

# THE SIRACUSANA

The Ordinary Series "ITALIA TURRITA" is commonly named SIRACUSANA by the philatelists because it shows a woman's effigy from a Roman coin of Syracuse in the fourth century BC.

This series, issued to replace "Italia al Lavoro", satisfies both the need to issue stamps of reduced size and to overcome the numerical constraint imposed by the number of the Italian regions represented.

The 29 nominal values that make up the series have been made in two different sizes: a small size for all the values and a big size (the large heads) only for 100 and 200 Lire, until 1959.

The first stamp was printed on the Siracusana postcard May, 7<sup>th</sup> 1953, while the stamps were issued on June, 6<sup>th</sup> 1953; the last ever postcard on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1980, but all the values went out of circulation from January, 4<sup>th</sup> 1988 (published in *Gazzetta Ufficiale* n° 233 October, 6<sup>th</sup> 1987).

With its almost 35 years of validity, this series was the most long-lived in the Italian postal history. In fact, it was strongly involved in the technological improvement of printing process, paper preparation, gum modification, fluorescence introduction and perforator types.

With this collection-study, which is configured in the Contemporary Traditional Philately, I intend to present the specialties of this series through sketches, colour tests, coinage and essays. In addition, I present a wide selection and variety of specimens, some unpublished, with the edges of the paper (despite the difficulty of the finding) needed to recognize the different issues, printing machines, plates and cylinders.

## COLLECTION PLAN

### -INTRODUCTION

### -WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK ISSUES

### -STAR CARPET WATERMARK ISSUES

### -SINGULARITIES

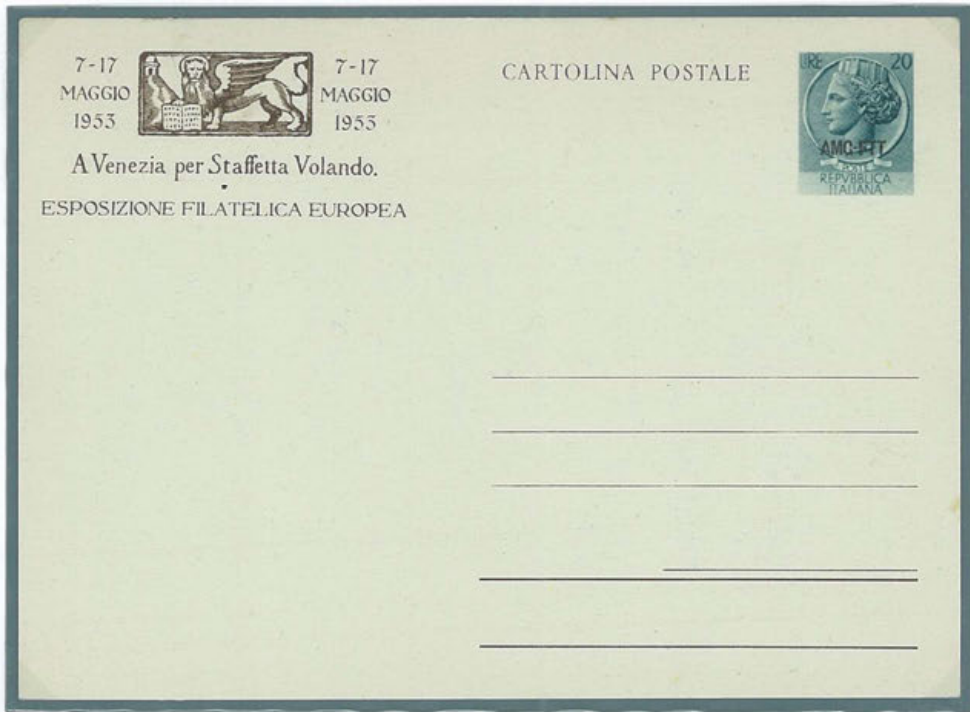
### -VENDING MACHINE ISSUES

### -FLUORESCENT STAR CARPET WATERMARK ISSUES

### -FORGERIES

### -FAREWELL "SIRACUSANA"

It was printed both for Italy and for Trieste "A" Zone.



The regular series "Italia al Lavoro was put out of circulation from March, 31<sup>th</sup> 1958.



### 3 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK - INTRODUCTION

The Siracusana first issued series has been printed on paper made by *Cartiera Miliani* in *Fabriano* with winged wheel 3 watermark. This type of watermark is neat and clear because it has been performed "*in round method*" with the repeated wording "POSTE ITALIANE" on the borders.

Misalignments and bad regulations on the printing machine produced letter watermark both on the left and on the right, rarely only letters or double line letters.

### COLOUR PROOF



1953: Eight imperforate and without watermark proofs, in the chosen colours and values are shown. They are placed on rectangles of perforated paper, arranged on a black thin cardboard.

## ESSAYS

The essays are a certain amount of final copies allotted to a small number of people responsible for the issue. This in contrast to the print and colour proofs which normally stay in the *Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato* archives.



1953 / 54 - Complete series with 3 winged wheel watermark and black "SAGGIO" diagonal overprint.



20 Lire of Trieste "A" Zone with blue "SAGGIO" vertical overprint.

All values are known, except for the 35 Lire. Because of the small quantity issued, these specimens are very rare.

Considering the reel direction and stamp position while printing, this watermark usually appears in **Normal Right (NR)** position.

Occasionally, but this is known only for the 25 Lire, some inverted placed reels have produced a watermark in **Inverted Left (IL)** position.



NR



IL

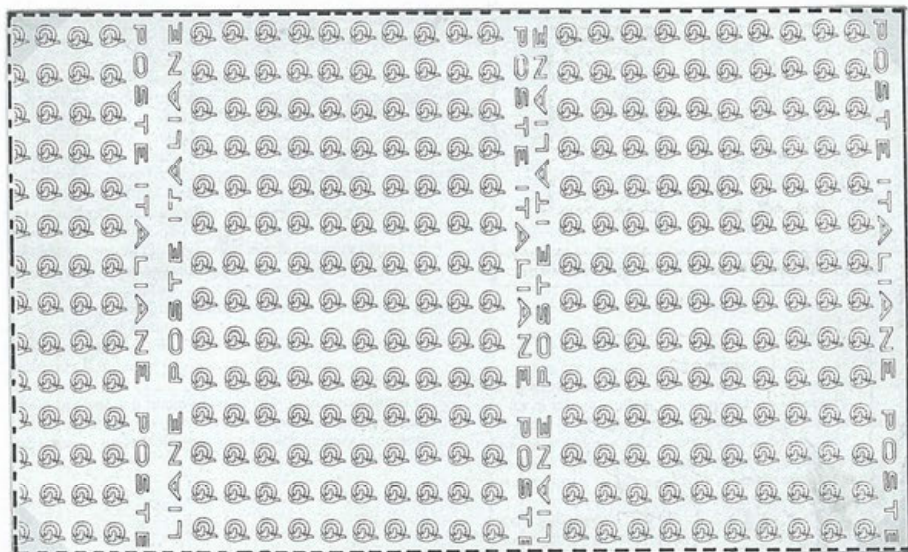


## LETTER WATERMARK - INTRODUCTION

The watermark letters can be found only in the stamps with watermark Winged Wheel of 1<sup>st</sup> type (which does not affect the Siracusana) and 3<sup>rd</sup> type. The paper was so watermarked wrapped in coils of 10 tracks with 4 wheels each. Between the first and the second track, but also between the third and the fourth, the continuous "POSTE ITALIANE" are written in a double row and spaced by 3 mm. Between the second and the third track, instead, the distance is 12 mm; This is because before printing the coil was cut in half and then reduced to only two tracks of wheels provided with written marginal formed by letters 7.5 mm in height.

Misalignments and poor adjustments on press generated inside the stamps the presence of watermark letters both right and left of the Wheel, you can have partial or complete (10/10), more rarely, only letters or letters in double row.

Reproduction of the reduced first, second and part of the third track of the coil.



25 Lire - L (IL)  
6/10



25 Lire - R (IL)  
5/10



5 Lire - R  
almost central



5 Lire - L (Trieste "A") - 9/10



# LETTER WATERMARK

Selection of stamps with 3 Winged Wheel watermark in Normal Right (NR) position that show letter watermark on the left (L) and on the right (R).



5 Lire - L  
10/10



10 Lire - L  
10/10+



12 Lire - R  
10/10



13 Lire - R  
10/10+



20 Lire - L  
10/10+



25 Lire - R  
10/10+



35 Lire - R  
10/10+



80 Lire - L  
10/10



80 Lire - R  
10/10+





### 3 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK ISSUE

Technical features: Series of 9 stamps with 3 Winged Wheel watermark in Normal Right (NR) position, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with a 2 colour Goebel machine, on non fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with Block perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on bottom left position. The 25 Lire is known with watermark in Inverted Left (IL) position too. The size of the engraving is  $17 \times 21$  mm.

BORDER: ADORNED WITH STRAIGHT LINE AND EXTERNAL SINUSOID

ISSUE: June, 6<sup>th</sup> 1953



5 Lire - light slate grey



10 Lire - light vermillion orange



12 Lire - green



20 Lire - brown



25 Lire - NR light lilac violet



25 Lire - IL  
light lilac violet



25 Lire - IL light lilac violet



35 Lire - carmine orange pink



60 Lire - blue



80 Lire - brown orange

ISSUE: February, 1<sup>st</sup> 1954



13 Lire  
lilac pink



### 3 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK - VARIETIES



Oblique light  
band



Strongly shifted hori-  
zontal perforation



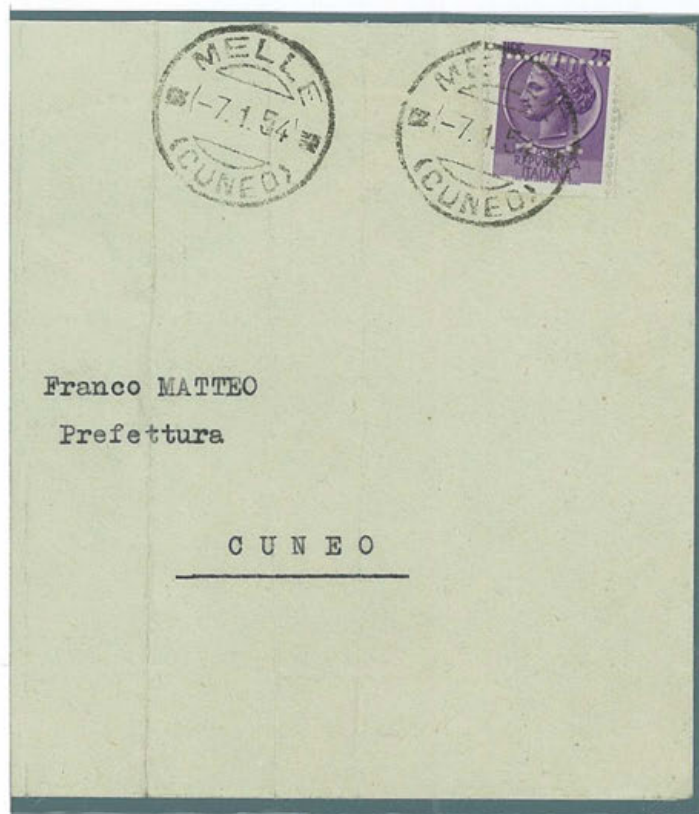
White vertical  
lines



White vertical  
lines



Jointed paper involving the  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> copy from the  
top



January, 7th 1954, Letter 1° carriage (25L) sent from Melle (CN)  
to Cuneo and stamped with 25 Lire Siracusana wheel with a strongly ver-  
tically shifted perforation.



Partial, missing  
and fading  
printing

### 3 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK - TRIESTE "A" ZONE

**Technical features:** Series of 9 stamps with 3 Winged Wheel watermark in Normal Right (NR) position, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with 2 colour Goebel machine, on non fluorescent paper, overprinted "AMG-FTT" at the Poligrafico, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with Block perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on the bottom left position. The typographical overprint is black of the XIII type. The 13 Lire value is unknown as a gutter-pair.

ISSUE: June, 16<sup>th</sup> 1953



5 Lire - light slate grey



10 Lire - light vermillion orange



12 Lire - green



20 Lire - brown



25 Lire - light lilac violet



35 Lire - carmine orange pink

ISSUE: February, 1<sup>st</sup> 1954



60 Lire - blue



80 Lire - brown orange



13 Lire - lilac pink



## 100 AND 200 LIRE STAMP ISSUES

The study of high values (for that period) for the 100 and 200 Lire Siracusana passed through the preparation of different sketches and proofs.

### SKETCHES

January, 29<sup>th</sup> 1954 -

One not issued trial made in recess printing and printed in two colours on floral subject; the central coin is adorned with a laurel garland and the ornamental scroll is much more fluent than in the values issued until then. Also the inscription "Repubblica Italiana" is shifted to the top while the value is shifted to the bottom.



### SKETCHES

March, 29<sup>th</sup> 1954 - One not issued trial made in rotogravure and printed in two colours, one for the background and the other for the medallion and the wording. The proofs were executed on imperforate paper without watermark and mounted on rectangles of perforated paper arranged on black thin cardboard.



COLOR PROOFS

**December 1954** - Colour trials on an issued subject, made in recess printing in one colour. The proofs were executed on imperforate paper without watermark and mounted on rectangles of perforated paper arranged on black thin cardboard. The specimens marked 1 and 2 have been chosen: brown colour for the 100 Lire and blue colour for the 200 Lire.

ENGRAVING PROOFS

**November/December 1954** - Engraving proofs in the issued colours for 100 and 200 Lire, carried out on grey and pink paper.



ESSAYS

**December 1954** - Complete set of two values with 2 Winged Wheel watermark and perforated "ESSAY" in horizontal



**December, 28<sup>th</sup> 1954 (1<sup>st</sup> day of issue)**, Letter 12<sup>th</sup> carriage (25 Lire every 15 grams) from Varazze (SV) to Varazze (SV) and stamped with a 100 and a 200 Lire Siracusana "large size".

## STUDY AND CLASSIFICATION OF PLATES

The **100** and **200 Lire Siracusana** have been printed on paper made by *Cartiera Miliani* in *Fabriano*. The composition is a **double sheet** that includes **60 stamps** each, plus **four empty angular tiles** with the wording "IL FOGLIO DI 60 FRANCOBOLLI VALE LIRE ...", placed on the **upper right corner**. The big identification dots of the plates are placed at the **bottom left** of the left composition. The external sides of the double sheet are adorned with a straight line and an external sinusoid, while the "bridge" shows only a central sinusoid. A "**VS**" initials in negative colours is usually present in the **right composition**, near the ornaments over the four written tiles. This mark represents the initials of **Vana Silvestro**, the *Poligrafico* engraver. In the **left composition** these initials are **almost always missing**. The different issues of these two stamps have been made on three different types of watermarked paper: **3 Winged Wheel**, **2 Star Carpet** and **3 Star Carpet**.



Angular block with 3 - 65° Down Right Star Carpet and  $13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation. This block is a left composition and does not show the "VS" initials.



Pair with 3 - 65° Down Right Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation with 2 big dots for table identification.



Block of four copies with 2 - 65° Right Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation. It shows a drawing as unusual "dotted N"; It's difficult to find it, because it's necessary to have a very wide edge of sheet too.

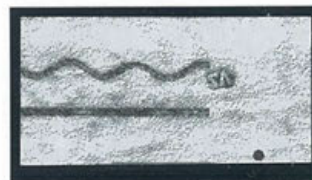


# 100 LIRE - PLATES FOR THE DIFFERENT ISSUES



## "A" PLATE

**INVERTED "VS" initials** placed on the right side at the end of the sinusoid and just below. This plate is known to have been used only with **2 Winged Wheel watermark**.



Angular block with **2 Winged Wheel watermark** - Inverted Left and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

## "B" PLATE

**STRAIGHT "VS" initials** on the right side of the sinusoid placed 4 mm from its end. This plate is known to have been used for **2 Winged Wheel** and **2 Star Carpet watermark**.

