

# MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL

Published periodically by the MERCURY STAMP COMPANY

10 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.

Edited by Edwin Mueller

No. 52

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DECEMBER, 1959

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XXV. LOMBARDY-VENETIA \*)

The Kingdom of *Lombardy-Venetia* — *Lombardo-Veneto* in the Italian Language of its population—was a creation of the Vienna Congress of 1815. During its stamp issuing period, it was an integral part of the Austrian Monarchy, but under separate administration. Taking up the northeastern part of the Italian peninsula, the alps formed its natural northern border, the Ticino river was the western and the Po river the southern border, while the Adriatic Sea was the eastern limit. On land, it bordered to the west on Sardinia, to the south on Parma, Modena and Romagna, the latter until 1859 belonging to the Roman States, to the north on the Swiss cantons of Ticino and Graubünden, as well as on the Austrian provinces of Tyrol, Carinthia and the Coastal Province. Lombardy and Venetia were of almost equal size, each comprising about 9400 square miles. Lombardy was more densely populated, it had 3,900,000 inhabitants in 1854 against Venetia's 2,494,000. In 1859, Austria lost Lombardy to Sardinia except for a small portion east of the river Mincio, the so-called Mantovano. In 1866, Venetia and the Mantovano were ceded to the newly formed Kingdom of Italy, ending the stamp issuing period of the territory.—The capital of Lombardy was *Milano* (Milan), which had about 160,000 inhabitants in 1859, that of Venetia was *Venezia* (Venice), with a population of about 125,000 in 1866.

The *History* of the territory which later became Lombardy-Venetia goes back to the prehistoric period, but as a defined region, its history starts during the Roman Empire. At that time, the territory was inhabited by Celtic tribes. In the third century B. C., the

\*) See also III. AUSTRIA, in Volume II, pages 77 et seq., to which we refer frequently.

Romans started to expand to the Po valley, eventually crossing the river and driving back the Celts who fought valiantly for their homes. In 222 B.C., the Romans stormed the Celt capital, Mediolanum (now Milano) and subjugated the whole territory. It became part of the Roman Republic as Gallia Transpadana, and its inhabitants gained full Roman citizenship in 49 B.C. Under Caesar, the western part was joined to Piemont as the 11th region, while the eastern part, consisting of Venetia and Istria, formed the 12th region. During the fourth century, Mediolanum was the residence of the Western Emperors. After the downfall of the Roman Empire, the territory was frequently invaded from the north; in 539, Mediolanum was completely destroyed by the Goths. The frequent invasions eventually led to the founding of the city of Venice in the middle of the fifth century by refugees from the mainland. It was recognized as a community in 584. A republican government was established and the first doge, as the chief magistrate was called, elected in 697. At first, all the islands along the Adriatic coast were settled, but later the population concentrated on the present site of the city. In the eighth century, the seat of the government was definitely established on the islands of the so-called Rialto. The importance of Venice, which in 810 had become part of the Eastern Empire, grew, but it took almost 200 years to consolidate the republic. Slowly it also extended

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its influence to the other side of the Adriatic and in 1000 captured Dalmatia. The importance of Venice as a seafaring power increased steadily when major trade routes to the Levant and to the Middle East were created. It now was the undisputed "Queen of the Adriatic". An aristocracy developed and came to power in the republic, which broke with the Eastern Empire in 1171. A "Great Council", the "Serenissima Signoria", was created to govern the republic; it also elected the doge. More and more, the power was concentrated in the hands of a few families, and the regime became definitely oligarchic in 1296. The might of the republic grew, it became rich and its trade flourished. Its fleets ruled the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, while the western part was the domain of the equally powerful Republic of Genoa. In 1204, the Venetian fleet captured Constantinople and established the Latin Empire there. Consequently, the republic gained possession of a number of islands in the Aegean Sea and of the coasts of Thessaly and Epirus, as well as of the Ionian Islands. It also bought the island of Crete. These successes made Genoa jealous, and it came to a long series of wars between the two republics which started in 1258 and ended only in 1380. Venice became the definite victor and kept all its possessions. A Patrician caste had been formed which ruled the republic as a dictatorship, suppressing all opposition with cruel methods. Until that time, the territory of the republic in Italy proper had been restricted to the islands and lagoons on which Venice was built. In 1339, the first expansion to the mainland started and, of course, soon led to conflicts with the powers established there.

The territory of Milan had again become important in the twelfth century, although it did not extend to all of Lombardy, the territory of Mantova having its own government. Milan was governed by a council, the head of which was called "podesta", under strong influence of the church. Here too, a number of noble families came to power and ruled the city and its territory. An expansionist policy led to many wars. Under the rule of the Visconti family it came to frequent wars between Milan and the equally expanding Republic of Venice. In 1420, Venice extended its borders to those of the territory of Milan, and when the Venetians invaded the latter, the first war between the

two republics broke out in 1426, lasting to 1429. Milan was defeated and lost part of its territory to the Republic of Venice. The extension of the latter ended in 1484, when it had annexed a considerable part of the territory of Milan to the river Adda. This was the farthest extension of the Republic of Venice on the mainland, but it held on to it until the end of the republic. Venice continued to concentrate on expansion and in 1488 acquired the island of Cyprus. It was now in command of the main trade routes to the Orient and at the height of its power. But the decline started soon after. The newly discovered route around the Cape of Good Hope diverted much trade, and Venice's influence suffered badly. In 1508, the European powers decided to divide the possessions of the ailing republic, and they were victorious in 1510, occupying the entire Venetian territory except the islands and lagoons. Nevertheless, Venetian rule was eventually restored everywhere, in exchange for help against the Turks who were starting to menace Central Europe. Venice led four great wars, which ended in 1716, against the Turks, with varying success, but eventually lost almost all its overseas possessions, first Cyprus, then Crete and the other islands and coasts. Only the Ionian Islands, Dalmatia and part of Istria remained. In the meantime, in Milan, the Sforza family had come to power in 1450, but was ousted in 1535, and the territory became a dependency of Spain until 1714, when it was handed over to Austria under whose rule it remained until 1796, as the Duchy of Milano. The territory of Mantova remained independent about two hundred years longer. In 1432, it had become a duchy under the rule of the Gonzaga family which remained in power for almost three hundred years. Eventually, in 1708, the duchy was also annexed by Austria and from 1714 on governed together with the Duchy of Milano as one administrative unit.

When Napoleon invaded Italy, it was rather easy for him to capture the territory of both Duchies as well as the Venetian possessions on the mainland. On May 12, 1797, Napoleon captured the city of Venice, forcing the last doge to abdicate on October 17, 1797. The Duchies of Milano and Mantova, together with the Venetian possessions west of the Adige river, became the Transpadane Republic, which shortly afterwards changed its

name to Cisalpine Republic, with Milano as capital. The Venetian territory east of the Adige river, together with Dalmatia and the Venetian part of Istria, was handed to Austria in the 1797 peace treaty of Campo Formio. In 1802, the Cisalpine Republic changed its name to Italian Republic, and three years later, in 1805, Napoleon was crowned at Milan as King of Italy. The new kingdom comprised among other territories all of the later Lombardy-Venetia, namely the former Italian Republic and the former Venetian territories which Austria had received in 1797 but had to cede again in the 1805 peace treaty of Pressburg. The 1815 Congress of Vienna assigned the whole territory to Austria, and on April 24, 1815, as the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia, it became an Austrian province. It had a separate administration and Italian was the official language, but otherwise Austrian sovereignty was unimpaired. The desire of the population for the unification of Italy led to several revolts, the most serious one in 1848 when the Austrian rule was overthrown in Milan and Venice on March 22 and subsequently in parts of the kingdom. But the rebellion was suppressed and Milan was again taken over by the Austrians on August 6, 1848, while the city of Venice capitulated only on May 24, 1849. Lombardy—except the part east of the Mincio river, the so-called Mantovano—was lost to Sardinia in the treaty of Villafranca on July 11, 1859, after the defeat in the war against France and Sardinia, while Venetia and the Mantovano were ceded to Italy in the peace treaty of Prague on October 10, 1866, after the war against Italy and Prussia, which had been successful against the former, but disastrous against the latter.

