

*Gravford 992*

**PHILATELIC RECORD HANDBOOKS.**

**No. 2.**

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**The Stamps of the**  
**Duchy of Modena**

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**AND THE**

**Modenese Provinces.**

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**BY**

**DR. EMILIO DIENA.**

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**PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS.**



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The Stamps  
OF THE  
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AND THE  
MODENESE PROVINCES

WITH THE  
Foreign Newspaper Tax Stamps of the Duchy

BY  
DR. EMILIO DIENA

WITH SEVEN PLATES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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IN publishing an English version of the well-known treatise on the Stamps of Modena by Dr. Emilio Diena, the proprietors of the *Philatelic Record* desire to express their sincere thanks to the author for his careful revision of the translation, as well as for sundry additions which do not appear in the original text. It is believed that the work now contains all information upon the subject available up to the present time.

MANCHESTER,

*November, 1905.*

## PREFACE.

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**F**OR some years I have wished to publish a treatise dealing specially with the stamps of Modena, based not only on the decrees and postal regulations, but also upon an examination of the official documents and the registers of the Administration.

At first the scarcity of information and afterwards the want of time to examine and arrange the material collected have prevented me from carrying out this scheme until the present time.

I have taken advantage of some weeks of rest to devote myself to the task, and now only have I the opportunity of presenting the result of my researches. Although I have not been able to elucidate some special points, fortunately only of secondary importance, I trust that this contribution to the history of the Italian stamps will be received with favour.

The story is at first sight a very simple one:—In the Ducal period one issue only of postage stamps, and one series only during the Provisional Government of the Modenese Provinces. As to the newspaper stamps, six distinct kinds, one of which was not put into circulation, and nothing more. But in the classification of the numerous varieties met with in the Modenese issues, greater difficulties arise than in the case of any other old Italian State, because of the movable type in which the different values of the postage stamps and some of those for the newspapers are expressed.

The negotiations by means of the Postal Convention between the Duchy and Austria, with the obstacles placed in the way of carrying them into effect, the proposal, almost unknown to collectors, of having the stamps manufactured by the Imperial Royal Printing Office in Vienna, the temporary employment in the Provinces of Massa and Carrara of Sardinian stamps before the special issue for the Modenese Provinces, the interesting use of postmarks with the arms of Savoy to cancel the Ducal issues, then the list of

various printings and the supplies of each value issued and sold to the public, together with many other facts, deserve to be carefully explained with the guidance of documents. Nor have I confined my investigations to documents alone, but I have made use of hundreds of letters and papers relating to the postage and newspaper stamps of Modena, without which it would have been impossible to settle several important points, and particularly to determine the differences in the sundry printings, the order of succession of the various kinds of postmarks and so forth.

In Italy, where the collection of stamps is still considered, even by people of culture, a childish amusement, it will be thought a strange fancy to compile a work of this description. I shall not attempt to convert those who think thus; they need only disregard this volume, which is intended for philatelists. Unfortunately they do not, or will not, see how closely connected research of this kind is with historical geography, heraldry, numismatics, and sphragistics. Here it seems fitting to observe how much greater importance this subject acquires if one reflects that during the period in which the Ducal Stamps were used (1852-59), and afterwards those of the Provisional Government (1859-60) no special coinage existed.<sup>1</sup> Stamps being the only money-values issued during that period (if we except the "carte bollate") assume a greater historical interest; whatever, therefore, refers to their origin deserves, for this reason alone, to be known.

It would have been, perhaps, wiser to publish this work in French, German, or English, since in the former language there appeared in 1878 an important treatise, although incomplete and of much smaller proportion than the present one. Still I preferred to publish the result of my labours in Italian because it treats of Italian Stamps, although knowing that the number of readers will in consequence be restricted. If, however, I gain the approval of those interested in studies of this

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<sup>1</sup> After 1796 no money was coined in Modena. The Austro-Estensi who obtained the Government of the Duchy for the Treaty of Vienna in 1815, coined none. Duke Francesco V. thought of establishing a mint at Modena, and by a Decree of February 19th, 1859, ordered the issue of a series of coins, which was announced on August 10th, 1858, but had not time to carry his intention into effect. (See *Collez. Generale delle Leggi, Costituzioni, Editti, Proclami, &c., per gli Stati Estensi*, Vol. XXXVIII., Part I., p. 22, and Part II., p. 1).

nature, I shall feel largely compensated for the indifference of the many and glad to have produced the first philatelic monograph in the Italian language.

In these pages may be found certain bombastic and servile passages and expressions, and in some places a style rather barbarous than otherwise. I could not avoid quoting decrees, regulations, and correspondence written in language neither elegant nor pure. In some letters even the grammar seems weak. I had to reproduce the documents exactly as they appear: any one will recognise that the fault is not mine.

I cannot refrain from renewing my very sincere acknowledgments to those who, with remarkable and often repeated kindness, have facilitated my researches and placed at my disposal anything which would be useful, and to the few friends who have allowed me to examine the Modenese stamps in their possession, and been generous in information and suggestions. To all I am greatly indebted, and will gladly recognise my obligation by any means in my power.

I shall welcome reviews and criticisms of this book and pay the greatest attention to any fresh information communicated to me.

MODENA,

*April, 1894.*

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- The Stamps of the Modenese Provinces bearing forged postmarks, in "Illustrierte Briefmarken-Zeitung," Vol. VI., No. 21, p. 250, 1st November, 1893.
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# The Stamps of Modena.

By Dr. Emilio Diena.

## Introduction.\*

**M**ODENA, a Duchy from 1452 to 1859, but now forming part of the Kingdom of Italy, was a track of country, mostly mountainous, with an area of 2,371 square miles, extending from the Po on the north to the Mediterranean on the south. It was bounded on the north by Lombardy and the Papal States, on the east by the Papal States and Tuscany, on the south by Tuscany, Sardinia and the Mediterranean, and on the west by Sardinia and Parma. Its greatest length from Portovecchio on its northern frontier towards Mantua to the outlet of the Parmignola River on the Sardinian frontier is  $84\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and its greatest width from the Pass of Calama on the Papal and Tuscan frontier to the right bank of the Enza on the frontier of Parma 37 miles. It contained six provinces—Modena, Reggio, Guastalla, Frignano, Garfagnana, and Massa-Carrara. Its history is comparatively unimportant, consisting mainly like that of many of the smaller European countries, of a record of internal seditions and revolutions, struggles for supremacy by various factions, petty wars with adjoining states, invasions by more powerful adversaries, and final extinction at the hands of a neighbouring power.

Its capital was Modena, the ancient Mutina, formerly an Etruscan town, conquered first by the Gauls and afterwards annexed by the Romans, together with the rest of the territory of the Boii. It was traversed by the Via Æmilia, which still divides it into the old and new city. In 83 B.C. it became a Roman Colony and was held by Marcus Brutus against Pompeius in 78 B.C., and thirty-four years later against Marcus Antoninus by Decius Brutus. In the 4th century the city was in a state of decay but it was rebuilt and refortified in the 9th century by its Bishop Laedoinus. At the end of the 11th century it formed one of the possessions of Countess Matilda of Tuscany, but when its Cathedral was consecrated in 1184 by Lucius III. it was a free community. It took the part of Emperor Frederick II. during his wars with Gregory IX., though its policy was ultimately disturbed and modified by the strong influence of the papal party. In 1288 Obizzo d'Este became the recognised lord of the city, which, however, after the death of his successor Azzo VIII. in 1308, resumed its communal independence. This continued for a very short time, as in 1336 we find the Este family again in possession. It was made a Duchy by Frederick III. in 1452, Borso d'Este being the first Duke, and after the incorporation of Ferrara with the States of the Church in 1598, it became the ducal residence. Towards the end of the next century Maria Beatrice, the only daughter of Ercole III.,

\* Compiled from various sources by G.F.H.G.

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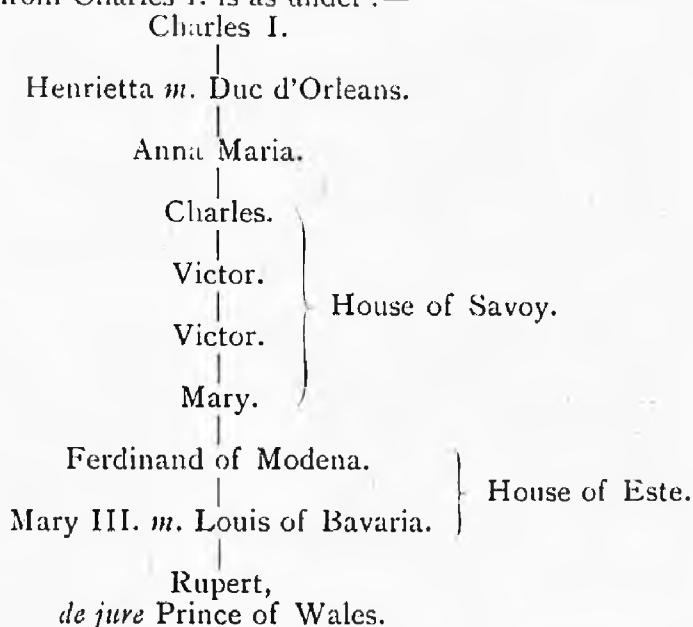
married Ferdinand of Austria, son of Maria Theresa, and in 1814 their eldest son, Francis IV., received back the Duchies of Modena and Reggio, which had been lost by his grandfather when the peace of Campo Formio was arranged. His rule was subservient to Austria, reactionary and despotic, and although when the French Revolution of 1830 broke out he seemed at first inclined to favour a corresponding movement in Modena, yet he at once returned to his previous policy when the Austrian army had put an end to the insurrection in Central Italy. His successor, Francis Ferdinand V., followed, in the main, in his father's footsteps. On August 20th, 1859, the representatives of the Modenese, under the direction of Carlo Ferrari, declared their territory part of the Kingdom of Italy, a decision which was confirmed by the plebiscite of 1860.

The remarkable family of Este is inseparably connected with the history of Modena. From the time of Obizzo d'Este, before mentioned, until the Grand Duchy was absorbed in the kingdom of Italy, its members played the leading part in the administration of the country, their name finally becoming synonymous with that of the State itself. They were of Langobard origin, deriving their name from the town of Este, and were at an early date keepers of the marches of Upper Italy, receiving afterwards from the Emperors various districts and counties to be held as fiefs of the Empire. Albert Azzo II. married Kunitza or Kunigonda, sister of Welf or Guelph III., Duke of Carinthia, and as Welf died without issue, the eldest son of Kunitza, Welf IV., succeeded to his inheritance, and marrying a daughter of Otho II., Duke of Bavaria, was created Duke of Bavaria on Otho's death without male succession in 1071. Through him the House of Este became connected with those of Brunswick and Hanover, from whom are descended the Sovereigns of England. The Italian branch was founded by Welf's brother Fulco I., and for several centuries the history of the Este family is interwoven with that of other Italian princely houses, and with numerous struggles between Popes and Emperors. From the rivalry between the German Welfs and Weiblungen the names Guelphs and Ghibelines came to be used to describe the great opposing Italian parties, and as the head of the Guelph faction, the Estensi received at different periods the sovereignties of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio. They were distinguished as patrons of literature and fine arts, Alphonso I., who died in 1535, having married as his second wife the notorious Lucrezia Borgia, equally famous as a soldier and a statesman, being celebrated by all the poets of his time, and particularly by Ariosto. The German and Italian line, which had been separated since 1070, were reunited by the marriage of Charlotte of Brunswick with Rinaldo, who died in 1737, but the male line became extinct on the death of Ercole III. in 1803. With the death of Francis V. in 1875 the Austrian branch also became extinct, and the title passed to Archduke Francis, the eldest son of the Archduke Charles Louis.

The House of Este has an additional interest for English people through its connection with the Royal Family of England. Not only was it allied, as has already been said, with the Houses of Brunswick and Hanover, but it also appears in the genealogical tree of Mary of Modena, wife of Prince Louis of Bavaria, whom the Legitimist League



of Great Britain and Ireland claim as the lawful Queen of England. Her direct descent from Charles I. is as under :—



The Legitimist contention is that Mary of Bavaria is descended from an older branch of the Stuart family than our present Sovereign, and that the Act of Settlement passed in 1701, ignoring as it did the claims of fifty-five heirs in direct succession, is invalid.

The present town of Modena contains many handsome streets and buildings, prominent amongst them being the Cathedral, commenced in 1099 after the designs by Lanfranc, with its campanile, which is one of the great towers of Italy. The Ducal (now Royal) palace, dating from the seventeenth century, contained until 1879 the Este library of 90,000 volumes and 300 MSS., collections of coins, and until 1883 a gallery of pictures, including works by Guido, Correggio and other famous Italian masters. It has also a University, founded in 1678, with 35 professors and about 300 students. Its position on a good railway system, and a canal by way of the Panaro and the Po to the Adriatic, contribute to its commercial prosperity, and, besides a trade in agricultural products, its inhabitants deal extensively in silk, leather, vinegar, and cast metals. The population of the province in 1901 was 345,804.

### History.—Ducal Government.

The introduction into the Stati Estensi of franking before hand postal correspondence by means of stamps was brought about in consequence of the adhesion of the Duchy to a convention with the Empire of Austria, the preliminaries of which were commenced on the 3rd July, 1849.

The Government of the Duchy of Modena, incapable of any useful initiative in this cause, perhaps because it was ignorant of the large

benefits which the United Kingdom first, and other States afterwards, had derived from the postal reform, confined itself to adopting and applying the regulations which the Austrian Empire was introducing into the postal organisation.

Certainly, if the Directorate of the Post had known the very material advantages of an innovation which, by offering facilities to the public in sending their correspondence, simplifies the administrative work and tends to increase the revenue, it would have encouraged the practice and levelled the way for the Ducal Government.

The matter went forward in a variable manner: from July, 1849, to June, 1852, there was a period of uncertainty, and an interchange of letters between the Governments of Austria and of Modena, the one putting on pressure so that the actuality of postal reform, which was chiefly based on the use of stamps, should not be delayed, the other asking more than once for delays, soliciting the sending of postal regulations, demanding new information, and agreeing that the manufacture of the stamps should be confined to the Imperial Press of Vienna. If the Austrian Government had not resolved to send the Secretary of the Lombardo-Venetian Post to Modena many times, with power to facilitate the task of the Postal Authorities, the delays would certainly have been greater.

The following is the text of the preliminary Convention concluded between the Austrian Government and the Duchies of Modena and Parma (see *Collezione Generale delle Leggi, Costituzioni, Editti, Proclami, &c., per gli Stati Estensi*, Vol. XXVIII.); it was inserted in the *Messaggero*, Modena, page No. 192 of the 12th November, 1849:—

“No. 30.

“From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this day 21st November, 1849.

“Postal Convention between the Governments of Austria,  
Modena, and Parma.

“His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, Bohemia,  
Galizia, Lodomeria, Lombardia, Venezia, &c., &c.

“His Royal Highness the Archduke, Duke of Modena, &c., &c.

“His Royal Highness the Infant of Spain, Duke of Parma, &c., &c.

“In order to facilitate and keep alive the commercial relations between their States, and that it may help the suppression of those hindrances which arise out of the present rates for correspondence, and from the diverse methods which regulate the postal offices of the three Governments, they have with one accord arranged, and have nominated as their Plenipotentiaries:

“His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, Mr. Carlo Lodovico,  
Cavaliere of Bruck, Cavaliere of the Imperial Austrian Order of  
Leopold, his Minister of Commerce, &c.;

“His Royal Highness the Archduke, Duke of Modena, Mr.  
Teodoro Conte de Volo, Cavaliere of the Imperial Austrian  
Order of the Iron Crown, his Chamberlain, Councillor in the  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, &c.;

“His Royal Highness the Ducal Infant of Parma, Mr. Tommaso Baron Ward, Grand Cross of the Grand Ducal Order of S. Giuseppe di Toscana, Senator Grand Cross of the Constantine Order of S. Giorgio di Parma, Cavaliere of the First Class of the Order of S. Lodovico for the Civil Merit of Lucca, His Chamberlain, Councillor of State, &c.;

“Who, having met at Milan, and having shewn their full powers, found to be in correct and due form, have arranged and stipulated the following articles :—

“Art. 1. With the object that the three contracting States may have a uniformity of system in the Postal Letter Service, the Governments of Modena and Parma take it upon themselves to adopt and make their own the relative regulations and tariffs existing in the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, and to adopt, after arrangement with the Governments, those also which may be introduced into the same Kingdom, with power to reduce the tariffs to the more approximate equivalent of the legal money in the two current States.

“Art. 2. The rates which up to the present have been levied for parcels and letters, which, coming out of the three States are destined for one of the others, will be abolished, and those packages and letters instead will be simply taxed and treated like those for internal circulation.

“Art. 3. For correspondence to the Levant, which is executed by the Imperial Government, by land through European Turkey as well as by sea by means of steam vessels, the ‘Estense’ subjects and the Parmense will be put on the same footing as Austrian subjects in the payment of the overtax, which will go to the Austrian Postal Treasury.

“Art. 4. Power shall be given to the General Management of the Lombardo-Venetian post, and to those of the ‘Estense’ States and of the Duchy of Parma, to correspond together regarding the interchangeable service with the exception of having recourse to the diplomatic channels between State and State, in the cases in which the General Directors have not succeeded in agreeing amongst themselves.

“Art. 5. Each of the high contracting parties shall gather and give account of the claims which may be forwarded from any other party against the exactitude of the Postal Officials and employees of the first party; premising, however, such facts and justifications as may be the case, without prejudice to the truth of the remonstrance made.

“Art. 6. The existing postal conventions between the single contracting States shall remain fully observed as regards the portion which now may not be derogated, as well as also those in which each of them may be bound towards any other State. In case, however, any of these latter should offer greater facilities, they shall be extended also to the subjects of

each other of the contracting States in the same manner as they are enjoyed by the subjects of the one for which the said conventions are now in force. Other conventions with Italian States shall not be made without common agreement.

"Art. 7. The present convention shall come into force in three months from date of same. It is understood that in the meanwhile all details necessary for the execution shall be provided by the Imperial Government to those of Modena and Parma. It shall last five years, and it is intended to be renewed from year to year, unless any of the contracting States should give due notice six months before the termination of the agreement.

"Art. 8. At the expiration of the first year of the agreement, the results shall be presented by that or those States which may be interested, in order to ask and concert together for the remedies which may be necessary in case of considerable losses in the revenues of any of the High Parties.

"In testimony of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present in triple original and have placed thereto their seals.

"Milan, 3rd July, 1849.

"DE BRUCK.

T. DE VOLO.

T. WARD."

P.S.—Not having been able in the time stated to arrange amongst the Postal Directorates of the three States what is necessary for carrying out the above-mentioned agreement, which has already been approved and sanctioned by the High Parties contracting, the date on which it shall commence to have effect will depend on further official publication.

The following letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs announces to the Minister of Finance the fact of the agreement and of the delay in the execution of the same:—

"No. 97.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"Modena, 13th October, 1849.

"To the Minister of Finance in Modena.

"On the 3rd of July last an Agreement was concluded in Milan between the Imperial Austrian Government and those of Parma and Modena, in order to extend in these two latter States the regulations and the tariff for letter post existing or about to be introduced in the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom.

"And since such an innovation at the moment when it shall come into activity may influence the administrative results of the Postal Department, I have considered it opportune not to delay further in informing your Excellency, to whom therefore I send copy of the above-mentioned Agreement.

"And whilst I am about to take similar steps with the General Management of the Post, giving it power, in accordance with Art. IV., to put itself from now so far as is necessary in immediate communication with the other General Management of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, I find it indispensable to advise that although in Art. VII.

it is stated that the agreement must come into force after three months from date, notwithstanding that on account of arrangements made between the Plenipotentiaries, and officially communicated to the respective Foreign Ministers, it will only come into force after three months from the date of the last ratification, which, having only been issued by the Imperial Austrian Government on the 11th September, settles the time for the commencement of the Agreement as 11th December next.

“Yours faithfully,

“G. FORNI (*Minister*).”

The first mention of postage stamps is found in the following letter:—

“Modena, 13th May, 1850.

“General Directorate of Poste Estensi,

“To his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Modena.

“I have received to-day a letter from the Imperial Superior Postal Directorate in Verona which expresses the wish to know if the Austrian Administration has to provide against reimbursement of the relative expense of the manufacture of those stamps which are to be applied to letters posted in these postal offices, and if it will adhere to such a proposal.

“And further, if this General Directorate is disposed to keep the figure of the Royal Eagle on the stamps destined for use in your States, or if it is desired to have the Ducal Coat-of-Arms.

“As it appears that the Minister for Commerce in Vienna intends to begin the application of the stamps on the 1st July, a prompt reply is requested in order that the relative instructions may be distributed in the various branches; therefore, I think it my duty to submit the matter to the wise determinations of your Excellency, to whom I have the honour to be, &c.,

“GANDINI.”

The following is the way in which the Minister for Foreign Affairs presented a proposal for the approval of the Duke Francesco V. to nominate a Commission with power to “make uniform the Estense postal system with that Austrian system of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom.” There is allusion to the proposal to obtain the “bollini” (stamps) (the word “francobollo” had not yet been formed) from the Austrian Government.

The document bears the autographic approval of the Sovereign:—

“Modena, 18th May, 1850.

“Your Royal Highness.

“The commencement of the Postal Agreement concluded between the Government of Y.R.H. and those of Austria and of Parma on the 3rd July, 1849, and which, according to previous intelligence, ought to come into force on the 11th December, 1849, was deferred by agreement indefinitely in order to give time to the Imperial Minister to introduce first into the States the system of franking letters by means of ‘bollini’ (stamps), a system which was to have been extended with the above-mentioned Agreement also to the other two contracting States.

"Although in the meantime all the Austrian postal regulations might reach this General Directorate of the Post, which the Estensi post offices will have to always regulate according to the above-mentioned Agreement, no reform of the same could reasonably be undertaken, as there was then wanting the knowledge of the regulation of franking by means of stamps, which would have evidently changed the postal manipulation in force up to now in the Imperial States.

"And only now can study be applied to the best method of uniforming, as far as the Agreement requires, the Estense postal system with the Austrian one of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, when, through recent communication of the Superior Directorate of the Verona post, it has been possible to possess the Austrian arrangement for the adoption of stamps for franking, and to this end I would propose to your Royal Highness to institute a Commission composed of the Councillor of this Ministry, Count T. de Volo, of the employee which the Minister of Finance should wish to nominate, and of the General Director of the Post, N.U. Dr. Giovanni Gandini.

"With regard to the stamps which will be necessary for franking the letters leaving the State Post Offices, thinking that your Royal Highness will decide, on the basis of the Agreement of 3rd July, 1849, to adhere for the most part to this new system, I am in favour of accepting the offer of the Imperial Government to manufacture them for the simple cost of making them, similar to those chosen for the Austrian Monarchy, with the sole difference of the Coat-of-Arms, which for us would be the Eagle of Este, and with indication of the approximate equivalent value in Italian centimes.

"All this, requiring more time than it appears the Austrian Government, which has expressed the wish to enter with us, on the 1st July next, into the observance of the Agreement of 3rd July, 1849, and the system of franking with stamps, wishes to allow us, I am arranging for the General Directorate of the Post to have an indefinite delay granted, sufficient for the necessary operations.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

"G. FORNI.

"We approve of what is proposed.

"Modena, 18th May, 1850.

"FRANCESCO."

On the same day the Foreign Minister sent the following letter to the General Directorate of the Estense Posts, with the principal object of charging it to put itself into communication with the Austrian Postal Administration to obtain a further delay in the execution of the Agreement of July 3rd, 1849. The notes which are given in the document about the stamps, their design and their manufacture, are more precise than in the report presented to the Sovereign:—

"Modena, 18th May, 1850.

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

"To the General Directorate of the Post, Modena.

"After sending me with your letter No. 2,000 of the 16th October, 1849, the original letter of the 11th of the same month from the

General Postal Directorate for Lombardo-Venetia, when you showed me how the necessity might arise of deferring till an indefinite date beyond the 11th December, 1849, the putting into activity of the Postal Agreement between Austria, Modena and Parma, concluded on the 3rd July last, in authorising you to agree in the name of His Highness's Government to the prorogation asked for, I recommended you to observe then to the superior Imperial Authority that the Estense Government also would have, in its turn, to beg, as a reciprocity, for a similar delay, in order to put into execution a postal system which in no small way differs from the one now in force in these States.

"It was not long after that you informed me in your letter No. 69 of the 10th January after, that the above-mentioned General Directorate of Austria had begun to send you copies of the Regulations for letter postage existing in the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, and to facilitate the intelligence and application of which, it was going to send you one of its experts.

"However commendable may be the parallel between the actual Modenese postal system and the Austrian one to be adopted, which at my request you handed over to me, divided in two extensive memos., with your letter No. 388 of the 27th February, 1850, nevertheless you know that from this preparatory work no real profit could be obtained until the promised expert of the Postal Directorate of Verona (of whom there was no further news) had arrived here to give the many indispensable material explanations, or until the new Austrian regulations on the letter franking stamps was known, which it was reasonably supposed (which appears to be verified now it has become public) would have sensibly modified the preceding Austrian postal manipulation.

"For even when it would be possible to comprehend from the Regulations communicated to us, such precise information as would enable us to do without the assistance of the above-mentioned Imperial expert, it would be difficult to commence a reform in our post offices, and to publish through them a number of instructions which would not be in complete harmony with the new arrangements dated from Vienna on the 26th March, and which are only recently known through the delayed communication of the Superior Directorate of Lombardo-Venetia, which you announced to me on the 13th inst.

"I perceive from this that His Royal Highness's Government, on account of the restricted time, will find it absolutely impossible to comply with the wish expressed to you, *i.e.*, that the new method of franking with stamps and the Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, should come into force with us on the 1st of July next, and therefore I authorise you to make this all known, with the copy of the present also, to the Superior Austrian Directorate, in order that it may be pleased to obtain the ministerial permission for a prolonged delay, which would certainly not be taken advantage of beyond what is simply necessary for organising the Estensi post offices on the basis of the Austrian regulations according to the Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, planning the application of same, and more particularly of the further arrangements of the 16th March last. And also in order that this application may be carried out in the most expeditious and

regular manner, I am about to propose to His Royal Highness the formation of a Commission to occupy itself with the matter independently, and if it pleases His Royal Highness to sanction the project you will be called to take part in it.

"As, notwithstanding, up to now nothing exists to exclude in the least the principle of franking letters with stamps, you are authorised to reply, in conformity as far as circumstances permit with what is wisely foreseen in the relative arrangements, to the Superior Postal Directorate in Verona, that this Government will be pleased if the Imperial Government will supply it with the approximate consumption of stamps for one year, stating that you wish to know the cost to be refunded to the Austrian Government, adopting also as regards colour and other matters the stamps of the I.R. post, with the sole difference that instead of the double-headed eagle, the Estense Eagle should be represented.

"Since Art. 1 of the Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, leaves to the State of Modena the faculty of reducing the tariff to the most approximate equivalent in legal money then current in it, so every time the stamps in question have to bear the indication of their value, probably in the body of the eagle, this could not be as determined in Par. 14 of the Arrangement of 26th March, but would be as nearly as possible corresponding in Italian centimes.

"In your reply you will have to reserve yourself the power to give the complete *number* of stamps of each kind and value which may be necessary for sale and use in the post offices of the State, and also to send to the Superior Directorate in Verona the design of the Coat-of-Arms adopted by us, and also the exact indication of the values which will have to be printed in each different colour of the Estensi stamps.

"I hope that you will second me with your usual zeal, and remain, &c.,

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

"G. FORNI."

The letter which follows from the Director of the Estense Posts to the Minister for Foreign Affairs is especially important as regards the expectation of the consumption of stamps, which only partly correspond to what took place:—

"Modena, 30th May, 1850.

"General Directorate of the 'Estensi' Posts,

"To his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Modena.

"For the purpose of replying to the Superior Directorate of the Post in Verona about the number of stamps which presumably may be necessary for the service of this R.D. Post, I have deemed it convenient to institute a count of the number of letters circulating in the State and leaving for abroad during six weeks, and the result obtained appears on the enclosed.

"The comparison of Austrian with Italian money now current in these States for the prices which are to be put on the stamps is also included on the enclosed.



"I have kept to those prices which are described in the arrangements for carrying letters dated 26th March, 1850, published by the Minister of Commerce, Mr. Bruck, for the Imperial Austrian Post Offices.

"To completely comply with the demands put forward by the Imperial Directorate of the Post in Verona, only the design of the 'Estensi' Coat-of-Arms is wanting, which, from your letter to me of the 18th May, 1850, I think you will have the kindness to send to me.

"With a following letter dated the 16th inst. the above-mentioned Directorate again asks for the information I here give you, and at the same time informs me that in a few days Mr. Guglielmo Triebel, Imperial Secretary, will arrive here for the necessary information and instruction on the new Postal Regulations which, according to the wish explained in the letter, it is desired should come into force on the 1st July next.

"As such a wish cannot be carried out on account of the reasons given in your letter of last month, which I have already communicated to the Superior Directorate, I shall not delay in replying, according to the instructions which you may send me.

"Yours, &c.,

"Enclosure :

"GANDINI.

"The prices of Austrian stamps exchanged into Italian lire correspond :

"Austria	5 cent	to Italian	5.
"	10	"	9.
"	15	"	13.
"	30	"	26.
"	45	"	39.

"The quantity of stamps consumed for six weeks presumably will be of

5 cent. Italian	...	...	...	600
9 "	"	...	...	4,600
13 "	"	...	...	19,400
26 "	"	...	...	500
39 "	"	...	...	5,300

"Modena, 27th May, 1850.

"The Director General,

"GANDINI."

Count Allegri, Minister for Austria at the "Estense" Court, asks in the following letter when the Postal Agreement will come into force in the Duchy of Modena :—

"Modena, 28th June, 1850.

"To his Excellency Count Forni,

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Modena.

"The undersigned, Resident Minister of his Imperial Majesty at the Court of Modena, has been expressly commissioned by his

Government to represent to the Government of his Royal Highness the necessity of removing the obstacles which are opposing the actual commencement of the new postal system, the terms of which were absolutely fixed in the Postal Agreement signed at Milan on the 3rd July, 1849.

"This system, which is to entirely conform to that in the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, is already in full activity in that State, and the Imperial Government cannot admit that purely local consideration, or perhaps the motive of Art. 1 of the Treaty for reducing the tariff to the most approximate equivalent of the legal money in these States, should be the reason for such long delays, or that they should be the cause of postponing the execution of the treaty to an indefinite date.

"The Government of Modena accepted the Regulations of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom. Now it is only a matter of applying them.

"In asking the Count Forni to kindly give to these remarks of the Imperial Government the attention they deserve, the writer must request him to say in what space of time, after having concluded whatever inquiry is necessary, and firmly fixed the stipulations of the Treaty, which purely and simply admit the Lombardo-Venetian system as the one to be followed, this system can be started in the Estense States.

"Awaiting your reply with pleasure, &c.,

"ALLEGRI."

To the inquiry of the Austrian Government, forwarded through the Ambassador, Count Forni, the Minister for Foreign Affairs replies with the letter now reproduced, from which it is seen that Mr. Triebel, Postal Secretary in Lombardo-Venetia, arrived at Modena on the 27th June, 1850. It can easily be seen that the delays arose out of the difficulty which the manufacture of the stamps presented, about which no decision had yet been taken:—

"Modena, 2nd July, 1850.

"To Count Allegri, Minister of his Majesty, Modena.

"When the time fixed for the commencement of the Postal Agreement of 3rd July, 1849, was drawing near, without the notices and regulations necessary for its execution having been sent by the Imperial Government, as the Art. 7 of the above Agreement prescribes, the General Directorate of the Lombardo-Venetian Post brought before the General Directorate of the Post in the Duchy the necessity of deferring the commencement to an indefinite time, and quoted as a motive the intention of the Imperial Government to introduce into the postal system such principles as would have essentially modified the regulations and laws existing up to that time.

"By this the new method just introduced into Austria of the obligatory franking of letters by means of stamps is referred to.

"The Government of his Royal Highness, my Sovereign, agreeing in a large degree to the delay asked for, observed however, that it in its turn would have to beg, as a reciprocity, a similar delay to put into

execution a postal system so unlike the one at present in force in these States.

“Only on the 10th of January of this year did the Postal Directorate of Verona begin to send Books on the Laws and Regulations of the Austrian Postal Service with a promise of sending later one of its experts to facilitate the application of the service.

“It would have been useless to commence studying these laws and regulations until the arrangements for the obligatory franking by means of stamps had also been communicated, which, as already mentioned, will bring about such a great alteration in the system. And these arrangements, dated in Vienna on the 26th March, in which the Imperial Government, always through the Superior Postal Directorate of Verona, expressed the wish that the Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, should be commenced by us with the new method of franking on the 1st of July, only arrived at this Ministry in the middle of May last.

“But the shortness of the time assigned for this is so evident that this Government had to reply immediately that it was impossible to comply with such a wish, the fact of requesting and obtaining as a reciprocity the equal delay asked at first, as already stated, by the Imperial Government, seeming to be really justified.

“A suitable Commission was instituted here which gave the most careful attention in preparing a thoroughly suitable reform of our Postal Regulations and relative tariffs, in accordance with Art. 1 of the Agreement. The promised Austrian Postal expert, who by his presence was to smooth the fresh difficulties arising from the by no means negligible quantity of laws and postal maxims, up to the present strange to us, only arrived here recently, viz., on the evening of the 27th June last.

“After such an exact and genuine exposition of the facts, I leave it to you, Count, to judge the surprise caused to the Government of his Royal Highness by your letter addressed to me on the 28th June last, from which it would almost appear that it had wished to make obstacles without well-founded motives ‘to postpone the execution of the treaty to an indefinite date.’

“The Cabinet of his Imperial Majesty has too many proofs of the loyalty of the Estense Government to suppose that this Government is seeking with beggarly pretexts to withdraw from its obligations, since it is chiefly to accustom itself in this case, in the most regular and conscientious way, that it asks for only the time necessary for organising the extension of the Austrian Regulations in the Duchy, and for profiting by the explanations which will be supplied by the promised postal expert.

“Instead of raising up difficulties and promoting ‘unnecessary inquiries,’ the Government of Modena, by arranging to adopt without observation the Postal Regulations of the 26th March of the present year, is doing more than the Convention of the 3rd July imposes on it, since so far from the terms of the new system having been absolutely fixed in the same Agreement, as you consider, these Regulations or this new system, of later date than the Agreement, were precisely amongst those whose obligatory introduction in these States was to be preceded by necessary understandings between the Governments as per Art. 1.

"But even if it were as you are pleased to add that 'The Government of Modena accepted the regulations of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom' (meaning perhaps not only the regulations previous to 3rd July, 1849, but also those after), 'and that now it is only a matter of applying them,' the Government of his Royal Highness must conclude that, in order to work a similar application, and because the Austrian postal expert who was to facilitate matters has only recently arrived here, the delay asked for, the extent of which at present cannot be stated with any precision, but will perhaps be till the end of September, is indispensable.

"Nevertheless, I request you to kindly assure the Imperial Cabinet that the Government of Modena will hasten the execution of the Postal Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849.

"Yours, &c.,

"G. FORNI,

"Minister for Foreign Affairs."

In the following letter the Foreign Minister proposes an arrangement with the Parmense Government for the value to be given to each kind of postage stamp, using in the two States the same equivalent of the Austrian money:—

"Modena, 10th July, 1850.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"To the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Parma.

"Art. 1 of the Postal Agreement signed in Milan on the 3rd July, 1849, between the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, Modena and Parma, whilst decreeing that the two Duchies should adopt the laws and regulations of the Austrian postal service then in force in the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, reserves the faculty to the two Duchies to reduce the tariff to the approximate equivalent of their legal money current.

