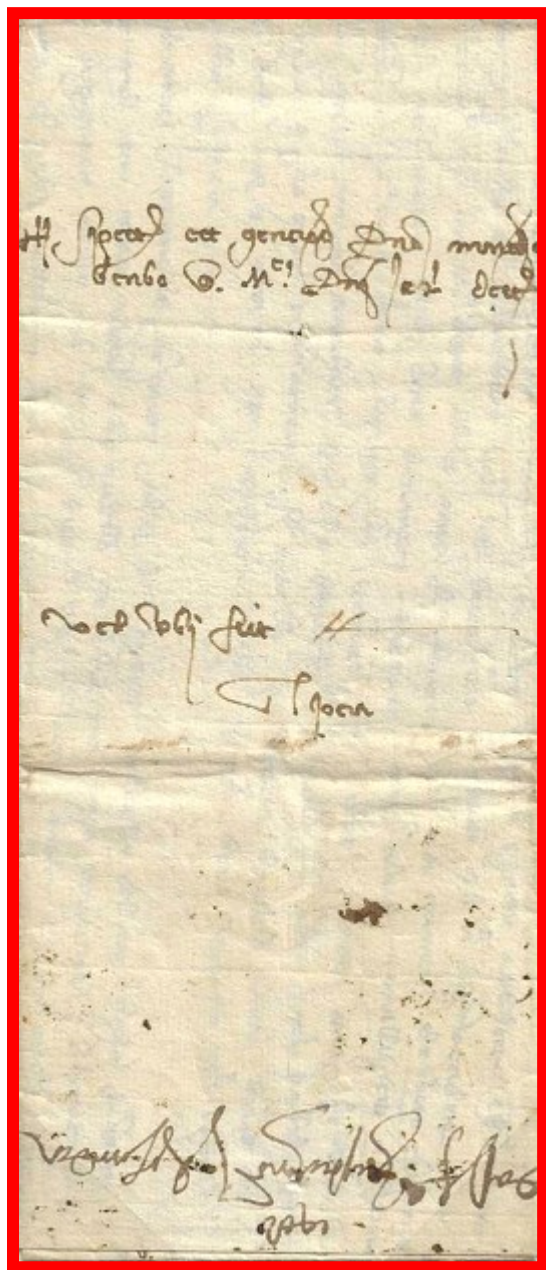
1491 - Antique Entire Letter from CANDIA (CRETE) to VENEZIA

Entire Letter, sent on 5 August 1491 by Zuhane Chioza, fom CANDIA addressed to the nobleman Michelli Foschari (*Magnifico e generoso domino Micheli Foschari*), received in Venice 6 Sept. 1491 (see arrow). Text refers to wine exports from Crete. Trade with Crete was important to Venice. Merchant ships would arrive at

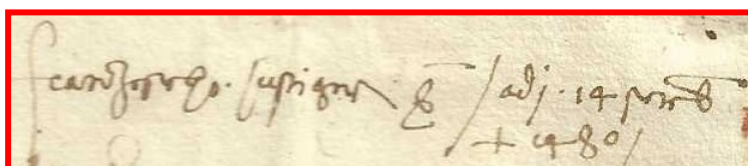
2.1.3 - CONVOY of CANDIA (*Muda di Candia*)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – CANDIA’S STRATEGIC LOCATION

Candia was under Venetian rule from 1205 to 1669. Its importance lay in its strategic location in relation to the shipping lanes of the profitable Venetian trade with the Levant. Candia’s importance further increased after the Fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the Ottomans.

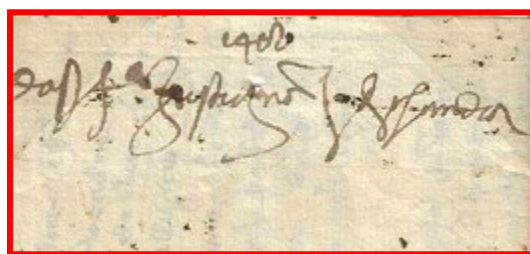


CANDIA to CONSTANTINOPLE Route



(Above COPY end of Text: Sender, Date)

(Below COPY Back Fold: Year, Sender)



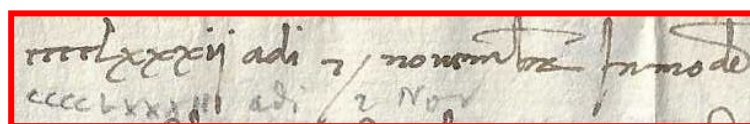
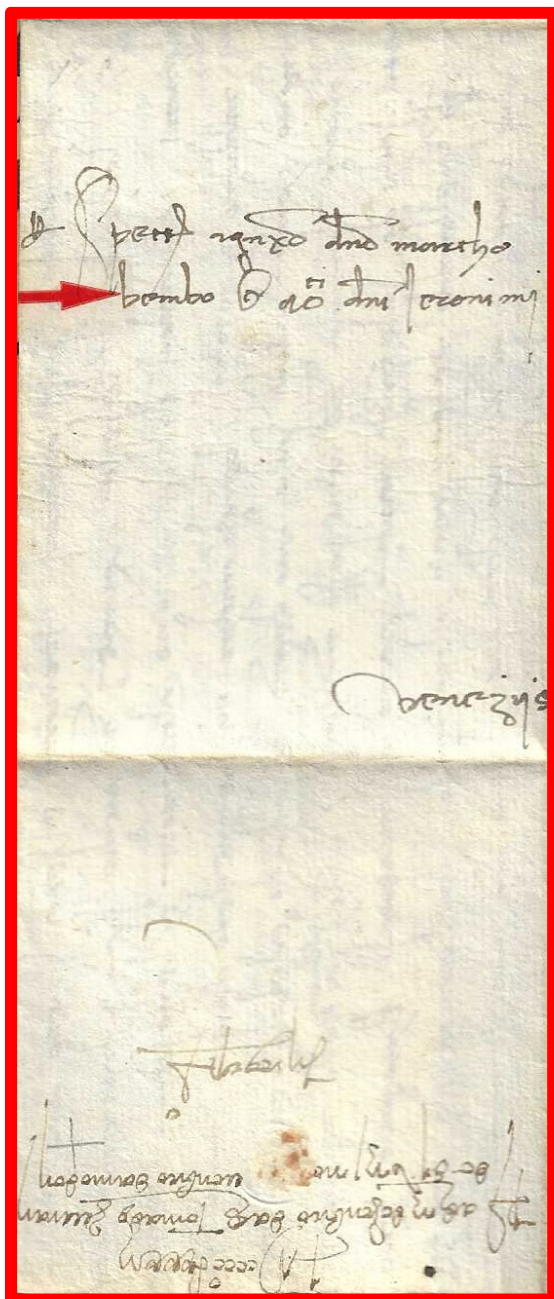
1480 - Antique Entire Letter from CANDIA (Crete) to PERA (Constantinople)

Entire letter of 3 large pages, sent on 14 Nov. 1480 by *Francesco Justignani* in CANDIA to *Marco Bembo* in PERA (Constantinople). *Bembo* is a Venetian noble merchant, trading in textiles & wine, residing in Pera from Dec.1479 to mid-1481; then Venice late 1481 to Dec.1484. Route was from **Candia** north the Aegean Sea then through the Dardanelles Strait to **Pera**. Letter has a small Embossed Seal that holds the hemp thread. *Justignani* is *Bembo's* Agent in Candia. There is another letter Aug. 1480 from *Justignani* to *Marco Bembo* in Pera, plus 6 letters 1481-82, to *Marco Bembo* in Venice. (see: Univ. of Minnesota Libraries: 15th Century Merchant Letters).

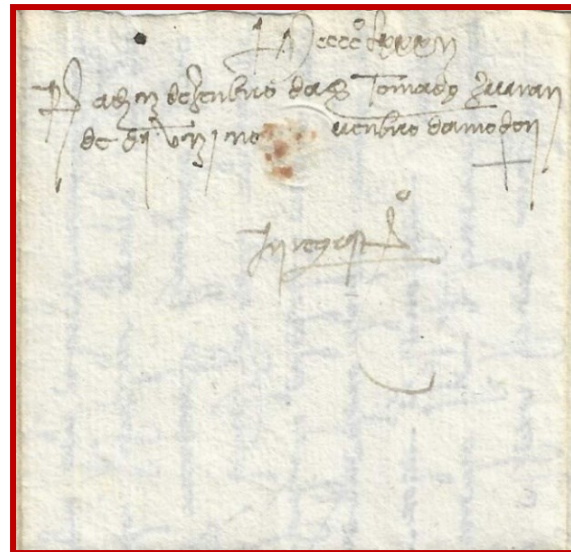
2.1.3 - CONVOY of CANDIA (*Muda di Candia*)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT - **MODON'S** (METHONI) STRATEGIC LOCATION

Modon lies at the SW point of Peloponnese (see arrow). During the first Venetian rule (1209-1500). Modon experienced great prosperity, due to its location on the Route to the Levant and had massive fortification walls.



(COPY Date Roman numerals)



(Back Fold COPY Origin Modon)

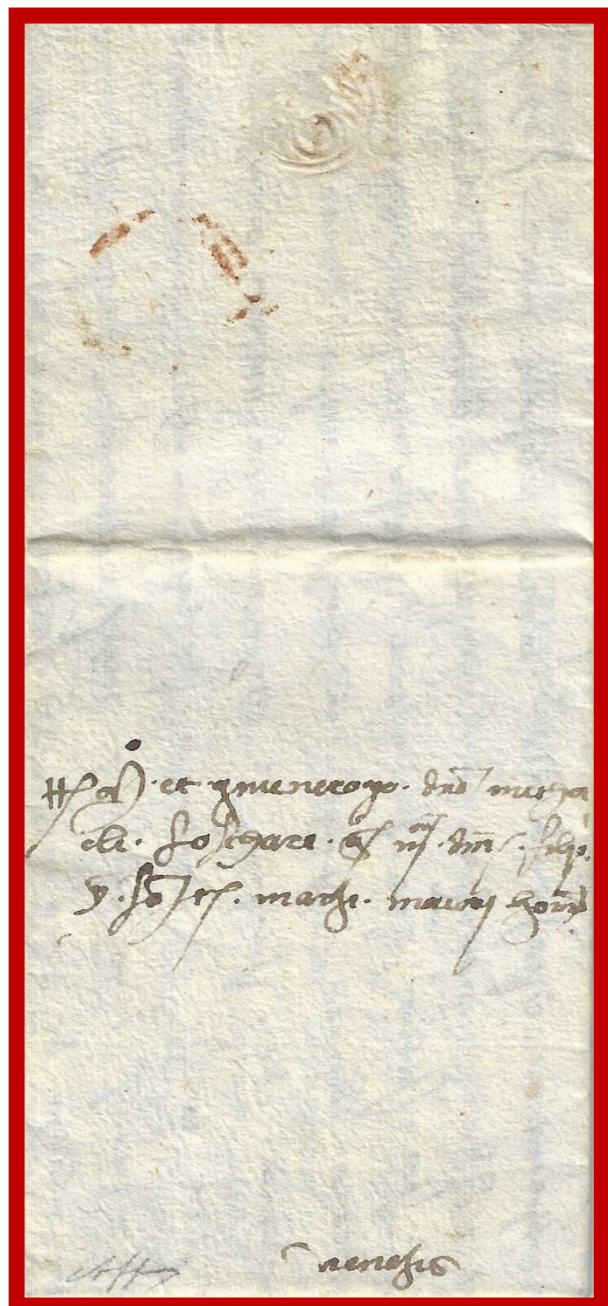
1482 - Antique Entire Letter from **MODON** (SW point of Peloponnese) to **VENEZIA**

Entire letter sent 7 Nov. 1482 by *Tomaso Zuiran* from MODON 'da modon' (arrow Bottom Right) addressed to **Marco Bembo** in VENICE. The Bembo company in Venice specialised in textiles & wines from Candia (see: *Christie's Auction 6417 Catalog, 2000, BEMBO, Marco 1446-84*). There exist 9 letters sent to *Marco Bembo* in Venice 1482-84 by his agent *Tomaso Zuiran* at Modon (see: *Univ. of Minnesota Libraries: Venice Commerce History 15th Cent.*). This letter has a different date 7 Nov. 1482, thus, it is the 10th such letter by *Tomaso Zuiran* from Modon during this period. *Zuiran's* letters report on commercial matters (quality of cloth, exchange rates).

2.1.3 - CONVOY of CANDIA (*Muda di Candia*)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT- CERIGO'S IMPORTANT LOCATION

Cerigo (Kythira) Isle is located between the Peloponnese and Crete, and it controlled the maritime lines between western and eastern coasts of Greece. The Venetians first occupied Cerigo in 1238 and it remained under their rule till 1797. Its military importance grew after 1500 with the loss of Modon that controlled the Route to the Levant. Cerigo provided a safe haven in case of bad weather or attack by the corsairs. The Venetians built their fortress exploiting a natural rock, plus walls and towers to protect the adjoining town.



(enlarged COPY Seal)



CERIGO Isle in red circle



(enlarged COPY end of Text: Date)

(COPY *Bolaffi*'s Certificate with Date)

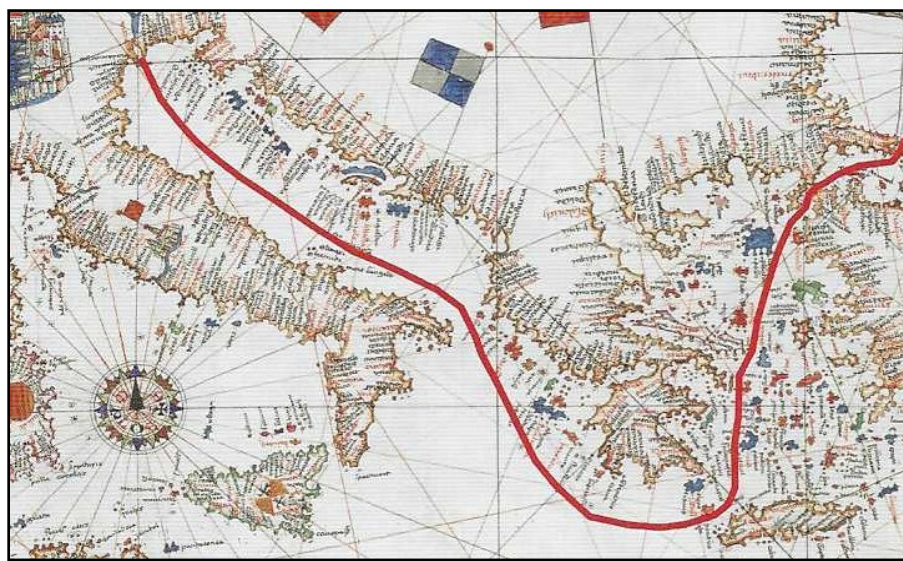
1492 - Antique Entire Letter from **CERIGO** (Kythira, Ionian Islands) to **VENICE**

Entire letter dated 10 May 1492 (Roman numerals) sent from the Isle of CERIGO (see red circle Map) by *Danielle Coppi*, addressed to 'Magnifico e generoso domino Micaeli Foschari' in VENICE. This long and detailed letter informs the nobleman *Michele Foscari*, of the actions of his Agent *Danielle Coppi*. Letter gives an account of the goods (including wool) that will soon be sent from CERIGO to VENICE. The letter has traces of wax and a small Embossed Seal of the Winged Lion of San Marco . Certificate by *A. Bolaffi*.

2.1.4 - CONVOY of CONSTANTINOPLE (*Muda di Costantinopoli*)

ROUTE OF CONVOY TO CONSTANTINOPLE (*Muda di Costantinopoli*) – BAILO DI COSTANTINOPOLI

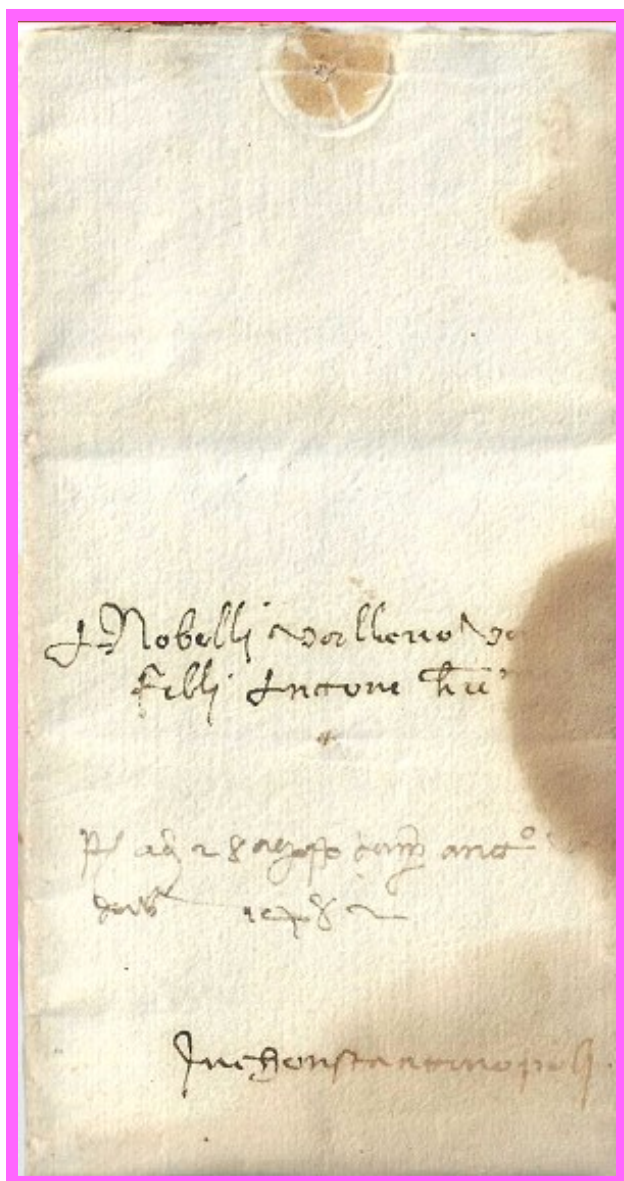
The *Muda di Costantinopoli* Route was along the Adriatic & Ionian Seas to **Modon**, then north the Aegean Sea, Dardanelles to **Constantinople**. From mid 1400's to 1533. the Postal Service was carried out by the *Muda* system. On board was a State Courier, in charge of the Mail. The captain was entrusted to keep a registry, receive parcels addressed to *Bailo* or Venetian merchants. In May 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottomans; by 1454, Venice had an ambassador known as '*Bailo di Costantinopoli*'. His role was to promote Venetian trade.



VENICE to CONSTANTINOPLE Sea Route



(COPY start of TEXT Departure Date)



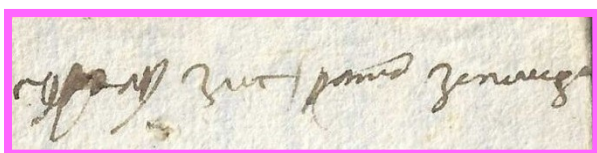
1482 - Antique Entire Letter from VENICE to CONSTANTINOPLE

Entire letter sent 8 July 1482 from VENICE to COSTANTINOPOLI. Official letter addressed to *Antonio Vitturi*. There is also a note by a different hand with the Date of receipt 28 August 1482 (see arrow Above Left). In 1482 *Vitturi* had been commissioned by the Venetian government to negotiate the renewal terms of the 1479 Peace Treaty, with the new Sultan *Bayezid II* (1481-1512). This treaty allowed a full restoration of Venetian trading privileges in the Ottoman Empire. The letter has part of the ink inscription washed out by seawater.

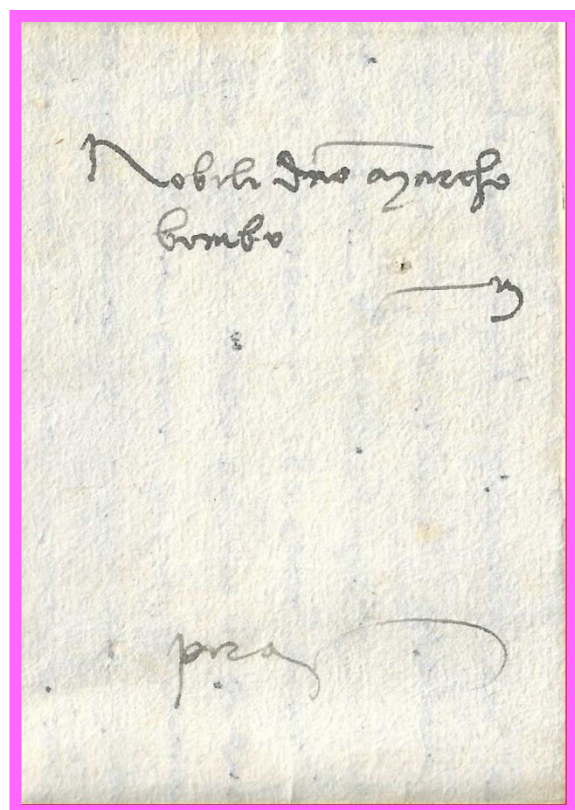
2.1.4 - CONVOY of CONSTANTINOPLE (*Muda di Costantinopoli*)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT -GALLIPOLI'S STRATEGIC LOCATION (DARDANELLES)

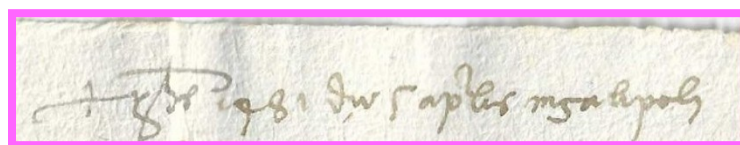
Gallipoli's strategic importance was that it controlled the Dardanelles Strait (see map Below) plus was the main crossing point between Asia and Europe for the Ottoman armies. It was protected by their navy based there. After the 1st Ottoman–Venetian War (1463-79) the strait's defences were strengthened. Gallipoli remained the main base of the Ottoman fleet until 1515, when it was moved to Istanbul. Later on it began to lose its military importance but remained a major commercial centre.