The *Postal History* of Lombardy-Venetia is somewhat complicated to tell, as the development in the two parts was different before they were united under Austrian rule in 1815.

Early in the fourteenth century, during the rule of the Visconti family, the *territory of Milan* already had a postal service which operated mail routes to the various parts of the country and to the neighbor states. In the sixteenth century, during the rule of the Sforza family, this postal service was highly developed, but it deteriorated with the misfortunes the country had. It was only reorganized early in the

eighteenth century, when the Duchy of Milano together with the Duchy of Mantova came under Austrian sovereignty. The "Reichspost" of the Tassis family was put in charge. The Tassis had in previous years operated their mails in transit through the territory and had maintained a post office at Milan, of which Simon de Tassis became Postmaster in 1556. The reorganization under Austrian sovereignty was thorough, but the Tassis organization was mainly interested in the international mails. Domestic service was somewhat neglected, and the number of post offices remained small. A French post office operated in Milano from 1771 to 1813. When the territory became part of the Italian Republic in 1797 and later of the Kingdom of Italy, these conditions changed. Now a rather large number of post offices was created in the territory, and about 75 postal establishments were functioning when Austria again took over in 1815.

During its whole history the *Republic of Venice* had practically no governmental postal service, but permitted private initiative to step in. In 1305, members of the Tassis family founded a company named "Corrieri della Illustrissima Signoria", and this company operated the postal service until the end of the republic and even under Austrian rule. It was dissolved by an Austrian decree dated July 19, 1805 and definitely put out of business by the Italian Republic in 1806. The "Corrieri" organized the postal service in all parts of Venetia and concluded treaties with other organizations of couriers — mostly also led by members of the Tassis family — so that they could also handle mail to foreign countries. On the other hand, various rival courier organizations frequently encroached on the privileges of the "Corrieri", but their service in the territory of the Republic was usually of short duration. The various mail routes were entrusted to contractors who were responsible for the service; in one case, from 1732 to 1734, the government had to step in and take the service on several mail routes in its own hands. The service on the Venetian mainland—"Terra Ferma" in Italian—was well developed, and in the second half of the eighteenth century about 50 post offices were in operation on the territory of the Republic. The service in the Venetian possessions overseas was somewhat neglected;

only in Istria and in the Ionian Islands did a few post offices exist. On the other hand, the mail service was extended to many places in the Orient, for example Aleppo, Smyrna and Cairo. A post office at Constantinople was opened in 1788. Postal services of several foreign consulates existed at Venice, but they were of little importance. When all of Venetia was incorporated into the Kingdom of Italy in 1805, the postal service was reorganized in the French style and a number of new post offices opened, so that in 1815 about 70 post offices were operating.

Austria reorganized the postal service in Lombardy-Venetia from 1815 to 1818. Postal Directorates were created in Milan and Venice, to which the post offices in Lombardy and Venetia respectively were subordinated. Later, a single postal directorate was organized at Verona, which in 1860 was transferred to Venice. A considerable number of new post offices and letter collecting agencies were opened, so that in 1850 there were about 155 post offices in Lombardy and 105 in Venetia. In 1848-49, during the rebellion, republican postal administrations existed for a short period in Milan and Venice, but the mail service was so disrupted by the military operations that they had hardly any functions to perform. Few changes took place until the territory was lost. In 1859, when the bulk of Lombardy came to Sardinia, about 155 post offices existed there, and in 1866, at the end of Austrian rule, there were about 125 post offices in Venetia, including 11 in the Mantovano. In 1851-52, Lombardy-Venetia — which had been excluded when Austria proper became a member of the German-Austrian Postal Union — together with Austria became a founding member of the Austro-Italian Postal Union, of which Modena, Parma, Tuscany and the Roman States were also members. A special postal treaty was concluded with Sardinia in 1854, and there also existed postal treaties with other countries. During the war of 1859, Sardinia occupied part of the Mantovano, including six post offices (Gonzaga, Moglia di Gonzaga, Revere, San Benedetto, Sernide and Suzzara). They were operated by the Sardinian postal service from July to December 1859 and then returned to Austria.

Lombardy-Venetia was more than twice as densely populated than Austria proper, and

it was more industrialized, which fact is responsible for a greater volume of mail in the former. In 1853, 3,759,000 pieces of mail were mailed in Lombardy and 3,692,000 in Venetia, which was, compared with the number of inhabitants, about 25% higher than in Austria. A little more than half of this volume of mail were letters, the balance printed matter, samples, etc. Due to the close connections between Lombardy-Venetia and the other parts of Italy, there was also a considerably larger proportion of mail to foreign countries; in 1853, about one third of all letters went abroad.

Under Austrian rule Lombardy-Venetia had its own *Currency*, which was payable in silver, while the Austrian one was a paper currency. 1 Lira (L) was equivalent to 100 Centesimi (c). The currency remained based on silver when in 1858 the change to the so-called Austrian currency took place. 1 Fiorino (fo) was divided into 100 Soldi (s). The Centesimi currency was exchanged into the new currency at the rate of 3c equivalent to 1s. In the postal service, 1 Austrian Kreuzer was equivalent to 5 Centesimi before 1858; from November 1, 1858 on, Kreuzer and Soldi had equal value. — For *weight* and *distances*, the Austrian units were used.

The separate postage stamps for Lombardy-Venetia had become necessary by the difference in currency which existed during the whole stamp issuing period. If such separate stamps had not been issued, the economy-minded public in Lombardy-Venetia would have profited from the disagio of the Austrian paper currency by buying stamps in the other Austrian provinces, in this way making a profit of about 15%, as the Lombardo-Venetian silver currency had no disagio. This seems to have been the only reason for the separate issues, although there should have been another reason, namely the fact that the official language in Lombardy-Venetia was Italian. But this was obviously disregarded by the authorities in charge in Vienna. Although separate stamps for Lombardy-Venetia were issued, only the value indication was changed while the other inscriptions were left unchanged. This is especially obvious for the postage stamps of 1850 and all newspaper stamps. On the newspaper tax stamps not even the value indication was changed, although from 1858 on they were printed in different colors for use in Lombardy-Venetia.

In 1858, trials were made for special stamps with Italian inscriptions, but this project was soon abandoned. The fact that the postage stamp issues 1858, 1861 and 1863-64, except for the value indication, had no inscriptions at all seems to prove that an effort was made to alleviate the situation.

The same kinds of stamps as in Austria and in equal denominations were issued for Lombardy-Venetia, namely *Postage Stamps* first on *June 1, 1850* and *Postal Envelopes* first on *January 15, 1861*. Of the *Newspaper Stamps*, the regular Austrian stamps, which had no value indication, were first issued on *January 1, 1851*. The same was at first the case for the *Newspaper Tax Stamps*, issued on *March 1, 1853*. But from *November 1, 1858* on, separate Newspaper Tax Stamps for Lombardy-Venetia were issued. No other kinds of stamps or stationery were issued in Lombardy-Venetia.

The special conditions of Lombardy-Venetia were not fully understood by the Vienna authorities, and frequent miscalculations of the quantities of stamps necessary for use there occurred. This fact, together with the reduction of the territory of use in 1859, led to the issuing of some of the corresponding denominations in Lombardy-Venetia at a much later date than in Austria proper. The supplies of the 1858 issue were so large that for the 2s, 3s and 15s they lasted so long that these denominations of the next issue (1861) were never needed and therefore were not even printed, so that the 1861 issue consisted of two denominations only, 5s and 10s. The 3s green, in changed color, was issued in Lombardy-Venetia only in the middle of 1862, while the 3kr green was used in Austria from the middle of 1859 on. The using up of the supplies of the 1858 issue continued to 1863 and even 1864. In 1863-64, the stamps in use in Lombardy-Venetia were introduced at the Austrian post offices in the Levant, where there was also silver currency. When in 1866 Venetia and the Mantovano were lost, such large quantities of the 1864 issue and partly of the 1863 issue remained in the hands of the Austrian postal administration that the using up at the Austrian post offices in the Levant took no less than three years, almost to the end of their validity for postage, August 31, 1869.

