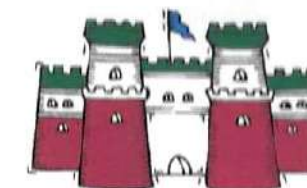


# Castelli d'Italia natural colors

## The visual collection



The "Castelli d'Italia" definitive series consist of 37 stamps and is therefore the largest ordinary Italian definitive one. This number of values was determined by the long period of use and so by the issue of further values, adapting to the new postal rates. The issuance period begins in 1980 and ends in 1997. In addition, 14 values have been produced, on coil, for vending machines. More over, additional four stamps (200-250-300 and 450 Lire value) were officially re-printed lately, in the nineties, (1994) using the rotogravure system. During the entire production period, many reprints of almost all values were made, using the same printing method but not identical colors, so for this definitive series the colors differences are remarkable.

This collection shows for the first time ever, the natural colors that belongs to "Castelli d'Italia" stamps set. Not only tones and shades are listed and coded but also some important colors features. All the stamps came from a careful selection giving me the ability to describe their peculiarity in the best possible way. Envelopes were chosen for the rarity of stamps used on them, all items anyway were selected to represent the true colors and their use. Not only based on Italian philatelic specialized catalogues but also and above all from my research, analyzing more than 3 millions of Castelli stamps here you will see both well known varieties and unavoidably, unreleased and unknown new features.

As an Italian stamps collector I started to make specialization studies on Italian Republic stamps about 20 years ago, "Castelli d'Italia" series took all my passion and my time in the last 7 years. Involved in many philatelic Italian clubs as AFIS, CIFO, UFS and USFI, I've been writing many articles and a book which is the completion of all my Castelli's research. To be able in color coding I've been studying all the color scales, from Pantone to Munsell method, the RGB system, the CYMK system including the Stanley Gibbons color scale. Last but not least I also practiced alteration on stamps using different kind of acids, developing the knowledge to recognise an adulterated color from a genuine one.

### Collection's plan

Cap.I	All the natural colors of Castelli definitive series	p.	2-64
Cap.II	The Castelli's colors analogies	p.	65-66
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Cap. XII	Misplaced colors	p.	115-120

### Colors as a centuries-old philatelic history problem

During the long resarch on Castelli's colors, I could not avoid thinking about the IV Sardinia series, the most collected one, precisely because of the color varieties that are being discovered from time to time. Although almost two centuries have passed since its birth and distribution, the IV Sardinia series still fascinates many collectors.

I hope the same will happen to the Castelli series to which many shades belong in despite that printing methods and colors production are so different nowadays. The phenomenon has again expressed itself in a striking way.



Example of many shades belonging to 10 Cent. IV Sardinia series and shades of 150 Lire Castelli's series



### Viewing the collection - guide

See under white cold light

If some pieces look the same, compare sky, background and castle colors, you will see the difference

Catalogue numbers used are "Sassone Specializzazioni" ones

Rarity and not common (NC) pieces are reported in red

## Chapter I - The Castelli's natural colors and their coding

**5 Lire.** Castel Sant'Angelo, Roma. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors, brownish red - azure

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle



**A1**  
Brownish red  
Blue  
Dark pink

**A2**  
Light brownish red  
Blue  
Purplish pink

**10 Lire.** Castello Sforzesco, Milano. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors, ochre - brown

Colors description order: Background, text, sky and castle\*



**B1**  
Dark brown chocolate  
Orange ochre  
\*Gray brown

**B2**  
Dark brown  
Orange  
\*Yellowish brown

**B3**  
Yellowish brown  
Light orange  
\*Gray

**B4**  
Yellowish brown  
Light orange  
\*Greyish white

**B4a**  
Brown chocolate  
Orange  
\*Orange brown NC



**B5**  
Yellowish olive brown  
Ocher  
\*Grayish ochre

**B6**  
Umber  
Orange yellow  
\*Dark gray

**B7**  
Light olive brown  
Yellow corn  
\*Greyish yellow NC

**B8**  
Light brown chocolate  
Pure orange  
\*Grayish ochre



16 pieces of 5 Lire **A1** color - 1986 letter in rate 530 Lire, Over franked of 20 Lire.



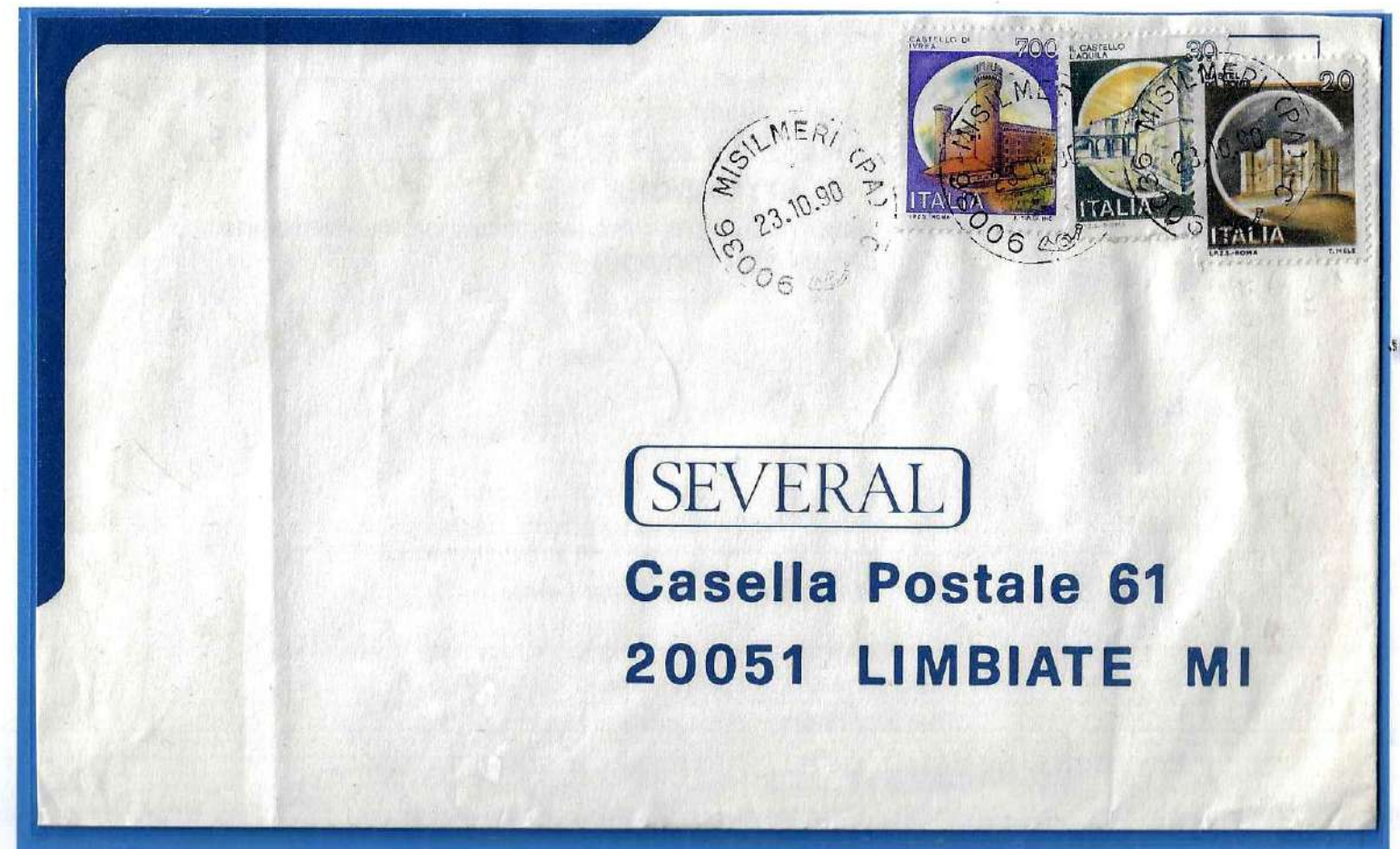
8 pieces of 10 Lire in four different colors, 1) **B1** - 2) **B8** - 3) **B7** 4) **B3**, unique one 1992 taxed letter the Siracusana ones where no more in use.

20 Lire. Castel del Monte Andria, Bari. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors, intense blue - sepia

Colors description order: Background, hill/castle, sky\*



15 copies of 20 Lire in two different colors 1) C8 2) C4  
1986 letter in rate 550 Lire.



1 copy of 20 Lire in its C1 color  
1990 letter in rate 750 Lire.



30 Lire. Castello De L'Aquila. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors, blue - yellow

Colors description order: Background, sky



40 Lire. Castello di Ursino, Catania. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors, emerald green - brown

Colors description order: Background, castle



**AVVISO DI RICEVIMENTO DELLA**  
CONTESTAZIONE-VIOLAZIONE N°

RACC. N. \_\_\_\_\_

SPEDITA IL \_\_\_\_\_

DALL'UFFICIO DI \_\_\_\_\_

INDIRIZZATA A: 103819/02-N.OP 00764531-COMP 0186  
GIANNATTASIO PAOLO  
VIA U.MASONI 54  
80133-NAPOLI NA

**Da restituire: INAIL - Sede di**

8 0 1 3 3      NAPOLI      NA

CAP      LOCALITÀ      SIGLA PROV.

AVVERTENZE: La presente si presenta sui fogli n. 1 bis. Le tasse di spedizione del plico al quale la presente si riferisce, sono applicate sul plico stesso.

CONSEGNA RAPIDA A SUOI CARICHI  
CORRISPONDENZE A STAMPATO  
TEL. 421904-341522-418766



New 30 Lire in its color D2 considered a variety (Sassone 1121Ah)  
The same copy on acknowledgment of receipt, in express rate 300 Lire.

Two mint block of four in their E2 and E4 colors.

50 Lire. Rocca di Calascio, l'Aquila. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, castle, sky\*

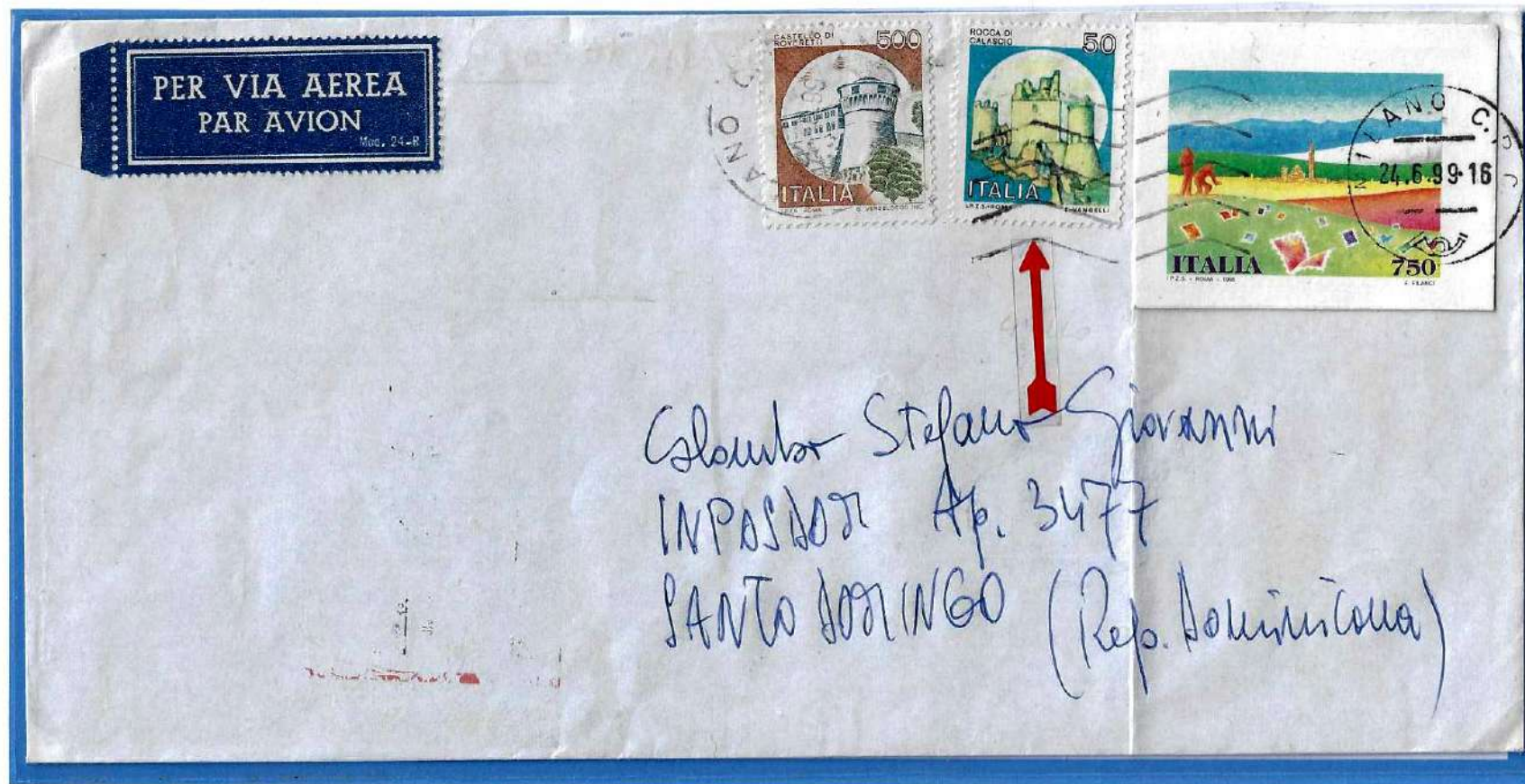


Dark turquoise  
Ochre orange  
\*Rosy ivory



Blue turquoise  
Greenish bistre  
\*Turquoise 1123Am

**F14**  
 Pure light blue  
 Lemon yellow  
 \*Very clear yellow



The copy of 50 Lire present on this envelope is considered a variety where red has totally missed the passage of printing, in this case we have a very strong red evanescence. It is confirmed as such because the red color appears at the bottom of the castle bases as indicated by the arrow.

1999 letter in rate  
 1123An Rarity

1982 postcard in rate 250 Lire, two 50 Lire pieces in their **F2** and **F12** colors.



A mint two-colored block of four:  
 on the left specimens in **F10** color,  
 on the right specimens in **F8** color.  
 NC



1993 letter in rate 750 Lire, two 50 Lire pieces in their **F2** and **F3** colors.

**60 Lire.** Torre Normanna San Mauro Forte, Matera. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors, lilac - yellowish green

Colors description order: Upper background, lower background, castle\*

This specimen, like the 1400 Lire Castelli one, has a strong color difference between the upper and the lower background.  
For this reason the background was coded in two shades, the up one and the low one precisely.



**G1**  
Copper  
Vermillion  
\*Copper yellow

**G2**  
Dark copper  
Vermillion  
\*Yellowish olive green

**G3**  
Light rosy copper  
Vermillion  
\*Olive yellow NC

**70 Lire.** Castello Aragonese, Reggio Calabria. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



**H1**  
Purple  
Dark blue  
\*Gold yellow

**H2**  
Purple  
Dark blue  
\*Bronze red

**H3**  
Amethyst  
Blue  
\*Light gold NC

**H4**  
Lilac  
Blue  
\*Light bronze NC

**H5**  
Dark lilac  
Blue  
\*Light bronze

**H6**  
Light lilac  
Light blue  
\*Very clear bronze Rare



1980 postcard in rate 120 Lire  
Pair of 60 Lire in **G2** color.



1994 registered letter in rate 3950 Lire, five 70 Lire copies in strip with partial evanescent print.

Comparing this strip with all the colors found on this piece you can notice a mixture of them all, the first two are like **H1** except the green, the third one and the fifth one are bicolored and the fourth one is a color in its own right so here coded as **H6**

1125 Ab Rarity



80 Lire. Castello di Sabbionara Avio, Trento. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, castle, bush\*



1986 post card in rate 450 Lire, the 80 Lire it's I1 tone  
Uncommon cover franked in 6 colors (Castelli values only).



