



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

The Kingdom of Sicily was the last old Italian state to use stamps, from January 1, 1859.

In 1850, ten years after the *penny black*, the first was the Lombardo-Veneto. Later the other States became to use their stamps until the Kingdom of Naples, that provided in 1858.

Last but not least the Kingdom of Sicily, after many essays, choosed seven wonderful stamps - due to the great engraver Tommaso Alojsio Juvara - considered among the most beautiful old stamps in the world. They were used until 1860, may or june, related to the general Giuseppe Garibaldi gradual advance (1860, May for the occidental side of Sicily and June for the oriental side).

Exposition Plan

The exposition describes the history of these stamps, from the decree introducing the use of the stamps in Sicily (1858, November 29), to the different types of essays realized before to choose the definitive set, to the stamps - that are classified in 14 types - unused, used and on letters, to the many retouches of the tables, to the varieties and errors, until to some known fakes and to the reprints, made or to cheat the Post Offices or to help collectors to complete their albums.

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Kingdom of Sicily - 1859 -1860

The Royal decree and the 7 stamps

The Ferdinando II Royal decree introducing the use of the stamps in Sicily from 1859, January 1, and the expected seven values: ½ grano, 1 grano, 2 grana, 5 grana, 10 grana, 20 grana e 50 grana.





Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

The essays

In March 1858 **Giuseppe Barone**, an engraver in Palermo, submitted to the Viceroy of Sicily his proofs of printing that were able to obtain, with a single impression, the design of colored postage stamps also with the embossed engraving. His proofs were realized on paper of various colors: white, blue, pink, yellow and lilac. Are known more than 20 essays in very different colors.

White paper



light blue



blue



dark blue



vermillon



pink



buff



gray



violet



black



green



dark green



no colour

Blue paper



lilac



black



green

Pink paper



black

Yellow paper



orange



yellow

Lilac Paper



black



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

The essays

The famous engraver **Tommaso Aloysio Juvara** was commissioned to engrave the original matrix representing the effigy of the King Ferdinando and the punches indicating the values of the seven stamps, as well as the cancellation stamp in the shape of an horseshoe. At the end of May 1858, Juvara presented the essays of all the expected values in the non-definitive colors.

The sketch of the effigy, cancellation stamp and colors approved by the King was been created by the painter Carlo La Barbera. The press was entrusted to the La Barbera and Lao printers.

Artist's proof



E

Gr.10 yellow

½ Grano color tests by La Barbera and Lao



E

ocra yellow



E

light olive bistre



E

blood red



light blue



bright blue



E

E

ultramarine



E

garnet



E

black



E

pale grey



lilac grey



E

The ultramarine proof with the experimental cancellation in the shape of a horseshoe



Kingdom of Sicily - 1859 -1860

The essays

The dissatisfaction of the Postal Authorities for the tests of La Barbera and Lao led to the assignment to the engineer Pampillonia of a job aimed at verifying in France the existence of other printing systems that would give better results. French engraver **Lesachè** was given the task of preparing a new essay with the effigy of the King. These essays are without indication of value.



blue



grey



black



pink

Not even these essays printed in the Lecoq typography pleased the authorities, that requested to stick more to the Juvara trials. So, in November 1858 other essays were prepared with and without the indication of value.



black without value



GR.2 violet



GR.2 light yellow
the only known



GR.2 green greyish
the only known

While the printing of the definitive stamps had already been carried out by the La Barbera and Lao typography, in February 1859 the Engineer **Pampillonia** asked three different French engravers for new essays.



The Pampillonia red essay, the only known

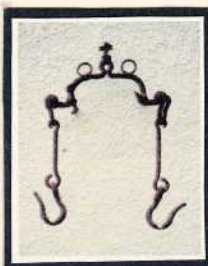


Kingdom of Sicily - 1859 -1860

The new postmarks

The special mark for the stamps

A type of mark absolutely unique in the world was selected to cancel the stamps with the profile of Her Majesty Ferdinando, taking the image from an horse-bit of the XIX century. The photo here reproduced shows like I discovered the origin of the postmark looking to an horse-bit hanged to an external wall of my mountain refuge (before it was common opinion that the postmark was a restyled image of an horseshoe).



The particular mark is clearly visible in these letters from Palermo (1859, March 19 and 1860, February 22) in which it was fortuitously and wrongly put also on the front.



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

The new postmarks

The postmark upside down

The wonderful and unusual postmark used for the stamps of Sicily was sometimes hanged upside down. It has been common opinion so far that the overturn to be made for the sake of the King Ferdinand II image.

Today, through the examination of a god number of letters, it is believed that the postmark upside down was not used to corrupt the image of the King. Probably the postman, when the stamps weren't on the right side of the letter, provided to turn just those letters to work more easily.



1859: first rate letters from Palermo to Mazara and Trapani. The 2 grana stamp was put on the left and so the postmark appears affixed upside down.



The postmark upside down, not to corrupt the sovereign image.



