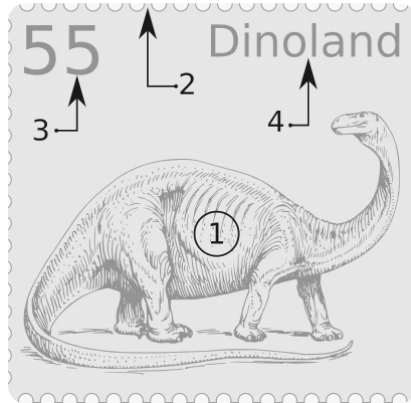


Stamp

Value-card needed for the postage of correspondence services

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

↶ W ↷



The **stamp** (the etymology of the word *stamp* comes from *frank*^[1], that is, free of expenses or taxes, and *stamp*^[2], to indicate its authenticity and authority) is a document^[3], printed on one side and rummed on the back, which is used for the postage of postal correspondence services. Used in the postal service authorized by the issuing State, it represents proof of advance payment for services such as the sending of a letter or a parcel to a recipient. When a stamp is no longer suitable for its task, for example due to a change in postal rates, the issuing administration can determine the cessation of its use by placing it "out of course". Given the nature of the values issued by a State, the counterfeiting of stamps is a crime.

COVER IMAGE

Stylized stamp with its main parts:

1. the cartoon
2. the teeth
3. the face value
4. the countrv



A triangular-shaped stamp of the [Cape of Good Hope](#).

Designed by the [Englishman Rowland Hill](#), it is traditionally made of paper, quadrangular in shape, to be glued to the object of a postal shipment. In rare cases, stamps of other shapes, round ([New Zealand](#)), triangular, pentagonal or non-geometric shaped, such as in the case of fruit-shaped stamps from [Sierra Leone](#) and [Tonga](#), have been produced. Rarely have non-paper stamps been produced, such as stamps from [Switzerland](#) made partially of [lace](#)^[4] or from the [GDR](#) composed of [synthetic fibers](#). Stamps were also issued on metal sheets^[5]. The Italian Republic on July 2, 2007 to commemorate the artistic heritage represented by the [Basilica of San Vincenzo in Galliano di Cantù](#) issued a stamp in [birch](#) veneered wood.

   5 Sources

^ History

Summary ↕

Perspective ↻

The precursors of the stamp

Over the centuries the stamp has been preceded by numerous precursors. Already in the [1608](#)

the [The Republic of Venice](#) had adopted a taxation system called "Tagli delli Soldi Quattro per

Lettera"[6] which consisted of the issuance of a real sheet of paper with the Lion of St. Mark stamped on it between the letters "A" and "Q". This sheet had to be used to accompany a letter or as a support to write it (in which case it was then folded on itself) and the fee collected had to be paid directly to the "daziere".

In the 1653, the manager of the city post office of Paris, Jean-Jacques Renouard de Villayer, had created the *billet de port paid*, a strip of paper similar to a stamp that, in the absence of an adhesive surface, had to be fixed to the letter by means of a clasp or a thread[7]. All copies of these *billets* have been lost.

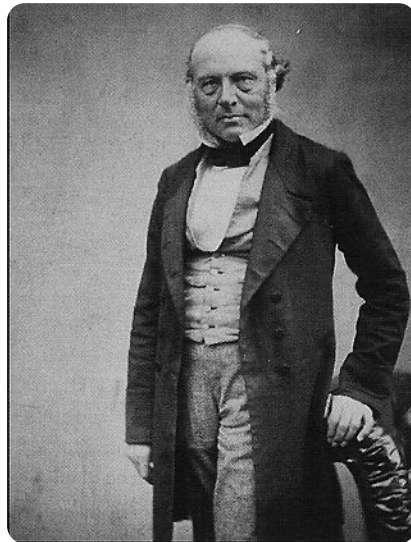
Other *ante litteram* stamps are documented in Great Britain: the unit pricing system for local mail devised by merchants William Dockwra and Robert Murray, adopted by the London *Penny Post* starting from 1680, was so successful that the Duke of York saw his postal monopoly threatened[8]. Thus, following the Duke's protests, *Penny Post* was forced to cease the initiative after just two years, being incorporated into the *General Post Office*. Some specimens of the triangular stamps of that period are kept in the archives, while four copies are in the possession of collectors.

In the 1750 in China a system of advance payment of the correspondence tax consisting of envelopes of different colors and three types of inscriptions was

devised: for abroad, for domestic and free[9]. These envelopes were then used to hold the letters.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the precursors of postcards and pre-paid envelopes appeared in some cities. In the Kingdom of Sardinia, for example, made its appearance in the 1818 the "postal card stamped", a sheet of correspondence paper with the prepaid port tax, renamed "cavallino" as it depicts a messenger on horseback; in the 1821, the pre-paid reply postcards attached to the newspapers were adopted in Great Britain. However, the first pre-paid postal values are the *letter sheets* issued to Sydney in the 1838^[10]

The genesis of the stamp



Sir Rowland Hill, the inventor of the stamp.

The birth of the real stamp is linked to the reform of the Post of Great Britain wanted by Rowland Hill in the 1837^[11]. Sir Rowland Hill's intuition was that of the prepaid postal service, in which the collection of the postal fee did not take place at the time of receipt, but at the time of shipment at the expense of the sender. Hill also understood that the introduction of low and uniform rates, based on

weight rather than distance, would have promoted increased postal traffic by amply rewarding the lower revenues from the reduction itself. In 1837 he had the booklet *"Post Office Reform: its Importance and Practicability"* published at his expense,[12] with which he made his reforming thought known to the English Parliament.

However, the project clashed with the preconceived hostility of the *Post Office*, which did not accept the intrusion of an outsider such as Rowland Hill. However, thanks also to pressure from the merchant and credit class, the British parliament approved the reform and made it necessary to make stamps. Sir Rowland Hill suggested that the latter should be pieces of paper of sufficient size to accommodate a print and provided on the back with a glutinous solution suitable for gluing them, as proof of the payment of the postal fee[13].



The *Penny black* issued on May 6, 1840 was the first stamp in history.

