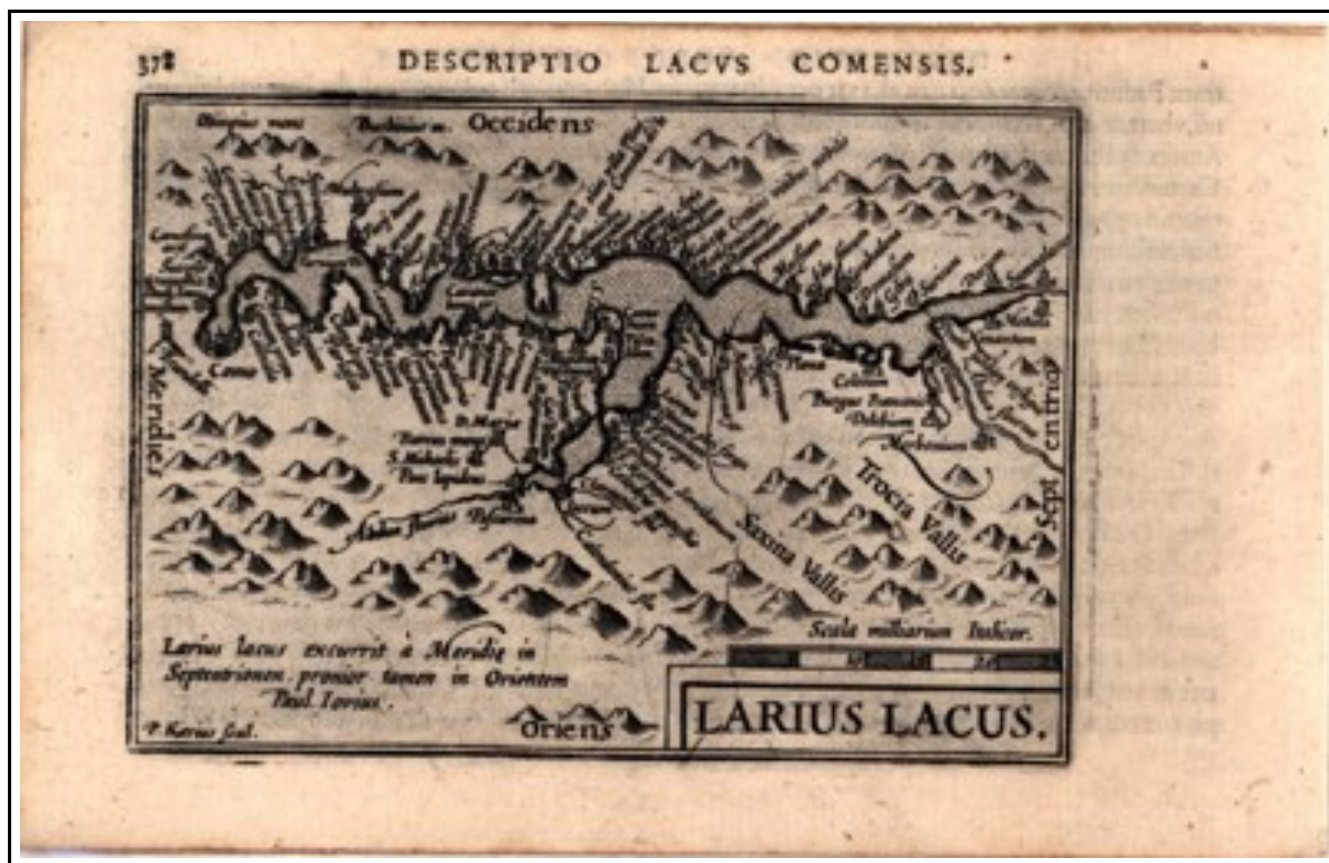


MAIL TRANSPORT ON Lake Como



This marcophily exhibit is intended to provide an overview of mail transport on Lake Como with emphasis on the 19th century. While this exhibit represents all periods, emphasis is mid-19th century, when postal service was formalized. Before mountain tunnels allowed more efficient travel, travelling post offices were added to boats when the lake served as a gateway to European routes. While steamers came in 1826, the lake was used for mail & travel since Roman times. Earliest lake specific markings are from the 1850s, though it is known that mail was carried by boat well before the steamers. There was no rate surcharge for steamer use. Notable items are bordered in red. Earliest known usages are identified with **EKU**



Map of Lake Como. (known as Lake Lario). From Latin edition of *Barent Langenes' Caert Thresoor*.

Drawn by Petrus Bertius, engraved by Petrus Kaerius.

1603

ORGANIZATION

PRECURSOR 18th century lake mail.

ENTRY/EXIT MARKS Lakeside town markings. handling mail to and from the lake steamers before steamer post offices.

NAVIGATION COMPANY Operator of the steamers.

TRAVELING POST OFFICES on board the steamers.

OTHER STEAMER MAIL

SWISS POSTAL AGENCY operating as an exchange office in Italy on Lake Como.

MESSAGGERI/COLLETTORE Use of mail messengers rather than shipboard post offices with collettore markings denoting mail origin.

20th CENTURY TRAVELING POST OFFICES including last known use of a steamer post office marking on