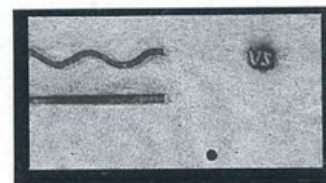


Angular block with **2 - 65° Left Star Carpet watermark** and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.



"C" PLATE

**STRAIGHT "VS" initials on the right side of the sinusoid placed 6,5 mm from its end.**  
 This plate is known to have been used for **2 Winged Wheel watermark.**

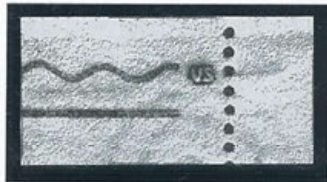


Angular block with **2 Winged Wheel** watermark -  
**Inverted Left** and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.



**"D" PLATE**

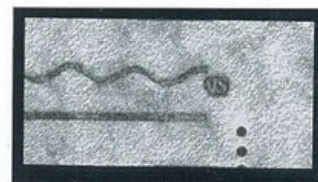
**STRAIGHT "VS"** initials on the right side of the sinusoid placed 1 mm from its end. This plate is known to have been used for only **2 Winged Wheel** and **2 Star Carpet** watermark.



Angular block with **2 Winged Wheel** watermark -  
Inverted Left and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

**"E" PLATE**

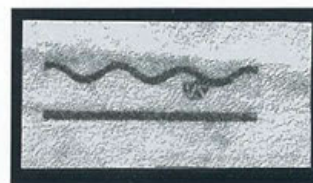
**STRAIGHT "VS"** initials placed at the end of the sinusoid below the wavy line. This plate is known to have been used for only **2 Star Carpet** watermark.



Angular block with **2 - 65° Right Star Carpet** watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

**"F" PLATE**

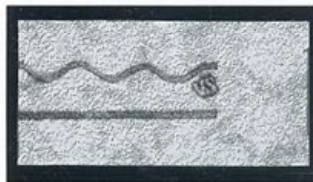
**STRAIGHT "VS"** initials placed inside between the sine wave and the straight line; 6 mm back from the end of the sinusoid. This plate is known to have been used only for **2 Star Carpet watermark**.



Angular block with 2 - 65° Left Star Carpet watermark and 13 1/4 x 13 1/4 Linear perforation (left composition).

**"G" PLATE**

**30° ROTATED "VS"** initials placed inside between the sine wave and the straight line; 2 mm back from the end of the sinusoid. This plate is known to have been used only for **2 Star Carpet watermark**.



Angular block with 2 - 65° Left Star Carpet watermark and 13 1/4 x 12 1/4 Linear perforation.

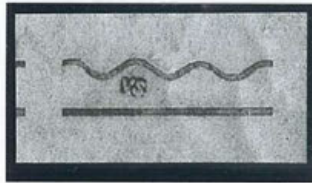




"H" PLATE

**STRAIGHT "VS"** initials placed inside between the sine wave and the straight line; 12 mm back from the end of the sinusoid.

This plate is known to have been used only for **3 Star Carpet watermark**.



Angular block with 3 - 65° Down Left Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.



Angular block with 2 - 65° Left Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

"I" PLATE

**MISSING "VS"** initials in the upper right corner. This plate is known to have been used only for **2 and 3 Star Carpet watermark**.



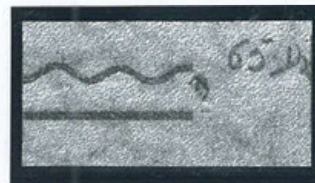


Angular block with 2 - 65° Right Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

### "M" PLATE

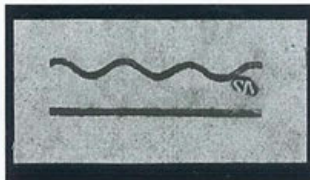
**135° ROTATED "VS"** initials placed inside between the sine wave and straight line, at the end of the sinusoid.

This plate is known to have been used only for **2 Star Carpet** watermark.



### "O" PLATE

**INVERTED "VS"** initials placed between the sine wave and the straight line; 2.5 mm back from the end of the sinusoid. This plate is known to have been used only for **2 Star Carpet** watermark.



Angular block with 2 - 65° Left Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation (left composition).

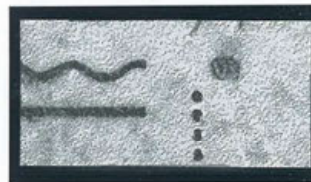


## 200 LIRE - PLATES FOR THE DIFFERENT ISSUES



### "A" PLATE

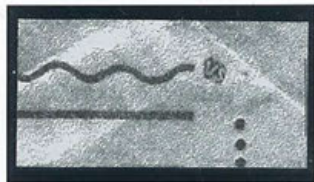
**STRAIGHT "VS" initials** on the right side of the sinusoid and placed 5 mm from its end. This plate is known to have been used for **2 Winged Wheel, 2 and 3 Star Carpet** watermark.



Angular block with 2 - 65° **Left Star Carpet** watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

### "B" PLATE

**330° ROTATED "VS" initials** on the right side of the sinusoid and placed 1 mm from its end. This plate is known to have been used for **2 Winged Wheel and 3 Star Carpet** watermark.



Angular block with 2 **Winged Wheel** watermark - **Inverted Left** and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

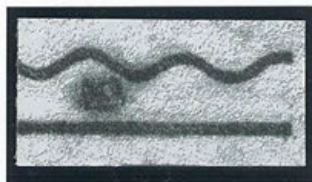






### "D" PLATE

**STRAIGHT "VS"** initials placed inside between the sine wave and the straight line; 11 mm back from the end of the sinusoid. This plate is known to have been used only for **3 Star Carpet watermark**.



Angular block with **3 - 65° Up Left Star Carpet** watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

### "C" PLATE

**345° ROTATED "VS"** initials on the right side of the sinusoid and placed 3.5 mm from its end. This plate is known to have been used only for **2 and 3 Star Carpet** watermark.



Angular block with **2 - 65° Left Star Carpet** watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

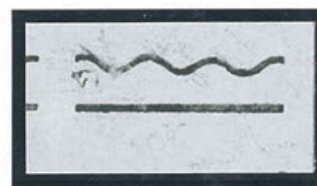




"F" PLATE

**STRAIGHT "VS"** initials placed inside between the sine wave and the straight line;  
17 mm back from the end of the sinusoid.

This plate is known to have been used only for **3 Star Carpet watermark**.



Angular block with 3 - 65° Low Right Star Carpet watermark and  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  Linear perforation.

## 2 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK - INTRODUCTION

This series has been printed on paper made by *Cartiera Miliani* in *Fabriano* with 2 winged wheel watermark. This type of watermark is neat and clear because it has been obtained "*in round method*". It shows a continuous wheel carpet without additional letters.

Misalignments and bad regulations on printing machine have produced watermark shifting that appears as wheel portions at the four corners.



100 Lire - Wheel at the centre



100 Lire - Wheels at the four corners



200 Lire - Wheel at the centre



200 Lire - Wheels at the four corners

The print was performed on a single sheet, that included the two compositions side by side. Therefore, according to the introduction of the sheet in the printing machine, the watermark can be "turned" or "inverted" generating four different orientations.

The most common watermark position is **Inverted left (IL)**.

The other positions, **Normal Right (NR)**, **Normal Left (NL)** and **Inverted Right (IR)** are more rare.



Normal Right (NR)



Normal Left (NL)



Inverted Right (IR)



Inverted Left (IL)



## 2 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK ISSUE

**Technical features:** Series of 2 stamps: 100 Lire in brown colour and 200 Lire in blue colour with 2 Winged Wheel watermark in different positions, printed in recess printing on sheets of 60 (x2) with Hoe machine, on non fluorescent white paper, with Arabic white or yellow gum and different perforations with manual Linear perforator. The size of the engraving is 22 x 28 mm.

ISSUE: December, 28<sup>th</sup> 1954 - 100 Lire brown -  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  PERFORATION



Normal Right - The only one known as new



Normal Left



Inverted Right - Known only used



Inverted Left

ISSUE: December, 28<sup>th</sup> 1954 - 200 Lire blue -  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  PERFORATION



Normal Right



Normal Left



Inverted Right



Inverted Left

ISSUE: 1955  
 $13\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{4}$  PERFORATION



100 Lire - IL

ISSUE: 1955  
 $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$  PERFORATION



100 Lire - IL  
not yet classified

ISSUE: 1954 -  $13\frac{1}{4} \times 13$  PERFORATION



100 Lire - IL



200 Lire - IL

## 2 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK - 100 LIRE VARIETIES



Imperforate on the right



Double perforation on the right copy



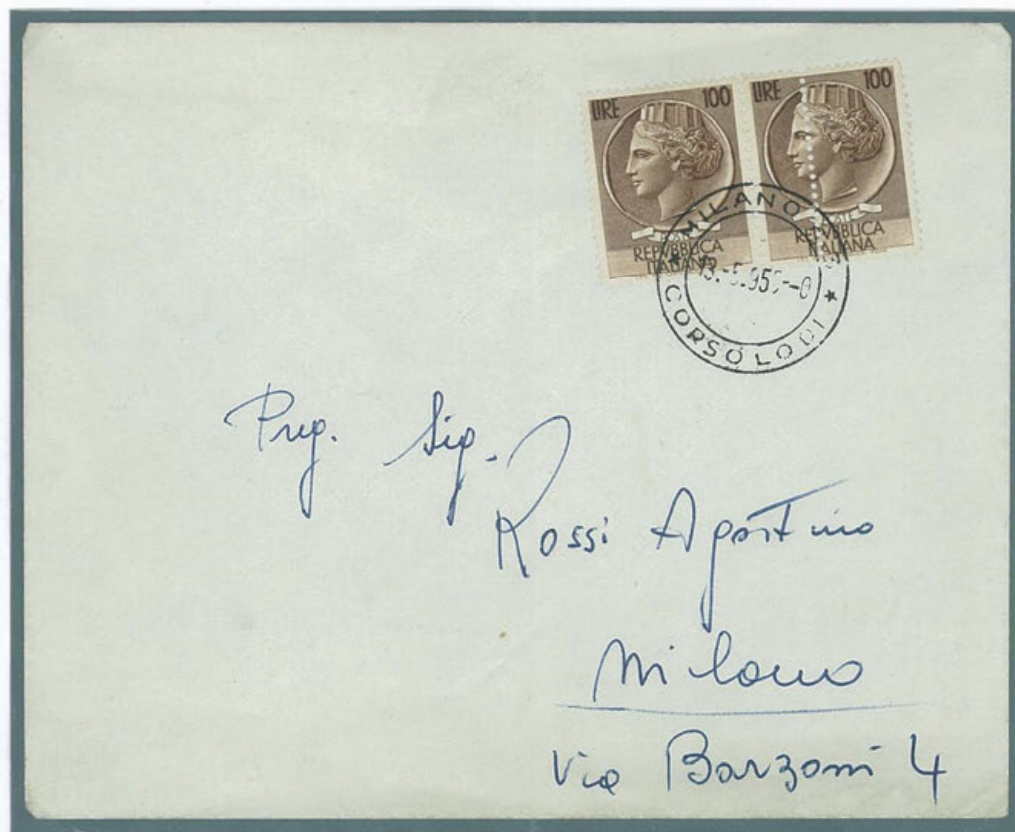
Vertical imperforate



Paper fold



Shifted horizontal perforation



May, 13<sup>th</sup> 1955, Letter 8<sup>th</sup> carriage (25 Lire every 15 g.) sent from Milan to Milan and stamped with a pair of 100 Lire 2 Wheel Siracusana with Linear 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> perforation. The right copy exhibits a double vertical perforation in the centre.



## 2 WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK - 200 LIRE VARIETIES



Vertical right, shifted inwards perforation; cut for use stamp



Vertical left, shifted outwards perforation; cut for use stamp



Vertical left, shifted outwards perforation; cut for use stamp



Upper copy: horizontally imperforate; the lower one: imperforate on the top



Piece of "form 489" used by the Italian Post Office in 1956, with 200 Lire 2 Wheel Siracusana stamp, 13 1/4 Linear perforation, with double horizontal perforation at the bottom.



Vertical, shifted left and partially missing perforation; cut for use



Paper fold



Imperforate on the right



Double vertical parforation on the centre on the right copy



Recto-verso gum

## 1 and 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - INTRODUCTION

From December 1954 to December 1955, the *Cartiera Miliani* in *Fabriano* supplied the *Poligrafico* paper sheets carrying a new type of watermark. This watermark, called **1 Star Carpet** or first type, was realized "*in round method*" and therefore appears very neat and clear.

### COLOUR PROOFS



**1958:** Two colour proofs, brown for 1 Lira and grey for 30 Lire. The final issued colour was inverted for these two values (grey for 1 Lira and brown for 30 Lire). The proofs were executed on imperforate and without watermark paper, placed on rectangles of perforated paper arranged on black thin cardboard.



1 Lira - grey



30 Lire - brown



## ESSAYS



1955 - 1 Star watermark values, horizontally punched "SAGGIO".



1959 / 1960 - 1 Star watermark values, horizontally punched "ANNULLATO".  
The 100 and 200 Lire show blind punching.

Since the stars are arranged in alternate lines and perpendicular to the reel direction, changing the paper direction in the printing machine does not produce different results. Only a rotation of 90° related to the stamp base will produce a different result. All issues have **horizontal alignment** for all the values ranging from 1 Lira to 90 Lire, **Vertical alignment** for the 100 and 200 Lire.

A peculiarity of this watermark type is to exhibit, only for some issues, ruling on the paper that is usually called **laid paper**.



H



V

In July 1961 the *Cartiera Miliani* in *Fabriano* started the production of watermarked paper produced "*in plane method*" and called **4 Stars**. From 1973 also the paper factory in *Foggia* started to produce paper with the same method and subject. The position of the stars in this watermark type, as to the direction of the reel, is identical to **1 Star**. Because of the different manufacturing method, the watermark profile appears less neat, more vague and shaded.

**NOTE:** *In order to better highlight the different issues, this collection does not follow a merely chronological order, but rather the one of the increasing value within the same peculiarity (where applicable).*

## 1 STAR CARPET WATERMARK ISSUE

**Technical features:** Series of 16 stamps with 1 Star Carpet watermark in **Horizontal (H)** position, **Rotogravure** printed on sheets of **100 (x4)** with **2 colour Goebel machine**, on **non fluorescent paper**, with **Arabic gum** and perforated **14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>** with **Block** perforator. The identification **dots** of the sheets are on the **bottom left** position. The **adornments** printed on the sheet borders are the only way to distinguish the sequence of the different issue, as they change according to the issue period.

The following period subdivision is applicable only for stamps printed with 1 Star Carpet and 2 - 65° Left and Right Star Carpet watermark.

- 1<sup>st</sup> PERIOD 1955 - 1957 BORDER: ADORNED WITH STRAIGHT LINE AND EXTERNAL SINUSOID  
 2<sup>nd</sup> PERIOD 1956 - 1961 BORDER: ADORNED WITH STRAIGHT LINE AND INTERNAL SINUSOID  
 3<sup>rd</sup> PERIOD 1957 - 1961 BORDER: ADORNED WITH FRET-WORK



1 Lira - black grey  
 ISSUE: August 1958  
 1<sup>st</sup> issue type



1 Lira - black grey  
 ISSUE: 1959  
 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



5 Lire - light slate  
 ISSUE: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1955  
 1<sup>st</sup> issue type



5 Lire - light slate  
 ISSUE: 1958  
 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



10 Lire - vermilion orange  
 ISSUE: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1955  
 1<sup>st</sup> issue type



10 Lire - vermilion orange  
 ISSUE: 1958  
 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



12 Lire - light green  
 ISSUE: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1955  
 single issue type



13 Lire - light lilac pink  
 ISSUE: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1955  
 1<sup>st</sup> issue type



13 Lire - light lilac pink  
 ISSUE: 1958  
 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type





15 Lire - purple grey  
ISSUE: March 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



15 Lire - purple grey; ISSUE: May 1960 - 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type. It appears as the first issue adorned with external sinusoid, but it is recognizable only by the notation +IV placed in the upper left corner of the first table or by 3 dots, arranged as a triangle, placed near the 91<sup>st</sup> copy of the third table.