In September 1839, a public competition was announced, inviting the population to propose

ideas on the form that the newborn stamp should have taken. 2700 proposals came to the committee

that disputed a prize of 600 pounds[14]. All the sketches were exhibited in a room of Buckingham Palace and submitted to the attention of the heads of the English post office. However, none had the favor of the reformer: Hill therefore decided that he would personally take care of the ideation of the stamp together with his staff. As a subject was chosen the profile of the Queen Victoria, taken from a medal minted a few years earlier, while to avoid counterfeiting the head was printed on a chiseled background consisting of very dense rhombuses. On January 10th 1840 the uniform tariff was introduced[15], and on May 6, 1840 the first stamp in the world came into force, which then went down in history as Penny Black[16]. At that time the stamp was printed in rows of 12 copies, each of which was worth a shilling. Consequently, each line corresponded to the value of 12 pence and, with 20 lines per sheet, the value of the same was equivalent to a Pound (240 pence) [17]. Eight years later, in the 1848, engineer Henry Archer invented mechanical stamp drilling, thus completing the genesis of the notched stamp as it is known today.

A planetary success



The series of the first Brazilian stamps, called Occhio di bue for the oval appearance and the moiré bottom.

The great practicality of the vehicle, combined with Hill's postal reform,

quickly guaranteed the stamp a worldwide success. Within a few years, other postal administrations

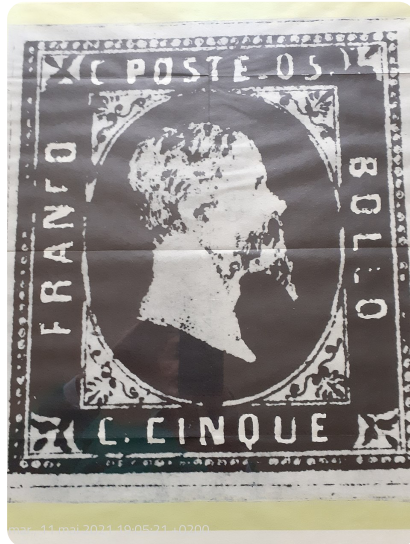
followed the English example and so, in March 1843, the Switzerland of the The canton of Zurich was the second state in the world to issue stamps. After Switzerland it was surprisingly the Brazil to adapt to the novelty, with the release of the series called "eyes of the bull" on August 1^o of the same year. Followed by the Swiss cantons of Geneva (October 1843) and Basel (July 1845). This last issue gave Switzerland the primacy in the field of colorful and thematic stamps with the famous "Basel Colomba". In the 1847 was then the turn of the United States of America, which began issuing stamps with a value of 5 cents and the effigy of Benjamin Franklin From 1849 onwards, all European states adopted the stamp one after the other. In the thirty years from 1870 to 1899 there were 204 first emissions with over 800 stamps[18]. In 1900, 357 territories had adopted the postal reform, issuing about 1500 copies that began the philatelic stories of the various countries. Currently there is no country in the world that has not issued a stamp at least once[18].

The first Italian stamps





The 5 cent piece, from the first series of stamps printed in Italy in Lombard Kingdom Veneto.



5 cent piece of the Kingdom of Sardinia.

The stamp made its first appearance in Italy on the 1st of June 1850, when the Kingdom Lombard-Veneto issued its first series, called "Aquila Bicipete", which included five different values. Within a few months almost all the other pre-unification Italian states were equipped with stamps: on January 1^o 1851 the Kingdom of Sardinia printed its first series with the black 5 cents, the 20 cents (with eight shades of blue) and the red 40 cents bearing the effigy of Vittorio Emanuele II, while the following 1^o April was the turn of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany with a series of six values in Crazy that depicted the Marzocco, coat of arms of the Grand Duchy. The other pre-unification states followed closely: on January

1°1852 thePapal State and in June of the same year theDuchy of Modena and theDuchy of Parma.

The last of the ancient Italian states to use the stamp was theKingdom of the Two Sicilies, which adopted it on January 1°1858 for the continent and the following year extended it to Sicily, with a series of 7 values ingrain (in pinkish shades for the continent, polychromes for Sicily). Of these, the ½ pink grain (called "Trinacria") became a great rarity after the Garibaldian government, just settled inNaples, took over the printing plate to transform the value into ½Turn and using blue instead of pink. This stamp, which has remained in circulation for only one month, is among the rarest in Italian postal history[19].

Following theunit of Italy, the stamps of the Kingdom of Sardinia were extended to the new Savoy possessions, so the first Sardinian stamp (the black 5 cents of January 1851) is also considered the first truly "Italian" stamp. In 1861, under the government of theCavour, the countGiovanni Barbavara di Gravellona, former general director of the Sardinian Post Office, was appointed general manager of the Italian post office, which thus began its activity. However, the first post-unitary issue only took place on February 241862, when the 10 cents bistro with the effigy of Vittorio Emanuele II was put into circulation, similar to the Sardinian one of 1855 but equipped withSerting. Only in April 1863 was the first stamp issued

prepared for the Italian post office and on which the word "Italian stamp" appeared for the first time:

..

the value from 15 c. designed by the printer and engraver of the Kingdom of Sardinia Francesco Matraire. Finally, on December 1st°1863 saw the light of the first series expressly designed to cover the postal rates of the Kingdom of Italy, which was curiously printed in England by the printing house From The Street.

The birth of philately

With the rapid spread of the use of stamps, the phenomenon of their collecting was also born in a short time, the Philately. It was the French collector Georges Herpin who coined in the 1864 the term "philatelist", Neologism of etymology Greek which means "tax-free lover": a concept perhaps a bit arid to describe the passion of many philatelics, but which quickly imposed itself in many languages around the world.



A modern stamp strip classifier.

Initially, stamps were recovered from correspondence and also used for decorative purposes, until the first collectors' bols appeared (the first in the 1860), and the stamp became a good with a separate collector's value from the nominal one. It goes back to 1861 the first catalog of stamps by the Frenchman Alfred Potiquet, who had based on the work done a few months earlier by compatriot Oscar Berger Levrault. December 15th 1860 it was the first stamp catalog by the Frenchman Alfred Potiquet, who had based on the work done a few months earlier by compatriot Oscar Berger Levrault.

1862, the first copy of the *Monthly Advertiser*[20] was released, the first magazine specialized in the philatelic field to have a lasting future, but preceded by the ephemeral *British Monthly Intelligence*. Since at the beginning of postal history stamp issues were rare and limited to a few nations, the first philatelics dedicated themselves to general collections of stamps from all over the world - something unthinkable today given the huge amount of stamps that are issued annually.

The first practical aids for philatelists were joined by the first meetings of collectors: already in the 1856 took place in the United States the first meetings of philatelists, while at the 1866, also in the USA, the *Excelsior Stamp Association* was founded, the first philatelic association in the world. On March 18, 1872 by J. W Scott compiled the first philatelic auction catalog.