Kingdom of Sicily - 1859 -1860

The new postmarks

The nominative postmarks

Only Palermo had new nominative marks, "PALERMO PARTENZA" and "PALERMO ARRIVO", with day, month and year from the beginning of 1859. The other 78 post-offices continued to use the existing marks. Then, from april 1859 CALTANISSETTA, CATANIA, GIRGENTL, NOTO, SIRACUSA and TRAPANI received the new type with the date. MESSINA had it from the beginning of 1860.



MES=1859
1 GENNO

PALERMO PARTENZA and **PALERMO ARRIVO** on letters without stamp: in this case the tax "3" grana handwritten was due for first rate letters. Both letters were mailed in Palermo and Messina the first day of use of the stamps in Sicily.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

All the stamps were printed in sheets of 100 divided into 4 groups of 25 by the copper plates assembled together. But from the 7 values were produced 13 plates, taking into account the deterioration of copper and the greater use of some values. So were made 2 tables for the 1/2 and the 5 grana and 3 tables for the values of 1 and 2 grana.

½ Grano - Two plates - Quantity: 235.000 stamps printed, 137.561 sold

The lower value of the Sicilian issue was printed to pay the first rate (one sheet) of Newspapers, Circulars, printed paper and also to supplement the rate of letters with attached draft or receipt. Were used two plates and the first one had seven retouched stamps.

½ Grano: plate I



GR. ½ orange
(Palermo paper)



GR. ½ orange
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ yellow light orange
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ brownish yellow
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ dark orange
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ orange (Palermo paper)
block of 10: pos.86/90, 96/100



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

½ Grano: plate I (used)



E

GR. ½ orange
(Palermo paper)



GR. ½ orange
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ yellow light orange
(Naples paper)



E

GR. ½ dark orange
(Naples paper)



E

GR. ½ olive yellow
(Naples paper)



E

GR. ½ brownish yellow
(Naples paper)



E

GR. ½ light yellow
(Naples paper)



pair GR. ½ dark orange
(Naples paper)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

½ Grano: plate I (newspapers)



GR. ½ light yellow (Naples paper) on "DIOGENE" of January 26, 1859, newspaper first rate.



GR. ½ yellow light orange (Naples paper) on "IL VAPORE" of November 3, 1859, newspaper first rate.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

½ Grano: plate I (letters)



E

GR. ½ orange (Naples paper) on first rate letter (1859, November 1) to Caltanissetta, added to the 2 grana to pay a receipt included (like described). Anomalous use of the "PALERMO ARRIVO" mark on outgoing letters.



E

GR. ½ orange (Naples paper), 4 stamps on first rate letter to Santo Stefano di Camastra of 1859, March 3.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

½ Grano - Two plates - Quantity: 235.000 stamps printed, 137.561 sold

½ Grano: plate II



GR. ½ orange
(Palermo paper)



GR. ½ orange
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ bright orange
(Palermo paper)



GR. ½ dark orange
(Naples paper)



GR. ½ orange (Naples paper)
Strip of 4: pos.71/74, ex Alphonse

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

½ Grano: plate II (used)



GR. ½ orange
(Palermo paper)



GR. ½ orange
(Naples paper)

E

½ Grano: plate II (newspapers)



E

GR. ½ orange (Naples paper) on "LE FERROVIE SICULE" of January 7, 1860, newspaper first rate.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano - Three plates - Quantity: 540.000 stamps printed, 443.096 sold

The value of 1 grano was useful to pay the fare of letters sent within the postal district (first rate) or the half sheet after the first rate for the other letters. Were used three plates and the first and the second one had retouched stamps (respectively twenty-two and seven).

1 Grano: plate I

(Naples paper)



E

GR. 1 brown rust



E

GR. 1 deep rust brown



E

GR. 1 olive green grayish
(second state)



E

GR. 1 olive brown
(second state)



GR. 1 olive brown gray
(second state)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano: plate I (used)

(Naples paper)



GR. 1 brown rust



GR. 1 deep rust brown



GR. 1 olive brown



E

**GR. 1 brown rust: strip of 4 on fragment
(pos.96,97,98 retouched,99)**



E

**GR. 1 olive brown
(second state)**



**GR. 1 olive brown grayish
(second state)**



E

**pair GR. 1 olive green grayish
(second state)**



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate I (letters)
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 brown rust with 2 grana (plate II) on part of the front of a registered letter from ADERNO'. The correct fee of the whole letter was 4 grana, like first rate registered letter.



GR. 1 olive green grayish (second state) with 2 grana dark cobalt (plate I) on letter of a sheet and a half from Messina (January 30, 1859, as noted inside). The absence of the starting mark is unusual.

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano: plate I (letters)

(Naples paper)



GR. 1 olive brown (second state) with 3 stamps of 2 grana (plate I) bright blue on three rates and half letter from Girgenti (Agrigento) to Palermo.



GR. 1 brown rust between two Gr.1 olive brown (second state) on letter of a sheet and a half from MARSALA to Vietri (Salerno), sea route from Palermo (transit mark of Palermo, November 9, 1859) to Naples with the "Corriere Siciliano".



