

indications, the attractive frankings and cancellations etc., but we can only advise to keep away from it, at least under the present market conditions. For the philatelic student, Modena is not only a disappointing country due to the lack of sufficient study material, but also because it has been rather thoroughly investigated by Italian students who have left very little research still to be done.

### XXXII. MONACO

The principality of *Monaco*, the smallest independent country of Europe, is situated on the French Riviera, on a promontory into the Mediterranean Sea, surrounded on land by the Sardinian county of Nizza (French Nice), which in 1860 became the French Department of Alpes-Maritimes. It covers a territory of barely two thirds of a square mile, with a population of less than 2000 inhabitants in 1860, of which about 1200 lived in the only city, *Monaco*.

The recorded *History* of Monaco started very early, when the territory was inhabited by the Iberians and then the Ligurians. Of the latter, a tribe by the name of Monoikos settled on the approximate site in the 6th century B.C., and it is claimed that the name Monaco is derived from them. Phoenicians, Carthaginians and eventually the Greeks followed, the latter building on the promontory a temple in honor of Hercules. A story goes that they gave the temple the name of Hercules Monoikos, the latter adjective being a corruption of the surname of the god Melkart, Menuakh, providing another version of the origin of the name Monaco. After the Greeks, the Romans came into possession of the territory, and the names Monoeci Portus or Portus Herculis were used for the harbor. During the decline of the Roman Empire, the territory changed hands several times, the coast falling into the hands of the Sarazens in the 8th century. Liberated in 975, the territory came under the influence of the Republic of Genoa, which at that time was allied with the German Empire. In 968, the Grimaldi family, Genoese nobles, acquired the territory of Monaco, and they have held on to it, with short interruptions, until today. In the beginning, claims by various powers threatened the safe possession of the territory, but in 1262, the French, represented by the Count of Provence, ceded their claims, and the Grimaldi family was confirmed in its possession. To hold on to it, they had to

look for protection to the bigger powers, especially after they were able to acquire adjacent territory, Mentone (Menton) in 1346 and Roceabruna (Roquebrune) in 1355. In 1458, the territory came under the protection of Sicily, but in 1488 was made a protectorate of the King of France. Monaco became a principality in 1500. It was continuously threatened by the Genoese, who wanted to recapture the territory. To be better able to preserve its independence, Monaco accepted in 1524 the protection of Spain; this was followed by a period of relative tranquillity. When the power of Spain declined, Monaco looked for another protector and in 1641 again became a French protectorate. In 1731, the male line of the Grimaldi family died out; a daughter of the last prince took over, and after her death, her husband, a French nobleman, adopted the name of Grimaldi. During the French Revolution, in 1789, Monaco was occupied by French troops and made part of the French Department Var (No. 78). In 1793, the French National Assembly deposed the ruling family and annexed the territory, which became part of the newly formed Department of Alpes-Maritimes (No. 85). Even the name of Monaco was changed temporarily to Fort d'Hercule. After the end of the Napoleonic period, a treaty signed at Paris on May 27, 1814 restored the Grimaldi family and put the territory back under French protectorate, but the Congress of Vienna which, in 1815, fixed the new borders and powers of the European countries, put Monaco under the protectorate of the Kingdom of Sardinia, because it was surrounded by the now Sardinian county of Nizza (Nice). In 1848, Mentone and Roceabruna revolted, and their territory was annexed by Sardinia, against the protest of the Prince who never recognized this act. His domain was now confined to the small area of the city of Monaco with its suburbs. In 1856, the first gambling casino was opened there, a gambling concession was established in 1861 which in later years provided the little country with its main source of income. As a consequence of the French help in the war of 1859 against Austria, Sardinia, in the treaty of Torino, ceded to France the territory of Savoy and the county of Nice (Nizza). France took possession of the whole territory, including Monaco, on June 15, 1860. In a

treaty signed on February 2, 1861, France recognized the independence of Monaco, which put itself under the friendly protection of France. To solve definitely the question of Mentone (Menton) and Roceabruna (Roquebrune), France paid 4 million Francs to the Prince and in this way became their undisputed owner. Prince Charles III, who had succeeded his father Florestan I in 1856, ruled until after the end of the classic stamp period.

The *Postal History* of Monaco is, of course, closely connected with that of the countries which gave their protection to the little principality. The ruling family had their couriers who carried mail for them; the first signs of such activities date from the middle of the 17th century. It is believed that French post offices were opened at Monaco and Mentone in 1762. When the French annexed the principality in 1789, the mail service was reorganized as in all French provinces, and in 1815, when the Sardinians became the protectors, they fashioned the mail service in Monaco in the same manner as in other places under their control. Still only two post offices existed in the territory, Monaco and Mentone, and this remained unchanged when the French took over in 1860 and until the end of the classic stamp period. As Menton definitely became a French possession in 1861, Monaco remained the only post office on the territory of the principality. A telegraph office was opened as an annex to the post office about 1868.