The mistakes in history



The initial issue of the 1 orange penny, with the incorrect writing *Post Office* on the left vertically instead of *Post Paid*.

In 1847 the authorities of Mauritius, then a British possession, wanting to equip themselves with their first

stamps, won the primacy of the first sensational printing error, issuing a series completely similar to *Penny Black* but on an orange/red (1 penny) or indigo (2 pence) background and with the erroneous wording of "*Post Office*" instead of "*Post Paid*", that is, "Post Office" instead of "Porto Pagato" [22]. These are now among the rarest stamps in the world, as they were immediately withdrawn: 14 remain respectively (of which 2 new) for the *One Penny* and 12 copies (6 of which are new) for the *Two Pence*.

The 1° July of the 1855 the Sweden, in issuing its first stamp of 3Skilling, committed the first non-conformity between the decree of issue (which had provided for it green) and the actual press (which was in yellow), thus giving history one of the rarest stamps in the world, the Yellow Treskilling [23], of which only one specimen is currently known.

The most famous mistake in Italy concerns the 205 lire Lilac pink (said for this Pink Gronchi), issued for the occasion of the visit in Peru of the President of the Republic Giovanni Gronchi, who reports the borders of Peru incorrectly and who for this reason was withdrawn from the market a few days after the sale, being replaced by the municipality "Gronchi grigio". The *pink Gronchi* is certainly the best known stamp of all the issues of the Italian Republic, but not the most quoted; often various counterfeit specimens have been produced sold to collectors [24].

The first fakes

An inevitable consequence of the

spread of the stamped values were also the first cases of counterfeiting that occurred shortly after the introduction of the first stamp. In addition to falsification, various counterfeits of real stamps were devised, for example, chromatic changes or manipulations of the figures were made in imitation of stamps with higher values. Another form of falsification was the reuse of used stamps made as new following the chemical washing of the annullo.

Initially, the purpose of counterfeiting was to defraud the mail: counterfeits had a lower cost than real stamps. Counterfeit or counterfeit stamps that evade the controls of the postal authorities by managing to carry out an entire cycle of reuse are called "Fake by mail".^[25] With the development of philately, counterfeiting began in order to defraud collectors.

To overcome these problems, the postal authorities soon introduced anti-counterfeiting systems. If since the first English issue - on the recommendation of Rowland Hill - the stamps were equipped with Watermark, later further techniques were added such as the use of colored paper, white paper with threads of Colored silk (e.g. in Bavaria, Württemberg and Switzerland^[26]) and lacquered strips (to prevent the removal of the postmark).

    21 Sources

^ Description

Summary ↕

Perspective 🔄

The Form

Most stamps have a rectangular or square shape. The "penny black" was rectangular in shape arranged with the base represented by one of the narrowest sides and this shape was replicated by other countries at their first emissions[27]. In 1843, Brazil, with the issuance of its "Occhio di bue", was the first country to use the rectangular shape with the base formed by the longest side.

The first circular stamp was issued in Italy by Grand Duchy of Tuscany on October 1°, 1854[28]. It was composed of an extraordinary double-circle stamp printed on very thin yellowish paper[29] containing colored anti-counterfeiting threads.

Even the first truly square stamp was issued in Italy in Duchy of Modena on February 18, 1859.^[30] It was a value for newspapers and reported in the vignette the Este eagle crowned inside a circle and surrounded by the inscription "tassa gazzette cent. 10".

The first triangular stamp was issued in 1853 by the Head of Good Hope[31]. There are also stamps in the shape of fruit, heart, turbot, heraldic coat of arms. Another singular form is that of a stamp of

the Sierra Leone in the shape of a golden eagle printed in relief on a black background, with a self-adhesive glue and protected by a removable paper piece[32]. There is no set rule as it is the various philatelic marketing policies of the issuing countries that decide, from time to time, the geometric shape.

The cartoon



2 Lire stamp of 1945 issued by the Italy.

The vignette is the illustrated part of the stamp. It normally contains the indications of the issuing State and the nominal value of postage. Only the Great Britain does not explicitly indicate the issuing state, replaced by the profile of the reigning sovereign. This is an exclusive prerogative of the United Kingdom to which it has not renounced since 1840, as the "ideal" nation of the stamp.

Usually the vignette respects the shape of the stamp except in some cases where this is not customary. The vignette can be institutional when it is formed by the symbols of the institutions of the issuing State as, for example, it happened during the Kingdom of Italy when the effigy of the sovereign was imprinted; it can be commemorative if it intends to remember the recurrence of an event or a historical character or it can be propagandistic as in the case of

stamps bearing political or solidarity messages.

The nominal value (also called: "face value") attributes to the stamp a value in the currency in progress at the issuing state; for this reason, stamps have a limited use as "exchange currency". In some specific emissions, in addition to the nominal value, a surcharge is indicated for charity. In Italy in 1910 the issue of the series called "Garibaldi" made the beginning of the commemorative issues (i.e. whose cartoon commemorates an event or a historical character) coincide with the use of the surcharge that was in favor of the National Committee of Celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the unification of the country. In 2006 the Italian Republic issued a value of Euro 0.60 with a surcharge of Euro 0.30 in favor of the Association Pro Lotta ai Tumori Seno[33]. On November 17, 2005 the Republic of San Marino, issued a stamp that does not indicate the nominal value, replaced by a short text that clarifies the use. In the 1953 the North Vietnam issued a series of stamps that did not express the nominal value in current currency but in kilograms of Rice. The vignette indicates a farmer intent on growing cereal with four different sizes from 6Etti to 5Kilo^[34].

The card

In the history of stamp printing all kinds of Paper and often for the issuance of the same stamp different types of paper were used.

In some stamps, silk threads are kneaded in the paper[35] or other fabric that allows their

identification from counterfeiters instead of the watermark. In recent decades, fluorescent paper has been used that allows automatic recognition and consequent cancellation by the obliterators prepared for this use. However, paper is not essential in the manufacture of a stamp as there are values on parchment, metal sheets, cloth, wood, etc. For example, the cloth and lace stamp issued by the Italian Republic in 2004 to celebrate the Art of Lace^[36].

The printing system

There are various printing techniques for the creation of an "ordinary" stamp, understood as printed on paper and rubberized on the back:

- Typography
- Singing
- Offset
- Lithography
- Gravure printing

In addition to the printing, the Gravure printing which is an evolution of the previous one with machines Rotary perfected already in the 1846^[37] and patented in 1847^[38], as in the printing of newspapers and magazines. A recent introduction is the Flexography, while the Lithography was flanked in modern times by the Photolithography. All these techniques have had their implementation through the

various private or national printing houses. Among the private ones, a prominent place is the Englishman

Thomas de la Rue, already mentioned in the previous sections, and the Swiss Müller and Courvoisier, while among the state ones there have long been the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, present with a different name already from the Kingdom of Italy, and the Austrian Austrian State Printing.