The domestic *postal rates* in Lombardy-Venetia were the same as in Austria proper.

Therefore, the letter rates for 1 loth (about  $\frac{1}{2}$ oz) were originally 10c (city letter), 15c (up to 10 miles), 30c (10 to 20 miles) and 45c (over 20 miles). Printed matter cost 5c for each loth, the registration fee was 30c, for city letters 15c. From November 1, 1858 on, in the new currency, the letter rates were 3s, 5s, 10s and 15s respectively, the printed matter rate 2s per loth and the registration fee 10s and 5s respectively. From October 1862 on, printed matter cost 2s for every  $2\frac{1}{2}$  loth. Uniform letter postage of 5s, without regard to the distance, was established on January 1, 1866. Newspapers, mailed by the publishers, paid 3c regardless of their weight, from November 1, 1858 1,05s. The newspaper tax on foreign newspapers and magazines was 10c, from November 1, 1858 on 4s and reduced to 2s from January 1, 1859 on. The newspaper tax on domestic newspapers and magazines, collected in cash, was at first 1s, from November 1, 1858 on 2s and from January 1, 1859 on, when payment of the tax with stamps started, again 1s. The postal rates to foreign countries were varied. To Austria proper and to the countries of the Austro-Italian Postal Union, the regular domestic rates were charged; to Sardinia, from January 1, 1854 on letter rates of 30c, 50c and 70c were charged, from November 1, 1858 on 10s, 16s and 21s, all depending on the distance. To the other countries, letters could usually be prepaid only to the border, the other charges were collected from the addressee. Only where a direct connection by ship existed, for example to Naples and Sicily, was prepayment to the destination possible; a letter fee of 21s was charged in the latter case.

The same *denominations* as in Austria were issued for Lombardy-Venetia in its specific currency. The *postage stamps* of 1850 were 5c, 10c, 15c, 30c and 45c, those of the later issues 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s and 15s, with the exception of the 1861 issue, of which 5s and 10s only were issued. The envelopes were 3s, 5s, 10s, 15s, 20s, 25s, 30s and 35s of the 1861 issue and 3s, 5s, 10s, 15s and 25s of the 1863 issue. The Austrian newspaper stamps were sold in Lombardy-Venetia at the equivalent rates, namely of the 1851 issue the blue stamp at 3s, the yellow and scarlet ones at 30c and the rose one at  $1\frac{1}{2}$ Lire. Of the later issues (1858, 1861 and 1863), the sheet of 100 stamps was sold to the publishers for 1f05s, therefore a single stamp cost 1,05s.

The first Austrian newspaper tax stamps of 1853 were sold in Lombardy-Venetia for 10c, although they were inscribed 2kr. The 1858-59 separate newspaper tax stamps for Lombardy-Venetia were 1s, 2s and 4s, although they were inscribed 1kr, 2kr and 4kr.

Originally a 60c instead of a 45c was ordered as highest denomination of the 1850 issue. It was not issued and the printed quantities were destroyed. It seems that no copy of the original printing has survived.

The adhesives and envelopes used in Lombardy-Venetia were all *manufactured* at the Austrian State Printing Works of Vienna, in the same designs and by the same methods as the contemporary stamps for Austria proper. Therefore, all facts related for the stamps of Austria — see Volume II, pages 79 et seq. — generally are valid also for the stamps of Lombardy-Venetia. Only those peculiarities which are characteristic for the stamps of Lombardy-Venetia are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

The same original *die* without value indication was used for the 1850 issue in Kreuzer and Centesimi currency. The first setting of the 45c consisted, in analogy to the 9kr, of clichés of the 30c in which the “30” was replaced individually by a “45”. Therefore, at least 240 sub-types exist of this Type I of the 45c. Differences in the position of the “45” permit the grouping of these sub-types. The rarest, of which only two clichés were in the setting, has 0.7mm spacing between “45” and “CENTES”. Scarce also are very narrow spacings (0.2mm). Frequently, the “5” is more or less raised or dropped in respect to the “4”. A “broken corner” variety also exists, but it is less conspicuous than on the 9kr. This provisional setting of the 45c, which belonged to the first settings of all five denominations (Type I), was soon replaced by a setting from a new definite die of the 45c (Type II). Of the 15c, also a new die was made, probably because the first one had a defective inscription at top, reading “K. F. POST”. The new die had this corrected; the position of the “15” is also changed, the “5” being raised (Type II). In 1852, the dies of all five denominations were re-engraved like the corresponding ones of the Kreuzer denominations. These re-engraved stamps (Type III) appeared first of the 15c (August 1852), then of the 30c (May 1853) and 45c (April 1854), and finally also of the 10c (July

1857). The re-engraved 5c, although a die was prepared, was never printed in Type III and exists as such only as a reprint. This is also the reason that the 5c exists only with St. Andrew's cross or part of it attached at right or at bottom, but not, as is true for all other denominations, also at left. In the first setting of the 15c in Type I, the clichés soon became so worn that they had to be replaced by new clichés. This was done gradually, first with new clichés in Type I, but from December 1850 on with clichés in Type II. Therefore, a mixed setting containing clichés in Type I and a gradually increasing number of clichés in Type II existed, until it was replaced in July 1851 by a new setting consisting only of Type II clichés. Of the 1858 issue, the Soldi stamps exist only with St. Andrew's cross (or traces of it) at left and at bottom, but not at right as is the case for some Kreuzer denominations. Of the newspaper tax stamps, the 4s was in Type I, as was the 1s of 1859; the 2s was in Type II. The latter exists with a plate number “1”, sideways on the left sheet margin. Vertical gutter pairs of the 2s are known, but only unused; the gutter is 62mm wide. The horizontal gutter was only 5½mm, but no gutter pairs are known.

Of *setting varieties*, the most important one exists of the 5c of 1850. During one printing, a cliché must have been put in the setting inverted, and *tete beche* pairs resulted. Such are known only on the reverse side of 5c stamps printed on both sides. They are extremely rare, and only three copies have been recorded (Fig. 118). Of minor cliché varieties of the 1850 issue, the missing period after CENTES is the best known; it exists for all five denominations and is less scarce than the missing period after KREUZER, especially on the 5c, for which it is also known on the variety printed on both sides, on the face as well as on the back.

Not much need be said about the *printing*, except for the curious fact that early prints of the 1850 issue can be found more frequently on the Centes. than on the Kreuzer denominations, for which occurrence there is no satisfactory explanation. Of *printing varieties*, the 5s of 1858 in Type II is known in two copies, both defective, printed on both sides.

The same kinds of *paper* as for the Kreuzer stamps were used for the Centesimi stamps,

namely first hand-made paper, then, starting from late in 1854, machine-made paper. The 5c of the 1850 issue exists only on hand-made paper, as the printings before 1855 were sufficient to last to the end of 1858. The 10c came out very late on machine-made paper, only in July 1857. Laid paper exists of the 15c, Type III; a number of sheets on this paper must have been printed and distributed to post offices, as, although rare, this stamps can be found much more frequently than the Kreuzer stamps on such paper. Ribbing was applied to sheets of 15c (Type I and II), 30c and 45c late in 1850 and early in 1851. All three values are rather common and considerably more plentiful than the corresponding varieties of the Kreuzer stamps. When paper with watermark was introduced on June 1, 1864, it took almost a year before all Soldi denominations of the postage stamps were printed on such paper; of the newspaper tax stamps, only the 2s but not the 1s is known on such paper.

