

telic business enterprise are a few small *islands*, off the coast of England. Several industrious stamp dealers—or their stooges, to hide the obvious sole purpose of such deals—acquired islands of this kind, preferably uninhabited, which had no government post office and no postal service. A small house was built, which served as living quarters of the caretaker, as well as post office, and all was set for a prosperous business. The British postal regulations in such cases permit the establishment of a private postal service to the mainland and there is nothing to prevent such a postal service from issuing its own stamps and from using them on the mail handled by the service. Although the general catalogs do not recognize such private stamps, the promoters do a thriving business, issue a plethora of stamps for the topical collectors and each supplies the collectors of international issues yearly with at least one additional set. For the serious collector, such antics seem, of course, ridiculous, but we are assured that the sponsors of these private mail services are making a lot of money. These enterprises are another oddity which came in the wake of philatelic commercialization. The British postal administration, if it cared, could, of course stop such doings by establishing a temporary post office on each of these islands, which were misused for the establishment of private stamp industries, to bilk the mass of naive collectors. In such a case, the private postal services would become unlawful and would be forced to close, certainly only after issuing several "Farewell" and similar special issues for the gullible collector.

With all of its ballyhoo, philatelic commercialization has done little harm, if any, to the core of philately. When someone calls the philatelic agencies the "*grave diggers of philately*", he is far off the mark. Such agencies may hurt new issue collecting be-

cause in overdoing it, in overestimating the willingness of the collectors to buy everything which is presented to them as good and valuable, they will eventually create a sales resistance which will make it unprofitable to issue any stamp items for collecting purposes only. Such a development will not hit philately at all; it will certainly mark the grand finale of the new issue boom and will make some speculators and profiteers look for other fields of endeavor. But people will still continue to collect stamps. Many will give up in disgust when they find out that they have been dupes for a get-rich-quick scheme. But collectors, who did not want to have anything to do with the crazy tempo of today's new issue production, will continue their quiet pursuit of collecting old and new stamps; they will only benefit from the crash which will bury the speculators and their naive followers.

A physician must have been reluctant in recent years to recommend stamp collecting to a person as a means of *relaxation*. The frantic efforts of the new issues collectors running after items, the tipsters exhort them to buy, trying to get items cheaper than dictated by the people who had cornered the issue in question, and keeping ahead of the market, certainly has no therapeutic value; such activities could lead only to ulcers and an eventual heart attack. Those people who believe that stamp collecting is another form of speculating in the market or playing the horses will have a rude awakening. When stamp issuing shall have returned to normal levels, as it has done several times in philatelic history, after the bubble of stamp speculation had burst, then the physicians will again be safe in recommending stamp collecting as a *quiet hobby*, satisfactory to all who want to find relaxation in a pleasant pastime, unmarred by outside speculative pressures.

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XXXIV. NAPLES

The Kingdom of *Naples*—Napoli in the Italian language of its inhabitants—was the larger part of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies, which consisted in addition to Naples of the Kingdom of Sicily. The Kingdom of Naples covered the southern half of the Italian peninsula, bordering to the north on the Roman States, which had

a number of small enclaves—mainly the cities of Benevento and Pontecorvo—on Neapolitan territory. The other borders were all parts of the Mediterranean Sea, namely the Tyrrhenian Sea to the west and southwest, the Ionian Sea to the South and the Adriatic Sea to the east and north-east. The Strait of Messina separated it from the sister kingdom of Sicily. The territory

of the kingdom comprised almost 33,000 square miles, with a population of 6,890,000 in 1856 and 7,125,000 in 1860.—The capital was the city of *Naples* (Napoli), at that time the largest town on the Italian peninsula, with about 425,000 inhabitants in 1860.

The *History* of the Kingdom of Naples is a very old and complicated one and can be set forth here only in broad outlines. In historic times, various tribes inhabited the territory, mainly the Bruttians and Lucanians; there were also some Phoenician settlements. The oldest Greek settlements, created shortly after 1000 B. C., were Parthenope, later called Neapolis, the "new city", on the site of the present city of Naples, Taras (Tarento) and Rhegium (Reggio). Around 500 B. C., there were numerous Greek settlements along the entire coast, especially in the south-western part, which was called Magna Graecia. In the 4th Century B. C., the Romans started to drive slowly into the territory from the north, conquering one part after another, until in the 5th Century A. D. they were in full possession of the entire territory. During the Roman rule, which lasted for almost 900 years, the country was divided into six provinces, Campania (with the capital Neapolis), Apulia, Bruttium, Calabria, Lucania and Samnium. After the decline of the Roman Empire the territory was successively invaded by the East Goths, the Lombards and the Normans. The city of Naples and some other coastal strips remained in the hands of the Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empire. In the 9th century, the Lombards reunited most of the territory in the Duchy of Benevento. Only at the end of the 11th Century was the whole territory in the hands of the Normans, who in 1130 created a political entity of the territory together with the island of Sicily. The Kingdom of Two Sicilies was established in this way, consisting of Southern Italy, called "Sicily beyond the Faro" (Dominii di qua del Faro) and Sicily proper, "Sicily on this side of the Faro" (Dominii di là del Faro), Faro being the name of the Strait of Messina. In the following centuries, the territory was the object of continuous warfare between France and Spain. The two kingdoms were several times separated and again reunited, until during the War of the Spanish Succession, followed by the treaty of Utrecht (1713), the Kingdom of Naples and in 1720 also

Sicily came to Austria. But in 1734, the territory was again invaded by Spain, and a year later, the second son of King Philip V of Spain became as King Charles III the ruler of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, in this way establishing the Bourbon dynasty of Naples. During the Napoleonic period, Naples joined the war against the French and in January 1799 was occupied by French troops, which established on its territory the Parthenopean Republic. It lasted only for a few months, as the Bourbon dynasty was reinstated late in 1799 with the help of the British fleet. In the subsequent years of war, Naples was eventually again occupied by the French in 1805, and in 1806, Napoleon's brother, Joseph Bonaparte, was made King of Naples. He was succeeded in 1808 by Joachim Murat. After the fortunes of war had turned against Napoleon, an Austrian army entered the territory and restored the rule of the Bourbon dynasty in 1815. But continuous unrest eventually led to open revolt, and in 1820 the European powers authorized Austria to send an army to Naples. Austrian troops remained as protection of the king until 1827. The autocratic regime installed by the Bourbons led to numerous disturbances and to open revolt in 1848, which was crushed by ruthless force and persecution of all liberty-minded inhabitants. In 1859, King Ferdinando II, who had ruled since 1830, died and was succeeded by his son, Francesco II. He ruled for little more than a year. In May 1860, Garibaldi landed in Sicily and soon liberated the island from Bourbon rule. In June 1860 he invaded the mainland and on September 7 entered the city of Naples, the Royal family having fled to Gaeta, which resisted until February 1861. A plebiscite held in Naples on October 21, 1860 resulted in an overwhelming majority for union with Sardinia in a united Italy. Annexation by Sardinia followed on December 17, 1860. King Victor Emmanuel II established a provisional government and appointed a Viceroy for Naples. In February 1861 Naples became part of the new Kingdom of Italy, which included also the former enclaves of the Roman States within the territory of the Kingdom of Naples. Benevento had been incorporated on January 1, 1861, while Pontecorvo was definitely annexed only in August 1861. The provisional government lasted until November

1862, then the transition to uniform rules for all Italy was completed.

Although Naples was a part of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies, many of the services were conducted independently in both kingdoms. Among others, the postal service was separate in both kingdoms, which fact is made obvious by the issuance of different stamp issues for each kingdom.

The *Postal History* of the Kingdom of Naples is not very extended, at least as far as it is recorded. It seems that the first postal service which served the public was introduced by the Spaniards, after they had established the Kingdom of Naples under the Bourbons in 1735. It developed slowly due to the various wars and revolutions. The changes followed each other so fast that no postal reforms could be completed. Only after 1818, when a period of relative peace was enjoyed, was a complete reorganization of the postal service achieved. There were two kinds of postal establishments, post offices ("Uffici di Posta"), which were conducted by government employees, and Letter Collecting Agencies ("Officini di Posta"), which were in the hands of the communities and provided only reduced service. A new reform introducing postage stamps took place on January 1, 1858. On January 1, 1859, there were 130 post offices. Their number increased, despite several closings, to 160 in November 1860. During the provisional government the postal regulations were gradually adapted to the new conditions, first by introducing those of Sardinia, then those of Italy. But special regulations had to remain in force for some time for the Neapolitan Provinces, mainly due to the difference in currency and to the fact that the Neapolitan rates were partly lower than those of the other Italian States. Four separate Postal Directorates were formed, comprising the former Kingdom of Naples, including the former Roman States enclaves, with the seats at Naples, Bari, Chieti and Cosenza. Only on January 1, 1863, were the uniform Italian regulations introduced in the Neapolitan Provinces, which made the postal unification complete. A great number of new post offices opened under the provisional government, so that at the end of 1862 there were 200 post offices in the territory.

