

THE DESTROYED MONUMENTS STAMPS OF THE ITALIAN SOCIAL REPUBLIC

In July 1943, when it became obvious that Italy did not have the strength to oppose the Allied military power, Mussolini, the de-facto head of state, was arrested by forces loyal to the King and a new government was formed. An armistice was later signed. Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers and brought to northern Italy in September 1943. Later that month, the new Northern Italian state was officially proclaimed, which was later named Italian Social Republic (Repubblica Sociale Italiana - RSI).

German army occupied central and northern Italy under the pretense of rescuing their allies. The new government was a puppet state. For propaganda purposes, German authority was not officially emphasized, and it was claimed that the RSI was the real independent Italian government that refused to surrender. This state was never recognized by the Allies. As a matter of fact, at the end of the War, a German general signed the surrender on behalf of the RSI.

Initial attempts to issue postage stamps consisted of overprinting the Kingdom of Italy stock at hand, but no new stamps were printed. The need for new stamps quickly became severe.

In early 1944, a decision was made to print new stamps. A set of four ordinary stamps and one express stamp was prepared in the most needed denominations (20, 25, 30, 75 centesimi for ordinary, 1.25 Lire for express). Three stamps (20, 25, 1.25) showed national monuments destroyed in the war, and two stamps (30, 75) showed a drummer boy that was calling the people to fight. This set is called "Destroyed Monuments". It was prepared and printed in Rome, using the paper with crown watermark already at hand. The stamps were issued on June 5, 1944. Distribution was partly achieved before the day of issue. However, Rome was taken by the Allies one day earlier. A large stock, and the dies of the two stamps (20 and 25 centesimi) that could not be taken up North were seized by the Allies and turned over to the Southern Italian government. The 20 and 25 centesimi stamps were also overprinted and used in South.

The rate schedule had been the same since 1927. Changes were necessary, and a new rate schedule was prepared effective 1 October 1944. Another set of ten stamps was already being prepared, known as "Destroyed Monuments, Second Set" due to need for particular denominations. Similar subjects were chosen, except for a propaganda-oriented allegoric picture for the "workhorse" stamp of 50 Centesimi. This set was printed on unwatermarked paper, on staggered dates based on the need. Some stamps were issued before new rate schedule. Changes in rate schedule and issue dates of new denominations caused some interesting rare usages to form, which are reviewed under the section dedicated to the second set.

The initial fears of inflation did not come through; the economic conditions as well as postal rates remained stable until the end of RSI. The real inflation and rate increases came during the Regency (Luogotenenza) and Italian Republic periods after the RSI, that reflect themselves on the late 1945 and 1946 usages.

Plan of the Exhibit

1st set: Essays
Errors and varieties

2nd Set: Essays
Errors and varieties

Usages, both sets combined:

1-Stamp-oriented
2-Rate-oriented
a) Domestic
b) Fiscal
c) International

Usages after RSI:

Valid in North until the end of 1945
Not valid in South, taxed or tolerated
Out of Validity, 1946 and 1947

Material with expert certificates are marked with a C

Destroyed Monuments, First Set

This set was designed and printed in Rome, then part of the Italian Social Republic (RSI). Four ordinary stamps and one express stamp were prepared. The express stamp was in 1.25 Lire denomination that was supposed to pay the fee for express delivery. Preparations started in January. Final proof was approved in April. Printing and distribution was achieved partly before the date of issue, 5 June 1944. These stamps are not known used in Rome due to Rome being taken by Allies the day before. The designs were Drummer Boy calling people to fight, and some historical buildings that were destroyed during the war.

The pictures of the destroyed buildings also are accompanied by the latin phrase "Hostium Rabies Diruit", "destroyed by the enemy's fury", as a reminder to the classic Latin phrase "Hostium rabies diruit opus non ideam", "The enemy's fury (or violence) can destroy the structures but not ideas", to encourage Italian people to keep the fight against the strong enemy. The underlying inspiration was that the enemy was "wrong" and the RSI represented the "right".



Approval signature and date on reverse

Final proof of the Express stamp, approved on 6 April 1944
The only known example

C



Essays of the first set, with diagonal "SAGGIO" overprints.
Two partial sets are known. No collector is currently known to own a complete set.

C

Errors of The First Set



Vertical dark line on the 30 centesimi strip of three



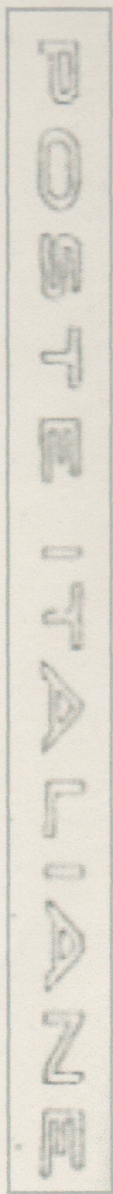
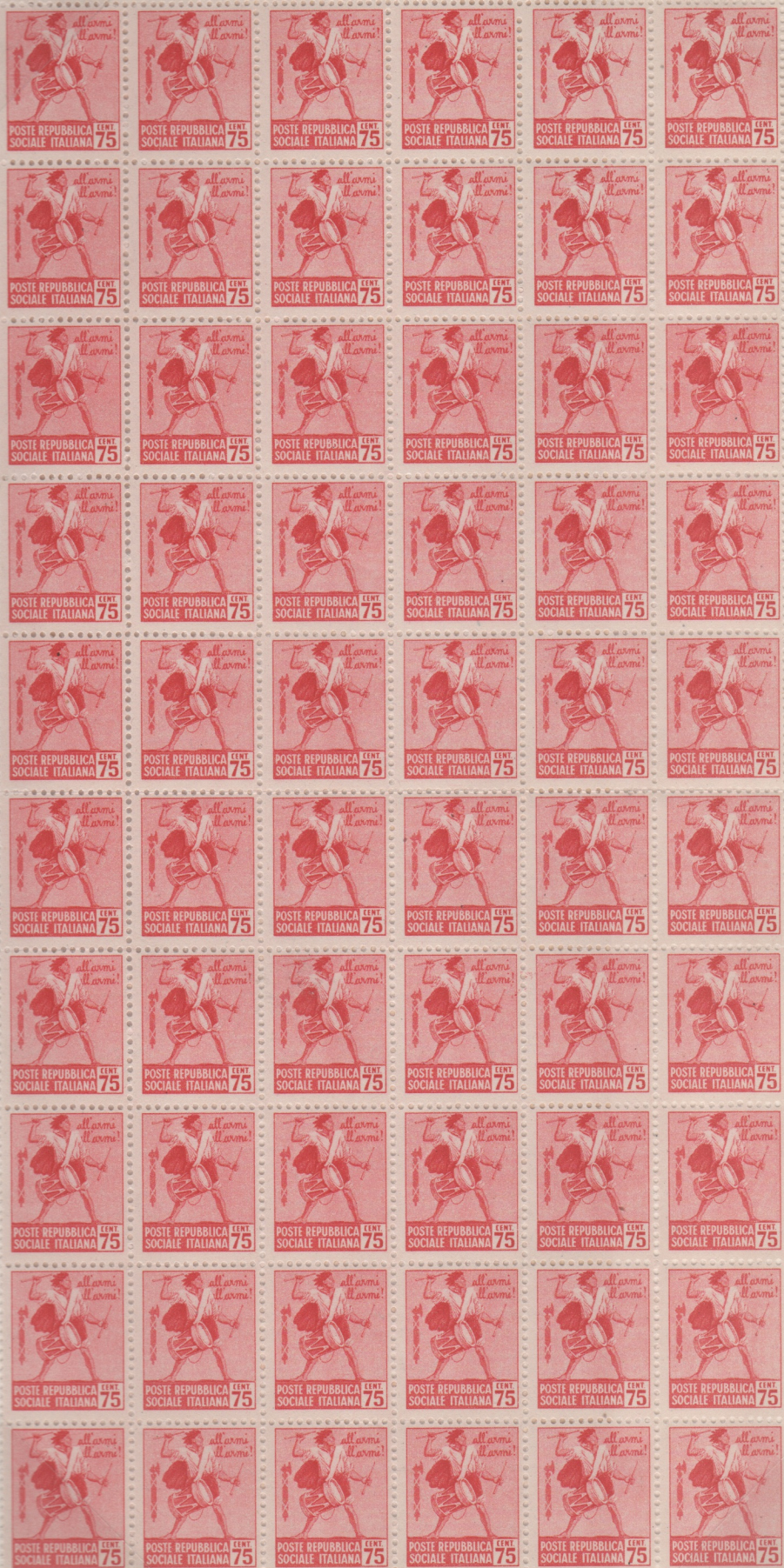
Combined vertically shifted perforation and smudged printing on a block of six from lower border of the sheet



Vertically shifted perforation of the 30 centesimi first set on postcard, sent inside the town of Cicagna, Genova. 30 centesimi was domestic postcard rate. Card is philatelic. Being shown for the stamp with error.

DATE: 18 August 1944

O FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 75



The inscription "Poste Italiane" was supposed to be on the border. This full sheet (folded) is showing the rare variety of the letters of the inscription shifted to the first column of the stamps. The measurement of this shift is by tenths, based on the proportion of the letters that show up on the stamps. This is a 10/10 sheet, with the letters having fully replaced the regular crown watermark on the stamps of the first column. It is also combined with the less rare but still interesting variety of upside-down watermark



Half sheet, fifty stamps, of first set 30 centesimi with offset print on watermarked paper, also with upside-down watermark.

Destroyed Monuments, second set

These ten stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and issued on a staggered fashion.

The previous set of stamps could only be partially distributed. Many stamps, and also the dies of the 20 and 25 centesimi, were seized by allies when Rome was taken.

The high inflation required an increase in postal fees, hence, new denominations of stamps.

After Rome was taken back by the Allied forces, a new printing house was established in Novara. The watermarked paper stock was left in Rome with Allies. The previous watermark was in any case unacceptable, as it showed the crown, which was regarded as the symbol of treason. The Fabriano Paper Mill was tasked with production of a paper with watermark "Fascist emblem with eagle", symbol of RSI. However this paper could never be produced, and the Novara printing house was supplied with unwatermarked paper for the new stamps. 20 and 25 centesimi denominations were redesigned. Same dies as before were used for 30 and 75 cents Drummer Boy.

The postal rates were changed as of 1 October 1944. Many low denominations were issued before this date, while 75 centesimi and above were issued afterwards. Some stamps deserve particular attention:

10 centesimi was only issued ten days before the new rate schedule became effective. The appropriate uses of this stamp under the older rate schedule are rarities.

75 centesimi stamps were not used much under the older rate schedule. When the need for 75 centesimi arose after October 1st, there was enough supply of watermarked 75 centesimi stamps. The unwatermarked 75 centesimi stamp saw very little use in RSI period. Even domestic usages in RSI period are very rare. Less than five documents with international use of this stamp are known.

3 Lire was a very high denomination at the time. It is known to be used at the end of February, but was mainly used in second half of March and April, just for a few weeks. Multiple uses are only known on insured letters, which are very few. It was used mainly after the end of the war, during the Regency (Luogotenenza) period, when need increased as a consequence of high inflation. Only one international correspondence (to Switzerland) in RSI period is known, with no more than five covers.



Essays of the second set, with diagonal SAGGIO overprints

Two partial sets are known. No collector is currently known to own a complete set

Errors of The Second Set



Underinked stamps with partial dry printing on strip of three



Gutter pair with vertically shifted perforation



Vertically shifted perforation, block of twelve



Underinked stamps showing gradual dry printing on gutter block



Vertically shifted perforation on upper border of the sheet

Errors of the 1 Lira stamp



Broken upper border over letter O. Stamp number 38.
Unknown quarter sheet. This error might have been caused by damage of the die later during the printing process, as it is not found on each number 38 of the same sheet position



"Mustache" under A. Stamp number 55.
Left lower quadrant.