"Since, therefore, the amounts to be calculated for making this reduction are those of the recent Austrian arrangements of the 26th March last, in which the obligatory franking of letters by means of stamps is prescribed, the postal expert, Mr. Triebel, Secretary of the Superior Postal Directorate in Verona, having recently come to Modena, thinks that for these amounts it would largely help to keep to tens and half tens, and that therefore the Ducal Government of Parma, instead of adopting the single more approximate reductions in Italian centimes of the Austrian centimes, settled upon the above-mentioned arrangements, should adopt the following progression, proposed by Mr. Triebel:

"For the Austrian stamps of 5 Austrian centimes, correspond stamps of 5 Italian centimes for the Duchy, for 10—10, for 15—15, for 30—25, for 45—40.

"Whilst the Government of his Royal Highness is working with all haste to arrange beforehand everything necessary for putting into operation the Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, which, on account of

the large amount of work necessary, cannot come into effect before next September, and, as it is necessary meanwhile to settle on the above-indicated prices in order to get the stamps ready, I beg you to let me know if your Government will adhere to this progression given above, as the Government of Modena would in this case adopt it, having the same legal money as Parma. If, however, your Government does not accept it, I would request you to kindly indicate to me what other series of values your Administration thinks would satisfy the case in Art. 1 of the Agreement of 3rd July, 1849.

“Awaiting your reply, &c.,

“The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

“G. FORNI.”

The following is the affirmative reply from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Duchy of Parma :—

“Parma, 17th July, 1850.

“To His Excellency Count Forni,

Foreign Minister for the Duchy of Modena.

“Referring to my letter of the 11th July, No. 2088, I hasten to inform you that I am now assured by our Finance Department that it has already been arranged between the Postal Directorate of Parma and Mr. Triebel that when the Postal Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, comes into force, the conversion of the Austrian money into the money of Parma, and the letter taxes to be paid in these Duchies, will conform in every way to what you have written to me in your dispatch of the 10th inst.

“Having satisfied your kind enquiries, I remain, &c.,

“The President of the Interior,

“Provisionally entrusted with foreign business,

“V. CORNACCHIA.”

On the 17th July, 1850, the Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated to the Minister of Finance and to the Postmaster-General the power given to the resident Austrian Minister for the execution of the stamps at Vienna. The Minister for Finance, in the memorandum attached to the following letter, considered the possibility of forging the stamps, which he thought could be obviated by introducing a secret mark in the design; he would then advise the Estense Government to reserve the power of having the dies and matrices sent from Vienna and of doing the printing in the Duchy. The Foreign Minister took into consideration the suggestions contained in the memorandum, and even in the letter which follows it, addressed to the Austrian Ambassador, fully conforms to them. To this is added a tariff for the carriage of letters according to weight and a list of the various denominations of stamps to be made and of the respective quantities of each value. According to these requests, the stamps were to be of fourteen kinds.

" Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

" Modena, 17th July, 1850.

" To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

" In consequence of the conversations I have had with your Excellency about carrying out the Postal Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, with the Austrian Postal System, I have asked the Imperial Resident Minister, Count Allegri, to kindly arrange with his Government for making the quantity of letter stamps which may be necessary in order to commence the use of them in a suitable time, reducing the prices to the legal tender of these States, in conformity with what was arranged at Parma also, and not neglecting the idea which this Government has of adopting for the Interior the weight of half the letter with a suitable reduction of postage.

" And in order that your Excellency may be fully informed about what has been written by me to the above-mentioned Count Allegri, I send you copy of the letter, with which is enclosed the tariff for the carrying of letters, in Italian money, and a list of the quantities of the stamps, the manufacture of which is now requested.

" Yours, &c.,

" The Minister,

" G. FORNI.

#### " MEMORANDUM.

" " Whilst this is a question of fundamental and almost exclusively administrative arrangements, it is understood as a regular rule that they proceed also from those of finance.

" " The design of the coat of arms will be necessary, as care will have to be taken in order to avoid forgeries, and for this object it would be well if a secret mark were introduced in the die.

" " The list of the quantity of stamps wanted is missing, and it is not known why the Finance Department is to be bound in the method of distributing same.

" " In any case, the demand for only six weeks' supply is considered too small; it might be extended to three months with a reduction of the expenses, and in order not to run the risk of getting short at the commencement; for this purpose the request should be repeated before the limited quantity which is now asked for arrives.

" " I would not omit to state that in the future the stamps can be made in the State, by having the dies and matrices returned, instead of being bound without exception "to ask for issues which may be necessary afterwards," and I think that the following might be added "and until the State can provide for itself."

" " I repeat that for the first lot an official understanding is really necessary, in order that the distributing and stock books can be modelled and executed, and also the corresponding books in the various offices, as, in case this was not done, the interest of the Administration would not be assured.

" " 18th July, 1850.

" " F. TARABINI,

" " Minister of Finance.' "

“Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

“Modena, 17th July, 1850.

“To Count Allegri,

Resident Austrian Minister at this Court, Modena.

“From the time, after the Postal Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, when it was seen that Austria wished to introduce into its States the obligatory franking of letters by means of stamps, his Highness's Government, thinking about the probability of extending such a system as foreseen in Art. 1 of the Agreement to this Duchy also, had a verbal request made to his Excellency the Minister for Commerce and Public Works, Cav. Baron de Bruck, whether the Imperial Government would condescend to supply, at least for the first year or years of this obligatory franking, and until the Estense Government should be in a position to make them in its own States, the necessary quantity of stamps for consumption in our Post Offices, making them like those of the Austrian monarchy, but with the Ducal coat of arms, and with indication of their value reduced to the approximate equivalent of the legal Estense tender, as Art. 1 of the Agreement gives the faculty for it.

“The above-mentioned Minister kindly assured me that the Imperial Government would execute for the Government of Modena, and for the pure cost of manufacture, the necessary quantity of letter stamps, which could be more precisely arranged at a time and place between the competent authorities of the two States.

“The moment having now arrived for profiting by the kind promises of his Excellency the Minister of Commerce, even before taking any step with regard to the Imperial Government, it was thought here that as the legal Modenese money is the Lira Italiana as in the State of Parma, it was indispensable that the two Ducal Governments should mutually agree together to combine in this money the most suitable approximate reduction of the Austrian tariffs prescribed in the arrangements of 26th March, 1850, on the obligatory franking with stamps, and these consultations having duly taken place, with the co-operation of the postal expert, Mr. Triebel, we have the result that whereas the progression of the values given on the imperial stamps is in 5, 10, 15, 30, 45 Austrian centimes, for the values to be given instead on the stamps of the two Duchies the progression must be in 5, 10, 15, 25 and 40 Italian centimes.

“It is on the basis of this progression that the enclosed Tariff for the conveyance of the letters for the Duchy of Modena has been drawn up, which is only an application of the above reduction fixed by the Tariff of the Austrian Post, joined to the arrangements of the 26th March, 1850, of his Majesty's Minister of Commerce. The advantage which is promised by a progression in tenths or half-tenths, either for greater facility in reckoning or for getting at the multiple, by using various stamps, of the tax wanted for an increased weight or distance, has caused the adopted progression to be preferred to one more approximating to the value of the Austrian Tariffs.

" However all this would always tend to render heavier (and chiefly in the case of 5, 10 and 15 centimes) the tariffs to be adopted by the State of Modena, where with the new system the rate for the second distance also would be increased to 25 centimes for many localities, whilst up to now the single letter for any distance inside the State was only charged at 10 centimes.

" Observing with all this that the new Austrian regulations for greater facility have fixed the weight of the single letter up to a \*'lotto' of Vienna, or double what it was before, and at the time of 3rd July, 1849, his Royal Highness's Government thinks it could remedy the inconveniences here mentioned as far as concerns the Duchy, by adopting for the correspondence circulating in the same Duchy the weight of the half letter also, which in each case of the different distance, smaller rates than those which correspond in the reduction of the Austrian Tariff to the single letter of a 'lotto' would apply.

" Premising all this detail to a more extensive knowledge of the question, I take the liberty of approaching your Highness to kindly arrange for the Imperial Government to act upon the verbal assurances to the Minister De Bruck, which have facilitated matters, *i.e.* for the Imperial Government to make, for account of the Estense States with the same exact methods, and for its own letter stamps, and for the sole prime cost as paid by the Imperial Treasury, the stamps for Modena also, in which instead of the Imperial Coat of Arms, the Ducal Arms (of which I enclose a drawing) are to be printed, and instead of the rates in Austrian centimes, those in Italian centimes to be given as per the enclosed tariff.

" And to gain time meanwhile for further supplies, I enclose also a table with indication of the approximate quantities of each kind of stamp necessary for us to commence the new system, and reserving the right to ask for further consignments which may be necessary in the future.

" It would help in no small degree the regularity of the relations which the Government of his Royal Highness enters into with that of his Imperial Majesty, if a time can be arranged with you during which the supply at Modena of the stamps made in Vienna could be organised as well as everything regarding the transmission of same from Vienna here, the time and manner of payment, and the reciprocal precautions which may be necessary for preventing delays in the manufacture and delivery, and also abuse and forgery, for which it might be useful to have a secret sign in the design, which would of course be made known to this Government. It will largely depend on the execution in good time of the first consignment asked for, whether it will be possible to commence the Postal Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849, in September next, as I ventured to hope in my previous letter of the 2nd inst.

" Yours &c.,

" (Signed) G. FORNI.

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\* Equivalent to 9.877 drams, avoirdupois.



## “LETTER TARIFF.

FOR A LETTER AND OTHER ARTICLES WHICH CAN BE SENT PER LETTER POST.	DISTANCE.						
	I.		II.		III.		
	Leagues in a direct line.						
	Up to and including 10		Beyond 10 and including 20.		Beyond 20.		
COST FOR CARRIAGE.							
Up to and including 1 lotto .. ..		Lire.	Cent.	Lire.	Cent.	Lire.	Cent.
Beyond 1 lotto and including 2 lotto..		—	15	—	25	—	40
2	3	—	30	—	50	—	80
3	4	—	45	—	75	1	20
4	5	—	60	1	00	1	60
5	6	—	75	1	25	2	00
6	7	—	90	1	50	2	40
7	8	1	05	1	75	2	80
8	9	1	20	2	00	3	20
9	10	1	35	2	25	3	60
10	11	1	50	2	50	4	00
11	12	1	65	2	75	4	40
12	13	1	80	3	00	4	80
13	14	1	95	3	25	5	20
14	15	2	10	3	50	5	60
15	16	2	25	3	75	6	00
		2	40	4	00	6	40

“Table of quantities of the different denominations of letter stamps, the manufacture of which is now requested, in order to put into action the system of obligatory franking with stamps:—

“Stamps of 5 centimes	...	...	...	20,000
“ 10 “	...	...	...	30,000
“ 15 “	...	...	...	30,000
“ 25 “	...	...	...	25,000
“ 40 “	...	...	...	20,000
“ 30 “	...	...	...	15,000
“ 50 “	...	...	...	12,000
“ 80 “	...	...	...	10,000
“ 1.00 lire	...	...	...	6,000
“ 2.00 “	...	...	...	5,000
“ 3.00 “	...	...	...	4,000
“ 4.00 “	...	...	...	2,000
“ 5.00 “	...	...	...	500
“ 6.00 “	...	...	...	500

Total stamps ... 180,000 ”

The preceding letter with its enclosures, among which was the Estense Coat of Arms, was immediately sent to Vienna, as will

be seen from the following reply from the resident Austrian Minister :—

“ Modena, 21st July, 1850.

“ To His Excellency Count Forni,

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Modena.

“ On the receipt of your dispatch of the 17th inst., which arrived only the day before yesterday, requesting me to obtain at Vienna the new stamps for franking letters as introduced into the Austrian Monarchy, for account of the Modena Government, with which you provided a drawing of the Ducal Arms to be printed on the same stamps, with a letter tariff to be adopted in these States, and finally a table of the approximate quantities of each kind of stamp which will be necessary in the Duchy of Modena for starting the new system, I did not fail to immediately submit the original dispatch and its enclosures to the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs, supporting the expression of your opinions and calling the attention of my Government to every principal point of your letter.

“ I will give you later a more complete reply as soon as I hear the intentions of my Court, which I do not doubt will be favourable to your demands, and remain, &c.,

“ ALLEGRI.”

The Secretary of the Lombardo-Venetian Post having again solicited the Directorate of the Estense Post, the latter wrote the following letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The reply received maintains that the delays still caused by the uncertainty surrounding the execution of the stamps, of which no information had been received :—

“ Modena, 16th August, 1850.

“ The General Director of the Estense Post

“ To His Excellency Minister for Foreign Affairs, Modena.

“ The Secretary, Mr. Triebel, whom the Imperial Postal Directorate in Vienna has sent here to facilitate the introduction of the Austrian Postal system in these States, in a letter dated 11th August, informs this Postal Directorate that the Directorate of Vienna consents to send here 100 copies of the Lists of the Ducal and Austrian Post Offices distant from each other not more than 10 and beyond 10, but not more than 20 leagues.

“ When Mr. Triebel asked for the lists mentioned, he told the Austrian Directorate that there was a probability of the operations necessary not being completed in time to commence the system in September.

“ On this point Mr. Triebel requires definite and prompt information, and wishes the General Directorate to inform the Administration at Verona direct what the Superior Directorate communicate to it.

“ Probably the definite settlement of the date will have some influence in obtaining sooner the stamps which were ordered from Vienna through Count Allegri, as you informed me in your letter of the

17th July, as well as in causing the Postal Authorities at Vienna to distribute throughout the Empire the circulars to be prepared in connection with the actuation of the Postal League in the Estense Duchies.

"Yours &c.,

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 20th August, 1850.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"The delay, or rather the establishing of a definite date for the commencement of the League, depends no longer on this Government, but rather on the replies expected from the resident Imperial Minister, Count Allegri, who has been approached for the manufacture at Vienna of a number of stamps to be put on letters, owing to the want of which the date for the commencement of the Postal League cannot be fixed.

"This will serve you in giving the Superior Directorate at Verona the information which Mr. Triebel desires you to give, and to reply to the letter of the 11th inst.

"For the Minister for Foreign Affairs (absent)

"(Signed) T. DE VOLO."

From the letter which follows it can be seen that the Austrian Government declared itself ready to supply the stamps, but advised that stamps of more than 1 lira should not be made for fear of forgeries, as the Postal Authorities had asked for stamps of 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 lire. To which the Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that it would still be necessary to have a larger quantity of 1 lira stamps.

"Modena, 4th September, 1850.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"To Count Allegri, Modena.

"I have received your letter of the 30th August, and thank you sincerely for the care taken in engaging the Imperial Cabinet to arrange for the manufacture of the letter stamps required here for the commencement of the new postal system, and for having communicated to me the reply received, from which I see that this Government's request will certainly be granted.

"With regard to the observation that it would not recommend the manufacture of stamps above the value of 1 lira, this Government has no objection, and asks, therefore, that the number of 1 lira stamps, which is given at 6,000 in the table sent, be increased in the proportion which the Imperial Cabinet considers suitable, having regard to the deficiency which would be met with owing to the absence of the number of stamps given in the table of the values above 1 lira. And in view of your kindness and the deference of the Imperial Cabinet, I request you to kindly procure for me the date on which we can rely upon having the necessary stamps, as on that only depends the fixing of the time

when, as far as the Estense Government is concerned, it can put into force the Agreement, all other arrangements being completed.

"For the Minister for Foreign Affairs (absent),

"T. DE VOLO."

"Modena, 4th September, 1850.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"In the enclosed copy I communicate to you a reply received from the resident Imperial Minister regarding the manufacture of letter stamps for the postal system which will shortly be introduced, about which I wrote you on the 17th July last. You will see from it that we are recommended not to have stamps above the value of 1 lira, as to which I have not thought of raising any difficulty, but only put forward the necessity of increasing proportionately in this case the quantity of 1 lira stamps, in order to make up for the deficiency of those above 1 lira, the manufacture of which was asked for.

"I have also requested the Imperial Resident Minister to let me know when we can rely on having the stamps at our disposal, as on that depends the date for the commencement of the new Postal Agreement.

"For Minister of Foreign Affairs (absent),

"T. DE VOLO."

"Modena, 30th August, 1850.

"To His Excellency Count Forni,

"Minister for Foreign Affairs, Modena.

"Your Excellency,

"I have already had the honour to inform you on the 21st July that as soon as I received your despatch of the 17th of July, asking me to arrange for my Government to make at Vienna for the account of the Government of Modena, the new franking letter stamps as already introduced in the Austrian Monarchy, I hastened to accede to your request, and sent the design and Tables, together with your despatch, to my Court.

"I am, therefore, pleased to-day to be able to inform you that in reply to my report the Imperial and Royal Cabinet recently communicated to me that the Minister for Commerce had stated that the Imperial Government was ready to accede to the above-mentioned request, and to have printed in the Vienna press by the Government the necessary quantity of stamps required for use in the Duchy of Modena, only charging for the sole cost of manufacture. My Cabinet added the observation that with regard to the value of the stamps to be circulated, it would not advise the issue of stamps above 1 lira, for the reason that their forgery would be largely feared, with loss to the Postal Treasury of the Duchy.

"Yours, &c.,

"ALLEGRI."

The two letters which follow give the reason for the delay in the execution of the stamps: (1) At Vienna it was thought at the time that a Coat of Arms could more easily be imitated than "a historical or mythological design."

"Modena, 3rd December, 1850.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post,

"To His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Modena.

"The General Director of the Imperial Post, in a private letter of the 27th ult., has had the kindness to point out to me various matters regarding the new Austro-Italian Agreement, concluded with the Imperial Grand Ducal Post of Tuscany. I think I should let you have a copy of this letter in which it seems that the new Agreement is to come into force in the States included in the League on the 1st February next.

"As to the second matter in the letter regarding the manufacture of the stamps, which in the Austrian Empire are not altered from the present ones, the Imperial General Directorate thinks that your Government should substitute for the Royal Coat of Arms some sort of emblem, which he suggests should be a historical or mythological image.

"I beg to observe that if your Excellency is of the opinion to substitute another design for the one already sent, which is mentioned in your letter 17th July, 1850, and to adopt the suggestion of some symbol to be printed on the stamps, the idea of having a design might be varied, because, being all of one colour as your above-mentioned letter states, confusion should not arise in distinguishing which belong to one State or to the other. Switzerland has, for example, adopted a cross on a blue or red ground, which shows up clearly and well on the letters, and I would suggest for the letters of these States the adoption of a crown of leaves printed in the middle of the stamp.

"I ought to reply to the eminent person who has written to me, but as I wish to be able to assure him of having fulfilled the duty given me of referring to your Ministry, I am now waiting to know your Excellency's intentions, and remain, &c.,

"GANDINI."

"Vienna, 27th November, 1850.

"To the General Director.

"I received your favour of the 15th some days ago, but was unable to reply before to-day, because I was assured by the Ministerial Department in which the business of the Postal Agreement is transacted, that the arrangements for the execution of the new Austro-Italian Postal Agreement are already in hand, and that these, so far as they relate to the postal relations between the Duchy of Modena and Austria, substitute it for the Agreement of the 3rd July, 1849. In fact I received yesterday the decree of the Minister with a copy of the Austro-Italian Agreement and of the Special Agreement concluded between the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and Austria. The Superior Directorate at Verona was at the same time advised to direct Mr. Secretary Triebel to proceed forthwith and settle the affair with the

Estense Court, on the basis of the Special Agreement similar to the one made with the Tuscan Court. The simultaneous commencement would then take place next February. Thus matters stand at present, and perhaps while I am writing you will have received official information probably more detailed from your Minister and from the Superior Directorate in Verona.

"I now pass to the second matter closely allied with the first, viz.: to the manufacture of the marks, so-called 'Franco-bolli' (stamps). First of all I must advise you that our present stamps are only temporary, and that another issue is being arranged for without the Imperial Arms, and all of one colour but of different sizes. Our stamps will also shew a head in the centre of the design, and thus offer greater difficulty for forging and greater facility in detecting it, if such a thing should happen, although in my opinion such a thing will not come about, since up to the present there are no traces of any attempt, even though the present stamps being made in a hurry, and as a first experiment, do not offer any difficulties in the way of forgery.\*

"Seeing that in America and also in England, France, Belgium and elsewhere it has been found preferable to represent a head on the stamps, there is no doubt that your Ministry will perhaps prefer to have the portrait of the Prince or other head of an historical or mythological person. Anyway I am told that in Tuscany the idea is prevalent of using a head instead of a coat of arms.

"You will, therefore, kindly consult with your Ministry and then with Mr. Secretary Triebel and let me know exactly your final decision.

"As soon as a design is sent to me I shall not fail to get it executed in the manner desired, and will send a proof for examination and approval. As soon as it is approved and the definite order given, the execution will not be delayed.

"Yours &c.,

"BOECHEING,

"Imperial Post Master General."

"Modena, 24th December, 1850.

"To His Excellency Count Forni, Modena.

"With reference to your esteemed dispatch of the 9th instant and in accordance with the reserve I made in my letter of the 2nd inst., I have the honour to send you a scheme of the Special Agreement for regulating the postal relations between the Imperial Government and the Estense Government. As desired I send you at the same time a copy of the Special Agreement between Austria and Tuscany.

"If, following on the authority given by your Sovereign to enter into the necessary arrangements for adhering to the fundamental Austro-Italian Agreement and the stipulations of the Special Agreement, of which I herewith send you the scheme, your Excellency should wish to choose someone to commence the arrangements, I

\* Two instances are known of the Lombardo-Venetian stamps of 1850 issue being forged, one from Verona and Vicenza (1853 and 1854) and the other from Milan (1857 and 1858).

request you to let me know the name, as I have already had the honour of introducing to you the Secretary of the Lombardo-Venetian Post, Mr. Triebel, who has been charged by my Government to help in these matters.

"I have also to inform your Excellency that the Austrian Government is thinking of abolishing the present stamps of different colours with the Imperial Eagle, in order to substitute a mythological head with the figure and value expressed, or a figure only to express the value, in view of which the Estense Government might be induced to give up the idea of issuing stamps with the Ducal Arms, and adopt with Austria the above-mentioned design. In this case the stamps for the Government of Modena would be made at Vienna along with the Austrian stamps.

"Kindly let me have your opinion on this proposal, and awaiting your reply, &c.,

"ALLEGRI."

To this latter letter the Foreign Minister replied in the following terms:—

"Modena, 31st December, 1850.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"To Count Allegri, Modena.

"I duly received your letter enclosing the Special Postal Agreement between Austria and Tuscany, as well as the similar projected Agreement between this State and the Austrian Government in accordance with what you mentioned in your previous letter of the 2nd inst. With regard to the postage stamps which you mentioned, and of which I sent you a design with my letter of the 17th July last, in order that they might be made at Vienna, I will let you know the ideas of this Government as soon as a decision has been taken at the conferences with Mr. Triebel.

"Yours, &c.,

"The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

"G. FORNI."

Not even at the commencement of 1851 had any decision been arrived at regarding the subject to be represented on the stamps. The Minister for Foreign Affairs insisted that the Ducal Coat of Arms should be chosen.

"Modena, 16th January, 1851.

"Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

"To Count Allegri.

"Finally, if the decision to put the Ducal Arms on the Estense stamps be not directly in opposition to the aims, unknown by me, of your Government, I find it convenient to insist on the first idea, communicated to you in my letter of the 30th August, 1850, and to request you to kindly make it effective, in order not to delay with new incidents our practical accession to the Austro-Italian Postal League.

"Yours,

"G. FORNI."

No news having arrived from Vienna about the stamps ordered, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, after several months had gone past, consulted with the Minister for Finance in order to come to some arrangement to get them manufactured elsewhere.

And so the negotiations fell to the ground; the proposal to obtain the stamps from Vienna had no effect, even though it had been approved by the Duchy and had given rise to such a long correspondence.

“Modena, 10th November, 1851.

“Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

“To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

“I beg again to add that as the proposal to manufacture the stamps at Vienna is still in the same position in which it was left by the letter of the 30th August, 1850, from Count Allegri, and my reply to same of which I informed you, I should like to know now whether you think they might be made elsewhere and whether the idea of so ordering them might be entertained.

“A reply on this point would be very useful to me, and thereby either through the Imperial Resident Minister ensure prompt effect being given to the goodwill shewn me or to cancel the order at Vienna, which the weary waiting without any news causes me to hope has not been executed.

“Awaiting your reply, I remain, &c.,

“G. FORNI.”

On account of this the Minister for Finance took it upon himself to have the “matrices for printing the stamps” made at Modena, and informed the Foreign Minister of it. The latter in his turn through the Resident Austrian Minister cancelled the order which had been given to his Government.

“Modena, 19th November, 1851.

“Ministry of Finance,

“To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Modena.

“I thank your Excellency for the communications in your letters of the 9th and 13th inst., and reserving to return to you the original documents regarding the Special Postal Agreement, I inform you meanwhile that this Ministry is arranging to get executed here in Modena the matrices for printing the stamps, and I have the honour to remain, &c.

“TARABINI,

“Bedogni, Secretary.”

“Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

“Modena, 20th November, 1851.

“To Count Allegri.

“Our Ministry of Finance finds it can utilise the interval between the conclusion and the commencement of the Postal Agreement by



taking full charge of the manufacture of the Estense postage stamps, by having the matrices made here, and officially informs me of this on the 19th inst.

"Therefore supposing that the manufacture of the stamps has not been yet commenced in Vienna, as I am led to believe from the long time which has elapsed from my letter on the subject of the 4th September, 1850, without receiving any news, I request you to kindly suspend in Vienna all matters concerning it, and to accept instead the expression of my sincere gratitude for the deferential kindness with which you and the Imperial Minister of Commerce were disposed to second our first requests in the matter.

"Yours &c.,

"G. FORNI."

Meanwhile the Director of the Estense Post, perhaps on account of verbal arrangements with the Minister of Finance, sent a letter to the Director of the Tuscany Post, asking for information about the manufacture of stamps. After receiving the reply, he communicated it to the Minister for Finance, who was to use it as a guide in having the Modenese stamps prepared. There were added originally to the letter from Florence various patterns of postage stamps, a copy of demand and of advice of receipt of same<sup>1</sup> as well as two proofs of Tuscany stamps, one of which without the lower portion giving the indication of the value; the two proofs were promptly returned as had been requested.

I would not have published the letter from the Director of the Tuscan Post, which has no direct reference to the matter in hand, but the interest which it offers from a philatelic point of view urges me not to overlook it.

"Modena, 19th November, 1851.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post,

"To His Excellency the Minister for Finance, Modena.

"Having received, although in a private capacity, the text of the instructions and rules which have been adopted by the Imperial Grand Ducal Government of Tuscany for the use of postage stamps on letters, in conformity with the postal league, as well as a private letter from the Secretary-General of the Postal Department, I hasten to send the packet to your Excellency as you kindly authorised me.

"GANDINI."

"Florence, 17th November, 1851.

"Postal Department,

"General Superintendence.

"Urgent business, and especially a domestic misfortune, has prevented me from replying to your letter of the 12th inst. with the celerity I should have liked. As I did not keep a copy of the letter

<sup>1</sup> In the patterns of receipts and counter receipts of stamps the various prices are indicated in column: 1 and 2 "quattrini," 1 and 2 soldi, 1, 2, 6 and 8 "crazie," a coin of Tuscany worth about three farthings.

which I wrote to you some time ago about the manner in which stamps were made here, I cannot now send you a copy. I will, however, try to repeat in this letter, as briefly as possible, what I think will be necessary for the purpose:—

- “1. Having settled upon the emblem which it is desired to have on the stamp, an accurate drawing of the exact size of the stamp must then be made.
- “2. From this drawing a skilled steel engraver makes a die, from which, after it is hardened, a copper matrix is taken (by means of the balance wheel, ‘*Bilanciere*,’ with which money is coined) similar to those used for the manufacture of printing characters.
- “3. Having made the matrix, an expert type founder takes from it the necessary number of *clichés* (stereotypes). He then applies to these *clichés* the backing by means of a suitable apparatus, similar, except in the dimensions, to those used in the formation of type.
- “4. Having applied the backing, these *clichés* become so many type with which, in the usual manner a page can be composed of 200, 250 or 300 stamps; and when placed in a press and the ink of the desired colour spread over, the number of sheets required are printed off.
- “5. The paper should be distinctly watermarked, in order to better guard against forgery.
- “6. As the stamps are to be of different values, in order then not to be obliged to make as many dies, matrices, &c., as there are values, or else have to use other long, uncertain and costly means, orders can be given to the engraver to make the die mentioned in par. No. 2 *without* the part where the indication of the value will be put. Orders are then given for as many hardened steel dies as there are values, from which matrices and then type are taken as described above for the large die in par. No. 3.—These *clichés* are not made first, but they are cast direct like ordinary printing type.
- “7. These types, shewing the values, will be of such dimensions as to fit exactly into the empty space left in the die. An ordinary typographer sets them for the composition of the page, as stated in par. 4.
- “8. On the enclosed sheet No. 1 is shewn a proof of the Tuscan stamp without value, in No. 2 the same proof with the value.
- “9. Having printed the sheets, each containing the same number of stamps, they are coated at the back with a liquid gum, and then, when dried and pressed, are ready for use.

“Although it might not be of any use to you, I send you two copies of the instructions distributed by the General Post Office here for putting into force the Tuscan-Austrian Agreement, in which are contained the larger portion of the directions in force here regarding

the stamps. Please return me sheets No. 1 and 2 after you have finished with them.

"I am quite ready to give you any further explanation which you may desire, and remain, &c.,

"G. PAGNI."

"Modena, 19th November, 1851.

"Ministry for Finance,

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"The careful attention given by the Postmaster-General of the Tuscan Post in sending the instructions and directions regarding the stamps has pleased me very much as also his precise private letter of the 17th inst., which you sent me with your letter of to-day, No. 2179.

"I am keeping the first and second, and return to you the enclosed sheets No. 1 and 2 containing the Tuscan stamps, requesting you to kindly return them to the above-mentioned Postmaster, thanking him in the name of this Ministry for his kindness.

"Yours &c.,

"TARABINI."

After many delays, the Minister for Finance resolved to hasten the making of the stamps. In fact the same day in which the letter with explanations, &c., arrived from Florence, as we see from the following official jotting, he called in the engraver Rinaldi, who was a partner of the firm Rocca, Rinaldi & Algeri, of Modena. It is only reasonable to suppose that the two proofs of the Tuscan stamps were shown to Rinaldi. Probably following on this, the latter made the die, adopting the system applied by the Florentine artist, *i.e.*, leaving an empty space in the lower portion, in which to insert the value by means of loose type.

#### "JOTTING.

"19th November, 1851.

"Called in the engraver Rinaldi, and examined him on the matter. On his declaring himself capable of executing with precision the matrices for the Estense stamps, which will have to have the Estense Eagle, he was ordered to produce quickly the design for successive operations.

"TARABINI."

On the 28th December, 1851, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Duchy of Parma sent three copies of the "Special Postal Agreement, which on the basis of the fundamental Agreement for an Austro-Italian Postal League, concluded in Florence on the 5th November, 1850, between the Governments of Austria and Tuscany, was ratified on the 27th September, 1851, between the Parmense and Austrian Plenipotentiaries." One of the copies, with some modifications and additions, served for the Austrian-Estense Agreement, of which the portions which specially concern our subject are here reprinted. (Ved. the quoted *Collezione Generale della Leggi, &c.* Vol. XXX., Page 133 and following).

“The Minister for Foreign Affairs.

#### “NOTIFICATION.

“In accordance with the fundamental Agreement for the Austro-Italian Postal League concluded between Austria and Tuscany in Florence on the 5th November, 1850, a Special Agreement has been come to and signed on the 29th October last between this Government and that of the Emperor of Austria, with the object of regulating the postal correspondence between the two States. This was ratified on the 10th December by our Sovereign, His R.H. the Archduke, and by His Imperial Highness on the 17th of the same month, and the exchange of the ratified documents having taken place yesterday the matter is now, by order of the Sovereign, made public.

“The Austrian Government and the Estense Government having considered it opportune to facilitate the prompt and safe interchange of postal communications between their respective subjects, the Plenipotentiaries of the two mentioned Governments, viz.:—

“For His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, Count Giovanni Girolamo Allegri, &c. ;

“For His R.H. the Archduke of Modena, Count Giuseppe Forni, Imperial Royal Chamberlain, &c. ;

were called upon by their Powers to form a Special Postal Agreement, under reserve of the Sovereigns’ ratification, have adopted the following articles :—

“Art. 1. Accession of the Government of Modena to the Austro-Italian Postal League.

“Premising that on the 5th November, 1850, a fundamental Agreement for an Austro-Italian Postal League between the Government of H.M. the Emperor of Austria on the one hand and of H.R.H. the Archduke, Grand Duke of Tuscany on the other hand, the Royal Ducal Government of Modena agrees to accede to the said League, and to accept the above-mentioned fundamental Agreement, of which an authentic copy, as an integral portion, is quoted under A, with the exception of the modifications and reserves contained in the present Special Agreement.

“Art. 2. Extension of the fundamental Agreement.

“All the arrangements contained in the fundamental Agreement of the 5th November, 1850, will be applicable, according to Art. 1 of the same, excepting the modifications and reserves above mentioned, both with regard to the correspondence exchanged between the Duchy of Modena and the other countries belonging to the Austro-Italian Postal League as well as that between the Duchy and the above-mentioned countries and abroad.

“The arrangements concerning the circulation of the inland correspondence of the Duchy remain entirely under the control of its own administration.

" A. AUSTRO-ESTENSE CORRESPONDENCE.

" Art. 8. Treatment of the Austro-Estense Correspondence.

" The fees which are charged at present for correspondence from Austria to the Duchy of Modena and *vice-versa* are abolished, and the common tariff established at the convention will be substituted, modified as below.

" Art. 9. Postal rates according to the distance.

" Concerning the correspondence between Austria and the Duchy it is arranged that, for the collecting which will follow in the Estense States, the cost of letters and of samples fixed in Art. 9 of the fundamental Agreement in 3, 6 and 9 carantani, according to the distance of 10 German leagues inclusive, above 10 and up to 20 leagues inclusive and beyond 20 leagues will be valued at 15, 25 and 40 Italian centimes; it being understood that each German league corresponds to 4 Italian geographical miles.

" Art. 10. Printed matter and samples.

" For printed matter under a wrapper the cost of 1 carantano for every lotto of Vienna will be charged, without regard to the distance (according to Art. 13 of the fundamental Agreement) equivalent to 5 Italian centimes for every  $17\frac{1}{2}$  grammes weight.

" For samples the rate will be that of a single letter for every 2 lotti or for every 35 grammes.

" Art. 11. Weight of the single letter and relative gradation.

" The weight of a single letter is fixed at a Viennese lotto, equal to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  grammes (Art. 10 of the fundamental Agreement). Above this and up to 2 lotti (35 grammes) the cost is doubled, beyond 2 lotti (35 grammes) and up to and including 3 lotti ( $52\frac{1}{2}$  grammes) the cost is tripled, and so on.

" Art. 12. Franking by means of stamps.

" The postage, which in virtue of Art. 11 of the Agreement must be for the most part prepaid, will be effected by means of the application of stamps, commonly called 'Franco-Bolli,' which will be sold in the two States by the Postal Administration.

" These stamps will have on them the indication of the different value of 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 carantani in Austria, and of 5, 10, 15, 25 and 40 Italian centimes in the Duchy.

" Art. 13. Affixing of the stamps.

" The sender of letters, printed matter or samples by means of the post will attach to the margin above the address, by wetting the tenacious matter on the back of the stamps, one or as many stamps as may be necessary to make up the cost of franking, according to the distance and weight.

" The cost for registration and for return receipt (Art. 14 of the Agreement) will be met by means of stamps of 6 carantani and 25 Italian centimes respectively.