The two state printers mentioned also carry out their activity for other issuing countries, as proof of the high technical rate achieved over time, and sometimes even the cartoons are drawn by artists inside the printing houses; the Poligrafico also serves the Vatican City and in the past has served countries that gravitated around Italy, such as the Somalia after the end of trusteeship.

The filigree



An elephant head-shaped watermark used on ancient stamps of the British India.

The Watermark is a difference in the thickness of the stamp paper, which determines a light-readable design. Not all stamps have a watermark. There are often stamps of the same issue but with different watermarks. In recent years, the watermark has almost fallen into disuse. Originally it was one of the elements, which served to guarantee the security against counterfeiting in stamps. The

greatest number of varieties of filigrees is found in the stamps of Great Britain[39] and its colonies,

which until the beginning of the twentieth century used filigrees different from those established by the London government.

Hungary is the country that has most often changed filigree from the simple letters "Kr" of the first issues to the St. Stephen's wreath and then to the wavy crosses surmounted by the crown. The mail horn is always present in the stamps of Finland, Norway, the Netherlands and Poland. In Iceland, Denmark and Romania the royal crown is used while in Muslim countries the half moon is often present.

In Italy it was introduced in 1863 by the Regie Poste, by the engineer Perazzi, who had designed the "crown" filigree to be used at the same time as the printing of a security fund. One of the varieties that most fascinate collectors is that of the "letter file watermark". It can already be found in some stamps of the Kingdom period, normally with the "crown" watermark, and in the period of lieutenant, both with "crown" and "winged wheel" watermark. In 1945 the Italian Republic introduced the watermark "winged wheel" and in 1955 the watermark "carpet of stars"^[40], which reached type IV, which was called *Unity* because it was used for the first time for the celebratory series of the *Centenary of the Unification of Italy*. The supply of the card was entrusted to the Milani Cartiera of Fabriano, who was so committed to manufacturing the coils using the "round" system.

With this system, the cellulose pulp, suitable for the manufacture of paper, is passed over a drum

consisting of a copper lattice, which, after drying, leaves the desired difference in height and forms precisely the filigree^[40]. The Republic of San Marino used the same filigrees as Italy until 1961, when it decided to adopt its own symbol: the *three-pen* filigree. The tool used to examine the watermark is called Filigree scope.

The rubber



The tab when removed leaves an obvious trace.

The eraser is placed on the back of the vignette, and is moistened to attach the stamp to the object to be forwarded by mail. Not all stamps have rubber. Of course, the stamped stamps that were detached from the envelope after a special bath in water and then those that were issued from the beginning without it no longer have it. In Philately, we distinguish the new stamps with intact rubber from those with a tongue trace. The tongue is a small strip of parchment rubberized paper that is applied by the collector to the back of the stamp to make it adhere to a page of the album. This is an outdated practice today as the presence of a trace of a tongue on the stamp induces a deprevalization of more than half the value.

For this reason, sometimes, to make the trace of the tongue

make the trace of the tongue disappear from the back of the stamp, some unscrupulous people, perform the rimming of the stamp to sell it at a higher price. This technique consists of affixing a new layer of rubber on the back of the stamp. The easiest way to notice the ridge is to gently pass a finger along the teeth: these are generally harder and stiffer than the teeth of a non-rubbered stamp[41]. Another safer technique is to observe in the dark with a Wood's lamp the verso of the stamp. In doubtful cases it is better to have the specimen experted by a legally recognized philatelic expert.

There are various types of rubber: glossy, smooth, matte and codroned. Glossy tires are the ones that over time are more prone to crecking. Rubber is often of animal origin and therefore subject to the formation of microorganisms such as mold, capable of ruining the stamp. Many postal administrations have long carried out studies aimed at replacing rubbers of natural origin with modern synthetic adhesives suitable for solving the problem of conservation. One of the first measures taken was to mix a percentage of glycerin with gum arabic[42].

In 1962, France became the promoter of a curious experiment by issuing a stamp dedicated to the beach of Le Touquet-Paris that had a mint-flavored rubber.

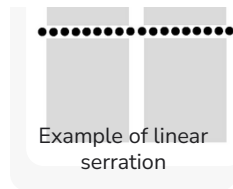
The serration

The notching is performed on the sides of the stamp by a machine called Puncher. This perforation of the paper allows an easy

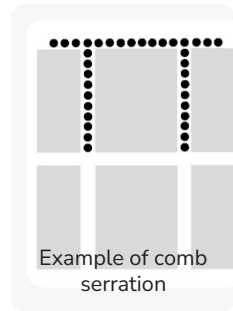
separation of the specimens printed on the same sheet. The "step" of the serration is measured with a special instrument called Odontometer. There are different types of perforations depending on the drill that was used.

- Linear notched: it is when the puncher is able to notch one side of the stamp at a time. Characteristic of this type of drilling is the overlapping of the holes in the four corners of the stamps.
- Comb notting: it is with perforators capable of serrated three sides of the stamp at the same time. In this case, a characteristic jump is created between the last hole of the first drilling butt and the first of the next one.
- Block notching: this is when the punch notches all sides of the stamp at the same time and with extreme perforation regularity.

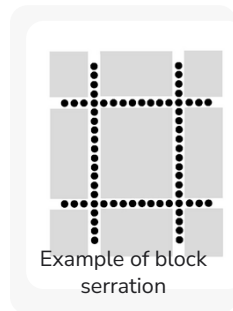




Example of linear serration



Example of comb serration



Example of block serration



Different types of drilling due to the use of different

Types of stamp based on use

Summary Perspective

odometer scales represent a mathematical ratio of $20/n$ where "20" are the millimeters taken into account on the stamp and "n" indicates the exact distance between the centers of two perforations.

16 Sources





The first Italian commemorative, issued for the 50^o anniversary of the annexation of Sicily with the effigy of Garibaldi

Postal values are divided into two major categories: ordinary stamps and commemorative stamps. Both types can be used to postage for ordinary mail, namely letters and postcards that circulate daily in large quantities. Each issue has its own course of validity, similarly to what happens for paper money, at the end of which the administrations no longer recognize the stamp as valid for postage; nevertheless, new or used pieces that are in circulation are freely subject to bargaining and exchange on the collector's market. Sometimes a change in the political order within a country puts all the emissions of the previous legal system out of order. In transition periods, nominally off-rate stamps are used, alone or together with stamps issued by the new government, giving rise to the so-called "mixed postage". This type of franking is highly appreciated on the collector's market and despite their formal irregularity they reach high quotations.