Except for the Newspaper Tax Stamps, the same color scheme was used for the stamps of Lombardy-Venetia as for the Austria stamps. The first separate newspaper tax stamp, the 4s of 1858, was red. This color was taken over by the 2s of 1859 which replaced it, while the 1s of 1859 was black.

Although generally the same inks were used for the Lombardy-Venetia stamps as for the corresponding denominations of Austria, some divergencies are nevertheless noticeable. Generally, there are fewer shades for the Lombardy-Venetia stamps, and some specific shades of Austria stamps do not exist for the Lombardy-Venetia stamps, for example the orange color of the lowest denomination of the 1858 issue. On the other hand, the 5c of the 1850 issue in its early printings exists in a number of peculiar and scarce shades which cannot be found on the Austrian 1kr stamps; this suggests that they were the result of some small experimental printings which were used up with the regular ones.

The 1850 postage stamps as well as all newspaper and newspaper tax stamps were issued *imperforate*, the 1858 postage stamp issue with *harrow perforation* 14½ (15x18 perfs), the 1861 and 1863 issues with *harrow perforation* 14 (15x18 perfs) and the 1864 issue with *harrow perforation* 9½



Fig. 118

(10x12 perfs). But the 3s black of 1858 in Type I exists also in *line perforation*, namely 16x15 or, scarcer, 15x16, or, rather rare, 16. The perforation 15 varies between 15 and 15½, so that a number of sub-varieties can be found. It seems that the sheets printed from the first setting of the 3s did not fit the harrow perforating devices. The setting was adjusted and the harrow perforating device used for further printings, while the originally printed sheets were later line perforated and issued in 1859. Of the *size varieties* of harrow perforation 14 (15x18 perfs), the higher and lower stamps (19 or 17 perfs high) exist of the 10s of 1861 and the 3s and 5s of 1863.

In contrast to the classic Kreuzer stamps of Austria, there existed *remainders* of several Lombardy-Venetia stamps. Of the 1858 issue, rather large quantities came into the hands of French and Sardinian authorities when French and Sardinian troops occupied Lombardy in 1859. According to the Austrian files, these quantities were partly sold below face to merchants in Milano who sent them as return postage in letters to Venetia. A quantity remained in the hands of the Sardinian postal administration and was later sold to stamp dealers. As at the time of the occupation most post offices still had stamps in Type I, this accounts for the fact that generally unused stamps in Type I are not rarer or even more common than those in Type II, especially the 3s, 5s, 10s and 15s. When Venetia also was lost,

considerable remainders were left in the hands of the Austrian postal administration, namely all denominations of the 1863 issue in perf. 9½, the 2s also in perf. 14, and all denominations of the 1863 envelopes. Despite all efforts to use them up at the post offices in the Levant, considerable quantities remained and were sold for many years at the philatelic agency of the Vienna main post office, lasting partly until after World War I. These facts are the reason that unused stamps of the 1858 and 1863 issues (the latter perf. 9½, only the 2s also perf. 14) as well as the 1863 envelopes are easily available, while all other unused stamps are scarce to rare. Of the 5s 1858 in Type I an almost complete pane of 60 plus four St. Andrew's crosses is in the Vienna Postal Museum. Of the newspaper tax stamps, only the 2s is rather easy to find unused, while the 1s is scarce and of the 4s only a few unused copies are known, which make it the rarest unused Lombardy-Venetia stamp. *Unused multiples* are easily available of all 1863 stamps in perf. 9½ and of the 2s, perf. 14. They are harder to get of the 1858 issue, although several denominations are known even in blocks containing St. Andrew's crosses (Fig. 119). The same is the case for the 1850 issue, but such blocks are great rarities and not known of all denominations. Multiples of the 1861 and 1863 issues, perf. 14 (except the 2s of 1863) are rare, and blocks are not known of all denominations. Unused envelopes of the 1861 and 1863 issues can be found rather frequently, even in complete sets of both sizes, those in the large size being rare, but nevertheless available. Of the unused newspaper tax stamps, no multiples exist of the 4s red. Of the 1s black, a few blocks are known, while the



Fig. 119

2s red is not difficult to obtain in blocks.

In *used* condition, most Lombardy-Venetia stamps are rather easy to get, exceptions being the 2s of 1863, perf. 9½, and the 1s black newspaper tax stamps which are much rarer used than unused. Of the rare Austrian newspaper stamps, the scarlet 30c of 1856 is not known cancelled in Lombardy-Venetia, while the 30c yellow and 1½ Lire rose of 1851 are known, the former being rarer than the latter. The 3c of 1851 and the following issues of newspaper stamps are rather common with Lombardy-Venetia cancellations. The envelopes are much rarer in used condition, and the higher denominations of the 1861 issue in the large size are rarities. Of *used multiples*, all denominations of the 1850 issue are known in blocks, but are rare to very rare; of the 15c, mixed pairs and blocks Type I and II are relatively common (Fig. 120); used gutter pairs of the 15c also exist. All denominations are known with full St. Andrew's cross attached, the rarest one being the 10c. Of the 15c, several copies with all four crosses attached exist (Fig. 121). Of the perforated issues, blocks are much rarer and not known of all denominations, but they are less sought. Of the newspaper stamps, the 3c blue of 1851 as well as the 1858, 1859, 1861 and 1863 stamps are known in blocks with Lombardy-Venetia cancellation. The yellow and rose stamps of the 1851 issue with Lombardy-Venetia cancellations are only known in singles. The newspaper tax stamps are all known only in used singles except the 1s black of which used pairs also exist which are rare.

On *entires*, all Lombardy-Venetia stamps are rather easy to obtain and deserve only the usual cover premium. Somewhat more difficult are the 1s and 4s of the newspaper tax stamps, but as they belong to the higher priced items anyway, they do not deserve a much larger percentage of premium. Characteristic for Lombardy-Venetia covers is the abundance of covers to foreign countries, especially to the other parts of Italy. Frankings of this kind, often including black or green stamps — as in the 16s and 21s frankings to Sardinia and later to all Italy—are much more often found originating in Lombardy-Venetia than in Austria.

The long periods involved in using up some stamps have led to a relatively large number of *combination frankings* of dif-



ferent issues. As there were only 5s and 10s stamps of the 1861 issue, the other denominations simultaneously used were those of the 1858 issue, and therefore mixed frankings between the 1858 and 1861 issues are very common. They are a bit rarer between the 1858 or 1861 issues and the 1863 issue perf. 14. They are scarce between the 1858 or 1861 issues and the 1863 issue perf. 9½. Frankings which include stamps of three or even four issues (1858, 1861, 1863, perf. 14, and 1863, perf. 9½) can also be found and are sought after. Mixed frankings between stamps of the 1850 and 1858 issues are rare, as they were possible only between November 1 and December 31, 1858. As there was no period of grace for the stamps after Lombardy and Venetia were taken over by Sardinia and Italy respectively, no mixed frankings between their stamps and those of Lombardy-Venetia are known. Mixed frankings with stamps of other countries are known but accidental.

The use of stamps in *Kreuzer* currency in Lombardy-Venetia was rather widespread, but such use was expressly forbidden in a decree dated May 7, 1851. As the disagio of the *Kreuzer* currency was about 15%, the temptation had been too great and the industrious business men of Lombardy-Venetia had imported large quantities of *Kreuzer* stamps to save on postage. After May 1851, the use of *Kreuzer* stamps in Lombardy-Venetia was greatly reduced, but at any time much more frequent than the use of *Centes.* or *Soldi* stamps in Austria, which was permitted. Actually, such frankings with *Kreuzer* stamps belong to the fraudulent frankings, as the post office lost about 15% on them. They are common of the 1850 issue, while of the later issues we find fraudulent frankings with *Kreuzer* stamps much less frequently. Interesting are frankings of this kind in which the label with the value indication was covered by a label cut out from a used *Centes* stamp in the



Fig. 120

same color. Such elaborate attempts at deception are scarce.