1 Lira stamp with shifted ink, probably while it was still wet, on cover from San Pier D'Arena (Genova) to Guastalla.
Censor tape and censorship marks with arrival postmark on reverse
DATE: 19 December 1944
RATE: 1 Lira for regular domestic letter
Signed Sorani
ARRIVAL: 7 January 1945

Double Paper Errors of The Second Set

The double paper error occurs when the stamp is printed on the overlap area of two continuous sheets of paper. The Destroyed Monuments stamps were printed using web-fed Goebel rotary press machines. This kind of overlap is considered unavoidable for rotary presses. It is a product of the continuity of the work flow, and is supposed to be removed and discarded after the printing process is complete.

Double paper errors are known as the rarest errors of this set. They are found on mint stamps. The used stamps, once washed, usually only show partial printing at the site of overlap. Only reported on the second set. Unknown for the first set.



5 Centesimi double paper on the lower stamp and lower sheet edge

C



10 Centesimi double paper affecting both stamps. Junction is in the middle of the pair.

C



50 Centesimi stamp, double paper on upper edge of the sheet. Top five stamps printed on the junction.

C

Errors and Varieties of the Express Stamp



Inverted watermark



Albino P of REPUBBLICA on lower stamp. 24th or 25th stamp, depending on the sheet position



Stamp with smeared print on cover. Rate seems irrelevant, as the cover is obviously philatelic. DATE: 10 April 1945

Errors and Varieties of the Express Stamp



Dark line over "REPUBBLICA SOCIALE"
3rd stamp of the sheet



Printed on paper with natural crease (pli d'accordéon)



Pair of express stamp with shifted perforation on official correspondence with letter enclosure sent express. Franked 4.70 Lire (2.20 for official correspondence with letter enclosure, and 2.50 for express). Torino to Arona, via Novara.

DATE: 22 November 1944

NOVARA TRANSIT: 24 November 1944

ARRIVAL: 25 November 1944

Stamps From the Second Set Overprinted for Postage Due

Pairs of the second set were overprinted using the postmark "PER SEGNATASSE" (as postage due). This was performed in Mestre, Venice, using the already existing postmark as a hand-stamp. Mestre is the central post office in Venice metropolitan area

The authorization came from the Ministry and the relevant order was given by the Regional Postal Administration. The postmark used as overprint is known to be used to cancel ordinary stamps when they fulfilled the duty of postage due.

A small supply was found, and few complete sets are known. CEI (Catalogo Enciclopedico Italiano) mentions postal use of these overprinted stamps, but the exhibitor has not been able to find even any images of those usages.



The complete mint unhinged set of seven pairs of stamps.

C

The "PER SEGNATASSE" (as postage due) Postmark of Venice



Cover mailed within Venice without stamps. Required fee 50 Centesimi for same district letters, taxed by the Venice post office with 1 Lira Postage Due using ordinary stamps, which were cancelled with "PER SEGNATASSE" postmark used to overprint the stamps in pairs. Censorship marks and tape are also seen
 DATE: 25 January 1945



Cover from Udine to Venice. Reduced fee of 50 Centesimi instead of 1 Lira for official correspondence (Oval official mark). Fee to be paid by the recipient as allowed by law (Violet rectangular TASSA A CARICO DEL DESTINATARIO and circular T.S). 50 centesimi ordinary stamp for regular fee without penalty, cancelled "PER SEGNATASSE" postmark of Venice.
 DATE: 19 January 1945

Usages of the Destroyed Monuments

The set was issued on 5 June 1944. From that date, until 2 May 1945, there were two rate schedules:

First rate schedule: the postal rates were same ones of the Kingdom of Italy. Valid until 30 September 1944

Second rate schedule: Started on 1 October 1944, until the end, some regions of Northern Italy until 1 July 1945, to help the transition.

The second rate schedule mainly consisted of the doubling of all rates, with exception of international mail, that remained the same.

The only domestic exception of note was the postcard rate, that went up from 30 centesimi to 50, instead of the expected 60.

Late usages are also shown at the end of the exhibit, with rate schedules of the Southern Italy or Regency periods.

Rare usages belong mainly to the second set:

Usages of 3 Lire: Domestic are rare, and international are rarities, only 4 known. Issued very close to the end, used for about 5-6 weeks before the end.

Usages of 1.25 Lire: Also rare in RSI period due to short timeframe after the issue

75 centesimi without watermark (second set), due to widespread availability of the stamp from first set (with watermark), especially international uses are rarities 3 or 4 known.

10 Centesimi: issued very short time before the second rate schedule period. Very rare to see used in first rate schedule period, before October 1944



First day of use (5 June 1944) on registered letter from Gussago to Brescia. Three stamps from the first set (20 25 and 30 centesimi), with complementary stamps showing GNR overprints. Philatelic without doubt, but has gone through the mail. Franked 1.75 Lire for a registered letter (50c letter and 1.25 L for registration)

DATE: 5 June 1944

ARRIVAL: 6 June 1944

Single Use of the 10 Centesimi Second Set under First Rate Schedule

This stamp was issued on 20 September 1944. The postal rates changed, effectively doubled, on 1 October. There were only 11 possible days of use under the first rate schedule. Being a very low denomination, the possibility of single stamp being used for the full rate was very low. The only possible use, as seen below, was printed matter sent by official organizations. A second possible use was "postcard mailed within the same postal district between two municipalities". However, as postal district was defined as "the postal distribution zone of a municipality", this second use was practically impossible.



Printed matter from Pavia to Travacò Siccomario. Official printed matter from Hunting Federation. No arrival postmark, but the municipal mark of registry on the inside page documents the date of arrival.

DATE: 29 September 1944

ARRIVAL: 1 October 1944

Very few known with single stamp paying appropriate rate under first rate schedule. Less than ten pieces reported by collectors

C

Early Uses of 10 centesimi Second Set, First Rate Schedule

This stamp was issued 10 days before the change in rate schedule. Even common frankings are seldom seen.



Express Letter from Milan to Fossano (Cuneo). Franked 1.75 Lire: 50 c (one strip of four and one single of 10 centesimi) for letter, and 1.25 Lire for express. DATE: 28 September 1944

ISTITUTI CLINICI DI PERFEZIONAMENTO

MILANO - Via Commenda, 12

Raccomandata

con ricevuta di ritorno

R

MILANO
(Succ. 25)
4548

Al Podestà di

(Prov. Milano)

Cornareolo



Registered official mail from Milan to Cornareolo franked 1.20 Lire: 60 c for mail, 60 c for open letter registration discounted fee. Return receipt requested, to be franked separately. A pair of 10c is seen DATE: 28 September 1944 ARRIVAL: 29 September 1944

Single Use of the 10 Centesimi Second Set under Second Rate Schedule

After October 1st 1944, with most rates at least doubled, the 10 centesimi rate was no longer possible. However, these two documents show that the 10 centesimi rate was still acceptable. The second postcard is especially important also because the 10 centesimi rate was applied by the postoffice at arrival, not by the sender, so a clerical oversight of the franking on a mailpiece dropped in the mail is out of question.



Official correspondence from a hospital at Abetina to Milano. Out of district. Official correspondence regarding a patient. Not technically printed matter, but franked as such and not contested by the postal service. Not taxed. Arrival date noted by the institutional handstamp. DATE: 26 October 1944 ARRIVAL: 31 October 1944

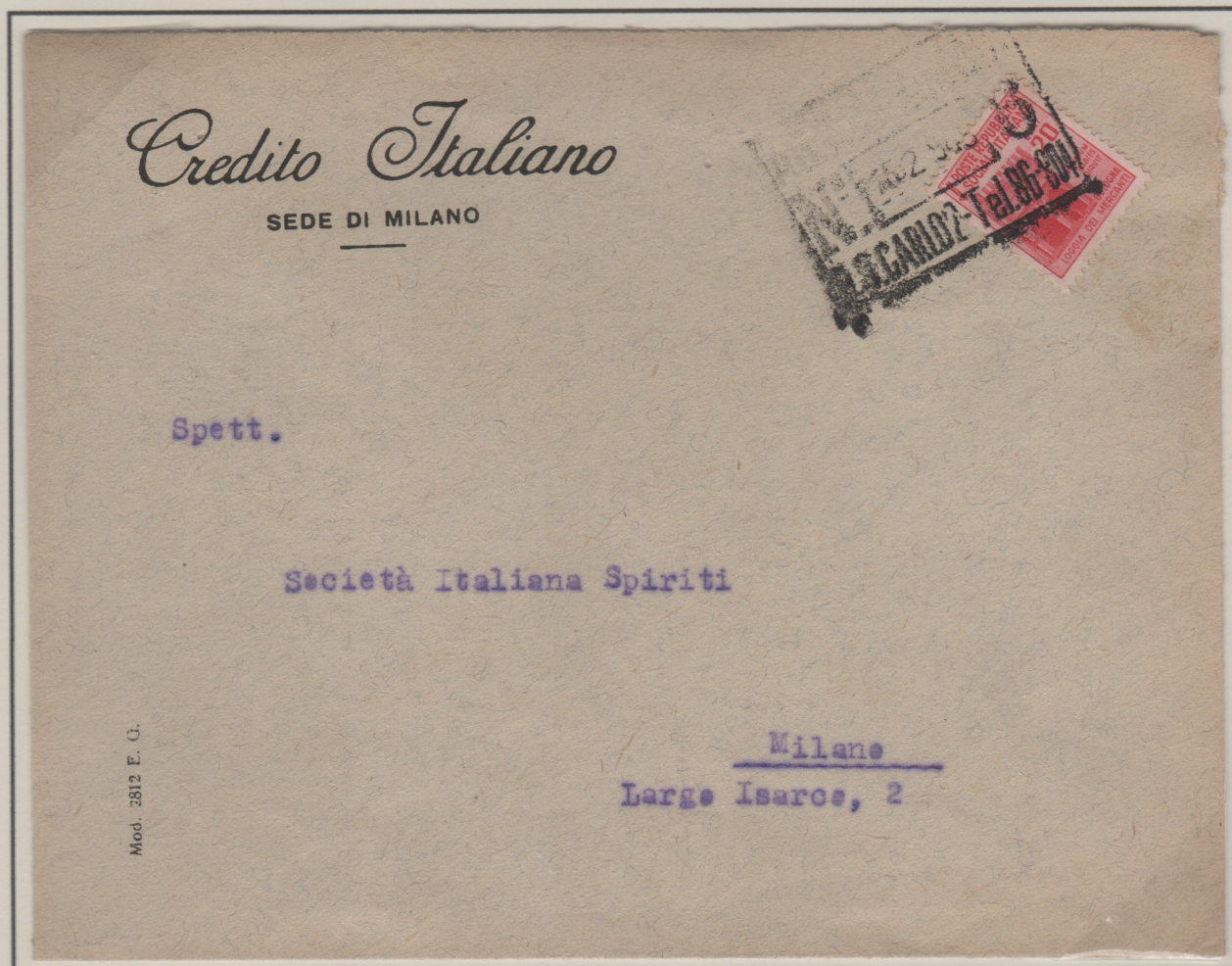


Same district official notification sent within Trieste. Official oval mark for discount, circular TS and rectangular purple marks to show the recipient is to pay the postage. 10c second set with "T" mark applied at arrival to pay the fee for same-district official printed matter. DATE: 27 November 1944 ARRIVAL: 29 November 1944

Single Uses of 20 centesimi



Printed matter from Genova to Diano Castello, franked 20 centesimi with first set stamp.
DATE: 21 December 1944 ARRIVAL: 3 January 1945



Cover sent within city of Milan by authorized private delivery. Rectangular agency postmark is seen. Franked 20 centesimi for discounted fee, using stamp from second set. Private delivery had its own stamps to help with accounting. Ordinary mail stamps alone were not allowed, even though these could be used as complementary stamps for additional fees.
DATE: 15 February 1945

N. *188/44* G. P.
IL CANCELLIERE

MURA DI BRESSANONE
SERVIZIO NOTIFICAZIONE ATTI TAVOLARI

MANOSCRITTI RACCOMANDATI

3.50

sig.

