
Naples Trinacria Issues of 1858 - 1860

Genuine, Postal Forgeries and Philatelic Forgeries



This exhibit focuses primarily on the two classes of forged stamps of Naples. The postal forgeries made to defraud the post office and the philatelic forgeries made for stamp collectors. It also includes some genuine for comparison purposes and two appended pages of Neapolitan Provinces 1861 issue postal forgeries.

genuine stamps - The Naples issues of 1858 to 1860 featured the "trinacria" coat of arms design of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies that incorporated the fleur-de-lis symbols of the Bourbon ruler, as well as the triskeles (three running legs surrounding a Gorgon head that is an ancient symbol that appeared on the coins of Sicily circa 300 B.C.). In 1858, seven denominations were printed using engraved plates of 100 in the same shades of red. A reprint proof showing the design is shown above.

In November 1860 a new denomination, the one-half tornese, was issued in blue with the new letter of value "T" hand entered over the old "G" on every position of the original 1/2 grano plate.

The trinacria design continued until the end of 1860 when the same plate that produced was re-worked again to replace the trinacria design with the new savoy cross design.

postal forgeries - Although postal forgeries of typographed and lithographed stamps are known to have been produced before 1860, the forgeries of the Naples 1858 issue are the earliest attempt to forge engraved postage stamps. Three denominations were forged; the ten and twenty grana are known used in 1859 and the two grana in 1860.

philatelic forgeries - Philatelic forgeries of Naples stamps, made for the nascent philatelic market, were in circulation before 1870. This exhibit includes several previously undescribed philatelic forgeries from the Carl Walske collection and identified by his type designations.

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue

Genuine / Reprints

The engraver, G. Masini, added a single very small letter of his name outside the central frame at lower right. The one-half grano has a "G." for example, the one grano has an "M" and so on. All values and plates are shown below except the 50 grana, plate 1.



1/2 grano, plate 1
original gum



1 grano
plate 1



1 grano, plate 2



2 grana, plate 1



2 grana, plate 2



2 grana, plate 3



5 grana
plate 1



5 grana
plate 2



10 grana
plate 1



10 grana
plate 2



20 grana
plate 1



20 grana
plate 2

1898 Reprints

The 1898 reprints were produced privately from the original engraved master dies. Only six of the seven denominations were produced, the two grana die having been lost.



1/2 grano



1 grano



5 grana



10 grana



20 grana



50 grana

*Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries*

2 grana



type I, second state, Sassone #F1

There are no dots after the "G" and the numeral "2" is placed too high and tilted. This type exists in two states. The second state has spots of color in the margins as well as on the hexagonal tablet. The much rarer first state does not have these spots. The cliché used for the printing was later re-engraved and used to print the type III postal forgery. The earliest reported date use is July 5, 1860.



17 July 1860 Naples to Corato, 2gr violet postal forgery, type 1, second state, Sassone #F1

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries

2 grana



type II, Sassone #F2

The "G" has a characteristic hook shape at right. The numeral "2" is better aligned. The plate was retouched several times. Impression is 19.7mm wide rather than 20mm. The earliest reported date of use is August 25, 1860.



17 November 1860 Naples to Lecce, 2gr violet postal forgery, type II, Sassone #F2b

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries

10 grana



type I, patched example that show characteristics, Sassone #F3

There is a dot of color after the last "A" of "NAPOLETANA". The size is 19.5 by 23 mm and the earliest reported date of use is June 18, 1859.



type II, Sassone #F4

There is a small dash within the zero and the upper right corner is not blunt. The size is 19.5 by 22.5 mm and the earliest known date of use is August 8, 1859.



type III, Sassone #F5

The "BOLLO DELLA" inscription is smaller and too close to the line of the internal octagon. The "P" of "POSTA" is deformed. The size is 19.5 by 22 mm and the earliest reported use is January 2, 1860.

*Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries*

10 grana



type IV, Sassone #F6

The shape of the "G" is unusual and the two dots that follow are poorly aligned as the lower dot is moved too much to the right. The size is 20 by 22 mm and the earliest reported use is August 4, 1860.



type V, Sassone #F7

The two dots following the "G" are almost always missing. The left and top outer lines touch the frame lines and slightly to the right of the "A" of "POSTA" there is a small constant spot of color. The size is 20 by 22.5 mm and the earliest reported use is December 5, 1860.



2 February 1861 Naples to Civitavecchia, 10gr carmine violet type V postal forgery, Sassone #F7a

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries

20 grana



type II, Sassone #F9



type II, 2nd state
vertically laid paper #F9b

There is a dot of color between the "P" and "O" of "NAPOLETANA." The vertical line of the square of the upper left triangle enters the rhomboid band of the inscriptions. In the middle of the right margin there is a scratch which almost touches the colored line of the margin; this trait is not included in the very first prints, which are very rare.