Rather large is the number of *emergency frankings* which can be found in Lombardy-Venetia. But the borderline between emergency and fraudulent frankings was thin. For example, newspaper stamps exist used for postage, either for about their real face value—for instance two 1,05s stamps for paying the 2s printed matter rate—or fraudulently for postage stamps of the same color—for instance the blue 1,05s stamp of 1858 used for a blue 15s stamp on a letter. When newspaper stamps are involved, such use can have been doubly fraudulent, by using stamps which had escaped cancellation, a rather frequent occurrence. This still makes a yellow Mercury of 30e face value which was used on a letter substituting for a 5e stamp a fraudulent franking. Similar is the case of the use of revenue stamps for postage, which was also widespread between November 1, 1854 and 1857, when it was expressly forbidden by a decree of July 9, 1857. Such use was promoted by the fact that revenue stamps were available with a quantity discount. The economizing business people of Lombardy-Venetia made immediate use of this possibility to save, and therefore revenue stamps used for postage are many times more common in Lombardy-Venetia than in Austria. The most frequently found value is the 15e, while the 30e is somewhat scarcer. Rare are 5e, 10e and 75e, while the 50e is a distinct rarity (Fig. 122), especially on cover. The use of revenue stamps for postage did not

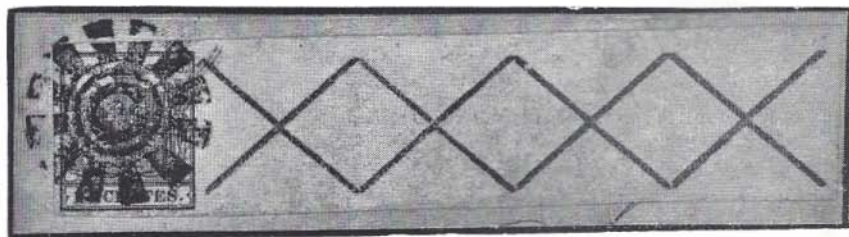


Fig. 121



Fig. 122

stop completely after the decree forbidding such use was issued, but it became very infrequent. Of later issues of revenue stamps, only the 5s and 10s revenue stamps of 1858 are known used for postage, but they are very rare. In later years, we can also find revenue stamps used on receipts and parcel letters. But although they were often cancelled in such cases by regular postmarks, they did not pay a postal fee but a fiscal tax and therefore are of little interest. The use of revenue stamps was often downright fraudulent, as previously used copies, on which the pen cancellations or a fiscal hand-stamp had been removed, were employed. It is surprising that very little use was made in Lombardy-Venetia of the possibility of using splits, although this would have included strong possibilities of fraudulent use of the uncancelled halves of used stamps. Known are only the 30c of 1850, used for the 15c rate, of which we have seen two examples, both used at Tolmezzo. The 10c of 1850 is also reported bisected, used with a whole 10c for the 15c rate, but we have not seen it. Definitely fraudulent frankings are those in which *St. Andrew's crosses* are substituted for postage stamps of the same color. Examples of such fraudulent frankings are known of the 1858 issue, especially of yellow crosses, but also of those in other colors. On the other hand, the use of cut squares as adhesives was an emergency measure or better a measure to use up surplus envelopes which is especially true for the higher denominations. Although this was even practised officially by the post offices, according to the official files, only the low values are found frequently, while almost all of the high values must have been soaked off the covers, as only a few covers with such cut squares have survived. Of the 1861 envelopes, the 5s, 10s and 15s can

be found rather frequently, the 3s is much rarer, the 20s and 25s are rarities, the 35s is a great rarity and the 30s is possibly unique. Of the 1863 envelopes, only the 5s is rather common, while the 10s is scarce, the 3s and 15s are rare and the 25s is possibly unique, as we know only one cover with such a cut square.

Many of the emergency or fraudulent frankings described in the previous paragraphs are also known in combination with regular postage stamps, as for example Kreuzer plus Centes or Soldi stamps, revenue stamps plus postage stamps, cut squares plus postage stamps, etc. All such frankings are scarce to rare and sought after.

Postage stamps also exist used as revenues, either as an emergency measure or due to ignorance. Almost all denominations of all issues are known used in this way; they are scarce to rare.

From January 1, 1859 on, the 4s newspaper tax stamps were used up as 2s stamps, without any special marking. There are copies known which have a manuscript "2" written over the "4" and claimed to be "provisionals". The examples we have seen are in our opinion all doubtful, and we believe that they are made by philatelists to create companion pieces to the Austrian 4kr brown with manuscript "2" over the "4". The "provisionals" of the latter were caused by special circumstances and actually were not made during the using up period but 15 years later, when a forgotten number of sheets of these stamps were found in a tax office.

To the fraudulent frankings belong also the *Postal Forgeries* which exist of the 1850 issue. Two kinds of such forgeries are known. The first ones, of 15c and 30c, were made at Verona and are recess-printed singly from an engraved plate which contained one design. They were used from May 1853 on, but they were spotted after several months and the forgers apprehended. The 30c exists in a subtype which differs in a small detail. This denomination is known in two shades, grayish brown and olive brown, the latter being scarcer. The "Verona engravings" were used mainly at Verona, but they are known used in several other places. Unused copies are known, they come from the confiscated stock of the forgers or are pasted on covers which were seized at the post offices. The second kind of postal forgery appeared first in October 1857. These products of the for-

gers were spotted only in June 1858, but the forgers remained undetected. Nevertheless, these forgeries were very rarely used after that date. Three denominations, 15c, 30c and 45c were made of the "Milano Woodblocks", probably printed on a hand press from single dies. The forgers tried to improve their products and either made new dies or re-engraved them, so that two types of the 15c—this denomination was the last to appear, in December 1857—, three types of the 30c and six types of the 45c exist. The colors are similar to the originals and vary somewhat from light to dark. Of the last type of the 45c, a rare color variety, ultramarine, is known. The "Milano Woodcuts" were used mainly at Milano; a few other places of use are known, but such copies are scarce. No unused copies seem to have survived. All postal forgeries are, of course, especially sought on entires, and a considerable premium is paid for such covers. Still more is paid for combination frankings of postal forgeries with genuine stamps, which are rare.

Lombardy-Venetia is also rather rich in *Forgeries* made to cheat the collector. Complete forgeries, which can deceive a less experienced collector, are known of 15c, 30c and 45c, made by Fournier and known only unused. Dangerous forgeries were also made by bleaching out the design of red or blue stamps and printing yellow or black stamps on the paper. Such forgeries of the 5c and 10c were also made to create "Postal Forgeries" of these denominations, which do not exist. There also exist forgeries of the "Milano Woodcuts", 15c, 30c and 45c, which can deceive an inexperienced collector. Forgeries exist also of all three newspaper tax stamps, of which, however, only those of the 1s black, often with an apocryphal cancellation of WIEN, are dangerous. The number of *Fakes* is also large. All scarce varieties are imitated, especially the laid paper and also the ribbing, even on denominations which are not known genuine. A 30c of 1850, printed on both sides, exists only faked. Chemical changelings were made to simulate the scarce shades of the 5c of 1850, especially the lemon yellow one. The availability of rather cheap unused stamps had tempted the fakers to apply faked cancellations, either imitations of genuine ones, including the rare red ones, or phantasies. Cleaned pen-cancelled copies of the 1850 issue were

also used for the same purpose, or regummed and sold as unused. Reprints were also treated, often reperforated and a faked cancellation applied, to be offered as originals.