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano: plate II



GR. 1 greyish olive green
(Palermo paper)



GR. 1 dark brown olive
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 olive brown
(Naples paper)



GR.1 light olive brown
(Naples paper)



GR.1 greyish olive
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 olive
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 olive brown (Naples paper), strip of 10: pos.51/60, ex Alphonse

E



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate II (used)



GR. 1 greyish olive green
(Palermo paper)



GR. 1 dark brown olive
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 olive brown
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 light olive brown
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 greyish olive
(Naples paper)



GR. 1 olive
(Naples paper)



GR. greyish olive (Naples paper), fragment with
strip of 4: pos. 31, 32 (double engraving), 33, 34



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate II (letters)



GR. 1 light olive brown (Naples paper) on first rate letter from Messina (November 28, 1859) to Catania. Franked 1 instead of 2 gr., it was taxed and the "AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE" mark was affixed.



GR. 1 greyish olive green, pair with part of the lower stamps (the first retouched) on first rate letter from Palermo (August 23, 1859) to Raffadali (Agrigento).



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate II (letters)



GR. 1 dark brown olive (Naples paper) with GR.2 blue cobalt (plate I) on letter of a sheet and a half from Messina (February 5, 1859) to Palermo, sea route with the "Etna" steamer.



GR. 1 greyish olive with GR. 5 pink carmine (plate I) on front of a registered letter of a sheet and a half from Palermo (June 13, 1859) to S. Agata.



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate II (letters)



GR. 1 greyish olive (Naples paper), two pairs on second rate letter from Messina (May 14, 1859) to Catania. The first of the second pair is a retouched stamp (pos.59).



GR. 1 greyish olive (Naples paper), two strips of three on three rates letter from BROLO (November 7, 1859) to Palermo. The second stamp of each strip is retouched (pos.59 and 69).



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate III



**GR. 1 light olive green
(Palermo paper)**



**GR. 1 olive green
(Naples paper)**

E



**GR.1 olive green
(Palermo paper)**



**GR. 1 dark olive green
(Naples paper)**



**GR.1 dark olive green
(Palermo paper)**



**GR. 1 light olive green, block
(Palermo paper)**



The Stamps

1 Grano: plate III used



GR. 1 light olive green
(Palermo paper)



GR. 1 olive green
(Naples paper)



GR.1 olive green
(Palermo paper)



GR. 1 dark olive green
(Naples paper)



GR.1 dark olive green
(Palermo paper)



GR. 1 dark olive green (Naples paper) and GR. 1 dark olive green (Palermo paper) on fragment.



GR. 1 olive green (Naples paper)
strip of three (pos.33,34,35)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano: plate III (letters)



GR. 1 dark olive green (Naples paper), pos.29, on first rate letter from Palermo (August 18, 1859) to Siracusa. The rate of 1 grano was only for first rate letter within the postal district but, strange and rare, the letter was not taxed.

In the king's profile there is a small original stain in the forehead.



GR. 1 light olive green (Palermo paper), pair pos.26/27, on first rate letter from TRAPANI (May 8, 1860) to Palermo, where arrived May 9, 1860, two days before Garibaldi's landing in Sicily.

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano: plate III (letters)



GR. 1 dark olive green (Palermo paper) with GR.2 bright blue (plate I) on letter of a sheet and a half from CALTAGIRONE (July 22, 1859) to Monterosso.



GR. 1 olive green (Naples paper), two stamps with GR.2 light blue (plate I) on double rate letter from Palermo (October 1, 1859) to Girgenti (Agrigento today).



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

1 Grano: plate III (letters)



GR. 1 dark olive green (Palermo paper) strip of three (pos.36/38) on letter of a sheet and a half from GIRGENTI (November 17, 1859) to Messina.



GR. 1 dark olive green (Naples paper), four stamps (pos.68, 67, 66, 65) on double rate letter from Palermo to S. Agata (1860).



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

2 Grana - Three plates - Quantity: 1.650.000 stamps printed, 1.477.101 sold

The value of 2 grana, the most used stamp of Sicily, was useful to pay the first rate letter for any distance within the Kingdom of Naples and Sicily, even by sea with postal vapors. Three plates were made: the first and the second one had retouched stamps (respectively eighteen and six).

2 Grana: plate I



GR. 2 blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 cobalt blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 ultramarine blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 pale blue
(Naples paper)



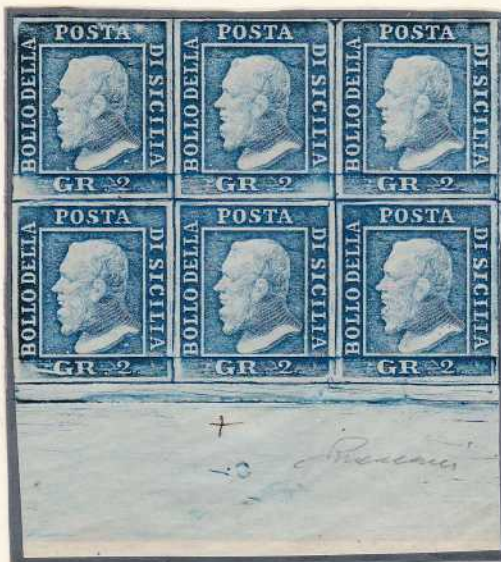
GR. 2 bright blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 blue (Palermo paper), block of six (pos.83/85-93/95)
The two central stamps are retouched