"The one for registration will be applied at the back of the letter, at the side of the seal, by the sender, the one for the return receipt will be applied to the receipt itself by the receiving Postal Official.

"Art. 14. Method of posting.

"The correspondence mentioned above, where it is not registered, must be put in the slots destined for this purpose at the Post Offices.

"That which is registered, with or without return receipt, must be handed to the Postal Officials, always provided beforehand with the requisite stamps.

"Art. 15. Overcharge.

"The overcharge payable by the addressee above the postage, and which is mentioned in Art. 12 of the fundamental Agreement, will be applied to unpaid letters, or letters not supplied with sufficient stamps, at the rate of 3 carantani per lotto, equivalent for the Estense States to 15 Italian centimes for every 17½ grammes letter weight.

"Art. 17. Exceptional application of stamps on the part of the Postal Officials.

"In cases of doubt the public have the right, not only to have the article to be posted weighed by the Post Office Officials, but to interrogate them regarding the cost, and these latter are obliged, after having given the requisite information, to attach the necessary stamps if required, against payment of their value in cash.

"E. VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS.

"Art. 33. Application of the tax to unpaid letters.

"As the Austrian currency is the one taken for a basis in the tariff, and the reciprocal accounts are also to be considered by this standard, it is arranged that in sending unpaid letters the relative amount is simply indicated on the same in lire and Austrian centimes on the address side, and if possible at the top edge, in order to facilitate checking on the letter bill, and acknowledgment of the debt respectively. If it is a matter of a charge composed of two or more fees, then these will be indicated separately.

"Those offices, then, which receive such letters direct from other States, will charge the postal rates in the methods prescribed, it being understood that the Estense offices will equalise into the Italian value the amount shewn in Austrian value.

"Art. 35. Official correspondence between the Administrations.

"The Superior Directorate of the Lombardo-Venetian Post in Verona and the General Directorate of the Estense Post in Modena will correspond with each other on all matters relating to the service. The questions on which they cannot agree will be settled in a diplomatic manner between the two Governments.

"Art. 45. Commencement and duration of the Agreement.

"The present Agreement shall commence to have effect five months from the date of the exchange of the ratified documents, and

shall last five years, after which it shall be prolonged from year to year if six months before the date of expiration nothing to the contrary is received from one of the Parties.

“Art. 46. Abolition of previous Agreements.

“From the commencement of the present Postal Agreement it is mutually agreed that the preceding one between Austria and Modena of the 3rd December, 1817, continued further by the additional articles of the 5th October, 1839, as well as these same articles, shall be cancelled, as if they both had been duly and formally retracted, excepting always the arrangement of the preceding Art. 39.

“Art. 47. Substitution of the present Agreement for that of 3rd July, 1849.

“Finally it is declared that this Special Convention (Agreement) stipulated after the other Postal Agreement made in Milan the 3rd July, 1849, is in every way substituted for this.

“Art. 48. Exchange of the ratified documents.

“The exchange of the ratified Agreements will take place in Modena within 30 days from the present, and sooner if possible.

“Made in Modena on the 29th of October, 1851.

“(Seal) G. G. ALLEGRI.

“(Seal) G. FORNI.

“Modena, 31st December, 1851.

“The Minister,

“COUNT G. FORNI.”

From the following letter we see that about the middle of February, 1852, the “matrices” of the stamps were ready. Meanwhile a project for administrative Regulation on stamps had been drawn up, of which the Minister for Finance sent a copy to his Colleague for Foreign Affairs.

“Ministry for Finance,

“Modena, 13th February, 1852.

“To His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Modena.

“I thank your Excellency for your letter of the 10th inst. with 36 copies of the Austro-Estense Postal Agreement with enclosures, and I am going to distribute them amongst the Offices dependent from this Ministry, which it may interest, with the exception of the General Post Office, to whom you inform me you have already sent a good number.

“Regarding the arrangements to be adopted by this Ministry, as far as concerns its contribution to the object of getting the Agreement started on the 1st June next, I shall supply to the General Directorate all the requisite instructions with a set of the necessary printed

regulations, so that all the arrangements contained in the Agreement and also in the fundamental Austro-Italian Agreement may be regularly fulfilled as soon as the maxims of the legal projects sent me by you with your letter of the 9th inst. have definitely taken shape.

"Meanwhile, since one of the interesting matters, specially regarding this Ministry, is that of stamps, while informing you, therefore, that the matrices for printing them are nearly finished, I hasten to send you the pre-arranged Inland administrative regulations on postage stamps for your examination. Please return to me with your remarks, so that the necessary portion may be made public, viz., the arrangements contained in Art. 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Tit. 11.

"Yours, &c.,

"The Minister for Finance,

"TARABINI."

And now follows the text of the "Administrative Regulations for Stamps, applicable to Letters to be sent by Post" as it was approved and printed (Printer, Vincenzi,) under the Minister for Finance:—

#### "CAP. I. STAMPS.

"Art. 1. In accordance with the Austro-Estense Postal Agreement, 29th October, 1851, and with the Ministerial Notification, 10th April, 1852, stamps for application to letters when posted have been adopted, in conformity with the New Postal Regulations and with the relative Tariff.

"2. The stamps are of the following denominations: 5, 10, 15, 25, 40 centimes and 1 lira. Each sheet of stamps will only contain stamps of one value, and the different values will also be differently coloured.

#### "CAP. II. CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL STOREKEEPERS.

"3. The administration of the stamps is committed to the Central Keeper of Stamped Paper ("Carta bollata") in Modena, where the printing will be executed under its own responsibility.

"4. It will always be its care to keep itself provided with a stock of stamps sufficient for at least six months consumption, and will therefore print according to need; it will keep a watch against abuse, and as every sheet is turned out will enter it in the books for the purpose.

"5. The sheets which may turn out defective in the press, or which may be afterwards spoiled in subministration, will be kept by it, after the corresponding exchange, but cancelled for use, by drawing one or more lines with a pen through each column of stamps.

"6. At the request in writing of the Head Distributor of the Post Office in Modena, of the wholesale and private retailers,



of the officials and postal clerks of the province of Modena and Frignano, and against the Treasury receipts which prove payment, he will grant the supply of stamps asked for, handing over from the book provided the relative form, and placing opposite the "matrice" (matrix)\* the request as well as the acknowledgment.

- "7. The sellers of "Carta bollata" (stamped paper) at the Finance Offices in Reggio and Massa will keep a stock of stamps, and will always arrange to have on hand a supply for not less than three months. The need of a fresh supply shall be made known to the Superintendent, who will send the request forward to the respective Central Office, who, in acceding to the request, shall detach from the book "Bollettario" (Form B) the stamped slip, which will be sent with the stamps to the Superintendent, by whom it will be returned with his signature, and that of the Storekeeper, to be placed next to the matrix (foil) of the seal, with the written request.
- "8. The above-mentioned storekeepers in Reggio and Massa will supply the stamps to the wholesale and private retailers, in accordance with the demands made on them, and the supplies will be booked and regulated as per the preceding Art. 6.
- "9. With regard to the Post Offices and Postal Clerks, when these are not at the same time wholesale sellers, a proportionate stock of stamps shall be supplied to same, and will be booked to their debit. The Central Storekeeper, against order from the Minister, shall supply the indicated stock of stamps to the Postmaster-General, accompanying it by the relative form, which will be returned with the signature to be placed opposite the matrix with the ministerial order. The Postmaster-General then having delivered over to the various offices the stocks assigned to them, shall call in the partial receipts in order to hand them over to the Minister.
- "10. The deliveries of the stamps shall be made in well closed up packets sealed, with all the caution used for stamped paper.
- "11. The storekeepers and sellers shall be obliged to keep a Stock Book (Model C), registering regularly and in order of date each set received and each set delivered.
- "12. At the end of each month they must make out in duplicate the account Model D, of the respective supply of stamps, and hand it over, the Central Office to the Minister, the storekeepers in Reggio and Massa to their respective Superintendent, who shall send a copy to the Minister with other deliveries of the monthly account, sending also the books referring to the central archives.

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\* This matrix is the foil left in the book after the counter slip is torn off.—TRANSLATOR.

"CAP. III. PERSONS CHARGED WITH THE SALE OF STAMPS.

- "13. Persons authorised for the sale of stamps must obtain them in complete sheets from the storekeeper in their respective province, proving payment of same by showing the relative acknowledgment; and as prescribed in Art. 6.
- "14. On the amount of the stamps taken from the storekeepers of Modena, Reggio and Massa, these shall take a commission of 2%; the others, provided they are not already postal clerks, shall take a commission of  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  every six months.
- "15. The storekeepers in executing the demands for stamps made by retailers, must exercise great care and accuracy, so as never to have to verify any difference in quality and quantity ordered and delivered. In case of any divergence the sellers who see it must advise the storekeeper without delay through the respective Finance Superintendents, and give all the particular circumstances which may be useful in proving it.
- "16. The retailers of stamps must regulate their supply so that they may have at least sufficient for a month in stock, and when reduced to a half must lose no time in renewing. The consequences arising from irregularities of service or from negligence of the retailers in keeping themselves provided with stamps must be borne by themselves.
- "17. The above-mentioned retailers at the end of each month will hand over to the respective Finance Superintendents in duplicate a table (Model E) which distinctly shows the quality and quantity of stamps remaining over from the preceding month, the lots taken, the amounts sold and then the remainder in stock. The Superintendent will send a copy of this table to the Minister with the monthly account.

"CAP. IV. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

- "18. The sellers of stamps shall be obliged to keep constantly before the public the new printed postal tariff, with a list of the distances of the post offices in the Austro-Italian League, so that everyone may ascertain the cost of a letter in order to put on the corresponding value in stamps.
- "19. The use of the stamps is specially destined for inland correspondence and to the States included in the Austro-Italian League, which cannot be paid in cash but must be supplied with stamps and put into the Letter Boxes. In case, however, it is wished to register letters, with or without return receipt, they must be handed over to the Postal Officials already stamped.
- "20. Letters for Foreign States not included in the Postal League can be franked with stamps when they do not pass through the Austrian States, in which case they must be paid in cash.
- "21. Stamps are used for sending letters, printed matter and samples, by affixing them securely to the margin above the address by wetting the gum on the back.

- "22. The Chief Distributors and Postal Agents will indicate separately in the monthly accounts in two columns the results of the sale of stamps or cash payments, accurately distinguishing the one from the other, and giving in a third column the total for each kind, and adding each column up at the foot.
- "23. The General Return of the Letter Post, which the General Directorate has to hand over monthly to the Minister for Finance, shall be compiled in conformity with the preceding Article, keeping quite distinct the results of the administrative districts of Modena, Reggio, and the districts beyond the Appenines.
- "24. Postal Agents, when they perform the duties of wholesale as well as retail distributors, shall continue to have the commission which they have at present on cash entries as well as on the amounts of stamps posted in the respective offices according to the results of the monthly tables mentioned in Art. 17.
- "25. Any doubts or difficulties which may arise as to the proper meaning and execution of these arrangements shall be submitted to the Minister for Finance for his decision.
- "26. The present Regulations will come into force on the 1st June next.
- "Modena, 20th May, 1852.

"The Minister for Finance,

"FERDINANDO CASTELLANI TARABINI.

"BEDOGNI, General Secretary."

From the scheme of the Regulations I give some articles which were not reproduced in the Regulations themselves:—

- "2. The paper for the stamps must be manufactured especially for the exclusive use of the Royal Finance Department. The stamps will be printed in rows along which will run the watermark, arranged so that it can easily be discerned in every stamp, in order to prevent forgery.
- "3. The design of the stamps shall be secretly supplied by the maker with a suitable mark called 'spia' (spy), which will be privately made known by means of two sealed letters, one for the Minister and the other for the Central Stamp Office, in order to serve as a help in settling cases of doubtful forgery.
- "5. The printing of the sheets of stamps will take place in the locality where the keeper of stamps and stamped paper resides, and under his surveillance and responsibility. When it is deemed necessary to use the printing press for printing the stamps, this must be taken into the room of the said Official, as the types must on no account leave his custody."

On the 10th April, 1852, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and for Finance published a Notification in which it was announced that the Austro-Estense Postal Agreement of the 29th October, 1851, would come into force in the Duchy on the 1st June. I do not reproduce this Notification because it does not offer sufficient interest for us;

those who would like to know about it will find it quoted in the *Collezione delle Leggi, &c.*, Vol. XXI., page 37, &c.

There only remained now to provide for the execution of the stamps, and for this purpose the Minister for Finance gave precise orders in the following letter:—

“Ministry for Finance.

“Modena, 10th May, 1852.

“To the Surveyor-General of Government Estates, Modena.

“On the 1st of June next, in accordance with the Notification of the 10th April last, the Austro-Estense Postal League will come into force in these States.

“Among its prescriptions there is one that letters must be franked at the time of posting, and that the relative cost, instead of being paid for in money, must be defrayed by applying stamps to the letters. As it is, therefore, very urgent that the printing of the stamps in the Office of this Central Keeper of Stamped Paper should be proceeded with immediately, I request you to arrange that to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock prompt, the printer of the *Tipografia Camerale*, Giuseppe Vandelli, shall be in this office in order to assist in a provisional way with the printing of the stamps. You will also arrange at the same time for a printing press to be carried into this Office, and also anything else that may be necessary for printing stamps, drawing up an inventory and valuation, which you will send to me.

“The Minister for Finance,

“TARABINI.”

One of the most important documents to us, which I place before my readers, is certainly the invoice of the firm who executed the die and the reduplication of the stamps; it was inclosed with the following letter:—

“To His Excellency the Counsellor of State, Minister for Estense Finance.

“The firm Rocca, Rinaldi & Algeri, of Modena, humble servants of your Excellency, has the honour to send you a specification of the expenses incurred in making the dies for the postage stamps.

“Trusting that same will meet with your approval, the undersigned have the honour to be, &c.

#### “INVOICE.

“Rocca, Rinaldi & Algeri, Goldsmiths, Modena.

“To His Excellency Ferdinando Castellani Tarabini,  
Estense Minister for Finance.

“13th May, 1852.

“534 blocks (or reduplications) for printing, total weight				
158lbs., calculated at 5 francs per lb. finished work,				
including all expenses...				
Die engraved on steel and copper matrices	...	...	...	Fr. 790
				60
Total Italian lire	...	...	...	850
According to the Tariff L	...	...	...	782”

On the back of the foregoing letter is written :—

“14th May, 1852.

“Let the dies be sent to the Central Stamp Office with this and then passed to the Book Keeper for issuing corresponding cheque reducing the sum to tariff. The matrices to be kept in the archives.

“TARABINI.”

Some arrangements still remained to be made for distributing the stamps to the post offices and retailers. The Ministry for Finance sought to settle this with the Post Office in the following letter :—

“Modena, 25th May, 1852.

“Ministry for Finance,

“To His Excellency the Postmaster-General, Modena.

“The supplies of stamps which persons authorised for the sale have to obtain from the Central Office of the Stamp Keeper, or other minor stamp keepers respectively, and those to be obtained by these latter from the central keeper, can only be made in complete sheets, in accordance with Art. 13 of the Regulations of the 10th inst.

“Every sheet consists of 240 stamps, and the amount of each, respectively, is the following :—

“1 sheet of 240 stamps of	5 cent.	...	12 lire.
”	”	”	10 ”
”	”	”	15 ”
”	”	”	25 ”
”	”	”	40 ”
			228 ”
”	”	”	1 lira
			240 ”
			468 lire.

“You will therefore see that the requests for stamps must be calculated not by the prices at which each single stamp will be sold, but by those which make up the total of each kind of sheet, so that where it is wished to limit the first supply to a sheet of each kind the total cost will be 468 lire. But since the variety of the prices facilitates the obtaining of a high value by applying more stamps of different denominations, in a single complete supply the sheet at 1 lira might be omitted, and the total amount, taking one sheet of each of the other values, would be reduced to 228 lire.

“I request you, therefore, to kindly let me know promptly, following these lines, your proposal as to the amount of stock to be supplied to the Officials and Postal Agents, when they are not also wholesale Distributors, according to Art. 9 of the above-mentioned Regulations and I remain, &c.,

“For the Minister (absent),

“CASLINI.

"Stamps ready for delivery to the Intendencies of Massa and Reggio :—

" 240 stamps per sheet ...	...	...	200 sheets of 5 cent. stamps.
" " " ...	...	...	200 " 10 " "
" " " ...	...	...	100 " 15 " "
" " " ...	...	...	75 " 25 " "
" " " ...	...	...	20 " 40 " "
" " " ...	...	...	30 " 1 lira "

Total number of sheets to be sent to  
each Intendency ... .. 625 "

The issue of the stamps was announced to the public by the following notice, which was posted up in the Post Offices of the Duchy :—

" General Post Office.

#### " NOTICE.

" In accordance with the Ministerial Notification of the 10th April last, notice is given :—

" That with the commencement of the Italo-Austrian League in this State on the 1st June, correspondence for the Austrian Empire, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany and the Duchy of Parma will no longer be subject to the present tariff, but will be dealt with under Regulations of the Agreement, *i.e.*, according to the distances which are clearly given in the list, with which the post offices are fully equipped and according to the tariff of the above-mentioned Agreement. The correspondence, therefore, for the Territories of the Postal League must be franked when posted by payment of the cost, this being done by applying postage stamps of the requisite value. The stamps are sold at the post offices and Magaziones\* of the State.

" Modena, 29th May, 1852.

" The Postmaster-General,

" GANDINI."

This notice, however, did not prescribe for any guidance in the application of the various tariffs ; to the public it was only announced that postage would be applied according to distances, of which the post offices possessed a scale. Although the Regulations for the stamps which I have reprinted had already been distributed, the Regulations for the treatment of the correspondence had not yet been given out.

The "Austrian Postal Instructions for the Offices of the Parmense and Estense States" did not settle all the doubts which arose. Some letters, which it will be useful to publish, shew us what were some of the uncertainties arising when the new system was introduced, which

\* Persons authorised to sell stamped paper, tobacco, salt, and other things which are a Government monopoly.

were removed by the Rules on the Postal Service published only on the 4th September, 1852, *i.e.*, more than three months after the issue of the stamps. The issue of the stamps has been erroneously attributed to this latter date by the majority of the authors of philatelic works.

“Modena, 3rd June, 1852.

“General Directorate of the Estense Post,

“To His Excellency the Minister for Finance, Modena.

“I send some copies of the Austrian Instructions compiled for the Parmense and Estense Offices, which are sufficiently clear to be readily understood by postal officials. Nevertheless, it is thought useful to add some remarks in view of the missing Tariffs for correspondence beyond the German League, making it clear that no modification or change will be made for those that do not belong to the League, such as those directed to the Roman States, the Two Sicilies, Sardinia, and all those that go through the Parmense States, and which must be treated at the end of the Agreement now in force.

“For the inland correspondence the instructions are to continue as before without regard to the distance, but the General Directorate has not considered itself authorised, pending the new tariff, to apply the weight of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  grammes, especially as the weight of a letter is fixed by Royal Rescript at 8 grammes, and therefore the cost will also be diminished in proportion to the difference of weight.

“I must advise you finally that as far as concerns this General Office, the business with Foreign Offices with which it is connected through the League, is proceeding regularly.

“From the other offices sufficient exactness cannot be obtained on account of the novelty of the system and the lack of the Tariff, but some cases are coming in which receive the attention of this Directorate.

“GANDINI.”

“Modena, 3rd June, 1852.

“Minister for Finance,

“To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

“From your letter No. 1002 of to-day, in reply to mine of the day before yesterday, in which I asked you to send me copies of the Postal League instructions which were generally distributed through the offices dependent upon you, I see too clearly that you have not given out any precise arrangement in accordance with the agreements of 5th November, 1850, and 29th October, 1851; that you have confined yourself perhaps now to distributing the Austrian Instructions, of which you have sent me some copies; that under the pretext of not being authorised to apply the weight of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  grammes for a single letter to inland correspondence, you have prohibited any innovation either of taxes or of the applications of stamps to such correspondence, almost ignoring that postage must be regulated in ratio with the distance, that the use of stamps is prescribed by the Regulations of

the 10th May last, and that the weight of the single letter is 8 grammes with progression of 4 to 4 by the Royal Rescript mentioned by yourself; that no similar innovation has been made by you in regard to correspondence for Foreign States not included in the Postal League, and that concerning these latter you have certainly not given sufficient information to the offices, at least on the primary base of tariff, if you have to give special information as you yourself inform me, and which will only with great difficulty reach those distant offices in time to be of use for the immediate needs and explanations.

"All this shews with regrettable evidence that you have not helped this Ministry in the difficult situation in which it has been placed; that you have not previously made known the Regulations and the tariffs on the commencement of the Postal League; that it has really not been in any way advanced, notwithstanding the activity which you were meeting and the repeated exhortations of this Ministry in the letter of 28th May, No. 5284; and that, through your behaviour, the Administration finds its convenience and its interests imperilled.

"I cannot, therefore, abstain from informing you that all the responsibility for these troubles, irregularities, and disorders which have already happened, and which may afterwards happen through the negligence in fulfilling the Minister's orders, falls upon you.

"CASLINI."

"Modena, 8th June, 1852.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post,

"To His Excellency the Minister for Finance, Modena.

"Since I assured your Ministry that I had given to the different post offices the information on the new postal system by means of a circular over and above the Austrian Instructions, and seeing from your letter of the 3rd inst., No. 5482, that I have not done so, and that I have confined myself to distributing the Austrian Instructions, I leave you to judge what effect such a contradiction has on an officer occupying a distinct position.

"I would not be so bold or stupid as to tell such an open lie which could be so easily proved, it being practically a question of a circular distributed through twenty-five offices of the State.

"Among the other things it is true that I wrote to the offices to say that for the present no innovation must be made with regard to the inland correspondence, weight or postage, following Art. No. 2 of the Agreement.

"It is true that Paragraph 19 of the Regulations on Postage Stamps is intended for inland letters, but I think that Administrative Regulations are to serve as a guide for the offices, and that for the public they are not sufficient, especially as they have not been publicly posted up, as far as I know.

"To tell the truth, I do not know that the tariffs are to be regulated in accordance with the distance for inland correspondence, and until I am shewn from whence I am to infer this new rule, I shall remain ignorant of it.



"Sufficient information has been given to the post offices, and in fact some offices are working in a regular manner, but many are not, and it is to these that I am seeking to give other instructions.

"Your charges are serious enough, but not so much so as the last portion of your letter which says that 'through your behaviour the Administration finds its convenience and its interests imperilled.'

"I request you to reflect well on the long protracted course of treaty and discussion which preceded this Agreement, and to have the kindness to tell me if such a grave accusation can be sustained against me. Which are the Regulations which I have not observed, and which are the irregularities I have committed?

"I think that when accusing a person who through long years of service has never been exposed to similar expressions, to whom the Sovereign has confided the management of an important and delicate administration extending through the whole State, the nature of the error should be explained clearly, and not in a bitter and caustic manner, in order to render justification possible, as such a manner as a rule only causes unpleasantness and renders the fault still more difficult of correction, not knowing where to find it.

"I confine myself to this single request, and from the reply which I hope to obtain I shall consider the step I must take to satisfy my offended honour, as, being accused, I do not wish to keep silent.

"I trust, however, that your excellent Ministry will remedy the grievance which I feel, and will withdraw a reproof which I never expected; in like manner I am ready to forget, if it is admitted that I do not deserve it.

"Yours, &c.,

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 12th June, 1852.

"Minister for Finance,

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"The letter of the 3rd inst. from this Ministry, No. 5482, has for its authority the arrangements and instructions given in the preceding letters of the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th May, and of the 1st inst., and also what you have shewn regarding the same.

"Amongst other things, notwithstanding the repeated requests for a copy of the instructions which you say you have distributed through the post offices, this Ministry has not yet been able to have one. Call to mind the many attempts the said offices are making to get precise instructions as to the new system, which leads one to infer either a lack of published instructions or at least a lack of uniformity or clearness in them, and you will easily decide whether the Ministry had cause for complaint.

"For the rest I have nothing to add in reply to your letter of the 8th inst., No. 1077, except that I hope you will with all haste repair the serious inconvenience which I know too well to be existing in the working of the new postal system.

"I remain, &c.,

"CASLINI."

"Modena, 19th June, 1852.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post,

"To His Excellency the Minister for Finance, Modena.

"The suspicion has arisen in this office, seeing that in the post offices which have the double quality of distributors and agents no use is made of stamps and also of the repeated instructions of this Directorate, that they have not taken the trouble to obtain them, considering that as per No. 8 of the Stamp Regulations they are not compelled to.

"A simple doubt ought to be made known to your excellent Ministry, so that you may act as you think fit.

"Your humble servant,

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 22nd June, 1852.

"Ministry for Finance,

"To the Intendant of Finance, Modena (Reggio, Massa).

"It has come to my knowledge that some of the distributors and wholesale sellers of stamps who are also postal agents, have not yet obtained supplies of stamps for their own account in accordance with the Regulations, and that the inhabitants of the respective districts cannot obtain them for applying to their letters.

"I request you, therefore, to remind generally all the distributors and wholesale agents that they are strictly obliged to obtain the stamps and to keep themselves always supplied. I request you also to ascertain at the end of this month who have entirely omitted to obtain them from the Central Stamp Keeper, and to inform me so that further steps can be taken.

"Yours, &c.,

"CASLINI."

No arrangement had yet been made as to the means to be adopted for cancelling the stamps. During the first few weeks the ordinary postmarks were struck in blue or red, as cancellations. But the stamps were then too lightly cancelled, so the Post Office decided to provide every office with special cancellation marks to be used solely for obliteration, as can be seen from the following letters, in which, after having shewn up the insufficient gumming of the stamps, two kinds of marking stamps are mentioned for cancelling. The first of these, similar to others used in the Sardinian States and in Tuscany, is a rectangle (25 × 21mm.) consisting of small rhombi, and was in use for a long time by the Modena office; the second, which was also very frequently used, consisted of six parallel lines 33mm. long, not four, as mentioned in the first of the three letters now given.

The invoice of the engraver, Felice Riccò, who made the marking stamps is added to the letter of the 21st July, 1852.

“ Modena, 26th June, 1852.

“ General Office of the Estense Post,

“ To His Excellency the Minister for Finance, Modena.

“ In the General Post Office at Lucca, amongst the mass of correspondence, loose stamps have been found, perhaps only through being too slightly gummed or damped when applied to the letters, and not cancelled with a postmark as is customary.

“ As soon as the matter became known, which was yesterday, I did not fail to advise the Post Office at Massa to give necessary instructions, and to see that what this General Post Office had commanded in its instructions for cancelling the stamps should be carried out by applying the postmarks.

“ But at the same time I think it a duty in sending these stamps to the number of 14, value 70 centimes, to warn the Ministry that the experience of the past few days shows how badly the postmark is applied to the stamps, when not of a square shape or very oblong like those recently made in the Austrian offices, since when it is round and small like ours either the postage stamp is not clearly cancelled or the postmark is not seen.

“ As the writer is persuaded that the stamp, if not cancelled, offers occasion for fraud through being used again on other articles, he has had a suitable marking stamp made similar to the one used in the post offices of Turin and Tuscany, a proof of which is enclosed, and which is used with much success in this General Office; he now asks permission from the Ministry to give orders for all the offices to be provided with it.

“ Besides the cancellation mark, like the one in the above-mentioned offices, another one is proposed of four parallel lines, an impression of which is enclosed. The price of this latter is 3 francs ‘ Tariffali ’ each, whilst the first costs 4 lire, and perhaps in ordering a quantity some slight saving might be made.

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ GANDINI.”

“ Modena, 1st July, 1852.

“ Ministry for Finance,

“ To the Postmaster-General.

“ The case mentioned in your letter No. 1276 of the 26th June, with which stamps get detached from the letters, may arise from the carelessness of the users in not wetting them sufficiently, as you remark, as well as of the makers in gumming the sheets.

“ As regards this, however, the makers have already been informed about it, and I now authorise you to go to the expense mentioned for making the marking stamp of four thick parallel lines, in order to supply the various post offices with them. In distributing these you will instruct them to cancel the stamps on letters entirely with this mark, since I am informed that not a few postal clerks carry out such an essential operation in a careless manner.

“ Yours, &c.,

“ CASLINI.”

" No. 1525.

" Modena, 21st July, 1852.

" General Directorate of the Estense Post,

" To His Excellency the Minister for Finance, Modena.

" To-day this Directorate is distributing throughout the Post Offices of the State the stamp for postmarking the postage stamps in order to cancel them, with a set of the necessary instructions, which are in use in other offices.

" The stamp must deface the postage stamps on the upper portion, leaving the figure indicating the value visible, and it is such that it can embrace two postage stamps, as you will see from the enclosed impression [three impressions of the stamp consisting of six parallel lines]. The engraver Riccò, who has made twenty-six of them, has also made the other stamps for the five new offices, and now asks for payment as per invoice enclosed. It is thought that some reduction might be made, say to 180 lire, which corresponds to 164 lire Tariffali.

" If you agree with the opinion, and having favoured this office with the consent in your letter of the 1st July, please send the order for 164 lire.

" Your obedient Servant,

" GANDINI.

" 2nd July, 1852.

" To the Accountant, in order for him to send, if there is nothing to the contrary, the order for 164 lire.

" For the absent Minister,

" CASLINI.

" Modena, 20th July, 1852.

" RICCÒ FELICE,

" Gold and Silversmith to the Royal Court,

" Seal Engraver to the Ensign of the Fenix in Modena.

" Contrada Castellaro, in the corner opposite the Church of San Carlo.

" For the Royal Estense Post Office.

	Lire.	Cent.
Three ink seals and one sealing wax ditto for each of the following post offices: Fanano, Reggiolo, Vignola, Novellara and S. Felice. Price of these 20 seals ... ..	110	—
26 stamps for cancelling letter postage stamps ...	78	—
Total ... ..	188	—

" (Signed) RICCÒ FELICE."

We now give from the Regulations on Posting Letters the portion which more especially concerns our subject, the publication of which was announced in these terms (see the quoted *Collezione Generale delle Leggi, &c.*, Vol. XXXI., p. 88, and following):—

“The Ministry for Finance.

“In connection with the preceding Notification of the 10th April last, by Royal sanction the Regulations for the Letter Post and Horse Post are now published, compiled on the basis of pre-existing arrangements, in order that every one whom it concerns may take careful note of them.

“Modena, 4th September, 1852.

“FERDINANDO CASTELLANI TARABINI.

“BEDOGNI, General Secretary.

### “REGULATIONS FOR THE LETTER POST

relating to the fundamental Convention of 5th November, 1850, and the special Convention of 31st December, 1851, and the Ministerial Notification of the 10th April, 1852.

#### “POSTING AND CHARGES.

- “1. In the post offices of the State, to which the district described in the list at the end of the present Regulations is respectively assigned, there is a box in which everyone can deposit letters, printed matter under cover, samples, &c., which have not to be registered, or the cost of which has not to be paid in cash.
- “2. Postage, except in cases contemplated in the Conventions, must be paid beforehand by fixing stamps securely to the upper margin above the address, by wetting the layer of gum on the back.
- “3. The stamps are of the values of 5, 10, 15, 25, 40 and 100 centimes, printed on paper of different colours, viz.:

5 cent. stamps on green paper.			
10	„	rose	„
15	„	light yellow	„
25	„	dark yellow	„
40	„	sky blue	„
1 lira	„	white	„

The post offices and retailers are respectively authorised for the sale of the stamps.

- “4. The postal charges in the various cases contemplated in the Conventions fundamental and special, whether for correspondence circulating inside the Austro-Italian Postal League or for

German-Estense correspondence and States beyond Austria, passing through Swiss territory or not, are found in Tariffs II. and III., the first of which refers to the correspondence of the Austro-Italian League, and the second to the remainder.

- “ 5. For correspondence from these States addressed to foreign States which are not included in the Austro-Italian League, or proceeding from the same without passing through the Austrian States, postage will be reckoned for the most part on the double basis of the weight and of the distance; the weight will be that fixed by the fundamental and special Conventions for the correspondence mentioned in the preceding Article, and the distance will be that existing, for outward letters, from the place where posted to the boundary of the Estense or League territory, and for inward letters from the place where they enter Estense or League territory to their destination. For printed matter under cover and for samples, &c., posted so that they can be readily verified, they will be arranged for by Article 13 of the fundamental Convention of the 5th November, 1850, as declared by Article 10 of the special Agreement of 31st December, 1851.

“ The amount of postage as per Tariff No. IV. must be paid by the sender by applying stamps and by the addressee on arrival, by paying cash.

- “ 6. For inland correspondence the weight of a single letter is fixed at  $8\frac{3}{4}$  grammes and increases by  $8\frac{3}{4}$  grammes. With regard to the distance, the least will be up to 40 geometrical miles (Italian), above which will come the maximum distance. The charge for the lesser weight and the lesser distance will be 5 centimes; it will increase by 5 centimes in proportion to the weight, and will be doubled for the maximum distance.

“ Wrappers and official letters which have to be franked with stamps when posted, if they exceed 100 grammes in weight, will be charged according to Tariff No. IV.

“ For printed matter and samples posted so that their contents can readily be verified, Art. 13 of the fundamental Convention and Art. 10 of the above-cited special Convention will be applied, with the sole modifications that for samples the charges for every 35 grammes will be 10 centimes. For these charges see Tariff No. V.

“ In case the sender should not affix sufficient stamps, the posted matter will be duly delivered, but the receiver will be obliged to make up the postage plus an overcharge of 5 centimes, to be increased in proportion to the weight, taking into consideration the nature of the article posted.

- “ 7. Letters containing money or orders of value will not be treated as ordinary correspondence, but must be handed over to the office from which they will be sent for special treatment and delivery according to Art. 22.

“ LIST OF THE POST OFFICES SITUATED IN THE ESTENSE STATES  
WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS:—

Provinces.	Place of each Post Office.	Communes composing the District.	Provinces.	Place of each Post Office.	Communes composing the District.
Modena.	Carpi .. ..	Carpi	Reggio.	Reggio .. ..	Ciano Montecchio
	Fanano .. ..	Fanano		Reggio .. ..	Reggio
	Finale .. ..	Sestola		Reggiolo .. ..	S. Polo
	Finale .. ..	Finale		Reggiolo .. ..	Reggiolo
	Mirandola ..	Concordia	Reggio.	Scandiano ..	Castellarano
	Mirandola ..	Mirandola		Scandiano ..	Scandiano
	Mirandola ..	Formigginè		Scandiano ..	Albiano
	Mirandola ..	Modena		Scandiano ..	Aulla
	Modena .. ..	Nonantola	Olttrapennino.	Aulla .. ..	Calice
	Modena .. ..	S. Martino in Rio		Aulla .. ..	Licciana
	Montefiorino ..	Montefiorino		Aulla .. ..	Podenzana
	Novi .. ..	Novi		Aulla .. ..	Rocchetta
	Novi .. ..	Rolo		Aulla .. ..	Terrarossa
	Pavullo .. ..	Montese		Aulla .. ..	Tresana
	Pavullo .. ..	Pavullo		Aulla .. ..	Varano
	Pavullo .. ..	Fiumalbo		Aulla .. ..	Camporgiano
	Pievepelago ..	Pievepelago		Aulla .. ..	Carreggine
	S. Felice .. ..	S. Felice		Aulla .. ..	Castiglione
	Sassuolo .. ..	Sassuolo		Aulla .. ..	Collemandina
	Sassuolo .. ..	Guiglia		Aulla .. ..	Fosciandora
	Vignola .. ..	Spilamberto		Aulla .. ..	Galliciano
	Vignola .. ..	Vignola		Aulla .. ..	Giuncugnano
	Vignola .. ..	Brescello		Aulla .. ..	Minucciano
	Vignola .. ..	Castelnuovo di Sotto		Aulla .. ..	Piazza
Reggio.	Brescello .. ..	Gattatico	Olttrapennino.	Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	Pievefosciano
	Brescello .. ..	Poviglio		Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	Sillano
	Brescello .. ..	Busana		Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	S. Romano
	Brescello .. ..	Carpinetti		Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	Trassilico
	Brescello .. ..	Castelnuovo nei Monti		Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	Vagli sotto
	Brescello .. ..	Villaminuzzo		Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	Vergemogli
	Brescello .. ..	Villaminuzzo		Castelnuovo di Garfagnana	Vergemogli
Reggio.	Castelnuovo nei Monti	Castelnuovo nei Monti	Olttrapennino.	Carrara .. ..	Carrara
	Castelnuovo nei Monti	Castelnuovo nei Monti		Carrara .. ..	Casola
	Castelnuovo nei Monti	Castelnuovo nei Monti		Fivizzano .. ..	Fivizzano
	Castelnuovo nei Monti	Castelnuovo nei Monti		Fivizzano .. ..	Fivizzano
Reggio.	Correggio .. ..	Correggio	Olttrapennino.	Fosdinovo .. ..	Fosdinovo
	Correggio .. ..	Gualtieri		Fosdinovo .. ..	Fosdinovo
	Correggio .. ..	Gualtieri		Fosdinovo .. ..	Fosdinovo
Reggio.	Guastalla .. ..	Guastalla	Olttrapennino.	Massa .. ..	Massa
	Guastalla .. ..	Luzzara		Massa .. ..	Montignoso
Reggio.	Novellara .. ..	Novellara	Olttrapennino.	Massa .. ..	Montignoso
	Novellara .. ..	Novellara		Massa .. ..	Montignoso

On the 27th September, 1852, the Postmaster-General published a printed Notice to the effect that the Pontifical Government had joined the Postal League, and that from the 1st October the correspondence between the two States was to be treated under the regulations in force with Austria, Tuscany and Parma. I do not reproduce this Notice as it offers little interest to us.