1983 post card in rate 300 Lire, the 80 Lire in it's I2 tone  
Twin values with 80 Lire Siracusana.

Mint block of 20 values of 80 Lire shade I1.

As you can see the fourth piece starting from left has the color of the bush of a predominant shade of green, which differs from the rest of the specimens; this is repeated throughout the vertical row of the entire sheet, this is how the tone here encoded as the I3 is born  
Another peculiarity of this block is the clearer sky on the specimens in the second row to the right.

1126 Ab Rarity



90 Lire. Castello di Isola Capo Rizzuto, Crotone. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



L1  
Mint green  
Light blue  
\*Golden yellow and gray



L2  
Yellow green  
Very light blue  
\*Lemon yellow and gray

100 Lire. Castello Aragonese Ischia, Napoli. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



M1  
Coral orange  
Dove blue  
\*Green beige NC

M2  
Amaranth red  
Violet blue  
\*Pinkish yellow NC

M3  
Light orange  
Light dove blue  
\*Mustard yellow

M4  
Bright orange  
Blue  
\*Reddish Ivory yellow

M4a  
Light pale orange  
Light smoke blue  
\*Light gold



M5  
Rust orange  
Greyish pastel blue  
\*Brownish sand

M6  
Rust orange  
Light lilac  
\*Gold 1128Ae

M7  
Vermilion orange  
Greyish lilac  
\*Pink skin 1128Ae

M7a  
Rust orange  
Lilac  
\*Gold

M8  
Scorched earth  
Smoke blue  
\*Beige yellow NC



M8a  
Light amaranth red  
Light smoke blue  
\*Light sand

M9  
Light scorched earth  
Light turquoise  
\*Ivory yellow

M10  
Bright cadmium orange  
Light slate  
\*Sand yellow NC

M12  
Coral orange  
Light blue  
\*Bright ivory yellow NC

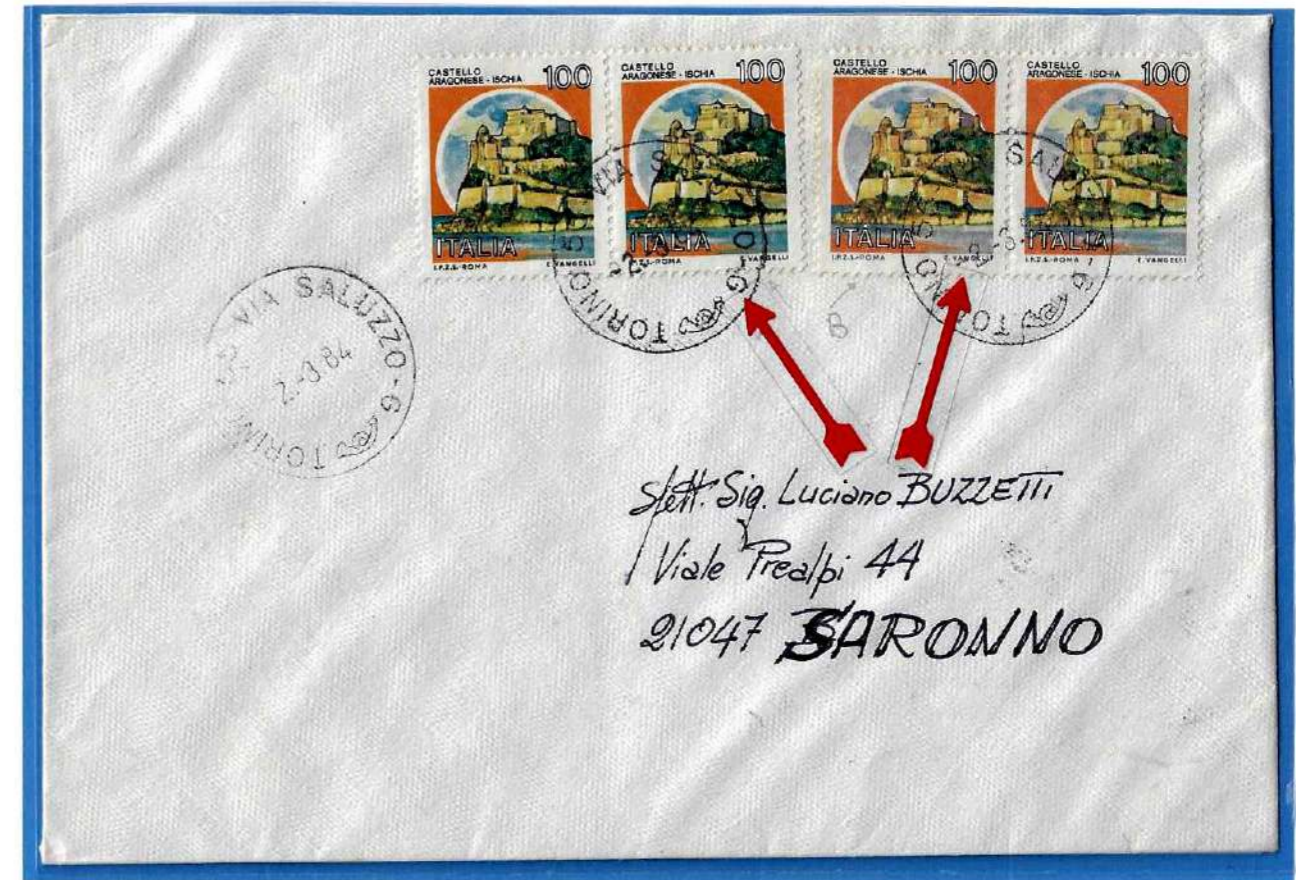


1981 registered letter in rate 800 Lire, the 90 Lire in it's L2 tone.



**M11**  
 Vermilion orange  
 Light lilac red  
 \*Pinkish sand

1988 express letter in rate 3700 Lire, three copies of 100 Lire in their not common tone **M11**  
 These specimens are the only ones known, the common variety in violet is the M7 one.  
 Moreover cover franked in 5 colors, Castelli value only.  
 1128Ae Rarity



1984 letter in rate 400 Lire.  
 Pair on the left in shade **M1** with 14X13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> perforation, the pair on the right in shade **M4**  
 with 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> X13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> perforation and sea of different colors on the couple.  
 Rarity



1983 postal card in rate 300 Lire. The specimen in it's not common tone **M10**.

120 Lire. Castello Estense, Ferrara. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 2 colors intense blue - red orange

Colors description order: Background, sky



1992 letter in rate 750 Lire, the 120 Lire in it's **N2** tone  
Four color franked all Castelli values.



Mint blocks of 120 Lire with block perforation, first edition,  
which already have two noticeable differences in color, listed here as **N2** and **N3**.

150 Lire. Castello Miramare di Trieste. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

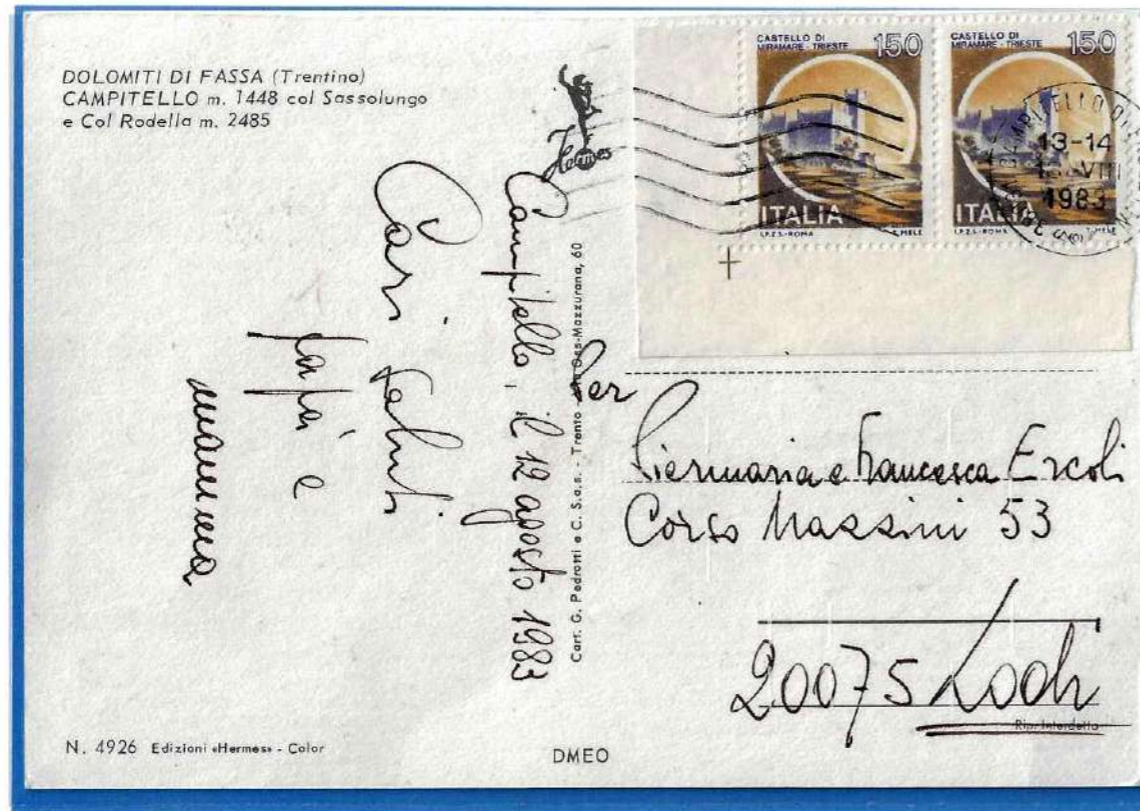
Colors description order: Background, text and castle, sea and sky\*



Three mint blocks of 6 specimens in three different tones, respectively **03**, **06** and **08**. To notice the colors of triangles on the edge of the sheet, not always the colors used for the prints where the same, this is the reason why the various shades of color were generated.



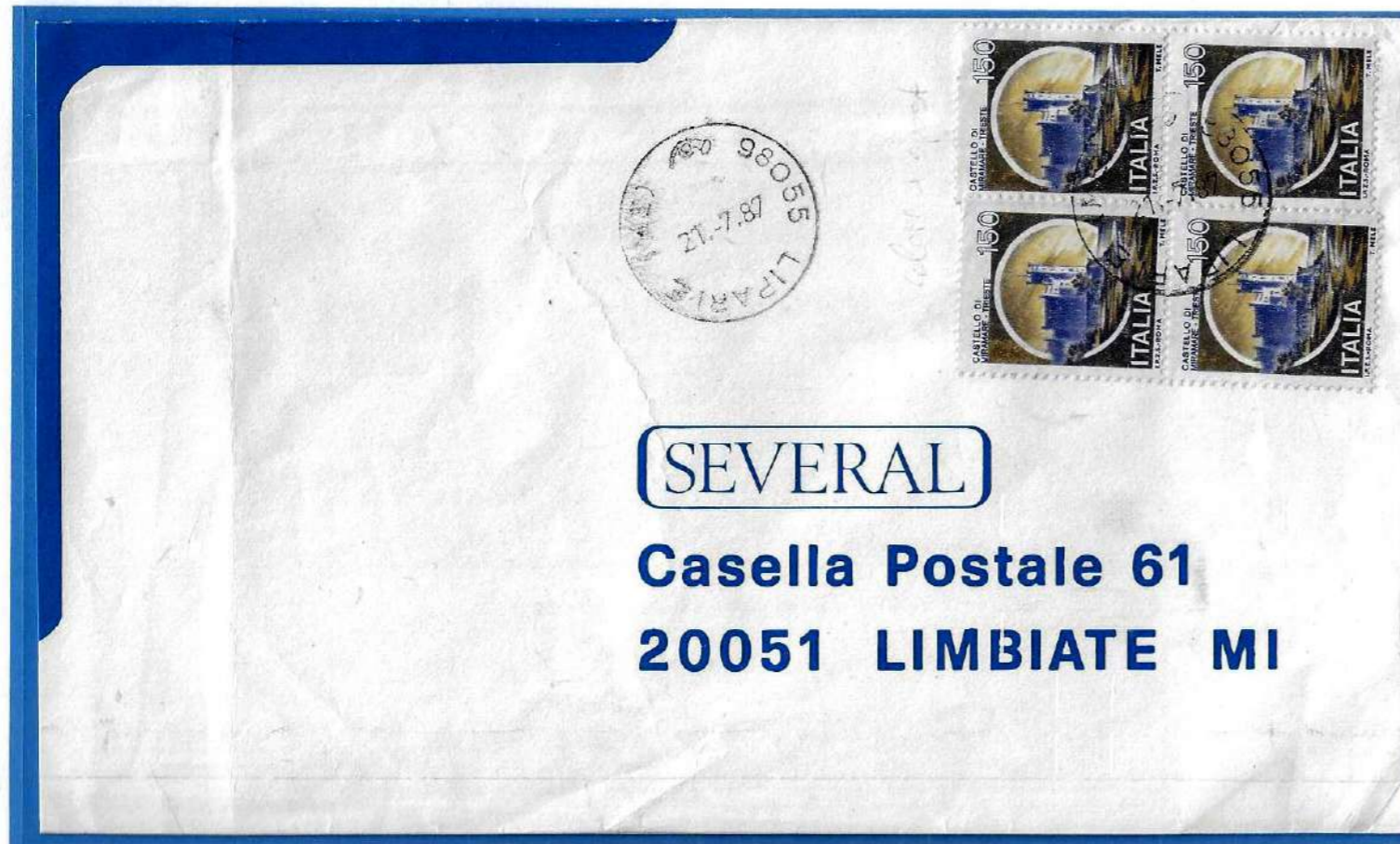
Piece with 150 Lire in its **012** shade.



1983 picture postcard in rate 300 Lire.  
Pair of 150 Lire in shade **02**. Rare with block perforation.



1988 post card over franked of 50 Lire.  
Two pieces in different colors, **03** and **01**.



1987 letter 600 Lire in rate.  
Block of four in **01** shade.



1986 letter in rate 550 Lire.  
150 Lire in shade **02**. Uncommon cover franked in 7 colors, all Castelli values.

170 Lire. Castello di Ostia, Roma. Chalcographic and offset printing 2 colors, yellow - black

Colors description order: Background, sky



180 Lire. Castel Gavone, Savona. Chalcographic and offset printing 2 colors, ultramarine - red

Colors description order: Background, sky



1980 letter 180 Lire in rate.  
cA1 shade, first periodo used on its own.



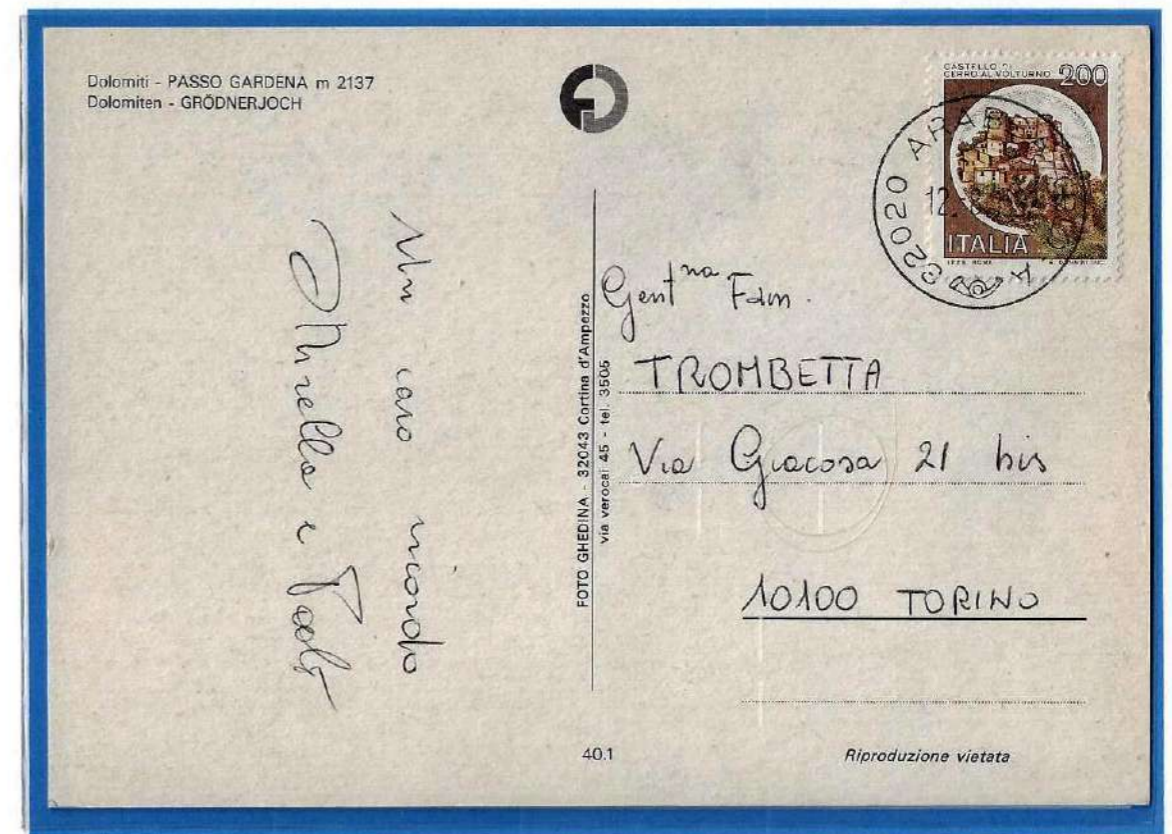
1982 picture postcard, 200 Lire in rate.  
180 Lire in its cB2 shade.