20 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: March, 1<sup>st</sup> 1955  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



20 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



25 Lire - light violet lilac  
ISSUE: March, 1<sup>st</sup> 1955  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



25 Lire - light violet lilac  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



30 Lire - yellow brown  
ISSUE: July, 1<sup>st</sup> 1960  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



30 Lire - yellow brown  
ISSUE: 1961  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



35 Lire - carmine pink  
ISSUE: November, 16<sup>th</sup> 1955  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



35 Lire - carmine pink  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



40 Lire - lilac pink  
ISSUE: July, 1<sup>st</sup> 1960  
single issue type

SIRACUSANA



50 Lire - yellowish olive  
ISSUE: May 1958  
single issue type



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: July, 7<sup>th</sup> 1955  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



70 Lire - light blue green  
ISSUE: July, 1<sup>st</sup> 1960  
single issue type



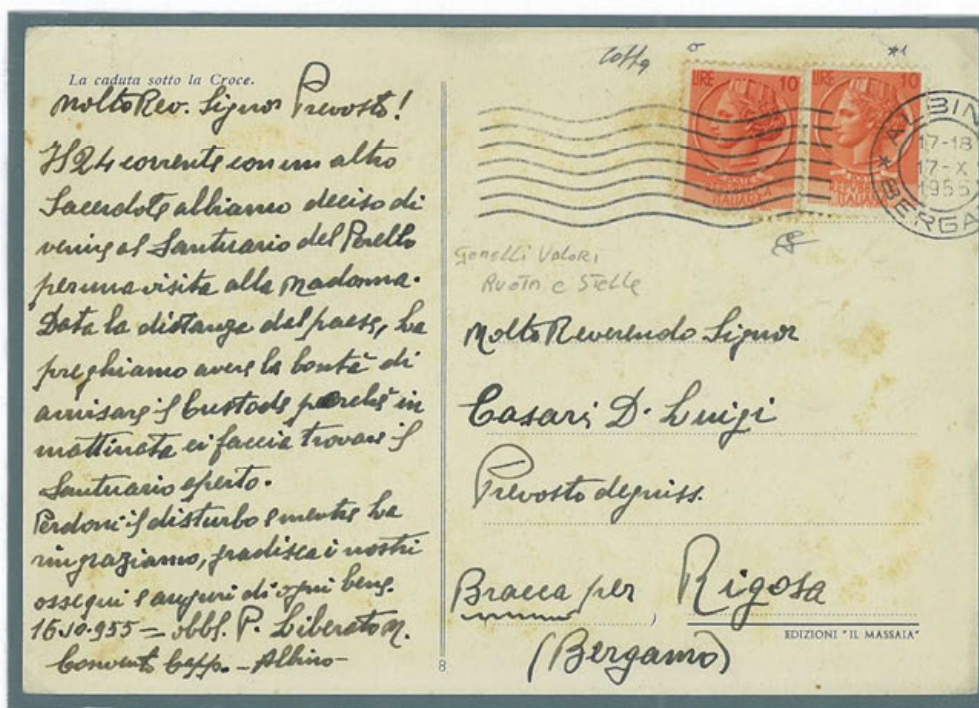
80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: April, 14<sup>th</sup> 1955  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



90 Lire - red orange  
ISSUE: March 1961  
single issue type



October, 17<sup>th</sup> 1955, Picture Postcard, with more than 5 words (20P), sent from Albino (BG) to Bracca (BG) and stamped with twin values of 10 Lire; one with 3 Wheel and the other with 1 Star watermark.



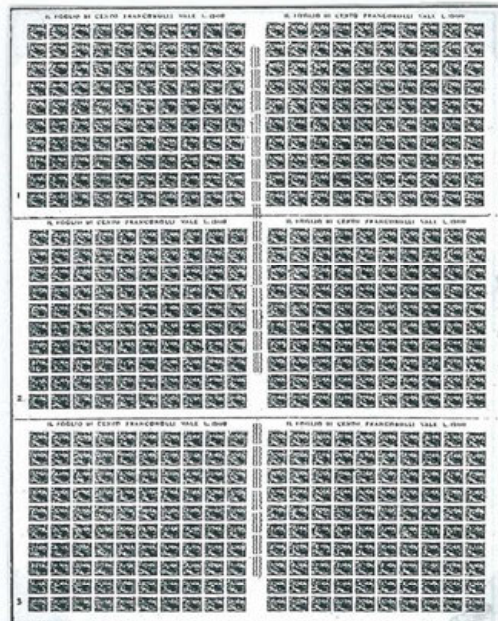
## ANOTHER 15 LIRE ISSUE

The 15 Lire value was also printed with 1 Star Carpet watermark in **Vertical (V)** position.

Printed in **Recess printing** in sheets of **100 (x6)** with machine **Goebel 500** on **non fluorescent paper** with **Arabic gum** and perforated **14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>** with **block perforator**.



The distribution was carried out in double-sheets, vertically side by side, as to the design, that is why gutter pair examples are possible, but only with vertical alignment.



In the second print run, the identification of the double sheet is marked with the **number 1, 2 or 3** corresponding to the 200<sup>th</sup>.



**ISSUE: June 1959**

**15 Lire - dark purple grey - 1<sup>st</sup> issue type**  
(engrave size 16,8 x 20,8 mm)



**ISSUE: 1959**

**15 Lire - light purple grey - 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type**  
(engrave size 16,7 x 20,7 mm)

Technical features: Series of **2 stamps**, 100 and 200 Lire with **1 Star Carpet** watermark in **Vertical (V)** position, on **non fluorescent paper**, with **Arabic gum** and perforated **14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>**.

**BORDER:** ADORNED WITH GUILLOCHE

- *Copies printed in **Recess printing** on sheets of **100 (x3)** with **Goebel 300 machine** and **Comb perforator**.*

The identification **dots** of the sheets are placed on the **bottom right** position.



**100 Lire - brown**  
**ISSUE:** August, 8<sup>th</sup> 1959  
 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



**200 Lire - blue**  
**ISSUE:** August, 8<sup>th</sup> 1959  
 1<sup>st</sup> issue type

#### **DIFFERENT PERFORATOR - Goebel 300 SUBTYPE**

Stamps of 200 Lire with an **oval hole** due to the use of a particular "**double comb**" perforator type which has **15 punches instead of 14**. In order to keep the standard size, the fifteenth hole of each stroke coincided with the first of the next stroke; when there was not perfect superimposition, the hole resulted less or more oval. It seems that this perforator type was typically used only to perforate IGE revenue stamps.



**200 Lire - blue; ISSUE: 1961**



- Copies printed in *Recess printing* on sheets of 100 (x6) with *Goebel 500* machine and *Block* perforator.

The identification dots of the double sheet could be **big** and placed **bottom right** (1<sup>st</sup> cylinder) or **small** and placed **bottom left** (2<sup>nd</sup> cylinder).



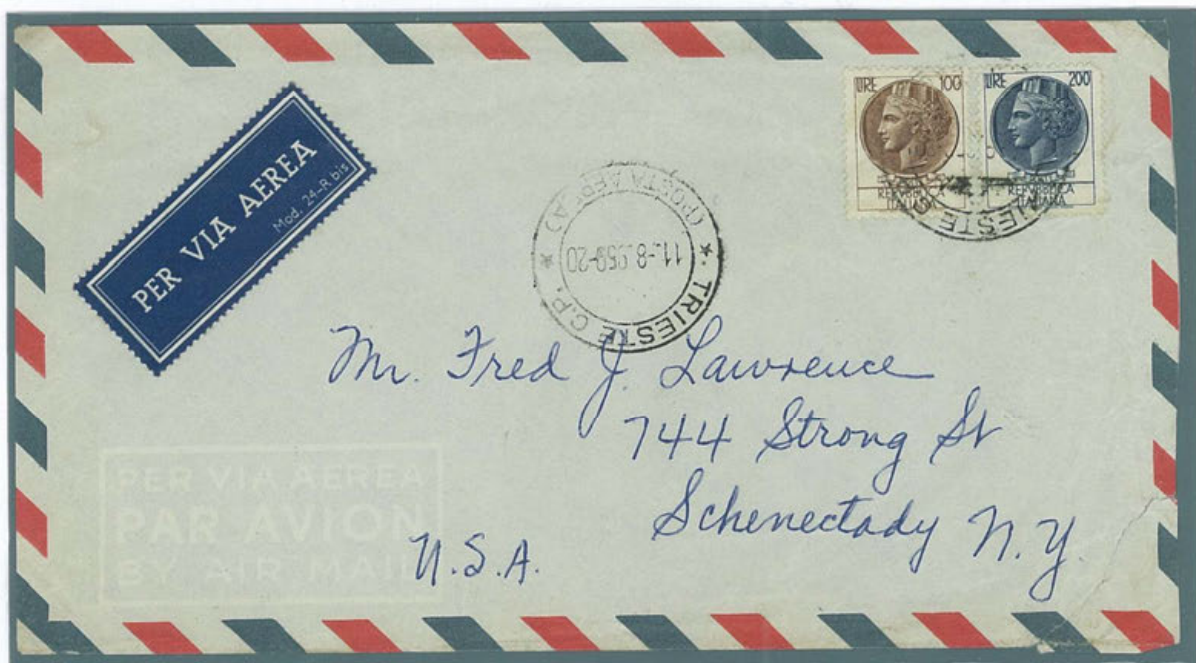
100 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: August, 8<sup>th</sup> 1959  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type - 1<sup>st</sup> cylinder



100 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: August, 8<sup>th</sup> 1959  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type - 2<sup>nd</sup> cylinder



200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1960  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



August, 11<sup>th</sup> 1959, Air-mail Letter sent from Trieste on to the U.S.A. and stamped with 100 and 200 Lire values with 1 Star carpet watermark the fourth day from the issue date.

## 1 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - LAID PAPER

Specifications: Series of 17 values with the same characteristics of the stamps with 1 Star Carpet watermark of **non fluorescent but Laid paper**. The laid is **Vertical**, in the 15 values printed in **Rotogravure** (from 1 to 80 Lire) and **Horizontal** in the 100 and 200 Lire values in **Recessing printing**. This type is improperly called "Paper Laid", and it can be more or less sparse and deep. This is due to the texture of the felt on which ran the still wet paper, during the drying phase.



Vertical  
Laid



Horizontal  
Laid



1 Lire - black grey  
ISSUE: December 1960



5 Lire - light slate  
ISSUE: April 1959



10 Lire - light vermillion orange  
ISSUE: April 1959



12 Lire - light green  
ISSUE: 1957



13 Lire - light lilac pink  
ISSUE: July 1959



15 Lire - purple grey  
ISSUE: April 1959



20 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: April 1959



25 Lire - light violet lilac  
ISSUE: April 1959



SIRACUSANA



30 Lire - light brown  
ISSUE: 1960



35 Lire - carmine pink  
ISSUE: April 1959



40 Lire - lilac pink  
ISSUE: 1960



50 Lire - yellowish olive  
ISSUE: October 1959



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: August 1959



70 Lire - light blue green  
ISSUE: December 1962



80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: October 1959



100 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: November 1960



200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: September 1963

# 1 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - VARIETIES



Fading printing



Double perforation on four sides



Strongly shifted horizontal perforation



Paper fold

Jointed paper involving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> copy from the bottom

One completely imperforate copy on the right and another one with blind perforation

The engrave of the copy on 85<sup>th</sup> position - Plate I is shifted to the left

Perforation shifted upwards and to the right



Copy perforated only on the right

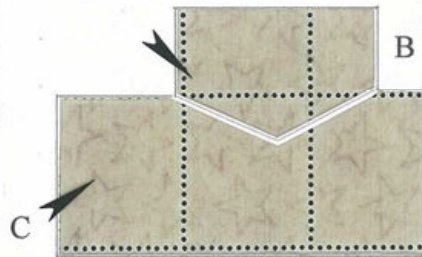


Missing, fading and vague printing

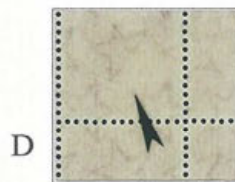




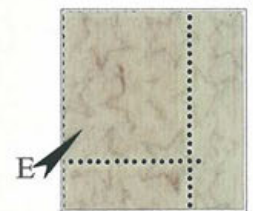
A



B



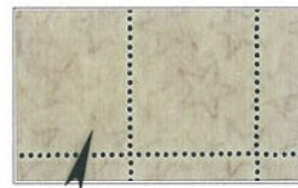
D



E



F



G

### WATERMARK VARIETIES

Full sheet of 35 Lire, 1 Star, non fluorescent, Arabic gum, which has several varieties of watermark, the main ones are:

- A. pos. 02 : REVERSED STAR, inverted as to the others in the same row
- B. pos. 05-15 : VERTICALLY TURNED STAR
- C. pos. 14-15 : STARS MOVED TO THE BOTTOM
- D. pos. 25 : PARTLY MISSING WATERMARK
- E. pos. 30 : BIG AND SHAPELESS STAR IN THE CENTER
- F. pos. 5 : MISSING WATERMARK OF A STAR
- G. pos. 47- 48 : PARTIALLY EVANESCENT LEFT WATERMARK
- H. pos. 81 : REVERSED AND JOINT STAR



H

## 2 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - INTRODUCTION

In 1954 the paper factory in *Foggia* started to produce paper samples with star carpet watermark using "*in plane method*" and called **2 Star** watermark; it was less neat and deep than 1 Star watermark in order to improve the stamp printing quality.

Since the stars, arranged in alternate lines, were rotated of 25° as to the reel running direction, two different watermark positions are possible according to the way they are introduced: **65° left**, the most **common**, and **65° right** (uncommon in the small format version).

### COLOUR PROOF

1957 - Proof of 6 Lire in the **issue colour** (orange brown) executed on imperforate paper without watermark and placed on a rectangle of perforated paper, arranged on a black thin cardboard.



Comparison copy



### ESSAYS



1955 / 1958 - Values with 2 Star watermark, horizontally punched "SAGGIO".



## 2 - 65° LEFT STAR CARPET WATERMARK

Technical features: Series of 14 stamps with 2 - 65° Left Star Carpet watermark, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with 2 colour Goebel machine, on non fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with Block perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on the bottom left position.



65° L



1 Lira - black grey  
ISSUE: January, 27<sup>th</sup> 1958  
single issue type



5 Lire - light slate  
ISSUE: February 1956  
single issue type



6 Lire - light brown yellow  
ISSUE: July, 25<sup>th</sup> 1957  
single issue type



10 Lire - light vermillion  
ISSUE: December, 27<sup>th</sup> 1955  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



10 Lire - light vermillion  
ISSUE: 1957  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



10 Lire - light vermillion  
ISSUE: 1958  
3<sup>rd</sup> issue type



12 Lire - dark green  
ISSUE: July 1956  
single issue type



13 Lire - light pink lilac  
ISSUE: June 1956  
single issue type



15 Lire - blue grey  
ISSUE: May, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



15 Lire - blue grey  
ISSUE: 1957  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



20 Lire - dark brown  
ISSUE: March, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



25 Lire - light violet lilac  
ISSUE: January, 15<sup>th</sup> 1956  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



25 Lire - light violet lilac  
ISSUE: 1957  
3<sup>rd</sup> issue type



35 Lire - carmine red  
ISSUE: August 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



35 Lire - carmine red  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



50 Lire - yellowish olive  
ISSUE: 1957  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



50 Lire - yellowish olive  
ISSUE: January, 27<sup>th</sup> 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: March, 10<sup>th</sup> 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: May, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: 1958  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



90 Lire - red brown  
ISSUE: January, 27<sup>th</sup> 1958  
single issue type



## 2 - 65° RIGHT STAR CARPET WATERMARK

**Technical features:** Series of 10 stamps with 2 - 65° Right Star Carpet watermark, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with 2 colour Goebel machine, on non fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with Block perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on the bottom left position.