Monaco always had the same *currency* as the protecting country, therefore until 1860 the Italian Lire (L), divided into 100 Centesimi (c), from then on the French Franc (fr) of 100 Centimes (c). As both these currencies had the same monetary value, there were no conversion difficulties.—The metric system was in use for *weights* and *distances*.

As long as the postal service in Monaco was conducted by Sardinia, the Sardinian rates and regulations were effective also in Monaco, which was considered Sardinian territory for postal purposes. When the change to the other protective power took place, they were replaced by French rates and regulations, Monaco being treated by the French Postal Administration like any other domestic post office.

As in France, we consider the ending of the *classic stamp period* as being simultan-

eous with the introduction of the so-called type "Sage" for the postage stamps, therefore ending in 1876.

The first stamps introduced at Monaco were *Postage Stamps of Sardinia*; theoretically at least, they were used from January 1, 1851 on. They were replaced by *Postage Stamps of France* on June 15, 1860; also on the same day, the French *Postage Due Stamps* were introduced. French *Telegraph Stamps* came into use after January 1, 1868. Official *Postal Cards*, with pasted-on stamps, were sold from January 1, 1873 on.

*Prepayment* of mail was at first not obligatory, as Sardinia permitted payment of postage by the addressee without surtax. Only on January 1, 1858 did this change, and prepayment became obligatory, a surtax being collected for unpaid letters from the addressee in addition to the postage. Under French administration, prepayment of postage was obligatory from the start, the surtax for unpaid letters being 50%. The use of postage stamps was not obligatory either, at least not before January 1, 1858, and a large percentage of letters was paid in cash. It is even claimed that the Monaco post office did not sell any postage stamps before January 1, 1858, examples of earlier use being caused by stamps brought to Monaco by visitors from Sardinia. This would explain the exceptional rarity of the early Sardinia stamps used in Monaco. We have only seen the 20c denomination of the issues 1851, 1853 and 1854 used there, although other denominations have also been reported. The 1855 issue is found somewhat more frequently, although it is still rare; but all five denominations—the originally issued 5c, 20c and 40c as well as the additional 10c and 80c, introduced on January 1, 1858—are known used at Monaco. Of the French stamps, theoretically all denominations of the issues of 1853, 1862, 1863, 1870 and 1872 can be found used at Monaco, although probably not all were sold there. 42 different classic postage stamps, including the 5fr of 1863, two postage due stamps and three telegraph stamps are recorded used at Monaco; the 80c of 1853 and the 20c, Type I of 1870 Bordeaux are the only possible uses of postage stamps not known from Monaco. Of postage due stamps, only the typographed 15c and the 30c are recorded, of telegraph stamps (which were withdrawn from further

use on April 4, 1871) 25c imperforate, as well as 1fr and 2fr perforated. All these are scarce to rare.

On *entires*, Sardinia stamps used in Monaco are rare to very rare, those of the 1851, 1853 and 1854 issues being great rarities. The 1855 issue is somewhat easier to come by, but on *entires* from Monaco it is very elusive and commands high prices. Generally, French stamps used at Monaco are more frequent, but on *entire* they are scarce to rare, especially the earlier issues and the less common denominations.

The earliest *postmark* of Monaco was a dateless straight line MONACO in Roman capitals, which seems to have been introduced in 1762. It was obviously of French origin. Until then, manuscript markings "De Monaco" were used, the earliest being known of 1725. When the principality was annexed by France, it received in 1792 a similar postmark MONACO, but with the number "78" above the name, this being the number of the Departement Var to which Monaco had been attached. This postmark remained in use for almost two years. It was replaced in 1793 by another postmark of the same type but with the number "85"—the number of the Departement of Alpes-Maritimes, to which Monaco now belonged—above MONACO; a similar postmark was also introduced for the second post office of the territory, MENTON. Both post offices also received special postmarks for paid letters, which had the number "85" standing between two "P". Sometimes the P. P. was added by separate handstamps, one of which had a Phrygian cap above the letters. It has been reported that for a short period in 1794, a straight line postmark in mixed Roman letters with the revolutionary name "Fort-Hercule" and manuscript "85" was in use, but the only known example looks rather dubious to us. After the restitution of the principality in 1815, the use of the four postmarks was at first continued, after the number "85" had been removed. In October 1820, the first Sardinian postmarks were introduced, also straight lines in Roman capitals, with the town name MONACO or MENTON. For paid letters, a P. P. was added above the town name. An additional date stamp, showing day and month, the latter in letters, was also used. In 1849, both post offices obtained double circles as introduced generally at that time at all

Sardinian post offices, with the town name, MONACO or MENTONE, at top, an asterisk at bottom and the date — day, month (in letters) and year — in the center.

The *ink* used for the oldest postmarks of the pre-stamp period was black, but the postmark with the number "78" also comes in red. The postmarks of the Napoleonic period are found in black as well as red. The Sardinian postmarks after 1815 were generally black on unpaid letters and red on paid ones; occasionally also blue ink was used. Of the double circles of 1849, that of Monaco was applied in blue, while that of Menton was in black.