200 Lire. Castello di Cerro al Volturmo, Isernia. Chalcographic and offset printing 4 colors, brown - three colors offset

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



Mint block of four  
Blue print missing in the background but slightly visible on the buildings and lower right.  
cC5 shade. Rare color.



1982 picture postcard, 200 Lire in rate.  
Very rare specimen with the total absence of blue printing, cC6 shade



**250 Lire.** Rocca di Mondavio, Pesaro Urbino. Chalcographic and offset printing 4 colors, green - three colors offset

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



**300 Lire.** Castello Normanno Svevo di Bari. Chalcographic and offset printing 4 colors, red - three colors offset

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



1992 letter 750 Lire in rate. Same stamp two different colors, pair in cD1 and single in cD5 shades.



1982 registered letter, 900 Lire in rate. 300 Lire and 600 Lire Castelli are rare in this combination.

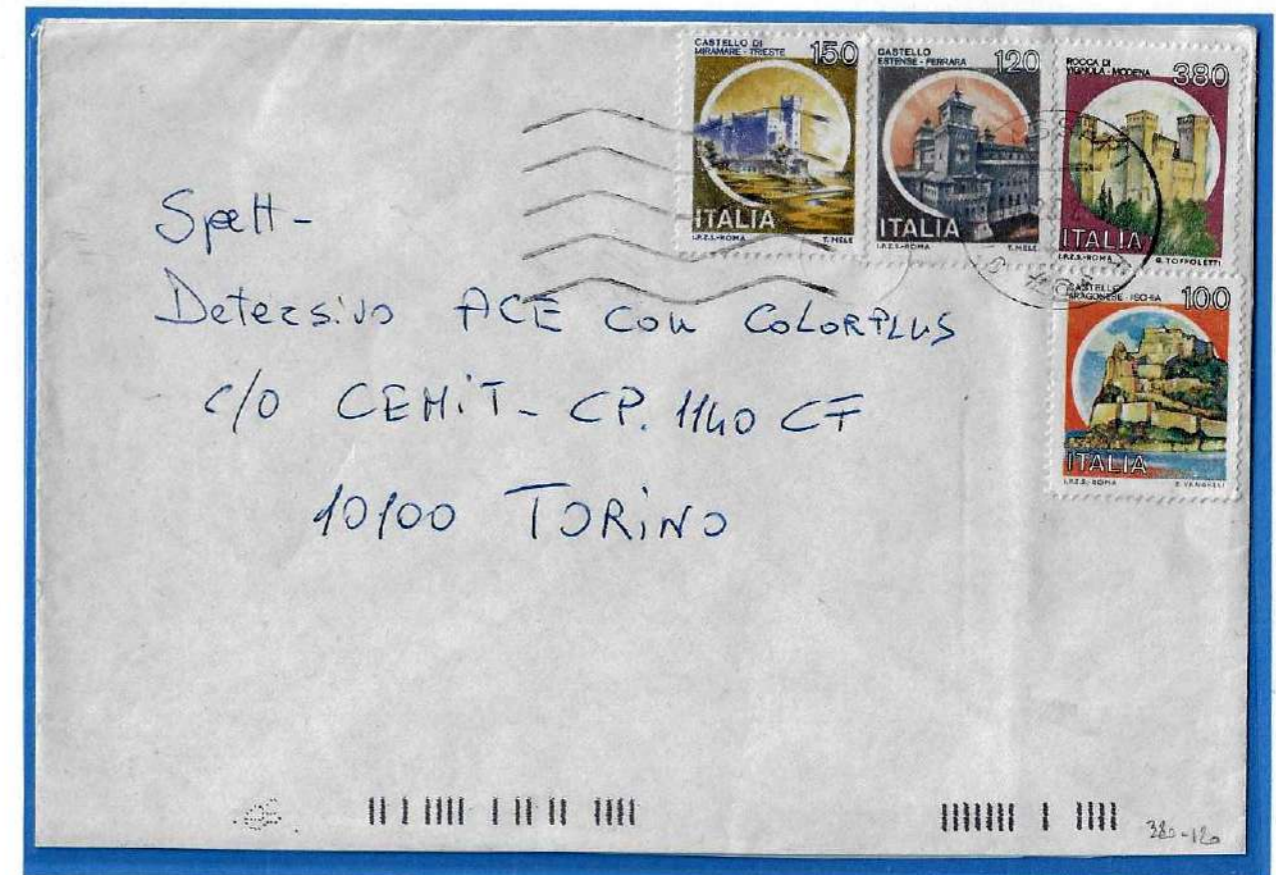
**350 Lire.** Castello di Mussomeli, Caltanissetta. Chalcographic printing 3 colors, blue - sepia - green

Colors description order: Background, castle, bush



**380 Lire.** Rocca di Vignola, Modena. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, bush, castle\*



1992 letter, 750 Lire in rate. 380 Lire in its **P3** shade. Uncommon cover franked in four colors, all Castelli values.

400 Lire. Castello dell'imperatore, Prato. Chalcographic printing 3 colors, green - blue - brown

Colors description order: Background, castle, soil



**cG10**  
Yellow green  
Grayish cobalt  
Reddish brown

Piece with 400 Lire in two different colors, the first two pieces on the left are **cG3** shade, the third on the right is **cG10** shade.



Mint block of 400 Lire with the "darker specimen" carry-over variety, position 87 detected in a small part of the print run. These two colors of the 400 Lire correspond to the color **cG7** for the laterals and **cG8** for the specimen in the center.

1137Ag



2000 registered letter 5500 Lire in rate.  
 Mint block of 400 Lire with the "darker specimen" carry-over variety position 87, **cG8** shade.  
 1137Ag Rarity



Pair in **cG7** shade.



Mint block of 400 Lire in **cG8** shade.

450 Lire. Castello di Bosa, Oristano. Chalcographic and offset printing 4 colors, blue - three colors offset

Colors description order: Background, bush, castle\*



**CH10a**  
Light charcoal  
Green yellow

**CH10b**  
Light charcoal  
Green yellow  
\*Yellowish Ivory

1985 special delivery letter, 2450 Lire in rate.

Rare pair of 450 Lire with printing of red, green and yellow colors gradually evanescent.

As we can see on the upper specimen, both the blue and green colors appear clearly visible, while the red is already almost absent.

The specimen below, presents only the print of gray color and very light traces of blue, this phenomenon gave rise to the castle called "slate castle".

1138Af - Very rare piece.

The same process is attributable to the 50 Lire presented on frame 6.

500 Lire. Castello di Rovereto, Trento. Chalcographic printing 3 colors, brown - blue - green

Colors description order: Background, castle, bush



Piece with block of 3 specimens that presents the peculiarity of a progressive color change. It belongs to one of the very first runs and generates the specimens listed here as **c14** and **c111**.



1987 registered letter 2800 Lire in rate.  
Values of 500 Lire in different shades, the first **c12** the next three **c15**.

550 Lire. Castello di Rocca di Sinibalda, Rieti. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, mountain, sky\*



1993 registered letter, 3950 Lire in rate simple fee charged to the recipient, uncommon. Block of 7 pieces of 550 Lire in Q8 shade.

600 Lire. Castello Scaligero di Sirmione, Brescia. Chalcographic and offset printing 2 colors, black - emerald green

Colors description order: Background, castle



1990 registered letter 3500 Lire in rate. Interesting 600 Lire block with very pale azure, **cl5** shade. Rare.



Piece with 600 Lire in its **cl1** shade.



1987 letter 4400 Lire in rate, incorrectly referred as insured letter, uncommon. 600 Lire in **cl3** shade.



650 Lire. Castello di Montecchio Castiglion Fiorentino, Arezzo. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, bush, sky\*



Piece of a traveling envelope with destination Santo Domingo. Two specimens of different colors in shades **R7** and **R11**. "Recycled" ones previously canceled.

700 Lire. Castello di Ivrea. Chalcographic and offset printing 4 colors, purple - three colors offset

Colors description order: Background, bush, castle\*



1988 special delivery letter 3050 Lire in rate.  
Block of four 700 Lire in their cM4 shade.



1992 letter, 1850 Lire in rate.  
700 Lire couple in their cM5 shade.

750 Lire. Rocca di Urbisaglia, Macerata. Chalcographic printing 3 colors, blue - brown - green

Colors description order: Background, bush, castle



1995 special delivery letter, 5100 Lire in rate.  
Three piece of 750 Lire in their cN4 and one in cN3 shades.

800 Lire. Rocca Maggiore Assisi, Perugia. Chalcographic printing 3 colors, red - brown - green

Colors description order: Background, castle, soil

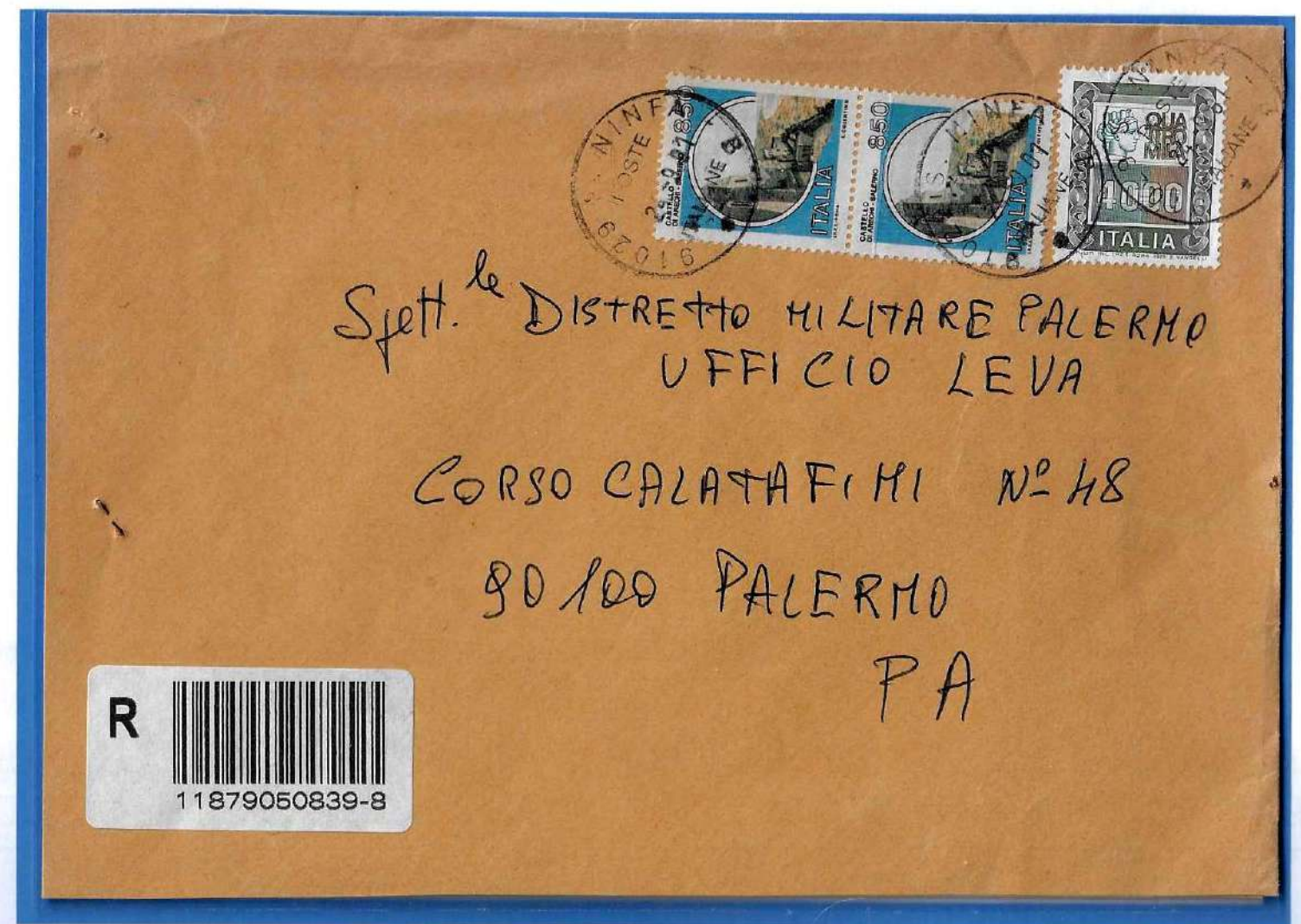


850 Lire. Castello di Arechi, Salerno. Rotogravure printing - Goebel 4 colors process

Colors description order: Background, castle\*



1982 parcel bulletin, 800 Lire in rate .  
800 Lire in its c03 shade.



1991 registered letter, 5700 Lire in rate.  
Couple of 850 Lire in their S1 shade.