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

2 Grana: plate I (used)



GR. 2 blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 blue
(Naples paper)

E



GR. 2 cobalt blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 dark cobalt
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 pale blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 bright blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 light blue (Palermo paper), four stamps
on fragment (pos.40,45,51 with retouche,52)



E

different plate on fragment:
GR. 2 blue (Palermo paper) plate I, pair
and **GR.2 blue (Palermo paper) plate III**



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate I (letters)



GR. 2 pale blue on first rate letter mailed April 6, 1859 from CASTROGIOVANNI (Enna today) to Catania.



GR.2 light blue (Palermo paper) pair, with 1 grano plate II, olive brown (Naples paper), 2 grana plate III, blue (Palermo paper) and 5 grana plate I, pink carmine, on a partial front of a third rate registered letter (12 grana) from Palermo (September, 1859).

E



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate I (letters)



GR. 2 cobalt blue, pair, on double rate letter from MILAZZO to Palermo (March 5, 1859)



GR.2 pale blue, strip of three (pos.22,23,24), on registered letter of a sheet and a half from CATANIA (oval mark used in the first months of 1859) to Leonforte.

E



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate I (letters)



GR. 2 light blue (Naples paper), strip of four stamps (pos.37/40) on two sheets registered letter from GIRONI (Agrigento today) August 7, 1859 to Palermo.



GR.2 light blue (Palermo paper), six stamps (two, pos.81 and 84, with retouch) on three sheets registered letter from MESSINA (December 5, 1859) to Cefalù.



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate II



E

GR. 2 blue
(Palermo paper)



E

GR. 2 cobalt blue
(Naples paper)



E

GR. 2 dark cobalt
(Naples paper)



E

GR. 2 ultramarine blue
(Naples paper)



E

GR. 2 bright blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Naples paper)



E

GR. 2 blue (Palermo paper)
strip of three (pos.58/60)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

2 Grana: plate II (used)



GR. 2 blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 cobalt blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 dark cobalt
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 ultramarine blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 pale blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 bright blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 light blue
(Naples paper)

The Stamps

2 Grana: plate II (letters)



E

GR. 2 blue (Naples paper), pos.20, with large sheet edge on first rate letter from GIRGENTI (February 7, 1859) to Catania with transit mark of Palermo.



E

GR. 2 bright blue (Naples paper), pos.75, on first rate letter from AVOLA to Palermo, where arrived June 15, 1859.



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate II (letters)



GR. 2 cobalt blue, pair (pos.84 retouched, 85) on second rate letter from Palermo (February 5, 1859) to Corleone.



GR. 2 bright blue, strip of three stamps (pos. 4/6) on letter mailed in Castellammare del Golfo for Salemi, taxed "per insuffienza francatura". On the front is the date "28 aprile 1859".

E



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate II (letters)



E

GR. 2 blue (Palermo paper), pair and GR.2 cobalt blue on registered letter of a sheet and a half from LICATA to Palermo, where arrived April 18, 1859.



GR. 2 blue (Palermo paper), pair and other 2 stamps on double rate registered letter from VALLELUNGA to Palermo (mark "PALERMO ARRIVO 12 MAR 60").



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate III



GR. 2 light blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 very dark blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 greenish blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 bright blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 light blue, block
(Palermo paper)



The Stamps

2 Grana: plate III (used)



GR. 2 light blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 very dark blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 greenish blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 bright blue
(Naples paper)



GR. 2 blue
(Palermo paper)



GR. 2 light blue, fragment with a pair
and a single stamp (pos.39/40, 91)



GR. 2 bright blue, strip of three
(pos.97,98,99)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

2 Grana: plate III (letters)



E

GR. 2 light blue, pair on first rate registered letter from SCICLI to Palermo, where arrived on March 20, 1860.



E

GR. 2 blue (Palermo paper), strip of three stamps on three sheets letter from Palermo (August 25, 1859) to Girgenti.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

2 Grana: plate III (letters)



E

GR. 2 very dark blue (Naples paper), three stamps on registered letter of a sheet and a half from S.STEFANO DI CAMASTRA to Messina, where arrived on July 28, 1859 (like mark on the back).



E

GR. 2 greenish blue (Naples paper), strip of four stamps on two sheets registered letter from LEONFORTE to Palermo (mark "PALERMO ARRIVO 19 AGO 59"). The oval mark "ASSICURATA" was put on arrival in Palermo.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

5 Grana - Two plates - Quantity: 200.000 stamps printed, 95.388 sold

The value of 5 grana was useful for paying various letter fees. Were made two plates: the first was printed on Naples paper and Palermo paper, the second only on Palermo paper. The first plate had 5 retouched stamps, the second only one.