The Roman States enclaves of Benevento and Pontecorvo had their separate postal

histories. Pontecorvo had a Roman States post office and used stamps of the Roman States from January 1, 1852 until it was incorporated into the Neapolitan Provinces in August 1861. Benevento did not use any Roman states stamps, but started to use Naples stamps on January 1, 1858, which indicates that it was served by a Naples post office.

The first railroad in the Kingdom of Naples was opened in 1838, from Naples to Castellamare, with a branch line to Torre dell'Annunziata. In 1843 followed a line from Naples to Capua, with a branch line to Sarno. There were additional lines Naples-Salerno, Sarno-S. Severino and Capua-Prezzeno, opened in 1860 and 1861. At the end of the stamp period, there were less than 90 miles of rail lines in the country. They were extensively used for carrying the mails but there were no travelling post offices.

There existed several shipping lines plying between domestic ports or to foreign ports. The domestic lines, which are claimed to having been the first steamship lines in the Mediterranean, had their terminals mainly in Naples, Brindisi and Molfetta; they conducted a regular service between the ports of the country, as well as with Sicily and various foreign ports, mainly in the other Italian States, in France, Austria and Greece. The "Piroseafi Nazionale", owned by the government, carried most of the ship mail, but private lines were also employed, as well as some foreign carriers, especially French, Austrian and Greek.

A *Telegraph Service* was introduced in 1852, first from Naples to Gaeta, then extended to Terracina in 1854, but only for government messages. Only in the latter year was it opened to the public. In 1858 there were more than 1600 miles of telegraph lines and 88 telegraph offices.

There were no *foreign post offices* on the territory of the Kingdom of Naples during the stamp period. During the various French occupations in the Napoleonic period, between 1799 and 1815, there was a French post office at Naples. During Austrian occupation of the country, Austrian field-post offices were functioning there from 1821 to 1827.

The *Currency* of Naples was the Ducat (d), divided into 100 Grana (gr); 1/2 Grano was 1 Tornese (t). The conversion

into Italian currency in 1860 was made at the rate of 4.20 Italian Lire for the Ducat, but in the postal service at 4 Lire for the Ducat.—For *weights*, the pound (libra) divided into 12 ounces (oncie), was in use, alongside with the metric system. For *measurements*, the metric system was in use.

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After the liberation of 1860, the Sardinian and Italian postal rates were gradually introduced and became valid for all mail within Italy. Conformity of the rates was to be achieved by March 1, 1861. As the first consequence, the rate for newspapers was halved and became  $\frac{1}{2}$ t for each 20 grams beginning November 6, 1860; the rate for printed matter remained unchanged  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. The letter rate was now 5gr for each 10 grams up to 50 grams, while shipments of higher weight paid special rates. The basic fee for letters within the former Kingdom remained 2gr, for city letters 1gr. Registration fee was 10gr. For shipment by

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The *payment of postage* was obligatory for newspapers and printed matter, from March 1, 1861 on also for city letters. Other mail could be sent unfranked, and the addressee had to pay the postage plus a 50% surtax. The *use of stamps* was obligatory for all mail, domestic and foreign.

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While the 1861 issue was in preparation at Torino, the local postal authorities at Naples prepared an issue of their own, which in anticipation of the impending introduction of the Italian Lire and Centesimi currency in Naples, was in this latter currency. Five denominations, 5c green, 10c brown, 20c blue, 40c carmine and 80c

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orange, were typographed with embossed head in the center, in a design very closely imitating the 1855 issue of Sardinia, but with inscriptions in sans-serif type. The issuance of these stamps was not authorized and they remained unissued. The fact that a few copies of all denominations are known cancelled, even on cover, does not disprove this fact. The used copies, as far as they are really genuinely cancelled, are probably sample copies which came into private hands and slipped through when fraudulently used for postage.

The stamps of the 1858 issue were not *withdrawn* after the liberation, as there were no suitable stamps in Grana currency to substitute for them. Only after the provisional government had issued the provisional stamps in Grana currency from February 1861 on, were the stamps gradually withdrawn. They were *demonetized* on October 31, 1861 in the territory of the postal directorate of Naples and on Nov. 21, 1861 in the postal directorates of Bari, Chieti and Cosenza. The stamps issued by the provisional government were withdrawn on September 30, 1862 and replaced by regular stamps of Italy. They were *demonetized* on October 15, 1862.

The *design* of the first postage stamps, which were to be recess-printed, features an emblem which signifies the sovereignty of the Bourbon dynasty in regard to the Kingdom of Two Sicilies. It consists of three parts, at top left a galloping horse, which was an ancient symbol of Naples, at top right the so-called Trinacria, a Medusa head with three legs, symbolizing the three promontories of Sicily, and at the bottom three Bourbon lilies, the symbols of the dynasty. Each denomination had a different frame. There were two sizes, a square for the three low denominations, and an upright rectangle for the others. Further differences were in the shape of the central design; it was a circle for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, a square for the 1gr, an octagon for the 2gr, a rectangle for the 5gr, a hexagon for the 10gr, a diamond for the 20gr and an oval for the 50gr. All denominations had the inscription BOLLO DELLA POSTA NAPOLETANA, meaning "Stamp of the Neapolitan Post" around the center design and the value indication, "G:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", "GRA: 1", "G: 2", "GRA: 5", "G: 10", "GRA: 20" and "G: 50" respectively, at bottom.

When the provisional government took over in 1860, it was forced to continue issuance of the stamps with the Bourbon emblem, because of lack of other stamps in Grana currency. It was intended to change the design for new printings, replacing the Bourbon emblem with the Savoy cross, the emblem of the ruling house of Sardinia and later Italy. But this was accomplished only for the new denomination, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t, which had been created from the  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr by changing the "G:" into a "T:"; it was issued on November 6, 1860. Now the center design was made into a Savoy cross and the changed stamp issued on December 6, 1860. A similar change was prepared for three other denominations but they were never issued.

The necessity to issue new stamps in Grana currency led to adoption of a slightly changed version of the stamps of Sardinia, for which the center, the embossed head of King Victor Emanuel II, remained the same, but the frame was changed. While the Sardinian stamps had the frame typographed, it was lithographed for the Neapolitan stamps. The other main difference is that the inscriptions are colored, while the Sardinia issue had them colorless on solid ground; the ornaments are also different. The inscriptions are the same, FRANCO at left, POSTE at top and BOLLO at right, but the value indication was on the Neapolitan stamps only at bottom, reading MEZZO TORNESE, MEZZO GRANO, UN GRANO, DUE GRANA, CINQUE GRANA, DIECI GRANA, VENTI GRANA and CINQUANTA GRANA, respectively.

A *die* was engraved in steel, for each denomination of the 1858 issue separately, by Giuseppe Masini, an engraver of Naples. In engraving the designs, he included "secret marks" in each die, the first issue of Naples being one of the few stamp issues in which such marks were purposely and systematically inserted in the design. They consist of the seven letters of the engraver's initial and name, G. MASINI, each denomination receiving one letter, in tiny Roman type, at bottom, to the left of the value indication on the 1gr and 5gr, to the right on the other denominations, namely "G." on  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, "M." on 1gr, "A." on 2gr, "S." on 5gr, "I." on 10gr, "N." on 20gr and again "I." on 50gr. These "secret

marks" are visible in the designs of all issued stamps, except on the second plate of the 10gr which shows the "secret mark" only faintly when at all.

The die for the 1861 issue—without value indication—was drawn on a stone by Francesco Matraire of Torino, who had produced the contemporary stamps of Sardinia. To obtain the dies for the eight denominations, the value indications were drawn in on working stones.