65° R



5 Lire - light slate  
ISSUE: 1957



10 Lire - light vermillion  
ISSUE: 1957



13 Lire - light pink lilac  
ISSUE: 1957



15 Lire - blue grey  
ISSUE: 1957



20 Lire - dark brown  
ISSUE: 1956



25 Lire - light violet lilac  
ISSUE: 1956  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



35 Lire - carmine red  
ISSUE: 1957



50 Lire - yellowish olive  
ISSUE: 1958



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1956



80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: May, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1957

**L'ASSICURATRICE ITALIANA**

SOCIETÀ PER AZIONI DI ASSICURAZIONI E DI RIASSICURAZIONI  
Capitale Sociale L. 450.000.000,— Interam. versato  
MILANO

Direzione Generale: Via Fatebenefratelli, 14

AGENZIA di

Mantova

Egr. Signor

Dr. BRUNO CREMONESE



March, 15<sup>th</sup>  
1957, Letter 1<sup>st</sup>  
carriage (25L)  
from Mantua  
to Mantua and  
stamped with a  
25 Lire 2 - 65°  
R Star; 2<sup>nd</sup> is-  
sue type (fret  
pattern edge).

**L'ASSICURATRICE ITALIANA**

SOCIETÀ PER AZIONI DI ASSICURAZIONI E DI RIASSICURAZIONI  
Capitale Sociale L. 600.000.000,— interamente versato  
MILANO

Direzione Generale: Via Fatebenefratelli, 14

AGENZIA di

**Dott. BRUNO CREMONESE**  
L'ASSICURATRICE ITALIANA  
PIAZZA BRA, 26 - VERONA

Preg. Sig.

BENIAMINO FERRO

Via Covergnino 47

SOAVE (Verona)

Mod. 580 - 75.000 - 7-57 - C. & C.

April, 8<sup>th</sup> 1958  
Letter 1<sup>st</sup> car-  
riage (25L)  
from Verona to  
Soave (VR)  
and stamped  
with a 25 Lire  
2 - 65°R Star;  
3<sup>rd</sup> issue type  
(external sinu-  
soidal edge).



★.I.D.

8.4.1958



## 2 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - VARIETIES



Jointed paper involving  
the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> copy  
from the top



White line



Coloured line



Downwards  
shifted perforation



Strongly shifted  
downwards horizontal  
perforation



Surgical cut



The engrave of the copy on  
the 85<sup>th</sup> position - Plate I is  
shifted to the left



Thick paper



Thin paper

## 2 STAR CARPET WATERMARK

Technical features: Series of 2 stamps: 100 Lire in brown and 200 Lire in blue with 2 Star Carpet watermark rotated 65° Left and Right positions, printed in Recess printing on sheets of 60 (x2) with Hoe machine, on non fluorescent white paper, with Arabic white or yellow gum and different perforations with manual Linear perforator. The size of the engraving is 22 x 28 mm.

ISSUE: March, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1956 - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> PERFORATION



100 Lire - brown  
65° Left



100 Lire - brown  
65° Right



200 Lire - blue  
65° Left



200 Lire - blue  
65° Right

ISSUE: October, 31<sup>th</sup> 1955 - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> PERFORATION



100 Lire - brown  
65° Left



100 Lire - brown  
65° Right



100 Lire - brown  
65° Left



100 Lire - brown  
65° Right

ISSUE: 1956 - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 14 PERFORATION

ISSUE: 1956 - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 13 PERFORATION



100 Lire - brown; 65° Right  
known only used



October, 31<sup>st</sup> 1955,  
Registered letter 2<sup>nd</sup>  
carriage (price re-  
duced military  
12.5L x2) ensured  
Lire 5,000 (55R  
+160A) from Milan  
to Merano and  
stamped, among  
others, with two 100  
Lire Siracusana, 2 -  
65°L Star, perfo-  
rated 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.  
First known date  
of use.



March, 26<sup>th</sup> 1956,  
Registered-  
Express letter  
(25L+55R+50E)  
from Rome to  
Vasto (CH) and  
stamped, among  
others, with a 100  
Lire Siracusana,  
2 - 65°R Star, per  
forated 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x  
13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> (the first few  
days of use ).

The 30 Lire siracu-  
sana copy was issued  
only on July, 1<sup>st</sup> 1960.

# 2 - 65° LEFT STAR CARPET WATERMARK; 100 Lire VARIETIES



Horizontal paper  
fold and irregular  
perforation



Double vertical perfo-  
ration on the left; One  
partially blind down



Double horizontal  
perforation down



Partial perfora-  
tion on the left



Imperforate horizontal pair in the middle



Imperforate high up



Imperforate down



Imperforate on the right



Vertically imper-  
forate



13 1/4 x 12 1/4 - Double  
horizontal perfora-  
tion high up



13 1/4 x 12 1/4 - Imperforate  
on the left



13 1/4 x 14 - Strongly  
shifted horizontal  
perforation



## 2 - 65° RIGHT STAR CARPET WATERMARK; 100 LIRE VARIETIES



Shifted left perforation; partial perforation on the right



Almost whole set-off



Imperforate down



Imperforate on the right



Imperforate and partial perforation on the left



Oblique paper fold and irregular perforation



Paper fold on the left top corner perforation



Shifted down low perforation



Vertically imperforates



Double horizontal perforation in the middle



Horizontally imperforate

## 2 - 65° LEFT STAR CARPET WATERMARK; 200 LIRE VARIETIES



Partial and shifted  
inside right perforation



Shifted right perforation;  
trimmed for use



Shifted high up low perforation



Paper fold



Double high up  
perforation

## 2 - 65° RIGHT STAR CARPET WATERMARK; 200 Lire VARIETIES



Right perforation, shifted outside  
to the border sheet; trimmed



Piece with vertical pair showing double perforation on the higher copy



### 3 STAR CARPET WATERMARK ISSUE

From 1957 the paper factory in *Pioraco*, Miliani's Group, provided the *Poligrafico* paper sheets showing a new type of stars carpet watermark. This watermark, called **3 Star Carpet** or third type, was obtained "*in plane method*" and as the **2 Star** watermark it appears less neat and deep than 1 Star in order to improve the stamp printing quality. The stars are arranged in alternate lines, closer to each other and alternatively rotated of 15° relative to the alignment.

As for Foggia 2 Star watermark, the lines were oriented of 25° relative to the reel running direction.

All the stamps made with this paper type were printed in dry Recess printing, starting not from reel but single sheets.

According to the way of introducing the sheets into the printing machine, the watermark can be "turned" of 180° or "inverted", generating four different positions.



April, 24<sup>th</sup> 1957, Registered letter 4<sup>th</sup> carriage (25x4L+55R) from Naples to Milan and stamped, among others, with one 100 L. 3 Star - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> - first know day of use (The 55 L. Siracusana has been issued on 1969).



65° Up Left (65° UL)



65° Up Right (65° UR)



65° Down Left (65° DL)



65° Down Right (65° DR)

### 3 STAR CARPET WATERMARK

**Technical features:** Series of 2 stamps: 100 Lire in brown and 200 Lire in blue with 3 Star Carpet watermark, rotated 65° Left and Right with different orientation, printed in Recess printing on sheets of 60 (x2) with Hoe machine, on non fluorescent white paper, with Arabic white or yellow gum and perforated 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with manual Linear perforator. The size of the engraving is 22 x 28 mm.

**ISSUE: April, 24<sup>th</sup> 1957 - 100 Lire light brown**



65° Up Left



65° Up Right



65° Down Left



65° Down Right

**ISSUE: 1958 - 200 Lire blue**



65° Up Left



65° Up Right



65° Down Left



65° Down Right



### 3 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - 65°UL; 100/200 LIRE VARIETIES



Imperforate on the right



Missing and blind  
perforation on the  
left



Partial set-off on left border sheet due to a  
paper fold after the printing



Strongly shifted to the left  
right perforation



Shifted to the left right perforation



Vertical partial  
perforation



Strongly shifted to the  
right perforation



Partial set-off  
high up



Imperforate on the left



Double paper fold



Vertically imperforate

### 3 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - 65°UR; 100/200 LIRE VARIETIES



The third copy has the right perforation shifted to left; the last five copies are vertically imperforates



Vertical paper fold



Partial set-off  
shifted lower



Imperforate down



Blind perforation  
on the left



Right copy with double perforation on the right edge



Shifted to right central perforation



### 3 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - 65°DL; 100/200 LIRE VARIETIES



Partial set-off shifted high up



Paper fold and irregular perforation on the left top corner



Vertically imperforates



Double perforation high up on the lower copy



Shifted high up central perforation



Light whole set-off shifted down



Vertical paper fold on the right copy



Shifted inside right perforation; Lire 20 instead of 200

### 3 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - 65°DR; 100/200 LIRE VARIETIES



Imperforate on the right



Horizontally imperforate



Shifted outside left perforation; trimmed for use



Double high up perforation



Oblique double perforation on the right copies



Imperforates high up



Total set-off



Oblique paper fold and irregular perforation



Partial set-off of two copies up on the left



Vertical paper fold



### 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK ISSUE

Technical features: Series of 15 stamps with 4 Star Carpet watermark in **Horizontal (H)** position, **Rotogravure** printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with 2 colour Goebel machine, on **non fluorescent paper**, with **Arabic gum** and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with **Block** perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on the **bottom left** position.

BORDER: ADORNED WITH STRAIGHT LINE AND INTERNAL SINUSOID



H



1 Lira - black grey  
ISSUE: December 1964



5 Lire - light slate  
ISSUE: May 1963



6 Lire - light brown yellow  
ISSUE: 1967



10 Lire - vermillion red  
ISSUE: July 1962



15 Lire - purple grey  
ISSUE: August 1962



20 Lire - dark brown  
ISSUE: May 1963



25 Lire - violet  
ISSUE: October 1962



30 Lire - straw brown  
ISSUE: August 1962



35 Lire - carmine pink  
ISSUE: May 1962



40 Lire - lilac pink  
ISSUE: August 1962



50 Lire - yellowish olive  
ISSUE: 1962



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: July 1962



70 Lire - light blue green  
ISSUE: July 1963



80 Lire - brown orange  
ISSUE: July 1962



90 Lire - red brown  
ISSUE: April 1965

Technical features: Stamp of 130 L. with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, on **non fluorescent paper**, with Arabic gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ . Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x2) with 4 colour Goebel machine, with Comb perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on the **bottom left position**.

BORDER: WITHOUT ADORNMENT (on the vertical **external sides** of the double sheet)

ADORNED WITH INTERNAL SINUSOID (on the vertical **internal sides** of the double sheet)



130 Lire - dark red grey  
ISSUE: March, 14<sup>th</sup> 1966





**Technical features:** Series of 2 stamps, 100 and 200 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in **Vertical (V)** position, on **non fluorescent paper**, with **Arabic gum** and perforated **14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>**.

**BORDER:** ADORNED WITH GUILLOCHE



V

- Copies printed in **Recess printing** on sheets of **100 (x3)** with **Goebel 300 machine** and **Comb perforator**.

The identification **dots** of the sheets are placed on the **bottom right** position.



100 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: 1962  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1964  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type

- Copies printed in **Recess printing** on sheets of **100 (x6)** with **Goebel 500 machine** and **Block perforator**. The identification **dots** of the three double sheets are **small** and placed on the **bottom left**



100 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: 1962  
1<sup>st</sup> issue type



200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1964  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type

# 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - VARIETIES



Jointed paper involving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> copy from the left



Blind hole between the two copies



The perforation on the lower border sheet means that the block perforator was shifted of one copy downwards; These copies belong to the same sheet known with the first line perforated only down



Surgical cut



Oblique fold paper



Strongly shifted downwards perforation



Upwards shifted perforation



Oblique white band



Vague printing high up - Vertical 4 Star watermark



## FLUORESCENT INK

When fluorescent paper was not yet in use, some red and brown-red coloured values (such as the 10, 35 and 80 Lire in a limited number of sheets and in different non consecutive issues), have been printed with ink which shows a fluorescent response under a Wood lamp. Most likely, it seems that a stock of **fluorescent red ink** has been unconsciously used to adjust the colour tones of some issues of the above values.

### 3 Wheel winged and Letter watermark



10 Lire  
June, 6th 1953



35 Lire  
June, 6th 1953



10 Lire - 6/10 L



10 Lire - 9/10 R



Use period: June 1953 ÷ November 1955 - prevalent usage: April 1955 ÷ September 1955

### 1 Star watermark



10 Lire - March, 1<sup>st</sup> 1955



35 Lire - November, 16<sup>th</sup> 1955



80 Lire - April, 14<sup>th</sup> 1955

Use period: March 1955 ÷ September 1956 - prevalent usage: July 1955 ÷ October 1955

### 2 Star watermark L/R



10 Lire R - December, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1955  
First known day of use



35 Lire L - August 1956

Use period: December 1955 ÷ January 1956 (10 Lire) - from August 1956 (35 Lire)

SIRACUSANA

# FRATINI AUGUSTO - RAPPRESENTANZE

Via Polacchi, 97

PALERMO

Telefono 13866

Ruote FLU.  
3.9.55



Spett/

IMA di A. Marinoni

V E R O N A  
Casella Postale Interna.

September, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1955, printing  
postcard (20P) from  
Palermo to Verona  
stamped with a pair  
of 10 Lire 3 winged  
wheel which pre-  
sents **fluorescent**  
ink print.

Avv. PIETRO DESENZANI  
BRESCIA (16)  
Contrada delle Cossere, 36

Telefono N. 222-0

**R** N. 3947

24.2.56

★ I. FLUO.

AVVOCATO  
FRANCESCO BUZZACCHI  
Via P.F. Calvi 36

MANTOVA



February, 2<sup>nd</sup> 1956,  
Registered letter 1<sup>st</sup>  
carriage (25L +55R)  
from Brescia to Mantua  
stamped with **nine 10**  
**Lire 1 Star** copies,  
**fluorescent ink**  
printing.

Dantele Biraghi



Technical Notes: The fill pattern is an element of the printing process rotogravure. It begins with the reproduction of the photographic image in slide stamp repeated as many times as necessary to form the sheet. A special paper, on which a grid of thin lines (called "fill pattern") was earlier imprinted, is applied to the slide. Exposing all to the light, the image of the slide is impressed on the paper-pigment, breaking up into many tiny dots. Once engraved, it is placed on a copper cylinder and, with special acids, the image is formed on the copper cylinder.

Specimens with orange margins as the cylinder of the rotogravure has left the imprint of the "fill pattern".



10 Lire - vermillion orange  
fluorescent ink



August, 16<sup>th</sup> 1956, Illustrated postcard (10IP) from Valdagno (VI) to Lonigo (VI) and stamped with a 1 Star watermark fluorescent ink 10 Lire that has orange margins due to the footprint of the "fill pattern" left by the rotogravure cylinder.

## STAMPS WITHOUT WATERMARK



5 Lire - light slate

**Technical features:** 1955-60, value of 5 Lire printed on paper that shows **invisible watermark**. This anomaly was probably due to the "shape dancer" that was uplifted during the making of the watermark in the paper.  
It is one of the only two known copies.

**Technical features:** 1962-67, value of 10 Lire printed on paper **without watermark** used in La Spezia.  
The only known copy of this value.



10 Lire - light vermillion



20 Lire - brown

**Technical features:** 1955, value of 20 Lire printed on paper **without watermark** and coming from a sheet probably sold in Naples.  
**Twenty copies are known**, of which two were cancelled in Napoli. It seems that these copies without watermark belong to the first two lines of the sheet.

**Technical features:** 1956, value of 25 Lire printed on plain paper **without watermark** and coming from a **limited stock of sheets** sold in Imperia and Diano Marina in 1961. These values were fortuitously discovered on correspondence by a philatelic expert.



25 Lire - violet



100 Lire - brown

**Technical features:** 1955, 100 Lire value plus top angular block specimen, printed on 2 Star carpet paper type featuring **invisible watermark**.  
It is one of the only two known copies.



SIRACUSANA



April, 17<sup>th</sup> 1961, Registered-Express letter sent from Imperia to Sanremo stamped with a commemorative together with nine copies of the 25 Lire without watermark.  
The unique known letter with such a high number of this type of stamps.

