

## 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.

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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

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# 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)

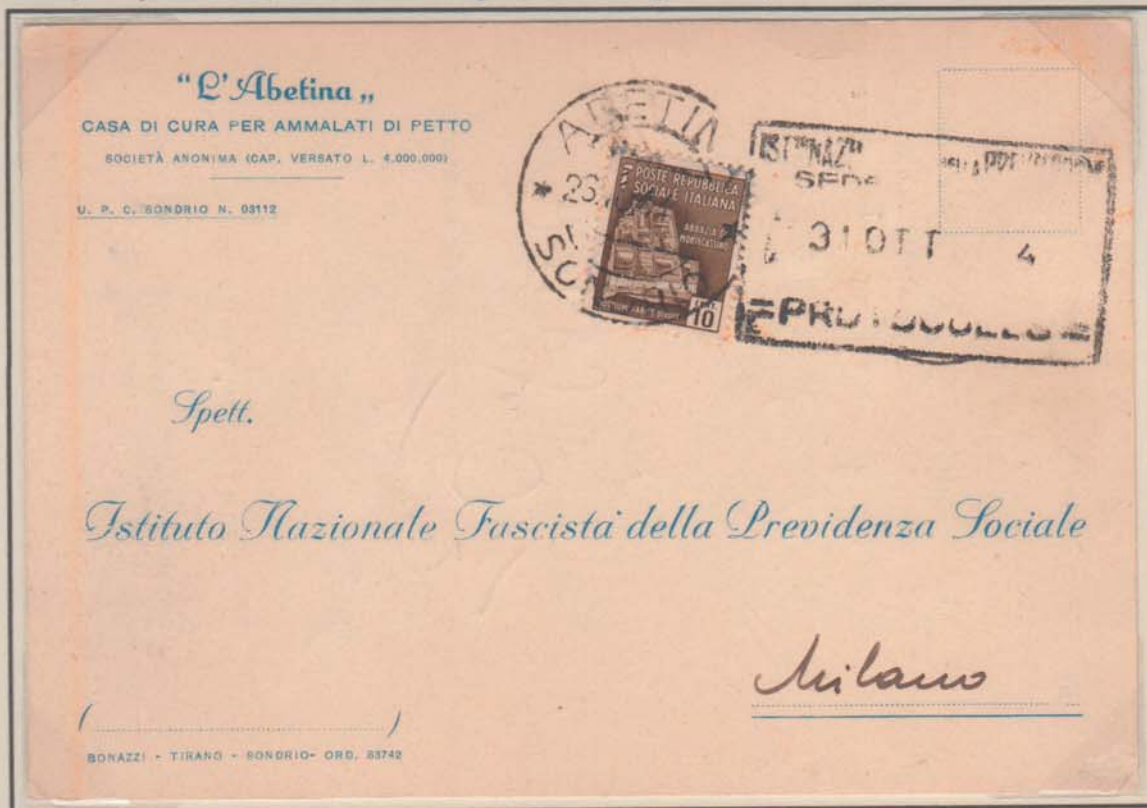
Cornareolo



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 Dianio 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. 88/44 G. P.  
IL CANCELLIERE

**CURA DI BRESSANONE**  
**SERVIZIO NOTIFICAZIONE ATTI TAVOLARI**

**MANOSCRITTI RACCOMANDATI**

3.50

sig.

*Conte Mod. De Vecchio*  
*Merano*  
*Bolzano*

*189*

*Via Capuani*  
*Sumone Erivo*

**R**  
BRESSANONE  
5793

TA CON TASSA  
DESTINATARIO



Tip. Patadino - 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.

*Nov Ric Germ.*

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

**ESERCIZIO DI MILANO**

Vedere a tergo le norme per il pagamento.

**2 TRIMESTRE 1945-XXIII**

**341 Petri Giuseppe Fu  
II Agostino  
Via S. Carlo 3  
ABBIATEGRASSO**

**124**  
MILANO

ABBONAMENTO	Imposte registro, entrate e tasse 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 5%, sull'entrata 2%, l'addizionale 1% e la tassa di concessione governativa 20% sono corrisposte in modo virtuale presso gli uffici finanziari di Torino.

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

*BANCA POPOLARE*  
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

**ESERCIZIO DI COMO**

Vedere a tergo le norme per il pagamento.

**4 TRIMESTRE 1944 XXII**

**91-Sig.  
Filippini ing. Luigi**

**18108**  
MENAGGIO

Tra diverse case equi-  
proportionali tasse concessione  
30% III° trimestre.

ABBONAMENTO	Imposte registro, entrate e tasse 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 5%, sull'entrata 2%, l'addizionale 1% e la tassa di concessione governativa 20% sono corrisposte in modo virtuale presso gli uffici finanziari di Torino.

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

Per quietanza STIPEL  
l'esattore  
**ML**

## 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 and 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



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

C

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



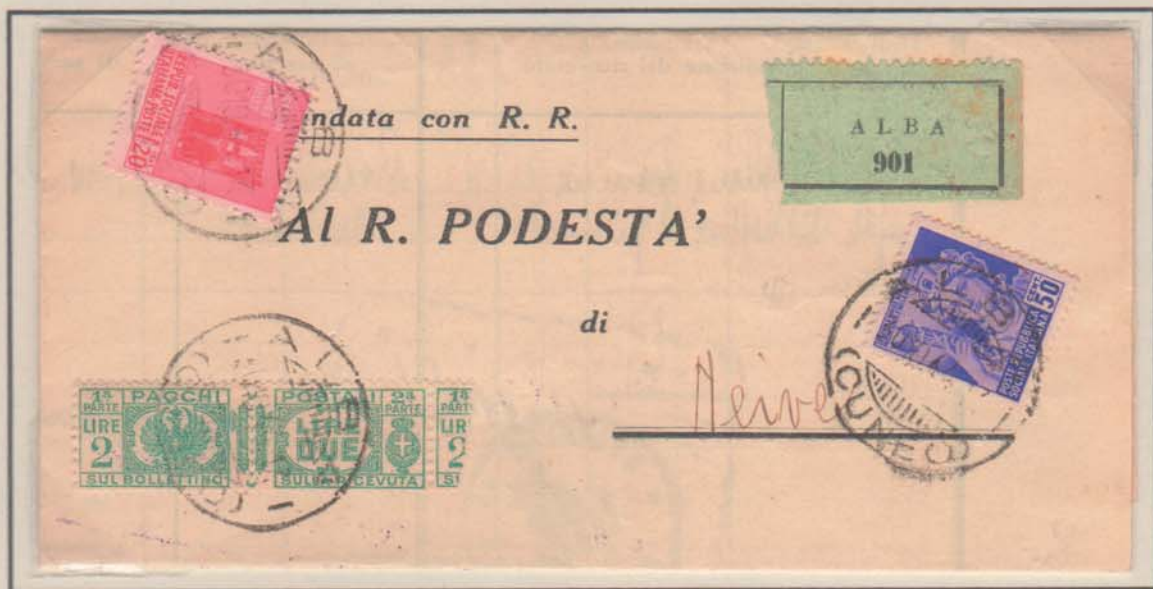
Express letter from Milan to Venice. Franked pair express stamps, and the letter fee was paid by 1 Lira Rossini stamp that was out of validity as of 31 December 1943. Tolerated, not taxed. Censor tape and markings are seen.

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