(COPY Back Fold: Sender's Name)



GALLIPOLI to CONSTANTINOPLE Route



(COPY start of Text Departure Date)

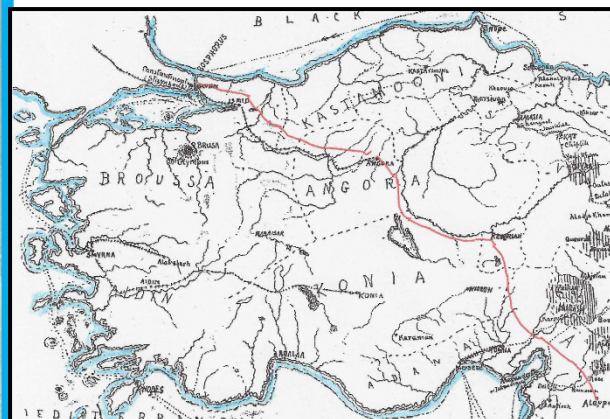
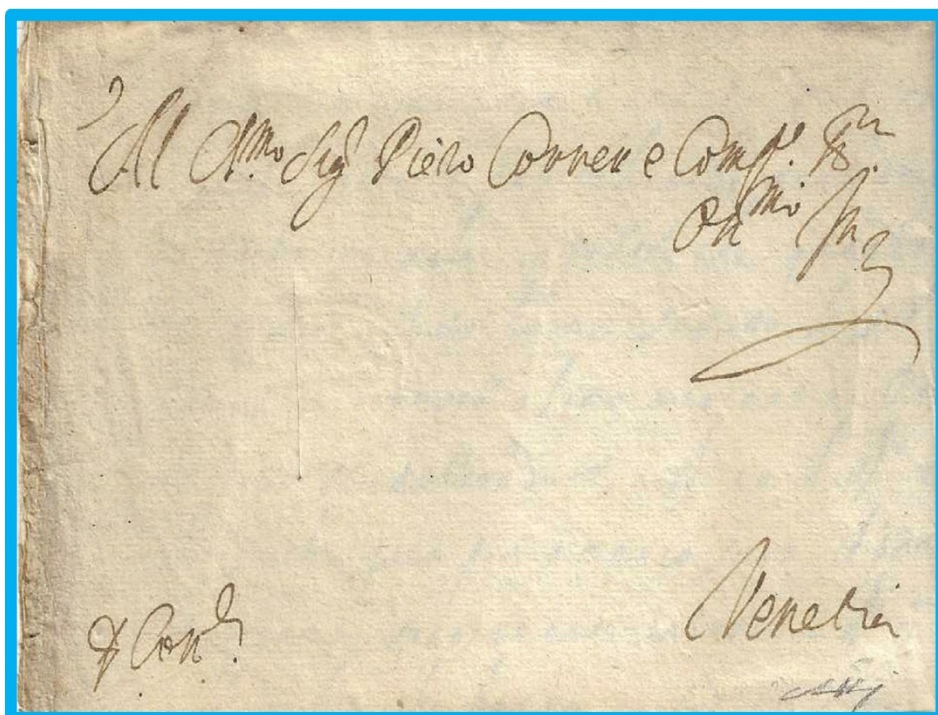
1481 - Antique Entire Letter from GALLIPOLI to PERA (Constantinople)

Entire letter sent 5 April 1481 by Zenovego? (see arrows) from GALLIPOLI to PERA addressed to *nobile domino Marcho Bembo*. In 1470's brothers Marco & Lorenzo Bembo formed a trading company Lorenzo was based in Venice and Marco was the travelling partner. From 1479 to mid-1481, Marco was in PERA and sent a Corpus of Letters to his brother Lorenzo in Venice. These letters focus on the organizational aspects of travel by sea, collection of information on different markets and competitors; strategies to buy the most profitable goods, strengthen personal ties with local Ottoman or Venetian consular officials. (see: *Passage au Levant. Le voyage de Candie-Constantinople de la compagnie Bembo seconde moitié du XV^e siècle*, Alessio Sopracasa, 2017).

2.2 - LETTERS from/to THE LEVANT (XVI- XVIII CENTURY)

2.2.1 - Letters from/to VENICE and SYRIA & EGYPT

Route ALEPPO via CONSTANTINOPLE to VENICE



Route ALEPPO to VENICE
via CONSTANTINOPLE

1606 - Entire Letter from ALEPPO via CON-POLI to VENICE

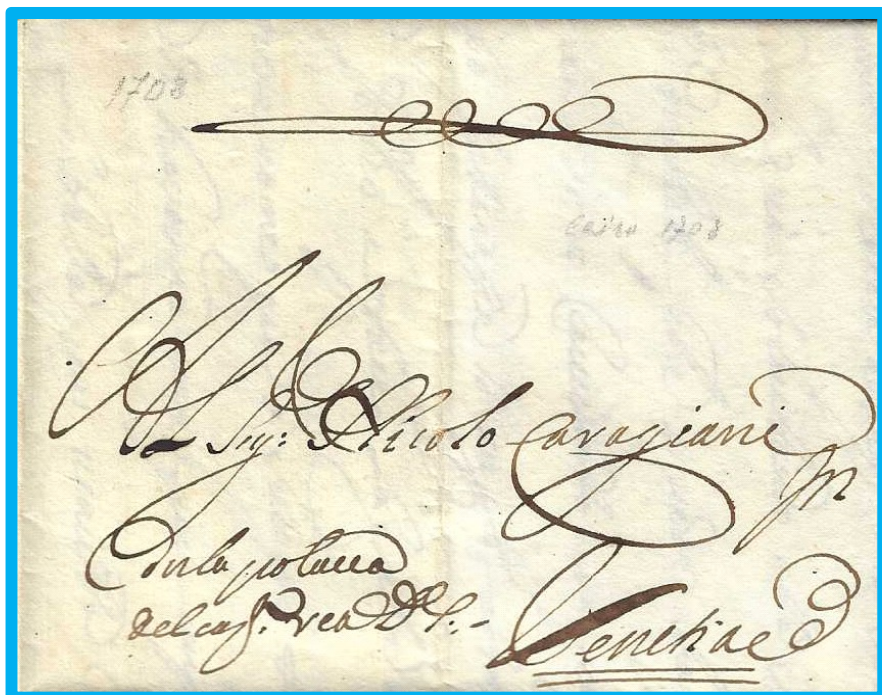
Entire letter dated 9 Feb. 1606 by Lunardo Mocenighi from ALEPPO, addressed to Piero Correr in Venice. This is a lengthy commercial letter dealing with raw Silk. On lower left is the notation 'p(er) Con-poli', thus the Route followed was from Aleppo overland to Constantinople then by Sea to Venice. In 1516 the Ottomans conquered Syria, ending the Mamluk rule (1260-1516). Very few letters from Aleppo exist during the 1600's



1738 - Entire Letter from ALEPPO via CON-POLI to VENICE

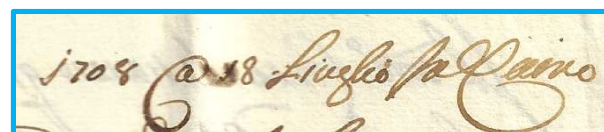
Entire Letter dated 28 Sept. 1738 sent with by 'Jacob Ribero Henriquez' from ALEPPO to Nicolò Caragiani in VENICE. On reverse there are sender's name, plus arrival & departure notations (see copy Above Left). The text mentions it followed the Route from Aleppo via Constantinople to Venice. Letter has a closing Red Wax Seal.

2.2.1 - Letters from/to VENICE and SYRIA & EGYPT



1708 - Entire Letter from CAIRO to VENICE

Entire Letter from CAIRO sent 18 July 1708 by Paolo Dinetti to Nicolo Caragianni in VENICE. Text starts with mention 'Coppia' meaning it is the 2nd of a re-written original sent separately as to guaranty reception of at least one letter. It has the notation 'Con la polucca del Capn D. P.'. A polucca is a type of 17th to 19th century vessel with three single pole masts. On reverse are notations 'Con Rea - di Paolo Dinetti' and a 7s Tax charge.



(COPY start of Text Depart. Date)



1745 - Entire Letter from CAIRO to VENICE

Entire Letter from CAIRO to VENICE dated 22 October 1745, sent by Sacche Lopez Perrera to Nicolo Caragianni. This is a commercial letter with reference of goods arriving from Geda (Jiddah, Arabia). At lower left is the notation 'CDG' (Che Dio Guardi). On reverse are departure and arrival notations 'Cairo Perrera di 3 e 6 Dicembre 1745 - Ricevuta li 7 marzo (1746)'. The letter has traces of a closing Red Wax Seal.

2.2.2 - Letters from/to VENICE and CYPRUS & CANDIA

HISTORICAL CONTEXT- CYPRUS LUSIGNAN & VENETIAN RULE

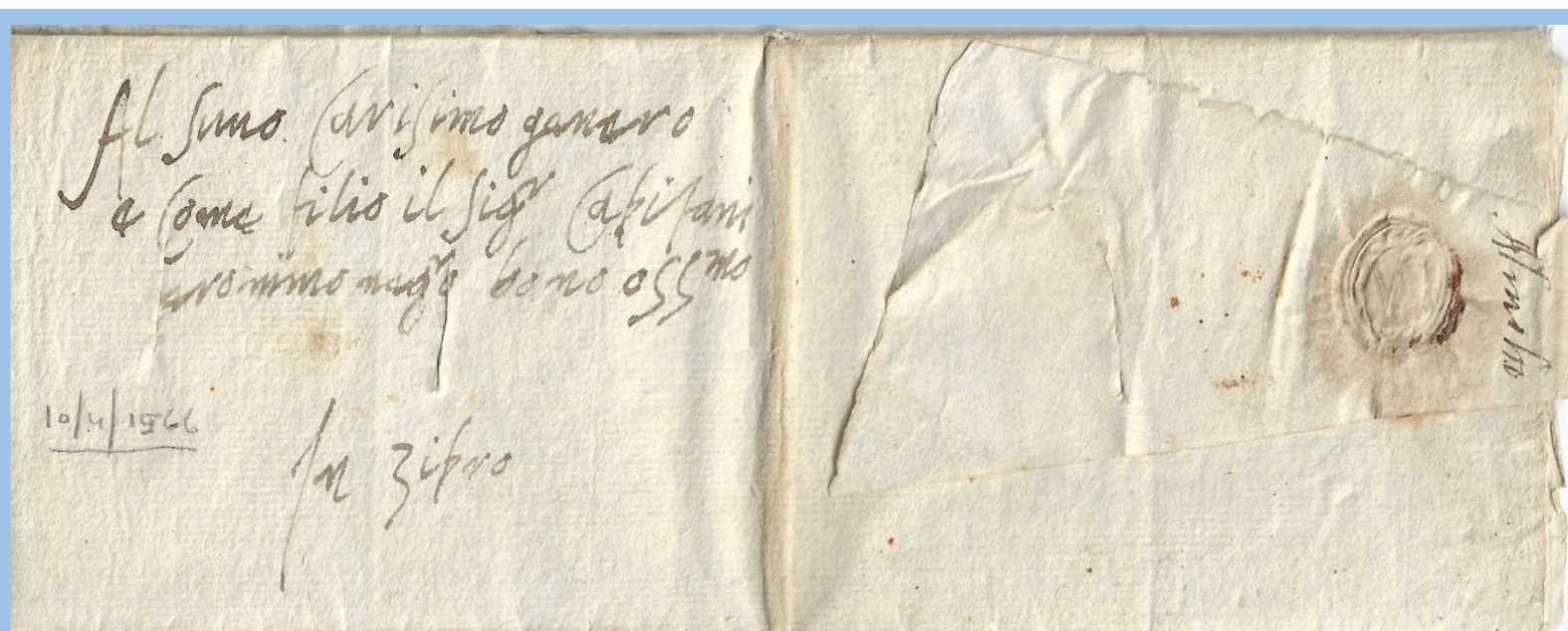
Since 1291, with the fall of Acre in the Holy Land, Cyprus started to flourish under the rule of the Lusignan. The port of Famagusta on account of its position as the last entrepôt for European trade adjacent to the Levant, became one of the richest cities in Christendom. In 1489, the Lusignan ruler *Caterina Cornaro* (1474-89) ceded Cyprus to the Rep. of Venice. It remained a Venetian possession from 1489 to 1571. Famagusta's fortifications were remodeled and became fine examples of military architecture with walls 15m high and 8m thick.



VENICE to CYPRUS Sea Route



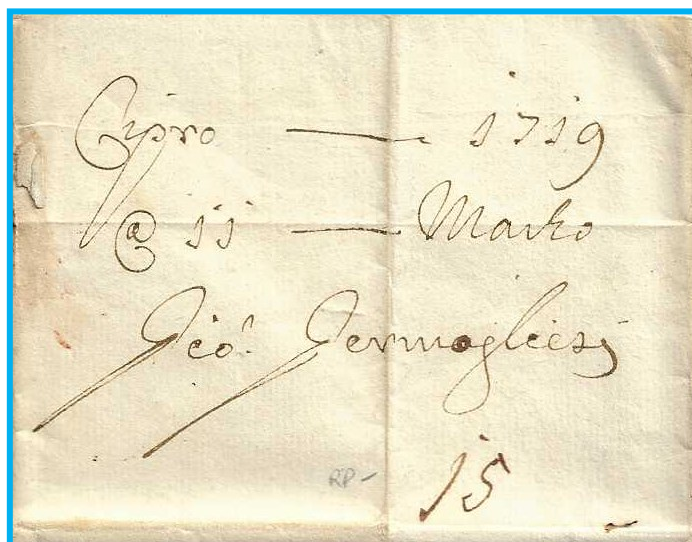
Enlarged Seal



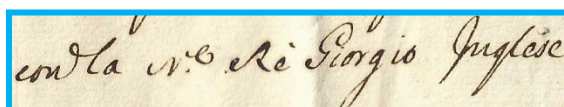
1566 Entire letter from VENEZIA to CYPRUS

Entire letter dated 10 April 1566. (This is 4 years prior to the Fall of Cyprus to Ottomans in 1571). It was sent by *Isabella Avarolda* from VENEZIA to *Genaro Capisani* in CYPRUS. This is a family letter informing on the health of her spouse and of the marriage of a niece. There is also talk of another marriage between the sender's sister Countess *Olympia* with *Flaminus*; everyone is to pray to God and Madonna. Letter has a closing fold with a nice Embossed Seal, plus an inscription '*Al meglio*' meaning *to the best* (see arrow Top Right).

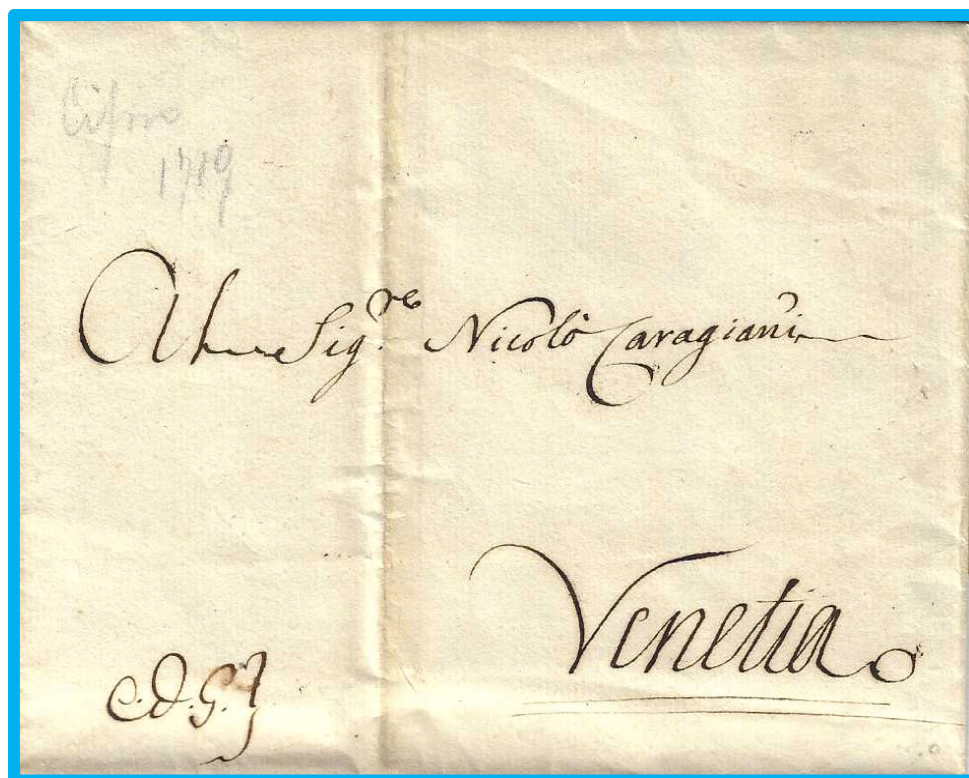
2.2.2 - Letters from/to VENICE and CYPRUS & CANDIA



(COPY Back: Origin, Dates & Sender, Tax)



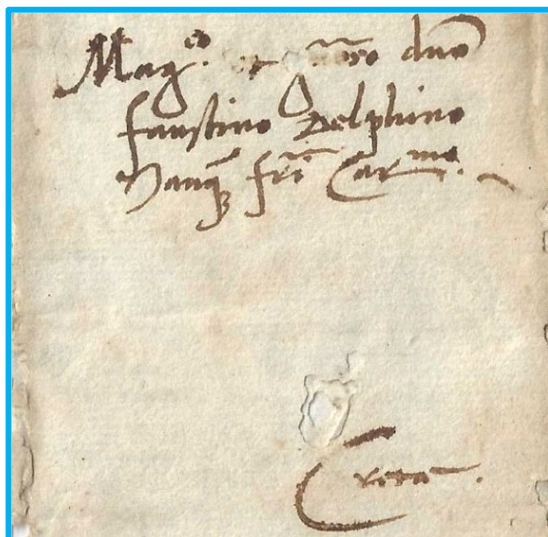
(COPY part of Text: con la nave Re Giorgio Inglese)



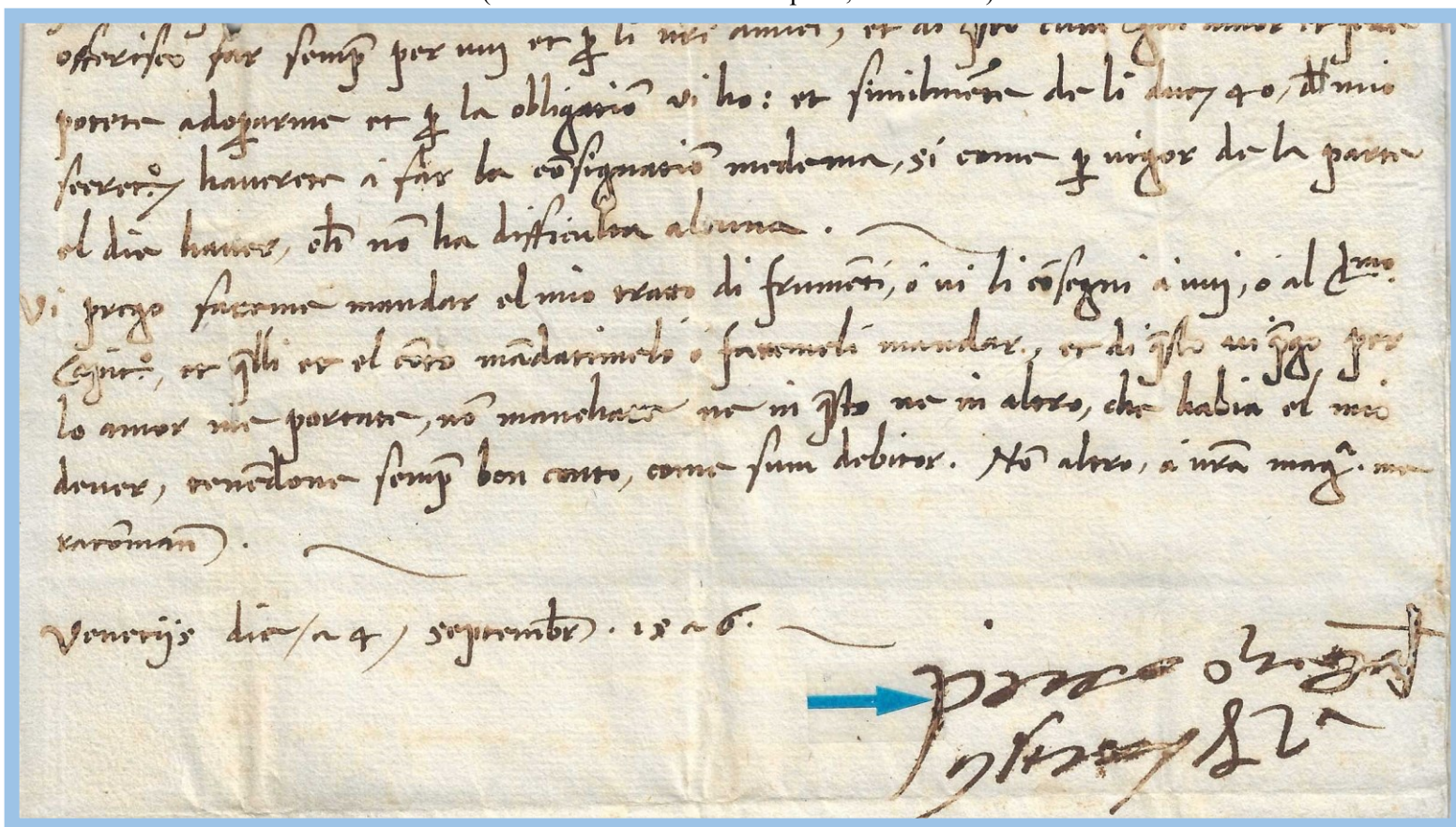
1719 - Entire Letter from CYPRUS to VENICE

Commercial letter dated 11 March 1719 from CYPRUS sent by *Gio Gerunogliesi* to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. Cyprus export products were cotton and wool. The text mentions the letter will be sent “con la nave Re Giorgio Inglese” e.g. ‘by the ‘ship King George of England’ (see COPY Above Middle).. At lower left is the initials *C.D.G.* (Che Dio Guardi – May God Protect). On reverse are notations of Origin ‘*Cipro*’, Date & Sender’s Name, plus a **15** soldi Tax Charge (see arrow).