For the manufacture of the *printing plates* of the 1858 issue, the British method of embossing the designs into a plate by means of an embossing device—the same kind as was used for the manufacture of the early recess-printed stamps of Great Britain—was adopted. Transfer rollers were used which were made from the original dies with the help of a transfer press. In turn, these transfer rollers embossed the designs singly on the plates—which were in the case of the Naples stamps partly of steel, partly of copper—until the plates were completed. They consisted for all denominations of 200 designs, in two panes of 100 (10x10) designs each, placed side by side. The first plates were manufactured by Giuseppe Masini, who was also the printer. Early in 1858 he also made a second plate of the 2gr. In April 1858, new plates of all denominations except the 50gr were made by Gaetano de Masa, who printed the stamps from then on, because he was cheaper. His son, Gennero di Masa, continued the work from August 1858 on. Therefore, there were two plates used for the ½gr, 1gr, 5gr, 10gr and 20gr, as well as three plates for the 2gr. Only one plate existed of the 50gr. As far as could be ascertained for several denominations, the gutter between the two panes was about 8½ to 9mm. wide.

The work of preparing the plates was not very expert and in any case much less accurate than that for the British stamps, which were made by experienced craftsmen, while the plates of the Naples stamps were manufactured by newly trained local workers who lacked the necessary experience. The result was that the plates showed a number of characteristic peculiarities. The alignment of the designs was often not perfect and some designs are more or less shifted, in a few cases, for the 2gr, up to 3½mm. in vertical direction, so that pairs can be



Fig. 138

found showing one stamp standing much higher than the other. The inexpert handling of the transfer rollers resulted in quite a number of cases in double entries of the design, which are known of all denominations except the ½gr. There are very minor double entries in which only a small part of the design appears doubled, and very obvious ones, especially of the 5gr., on which the whole design is doubled; of the latter, triple, quadruple and even six consecutive entries occurred and can be found on stamps. The plates were also in other respects unsatisfactory, as due to the unevenness of the surface many colored smudges appear on those parts of the stamps which should be without print and in the spaces between the stamps. There was no margin print.

The plate for the provisional ½t stamp of 1860 was obtained by individually changing the value indication from "G:" to "T:". This was accomplished by embossing a "T" on top of the "G" of each design, with the help of a steel die of the letter "T", just in the same way as the corner letters were inserted in the plates of the recess-printed stamps of Great Britain. This was done only on the left pane of the ½gr plate, so that when printed only right panes of this stamp exist. The embossing of the "T" was done rather accurately, but in some cases double embossings occurred, in a few instances producing distinct double "T" varieties (Fig. 138). As the work was done individually, each design can be distinguished by the embossing and the position of the "T", so that one hundred sub-types could be distinguished. But nobody was able to plate this rare stamp up to now. The right pane of the plate was not changed



and only the left part used for the printing of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamp.

When the change of design took place shortly thereafter for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamp, this was also accomplished individually on the one hundred designs of the left pane of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamp plate. The Neapolitan emblem in the center was more or less completely flattened out and in place of it a simple cross on horizontally lined ground engraved. The same hundred sub-types as for the original  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamp can be distinguished, which is made easier by the fact that the individual engraving of the crosses created many additional differences. This stamp has been successfully plated. There is evidence that in the plates of other denominations the Neapolitan emblem was replaced by the Savoy cross in the same manner, but these changed plates were never put to use to print postage stamps.

The changes of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr plate, first to " $\frac{1}{2}$ t" and then the replacement of the center design by the "Savoy Cross", were the work of the engraver Pasquale Amandola of Naples.

The *printing stones* of the eight denominations of the 1861 issue were produced from the original stones by way of transfer stones. These transfer stones consisted of ten designs, in a block of 5x2 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ t, 1gr, 2gr, 5gr and 20gr) or in a strip of 10 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, 10gr and 50gr). These were repeated ten times to assemble a printing stone of 100 (10x10). In the case of the transfer block of ten each column contained two transfer types, alternating, while where the transfer strip of 10 was used, all stamps of a column are of the same transfer type. But there were many substitutions on the stones and some transfer types (Type VIII of the 5gr as well as Types III and VIII of the 20gr) were never used but always replaced by other types. Of seven denominations only one transfer stone existed; solely of the 2gr a second one was laid down, consisting of 15 designs (5x3), but this was done with the help of a block of 15 designs taken from a printing stone so that it contains the same transfer types or, more exactly, subtypes of these transfer types as the original transfer stone. There is evidence that there were more than one printing stone of most denominations.

To obtain the colorless *head embossing* of the head in the center of the stamps of

the 1861 issue, the embossing devices used for the 1855 issue of Sardinia were put to use. The embossings were made with a single die or with a die consisting of two heads, side by side; both kinds can be found on the Naples issue. As the space between the two heads of the double die was 11mm., single and double die embossings can be distinguished in case of multiples.

A number of *retouches* are known of the 1858 issue, where there are very few, and on the 1861 issue, where they are more numerous, especially on the 1gr, 2gr and 5gr.

The stamps of the 1858 issue were recess-printed on hand presses, in sheets of 200, two panes of 100 side by side. The two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t of 1860 were printed from the left half of the plate, containing a single pane of 100. The 1861 issue was printed from lithographic stones of 100, the colorless head in the center embossed separately, with a special embossing device.

Various *printing varieties* are recorded. On the 1858 issue, slight shifts often produced doubling of parts of the design, especially on margin stamps. Stronger shifts in a few cases produced curious stamps which seem to be larger than regular ones, for example a 1gr the design of which is 25mm. high instead of 19mm. Complete double prints are also recorded, namely of the 2gr (Plate I) and 20gr (Plate I). Stamps printed on both sides are rare but less elusive; they exist of the 1gr (Plate I), 5gr (Plate I and II) and 10gr (Plate II); the 2gr (Plate I) is known with 1gr printed on its reverse side. Some stamps come in very worn or smudged, overinked prints, so that the design is hardly discernible. Of the 1861 issue only varieties which are known genuinely used are considered issued while unused examples are believed to be printer's waste of little value. Of such used items, two denominations,  $\frac{1}{2}$ t and 5gr, are known on which the frame is printed on both sides, both used at Naples, the latter also at Chieti. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ t, 1gr, 2gr, 5gr and 20gr are known used with inverted head embossing, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t, 1gr, 2gr and 5gr exist used with double head embossing, one inverted. Copies with regular double head embossing, used or unused, are rather common, when the two heads are close together; only when the two heads are more distant from each other are they scarce. Stamps without head embossing generally come from unfinished sheets found in the

remainders, but the 1gr and 2gr are known regularly used; the latter was in the Ferrari Collection.

The *Paper* used for the 1858 issue and the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860 was hand-made by the papermaker Bonaventura Tajani of Vietri di Salerno. It had a sheet watermark, which consisted of 40 Bourbon lilies (four rows of ten) in an ornamented frame, which had on each side in the center the inscription BOLLI POSTALI in double-lined Roman capitals. In the bottom left corner there was a monogram "BT", initials of the papermaker. The paper was rough and of uneven thickness; only on the last printings of the 1gr, 2gr, 5gr and 10gr, made in 1861, do we find also a thinner and smoother paper. The watermark can be found inverted, reversed and inverted reversed, the last two varieties generally only discernible on copies which show the monogram. The space between the lilies and between the lilies and the frame was large enough that some stamps of a sheet were occasionally left without any trace of a watermark. Of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t Cross, a few copies are known which show as watermark a small circle topped by a cross; it is not known how this variety occurred. The 1861 issue was printed on machine-made paper without watermark.

The *gum* of the 1858 issue, which was applied by hand, was a mixture of animal and vegetable glues, with considerable impurities; only for the last printings vegetable gum alone, of better quality, was used, which fact improved the general appearance of the stamps. The 1861 issue had the same gum as the 1855 issue of Sardinia, a colorless animal glue.

Naples was one of the few countries which printed the first stamps all in the same color, in this case *rose red* in many shades. The fast distinction between the denominations should be accomplished by different size and design instead of by different colors. Only the provisional government introduced different colors for the stamps, first *blue* for the new  $\frac{1}{2}$ t denominations of 1860. The new issue of 1861, printed at Torino, featured an independent color scheme, with a different color for each denomination.  $\frac{1}{2}$ t was *green*,  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr *brown*, 1gr *black*, 2gr *blue*, 5gr *red*, 10gr *bistre*, 20gr *yellow* and 50gr *gray*.