This was retouched several times. There are two main states: in the first the print is clear, the margin lower and white. In the second state the print has a characteristic patchy appearance. The laid paper variety is known from the second state, which is rarer than the first. The size is 19.5 by 22.5 mm and the earliest known date of use is July 26, 1859.



type III, Sassone #F10

The left frame line extends beyond the top line and in the corner, under "POSTA" there are signs of retouching. The letters of "POSTA" are smaller. The size is 19.5 by 22.3 mm and the earliest reported use is January 19, 1860.



type IV, Sassone #F11

The two numerals are more widely spaced and the left frame line goes slightly beyond the top horizontal line. The size is 19.5 by 22 mm and the earliest reported date of use is February 6, 1860.

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries

20 grana



type V, Sassone #F12



type V, Sassone #F12

In the upper left the horizontal frame line goes beyond the vertical line. The horizontal lines that delimit the two upper triangles are not the same height. There appears to be retouch similar to that of the type III but only in the right part of the same corner. The rare first state does not show the retouch. The size is 19.7 by 21.7 mm and the earliest known date of use is February 20, 1860.

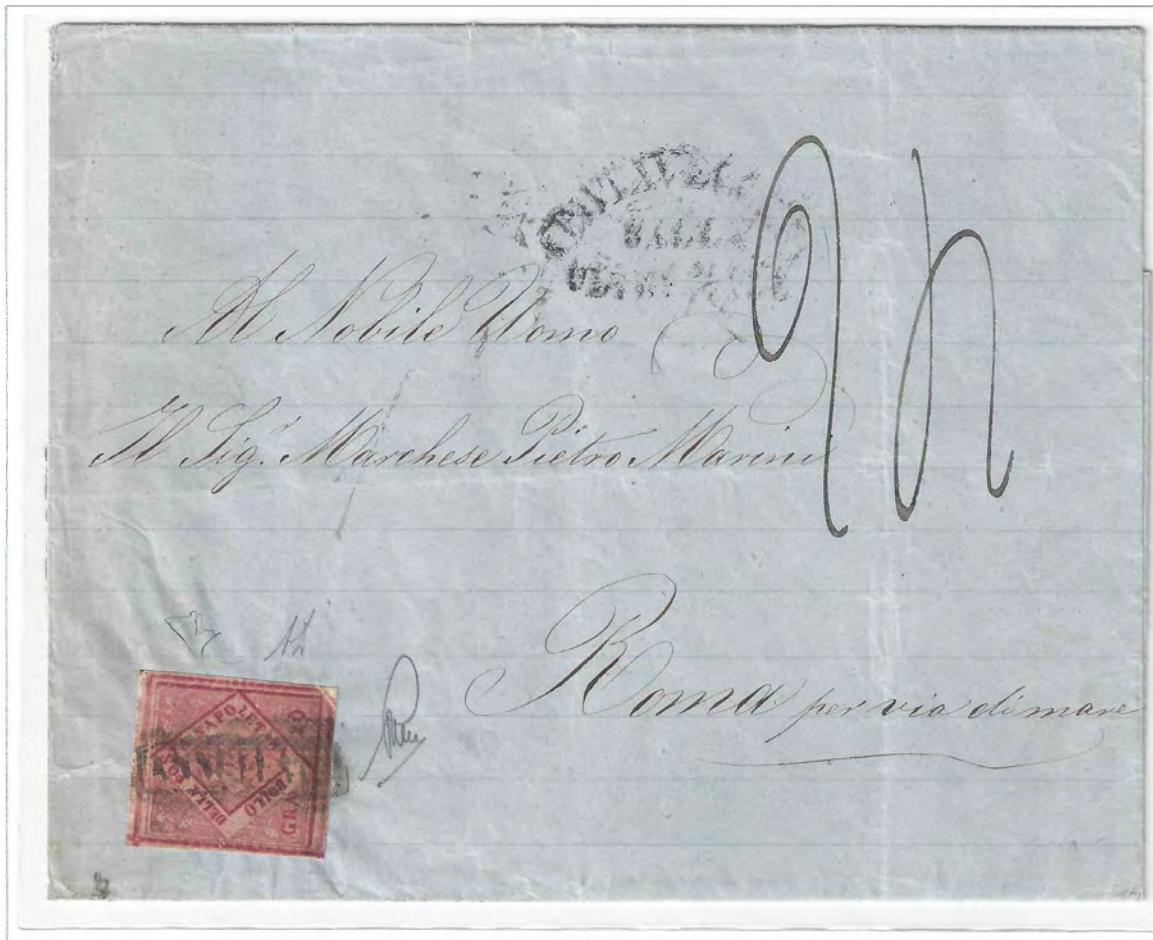


type VI, Sassone #F13

The word "DELLA" is placed higher and the "G" is 1.5 mm away from the left margin. A stray line of color near the left side crosses the white line. The size is 20.5 by 22 mm and the earliest reported use is June 13, 1859.

*Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Postal Forgeries*

20 grana



2 November 1860 Naples, via Civitavecchia to Rome
20gr carmine violet postal forgery, type VI, Sassone #F13 unlisted shade variety



type VII, Sassone

The word "DELLA" is placed higher and the "G" is 1.5 mm away from the left margin. A stray line of color near the left side crosses the white line. The size is 20.5 by 22 mm and the earliest reported use is June 13, 1859.

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue Philatelic Forgeries

**Forger A
- Oneglia -**

Forger A's engraved forgeries of Naples were first reported in the the French journal, "Le Questionneur Timbrophilique" (1894), Volume III, pages 61-62 as having been sold by Erasmus Oneglia. He was most likely the original manufacturer. They were also sold by other Italian dealers including E. Spiotti and A. Venturini and later by Angelo Panelli.



1/2 grano



1 grano



2 grana



5 grana



10 grana



10 grana + 5 grana



20 grana



50 grana

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue
Philatelic Forgeries

Forger B
- Spiotti -

Forger B's forgeries of Naples were printed in sheets with all seven denominations. The forger is unknown but possibly Edoardo Spiotti. The forgeries are rather scarce and were not reported by either Billig or Earee.



1/2 grano
on piece



10 grana
on piece



sheet with all seven denominations
ex Robson Lowe



1 grano
on piece



50 grana
on piece



10 grana

Naples 1858 Trinacria Issue *Philatelic Forgeries*

Forger C
- Fournier -

Forger C's products are usually identified as Francois Fournier productions but as his starter stock originated from Henri Mercier in 1904 and after his death in 1917 some of Fournier's stock was sold into the market by Hirschburger, exact manufacturer of a particular items is uncertain.



1/2 grano, type 1



1/2 grano, type 2 strip, singles



5 grana



10 grana



20 grana



50 grana

Naples 1860 Trinacria 1/2 tornese *Philatelic Forgeries*

The rarest stamp of Naples is the one-half tornese issue of 1860. The genuine stamp was made from the plate of the one-half grano stamp by changing the "G" to a "T." The various forgeries below are different types per Carl Walske. The makers are mostly unknown.



B-41, engraved
Illustreten Briefmarken Journal

two W-1 without trace of "G" and W-2 with trace of G
engraved by Panelli / Oneglia, illustrated in 1894 LQT



B-42



B-43, E-4



B-43, E-4



B-44, E-1



B-44, E-1



B-44, E-1



E-3



W-3, B-50



W-3, B-50



W-4



W-4



W-5



W-6



W-7



W-8



W-9



W-10



W-11



W-12



W-14

Naples 1860 Savoy Cross 1/2 tornese *Genuine / Philatelic Forgeries*

The Savoy Cross stamps were printed from the plate used to print the "Trinacria" one-half tornese stamps after each of the 100 positions was re-engraved to show the new cross design.

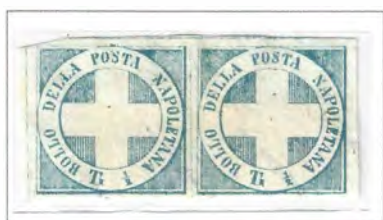


genuine, RPSL cert

The forgeries below are designated by types; per Billig handbook (B-) and Earee (E-).



three variations of B-47 noted by Walske: small G, smear only and no "G" engraved by Panelli / Oneglia, illustrated in 1894 *Le Questionneur Timbrophilique*



Fournier, B-49



B-49



B-50



B-50



B-51



B-51var



B-51, E-2
laid paper



B-52, E-5



E-52, E-5



B-52, E-5



E-53, E-6



E-53, E-6



B-56



B-56

Naples 1860 Savoy Cross 1/2 tornese *Philatelic Forgeries*

The twelve different forgery varieties shown below were identified by Carl Walske and are labeled with his type numbers. These types were not described by either Billig or Earee. All are ex Walske and several were acquired from Robson Lowe collection.



W-1



W-1



W-1



W-2



W-3



W-4



W-5



W-6



W-6



W-7



W-8



W-9



W-10
laid paper



W-11



W-12

"A hand drawn facsimile discovered in a vellum stockbook belong to a Walter D. Young, in an old desk by a cabinet maker in Woking, Surrey about July 1951" per Robson Lowe.

Naples 1860 Issue 1/2 tornese
Philatelic Forgeries



10 January 1860 folded letter from Massa with 1/2 tornese forgery (B-44, E-1) added
the date is impossible for this stamp which is not known used before 6 November 1860



combination sheet with Trinacria W-3 and Savoy Cross B-20

*Neapolitan Provinces
Postal Forgeries*

10 grana

Frame Type I, Head Type B



Sassone #F6

Frame Type II, Head Type C



Sassone #F8



21 April 1862 letter from Naples to Orleans, France by packet boat
prepaid with 10g postal forgery (Sassone #F8)

*Neapolitan Provinces
Postal Forgeries*

10 grana

Frame Type II, Head Type C



20 November 1861 letter from Naples to Santamaria
prepaid with 10g postal forgery (Sassone #F8)