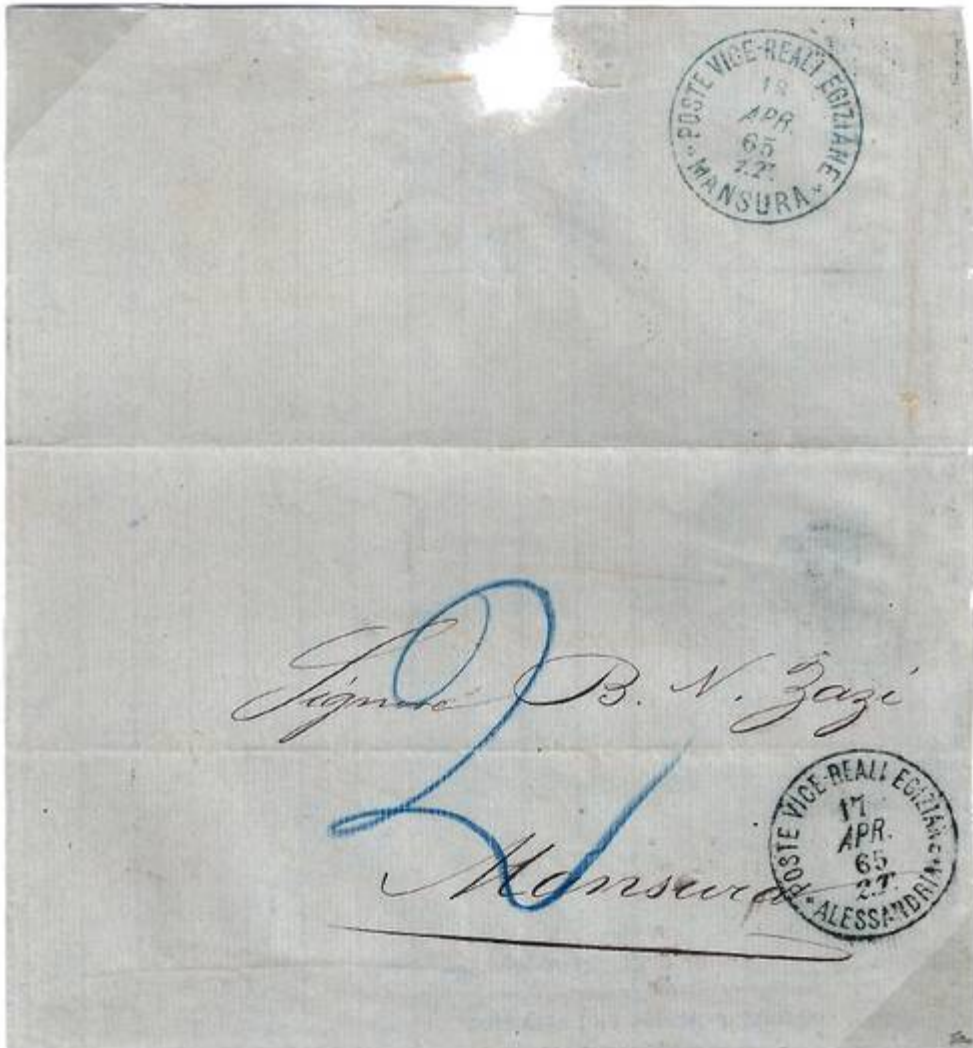


The Government Post.

Earliest Recorded Cover.



April 17, 1865: Cover from Alexandria to Mansura struck with “Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane-Alessandria” datestamp in blue-black. Poste Vice-Reali Egiziane-Mansura” arrival of the following day in blue on reverse.¹ Rated with “2” piastres in blue crayon, the tariff at this date being unclear: from May 31, 1865 it was confirmed as 1 piastre for under 7½ grams.

This is the earliest recorded Government Post letter from any Post Office, showing the earliest known usages of both of these datestamps, Smith listing Alexandria as April 18, 1865 and Mansura as April 22, 1865²

Illustrated in 'Posta Europea' by Ambassador Luca Biolato on page 391.

1. Ex collection Ambassador Biolato.

1. Smith 'Egypt Stamps & Postal History', page 21.