The color of the 1858 issue was a rather unstable one. The earliest printings were

lilac rose, but the color deteriorated soon and was so sensitive that it changed readily under the influence of light. The gum, which seems to have contained some acid, also influenced the color. The result was that a large percentage of the stamps presents itself today in a pale color which is often so undistinguished that the design is hardly discernible. Only for some later printings was more stable ink used, which resulted in stamps of distinct carmine colors in various shades, some with a brownish tint, which make the designs more presentable. The unstable colors tending to fading together with the uneven toning of the paper, caused by the gum, must be blamed for the unattractive appearance of many stamps of this issue. No color varieties can be found on the two blue  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps, except for darker and lighter shades. Rather extensive is the range of shades for the 1861 issue. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ t varies from yellow green to emerald green, the  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr from gray brown to bistre brown, the 1gr from grayish black to deep black, the 2gr from blue over ultramarine to indigo, the 5gr from vermilion over carmine to lilac, the 10gr from olive bistre to orange, the 20gr from yellow to orange yellow and the 50gr from bluish slate to gray.

There are two "*Errors of Color*" recorded, of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t and 2gr, both in black. They are known used in a few examples, the former at Rocca gloriosa, the latter at Cosenza, supposedly as 1gr stamps. We are nevertheless of the opinion that they come from accidentally or fraudulently used proof sheets and are not actual errors of color.

All stamps of Naples were issued *imperfurate* only. No private perforations are recorded.

The stamps of the 1858 issue were issued to the post offices in *sheets* of 200 (two panes of 100), those of the two 1860  $\frac{1}{2}$ t in sheets of 100, all as printed. The printed sheets of the 1861 stamps, which contained 100 stamps, were vertically divided in the center, so that the post office sheets consisted of only 50 stamps, in 10 rows of 5. The sheet margins were cut off on these half-sheets, so that copies of this issue with sheet margin do not come used and originated all in the remainders.

The *remainders* of the 1858 issue, as far as the stocks of the General Post Office at Naples were concerned, amounted to about

1,225,000 stamps. They were burnt after the 1861 issue had been distributed to the post offices. There were additional small quantities returned by the post offices early in 1862, after the stamps were withdrawn from sale, amounting to about 4500 copies of the 2gr, 4000 copies of the 1gr, 1750 copies of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, 1650 copies of the 5gr, 900 copies of the 20gr, 675 copies of the 50gr and 450 copies of the 10gr. It seems that the postal directorates delivered all these returned stamps to the Postal Administration in Torino, where they—like all remainders of Old Italian States which were sent there—eventually were disposed of and reached the philatelic market. Of the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860, there were about 135,000 in the stocks of the Naples General Post Office when the 1861 issue was distributed; they were burnt together with the stocks of the 1858 issue. Among the stamps returned early in 1862 by the post offices there were no  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps, therefore there existed no remainders at all of these two stamps. The conditions for the 1861 issue were similar to those for the 1858 issue, the stock of stamps remaining in the hands of the Postal Administration obviously having been destroyed in 1862 after the stamps were replaced by stamps of Italy. Possibly the stamps returned by the post offices again were sent to Torino and disposed of there, but the rather large quantities of this issue which came in philatelic hands did not originate from the stocks of the Postal Administration, but from the printer, Francesco Matraire, who, starting in 1868, disposed of his stocks of finished and unfinished sheets, selling them to several stamp dealers together with a large quantity of sheets of the last issue of Sardinia. It is not known which quantities Matraire had of the various denominations and how many of them were sheets ready for distribution to the post offices and how many were unfinished, ungummed and/or without head embossing. Matraire sold at the same time also a quantity of printers' waste, sheets with inverted, double or multiple head embossing and similar irregular items, as well as a small number of proofs, including the so-called "Error of Color",  $\frac{1}{2}$ t black.

The total printed quantities of the unissued stamps in Centesimi currency, manufactured at Naples in 1861, were delivered in April 1861 to the Postal Administration

at Torino. There were about 20,000 complete sets—5c, 10c, 20c, 40c and 80c—and a large quantity of additional sheets of several denominations, as well as unfinished sheets, ungummed and/or without head embossing and some printers' waste. Part of these quantities seems to have been destroyed, but a considerable number of sets must have come into philatelic hands, as they are still available, although usually only in sets.

Due to the fact that there were no remainders of the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860, they have become *unused* the by far rarest stamps of Naples, especially with original gum. The first  $\frac{1}{2}$ t, the so-called "Trinaeria", is unused, in very fine condition with gum, one of the rarest stamps of Europe. The stamps of the 1858 issue are all scarce to rare in unused condition, especially the three highest denominations. The 50gr is the most difficult to obtain in satisfactory condition, due to the fact that it was always a sought after stamp, being also rare in used condition. But it is also difficult to get the other denominations in good color and with original gum; except for the 1gr and 2gr, they have become rather elusive. Not much difficulty is encountered when looking for unused copies of the 1861 issue; they are rather plentiful and still often offered in complete sets. But this refers generally only to certain shades, mostly from the last printings, while some shades of earlier printings are scarce to rare. The "Error of Color"  $\frac{1}{2}$ t black is unused rare, while the 2gr black is not known in unused condition. Of the unissued stamps in Centesimi currency, there are still supplies in dealers' stocks, and they are not difficult to come by in complete sets.

*Unused multiples* are scarce to very rare of all denominations of the 1858 issue. Pairs are not too difficult of all denominations, with the exception of the 50gr, of which only a few are known. Strips are much rarer; we have seen them only of the four lowest denominations and not many can exist of the higher ones, especially of the 50gr. Unused blocks are very rare, and only of the three lowest denominations are there several recorded. We know only two blocks of four 20gr, which came from the Ferrari Collection, and one block of four 50gr, which is in the Tapling Collection, but we have not seen blocks of the 5gr and 10gr,

although they may exist as great rarities. There are no unused multiples known of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t "Trinaeria" and only one vertical pair of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t "Cross", which was in the Ferrari Collection. No full sheets of all these stamps seem to exist, the largest known blocks being blocks of 10, 20 and 25 of  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, 1gr and 2gr respectively. Of the 1861 issue, all denominations exist in full post office sheets of 50 and therefore they are also easily found in multiples. But some shades are difficult to find in multiples and some may not exist at all. The unissued 1861 stamps in Centesimi currency also all exist in full sheets and are rather plentiful in blocks.

In *used* condition, the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860 as well as the two 50gr stamps, of 1858 and 1861, are the outstanding items. Undoubtedly the rarest is the 50gr of 1861, but its price is unfavorably influenced by the fact that it is rather plentiful in unused condition, which will satisfy many collectors. This makes the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860 the most popular and expensive Naples stamps also in used condition; about 60,000 copies were used of them together, of which only a small percentage can have survived as they were almost exclusively used on newspapers. The 50gr of 1858 is considerably less rare but most of the existing copies are—like the large majority of all stamps of the 1858 issue—in unsatisfactory condition, and fine copies, in good color and nicely cancelled, are elusive. The same is true, although to a lesser degree, of the other denominations of the 1858 issue; none of them is really rare but only a very small percentage of the available copies will satisfy a collector who is eager to obtain fine stamps. Of the 1861 issue, the denominations up to 10gr are available used without much difficulty, but the 20gr is scarce and less easy to come by. The 50gr is, as stated before, used the rarest Naples stamp. Of all denominations of the unissued 1861 issue in Centesimi currency, a few used copies exist, even on cover, but they must be considered curiosities.

In regard to *used multiples*, pairs can be found without much difficulty of all denominations of the 1858 issue, although they are scarce of the 10gr and rare of the 20gr and 50gr. Strips are still scarcer but known of all denominations. Rare to very rare are all blocks; we have seen none of the 10gr

and 20gr, but they are reported as existing. Two or three blocks of the 50gr are recorded, one of them on cover (Fig. 139). The largest used block known is one of forty 2gr. A number of used gutter pairs are known of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, 1gr and 2gr; we know only of one example of the 5gr and none of the higher denominations. Copies which show the gutter but only a fraction of the stamp from the other pane (Fig. 140) are somewhat less rare, although we do not know them of the three highest denominations. But they exist of both  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860. Of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t "Trinaeria", the largest known used multiples are a few pairs, which are of great rarity. Of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t "Cross" there are quite a number of pairs; a strip of three, as well as blocks of four and eight also are known. The 1861 issue is not scarce in used pairs and strips, except, of course, 20gr and 50gr; strips of three of both seem to be the largest strips known. We know all denominations, except 10gr and 20gr, in used blocks. The 1gr is the least rare, followed by  $\frac{1}{2}$ t and 2gr;  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr and 5gr are much rarer, and only one used block seems to be known of the 50gr. There exists also a used block of the 2gr with inverted head embossing. Of the two "Errors of Color", only the 2gr black is known in a used pair. Generally, the largest used block known of any denomination of the 1861 issue is one of ten.