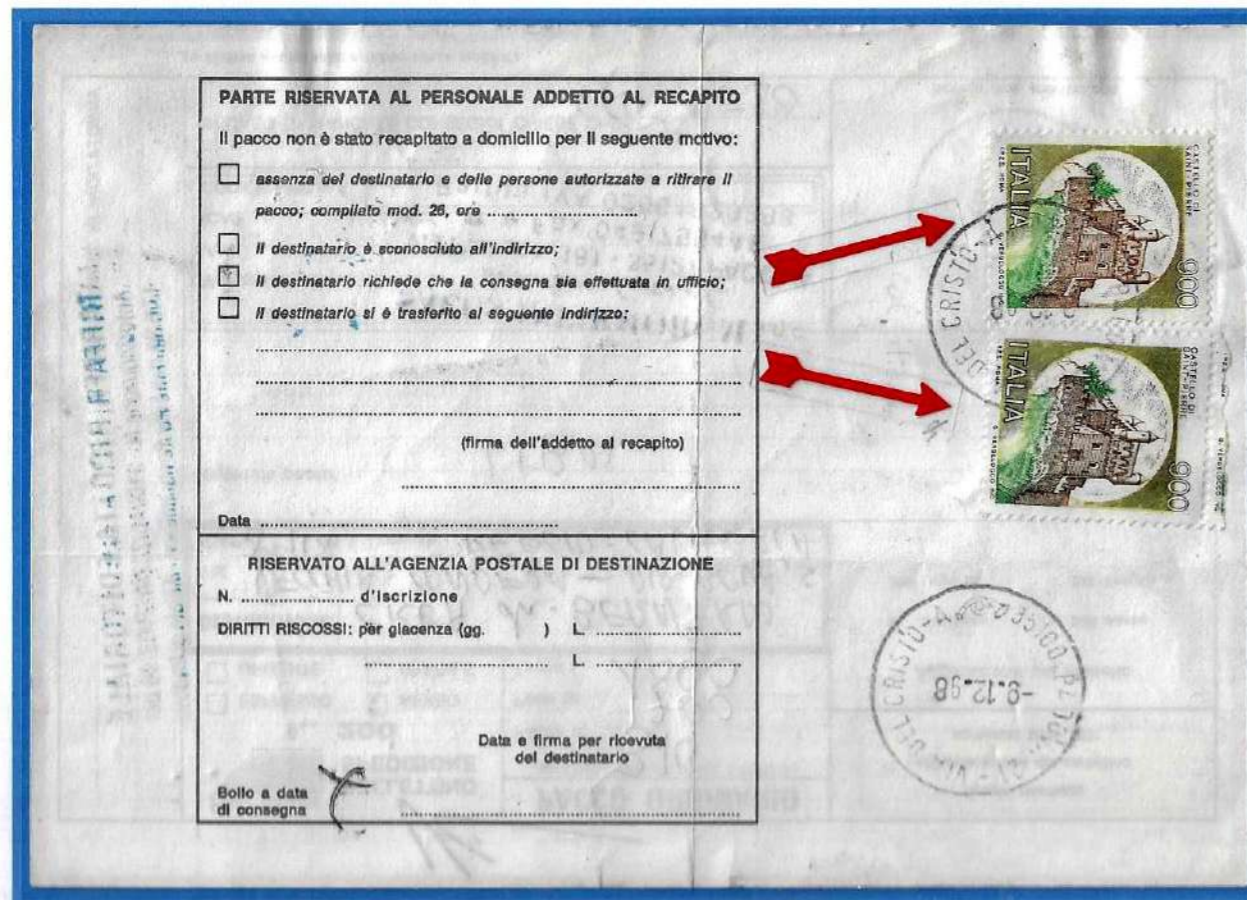
900 Lire. Castello di Saint-Pierre, Aosta. Chalcographic printing 4 colors, black - brown - green - yellow

Colors description order: Background, castle, soil



1000 Lire. Castello di Montagnana, Padova. Chalcographic printing 4 colors, ultramarine blue - black - green - orange

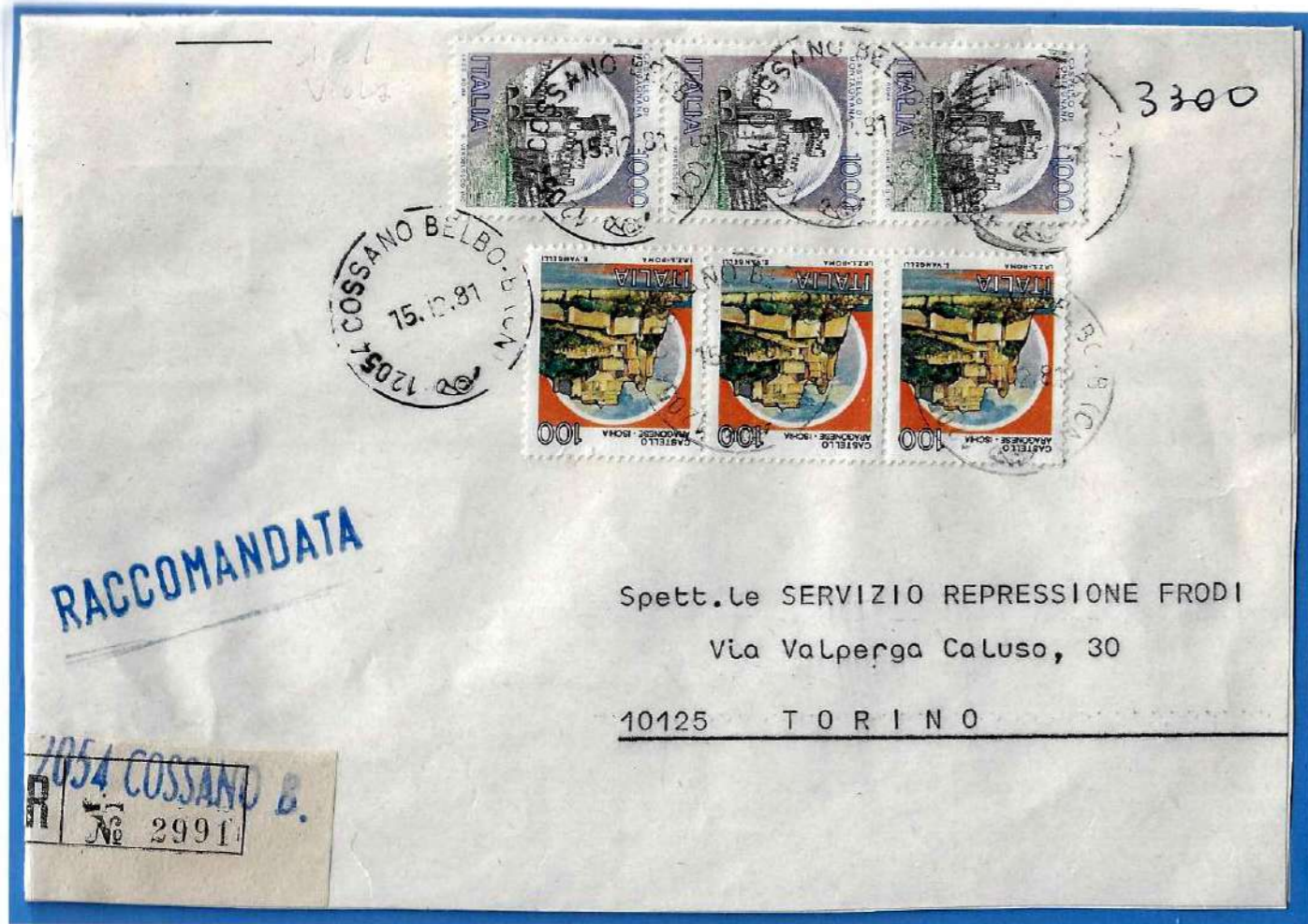
Colors description order: Background, soil



1988 parcel bulletin, 1800 Lire in rate .  
Couple of 900 Lire in different shades, cP2 and cP4.



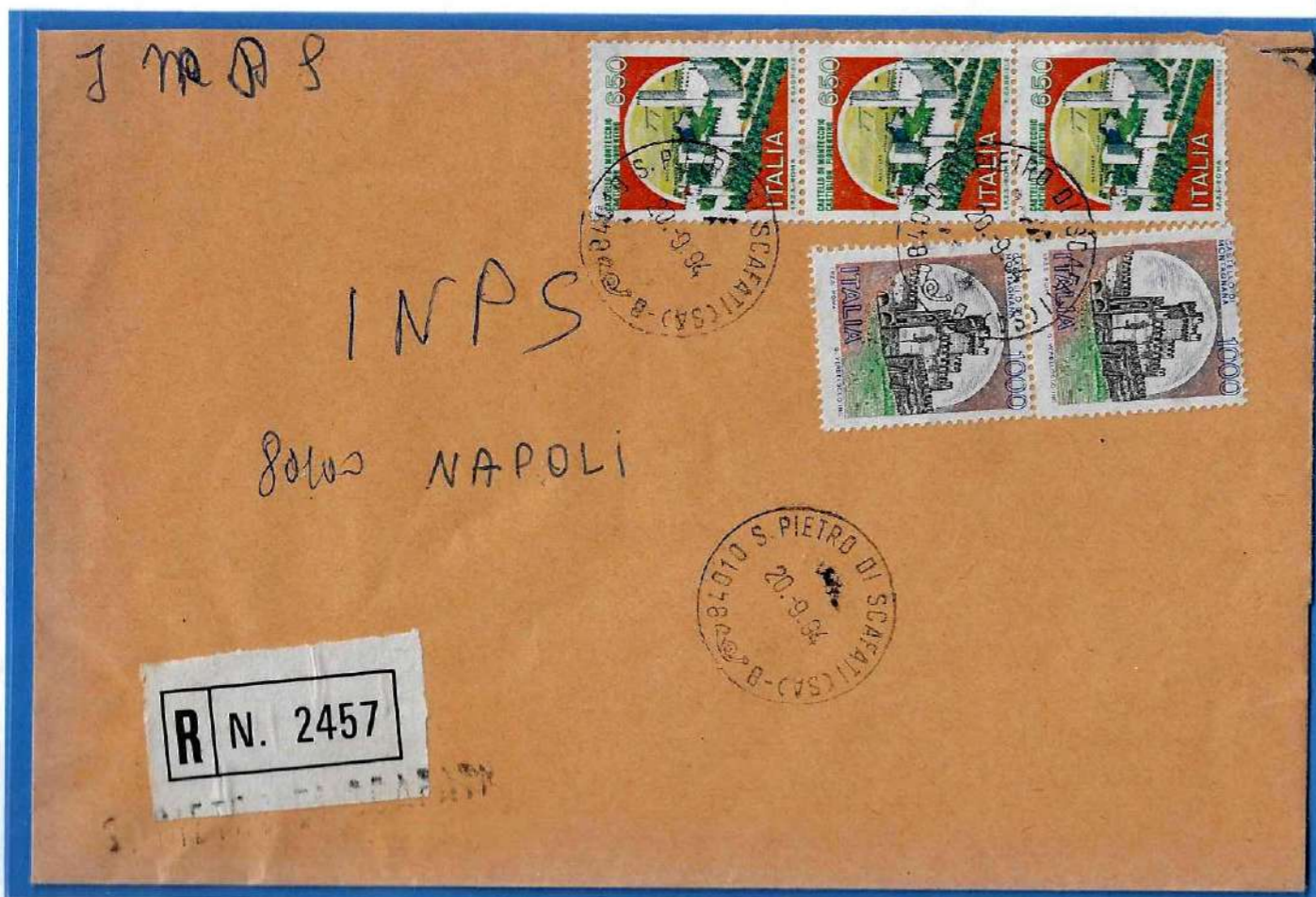
Piece with 1000 Lire in its uncommon shade cQ4.



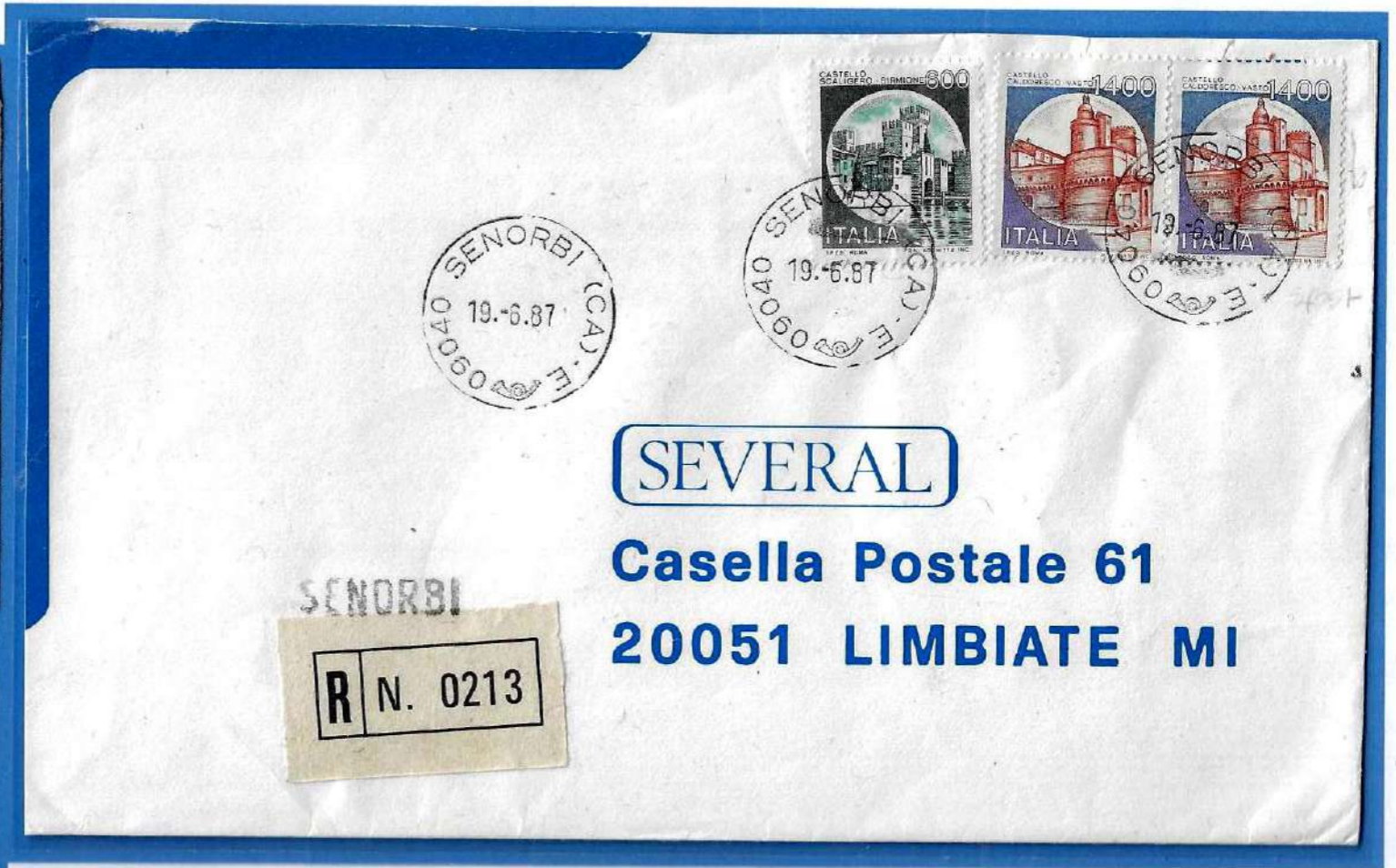
1981 registered letter 3300 Lire in rate.  
Block of three 1000 Lire in their uncommon **cQ3** shade.

**1400 Lire.** Castello Caldoresco Vasto, Chieti. Chalcographic printing 3 colors, ultramarine blue - mauve violet - terra di Siena

Colors description order: Upper background, castle, lower backgoud



1994 registered letter, 3950 Lire in rate.  
1000 Lire couple in their **cQ8** shade.



1987 registered letter, 3400 Lire in rate.  
1400 Lire couple in their **cR2** shade.