5 Grana: plate I – Naples paper



E

GR. 5 pink carmine



E

GR. 5 carmine



GR. 5 dark carmine



GR. 5 blood red



E

GR. 5 brown red



E

GR. 5 pink vermilion



GR. 5 pink brick



E

GR. 5 pink carmine, block
(pos.21/22,31/32, ex Alphonse)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

5 Grana: plate I – Naples paper (used)



E

GR. 5 pink carmine



GR. 5 carmine



GR. 5 dark carmine



E

E

GR. 5 brown red



GR. 5 pink vermilion



GR. 5 blood red

Fragment from a letter mailed to the ship. On arrival in Naples was put the mark "ANNULLATO"



E

E

GR. 5 pink brick



E

GR. 5 pink carmine, strip of three
(pos.88, 89, 90)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

5 Grana: plate I – Naples paper (letters)



GR. 5 pink carmine on letter of two sheets and a half from CATANIA (July 15, 1859) to NAPOLI. The letter arrived in Palermo (July, 18) and left for Napoli on July 20 with the “Corriere Siciliano” (Florio Company).



GR.5 carmine, two stamps on first rate letter from Palermo (March 29, 1860) with the ship “Elettrico” of the Florio Company, which left for Napoli. On arrival in Genova the letter was taxed “5” (50 cent.).

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

5 Grana: plate I – Naples paper (letters)



E

GR. 5 pink carmine with 1 grano dark olive green (Palermo paper) plate III on registered letter of a sheet and a half from SALEMI (one of the three registered letter known) to Palermo (March 16, 1860).



E

GR. 5 blood red with 1 grano greyish olive green (Palermo paper) plate II - pair plus one - on two sheets registered letter from Palermo (August 23, 1859) to Girgenti



The Stamps

5 Grana: plate I – Naples paper (letters)



GR. 5 pink carmine with 10 grana dark blue and 1 grano olive green (Palermo paper) plate III on registered letter of an ounce (16 grana) from Palermo (September 3, 1859) to Catania.



GR.5 dark carmine in pair plus 20 grana slate gray and 2 grana light blue (Palermo paper) plate I on front of a letter of a sheet and a half from Messina (December 19, 1859) to Genova with the French ship "Pausilippe". On arrival the letter had the red mark "PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI" and was taken "2".



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

5 Grana: plate I – Palermo paper



GR. 5 light vermilion



GR. 5 vermilion
(different nuances)



GR. 5 light vermilion
Vertical strip of three
(pos.73, 83, 93)

5 Grana: plate I – Palermo paper (used)



GR. 5 light vermilion



GR. 5 vermilion
(different nuances)



GR. 5 light vermilion, pair

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

5 Grana: plate II – Palermo paper



GR. 5 vermilion



GR. 2 bright vermilion
(different nuances)



E

GR. 2 bright vermilion, block
(pos.83/84, 93/94)

5 Grana: plate II – Palermo paper (used)



GR. 5 vermilion



GR. 2 bright vermilion



The Stamps

5 Grana: plate II – Palermo paper (letter)



GR. 5 bright vermilion, strip of four (pos. 1/4), with 10 grana indigo, pair (pos. 41/42) on registered letter of two ounce and a half (40 grana) from PET. SOPRANA (Petralia Soprana) to Palermo (February 1, 1860).

The only known strip of 4 stamps of 5 grana plate II on letter



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

10 Grana - Quantity: 100.000 stamps printed, 78.892 sold

The value of 10 grana was useful to pay different rates letter. Was made only one plate on Naples paper and twelve stamps of the cliché were retouched.

10 Grana



GR. 10 dark blue
(different nuances)



GR. 10 black indigo



GR. 10 indigo



GR. 10 black indigo, block
(pos.83/84, 93/94)

10 Grana (used)



GR. 10 dark blue
(different nuances)



GR. 10 black indigo



GR. 10 indigo



The Stamps

10 Grana (letters)



GR. 10 dark blue on letter of one ounce and ¼, unusual rate, from CASTELVETRANO to Palermo (arrival date November 7, 1859).



GR. 10 dark blue plus 1 grano olive, plate II, on one sheet letter from Messina (August 29, 1859) to Napoli with the French ship "Vatican".



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

10 Grana (letters)



E

GR. 10 dark blue, pos.87, with 2 grana blue (Palermo paper), plate II pos.82, on Three sheets registered letter from NARO to Palermo (arrival date March 5, 1860)



E

GR. 10 indigo (pos.35) plus 2 grana pair cobalt blue, plate II pos.55/56, on one sheet and a half letter from Palermo (January 26, 1859) with the ship "Corriere Siciliano". Arrived at the port of Civitavecchia had the mark "CIVITAVECCHIA DALLA VIA DI MARE", not common on letters from Sicily. On arrival in Roma was taxed "24" bajocchi.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The Stamps

20 Grana - Quantity: 100.000 stamps printed, 42.071 sold

The value of 20 grana was useful to pay different rates, especially for letter addressed to other Italian States or abroad. Only one plate was made, printed on Naples paper, and only one stamp of the cliché was retouched.