2.2.2 - Letters from/to VENICE and CYPRUS & CANDIA



(reduced COPY Front: Recipient, Destination)

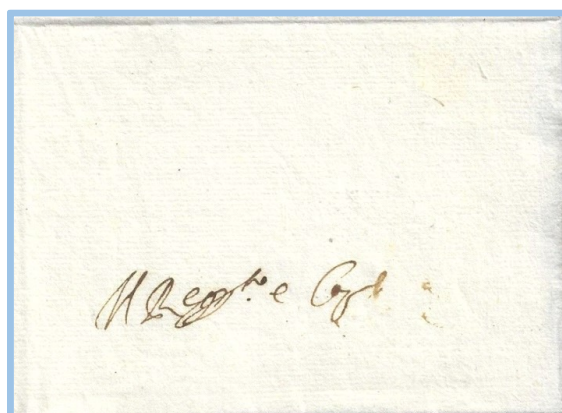


(ACTUAL Text 2nd half: Origin, Date, Sender's Signature)

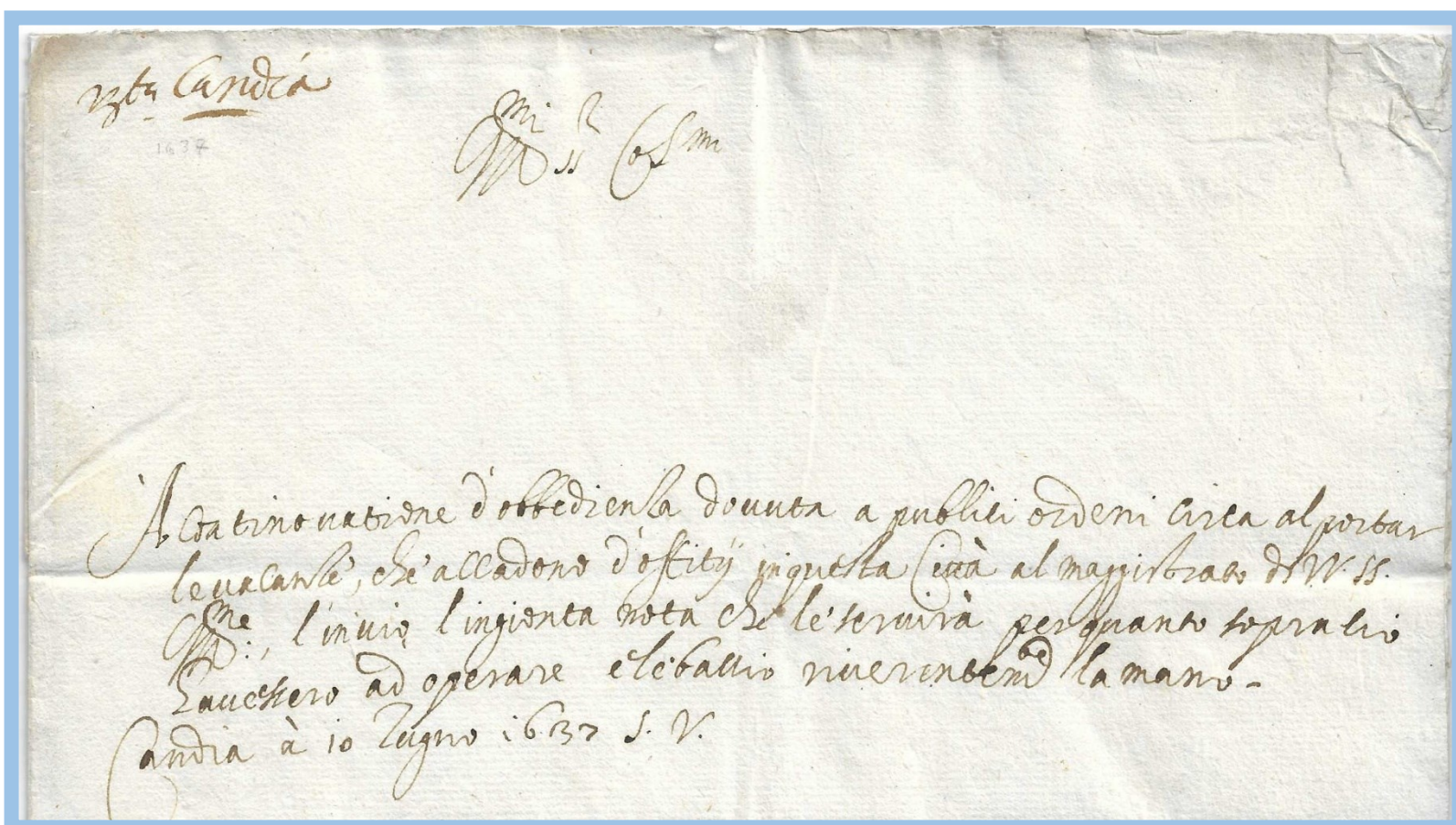
1526 - Entire letter sent from VENEZIA to CANDIA (CRETE)

Entire letter from VENICE sent 24 Sept. 1526 (see Above Left) by councillor *Pierro Bragadin* (see arrow Above Right) addressed to '*Magnifico e generoso domino Faustino Dolphino*' in CANDIA, CRETE (see arrow COPY Top). Letter contains proposals for the *Camera* (Chamber) in charge of Fiscal Affairs in Candia. *Faustino Dolfino* comes from one of the oldest noble families of Venice. *Pietro Bragadin* also comes from the noble families of Venice. He had served as the *Bailo* to Constantinople from Oct. 1523 to Oct. 1525. In June 1526 he returned to Venice and assumed the function of Councillor, later in 1530 he entered the Council of Ten.

2.2.2 - Letters from/to VENICE and CYPRUS & CANDIA



(reduced COPY Front: Recipient's Name)



(ACTUAL TEXT: Origin, Departure Date, Sender's Initials)

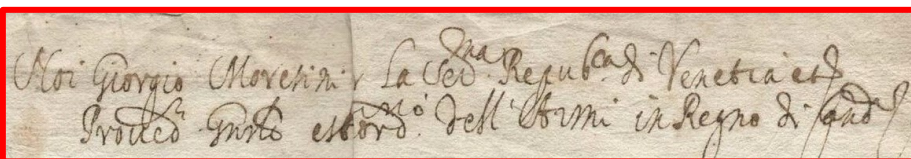
1637 - Entire letter from CANDIA to VENEZIA

One paragraph letter from CANDIA dated 10 June 1637 (arrow Above Left). It contains a report of the 'Capitano S.V. alla guardia di Candia' e.g. Captain of the Fleet of Candia (see S.V. Initials: arrow Above Middle), addressed to the 'Sindici inquisitori in Levante' (State Inspectors in the Levant) to VENICE. Text writes about the local vacant offices. The 'Sindici inquisitori' were Itinerant (traveling) State Inspectors' to her Sea Dominions. They exercised the widest political, administrative, financial and accounting control over the work of local officials, as well as carried out judicial functions and above all appeals. They also exercised consultative and direct administration functions, through the issuing of orders having the power of law.

2.2.2 - Letters from/to VENICE and CYPRUS & CANDIA

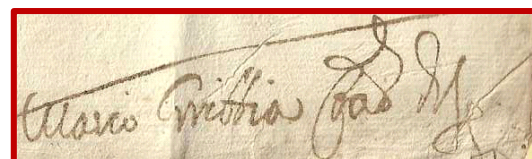
HISTORICAL CONTEXT – WAR OF CANDIA (GUERRA DI CANDIA) 1645-1669

It was a conflict between the Rep. of Venice against the Ottomans. In the first few years, most of the island of Crete was conquered. However, the Siege on the fortress of Candia, lasted for 21 years (1648-69). This long siege forced each side to focus on preventing supplies and reinforcements from reaching the enemy's forces. Hence the war turned into a series of naval encounters. It ended in 1669, with a surrender to the Ottomans.



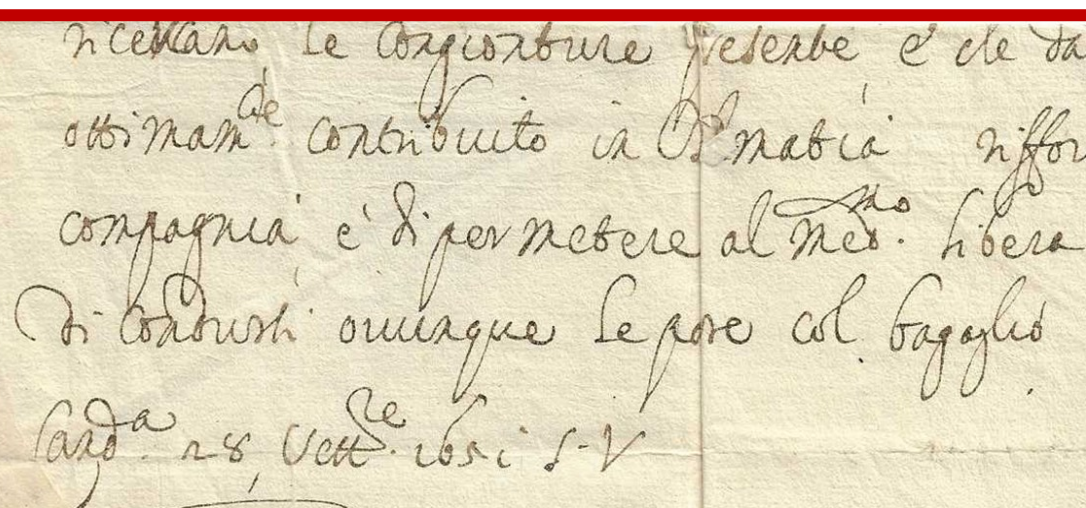
Alto Giorgio Morosini La Ser. Repub. di Venezia
Provved. Gen. dell' Arm. in Regno di Candia

(COPY start of Text with Sender's Name)

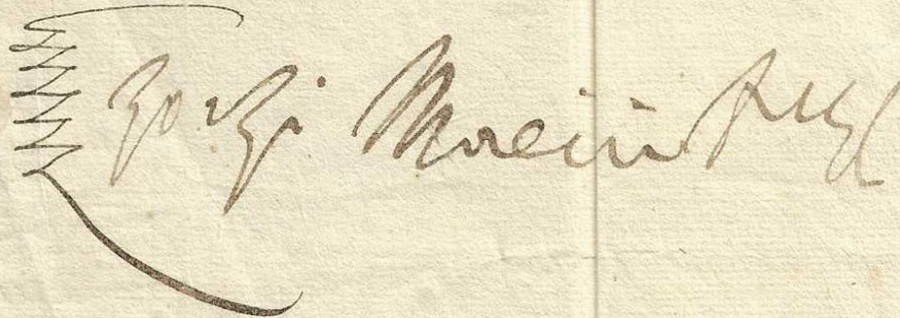


Marco Gritti

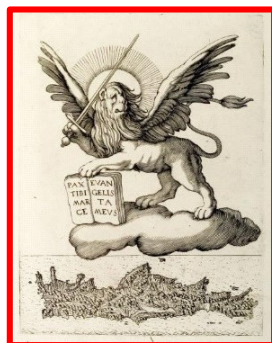
(COPY Back Fold with Recipient's Name)



Necessario Le Argomento presentare e che da
ottimam. contributo in Candia rifor
compagnia e di per mettere al mes. libera
di condurre ovunque Le pare col bagaglio
Candia 28, Sett. 1651 S-V



Giorgio Morosini



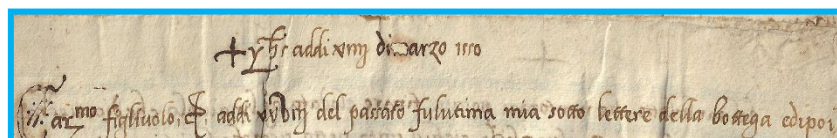
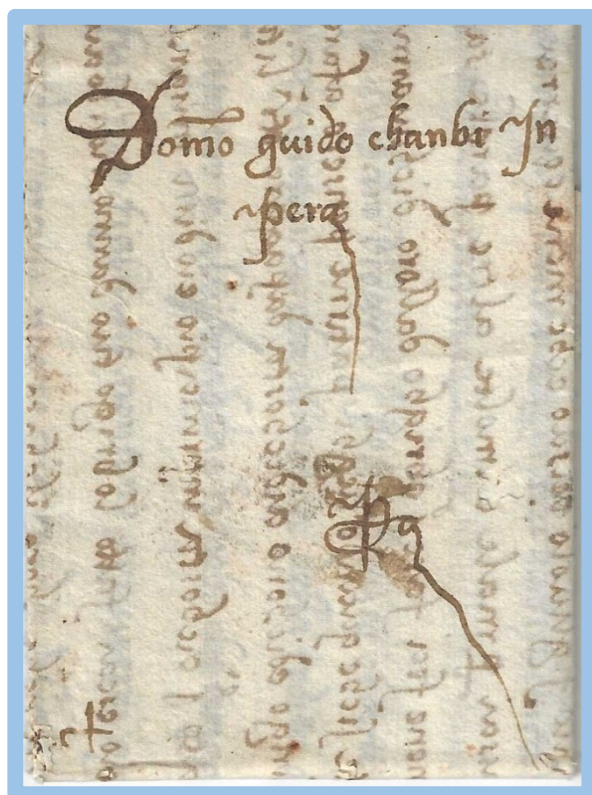
Saint Mark's Lion
on guard over Crete

(ACTUAL end of TEXT with Date, Embossed Seal & Sender's Signature)

1651 - Entire letter written in the Besieged City of CANDIA (Crete)

Official letter written in Besieged Candia, dated 28 Sept. 1651 by Capt. *Giorgio Morosini* to Capt. *Marco Gritti*. Text refers to defence matters and bears *Morosini's* signature, plus has a unique Embossed Seal of Saint Mark's Lion standing guard over Crete (see enlarged symbol Middle Left). In 1645, at the onset of War of Candia, the Senate appointed *Giorgio Morosini* as Supreme Military Commander "*Provveditore Generale dell' Arm. in Regno di Candia*". Letter was written only two months after the victorious Venetian Sea Battle of 10 July 1651, near Naxos isle. (see: *La guerra di Candia 1644-1699 e il blocco dei Dardanelli 1654-57* by Lanfranco Sanna).

2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



COPY start of Text: Date, 18 Roman numerals)

1550 - Entire letter from VENICE to PERA Constantinople

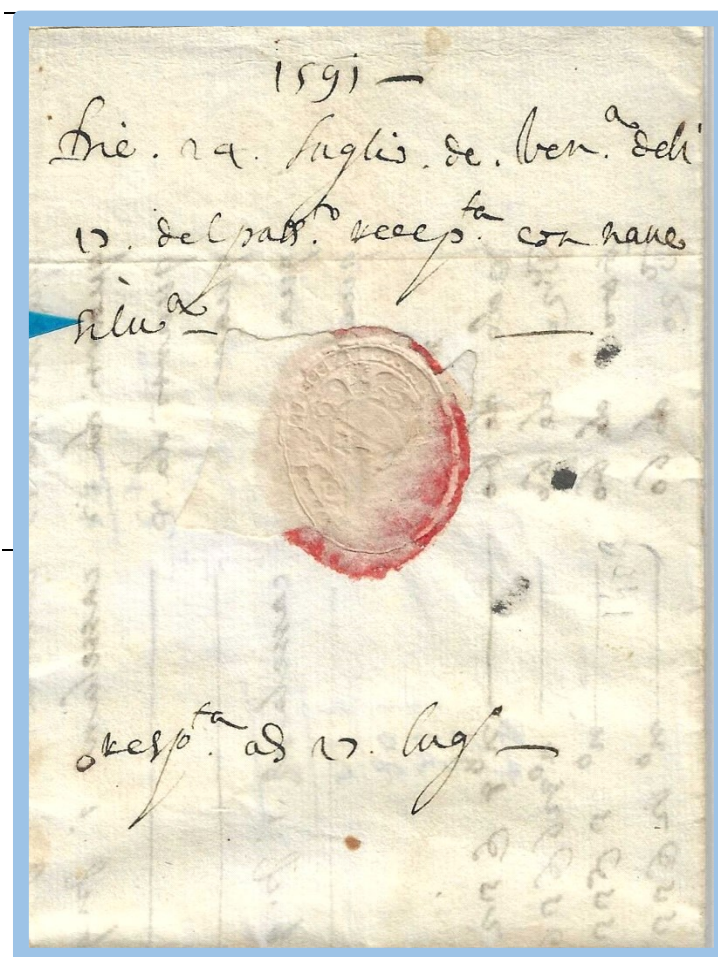
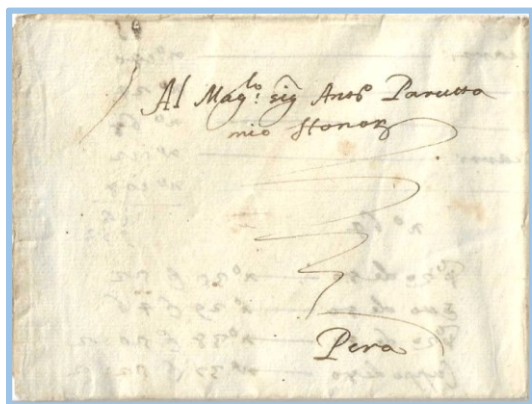
Lengthy Commercial Letter sent on 18(XVIII) March 1550 (see COPY Above). from VENICE to PERA of Constantinople and addressed to *Guido Cambi*. The sender is his father in VENICE, who dictates instructions about the behaviour to be held towards other merchants of their interest and about the goods that had arrived from Adrianople. On lower Left is the merchant's own trademark of a cross with letter G..

1591 - Entire letter from VENICE to PERA Constantinople

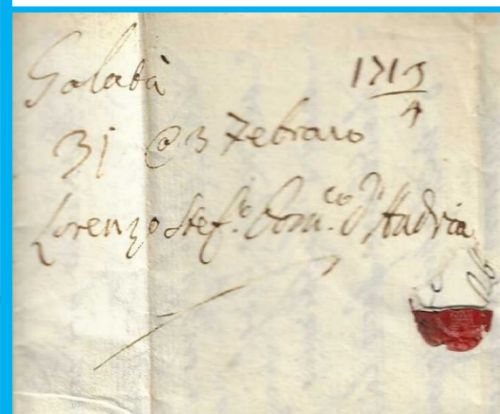
Entire letter dated 29 July 1591 sent from VENICE to PERA by *Bassano Faglier* and addressed to *Antonio Parutta* in PERA. This Commercial Letter is an Invoice for Mirrors & rolls of Fabrics, that were sent from Venice with the ship '*Silvestra*' (see arrow '*con nave silvestra*') by the House *Bianca and Batista Faglier* to be delivered in PERA to *Antonio Parutta*. On the Back (see Right ACTUAL item), plus sender's large oval Embossed Seal with red wax traces.

(Right: ACTUAL Back Fold: Date & con nave Silvestra)

(Below reduced COPY Front: Recipient & Destination)

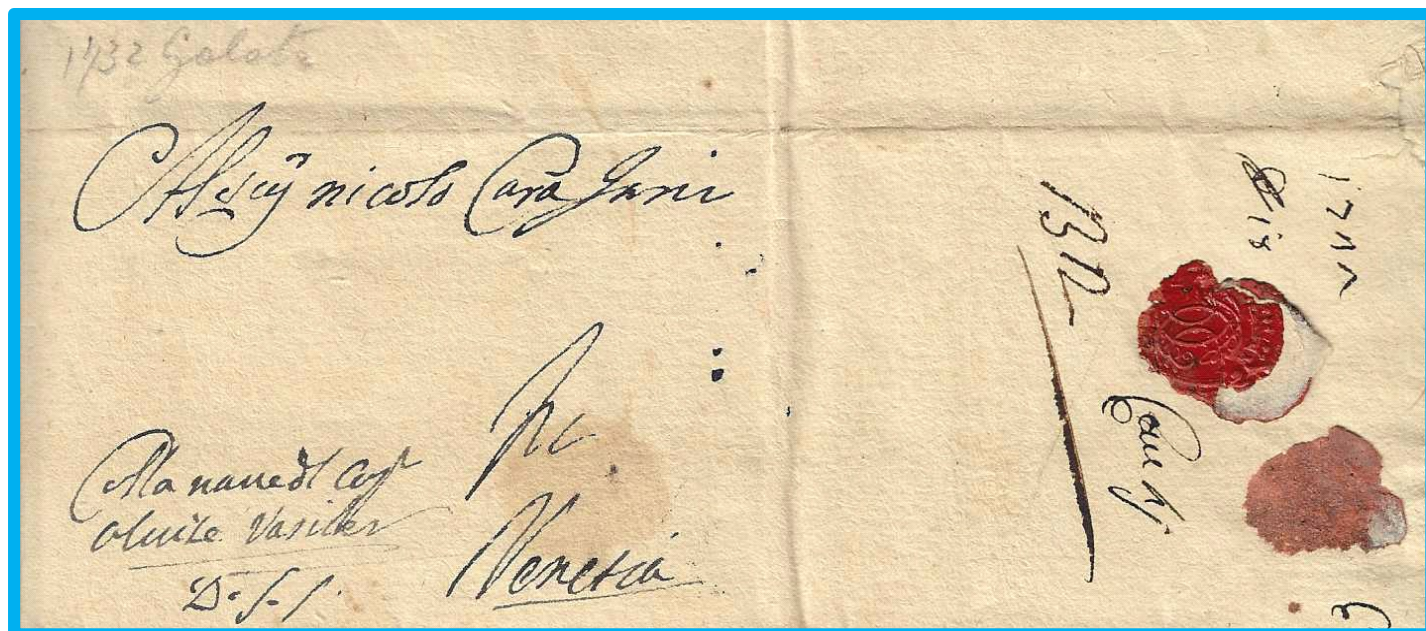


2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



1713 - Entire letter from GALATA (Constantinople) to VENICE

Entire letter dated 13 Dec. 1713 from GALATA of Constantinople, by *Lorenzo Steffeno & Donato d'Adria* addressed to *Nilolo Caragiani* in VENICE. On Back Fold is a note in a different hand with the Origin & Year 'Galata 1713', Arrival Date '3 Febraio (1714)' and Sender's Name. (see COPY Above Right).



1732 - Entire letter from GALATA (Constantinople) to VENICE

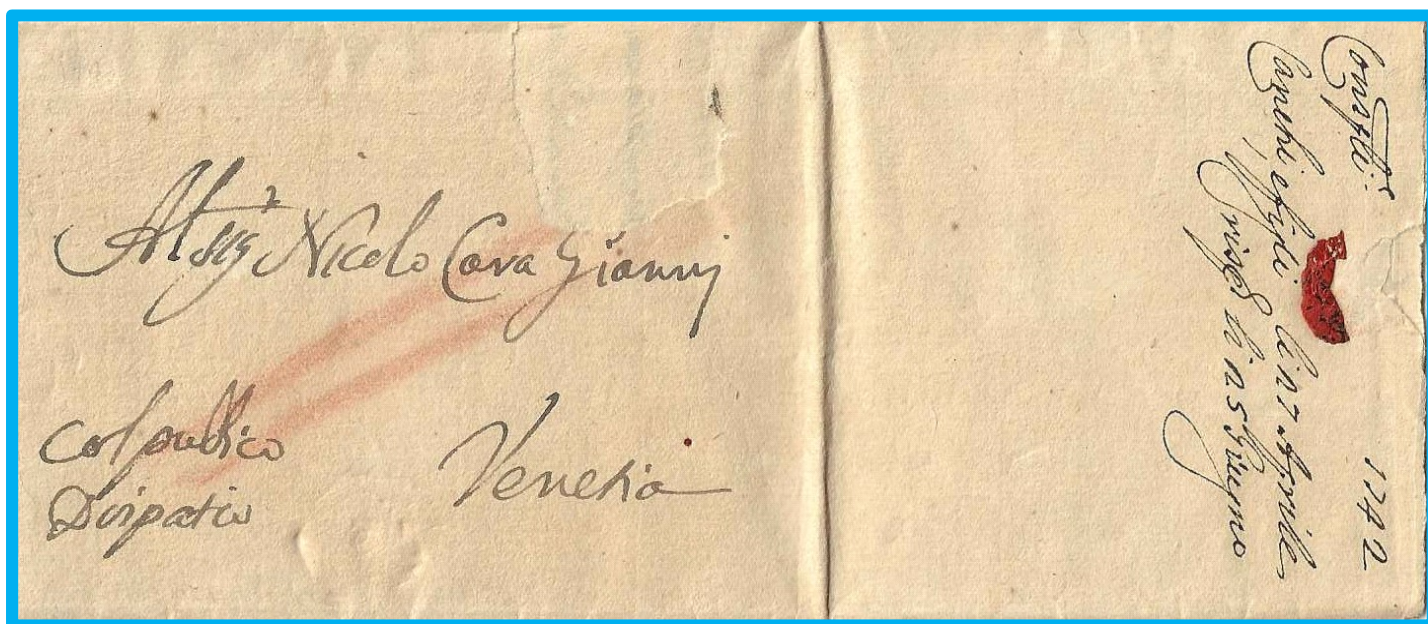
Entire letter dated 18 Feb. 1732 from GALATA of Constantinople, by *Daniel Canchi* addressed to *Nilolo Caragiani* in VENICE. . On the lower left there is a notation 'Con la nave di Cap. Alvise Vasiler' (see arrow). On Back Fold is a note in a different hand with the Origin and Arrival Date "1732 Con-poli 18 Febb.", plus a nice closing Red Wax Seal (see sideways Above Right).

2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



1733 - Entire letter from PERA (Constantinople) to VENICE

Entire letter written over 3 large pages then folded twice. It was sent on 17 October. 1733 by *Nicolo Franceschi* from PERA of Constantinople and was addressed to *Nilolo Caraggiani* in VENICE. On the reverse there are arrival and departure notations “1733 Con-poli 17 8bre Franceschi, plus from a different hand a note 25 Mar. 1734 (see arrow). The letter has a partial closing Red Wax Seal (sideway Above Right).