Conte Mod. De Vecchia
Merano
Bolzano

Via Capuccini
Sumone Erika

R
BRESSANONE
5793

TASSA CON TASSA
DESTINATARIO



Tip. Paladino - Mantova

Block of fifteen of 20c first set and strip of five of 10c second set on legal notification envelope franked for 3.50L: 2L for heavy envelope legal correspondence, 1.50L for registration. From Bressanone to Merano. Paid for by the recipient as allowed by law (printed on envelope and circular TS mark on right side)
DATE: 1 December 1944 ARRIVAL: 22 December 1945

Bisect use of 50 Centesimi as 25 Centesimi, based on postal necessities

Many bisect uses had philatelic inspiration. However, there was a real paucity of low denomination stamps that also caused legitimate bisect uses. The following is an example: to mail phone bills from the post office of Abbiategrasso (a town near Milano), the main denomination of stamps needed was 50 Centesimi, domestic postcard rate. However, within the town, the postcard delivery fee was 25 Centesimi, as the fees were halved within the same district. No 25 Centesimi stamps were available for an occasional same-district mail. Consequently, the same-district phone bills were franked with diagonally bisect 50 Centesimi stamps, for 25 Centesimi.

The exhibitor is also in possession of one more similar card and four more diagonally bisect 50 Centesimi stamps, all dated 19 April 1945 and postmarked Abbiategrasso. As a group, these prove the lack of 25 Centesimi denomination on that particular day, and constitute the full known stock of these bisects.

STIPEL
Società per azioni
Capitale L. 330.000.000 versato
Sede in TORINO

Nov. Dic. Germ.

2 TRIMESTRE 1945-XXIII

341 Petri Giuseppe
II Agostino
Via S. Carlo 3
ABBiateGRASSO

ABBONAMENTO	Imposte registro, entrata e tassa concessione governativa	Tasse e quote diverse	CONVERSAZIONI	IMPOSTA ENTRATA SU QUOTE DIVERSE	TOTALE DA PAGARE
189,75	51,25	2,60	174,35	,10	418,05

Le imposte di registro 50/o, sull'entrata 20/o, l'addizionale 10/o e la tassa di concessione governativa 20/o sono corrisposte in modo virtuale presso gli uffici finanziari di Torino.

NB. Per la validità della quietanza esigere l'applicazione del timbro e data STIPEL o della BANCA esattrice.

Per quietanza STIPEL l'esattore

Phone bill mailed within the town of Abbiategrasso, franked half of 50 Centesimi second set for 25 Centesimi

DATE: 19 April 1945

Paid on the 21st, meaning was most likely delivered no later than next day.

Properly franked phone bill mailed within same district.

Mailed from Menaggio (Como) within same town, franked 25 Centesimi second set to cover the same-district postcard rate.

DATE: 18 October 1944

STIPEL
Società per azioni
Capitale L. 330.000.000 versato
Sede in TORINO

4 TRIMESTRE 1944 XXII

91-Sig.
Filippini ing. Luigi

Tra ... diverse sono com-
parsi ... tassa concessione
30% III° trimestre;

ABBONAMENTO	Imposte registro, entrata e tassa concessione governativa	Tasse e quote diverse	CONVERSAZIONI	IMPOSTA ENTRATA SU QUOTE DIVERSE	TOTALE DA PAGARE
79,50	21,50	2,60	3,50	16,10	123,20

Le imposte di registro 50/o, sull'entrata 20/o, l'addizionale 10/o e la tassa di concessione governativa 20/o sono corrisposte in modo virtuale presso gli uffici finanziari di Torino.

NB. Per la validità della quietanze esigere l'applicazione del timbro e data STIPEL o della BANCA esattrice.

Per quietanza STIPEL l'esattore

75 Centesimi Without Watermark Used in RSI

When the watermarked 75 centesimi was issued, there was no domestic fee requiring its use. The post offices had more than enough stocks of the first set 75 centesimi due to lack of use. The stamp without watermark of the second set was only sent to smaller places that requested it, and saw very little use in RSI period.



Registered letter sent insured for 200 Lire from Maccagno to Milan. Franked total 5 Lire, of which 1.5 Lire (75 centesimi for each 100 Lire) was for insurance, and 1.50 Lire was for registration. Base fee for ordinary letter was 1 Lira. Was charged 2 Lire for a heavy letter of 37 grams. All stamps belong to the second set. All three 75 centesimi are without watermark. Very unusual use of more than one unwatermarked 75 centesimi stamps. DATE: 22 December 1944 (erroneously entered on postmark as 1934) ARRIVAL: 23 December 1944

Postal rules of the time required insured mail to be franked with separate individual stamps instead of multiples. The concern was that someone dishonest could take off a block or strip of stamps, cut the envelope and take out the valuable paper, and then reattach the big multiple on the cut, thereby masking it. The stamps had to be affixed individually, with a few millimeters between them. Philatelic covers franked with unseparated multiples are known. These were made with empty "insured" letters, so they could reach the high postal rates and justify multiples on covers. However, genuine commercial use of insured mail should show separate stamps, not full blocks or strips.

Express Stamp, Mixed Used with a Different Express Issue

The express fee was doubled as of 1 October 1944. Express stamp was already printed as part of the first set and was available in sufficient quantities. However, now two stamps were needed instead of one. The obvious solution was to affix two of the same stamp. There are very few known examples of covers showing express stamps from two separate issues, such as this one. We can speculate that the sender franked the letter with one express stamp from older issue already at hand, and had to purchase a second stamp from the newer issue at the post office.



Express Letter from Milano to Carugo, Como. Franked 3.50 Lire (1 for letter and 2.50 for Express). One express stamp is overprinted older issue, and the other one is from first set. The three stamps on the right postmarked with mechanical Milano postmark. The one on the left seems to be cancelled later on the same day with Milano Air Mail postmark, probably by a postal controller who was reviewing the frankings on the cancellations. Air mail services, even though theoretically open, were practically non-existent due to superiority of Allied air forces. This is also an example of Air Mail cancellation being used as an accessory mark.

DATE: 24 November 1944

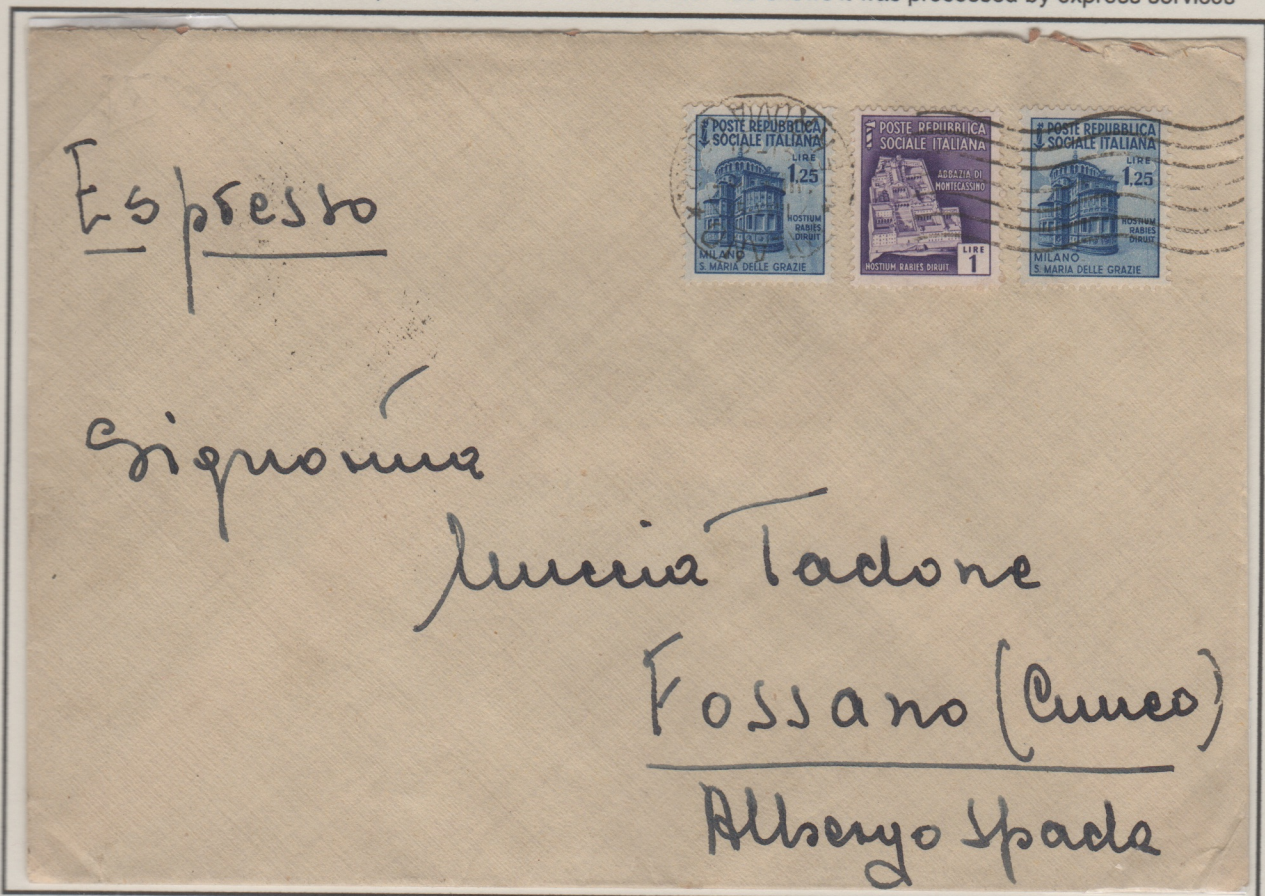
ARRIVAL: 26 November 1944

1.25 Lire Express Usage

The 1.25 Lire, though a smaller denomination than the 3 Lire, was still a high value stamp when issued at the end of January 1945, close to the end of war. The little use it saw during RSI period was mostly for additional services.



Postcard Varese to Milano. Franked 3.05 Lire. Supposed to be 3 Lire (50c for postcard and 2.50 Lire for express). The small excess must be caused by convenience rather than purpose. Exact rate franking would have required too many stamps on a small surface, or may have been impossible due to stamp unavailability.
DATE: 18 April 1945. No arrival postmark, but the black number 423 shows it was processed by express services



Express letter from Milano to Fossano (Cuneo). Franked 3.5L for express letter (2.5 express with two 1.25L, and 1L letter with second set 1L)

DATE: 30 March 1945

ARRIVAL: 4 April 1945

Uses of 1.25 and 3 Lire

1.25 and 3 Lire are known to be very scarce on document during RSI period, due to being issued late in the war, and also being high denominations. Both stamps could only be used when extra services were required. The typical use of 1.25 Lire was a pair for 2.50L: 1L regular letter + 1.50 registration. Use of 1.25L as a complementary stamp, such as one cover on the following page, is much rarer.



Registered cover from Milano to Vaprio D'Adda. Last days of RSI. Franked with a pair of 1.25L for 2.50 Lire registered letter. Return receipt requested. This fee was 1Lira, was paid by franking the return receipt separately, and did not show up on the covers, with the exception of court subpoena.