- Ordinary stamps are printed with large print runs (often unknown) and are issued in long series. Generally, at the time of their issuance, they do not have a pre-established period of time for their validity and are printed

several times.[43]. They can go off course due to stocks exhaustion or for special historical events, such as the death of a sovereign. Here are some examples of ordinary stamps:

- Castle series (Italy)
 - The Marianna (France)
 - Famous women (Germany)
 - Like "Machin" with the effigy of Elizabeth II (Great Britain)
 - King Juan Carlos (Spain)
 - Coat of arms with rampant lion (Finland)
 - Imperial Series (Kingdom of Italy)
- Commemorative stamps are instead issued to commemorate or propagate a particular event. They are usually printed in a more limited edition and with captivating images. The first world commemorative stamp was issued by the Peru in 1871 to commemorate the railway Lima-Shut up. In 1888 in Australia, in the New South Wales, a series of eight values was issued with the words "one hundred years" to commemorate the 100 years of the city of Sydney.

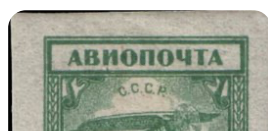
The first Italian commemorative stamps were issued in 1910 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Risorgimento in Sicily and the Plebiscite[44] in southern Italy. The complete series is of four values.

Commemorative stamps are also a considerable source of income for issuing postal authorities; a country's issuance policy contributes to determining the

value of stamps issued. For example, small countries such as Vatican City, Liechtenstein and San Marino enjoys the favor of collectors for the well-adged policy adopted over time regarding print runs of individual emissions and number of emissions per year, as well as great care for cartoons, paper and printing process. The emissions of other countries, although pleasant from the chromatic and subject point of view, have practically no value on the collector's market.

The commemorative stamps are also the subject of political demonstrations, for which emissions were also made on controversial subjects, such as the Argentine commemorative on the Falkland War with the writing "Las Malvinas son Argentinas". The controversy over the issuance provided for by the United States to commemorate Mother Teresa of Calcutta: a group of atheists, gathered in a foundation, filed an appeal against the issuance of the US post office. According to the regulations adopted by the American Post, commemorations cannot be addressed to religious subjects linked to a specific faith. The spokesman for the post office then specified that the commemoration is aimed at the works carried out by the nun and not on the basis of her religion.^[45]

Airmail stamps





Airmail stamp of the [Soviet Union](#).



The first official stamp of [Airmail](#) with which the correspondence was franked on the occasion of the flight of the [Pomilio P.C.](#)



A 1946 Airmail stamp issued from Italy.

Genesis and uses

They are used to frank the correspondence sent by plane. The history of the [Airmail](#) begins in 1870/71 with the famous "[Ballons Montés](#)" or with the letters that came out of the walls of [Paris](#) by [Hot air balloons](#), during the [siege Prussian](#)^[46].

The first successful mail transport was by the French pilot Henry Pequet on February 18, 1911.^[47] The flight connected the two Indian cities of Allahabad and Naini for a distance of 10 km and 13 minutes and 10 flight. With the plane were transported 6000 aerograms between letters and postcards^[48]. All the letters bore the stamp with

the words "First Aerial Post U.P. Exhibition Allahabad 1911".

The first successful mail transport

The first successful mail transport in Europe was carried out on September 14, 1911 from London to Windsor and was part of the celebrations for the coronation of George V. On the days when the service was in operation and until September 26, by several pilots, 125,000 aerograms were transported. The postcards had been specially prepared with the image of a plane taking off from Windsor and the stamps bore the words "FIRST UNITED KINGDOM AERIAL POST".

The first real Airmail stamp was issued by Italy in 1917^[49] to frank the correspondence forwarded through a new service that proposed to be able to deliver it in faster times provided for by the normal procedure. The stamp used on that occasion, designated *Airmail Experiment / Turin-Rome-Rome-Turin*, was obtained by overprinting the value of 25 cents already expressed in distribution^[50]. The flight was originally supposed to take place on May 20, but due to adverse weather conditions it was postponed to May 22. The Airplane used was a Biplane Pomilio PC^[51], a two-seater armed reconnaissance plane intended to equip the Aeronautical Service of the Royal Army in the last stages of the First World War. Equipped with an engine Fiat with 260 horsepower managed to reach a speed of 184 Km per hour. Piloted by the lieutenant Mario de Bernardi had about 200 kg of correspondence mainly composed of direct messages to the Prime Minister, the

Mayor of Rome and the Pope Benedict XV. Upon landing, the postal cargo was then delivered to

the sorting officers of Rome Center. The return flight was completed on the following May 26, 1917 with a load of a few hundred franked newspapers.

Generally, since long-distance mail is normally delivered by air, these types of stamps are no longer issued. The distinction made sense when there was an alternative mode of shipping by sea or by land, much longer but cheaper. However, the exception is those countries that have territories detached from the nation, such as France, which continues to issue airmail stamps because of its "d'Outre-Mer" possessions. The Italian Republic issued the last stamp expressly designed for airmail in 1973. The value was 150 lire and was part of the commemorative series of the "fifty-year anniversary of the air force" issued on March 28.

Stamps for *express* delivery



The first express issued by the Italian Republic in 1946.

They are stamps with a nominal value equal to the surcharge to be added to the ordinary rate so that a letter is forwarded more quickly. The first stamp that indicated a faster delivery was issued in 1855 in Australia, by the State of Victoria. It was a specimen worth 6 pence with the effigy of the Queen and the words "Too Late"[52]. Subsequently, in 1885 it was the

U.S.A. to issue their first stamp for express delivery with the 10 cents blue depicting a running postman.

Italy issued special stamps for this service from 1903 to 1976[53] and the last stamps for espresso were declared off-of-corre on May 13, 1992. The express service of the Italian Post Office was established by law March 12, 1890, but the first special stamp was issued only on June 1°, 1903 with a value of 25 cents and bearing the words "ESPRESSO" and the effigy of King Vittorio Emanuele III[53]. In 1946 the Italian Republic issued stamps by express at the same time as the issuance of ordinary mail called "Democratic". The series included 7 values, from 5 Lire to 60 Lire. The 5 Lire cartoon depicted a foot with a winged shoe designed by Paolo Paschetto[53].