## TESTS ON VENDING-MACHINE ISSUES

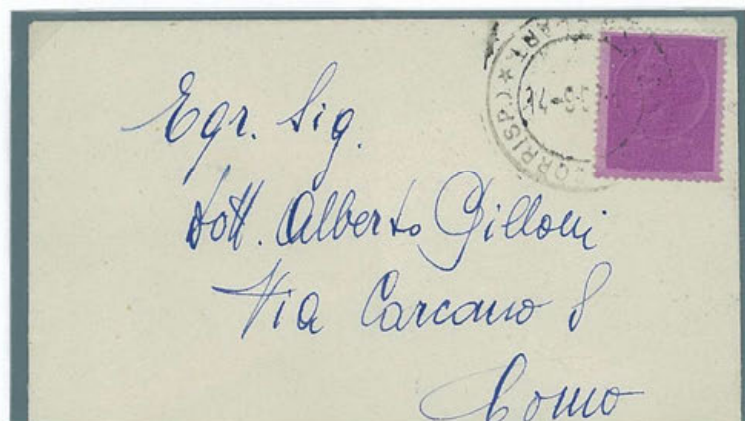
Vending machine use in Italy has been rather troublesome. It has been initially considered around the thirties, but the first significant tests started only between 1955 and 1956 with the preparation of an essay.

### ESSAY 1955 - 1956

This proof is a "patch" version of 25 Lire Siracusana. The image is dark and blurred because the copies were masked with violet colour so that they could not be used by mail. It was realized on **Rotogravure** on paper **without watermark** and prepared in reels of **1.000 copies**. It was used to demonstrate the operation of the vending machines, at the postal mechanization exhibition of the European Community - Rome Eur, and was then left in the hands of the people at the demonstration.



September, 14<sup>th</sup> 1957,  
closed Card, rate as a  
letter (25L) from  
Como to local deliv-  
ery, stamped with a  
**25 Lire essay** (not  
taxed).



**30 Lire - brown straw coloured - Vertical (V) 1 Star Carpet watermark.**

Strip of 5 specimens, with part of the coil start (2 pink rectangles), **without control numbers on the reverse due to the failure of the numerator impression**. The comb perforation is  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ , while the one of the pink edges is  $13,3 \times 13,3$  linear and perforated before being glued. **In fact note the double perforation on the edge and not on the stamp.**



## REEL DISTRIBUTION

The first issues were **2 - 25° Right Star** ; they did not have numbers on the back. The subsequent 1 and 4 stars instead , every 5 specimens were numbered, e.g. 005, 010 etc. up to 500 or 1000. They are also found from coils 500 numbered from 505 to 1000, indicating a dividing carried out after the numbering.



A strip of 12 copies of 30 Lire, including the reel beginning, formed by 5 gummed pink rectangles plus a margin glued to the back of the first copy of the scroll. Numbers start from 005.



Greenish small band used to fasten the reel for vending machines, with original descriptive label.



Strip 10 copies of 15 lire, complete coil start. The piece belongs to a coil of 500 copies; The numbering starts from 505 and arrives at 1000.

In 2006 two unpublished runs were fortuitously found at the Postal Museum in Rome; values of 20 and 40 Lire Siracusana reels of 1000 pieces (probably of 1965).



## 2 - 25° RIGHT STAR CARPET WATERMARK

Technical features: Series of 4 stamps with 2 - 25° Right Star Carpet watermark derived from 90° rotation of the standard 65° Left, Rotogravure printed on continuous bobbin of paper by a cylinder of 660 copies (two paired compositions of 10x33 tiles from which 20 reels of 1000 copies each are derived), with a Goebel 500 machine, on non fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$  with Comb perforator.



25° R



The stamps with this watermark type have no control number on the back.



5 Lire - black slate  
ISSUE: 1956  
(It was sold by hand  
from an authorized  
shop in 1965)



10 Lire - light  
vermilion orange  
ISSUE: October,  
29<sup>th</sup> 1956



15 Lire - purple  
grey  
ISSUE: April,  
12<sup>th</sup> 1958



25 Lire - light  
violet  
ISSUE:  
October,  
29<sup>th</sup> 1956



February, 26<sup>th</sup> 1963,  
Registered Letter  
Card sent from Cata-  
nia for local delivery  
and stamped with a  
rare copy of 5 Lire  
with 2 - 25° Right  
Star watermark.

The only known on  
a Letter Card.



## VERTICAL 1 STAR CARPET WATERMARK

**Technical features:** Series of 4 stamps with 1 Star carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Rotogravure printed on **continuous bobbin** of paper by a cylinder of 660 copies (two paired compositions of 10x33 designs from which 20 reels of 1000 copies each are derived), with a Goebel 500 machine, on **non fluorescent paper**, with Arabic gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with Comb perforator.

**One stamp every five shows a control number on the back; the sequence is formed of 3 stamping with 3 digits (starting with 005) and one with 4 digits (the first stamping there will be 0020 then 0040 and so on).**

The 15 and 30 Lire have stamps oriented as the outside label and the numbers are reading upwards; for the 10 and 25 Lire downwards.



10 Lire - vermilion orange; ISSUE: April 1960



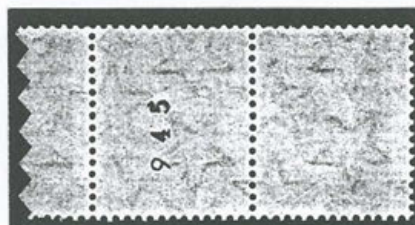
15 Lire - violet grey; ISSUE: April 1960



25 Lire - violet; ISSUE: April 1960



30 Lire - yellow brown; ISSUE: August 1960



SIRACUSANA



May, 30<sup>th</sup> 1965,  
Letter 1<sup>st</sup> carriage  
(30L) from Rome  
to the Vomero  
(NA) stamped  
with a 30 Lire for  
machines,  
Vertical 1 Star  
watermark.



April, 12<sup>th</sup> 1966,  
Letter 1<sup>st</sup> carriage  
(40L) from Serra-  
capriola (FG) to  
Rome stamped  
with a 15 and a 25  
Lire for vending  
machines, Vertical  
1 Star watermark.  
**Control number**  
**450** is printed on  
the reverse of the  
25 Lire value.



## VERTICAL 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK

Technical features: Series of 3 stamps with 4 Star carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Rotogravure printed on **continuous bobbin** of paper by a cylinder of **660 copies** (two paired compositions of 10x33 designs from which 20 reels of 1000 copies each are derived), with a **Goebel 500** machine, on **non fluorescent paper**, with **Arabic gum** and perforated **14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$**  with **Comb** perforator.

The coils are 500 and 1000 pieces and the stamps are oriented like the outside label; the numbers are read from the bottom upwards with the exception of the Lire 10 which is read in the opposite way.

The 30 Lire coils of prepared **without control numbers** at the back are known and distributed by hand to the post offices in Bari at the *Fiera del Levante* in 1964.



One stamp every five shows a control number on the back; the sequence is formed of 3 stamping with 3 digits (starting with 005) and one with 4 digits (the first stamping there will be 0020 then 0040 and so on).



10 Lire - vermillion red; ISSUE: 1963



15 Lire - purple grey; ISSUE: September 1963



30 Lire - straw brown; ISSUE: September 1963





SIRACUSANA



March, 24<sup>th</sup> 1969,  
Letter 1<sup>st</sup> carriage (50L)  
from Venice to Udine  
stamped with 10 and 15  
Lire values for vending  
machines, Vertical 4  
Stars watermark.  
**Control number 570** is  
printed on the reverse  
of the 10 lire while the  
15 Lire has the **number**  
**1000**.

November, 11<sup>th</sup>  
1965, Letter 1<sup>st</sup>  
carriage by air mail  
(90L+15AS) from  
Rome to Leningrad  
(USSR) stamped  
with 15 and 30 Lire  
values for vending  
machines, Vertical 4  
Star watermark.  
**Control number**  
**325** is printed on the  
reverse of the 15  
Lire while the 1<sup>st</sup>  
value of the 30 Lire  
has the **number 830**.



Dantele Biraghi



## THE BOOKLETS

Although the booklets were not new to Italy, as three different types had already been issued between 1906 and 1915, the Post Office reintroduced them with the Siracusana stamps at the Milan Fair in 1956. The specimens are the marginal ones, obtained from ordinary sheets of stamps in use with 1 or 2 Star Carpet watermark, as the rubberised edge was necessary to make them adhere to the cover that was a folded cardboard..



**ISSUE: 1959 - 60**

**Orange** writings on both sides of the ivory white or cream cardboard.

**It contains a block of 10 Siracusana copies of 10 Lire with 1 Star watermark.**



**ISSUE: 1959 - 60**

**Purplish red** writings on both sides of the ivory white or cream card.

**It contains a block of four 25 Lire Siracusana with 1 Star watermark.**

After a long absence, the distribution of booklets was experimented through vending machines in Ischia (Naples).

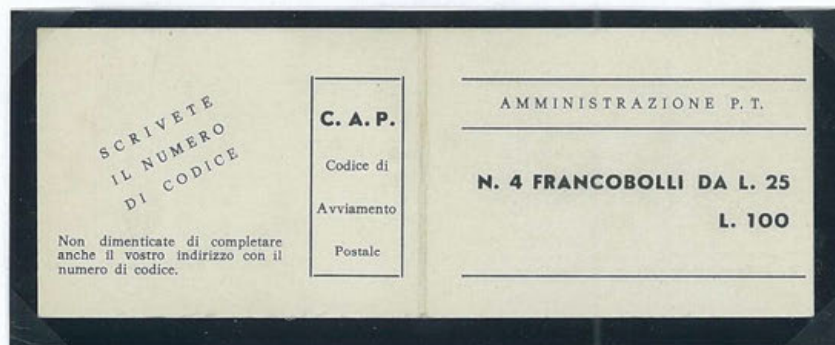
This issue is made on a white folded cardboard, printed by the *Poligrafico dello stato*. On both internal sides postal rates are shown and on the back the Zip Code is advertised. The stamps used are 25 Lire blocks of four. When the first edition (10,000 copies) was sold out, a second one, of the same amount, was prepared; this one differs from the first in many details of the press.



**1<sup>st</sup> ISSUE: June, 20<sup>th</sup> 1970**

The word "Amministrazione P.T." measures 35 mm.

**It contains a block of four 25 Lire Siracusana fluorescent 4 Star watermark specimens.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> ISSUE: 1973 - 74**

The word "Amministrazione P.T." measures 40 mm and has different characters from the previous issue.

**It contains a block of four 25 Lire Siracusana fluorescent 4 Star watermark specimens.**



## INTRODUCTION TO FLUORESCENT ISSUES

To start the new automatic postmarking service in the mechanised postal centres, the *Poligrafico* ordered a supply of fluorescent paper. In addition, to increase efficiency, the luminescent area has been enlarged reducing the engraving size of 1 mm on each side (**16 x 20 mm** instead of 17 x 21 mm).

The first supplies, starting from January 1968, were made by *Cartiera Miliani* in *Fabriano* with **4 Star carpet** watermark, very similar to the non fluorescent type, but which under a Wood lamp shows a strong fluorescent response as a result of the addition of fluorescent pigments to the mixture.



non fluorescent



fluorescent

In 1974 also the paper factory in *Foggia* started to produce fluorescent paper for stamp manufacturing with the same 4 Star watermark but using **Vinyl gum** instead of the Arabic gum in use until then.

ARABIC GUM: translucent and light ivory, or very seldom brownish.

VINYL GUM: opaque and white.



Arabic gum



Brownish Arabic gum



Vinyl gum

**As for the non fluorescent paper**, as the stars are arranged in alternate rows and perpendicular to the direction of the coil, there are no differences, it does not matter how this is introduced into the printing machine. Only a rotation of 90° of the engrave as to the direction of coil sliding gives rise to a horizontal alignment (all values between 1 and 90 Lire for **Arabic** and the 120 Lire for **Vinyl gum**) or vertical (100-300 Lire for **Arabic** and 100-400 Lire, except the 120 Lire mentioned before, for **Vinyl gum**) considering the base of the stamp.

## CHANGES IN FLUORESCENCE

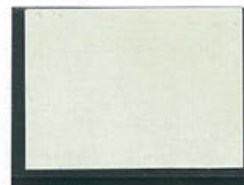
The fluorescence of the SIRACUSANA stamps is of the type known as paste. With a fully automatic process, a transparent fluorescent paint is applied before the packaging in rolls, but on the opposite side to the rubber it impregnates the paper and carries a certain amount of phosphors in the blend that is on the surface. The fluorescence is theoretically WHITE or YELLOW depending on the paint used.



White fluorescence

Bleu - white  
fluorescence

Ivory fluorescence



In practice, with the Wood lamp, you can observe various shades of luminescent response; White, Blue White, Ivory, Pale Yellow, Deep Yellow.

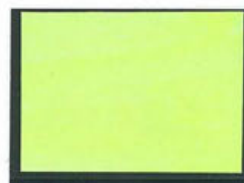
Moreover, it is not difficult to identify specimens with non-uniform response due to a different absorption of the paper or a painting fault.



Pale yellow fluorescence



Deep yellow fluorescence

Non uniform  
fluorescence



#### 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - FLUORESCENT PAPER - ARABIC GUM

Technical features: Series of 15 stamps with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Horizontal (H) position, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with 2 colour Goebel machine, on fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with Block perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on bottom left position.

BORDER: ADORNED WITH INTERNAL SINUSOID

For the following 10 values only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 94<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> - 96<sup>th</sup> - 97<sup>th</sup> copy.



1 Lira - dark slate  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968



5 Lire - slate  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup> 1968



6 Lire - ochre orange  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968



15 Lire - violet grey  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup> 1968



30 Lire - ochre  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup> 1968



50 Lire - light olive green  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup> 1968



55 Lire - dark violet  
ISSUE: May, 24<sup>th</sup> 1969



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968



70 Lire - emerald green  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968



80 Lire - brown pink  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968

For the following 5 values *two issue types* are known:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording under the 94<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> - 96<sup>th</sup> - 97<sup>th</sup> copy.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy.



10 Lire - orange  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup>  
1968



20 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup>  
1968



25 Lire - violet  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup>  
1968



40 Lire - purple red  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968



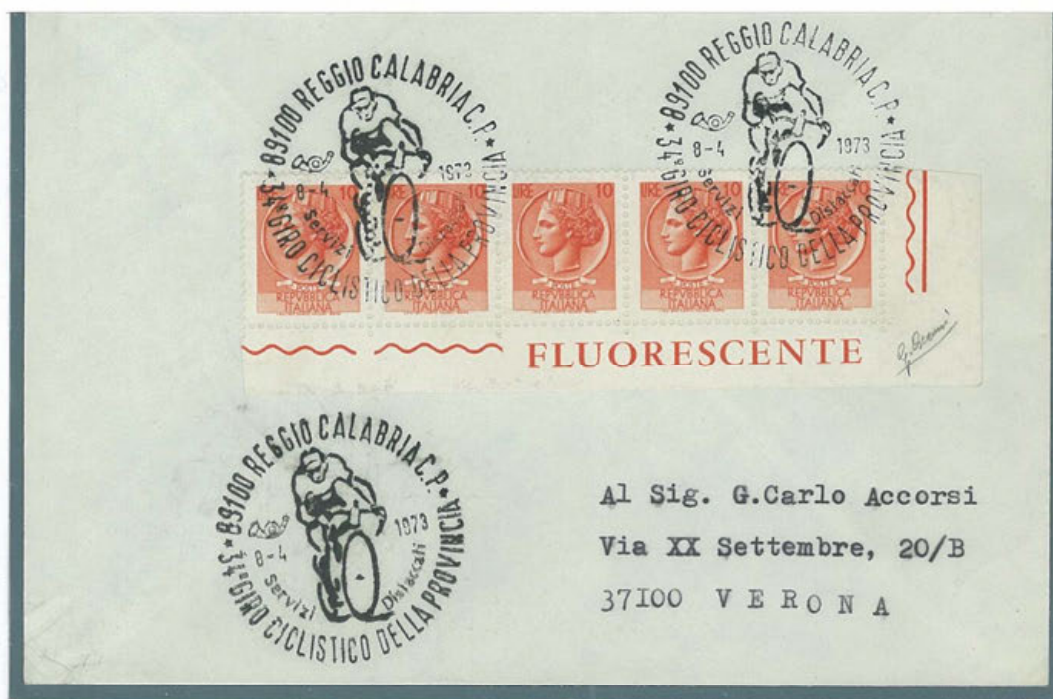
90 Lire - red brown  
ISSUE: February, 20<sup>th</sup>  
1968



ISSUE: 1968 - 1<sup>st</sup> issue type

ISSUE: 1972 / 73 -  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type

April, 8<sup>th</sup> 1973,  
Letter 1<sup>st</sup> carriage  
(50L) from  
Reggio Calabria  
to Verona  
stamped with one  
of the few 10  
Lire strips  
known with the  
word "FLUORE  
SCENTE" on the  
right.