DATE: 18 April 1945

ARRIVAL: 20 April 1945

Uses of 1.25 and 3 Lire



1.25 and 3 Lire second set, combined with first set 25c, for the unusual rate of 4.50 Lire, same district registered express letter (50c same-district letter, 1.5L registration, 2.50L express). Mailed in Milan. DATE: 26 March 1945.

Censored, with censor tape and marks. Handwritten 99 most likely express number. Directly sent from censorship to distribution, hence no arrival marks. Combination of the two high values, and 1.25L in any form other than a pair on cover are very unusual



Express letter from Milan to Fossano (Cuneo). Franked 3.50 L (1L letter, 2.50L Express).

Note Milano Posta Aerea (Air Mail) postmark on stamps. Air mail was not possible at the time. Air mail marks were being used for ordinary correspondence.

DATE: 20 March 1945
ARRIVAL: 22 March 1945

3 Lire Pair on International Correspondence

The 3 Lire stamp of the second set was issued in last two months of the war, and was not widely distributed. Furthermore, the letter rate being 1 Lira, there was little possible use for a 3 Lire stamp unless extra services were required.

By the time this stamp was issued, international correspondence was virtually impossible, with the exception of Switzerland. Most mail routes to Germany were closed. The German gathering and censorship office of Munich, in Southern Germany relatively close to Italy, was still functional and could process correspondence to Switzerland, the only country in immediate vicinity.

The only known international destination after the issue date of the 3 Lire stamp in RSI period is Switzerland. Southern Germany, including Austria, was theoretically possible, but no 3 Lire is currently known on documents to these areas.

Any multiple use above a single stamp is also very difficult to find. Even pairs are very rare. There are known domestic uses of the multiple 3 Lire stamps. However, except one philatelic use, the multiple uses are separate single stamps, not blocks or pairs.

There are only four known examples of international RSI mail with 3 Lire. All belong to Olivier correspondence, including this one.



Reduced detail of reverse, showing censorship and arrival marks



Air mail registered express cover from Milano to Basel, Switzerland. Franked 6.25 Lire: 1.25 letter to Switzerland, 1 air mail (not possible at the time), 1.50 registration, 2.50 express delivery. Pair of 3 Lire and commemorative stamp of 25c complete the franking. Censorship tape of Italy, Munich censorship marks, and arrival postmark on reverse.

DATE: 13 March 1945

ARRIVAL: 19 April 1945

One of four covers known

Mixed Uses With Stamps Past Validity Period



Express letter from Lograto to Padova. Franked 60c instead for letter instead of 50, most likely due lack of stamps. The express stamp is from Kingdom period. It was taken out of validity in RSI as of 16 March 1944, like all the other stamps that showed the "Traitor King". Censor tape and markings are seen. Tolerated, not taxed.

DATE: 5 August 1944

ARRIVAL: 6 August 1944



Express letter from Milan to Venice. Franked pair express stamps, and the letter fee was paid by 1 Lira Rossini stamp that was out of validity as of 31 December 1943. Tolerated, not taxed. Censor tape and markings are seen.

DATE: 19 November 1944

ARRIVAL: 1 December 1944

Mixed Uses with Different Types of Stamps



Official correspondence from Alba to Neive. Franked 2.70 Lire (50c letter between government officials, 1.20 open registered letter, 1 for return receipt) with 20c first set, 50c second set and 2 Lire parcel stamp. Through Cuneo.

DATE: 30 October 1944

CUNEO TRANSIT: 31 October 1944

ARRIVAL: 7 November 1944



Official correspondence sent open from Luvraga to Milan. Franked 60 centesimi. Vertical pair of first set 25c, and one 10c authorized private delivery stamp.

DATE: Faint, probably 12 August 1944

ARRIVAL: 15 August 1944

Used as Postage Due



Letter within the city of Brescia, sent poste restante. Marked postage due for franking with a previously used stamp. Would have been taxed even if the stamp was valid, as the rate was increased to 50 centesimi as of 1 October. Second set 50 centesimi stamp used as postage due. This amount is low. Correct amount would have been 1.50Lire: 50 c x 2 for same-district letter and additional 50 c poste restante fee. The recipient, an officer, did not have right to postal franchise.

DATE: 27 October 1944

ARRIVAL: 29 October 1944



Letter Galliera to Mantova. Franked 50 centesimi for a letter from older rate schedule. Deficiency of 50 centesimi detected, and second set 1 Lira stamp used for the postage due amount. Censor marks and tape are also seen.

DATE: 5 October 1944

ARRIVAL: 10 October 1944

Confusion After Rate Change in October 1944



Postcard from Peschiera Borromeo to Codogno. Franked 60 centesimi, 55c with two stamps from destroyed monuments, and 5c with a revenue stamp. The postcard rate increased from 30c to 50, while everything else was doubled. The sender must have thought the postcard rate also doubled to 60, and tried to make up the "missing" 5c with a revenue stamp. Not taxed because the 55c was enough to cover the rate, with 5 centesimi in excess. Censor marks are seen. DATE: 23 November 1944



Cover from Somma Lombardo to Cavenago d'Adda. Franked 50 centesimi from second set according to the old rate schedule. Taxed 1 Lira, double the missing amount of 50 centesimi, and postage due stamps applied. DATE: 7 October 1944 ARRIVAL: 8 October 1944



Express Cover from Milano to Rota D'Imagna, Bergamo. Franked 1.75L, 50c for letter and 1.25L for express charge.
 DATE: 12 September 1944 ARRIVAL: 14 September 1944



Registered express letter from Milano to Torino. Franked 3.5L made of seven stamps of 25c first set (one strip of three, one pair and two singles) with the express stamp of first set. 1L letter + 1.25L registration + 1.25 express = 3.50 Lire
 DATE: 19 July 1944 ARRIVAL: 22 July 1944

Express Delivery Service



Cover from Intra di Verbania to Genova, sent express.

The express delivery agency sticker with distribution number, usually taken off at the time of delivery, is still seen on the cover. This is unusual.

Franked 3.50L (1L letter and 2.50 express)

DATE: 15 December 1944

NOVARA TRANSIT: 16 December 1944

ARRIVAL: 19 December 1944

Express cover from Milano to Fossano (Province Cuneo)

Supposed to be franked 3.50L like the cover above. However, there are only 2.50L for express fee, paid for by a pair of 1.25L express stamp. As the express fee, the mandatory portion, was paid, the letter was accepted by the postal service and delivered. However, postage due of 2L, twice the missing amount of 1L, would be expected. This was not applied.



DATE: 8 November 1944

CUNEO TRANSIT: 14 November 1944

ARRIVAL: 11 November 1944

Express Services During Second Rate Schedule Period



Death notification of a patient, from Brescia to Passirano. Sent express, franked 3L; two 25c second set stamps for postcard and two 1.25 express stamps to pay the express fee. DATE: 15 December 1944 ARRIVAL: 17 December 1944



Registered express cover from Venice to Strambino Romano, near Turin. Franked 5L total, 1L for letter, 1.5L for registration, all second set stamps, and 2.5L for express. Traveled by rail through Turin. DATE: 8 November 1944 TURIN TRANSIT: 1 December 1944 ARRIVAL: 2 December 1944. The delay is considerable. Venice and Turin are at the opposite ends of Northern Italy. Frequent Allied bombings or partisan activity may have delayed the transport through railroad.

Cover Damaged During Allied Air Attack



Express letter damaged during Allied air attack, with burns and fallen, later reaffixed, express stamps. One 1 Lira stamp seems to be missing. Portion of reverse with Verona transit postmark shown above.

Sent from Fiesso Umbertiano(Rovigo) to Bologna. Traveled through Verona and Modena, which is a longer route. The direct railroad was probably not available due to being already destroyed.



Protective envelope provided by the Postal Administration. Above letter was inserted in this envelope. The handwritten message states that the correspondence was properly franked but damaged by strafing. Was probably damaged in Verona, taken back to Modena and processed, then sent back to Bologna through Verona once more.

DATE: 23 February 1945
 AT VERONA: 4 March 1945
 AT MODENA: 16 March 1945
 VERONA: 20 March 1945

Unfortunately, the rectangular Bologna railway arrival mark does not show a date.



Letter from Malo' (Vicenza) to an Italian soldier serving at a German unit. Feldpost 03999 was the POW camp number 38. Franked 1L for an international letter, despite being entitled to be sent free.

DATE: 10 July 1944



Letter from Italian FPO 873, vice-ministry of the Navy of the Armed Forces Ministry. Sent to a private business in Udine, fee to be paid by the recipient (the two purple hexagonal marks). 1L second set stamp with a T overprint has paid the standard fee, without postage due penalty. 1 Lira was the domestic letter fee after 1 October 1944.

DATE: 3 April 1944

ARRIVAL: 26 April 1944

Suspended Service Due to War

City of Siena was taken by the Allies four weeks after Rome. By the time this cover was mailed, the Allies were advancing North, and Siena was in the war zone. It was not possible to provide mail services in that direction.



Official letter from Milano to Siena. Returned to sender due to service being suspended. German army withdrew north, and left Siena to Allies on 2 July 1944. Franked 1.70 Lire three stamps with three different issues: 20 c first set, 50 c overprinted, and 1 Lira Kingdom.

DATE: 21 June 1944

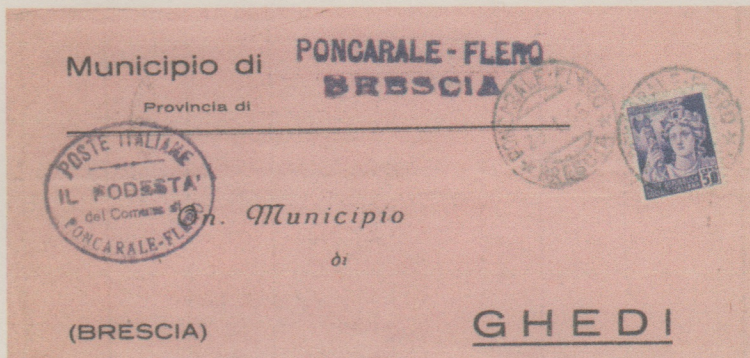
RATE ANALYSIS: More than one fee was possible. The least costly was chosen. "Manoscritti" means official forms with handwritten annotations. The base rate was slightly cheaper than letter and allowed heavier envelopes, but extra services cost more. Handwritten annotation under the purple mark says "con lettera" (with a letter), which would have increased the rate. The cheapest way would have been to process the letter as an open official letter with registration. The open flap proves the envelope was sent open.

Chosen rate is 60c open official letter + 1.10 open registration fee = 1.70 Lire

Registered official mail with an additional letter would have cost 2.20 Lire, with additional 1.25 Lire for registration= 3.45 Lire

Official correspondence "to fill and return"

The population registries were updated using forms that needed to be exchanged between government agencies. The mailing fees were discounted (50 centesimi instead of 1 Lira), but needed to be franked for every exchange of information. The typical forms are one large sheet folded in half, with opposite sides being franked and addressed for initial request and following response. This document, franked three times and exchanged four times (probably once as an enclosure, and three times independently in the mail), is a very interesting testimonial of these complex bureaucratic interactions.



Other side, reduced



Information exchange between Ghedi and Poncarale. All mailings performed with second set stamps for 50c fee.

Initial mailing: Ghedi 9 January 1945, arrived Poncarale 16 January 1945. Franked pair 25c for 50c

Sent back, most likely as an enclosure inside another letter. Arrived to Ghedi on 20 January, according to official mark inside.

Mailed again from Ghedi on 22 January, arrived Poncarale 25 January. Franked 50c

Mailed back from Poncarale on 29 January, arrived at Ghedi 1 February. Franked again a pair of 25 c, this one above the previously affixed pair for lack of space.