1742 - Entire letter from CONSTANTINOPLE to VENICE

Entire letter from GALATA of Constantinople by *Daniel Canchi* dated 27 April. 1742 and addressed to *Nilolo Caragiani* in VENICE. On the lower left is the notation ‘*Con publico Dispaccio*’ (see arrow) meaning it was put in the Official Mail Bag of the Venetian *Bailo* (Ambassador) in Constantinople. On the Back Fold is a note of Origin, Sender, Arr. Date ‘25 Giugno’ (see arrow), plus a nice closing Red Wax Seal (sideway Above Right).

2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO

HISTORICAL CONTEXT- **BAILLO DI COSTANTINOPOLI**

In the 1500's, Venice relied on diplomatic and political means, to maintain and defend its position in the eastern Mediterranean. In Constantinople the **Baillo** (worked to solve any misunderstandings between the Ottomans and Venetians. He established contacts with influential Ottomans and thus was able to protect his interests. **Alvise Rhenier**, was *Baillo* Sept.1547 to autumn 1550. He overcame his initial aversion of *Vizier Rustem*. In his report to **Council of Ten**, he stresses the cruelty and refers to the grand Vizier as '*resolute. most severe in punishing*'.



(ACTUAL closing host paper with Embossed Seal)

(enlarged COPY of Seal)

mis
Ex. *mis* *Capitibus* *Il mi*
consilij *Decem* *mis* *ossey*

Alvise Rhenier Baylo in Const

(COPY end of Text Baillo's Signature)

di Pera alli 28 luo 1548

(COPY end of Text: Origin, Depart. Date)

1548 - Entire letter from the **BAILLO** in PERA (Constantinople) to VENEZIA

Entire letter from PERA by **Alvise Rhenier Baylo** 1547-50 (1st arrow Above Right) sent to VENICE on 28 July 1548 (2nd arrow Above Right). It was addressed to the **Heads of the Council of Ten** '*Capit. Consilij Decem*' (see arrow) one of the major governing bodies concerned with State Security. Letter was received on 12 Nov.1548, having extensive internal brown discoloration due to disinfection, as customary for mail from the Levant in epidemic periods. Letter has a closing Embossed Seal of the Winged Lion of San Marco (see Above).

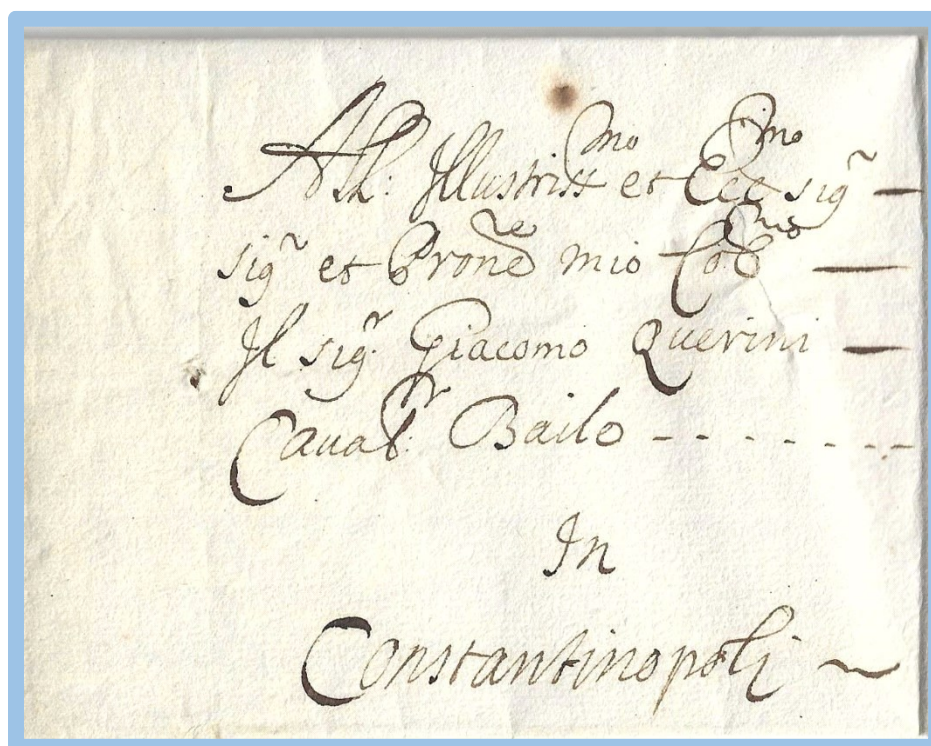
2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – BAILO’S ROLE IN COLLECTING INFORMATION

Giacomo Querini the Bailo in Constantinople (1671-75) played an important role later in starting the Morean war (1684-99). The Senate had decided to expand their sailing warships “*Armata Grossa*” to counter the pirate threat and above all, the French expansionism in East Med. In 1676 the initial anti-French policy was instead directed against the traditional Ottoman enemy. This change of policy was the result of a report by the Bailo *Querini* presented to the Senate upon his return to Venice. *Querini* had underlined the fact that the Ottomans had no actual sailing warships. This weakness had also been proven during the Candia War (1645-69).



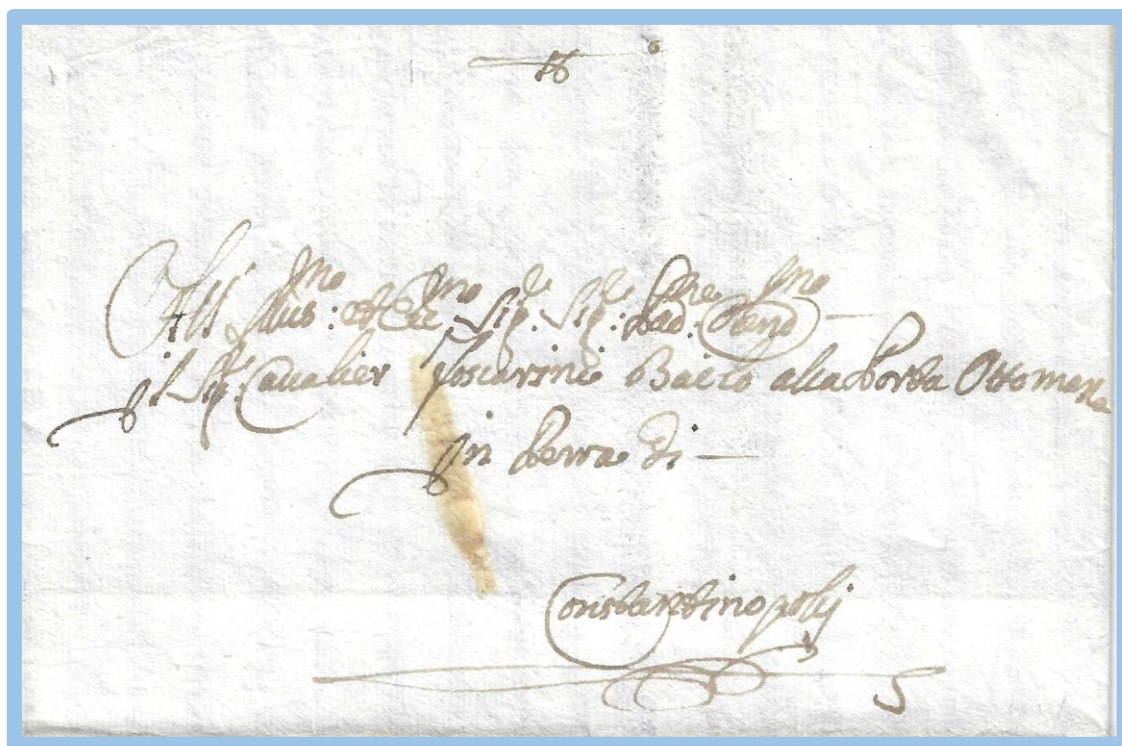
(enlarged COPY of Seal)



1674 – Entire Letter from SMYRNA to the Bailo of CONSTANTINOPLE

Entire letter dated 21 July 1674 from SMYRNA to CONSTANTINOPLE, addressed to *Giacomo Querini* the Venetian *Bailo* in Constantinople (1671-75), by *Antoine Maillet* in Smyrna and at the service of the Venetian *Bailo*. He states that two ships had arrived both under the command of *Bonaventura Ambrogio* one from Genoa and the other from Venice. They brought a letter & a package for the Bailo *Giacomo Querini* (see arrow) and will be delivered together with the merchants’ letters. On Back is Sender’s closing red Wax Seal (see Above).

2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



(enlarged COPY Wax Seal)

1789 – Entire Letter from AENOS (Thrace) to the **BAILO** in **CONSTANTINOPOLI**

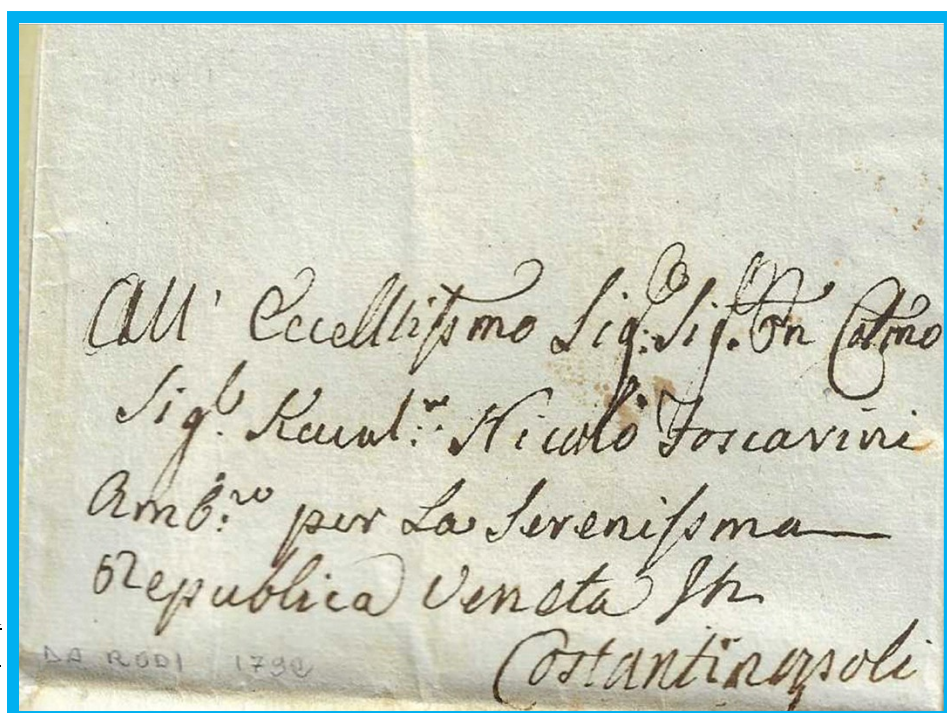
Entire letter sent 25 Jan. 1789 from AENOS by the Vice Consul *Angelo Marcello* to CONSTANTINOPOLI to *Nicolo Foscari* - *Bailo alla Porta Ottomana in Pera di Constantinopoli*. He is asking for his intervention in sedating a discontent by local bakers towards two Venetian subjects who had won the competition in supplying baked goods to Venetian ships. On letter's top is a rare marking: '*dd*' (see arrow) meaning '*sia dato solo all persona destinataria*' (to be given only to the recipient). On Back is a Wax Seal with Sender's **A. M** initials.

Rodi no: Luglio 1792

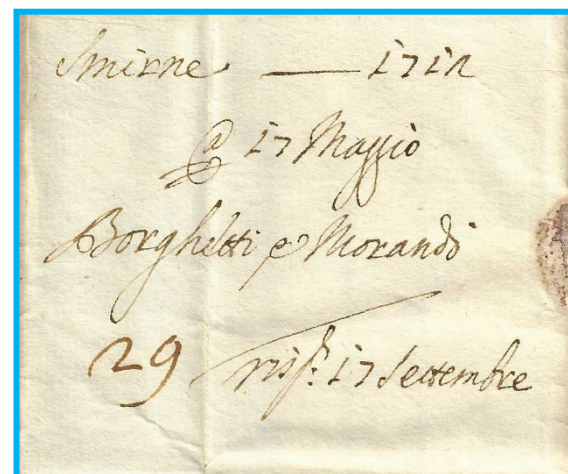
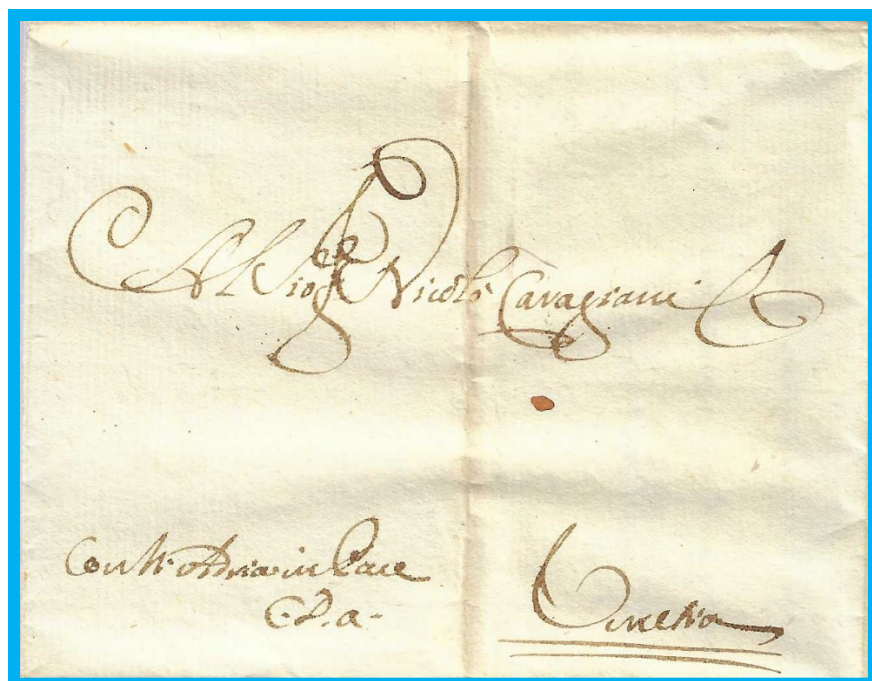
(COPY RODI Place Name & Date)

1792 – Entire Letter from **RODI** (Rhodes) to the **BAILO** in **CONSTANTINOPOLI**

Entire letter by *Giuseppe Marichi* from RODI (Rhodes) dated 20 July 1792, addressed to the Most Exalted *Nicolo Foscari* Venetian Bailo in CONSTANTINOPLE 1788-92 *Ecceltissimo Nicolo Foscari*, *Ambascadore per la Serenissima Repubblica Veneta in Costantinopoli*. This appears to be a personal letter. Letters originating from places outside the large trading centers such as RODI (Rhodes) are rare.



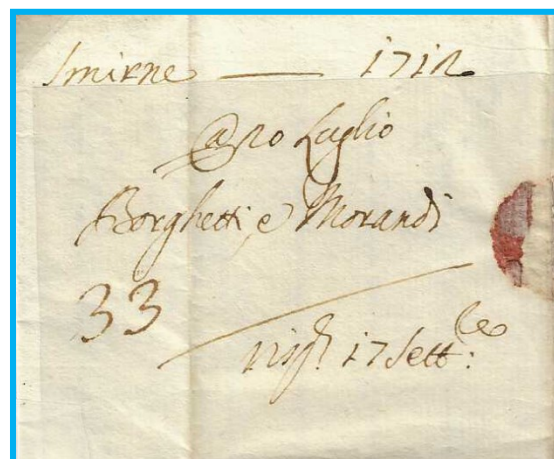
2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Dates, Tax)

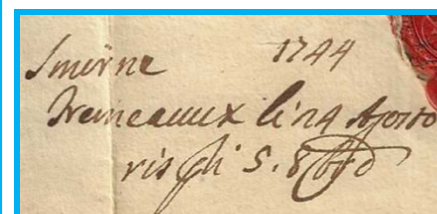
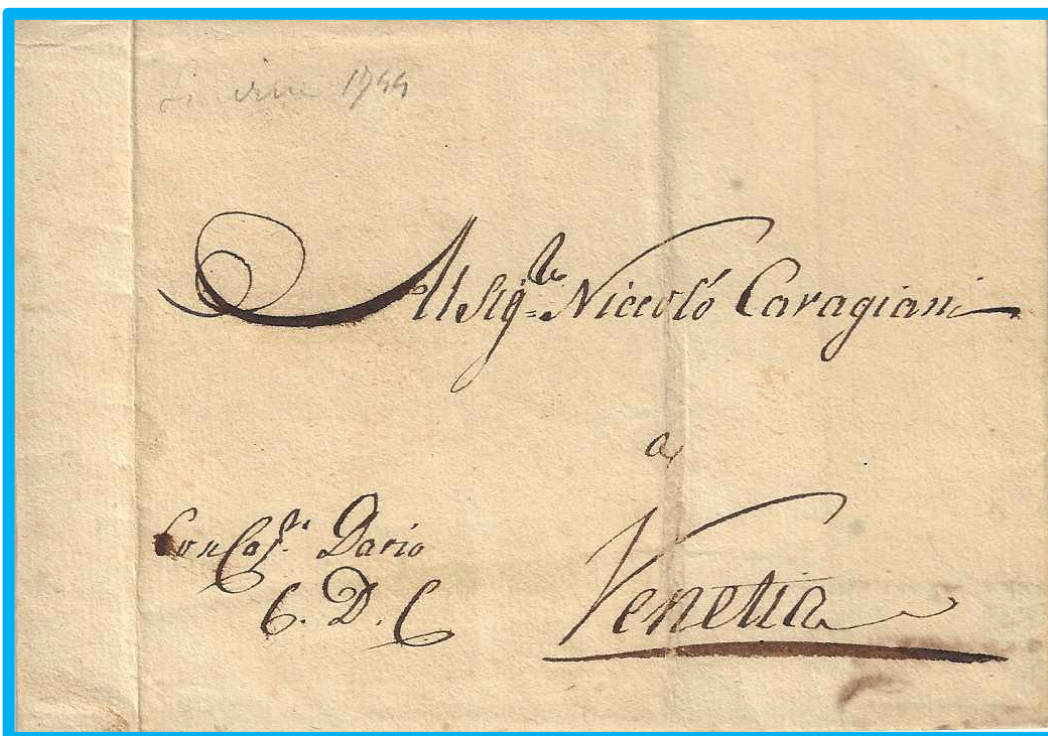
1712 – Two Entire Letters from SMIRNE to VENEZIA

Two 1712 Entire Letters from SMIRNE written by the same commercial company 'Borghetti & Morandi' addressed to *Nicolo Caraganni* in VENICE. **Above is the 1st letter** dated 17 May 1712. It refers to a shipment of goods. On lower Left is a note of the transporting ship '*Con nave Adria in Pace*' (see arrow). On the back is the receiving date 17 Sept.1712, plus a **29 soldi** charge (see arrow). **Below is the 2nd letter** dated 20 July 1712, which has a copy of the 1st letter's text, plus a few more details. Evidently the sender felt the need to rewrite it to ensure the information had been received. On lower Left is a note of the transporting ship '*Con Palandra la Provvidenza*' (see arrow), On the back same receiving date of 17 Sept.1712, plus a **33 soldi** charge (see arrow).



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Dates, Tax)

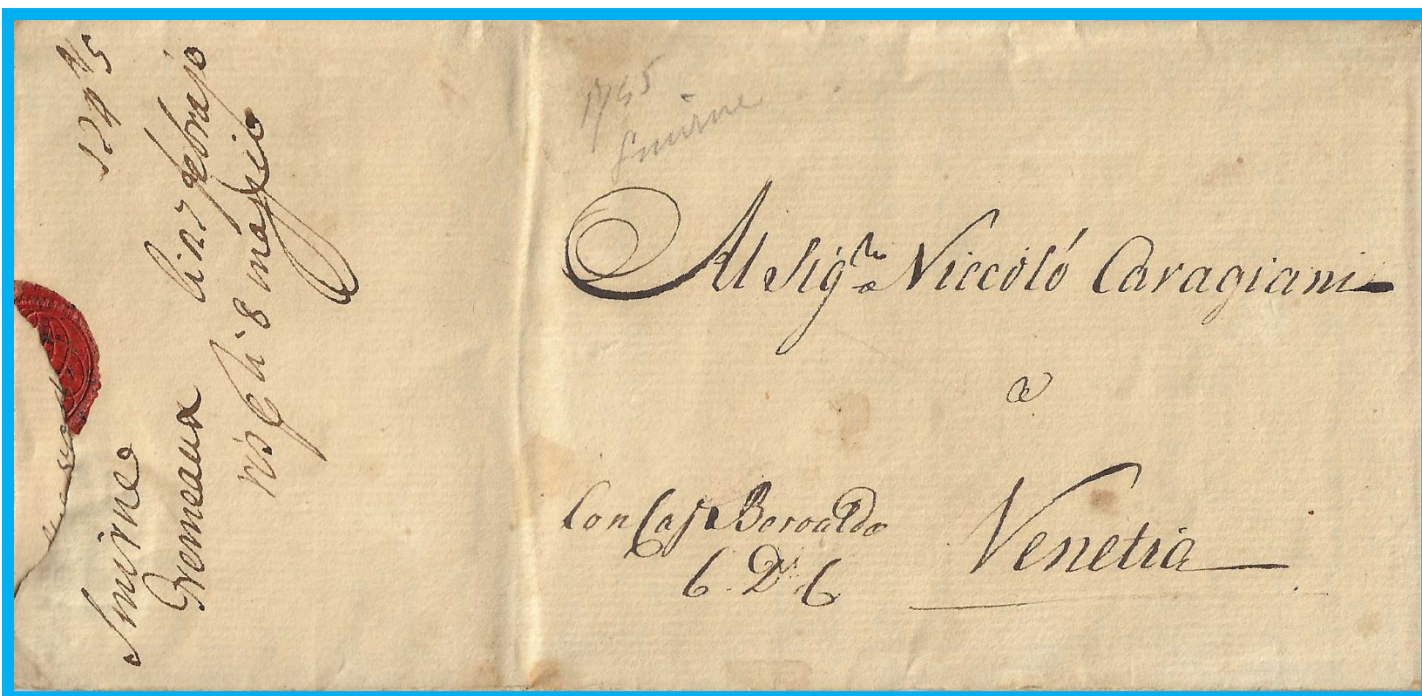
2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



(reduced COPY Back:
Origin. Sender, Arr. Date)

1744 - Entire letter sent from SMIRNE to VENEZIA

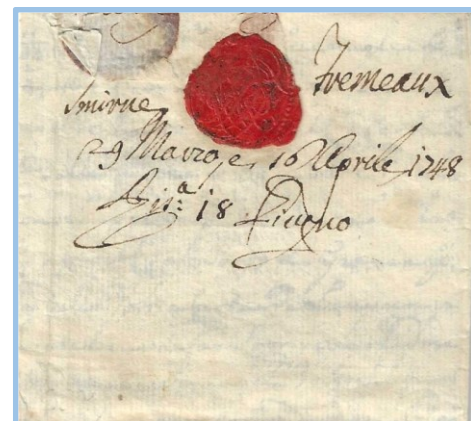
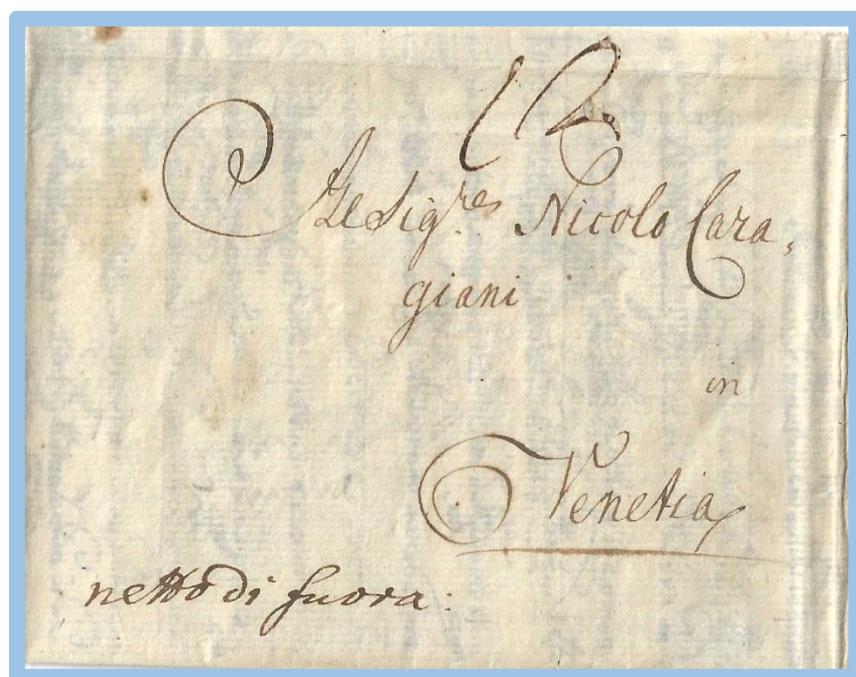
Entire letter sent on 24 August 1744 by Giacomo & Daniel Fremaux from SMIRNE to Nicolò Caragiani in VENICE. On Back is a note with Depart. & Arr. Dates (see Copy Above Right), plus Fremaux's Wax Seal. On lower left is a note of the transporting captain 'con Cap. Dario' (see arrow), plus C.D.G. (Che Dio Guardi).