**200 Lire.** Castello di Cerro al Volturno, Isernia. Rotogravure re-printing 4 colors, yellow - magenta - cyan - brown

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



**300 Lire.** Castello normanno Svevo Bari. Rotogravure re-printing 4 colors, yellow - magenta - cyan - wine red

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



**250 Lire.** Rocca di Mondavio, PesaroUrbino. Rotogravure re-printing 4 colors, yellow - magenta - cyan - green

Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



**450 Lire.** Castello di Bosa, Oristano. Rotogravure re-printing 4 colors, yellow - magenta - cyan - blue

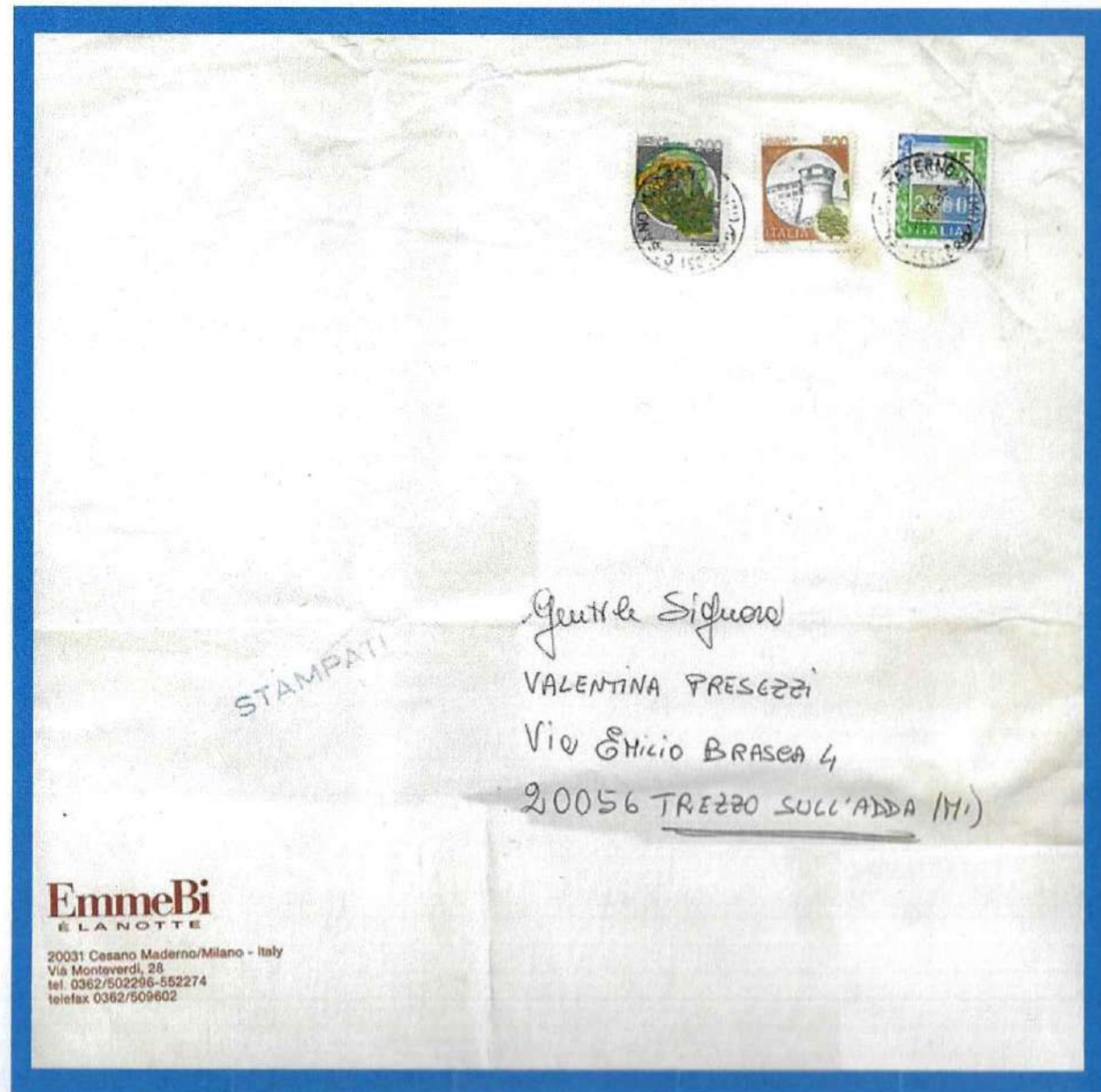
Colors description order: Background, sky, castle\*



seB2



Rotogravure re-printing 200 Lire wrongly printed using 450 Lire colors.  
Only part of one sheet found in a post office. 1133A Aa Very rare.



1995 printed matter big envelope, franked with the 200 Lire rotogravure with wrong colors.  
Part of the sheet found in a post office was already been used by employee to send correspondence.  
On the left the entire envelope picture. **Rarity**



Chapter II - The Castelli's colors analogies

During their long life, accidentally some Castelli pieces have become uniform in color.  
Here specimens found with strong color analogies.



20 Lire and 150 Lire made similar by their background color



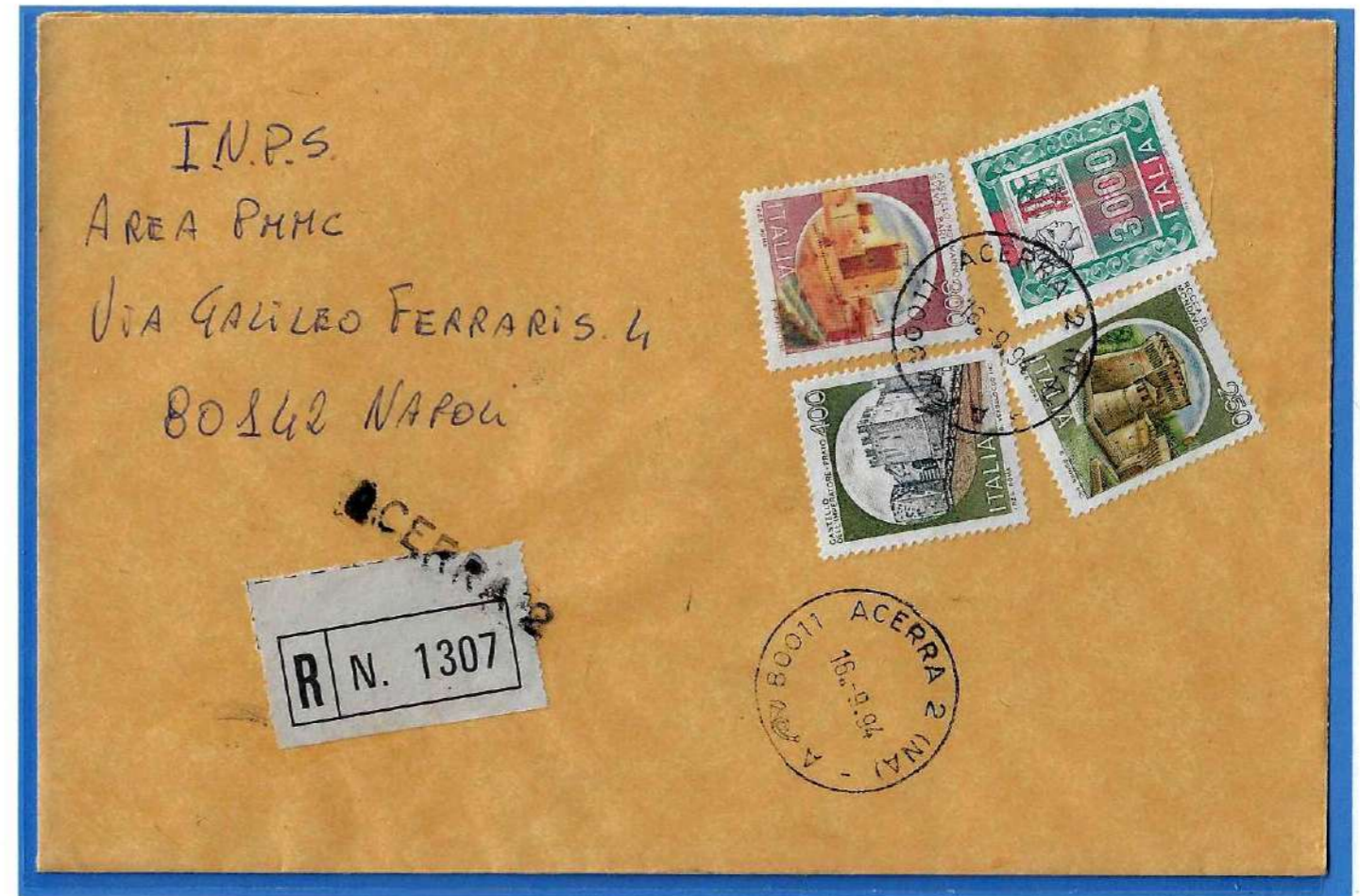
20 Lire and 150 Lire as they should be



100 Lire and 650 Lire made similar by their background color



100 Lire and 650 Lire as they should be



1994 registered letter, 3950 Lire in rate.  
250 Lire and 400 Lire printed with the same green color.



1990 letter, 700 Lire in rate.  
550 Lire and 150 Lire with the analog background color even if in lighter and deeper tone.

## Chapter III - The Castelli's color infiltrations

### Color infiltrations in chalcographic printed Castelli.

A phenomenon that can occur during the printing of chalcographic stamps is the color infiltration. This "accident" creates valuable occasional varieties that make the study of this series even more interesting. Here are some unexpected finds.

350 Lire



Green, heavy infiltration  
Very rare



Brown infiltration  
up right  
NC



Green infiltration  
up left  
NC



Blue infiltration  
on the top of the castle



Brown infiltration  
up left and green spots  
on the hill NC



Green infiltration  
in a shape  
of a christmas tree NC



Blue infiltration  
on the lower part  
of the hill

400 Lire



Brown infiltration  
on the wall of the castle  
NC



Brown infiltration  
on all the left side



Brown drops Infiltration  
down left



Brown infiltration  
down left



Blue Infiltration on  
the left side  
NC



Blue infiltration on the  
left and on all the fence



Green infiltration on the  
brick wall and blue on  
the fence



Green infiltration  
on the brick wall

★ PENTATLON ★

Applica qui il tagliando di controllo  
di BIO PRESTO FORZA BUONA

6813530  
TAGLIANDO DI CONTROLLO  
FUSTINO  
PER CONVALIDARE I BUONI SCONTO



CANALE 5

**PENTATLON**

Casella postale 5  
20090 SEGRATE (MI)

Nome OTELLO  
Cognome ZATTINI  
Via LARGO SANT'ROMANO 8  
Tel. 26-20607 CAP 20090  
Località ROTTA Prov. ROTTA

CORSO  
LE D'ORO  
ATTI  
y Promotional  
postale 1516  
MILANO  
USIO

450 Lire



Red infiltration  
on the green



Yellow infiltration  
on the sky  
NC

A phenomenon not easy to explain.

Few pieces of 400 Lire (4 known at the moment), where found with orange color on behalf of green.

My supposition is that during the process of printing, a tank containing orange was topped up with green.

This accident gave birth to this very particular specimen.  
Very rare.

500 Lire



Brown Infiltration on both tower roofs



Brown infiltration on the tree



Blue infiltration down left



Green infiltration on the bottom side



Blue infiltration on the upper and left side



Mint block with all the three colors used to print the stamp (brown, green and blue) present a halo. This happened during the printing process because the paper dragging rollers were dirty. The doctor blade was not able to clean it.

Not common.



Mint block of three with massive infiltration of green on the first stamp to the left. 1139 Ah Very rare



Mint block of six with "tears" of blue, not common.

1993 printed matter letter, 500 Lire in rate.

Specimen presentig half of its background in green instead of brown. 1139 Ah Very rare.



1990 registered letter, 4300 Lire in rate.

The three 500 Lire pieces with blue and green shades in the part that should have been white. Not common.

SEVERAL

Casella Postale 61

20051 LIMBIATE MI

750 Lire



Brown infiltration on the left side and on the bush NC



Green Infiltration on the lower part of the castle NC



Blue infiltration on the top of castle towers



Blue infiltration on the lower side Very rare



Green Infiltration on the right wall of the castle Present on the three pieces on the right side



Green Infiltration on the castle towers NC



Blue infiltration on the higher castle tower



Brown infiltration on the sky NC



Brown infiltration on the upper side Very rare



Blue infiltration down left Very rare



Blue infiltration on the whole lower side Very rare



1996 letter, 750 Lire in rate. Specimen with large brown infiltration on the upper side. Not Common



1990 letter, 750 Lire in rate. Specimen spotted with the three same color used to print it (see 500 Lire block).

800 Lire



Brown Infiltration on the green + red top on towers NC



Brown infiltration on the left piece from top to bottom Rare



Brown infiltration upper right NC



Brown Infiltration on the whole green NC



Green infiltration down left



Green Infiltration on the hill NC



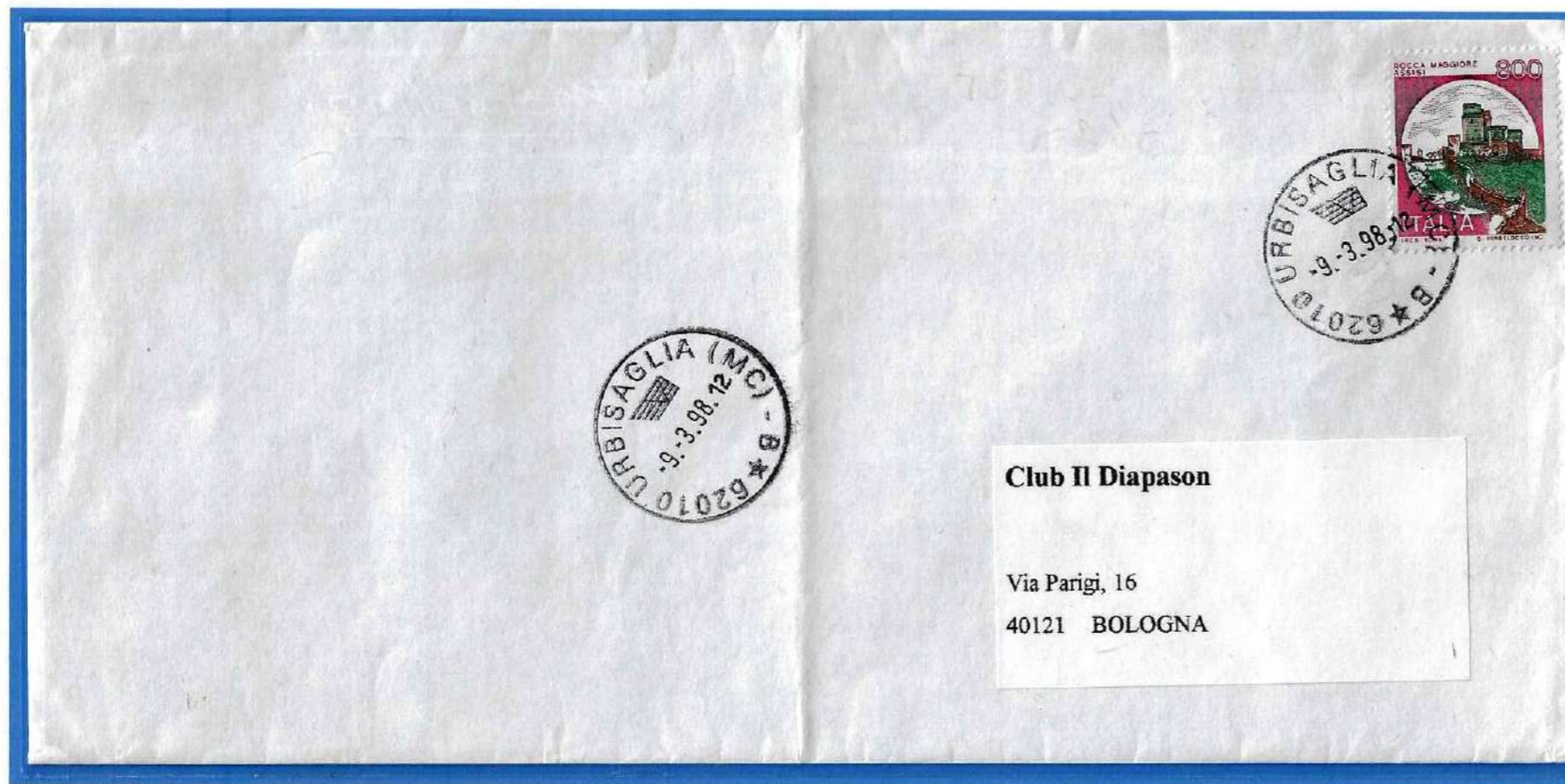
Green infiltration on the upper side "purple rain"



Green infiltration on little towers at right



Red infiltration on the top of towers



1998 letter, 800 Lire in rate. Specimen with heavy green infiltration on the castle. Very rare.

