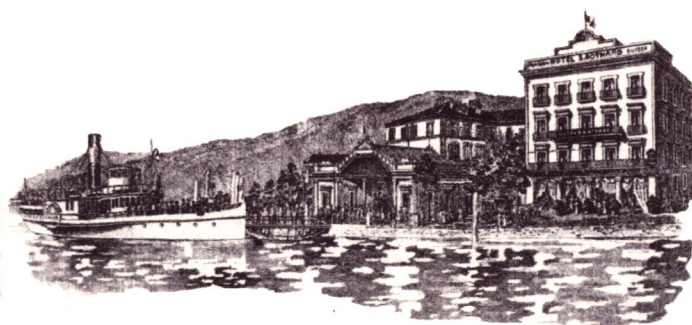


# Italian LAKE MAIL ON LAGO MAGGIORE

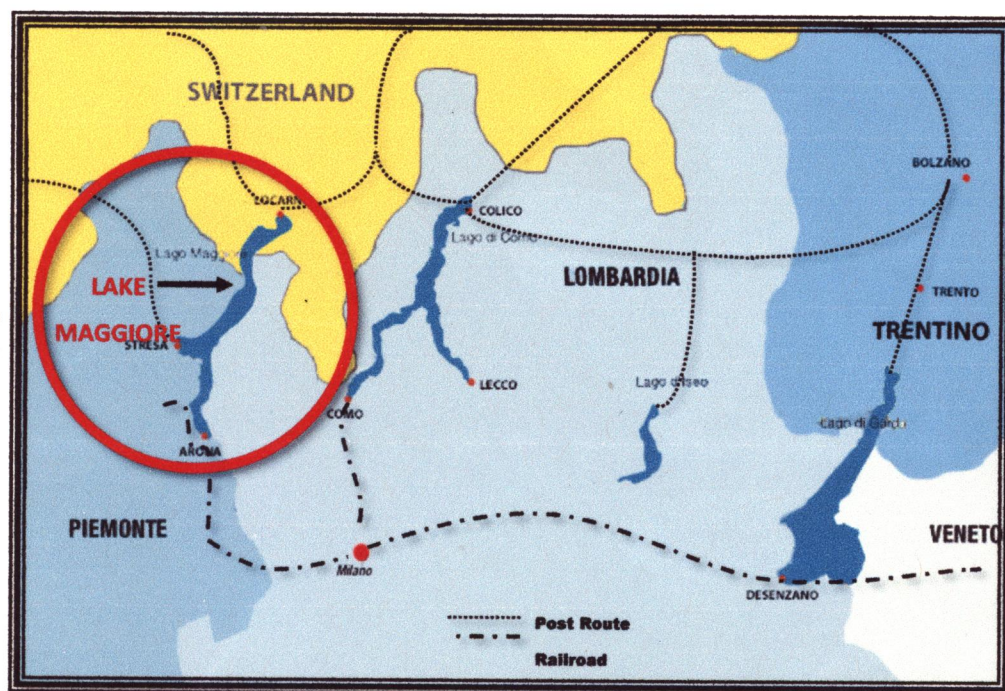


**T**his exhibit documents the use of lake steamers to carry mail on Lake Maggiore and shows the markings used.

Until the first third of the 20th century, before the mountain tunnels, the Alps and rocky routes along the lake shores were difficult and dangerous. Small lake steamers were an easier way to connect area mail to the European postal routes. Four major lakes, Maggiore, Como, di Garda and d'Iseo, used steamers to carry mail. Maggiore, which extends into Switzerland, has the most diverse postal history. There was no special rate or surcharge for use of the steamers. Though utilized from 1808 to WW II, the service is most notable from 1855 until 1910, the emphasis here. As time advanced, the type of markings broadly identified the way in which the mail was handled.

1807 ————— 1851 ————— 1895 ————— 1939  
ENTRY/TRANSIENT MARKS SHIP POST OFFICES POSTAL MESSENGERS

Italy's Lake District during the lake mail period showing major postal routes connecting with the lakes.



## ORGANIZATION:

**NAPOLEONIC PERIOD** Earliest markings indicating lake travel.

**ENTRY/EXIT** Exchange offices, lakeside town markings handling mail to and from the lake.

**TRAVELLING POST OFFICES** Aboard the steamers to 1877.

**TRAVELLING POST OFFICES** 1877—1894.

**SWISS POST OFFICE** operating as an exchange office in Italy.

**LAST NATANTE** 1895—1923 The last steamer post office.

**MESSAGGERI/COLLETTORE** 1895—1940 Increased use of mail messengers rather than shipboard post offices with collettore markings applied to mail collected at intermediate stops denoting its origin.

**RAIL/STEAMER TOURS** Last messaggeri service.

**STEAMER ADMINISTRATION & THE NAVIGATION COMPANY**

**NON-POSTAL MARKINGS**

**THE OTHER LAKES** Early markings of Como, Di Garda, D'Iseo.