These forms were prepared with only two mailings on mind. More than two was not expected, and is very uncommon.



Insured registered letter
 from Ranica to Asso.
 Insured 1000 Lire.
 Franked 11 Lire with
 multiples of 50c and
 three stamps of 1 L
 Kingdom.
 1L x 2 = 2L heavy letter,
 1.50L registration
 7.50L insurance

DATE: 12 February 1945
 ARRIVAL:
 22 February 1945



Registered official
 correspondence
 From Milan to
 Verona, 17 Lire
 COD.
 Franked 3.70 Lire:
 1.20 official mail,
 1 L COD fee,
 1.50 registration

DATE:
 4 November 1944

Form for Documentation of Stamp Unavailability

AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE

Foglio per la trasmissione

Spedizione N. _____ del giorno _____
 dall'Ufficio di 1/39
 all'Ufficio di _____

del
sp

N. d'ord.	PROVENIENZA	Numero	Valore dichiarato	Peso in grammi	DEST
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

MANCANZA REGNATEISE

NR. - Per uso esclusivo delle ricevitorie e delle cu

Da Brescia a Carpendolo. Apparently a letter was taxed for 30c, but there were no postage due stamps available. The fee was collected in cash, and an ordinary 30 Centesimi stamp from the first set was used on this form to document the incident. By using an ordinary stamp, the accounting of the cash at hand and the stamps sold were balanced. This was supposed to be the standard procedure when postage due stamps were not available.

CARPENDOLO circular stamp and ANNULLATO (cancelled) mark on the stamp. BRESCIA circular postmark on the heading.

In RSI period, most post offices did not use this procedure, instead used ordinary stamps as postage due directly on the cover. The reason was most likely a chronic unavailability of stamps. This procedure was certainly time consuming and designed for rare occasions, not as a daily occurrence, which was mostly the case in the RSI.

DATE: 16 August 1944

Form for Wholesale Payment of Mail

This service existed since 1861, and continued during the RSI period. By opening a dedicated credit account, it was possible to hand over mail to post-office, where it was processed and sent stampless. At the end of the business day, the accounting was made using this form, where postage due stamps were affixed and the client billed accordingly. A monthly convenience fee was the post office's gain, while the client had the time savings. In the RSI, the clients also had the advantage of not having to purchase stamps that were becoming increasingly difficult to find, especially in high-demand denominations.

MODULARIO
C Dir. Pr. Poste - 3

Mod. N. 1-A bis (Edizione 14)
(form. 19)

AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE

Foglio per la trasmissione di raccomandate ed a

Spedizione N. _____ del giorno _____
dall' Ufficio di _____
all' Ufficio di _____

Bollo
dell' Ufficio
speditore

Foglio N. _____ della presente sped.

Num. d'ord.	PROVENIENZA	Numero	Valore dichiarato	Messa a spaccio	DESTINAZIONE	DESTINATARIO	IMPORTI dell'asseg.
1							
2		3	50		1.50		
		1	1		1.-		
		2	1.20		2.40		
					4.90		

- Per uso esclusivo degli uffici principali ed ambulatori.

Form 1-A bis for the payment of six pieces of mail with total cost of 4.90L processed by Trieste post office. Fee paid for by strip of four of 1L second set, 10c second set, pair of 25c first set, and 30c overprinted from a previous issue. Postage due stamps were supposed to be used on this form. Due to lack of postage due stamps, ordinary stamps were cancelled with a "T" to show the postage due use. Document marked with "TRIESTE CENTRO CORRISPONDENZE TASSATE" (Postage Due Correspondence Trieste Central Office).
DATE: 14 January 1945

Unintended Use on Parcel Receipt

Parcel fees were supposed to be paid using special stamps with two portions. The parcel receipts were torn in two, and half of the parcel stamp remained on the receipt, while the other half traveled with the part left with the parcel. There were problems with parcel stamp availability same as other categories, and ordinary stamps had to be used, against protocol, on parcels. This is a very unusual usage, of which very few are known.

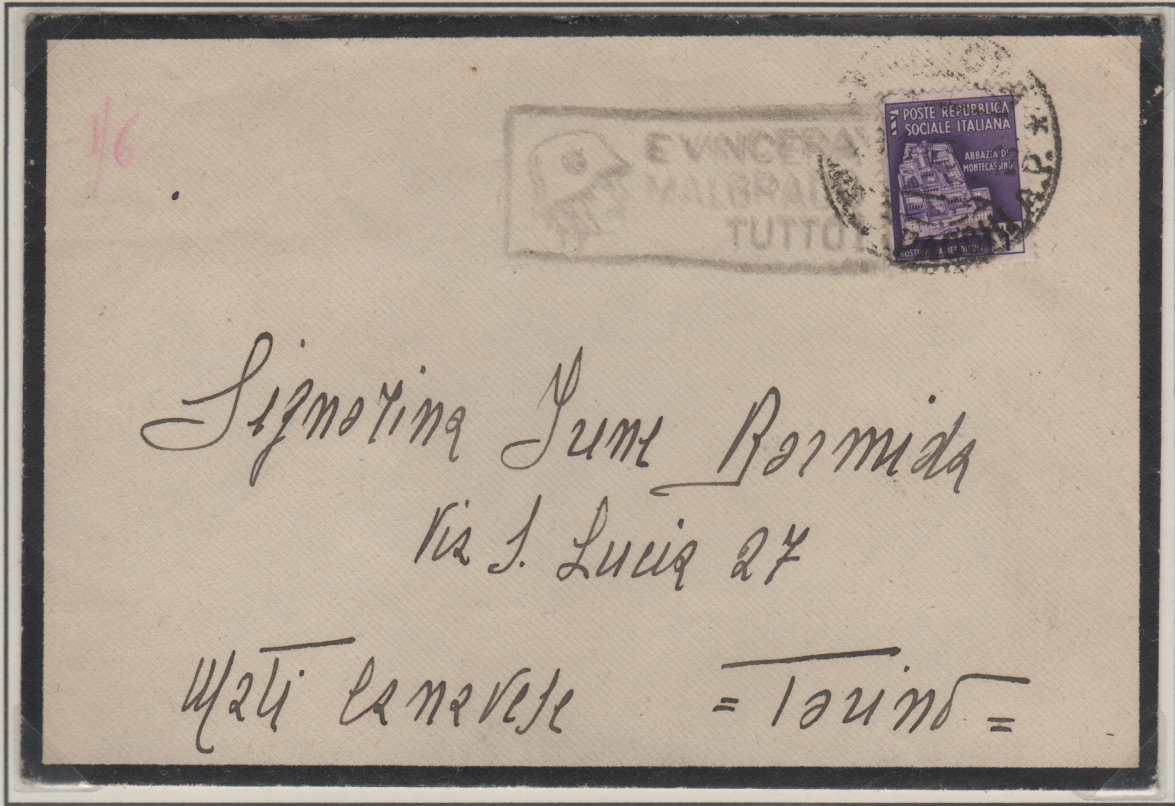


Receipt of a 5kg postal parcel sent from Canzo (Como) to an Italian worker in Germany. No declared value. 13.75 Lire fee required. 7.5 Lire paid by the parcel card itself, and three parcel stamps of 2 Lire each paid additional 6 Lire. The remaining 25 centesimi was paid with a 25c stamp from second set, most likely due to absence of the 25 centesimi parcel stamps.

DATE: 24 January 1945

Slogan marks

Propaganda was one of the foundations of the RSI right from the start. A puppet state was being sold as the true national government. Slogan marks on the postal material were also used for similar reasons.

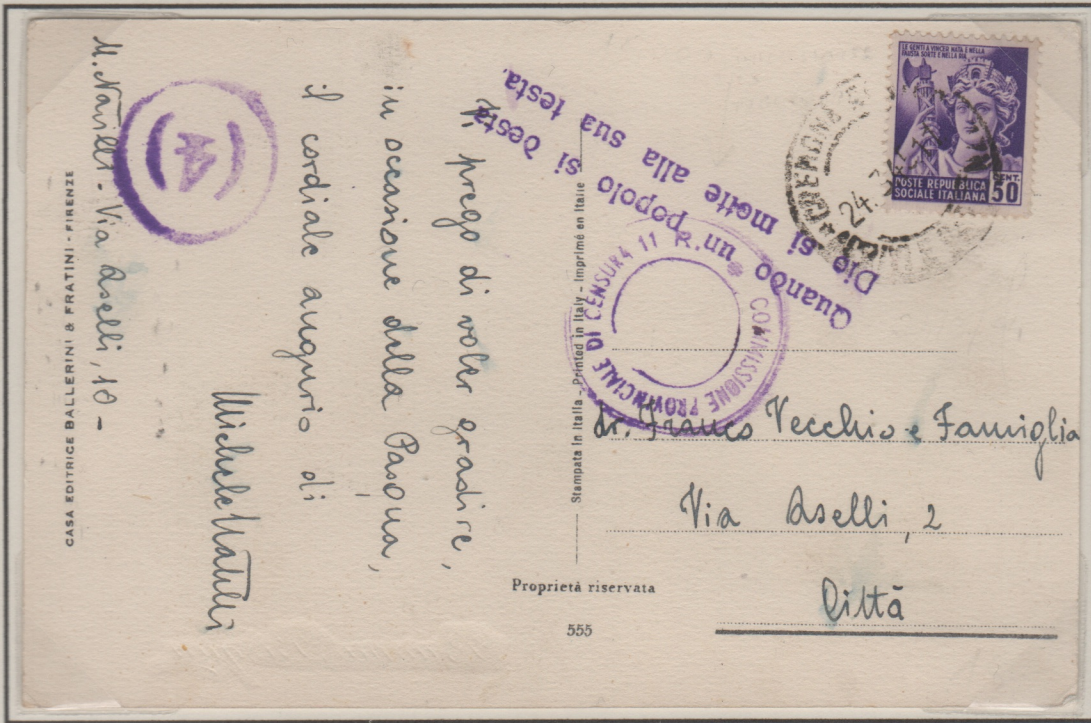


"E VINCERA" MALGRADO TUTTO", "And (he) will win, despite everything", with the profile of a soldier that looks suspiciously like a German soldier rather than Italian. From Campagnola Emilia to Mati, Torino. Franked 1 L for letter, stamp from second set. DATE: 29 January 1945 ARRIVAL: 10 February 1945