1745 - Entire letter sent from SMIRNE to VENEZIA

Entire letter from SMIRNE written on 30 Jan. & 27 Feb. 1745 by Giacomo & Daniel Fremaux sent to Nicolò Caragiani in VENICE. On the Left is a note with Depart. & Arr. Dates (see arrow). On Back is Fremaux's Wax Seal. On the lower left is note of the transporting captain 'con Cap. Bernardo' (see arrow), plus C.D.G.

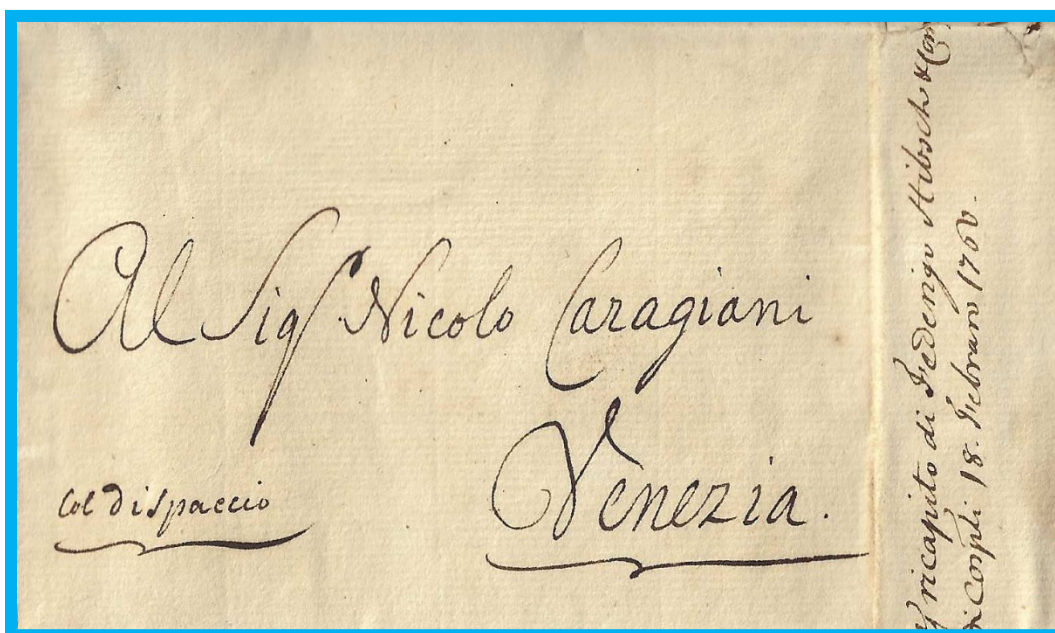
2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



(reduced COPY Back:
Origin. Sender, Arr. Date)

1748 - Entire letter sent from SMIRNE transit CONSTANTNOPOLI to VENEZIA

Entire letter written on 29 Mar. & 16 Apr. 1748 by *Fratelli Fremeaux* from from SMIRNE and sent on to *Nicolo Caragiani* in VENICE. On Back is note of Depart. & Arr. Dates (see Copy Above Right), plus a note it was sent to *J. Carlo des Bordes* in CONSTANTINOPLE and then to VENICE received 18 July 1745. On lower left is an interesting notr 'netto di fuori' (see arrow) meaning above allowed weight, It was taxed **12 soldi** (see arrow).

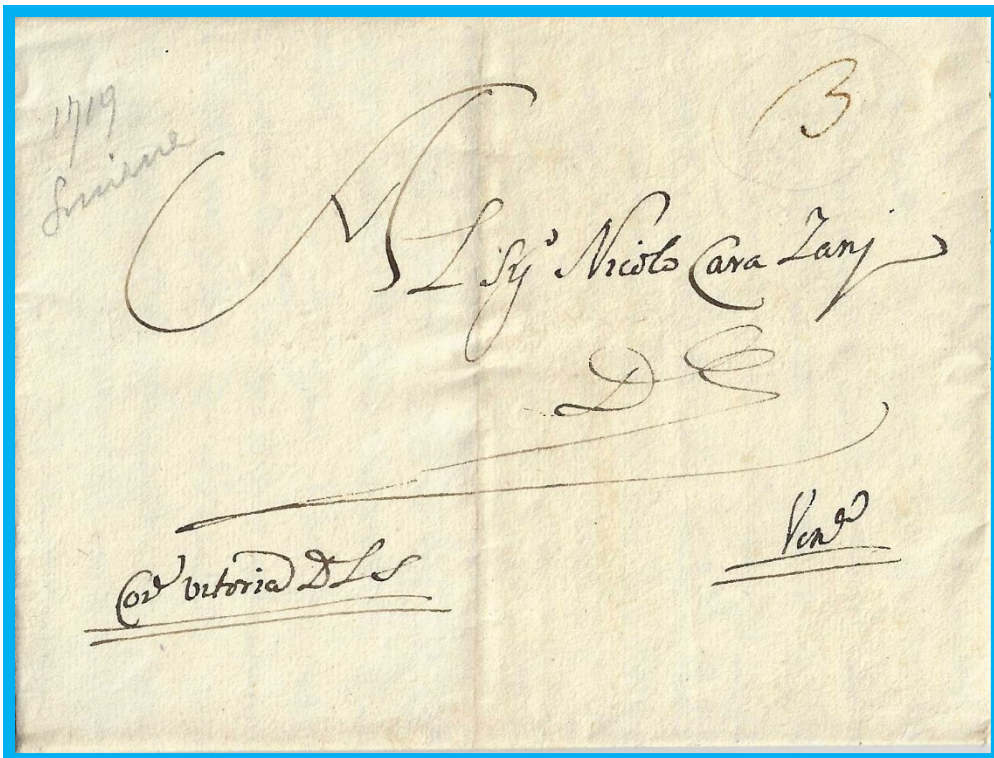


(reduced COPY Back:
Origin. Sender, Arr. Date)

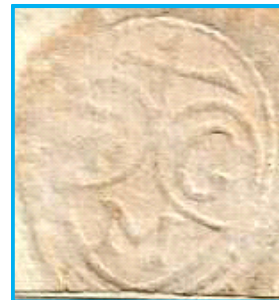
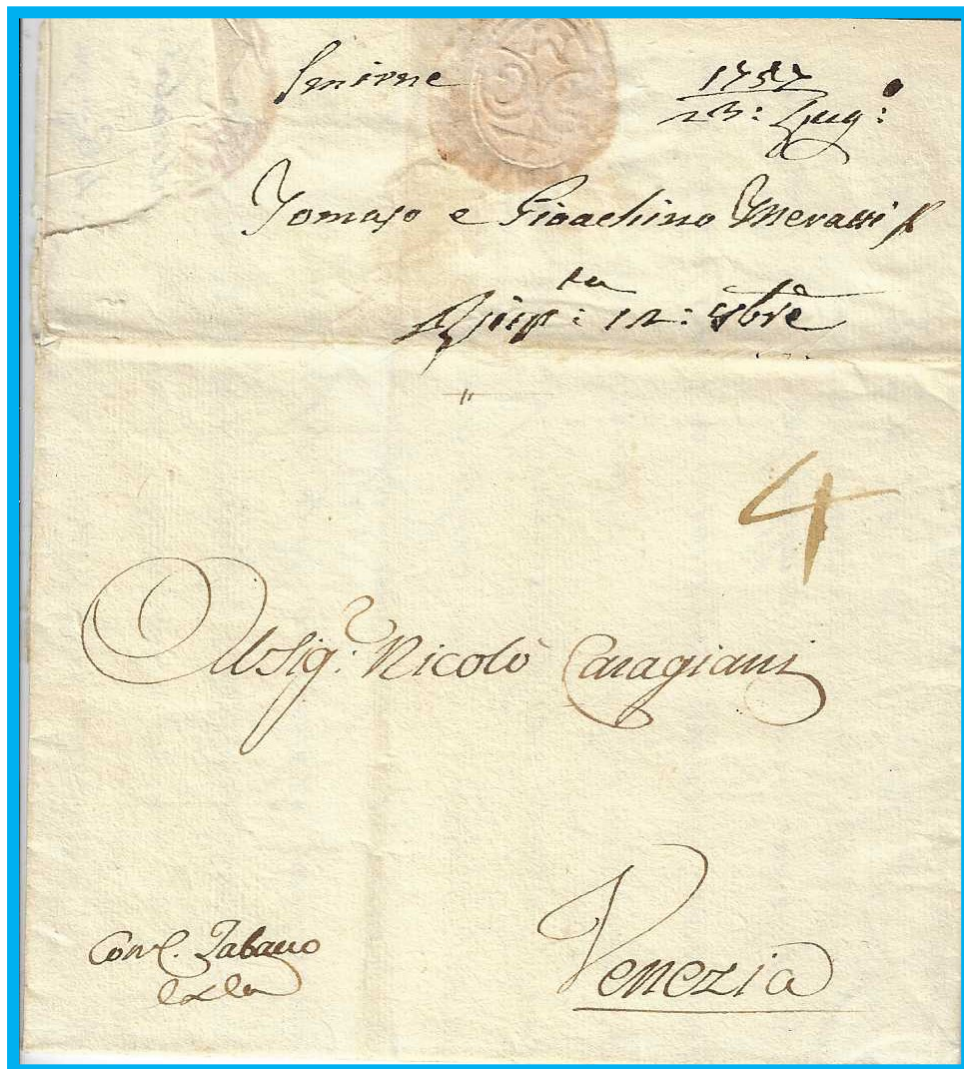
1760 - Entire letter sent from SMIRNE transit CONSTANTNOPOLI to VENEZIA

Entire letter written on 6 Nov. 1759 & 16 Jan. 1760 by *Caramente & Daniel Fremeaux* from SMIRNE and sent on to *Nicolo Caragiani* in VENICE. On Back is note of Depart. & Arr. Dates (see Copy Above Right), On the Left is a note 'Col. Dispaccio' meaning it was in the Official Mail Bag (see arrow). On Right is a note it was sent to *Frederico Hibscho* in CONSTANTINOPLE on 18 Feb. 1760 and then to VENICE received 22 Apr. 1760.

2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO

**1719 -Entire letter SMIRNE to VENICE**
(ex. Orhan, Brandt collections)

Entire letter sent on 17 March 1719 by *Hanael Sferno & Fratellix* from SMIRNE to *Nicolo Cara Zanj* in VENICE received on 8 May 1719. On lower left is a note of the transporting ship 'con *Vitoria D.L.S.*'. On top Right is a **3** soldi charge (see arrow). On the Back Fold is a note of Origin, Sender, Depart. & Arr. Dates.

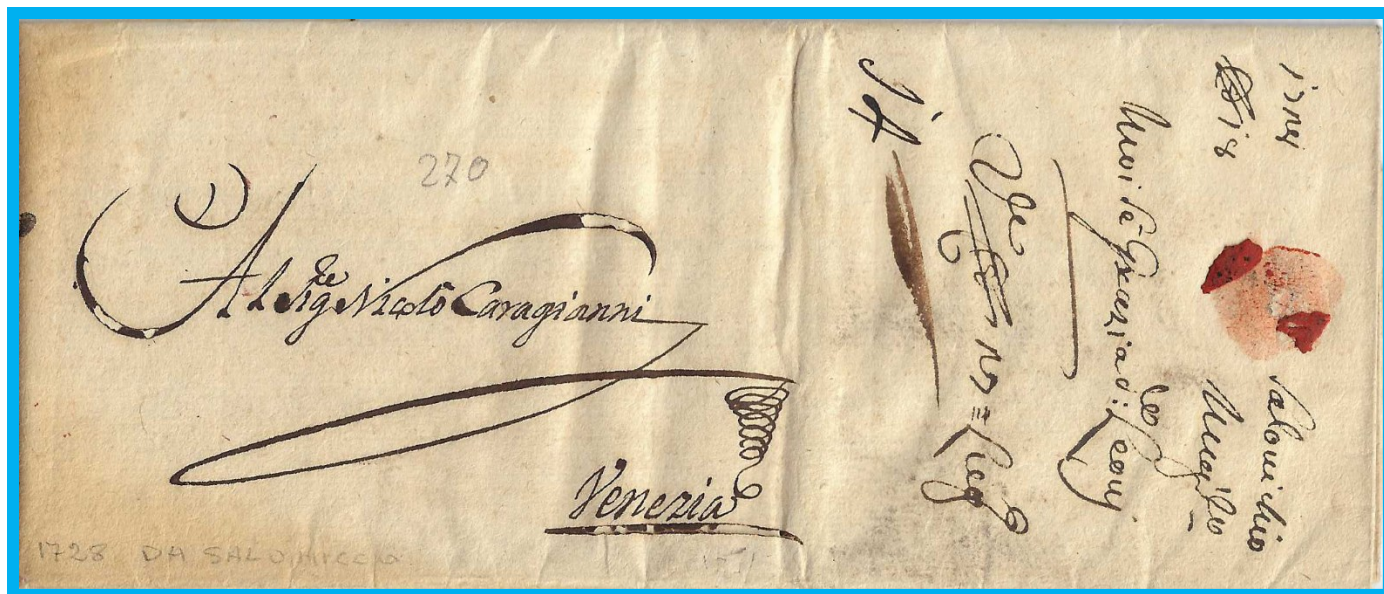


(enlarged COPY of Seal)

1757 - Entire Letter SMIRNE to VENICE

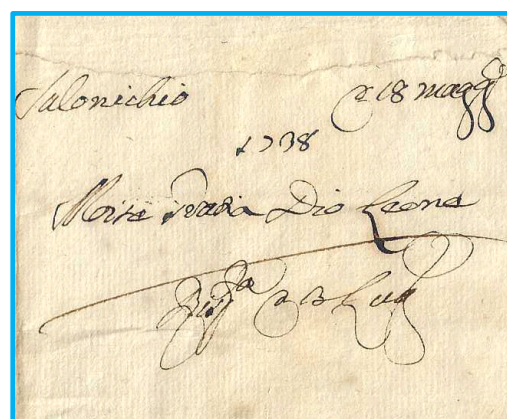
Entire Letter written on 11 June & 23 July 1757 by *Tomaso & Gioachino Meratti* from SMIRNE and addressed to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. On lower Left is a note of the transporting captain 'con *C. Zabacco*' (see arrow). On mid Right is a "4" tax charge (see arrow). Back fold is shown on Top with note of Origin, Sender, Depart. & Arr. Dates, plus Embossed Seal with sender's initials **T. G. M.** (*Tomaso & Gioachino Meratti*). (see COPY Above)

2.2.3 - Letters from/to VENICE and CONSTANTINOPLE, SMIRNE & SALONICO



1728 – Entire Letter from SALONICCO to VENEZIA

Entire letter from SALONICCO (Thessaloniki) by *Moise Grazia Dio Leone*. dated 18 May 1728 and addressed to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE received on 27 July 1728. Back fold is shown sideways Above Right with note of Origin, Sender, Depart. & Arr. Dates, plus 14 soldi tax charge (see arrow) and traces of closing Wax Seal.

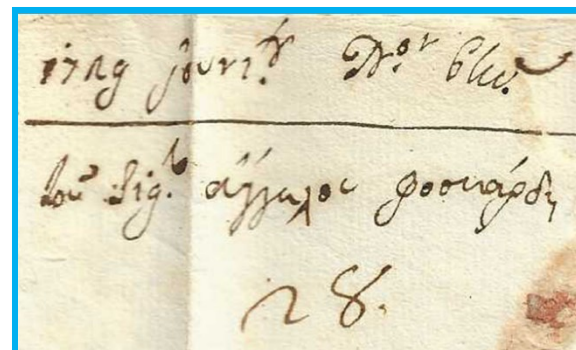
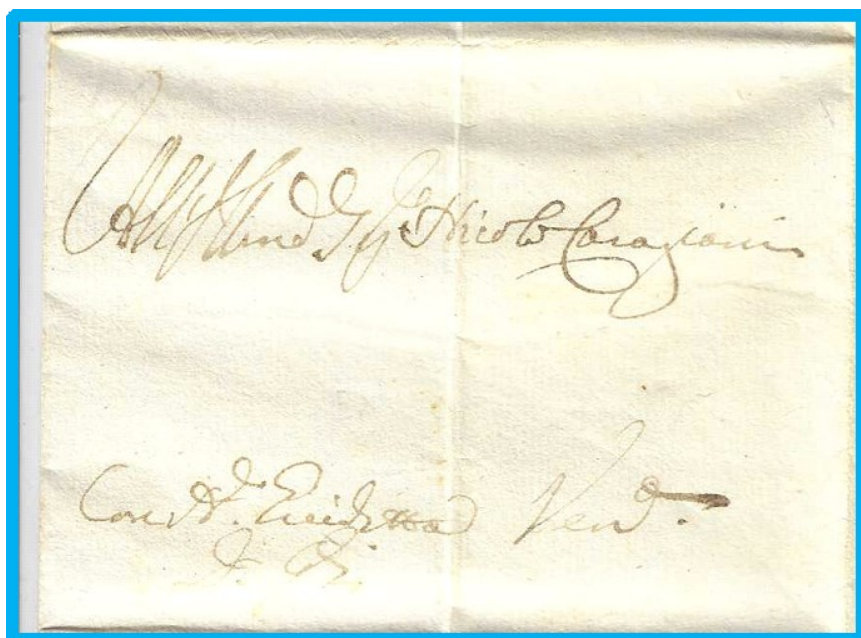


(reduced COPY Back Origin, Sender, Dates)

1738-Entire Letter SALONICCO to VENICE

Entire letter from SALONICCO by *Moise Grazia Dio Leone*. First part is dated 2 May 1738 and marked as 'Coppia' Copy of a previous letter. The 2nd part is the actual letter dated 18 May 1728 and addressed to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE received 3 July 1738.. On lower left is a notation '*Can nave Gio Manuel*' (see arrow). Back fold has a note of Origin, Sender, Depart. & Arr. Dates.

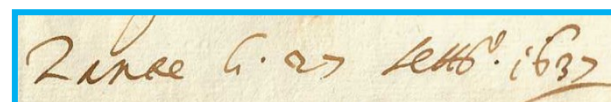
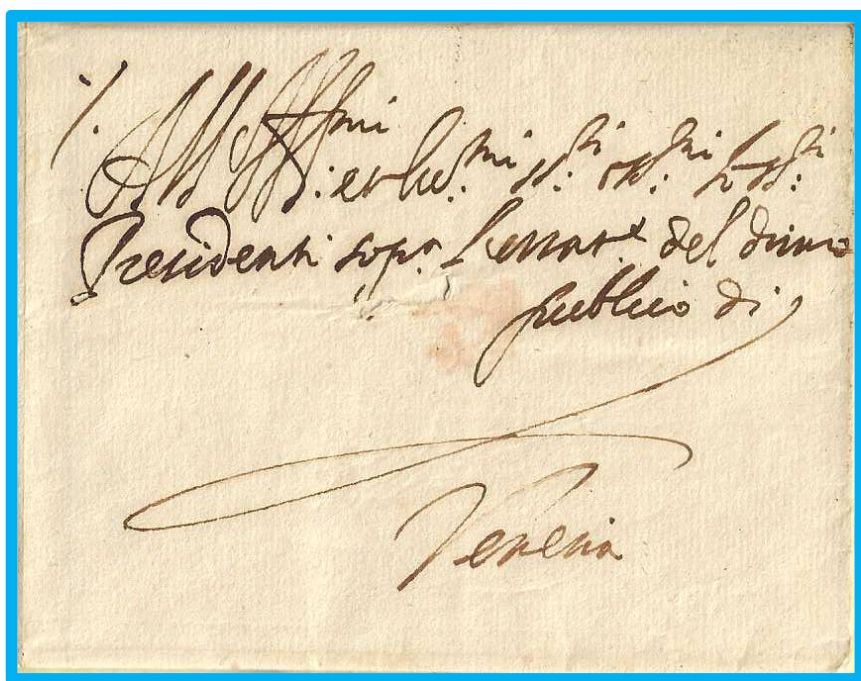
2.2.4 - Letters from/to VENICE and IONIAN Isles & DALMATIA



(reduced COPY Back: Date, Sender, 28s Tax)

1729 - Entire letter from ZANTE (Ionian Islands) to VENEZIA

Entire Letter dated 7 March 1729 written in Greek and sent by *Angelo Foscardis* from ZANTE (Zakynthos) to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. Text refers To Muscat Wine. On the lower Left is a note 'Con nave Giudecca' (see arrow) indicating the name of the transporting ship. Back fold has a note of Arr. Date, Sender's Name, plus a Tax charge of 28s (see arrow) and an Embossed closing Seal.



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Arr. Date)

1637 – Folded letter from ZANTE (Ionian Islands) to VENICE

Folded Letter with separate Text from ZANTE dated 27 Sept. 1637 (see COPY Above Right). This appears to be an official letter by *Gio Cappelo*, probably the *Provveditore* of Zante (Venetian official for security & taxation) addressed to the *Presidenti del Senato Publico di Venezia* (see arrow) the Heads of Venetian Senate, main deliberative & legislative body of the Republic.. On reverse notations of charges, traces of a closing Seal.