The Post Offices of the Duchy numbered twenty-six when the Postal Agreement came into force, as is seen from the List which I have reprinted. To these were added two more in 1854, as announced in the following Notice (see *Collezione Generale delle Leggi, &c.*, Vol. XXXIII., pp. 57 and 58):—

“ Directorate of the Estense Post.

“ NOTICE.

“ With the object of procuring prompt delivery and dispatch of letters and parcels in the Communes of Montecchio and Castelnovo di Sotto, both in the Province of Reggio, a Post Office has been opened in each of these places at the respective ‘ Dispensieri di Finanza,’ which are supplied with the Tables of Distances determining the charge for correspondence, taking into consideration that for the circulation of letters in the Cispenine Estense provinces the minimum charge for a single letter, *i.e.*, for the weight of  $8\frac{3}{4}$  grammes, is 5 centimes, and for the provinces beyond the Apennines 10 centimes.

“ Modena, 8th May, 1854.

“ The Postmaster-General,

“ GANDINI.”

From November, 1854, the sale of stamps was extended to Magaziones, as is seen from the following letter:—

“ Modena, 17th November, 1854.

“ Ministry for Finance,

“ To the Intendant of Finance, Modena.

“ For the purpose of giving the public greater facilities in the purchase of stamps, I have thought it expedient to entrust their sale to all Magaziones, allowing them a commission at the same rate as allowed to them for stamped paper.

“ The Intendants of Finance, therefore, must impose on them the obligation of keeping themselves well supplied with stamps of at least the first three kinds of 5, 10 and 15 centimes, as prescribed for stamped paper, in default of which it will be understood that they are liable to a fine.

“ The commission will be paid in the same manner as for the supplies of stamped paper.

“ Requesting you to carry out this arrangement, I am, &c.,

“ The Minister for Finance,

“ TARABINI.”

During the succeeding years of the Ducal period I do not find any other documents which merit being reproduced except the following, which arranged that in cases where the correspondence was insufficiently stamped in making up the charge to be paid by the addressee, the amount of the stamps applied should be deducted. (See *Messaggere di Modena*, No. 1352 of 25th April, 1856, and No. 1634 of 18th December, 1857.)

“ General Directorate of the Estense Post.

“ The public is notified that on account of recent reciprocal arrangements with the Post Office Department of the Sardinian States in Turin, the value of insufficient stamps applied to letters destined for the Estense States from the Sardinian States, France, Belgium and Switzerland on which, as per the Convention in force, the whole postage has been exacted, will be repaid to the claimants.



"This reimbursement will only take place when the letter, the cover, or that part of the address where the stamps and the figure of the charge paid are shown is presented by the addressee at the office from which he has received the letter.

"The reimbursement will only be made for letters arriving in the Estense States from the mentioned States, and from the date of the present publication.

"Modena, 21st April, 1856.

"The Postmaster-General,

"GANDINI."

"General Directorate of the Estense Post.

#### "NOTICE.

"Consequent on the substitution of stamps instead of money for payment of postage for correspondence exchanged through Austria, these Dominions and the non-Austrian States of the Austro-German Postal League, Switzerland, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, notice is hereby given that for the same correspondence, the value of insufficient stamps, which before was included in the category of unpaid, has recently been allowed, thereby requiring the recipient to pay only the difference existing between the whole postage and the incomplete amount applied to the letter in stamps by the sender.

"Modena, 15th December, 1857.

"The Postmaster-General,

"GANDINI."

In September, 1855, two post offices were opened at Camporgiano and Gallicano, in the district of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana; on January 1st, 1858, at Luzzara (Guastalla), and at the end of the same year another post office was opened at Zocca (Pavullo). Thus during the last period of the Ducal Government the post offices in the Duchy reached the number of thirty.

Of the other documents of the Ducal period, and which refer to supplies of paper and gum, to the printing of the different lots of stamps, to their consumption, the remainders, &c., I have made use in the descriptive part to which I refer my readers.

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### Provisional Government.

In consequence of political troubles, Duke Francesco V., on the morning of June 11th, 1859 left Modena, to take refuge under the protecting wings of Austria. With an edict dated the same day he "for the moment" bids farewell to his subjects. A Regency is constituted on the same day composed of five members, to which another five were immediately added. But a case of *force majeure* having come about, the Regency, which emanated from the Duke, was declared dissolved on June 13th. In the expectation of a Sardinian Representative, a Municipal Government was established (June 13th). Lawyer Luigi Zini arrived at Modena on the 15th, invested with the quality of Provisional "Extraordinary" Commissioner for the Sardinian Government, and resigned his appointment on the 20th, after having,

on the 17th, announced the nomination of Dott. Luigi Carlo Farina to the Dictatorship of the Modenese Provinces, by virtue of a decree dated the 15th in Turin, bearing the signature of the Prince Eugene of Savoy and the Count of Cavour.

On June 19th Farini published his famous proclamation, inspired with the warmest patriotism.

The public meeting declared the Austro-Estensi released from the Government of the Duchy as from August 20th, and the following day the annexation to the Sardinian States was voted with enthusiasm, which had been approved so long before as 1848.

By December 5th, 1859, the provinces of Modena, Parma and the Romagnas were brought under one Government called "Regie Provincie dell' Emilia," with headquarters at Modena, and from January 1st, 1860, Farini assumed the position of Governor.

The annexation was confirmed on March 11th and 12th, 1860, by Public Statute.

One of the few decrees emanating from the Municipal Government (June 13th) prescribes that "all the seals of the preceding Government shall be immediately done away with." A decree of the temporary Commissioner (June 15th) "orders that every tribunal and public administration shall suppress the seals of the previous Government and immediately obtain new ones, bearing the coat-of-arms of the Sardinian Kingdom."

Meanwhile, on the orders of the new Government, as it was impossible to substitute a new series of stamps for the Ducal series at once, these were to remain in use for some time.

From examination of some correspondence of 1859, I found that about the end of June the Modena Post Office adopted a new cancelling stamp consisting of nine parallel lines, between which is placed the Shield with the Cross of Savoy surrounded with the Collar of the Annunziata, and topped with the Royal Crown (see descriptive portion).

Having taken many steps to trace some document in which this new peculiar cancelling stamp with the Savoy coat-of-arms might be mentioned, I was persuaded that no written agreement exists, and think that its adoption may have been determined upon by verbal arrangements between the Minister of Finance and the Post Office.

The receipt of the engraver Carlo Setti which follows is the only mention of it that I have been able to find, and although in this there is no description of the stamp, there is great probability that it is the one consisting of nine lines with the Savoy coat-of-arms between them, which I have mentioned.

"Modena, 20th June, 1859.

"From the 'Economo Generale delle Regie Finanze' I undersigned receive nine lire twenty centimes Tariffali for a stamp for cancelling postage stamps.

"Lire Tariff, 9.20.

"CARLO SETTI."

"For the Post Office."

About the end of June the Post Office of Reggio adopted a circular-shaped stamp for cancelling, consisting of the Savoy Shield, with the Royal Crown, enclosed in two concentric circles, between which was written "Posta Lettere. Reggio." Not even of this stamp have I found any mention in documents which I have examined.

The adoption of cancelling stamps with the Savoy coat-of-arms was limited to Modena and Reggio, the other offices did not change.

It is evident that with the two cancelling stamps mentioned, the use of Estensi stamps was rendered tolerable for some time after the fall of the Ducal Government. The stamps of the Duchy cancelled in this manner certainly offer no slight historic interest, little inferior to that offered for example by the stamps of Peru issued in 1881 and 1882, during the Chilian occupation, bearing the overprint of the Chilian coat-of-arms above the Peruvian, although in that case it was a question of a surcharge and not of a cancelling stamp as in this one.

The following are the terms in which a Postal Convention was stipulated between the Sardinian States and the Modenese Provinces.\* In the document which follows there is mention for the first time of the introduction of Sardinian stamps in the provinces which had belonged to the Duchy. According to the new Tariff, the postage for the interior of the kingdom was 20 centimes. In consequence of this the use of 10 centime stamps, not very considerable up to this time, became much more frequent :—

“General Post Office.

“Modena, 19th July, 1859.

“Convention between Sardinia and the Modenese Provinces.

“With the object of making communication between the Provinces of Modena and the Sardinian States, hereditary and annexed, easier and less onerous to the public, Cav. Ugolino Forni, Delegate from the Minister of Public Works in Turin, and Giuseppe Tirelli, Director of the Post and Telegraphs in Modena, both duly authorised, have arranged as follows :—

“Art. 1. The Postal Administration of Modena, commencing on the first of August next, and sooner if possible, will apply the Tariff at present in force in the hereditary Sardinian States to ordinary letters, registered or not, as well as to manuscripts, samples, circulars, notices, postal orders, foreign newspaper associations, and home and foreign correspondence.

“Art. 2. With the exception of sums deposited or paid for postal orders or for newspaper associations, all cash taken by the two Administrations for the Tariffs in accordance with Art. 1 will be for their own particular account.

“Art. 3. The Administration of the Sardinian Post must supply the Postal Administration of Modena with all necessary printed matter for the postal service, including stamps.

“Art. 4. The Postal Administration of Modena will pay the Postal Administration of Sardinia, at the end of three months, the annual sum of 24,000 francs, as compensation for extra cost of transport in Sardinia, on the disbursements which Sardinia makes on letters from abroad or destined for the Provinces of Modena, and finally for the supplies of printed matter and stamps with the effigy of the King†.

\* A decree dated 8th October, 1859, of Farini announced that from the tenth of that month the Sardinian Tariff would be extended to all correspondence with the provinces in the Romagnas and in Tuscany.

† The words “with the effigy of the King” are added in the minutes in a different hand.

"Art. 5. The present Convention will come into force as soon as it has been duly sanctioned, and it is understood that the Postal Convention of August 30th and September 4th, 1858, will then cease.

"The present shall last till January 1st, 1860, and shall continue for periods of six months, unless three months previous notice be given by one of the parties to the contract.

"GIUSEPPE TIRELLI.

"CAV. UGOLINO FORNI.

"Approved, FARINI."

Following the foregoing document, the Postmaster-General announced in these terms (proclamation printed by Tipografia Rossi, published also in the *Gazzetta di Modena*, No. 38, of July 28th, 1859), that the Ducal stamps would no longer be valid for franking after August, and that on September 1st the issue of Sardinian stamps would be commenced. We shall see hereafter how this did not come to pass.

#### "NOTICE.

"In consequence of the Convention of July 19th, 1859, between this Administration and that of the Sardinian Post, as the use of the present stamps is about to cease, notice is given that:—

- "1. From September 1st stamps with the effigy of His Majesty Victor Emanuel II. will be adopted by this office for franking letters.
- "2. In order to completely use up the stamps previously issued by this Administration, a period until the end of August is allowed, after which these stamps will be abolished.

"Modena, 22nd July, 1859.

"G. TIRELLI,

"Director of the Post and Telegraphs."

Since they have no special interest for us, I do not reproduce the Postal Regulations for the Modenese Provinces published on July 24th, after arrangements made with the Post of Sardinia (see *Gazzetta di Modena*, No. 39, of 29th July, 1859).

On July 15th, 1859, the Postal Administration of Turin sent the Sardinian stamps to the Modena Post Office, and since the latter continued to be under the Minister of Finance, the Postmaster-General advised the Minister in the following letter. It is to be noticed how, on account of postage for inland destination being 20 centimes, two-thirds of the stamps sent were of this value.

"General Post Office.

"Modena, 25th July, 1859.

"To the Direttore della 4a Direzione Finanze, Modena.

"I herewith beg to submit for the necessary registration the Sardinian stamps as per enclosed Specification, Mod. 29, for the total amount of 6,850 lire, stating that they are the exact quantity and quality as just supplied by the Administration of Sardinia to this Post Office, which has already sent formal receipt for them.

"I must also inform you that the Turin Post Offices have directly supplied the offices of Massa and Carrara with the above, for which reason you will kindly send your instructions to these offices.

"Yours, &c.,

"GIUSEPPE TIRELLI."

5 cent.	...	...	...	1,000 stamps.
10 "	...	...	...	4,000 "
20 "	...	...	...	20,000 "
40 "	...	...	...	4,000 "
80 "	...	...	...	1,000 "

The 30,000 stamps which came from Turin were not considered sufficient for one month's consumption, and the Post Office, therefore, had a new supply asked for, as is seen from the three letters herewith.

"No. 505.

"General Post Office.

"Modena, 30th July, 1859.

"To the Direttore della 4a Direzione Finanze, Modena.

"In order that the application of the Sardinian stamps may now be started contemporaneously, I must propose that a supply of them be made to the offices in the following presumptive quantities:—

To Modena	...	...	for lire	1,200
To Reggio	...	...	"	600
To Guastalla	...	...	"	160

"With regard to the Estense stamps issued up to the present by this Administration, the accounts will be drawn up at the end of next August, and these I will immediately send to your Excellency.

"As I consider that the supply received from Turin will not even correspond to one month's consumption, I must strongly urge you to make a further request for any quantity which it may please you to decide upon.

"Yours, &c., for the Postmaster,

"GIO. VINCENZI,

"Acting Postmaster."

"1st August, 1859.

"To be deferred till the final liquidation of the old stamps, the Post Office already having a supply.

"TERNI."

"No. 47

"Modena, 30th July, 1859.

"The Central Store of Stamped Paper and Stamps.

"To the Director of Finance, Modena.

"On account of the introduction of the Sardinian stamps into this Store, which are to be used in place of those still current, as per the orders contained in your esteemed letters No. 6896 of the 28th inst., and having observed that their quantity is considerably less than the average consumption which usually takes place in the Modenese Provinces, the undersigned, after consulting his books, has arrived at

the usual average consumption of stamps in these Provinces in the space of two months, and it seems to him that this length of time cannot be considered excessive when it is borne in mind that in commencing a new issue of stamps owing to extra consumption, the supply may have to be renewed in a shorter space of time, and it is certainly, moreover, essential that the Stores at Reggio and Massa, as well as the General Post Office and the agents in the Modenese Provinces should not be left unsupplied with the necessary spare stamps, especially as they always come in for future use.

"In view of all this, the writer begs to suggest that you should please order the quantity and kind of stamps mentioned in the following Specification for delivery to this office.

"Yours, &c.,

"BAJ.

"	Sheets of 50 stamps at 5 cent. per stamp	...	200 sheets.
"	" 10 "	...	200 "
"	" 20 "	...	400 "
"	" 40 "	...	200 "
"	" 80 "	...	100 "

Total ... 1,100 sheets."

"Modena, 30th July, 1859.

"The Postmaster-General, Modena.

"After having forwarded the supply of stamps from Turin, sent me with your letter of the 25th inst., No. 462, to the Central Keeper, Mr. Baj, the latter has informed me that this supply is insufficient, and that it should exceed at least the need for three months, based on previous consumptions, resulting as follows :—

5 cent. stamps	No. 10,000
10 "	10,000
20 "	20,000
40 "	10,000
80 "	5,000

"I request you to ascertain from the Turin Post Office whether, notwithstanding the new phase into which the Government of Modena has now entered, it would arrange for a prompt supply of stamps, as given above.

"The Director of Finance,

"TERNI."

Meanwhile, the new supply asked for from Turin did not arrive, and according to the Notice of the Post Office dated July 22nd, the issue of the new stamps ought to have commenced on the 1st September. But August 30th arrived without any decision being made. By agreement with the Minister of Public Works of the Sardinian States, instead of issuing in the ex-Duchy the stamps with the effigy of King Victor Emanuel, the issue was planned of a special series for the Modenese Provinces. To make the values of these stamps uniform with those of the Sardinian States, these were fixed to be of the following denominations, viz., 5, 10, 20, 40 and 80 centimes.

“ General Post Office.

“ Modena, 30th August, 1859.

“ To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

“ With the approval and authority of the Minister of Public Works, contained in a dispatch of to-day, No. 202, I have to request you to arrange for the immediate manufacture and supply of letter stamps bearing the simple indication ‘Provincie Modenesi,’ and of the following values :—

	5 centimes.
10	„
20	„
40	„
80	„

“ Yours, &c.,

“ The Vice-Director-General,

“ A. FARIOLI.”

“ Modena, 31st August, 1859.

“ To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

“ In accordance with your letter of yesterday, No. 814, I beg to advise you that I am ordering from the Economo the dies for the new postage stamps for the different values mentioned.

“ Yours, &c.,

“ TERNI.”

“ To the Economo-General of the Ministry of Finance.

“ I request you to arrange for the immediate manufacture of the dies for the new postage stamps ordered by the Minister of Public Works of the following values :—

	5 centimes.	
10	„	instead of 15 asked by the Post Office.
20	„	
40	„	
80	„	

“ The new stamps will bear the figure of Italy and the words ‘Provincie Modonesi’ where they go best.

“ For the Director of the Ministry of Finance,

“ The General Secretary, TOSCHI.

“ F. PARENTI, Vice-Secretary.”

From the letter of the General Post Office of Modena dated July 25th, 1859, reproduced on a previous page, we see that a supply of Sardinian stamps was sent to the offices of Massa and Carrara by the Postal Administration of Turin, the delivery was made for account of the Administration of the Divisional Directorate of Genoa, and those

stamps were sold in those Post Offices from June 15th. The Estense stamps which remained unsold in that Province were sent back to the Minister of Finance at Modena, but since it was impossible to discontinue them in other parts of the Duchy on account of the new issue being so behindhand, it was proposed by the Clerk of the Minister of Finance to utilise the Ducal stamps sent back from the Provinces of Massa and Carrara. The Director of the Ministry of Finance sent them for this purpose to the Stamp Keeper.

“Modena, 30th August 1859.

“To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

“The Estense stamps from the Oltreappennine Provinces, which were kept here after their suppression, are being forwarded to you so that they may be consigned to the Stamped Paper Office, which will send them in the regular manner to that office at Massa, now that they have again been brought into use.

“Yours, &c.,

“For Alfredo Zanfi, Chief Clerk,

“A. BORSARI.”

“31st August, 1859.

“The stamps have been sent to the Store to be delivered when required to the ‘Dispensieri.’

“For the Director,

“TOSCHI.”

The stamps were in the following quantities :—

5 centimes	...	...	...	...	5,415
10     ”	...	...	...	...	2,364
15     ”	...	...	...	...	2,046
25     ”	...	...	...	...	861
40     ”	...	...	...	...	646
1 lira	...	...	...	...	142

Meanwhile it had been decided that the supplies of stamps for the Province of Massa Carrara should be made by the Minister of Finance at Modena, the same as during the Ducal period. The Intendant of Finance at Massa, in accordance with this decision, asked for a new delivery of stamps from Modena. The following quantities of Duca stamps were sent :—

200 sheets of	5 centimes	=	48,000 stamps.
200     ”	10     ”	=	48,000     ”
100     ”	15     ”	=	24,000     ”
200     ”	40     ”	=	48,000     ”

After the stamps with the effigy of King Victor Emanuel had been issued for about ten weeks, it was very natural that the Intendant of Finance at Massa should protest against receiving the Estense stamps. He drew attention to the fact that they had been declared by the Post Office at Modena obsolete from August 31st, as per Notice July 22nd,



and rightly foresaw that putting the Estense stamps again into use would provoke discontent.

“Massa, 2nd September, 1859.

“Administration of Finance,

“To the Director of the Finance Ministry, Modena.

“In accordance with the orders contained in your despatch of the 19th August last, the arrangements have been communicated to the various ‘Dispensieri’ and wholesale post offices, and I have immediately requested the Central Store of Stamped Paper for a supply of new stamps which ought to have been put into use on the 1st of this month, in accordance with the Post Office Notice of the 22nd July, of which I enclose a copy.

“As the above-mentioned Central Store of Carta Bollata has sent me the supply asked for, but in Estense stamps, now abolished, I request you to make the necessary arrangements for a sufficient supply of new stamps to be sent to me without delay, at the same time informing you that in again bringing into use the Estense stamps, much dissatisfaction is caused.

“Yours, &c.,

“For the Intendant,

“CELESTINI.”

To this protest the Minister of Finance replied as follows :—

“Modena, 3rd September, 1859.

“To the Intendant of Finance, Modena.

“In reply to your letter of the 2nd inst., I beg to inform you that the Post Office Notice of the 22nd July has been suspended by official arrangement, and that the new stamps are not yet ready, and, therefore, it is necessary to continue with those at present in use.

“I have the honour to be, &c.,

“The Director of the Ministry of Finance,

“TERNI.”

And so we see that there was a temporary issue of Sardinian stamps which preceded—in the Province of Massa and Carrara only—the special series for the Provinces which had constituted the Estense States. I have the pleasure to publish the table showing the Sardinian stamps sold in the Province of Massa and Carrara, from the middle of June to the end of August, 1859, which was enclosed in the following letter :—

“Massa, 3rd September, 1859.

“To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

“In accordance with the orders given me in your note of the 19th August, No. 7530, I enclose the list of stamps of this Post Office and of that of Carrara, which has reached me from the local Postmaster, and remain, &c.,

“For the Intendant,

“CELESTINI.”

“TABLE showing the stamps received from the Divisional Directorate of Genoa 10th June, 1859, and indicating the number sold and the remainders on the 31st August, 1859:—

	5 centimes.		10 centimes.		20 centimes.		40 centimes.		80 centimes.		Total Value	
	Number.	Lire.	Number.	Lire.	Number.	Lire.	Number.	Lire.	Number.	Lire.	Of those sold.	Of the remainders.
Received in June ...	1500	75.—	3000	300.—	7500	1500.—	1500	600.—	1500	1200.—		L3675.—
Sold in June	30	1.50	170	17.—	750	150.—	50	20.—	40	32.—	220.50	
„ July	30	1.50	671	67.10	2200	440.—	94	37.60	—	—	546.20	
„ August	8	—40	1190	119.—	2700	540.—	56	22.40	—	—	681.80	
Total sold...	68	3.40	2031	203.10	5650	1130.—	200	80.—	40	32.—	1448.50	
Remainders, 31st Aug.	1432	71.60	969	96.90	1850	370.—	1300	520.—	1460	1168.—		L2226.50

“Massa, 1st September, 1859.

“The Director,

“A. GUGLIELMI.”

The Intendant of Finance at Massa could not acquiesce in the statements which the Ministry made, and again insisted that the Estense stamps should not be put into circulation.

“ Massa, 8th September, 1859.

“ Administration of Finance,

“ To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

“ It is not without displeasure that I must reply by return to your Excellency's despatch of the 5th inst., in order to ask you to abstain from again issuing the stamps with the arms of the last Government, which were abolished here on the 15th June last, and to ask for your authority to procure a supply of Sardinian stamps by applying to the Postal Directorate at Genoa for the purpose.

“ The re-establishment, even for a time, of the Estense stamps in the Oltreappennine Provinces would cause very great disgust, nor could I assume the responsibility of the consequences which might result, so much the more as the people here are wondering that the Estense stamps have not yet been abolished in the Cispenine Provinces, and are already getting displeased at seeing letters still arriving from there with Estense stamps.

“ The quantity of Sardinian stamps still in hand at the various post offices will perhaps suffice for ten days more, so that if you will be pleased to send me the authority asked for, by return, a supply for any interval you may name can be obtained from Genoa, in order that the new stamps to be used in the Modenese Provinces can be got ready.

Yours, &c.,

“ For the Intendant,

“ CELESTINI.”

The Minister of Finance finally authorised the Intendant at Massa to obtain the Sardinian stamps from the post office at Genoa.

“ Modena, 11th September, 1859.

“ To the Director of Finance, Massa.

“ Under the circumstances mentioned in your letter of the 8th inst., I authorise you to obtain the supply of stamps wanted from the Postal Directorate in Genoa, limited, however, to a few days consumption, as in the middle of this month it is hoped to be able to put the new stamps for the Modenese Provinces, which are now being prepared, into circulation.

“ It is understood that the Sardinian stamps are only obtained at their actual cost.

“ The Director of the Ministry of Finance,

“ TERNI.”

In consequence of this letter, all the 700 sheets of Ducal stamps which had been received in August, were returned from Massa on the 21st October.

It is interesting to examine the tables showing the number of the Sardinian stamps sold in the Provinces of Massa and Carrara from the middle of June to the 15th of October, 1859, viz.: during the whole period in which they were in precarious use.

By adding the quantities of stamps distributed from each of the two post offices the following figures result :—

5 cents.	...	...	...	...	348
10 „	...	...	...	...	5,175
20 „	...	...	...	...	14,544
40 „	...	...	...	...	1,058
80 „	...	...	...	...	251

The lists were enclosed with the following letter :—

“ Massa, 5th November, 1859.

“ Administration of Finance.

“ To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

“ In accordance with the reserve expressed in my report of the 31st October last, I herewith send you the tables showing the Sardinian stamps received and sold by the post offices of Massa and Carrara, at the same time confirming that the remaining stock has been sent to the Postal Directorate at Genoa to balance the account which the Administration of the Modenese Provinces has with the same, as I have already had the honour to inform you in my above-mentioned report.

“ Yours, &c.,

“ For the Intendant,

“ CELESTINI.”

“ Post Office of Massa.

“ Table showing the consignments of stamps received from the Divisional Directorate of Genoa during the periods mentioned below :—

<i>Received.</i>	Value of stamps in centimes.				
	5	10	20	40	80
Received from the Divisional Directorate of Genoa on the 13th June, 1859 ... ..	500	1000	2500	500	500
Ditto, 17th June ... ..	1000	2000	5000	1000	1000
Ditto, 23rd September ... ..			2500		
Ditto, 6th October ... ..		3000	5000		
Total ... ..	1500	6000	15000	1500	1500
Deduct those sent to the post office of Carrara ... ..		1500	3750		
Actually received in the office of Massa... ..	1500	4500	11250	1500	1500

<i>Sold.</i>	Value of stamps in centimes.				
	5	10	20	40	80
Stamps sold from the 14th June to the 15th October, 1859 ...	168	3060	8396	284	56
Remainders returned ...	1332	1440	2854	1216	1444
Total ...	1500	4500	11250	1500	1500

“ The Accountant,

“ A. GUGLIELMI.”

“ Post Office of Carrara.

“ Table showing the consignments of stamps received from the Divisional Directorate of Genoa and of Massa during the period mentioned below:—

<i>Received.</i>	Value of stamps in centimes.				
	5	10	20	40	80
Received from Genoa 13th June, 1859 ...	1000	2000	5000	1000	1000
Ditto, Massa, 24th September			1250		
Ditto, Massa, 8th October ...		1500	2500		
Total ...	1000	3500	8750	1000	1000
<i>Sold.</i>					
Stamps sold from the 13th June to the 15th October, 1859 ...	180	2115	6148	774	195
Remainders returned ...	820	1385	2602	226	805
Total ...	1000	3500	8750	1000	1000

“ GIO. CARUSI CIBEJ.”

Before we took into consideration the documents regarding the temporary issue of Sardinian stamps in a portion of the ex-Duchy, we were occupied with the arrangements between the Minister of Finance and the Postal Directorate about the execution of the new series of special stamps for the Modenese Provinces.

On the back of the letter of the Minister of Finance, dated 31st August, which I have previously given, there is the following note:—

“ 6th September.

“ Meanwhile necessary arrangements are being made with the engraver, Setti, and printer, Vincenzi. By order of the Minister of Finance, for the figure of Italy the Shield of Savoy is to be substituted.”

In the beginning of October, 1859, the engraver, Carlo Setti, had finished the die, and obtained duplications from it, as we see from the following letter, which is very important for us, and with which was enclosed the invoice:—

“Modena, 4th October, 1859.

“L'Economo Generale of the Ministry of Royal Finance.

“To the Director of the Ministry of Finance.

“The engraver, Mr. Carlo Setti, has made in a praiseworthy manner and with his well-known ability and exactness, all the material necessary for manufacturing the different series of postage stamps, so ordered by me, according to instructions you gave me in your letter of the 31st August.

“From the enclosed invoice we see that the cost of the work is 600 Italian lire, equivalent to lire Tariffali 541.95 in comparison with the Austrian lire, and, therefore, payable with 646 svanziger and 15 centimes.

“In requesting you to pay this amount, I will add that in 1852, at the time when the stamps for the Postal League were made, the amount was 850 Italian lire, and, therefore, having obtained a considerable reduction together with more perfect work, as well as the possession of the pincers (tanaglia)—the principal instrument in the work—I hope that in this matter also I have taken care of the interests of the Administration.

“Yours, &c.,

“CESARE ZOBOLI.”

“CARLO SETTI.

“Merchant Jeweller and Engraver,

“Under the Portico del Collegio, Modena.

“By order of the Economo Generale of the Royal Finance for the following work:—

“Modena, 3rd October, 1859.

“For one iron pincers (tanaglia) used for casting postage stamps (sic), composed of various pieces and joined with screw ... .. Lit. 116

Two copper matrices... .. „ 20

Die in English steel with the Savoy Coat of Arms and inscription ‘Provincie Modonesi Franco

Bollo’... .. „ 130

256 metal type ... .. „ 350

Total Italian lire ... 616

Reduced to ... .. Lire 600.—

Tariffali lire ... .. 541.95

“Paid

With 645 Austrian lire and 15 cent.

“CARLO SETTI,”

Written on the back :—

“ 4th October, 1859.

“ To the cashier for payment, if nothing against it. 5th October.  
Sent Order No. 608.

“ TERNI.”

A first set of stamps of the new series was ready by the 12th October. The Economo of the Ministry of Finance advised the Director of the Ministry, who in his turn informed Carlo Baj of it, who continued to be, even after the change of Government, “ Magazziniere della Carta Bollata ” and the Postmaster-General.

We see from the first of the three following letters that the date of the issue of the stamps of the Provisional Government is the 15th October.

“ Modena, 12th October, 1859.

“ To the Director of the Ministry of Finance.

“ Against notice from this Postal Directorate for the use of the new stamps to be applied to letters on the 15th inst., I send you in the meantime, in accordance with your orders of the 31st August, a suitable supply of the stamps in the following specified quantities :—

“ 48,000 coloured green of 5 centimes, in 400 sheets.

“	“	maroon	15	“	400	“
“	“	violet	20	“	400	“
“	“	red	40	“	400	“
“	“	orange	80	“	400	“

“ I shall let you have soon the remainder of the supply ordered of 1,000 sheets of each quantity, and meanwhile I request you, in sending the sheets to the Carta Bollata Office, to arrange for me to have formal receipt.

“ The Economo Generale of the Ministry,

“ CESARE ZOBOLLI.”

“ Modena, 12th Oct., 1859.

“ To Mr. Carlo Baj, Magazziniere della Carta Bollata, Modena.

“ Enclosed I send you a first set of new postage stamps of the following qualities and quantities :—

“ 48,000 coloured green of 5 centimes in 400 sheets.

“	“	maroon	15	“	400	“
“	“	violet	20	“	400	“
“	“	red	48	“	400	“
“	“	dark yellow	80	“	400	“

“ With this supply you will be able to satisfy the demands which will be made by the Post and by the ‘ Dispensieri ’ in the manner previously practiced, ceasing from the present to use any old stamps, and supplying the Stores of Reggio and Massa with a suitable supply.

"The present will serve as a receipt for the quantity and quality of the new postage stamps sent to the Ministry with your letter of to-day No. 133 and further as praise for the efforts you have made in getting them executed.

"For the Director of the Ministry of Finance,

"TOSCHI."

"Modena, 12th October, 1859.

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"With reference to your letter of the 30th August last, I hasten to advise you that I am sending to the 'Magazziniere' here, Mr. Carlo Baj, and therefore at the disposal of the post and of the public the following quantities and qualities of new postage stamps:—

"48,000 coloured green	of 5 centimes in 400 sheets.
" " maroon	15 " 400 "
" " violet	20 " 400 "
" " red	40 " 400 "
" " dark yellow	80 " 400 "

"I am ordering the Magazziniere not to supply any more of the old stamps.

"For the Director of the Ministry of Finance,

"TOSCHI."

The Ministry of Public Works, in accordance with a decree of the 19th July, 1859, which attributed to it the administration of the Postal, Telegraphic and Railway services, asked the Ministry of Finance to give up everything regarding the stamps. But the Ministry of Finance considered that the accounts of this branch should continue to belong to it. Only on the 1st of January, 1860, were the Postal and Telegraphic Administrations brought into the Department of Public Works,<sup>1</sup> and on the 1st February, 1860, the Postal Directorate was charged with the administration of the stamps.

"National Government  
of the  
Modenese Provinces.

Modena, 11th October, 1859.

"Ministry of Public Works.

"No. 534.

"To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

"After the decisions of this Ministry, necessitating the concentration of the different branches of the administrations, amongst which is included that of the stamps for the circulation of letters,

<sup>1</sup> According to the decree of the 12th January, 1860, to which I refer later on, the Provincial Administration of the Post was brought under the exclusive dependence of the Ministry of Public Works on the 1st February of that year.



your Ministry is officially requested to kindly arrange for resigning and delivering to the post office the stamps, models and anything else inherent to the cost of making the new postage stamps.

"I have informed the Vice-Postmaster-General of this delivery, and remain, &c.,

" G. TIRELLI."

" Modena, 14th October, 1859.

" The Director of the Ministry of Finance,

" To the Minister of Public Works, Modena.

" With regard to the object of your despatch of the 11th inst., I must remark that the sale of postage stamps is a matter which regards the Ministry of Finance, such as the sale of 'Carta Bollata' and of stamps for passports, which does not differ from the custom in Romagna, Tuscany and Parma.

" At the same time I beg to inform you that the new postage stamps are quite ready, of which notice has already been given to the Postmaster-General.

" TERNI."

No notification had been published to announce the issue of the new series. With regard to the Ducal stamps, it was decided that their validity for franking correspondence should cease with the appearance of the others. A sufficient length of time, however, was allowed for the withdrawal of the unsold stamps; the following letter arranged this:—

" Modena, 17th October, 1859.

