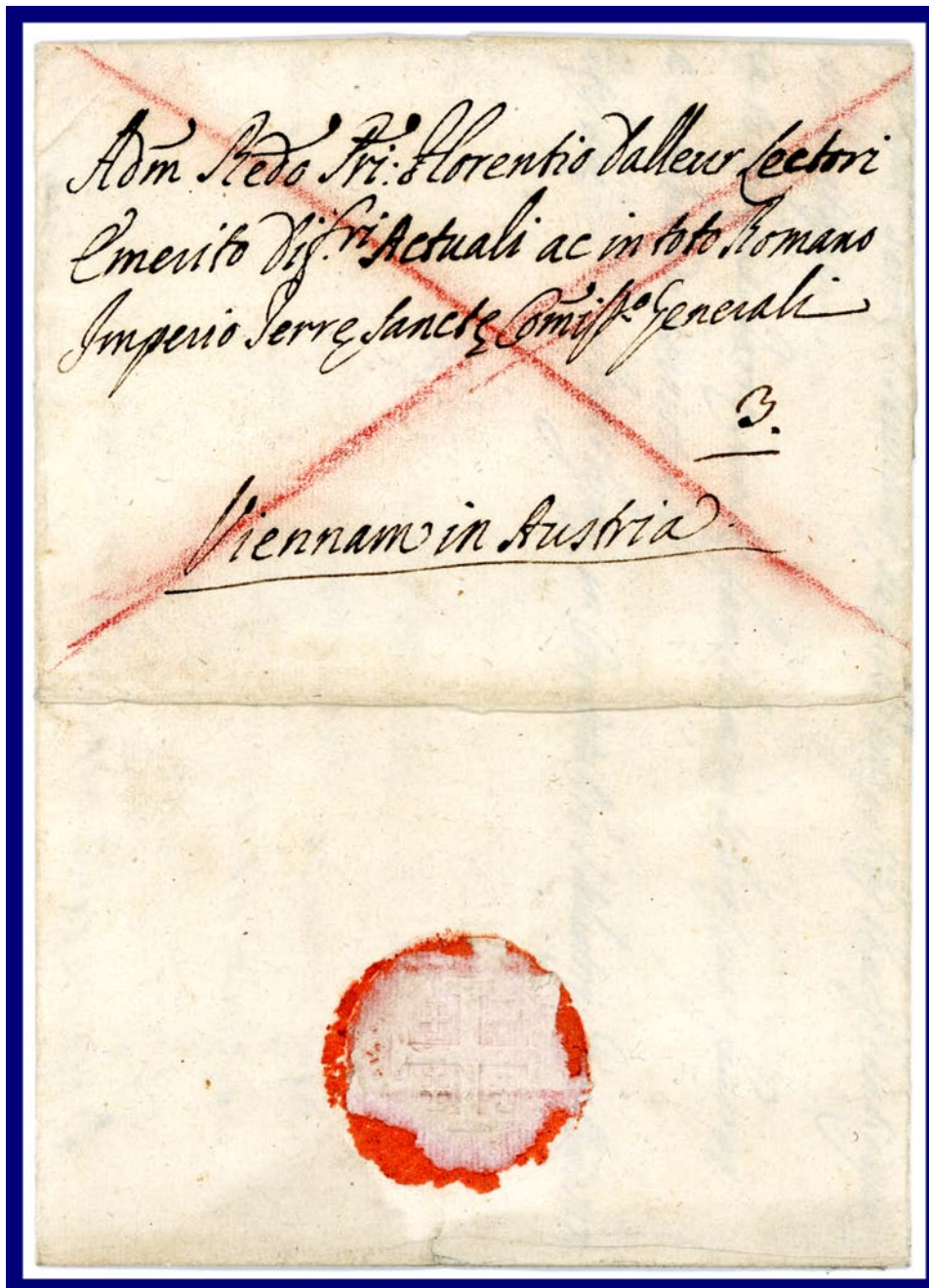


Clergy living in the Holyland from the 17th through the early 19th centuries were required to communicate with their orders in Europe. As there were no formal mail services available to the public, the clergy was dependant on emissaries, traveling monks and the visiting religious pilgrims to transport their letters.

Hand carrying messages by “moines ambulants” was a normal practice for ecclesiastical communications.



Jerusalem to Vienna, Austria
 Via Acre and Livorno
 Sent: 5 May 1707

Stampless letter signed by Father Jacobus De Luca, the “Guardian of the Sacred Mount Zion and Custodian of the Whole Holyland, Jerusalem.”