2.2.4 - Letters from/to VENICE and IONIAN Isles & DALMATIA

HISTORICAL CONTEXT- *PROVVEDITORE GENERALE DA MAR*

The *Provveditore Generale da Mar* (Superintendent General of the Sea) was a senior office in the Venetian Navy and the Venetian Overseas Empire. The *Provveditore* was elected for a 3-year term. Since the early 1500's, he also appears as the superior civilian and military governor of the Venetian Ionian islands, headquartered at Corfu.

Zante in Agosto 1766

(COPY Text: Origin, Depart. Date))

*Antonio Priuli & Figlioli
Provveditore Generale da Mar*

(COPY closing of TEXT Sender's Name & Title)

*All' Illmo. & Excello. G. G. Colmo
Il Sig. Gio. Antonio Ruzzini Cav.
Bailo alla Porta Ottomana*



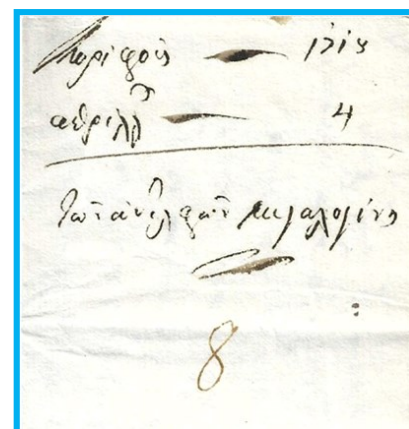
1766 – Folded letter from **ZANTE** (Ionian Islands) to the **BAILLO** in CONSTANTINOPLE

Letter dated 12 August 1766 from ZANTE (see COPY on Top) sent by the *Antonio Marin Priuli - Provveditore Generale da Mar* (see COPY Above Middle), the Venetian governor of the Ionian islands from 1764-67. The letter is addressed to *Gio Antonio Ruzzini - Bailo alla Porta Ottomana*. (arrow Above Left). *Ruzzini* was Bailo (Ambassador) to the Ottoman Court in CONSTANTINOPLE 1764-68. This letter has separate contents (actual Text included on Back). On the Back Fold it bears two large Official Seals in excellent condition, a Wax Seal, plus an Embossed Seal, each depicting the Winged Lion of Venice (see Above).

2.2.4 - Letters from/to VENICE and IONIAN Isles & DALMATIA

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – OTTOMAN SIEGE OF CORFU

The Siege of Corfu, (19 July–20 Aug. 1716) a key encounter in the Ottoman-Venetian War (1714–18). Siege started on 19 July 1716. Over the next 22 days, the Venetian garrison put up a heroic defense to many assaults and was victorious. This can also be attributed to Corfu's fortifications and to a huge storm that raged on 9 Aug. The Ottoman failure forced them into a disadvantageous Peace in 1718 (Treaty of Passarowitz),



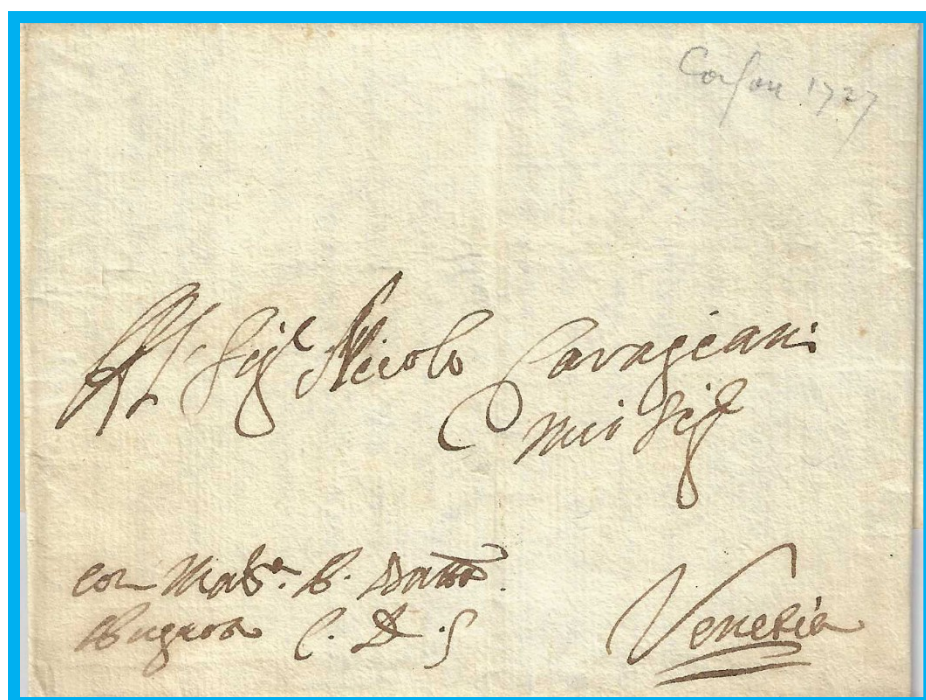
(COPY Back:Origin, Date, Sender & 8s Tax)

1718 - Entire letter from CORFU (Ionian Islands) to VENEZIA

Entire Letter dated 4 April 1718 in Greek, sent by *Megalosini Brothers* from CORFU to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. Letter was sent a little more than a year after the end of the Ottoman Siege of Corfu in Aug. 1716. On the lower Left is the indication "*Con Marsigliese*" (see arrow). On the inside fold is the Date & Sender's Name and a Tax charge of 8 Soldi. On the Back fold the sender's Embossed Seal of a Cross and the initials **F. M. F.**

1718 -Entire letter from CORFU to VENICE

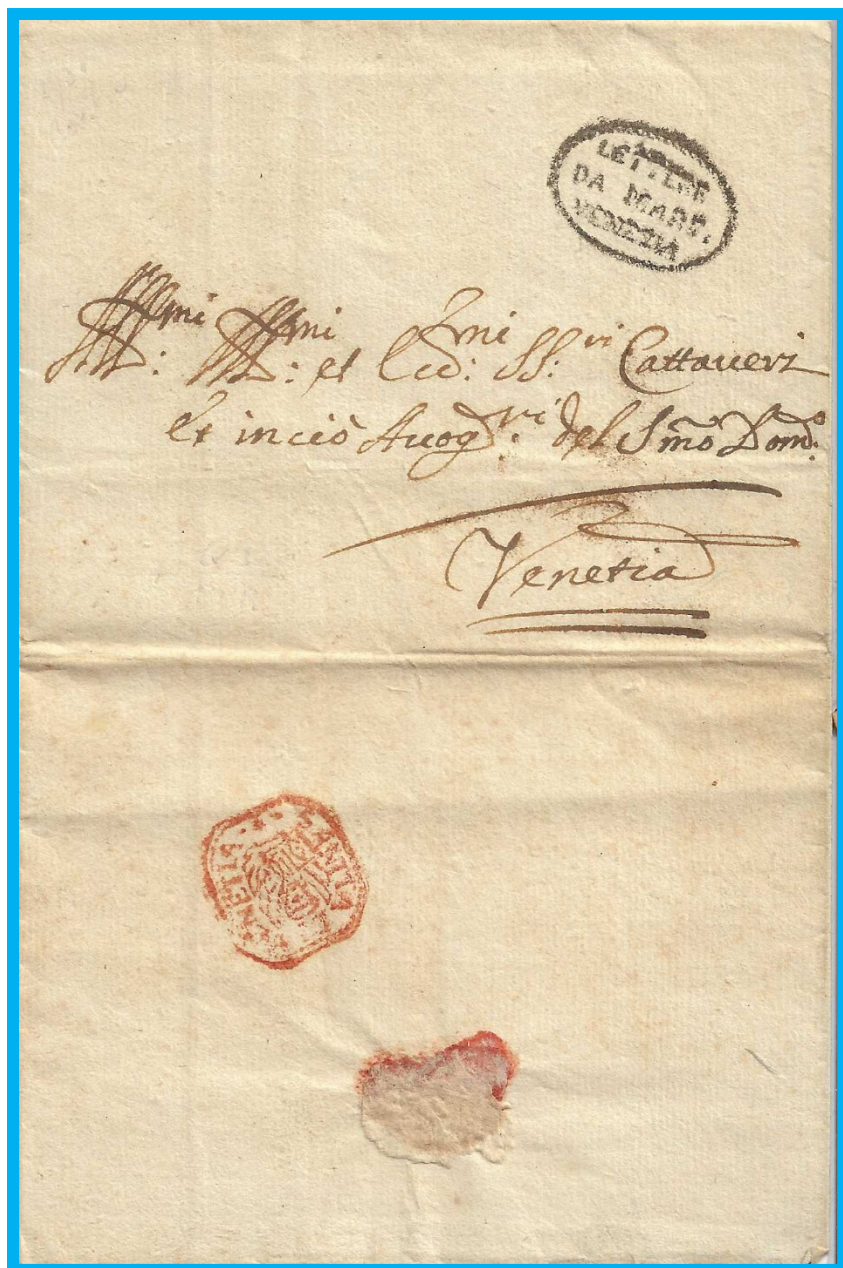
Entire Letter dated 14 May 1727 in Greek, sent by *Megalosini Brothers* from CORFU to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. Commercial letter referring to olive oil . On the lower Left is an illegible note '*Con....*' (see arrow) to indicate the name of the transporting ship, plus the initials *C.D.S.* (Che Dio Salvi).



2.2.4 - Letters from/to VENICE and IONIAN Isles & DALMATIA

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – BAILO OF CORFU

Venice established missions (*reggimenti*) in key locations to protect its military and commercial interests. The leader's title was Rector (*Rettore*) elected by the *Senate* or *Great Council* for a 2-year term. However, for certain locations there was a specific title in Candia it was *Duca*, in Zante *Conte* and in Corfu *Bailo*. The *Bailo of Corfu* sent intelligence to the Senate on the Ottoman advances. *Paolo Antonio Condulmer* was Bailo of Corfu 1786-88.



Corfu 26 Aprile 1788. V.

(COPY Text: Origin, Depart. Date))

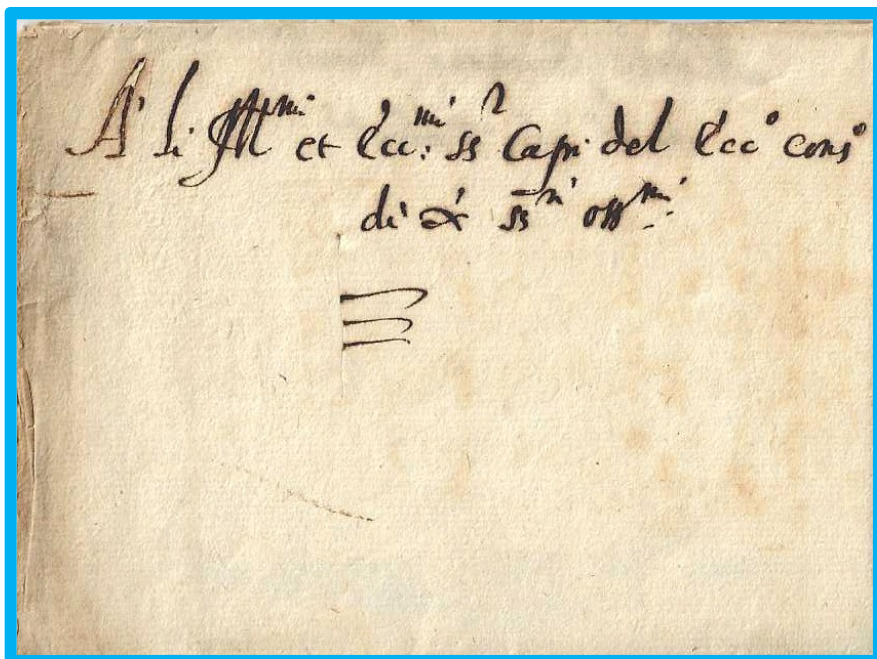
Paolo Antonio Condulmer Bailo

(COPY end of Text Bailo's Signature)

1788 – Folded letter from CORFU to VENICE by *BAILO* of CORFU

Official Letter dated 26 April 1788 from CORFU sent by Paolo Antonio Condulmer the *Bailo of Corfu* 1786-88 (see COPY & Arrow, Above Right) addressed *S(igno)ri Cattaveri* in VENICE. The *Officiali al cattaver* were had executive powers administrative and judicial. Their primary responsibility was recovering property claimed by the City. Letter has an Oval mark 'LETTERE DA MARE VENEZIA', plus on reverse 'SANITA DI VENEZIA' red cachet with St. Mark's Winged Lion (see Above Left) applied upon arrival in Venice by Disinfection Office. Letter has separate contents (actual Text included on Back).

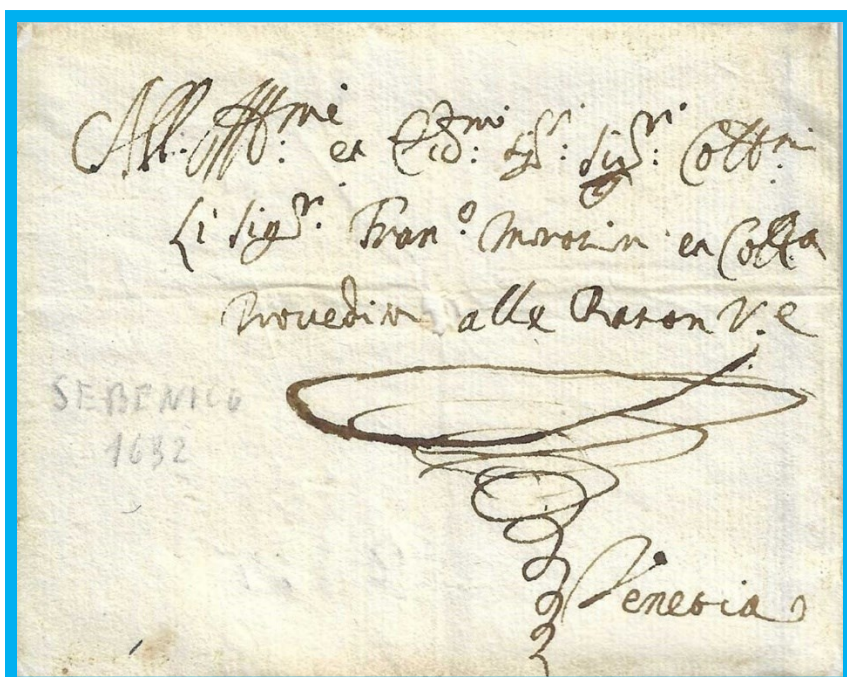
2.2.4 - Letters from/to VENICE and IONIAN Isles & DALMATIA



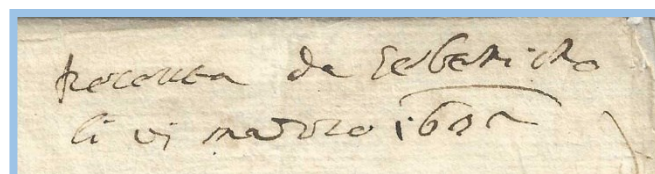
(COPY of Seal)

1573 - Entire letter from ZARA to the Heads of the Council of Ten) to VENICE

Entire letter sent on 8 April 1573 from ZARA Dalmatia by *Alvise Grimani* addressed to the **Heads of the Council of Ten** (*Capi del Con(se) di X*) (see arrow) in Venice. *Alvise Grimani* was the Governor-general (*Provveditore Generale*) of Dalmatia. The *Grimani*'s were a prominent Venetian patrician family, that included three Doges. Letter concerns correspondences with the rectors of CATTARO regarding the strengthening of the fortifications of ZARA. On reverse it has an Embossed Seal of the winged lion of San Marco (see copy Above).



(COPY of Seal)



(COPY Origin, Arrival Date)

1632 - Letter from SEBENICO (Dalmatia, now Sibenik Croatia) to VENICE

Letter with contains from SEBENICO, sent on 5 March 1632 to VENICE with receiving date of 21 March 1632 (arrow Bottom Right). It was addressed to the Magistrates (*Provvedidore alle Rason Vecchie*) in Venice. The writer is *Domenico Baffi* Captain & commander of Sebenico, he reports on the situation of rents & concessions of 'Scogli di Sebenico' (Island Dependencies of Sebenico). Letter has an Embossed Seal of San Marco.

2.2.4 - Letters from/to VENICE and IONIAN Isles & DALMATIA

Sonetto
A' Principi Christiani all' Assedio di Candia,
Sonetto

*De li più conti e uerdeggianti Arbori
 Le Pimpe di Dee venanti al crine
 Serti, e corone, i lustri e peregrino,
 Accio tra eccelsi eroi la chioma infiori.
 Su lo aiue del xanto eterni honori
 A he tue. Doti appresti al me, e diuine
 La fama o su l' skal ermo con fine
 Del Pensier sacri i uoti a i tuoi splendori;
 Di sesto inferocito, Orudo Adido
 Su tiraniche sponde archie e trofei
 erga la Gloria al tuo felice grido;
 Sotto l'aurea tua penna Imari. Antei
 Pogliosi ploraran su l' braccio lido,
 Dall' Arco tuo traforti i empj Biffei.*

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – VENETIAN FORCES SIEGE OF CANDIA 1648-69

Venetian Overseas Military formations from Dalmatia, were active in the SIEGE OF CANDIA 1648-69, certain Units were from Cattaro. (see: 'Fanti oltramaroni da Cattaro - The Soldiers from Kotor in Venetian Overseas Infantry Units' by Lovorka Čoralić). Officers came from noble Cattaro families **Vračen, Bolica, Buća, Paskvali**.

(Left reduced COPY SONNET to the Christian Princes who fought valiantly at Siege of Candia)

Cattaro li 21 Giugno 1668

(COPY start of Text's Origin & Dept. Date)

*Mno offmo Mo
 D. Off. Gio: Pietro Vrachien
 Nicolo Vrachien*

(COPY end of Text's Name of Sender)

1668
*Al Signor Gio: Pietro Vrachien
 Cavaliere di S. Marco
 di Cattaro
 Padova*

1668 - Entire letter fr CATTARO to PADOVA (ASSEDIO DI CANDIA SIEGE OF CANDIA 1648-69)

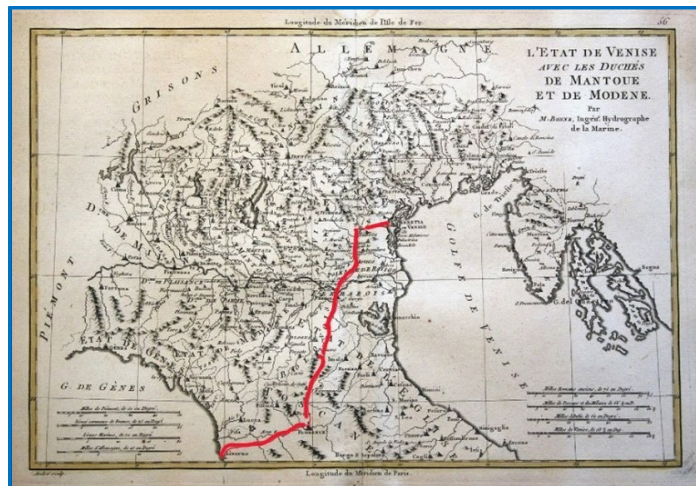
Letter with a 5 soldi charge in red. Fr CATTARO dated 21 June 1668 (arrow Top Right) by *Nicolo Vrachien* to *Giovanni de Lazara* an erudite noble man in PADOVA. Sender *Vrachien* (arrow Mid Right) came from a prominent Cattaro family and was a *Cavaliere* (Knight), who fought in the *Siege of Candia 1648-69*. The letter contains a **Sonnet** dedicated to the Christian Princes who fought valiantly at Siege of Candia Sonetto – A' Principi Christiani all' Assedio di Candia.

2.3 - TRANSIT LETTERS from THE LEVANT (XVII- XVIII CENTURY)

2.3.1 - Transit Letters from/to The LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE

ROUTE LEVANT via **LIVORNO** to VENICE

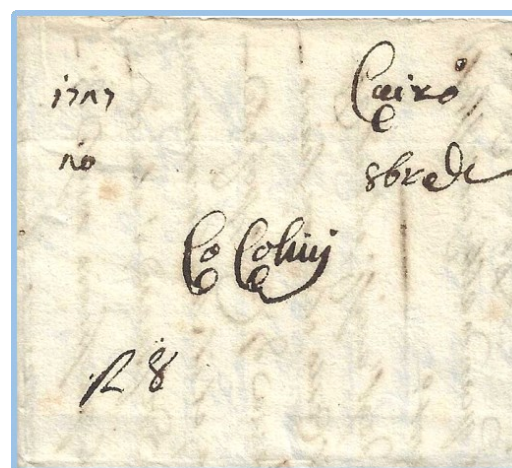
Route followed was from CAIRO overland to ALEXANDRIA then by Sea Route to LIVORNO. From there mail was carried by the *Tuscan Couriers* through FLORENCE to VENICE (see Maps)



VENICE to LIVORNO Route



LIVORNO via ALEXANDRIA to CAIRO Route



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Date, Sender & 8s

1727 –Entire Letter from **CAIRO** transit **LIVORNO** to VENEZIA

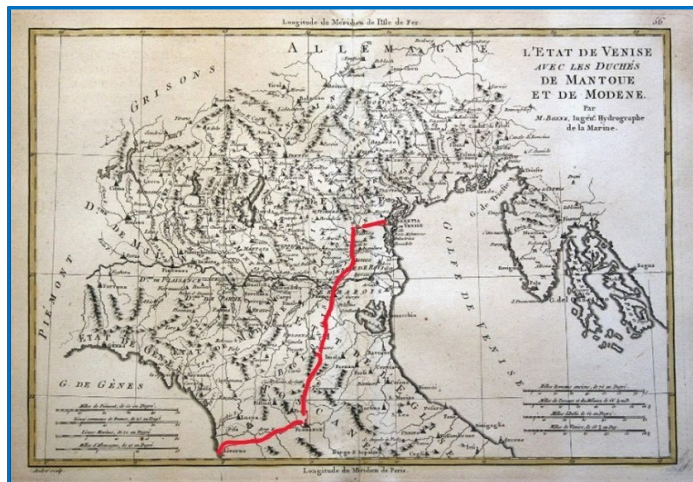
Commercial letter sent 20 Oct. 1727 by Gian M. Coccolin from CAIRO to Nicolo Caragianni in VENICE. Text informs that “caffè del ultimo venuto con la caravane della Mecca e d'una qualita che senza dubbio donera incontrace la nostra satisfacione” (Coffee from the latest arrival of the Mecca caravan, of a quality that will undoubtedly meets our satisfaction). He also informs of bales of Cotton & Wool from Cyprus). On lower Left is the indication ‘*Via di Livorno*’ (see arrow) e.g. transit place is LIVORNO. On Back fold is an 8 s Tax charge.