Al Sig. G. Carlo Accorsi  
Via XX Settembre, 20/B  
37100 VERONA



IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L.10000.

SIRACUSANA

## 100 LIRE FLUORESCENT - ARABIC GUM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** Issue of 100 Lire value with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x3) with Goebel 300 machine, on fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with left horizontal Comb perforator that shows 2 holes on the horizontal sides.

The upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." measures 196 x 3.7 mm (w x h), while the "FLUORESCENTE" wording is under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copy and measures 52 x 3.7 mm (w x h).

The identification dots of the sheets are placed under the number "10.000", on top right position; the sheet serial number has 5 digits.

BORDER: ADORNED WITH RIBBON DRAWING

ISSUE: March, 11<sup>th</sup> 1968





IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10000.

SIRACUSANA

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Unlike the *first issue type*, the identification dots of the sheets are **bottom left in vertical position**, before the "FLUORESCENTE" wording.

BORDER: WHITE

ISSUE: 1968



FLUORESCENTE

Daniela Biraghi

4 0 1 7 3



# IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10000

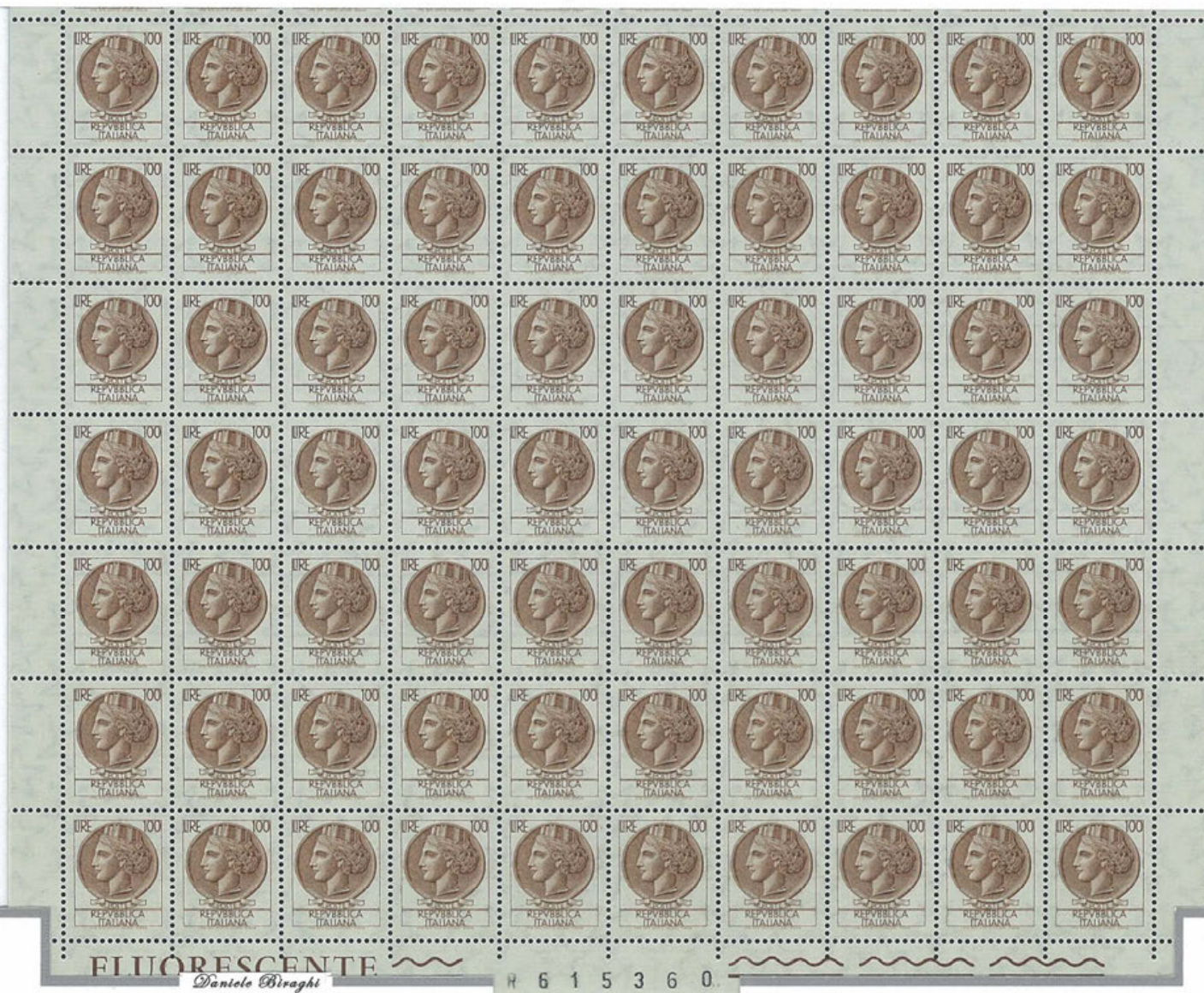
SIRACUSANA

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** Unlike the first two issue types, many differences are present. It has been printed on a sheet of 100 (x4) with Goebel BRM machine with right horizontal Comb perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are placed under the number "10.000", on top right position, but farther than in the first issue type. Also the upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." is different and measures 190 x 3.5 mm (w x h). The sheet serial number has 6 digits (33 mm long) preceded by the "R" letter.

BORDER: WHITE

ISSUE: July 1973





IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10000

SIRACUSANA

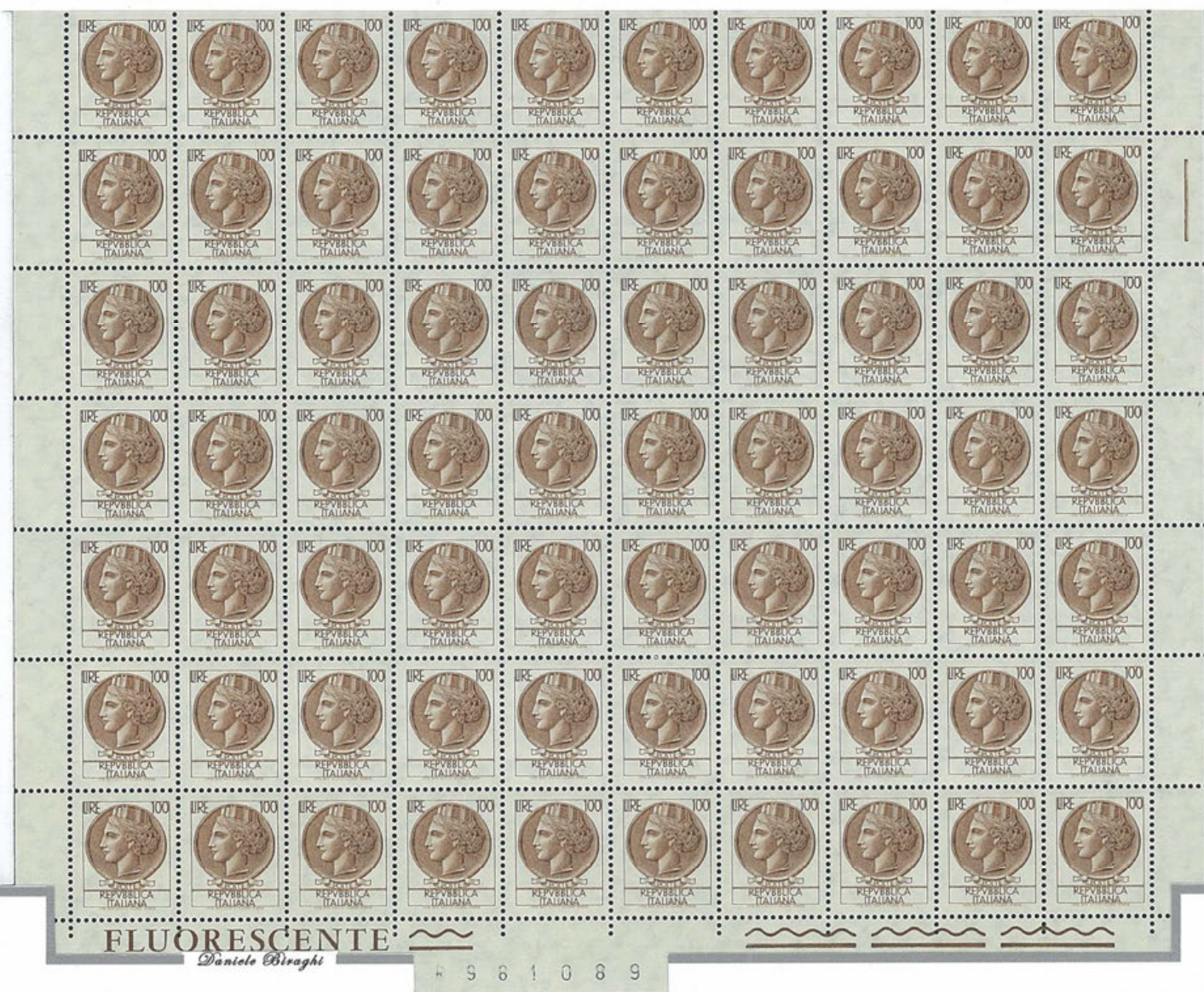
#### 4<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** This last *issue type* was still printed with Goebel BRM machine. The identification dots of the sheets are placed over the number "10.000", on top right position but farther from the digits; The upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." change and measures 196 x 3.7 mm (w x h).

The sheet serial number remain 6 digits (33 mm long) preceded by the "R" letter.

BORDER: WHITE

ISSUE: November 1973





**Technical features:** Values of 125, 130 and 180 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x2) with 4 colour Goebel machine, on fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with Comb perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on bottom left position.

BORDER: WHITE

For the following 3 values only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy.



125 Lire - lilac orange  
ISSUE: February, 27<sup>th</sup> 1974



130 Lire - carmine red grey  
ISSUE: March, 11<sup>th</sup> 1968



180 Lire - brown grey  
ISSUE: November, 15<sup>th</sup> 1971





IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L.18000

SIRACUSANA

Only recently I discovered the existence of a second issue for the value of 180 lire, so far unknown to many collectors.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Same technical characteristics of 120 L. and 130 L. with the word "**FLUORESCENTE**" on its bottom edge under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy; the sheet serial number has 5 digit length of about 25 mm.



### 2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Compared to the first issue, the word "**FLUORESCENTE**" is at the center of the paper, under the 94<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> - 96<sup>th</sup> - 97<sup>th</sup> copy and the numerator is always 5 digit length of about 27 mm.

This printing cylinder is the same that was subsequently used to print the issue with vinyl gum.

ISSUE: 1973/1974





IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 20000  
SIRACUSANA

**Technical features:** Value of 200 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x3) with Goebel 300 machine, on fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with Comb perforator that shows 2 holes on the horizontal sides. The identification dots of the sheets are on top left position before "IL FOGLIO ..."; the sheet serial number has 5 digits.  
BORDER: ADORNED WITH RIBBON DRAWING  
ISSUE: May, 6<sup>th</sup> 1968

For this value only *one issue type* is known, which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copy.



Plate numbers "1534", in a mirror way, reported for dubbing to top on the right corner sheet.



Plate numbers "1534", in a mirror way, across to the first and third plate.



**Technical features:** Value of 300 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x3) with Goebel 300 machine, on fluorescent paper, with Arabic gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with Comb perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are under the number "30.000", on top right position; the sheet serial number has 5 digits.

BORDER: ADORNED WITH RIBBON DRAWING

For this value only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copy.



300 Lire - light emerald green  
ISSUE: July, 18<sup>th</sup> 1972





# 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - FLUO - ARABIC GUM - VARIETIES



Downwards shifted perforation



Double perforation down



Imperforate on the four sides



Surgical cut



Imperforate on the four sides



Jointed paper involving the lower copy



Partially and vague, missing on the border printing



Strongly shifted to the left vertical perforation



Oblique paper fold



The right vertical pair is completely imperforate on the right



Missing printing and partially fading on the border



Missing printing and fading on the border



Strongly shifted downwards perforation



Upwards shifted perforation



Grey back-ground shifted



Vertical perforation strongly shifted to right



Coloured line



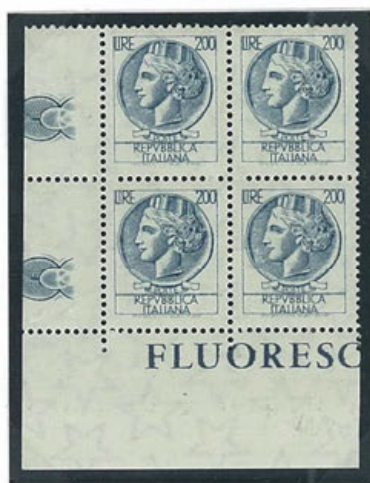
Paper folds



Light set-off



Left examples imperforated on three sides



Fading printing



Colour marks left by cylinder



#### 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - FLUORESCENT PAPER - VINYL GUM

Technical features: Series of 16 stamps with 4 Star Carpet watermark in **Horizontal (H)** position, **Rotogravure** printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with 2 colour Goebel machine, on **fluorescent paper**, with **Vinyl gum** and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with **Block** perforator. The identification **dots** of the sheets are on **bottom left** position.

**BORDER:** INTERNAL SINUSOID

For the following 11 values only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 94<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> - 96<sup>th</sup> - 97<sup>th</sup> copy.



1 Lira - dark grey  
ISSUE: 1975



5 Lire - grey  
ISSUE: April 1974



6 Lire - orange brown  
ISSUE: 1975



10 Lire - vermilion  
ISSUE: April 1974



15 Lire - grey violet  
ISSUE: March 1974



30 Lire - yellow brown  
ISSUE: 1974



50 Lire - olive green  
ISSUE: April 1974



55 Lire - dark violet  
ISSUE: 1975



60 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1974



70 Lire - blue green  
ISSUE: 1974



80 Lire - orange brown  
ISSUE: 1974

For the following 4 values only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy.



20 Lire - brown  
ISSUE: 1974



25 Lire - violet  
ISSUE: 1974



40 Lire - lilac pink  
ISSUE: 1974



90 Lire - red brown  
ISSUE: 1974



March, 19<sup>th</sup> 1979, Registered letter (170L +350 R) from Reggio Calabria to Verona and stamped for 520 Lire with 70 Lire commemorative and a strip of 5 to 90 Lire Siracusana values which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the right.