*On entire*, only two stamps of Naples deserve an exceptionally high premium when on cover, namely the two 50gr. The 50gr of 1858 is more easily obtainable, as the postal rates to foreign countries and even to Sicily were high and rather often made the use of a 50gr stamp necessary. Even pairs and strips of the 50gr, in one case even a block of four are found on such covers (Fig. 139). Still a high premium is paid for all covers with such 50gr stamps. The 50gr of 1861 is by far the rarest Naples stamp on cover and such entires are valued many times the price of stamps off cover (Fig. 141). All other Naples stamps on entires are relatively not rare and are available with a regular cover premium. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860 and 1861 are usually found in single frankings on newspapers; used for postage on letters they are much scarcer, in multiple frankings, which are known with up to eight copies, as well as in combination frankings with other denominations.

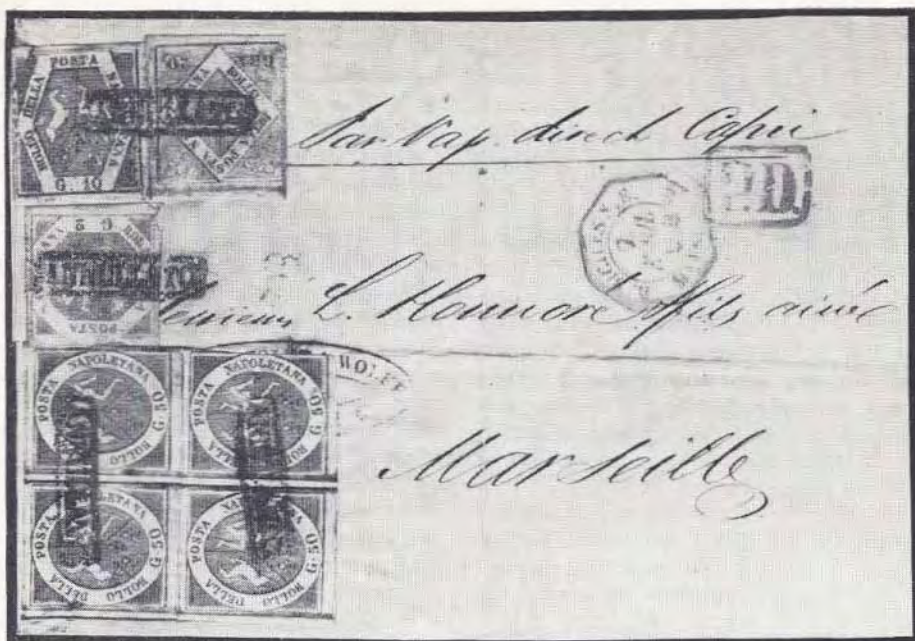


Fig. 139

Mixed frankings exist between the 1858 and 1861 issue. Such frankings were permissible between February 14 and November 21, 1861, therefore for more than nine months. They are not very rare, except those which include the 1/2gr 1858 and, of course, where the stamps involved are in themselves cover rarities, like the 50gr of 1858 and of 1861. But some other combinations also are very rare and sought for. Mixed frankings be-

tween the 1858 issue and 1/2t "Trinaeria" of 1860 are rare, those which contain the 1/2t "Cross" very rare (Fig. 139). The two 1/2t of 1860 in mixed frankings with the 1861 issue are also known in a few examples. Mixed frankings between the 1861 issue and the first issue of Italy (1862) and the last issue of Sardinia (1855) respectively are of great rarity, because they were permitted only for two weeks, from October 1 to 15,



Fig. 140



Fig. 141

1862, although they seem to have been tolerated also for a short period after that date. There are also cases of such mixed frankings with Italy and Sardinia stamps known from the time before October 1, 1862 (Fig. 141), even as very rare exceptions between the 1858 issue and stamps of Italy and Sardinia.

The use of Naples stamps was, after the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy in February 1861, tolerated in the whole territory of the new kingdom, as was the case for the stamps of all Old Italian States. But only very few examples of such use are known, and mixed frankings with stamps of other Old Italian States during that period, for example Tuscany, are mostly unique cases of the greatest rarity.

Of *emergency frankings*, only *bisects* are known. Of the 1858 issue, several vertical halves of the ½gr are recorded, all used at Chieti and Campobasso on newspapers, paying for the ½t rate. Obviously a temporary shortage of ½t stamps, in April and May 1861, was responsible for these emergency frankings. In the Ferrari Collection was a bisected 2gr, used on cover for the 1gr rate, but we have not seen it and it is not recorded anywhere else. Of the 1861 issue, two bisects are known, both probably unique. One is a vertical half of a 2gr attached to a pair of the same denomination, paying the 5gr rate in October 1861 on a cover from Pontecorvo. The other is a vertical half of the 5gr on a cover from Monopoli, paying the 2gr rate in February 1862.

Of the 1858 issue, private *Reprints* were made in 1896, when some of the original dies and printing plates were in private hands. They were the dies of all denominations except the 2gr, and the plates of the 10gr (Plate II) and 50gr. Of the dies, reprints were made in carmine rose color on small pieces of yellowish-white unwatermarked paper (50x50mm.) and of the plate of the 50gr, in brown carmine. There exists also a reprint in brown carmine of the ½gr. Color and paper of these reprints as well as their fine print vary so much from the originals that they cannot be confused with them. Only the 50gr printed from the plate and the brown carmine ½gr are scarce, while the reprints from the dies are rather common. In 1898, the above printing material was given to the Italian Postal Museum.

(To be continued)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

● *The next issue* of the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* is scheduled for *May, 1962*.

● *Bound Volume V* of the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* is now available. Price \$5.00, post free.

● *Our Editor* will again travel extensively in *Europe* during the coming summer. His detailed schedule will be published in the next issue, together with travel routes of the other partners of the Mercury Stamp Company.

● *The Friedl Expert Committee* is trying hard to catch up with the very numerous shipments received for their opinion during recent months. The Committee was able to return some shipments during the usual two-week period, a few even after one week. But difficult shipments are still suffering considerable delays, up to six weeks and even more. This is especially true for shipments containing more than five stamps, as often the difficulty in coming to a founded opinion on a single stamp delays the whole shipment. Therefore, collectors wanting fast service should send no more than five stamps in one shipment, except when they are all from the same country. Generally, shipments containing stamps of a single country can be handled much more quickly than shipments which feature stamps of different countries. Every effort is made to cope with the problem of giving fast service, but collectors are requested to cooperate by following the foregoing advice.

● *International Philatelic Exhibitions*, sponsored by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, are scheduled in 1962 for *Prague* and *Buenos Aires*, 1963 for *Istanbul* and *Luxembourg*, 1964 for *Sofia*, 1965 for *Brussels* and 1966 for *Beograd*.

● *The INTERPEX 1962*, which will be held on *March 30, 31 and April 1* at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in *New York*, promises to become a major philatelic event. In addition to the exhibition, a number of annual meetings of various philatelic organizations will take place. The Mayor of New York has designed the week of the show "International Stamp Week".

● *An International Airmail Exhibition* will be held from *Sept. 12 to 16, 1962* at the Congress Hall in *West Berlin*.