With the spread of postage machines and the speeding up and mechanization of postal services, the various administrations have stopped producing stamps dedicated specifically to this type of service, which are then replaced by self-adhesive labels with the amount related to the type of service and weight of the letter.

Stamps for registered mail

They serve to frank the correspondence burdened by the service of Registered letter that obliges the postal administration to compensate the sender with a fixed fee in case of loss of the shipment[54]. The first state to

issue stamps by registered mail was the Kingdom of Spain on January 1° 1850, when he had a

series of five values printed, three of which were with the appropriate wording "certificado". Below, in 1856, the New South Wales issued a blue and red value with the words "Registered" to mean "recommended".

It was then the turn of the Colombia that from 1879 issued the value with the wording "Certificada" contouring the effigy of Simón Bolívar and until 1925 continued to issue stamps for registered letters reaching the record of 39 different vignettes[54].

Pneumatic mail stamps



Pneumatic mail stamp issued by Italy in 1966.

They were issued as a surcharge for the service of Pneumatic mail, which was only able in some large cities. The system consisted of a network of pipes in which the compressed air pushed some capsules containing the correspondence. The pneumatic mail was designed by the Danish engineer Medhurst[55]; the first practical application was carried out in London in the 1853 for the

transmission of telegrams to the members of the *Stock Exchange*. The first country in the world to issue special value card for pneumatic mail was the Austria in 1875 with its "*Pneumatischer Brief*", followed by the France in 1880 with the issuance of special sheets called "*Carte pneumatique firme*" but in both cases it was about Postal integers.

Italy was the only country in the world to issue special stamps for airmail.^[56] In Italy the pneumatic post was established in 1907 with law 111 of March 24[57] and an allocation of one million lire for twelve kilometers of pneumatic tubes in Rome, nine in Milan and seventeen in Naples. In addition to post offices, banks and large companies were also allowed to be a connection. Initially the service was used only for the forwarding of telegrams and express and was opened to the public in 1912. In the 1913 the first pneumatic postage stamp was prepared with a nominal value of 10 c. and the effigy of King Vittorio Emanuele III engraved by Alberto Repettati. In the 1933 the pneumatic stamps were replaced with two values, one with an effigy of Dante Alighieri and one with the portrait of Galileo Galilei. The 1st° February 1946 the Italian Republic increases the rate but basically the stamps remain those designed for the Kingdom of Italy. We have to wait until March 25 1947 for a new republican issue with two cuts: from 3 and 5 Lire. The image was that of the Minerva on a sketch by Renato Garassi.

The airmail service permanently ceased in Italy in 1981 and May 13 1992 all pneumatic mail stamps

were put out of course. As for other countries, the services have gradually been deactivated, in favor of other faster transmission means, such as the Email, or in any case more practical.



Stamp for postal parcels issued by United States.

Stamps for postal parcels

They are used for the payment of the special fee established for the shipment of postal parcels. The first series of special stamps was issued in Italy in 1884^[58] to follow up on the decree that had already provided for them in 1862. Three years later, for the convenience of the public and the service, special postcards were issued that reproduced the same stamps with the same subject. In 1914, a new type of parcel stamps was issued that had the characteristic of being divided into two sections. The one on the left had to be on the bulletin and the one on the right on the receipt. After the proclamation of the Republic they continued to be issued, however, replacing the Savoy symbology with a postal horn on the left side and a star on the right side. In 1954 the value of 1,000 lire was issued depicting a "horse" of the Kingdom of Sardinia^[59] known as: Cavallino ruota; this is the rarest stamp of the Italian Republic. In 1972 the last two stamps were issued for postal parcels.

France issued its first stamps for parcels in 1892 with three rates: 10 red cents for the declared values, 25 c. brown and yellow for transport to the station and 25 green cents for shipping by express. Great Britain, for practical reasons, until the 1970s also used the same values as stamps, distinguishing them with the words "Postage & revenue". Even in parcels, with the spread of specific transport services and automatic franking machines, the use of self-adhesive labels printed when the package is placed in the transmission system (typically at the post office) is very widespread. The United States legislated on the parcel delivery service through the US Mail in 1912, and the service itself began in 1912[60] Some countries have never issued or have not issued specific stamps for postal parcels for a long time, using those for ordinary franking.

Stamps for the transport of parcels in concession

A slightly different type from stamps for Postal Parcels is that of parcel transport in concession by private freight forwarders, which was a typically Italian service. They look similar to postal parcels, with two separate sections. The legislation originated in 1923, integrated in 1939[61], but the first stamps date back to 1° July 1953, with the issuance of four stamps from L. 40, 50, 75 and 110. The last issue dates back to 1984 with a L. 3,000 stamp.

Stamps with advertising propaganda



Stamp with advertising propaganda issued by [France](#).

These stamps have an appendix with an advertisement authorized by the issuing administration. Between 1877 and 1891 it was the [New Zealand](#) to issue a first series with advertisements on the rear but the initiative was dug following the controversy aroused.

In France they appeared in 1923 and the advertisement was affixed on special serrated bands that could be detached from the rest of the stamp[62]. The initiative did not meet with the favor of public opinion that did not admit how a representative body of the nation could associate itself with the sale of advertising space and after a few issues the project was abandoned. Currently, however, there are reflections on the de facto use of commemoratives as hidden advertising[63].

In Italy, advertising stamps were authorized by the Ministry of the Post in 1924 after the issuance of Royal Decree no. 356 of 08/02/1923[64], which established that advertising appendices should have been separable from stamps by perforation. This point was not implemented. Advertisers would have to pay every 5 lire per 1000 copies and it was mandatory to commit to a minimum quantity of 100,000.

100,000 copies. The first stamps came out in November 1924[65]. The concession was repealed on July 7, 1925 and after that date the stamps remained in place until sold out. This type of stamp was reserved only for direct correspondence within the national territory.

In 1939 also Cuba equipped itself with advertising stamps with the intention of propagating Havana tobacco and in 1940 El Salvador did the same for coffee by affixing the inscription "El café de El Salvador es el mejor del mundo" on some values.

Propaganda stamps



Propaganda stamp issued by Romania in the 1974.

During the First World War the potential of stamps was discovered as a means of Propaganda. Initially - with real operations of Espionage - the falsification of foreign stamps and their diffusion in enemy territory was used for propaganda purposes[66], while with the advent of the Totalitarianisms the stamps were used mainly on the internal front to strengthen the consensus of the various

dictatorships. Thus were born the series of the Fascist Italy (famous those of the ten-year anniversary of the March on Rome and the commemorative one of the Empire), followed closely by the Nazi Germany (effigy of the Führer) and other dictatorships on European soil.

