

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF SAVOY to GPU

Savoy is the alpine region to the south of Lake Geneva, now part of the French Republic. Historically the capital town of savoy, Chambery was the seat of the Dukes of Savoy until they moved the capital to Turin in 1563. The Dukes of Savoy became Kings of Sardinia in 1720. Occupied by France during the revolutionary period (1792-1815), Savoy was returned to the Kingdom of Sardinia at the end of those wars, only becoming French territory in 1860 in return for French support for the political re-unification of Italy under the King of Sardinia who became the first King of Italy.

This exhibit follows the development of postal services in the region from the Ducal times, through the revolutionary turmoil, the restoration of the Sardinian postal service, including the introduction of postage stamps, to the transfer of control to France. The display concludes in 1875 with the advent of GPU/UPU.

Chapter 1 – The Early Service 1636 – 1792

- 1.1 Forerunners
- 1.2 First postal markings

Chapter 2 – Department Conquis 1792-1816

- 2.1 Mont Blanc - Department 84
- 2.2 Leman – Department 99
- 2.3 Mont Blanc post 1798
- 2.4 Other markings
- 2.5 The 1814 re-organisation

Chapter 3 – Kingdom of Sardinia pre-stamp 1818 – 1850

- 3.1 Cavallini
- 3.2 Sovereignty restored
- 3.3 Service developments
- 3.4 Uniform date stamps

Chapter 4 – Sardinian Postage Stamp era 1850-1859

- 4.1 First issues
- 4.2 Fourth issue
- 4.3 Unstamped mail
- 4.4 Plebiscite

Chapter 5 – French Postage Stamps 1860-1875

- 5.1 Transition
- 5.2 Petits Chiffres
- 5.3 Gros Chiffres
- 5.4 Miscellaneous services

The exhibit is broadly chronological and organised into five Chapters reflecting key periods of development in the service. Within each chapter are a varied number of sections highlighting particular topics. Each page is headed on the left side with reference to the chapter and section and on the right side with the dates of the covers on that page and the page theme.

Many of the marks are distinctly scarce. The exhibit includes early letters, a range of Department Conquis markings, including scarcer items, the early issues of Sardinia used in Savoy, scarce mail from the early months of French sovereignty and some rare usages; including mail to foreign destinations.

Importance & certificates:
The most significant items are highlighted with a red frame border.
Expertised items have an e to the right of the cover frame.

Bibliography:
Abensur: La Voie Franco-Sarde dans les Relations Internationales
Chauvet: Introduction a l'Histoire Postale
Reinhardt: Departments Conquis
Vaccari: Francobolli e Storia Postale, Antichi Stati Italiani
Vollmeier: Le Armata Francesi in Italia (1792-1814)