900 Lire



Green infiltration on the wall in front of the castle wich appears on all the six pieces NC



Mint block of 5, sheet first row, the specimen on the right with brown infiltration on the hill NC



Brown infiltration up right and on the tree Very rare



Brown infiltration down left



Brown infiltration up right

1000 Lire



Blue infiltration down, under ITALIA



Heavy blue infiltration on the upper side NC



Black infiltration on the green at right NC



Green infiltration on the right castle wall



Black infiltration down left



Black infiltration on the whole green



Orange infiltration on the green "flowery meadow"



Orange infiltration on the wall at right NC



Orange infiltration on the tunnel at left NC



Orange infiltration at the top of the tower NC

1400 Lire



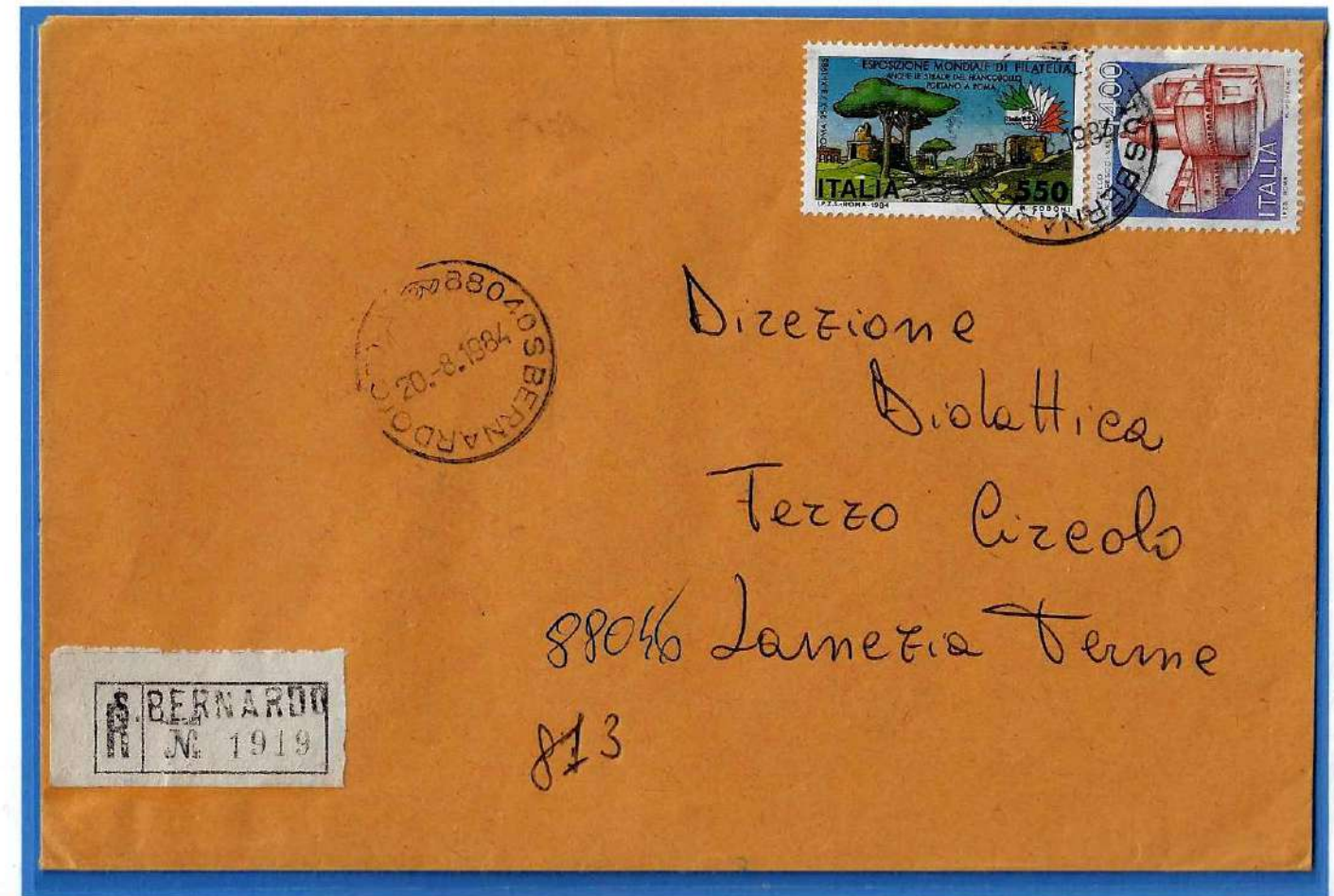
Mauve infiltration at the base of the castle



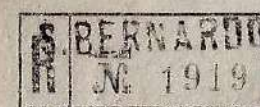
Blue infiltration on the top of the castle at right



Block of four with the second specimen presenting a massive blue infiltration on a big part of the castle. Very rare



Direzione  
 Diolattica  
 Terzo Cizeolo  
 88046 Lamezia Terme  
 #13



1984 registered letter, 1950 Lire in rate. Specimen with mauve infiltration at the base of the castle.

## Chapter IV - Castelli printed on "colored paper"

Colored paper for stamp printing does not exist in Italy. When the paper is colored is because the paper feed roller or the print roller are dirty of color. That's why a veil of this color is left on part of it or on its entire surface. The veil of color has to be exactly as one of the colors used during the printing, otherwise it's not a natural variety. Here are the values with this characteristic.



30 on yellow



100 on orange



170 on yellow



200 on brown



200 on green



300 on red



350 on blue



380 on magenta



400 on green



450 on blue



450 on red



500 on brown



600 on turquoise



650 on yellow



700 on purple



100 Lire on orange



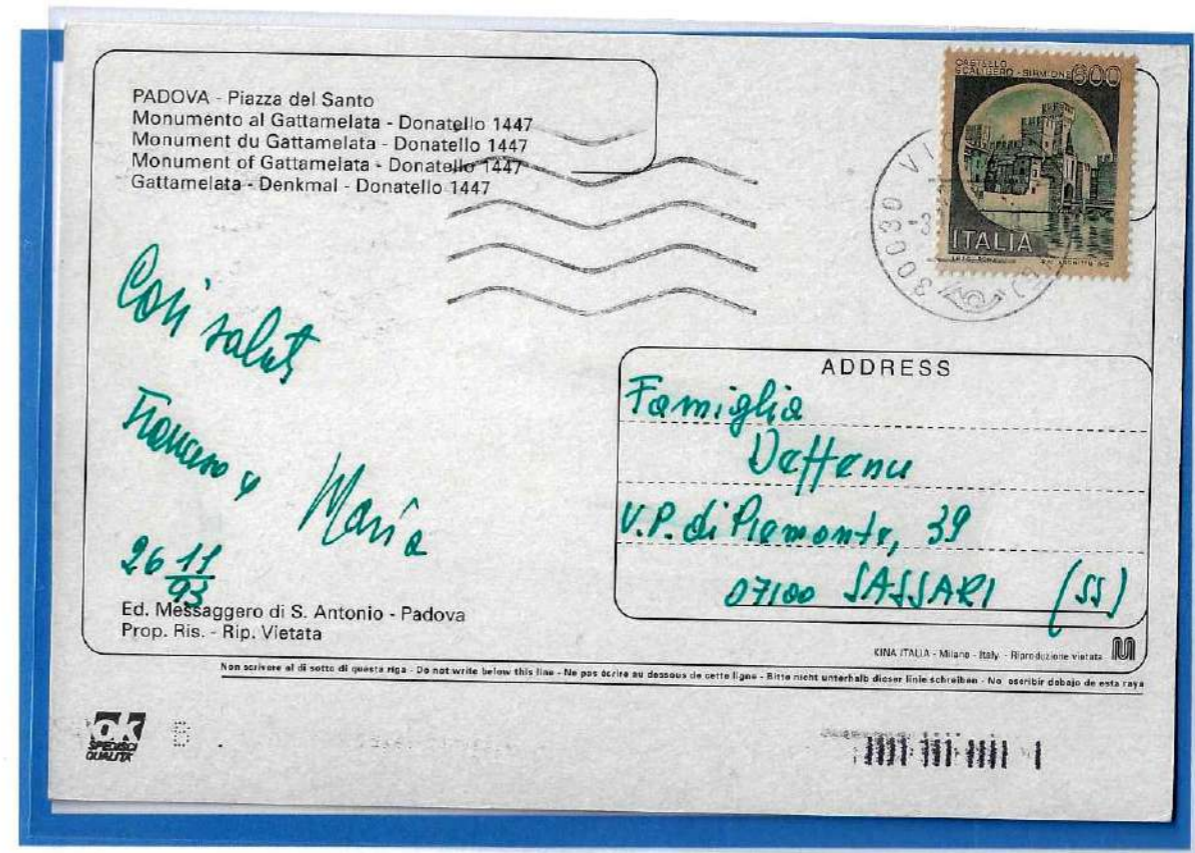
750 on blue



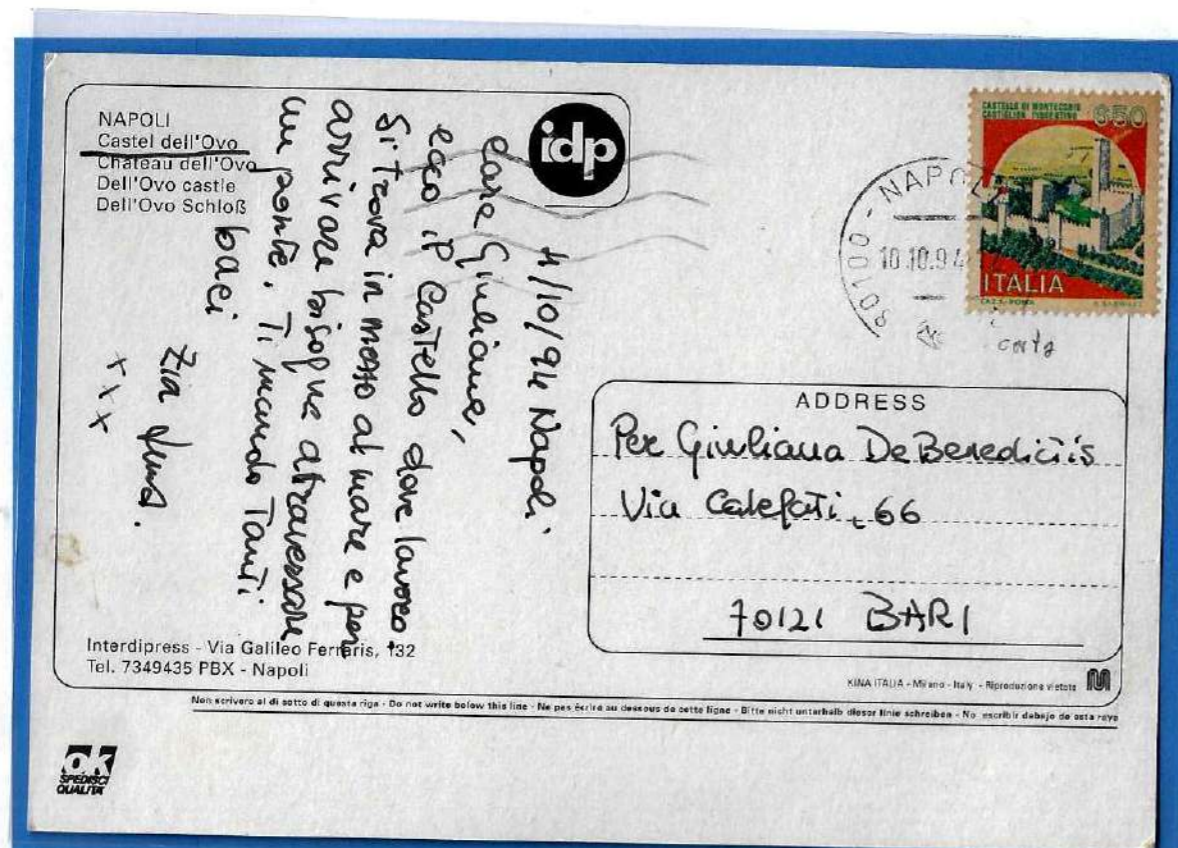
900 on yellow



200 Lire on brown, so evident that can be exchange for a joined paper specimen NC



600 Lire on dirty paper



650 Lire on dirty paper



750 Lire on brown



## Chapter V - Colors on the back

From Giovanni Riggi di Numana and Giovanni Martina studies, this phenomenon is not described as a set-off but as "color passed on the back". Their supposition is vinyl or aniline ink was used, which being more liquid is absorbed by the paper. In truth it is not known with certainty how this could happen. I have discovered other values with the same characteristic shown here, including the 350 Lire which was produced with chalcographic printing. The 10 and 50 Lire are presenting a transfer of color from the piece glued to them due to fresh and still wet ink.



Specimens with printing color  
passed on their back side.

- 50, 80, 100, 380 and 650 Lire



Specimens with transfer color due to  
the contact of the sheets with fresh ink



The only line-engraved specimen found with color on the back is the 350 Lire.

## Chapter VI - Luminescent colors

I found some values of 100 Lire which present a particular color of red in the light of Wood. Riggi di Numana's studies on luminescence have been useful to me but have not solved my question, also for castles the luminescent inks? Or, are we facing to phosphorescent inks? One thing is sure, this was unknown before my discovery and the values of castles that show this characteristic are very few, this phenomenon is also present on the values of 150, 550 and 800 Lire. To understand better what I'm talking about, I show you a couple of values from the past, such as the famous 10 Lire Siracusana and the less known 50 Centesimi "Parmeggiani".



Siracusana 10 Lire not fluorescent and 10 Lire with luminescent ink, the same example for the 50 Cent. Parmeggiani



100 Lire, normal reaction under the Wood light, and I type red luminescence



100 Lire, II and III type of red luminescence



100 Lire, IV type of red luminescence



150 Lire, normal reaction under the Wood light, and yellow luminescence color



500 Lire, normal reaction under the Wood light, and apricot luminescence color



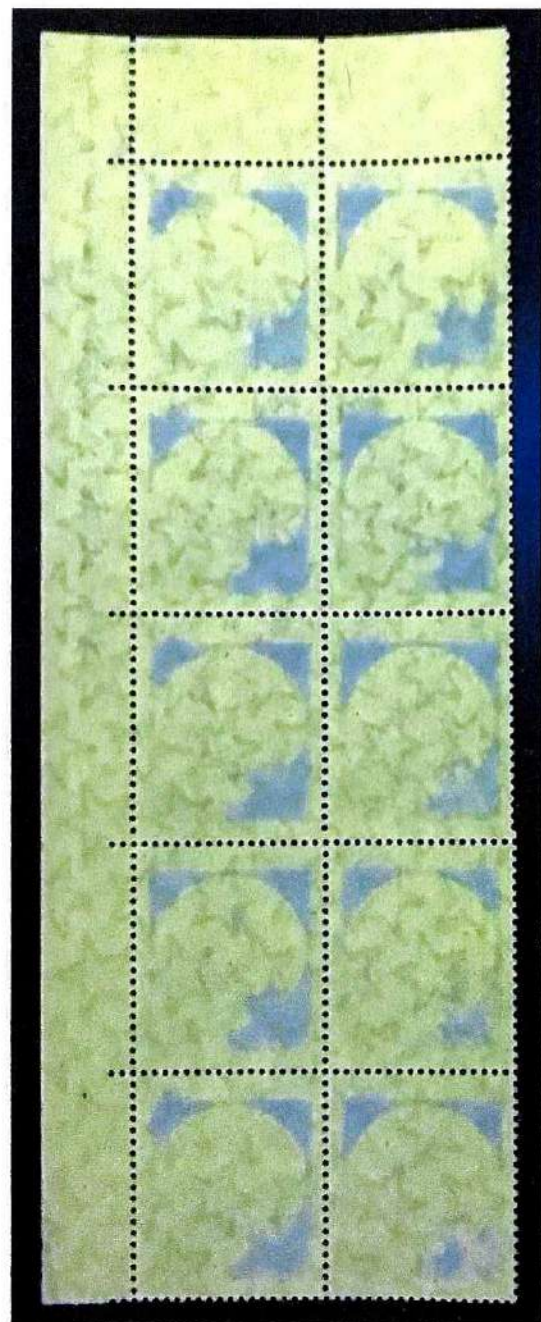
800 Lire, normal reaction under the Wood light, and red I type luminescence color



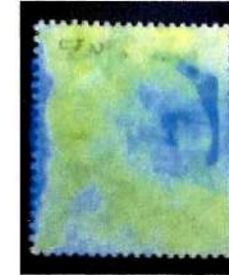
800 Lire, II and III type luminescence colors

Chapter VII - Fluorescent colors on back side

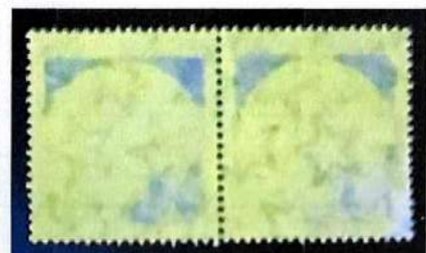
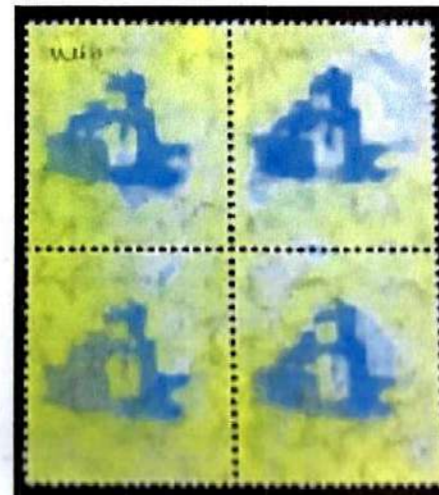
Another interesting and unique recent discovery is about fluorescent colors on the back, only on Castelli's series. As far as we know it's the first kind variety existing all over the world. The values of 900 and 1000 Lire proved to be very common, the 350 and 750 less common, difficult to find the 400 the 500 the 600 the 700 and the 800 Lire.