There exist *Official Reprints* of all Lombardy-Venetia stamps and envelopes. The postage stamps were reprinted in 1866 and 1870 (all denominations of 1850, 1858 and 1861—including the unissued 2s, 3s and 15s of the last), in 1884 (as before, but also all denominations of 1863), in 1887 (5c 1850, 2s and 3s black 1858, 2s and 3s 1861 and 1863) and in 1892-94 (10c 1850, 2s 1858 and 1861). The reprints of all 5c and 2s were printed in two colors, yellow and orange. Of the 1866 reprint an error exists, a cliché of the 3s having slipped into position 3 of the settings of twenty-five 2s clichés, resulting in a reprint error of color, 3s yellow. Less than 20 copies of this error were printed and several copies are known, some of them with a pen cross. The envelopes of 1861 were reprinted in 1866, 1870 and 1884 (all denominations, small size, 1884 also large size), as well as 1885, 1887 (3s, both sizes) and 1892 (10s only, large size). The 1863 envelopes were reprinted in 1884 (all denominations), 1885 and 1887 (3s only). All three newspaper tax stamps were reprinted in 1873 in Type II, while the originals of 1s and 4s are in Type I. The distinguishing marks of the reprints are the same as for the corresponding Austria issues.

*Postmarks*\*) were introduced in Lombardy-Venetia at a considerably earlier period than in Austria proper. While the earliest postmarks appear in Austria in 1751, postmarks from the Duchies of Milano and Mantova are known from 1730 on and from the Republic of Venice even as early as 1703. Until 1797, the postmarks used in the Republic of Venice developed entirely independently from those used in the two duchies. Even after 1797, until 1805 and even partly until 1815, the postmarks continued to be characteristic for each of the parts. Only after 1815, when the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia had been created under Austrian sovereignty, did a uniform policy in regard to the issuance of postmarks for the whole territory develop. But even then, the postmarks used in Lombardy-Venetia

\*) We are indebted to Col. John Ryder of New York for permitting us to study his collection of Republic of Venice postmarks.

partly went their separate ways. On the one hand, special types of postmarks were created for Lombardy-Venetia which cannot be found in any other Austrian province. On the other hand, quite a number of types which were used in other Austrian provinces were never introduced in Lombardy-Venetia.

There exist forerunners of the postmarks from as early as the fifteenth century, namely colorless embossed seals of the couriers who transported the mail. Such embossed seals are known from several parts of Italy, and while most of them are only personal seals of the couriers, a few indicate a connection with the various courier organizations. For example, we know such an embossed seal on a letter dated 1483, showing a posthorn and the letters CCV (*Compagnia dei Corrieri Veneziani*), and other similar ones exist.

The first postmarks which were used on the territory of the *Republic of Venice* were not introduced by the "*Corrieri della Illustrissima Signoria*", the authorized postal organization of the Republic, but by the "*Fraglia Padovano*", an association of couriers which competed but also worked hand in hand with the "*Corrieri*". Such postmarks, circular or oval, are known as great rarities from Padova (1703) and Este (1704). Aside from the town name, they have the inscription PNL, which stands for "*P(ostiglio)ni*". The first postmarks introduced by the "*Corrieri*" appear a decade later, and from then on, their postmarks remained in use continuously until the definite dissolution of the company in 1806. The first postmarks, created in 1713, of oval design without frame, with the Lion of St. Mark, symbol of the Republic, in the center, were route postmarks having indications of the mail route on which they were used, for example VEN. P. VIC. for the route from Venezia to Vicenza, or SALO P. VEN. for the route from Salo to Venezia. Such postmarks are known with more than a dozen different route indications, some of the terminals being on foreign territory. In 1724, a change took place by replacing the Lion of St. Mark by the letters PDC, which stand for "*Posta dei Corrieri*". It is supposed that these postmarks were used by the couriers for the letters handed to them, but some of them seem to have also been in use at the terminals of the various routes. Oval postmarks without inscription, showing the

Lion of St. Mark, which are first encountered in 1713, also seem to have been used by the couriers, but without doubt also at several postal establishments. In 1732, a new type of postmarks appeared which was used by the couriers on various mail routes. They have the form of a fancy shell, with the Lion of St. Mark in the center. At first, these postmarks contained the letters CAB, which stand for "*Corrieri (or Condotta) Antonio Bissoni*", who had a contract for these mail routes, starting in 1732. But due to irregularities, the contract was taken over by the government in the same year, and new postmarks of the same type created later in 1732, inscribed PDL SS which stands for "*Posta de la Serenissimi Signoria*". In the same year, 1732, the first town postmarks were introduced by the "*Corrieri*". The earliest ones were oval, circular or irregular designs, with single or double frame line, often with a small ornament above or/and below the town name, which was sometimes abbreviated. Later, these town postmarks were somewhat standardized by replacing the ornaments by insertion of a ducal crown above the town name. Such postmarks appear first in 1781, but only in 1783 and 1784 did they become a rather uniform centrally procured oval type which was assigned to a considerable number of post offices. Still later, the Lion of St. Mark was used on the town postmarks, starting in 1777 in a few places, developing into a centrally manufactured oval type, showing the lion above the town name, separated from it by a line. Almost all post offices received this type of postmark, which was the last general type of postmarks used by the "*Corrieri*" organization. In a number of cases the lion was flanked by the letters T and F, which are considered to mean "*Terra Ferma*" (Mainland). But as such a postmark also exists of the capital of Venezia, which certainly was not on the mainland, this explanation seems somewhat doubtful. Another explanation of the two letters as "*Tassa Franca*" cannot be sustained either, as such postmarks can be found also on unpaid letters. During the same period, similar postmarks were also used which showed the initials of the "*Corrieri*" instead of the town name. Such postmarks first appeared in 1732 at Vicenza, where a circle with the letters CCV (*Compagnia de Corrieri Veneziani*) forming a

monogram was used. In 1771-72, oval postmarks with the Lion of St. Mark at top and CFC or CFCV below appeared, in which the letters stand for "Compagnia Fedelissima dei Corrieri (Veneziani)". A Quatrefoil design, with the Lion of St. Mark in the center and the letters CFCV, seems to have been used on letters arriving from other Italian States. In 1795, the initials of a company who had obtained a mail contract appear on the postmarks used by the couriers of that company. The oval postmarks show the Lion of St. Mark at top and the letters GCEC below, which stand for "Gerolamo Certicelli et Compagni".

Other markings from the territory of the Republic of Venice are known which seem to have been procured by individual postmasters or couriers. But some may have been used by competing mail services which encroached on the domain of the "Corrieri". Several kinds of such postmarks exist, as simple letters, for example Ba for Brescia, L for Lendinara, R for Rovigo and To for Treviso, which first appear as early as 1723; straight lines with the full town name, first found in 1773, as well as a few exceptional designs, for example postmarks of Portogruaro copying the designs of the 1713 and 1732 postmarks, but used only in 1746 and 1747, a small circle with the Lion of St. Mark, inscribed SS. L. F. D. BR., standing for "Serenissima Signoria Lettera Franca da Brescia", and a double circle POSTA DI VENETIA and CC in monogram, introduced in 1753. No postmarks of foreign postal services on the territory of the Republic are known, except an oval inscribed IMP. REG. VFF. DI POSTA IN VENEZ. P. TRANSIT., which was used by the Austrian mail service in the capital Venezia.

There also exist oval postmarks showing crossed curved lines, which first appear in 1734. Due to the similarity of the design with the "crossed lines" symbol used at that time in other countries for registered letters, it is claimed that they were used for such letters, but this seems doubtful.

In 1784, special "Way Letter" markings were introduced. First they were ovals with the dual crown at top and the inscription LETERE STRADALI, meaning "Highway Letters"; from 1795, the crown was replaced by the Lion of St. Mark, and the inscription now read "LUO. STRADALI", standing

for "Luoghi Stradali", which means "Highway Origin".

Letters arriving by sea from the overseas possessions or from foreign countries obtained in Venice during certain periods special ship letter postmarks. The first one, used from 1716 to 1718, is similar to the route postmarks of 1713, but with the inscription VEN. DA MAR. From 1764 to 1766, a rectangular box, inscribed LETTERE DA MARE was used, from 1786 to 1788 an ornamented oval LETTERE DA MARE VENEZIA and from 1794 to 1797 a circular marking without frame, with the inscription LETTERE DA MARE and a large V in the center.