2.3 - TRANSIT LETTERS from THE LEVANT (XVII- XVIII CENTURY)

2.3.1 - Transit Letters from/to The LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE

ROUTE LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE

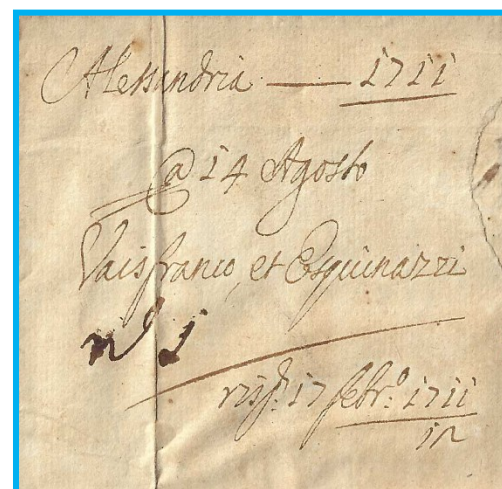
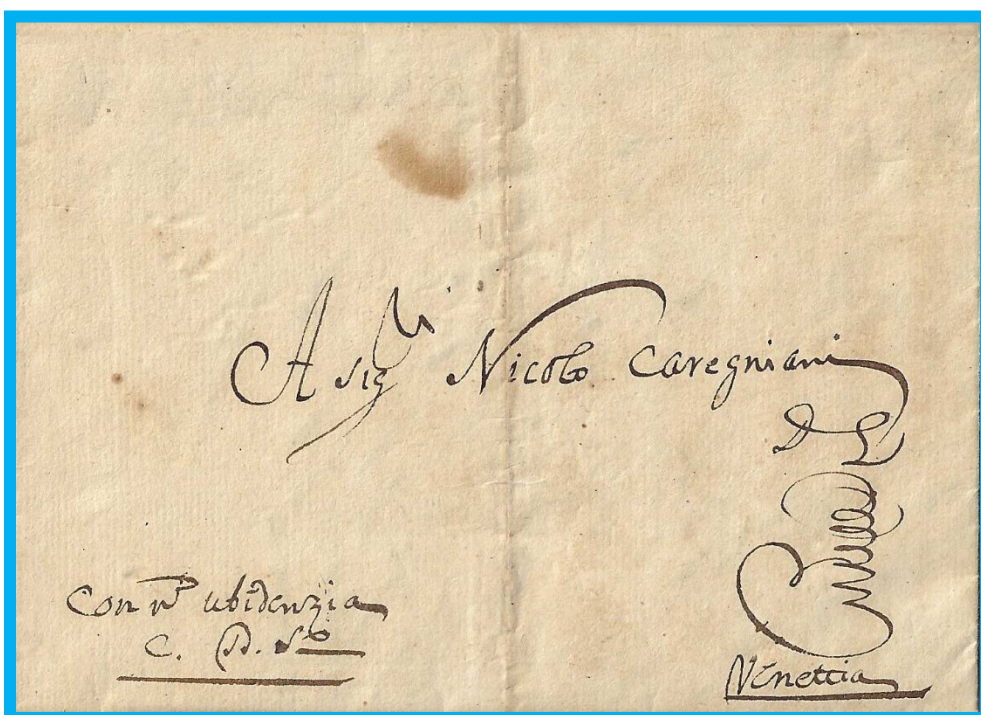
Route followed was from ALEXANDRIA by Sea Route to LIVORNO. From there the mail was carried overland by the *Tuscan Couriers* through FLORENCE to VENICE (see Maps)



VENICE to LIVORNO Route



LIVORNO to ALEXANDRIA to Sea Route



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Dates, Sender)

1711 –Entire Letter from CAIRO transit LIVORNO to VENEZIA

Entire Letter written on 7 and 14 August 1711, by *Vais Franco & Esquinazzi* from ALEXANDRIA(Egypt) addressed to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. It was received on 17 Feb. 1712. Text makes reference di Livorno indicating the transit route it followed. On lower Left is the indication 'Con nave Ubidenza' (see arrow) to indicate the transporting ship. On Back fold is the Sender's red Wax Seal.

2.3.1 - Transit Letters from/to The LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE

HISTORICAL CONTEXT- ANGELO LEGRENZI

Angelo Legrenzi (1643-1708) physician and surgeon. In 1671, the inquisitive *Legrenzi* left for the Levant. In Aleppo, he was employed as a doctor by the Venetian Consul *Marco Bembo*. He did stay in Aleppo working as a doctor, during the great plagues in 1687 and 1692. Finally in 1694, he returned to Venice. He is best known for his book '*The Pilgrim in Asia*' published in 1705. An autobiographical work concerning the 23 years spent in Asia, particularly in Aleppo, the Holy Land, plus his far away journeys to India.



ZANTE to LIVORNO Sea Route



LIVORNO via BEIRUT to ALEPPO Sea Route



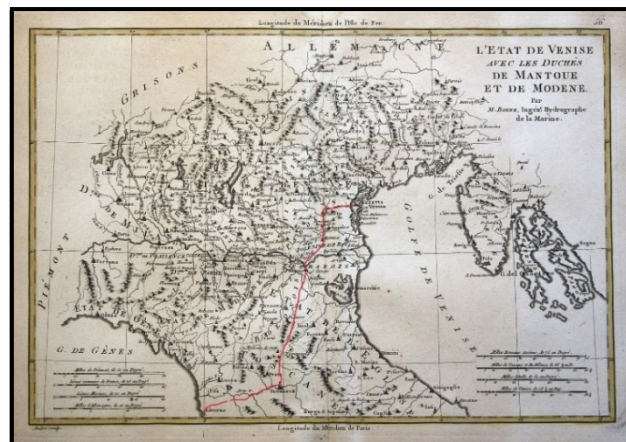
Enlarged Seal

1675 - Entire letter from ZANTE via LIVORNO to ALEPPO (Syria)

Entire Letter dated 3 April 1675 by *Gio Batta Ghirardi* from ZANTE (Ionian Islands) to ALEPPO, forwarded via LIVORNO, where it was disinfected and sent '*con nave Sto Antonio al mar*' (see arrow) *D.L.S. (Dio Lo Salvi)*. It was addressed to *Angelo Legrenzi – medico Veneto* a well-known physician and surgeon, who in 1675 was practicing in Aleppo. This is the **only known** letter of this origin (ZANTE) with this destination (ALEPPO).

2.3.1 - Transit Letters from/to The LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE

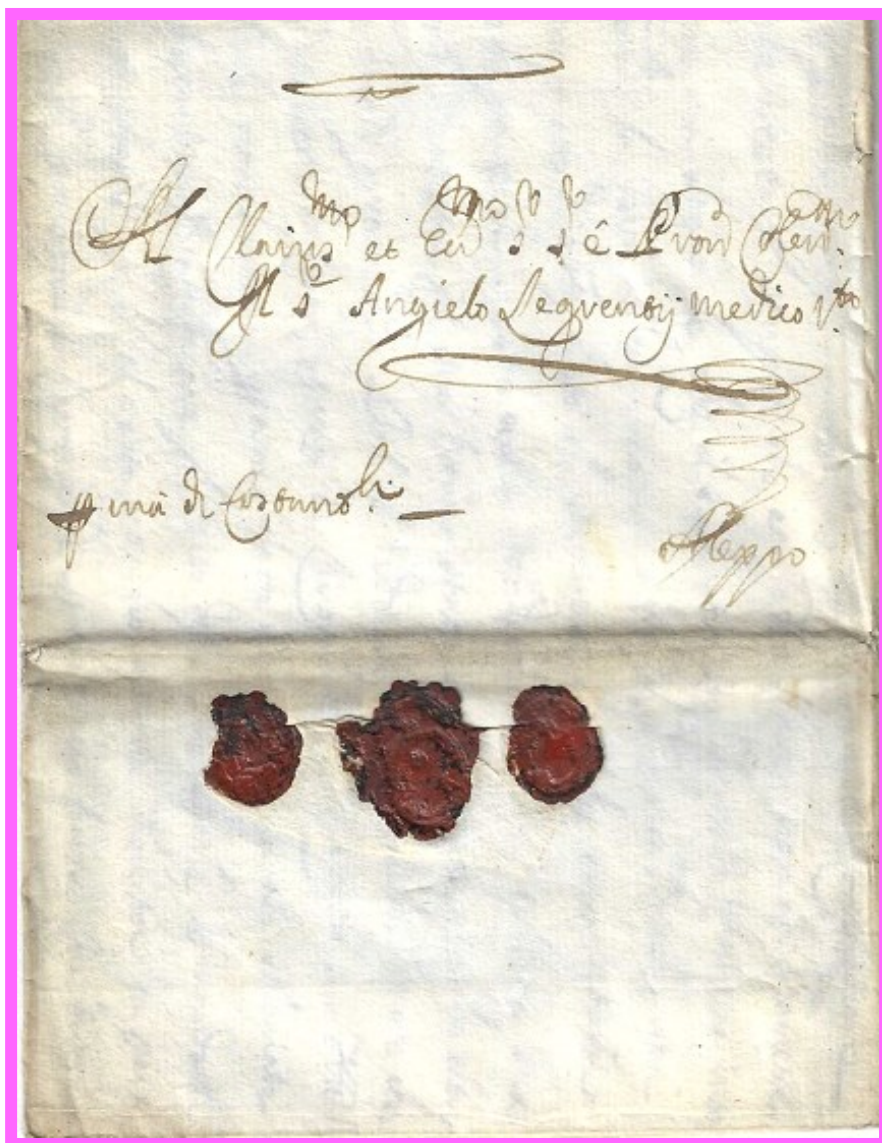
ROUTE VENICE via **LIVORNO** transit COST-POLI to ALEPPO
 Route followed was from VENICE by the *Tuscan Couriers* through
 Florence to LIVORNO then by Sea Route to CONSTANTINOPLE
 From there probably overland via Asia Minor to ALEPPO Syria



VENICE to LIVORNO Route



LIVORNO to CONSTANTINOPLE Sea Route

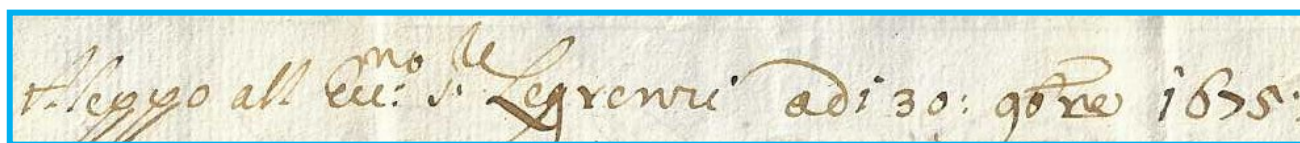


(enlarged COPY of Wax Seals)

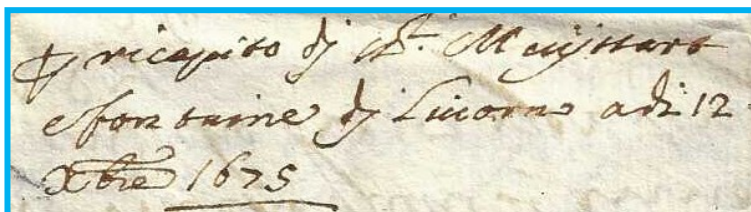
1675 - Entire letter from VENICE via LIVORNO via COSTANTINOPOLI to ALEPPO (Syria)

2nd Entire Letter dated 23 June 1675 from Gio Batta Ghirardi who now writes from VENICE, addressed to *Angelo Legrenzi* in ALEPPO. The letter has a text reference '*Con la Nave Industria che gia 15 giorni parte di Livorno*' e.g. with ship *Industria* that in 15 days will depart from Livorno. Letter has a notation '*via Cost-poli*' (see arrow) to indicate the transit point COSTANTINOPLE, before been forwarded to ALEPPO. The letter was closed with three beautiful Cameo Red Wax Seals (enlarged COPY Above Right).

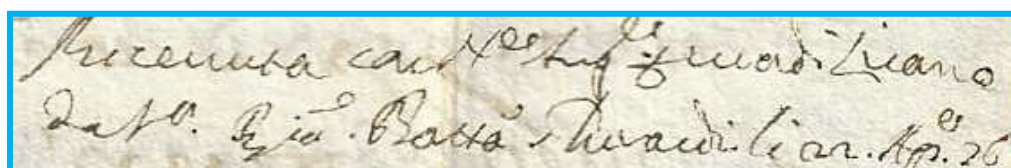
2.3.1 - Transit Letters from/to The LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE



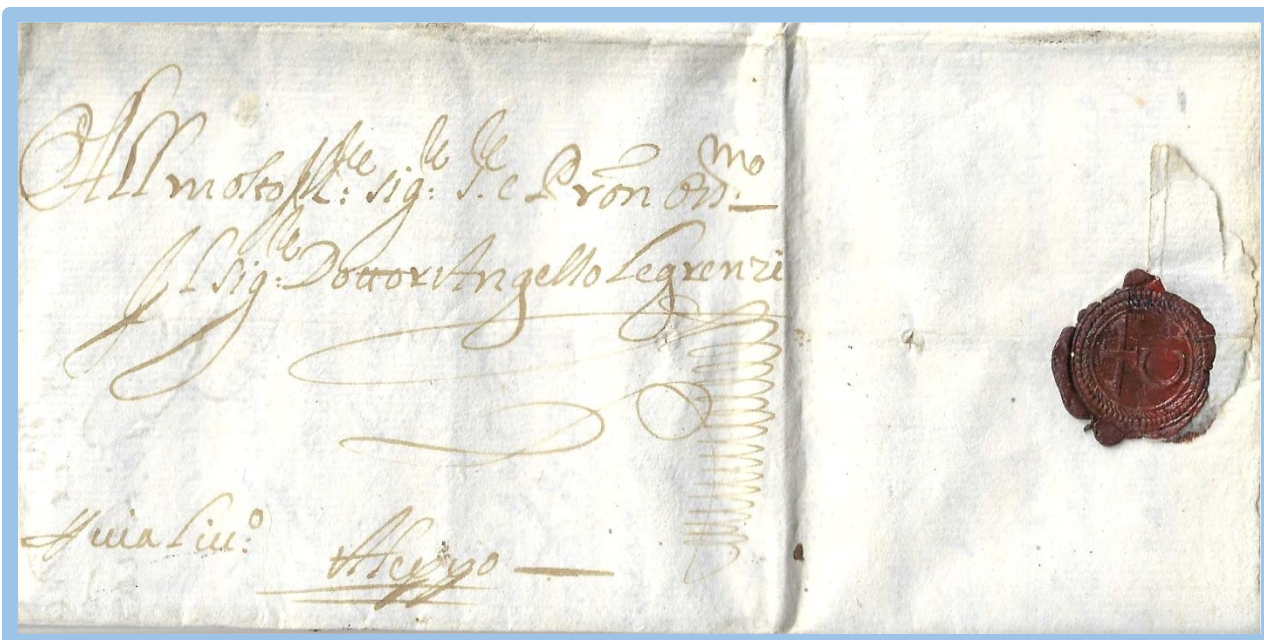
(COPY start of Text: Destination, Recipient, Departure Date)



(COPY Back: received from Livorno, Transit Date)



(enlarged COPY Back: Sender's name, Arrival Date)




enlarged COPY Seal

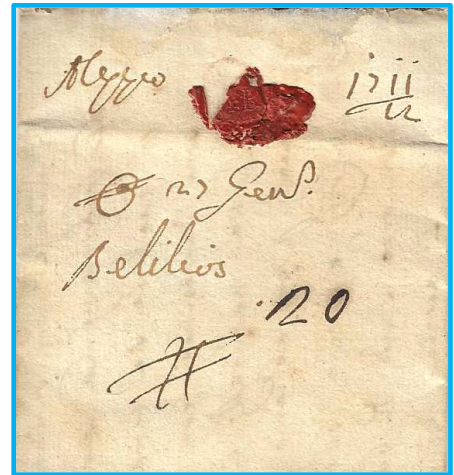
1675 - Entire letter from VENICE via LIVORNO to ALEPPO (Syria)

3rd Letter from VENICE addressed to signor Dottor **Angelo Legrenzi** well-known physician & surgeon, who was then practicing in ALEPPO. Sender is again Gio Batta Ghirardi writing from Venice. Departure date is 30 Nov. 1675 (COPY Above Top). The letter was forwarded to LIVORNO 'via Liv.' (see arrow), there it was disinfected and sent to Aleppo. There is a Transit date of 12 Dec. 1675 from Constantinople? (COPY Above Middle), plus an Arrival date of 22 April (16)76 (3rd COPY Above). Letter has Sender's closing red Wax Seal with G initial.

2.3.1 - Transit Letters from/to The LEVANT via LIVORNO to VENICE



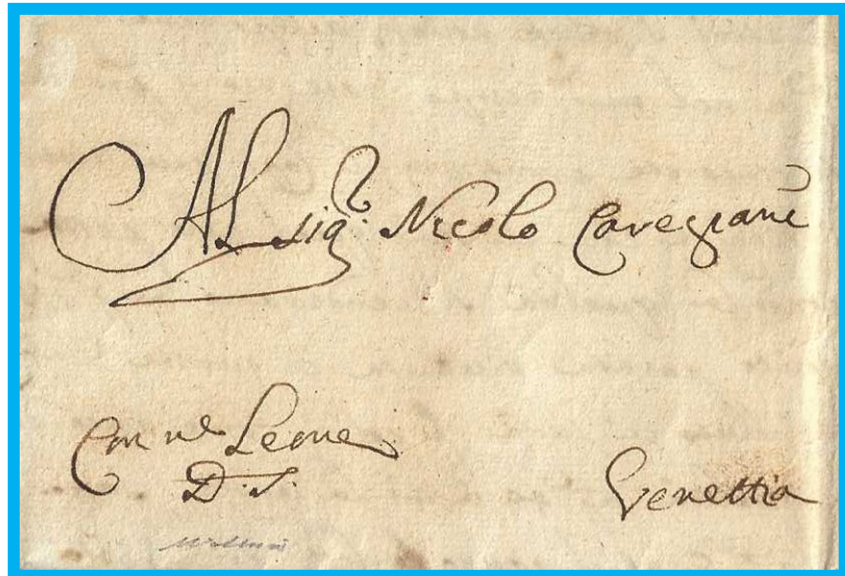
VENICE via LIVORNO to BEIRUT & ALEPPO



(reduced COPY: Origin, Dates, Sender, Tax)

1712 –Letter ALEPPO via LIVORNO to VENICE

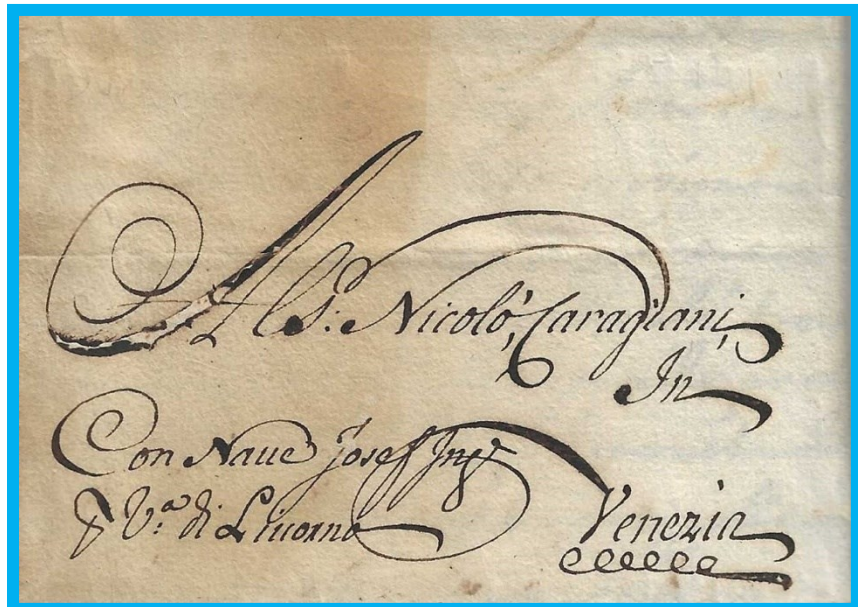
Entire Letter sent 27 Jan. 1712 sent from ALEPPO by Jacob & Joseph Belilios to Nicolo Caragiani in VENICE. Letter refers to silk trade. On lower Left is the note 'Con nave Leone' (see arrow), plus D.S. (Dio Salvi). Text mentions Route taken "La nave Leone di Livorno". On Back are Origin, Dates, Sender, plus a 20 a charge. (COPY Above Right).



SALONICCO via LIVORNO to VENICE Route

1733 Letter SALONICCO via LIVORNO to VENICE

Entire Letter sent 17 Mar 1733 by Moiseh & Grazie di Leone from SALONICCO (Thessaloniki) to Nilolo Caragiani in VENICE via LIVORNO. On lower Left is a note 'Con Nave Josef Ing(lese) - Via di Livorno' (see arrow), indicating the ship and the Route followed. Letter has strong traces of disinfection on the left side



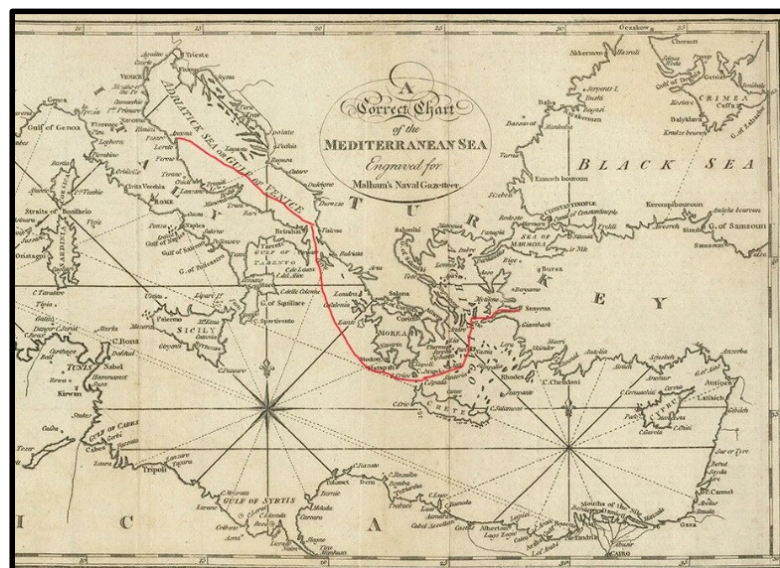
2.3.2 - Transit Letters from LEVANT via ANCONA-OTRANTO-NAPLES to VENICE

ROUTE from SMIRNE via **ANCONA** to VENICE

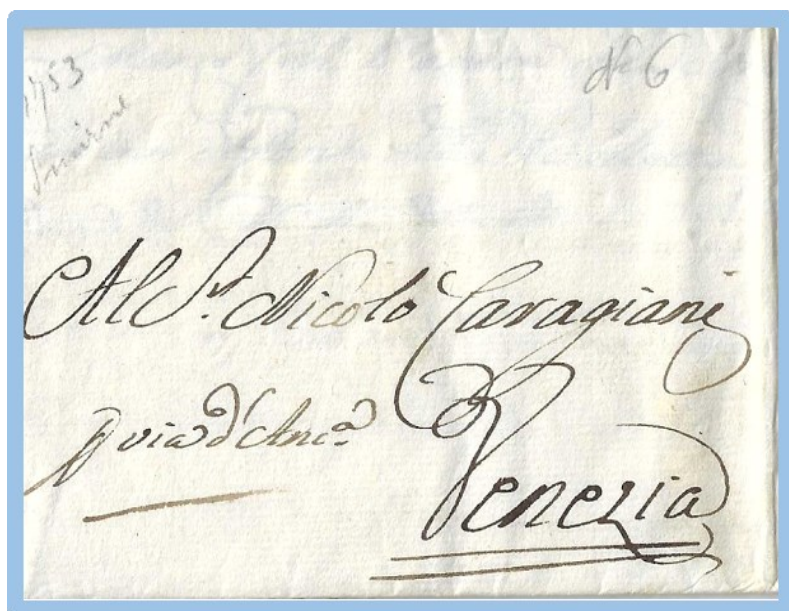
Route was from SMIRNE was SW through the Aegean Sea, then south of the Peloponnese turn NW and sail along the Ionian & Adriatic to ANCONA. From there it was forwarded by the Venetian Consul to Fano and given to the *Venetian Courriers* (or Post of Rome) who went north through Rimini, Forlì, Bologna to VENICE.