A review of *Present Market Conditions* shows that it is still a seller's market we have to deal with. It is the scarcity of good material which often gives the seller a chance to dictate his terms and to obtain more for his material than would be warranted if all circumstances were properly evaluated. This is somewhat surprising, as the prices have levelled off during recent months and, although there is still a rising market in certain fields, generally the top of the prices seem to have been reached and no further spectacular price rises seem to be in the making. The price developments of the last years have induced quite a number of important collectors to dispose of their collections, and although this material has quickly found its way into other collections, it has brought further advances to a standstill. On the field of 20th century stamps and especially in the recent favorites of the speculators, for example the "Europa" stamps, a weakness of the market has developed which has brought some of the top prices down to a more reasonable level. There is no doubt that many dealers believe that the top of the prices has been reached, at least for a while, and collectors who were in a quandary whether to sell or not to sell, feel that the favorable conditions for selling will not last indefinitely. This seems to indicate that the next season will still be a good

season, without a noticeable reduction in prices, but with a larger supply of good material available. This will be true in Europe as well as over here, so that still a considerable part of the material over here will wander over the Atlantic. Some American collectors who concluded from this fact that it would be better to sell in Europe have found that it is not necessarily so, as the European auction conditions are different, and many items which are not protected by a reserve are selling there at low prices. German auctioneers in their publicity make a point of it that they charge only 15% commission, but they neglect to state that, in contrast to over here, the buyer also has to pay 10%, so that 25% are deducted from the actual selling price, therefore more than over here. In our experience, fine and desirable stamps sold over here by an auction house with extensive European connections fetch better prices than over there, as in addition to the European buyers—who incidentally love to buy at American auctions—the wealthy American clientele who bids in European auctions, if at all, only reluctantly, due to the often inadequate description of the auction lots, influences here the prices further upward. The collector who wants to sell his collection and is not aware of these facts is due to have some disappointments. He should consider them carefully before making a decision.

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XXXIV. NAPLES\*

Naples is eminent by the large numbers of *Postal Forgeries* which were made and used to defraud the government. It has been said that the forgers were Italian patriots who in this way wanted to harm the hated Bourbon regime which stood in the way of Italian unity. But they continued their activities after the Bourbons were deposed and a united Italy created, so that it must be assumed that their motives were less idealistic. The forgeries were manufactured in the city of Naples and mainly used there; use at other post offices is known but a rare exception. The forgers must have had the cooperation of some postal employees, otherwise it would be unexplainable how such large quantities of forgeries were

used, making some of them rather common. The use of many of the forgeries on registered or insured letters also speaks for it that the forgers worked with the active help of some postal employees. Postal forgeries exist of three denominations of the 1858 issue, namely 2gr, 10gr and 20gr, the last being the most common and not much scarcer than the genuine stamp, the first being the scarcest. They were engraved like the originals and recess-printed singly. There were several main types of each denomination,—2 of the 2gr, 5 of the 10gr and 7 of the 20gr—of which due to retouching a number of sub-types exist which makes the field quite extensive. The forgeries are rather well executed and were certainly suitable to be accepted as genuine by the postal employees. One type of the 10gr forgery even has the "secret mark". Not

\*Continued and concluded from page 16.

only wove paper, but also small quantities of laid paper were used by the forgers; all three denominations of the forgeries exist on wove paper as well as vertically laid paper; the 10g and 20g are also known on horizontally laid paper. The color of the 10gr and 20gr is rather similar to that of the originals, sometimes with a violet tint; the 2gr is mostly violet carmine and therefore quite distinct from the originals. The 10gr Postal Forgery is known in a complete, the 20gr in a partial double print. All three denominations are known unused but they are very rare. Used the 20gr is the most common, the 10gr a bit rarer and only the 2gr of somewhat greater rarity. They are all much rarer on laid paper; of the 2gr, only one such copy is recorded. They also exist with parts of a papermakers' watermark. All deserve a considerable premium on entire, as they are not only scarce on such but also much more sought for. Of the 1861 issue, four denominations exist in postal forgeries, namely 2gr, 5gr, 10gr and 20gr. These forgeries were detected late in August 1862 and the forgers apprehended. The forgeries had the frames engraved on single dies and were recess-printed, while the originals were lithographed, so that the forgeries are rather easily recognizable. Of the 5gr exist three and of the 10gr two types of the frame; of the head embossing there are six different types. Five of these head types were used for the 20gr, the 10gr exists with four different and the 5gr with three different head types, while the 2gr comes only with one type of head. In toto, there are 13 different varieties of these postal forgeries recorded. The 10gr and 20gr Postal Forgeries are also known with inverted head embossing. Unused these forgeries are extremely rare, and no unused copy of the 20gr seems to be known. Used they are considerably scarcer than the postal forgeries of the 1858 issue, the most frequently found being the 10gr Postal Forgery, the 20gr being somewhat scarcer, while the 5gr is very rare and the 2gr of extreme rarity, only a few copies being known.

Naples is a very lucrative field for forgers and fakers. Their products are in part very dangerous, so that the collectors should buy these stamps only with great caution, the rarities only with a certificate of a qualified Italian expert or of an expert

committee. *Forgeries* exist of all 17 stamps of the country but only those of the rarities—the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t of 1860 and the "Errors of Color" of the 1861 issue—are dangerous because several able forgers, among them Sperati, have tried their luck with them, producing some extremely dangerous imitations. Still more imperiled are the collectors by *Fakes* of which Naples abounds. Most dangerous are overpaintings of the 1858 issue to transform unattractive faded regular stamps into superb copies of fine color, but also to transform pale  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr stamps into blue  $\frac{1}{2}$ t "Trinaeria", a job done so well by some painters of miniatures that even the expert sometimes has a hard time to discover them. There exist also faked cancellations on reprints as well as faked bisects, even on cover. A popular trick of the fakers is also the manufacture of whole blue  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps from copies which were torn in half when the wrapper was removed from the newspapers on which they had been used. Such combination stamps, made from two halves, with the missing parts painted in and the whole job touched up by painting, have fooled even careful collectors. The 1861 issue provides profitable material for the faker of cancellations on those denominations which are much scarcer used, namely the  $\frac{1}{2}$ t,  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr, 10gr, 20gr and especially the 50gr. But the unused stamps of all denominations are also often used to manufacture rare cancellations of all kinds, especially colored ones. Sperati made a fake of the "Error of Color" 2gr black by removing the frame of a cheap denomination and printing instead a frame of a 2gr in black; his fake therefore had genuine head embossing which makes it very dangerous for the uninitiated. In the same manner Sperati faked the inverted head varieties of the 1861 issue, by removing the frame and replacing it by one in inverted position. Other fakers were more conservative in their work of this kind, by flattening out the head of a genuine stamp and embossing a faked one in inverted position. The unfinished remainders without head embossing, sold by Matraire, were also used extensively for the embossing of faked heads, in regular as well as in inverted position, often with added faked cancellation. All together, the collector cannot be careful enough when he buys Naples stamps, otherwise he will surely find out eventually



that he bought one or the other of these forgeries and fakes.

The history of the *Postmarks* of Naples is confined to a period of not much more than one hundred years. The earliest postmarks seem to have been introduced shortly after the Kingdom of Two Sicilies was re-established under the Bourbon dynasty in 1734. We know the first postmarks, all dateless straight lines in Roman type, from 1760, but earlier use is probable. A few other types exist, for example dateless straight lines in script letters, the letters interwoven like a monogram. During the Napoleonic period, the old postmarks were continued and some new ones created, especially dateless boxes, sometimes with ornamented border. The first dated postmarks—straight lines with day, month and year—also appear at that time. At Naples, a dated postmark with the abbreviation NAP.—which could stand for the Italian as well as for the French name—was used as arrival and transit marking.

After the reestablishment of the Bourbon monarchy in 1816, new uniform postmarks were introduced for all post offices, namely dateless ovals with the name of the post office in script letters. In Sicily, similar postmarks, but with the town name in Roman capitals, were introduced at the same time and a few post offices on the mainland also obtained such postmarks, possibly by error. A few exceptional types, such as ornamental ovals or dateless straight lines, also can be found. Generally, only the post offices had postmarks, but some letter collecting agencies also received postmarks of this kind, so that a total of about 140 postal establishments had the oval postmarks at the end of the pre-stamp period.

The post offices in the city of Naples, the seat of the General Post Office, had their own types of postmarks, which differed from those of the other post offices. They were mainly straight lines in Roman capitals, which had in the first line NAPOLI and the year date, while the date, day and month, was in a second line. The postmarks of the sub-post offices had a third line, with their abbreviated location, for example STEL.E.S.CAR. for Stella and San Carlo, or PEN.E.MER. for Pendino and Mercato.