Of the overseas possessions, only of two places are postmarks of the Republic of Venice known, namely from Capo d'Istria in the Venetian part of Istria and from Cephalonia, one of the Ionian Islands. The postmarks of the former are town postmarks in the same three main designs which were used at the domestic post offices, while as early as 1714 the latter used for a short period an octagonal postmark with the Lion of St. Mark, inscribed CEFALONIA. Mail from all other possessions does not show any postmarks at all; often letters received one of the ship letter markings on arrival at Venezia.

The Venetian post office at Constantinople used two different postmarks, both with the Lion of St. Mark. The first, used from the opening in 1788, was a circle, inscribed UFF. DI POSTA IN COSPOLI, the second, used from 1792 on, an oval with the inscription POSTA DI COSTANTINOPOLI.

Letters for which the postal letter tax was paid obtained a red circle, either applied by red crayon or handstamped in red, occasionally in black. Postage due was stamped in large figures on the face of the letters; the figures 1, 2, 3, 3½, 4, 4½, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are known. An oval with the Lion of St. Mark and FRANCA below is also known of 1746, but extremely rare and obviously used on letters only as an exception.

Letters arriving from the overseas possessions and from foreign countries were disinfected. Mostly wax seals of Sanitary Stations can be found on such letters, but from 1865 on often an "S" for "Sanita" was stamped on the reverse side of disinfected letters. From 1787 on, an octagonal handstamp with the Lion of St. Mark,

inscribed SANITA DI VENETIA, was used for this purpose.

At first the postmarks of the Republic of Venice were generally stamped on the face of the letters, with exceptions, as for example the fancy shell postmarks of 1732-34, which are always stamped on the reverse side of the letters. A few of the other early postmarks can also be found on the reverse side of letters. The postmarks with town name were at first also stamped on the face of the letters, beginning in 1763 increasingly on the reverse side of the letters. The oval postmarks with the ducal crown and the Lion of St. Mark at top practically come only on the reverse side of the letters. The ship arrival markings as well as the Constantinople postmarks are always on the face of the letters, as are the postage due markings, while the disinfection markings were always applied to the reverse side of the letters.

Letters were not stamped on arrival, and use of the regular postmarks as arrival markings is a rare exception; even a few cases where they were used as transit markings are known.

The ink used for the Republic of Venice postmarks was uniformly black at first. From 1732 on, red ink also can be found simultaneously with black ink. From then on, some postmarks can be found only in black, others only in red and still others in both colors, obviously without any system. A few cases of use of greenish blue ink also are known in 1783, but they are rare exceptions.

In the *Duchies of Milano and Mantova*, postmarks were first introduced in 1730, under Austrian rule. It seems that originally postmarks were used only at Milano. They consisted of the letters MM in variously formed monograms, without or with frames of various shapes. From 1733 on, some of these postmarks contained a number, the highest known being "52", which is claimed to be the number of the postal route. One postmark had the additional inscription "Pedoni" which means "Footpost". The first postmarks with the town name, abbreviated to Milo., are known of 1762. The earliest postmarks of post offices outside Milano appeared around 1770. They were rectangles with the town name and date (day and month), in which the town name was usually more or less abbreviated, for example

Mo. or MILO. for Milano, MANA. for Mantova, or CODO. for Codogno, and which had ornaments filling the space on both sides of the date figure. A short time later, in 1773, uniform ovals, inscribed R. U. D. P. and town name, were introduced at large post offices, the R. U. D. P. standing for "Reale Ufficio della Posta". A number of additional town postmarks, showing the town name in rectangular, oval or various fancy frames, were introduced at the same time. A few straight line town postmarks also came into use, the first one in Milano in 1774.

There were no *additional markings* or rate markings of any significance, the postal service being conducted along the same lines as in Austria proper.

Black ink was used for the oldest postmarks, but from 1762 on also red ink and from 1790 occasionally also blue ink can be found in simultaneous use.

The *French post office* at Milano from 1771 to 1797 used boxed markings inscribed MILAN F, with the F standing for "Francais". Black ink, from 1780 an also red ink, was used for these postmarks.

When the Republic of Venice and the Duchies of Milano and Mantova ceased to exist in 1797, the old postmarks continued to be used, as long as they did not contain inappropriate inscriptions or ornaments. From most postmarks of the Republic of Venice, the Lion of St. Mark was removed in 1797 and the postmarks continued to be used in the mutilated state. A few lasted unchanged to 1798, and only then was the lion removed. In the inscription "R.U.D.P." the "R.", standing for "Reale", was removed, but in other cases the postmarks were continued unchanged, probably because the "R." could also be the abbreviation of "Repubblica". In the part of Venetia which came under Austrian rule, no new postmarks were introduced after 1797, due to the fact that the use of postmarks had been abolished in Austria proper several years before. Only the old postmarks, after removing the Venetian Lion of St. Mark, if such was included in them, were continued in use. In the parts of Venetia and in all of Lombardy which became part of the French-sponsored Cisalpine, later Italian Republic, the old postmarks, if necessary adapted to the new conditions, were used, many of them only for a short period, and then replaced by

new postmarks, generally dateless straight lines—including characteristic ones with the first letter of the town name larger or with POSTA DI before the town name—and various boxes, some of them including the date and even a year date. After the eastern part of Venetia was included in the Italian Republic in 1805, the same types of new postmarks were introduced there. A number of postmarks which included the name of the department also appeared from 1805 on, for example CREMONA ALTO PO or UDINE Do. PASSARIANO. A postmark of Verona at first read VERONA CISALPINA, from 1802 on VERONA ITALIANA. The period between 1797 and 1815 is characterized by the use of a great variety of postmarks which were obviously procured by the postmasters themselves, without central guidance.

In Milano, a number of special postmarks were used during the period, with the additional letters P. P. for paid letters and L. I. (Lettere Italiane) as origin markings on letters to France. The French post office at Milano, which functioned until 1813, used straight lines B. F. MILAN, B. F. standing for "Bureau Francais", also with added P. P. for paid letters.

When Austria took over the entire territory of Lombardy-Venetia in 1815, the old postmarks were continued in use, again if necessary after removal of inappropriate inscriptions, for example names of departments. New postmarks came into use only from 1818 on, when postmarks were generally introduced in all of Austria. Dateless straight lines in various types of lettering — Roman, Italics and Script — were the earliest Austrian types procured, followed a short time later by dateless postmarks in rectangular frames. One town, Bormio, used as an exception a rectangular postmark with negative lettering from 1823 on. All these postmarks — except for a few postmarks from the period before 1815 — were dateless. As in Austria proper, the first dated postmarks were introduced in 1840, after several towns had started to use such postmarks in the early thirties. The new dated postmarks were either straight lines in two lines, with the town name in Roman, Italics or Script type above the date, or large double circles, usually with an ornament at bottom and the date (day and month, the latter in letters) in the center. These

double circles are a characteristic Lombardy-Venetia type, as are the dated straight lines with the first letter of the town name enlarged. A few regular double circles as in Austria, with the "official" branch ornament at bottom, also were introduced in 1846-47, and even one in 1849 with a star at bottom. The last type of the pre-stamp period was a single circle, used from 1848 on at Milano.

The *additional markings* were similar to those used in Austria, namely FRANCA for paid letters and RACCOMANDATA for registered letters, as well as DOPO LA PARTENZA or similar as "Too Late" markings. Various origin and treaty markings were also used on foreign letters.

The *ink* used during the period from 1815 to 1850 was mostly black, but red postmarks are frequent and blue or violet ones not uncommon, especially during the last years of the pre-stamp period.