During the World War II the propaganda on stamps became war propaganda [67], and the "themed" emissions containing the praise of war or the condemnation of the enemy multiplied (series "Two peoples, one war" by the Kingdom of Italy and stamps of the RSI, of the series called "*Monumenti distrutti*", with the wording "*hostium rabies diruit*" [68]). With the Cold war, the propaganda stamps reappeared to exalt the most disparate regimes, in particular the States of the Warsaw Pact, and then extend to all cases of Cult of personality (Ceaușescu and Kim Il Sung). In more moderate terms, the stamp has nevertheless played a certain celebratory role since its origin, as for the entire 19th century the depiction of rulers or Allegories of nations constituted the absolutely dominant motif.

Other types



A rare 1934 specimen for the State Air Service.

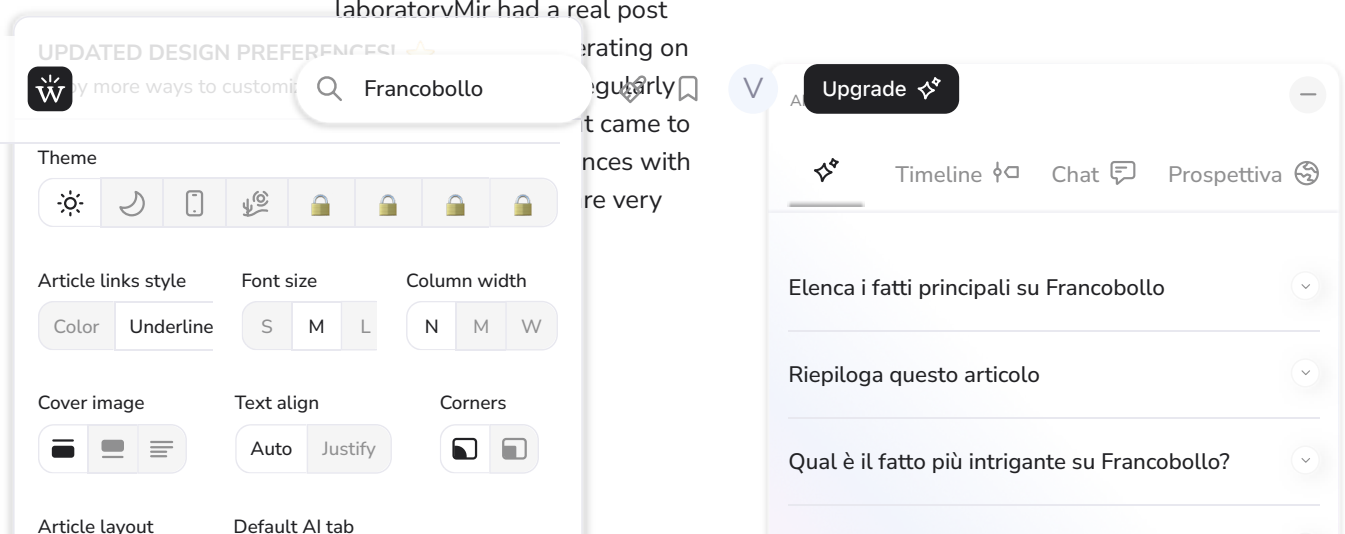
- Stamps for the State Service (ordinary and aircraft are used by

mayors or other state administrations)[59].

- Stamps for Parastatal Bodies
- Stamps for Stamps (used to tax correspondence without postage or with insufficient postage)[59].
- Stamps for the Commission Service
- Stamps for the Military Post
- Stamps for Newspapers
- Stamps for Telegraphs
- Stamps for Vaglia[59]

Special uses

- Fractional stamps: these are those values that have been used for half of their nominal value, simply by cutting them in half. The practice of splitting was allowed only to postal employees without values suitable for the intended postage, but sometimes this practice was also implemented by private individuals. The correspondences with this type of franking are very valuable[69].
- Stamps for flights in space: they are used to postage the mail sent to the Space. It should be remembered that in the space laboratory Mir had a real post



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Francobolli per raccomandata

Summary ✎ Perspective 🌐

In the philatelic field, a distinction is

made between reprint and new printing of a stamp, also called post-print. The reprint is obtained with the same matrix and process of Print through which the original stamp was produced.

When the stamp is no longer for sale in post offices, is out of business, and eventually the printing media of the first series have been destroyed, then a new print or afterprint is used^[70] (more rarely called post-press^[71]) with a matrix and/or a alternative production process.

For example, the 10 kopek stamp first produced in Finland in 1856, six years later it was reprinted with the same process (thetypography) same steel matrix.

Instead, in 1892 the director of the post and telegraphs of Russia ordered the new printing of the stamp, and since the original matrix was no longer available it was produced by Lithography. If it had not been subsequently authorised to be placed on the market, it would be considered a forgery. This authorization of post-prints usually takes place by means of an overprint.^[22]

 3 Sources

^ Stamps with overprint

Summary ↗

Perspective ↻





An overprinted from the Kingdom of Italy for military mail and the same stamp without overprint.

Even today many postal administrations (but this was especially the case in the past) reuse stamps already issued with an *overprint* (also called overprint). On the vignette of the stamp it is usually applied with a typographic printing process, a new value or other wording for the most different reasons, the main ones of which are:

- The need to issue new stamps quickly while waiting for the printing of new definitive values (for example due to sudden tariff changes).
- The need to use stocks with a new value or a different monetary unit.
- To reuse the stamps of other postal administrations for the most disparate reasons (for example during military occupations).

The first overprinted Italian stamp was the 15 cents blue issued in December 1863 with the effigy of Vittorio Emanuele II, in which with a curved bar in dark brown color (and for this reason called "Horseshoe") was covered the previous nominal value[73]. This tariff increase from 15 to 20 cents was necessary to support the huge expenses derived from the III War of Independence[74]. The expedient was found by Eng. Costantino Perazzi who in this way reused 100 million specimens lying in the

warehouse of the Officina Carte Valori in Turin. Since this was an overprint that increased the nominal value of the stamp (while the general rule established to overprint a lower value to avoid inevitable falsifications) precisely to avoid falsification, the general director of the Regie Poste, Count Barbavara di Gravelona, inserted some secret signs.