20 Grana



GR. 20 gray slate



GR. 20 black slate



GR. 20 dark slate violet

E



GR. 20 dark slate



GR. 20 purple slate

E



GR. 20 gray slate, block
(pos.84/85, 94/95)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

20 Grana (used)



GR. 20 gray slate



GR. 20 black slate



GR. 20 dark slate violet



GR. 20 dark slate



GR. 20 purple slate



E

GR. 20 gray slate on part of a two sheets letter from Palermo (January 26, 1859) with the ship "Corriere Siciliano". At the port of Civitavecchia had the postal mark "CIVITAVECCHIA DALLA VIA DI MARE". On arrival in Roma was taxed "32" bajocchi.



The Stamps

20 Grana (letters)



E

GR. 20 purple slate plus 2 grana blue (Palermo paper), plate I, on first rate letter to Torino, with the French ships until Genova. The letter, written in Reggio (Calabria), left Messina on May 27, 1860, the same day Garibaldi arrived in Palermo.



E

GR. 20 dark slate plus 5 grana pink carmine, plate I, on first rate letter from Catania (March 25, 1860) to Genova with the French ships. To the rate (22 grana) 3 grana were added to transport the letter until Messina.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

20 Grana (letters)



E

GR. 20 slate gray plus 2 grana light blue (Palermo paper), plate I, on first rate letter from Messina (November 21, 1859) to Torino, with the French ship "CAPITOL" until Genova. The letter, delivered directly to the ship, had the stamps cancelled with the mark with points and a small anchor and the circular nominative mark of the ship. In transit, Genova put the mark "PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI" and the tax cancellation "10" (1 Lira), as if the letter had no stamp and was arriving from France.

It's the only recorded letter with this type of marking



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

50 Grana - Quantity: 25.000 stamps printed, 7.174 sold

The value of 50 grana is obviously that less used. It was useful to pay the most high rate, especially for letters addressed abroad. Only one plate was made, printed on Naples paper and only two stamps of the cliché were retouched.

50 Grana



GR. 50 brown lacquer
(different nuances)

GR. 50 chocolate



E



GR. 50 dark purple lacquer
(different nuances)



E

GR. 50 brown lacquer, block
(pos. 2/3, 12/13)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

50 Grana (used)



GR. 50 brown lacquer



GR. 50 chocolate



GR. 50 dark purple lacquer



GR. 50 chocolate plus 10 grana indigo, 5 grana pink carmine, plate I, and 1 grano olive brown (Naples paper), plate II, on fragment of 66 grana.

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The Stamps

50 Grana (letter)



E

GR. 50 brown lacquer (pos. 93 retouched) plus 10 grana dark blue (pos.60 retouched), 5 grana vermilion (Palermo paper), plate II, and 1 grano olive green (Naples paper), plate III, on three sheets (66 grana) letter from Messina. The letter left with the French ship "Quirinal" for Genova on May 14, 1860, the same day in which Garibaldi assumed the dictatorship in Sicily.

It's the only letter recorded with the 50 grana pos.93 with retouche



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The retouched stamps

Several retouches were made before printing the stamps to correct the imperfections of the copper plates (in the contours or in the King's image). Only 3 of the 13 plates had no retouch.

½ Grano plate I: the plate had 7 retouched stamps

½ Grano: plate I



orange pos.19



orange pos.68



orange pos.31



yellow light orange pos.69



dark orange pos.99



The retouched stamps

1 Grano plate I: the plate had 22 retouched stamps.
Four of the 22 were retouched again in the second state



brown rust pos.18
(first state)



deep rust brown pos.27
(first state)



brown rust pos.55
(first state)



olive brown pos.89
(first state)



olive green greyish pos.98
(second state)

Double retouch



olive green greyish pos.18
(second state)



olive brown greyish pos.87
(second state)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The retouched stamps

1 Grano plate I



1 grano (first state) rust brown, pos. 51 retouched, with 5 grana pink carmine (plate I) pos.47 on registered letter of a sheet and a half from Catania (June 10, 1859) to Messina.



1 grano (first state) deep rust brown, pos. 57 retouched, with 2 grana blue (plate III) on letter from Catania (October 5, 1859) to Messina. Taxed "1", on arrival in Messina had the "AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE" mark.

E



The retouched stamps

1 Grano plate II: the plate had 7 retouched stamps



olive brown pos.59
(Naples paper)



light olive brown pos.69
(Naples paper)



olive pos.84
(Naples paper)

Other retouches of the plates became necessary in later times, as some clichés had deteriorated. So for some positions there is the stamp with and without retouche.



1 gr. dark brown olive, pair
pos.61/62, no retouched



1 gr. olive
pos. 62 with retouche



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The retouched stamps

1 Grano plate II



1 grano olive brown, 2 stamps, pos. 57 and pos.52 retouched, on first rate letter from Palermo (August 2, 1859) to Trapani.