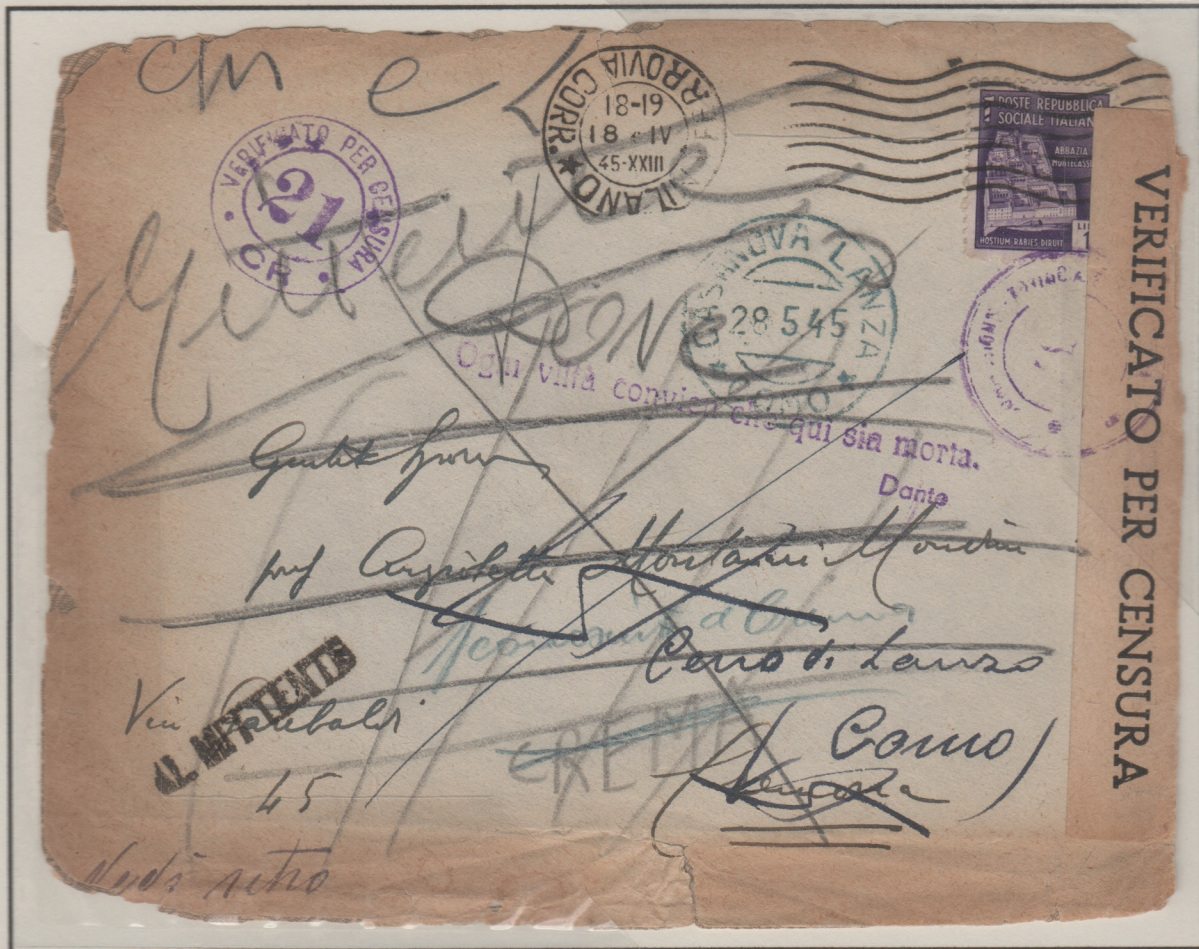


"BENEDITE, GRAN DIO, L'ITALIA, PIO IX", "Bless o Lord, the Italy, Pope Pius IX". A quote by Pope Pius IX, taken from an announcement made in 1848. Express sent postal stationery from Cremona to Milano. Franked 4 Lire instead of 3 (50c + 2.50). The message is commercial. Overfranking probably an error rather than purposeful. 20c from second set, and express stamps from first set. No arrival, but the slogan mark and black 610 express number prove the card went through mail. DATE: 4 April 1945

Slogan marks



"QUANDO UN POPOLO SI DESTA, DIO SI METTE ALLA SUA TESTA" (When a nation awakens, Lord puts himself ahead of them), a quote from Giuseppe Mazzini, national hero of Italian War of Independence. Postcard mailed within Cremona. Franked 50c with second set stamp. Censor marks noted. DATE: 24 March 1945



"OGNI VILTA' CONVIEN CHE QUI SIA MORTA" (All cowardice should die here, Dante). from Dante's Divine Comedy. Cover from Milan to Cremona, forwarded to Como, returned to sender. Mailed on 18 April 1945, last days of RSI. Partisan insurrection in Milan started on 25 April, and RSI officially ended by unconditional surrender on 2 May 1945. Censor tape and marks also seen. Franked 1 L second set for ordinary letter. DATE: 18 April 1945 AT CREMONA: 23 April 1945 AT CASANOVA LANZA (COMO) 28 May 1945

Fiscal Uses

compenso straordinario corrisposto ai sottoindicati impiegati
 dicembre al 31 dicembre 1944 XXII

TENUTE PER		TOTALE netto	FIRMA PER QUIETANZA
M.	COMPL.		
	Add.	6	7
168	221 041	20040	<i>[Signature]</i>
146	222 034	20165	Mania Bianchi
146	222 034	20165	Luigi Sisti

Stampes: MARCA DA BOLLO (CENT. 20), MARCA DA BOLLO (CENT. 20), ANCONA - S. CIRIACO (CENT. 5)

Paycheck ledger for three employees, showing fiscal use of second set 5 centesimi

DATE: 27 December 1945

CONSIGLIO PROVINCIALE

Importo dei mandati precedenti	L. 406.574,68	} 406.812,68
Importo del mandato presente	240,00	
Rimanenza disponibile	L.	

Ferrara, dalla Residenza del Consiglio Provinciale dell' Economia
 addì 5 aprile 1945=XXIII 19 / me

Il Ragioniere *[Signature]* IL PRESIDENTE *[Signature]* Il Segretario Generale *[Signature]*

Ricevuto oggi 19 le suddette lire

Stampes: POSTE REPUBBLICA SOC. ITALIANA (CENT. 50), POSTE REPUBBLICA SOC. ITALIANA (CENT. 50)

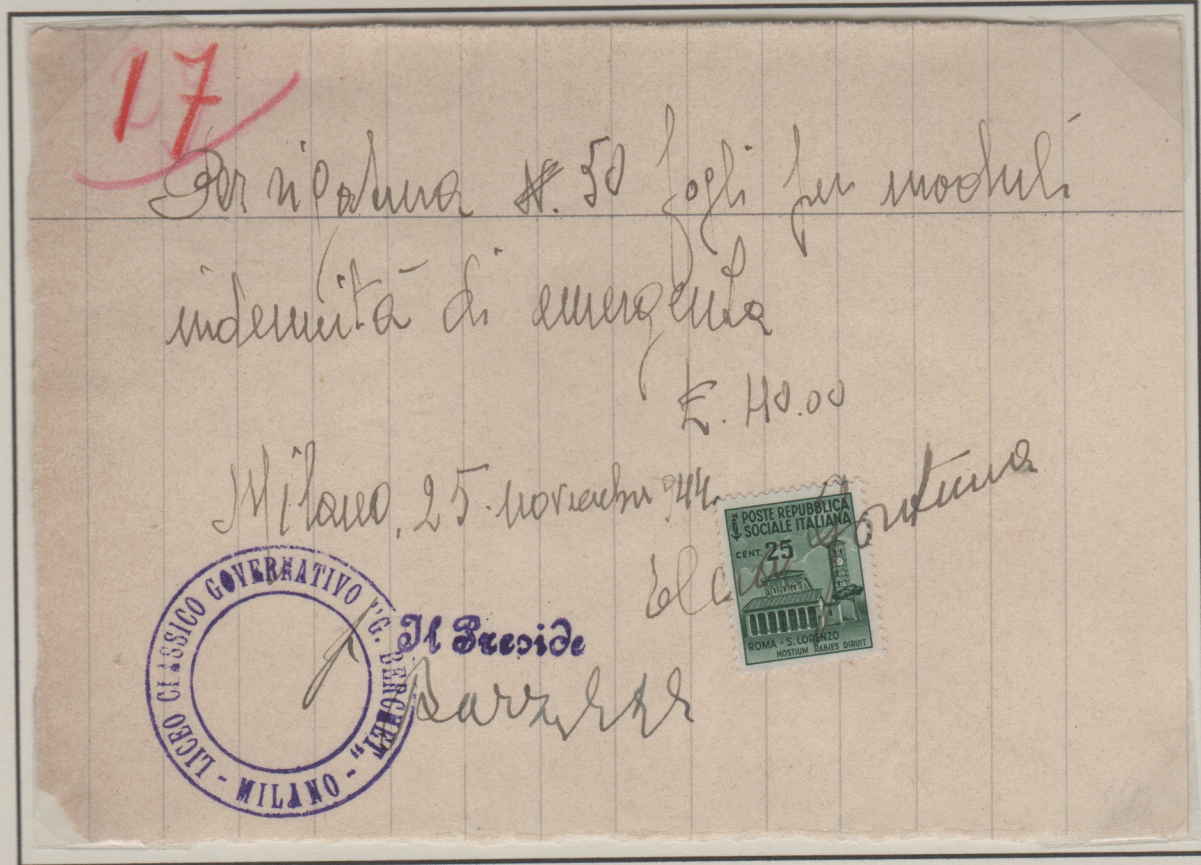
PAGATO

Receipt of elevator maintenance fees. Fiscal use of second set 50 centesimi pair for 1 Lira

DATE: 5 April 1945



Invoice with fiscal use of the first set 20 centesimi. A 20c fiscal stamp is noted, as well as a 10c fiscal that appears reused
 DATE: 11 December 1944



Receipt with second set 25 centesimi. The receipt forms also seem to be lacking, as the receipt is also improvised on a piece of paper. The payment was for a print job of fifty payment forms "of emergent need" on behalf of a high school. The lack of legal forms and fiscal stamps was apparently severe.
 DATE: 25 November 1944

Dofuini

Cotta

UFFICIO DI CONCILIAZIONE DEL MANDAMENTO
di *Vercelli*

Intimazione di ~~licenza~~ *stratto* ⁽¹⁾ per finita locazione
e Citazione per Convalida

l'anno millenovecento *quarantasei* addi *22*
ese di *Maggio* in *Vercelli*

sottoscritto usciere addetto all'ufficio di Conciliazione in epigrafe indi-
ca richiesta del Signor

Avv. Proc. Int. Vercelli-Via

Reper
Notif.
Copi
Tra
Tot
Bo
Tot

License application with fiscal use of second set 1 Lira two examples. Total fee 8 Lire. Regency period DATE: 22 May 1945

Mod. 58 bis

Affitto *208*

208

Tassa entrata *4* L. *4*

Totale *198*

Restaglio con cartone

Ricevo da *Sig. na*

Lire *208*

per affitto dal *1*

al *31*

Casa in *giusta il rel*

N. *giusta il rel*

IMPOSTA sull'E

Ricevuta

Lease receipt showing second set 10 centesimi fiscal use.

DATE: 8 November 1944

Biffi Carozzi & C. S.A.
Molino a Cilindri
Capitale Lit. 4.000.000 interamente versato



C.P.E. VARESE 13710

Saronno, li 21 Maggio 1945

MILANO PRESSO ASSOCIAZIONE GRANARIA

Spett. CASSA MUTUA CONTRO I RISCHI STRAORDINARI
Ufficio Trasporti S.E.P.R.A.L. COPIA INTERNA PER USG

VARESE



Detto importo lo segniamo a Vs/ debito in partita. Unite alla
sente alleghiamo le relative bollette di uscita dal magazzino.
Distinti saluti.

[Handwritten signature]



Internal copy of an invoice dated 21 May 1945, with 5, 10 and 20 centesimi stamps from second set used as fiscals. The invoice includes services in March (RSI) and May (Regency).



Registered letter from Rovereto to Belfort, France. Franked 2.75 l (1.25 letter and 1.50 registration). Munich censorship mark is seen. 25 c first set. One overprinted stamp is defective. DATE: 17 July 1944 BOLZANO TRANSIT: 20 July 1944



Registered letter Gries di Bolzano to Sweden. 2.75 Lire (1.25 letter and 1.50 registration). Three 25c stamps from first set. Censorship marks prove the cover went through mail. DATE: 28 October 1944

Mail to Switzerland

Mail to Switzerland had established itself in two distinct categories: Red Cross, and private. Red Cross letter was POW information, carried regardless of the procedural. All international correspondence was expected to be presented to the post office for ID and stamp check, but the authorities showed considerable leniency for the Red Cross correspondence. The rest (private, commercial, etc) had to be done "by the book".