Most post offices stamped their regular

postmarks on face or back of mail as arrival markings. The Naples post offices had for that purpose the same straight lines as for the outgoing letters but with ARRIVO or abbreviated "A" in a third line. Several double circles were also used for the same purpose. Unpaid letters were stamped on the face with an oval monogram A. G. D. P., standing for "Amministrazione Generale delle Poste". The postmarks of the letter collecting agencies were straight lines without town name, only with the name of the month, without indication of the day. They can be found on the back of letters, a curious and not very efficient way to mark them, inherited from the French occupation.

There were a number of additional markings. Registered letters received a straight line ASSICURATA. Forwarded letters, for which the postage was to be rectified, received a straight line or oval CORRETTA, which means "Corrected" and had the same purpose as the French "Déboursé" markings. Various FRANCA markings were used for paid letters.

The *ink* of the pre-stamp postmarks was usually red or violet; much less frequently and only to the end of the pre-stamp period do we find postmarks in black or blue.

During the French occupations between 1799 and 1815, the French post offices operating in Naples used first a straight line postmark POSTE FRANCAISE A NAPLES, then a straight line R. DE NAPLES ("R." standing for Royaume) and for paid letters a boxed BAU. DE NAPLES/PORT PAYÉ. Paid letters received in addition to the postmark often a straight line PORT PAYÉ. A straight line Naples, found from 1792 on, is not a postmark of a French post office of Naples, but an origin marking used in France for mail arriving from Naples. The French post office used straight lines without town name, but with the name of the month only, as arrival markings, a practice later taken over by the Neapolitan mail service.

Austria during its occupation of the country used from 1821 to 1827 two different fieldpost markings, both dateless ovals, inscribed K. K. HAUPT FELDPOSTAMT and K. K. FELDPOSTAMT IN ITALIEN respectively.

When the postal administration introduced postage stamps on January 1, 1858, it ordered at the same time their cancella-

tion by special cancellers, the town postmarks to be stamped alongside the stamps on the letters. These special cancellers, which were introduced simultaneously with the first postage stamps, were small double-lined rectangles, inscribed ANNULATO in Roman capitals. All post offices and a number of letter collecting agencies, together about 130 postal establishments, used these cancellers from January 1, 1858 on. In the second half of 1860, these special cancellers were replaced by another type of special cancellers, but only outside of the city of Naples. The post offices in the latter continued to use the boxed ANNULATO cancellers, as did a few post offices outside the city. The new cancellers were the so-called "Svollazi", because they show the word "Annulato" in various kinds of type, differently curved, without frame. There were six groups of these unusual cancellers each consisting of six types, which differ in the type of curve they follow. Together there were therefore 36 types, each of which was assigned to a number of post offices, two to six. More than 150 such cancellers were delivered to the various post offices. Group I had ANNULATO in Roman capitals, Group II had annulato in lower case Roman type. The other four groups were all in script type, although of somewhat different character. Group III had a round initial "A", in contrast to the fancy "A" of the remaining groups. Group IV had the "ll" regular and the first bars of the "n"s pointed at bottom, Group V the same "ll"s, but the "n"s rounded at bottom. Group VI had "tt" without horizontal bar instead of the two "l"s.

There were a few exceptional cancellers, straight line ANNULATO without frame in different sizes, which are rare to very rare.

The town postmarks, which were applied alongside the stamps to the letters, were first the dateless ovals of the pre-stamp period, augmented by a few straight lines in Roman capitals. A postal reform of 1859 provided all post offices with new postmarks, beginning January 1, 1859. They were single circles, which had the name of the post office in a tablet at top, the date—day, month and year—below. The main post offices obtained postmarks of about 29mm. diameter, the others of 24 to 26mm. About 60% of these new postmarks, of which 140 were

delivered to be ready on January 1, 1859, had small ornaments before and after the town name. In 1860, dateless straight lines were provided for 14 sub-post offices and used in the same way as the other town postmarks. At the end of 1860, the main post offices received new town postmarks, double circles of about 25mm. diameter, with the town name at top, a small ornament at bottom and the date—day, month and year, in a few cases also the hour of the day—in the center. This type of postmark is known used at 16 post offices.

The post offices in the city of Naples first used the pre-stamp straight lines as town postmarks. On July 1, 1858 they were replaced by new postmarks, the old ones being used only occasionally in later years. The new postmarks were ovals with date—day, month and year—which had a bulge on top with the inscription PARTENZA DA NAPOLI. They were again replaced in September 1859 by single circles which had PARTENZA DA NAPOLI in a tablet at top and the date—day, month and year—below. For the Naples City Post the first special postmarks were introduced late in 1860. They were double circles, with the date—day, month and year—in the center, inscribed POSTA INTERNA DI NAPOLI and .SPEDE at bottom, to which the appropriate figure was added to mark the dispatch number.

When the Sardinian, later Italian Postal Administration took over in the former Kingdom of Naples, the regulations for the cancelling of the stamps first remained unchanged. But as Sardinia had abolished the use of special cancellers several years earlier and now used the regular town postmarks also for cancelling the stamps, it was to be expected that a similar procedure would be introduced in the Neapolitan Provinces. This was the case early in 1861, when first the post offices in the city of Naples, soon afterwards a number of post offices outside Naples and eventually all post offices from the middle of 1861 on abolished the use of special cancellers and started to use their town postmarks for cancelling. After that time, the boxed and straight line ANNULATO cancellers as well as the "Svollazi", were generally not used any more, but occasional use, mostly at small post offices, is still recorded from later years.

During the period of use of the town postmarks as cancellers, several new types were introduced which were mostly supplied by the new Italian Postal Administration, while some were manufactured at Naples. First, in the middle of 1861, small single circles of about 20mm. diameter started to appear, which had the town name in sans-serif letters, a small ornament at bottom and the date—day, month and year—in the center. Then, late in 1861 the uniform Italian town postmark types were introduced in the Neapolitan Provinces, single and double circles of about 23½mm. diameter, with the town name in Roman capitals and the date—day, month and year—in the center. The double circles had at bottom either a small ornament or—in sans-serif type—the name of the postal directorate to which the post office belonged. In the middle of 1862 similar postmarks, but with all inscriptions in sans-serif type, made their appearance. But a number of post offices retained the old town postmarks, and some of them can be found even many years later.

At the post offices of the city of Naples, the same type of small circle postmarks as at the other post offices came into use late in July 1861, which had the hour of the day added to the date. The post office at the harbor of Naples used in 1861 for a number of months a double oval with the date—day, month and year—in the center, inscribed UFFICIO POSTALE DEL PORTO DI NAPOLI. It was replaced in August 1861 by a small single circle NAPOLI AL PORTO.

The additional markings of the pre-stamp period were mostly continued after January 1, 1858, especially the ASSICURATA markings for registered letters. New markings for insufficiently paid letters were introduced, namely a general marking GIACENTE in a double-lined box, meaning "In abeyance", as well as special markings "Affrancatura insufficiente", "Tassa per Insufficiente Francatura" or similar. Letters posted after departure of the last mail of the day were stamped "Dopo la Partenza". "Franca" markings were mainly used early in 1861 on letters arriving from the other Italian States after reduction of the rates. On foreign mail, "P. D." and "P. P." markings were applied.

Most post offices continued to use their

own postmarks also as arrival and transit markings, only the post offices at the city of Naples used for that purpose special postmarks, first those of the pre-stamp period, then from July 1, 1858 on, oval markings with a bulge at top, inscribed ARRIVO IN NAPOLI, and from September 1859 on semi-double circles with the same inscription. A new double circle ARRIVO DI NAPOLI was introduced early in January 1861. In 1861 also appears an upright box, inscribed ARRIVO DI NAPOLI, with date, incl. year and hour of the day in the center, ornaments on the sides.

For mail transported by the railroads a small circle marking S. F. (= Strada Ferrata) was used. It was stamped alongside the stamps together with the town postmarks, but in exceptional cases—where the mail was posted at a letter collecting agency which had no special canceller—also used as canceller.

The post office at the harbor of Naples used a number of special markings of various shapes for ship letters arriving at the port, stamping them alongside the stamps on the letters. They were a boxed "Pacehetto a vap. di Sicilia. Fuori valigia.", double circles BOLLO DEI PIROSCAFI FRANCESI/POSTA DI NAPOLI and SERVIZIO DEI VAPORI FRANCESI NEL MEDITERRANEO/POSTA DI NAPOLI, an oval NAPOLI SERVIZIO ESTERO PER MARSIGLIA and a straight line ARRIVO A NAPOLI CON PIROSCAFI NAZIONALI, most of them introduced in 1861. A straight line sans-serif SICILIA was regularly used as canceller for mail to Sicily, posted at the harbor. Naples stamps can be found also with the frame canceller of Sicily; they come from ship letters cancelled in Sicily on arrival.