When postage stamps were introduced in Lombardy-Venetia on June 1, 1850, all the new types of postmarks in use since 1818 were available, including a small number from the earlier periods, even a few from before 1797. They were now used as cancellers. In addition, a number of new types of postmarks, specifically suitable as cancellers, were introduced, the first one only a few weeks after the introduction of postage stamps. Six of these types were used only in Lombardy-Venetia but not in other Austrian provinces, namely divided rectangles with the town name and date (day, month and year), which appeared as early as the second half of 1850; circular postmarks, formed either of horizontal bars or of horizontal and vertical bars; 3-ring or 4-ring postmarks, the latter types all with the town name and date (day and month) in the center; and last but not least large cogwheels, with the town name and date (day, month and hour) in the center. Aside from that, the regular single circle postmarks as in Austria were assigned to some post offices, as well as double circles and single circles with individual ornaments. During the stamp period, the straight lines and other pre-stamp period postmarks gradually vanished, and after 1858, only single circles were provided as replacements or for newly opened post offices. As in Austria, a number of postmasters created special cancellers, cancelling the stamps with them

and placing the town postmarks alongside. About two dozen such "mute" cancellers were used, in some places several different types. Those of Milano and Venezia are rather common, while those of other towns are generally scarce to very rare, some of them belonging to the great cancellation rarities.

Several ship markings were also in use as cancellers, as were a number of fieldpost markings during the occupation of Northern Italy (until 1854) and during the wars of 1859 and 1866. A small number of railroad station markings also exist used for cancelling of postage stamps. Some of the additional markings, as FRANCA or RACCOMANDA, occasionally were also used as cancellers.

Black ink was generally used for the cancelling. Only a few postmarks are known in red on stamps, all of them rare to very rare. Blue cancellations were much rarer in Lombardy-Venetia than in Austria and are known only of a few post offices.

The 1850 issue comes about as often with cancellations of places in Lombardy as with such in Venetia. As Lombardy was lost early in July 1859, the 1858 issue was in use there for only about eight months, therefore it is considerably scarcer with Lombardy than with Venetia cancellation. This is especially true for stamps in Type II; the 3s black in Type II and, of course, also the 3kr green as well as the lilac newspaper stamp of 1859 are not known with Lombardy cancellation. The 1s and 2s newspaper tax stamps are very rare used in Lombardy; it seems that the 4s, from January 1, 1859 on as 2s, was used there almost exclusively. By the way, every copy of the 4s stamp with Lombardy cancellation of November or December must have been used for its original value of 4s.

The newspaper stamps were generally cancelled on arrival, therefore a Lombardy-Venetia cancellation on such a stamp does not necessarily mean that such a stamp was used on a newspaper or magazine mailed in Lombardy-Venetia. But they are accepted as Lombardy-Venetia stamps when they show such a cancellation. The using up of the rose and yellow stamps as 0.6kr stamps in 1852 and 1856 respectively was done only at Vienna, so any stamps from these two periods with Lombardy-Venetia cancellations certainly were not used in Lombardy-Vene-

tia. As stated before, the 6kr scarlet is not known with Lombardy-Venetia cancellation.

All Lombardy-Venetia stamps are also known with cancellations of post offices in Austria proper. Such use was permitted. Of the newspaper tax stamps, the 2kr red is also known with Austria cancellations (Wien and Bozen), and it cannot be explained how such a cancellation came about.

During the occupation of part of the Mantovano by the Sardinians, stamps of Sardinia, 1855 issue, were used at the six post offices operating there. Known are the 5c, 10c, 20c and 40c with such cancellations, from July to December 1859. They are all rare to very rare, especially on entires. During the 1859 war period, the French troops involved had brought French stamps of the 1853 issue with them, and some of them were used on letters mailed at post offices in Lombardy. Such covers are rare.

The 1850 issue was demonetized on December 31, 1858, but it comes regularly used, also during 1859, but only at fieldpost offices. Probably the fieldpost offices were supplied with stamps of the 1850 issue earlier in 1858 and had to use them up before they obtained the new issue.

The stamps of the 1863-64 issue were demonetized in Venetia on August 19, 1866. But several places there remained in Austrian hands after the armistice and were handed over to the Italians only after the peace treaty of October 10, 1866. Therefore, use of the 1863-64 issue in Venetia actually ceased only after that date.

Generally, the *Philatelic Literature* about Austria also deals with Lombardy-Venetia. This is not only true for the postal stamps but also for their cancellations. We can simply refer to the books and catalogs listed under Austria (Volume II, page 110). There are a few catalogs which deal only with Lombardy-Venetia, the foremost ones being the Specialized Catalogs of Old Italian States by G. Bolaffi and G. Oliva, of which the former is the newer one. A useful Catalog of the Cancellations is published by G. Landmans. Only in regard to pre-stamp postmarks was Lombardy-Venetia rightfully considered a separate field and is not covered in the publications about the pre-stamp postmarks of Austria. Two good publications exist, one by A. Banci, the other, dealing only with the postmarks of the Republic of Venice, by G. dal Gian. All



this separate literature about Lombardy-Venetia is in Italian, and if a collector does not understand German either which would enable him to read about the Lombardy-Venetia material in the books about Austria, he will have a rather hard time to gather sufficient information.

The *Scott Catalog* lists 23 postage stamps and three newspaper tax stamps of Lombardy-Venetia. We can reduce the figure of 23 postage stamps by five to 18, as so many postage stamps are only perforation varieties and therefore have no claim to main numbers in a general catalog. But on the other hand, eight newspaper stamps and one newspaper tax stamp listed under Austria were used just the same in Lombardy-Venetia and are rightfully also Lombardy-Venetia stamps. The 18 postage stamps are priced at almost \$1450 unused and only over \$90 used. The highest priced stamps list unused \$400, used \$16, the lowest priced ones unused 40c, used 20c. There is only one unused stamp listed below \$1.00 but there are seven used ones. The three newspaper tax stamps are rather expensive, listing unused at no less than \$3782.50 and used at \$635.00. The red 4s newspaper tax stamp is the highest priced one unused, at \$3500.00 rather underpriced, considering that it is the rarest Lombardy-Venetia stamp; the black 1s newspaper tax stamp is the highest priced used, at \$375.00. If we also take the Austrian newspaper and newspaper tax stamps into consideration, \$5,715 more for unused and \$1,684 for used must be added, not considering that most of the latter deserve a premium with Lombardy-Venetia cancellation.

Collecting Lombardy-Venetia has become a difficult task in recent years, made rather unsatisfactory by a shortage of all better material, especially in the higher price ranges. During the last decade, practically all Lombardy-Venetia collections owned by collectors outside Italy were broken up and the material absorbed by Italian collectors, who have assembled some very remarkable collections in the field. The collector outside Italy who starts to collect Lombardy-Venetia will have a rather easy time to get the single items used and, to some extent, also unused. He will also be able to assemble a nice type collection of the cancellations on the stamps. But when he starts to get interested in the rare varieties, in multiples

and in the rarities of the cancellations, he will find that no good material is available outside Italy and, thinking that he can get such items from Italy, will be shocked by the rather exorbitant prices asked by Italian dealers for such material. Therefore, a collector of Lombardy-Venetia will have to be satisfied with a collection of the lower and medium-priced stamps, varieties and cancellations; he will be able to get attractive covers with such items, but he must forego the desire to own the top items in the field, as they are boarded up in big Italian collections or, when one or the other item becomes available occasionally, are offered at prices which are twice or three times as high as those asked for equally rare items of Austria. For a collector of modest means who is satisfied to build a nice collection of a country without trying to obtain the expensive items, Lombardy-Venetia is a very fine and attractive field. The collector of means who wants to have everything, had better leave his hands off Lombardy-Venetia at present, otherwise he will end up as a frustrated specialist without a chance to make his collection a top one.

(Next: XXVI. Lubeck)

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and a  
HAPPY AND PEACEFUL  
YEAR 1960!

Herbert J. Bloch,

Edwin Mueller,

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and the Staff of the

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