" The Director of the Ministry of Finance,

" To the Intendant of Finance, Modena.

" With regard to the doubt expressed by the Intendant of Finance in Reggio, I have declared that the pre-existing postage stamps and those now used are to be withdrawn by the 'Dispensieri' and wholesale postal agents and changed for the new stamps. Those which are to be withdrawn, however, must be in sheets or half sheets, and not otherwise.

" TERNI.

" F. PARENTI, Secretary."

The Intendant of Finance at Reggio replying on the 24th October to the preceding letter, wrote that "some Dispensieri could not change the old postage stamps for new without serious loss to themselves if the old stamps had to be returned in sheets or half sheets, and not otherwise." The Minister replied that he would allow the change of stamps "in less quantities than half sheets also."

The Intendant of Finance in Massa, at the request of the Provincial Directorate of the Post, informed the Minister that the remainder of the Sardinian stamps had been returned to the Divisional Directorate of the Post in Genoa.

“ Massa, 31st October, 1859.

“ Administration of Finance.

“ To the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

“ The stamps of the Modenese Provinces having come into use on the 16th inst., the local Provincial Director of the Post had orders from the Postmaster-General to remit, as he did, the Sardinian stamps which remained unsold in the post offices of Massa and Carrara on the 15th inst. to this Intendancy.

“ With regard to this, I thought it advisable to ask the Divisional Directorate of Genoa whether it would consent to receive these stamps, giving credit for them against the debit of the Modenese Postal Administration for the supplies of stamps in use.

“ I was waiting for a reply when in a letter of to-day the Provincial Director in this city has requested me to return the stamps in question, stating that the above-mentioned Divisional Directorate of Genoa has demanded them, together with a statement showing the quality and quantity of Sardinian stamps received and sold from the 13th June, the time when they were commenced here, up to the 15th inst.

“ I am, therefore, returning the stamps to the post office, and hasten to inform you of the matter. I shall also send you a copy of the statement demanded by the Local Postal Directorate, in order that it may serve as a guide for the accounts of the Ministry.

“ For the Intendant Celestini,

“ BRUNETTI, Vice-Sec.”

Written on the back :—

“ In abeyance, awaiting the statement of the Sardinian stamps, to serve as guide for the general accounts.

“ For the Director,

“ TOSCHI.”

The letter which follows accompanied a further supply of stamps. It is important to notice from this that there was a new demand for 20 centime stamps, of which a special printing was made, which, as we shall see in the descriptive portion, differs from the first especially in colour, which, instead of being black violet or dark violet, is lilac, with some gradations towards rose colour.

“ Modena, 8 November, 1859.

“ To the Director of the Ministry of Royal Finance.

“ In addition to my letter No. 133, of the 12th October last, in which I sent part of the supply of stamps ordered, 400 sheets of each of the five different colours and prices, I now send you in completion of the order, the undermentioned qualities and quantities, viz. :—

“ 72,000 coloured green		of	5 centimes	in 600 sheets.	
“	“	maroon	15	“	600 “
“	“	violet	20	“	600 “
“	“	red	40	“	600 “
“	“	orange	80	“	600 “
120,000	“	violet	20	“	1,000 “

These latter have been asked for by the Postal Directorate in addition, beyond the supply previously settled upon, owing to a presumed more rapid consumption.

"The entire quantity comprising the first and this present supply amount to 720,000, and I request you to kindly let me have formal receipt when sending them to the 'Carta Bollata' Office.

"The cost of the work including paper, coloured ink, gumming, &c., executed with every care by the printer, Mr. Carlo Vincenzi, amounts to lire tariffali 390, for which I await Government order to balance the enclosed invoice.<sup>1</sup>

"Yours, &c.,

"The Economo General of Finance,

"CESARE ZOBOLI."

"Modena, 10th November, 1859.

"Central Store of Carta Bollata.

"To the Treasurer-General of the Ministry of Finance, Modena.

"By order received with the ministerial dispatch of the 8th inst., No. 10,669, I acknowledge receipt of the new postage stamps to the number of 720,000 sent to me in two lots by the ministry in the above-mentioned despatch, and in the preceding one, dated 12th October, of which I send you complete specification at foot, according to the quality and quantity of sheets consisting of 120 stamps each.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"BAJ."

#### "SPECIFICATION.

"Coloured green,	5 centimes	...	1,000 sheets.
" maroon,	15 "	...	1,000 "
" violet,	20 "	...	2,000 "
" red,	40 "	...	1,000 "
" dark yellow,	80 "	...	1,000 "

Total number of sheets of 120 stamps 6,000"

I now refer to three Decrees of the Governor Farini all dated the 12th January, 1860, concerning the Province of Emilia, the first ordering the control of the Postal Directorate by the Ministry of Public Works, the second of the same date about the Postal Administration, and the third regarding the introduction of Sardinian stamps with the annexed Regulations.

The Decree of the same date about Postal Orders and that of the 31st January about Postal privileges are of no interest to us, and I therefore omit reproducing them. (See *La Raccolta Ufficiale delle Leggi e Decreti pubblicati dal Governatore delle R. Provincie dell'Emilia, serie 21-24 and 48*).

<sup>1</sup> This is no longer with the letter, nor has it been possible to trace it.

"Reigning His Majesty King Victor Emanuel II,  
the Ruler of the Provinces of Emilia,

"DECREES :

"Art. 1. The Postal Administration in the States of Emilia is placed under the exclusive control of the Ministry of Public Works, which exercises its superior inspection over everything concerning the Offices and the staff employed in them.

. . . . .

"Art. 30. The present Decree shall come into force on the 1st February, 1860, and shall be completed progressively with the development of the Postal Service.

"Given in Modena, from the Palazzo Nazionale, 12th January, 1860.

"FARINI.

"The Minister of Public Works,

"Visa,

"P. TORRIGIANI.

"The Minister of Grace, Justice and Culture,

"CHIESI."

"Reigning His Majesty King Victor Emanuel II,  
the Ruler of the Provinces of Emilia,

"DECREES :

"Art. 1. From the 1st February, 1860, the letter Postal Tariff throughout the Provinces of Emilia will be regulated in accordance with the present law.

"Art. 2. A single letter sent from one place to any other place in the Provinces of Emilia is subject to the uniform charge of 20 centimes.

"A single letter posted in a Post Office for any other destination within 20 kilometres is allowed under the charge of 20 centimes.

"Art. 3. A single letter to be delivered in the same Office in which it was posted is subject to the charge of 5 centimes.

"Art. 4. A single letter is one which does not exceed 10 grammes in weight.

"Art. 5. Packet letters are charged in accordance with the following table :

From 10 to 20 grammes inclusive, double the charge.

" 20 to 30 " " 3 times "

" 30 to 40 " " 4 times "

" 40 to 50 " " 5 times "

" 50 to 100 " " 6 times "

Beyond 100 to any greater weight the charge is added once for every 50 grammes.

"Art. 6. Packets of manuscript, patterns or samples of goods destined for inland distribution under cover and with a single letter left open or annexed, so that the contents may be readily recognised, are subject to a third of the charge fixed for letters, adhering to the same table of weight.

"The charge, however, for a parcel or sample of goods can never be less than that for a single letter.

- " Art. 7. Newspapers, gazettes and periodicals for whatever destination, provided they are under cover, are subject to a charge of 1 centime for every 20 grammes. Those weighing more than 20 grammes and under 40 are charged 2 centimes. For those of greater weight the charge is 2 centimes for every 40 grammes or fraction of 40.
- " Art. 8. Printed matter in general, lithographs, engravings, photographs, music (printed or manuscript), circulars, notices, prospectuses, pamphlets, bound books, and the like, must be franked beforehand and are subject to the charge of 2 centimes per packet not exceeding 40 grammes in weight. For heavier packages 2 centimes for each 40 grammes or fraction of 40 grammes above are to be added.
- " Art. 9. Registered letters are subject to a fixed fee of 25 centimes beyond the charge for ordinary letter.
- " Franking these letters is obligatory.
- " In case of loss not caused by 'force majeure' the Post Office will pay an indemnity of 50 lire for each, and will not be liable for any further compensation.
- " Art. 10. Registered letters for foreign countries with which postal conventions already exist, or will be concluded, will be accepted.
- " The compensation of 50 lire mentioned in the previous article will likewise be paid by the Post Office for letters registered for abroad, when the loss of same has taken place on inland territory.
- " When the loss has taken place on foreign territory the Post Office is not responsible if in the agreement between the countries a similar condition is not reciprocal.
- " Art. 11. If requested by the sender, 'return receipts' will be given against payment of 40 centimes.
- " Art. 12. The charge for a single letter addressed to sub-officers and soldiers of any army in active service is reduced to 10 centimes.
- " Sub-officers and soldiers on furlough are not considered to be in active service.
- " Art. 13. The franking power of stamps for letters and packets for any destination is admitted in the Provinces of Emilia.
- " Art. 14. The form of the stamps, the respective value of which is given on them, is determined by Decree.
- " Art 15. The manufacture of same belongs to the Ministry of Public Works (General Post Office) in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance.
- " Art. 16. The postage stamp is only available for franking letters and packets carried by the Post Office.
- " Art. 17. When the amount of one or more stamps applied to a letter or packet does not correspond to the proper weight charge, the balance must be paid by the receiver in cash.
- " The value of the stamps applied to foreign correspondence in accordance with the Conventions will be lost to the sender, where the value does not represent the correct charge.

- " Art. 18. Letters and packets which it is desired to send by means foreign to the Post Office (excepting those allowed by law for private post) are to be previously specially stamped by the payment of the rates fixed by the present law.
- " Art. 19. Papers, gazettes, and various printed matter from or for abroad are subject to the rates fixed by the Conventions with the foreign Governments.
- " The Government will have the power to charge a stamp duty on political papers arriving from foreign countries in which the periodicals of the Provinces of Emilia are themselves not exempted from the charge. This fee cannot be greater than that fixed on the periodicals in the respective foreign countries.
- " Art. 20. Printed matter must not contain any hand-writing either on separate sheets, the cover, or on the margin.
- " Hand-writing corrections on proof sheets are excepted.
- " Art. 21. Permission is given to anyone to subscribe to foreign news-papers and gazettes either directly or by any other means which may be considered convenient.
- " When a Post Office subscribes, the Administration will make a charge of two lire for the period of the subscription, whether annual or for a shorter time.
- " Art. 22. The sums of money paid into the Post Offices for postal orders for any inland place are sent to the receivers by the Administration on payment beforehand of a fee of 1 per cent. beyond the fixed charge of 5 centimes for each postal order.
- " Orders for sub-officers and soldiers with their regiments are transmitted free up to 20 lire; the arrangement regarding the fee for the order, however, remaining good.
- " Another Decree will give a list of the Offices and the maximum sums payable by each of them.
- " Art. 23. The Post Office is security for the money mentioned in the previous Article, which may be stolen or go astray, when sent to the proper Offices, without exception.
- " Art. 24. Claims regarding registered letters and money matters will not be considered after a period of two years for the first and of five years for the second, from date of delivery.
- " Art. 25. Fractions of centimes resulting in the compilation of charges are to be considered as complete centimes.
- " Art. 26. The executive portion of the present law will be provided for by means of regulations approved by the Decree.
- " Art. 27. Every other law contrary to the present is hereby cancelled.
- " Given in Modena, from the Palazzo Nazionale, 12th January, 1860.

" FARINI.

" The Minister of Public Works,

" Visa.

" P. TORRIGIANI.

" The Minister of Grace, Justice and Culture,

" CHIESI."

“Reigning His Majesty King Victor Emanuel II,  
the Ruler of the Provinces of Emilia,

“DECREES :

“Art. 1. The type of postage stamps for letters and packets is of five kinds, as in the Sardinian Kingdom :—

“1. Green - -	of the value of 5 centimes.
2. Grey - -	“ “ 10 “
3. Light blue	“ “ 20 “
4. Red - -	“ “ 40 “
5. Orange -	“ “ 80 “

“Art. 2. The postage stamps shall conform to the following size of the Piedmont stamps :—

“Dimensions : 22 millimetres long by 19 millimetres wide.

“Art. 3. Stamps are sold in every Post Office. In towns where a Divisional Directorate is established, for greater convenience to the public, their sale may be confided to persons not connected with the Post Office.

“Art. 4. Such persons will receive a commission of 3 per cent. on the value of the stamps sold.

“Art. 5. As regards second class Offices the amount from the sale of stamps shall be included with the other amounts taken, in order to settle the share of commission due to the respective cashiers in the proportions stipulated.

“Art. 6. The annexed regulations for the executive portion of the present Decree are approved.

“The Ministry of Public Works is charged with the execution of the present Decree, which will be published in the forms prescribed.

“Given in Modena, from the Palazzo Nazionale, 12th January, 1860.

“FARINI.

“The Minister of Public Works,

“Visa.

“P. TORRIGIANI.

“The Minister of Grace, Justice and Culture,

“CHIESI.”

“REGULATIONS annexed to the Government Decree of the  
12th January, 1860.

“Art. 1. The postage stamp to be used for franking a letter or packet consists of an engraving on paper of the value and form mentioned in Art. 1 of the Government Decree dated 12th January, 1860.

“Art. 2. The letter supplied with the stamp is to be placed in the slot.

“Art. 3. The amount of the charge for a letter or packet can be represented by one or more stamps of different value, provided that they make up the charge due for the weight of the letter.

“Art. 4. When the value of the stamp or stamps on a letter or packet is not sufficient to cover the charge due, and the letter or packet is directed to a foreign country in which franking with stamps is obligatory, it will be duly forwarded and be subject to the Regulations regarding letters insufficiently stamped for the payment of the difference.

"Art. 5. The postage stamp which has served for franking a letter shall be cancelled in the original Post Office by means of the Office postmark.

"Art. 6. The Tables mentioned in Art. 5 of the Law on Postal Tariff shall be posted up in all the Offices.

"Modena, 12th January, 1860.

"The Minister of Public Works,

"P. TORRIGIANI."

In February of 1860 both the stamps of the Provisional Government and those of Sardinia were in use; the adoption of the latter was gradually extending to the other annexed Provinces.

In the announcement which I reproduce (see *Gazetta di Modena*, No. 232, of the 8th February, 1860), we see that the validity of the special stamps for the Modenese Provinces ceased at the end of that month.

"Modena, 8th February, 1860.

"The General Postal Directorate in the Provinces of Emilia hereby gives notice that, by virtue of the Convention with the General Postal Directorate of Sardinia the use of Piedmontese stamps has been established for the postal service.

"With the object, however, of not causing loss to anyone possessing stamps which up to the present have been accepted by the Post Office, the public are notified that these latter will only be accepted up to the end of February.

"General Postal Secretary,

"T. CREMA."

As no arrangements for the change or withdrawal of the remaining stamps of the Provisional Government had been published, the Intendency of Modena asked for instructions about this in the following letter, to which the succeeding letter from the Ministry of Finance and the circular letter to the retailers is a reply.

"Modena, 27th February, 1860.

"R. Intendancy of Finance at Modena.

"To the Minister of Finance of Emilia, Modena.

"The wholesale 'postaro' at Novi informs me that the General Directorate of the Post has sent him a supply of new stamps, stating that at the end of the current month the present stamps will be withdrawn, and consequently asking me for instructions regarding those which are certain to be left, as he finds that he has a complete sheet of 20 centimes.

"Under the circumstances this Administration changed the remaining stamps for new; but now I am informed that the Ministry of Public Works, independently of the Ministry of Finance, which up to now has had charge of the sale of these stamps, has charge of the new ones.

"Now, as far as concerns the loss on the part of the Finance Ministry through this innovation, your Excellency will easily see what



is to be done; but as all this is strange to me, I must ask for clear instructions about the sale, which, under penalty of a fine, is obligatory for the retailers, since in the case of a branch changing hands, suitable arrangements would be necessary not only for carrying out the law but also for regulating the commissions.

"Foreseeing then, that it is not desired that new stamps shall be exchanged for old, I make a request for some provision in favour of the postal agents. The 'Dispensieri' and wholesale postal agents are under the strictest obligation to be always provided with stamps, therefore the refusal of this change clearly means that they must sacrifice a sum for which, be it small or great, there is no cause.

"I suggest, however, that when the manufacture and sale of the stamps pass to the Postal Directorates, and cease in the Ministry of Finance, the last having been supplied by it, they might be withdrawn gratis.

"Awaiting your decisions, I have the honour to be, &c.,

"AZZOLINI."

"Ministry of Finance in the Provinces of Emilia.

"Modena, 15th March, 1860.

"To the Intendant of Finance, Modena.

"Referring to the new regulations given to the 'Dispensieri' regarding postage stamps, you will arrange for the old stamps to be withdrawn from the various 'Dispensieri,' and this withdrawal must be made with lists in which the kind and quantity of the stamps and their amount are noted.

"The Intendancy will then reimburse the 'Dispensieri' for the stamps withdrawn, and send the whole to this ministry.

"For the Minister,

"TERNI."

"Modena, 16th March, 1860.

"The Intendancy of Finance in Modena.

"To the Dispensieri and Postal Agents.

"With reference to the new Regulations regarding the sale of stamps from the Ministry of Public Works, in order to settle every open account, this Intendancy requests you to send here all the stamps just ruled out of use with a list giving the kind and number of them, in order to obtain the exact reimbursement of their cost.

"This payment, for the convenience of the 'Dispensieri,' will be made by me in cash for the amounts due.

"AZZOLINI."

Finally, I give the announcement of the completion of the withdrawal of the stamps declared out of use and a circular of the Intendant of Finance, in which the retailers were reminded to correspond only with the Post Office on anything which concerned the stamps, which, as advised previously and is seen from the third letter which follows, assumed the administration of the stamps from the 1st February, 1860.

"Intendancy of Finance in Modena. " Modena, 10th May, 1860.

"To the Superintendent of Finance, Modena.

"The withdrawal of the stamps out of use from the 'Dispensieri' and Postal Agents being complete, and the same being repaid for the amount, I am sending you the stamps in ten separate packets, each packet supplied with the list desired.

"I give below a list of the 'Dispensieri' who brought back the stamps and the respective amounts. Those not mentioned were already without them.

" AZZOLINI.

1.	Dispensieri of Modena ...	...	45.55	lire.
2.	" Pavullo ...	...	44.45	"
3.	" Bomporto ...	...	9.45	"
4.	" Spilamberto ...	...	63.45	"
5.	" S. Felice ...	...	29.20	"
6.	" Zocca ...	...	14.70	"
7.	Postal Agent of Novi ...	...	24.—	"
8.	" Montese ..	...	23.—	"
9.	" Concordia ...	...	—15	"
10.	" S. Martino ...	...	181.60	"
Total ...			436.05	"

"This replies to No. 2126 of the 15th March, 1860, from the Ministry of Emilia."

"Circular.

"To the 'Dispensieri' and Postal Agents entrusted with the sale of stamps.

" Modena, 13th June, 1860.

"On the 1st of January of the present year all the Post Offices were brought under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Works.

"From this time forward all the 'Dispensieri' and Postal Agents were and are to correspond with the Postal Provincial Directorate, to which are also to be sent the 'resoconti' for the sale of the stamps and from which the quarterly commissions will be drawn, and not as heretofore from this Intendancy.

"The Intendant,

" AZZOLINI."

"Post Office Directorate at Modena. " Modena, 15th July, 1860.

"To the Superintendent of Finance, Modena.

"In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, please note that this Divisional Directorate only took over the stamps on the 1st of February of this year, and it is from this time only that it can give account of the management, not being able or expected to occupy itself with the preceding period.

"The Divisional Director,

" A. FARIOLI."

## Descriptive Part.—Ducal Government.

### FIRST DESIGNS.

On Plate I. are shewn two drawings of the Estense coat of arms of different sizes, one enclosed in a rectangle 75mm.  $\times$  62mm., the other 18mm.  $\times$  21mm., the latter being of the same dimensions as the first issue of Austrian stamps (1st June, 1850). These two designs, executed in a very delicate manner in pencil, have on the left of the crown "BOLLO," on the right "POSTALE"; above the larger design, added with a pen, we read "R.D. BOLLO POSTALE" (R.D. stands for Regio Ducale = Ducal Royal). All this is drawn and written by hand on paper, on which is fastened a vertical strip of three proofs of Austrian stamps, printed in black on white, of a pattern similar to that adopted,<sup>1</sup> and not gummed, which served as pattern. Of the three Austrian proofs the bottom one has the value of 6 kreuzer (carantani), the other two of 1 gulden (fiorino).

These designs and the three Austrian proofs—as they are reproduced—were annexed to the Report presented on the 7th July, 1850, by the Commission charged with the study of the Austrian Postal Regulations for adoption in the Duchy. They were then sent to the Austrian Ambassador, Count Allegri, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the letter which I have published, dated 17th of the same month. Count Allegri forwarded them to Vienna for the Royal Press, to which had been confided the execution of the stamps for the Duchy of Modena. The Royal Press sent the designs from there to Count Allegri, probably engraved in brass: they are reproduced on Plate IIa. Both are printed in black on the same sheet of hand-made paper (14½  $\times$  33cm.), which is thick white and has the watermark of the maker, "J. Whatman." The sheet is folded in two, so that the crease falls between the two designs; it was enclosed with the letter of the 17th July just mentioned.

### THE COAT-OF-ARMS.

In the design sent to Vienna and engraved there, the coat-of-arms consists of a shield on a royal mantle (ermine), the shield being divided in two; the left portion when facing it (the dexter side, heraldically) contains a silver band on a red field (vertical lines) the arms of the Archdukes of Austria; on the other portion is a silver eagle with wings outspread, crowned, on a blue field (horizontal lines).

A full description of the Austro-Estense blazonry was presented by Count Giovanni Galvani on the 1st May, 1858, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who had been asked for it by the expert Bavarian, Otto Titan von Hefner, for a heraldic work which he was preparing.

<sup>1</sup> The design of these Austrian proofs differs considerably from that adopted, and to my knowledge has not been yet described. The double-headed eagle has longer necks and plain coloured heads. The sword grasped in a claw is in a more oblique position, the globe held by the other claw is larger than in the pattern adopted; the leaves of the branch at the right, when facing it, are very little like oak leaves and are not executed so well. These proofs bear the inscription "K. K. Post-Stempel," whilst in the stamps this latter word is written *Stempel*, and the letters themselves are somewhat longer. I have also seen a proof of the 6 kreuzer of the same type in dull rose on thin white paper, without gum.

I think it advisable to give this description. In this drawing of the Austro-Estense arms in the large shield the lion rampant is not reproduced with forked tail, and in the Gallizian arms instead of one black crow and three golden crowns there are two crows. This is met with in many other reproductions of this coat-of-arms.

The coat-of-arms of his Royal Highness the Archduke our Ruler (Plate II B) consists of a large quartered shield with a smaller divided shield in the middle.

This latter shows on the dexter the noble arms of the Most August Imperial House of Austria impaled with those of Hapsburg and Lorena; that is to say, in the dexter a red lion crowned on a gold field for Hapsburg impaling the arms of the Archdukes of Austria, a band of silver on a red field, the two impaling a red band charged with three small silver eagles one above another on a gold field for the Dukes of Lorena; and on the sinister are the arms of the House of Este, a silver eagle crowned on a proper, *i.e.* blue field.

The first or large shield, in the first quarter, bears the arms of the Kingdom of Hungary: the dexter has eight bars alternately silver and red (old Hungary); the sinister bears three green mountains on a red field, the centre one of which is topped with a gold crown from which rises a silver patriarchal cross (new Hungary).

In the second quarter are the arms of the Kingdom of Bohemia, viz., a silver lion crowned, with tail forked and passed into the cross of Saint Andrea on a red field.

In the third quarter are the arms of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, viz., a shield divided in silver and blue—the dexter portion of which contains a blue snake twisted six times in pale with a flesh-coloured child emerging from the head, so that the head and stretched-out arms are visible (Lombardy); in the sinister portion is the golden-winged lion of Saint Mark, with diadem, holding in its paws an open book with the following motto: “Pax Tibi, Marce, Evangelista” (Venice).

Finally, in the last quarter, are the impaled arms of the Kingdoms of Gallizia and of Lodomeria, the dexter showing a blue field with a dividing red band surmounted by a black crow and three gold crowns lowered under the band, two and one (Gallizia), and the sinister a similar field to the first with two bars, each having six squares of silver and red alternately in two rows of three (Lodomeria).

The whole of this coat-of-arms signifies that the reigning house is of Austria-Este and that these Archducal Dukes are also—

Royal Princes of Hungary  
Bohemia  
Lombardy and Venezia  
Gallizia and Lodomeria.

As the House of Austria has for a long time adopted as supporters for its back-shield two griffins striped with black and gold, gold mouthed and red tongued, and as His Royal Highness the Archduke Ferdinand, grandfather of the reigning Sovereign (Francesco V), likewise used them for his own shield, our Sovereigns have also kept them, using them mostly in the cases when the arms are not employed with the royal mantle but adorned only with the Archducal crown.

The shield then is at present adorned with the Grand Magistral Necklace of the Royal Order of the Estense Eagle under the invocation of Saint Contardo of Este, as well as with the insignia of the principal Orders with which the Sovereign is invested, and especially with that of the Toson d'Oro (Golden Fleece).

Since there is very little said about the Estense eagle in this description it will be useful to give here what is written about the original in the well-known work of Litta, "*Famiglie Celebri Italiane*" (Milan, G. Ferrario, 1832):—

"The silver eagle with closed wings on a blue field is the original coat of arms of the Estensi. This figure was on their banners as far back as 1239. Blue was the colour usually adopted by the Guelphian faction, whilst the Ghibellines generally used red. Charles VII, King of France in 1431, on the first of January conceded the three golden lilies on a blue field, edged with silver, to the Marchese Nicholas III. Frederick III, in 1452, granted to him the imperial eagle on a gold field, to denote the imperial feud of Modena and Reggio, and, at the same time, also the eagle which is divided perpendicularly, half black on a gold field, half silver on a blue field, as the insignia of the County of Rovigo, then instituted, in which were included Adria, Comacchio, Lendinara, Argenta, S. Alberto, and other lands. Sisto IV, renewing in 1474 the investiture of Ferrara to Ercole I, conceded him the pontifical keys, to which was added, date unknown, the triple crown, distinctive in not being common with any other family, and which is used by the Estensi as being the oldest Vicars (Popes) of the Church. The gonfalon (standard) was added in 1368, when Pope Nicholas V nominated the Marchese Nicholas of Este as perpetual 'confalioniere' (standard-bearer) of the Holy Church, with his descendants. Nicholas died without leaving any sons, but the Estense continued to use the gonfalon. Giulio II, in 1508, conferred the charge of standard-bearer upon Alphonse I, Duke of Ferrara, although he deprived him of it afterwards; but in spite of this the gonfalon was not taken from the coat-of-arms. Various towns and territories ruled by the Estensi quartered the Este arms with their own, as Lendinara, which united them with its two towers: this is to serve as a warning that the Estense eagle in some arms is only secondary."

About the two laurel branches (often wrongly called olive) which surround the Este eagle in the stamps and in many medals, seals, etc., of the last ducal period, I have not been able to trace anything. It seems, however, that the eagle was thus bordered in 1814, but that in the form seen in the stamps it was adopted in 1814 when they were repeatedly placed in relief over the principal portions of the ducal apartments.

#### ISSUE OF 1ST JUNE, 1852.

The correspondence which I have published shews us that the execution of the stamps was not confided to the Imperial Press of Vienna after the General Post Office of Austria had advised the reproduction of a historical or mythological image instead of the coat of arms, as that would have rendered it easier to detect forgeries, which might be attempted. The Director of the Estense Post has advised

instead the reproduction of a "crown of leaves." In this uncertainty the matter lay some time in suspense, so that before the Postal Convention came into force it was decided to produce the stamps at Modena. We see from the correspondence that the Minister of Finance, having received from the General Post Office of Tuscany several notices and suggestions about the manufacture of the stamps and two samples of those adopted in the Grand Duchy, made arrangements with the Modenese engraver, Tomaso Rinaldi—partner of the firm of goldsmiths, Rocca, Rinaldi & Algeri—and gave him the charge of proposing a design.

I have not yet found any document which gives us the date when Rinaldi offered one or more designs, nor have I succeeded in ascertaining whether these are still in existence. All this leads us to think that the arrangements between the Minister and the engraver were made verbally.

In the middle of February, 1852, the Minister of Finance informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the matrices were finished almost, if not quite; I do not know, however, whether the word "matrices" is to be interpreted in its exact meaning or whether rather only the steel die was ready that month, as this seems to be more probable. The engraver's invoice, in which we see the steel die, the copper matrices and the "clichés" mentioned, is dated May 13th, 1852, and I think that the material had been delivered some day previously. On the 14th the Minister of Finance ordered 534 "clichés" to be delivered to the Stamp Office, and the die and matrices to be kept in the archives of the Ministry of Finance. But on the 10th of May orders had been given that the printing of the stamps was to commence "on May 11th at nine o'clock exactly"; however, it is not certain that the type had been sent to the Stamp Office on that day, but we notice that the first supply was sent on the 13th of that month, on which date I am of opinion the printing of the postage stamps commenced.

#### THE TYPE ADOPTED.

It measures  $18\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$  mm. (very nearly the dimensions of the first Austrian stamps). The Estense Eagle with folded wings, surmounted with a royal crown and enclosed in two laurel branches joined at the bottom with a ribbon, is contained in a rectangle with ornamented sides and "Poste Estensi" at the top in long capital letters. At the bottom was left, between two ornamental corners, a space in which capital type for indicating the value was to be inserted. This was held firm by a lower line completing the rectangle.<sup>1</sup> (See Plate III, No. 1 and 2).

<sup>1</sup> Since writing the above, I have received from a friend of mine a matrix die which he obtained from an antiquary in Bologna. The matrix, which is of copper, is very interesting because it bears the lower inscription, thus, "5. CENTES" in the capitals, instead of "CENT. 5.", and is evidently engraved as well as the rest of the design. So the matrix shows the whole design as it was originally presented by the engraver. I think that later on it was found more convenient to have the bottom label removed (with the exception of the two ornaments at the sides) and the lower inscription inserted in type set material. Of course, in the matrix die the bottom line does not show the break at each side that we find in the postage stamp.

## THE PROOFS OF THE TYPE ADOPTED.

I have not been able to ascertain whether any proofs printed direct from the original die still exist; it is probable that they have shared the same fate, unknown to me, which happened to the designs executed by Rinaldi.

Doubtless at the commencement of the printing, some sheets of 5 centime stamps of different colours were shewn to the Minister of Finance in order that he might judge of the quality of the paper. These sheets contained 260 stamps in two panes of 130 each, arranged in thirteen horizontal rows of ten; between the two panes run two parallel lines 3mm. apart. Each stamp has a full stop after the figure. The copy which occupies the sixth place in the last row but one of the right-hand pane has an error "C $\square$ NT. 5."

These 5 centime proofs are printed on paper of the following colours and quality:—

- (a) White, hand-made, horizontally laid and absorbent (quality not adopted).
- (b) White, hand-made, strong, which has the double-lined letter A as watermark, enclosed in a rectangle, repeated 260 times (quality adopted for 1 lira stamps). The sheet is gummed and has on the recto left margin the word "gomma" (gum) written in pen and ink.
- (c) Rose, hand-made, thick (colour and quality not adopted).
- (d) Yellow, machine-made (adopted for the 15 centime stamps).
- (e) Light blue, machine-made (not of the same shade as chosen for the first printing of the 40 centime stamps).

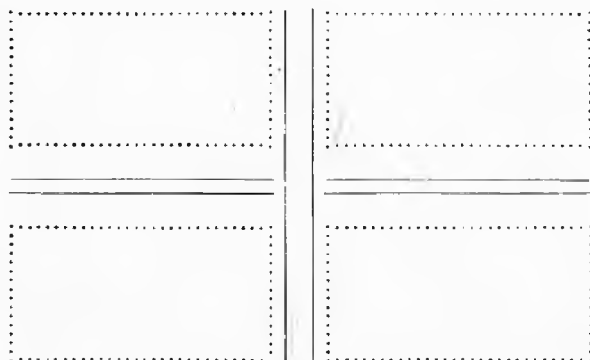
These sheets remained in the possession of the Minister of Finance, among whose descendants a portion of a sheet, viz., thirty-one stamps of 5 centimes (with full stop after the figure) on green machine-made paper has likewise been seen, not however the exact colour of the paper adopted, and also another block of eighteen stamps of 25 centimes, straw-coloured paper, thicker than that usually adopted, perhaps also machine-made. The two blocks are not gummed and must have been part of sheets of 240 stamps (not of 260 as the others above), *i.e.*, they were arranged in the same way as the sheets of stamps actually issued.

We observe how in these specimen sheets all the colours which were adopted were represented, although with some differences in shade.

## THE COMPOSITION OF THE TYPE AND PRINTING OF THE SHEETS.

We have already seen that the original die was of steel; from this two copper matrices were obtained with the "bilanciere," from which with the ordinary system of stereotyping 534 "clichés" were made. The design had at the bottom a rectangular empty space for the purpose of receiving loose type indicating the value thus: "CENT. 5." (and 10, 15, 25, 40 respectively) and "LIRA 1." These "clichés" complete with the bottom inscription, held by a rectilineal line, were

separated, vertically as well as horizontally with the exception of the outer edges of each group; by lines which were used for correctly adjusting the printing block, and also as a guide in separating the stamps from each other. Each pane measured  $140 \times 205\text{mm.}$ ; between the panes there was a distance of  $10\text{mm.}$  each way, except in the sheets of 1 Lira stamps, in which the distance vertically is  $25\text{mm.}$ , so that each stamp of this value might receive the watermark exactly. The groups were connected by other printed lines, as is seen from the sketch herewith, in which the dotted rectangles represent the sets of stamps.



Each pane consists of sixty stamps, arranged in six horizontal rows of ten. (The Austrian stamps of the first issue were likewise printed in sheets of 240, in four panes of sixty.) In the course of this study, having many times to refer to certain stamps of each sheet, I shall call the first pane the top one on the left, the second the bottom one on the left, the third the top on the right, and the fourth the bottom on the right, thus:—

I	III
II	IV

and in numbering the stamps I shall call No. 1 the stamp occupying the first place on the left of the first row of pane No. 1, continuing to count from left to right, and passing from one pane to another in the above-mentioned order. So that if, for example, I say that stamp No. 198 presents a certain variety in the typographical composition, it will be understood that the stamp occupying the eighth place in the second row of pane No. IV. is meant.

Neither must it appear strange if in the context of this work I have to point out many times the presence or the absence of a fullstop in the lower inscription, since at times it is only these particulars which allow us to distinguish between the different printings of each value, a thing of no slight importance. Those who are experienced in these matters know what help certain minute details are which are not observed by most, in order to distinguish an original copy from a reprint, and how a certain peculiarity, insignificant in appearance, serves sometimes to show up a fraud.

The same type served for the printing of many values, by changing only the figures or all the lower inscription (as is also the case with some newspaper stamps). With the 534 clichés they could only obtain two sheets (of 240 stamps each); the remaining 54 had to serve for replacing those which became worn and which did not print clearly.



Strictly speaking, the various types, although obtained from a single die, differ however somewhat amongst themselves, since the work of producing the type ("clichage") was done with little care, so that some slight imperfection is met with, by anyone who examines them minutely, in all or almost all the "clichés." In one, the extremity of a wing of the eagle is incomplete, in another we see a break in one of the outer lines, elsewhere slight defects in the side ornamentation or in the top inscription, and so on. But these slight peculiarities, belonging only to each cliché, if they have been useful to me in reconstructing each sheet, are not so important as to deserve distinct consideration. As I have already stated, the differences found in the bottom inscription are sometimes sufficient to enable us to distinguish one printing from another.