Registered letter from Bergamo to Lugano, Switzerland. Private address. ID verified on reverse. Franked 2.75 L (1.25 letter, 1.50 registered). Italian (Bergamo) and German (Munich) censor tapes and marks.

DATE: 24 November 1944
ARRIVAL: 1 March 1945



Letter from Venice with three infractions: 50c instead of 1.25 L, fiscal stamp instead of postal stamp, and dropped in the box instead of being taken to postoffice (No ID verification on reverse). Accepted because it was sent to the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. Censor marks of Munich prove it went through mail.

DATE: 4 August 1944

Postage Due to Switzerland

Because of security concerns, international correspondence had to be brought to post office without stamps. The post office clerk had to make sure that nothing was written on the paper surface under the stamps, and was also responsible for completeness of the appropriate fee paid. International postage due was not allowed. The postal employee committing negligence ran a high risk of being reported to "Verificatore", the postal inspector, with consequences that could be severe. Incompletely franked international correspondence is very unusual in RSI period.



Reduced detail of reverse, showing return address and arrival postmark



Registered express letter from Varna, Bolzano to Baden (Zurich), Switzerland. Franked 5.10 Lire with multiple stamps. Was supposed to be franked 5.25: 1.25 for letter, 1.50 for registration and 2.50 for express. Taxed 5 cents of Swiss Frank at the office of arrival. Censor number from Munich on front, arrival postmark of Baden on reverse.

DATE: 12 January 1945

ARRIVAL: 3 February 1945

RSI to Croatia. 26 August 1944. Same Day, Two Destinations



Registered express letter from Venice to Zagreb. Franked 5 Lire, including strip of three 50 Centesimi from second set. Was supposed to be franked 5. 25 (1.25 international letter, 1.5 registration and 2.50 international express). Properly reached the destination. Censor marks and tape can be seen.

Postage due international mail was not allowed. Post office employees were supposed to ensure international mail to be properly franked. This is an unusual example of underfranked international mail, also because it was accepted and not taxed at arrival.

DATE: 26 August 1944
ARRIVAL: 11 September 1944

Registered express letter from Milan to Trebinje, then Croatia (NDH), today Bosnia and Hercegovina. Returned, as evidenced by the Croatian mark "Promet Obustavljen Natrag" (Service suspended, back to sender) Multiple censor marks and tapes. Correctly franked for 5.25 Lire, with 25 centesimi from first set.
DATE: 26 August 1944

Trebinje, then part of Dubrava province of the NDH, was located at the southmost end of the country. It had very high Partizan activity at the time. Mail service to Croatia was known as open, but there were remote parts of the country such as southern Dalmatian coast, including Trebinje, that mail could not reach because of the Partizans.



Mail to Denmark

Postal routes to Denmark enjoyed an exception: even most parts of Germany could not receive mail starting January of 1945, but Denmark received mail well into the month of April.



Registered letter Varese to Denmark. Franked 2.75L: 1.25 letter and 1.50 registration, 95 centesimi of which franked with first set stamps. Italian censor tape covered by the German one. Varese and Munich censorship marks.

DATE: 17 July 1944



Registered Letter Udine to Copenhagen, Denmark. Franked again 2.75 (1.25 +1.50). This time second set stamps used as complementary for 75 centesimi. Italian and German censor tapes. Munich censorship marks.

DATE: 8 February 1945
ARRIVAL: 9 April 1945

Udine, in Northeast Italy, was under direct German occupation, but some Italian presence was permitted. International mail from Udine was directly processed by Germans, while that from most other cities had to go through Milan first.

POW Correspondence to USA

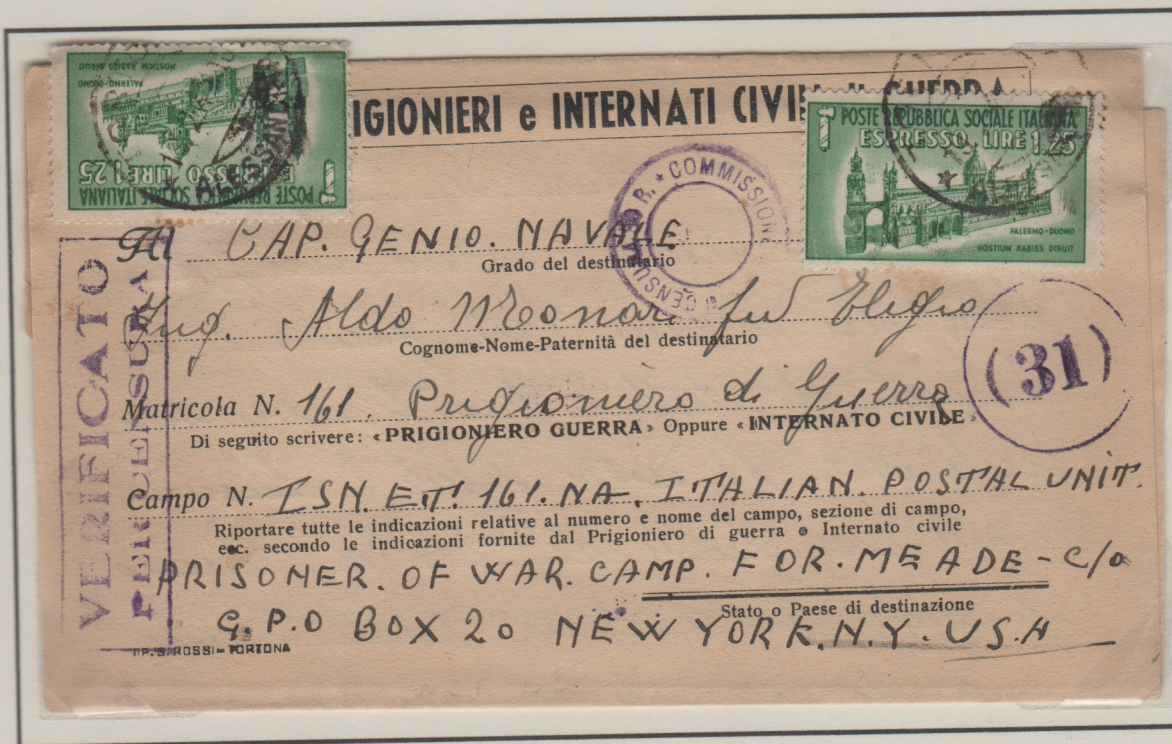
As an enemy country fighting against RSI, no direct correspondence to USA was allowed. The exception was POW correspondence, which was first transferred to Lisbon, and then sent to USA. This mail was free, but 2.75L air mail surcharge had to be paid with postage stamps. This rare "loophole" provided the only opportunity to obtain stamped mail to a belligerent party. Two letters are presented here. These are unusual items.



Letter from Parma to the POW camp in Florence, AZ.

Franked total 2.75L entirely with second set stamps: 1L pair, 50c and 25c.

DATE: 23 February 1945



Letter from Tortona, Alessandria to Fort Meade POW Camp. Two 1.25 L express stamps are used as regular stamps, to pay the air mail fee. Another 25c stamp present on reverse from a different set to complete the 2.75L.

DATE: 19 February 1945

Mail Routes to Germany Closed, End of the War

Two covers, both sent to Italian workers Germany in early 1945, held in Munich until second half of April, then returned.



Cover from Ponteranica (Bergamo) to Rheinhausen (Duisburg) in Germany. Franked two 50c stamps from second set for 1L special rate for Italy. Duisburg is in northern Germany. The circular red mark belongs to Munich censorship, which was the main gathering point of mail from Italy. Duisburg is in northern Germany, and was heavily bombed by Allies in early 1945. Was taken by US forces on 12 April. The letter must have been held in Munich due to unsafe route, and returned on 20 April. Two retour marks, multiple censorship signs and Italian censor tape on reverse.

DATE: 18 January 1945

DATE OF RETURN: 20 April 1945



Cover from Cremona to Dortmund in Germany. Franked a strip of four from 25c second set for 1L special rate for Germany. Munich censorship mark red A inside a circle is again seen. Decision to return was made on the 11 April (handwritten), return officially processed on the 18th (Rectangular Retour mark). German censorship marks and Italian censorship tape seen. Dortmund was taken on 13 April 1945 by US forces.

DATE: 27 February 1945

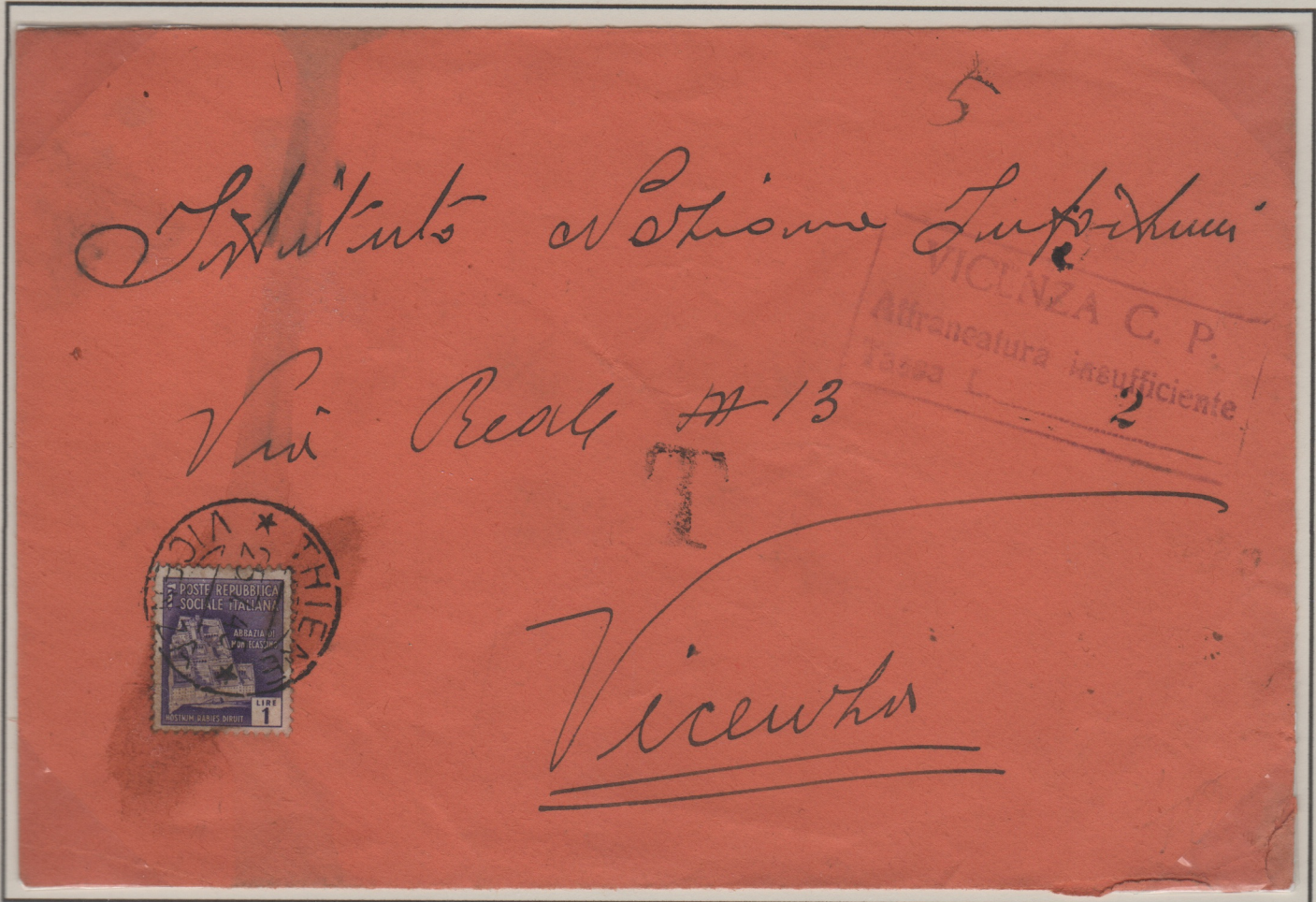
RETURNED: 18 April 1945

Use after the War, taxed correspondence

The RSI stamps were allowed until the end of 1945, depending on the province. The two documents here show taxation for the missing amount, meaning the RSI stamp was counted for its full value. Rate schedule is the Regency schedule of 1 April, valid in Northern Italy from 1 July 1945