400 Lire present a heavy blue fluorescence visible also observing the front of the stamp under the wood light.  
500 Lire black fluorescence is noticeable only on the back of the stamp.  
Also for the 600, 700, 750 and 800 Lire specimens, black luminescence color is noticeable on the back only.



For 900 and 1000 Lire the black heavy fluorescence is noticeable both on the front and back side of stamps.



The 350 Lire has the black fluorescence of the upper triangles in its background, Black fluorescence cannot be identified by looking at it from the front.

Chapter VIII – Castelli on coil peculiarity

Although this emission does not offer much in terms of colors, surprisingly shows different values with ink fluorescence on the back. Here are shown all the values so far discovered, both for colors and fluorescence.



Different color shades on 120 Lire, the third copy is the only cataloged shade 1151Aa



200 Lire with low inscription not complete 1153Ab



Different color shades on 100 Lire NC



100 Lire in its normal shade

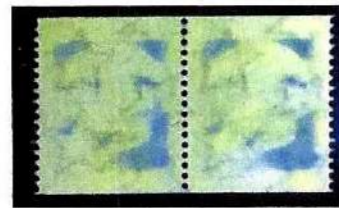


750 Lire in different shade

1990 registered letter in rate 30 Lire with missed low inscription 1150Aa



500 Lire in different shades



650 Lire in different shades



Black fluorescence on 50, 100, 500 and 750 Lire, on 500 and 50 Lire is visible also on the front of the stamp.



## Chapter IX— *The evanescent colors*

During their long life Castelli have always given many kind of varieties, some found analyzing tons of material others found in post offices.  
Evanescent or incomplete prints are part of it and since we talk about colors then we cannot miss a review of these varieties.



5 Lire  
evanescent print  
1118Ab



30 Lire  
evanescence  
right low 1121Ac



50 Lire  
red and yellow  
Evanescents 1123Ai



50 Lire  
castle undefined  
1123Ah



50 Lire  
missed black color on the castle



50 Lire  
missed turquoise down left



60 Lire  
evanescent printing



70 Lire  
evanescent castle  
1125Ab



70 Lire  
evanescent background



70 Lire  
evanescent background  
on the left side



80 Lire  
evanescent bushes  
1126Aa



100 Lire  
evanescent orange



100 Lire  
general evanescence  
1128Ah



50 Lire  
vertical mint strip  
with undefined castle



120 Lire  
evanescence on the left



350 Lire  
Evanescnt printing  
NC



400 Lire  
op of the castle evanescent  
1137Ad



400 Lire  
Evanescnt printing  
1137Ac



500 Lire  
progressive evanescence on the castle, carry-over variety



500 Lire  
evanescent background  
1139Ac



550 Lire  
vertical mint strip  
with evanescence  
1140Ai



150 Lire  
evanescent toprinting  
1130Ah



600 Lire  
missed green  
1141Ad



600 Lire  
evanescent turquoise



600 Lire  
evanescent gray on the  
left



500 Lire  
evanescent green  
1139Ad



500 Lire  
evanescent blu  
on the tower top



600 Lire  
Black evanescent down right



650 Lire  
evanescent yellow

650 Lire  
evanescent figure on the right copy



700 Lire  
evanescent purple  
1142Ad

700 Lire  
evanescent red



750 Lire  
evanescent green  
NC

750 Lire  
evanescent castle  
NC

750 Lire  
evanescent blue  
1142Aab

750 Lire  
evanescent brown  
NC

750 Lire  
evanescent blue  
1142Aab

750 Lire  
evanescent towers  
NC



750 Lire  
evanescent castle on the right piece  
"the odd couple"



800 Lire  
evanescent soil



850 Lire  
evanescent red  
NC



900 Lire  
left castle part evanescent



900 Lire  
evanescent top of the castle  
1144Ae



1000 Lire  
evanescent blue on the right side  
NC



1000 Lire  
evanescent castle  
1145Am



1000 Lire  
evanescent orange and  
green 1145An



1993 letter, 750 Lire in rate, 350 Lire presenting the evanescent castle. NC



Postal card 1984 400 Lire in rate, 100 lire presenting evanescence on the left side.



1400 Lire  
evanescent castle and  
low right side



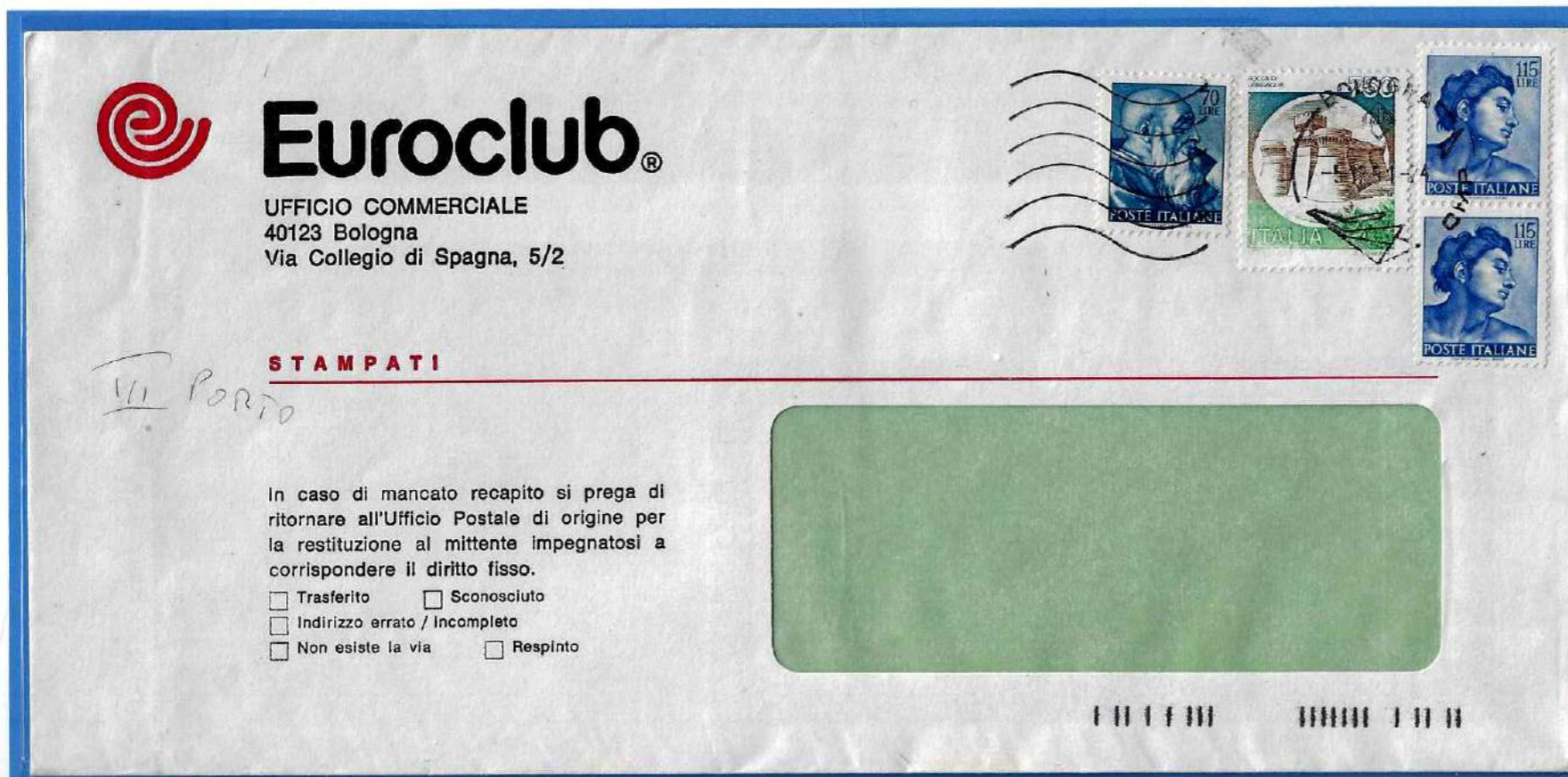
450 re-printed  
general evanescence



1985 registered letter 1950 Lire in rate, the 500 Lire with evanescent castle. NC



1986 Letteri 550 in rate, the 550 with green evanescence on top creating a bicolor piece. Rare



1991 letter 1050 Lire in rate, 750 Lire with evanescent green.



1989 parcel post-card, all 1000 Lire pieces with evanescence on the castle.

Chapter X – Missed colors, excess colors

The lack of one or more colors has generated many peculiarities on which there were and still are doubts. Then there are some specimens shown here that have in addition to the lack of color/s also a strong displaced perforation, I exposed them to allow you to see the example without the color and not for their perforation.



20 Lire  
specular tower in the sky  
NC



30 Lire  
cobalt color  
1121AI



30 Lire  
Blue on the whole castle  
NC



40 Lire  
missed yellow color  
NC



50 Lire  
missed red color  
1123An



50 Lire  
missed yellow color  
1123Ae



50 Lire  
double blue print



50 Lire  
missed yellow color  
1123Ae



50 Lire  
big spot of blue



70 Lire  
missed red  
NC



70 Lire  
missed red on the right  
bicolor stamp NC



100 Lire  
excessive red  
1128Am



100 Lire  
black and blue only  
1128AI



150 Lire  
missed ochre right piece at right



150 Lire  
missed magenta  
NC



200 Lire  
missed blue  
1133Ad



200 Lire  
big red spot



250 Lire  
missed red  
NC



250 Lire  
excess of red



300 Lire  
missed red up in the center



300 Lire  
missed yellow



170 Lire  
black spots on many copies NC



350 Lire  
missed green down right on all copies NC



350 Lire  
missed blue  
gray only



350 Lire  
missed red on top  
of the bush



350 Lire  
missed blue on the right  
side in the centre



350 Lire  
Missed red on the top of  
the castle, at left





400 Lire  
missed blue  
on the left NC



400 Lire  
missed blueup left



400 Lire  
missed color between  
the fence and the castle



400 Lire  
missed blue on the top of the castle  
NC



400 Lire  
brown on all the down right angle  
NC



450 Lire  
color bands demonetized  
1138Ag



450 Lire  
missed gray left low



450 Lire  
missed yellow and green  
Rare



450 Lire  
missed red  
1138Ag



450 Lire  
only slate printed  
1138Af



450 Lire  
missed colors  
on L of ITALIA NC



450 Lire  
only slate  
1138Af



450 Lire  
offset colors only  
NC



500 Lire  
missed brown on 500  
1139Ag



500 Lire  
missed brown on top  
of the tower



500 Lire  
missed colors  
in a vertical line



500 Lire  
missed brown up right



500 Lire  
blue center + missed  
brown on left side



550 Lire  
missed red on the left part of the  
stamp



550 Lire  
missed red



550 Lire  
missed red



550 Lire  
missed red



550 Lire  
missed red



550 Lire  
missed red



550 Lire  
missed red



500 Lire  
missed brown top left  
NC



500 Lire  
missed low inscription on all pieces  
NC



600 Lire  
Only slate printed on printing proof  
1141Ag



600 Lire  
sheet margin with a curious printing, the name of red (ROSSO)  
color when for this piece red was never used. Rarity