1 grano olive brown, pair, pos. 69 retouched, and 70, on first rate letter from Catania (March 23, 1859) to Messina.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The retouched stamps

1 Grano plate II



E

1 grano light olive brown, pos. 82 retouched, with 2 grana light blue (plate I), 4 stamps with pos. 82 and 84 retouched, on letter from Palermo (November 5, 1859) to Livorno.



1 grano greyish olive green, pair, pos.83 and pos.84 with retouche, on first rate letter from MODICA (October 13, 1859) to Messina.



The retouched stamps

2 Grana plate I: the plate had 17 retouched stamps



E

2 gr. blue (Palermo paper) strip of 5 with 2 stamps retouched
(pos. 4,5,6, 7 retouched, 8 retouched)



2 gr. cobalt blue (Naples paper)
(pos.36)



2 gr. bright blue (Naples paper)
(pos.41)



2 gr. light blue (Naples paper)
(pos.51)



2 gr. blue (Palermo paper)
(pos.55)



2 gr. blue (Palermo paper)
(pos.71)



The retouched stamps

2 Grana plate I: the plate had 17 retouched stamps



2 gr. blue (Palermo paper) pos.78 on part of first rate letter from Messina (May 7, 1859) to Palermo



2 gr. light blue (Naples paper) (pos.79)



2 gr. bright blue (Naples paper) (pos.81)



2 gr. light blue (Palermo paper) (pos.82)



2 gr. light blue (Palermo paper) (pos.84)



2 gr. light blue (Naples paper) (pos.88)



2 gr. blue (Naples paper) (pos.91)



2 gr. blue (Palermo paper) (pos.92)



2 gr. bright blue (Naples paper) (pos.94)



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The retouched stamps

2 Grana plate I



2 grana cobalt blue, 2 stamps (pos. 51 retouched and 70) on second rate letter from SIRACUSA (January 31, 1859) to Trapani, via Palermo (February 2, 1859)



2 grana pale blue, 4 stamps (pos. 6, 38, 53 and 57 retouched) on two sheets registered letter from MESSINA (February 12, 1859) to Palermo.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The retouched stamps

2 Grana plate I



2 grana blue (Palermo paper), strip of 4 stamps (pos. 71 with retouch, 72, 73, 74) on one ounce letter from S.STEFANO DI CAMASTRA to Messina (October 6, 1859)

E



2 grana light blue (Naples paper), pair (pos. 84 with retouch and 85) on two sheets letter from CORLEONE to Palermo (July 15, 1859).

V



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The retouched stamps

2 Grana plate II: the plate had 6 retouched stamps



2 gr. blue (Palermo paper) pos.45



2 gr. cobalt blue (Naples paper) pos.83



E

2 grana blue (Naples paper) pos. 81 retouched, on first rate letter from PARTINICO to Palermo (April 22, 1859).



2 grana dark cobalt with 2 grana cobalt blue (pos. 83 retouched) on registered letter from CEFALU' (May 3, 1859), without the nominative postmark, to Palermo.



The retouched stamps

5 Grana plate I: the plate had 5 retouched stamps



5 gr. pink carmine (Naples paper)
pos.5



5 gr. dark carmine (Naples paper)
pos.10



5 gr. carmine (Naples paper)
pos. 19



5 gr. carmine (Naples paper)
pos.46

5 Grana plate II: the plate had only 1 retouched stamp



5 gr. bright vermilion (Palermo paper)
pos. 90



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The retouched stamps

5 Grana plate I



5 grana carmine (Naples paper) pos. 5 retouched with 2 grana blue, plate I (Palermo Paper), and 1 grano olive brown, plate II (Naples paper) on two sheets registered letter from SIRACUSA (September 19, 1859) to Monreale.



5 grana pink carmine (Naples paper) pos. 19 retouched with 2 grana blue, plate I (Palermo Paper) pos 81 retouched, and 1 grano grayish olive green, plate II (Naples paper), pos.35 double print, on two sheets registered letter from CALTAGIRONE to Palermo (September 9, 1859).

E



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 - 1860

The retouched stamps

10 Grana: the plate had 12 retouched stamps



dark blue pos.1



dark blue pos.4



indigo pos.5



indigo pos.8



indigo pos.9 with 5 grana pink carmine on fragment to Naples (March 15, 1859)



indigo pos.11



dark blue pos.21



dark blue pos.53



dark blue pos.58



indigo pos.60



dark blue pos.61



indigo pos.91



The retouched stamps

10 Grana



E

10 grana dark blue pos. 5 retouched with 2 grana blue, plate III (Naples paper), pair on first rate letter from PALERMO (May 4, 1859) to Firenze with the commercial ship until Naples. From there continued by land to destination, where it was taxed "6" crazie.



E

10 grana indigo, pos. 11 with retouche, on first rate letter from PALERMO (February 1, 1860) to Rome. On arrival in the Papal State was taxed "24" bajocchi.