The printing of the stamps was executed at Modena in the Palace of the Ministry of Finance, under the superintendence of the "Magazziniere del Bollo," by the *Tipografia Camerale*, which each time lent its staff, a printing press and anything else necessary for the purpose. At the first printing the printer Giuseppe Vandelli attended, and at the successive ones the chief of the *Tipografia Camerale*, Carlo Montruccoli, who occupied the post of Assistant of the *Archivista Camerale*; he received from the Ministry the charge to attend once and for all to the printing of the postage stamps.

#### THE PRINTER'S PROOFS.

Before proceeding with the printing on the paper selected, proofs were printed on white laid absorbent paper of different thicknesses; some of these sheets constituted the proofs on which the errors in the printing were pointed out, others served as guides to the workman for regulating the uniform distribution of the ink, and sometimes received different impressions of the plate; they were, in a word, the testing sheets. Some of these sheets, printed on the back as well as on the front, others with the same impression many times in the same place, were sold in 1872 or 1873, if I remember correctly, by weight to an old broker, who parted with certain copies to some amateurs. These printed test sheets which I saw then were only of the value of 5 centimes, but, of course, they existed in all values. The proofs of several with pencil or pen corrections were likewise kept. I may remark that the 5 cent. essay on white absorbent paper, which I have previously mentioned, cannot be distinguished from these proofs when isolated copies are seen.

#### THE VARIETIES AND TYPOGRAPHIC ERRORS.

Remembering that the indication of the value was formed with loose type, it will be easily understood how errors could creep in, although the proofs passed once or oftener under the eyes of a corrector, who with more or less diligence noticed them, pointed out the "clichés" which were not properly set, those worn during the printing, and so on.

The errors are of various kinds; they arose either from the substitution of one letter or of one figure for another (EENT; CEN1.; CE6T.; CENT. 4C., etc.), from the inversion of two letters (CNET.;

CETN., etc.), from a letter or figure being set in an abnormal position (CENT; CENT. 10 [figure 1 turned upside down], etc.), or from the omission or sinking of one or more types (ENT.). There are some errors which were present in every sheet of the same printing, some which during the printing were corrected, others which were due to some accident happening in the course of printing.

There are then some minor varieties consisting in the exact distance between the different pieces of the bottom inscription not being kept, in the omission or in the incorrect setting of a full stop (5), in this being too thick, in setting a letter or a figure higher or lower than the others, and in printing type spaces or squares (■ ■).

To these mistakes—already numerous—others may be added, due to imperfect production of the “clichés,” such as “POSIE” or “POSTF” instead of POSTE in the top inscription, which was engraved together with the rest of the design. But for the reasons before mentioned I shall not go into these small differences. Why should I consider an imperfection, which by chance has given a “T” the appearance of an “I,” and not other imperfections more notable still, which, however, have not changed the shape of a letter from one to another? This same fact is noticed in the bottom inscription also, where some worn letter assumes sometimes the appearance of another letter; thus, some catalogues mention stamps of 5, 15, and 40 centimes with the error “CCNT.” instead of “CENT.”; now on looking carefully it is easy to perceive that the second “C” is only a worn and somewhat deformed “E.” The same may be said of the claimed error “CINT.” and of some others. These defects may also happen through a deficiency or superabundance of ink, or through a piece of type being lower than the upper surface of the cliché, etc.

The frequency of printers' errors in the Modena stamps has led some people to suppose that they entirely arise from sheets which the Postal Administration had discarded (see E. B. Evans, “A Catalogue for Collectors, &c.,” 1882; the same author in the *Philatelic Journal of America*, 1889, Vol. V, No. 50, p. 106; and also C. B. Corwin in the *American Philatelist*, 1888-89, Vol. III, No. 6, p. 169). Such assertions which are not based on any fact are incorrect. In the official correspondence I have seen no mention of any sheets having been refused through compositor's errors; I have only found that on the 28th July, 1855, a sheet of 10 centime stamps was taken back by the “Magazziniere del Bollo” which had been returned as “unserviceable” by the Intendant of Finance at Massa. But this has nothing to do with what Messrs. Evans and Corwin had supposed. Moreover, the various errors which I am mentioning have been seen by me in duly post-marked copies, and, in fact, I have nearly all of them on original letters.

A uniform price is given in some catalogues for stamps with typographic errors; but this is not at all right. The value should reasonably vary with the number of each printed. It will be easily understood that the error “CNET. 10.”, for example, which occurred three times in each sheet of the third printing (December, 1853, 1,000 sheets) should be quoted at one-third of the stamps with the error “CENE. 10.” and “CE6T. 10.”, which only occur once in each sheet; and further, that the error “CEZT. 10.”, which was corrected during the printing, so that it only appears in a portion of the thousand sheets, should have a still higher price assigned to it.

It is also necessary to state that the remainder of the Ducal stamps which, as we shall unfortunately have to shew, passed into the hands of speculators abroad, naturally belonged to the later printings, so that these stamps with errors are relatively easy to obtain, whereas it is rather difficult to procure the stamps with errors of the first printings. From this it can be deduced how the former are rarer when unused and the latter rarer when used.

#### THE PAPER.

With the exception of that used for the 1 lira stamps—expressly manufactured—the paper was supplied when required by the purveyors of material to the Government. At times the “Magazziniere del Bollo” advised the Ministry of Finance that paper was wanted for the stamps and the necessary sheets were then procured, payment being made by means of an order in favour of the supplier, after he had presented his invoice. I had the opportunity to examine almost all the invoices of the furnishers of paper, from which I have been able to compile the following table:—

Date.	Name of Furnisher	Colour.	Number of Sheets	Price.	Remarks.
				Lire.	
13 May, 1852	Andrea Rossi ...	green	600	12.00	
17 “ “	“ “	red	606	12.12	
17 “ “	“ “	yellow	506	10.12	
21 “ “	“ “	peach	250	5.00	
25 “ “	“ “	sky-blue	72	1.44	
4 June “	“ “	“	500	10.00	
4 “ “	“ “	green	1,500	30.00	
4 “ “	“ “	red	1,600	32.00	
4 “ “	“ “	yellow	1,000	20.00	
6 Dec., 1852	Carlo Gasparini	vermilion	500	26.00	“de’ Classici doppia.”
2 July, 1853	Andrea Rossi ...	blue	400	32.00	
25 Aug., 1855	“ “	green	1,500	90.00	
18 Dec., 1855	Vincenzi (printer)		480		
18 “ “	“ “		500	56.45	

In the last invoice the colours are not mentioned: it is only stated that they are for the 25 centime stamps (480 sheets) and 500 sheets for stamps of 9 centimes (for newspapers).

I have strictly kept the descriptions of the colours which appear in the different lists; in cases in which there was any doubt I examined the order of the “Magazziniere del Bollo,” and so I could fix for which values the various colours were intended. Thus for red, rose is meant, the straw colour (chamois) is first mentioned as “peach” and then as vermilion, blue is given twice as sky-blue (cilestro).

We can see, making our deductions from the price, that from the 500 sheets of paper “vermilion” colour “de’ classici doppia,” purchased the 6th December, 1852, 2,000 single sheets would be obtained, from the 400 sheets of blue supplied 2nd July, 1853, 1,600 sheets would be

obtained, from the 1,500 sheets of green paper, supplied 25th August, 1855, 6,000 sheets would be obtained, from the 480 sheets supplied 18th December, 1855, 1,920 sheets, and finally from the 500 sheets delivered the same day 2,000 sheets of newspaper stamps would be made. These deductions give us an exact correspondence between the quantity of paper purchased and the number of printings made.

I can thus make this further table, shewing the quantities of sheets of each colour which were purchased :—

Date.	Green.	Rose.	Yellow.	Peach or Straw Colour.	Sky-Blue or Blue.
13 May, 1852	600	—	—	—	—
17 „ „	—	606	506	—	—
21 „ „	—	—	—	250	—
25 „ „	—	—	—	—	72
4 June, „	1,500	1,600	1,000	—	500
6 Dec., „	—	—	—	2,000	—
2 July, 1853	—	—	—	—	1,600
25 Aug., 1855	6,000	—	—	1,920	—
Total Sheets	8,100	2,206	1,506	4,170	2,172

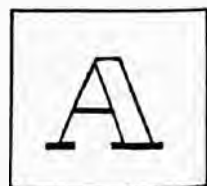
Let us now compare the quantity of sheets purchased with the total number of those which the “Magazziniere del Bollo” received :—

Colours.	Sheets Purchased	Sheets of Stamps Received.	Difference.
Green (5 cent.) ...	8,100	8,053	— 47
Red (10 cent.) ...	2,206	2,192	— 14
Yellow (15 cent.) ...	1,506	3,492	+ 1,986
Peach (25 cent.) ...	4,170	4,159	— 11
Blue (40 cent.) ...	2,172	2,162	— 10

It is easy to explain the slight differences between the sheets purchased and those turned out as stamps of 5, 10, 25, and 40 centimes; they are due to badly printed and discarded sheets. There remains the large excess of 1,986 sheets of stamps of 15 centimes, and I think that this can be explained by the fact that I have not been able to find an invoice for 2,000 sheets which, I am of opinion, may have been delivered in 1853, perhaps together with the paper for the newspaper stamps issued that same year or else in 1857.

All these different kinds of paper are machine-made.

The special paper for the 1 lira stamps is, however, hand-made, white and consistent. It has a double-lined capital A as a water-mark, surrounded by a line and repeated 260 times, in thirteen horizontal rows of twenty; it is the initial of the name AMICI, the paper being provided by the firm Pietro and Agostino Amici, of Modena. We have thus in this case a watermark consisting of the initial of the maker and it is also an official counter-mark



—a curious fact which is not met with in the issues of postage stamps, etc., of other nations. I have searched for the order for this paper from the Ministry of Finance, the invoice of the maker, and the order for payment, but I cannot find a trace of any document whatsoever. On the 17th May, 1852, the firm of Amici sent to the Stamp Office "150 paper sheets royal half fine, without gum, at 22 per 237 (?), lire 52.14, for stamps," but I do not think this has anything to do with the paper expressly manufactured for the 1 lira stamps. In the history of the Modenese stamps this point is not yet cleared up.

There must be some remaining portion of that watermarked paper; I remember some years ago I was shewn a quarter of a sheet by a private person, but it is probable that the remainder was used in the Office, perhaps by the Intendant of Finance of Modena.

Proofs exist of the 25 centime stamps on straw paper and on green paper. These latter are considered by some as stamps having a printer's error and often are so described in catalogues. Several examples of these proofs on green paper were fixed on fragments of old letters and then fraudulently postmarked, I think in 1873 and 1874, with a postal seal of a Public Office (!) in blue, to make believe that they are stamps with a printing error which have passed through the post. It is certain that they were purposely printed on green in order to try the quality of the paper and not by mistake.

With regard to these sheets, I found written on a strip of paper by the Magazziniere del Bollo, Carlo Baj, the following note, which I give as the original without correcting the syntax :—"Eight sheets of 25 centime stamps and four of 5 centimes printed on this paper to test it, found it of bad quality, and discarded and considered worthless."

The paper of these two colours was, in fact, not suitable for printing as the print shewed through somewhat on the back.

The four sheets of 5 centimes mentioned are really those of 25 on green. All were considered of bad quality, also because they slightly absorbed the gum, especially the straw coloured paper, which became transparent as if it had been greased. I have not been able to ascertain, however, when that experiment was made.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE GUMMING.

This was done by hand with a brush after the sheets had been printed. Gum arabic is at times white, but it has oftener a brown shade and exercises a slight action on the colour of the paper. I have re-copied two invoices of the printer, Carlo Vincenzi, dated 30th September and 31st December, 1853, "for gum prepared for the use of postage stamps" from July to December of that year, but I think it would be superfluous to reproduce them here.

#### THE VARIOUS PRINTINGS.

From the register labelled "*Ufficio del Bollo.—Registro dei Francobolli incominciando dal mese di Maggio 1852 e per gli anni 1853, 1854, 1855—a tutto il 30 Novembre 1859,*" accurately kept by the Central Stamp Office,

<sup>1</sup> Since writing the above, I have come across two or three post marked specimens of the 25 cent. proofs on the rejected straw coloured paper, showing the impression on the gummed side; this proves that one, or perhaps two trial sheets, were used for postage. Unfortunately, the copies I have seen are loose, or on a small bit of the entire, and therefore I am unable to state in what Post Office they were used and at what date.

from which the supplies of stamps can be ascertained which were taken over by the Office, I have drawn up the following:—

DATE when the Stamp Sheets were registered.	NUMBER OF SHEETS.					
	5 cent.	10 cent.	15 cent.	25 cent.	40 cent.	1 lira.
26 May, 1852 ...	600	600	497	248	72	80
26 June, 1852 ...	—	—	—	—	490	120
14 July, 1852 ...	—	592	—	—	—	—
31 August, 1852 ...	500	—	—	—	—	—
30 October, 1852 ...	998	—	495	—	—	—
4 December, 1852	—	—	—	494	—	—
16 June, 1853 ...	—	—	—	1,000	—	—
24 August, 1853 ...	—	—	—	—	1,600	—
15 December, 1853	—	1,000	1,500	—	—	—
27 August, 1855 ...	500	—	—	—	—	—
27 September, 1855	5,455	—	—	499	—	—
30 September, 1857	—	—	1,000	1,918	—	—
Total Sheets ...	8,053	2,192	3,492	4,159	2,162	200

And since all the sheets were composed of 240 stamps, the quantities registered were the following:—

5 cent. stamps ...	...	...	...	1,932,720
10 „ „ ...	...	...	...	526,080
15 „ „ ...	...	...	...	838,080
25 „ „ ...	...	...	...	998,160
40 „ „ ...	...	...	...	518,880
1 lira „ „ ...	...	...	...	48,000

In all, 4,861,920 stamps.

A single register served for keeping account of the stamps from 1852 to November, 1859, *i.e.*, during the whole period of the issue of the Ducal series till their withdrawal. In the same register also the supplies of the journal tax stamps were noted. The last entry of stamps made is 30th September, 1859, and the last lot of Ducal stamps sold is dated 13th October, 1859.

It must not be thought that as many printings of each value were made as those noted in each column of the preceding table, since the “Magazziniere” did not take into his charge the stamps as soon as they were printed, but only when they were “gummed and finished.” Thus, for example, it is certain that there was only one printing of 1 lira stamps of 200 sheets in May, 1852; now of these we find 80 registered on the 26th of that month, and the remaining 120 on the 26th of June following. When the stamps had been printed previously the “Magazziniere” took care to write “.....stamps 240 per sheet, which were already printed, gummed and finished by Mr. Montruccoli in the current month, etc.” But he, of course, omitted to note the dates of the various printings; still, in some cases I have been able to fix them.

We will now examine the stamps of each value, and determine as far as possible the distinctive characteristics of the various printings. The dates which I mention here, however, are those of each registration.

*5 Centimes, green, olive-green.*

First supply (26th May, 1852—600 sheets), printed on green paper, with fullstop after the figure, as in the proof sheets presented to the Minister of Finance. The following varieties belong to this printing:—

Position 79	...	...	...	ENT. 5.
Position 226	...	...	...	CENT. 5.

The first error is due to the fall of the letter C, since it is not at all visible in the specimens which I know, nor can it be attributed to insufficient pressure. The other variety occupies the same position which it had in the proof sheets, composed of 260 stamps, from which were taken two rows of 10 stamps, in order to get 240 per sheet.

To this printing belongs also:—

Position 104	...	...	CEN T. 5. (letter T too distant from N)
--------------	-----	-----	---

a variety which occurred during the printing and existed only on some sheets.

Some stamps of this printing shew the impression of the printing spaces (■ —) both before CENT. as well as after the figure.

Second supply (31st August, 1852—500 sheets),

Third supply (30th October, 1852—998 sheets),

on green. No stop after the figure. No varieties in the bottom inscription. I do not know the stamp with the error EENT. 5, mentioned in some catalogues; if it indeed exists it is probable that it is met with in a few sheets only of this printing, executed with the same set of type which had served for the second of 10 centimes, in which this error has occurred.

The variety without any trace of the bottom inscription, likewise belongs to this printing (Position 61), this is only shewn in a few sheets, the few copies I know are all post-marked.

Fourth supply (27th August, 1855—500 sheets);

Fifth supply (27th September, 1855—5,455 sheets).

The stamps of these two supplies have the stop after the figure; they have not been printed with the same set of type which was used for the second printing. The printing material is the same for these two supplies, but some errors and inaccuracies in the bottom inscription, which existed in some sheets, were corrected in others. We have thus the following nomenclature of the sheets:—

(a) On olive-green.<sup>1</sup>

Positions 8, 9, 75, 85, 93, 120 CENT. 5. (stop high up after the figure).

<sup>1</sup> I think that the sheets of paper bought for this value on the 25th August, 1855, were partly green and partly olive-green. The letter with an olive-green stamp of oldest date, which I have seen, is of the 10th November, 1855.

Position 88	...	...	CENT .5 (stop only before the figure and too near to it).
Position 99	...	...	CENT. 5. (big stop, or too much marked after Cent.) <sup>1</sup>
Positions 110, 113, 130, 174, 187, 195, 223	...	...	CENT. 5 (absence of stop after the figure).
Position 198	...	...	CNET. 5.
Position 230	...	...	CEN1. 5.

## (b) On olive-green.

The same errors remain, except 85, 110, and 133 which were corrected.

## (c) On olive-green.

The same errors remain in positions 88, 99, and 198. Further,

Position 218	...	...	CENT. 5 (absence of stop after figure).
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(d) On green.<sup>2</sup>

The same errors remain in positions 88, 99, 198, 218. Further,

Position 146	...	...	CENT.5. (figure too near Cent.)
Position 156	...	...	CENT5. (figure too near Cent., and absence of stop after Cent.)

## (e) On green.

The same errors remain in positions 88, 89, 198, and 218; those in positions 146 and 156 were corrected.

## (f) On green.

The error at position 218 remains and also the one at 146, in which the stop after the figure is not visible; in this latter are shewn two separating lines below (19mm.: =====) instead of one only, and we note the absence of them above; therefore the two stamps in positions 136 and 146 (vertical pair) are  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. distance from each other instead of having the regular distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

## (g) On green.

The absence of stop after the figure in positions 146 and 218 only remains. The distance between the type 136 and 146 was corrected.

I think that the fifth supply (5,455 sheets) was constituted of sheets of this latter printing (f), or of the two latter (e and f).

*10 Centimes, rose, pale rose.*

Of this value, three printings were made, which corresponds with the supplies registered.

<sup>1</sup> The stops are not of a uniform size; I have only pointed out this variety, however, as being the most distinct. I have omitted in the majority of cases to mention the presence of printer's spaces, which is frequently met with.

<sup>2</sup> The green paper of the fourth and fifth supplies can be distinguished from that of the three first, being slightly thinner and more transparent.



First supply (26th May, 1852—600 sheets. On rose, brownish gum. Absence of stop after the figures. Only one variety :—

Position 19      ...      ...      CENT 10 (absence of stop after Cent.)

Second supply (14th July, 1852—592 sheets). On rose, brownish gum. Absence of stop after the figures.

Position 98      ...      ...      EENT. 10

Position 127      ...      ...      CENT 10 (absence of stop after Cent.)

Position 150      ...      ...      CENT. 10 (figure 1 upside down).

Third supply (15th December, 1853<sup>1</sup>—1,000 sheets). On somewhat lighter paper and rather pale rose; white gum. The figures are followed by the stop.

Position 40      ...      ...      CENT. 10 (C too low down, because not held in place by the lower line, which has moved too much to the right).

Position 82      ...      ...      CE6T. 10 (figure 9 upside down instead of N).

Positions 100, 113, 141,  
144, 146      ...      ...      CENT. 10 (absence of stop after the figure).

Position 114      ...      ...      CENE. 10.

Position 121      ...      ...      CNET. 10 (besides the inversion of two letters absence of stop after the figures).

Position 172      ...      ...      CENT. 10 (point high up after the figures).

Positions 195, 235      ...      ...      CNET. 10.

Position 213      ...      ...      CEZ T. 10.

This latter error was corrected in the course of printing, so that it only occurs in a portion of the sheets of this printing.

The 9 turned upside down, met with in position 82, is one of the small type used for the inscription in the newspaper stamps of the second printing.

I have found a very few copies of the 10 cent. of this printing in a deeper shade, quite distinct from the ordinary one.

*15 Centimes, yellow, bright yellow.*

Four supplies of this value were registered.

26 May, 1852	...	...	497 sheets.
30 October, 1852	...	...	495 "
15 December, 1853	...	...	1,500 "
30 September, 1857	...	...	1,000 "

<sup>1</sup> I have seen a letter, posted at Modena on December 11th, 1853, bearing two horizontal pairs of the 10 cent. stamp of this printing. This proves that one or, perhaps, a very limited number of sheets were sold as soon as printed, but these stamps (with the stop after 10) are, as a rule, only to be found on the letters from 1857 to 1859.

Paper of a lighter yellow was adopted for the first printings than for the latter. In all the stop is absent after the figure.

I have not succeeded in finding out in which printing the following occurred, but I think it belongs to the third.

Position 231      ...      ...      CETN 15.

We notice the absence of the stop after CETN, and its presence in an exceptional way after the figures. The stamps with this error exist on yellow paper of the two shades which I have mentioned.

I also know the following variety :—

CENT. 1 5 (the two figures are too far distant from each other),

but I do not know to which printing it belongs nor which position it occupied in the sheets.

For this value I have also to mention the same variety already noted for the 5 cent. stamp, *i.e.*, the stamp position 146 having two horizontal lines at bottom instead of one and no dividing line at top. Thus stamps position 136 and 146 (vertical pair) are at a distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. instead of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. The variety exists in yellow and bright yellow, and I think it belongs to the printing of 1853.

The last printing yields only the following error :—

Position 182      ...      ...      CENT 15 (absence of stop after Cent.)

The printing, however, of these sheets of the last lot on bright yellow is not so correct as the others; the ink is not suitably distributed, and the type shew considerable signs of wear. To these causes only are due certain alleged errors in printing mentioned by Moens and other authors.<sup>1</sup>

### 25 Centimes, *peach*, light *peach*.

Five supplies of this value were registered.

26 May, 1852	...	...	248 sheets.
4 December, 1852	...	...	494 „
16 June, 1853	...	...	1,000 „
27 September, 1855	...	...	499 „
30 „ 1857	...	...	1,918 „

The first printing was executed partly on rather thick paper (like that of the 25 centime proofs already mentioned) and partly on paper less consistent and lighter in colour.

<sup>1</sup> Moens also gives the error CNET. 15, which does not exist in any of the important collections of which I have had notice, and does not even figure in the sheets which served as proofs. In the eighth edition of the Catalogue of Stamps, edited privately by Berger-Levrault (1863) three stamps with errors are noted, two of which are CETN. 15 and CETN. 40. This latter is due to an oversight of the author, and is not mentioned in other works, nor was it ever seen. Berger-Levrault himself, in the German edition of his catalogue (*Beschreibung der bis jetzt bekannten Briefmarken, Strassburg, 1864*) modified the description of the two differences thus: CNET. 15, CNET. 40; he then knew that he had made a mistake in cataloguing a CETN. 40, but by changing the 15 centimes also, CNET for CETN, fell into a new error creating a variety which he had never seen. In the French edition, published in 1867, of the Catalogue of the same author, the error CNET. 15 remained, and it passed from that into other works.

Just as in the 15 centimes, in every printing there is the absence of the stop after the figures.

There are no errors in the type except the following :—

Position 19	...	...	CENT 25 (absence of the stop after Cent.)
Position 128	...	...	CENT. 25 (stop high up).

This latter was soon corrected, and we find it only on the rejected paper.

The last printing, on a little darker peach colour, is, like that of the 15 centimes (both were registered on the same day), less accurate than the preceding, so that more wearing of the type is noticed. The errors C 25, C , CENT. 2, CENT. , mentioned by Moens, I think are only found in some sheets of the last printing, which were printed too lightly.

*40 Centimes, sky-blue, blue.*

Three printings were made of the stamps of this value, which likewise correspond to three registrations.

The first supply (26th May, 1852—72 sheets) was certainly on sky-blue paper, since the first stamps of 40 centimes, which I have seen on letters of 1852, are of this colour. As we see from the table I have given, on the 25th May seventy-two sheets of sky-blue paper were purchased from Andrea Rossi, printer and paper merchant, and the first sheets of this value which were registered by the chief "magazziniere" are exactly seventy-two, *i.e.*, 17,280 stamps, which were distributed. This rather limited number explains the rarity, which I think is not fully appreciated either in Italy or elsewhere, of the stamp of this colour. Since then this first supply was entirely exhausted, it follows that in the unused condition it is without doubt the rarest of the Modenese stamps. The very few uncanceled specimens which I know of were used on letters but escaped the postmark; really unused new stamps I have never seen. So also I have seen very few blocks of this stamp. I think it probable that the same type served likewise for the second printing. In all there is the absence of the stop after the figures. I do not know of any errors in the composition of the type and only the following variety :—

• probably Position 19	...	...	CENT 40 (absence of the stop after Cent.)
------------------------	-----	-----	--

The second supply (26th June, 1852—490 sheets), printed on a blue paper, also shews the absence of the stop after the figures.<sup>1</sup>

In the bottom inscription we find the following errors :—

Position 19	...	...	CENT 40 (absence of stop after Cent.)
Position 70	...	...	CENT. 4 0 (the two figures are too far apart).

<sup>1</sup> Among the original letters which I have bearing the blue 40 centime stamps, the oldest date is the 25th November, 1852, but it is probable that the stamps of this colour were distributed some time before.

This error must have been seen during printing, and therefore appears in a few sheets only. The type at Position 19 had the letter N of CENT. depressed, and is therefore very faint—sometimes it does not even shew at all. This is met with also in the 25 centimes.

In the third printing, on blue paper (24th August, 1853—1,600 sheets), the types occupy the same positions as for the third supply of the 10 centimes, the same material having been used some months after (15th December) for that value. The figures are generally followed by the stop. In the bottom inscription are the following errors:—

Positions 19, 38	...	...	CENT. 49.
Positions 41, 113, 144	...	...	CENT. 40 (absence of stop after the figures).
Positions 79, 225	...	...	CENT. 40. (stop next to the 4).
Position 82	...	...	CEGT. 40. (small 9 upside down instead of N).
Position 114	...	...	CENE. 40
Positions 121, 195, 235	...	...	CNET. 40.
Position 132	...	...	CEN. T40.
Position 219	...	...	CENT. 4C.

The error CEN. T40. was corrected during printing, and only appeared in perhaps a very small number of sheets.

### *1 Lira, white.*

Two supplies of stamps of this value were registered (26th May, 1852—80 sheets; 26th June, 1852—120 sheets), but they belong to one printing only.

I have already mentioned the paper, which has a watermark of the capital double-lined letter A, initial of the maker Amici, enclosed in a rectangle and repeated 260 times on each sheet. It must not be thought, however, that there were 260 stamps per sheet, but only 240. The distance between the groups vertically for this value is 25 instead of 10mm.; a row of twenty watermark A's runs in that space. In this way the watermarked initial corresponds to each stamp.

As all the sheets were not uniformly placed under the type the following errors appear in the position of the watermark:—

- (a) Regular (A).
- (b) Reversed (the printing is done on the back of the sheet).
- (c) Inverted (V).
- (d) Reversed and inverted (the printing is on the back of the sheet and upside down).

It is superfluous to point out that there are differences in the shape of the watermark; the width, height, etc., vary.

In the bottom inscription the figure is followed by the stop, except in the following:—

Position 132 ... ... LIRA. 1 (the stop after Lira).

The stamp occupying Position 9 has a small printer's space on the right of the figure.

## ABOLITION OF THE DUCAL SERIES.

The last lot of Estensi stamps was registered as sold by the Chief Storekeeper on the 13th October. We notice on that same day he made a first delivery of the stamps of the Modenese provinces to the Intendancies of Reggio and of Massa. The Ducal stamps which, about the end of October, I no longer saw on letters, were withdrawn mainly during the latter half of October and in the following November.

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF STAMPS AND THE REMAINDERS.

The quantities of stamps which remained on the 13th of October<sup>1</sup> were the following :—

5 centesimi	...	...	...	2,607 sheets.
10    "	...	...	...	132   "
15    "	...	...	...	483   "
25    "	...	...	...	1,998   "
40    "	...	...	...	694   "
1 lira	...	...	...	139   "

In this list the stamps returned by the Intendancy of Massa on the 31st August, 1859, were not included, nor the 700 sheets sent the same month to Massa and which were only returned to Modena on the 21st of October.

Besides the Intendant of Finance at Massa, some postal officials and private people had continued to make returns. On the 30th November, 1859, the Chief Storekeeper made another inventory as follows :—

“ Total amount of stamps withdrawn and existing in this Office  
on 30th November, 1859.

“ 5 centesimi	...	2,914 sheets.		
10    "	...	354	”	plus 234 stamps.
15    "	...	598	”	” 185   "
25    "	...	2,011	”	” 182   "
40    "	...	900	”	” 51   "
1 lira	...	144	”	” 137   "
For newspapers...		758	”	
For the amount of L.		324, 180, 20.		

After this date the Storekeeper certainly received other lots back, since the remainders I give further on are larger.

<sup>1</sup> In the remainders were included also 2,400 stamps of each of the following values : 5, 10, 15, and 25 centesimi, and 1,200 of 40 centesimi; in all, 10,800—supplied on the 30th July, 1859, to Mr. Valentino Amici, of Bologna, “without any payment,” as arranged in a letter from the Director of Finance, dated 23rd of that month, No. 6,736. I do not know what post Amici then occupied, but a Decree of Farini, dated 19th December, 1859, nominated “Cav. Dr. Valentino Amici, Director of the Mint and of the Gold and Silver Offices” of Bologna. In July, 1859, a supply of Sardinian stamps had not yet arrived there, as at Modena, and they continued to use the pontifical series, some values of which began to be exhausted, for example, the 5 baj., so that sometimes they had to have recourse to the expedient of dividing the stamps into two or three fractions in order to make up the franking charge. I suppose that Amici intended to obtain the Sardinian stamps from Modena in order to distribute them in the Province of Bologna, perhaps relying on the Convention between Sardinia and the Modenese Provinces and on the Notice published by the Post Master on the 22nd July, 1859. It is known that the issue of special stamps in the Provinces of Romagna commenced on the 1st September, 1859.

The Ministry of Public Works, on which the Postal and Telegraph Administrations depended, in 1863 asked the Intendant of Finance at Modena for the unsold Ducal stamps. He applied in turn to the ex-Magazziniere, Carlo Baj, who forwarded them on, as we see from the following note in the register already mentioned :—

"In accordance with orders received by the undersigned on the 17th April, 1863, from this Directorate the remaining stamps withdrawn have been sent to the Directorate with inventory in triplicate, a copy of which, duly receipted, has been returned to the Storekeeper.

"Sheets as under.

" 5 centesimi ...	...	...	2,914 sheets	...	91 stamps.
10 "	...	...	444 "	...	55 "
15 "	...	...	607 "	...	222 "
25 "	...	...	2,063 "	...	156 "
40 "	...	...	1,060 "	...	103 "
1 lira	...	...	173 "	...	190 "
For foreign journals, cent. 10	...	...	759 "	...	200 "

"The ex-Magazziniere,

"Modena, 9th May, 1863.

"BAJ CARLO."

As all the sheets consisted of 240 stamps, the quantity of the remainders correspond to the following figures :—

5 centesimi ...	...	...	...	700,651
10 "	...	...	...	106,615
15 "	...	...	...	145,902
25 "	...	...	...	495,276
40 "	...	...	...	254,503
1 lira	...	...	...	41,710

and by subtracting these quantities from the stamps registered in the books, we get the following, representing the stamps sold :—

5 centesimi ...	...	...	...	1,232,069
10 "	...	...	...	419,465
15 "	...	...	...	692,178
25 "	...	...	...	502,884
40 "	...	...	...	264,377
1 lira	...	...	...	6,290

The passion for collections has led to incessant inquiries from abroad for the remainders of the stamps of the old Italian Governments.

I am convinced that the letter sent to Modena by the Ministry of Public Works, then at Turin, was at the instigation of some high functionary in the Post Office, who was occupying himself very zealously with the "export" of our stamps. It is certain that a large quantity of the stamps of the Duchy of Modena, which reached Turin in May, 1863, very soon passed out of the country, whence we Italian collectors have often to obtain them, together with those of Parma, Romagna, Sicily, &c.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It is also said that a portion had been destroyed. And now the Ministry of the Post and Telegraphs is obliged to get those stamps from Italian merchants (who receive them from abroad) in order to fulfil the requests of other Postal Administrations.

Without the help of friends abroad, who lent me sheets for examination, I could not have settled several points in the errors shewn. It is very disagreeable to see the same fate reserved for these poor little bits of paper as for so many objects of Italian art which we now have to resign ourselves to admire in foreign collections!

In order to be convinced of what I assert, it is sufficient to examine some old journals and catalogues of stamps (1863-65) to compare, for example, the prices of the second edition of Baillieu's Catalogue (1864) with the lower prices of the third edition (1865), in which are also mentioned, as by Maury (first edition, 1865), by Mahé (third edition, 1865), and by Madame Nicholas (1865), several unused specimens with printing errors. The 1 lira stamp, which before 1863 did not figure in many collections, and the price of which was not given in several of the old lists and catalogues, was quoted instead several months after, and from the offers and announcements of the merchants, they must have had many copies to dispose of.

In fact, Mahé, in 1865, published a fly sheet list in which he offered stamps of the Duchy and of the Provisional Government of Modena, and likewise of Parma, of Romagna, of Sicily, and of the Neapolitan Provinces. He advertises:—"Une toute nouvelle acquisition, que nous avons eu le bonheur de faire des anciens timbres italiens neufs, nous met à même d'offrir aujourd'hui à MM. nos Correspondants ces timbres à des pris jusqu'ici inusités. . . ."

Several of these stamps also passed into the hands of Italian merchants. To the first generation of collectors of our country the names of Carlo Cocorda, of Turin, and of Ulisse Franchi, of Florence, are known; both published lists exclusively of stamps of the Italian States. My copy of Cocorda's list, published, I believe, in 1865, does not give any prices, which were to be added with a pen; the other, of Franchi, somewhat previous to the latter, gives very low prices, especially for all the Modenese stamps.

Whilst on this question, I will mention the rarity of the 1 lira stamp used, a rarity which is not always adequately appreciated. It will suffice to remember that during a little over seven years only 6,290 copies were sold.<sup>1</sup>

The comparatively small price at which it is easy to buy this stamp is due to the existence of a continually increasing quantity of copies bearing false cancellation marks.

#### NO REPRINTS.

I have already had occasion to mention that no information can be

<sup>1</sup> On the 27th May, 1852, thirty sheets of 1 lira stamps, together with stamps of other values (amongst them twenty sheets of 40 centesimi blue), were sent to the Intendancy of Reggio as well as to Massa. The "Magazziniere del Bollo" of Reggio took six sheets, and those only on the 10th February, 1859; of these he only gave out one, to the Postal Receiver of Reggio on the same day. This Receiver, in October, 1859, returned fifty-three stamps of 1 lira. Thus it is proved that in the Province of Reggio not more than 187 stamps of 1 lira were used, and these in 1859 only. Comparing the inventory of the Ducal stamps made by the "Magazziniere Centrale" on the 30th November, 1859, with the one he made on the 6th May, 1864, we notice an increase of twenty-nine sheets and fifty-three stamps of 1 lira, which corresponds exactly with those returned by the Intendancy of Reggio. I owe some of this information to the kindness and diligence of Mr. A. Sassi, to whom is due the merit of having first published these interesting particulars (see *Il Francobollo*, Vol. II, No. 14, February, 1894).

obtained about the original die: with regard to the clichés, they were sold to the Amoretti Foundry at Bologna, which re-cast them. Reprints, therefore, were never made.