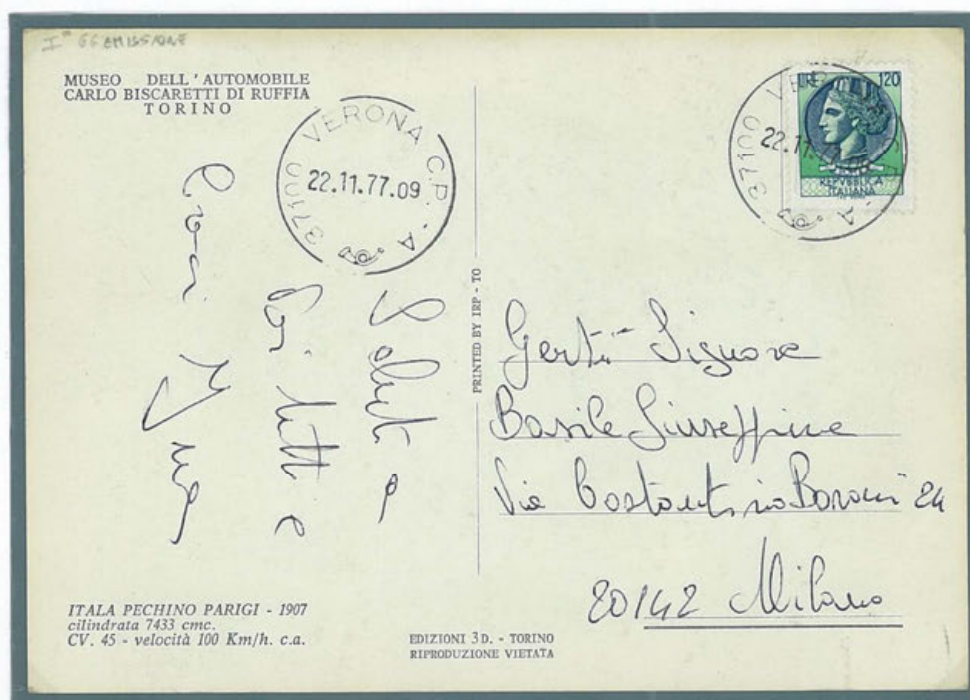


The 120 Lire value is only known with the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 94<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> - 96<sup>th</sup> - 97<sup>th</sup> copy. Nevertheless, *two issue types* are known and they are distinguishable for the following details:

The 1<sup>st</sup> shows blurry blue colour in the background of the medallion. The type of the writings is thicker.



120 Lire - green blue - ISSUE: November, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977 - 1<sup>st</sup> issue type



November, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977 (1<sup>st</sup> issue day), Picture Postcard (120PP) from Verona to Milan and stamped with a 120 Lire first issue type.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> shows neat blue colour forming a network in the medallion; the green is also more evident. The type of the writings is always neater and thinner.



120 Lire - green blue  
ISSUE: 1980  
2<sup>nd</sup> issue type



February, 10<sup>th</sup> 1981, covered Registered letter 5<sup>th</sup> weight step (2000L +400R) from Clavesanas (CN) to Turin and stamped with 20 copies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type of 120 Lire.



IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10000  
SIRACUSANA

**100 LIRE FLUORESCENT - VINYL GUM**

**1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE TYPE**

**Technical features:** Issue of 100 Lire value with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with Goebel BRM machine, on fluorescent paper, with Vinyl gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with horizontal Comb perforator that shows 2 holes on the horizontal sides.

The upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." measures 196 x 3.5 mm (w x h), while the "FLUORESCENTE" wording is under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copy and measures 52,5 x 3.7 mm (w x h).

The identification dots of the sheets are over the number "10.000", on top right position but farther from the digits; the sheet serial number has 6 digits (33 mm long) preceded by the letter "R".

BORDER: WHITE

ISSUE: January 1974



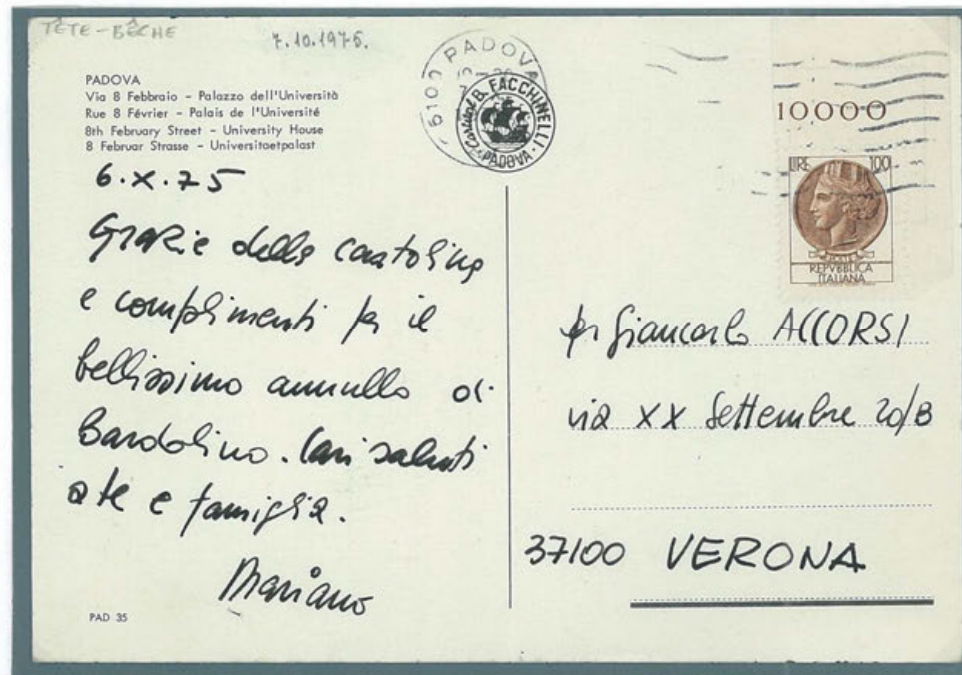


2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** Unlike the other *issue types*, it has been printed on sheets of 100 (x6) (forming three groups in tête-bêche position) with Goebel 500 machine with block perforator.

The "FLUORESCENTE" wording is placed under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copy and measures 39 x 3 mm (w x h). There are no sheet identification dots; the sheet serial number has 5 digits.

**ISSUE:** September / October 1975



October, 7<sup>th</sup> 1975,  
Picture Postcard  
(70PP) from Padua  
to Verona stamped  
with a 100 Lire up-  
per right corner of  
the sheet belonging  
to the circulation  
tête-bêche.

One of the earliest  
known dates.



# IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10000

SIRACUSANA

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** Unlike the other *issue types*, it has been printed on sheets of 100 (x3) with Goebel 300 machine. Perforation and perforator are like the first issue. The upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." measures 196 x 3.5 mm (w x h) and the "FLUORESCENTE" wording is placed under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copies and measures 52 x 3.5 mm (w x h).

The sheet identification dots are under the number "10.000", separated from the digits; the sheet serial number has 5 digits (26 mm long).

BORDER: WHITE

ISSUE: 1974 / 1975





IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10.000. SIRACUSANA

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** As the first issue, it was printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with Goebel BRM machine. The identification dots of the sheets are under the number "10.000", but closed to the digits; the sheet serial number has 6 digits (33 mm long) preceded by the letter "T".  
**BORDER:** WHITE

**ISSUE:** summer 1974





IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 10.000

SIRACUSANA

### 5<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** Unlike the other *issue types*, it has been printed on sheets of 100 (x3) with Goebel 300 machine. Perforation and perforator are like the first issue. The upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." measures 192 x 2.4 mm (w x h) and the "FLUORESCENTE" wording is placed under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copies and measures 33.5 x 2.4 mm (w x h).

The sheet identification dots are on the left side near the 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> copy respectively; the sheet serial number has 5 digits.

ISSUE: 1975 / 1976





6<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Issue of 100 Lire value with 2 - 25° Right Star Carpet watermark, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with Goebel BRM machine, on non fluorescent paper, with Vinyl gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with horizontal Comb perforator.

Only twenty-two (plus two without gum) values of this stamp are known as new; also a cancelled one is rather rare. The serial number of the only known block (now separated) is P 3 4 2 3 5 5.

Inexplicably, some values show white fluorescence.

BORDER: WHITE



100 Lire - non fluorescent  
ISSUE: march 1979  
without gum



100 Lire - non fluorescent  
ISSUE: march 1979



100 Lire - white fluorescence  
ISSUE: march 1979



May, 31<sup>st</sup> 1979 - Letter sent from Vittorito (AQ) to L'Aquila stamped with a 20 Lire together with a strip of five copies of the non fluorescent 100 Lire Siracusana. Unique letter known with such a high number of this type of stamps.



Technical features: Values of 125, 130 and 180 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Rotogravure printed on sheets of 100 (x2) with 4 colour Goebel machine, on fluorescent paper, with Vinyl gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with Comb perforator. The identification dots of the sheets are on bottom left position.

BORDER: WHITE

For the 125 Lire and 180 Lire only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 94<sup>th</sup> - 95<sup>th</sup> - 96<sup>th</sup> - 97<sup>th</sup> copy.



125 Lire - lilac orange  
ISSUE: 1974



180 Lire - violet grey  
ISSUE: 1974



For the 130 Lire only *one issue type* is known which shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on the sheet lower border under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy.



130 Lire - dark carmine grey  
ISSUE: 1979



**Technical features:** Values of 150 and 400 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with BRM machine, on fluorescent paper, with Vinyl gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with Comb perforator.

The upper inscription "IL FOGLIO..." measures  $191 \times 3.5$  mm (w x h) and the "FLUORESCENTE" wording is placed under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copies and measures  $52,5 \times 3.7$  mm (w x h).  
BORDER: WHITE

In the 1<sup>st</sup> issue, the 150 Lire hasn't the identification dots of the sheets.

There are notches for adjusting the printing machine at the top and the bottom between the tables.

The sheet serial number has 6 digits (32 mm long) preceded by the letter "T", but are known without letter too.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type, the identification dots of the sheets are on the right side near the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 40<sup>th</sup> copy, respectively, but the notches are placed only at the top position.

The sheet serial number has 6 digits (26 mm long) preceded by the letter "S", but are known others reprinting with numerator to 6 digits (26 mm long) preceded by the letter "A" and without letter too.



150 Lire - violet; 1<sup>st</sup> issue: March, 15<sup>th</sup> 1976



2<sup>nd</sup> issue type: July / August 1976



Only for this 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type all the inscriptions are printed with bordered instead of filled characters.



In the 400 Lire issue, the identification dots of the sheets are always on the left side near the 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> copy respectively.

There are **notches** for adjusting the printing machine at the **top** and the **bottom** between the tables.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> issue and their reprinting, the lower notches are 15 mm long, while in the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue type they are only 12 mm long.

All the inscriptions are printed with characters **bordered**, randomly **partially filled**.

400 Lire - brown red  
ISSUE:  
March, 15<sup>th</sup> 1976



1<sup>st</sup> Issue type - March, 15<sup>th</sup> 1976; 6 digit serial number (32 mm long) preceded by the letter "T"



1<sup>st</sup> Issue type - March, 15<sup>th</sup> 1976; 6 digits serial number (32 mm long) without leading letter, for numerator defective



SIRACUSANA



**1<sup>st</sup> reprinting** - July 1976; 6 digit serial number (32 mm long) preceded by the letter "A"



**2<sup>nd</sup> reprinting** - August 1976; 6 digit serial number (26 mm long) without leading letter, for numerator defective



**2<sup>nd</sup> Issue type** - end 1976; 6 digit serial number (26 mm long) preceded by the letter "A"



**Technical features:** Values of 170 and 350 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, **Recess printing + offset** printed on sheets of 100 (x4) with BRM machine, on **fluorescent paper**, with Vinyl gum and perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with Comb perforator. The "FLUORESCENTE" wording is on lower border sheet under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy and measures  $53 \times 3.7$  mm (w x h).



Identification dot at the right side of 80<sup>th</sup> copy.

**170 Lire - bistro green**  
**BORDER: WHITE**  
**ISSUE: November, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977**

For this value are known different issues.

The 1<sup>st</sup> shows the identification dots of the sheets on the right side near the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> copy respectively; the sheet serial number has 6 digits preceded by the letter "E".

The 2<sup>nd</sup> shows the identification dots on the right side near the 70<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> copy respectively; the sheet serial number has 6 digits preceded by the letter "M".



**2<sup>nd</sup> issue type - 1978; 6 digit serial number (33 mm long) with letter "M"**



**1<sup>st</sup> issue type - November, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977; 6 digit serial number (26 mm long) with letter "E"**



For the 350 Lire value, the identification dots of the sheets are on the left side near the 61<sup>st</sup>, 71<sup>st</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup>, and 91<sup>st</sup> copy respectively.  
BORDER: WHITE

Only one cylinder is known that shows the "FLUORESCENTE" wording on lower border sheet under the 98<sup>th</sup> - 99<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> copy.



350 Lire - red-brown red  
ISSUE: November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977



November, 22<sup>nd</sup> 1977, Registered-express letter 1<sup>st</sup> carriage between Civil Agencies (170L + 350R + 350E) from Verona to Venice. The registered letter is port-free; you only pay for the Express delivery.



Single issue type: with 6 digits (26 mm long) with letter "E"



200 LIRE FLUORESCENT - VINYL GUM1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Value of **200 Lire** with **4 Star Carpet** watermark in **Vertical (V)** position, **Recess printing** printed on sheets of **100 (x4)** with **Goebel BRM** machine, on **fluorescent paper**, with **Vinyl gum** and perforated **14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>** with **left horizontal Comb** perforator that shows **2 holes** on horizontal sides. The **"FLUORESCENTE"** wording is placed on sheet lower border under the **91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup>** copy and measures **53 x 4 mm (w x h)**.

The identification **dots** of the sheets are **on top left position** under **"IL FOGLIO ..."**; the sheet serial number has **6 digits (33 mm long)** preceded by the letter **"R"**.



200 Lire - dark blue  
ISSUE: January, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1974



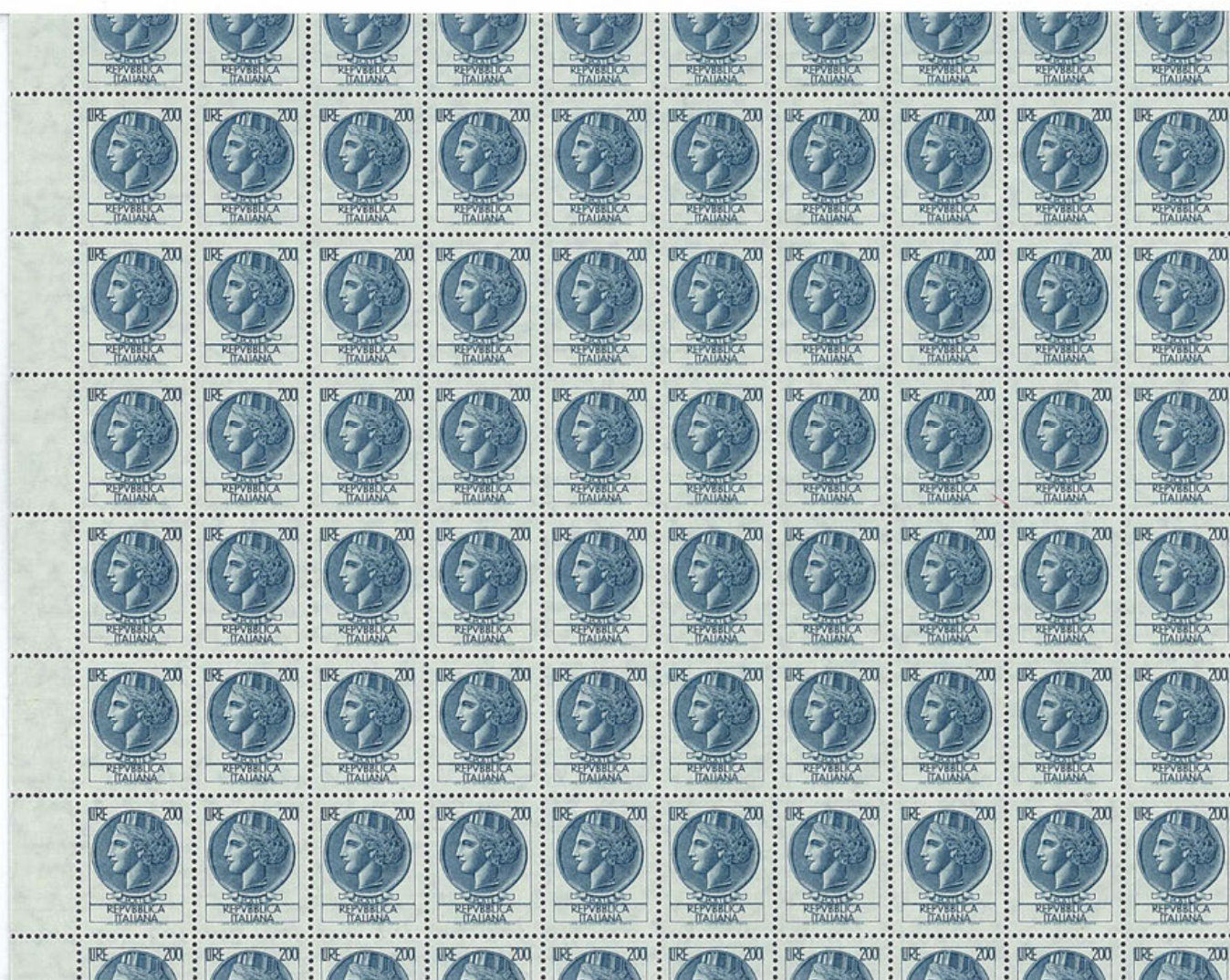


SIRACUSANA  
IL FOGLIO DI CENTO FRANCOBOLLI VALE L. 20000

2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Unlike the *first issue types*, the identification dots of the sheets are under "20.000", on top right position but closer to the numbers; the sheet serial number has 6 digits (33 mm long) preceded by the letter "T".