ANCONA to VENICE Route



SMIRNE to ANCONA Sea Route



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Sender, Dates)

1753 – Entire Letter from SMIRNE via ANCONA to VENICE

Entire Letter dated 20 March 1753 sent by *Tomaso & Gioachino Meratti* from SMIRNE to VENICE addressed to *Nilolo Caragiani*. Text states it was sent “*con le nave di Antonio Pugliesi*” to ANCONA (Port on the Adriatic). On Letter’s lower left is the notation “*via d’ Ancona*” (see arrow), and on reverse are the dates of Departure and Arrival in Venice on 22 July May (see Bottom Left), plus traces of Sender’s red Wax Seal.

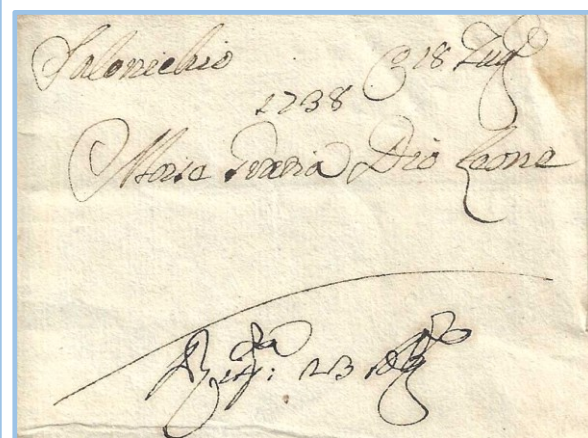
2.3.2 - Transit Letters from LEVANT via ANCONA-OTRANTO-NAPLES to VENICE



SALONICCO to ANCONA Sea Route



enlarged Wax SEAL



(reduced COPY Back: Origin, Sender, Dates)

1738 – Entire Letter from SALONICCO transit ANCONA to VENICE

Entire Letter sent 18 June 1738 by *Moiseh & Grazie di Leone* from SALONICCO (Thessaloniki) to *Nilolo Caragiani* in VENICE, where it arrived on 23 Aug. 1738. At lower Left are notations "Via di Ancona (see arrow) Con Nave S.N-lo" (*San Nicolò*) C.D.S. indicating the Route and ship it travelled. In ANCONA it was handed to the Venetian Consul who forwarded it to Venice through the *Venetian Couriers* of the Post of Rome that went up from *Fano* along Italy's Adriatic coast. On reverse are Departure & Arrival Dates (see COPY Above Right), plus a red Wax Seal with the sender's initials **M. G. L.** (see Top Right).

2.3.2 - Transit Letters from LEVANT via ANCONA-OTRANTO-NAPLES to VENICE

ROUTE from COSTANTINOPOLI via **OTRANTO** transit ROME to VENICE

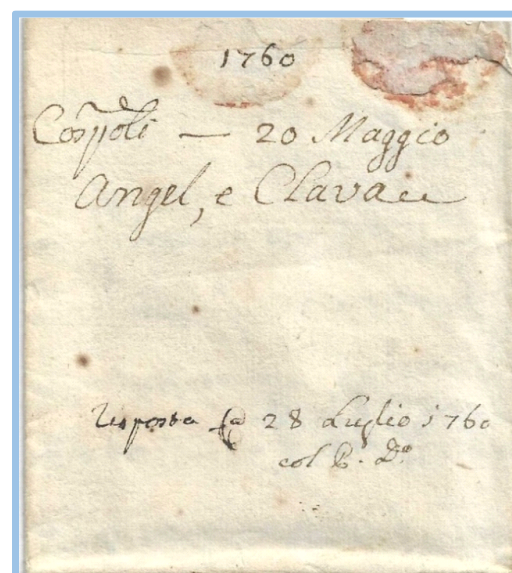
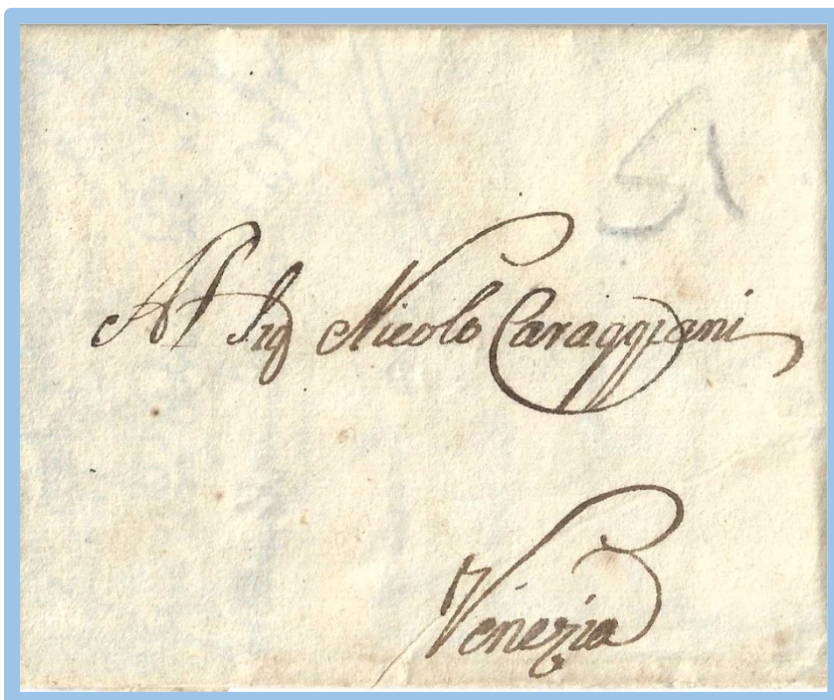
The Route was from CONSTANTINOPLE through the Dardanelles, SW through the Aegean Sea, then south of the Peloponnese turn NW along the Ionian Sea to OTRANTO (port in SE of Italy). From there by *Neapolitan Courriers* first to Napoli and then to Rome and handed to the *Venetian Courriers*. From Rome it crossed the mountains through Narni, Foligno, Fano (on the Adriatic) north through Rimini, Forli, Bologna to VENICE



OTRANTO to VENICE Route



CONSTANTINOPLE to OTRANTO Sea Route



(reduced COPY Back:Sender,Dates)

1760 – Entire Letter from COSTANTINOPOLI transit **OTRANTO** via ROME to VENICE

Entire Letter sent 22 May 1760 by Angel & Clavaci from COSTANTINOPOLI to Nilotolo Caraggiani in VENICE. On the reverse are notes of Dates of Departure & Arrival in Venice on 28 July 1760, plus a note "*con P. D.*" by Public Dispatch (arrow Above Right). Letter has on Top Right a **5 s** charge for the OTRANTO to VENICE Route.

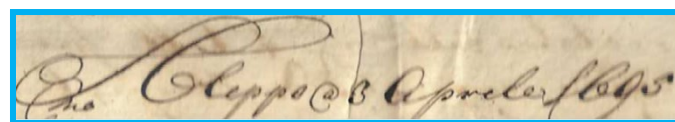
2.3.2 - Transit Letters from LEVANT via ANCONA-OTRANTO-NAPLES to VENICE



NAPLES to VENICE Route



ALEPPO to NAPLES Sea Route



(COPY start of Text: Origin, Depart, Date)

1695 - Entire letter from ALEPPO via NAPLES to VENICE

4th Entire Letter addressed to **Angelo Legrenzi** in VENICE, sent by a certain *Berdenors*? from ALEPPO and dated 3 April 1695 (see Pages 65, 66 & 67). This is a personal letter he had returned to Venice in 1694 and by 1703 he had completed the book: *'The pilgrim in Asia'* (Travels of Dr. Angelo Legrenzi Physicist and Surgeon, Citizen of Veneto; with accounts of the Holy City of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, & other Holy Places, and Maritime Cities). The Route was by sea to NAPLES, where it was heavily disinfected. Then transferred by the *Neapolitan Couriers* to ROME and given to *Venetian Couriers* for the 4-day trip to VENICE.

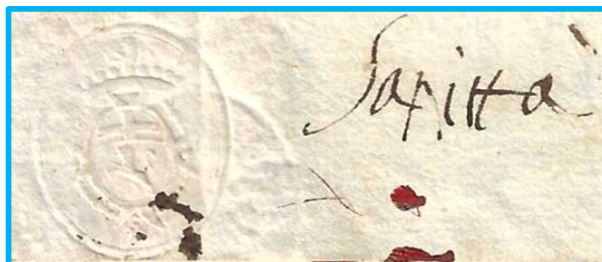
2.3.2 - Transit Letters from LEVANT via ANCONA-OTRANTO-NAPLES to VENICE

ROUTE from MALTA via **NAPOLI** transit ROME to VENICE

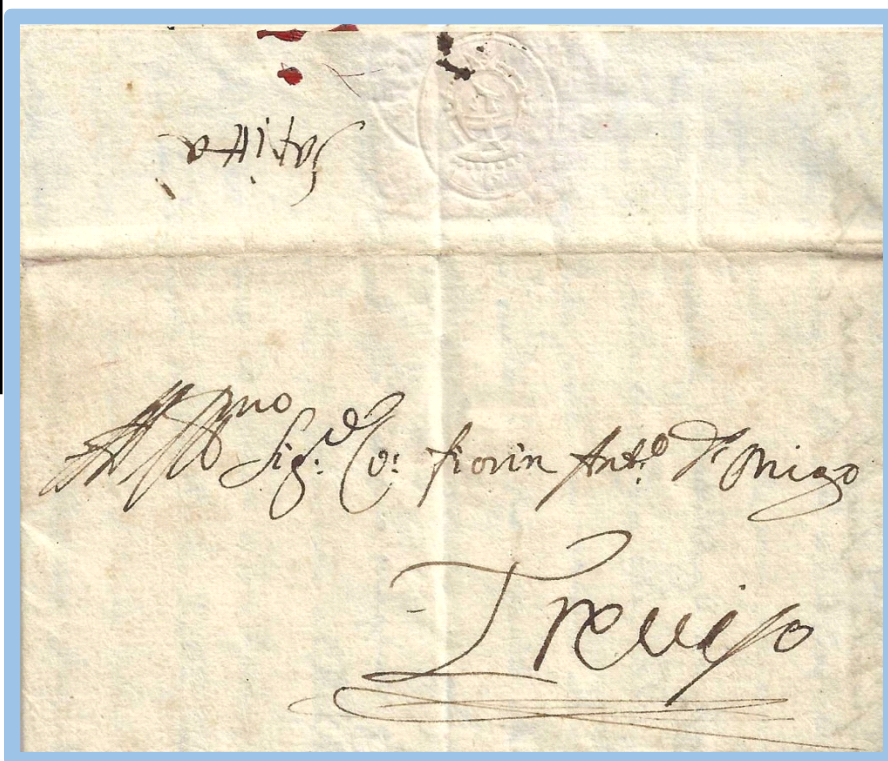
The Route was from MALTA sail NW along south of Sicily, then turn NE on the Tyrrhenian Sea o NAPLES
From NAPLES the *Neapolitan Courriers* took it to ROME and handed over to the *Venetian Courriers*. From Rome it crossed the mountains to Fano (on the Adriatic) to Venice and then to TREVISO (Veneto region).



MALTA via NAPLES to VENICE



(COPY Back: Embossed Seal, *Sanitta*)



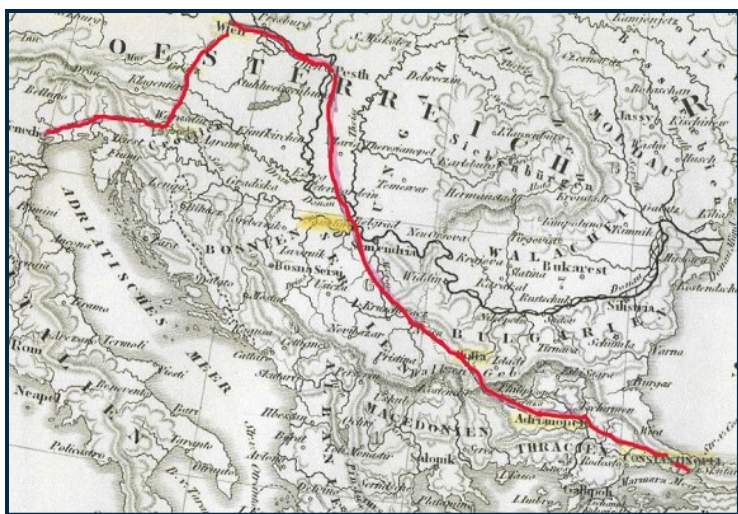
1746 – Entire Letter from MALTA via NAPOLI (NAPLES) transit ROME transit VENICE to TREVISO

Entire letter from MALTA via NAPOLI transit ROME to TERSISO (Veneto region) sent on 14 July 1746 by *Carlo Zubello* to *Antonio di Migo*. This is a private letter sent by sea to NAPLES, then taken by the *Neapolitan Couriers* for ROME. There it was given to the *Venetian Courriers*, Route was through the mountains to Narni, Foligno, Fano (on Adriatic); then north through Rimini, Forli, Bologna to VENICE and then TREVISO.. On the reverse is a closing Embossed Seal and traces of Wax Seal, plus an annotation *Sanitta* (see COPY Top Right).

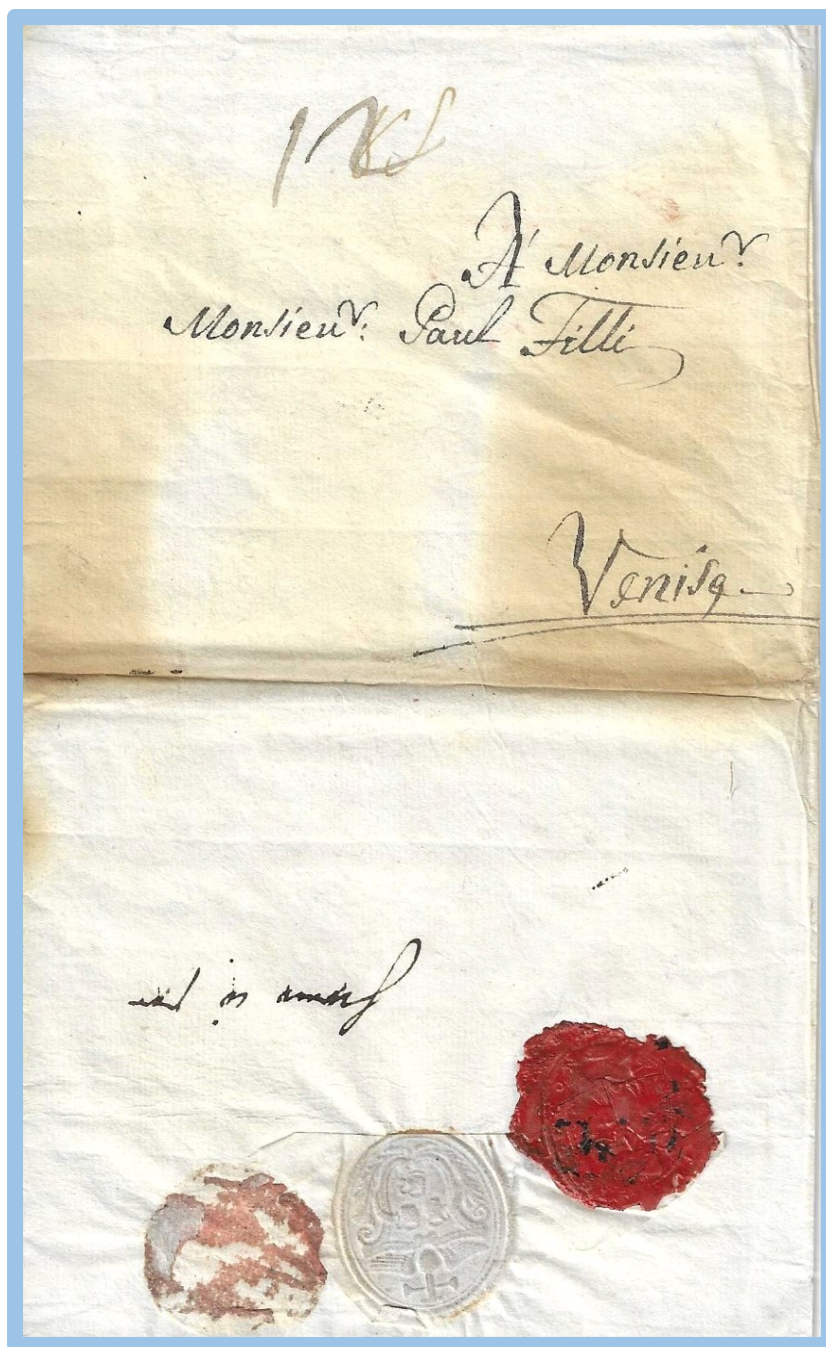
2.3.3 - Transit Letters from LEVANT (Con-poli, Aleppo) via **SEMLIN - VIENNA** to VENICE

HISTORICAL CONTEXT – *ROUTE OF SEMLIN* (CON-POLI to VIENNA)

In 1740 the *Austrian Posts* opened an office in CONSTANTINOPLE managing the Route from/to VIENNA, known as *Route of Semlin*. The service was so efficient that it was used by Venetian merchants. Route went by Adrianople, Sofia, Belgrade, crossing border in SEMLIN to Pest & VIENNA. Then it followed the *via di Vienna* Route to VENICE. (see Page 108). From 20 Feb. 1788 till Oct. 1791 this Route was shut as Austria was at war with Ottomans (see *Vollmeier* 23.1), thus this letter below should be very early in 1788.



CONSTANTINOPLE via SEMLIN-VIENNA to VENICE



1788 – Entire Letter from CONSTANTINOPLE via **SEMLIN** transit VIENNA to VENICE

Folded Letter (no text) from Constantinople sent in early 1788 via SEMLIN to VIENNA, and then to VENICE. Addressed to “Paul de Felli, Consul Général de sa Magesté L’ Impératrice de toutes les Russies” (Catherine the Great 1762–96). Letter was carried by *Austrian Posts* to Vienna and then to Venice. Postage **8 soldi** corrected to 12 inscribed (see arrow), plus on back ‘franco 10 para’ (see COPY Bellow). At SEMLIN was disinfected (see red Wax Seal). In Venice was again disinfected (Embossed Seal of *pubblica Sanità*’).

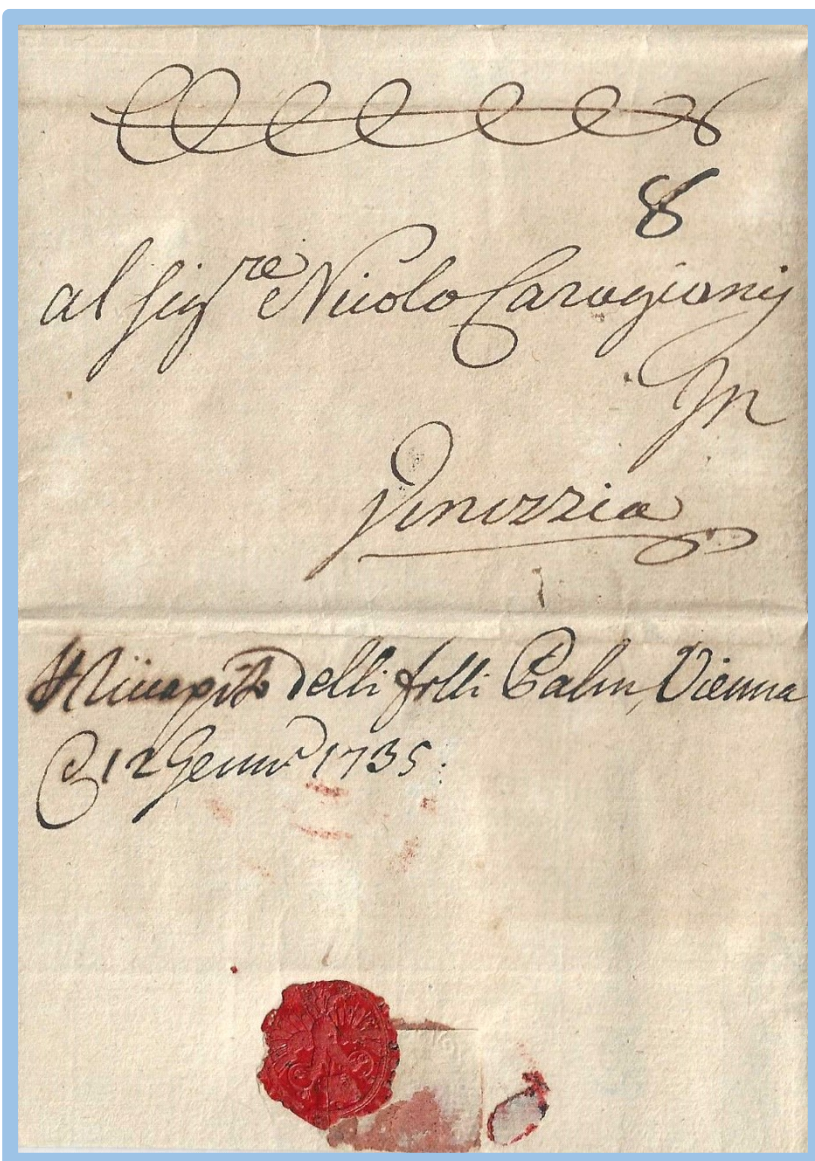
(Below COPY Back fold Seals, note franco 10 para)



2.3.3 - Transit Letters from LEVANT (Con-poli, Aleppo) via **SEMLIN - VIENNA** to **VENICE**

ROUTE ALEPPO to COST-POLI *Route of SEMLIN* to VIENNA then VENICE

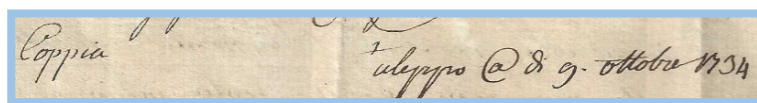
Route followed from ALEPPO to CONSTANTINOPLE was either by land or by sea. From there it followed the overland Route of Semlin to VIENNA. From there it was forwarded through the via di Vienna Route to VENICE.



ALEPPO via CONSTANTINOPLE then
Route of Semlin to VIENNA & VENICE



Enlarged SEAL



(COPY 'Coppia', Origin, Depart, Date)

1734 – Entire Letter from **ALEPPO** via **CON-POLI** transit **VIENNA** to **VENICE**

Entire Letter sent 9 Oct. 1734 by *Beraud freres & Bajon* from ALEPPO to *Nicolo Caragianni* in VENICE. This is a Copy 'Coppia' (see arrow Above Right). It refers to a shipment of pearls. This *Coppia* was forwarded via CONSTANTINOPLE and then VIENNA. On route it was disinfected in *Paraćin*, Serbia. For the VIENNA to VENICE Route there is an 8 soldi charge applied in Vienna by the brothers *Palm* 'Ricapito delli Frlli Palm, Vienne di 12 Gennaio 1735 (see Above Left). It has a red Wax Seal of a Double-headed Eagle (COPY Above).