#### THE POSTMARKS AND CANCELLATIONS.

I do not propose to mention all the cancelling stamps, which were used from 1852 to 1860 for stamping correspondence and for cancelling postage stamps, but I shall examine many of them.

Some marks, which I see used during that period, had been already in use many years before the introduction of the postage stamp. The stamp of Correggio (Plate IV, No. 9), of Finale di Modena (Plate IV, No. 11), of Mirandola (Plate V, No. 18) and some others I have seen impressed on letters of 1832, but I think they might have existed some years before. I should have been pleased to make known the history of each stamp, but I have not had the leisure to thoroughly study this part, for which I should have had to undertake very many more researches which would have taken me far from the main object of this work.

Before the postal reform was introduced into the Duchy, twenty-one offices existed, to which, in 1852, were added those of Fanano, Novellara, Reggiolo, S. Felice, and Vignola, so that in that year the number was increased to twenty-six, as seen from the list given earlier in this work. In May, 1854, the offices of Castelnuovo di Sotto and of Montecchio were opened. The offices of Camporgiano and Galliciano were opened in September, 1855; on January 1st, 1858, that of Luzzara, and that of Zocca at the end of the same year, making a total of thirty post offices.

Each office was provided, in addition to a circular sealing stamp, with the following ink stamps:—

One stamp, sometimes with changeable date, with the name of the office.

One stamp with the initials "P.D." (paid or carriage forward).

One stamp for marking registered letters.

One stamp for cancelling postage stamps.

Further, many offices had a stamp "Dopo la partenza" (after departure) to be applied to correspondence posted late, and some had the stamp "P.P."

During the Ducal period, only Carrara, Fivizzano, Guastalla, Massa Carrara, Modena, and Reggio had stamps with changeable date; these were, except that of Reggio, round in shape; they almost all consist of two concentric circles, the outer of which measures about 26 to 28mm. (see Plate IV, Nos. 4, 12, and 14; Plate V, Nos. 16, 17, 20 to 25).

The stamp of Carrara and one of Massa Carrara had no indication of the year, but only the month and day.

Let us now examine the date stamps adopted by the Modena office. The one reproduced on Plate V, No. 20 had already been in use some years before the introduction of postage stamps and was stamped in blue, black, and sometimes red. In 1852, in addition, a similar stamp was used (No. 21) which has the letters of the word "Modena" somewhat smaller. In May, 1853, appeared a stamp without an



outer circle, of which we find two sub-types (Nos. 22 and 23). As these are almost always badly stamped (in black or in blue) I have not been able to define with certainty whether they are the same stamps Nos. 20 and 21, from which the outer circle has been removed, in order perhaps to obtain a clearer impression of the word "Modena." In the middle of March, 1856, No. 24 appeared, which remained continually in use till the end of May, 1859, in which month No. 25 appeared, which besides the date has also the changeable notice—"1 C" or "2 C" (first or second delivery); from May, 1860, this indication was for the most part suppressed; the same year No. 24 sometimes re-appeared.

Reggio for many years before the introduction of postage stamps used a stamp of type No. 32 (Plate VI), with the word "REGGIO" in italic capitals: likewise for many years stamp No. 33 was used. No. 35, which has "REGGIO" in capital Roman type, I have only been able to meet with on correspondence of the last six months of 1859 (from September onward). The large oval stamp, No. 34, with the crowned Este eagle was first printed on return receipt forms, sent from the Reggio office; but then (from the second half of 1854) the forms no longer bore the printed stamp, but it was impressed by hand. It served also for cancelling postage stamps, on registered official correspondence for which return receipts were compulsory.

The cancelling stamps of Fivizzano and of Guastalla (Plate IV, Nos. 12 and 14) deserve special mention. The origin of the first is Tuscan, of the other Parmense.<sup>1</sup>

Whoever compares the cancellation stamp of Fivizzano with those, for example, of Prato, S. Miniato, Poggibonsi, and of many other Tuscan post offices which are of the same type, will readily be persuaded of this; and also the stamp of Guastalla with that of Borgotaro and of Parma, which, like the former, have two small circles at the sides. The Guastalla stamp, like other Parmense stamps, in the word "GIUGNO" (June) has the oblique stroke of the letter "N" from the bottom to the top going from the left to the right instead of the opposite way.

With regard to the postmarks of the small offices, I have very little to say: some, as I have already mentioned, had existed for many years when postage stamps came into use, as the form of the characters suffices to denote. The stamps of Brescello (Plate IV, No. 2), of Carpi (No. 3), and of Sassuolo (Plate VI, Nos. 39 and 40) are distinguished for their ornamental character. In the latter, "Sassuolo" having been engraved by mistake instead of

<sup>1</sup> The Tuscan and Parmense origin are explained by the Treaty concluded at Florence on the 28th November, 1844, for an exchange of territories between the Duke of Modena, the Duke of Lucca (heir to the throne of Parma), and the Grand Duke of Tuscany. To this latter the Duchy of Lucca was ceded. The "Vicariato" (Benefice) of Fivizzano with other Communes of Tuscan Lunigiana, as well as the Duchy of Guastalla and other lands to the right of the Enza, passed into the hands of the Estensi, who had ceded Villafranca, Treschietto, Mulazzo, and Castevoli to Tuscany. To the same Treaty the origin of the cancelling stamps of Bagnone and of Pontremoli must be attributed, which we see on Parmense postage stamps, since these countries together with other Lunesian sections, some of Estense origin, were ceded to the Duke of Parma by Tuscany. Count Ferdinando Castellani Tarabini, whose name as Minister of Finance occurs many times in this work, took possession of Guastalla on the 8th January, 1848, as Modenese Commissioner.

"Sassuolo," they evidently wished to remedy this error in the best manner by adding an "S" at the beginning (I think by joining a piece of metal to the seal) and tried to change the first "S" into an "A" and the "A" into an "S"; but this poor expedient did not succeed and whether because the small morticed piece had fallen or for some other reason, which I do not know, the impression "Sasuolo" is mostly seen, and in fact it is not easy to discern whether the two first letters are two "A's" or two "S's"!

Several of the stamps with the name enclosed in a double-lined rectangle were engraved in brass by Riccò. The four without enclosing lines (Plate IV, Nos. 8, 9, and 13, and Plate VI, No. 41) existed several years before the introduction of the postage stamps.

Also before June, 1852, the offices of Carrara and of Massa used stamps "P.D." to denote that the carriage had been paid. The two seals are very similar to each other (Plate VII, No. 6) and have no enclosing lines, although sometimes one meets the impression with one line round, which is nothing else but the impression of the edge of the seal. The stamps "P.D." had not been adopted in the other Offices of the Duchy when postage stamps appeared, but they were instituted some weeks after in compliance with the wish of the General Superintendent of the Tuscan Post.<sup>1</sup>

These stamps also were engraved in brass by Riccò; the initials "P.D." are enclosed in a double-lined oblong rectangle with rounded corners (Plate VII, Nos. 7 and 8). Although the offices of Carrara and Massa already possessed stamps bearing the two initials, they received others from the head office like the other offices. Modena (Plate VII, No. 9) and Reggio (No. 10) had a special shape, different from those of the pattern common to the other offices of the Duchy; they are of smaller dimensions and have only one enclosing line.

The form of the marking stamps for registered letters was different.<sup>2</sup> I have only reproduced a few of them, viz., Reggio (No. 11), Castelnovo di Garfagnana (No. 12), Modena (No. 13), Aulla (No. 14), and Novi (No. 15). Only Guastalla had a stamp "Assicurato" (Registered), of Parmense origin, like the date stamp I have already spoken of.

The stamps for correspondence posted late contain the words "Dopo la partenza" (after departure) arranged in various ways; I have only reproduced three, viz., those of Reggio (No. 17), of Modena (No. 18), and of Guastalla (No. 19).

From the letter dated the 26th June, 1852, directed to the Ministry of Finance by the General Post Office of the Duchy, which I have given on a former page, we see that, as the postmark of the offices was not well adapted for cancelling the postage stamps, one was prepared similar to what was applied in the post offices of Turin and of Tuscany.

<sup>1</sup> From the letter dated from Florence, 7th June, 1852 (No. 2,058), I give the following extract:—"About the stamp 'P.D.' although it may not be used by the Austrian offices, it is held to be a greater safeguard for the public; it seems desirable to have some manner of proof at hand, and in a doubtful case it may serve to clear up the doubt for the public as well as for the Post Office officials; for this reason it would be desirable to have it applied to all letters and printed matter on which the sending office has seen that stamps of the requisite value have been affixed."

<sup>2</sup> The postage stamps representing the charge for registration were generally applied to the back of the letter.

I do not know whether the stamp that letter mentions corresponds to No. 1 or No. 2 of Plate VII. It is certain that these two stamps were only used by the Modena office, by way of experiment in 1852. Cancellation mark No. 1, similar to the other which had been adopted the same year by the Parmense Post, was used very little, I presume because the stamps were too lightly cancelled; in fact, it is very difficult to meet with stamps cancelled in this way. In July, 1852, Riccò engraved twenty-six cancellation stamps in brass with six parallel lines, 32mm. long (No. 3), and they were at once distributed to all the offices in the Duchy, which were to use them in such a manner as to leave the value of the stamps clearly visible. The cancellation stamp formed of small rhombi (No. 2) which, as I have previously stated, served in a precarious way at Modena in 1852, was again used there from 1856 to 1859 for cancelling both postage and newspaper stamps.

#### FORGERIES OF STAMPS AND OF CANCELLATIONS.

Forgeries of these postage stamps are numerous; those lithographed, *i.e.*, the greater portion of them, are sometimes of better execution than the originals. Amongst the forgeries which have been printed, some come very near to the authentic stamps for design and for colour of the paper; but in no forgery known to me is the bottom inscription composed of loose type: by observing then the shape of the letters and figures of this inscription, frauds will easily be detected. The specimens which have the word "Saggio" at the bottom, instead of the value, are bogus, and of Florentine manufacture. In his *Catalogo e Guida Generale, &c.* (Florence, 1875) Usigli mentions no less than forty-two varieties of these pretended essays, printed in black or in colour on paper or on thin cardboard; they were executed with a false engraving, which was used also to reproduce 1 lira stamps and newspaper stamps (first printing of 1853).

It should be noticed that in genuine copies, the loose line under the bottom inscription never joins up exactly to the corners, both on the right and the left it stops a little distance from them. Earée correctly points out that the squaring line underneath "Pòste Estensi" is not joined in the original stamps to the vertical line on the right; this observation is very useful in practice.

Usigli describes a specimen of 15 cent. *brown* which is due to fraudulent colouration. The 5 cent. *blue* stamps were subjected to an alteration in colour through being exposed to the sun and subjected to the action of chemicals; they are not at all, however, of the delicate shade of the one I have already mentioned. The 10, 15 and 40 cent. *white* are of the same nature; neither can they be confounded with the original proofs, which are printed on laid and absorbent white paper.

As the stamps of the Provisional Government are, amongst the Modenese, those most particularly aimed at by forgers for the application of cancellation marks, I have thought it opportune to speak of this kind of forgeries in that series. The 1 lira stamp is, of course, the one we most often meet among the Ducal stamps with false obliterations. I know of them cancelled in this way with the Modena stamp (Plate V, Nos. 22, 23, and 24), and with the marks reproduced on Plate VII, Nos. 2, 3, 7, and 8.

## Provisional Government.

### THE CANCELLATION STAMPS WITH THE SAVOY COAT-OF-ARMS.

I have already mentioned the interest afforded by the stamps of the Duchy cancelled by the post offices of Modena and Reggio with stamps bearing the Savoy coat-of-arms; they denote a period of transition between the Ducal series and the special set for the Modenese Provinces. They appeared shortly after the departure of the Duke, which took place on the 11th June, 1859, and just about the end of that month we see them on correspondence.<sup>1</sup>

The cancellation stamp used by the Modena office (Plate VII, No. 4) was stamped in black; it was engraved by Carlo Setti, the same who made the die for the series of postage stamps of the Modenese Provinces. Setti's receipt, dated 20th June, 1859, which I have reproduced earlier in this work, does not inform us, however, in what metal the stamp was engraved. The idea has been expressed to me that Setti, having made the stamp with nine parallel lines, might have inserted a piece of metal in the centre bearing the Savoy arms, which would have been engraved previously, or a "cliché" taken from the printing outfit. This would explain how we frequently see the arms lightly stamped, assuming that the piece with the arms was inserted a little too far in the place made for it, so that the surface was somewhat below the level of the lines. I am publishing this conjecture, although it does not seem too acceptable, without being able to give any certain data which might clear up the doubt.

Not even with the stamp used by the Reggio office (Plate VII, No. 5) is it easy to see clear impressions, since it was usually applied with a greasy ink rather poor in colouring matter, so that often the arms cannot be distinguished nor the inscription read, especially when the pale grey impression is applied to coloured paper.

These two stamps continued to be used for cancelling the postage stamps of the Provisional Government. The stamp of the Modena office is also met with, although rarely, on Sardo-Italian postage stamps, with the effigy as well as on the 1 and 2 cent. stamps (for printed matter), the latter being issued on the 1st January, 1861. The Reggio cancellation stamp was, however, sufficiently clearly impressed in black and in blue on the postage stamps of the Provisional Government; but I have never met with any on the Sardo-Italian stamps.

The stamps of the Ducal set cancelled in this way have not up to the present been sought after by collectors, to whom they are not generally known, as they have never been described in any catalogue. The sole mention of them is contained in the book *Mémoires du Congrès International des Timbrophiles, Session de Paris, 1878, pp. 113-114 (Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1880)*; I must add that this work had a very limited circulation. I think it will have been sufficient to make these remarks about these interesting cancellations to promote an inquiry for them.

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<sup>1</sup> Amongst the letters I have examined, franked with Ducal postage stamps, and having these postmarks, the earliest dated are on the 21st June from Modena and the 17th of the same month from Reggio; but it is probable that the use of the cancellation stamps of which I speak commenced some days previously. For a very few days the Reggio postmark was used in an unfinished state, *i.e.*, with the coat-of-arms and crown, but without the inscription. A letter dated June 25th is the earliest I have met with postmark showing the inscription.

THE TEMPORARY USE OF THE STAMPS OF THE SARDINIAN STATES  
IN THE PROVINCE OF MASSA AND CARRARA.

The documents I have given in the historical portion will excuse me from writing many words on this question. From them we see that on the 10th June, 1859,<sup>1</sup> the Divisional Directorate of the Post at Genoa had sent to Massa a supply of Sardinian stamps (Plate III, No. 3) which were put into circulation in that Province commencing from the 13th of the same month. Further supplies were received from Genoa on the 17th June, 23rd September, and 6th October, as will be seen from the table I have previously given.

It is superfluous to point out that the Sardinian stamps, used from the 13th June to October, 1859, in the Province of Massa and Carrara, cannot be recognised except through their postmarks. In some cases, in fact, the sole presence of the postmark is not sufficient; for instance, that of Carrara (Plate IV, No. 4) only gave the day and the month, and not the year, so that it would be easy to confuse the stamps in question with those of the same series definitely put into circulation from February, 1860, throughout the whole of the territory which had belonged to the Duchy.

It will therefore be preferable, sometimes even necessary, for collectors to keep these postage stamps on the original letters.

The list of the quantity of Sardinian stamps sold from June to October, 1859, shows the respective rarity of each value, and I feel sure that collectors will go to a great deal of trouble to procure a set of all the five values; nor should this be wondered at if one remembers, for example, that only 251 stamps of 80 centimes were sold.

The whole supply from Genoa was not exhausted, and after the stamps of the Provisional Government had been distributed in the Province of Massa and Carrara also, the remainder of the Sardinian stamps were returned to the Divisional Directorate at Genoa.

The stamps have the head of King Victor Emanuel II, embossed in profile, looking to the right of an elliptical field, enclosed in a rectangle, cornered with a string of pearls. At the top, "C. POSTE. . ." and the value in figures; on the left side, "FRANCO", on the right, "BOLLO", at the bottom, "C" and the value in letters (see Plate VII, No. 3).

Printed in colours on white paper :—

	5	centesimi	olive-green.
10	„		deep brownish grey.
20	„		blue.
40	„		carmine-red.
80	„		light yellow.

ISSUE OF THE 15TH OCTOBER, 1859.

In July, 1859, the General Post Office of the Sardinian States sent 30,000 stamps to the Post Office at Modena; but this quantity seemed

<sup>1</sup> The first entry of the Sardinian military into the Estense territory occurred on the 28th April (at Fosdinovo). Massa and Carrara shortly after declared themselves for the national cause, and on the 17th May the Government of each town was assumed by Count Ponza di San Martino, Commissioner for the Sardinian States.

insufficient for the needs of three months, and the Director of Finance instructed the post office to obtain a larger supply from Turin. The issue of Sardinian stamps had already been announced for the 1st of September in the Notice of the 22nd July; but the Minister of Public Works of the Modenese Provinces suspended this, without giving any notice to the public, and, in consequence of arrangements with Turin, he instituted a special series for the Provinces which had previously belonged to the ex-Duchy.

At the end of August the Director of the Ministry of Finance ordered the "Economato" to have the die for the new series made, in which it was first thought of reproducing the "figure of Italy," but "the Sardinian arms" were eventually preferred.

Carlo Setti<sup>1</sup> received the order for the manufacture of the die and for the reproduction of the stereotypes; it was, no doubt, a verbal arrangement with Toschi (General Secretary of the Ministry of Finance).

At the commencement of October, Setti had executed the order. The stereotypes were delivered to Vincenzi, who did the printing. The first supply of stamps was made on the 13th October, and by the 15th the series was put into circulation.

#### THE DESIGN ADOPTED.

It measures  $19\frac{1}{2} \times 22$  mm. The shield of Savoy, surrounded by the collar of the SS. Annunziata, surmounted with the Royal crown, and enclosed between a branch of oak and one of laurel, is contained in a rectangle, having on the left "PROVINCIE," on the right "MODONESI," at the top "FRANCO BOLLO," in capital letters. Just as for the Ducal stamps, a space was left at the bottom between two small ornamental corners for the insertion of the capital type indicating the value; these were held fast by a lower line, which completed the rectangle (Plate III, No. 4).

It may be noticed that Setti reproduced the antiquated orthography of the word "Modonese" (although at that time it had been almost all abandoned), which we find in a letter of the Minister of Finance dated 31st August.

I do not know whether Setti submitted more than one design or whether the one adopted was kept. I know of no die proof or essays of this pattern.

The Ministry of Public Works of the Modenese Provinces had determined that the new series should be constituted of the same values as those in use in the Sardinian States, and that therefore instead of 15 centesimi stamps, first proposed by the Post Office, 10 centesimi

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<sup>1</sup> Carlo Setti was born at Modena in 1814. He learnt the trade of goldsmith, jeweller and engraver from Ghinai, in whose shop he remained some years until he opened one on his own account in the portico of the College, together with a certain Giacinto Goldoni. Modenese goldsmiths still mention the perfect engraved and chiselled work done by him with such exquisite taste, and his clever stone-setting, requiring a very skilled hand. Like Tommaso Rinaldi, he received very important orders from the Estense Court and from rich people. Having a large family he had to double his labours in order to support it, but in this manner he hastened his own end. He died on the morning of the 3rd June, 1861, leaving his widow and six children in embarrassed circumstances. A notice about Setti, written by Francesco Manfredini, containing warm words, especially about his moral and civil qualities, appeared in the *Gazzetta di Modena*, second year, No. 649, of the 6th June, 1861.

stamps should be made. The Director of the Ministry of Finance, in fact, ordered the Economo General of the same Ministry to have them made of this value; but the Economo, instead of following this order, had them printed 15 centesimi instead, a value which was no longer in accord with the postal tariff. Thus the 15 centesimi stamps were very little used.

#### THE TYPOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION, PRINTING, AND PRINTERS' ERRORS.

What I have said about the Ducal stamps applies likewise to this series.

From Setti's invoice we see that he made 256 stereos. Each sheet contained 120 stamps, so that two distinct sets were formed, of which one set was used for printing some values and the other for the other values, by simply changing the figures.

The 120 stamps are arranged in four panes of thirty, each of which measures  $107 \times 142$  mm., and consists of six horizontal rows of five stamps. Between the panes vertically there is a distance of 11 mm., and horizontally  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm.; each pane is surrounded by a thin line. Each sheet, including the margins, measures  $240 \times 237$  mm.

The imperfections in the construction of the clichés, which I have mentioned as appearing in the Ducal stamps, are also met with here.

The printing was done in the works of Carlo Vincenzi, who supplied the paper and did the gumming. The first supply, ready on the 12th October, comprised 400 sheets, viz., 48,000 stamps of each value. The second supply was delivered at the beginning of November and comprised a further 600 sheets of each value, with the addition of a new printing of 1,000 sheets of 20 centesimi. Thus the whole issue consisted of 6,000 sheets, i.e., 1,000 sheets or 120,000 stamps of each value, except those of 20 centesimi, of which 2,000 sheets were printed, or 240,000 stamps.

The two printings of the 20 centesimi are different in colour as well as in composition. In the other values the errors depend more or less on the accuracy of the printing, and if there are notable differences in colour they arise from the imperfect preparation or mixing of the inks.

Two sets, each of 120 stereos were composed. One of these served for printing 5, 20 (first printing), and 80 centesimi stamps; the other for printing 15, 20 (second printing), and 40 centesimi stamps.

The printing is done in colours on white machine-made paper:—

5	centesimi green, emerald-green, and bright green.
15	„ brown, dark brown, greyish brown, grey.
20	„ dark violet, deep violet, greyish violet ( <i>first printing</i> ).
20	„ lilac, light lilac, rose-lilac ( <i>second printing</i> ).
40	„ carmine, bright carmine, rose-carmine, rose.
80	„ orange, dark orange, yellow-orange.

The 5, 20 (first printing), and the 80 centesimi stamps do not show any errors in the composition of the bottom inscription except the latter, in which at Position 25 (No. 5 of the fourth row of the top left-hand group) there is no stop after the figure, and that at Position 22 the letter N is inverted.

In the 15 centesimi we notice the absence of the stop after the figure at Position 68 (third of the second row of the top right-hand group).

In the 40 centesimi the same omission occurs at the same place. Of this stamp I only know the following error :—

gCENT. 40. (figure 5 upside down instead of a space),

which must have been immediately corrected; I do not know what place it occupied in the sheet.

With regard to the external thin lines of each group, the vertical lines are in one piece, whilst the horizontal were in five pieces, 19mm. each, *i.e.*, almost the width of the stamp. The second printing of the 20 centesimi in each pane has both the vertical and horizontal lines in one piece or, to be more exact, the horizontal lines, if they are not all in one piece, consists of two (as it appeared to me through noticing certain small discontinuities), never however of five, as in the other values and the first printing of the 20 centesimi. This slight modification helped to keep the type in better order, and as far as regards the printing the sheets on the whole came out more accurately.

There are, however, some errors :

Position 33	...	...	...	ECNT. 20.
Position 60	...	...	...	CENT. 20. (N upside down).
Positions 68, 72, 87, 94, 95, 104				CENT. 20 (absence of stop after the figures).

In every value the indistinct and blurred impression has created apparent errors in the bottom inscription, mentioned by several authors and especially by Moens, as 14 for 15, CENI., CONT., CEST., CREY (!) instead of CENT. The superabundance of ink has spoilt the shape of the letters; but it must be admitted that to be able to read, for example, CREY. where CENT. has been written, although confusedly, considerable will power must be exercised, worthy indeed of a better object.

The errors 5 for 15, 2 for 20, 8 or 0 for 80 are certainly due to insufficient pressure or to the unevenness of the type surface; whilst the alleged error 20 with the figure 2 much larger arises from extra pressure on that figure, which had stuck a little higher than the level of the block and became therefore too much marked. Likewise, I do not take into consideration stamps which show a stop before CENT., which is only a small mark, due to inaccurate printing.

#### ABOLITION OF THIS SERIES.

A decree signed by Farini, dated 12th January, 1860, determined that the adoption of the Sardinian stamps in the Emilian provinces should commence on the 1st February; from that day the administration of the stamps, which had belonged to the Finance Department, as it did in the Ducal times, passed to the Ministry of Public Works, under which the Post and Telegraphs had been since the commencement of the year. The validity of the special stamps for the Modenese provinces ceased at the end of February. During February both series were in use and I have seen stamps of both series applied to the



same letter, although it did not very often occur. This happened likewise in the Parma provinces, Tuscany, and elsewhere.

I have before me a letter of the 10th March from Guastalla on which is a 20 centesimi stamp, considered as obsolete; it has the words "fuori d'uso" (out of use) written in pen on the address side. However, some offices (Oltrappennine only?) even passed the Modenese stamps in March. I have seen a letter from Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, dated 13th of the same month, franked with one 5 and one 15 centesimi stamps, and another dated 15th, from Carrara, with four Modenese stamps of 5 centesimi each, which were not overcharged.

#### THE REMAINDERS.

On the 10th January, 1860, the Chief Keeper of Stamped Paper sent to the Intendant of Finance at Modena "the books concerning the new stamps which had been used from the 14th October to the 31st December, 1859," but these books have never been found, and have probably been destroyed with other paper parcels deemed of no interest!

I am therefore not in a position to give a list of the quantities of stamps of the Province of Modena sold, as I did for the Ducal series, nor can I calculate the remainders. These, which were certainly considerable, passed into the hands of the General Post Office at Turin, whence they were mostly sent abroad.

#### NO REPRINTS.

The stamps of this series were not even reprinted.

I have never been able to ascertain what became of the original die. The stereotypes were sold as scrap to the Amoretti Foundry at Bologna, which melted them. In the official archives of Modena one still remains, originating from the Intendant of Finance of this city; it shews traces of a fall, and in 1890 there was taken from it some hand impressions on blue or white paper. A reprint which might be attempted with that type would be easily recognised. (See Plate III, No. 5).

Turning over the sample book, printed in 1871, of Vincenzi's printing works (to which the printing company of the Italian edition of the present work has succeeded), under Nos. 506 to 509 I found printed four small Savoy coats-of-arms, which, on account of their design, attracted my attention; on examining them carefully I was certain that they were formerly part of the stereotypes of the Modenese stamps, from which had been removed not only the rectangle with the lettering but also some leaves of the laurel and oak branches surrounding the shield, but this, however, has not been done equally to each stereo. Whoever looks at them minutely will see at the bottom on each side, between the first and second group of leaves, the remains of a small branch which spreads out at the bottom and which was removed, no doubt for reasons of symmetry.

It is curious to note that whilst it has often happened that stamps have been printed by only using material taken from compositors' boxes, in this case—which I cannot compare with any other—it has happened instead that a printer has profited by the coat-of-arms removed from stamps in order to make use of them in printing.

## THE POSTMARKS AND CANCELLATIONS.

Many of the cancellation stamps of the post offices which served for obliterating the stamps of the Duchy continued to be used for this issue. I have already stated that the two cancellation marks prepared in June, 1859, and having the arms of Savoy, remained in use in Reggio and Modena even after the appearance of the new series.

In order to indicate a payment in cash for the carriage of correspondence, the Reggio office during the latter portion of 1859 and the commencement of 1860 stamped some figures on the letters; I have only had the opportunity of seeing the figure "2" (15mm. high). Registered letters from that office during the same period were often stamped with a capital "R" (24mm. high) as well as "RACCOMANDATA" (registered). (See Plate VII, No. 11).

Some of the offices used the old cancellation stamps after 1860, even in 1861 and 1862. It is not at all difficult to meet with Sardo-Italian stamps with Estensi cancellations.

The Italian General Post Office several times ordered the restitution of the old cancelling stamps, but several offices only partly obeyed this arrangement and then only recently. Some still use them on postal orders and on administration forms. The Reggiolo mark is still in the possession of that office, but the two encircling lines have been removed, a modification which was made in several others.

The mark composed of small diamonds (Plate VII, No. 2) remained for many years in the Modena office, and I have seen it applied occasionally to newspapers so late as during 1876-1877.

In November of 1859 and early in 1860 some new marks of a circular shape began to appear: that of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana (Plate IV, No. 6), of Mirandola (Plate V, No. 19), and of Reggio (Plate VI, No. 36). These would be more suitably placed in an illustration of the postmarks of the Kingdom of Italy, but I wished to have them reproduced here because they are found on stamps of the Modenese provinces.

## FORGERIES OF POSTAGE STAMPS AND CANCELLATIONS.

I do not know of any dangerous forgery of the postage stamps. Those I have had the opportunity of seeing, almost all lithographed, are a long way off the originals both in design and very often in colour, and it is not worth while describing them. A comparison of the imitation with the stamp reproduced on Plate III, No. 4, will suffice to detect it.

One forger in the autumn of 1892 tried the imitation of these stamps by means of photo-lithography and obtained rather creditable results, which I think, however, would not have deceived an expert; fortunately he had no opportunity of completing his trick and never obtained (as far as I have been able to discover) any copies printed in colours. I only saw specimens in black on *handmade*, white, *ribbed*, rather thick paper.

But on the other hand the forgeries of the postmarks and cancellations are dangerous and only too frequently met with. When they began to appear (I could easily keep it quiet) I was a victim, but the lesson was very salutary, and the annoyance at having been taken in is

compensated for by the pleasure of having prevented and of being able to prevent very many others from being deceived. Who the forgers are and whence they come from I have never been able to ascertain; some persons who sent me stamps with false cancellations for examination, either loose or on old letters or fragments of letters, informed me they received them from Trieste and from Padova and others had them sent from Leghorn and Genoa. From Modena itself came no slight number, but the author of them, through other disappointments, was obliged a little later to cease, let us hope for ever.

It seems to me it would be dangerous to minutely point out and note what particular differences there are between the imitations and the originals, etc., since it would induce dishonest speculators to greatly improve their productions. I will only say that the marks I saw imitated are those produced in Plates IV-VI, Nos. 14, 17, 19 (only with the date "23 Dec. 60"), 22 (or 23), 24, 32, 36 (this with the date "20th Feb. 60, 1<sup>a</sup> C<sup>a</sup>"), and Plate VII, Nos. 3, 7, and 8. The cancellation mark No. 4 was likewise imitated, but without the Savoy coat-of-arms. I have also seen stamps cancelled with a date stamp, circular shape, of Pavullo (24mm. diameter), which I do not find to have existed at the end of 1859 nor at the beginning of 1860; others had the circular postmark of La Mirandola (29mm. diameter), of the pattern of No. 14, which is likewise a pure invention.

Except the 20 centesimi stamp, which is rather common in the used state, the other values are rare when used; very rare, almost unobtainable in fact, is the 80 centesimi, quoted at illusory prices in the catalogues. Collectors ought not to turn away from unused stamps which are shewn to them and which arise from remainders; nor should they purchase cancelled stamps for the safety of the authenticity of their cancellation marks. And that this may be very difficult to determine will be readily understood when one considers that each post office of the Ex-Duchy had a cancellation stamp of six parallel lines (Plate VII, No. 3), and a stamp "P.D." surrounded by two thin lines (Plate VII, Nos. 7 and 8). These stamps, executed by Riccò in 1852, shew differences between each other. I have had specially reproduced two sub-types of that stamp "P.D." in order to point out the differences in the shape of the letters and in the distance between each frame line, and I would have extended my zeal to the reproduction of all or of almost all the others. But can the most expert eye point out the differences between one sub-type and the other? Certainly, if the impressions are clear, but they are mostly met with confused and vague.

It often happens that on stamps detached from the letter, we only have a small part of the postmark; and can a specialist, be he ever so clever and provided with a large amount of material for comparison, give a safe judgment? The two marks which I have mentioned I have adopted for example, but judgment is very difficult sometimes when it is a question of others of which only one specimen exists. In examining postage stamps, one acquires after many years a kind of instinct "*sui generis*" which guides us in detecting forgeries; but at times the forger's products are so clever that he succeeds in making many victims.

I must mention that some presumptuous people, instead of confessing themselves incompetent to give a decision for which they have

been asked, or rather than give it under reserve, prefer to give a judgment at random and very often declare false cancellations as certain originals, putting a guarantee seal on the back of the stamps thus cancelled. These specimens, protected by this authentic declaration lightly given, get into collections and remain there until a tardy revelation brings home the deceit to the amateur. Perhaps more than one of my readers will recognise that this has happened to him also and will take an interest in these considerations.

## Stamps for Foreign Newspapers.

### HISTORICAL.

Just as the system of franking postal correspondence by means of postage stamps was introduced into the Estense States through a Convention between Austria and the Dukes of Modena and Parma, so through a Treaty of the Customs League between these States special marks or stamps were adopted to represent a tax on foreign political newspapers entering the Duchies.

The same Treaty set a tax on playing cards, advertisements, calendars, and almanacs, for which various hand stamps were introduced. But I do not intend to go into this branch of the subject in order not to greatly enlarge my sphere of research. These stamps or marks should be studied by those who take up the examination of the official stamps for law papers ("carta bollata") and for commercial purposes, etc., the origin of which is relatively a long way back. I will therefore limit myself to expressing the hope that someone will shortly give us a work on this vast subject, which is no less interesting than our own.

It is almost superfluous to say that the tax on periodicals coming from abroad had an essentially political character. It was, in fact, a means of the Government to render less frequent the reading of liberal papers from abroad which defended and diffused more or less openly the idea of unity. We meet with a proof of the political nature of this tax in the fact that some journals favoured by the Estense Court were freed from it during certain periods—only, however, after the Treaty with Austria and the Duchy of Parma had expired. Thus *La Bilancia* of Milan, *La Sferza* of Venice, *Il Cattolico* and *L'Armonia* of Turin could enter the Duchy for the whole of 1858 without the receivers having to pay any tax (see *Messaggiere di Modena*, No. 1,624, of the 25th November, 1857). Such a privilege was also granted to the *Union* of Paris, "which defends the principles of order and legitimacy," and shortly after to the *Campanile* of Turin (see *Messaggiere di Modena*, No. 1,729, of the 11th August, 1858). But the Ducal decree of the 14th November, 1857, stated:—"In view of the object for which it is granted, this exemption may be removed even within the year if the said papers, or others to which it may subsequently be granted, should deviate from, or become indifferent to, their professed principles, or in the case of total change of opinions or of hostility to the Government, they may be, as has been done with other newspapers, entirely forbidden." And after the threat follows the penalty. Thus a decree of the 13th March, 1858, order that from the *Sferza*,—"seeing that it

has gradually changed its political colour chiefly through one of its contributors, the exemption should be removed at the expiration of the current subscriptions." (See *Messaggere di Modena*, No. 1,670, of the 22nd March, 1858).

Although the stamps or marks on newspapers represented a purely fiscal tax and have no right to a place in postage stamp collections, their use had such a close connection with the post office, that the present work would undoubtedly be incomplete if I abstained from going into this part of the subject. Let us, in fact, notice that for six years the design adopted for the postage stamps was used for the adhesive newspaper marks, moreover the impression or the application of the marks on the newspapers was assigned to the Post, which collected the amount from the addressees on account of the Treasury, together with the subscription to the paper, and finally the cancellation marks were the same as we see impressed on the postage stamps. The greater proportion of postage stamp collectors take also this special class of stamps, and it will, therefore, be useful to study them, especially as up to the present several doubts have been raised, which the reader may here find cleared up.