ISSUE: 1975



Daniela Biraghi

FLUORESCENTE

T 0 0 3 0 1 1



3<sup>RD</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Unlike the *second issue types*, the identification dots of the sheets are under "20.000", on **top right** position **but farther** from the numbers; the sheet serial number has **6 digits (33 mm long)** without leading letter.

ISSUE: 1976



4<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Unlike the *other issue types*, the identification **dots** of the sheets are on the right side near the 70<sup>th</sup>, 80<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> copy. The sheet serial number has 6 digits (33 mm long) preceded by the letter "B".

ISSUE: 1976 - 1977





# 300 LIRE FLUORESCENT - VINYL GUM

## 1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE TYPE

**Technical features:** Value of 300 Lire with 4 Star Carpet watermark in Vertical (V) position, Recess printing printed on sheets of 100 (x3) with Goebel 300 machine, on fluorescent paper, with Vinyl gum and perforated 14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> with left horizontal Comb perforator that shows 2 holes on horizontal sides.

The identification dots of the sheets are under "30.000" on top right position; 5 digit serial number.

The "FLUORESCENTE" wording is placed under the 91<sup>st</sup> - 92<sup>nd</sup> - 93<sup>rd</sup> copy and measure 53 x 3.7 mm (w x h).

BORDER: ADORNED WITH RIBBON DRAWING

ISSUE: 1974

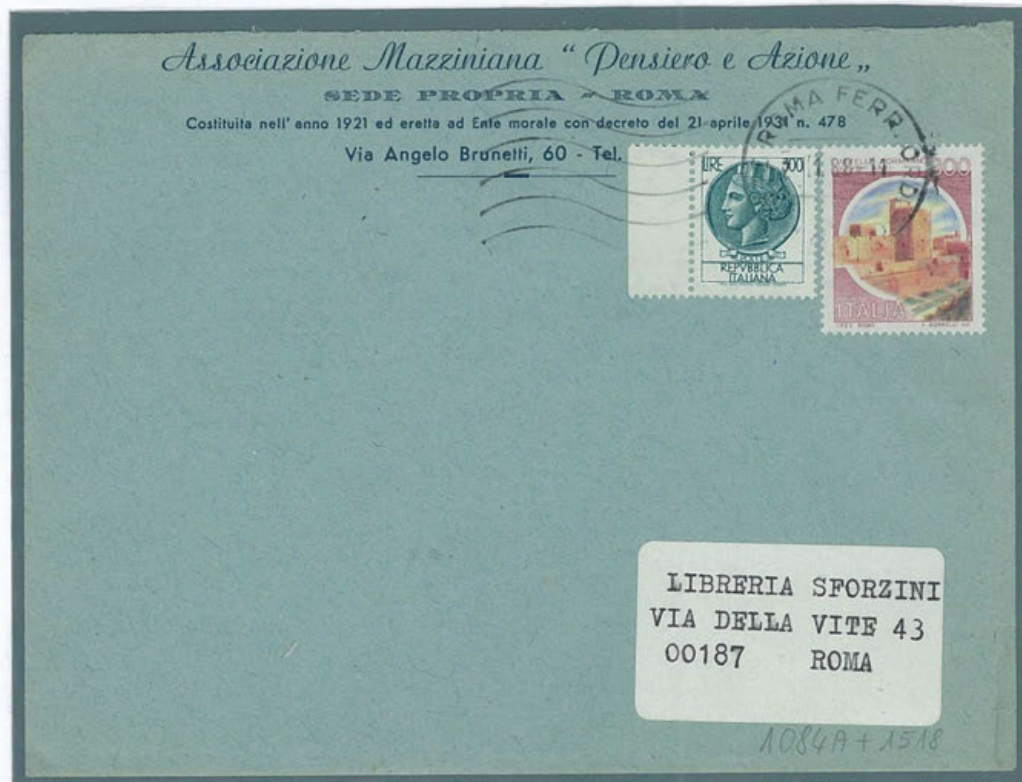


2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE TYPE

Technical features: Unlike the *first issue types*, the "**FLUORESCENTE**" wording is placed only under the 91<sup>st</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup> copy and measure 36 x 3.7 mm (w x h). The identification dots of the sheets are **lower right** under the 100<sup>th</sup> copy; **5 digit** serial number.

BORDER: WHITE

ISSUE: 1976



January, 2<sup>nd</sup> 1988, Letter 1<sup>st</sup> carriage (600L) from Rome to Rome, stamped with a 300 Lire belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue.



# 4 STAR CARPET WATERMARK - FLUO - VINYL GUM - VARIETIES



Unusual shifting perforation due to an irregular horizontal comb jumps perpendicularly to the running reel direction



Strongly shifted to the left vertical perforation



Jointed paper involving the lower copy



Copies smudged with ink



Strongly vertically shifted perforation and blurry colour



Horizontally imperforated



Double printing on the lower copy



Colour marks left by the cylinder



Downwards shifted perforation



Fading printing



Oblique white band



Fading printing



Imperforate on the four side



Green background strongly shifted down



Colour marks left by cylinder



Surgical cut



Orange background shifted to left



Horizontally missing perforation for comb jumping



Grey background shifted



VICENZA FORGERY

**Technical features:** This stamp has been printed on **photolithography** on paper **without watermark**. It was  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  **perforated** with **manual Linear** perforator.  
About a hundred copies are known, of which only very few were used by mail in Toscana.

This 200 Lire forgery copy is one of the most insidious due to his careful execution and similarity to the true copies.



200 Lire - slate blue  
ISSUE: 1972



February, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1973 Registered letter sent from Prato (FI) to Florence and stamped with two Siracusana stamps; a copy of 30 Lire and a 200 Lire Vicenza forgery. **This is one of the three/four letters known until now.**

## MILAN FORGERIES

**Technical features:** Values printed on **photolithography** on **non fluorescent** paper, with **4 Star Carpet oil impression** in **Vertical (V)** position mimicking the watermark. Perforation **14 x 14** with **Block** perforator.

The 200 Lire forgery has been discovered also with blurry and coarse print.



150 Lire - violet  
ISSUE: 1976  
Dark paper



200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1976  
Dark paper

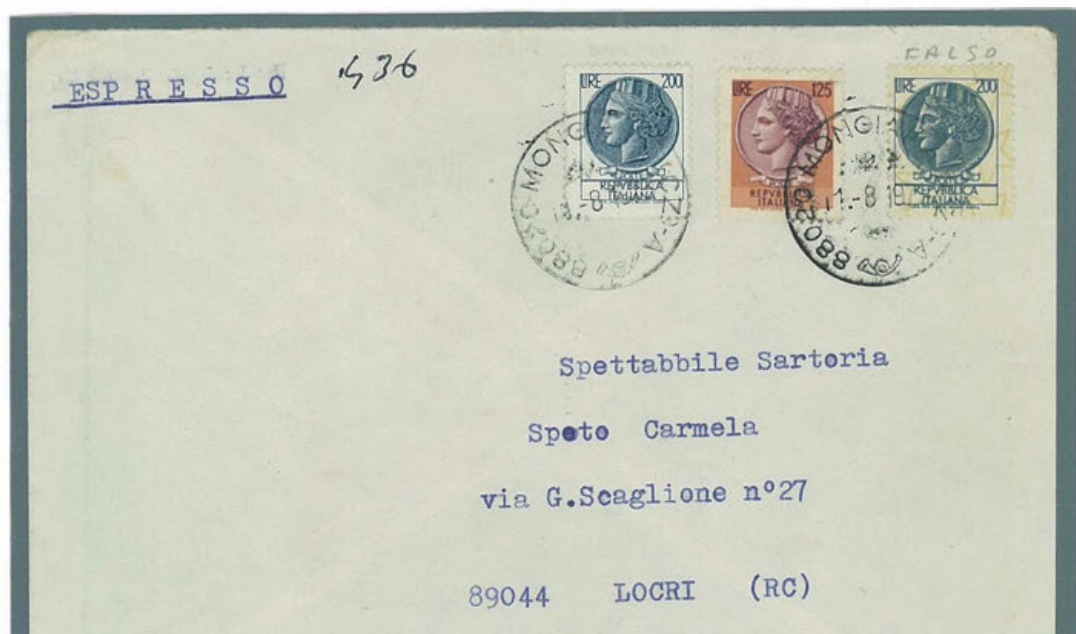


200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1976  
White paper



200 Lire - blue  
ISSUE: 1976  
White paper

August, 1<sup>st</sup> 1979  
Express letter sent  
from Mongiana  
(RC) to Locri (RC)  
and stamped with  
one 125 Lire and  
two 200 Lire  
copies, of which  
one is a forgery.





Technical features: Value of 40 Lire printed on **photolithography** on **non fluorescent** paper, with **4 Star Carpet oil impression** in **Vertical (V)** position mimicking the watermark.

Perforation **14 x 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>** with **Block** perforator.

A copy **without watermark** is easily found too.

This forgery value has been prevalently used on national lottery cards.



40 Lire - lilac pink  
ISSUE: 1974  
With watermark



40 Lire - lilac pink  
ISSUE: 1974  
Without watermark



**LOTTERIA ITALIA 1974**  
ESTRAZIONE 6 GENNAIO 1975  
Con i tagliandi annessi ai biglietti della Lotteria parteciperete gratuitamente al referendum televisivo Canzonissima 1974.

Ogni cartolina dovrà contenere la preferenza per un solo cantante (uomo o donna) o complesso di

**MUSICA LEGGERA**

Questa settimana voto per:

**CAMALEONTI**

scrivere in stampatello

**Quiz della settimana**  
Ogni settimana fra tutti coloro che avranno inviato la risposta esatta al quiz proposto verrà sorteggiato un premio speciale di Lire 3.000.000.

La soluzione del quiz è

**4**



4747811

**alla RAI**  
**RADIOTELEVISIONE ITALIANA**  
**LOTTERIA ITALIA '74**  
CASELLA POSTALE N. 80  
**10100 TORINO**

November, 29<sup>th</sup> 1974, Lottery Postcard (40LP) from Turin to Turin and stamped with a fake 40 Lire, frequently used to release this type of documents.

## ROME FORGERIES

Technical features: Values **typographically** printed with a blurry result on **non fluorescent** paper, **without watermark**. Perforation  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  with **Block** perforator and **bright gum**.

They were prevalently used on U.N.P.I.L. forms sent from some localities in Lazio.



150 Lire - violet  
ISSUE: 1977



300 Lire - green  
ISSUE: 1977



400 Lire - brown red  
ISSUE: 1977



March, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1977,  
U.N.P.I.L. Form  
sent as registered  
COD prints (300P  
+350R +350CP)  
from Bagni di  
Tivoli (Rome) to  
Mongrando (VC)  
and stamped with  
3 values of 300  
Lire Rome fakes.

RESPINTO AL MITTENTE - perche' non rich.



U. N. P. I. L.

UFFICIO NAZIONALE PRESIDI INFORTUNISTICA LAVORO

Amministrazione e Laboratorio:

Via Lago Colonnelle n. 28 - Tivoli - (ROMA)

DESTINATARIO:

Rip. Carrozzeria Automobili

Travaglini G.

Via Ferrari 3/a

VERCELLI

*Respinto*

*MONGRANDO*



STAMPE RACC. CONTRAS

Peso gr.	Merce	Spedizione	Assegno	C / C.
350	Targhe	Contrassegno	£ 7.200	22904007

CONTIENE TARGHE INFORTUNISTICHE

E E DECRETO MINISTERIALE DELL'ISPettorato DEL LAVORO N. 51 DEL 12-2-1955

SIRACUSANA

## PHILATELIC FRAUD

Between 1956 and 1957, imperforated and sometimes without watermark Siracusana specimens began to circulate in the philatelic market with increasing frequency. When these varieties of great interest began to proliferate, suspicions arise that they had been stolen. At the end the culprits were discovered: a dealer and two employees of the *Poligrafico dello Stato*. Unfortunately, 20 years later the same phenomenon occurred again but up to now the culprits have not been discovered. Some researches confirm that the quantities printed were of a certain amount, and that there are still some conspicuous lots.



5 Lire  
1 STAR (V)



10 Lire  
1 STAR (V)



10 Lire  
1 STAR (H)



25 Lire  
1 STAR (V)



80 Lire  
1 STAR (V)



5 Lire  
2 - 65° L STAR



20 Lire  
2 - 65° L STAR



25 Lire  
2 - 65° L STAR



80 Lire  
2 - 65° L STAR



SIRACUSANA



5 Lire - WHITOUT  
WATERMARK



10 Lire - WHITOUT  
WATERMARK



80 Lire - Vinyl  
4 STAR (H)  
FLUORESCENT



150 Lire - Vinyl  
4 STAR (V)  
FLUORESCENT



400 Lire - Vinyl  
4 STAR (V) FLUORESCENT

**lotteria di Agnano**

ESTRAZIONE 9 APRILE 1978

**TAGLIANDO**

per la partecipazione  
ai premi settimanali

e numerosi altri premi per centinaia di milioni

**9 ESTRAZIONI SETTIMANALI PER UN  
TOTALE DI 45 MILIONI**

**Premi settimanali:** 1 premio da L. 2.000.000  
3 premi da L. 1.000.000

MITTENTE

Sig. APDO Lanza

Via Montana n. 2

(C.A.P. 00185) ROMA

SCRIVERE POSSIBILMENTE IN STAMPATELLO

0089682

Spett.

**ROMETRA S.p.a.**

**GESTIONE LOTTERIE NAZIONALI**

Via Calabria, 35

**00187 ROMA**

**Spedite subito la cartolina!**

I premi verranno corrisposti direttamente ai vincitori, a cura del Ministero delle Finanze, Direzione Generale Entrate Speciali. I nomi dei vincitori saranno resi noti a mezzo di comunicati letti alla Radio ogni giovedì successivo all'estrazione e a mezzo di Bollettini Ufficiali esposti dai rivenditori. Il regolamento è depositato presso le Intendenze di Finanza.

January, 28<sup>th</sup> 1978, Lottery Postcard (150LP) from Rome to Rome stamped with an imperforated 150 Lire. The postages with this variety are always very interesting and rare, but in this case somebody wants to make us believe that this illegal variety illicitly is authentic.

## SIRACUSANA... FAREWELL!

After the debut on a commemorative Postcard, the Siracusana was dismissed with one last commemorative Postcard issued on the occasion of the National Meeting of *Ministero P.T.*

The D.M. of April, 4<sup>th</sup> 1987 and published in *Gazzetta Ufficiale* n°. 233 of October, 6<sup>th</sup> 1987, put all the values of Siracusana definitively **out of circulation** starting from **January, 4<sup>th</sup> 1988**.

In reality, this series had already been replaced by the "Castelli d'Italia" series since 1980.



**February, 26<sup>th</sup> 1980**  
Postcard of 120 Lire  
with the last im-  
printing of Siracu-  
sana series.

**January, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1988**  
(last valid day for  
the series; this has  
been possible only  
because valuable  
mail was accepted  
also on Sunday) Re-  
gistered-Express  
letter sent from Tu-  
rin to Turin. **One of  
the rare letter  
posted on that day.**