Kingdom of Sicily 1859 – 1860

The retouched stamps

20 Grana : the plate had only 1 retouched stamp



gray slate pos.72

50 Grana : the plate had 2 retouched stamps



brown lacquer pos.67



brown lacquer pos.93



Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Double print

The double print is due to accidental strokes of the inked plate on a sheet already printed.



E

GR. 1/2 orange, plate I (Palermo paper)
Double print on the left
the only known



E

GR. 1 olive brown pair, plate II (Naples paper)
Double print on the left



GR. 2 light blue, plate I (Naples paper)
Double print on the left



E

GR. 2 bright blue, plate I (Naples paper)
Double print on the left



GR. 5 light vermilion, plate I
(Palermo paper)
Double print on the left



E

GR. 5 vermilion, plate I
(Palermo paper)
(with GR. 1 olive brown plate II)
Double print on the right
the only known



GR. 5 pink carmine, plate I
(Naples paper)
Double print on the left



E

GR. 20 gray slate
Double print on the right



Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Double engraving

The double engraving is constantly present only in three positions of 1 grano, II plate (30, 32,35), and 50 grana (43,62,70). The effect is evident in the wording of the effigy of the King.



Gr. 1 light olive green
plate II, pos.30



Gr. 1 greyish olive green
plate II, pos.30



Gr. 1 greyish olive green
plate II pos. 32



Gr. 1 greyish olive green
plate II pos.35



Gr. 50 brown lacquer
pos.62



E



Gr. 50 brown lacquer
pos.70



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Oily print

It's due to the action of vegetable fats, sometimes in the brownish glue, that penetrating through the porous paper reach the printed surface giving it an oily appearance: at the back it's possible see the image of the stamp with an effect called "tête d'hivoire".



Gr. ½ arancio, plate II
(Palermo paper)



Gr. 1 olive brown, plate II
(Naples paper)



Gr. 2 pale blue, plate I
(Naples paper)



Gr. 5 pink carmine, plate I
(Naples paper)



Gr. 10 dark blue



Gr. 20 grey slate



Gr. 50 brown lacquer

E



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Dry print

It's due to insufficient moistening of the paper or to drying of the ink. It's also called "poor print" and changes the appearance of the stamps.



Gr. 1/2 arancio, plate I
(Naples paper)



Gr. 1 olive green, plate II
(Naples paper)



Gr. 2 blue, plate II
(Naples paper)



Gr. 5 light vermilion, plate I
(Palermo paper)



Gr. 10 dark blue



Gr. 20 grey slate



Gr. 50 brown lacquer

E



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Recto-verso print and decals

They are really rare stamps with recto-verso print. Occasionally there are also stamps with part of the print on the back, probably by contact with other sheets of stamps not yet dry.



Gr. 2 blue, plate I, pos. 74, light blue back
(Naples paper)



Gr. 1 olive green, plate III
(Naples paper)



Gr. 1 olive green, plate III
(Naples paper)



Gr. 2 light blue, plate II
(Naples paper)



Gr. 5 vermilion, plate I
(Palermo paper)

Breaking of the print chalcographic screen



Gr. 1 rust brown, plate I,
(Naples paper)

E



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Color spots

There are three stamps that always have the same color spot. In others they are frequently found and in some occasionally.

The three stamps with constant color spots



Gr. ½ orange, plate I, pos. 97
(Palermo paper)



Gr. 2 blue, plate I, pos. 30
(Palermo paper)



Gr. 5 vermilion, plate II, pos. 57
(Palermo paper)

Frequently color spot



Gr. ½ dark orange, plate II, pos. 74
(Naples paper)

Occasional considerable color spots



Gr. 2 bright blue, plate II, pos. 36
(Naples paper)



Gr. 2 cobalt blue, plate II, pos. 48
(Naples paper)



Kingdom of Sicily – 1859 -1860

Engraving and printing defects and varieties

Paper defects

Sometimes it is possible to find stamps with accordion folds of paper, vertical or horizontal, that existed before the press.



Gr. 1 greyish olive, plate II



Gr. 2 pale blue, plate I



Gr. 2 blue, plate I



Gr. 2 bright blue, plate III



Gr. 2 very dark blue, plate III

E



Gr. 50 brown lacquer

E



2 grana blue, plate I (Naples paper), on first rate letter from Palermo (February 11, 1859 to Assoro).



Fakes and reprints

The "De Sperati" 50 grana fakes

Jean De Sperati is considered the most skilled falsifier of philatelic rarities and there are also fakes on small sheets with his autograph. Obviously he also faked the stamps of Sicily and three types of the 50 grana falsified are known.



Gr. 50 brown lacquer, type A
(sheet with autograph)



E

Gr. 50 brown lacquer, type C
(different nuances)

Reprint on a part of the original plate of 50 grana

It dates back to 1938 the appearance on the market of some prints made on five original punches of the 50 grana plate, belonging to the Sicilian painter Francesco Camarda. Due to the deterioration, it was not possible to identify the position of the five punches in the plate. Only reprints from four punches are known, as the fifth was very damaged in the outlines.

From punch A



brown



black
(the only known)

From punch B



dark brown

From punch C



carmine brown



carmine