One of the most curious overprints of modern times is instead the one made in 1961 by the Island of Sant'Elena to help the inhabitants of the island of Tristan da Cunha, temporarily immigrated following a volcanic eruption[75]. For this purpose, 1736 complete series were overprinted with surcharge, but when the postal administration of Great Britain realized that the monetary system of the two islands was different, some series, precisely 434, had already been distributed. In fact, while in St. Helena was in use the Pound, in Tristan da Cunha circulated the South African Rand; but the main problem was that only the *Colonial Office* of London could authorize the issue, and not the governor, and therefore the issue itself was withdrawn after a short time. In 2005 a series of 4 values of these rare overprinted was put up in public auction for about 6,000 Euros. Another curious overprint is that of the five postal order markers of the Republic of San Marino obtained by overprinting those of the Kingdom of Italy. It is the only case in all of postal history that the stamps of one sovereign state become stamps of another by

overprinting in peacetime and not following war events.

When stamps have various types

 3 Sources

errors, we speak of variety. The presence of a variety can often produce a considerable increase in the philatelic value of a stamp. The varieties, according to the type of error, are divided into two genera: varieties properly called and natural stamps[76].

Variety

- *Errors in serration*
 - Different serrating on one or more sides
 - Dentation shifted from the vignette
 - No serration (not serrated)
 - Multiple teeth (double or triple)
 - Quadruple teeth
 - Blind serration
- *Overprint errors*
 - Overprint with wrong or different color
 - Inverted overprint
 - Incomplete top print
 - Double or triple overprint
 - Decentralized overprint
 - Overprint with errors
 - Overprint with decal



An example of tête-bêche printing: The Swiss 3-cent *William Tell* from 1910.

- *Printing errors*
 - Double print (two identical but out-of-phase images)
 - recto-verso printing (i.e. in

which specimens the print is made on the rubberized side and not on the one provided)


- Print with decal
 - Tête-bêche print (head-tail)
 - Print with engraving errors (as mentioned in the aforementioned *Gronchi Rosa*)
 - Evanescent print
 - Print with surgical cut
 - Print with report errors
- *Printing plate engraving errors*
 - *Mistakes in the tire*
 - Reverse rubber (the side of the press is rubberized)
 - *Watermark errors*
 - Watermark completely different from the expected one
 - Watermark with rotation or inversion of the typical position
 - Watermark of the edges of the sheet (Letters)

Natural stamps

- Not issued
- Color errors
- Different from the decree of issue

 1 Sources

Stamps with Barcode

Summary 

Perspective 

On October 10, 2008, an unusual

appendage with a bar code appears in correspondence with a single stamp belonging to the sheet of 50 copies. The primary objectives of Poste Italiane are to speed up and be able to monitor transfers and stocks of philatelic material from branches to peripheral offices (and vice versa) through the help of a practical optical barcode reader, already distributed in all post offices in the area. The matched stamp-appendix soon first intrigued and then literally excited the philatelists of the Italian area to such an extent that in just a few months from the first issue all the main magazines and web portals in the sector began to address the topic. This success arises mainly from some fundamental aspects. First of all, the print run: if in fact the availability of a single issue, for example the "Giornata della Philatelia" stamp of 10/10/2008, is three million and five hundred thousand pieces, the single barcode stamp (commonly called "the Barre"), being a single appendix per sheet of 50 stamps, is available in only seventy thousand copies. Moreover, it was precisely the value of this print run (70,000 Bar) that made a lot of self-talk.

^ Personalized stamps

For some time, several postal administrations, including [Austria](#), [New Zealand](#)


and [United States](#), have made it possible to create customizable stamps, both through a print and through direct drawing on the stamp, notched and with the value and name of the issuing postal administration[77][78][79].

The German post office, Deutsche Post, has created a new online postage service, called *Internetmarke*. This allows users to print, using their computer and printer, personalized stamps accompanied by color images by accessing the postal company's website[80].

Instead, the goal of the [artistamp](#), from the English *artist + stamp*, that is, *artist's stamp*, graphic compositions that recall, imitate, reinterpret or mound - in effigy - the franking issued by the Postal Services of the Nations[81], but are in no way stamps. These cartoons can also be created in pure digital form, or on poor materials, and accompany authentic stamps in the postage necessary to make the composition travel.

 5 Sources

^ Issuing procedures

Summary 

Perspective 

Generally, the issuance of a stamp is carried out by an entity authorized by the issuing state. After determining the quantity of stamps required, through the consultation of some experts or through a popular proposal, the subject to be represented in the vignette is decided.

In the current [Italian Republic](#) the issuance of stamps is the exclusive responsibility of the Department of

Communications of the Ministry of Economic Development. However, the celebratory and commemorative stamps are authorized by Decree of the President of the Republic on the proposal of the Minister of Economic Development[82]. For non-celebrational or commemorative stamps, an interministerial decree between the Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Economy and Finance. The body in charge of deciding on the representations of the cartoons is called the "philatelic consultation".

Almost all over the world the cartoons are chosen by a commission that examines the sketches received through a Public competition. Once the draft suitable for issuance has been established, the body in charge is given a mandate to proceed with the relative printing.

Before the institution of the Republic, Italy had a monarchical order whose emissions are known as "emissions of the Kingdom of Italy". On the Italian territory there are also three other entities not belonging to the Republic, which issue their series of stamps, intended mainly for collecting and therefore particularly graphically curated, but nevertheless valid as franking and recognized by the **U.P.U. Universal Postal Union**:

- Republic of San Marino,
- Vatican City State (it also has a previous history of emissions such as Pontifical State),
- Sovereign Military Order of Malta, S.M.O.M., the only non-territorial entity, non-adherent

and therefore not recognized by the UPU (but with bilateral treaties on postal matters with many countries; S.M.O.M. stamps cannot be used for correspondence intended for countries with which there are no such agreements, for example the [Switzerland](#)^[83]).

For this reason, when it is intended to refer to all the present and past issuing entities but still inherent to the Italian territory, the phrase "Italian area" is used.

  2 Sources

Stamps and culture

The stamp lends itself perfectly to suggesting knowledge of all kinds of topics; [History](#), [Geography](#), biographies of famous people and more generally in deepening every sector of human science. For this reason, the stamp has often found a didactic use both in school and in personal study^[84]. Very active in this branch was the [Pedagogist Michele Giampietro](#), who also left a rich bibliography. In particular, philately is highly recommended in *children between the ages of 6 and 14* as a fundamental engine of knowledge and competence of classification that is presented simply as an interesting game.

 1 Sources

Notes


Bibliography


    

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