When postage stamps were introduced on January 1, 1851, postage on almost all paid letters continued to be paid in cash. For such letters, the old straight line postmarks were reintroduced, with added P. P.; the ink used for them was blue, for registered letters red. A boxed "PD" postmark was stamped on paid letters to foreign countries.

For the cancellation of the Sardinian stamps used on letters, the double circles of 1849 were used. It seems that the rectangular grid cancellers, which were introduced at most post offices in Sardinia simultaneously with the adhesives, to be used as special cancellers, with the town postmarks alongside, were not used at Monaco and Menton; at least no such use is recorded. The color of the Monaco cancellation was at first blue, later became greenish blue and in 1858 black. The Menton cancellation was black, but from 1854 to 1860 often brownish red.

When French stamps replaced the Sardinian stamps on June 15, 1860, the use of the Sardinian town postmarks was provisionally continued, at Monaco until September 11, at Menton until September 16, both in black, the former also in blue.

The first French postmarks, introduced in September 1860, were double circles, with the town name at top, the departement number "(87)" of Alpes-Maritimes at bottom, and the date — day, month (in letters) and year — in the center. Special dotted diamond cancellers like those in use at the post offices in France proper were introduced simultaneously, with small figures, "4222" for Monaco and "4220" for Menton. On letters, the stamps were cancelled with these special cancellers and the town postmarks stamped alongside. Only on printed matter were the

town postmarks also used as cancellers. In 1869 a single circle town postmark was introduced in Monaco—Menton did not belong to the principality any more at that time, but to France, therefore does not concern us here—which had the same features as the double circle of 1860 but with added dispatch number. The same indication was included in 1870 in the double circle, which type remained regularly in use until October 1875 and was occasionally used until 1876. Both postmarks were replaced in October 1875 by a double circle with the erroneous inscription MONACO/ALPES-MARITIMES, which caused a strong protest, so that it was replaced after a few months by a double circle inscribed MONACO/PRINCIPAUTÉ. During that period, the special cancellers also underwent some changes. First, in 1862, after the new numbering of the French post offices in which Monaco received the number "2387", new dotted diamond cancellers, now with that number in large figures, were introduced, of which a second type came into use in 1875. There also exists such a canceller with small number "2387", which was occasionally used from 1870 to 1872, supposedly only for registered and money letters.

The telegraph office obtained in 1868 a double circle with wavy-lined outer frame, as generally used by the telegraph offices in France. It has the town name at top, an asterisk at bottom, and the date—day, month (in letters) and year—in the center. It was used exclusively as canceller of telegraph stamps.

The ink used for all French Monaco cancellations was black without exception.

In summarizing we can state that Sardinian stamps used at Monaco can be re-

cognized by the town postmarks MONACO and MENTONE, exclusively used for them. On French stamps, the earliest cancellations, with the Sardinian postmarks, are rare, as they were used for three months only. From then on, the low denominations (1c, 2c, 4c and 5c) usually show one of the Monaco town postmarks, the higher denominations one of the special cancellers, first "4222" in small figures, then "2387" in large or small figures.

*Literature* concerning classic Monaco can be found mainly in the monographs about the postmarks of Sardinia and France. A Monaco monograph and catalog by A. Novo, published two years ago, in French, has a rather extensive chapter dealing with the postal history and the postmarks.

As is the case with other small countries which had their postal service handled by bigger countries during the classic stamp period and which introduced their own stamps only after that period, Monaco is a difficult country for the collector who wants to restrict his collecting to the classic period. The available material is very limited and, as far as Sardinian stamps are concerned, practically unobtainable. Monaco cancellations on French stamps are also far from common, and very few of them are offered. The only material more readily available are pre-stamp and stampless covers, although they are not plentiful either. It will be a frustrating experience if a collector concentrates only on the period before 1876, but as a kind of prologue to a collection of the stamps of Monaco, a number of forerunners on stamps of Sardinia and France will add considerable lustre.

(Next: XXXIII. Montenegro)

## INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION PROBLEMS

### XII\*

Everyone in public office is subject to *criticism*, the prime minister and the street cleaner, the president of the highest court of the country as well as the individual policeman. Our democratic life depends on this freedom of criticism, and everyone who accepts a public job must be aware that his actions will be criticized. This awareness is one of the main brakes to any abuse of the power every job carries. Only totalitarian regimes do not permit criticism, because

\* See pages 183, 193, 232 et seq.

they are based on the contention that the self-established dictator knows best. Already 2400 years ago Plato said "Life without criticism is not worth living." Considering all this, an editorial by a distinguished writer in a distinguished philatelic magazine under the title "Stop complaining about philatelic judges" seems odd indeed. Why should just philatelic judges be excluded from criticism? The writer claims that such criticism will annoy the qualified judges and that they will decline to serve at future exhibitions. In our opinion, the writer is fight-