Postcard from Borgo Valsugana (Trento) to Cagliari, island of Sardinia. Franked 1 L second set. The rate for postcard was 1.2 L. Taxed 40c for double missing amount. Not asked for, and returned. DATE: 21 September 1945 ARRIVAL: 29 September 1945



Letter from Thiene to Vicenza. Franked 1 L second set. Rate for letter was 2 L. Taxed 2 L for double missing amount. The postage due was noted by a special rectangular postmark without stamps. The RSI stamps were kept valid because of lack of replacement. Same problem seems to have extended to postage due stamps, as well. DATE: 25 July 1945 ARRIVAL: 26 July 1945

Late Uses of Express Stamp in the North



Express cover (repaired at left border) from Brescello to Parma. Franked pair of 1L and block of four of 1.25 for total of 7L per the rate schedule of South. Lower Northern rates were valid until October, which would have only required 3.5L. DATE: 18 July 1945



Express cover from Padova to Verona. Franked 3.5L according the Northern schedule, with two express 1.25L, one second set 50C, and one "Wolf of Bari" 50C stamp. The latter was issued in South. Their uses in North, although valid, are very scarce and unusual.

DATE: 11 September 1945

Multiple of 1.25 Lire in Regency Period. Extended validity



Registered letter, large envelope. Franked 9 Lire, from Mestre (Venice) to Verona. Shows 1.25L block of six from second set. Despite increasing rates and more frequent use, multiples of 1.25 Lire remain uncommon even after the end of RSI.

DATE: 26 July 1945

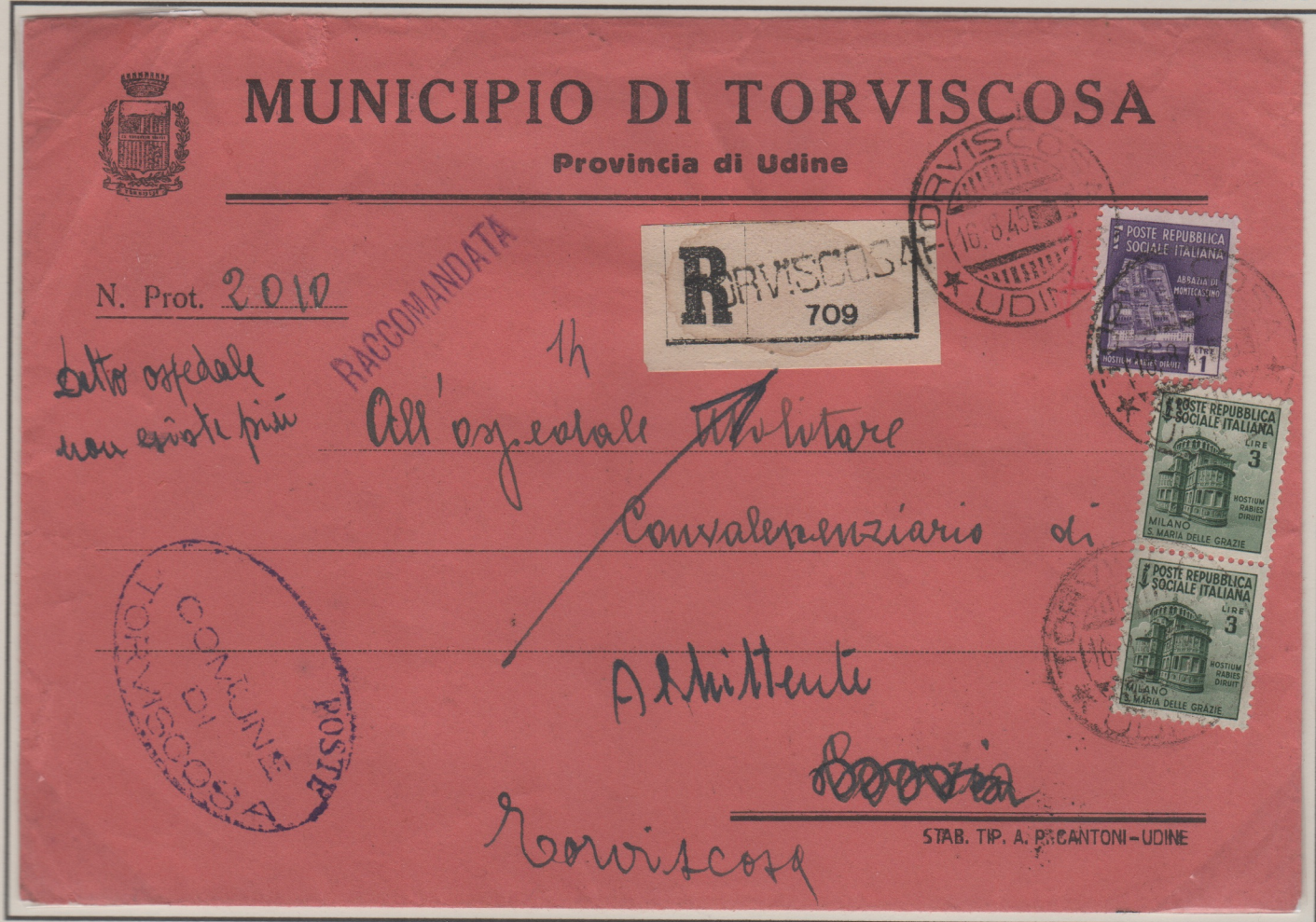
ARRIVAL: 15 30 July 1945



Registered return receipt card from Verona to San Pietro in Cariano. Franked 7 Lire, all with RSI stamps: pair of 3L second set, and a 1L from another RSI issue.

DATE: 15 July 1945

ARRIVAL: 24 July 1945



Registered letter from Torviscosa to Venice. sent to a military convalescent hospital, returned with a note saying "this hospital does not exist any more". Franked 7 Lire, all with second set stamps: Pair of 3L and one 1L

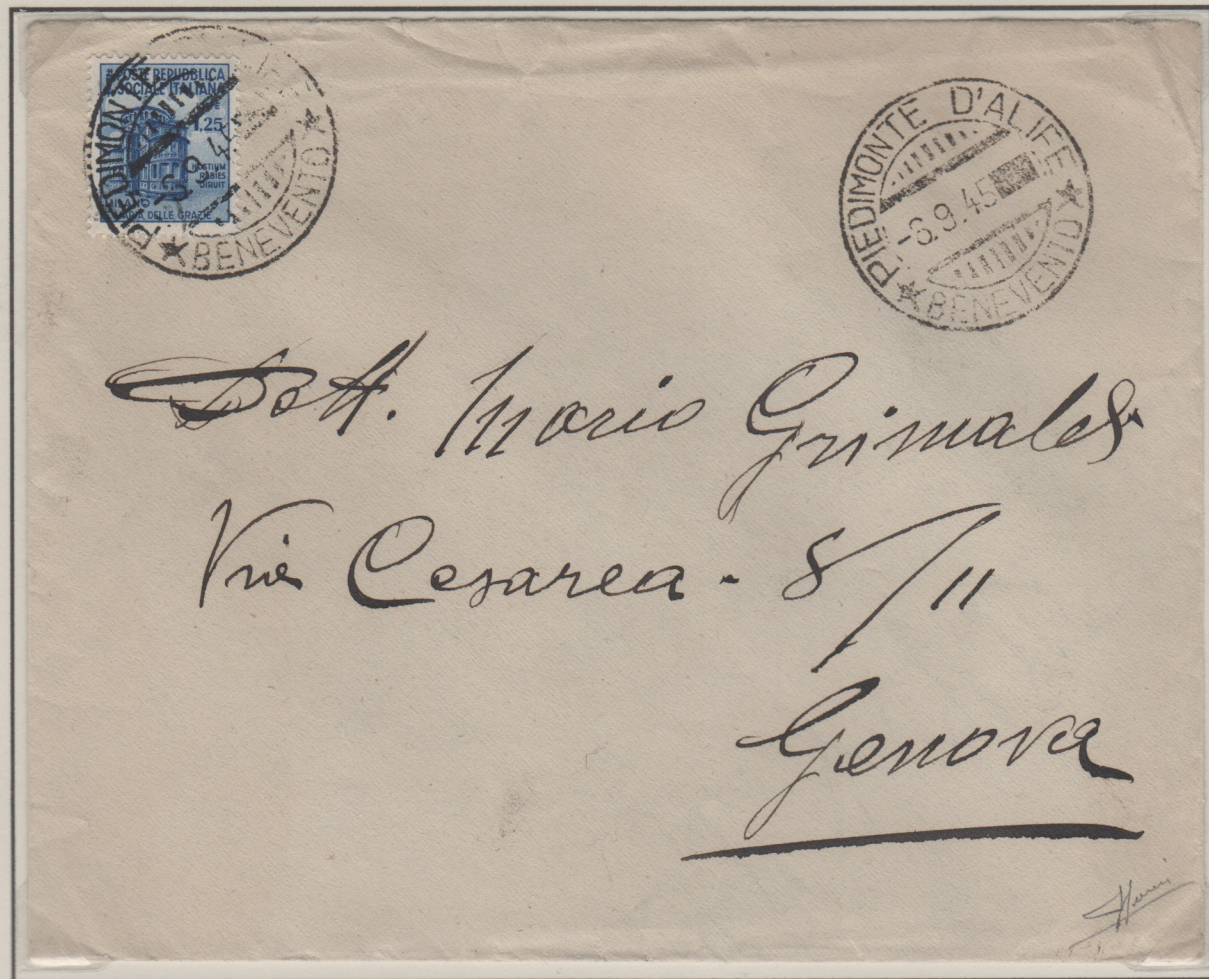
DATE: 16 August 1945 MILANO TRANSIT: 26 August 1945 VENICE ARRIVAL: 11 September 1945 AT TORVISCOSA: 14 September 1945

Late uses in Southern Italy



Postcard from Catania, Sicily to Reggio Emilia. Franked two 50 Centesimi second set, for 1 Lira postcard rate. These stamps were never valid in South, so postage due "T" sign was applied and the stamps were not cancelled. However, the destination province of Reggio Emilia is at North, where these stamps were still valid. No postage due applied and the postcard was properly delivered

DATE: 7 October 1945



Cover from Piedmonte D'Alife, Benevento (Southern Italy) to Genova. Franked 1.25 Lire second set, 75 centesimi below the 2 Lire letter rate. Not taxed at origin. Still valid at North, where the rates were also lower. Not taxed at arrival as well.

DATE: 8 September 1945

Late Usages in Republic Period



Postcard from Verona to Brescia. Mazzini postal stationery and two 20c stamps from first set, in addition to 15 centesimi Kingdom stamps with fascist symbols, all out of validity, are used for mail and tolerated. Fee 3 Lire: 2 Lire Democratica stamp and total 1 Lira with others out of validity. DATE: 28 August 1946



Postcard from Varese to Masnago, franked 8 Lire. 5 Lire total with valid Democratica stamps, and 3 Lire with second set stamp. Very late usage. Tolerated, not taxed. DATE: 26 November 1947 ARRIVAL: 27 November 1947