600 Lire  
missed turquoise  
1141Ad



600 Lire  
missed slate  
1141Ai



600 Lire  
colors on the top  
center



600 Lire  
big turquoise  
spot



600 Lire  
missed turquoise  
on the clouds



600 Lire  
missed slate  
top center



650 Lire  
tiny spot of green in the  
sky, carry over variety  
called "parachute"



650 Lire  
big green spot



700 Lire  
purple print only  
1142Ae



700 Lire  
heavy red



700 Lire  
missed red  
NC



700 Lire  
missed purple  
vertical line



700 Lire  
missed purple  
top left



700 Lire  
missed purple  
on L of ITALIA



750 Lire  
missed blue  
1142A Ab



750 Lire  
missed blue  
and blue green NC



750 Lire  
missed green NC  
at the feet of the castle



650 Lire  
missed yellow  
1141A Ab



750 Lire  
big green line



750 Lire  
drag spots



750 Lire  
dark green instead  
of blue  
Rarity



750 Lire  
blue covering the green  
Rarity



750 Lire  
turquoise instead of blue  
on top



750 Lire  
missed brown  
on low castle part



750 Lire  
missed brown and  
green on low



750 Lire  
missed brown and  
too much green



750 Lire  
missed brown on top  
of background



750 Lire  
missed brown  
top right



750 Lire  
missed brown  
middle right



750 Lire  
blue green  
NC



800 Lire  
white space between the wall and the green  
on both pieces on the right. Rarity



800 Lire  
only brown printed  
and demonetized



800 Lire  
red missed on top  
and middle right



800 Lire  
right side with  
missed green and brown



800 Lire  
white line on the piece down left  
NC



850 Lire  
missed blue  
NC



900 Lire  
green line on the left  
NC



900 Lire  
missed color between  
the wall and the castle  
NC



900 Lire  
missed brown  
on right side  
1144Ae



900 Lire  
missed green after  
ITALIA



1000 Lire  
missed blue  
1145Aza-1145Al



1000 Lire  
missed blue generate 100  
instead of 1000 1145Aa



1000 Lire  
missed blue on the  
figure, lost two zeros



1000 Lire  
missed orange  
very rare 1145AzB



1000 Lire  
missed blue generate  
000 value instead of 1000  
1145Ac



1000 Lire  
missed black on the top  
of the tower NC



1000 Lire  
missed blue top right  
NC



1000 Lire  
missed colors  
top right



1000 Lire  
missed blue down left  
ITA A NC



1400 Lire  
missed brown  
down on the castle



1000 Lire  
excess of black on the whole stamp NC

Second issue rotogravure re-printing



350 Lire  
red and yellow only  
NC



450 Lire  
slate and yellow only  
1138A Ad



450 Lire  
missed red  
1138A Ac



Postal card with heavy green on 40 Lire NC



Postal card with heavy red on 60 Lire 1124Ab



Printed matter letter with 120 Lire presenting red on the gray background 1129Aa



Postal card, 200 Lire with missed brown top right NC



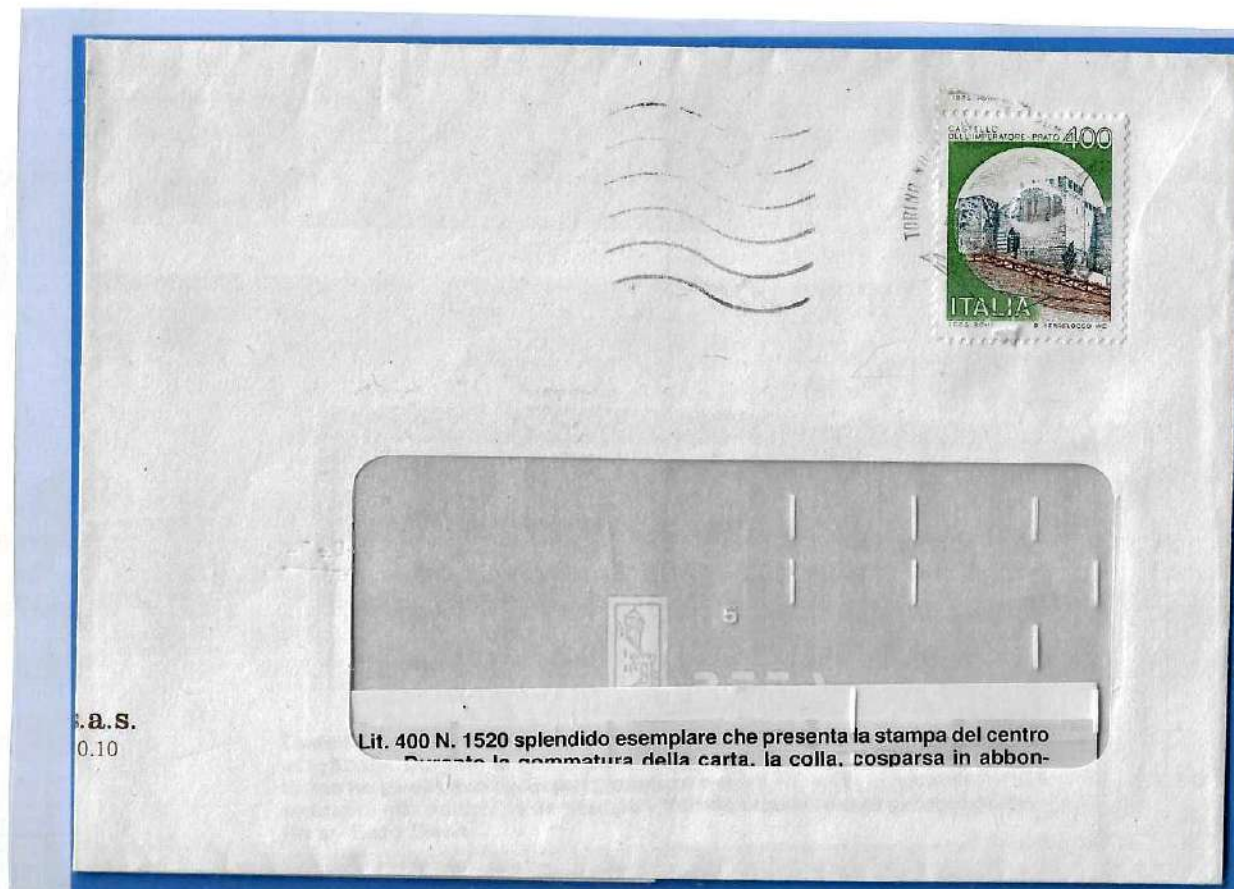
1988 Letter, 650 Lire in rate. Piece of 200 Lire without the red color, a very rare piece



1982 letter 300 Lire in rate, missed red on the top left part NC



Postal card with 350 Lire presenting a missing part of green on the low right side NC

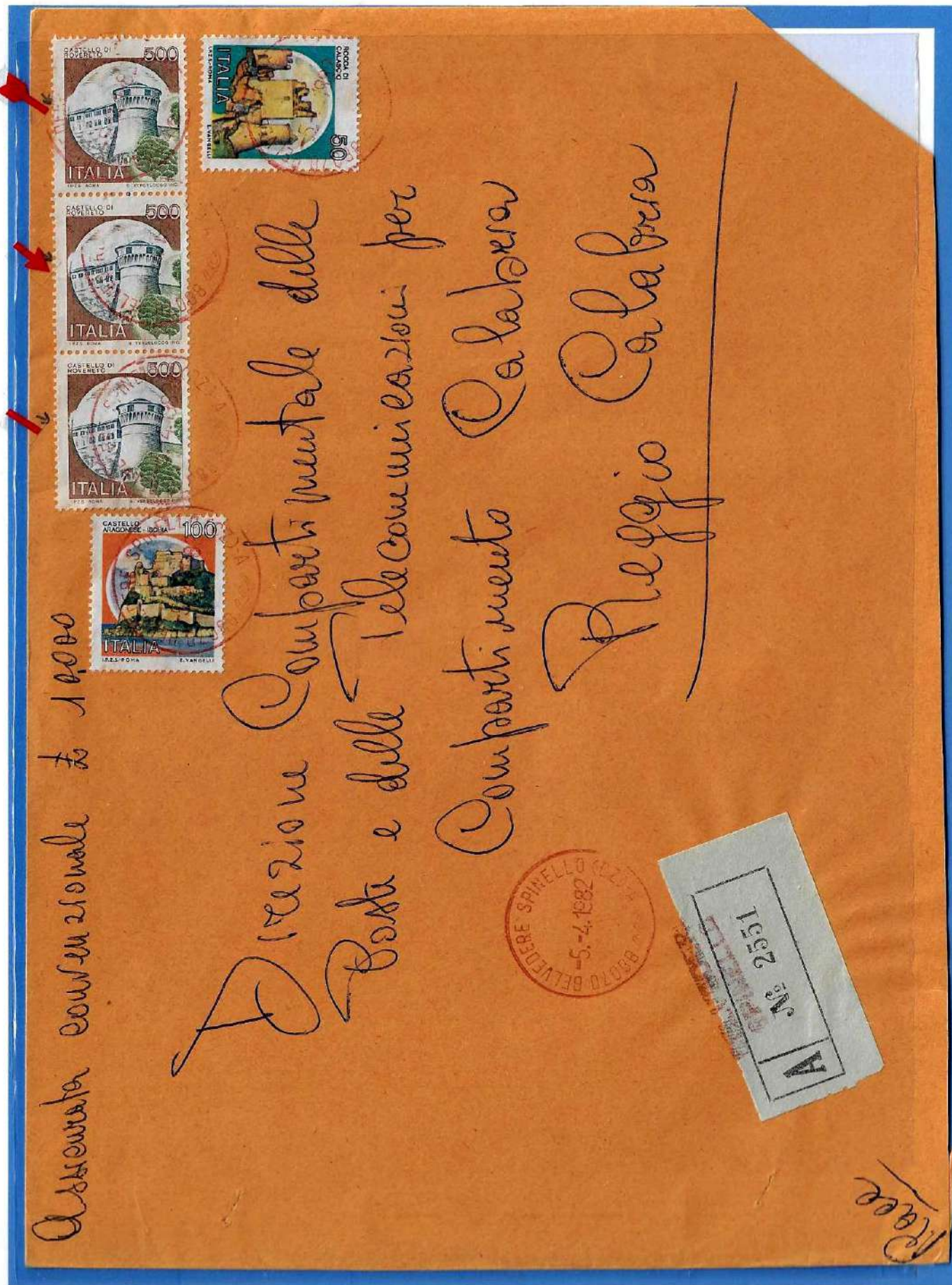


Letter with unique piece of 400 Lire presenting uncomplete castle printing, due to a little "ball" of glue. Never seen something like that before. Very rare piece



1996 letter 750 Lire in rate. 450 Lire only slate printed. 1138Af

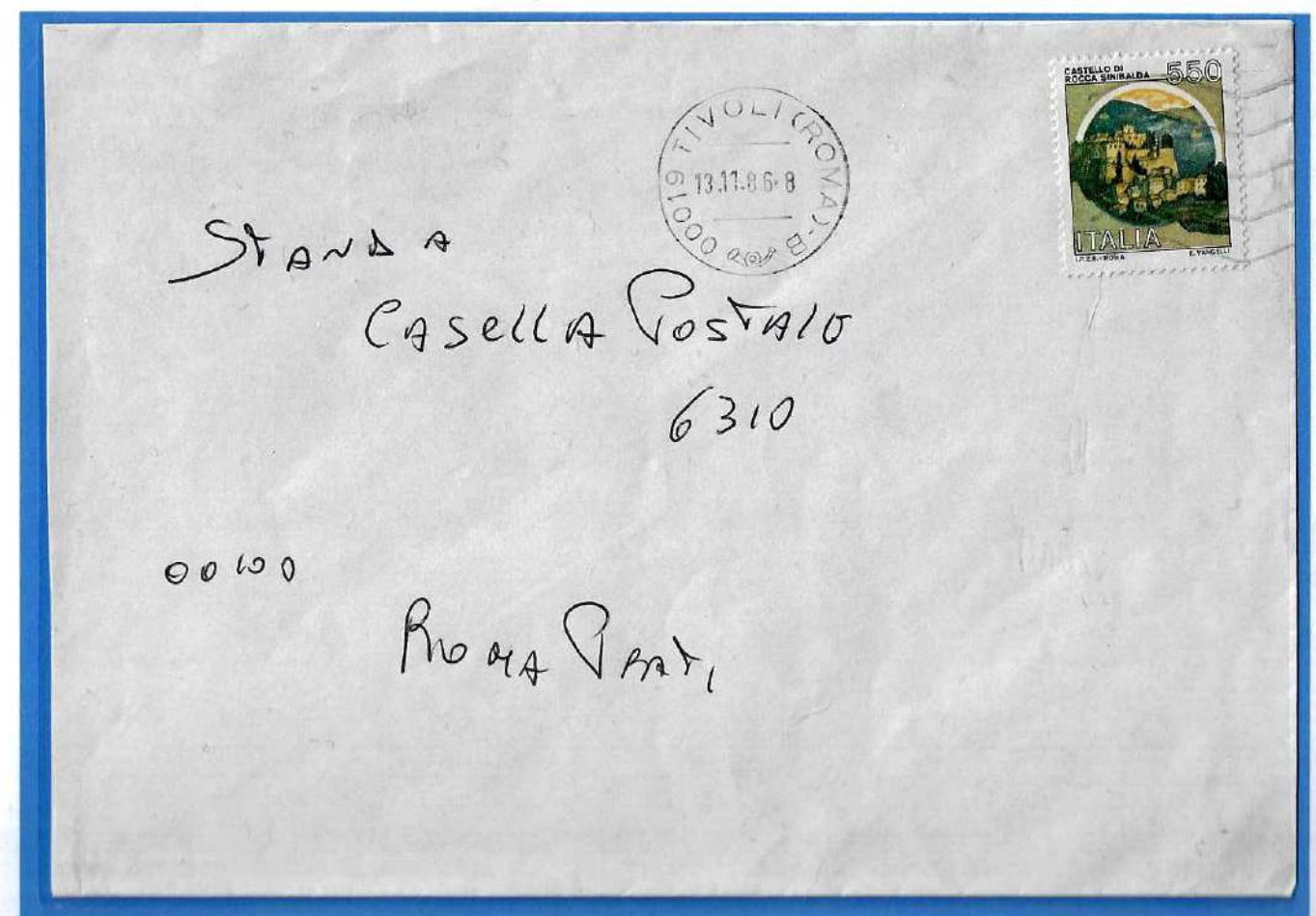




1982 insured letter 1650 Lire in rate, 500 Lire back with missed brown on the left side. NC



1984 printed matter letter 500 Lire in rate, specimen with all colours missed in a vertical line. NC



1986 letter 550 Lire on its own, in rate. Specimen without the red color, on the right. NC



1997 letter 1850 in rate, the 1000 Lire without the number 1 becomes zero worth, very rare.



1982 express letter 1150 Lire in rate. Specimen without the blue color upper right. NC



1987 registered letter 2800 on its own, in rate. Specimen without the blue color on ITALIA word. Very rare



## Chapter XI – Fake and manipulated colors

As always been in philately since his early days, counterfeiters and dodgers always tried to defraud collectors with intervention, copies or modifications to the nature of the stamp. Some specimens defined in the past as "print start" results, are shown here as they do not respond correctly to the light of wood and infrared, revealing when present, evident spots of "pouring" especially the glue on the back, highlighting the tampering with various acids.



Fake working proofs, under the Wood light it's possible to see acid effects.



Fake double printed pieces, you can notice the printing of the perforation shadow. Scanners take it all!



Evanescences created with various acids types



Colors removal with various acids types



Paper artificially colored, even unintentionally



2000 registered letter, 5000 Lire in rate, the 850 Lire misses the red color, it was artificially removed.

Chapter XIII – Misplaced colors

When printing is carried out in several steps, colors may shift. The characteristic is defined as "out of register colors".



Castelli' specimens found with the maximum shifted color known. Colors may have shifted in various directions, notice on 10 Lire pieces the number 10 is big and tiny, nice effect created by shifted color.



1987 postal card 500 Lire in rate, the 100 Lire couple low with misplaced orange. NC



NC

1130Ab



1130Ab



1133Ab



1134Aa



NC



1135Aa



1138Ac



1141Aa



1141Ab

Notice on 650 Lire pieces the number 650 is big and tiny, nice effect created by shifted color.



1141A Ac

NC



1141A Ac



1142Ab



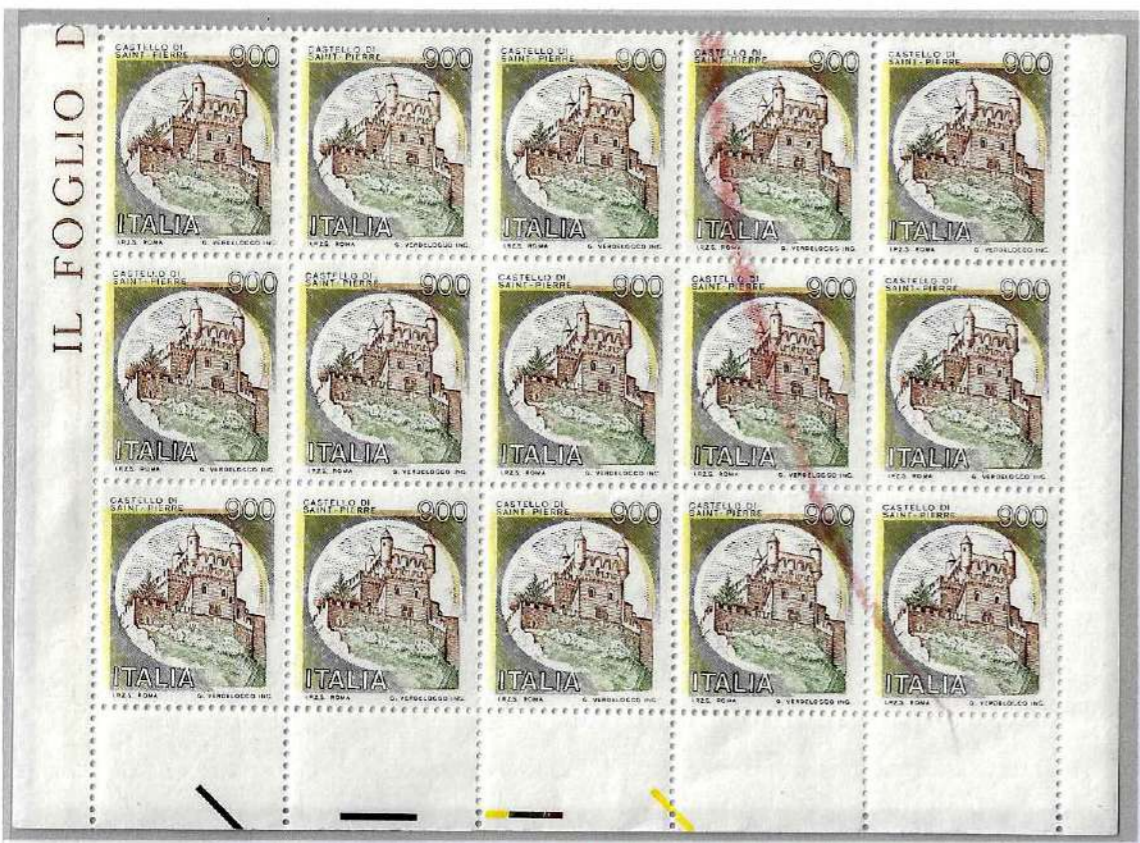
1143A Aa



1143A Aa



1996 letter 750 Lire in rate. Misplaced red on 450 Lire. Missed green and yellow also NC



1144Ab



1145Ad - 1145Ae - 1145Af

1000 Lire is the only one with so many kind of shiftment, too many to be true



1144Ac