The Sardinian fieldpost service, which was functioning in the Neapolitan Provinces in 1860 and 1861, used only stamps of Sardinia, but its postmarks can be found as very rare exceptions also on Naples stamps.

The *ink* used for cancelling the stamps was generally black; blue and red cancellations are more or less rare exceptions. Only the PARTENZA DA NAPOLI marking, when used as canceller, was mostly red. The town postmarks stamped alongside the adhesives were first predominantly applied in red, which is especially true for the oval

town postmarks. The single circles of 1859 come mostly in black, but also not too rarely in red and blue, but the later types of town postmarks were mostly applied in black, especially from 1861 on when they were also used as cancellers.

Summarizing it can be stated that the large majority of the 1858 issue is cancelled by the boxed ANNULATO marking in black. The "Svollazi" cancellations are considerably scarcer, and town cancellations are exceptions and scarce to rare. Blue cancellations are scarce, red ones rare to very rare. Both  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860 are most frequently found with the boxed ANNULATO in black, but the single circle PARTENZA DA NAPOLI in red is not much scarcer. As most of these stamps were used on newspapers mailed in the city of Naples, all cancellations of other post offices, therefore also all "Svollazi" and all other kinds of cancellations are found very infrequently and are rare to very rare on the blue  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps. On the stamps of the 1861 issue, town cancellations are a distinct majority, boxed ANNULATO cancellations and "Svollazi" being considerably scarcer. Black cancellations are the rule, but blue cancellations come occasionally, although they are scarce, while red cancellations are exceptions and rare.

The old postmarks of the territory of the Kingdom of Naples, as far as they were still in use, were continued when the 1861 issue for the Neapolitan Provinces was replaced by the stamps of Italy on October 1, 1862. Some of the old postmarks were used for several more years, before they were discarded. A few of the old postmarks reappeared occasionally, and one of the "Svollazzi" is known used as late as 1916, probably to cancel stamps which arrived uncanceled.

Among the *Philatelic Literature* dealing with Naples, the monograph by Dr. E. Diena "I Francobolli del Regno di Napoli", written in Italian and published in 1932, is the standard book and among the best treatises ever written about any single country, comprehensive in every respect. It deals only with the 1858 issue and the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t stamps of 1860. For the 1861 issue, the Kohl Handbook, which lists it under the stamps of Italy, dedicates more than 60 pages of its Volume V to it. It constitutes a comprehensive compilation of all known facts about

these stamps. Unfortunately this part was never translated into English. These two publications contain practically everything a collector needs, so that older publications, among them the monograph by J.-B. Moens "Timbres de Naples et de Sicile" have only historical interest. A publication, dealing with the cancellations only, is by V. Vittozzi; it was published in 1917 in Italian and 1929 in German. Helpful are also the specialized Catalogs of Old Italian States, especially those published by G. Oliva and F. Grioni, which give also indications about the market value of these stamps in Italy proper. There is practically no comprehensive literature about the pre-stamp period.

In the *Scott Catalog*, Naples is lumped together with Sicily under the heading "Two Sicilies", the stamps of Sicily separating the 1858 and 1861 issues of Naples from each other, a rather unfortunate arrangement. Naples is not a cheap country, the 17 listed stamps being priced unused at \$4660 and used at \$1970, which is certainly out of reach of the small collector. The collector of medium means may forego the two main rarities, the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t of 1860, which reduces the total to \$660 for unused and \$770 for used, therefore well within his reach. He will nevertheless not have easy going, because of the difficulty of obtaining the 1858 issue in satisfactory condition. All stamps of the 1858 issue and the two  $\frac{1}{2}$ t of 1860 are considerably cheaper used than unused. For the 1861 issue, this is true only for the 1gr and 2gr, all other denominations being used much more expensive than unused.

The same observations which were made about another Old Italian country, Modena—on page 247, Volume V—are valid here too. Except for one large collection, held by an inactive collector in this country, there are no Naples collections of any importance outside Italy, all good material having been "repatriated" during the last decade. A collector who wants to start Naples will have very difficult going. As long as he is satisfied with regular stamps he will be able to assemble a small collection, but only when he makes concessions in regard to condition. But should he try to branch out into varieties, multiples, frankings and cancellations, he will find that the market outside Italy is almost completely cleaned out of desirable material of this kind. Only

if he is able and willing to compete with the domestic collectors on the Italian market and to pay the inflated prices asked for any rarer item, will he not end up in frustration. Naples is a very interesting and attractive field for the collector, but under the present conditions we can only advise to give up any idea to go "big" into it, except when one makes money like hay and is willing to spend it like a drunken sailor. Otherwise it seems advisable to wait until conditions will change. The philatelic student can also be admonished to stay away from the field because it has been so thoroughly investigated by able Italian students—with the exception of the pre-stamp period—that they would only earn disappointments for their ardor.

#### XXXV. NETHERLANDS

The Kingdom of the *Netherlands*—Nederland in the Dutch language of its inhabitants—, one of the smaller countries of Western Europe, occupies the coastal territory around the estuaries of the rivers Rhine, Maas and Schelde. The North Sea forms the western and northern borders of the country, with a number of large islands in the delta of the Rhine and Maas as well as a chain of smaller islands, the Frisian Islands, in the north. To the south, the Netherlands bordered on Belgium, to the east on the German Confederation, namely the Kingdom of Hanover in the northern part and the Kingdom of Prussia (Rhine Province and Province of Westphalia) in the southern part. In 1866, Hanover also became Prussian. The German Confederation was transformed into the North German Confederation in 1867 and into the German Empire in 1871. The area of the Netherlands was a little more than 12,500 square miles. It was divided into eleven provinces, namely—from north to south—Friesland, Groningen, Drenthe, Overijssel, Noord-Holland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Zuid-Holland, Zeeland, Noord-Brabant and Limburg. The population was about 3,200,000 in 1853 and 3,580,000 in 1869.—The capital, *The Hague* ('s Gravenhage) had in 1853 a population of over 80,000 and in 1869 of about 90,000. The largest city, Amsterdam, had 248,000 inhabitants in 1853 and 265,000 in 1869.

The *History* of the Netherlands is a long one. In early times, the territory was inhabited by German tribes, mainly the Bat-

avians and the Frisians. The recorded history starts with the Roman invasion of the territory, which began in 57 B. C. under Julius Caesar. The territory came under Roman governorship in 13 B. C., but was not incorporated into the Roman Empire, which considered the Batavians as allies. At the end of the third century, the Franks, a German group of tribes, started to occupy the territory. In the sixth century, they were in possession of the southern part, while the Frisians and Saxons, other Germanic tribes, held the northern part. The country was united as part of the domain of the Carolingian Kings and eventually by Charlemagne, who compelled the population to embrace Christianity. The treaty of Verdun (843) assigned the country to the central part of the Empire. It came under German overlordship and eventually formed the duchy of Lower Lorraine, which was soon broken up into small feudal states. This split-up became necessary because in the 9th and 10th century the territory was invaded by the Northmen, who had come from Scandinavia and became masters of the northern part. Only during the 11th century was this invasion terminated and the system of feudal states firmly established. During that period, the first large cities were founded and became powerful. In the 14th and 15th century, the territory came gradually under the dominion of the house of Burgundy, which led to the unification of the country. By way of marriages and inheritances, the Burgundian territory became part of the Habsburg empire, which at that time also included Spain, and the Netherlands were united in 1543 in this great empire, ruled by Charles V. But although it was originally popular, soon feeling against the Spanish rule became widespread, and under the leadership of Willem of Oranje, a fierce opposition was organized. This was met by a rule of military despotism by the Spanish, which was fought by Willem of Oranje with an army recruited in Germany. After several years of fighting, the provinces forming the later Netherlands gained their independence in 1579 and constituted themselves as a republic. The Union of Utrecht, by which the provinces were confederated, remained in force for more than two hundred years. A Council of State was the ruling body, but the federation was first a rather loose one. In 1581,