The Minister of Finance on the 12th of February, 1848, announced the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty at Vienna on the 23rd January the same year, between the Austrian and Modena Governments; it was then arranged that a Commission should be nominated for mutual arrangements. In this Treaty the Duchy of Parma was also included; the delegates of the three Governments met on the 3rd of July, 1849, at Milan, to form the basis of a Customs League, favoured by De Brück, the Austrian Minister of Commerce, on the model of the German "Zollverein." The Treaty was ratified on the 25th August, 1849, by the Estense Government, and on the 25th September, 1852, the Minister of Foreign Affairs published the text of the Treaty concluded at Vienna on the 9th August that year, from which I give some extracts:—

"Art. 1. A Customs League has been established between the Empire of Austria and the States of Modena and Parma, which comprises the territories of the two Duchies and the Austrian Customs Territory.

"This League will be in more intimate relations with the Customs Administration of the two Duchies and the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom.

"Art. 10. The Duchies of Modena and Parma adopt the following Austrian Laws:—

"(e) The Sovereign Patent, 6th September, 1850, on the Stamp of Playing Cards, Calendars, Newspapers and Advertisements, etc.

"With the entering into force in the Duchies of the above laws and regulations and the modifications agreed upon, all the Ducal arrangements contrary to same are now withdrawn, except that the Ducal Finance Intendants as far as regards the application and the observance of the laws and above-mentioned regulations, will follow the instructions and regulations concerning the institution, procedure and powers of the Finance Intendants of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom.

"With regard then to the execution of the Sovereign Patent, 6th September, 1850, it is arranged that playing cards, calendars, newspapers and advertisements for which a tax has been paid in one of the contracting States, cannot be used or sold in the other two States without first paying the entire tax in favour of the Treasury of the State into which they are entering.

"Art. 29. The present Treaty is to last for the period of four years and nine months, commencing from 1st February, 1853, and therefore will be valid until the end of October, 1857. In case there is no notice from any of the three States before the 1st November, 1856, it will be extended for four years, viz., until the end of October, 1861, and thus it will be confirmed in the future each time for four years, if at the commencement of the last year of the period there is no objection from any of the contracting States."

On the 19th January, 1853, the Minister of Finance announced that the Customs League would commence on the 1st February, 1853, as originally fixed. (See *Collezione Generale delle Leggi, &c.*, Vol. xxxii, p. 7).

I now refer to some portions of the "*Sovereign Patent of the 6th September, 1850, on the Provisional Law regarding the tax on playing cards, almanacs, foreign newspapers and advertisements*," because, as will be seen, the arrangements adopted in the Duchy are based upon it. I also give some Instructions issued by the Austrian Government for the execution of this Law.

### "III. Tax on Foreign Newspapers.

"Art. 20. The tax on political newspapers published outside the Austrian Empire amounts to two carantani (10 centimes in the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom) per copy. The stamp is applied to the first page of the paper.

"Art. 21. The tax on foreign papers sent through the Imperial post is paid in conjunction with the carriage. As regards papers entering the State in any other manner, proceed as per paragraph 4.

"Art. 22. With regard to newspapers published in the States forming a Postal League with Austria, the arrangements stipulated in the Treaty referring to the delivery of newspapers will be maintained."

*Instructions for collecting the Tax imposed by the provisional Law of the 6th September, 1850, of the Imperial Austrian Government on Playing Cards, Almanacs, Foreign Papers and Advertisements.*

"Art. The Stamp Office attached to each Intendancy of Finance is charged with the application of the stamps to playing cards, almanacs, foreign papers and advertisements, and with the collection of the tax.

"Art. 8. *Foreign Papers.* As by Article 30 of the Postal Convention, the post offices are chiefly charged with the carrying and delivery of political papers, they must have every foreign newspaper which has arrived, stamped each day at the adjoining stamp office.

- " Art. 9. The Tax on political papers from abroad is 10 Austrian centimes, or 9 Italian centimes per copy. The stamp is placed on the first page of the paper.
- " Art. 10. The payment of the Stamp Tax on papers arriving for the Association by arrangement with the Post Office, must be made by the Association to the Post Office at the time when the order is given (Art. 16 and 17 of the Post Office Regulations for letters), and the payment of the tax on newspapers under cover must be made to the Post Office in conjunction with the carriage.
- " Art. 11. The Post Office must then take the newspapers which have come to hand every day to the Stamp Office, describing them in a special book and stating the number. The Chief of the Stamp Office, or his clerk, after having calculated the total number of stamps to be applied to the papers, will sign a receipt for them by putting his own signature in the book which is to be returned to the Post Office. The Stamp Official, after having stamped each paper, will return them to the Post Office with another book in which he will state the number of stamps applied and the amount of same. This second book must be signed by the Post Master, acknowledging thus the amount to the credit of the Stamp Office. At the end of every month the Post Office, according to the above-mentioned books, will pay the Stamp Office the total amount of the newspaper stamps applied during the month."

*CIRCULAR of the Imperial Lombardo-Venetian Lieutenancy, dated 2nd July, 1851, No. 4029-708, dealing with the practical method of collecting the foreign newspaper Stamp Tax.*

" In order to remove some doubts on the practical method of collecting the tax on foreign political papers the Imperial Postal Administration issues the following :—

" 1. Foreign newspapers, subject to the stamp tax, which have arrived at an Imperial Post Office from Lombardo-Venetian Territory must be daily handed by the Postmaster to the local Stamp Office for stamping.

" 2. Regarding the time for payment and the subscriptions two classes of foreign papers are to be distinguished :—

" (a) Those which are ordered from abroad through the Imperial ' Spedizione-Gazette ' (newspaper delivery).

" (b) Those which are ordered direct by subscribers from the foreign publishers, arriving, therefore, under cover through the Post Office.

" 3. For the papers of the first class the stamp tax will continue to be paid as hitherto by the ' Spedizione-Gazette ' to the Stamp Office at Milan, at the end of every month, according to the present arrangements in the stamp office; in the other Provinces of Lombardy the tax will be paid daily at the time of stamping.

" 4. For the papers of the second class the tax will be paid to all the stamp offices, including Milan, from day to day at the time of stamping.

"5. It often occurs that some papers of the second class (arriving from abroad under cover) remain in the post office either because they are not claimed by the addressee or because the address is incorrect. In such cases, as the paper is not used it is only right that the tax paid beforehand should be returned to the 'Spedizione-Gazette.' This should be done in the following manner:—

"(a) The 'Spedizione-Gazette' at the end of every month shall send all papers from abroad under cover and not delivered to the addressee, to the Stamp Office, together with a specification signed by an official of the 'Spedizione-Gazette' and officially sealed.

"(b) The Stamp Office, together with the Commission charged with the custody of the keys of the safe, shall examine the papers returned and cancel the stamps impressed on them.

"(c) The amount of these stamps shall be made up by stamping gratis an equal number of papers which come in afterwards for stamping.

"(d) The papers with the cancelled stamps shall be returned to the 'Spedizione-Gazette.'

"(e) A note will be made at the meeting of the Commission of these cancelled stamps for the opening and closing of the machines.

"(6). The cancellation of the stamps and the crediting of the corresponding amounts shall be extended to foreign papers which may be lying undelivered in the post offices previous to this date."

The Ministry of Finance, as the date for the commencement of the Treaty approached, advised the General Post Office of the duties which were about to be laid upon it. This gave place to some observations of a purely administrative character which I have deemed it useful to produce, together with the Minister's reply:—

"Modena, 11th June, 1852.

"Ministry of Finance.

"To the Post Master General, Modena.

"Since the work regarding the newspaper Associations has been confided, although only temporarily, to Mr. Mari, as I informed you in my letter of to-day No. 5762, I think it convenient, as you suggest in your letter No. 1105, of to-day, that the administration of the same should remain centered at this General Directorate, which will collect the newspapers to which subscriptions have been received, in order to distribute them among the various offices for eventual delivery to the subscribers.

"You will therefore please to draw up as early as possible the requisite regulations, to be submitted to me for approval, and which, after being printed and sent by you to the various offices, must be posted up in each one of them for the guidance of any who wish to become subscribers to some paper or gazette.

"The Provincial Directorates are to receive the applications and obtain at the same time from the Cashier the amount of the subscription including postage, entering clearly the one and the other in the stamp book, the counterfoil of which is to be given to the subscriber.



"At the same time the Provincial Directorates will notify the General Directorate of the individuals who have become subscribers, the kind of papers they are subscribing to, the cost of the same including postage, indicating the respective receipts by date and number. Then the General Directorate on receipt of the lists and applications, and after the subscription and postage has been paid to the cashier, will instruct the foreign Post Offices concerned to deliver the requisite number of copies of each paper for which subscribers have applied. In a supplementary manner, and in place of the General Directorate, the Post Office at Massa the Oltreappennine Province, may request the delivery direct from Tuscany, through the Post Office, of the papers published there which have been applied for by subscribers. When payment is to be made to the different offices delivering the papers, in accordance with the subscribers obtained, the General Directorate must send a specified list to this Ministry, containing the above-mentioned information, and requesting the necessary cheque or money-order to be sent.

"I am sure that these instructions will be sufficient to ensure the regular practical working of the newspaper delivery, considering that the instructions comprised in the Regulations yet to be published will cover everything else, and I remain, &c.,

"CASLINI."

"Modena, 11th June, 1852.

"To the General Accountant of the Ministry.

"For the sake of regularity I am sending to the General Post Office the instructions as per the enclosed copy for your guidance.

"CASLINI."

"Modena, 13th June, 1852.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post.

"To the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"Referring to the Newspaper Associations, treated in your esteemed letter of the 11th inst., which on account of the new Conventions are to be carried on under a new plan of administration, I have to say that after having informed the Accountant, Mr. Mari, of the confidence placed in him by the Government, and which I consider is worthily due to him, he willingly accepts the charge, even temporarily, as mentioned in your letter.

"As interpreter of the kind intentions of the Ministry I do not doubt, however, that the consent of the above gentleman in taking on this heavy work, which may be considered as quite strange to a Chief Inspector of Accounts, will procure for him some advantage which the matter, involving in itself no light work, appears to demand.

"To conform as far as possible with the system introduced into the Imperial Austrian Post, and in order to remove any doubt in the Account Department regarding this Newspaper Branch, and following the instructions in your letter of the 11th inst., it would be convenient if the taxes which will be levied by the Head Office at Modena as well as by the Provincial Offices, were represented by a monthly invoice, based on the accounts kept by Mr. Mari.

"This invoice would be presented to the General Directorate, together with the receipt foils, and the demand for payment due to the Foreign Offices made in due course, which would be fully justified.

"It should be noticed that the applications for subscriptions made to the Post Offices, are to be transmitted to Mr. Mari by this General Directorate, which, as is usual in the Foreign Offices, is to communicate with the other Foreign Newspaper Offices for settlement of the various requests, which are not solely limited to the inquiry for the first subscription, but to the succeeding frequent claims which may arise.

"Finally, I request you to supply thirty counterfoil receipt books for use in this new branch. The present books are of no use now as they were made at the expense of the previous Administration, and these I think it expedient to send to you.

"Your obedient Servant,

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 14th June, 1852.

"Ministry of Finance.

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"The notice, the draft of which you sent me with your letter of yesterday and which I return herewith, must correspond also with the list of the newspapers and gazettes for which subscriptions are received, with all the other indications referring to them; this was the chief purpose of your inquiries, since it would hardly serve the purpose to reserve the list for successive publication whilst the applications for subscription to the Associations would be coming in, and which will commence on the 1st of July next. I have corrected the notice and added the list thereto, so you will please have them printed and distributed as early as possible and send 12 copies of them to this Ministry.

"I was quite persuaded that Mr. Mari, who hitherto had the particular charge of everything referring to the Newspaper Associations, would willingly continue to do the same, and I am also persuaded that he will discharge his duties, independently of your orders, with care and precision.

"You will, however, understand that the subscriptions to the newspapers are received by the General Directorate and not particularly by the person who has charge of the matter; that instituting a separate and almost independent office solely for the purpose of the newspaper would not be consistent with the system of a well-managed Administration, to which the proposal in your letter would tend; and that Mr. Mari may certainly take over this management, but only under you, to whom alone is reserved the correspondence with the foreign post offices.

"With regard to the account, this is the special duty of Mr. Mari, and therefore as the newspapers, whether for the amount of the subscriptions or for that of postage, form one of the heads of revenue of the Postal Administration, I see no reason nor motive why a newspaper account should be kept entirely separate and distinct.

"You will therefore arrange that the cashiers of each Postal Directorate, whose duty it is to collect the subscriptions and postage,

shall certainly keep the respective accounts separate, but must add and include them in their usual monthly accounts.

"With regard to the counterfoil receipt books, you will please arrange with Mr. Fabbriani, with whom I have left instructions, so that they may be printed without delay in accordance with the form you will give to him, so that you may have the necessary supply.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"CASLINI."

The Post Office of Modena communicated the instructions regarding the stamping of the foreign newspapers to the Post Offices of Massa and Reggio, in the following letter :—

"Modena, 31st January, 1853.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post.

"To the Post Office, Massa (and Reggio).

"By order of the Ministry of Finance, at the time of the commencement of the Customs League, foreign newspapers of every kind, whether from States in the League or any other State, must be subjected to an extra stamp, and also advertisements which are posted or put in circulation in the State and which are introduced by means of the post offices.

"The printed instructions herewith shew the method in which these papers are to be stamped, which operation must be done at the respective offices.

"The cash received under this head must be paid to the Stamp Office by the respective Directorates, as per No. 11 of the Instructions. For journals and advertisements sent to the branch offices a separate account must be kept in the offices where the distribution is made, and the amount to be repaid must be marked in the margin of the delivery sheets. At the end of each month these totals must be sent to the respective Directorates, but must not appear in fact, as it is a matter foreign to the usual postal business, and the Directorates pay the amounts together with what they have received to the Stamp Office.

"Finally, there is no exception of any kind to this tax, which is applied to all foreign printed papers; with regard, however, to the gazettes, only the number of the sheets is considered, and any enclosed appendix or supplement is included under the one stamp.

"Yours, &c.,

"GANDINI."

In fact, from the 1st of February, 1853, on political foreign papers there was impressed on the top margin of the front page, sometimes on the left, more often on the right, a stamp with two concentric circles, with a distance of 4mm. between them, the other one having a diameter of 25mm. Between the two circles at the top is "STATI ESTENSI" and at the bottom "CENT. 9."; in the middle of the stamp, in two lines, "GAZZETTE ESTERE." (See Plate III, No. 6).

The commencement of the Treaty raised some uncertainties about which the Postmaster-General wrote on the 5th of February to the Minister of Finance; the letter I do not think worth while publishing. The Minister replied as follows:—

“Modena, 7th February, 1853.

“Ministry of Finance.

“To the Post Master General of the Estense Post, Modena.

“In order to clear up the doubts you mention in your letter of the 5th inst., No. 342, I beg to inform you:—

“1. That as per par. 8 and 9 of the Instructions and Art. 3 of the Law, only political papers are subject to the tax.

“2. That Par. 11 of the Instructions must be observed exactly by the Post Offices; I am persuaded that in practice, and thanks to the diligence of the staff, all trouble and uncertainty will disappear.

“3. That as the law does not admit of any exception, and the same having commenced on the 1st inst., the periodicals whose subscriptions were still in force, are also subject to the tax.

“4. That the general expression used in Par. 13 of the Instructions shews clearly that all announcements and advertisements are subject to the tax, whether they are printed in the State, or whether they come from abroad.

“I give you the above for your guidance and remain, &c.

“TARABINI.

“BEDOGNI, Vice Sec.”

A Ministerial Order of the 16th March, 1853,<sup>1</sup> determined that from the 1st April the style of the stamp for journals should be changed. The document in question gave the Director of the Stamp Office instructions for this change, for which no special decree was necessary. The Stamp Office gave notice of it in its turn to the Post Office, which on the 31st March delivered the first supply of the new journal stamps.

The “List of the sheets of Stamps applicable to Foreign Newspapers,” which was found at the foot of the letter of that date, deserves special mention, since we find that the adhesive stamps of the first printing, printed on reddish violet paper, viz., the stamp with the inscription “B.G. CEN. 9” in *large* letters (the letters B.G.—(Bollo Gazzette)—and figure 9  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. high, cen. 1 mm. high), were not printed in sheets of 240 copies like the postage stamps, but only in half sheets. (See Plate III, No. 7, and the descriptive portion).

“Modena, 25th March, 1853.

“Ministry of Finance.

“To the Chief of the Stamp Office, Modena.

“The modifications which have been made in the Patent of 6th September, 1850, for the political newspapers by the later orders of the Austrian Ministry, now accepted in this Duchy also, render a change necessary in our regulations, in order to maintain a uniformity of administration.

<sup>1</sup> This document was not left on the file, and I have not succeeded in finding it.

"In place of an impressed stamp, the Postal Directorates, on and after the 1st of April, must use an adhesive stamp, which will be supplied by the Stamp Office, a supply which must be maintained in the same manner as usually carried out with letter stamps.

"The Dispatching Office having applied the stamps to the papers will pass them on to the Distributing Post Office, obtaining a receipt shewing the number of papers with stamps applied, and this receipt must be given up to the Minister with the stamp account.

"The Directorate must make out immediately a list of the subscriptions to the newspapers which are published in the States of the League as well as in those outside it, and send it in to the Ministry. Further, at the end of every month a report of the conditions of the associations and of the changes which may have taken place must be also delivered.

"The Stamp Office, by means of the usual vignette with the inscription 'B.G. cent. 9,' which will be supplied by the 'Economo' from the Ministry, shall have the stamps for the papers printed on dark red paper, and shall issue 1,920 to the Postal Directorates and supply afterwards any quantity which may be asked for, against an acknowledgment of the same. The receipts marked E and F must also be delivered up, as these are now out of use.

"In view of these arrangements, you will see that the printed instructions for the exaction of the tax imposed by the Law of the 6th September, 1850, are no longer to be observed as far as concerns the foreign papers, instead of which full and careful attention must be given to the present instructions.

"Yours, &c.,

"TARABINI.

"BEDOGNI, Vice-Sec.."

"Modena, 31st March, 1853.

"'Il Magazziniere Centrale della Carta Bollata.'

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"It has been prescribed by a Ministerial Despatch of the 25th inst., No. 2,667, that with to-morrow, 1st of April, the stamping by this office of foreign newspapers with a stamp of cent. 09 is now to cease and the application of an adhesive stamp of similar value to be substituted, which application is to be done by the Dispatching Post Office, all this being in conformity with the present regulations.

"Therefore, conforming to the Ministerial authorization, I am sending you the undermentioned supply of stamps of cent. 09 each, which you will distribute in the quantities you may think fit to the Postal Directorates.

"I enclose the respective delivery note, No. 2, which you will please return, duly signed by you, as per Minister's instructions.

"Yours, &c.,

"BAJ."

"Specification of the Sheets of Stamps for the Foreign Newspapers.

"Stamps, 120 per half sheet, corresponding to eight complete sheets of 240 each; total stamps, 1,920, which at 09 centimes amount to 172.80 lire."

"Modena, 31st March, 1853.

"Estense Post Office.

"To the 'Magazziniere Centrale della Carta Bollata,' Modena.

"Having verified the quantity of the stamps for the foreign newspapers and found it conform to the note sent, the same is hereby returned by this Office duly receipted.

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 1st April, 1853.

"General Directorate of the Estense Post.

"To the Post Office of Massa (and Reggio).

"By superior arrangements, in consequence of changes adopted by the Austrian Ministry in the stamping of newspapers, I have to inform you that the practice of applying adhesive stamps of the same value as the stamp usually adopted, viz., 09 centimes, is now introduced. I am sending you a supply of 240 stamps, which you will replenish in the manner usually adopted for postage stamps.

"I shall be glad to receive the list of the newspaper associations in your Directorate, to be sent to the Minister, as well as the receipt for the stamps I am sending. This amount will be placed to the debit of your office in the same manner as for the postage stamps.

"GANDINI."

The question was raised whether the Ministries which received foreign political newspapers should in their turn pay the tax. The doubt was expressed in the following Note, directed to the Sovereign, who decided in the affirmative. This has not much interest for us, but the following document has a certain amount of importance, because it informs us of the quantities of stamps impressed at Modena from the 7th of February to the 31st March, 1853.

"Your Royal Highness.

"According to the original account, which is herewith humbly presented, of the Post Office General, it appears that from the 7th February to the end of March, 8,182 political newspapers received the impression of the stamp, amounting in all to 736.38 lire, of which, however, 359.10 lire remain unpaid, which refer to papers for various Authorities, as per the enclosed lists A and B.

"As it is to be desired that these open amounts should be eliminated, Your Royal Highness is requested to deign to let your opinion be known about the matter, viz., whether the unpaid taxes in question should be collected or whether they should be written off, and in this latter case whether for the simplification of the accounts the papers are to be supplied to the Ministries free of tax.

"The Minister of Finance,

"Modena, 14th April, 1853.

"TARABINI."

"For the sake of regularity we desire that the Ministries pay the tax on the papers like the others. The Minister of Finance, however, is to arrange for the reduction of the stamp on foreign papers from 9 to 3 centimes per paper.

"28th April, 1853.

"FRANCESCO."

The register of the postage and newspaper stamps, which was kept with the greatest care by the Central Keeper, shews us that during May, 1853, 1,600 sheets of 240 9 centime stamps each were printed for the newspapers. This second printing, for which the same kind of violet paper was used as for the first printing, had the inscription "B.G. cen. 9." in smaller type (letters B.G. and figure 9  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. in height, cen.  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. high (see Plate III, No. 8). We have, of course, no document which mentions the change of these characters. It was doubtless caused by the inconvenience of using larger type in the small space left empty in the "clichés."

In the same register, under date 30th September, 1857, the following are entered:—

"9 centime stamps for newspapers, 240 per sheet, which were printed, gummed, and finished by Mr. Montrucoli in the current month, say 2,000 sheets."

Those 2,000 sheets were stamps with the inscription "CENT. 9." without the initials B.G. (see Plate III, No. 9).

Although the Duke on the 28th April, 1853, expressed the wish that the tax on the foreign papers should be reduced to 3 centimes, it was instead raised to 10 on the cessation of the Austro-Estense-Parmense Treaty,<sup>1</sup> as was established by Art. 6 of the Note, which I herewith produce (vide the often quoted *Collez. Generale delle Leggi, &c.*, Vol. XXXVI., Part II, year 1857, p. 100, and the *Messaggere di Modena*, No. 1,611, of the 26th October, 1857).

"The Minister of Finance,

Authorised by Royal Edict of the 13th inst., prescribes as follows:—

"1. The Tariff, Regulations, and Rules approved by his Royal Highness our Most Gracious Sovereign in the aforementioned Edict, and which are to come into force on the 1st November next and to be observed in these States, are deposited in copy at the Delegations of the Ministry for the Interior, at the 'Comunità dello Stato,' and with the Secretaries of the Intendancies of Finance, in order that anyone may have access to same.

"2. On the 1st of November the new Customs line on the Parmense frontier and an intermediate line towards Lombardo-Venetia comes into force.

"3. The collection of import, export, and transit duties will therefore be regulated by the laws and tariff mentioned above: contravention of the Custom duties will be punished according to the new penal regulations, and cases treated in accordance with the new manner of procedure.

<sup>1</sup> The Government of Parma sent to Vienna and to Modena a formal refusal to renew the Treaty before it had elapsed. At the special instigation of De Brück, Austrian Minister of Commerce, a Customs Convention was then concluded between Austria and the Duchy of Modena, which commenced on the 1st December, 1857. This, however remained in force for a very short time on account of protests from the Sardinian States, which perceived therein a breach in the Treaties with Austria; consequently it was repealed on the 15th April, 1859. For this Convention the extension to the Duchy of two Treaties was substituted, one for commerce, the other for the repression of contraband, which Austria had with the Sardinian States (18th October and 22nd November, 1851).

"4. The line which in Art. 2 of the Customs regulations is termed internal is fixed at 4 kilometres in a direct line from the frontier.

"3. Instructions for the guidance of the offices in manipulating the duties have been compiled and distributed, and must be strictly carried out by them.

"6. On the 1st of November the tax on advertisements and almanacs ceases. Political newspapers will be subject to a tax of 10 centimes, by means of the application of a stamp. With regard to playing cards, the notice of the 28th December, 1849, is again brought into force.

"7. The new procedure, as being a general law, will be applied to all contraventions, attempted or carried out, of the laws for the payment of taxes.

"FERDINANDO CASTELLANI TARABINI.

"A. RIVOLTI, Secretary.

"Modena, 19th October, 1857."

Following the preceding document the Ministry of Finance requested a statement of the 9 centime stamps remaining to be drawn up, and ordered the 10 centime stamps to be printed, "making use of the dies of the 10 centime letter stamps."

"Modena, 28th October, 1857.

"The Minister of Finance

"As the political foreign newspapers on the 1st of November next are to be subjected to a 10 centime tax, in accordance with the Notification of the 19th inst., to be applied by means of a stamp, and on the same day the arrangements of the Notification of the 28th December, 1849, having to come into force with reference to playing cards

prescribes:—

"1. That the manufacture of the 10 centime stamps is to be confided to the 'Bollo Carta' delegate. Paper of the same colour as that of the newspaper stamps is to be employed, but use is to be made of the die for the 10 centime letter stamps.

"2. That the Post Office General is to draw up a statement of the remainder of the stamps at present in use for papers, with reference to the Modena Post Office as well as those of Reggio and Massa.

"3. That the Assistant Accountant-General shall draw up a statement of the remainders of the stamps existing in the Stamp Office.

"4. That the Stamp Office from the 1st of November next follows the regulations in the Notification of the 28th December, 1849.

"The present regulations are to be communicated to the Accountant's Department.

"TARABINI."

"Modena, 28th October, 1857.

"Ministry of Finance.

"In accordance with my Notification of the 19th inst., on the 1st of the coming month of November, foreign political newspapers are to be subjected to the tax of 10 centimes by the application of a stamp for



the purpose. I have ordered the Stamp Office to arrange for this stamp, using paper of the same colour as that employed up to now for newspaper stamps and adopting the die of the 10 centime letter stamps.

"I request you to draw up a statement of the remainder of the stamps at present in use for newspapers up to the 31st inst., both at this post office as well as at those of Reggio and Massa, sending me same immediately.

"You will please also instruct the Assistant Accountant-General to proceed with a similar statement of the remainders in the Stamp Office.

"TARABINI."

The following is the statement asked for, and I give also three letters from the Minister of Finance referring to same, from the last of which we see that the packet containing 2,007 sheets of newspaper stamps was sent to the Economo Generale of the Ministry himself.

"Modena, 31st October, 1857.

"To his Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"In accordance with your Excellency's order, No. 9.379, the undersigned Assistant Accountant-General of the Ministry, together with the Magazziniere, Carlo Baj, have obtained from the Carta Bollata Office a quantity of sheets of stamps for newspapers, as follows, viz. :—

1 parcel of sheets	...	...	...	...	500
I " "	...	...	...	...	500
I " "	...	...	...	...	500
I " "	...	...	...	...	500
I " "	...	...	...	...	500
Single sheets	...	...	...	...	7
Total sheets					2,507

These have been made up into one packet, sealed with red wax impressed with the seal of the Carta Bollata Office and another seal containing the letters F.B., which packet is hereby sent with the enclosed statement, drawn up in duplicate, one of which is to be forwarded to his Excellency the Minister for Finance, and the other is to be kept in the Carta Bollata Office.

"F. BORSARI.

"CARLO BAJ."

"Modena, 3rd November, 1857.

"The Minister of Finance.

"To the Delegate of the Bollo Straordinario and Magazziniere della Carta Bollata."

"Referring to the statement of the 31st ultimo, drawn up by you and the Assistant Accountant-General of this Ministry, according to which there are 2,007 sheets of newspaper stamps remaining which have been withdrawn by my Notification of the 19th ultimo, I herewith authorise you to obtain credit for same, and have informed the General Account Office accordingly.

"TARABINI."

"Modena, 3rd November, 1857.

"The Minister of Finance.

"To the Ragioniere Generale of the Ministry.

"Referring to the statement enclosed in your No. 2,146 of to-day, according to which the remainders in the Stamp Office of newspaper stamps amount to 2,007 sheets, I herewith authorise you to credit the Magazziniere, Carlo Baj, with same.

"TARABINI."

"Modena, 3rd November, 1857.

"The Ministry of Finance.

"To the Economo Generale of the Ministry.

"I send you herewith a sealed packet containing 2,007 sheets of newspaper stamps, which are the remainders in the Stamp Office to 31st of October last, and which have been withdrawn by the Notification of the Minister dated the 19th of the same month.

"TARABINI."

In the Stamp Register we find the following note, under date 31st October, 1857:—

"Credit is given for newspaper stamps, sent to the Ministry of Finance with a statement of the 31st instant, drawn up by the Accountant-General of the Ministry, in accordance with the Ministerial Arrangement, No. 9,379, and successive Authorisation, No. 9,589, of the 3rd November.

"Credited ... .. 2,007 sheets."

All that remained of the 9 centesimi stamps, without the initials B.G., on violet-lilac paper were undoubtedly included in the packet which was sent to the Ministry of Finance by the Magazziniere del Bollo, and I think that the other seven sheets were stamps of the same printing, perhaps found afterwards, although they might belong to the printing of May, 1853, *i.e.*, with the inscription "B.G. Cen. 9." in small type. Anyway, it is certain that the 9 cent. stamps without the two initials, prepared before the change in the tax, in view of a possible deficiency of supply, were never distributed, not even a small quantity. In 1875 an employee in the Intendancy of Finance at Modena found the packet of those stamps, which, up to that time, had remained unknown to collectors; several thousands were sold by him to merchants and collectors, but the greater portion were put in a place of safety and an inventory taken of them, although rather late in the day. The employee was reproved and, I believe, punished, but the distributed stamps were, of course, not recalled. This tardy discovery made collectors suspicious; lively controversies appeared in philatelic journals and gave place to a mass of trifling articles, even by authoritative writers. Some held it to be a question of a speculation on the good faith of collectors, some called them reprints, and others deliberately designated them forgeries. Others, on the contrary, affirmed that they were originals, and that through never having been placed in circulation they had been overlooked. In spite of the fact that the suspicious had to re-consider their opinion, some collectors are still obstinate in asking for them and some authors in cataloguing them in

a "cancelled" condition! I, myself, could not persuade some owners of postmarked copies that the cancellations were false. Are they willing to be convinced now?

On the 1st of November, 1857, the stamp printed in black on light lilac was put into use, with the inscription "CENT. 10" The first supply of 390 sheets of 240 each was registered in "the month of November, 1857." Meanwhile, the withdrawal of the abolished 9 cent. stamps had been proceeded with, as we see from the following letter of the General Post Office:—

"Modena, 5th December, 1857.

"General Office of the Estense Post.

"To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"The three Directorates of Modena, Reggio, and Massa have sent to this Office the accounts of the newspaper stamps now out of use, which were asked for in your Excellency's note of the 28th November last, No. 9,379.

"The results are as follows:

The Modena Office is credited with	372	returned stamps	...	33.48	lire.
The Reggio	"	"	370	"	33.30 "
The Massa	"	"	50	"	4.50 "
Total				...	71.28 "

"Your Excellency is requested to state how the value of the returned stamps is to be allowed, *i.e.*, if they will be deducted by the Administration from the account.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"Your most humble servant,

"The Postmaster-General,

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 18th February, 1858.

"The Accountant-General.

"To His Excellency the Minister of Finance.

"With regard to the inquiry by the General Post Office referring to the remainder of the newspaper stamps now out of use, this Office is strongly in favour of their value being credited against the other supplies of stamps. In this way there would be a saving of useless operations in book-keeping.

"For the Accountant-General,

"ANTONIO VACCARI.

"ALFREDO ZANFI."

"Ministry of Finance.

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"In reply to your inquiry of the 5th December, 1857, regarding the newspaper stamps now out of use in the Post Office, I beg to inform you that their value will be credited in further supplies of newspaper stamps.

"Yours, &c.,

"REGGIANINI."

We now see from what motives the Ministry of Finance had been induced to change the form of the inscription of the newspaper stamps. The Sardinian Post Office, being doubtful about the matter, considered that the papers introduced into the Estense States were subjected on their arrival to a *POSTAL* tax. This was probably caused by the design of the stamp, which was identical with that of the postage stamps. As we see from the letters which follow, the mistake was easily cleared up, but at the same time the design of the stamp was changed.<sup>1</sup>

Modena, 9th December, 1858.

"General Office of the Estense Post.

"To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"The Ministry of Public Works in Turin in its note of the 28th November last, protests that the application of the Estense stamp to the political newspapers of the Sardinian kingdom, which are sent here, is contrary to the text of par. 13 of the Sardinian Estense Postal Convention, which prescribes that papers and periodicals, interchanged between the two Administrations, cannot under any postal heading whatever be subjected to a tax in the country into which they are sent, to be paid by the senders.

"The Estense papers are not subjected to any tax when they enter the Sardinian States and they consider the principle should be equal on both sides.

"As I have to reply to the Ministry, I turn to your Excellency for explanation, and may remark that some reason for the protest may be deduced from the words on the stamps, '*POSTE ESTENSI, CENT. 10.*'

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"Your most obedient servant,

"GANDINI."

Modena, 16th December, 1858.

"The Ministry of Finance.

"To the Postmaster-General, Modena.

"The tax of 10 centesimi for political newspapers arriving in the State is not a *Postal* tax, as you ought to know quite well, but is a tax arising from the Notification of the 19th October, 1857.

"If the manner of collecting this tax was fixed by the application of stamps, it was solely to facilitate the collection and cannot change the nature of the reason.

"It is hoped that this explanation will satisfy the Minister of Public Works in Turin with regard to the pretended infraction of the new Convention, as per your letter of the 9th inst.; should the method of collecting the tax be disagreeable, there would be no difficulty in changing it.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"TARABINI."

<sup>1</sup> Further, the relations between the two Governments, tranquil in appearance, were really very strained. The Sardinian States which, as I have pointed out, declared shortly after that they suffered through the Austro-Estense Customs Convention, were seeking a quarrel with the Duchy, even in their administrative relations. 1859 was imminent!

"Turin, 8th January, 1859.

"Ministry of Public Works.

"General Post Office.

"To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"By the Notification of the 19th October last it was ordered that on the 1st of November, 1858, the day on which the Sardinian Estense Postal Convention of the 30th August last came into force, there should be a tax on foreign political newspapers by means of the application of a 10 centesimi stamp. This imposition which weighs so heavily, almost exclusively, on the Sardinian Press, was decided upon by the Ministry of Estense Finance, which having in its dependency the Postal Administration, could not help but know the engagements entered into with the Sardinian Government as per Art. 13 of the above-mentioned Convention.

"The undersigned, therefore, cannot help but perceive that a two-sided condition, mutually arranged between the two Governments, has not been carried out and only maintained by the Sardinian Government. He therefore requests that the same be abolished, as it is contrary not only to the said Art. 13 but also to the spirit of the whole Convention.

"For the Minister,

"SANTI."

"Modena, 14th January, 1859.

"General Office of the Estense Post.

"To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

"Your Excellency will see from the enclosed copy of the letter from the Ministry of Public Works, that exception is taken to the arrangement made in these States to subject foreign political papers to a tax. However, it is to be noticed that the Sardinian Ministry makes an error in the date; it states that the Notification of the 19th October, which determined the tax, commenced in 1858, and therefore that it came into effect at the same time as the Convention, whilst it was really a year previously.

"It will certainly not escape your Excellency that Art. 13 of the Sardinian Convention speaks of a tax under any postal heading whatsoever, therefore as your Excellency was of opinion in your letter of the 16th December last, the matter can easily be remedied by substituting another form of stamp, which ought not to have any indication of being connected with the Post Office.

"Yours, &c.,

"The Postmaster-General,

"GANDINI."

"Modena, 17th January, 1859.

"Ministry of Finance.

"To the Postmaster-General of the Estense Post, Modena.

"If the Sardinian Minister persists in maintaining the contravention of the Postal Treaty of the 30th August last by the 10 centesimi

tax on political foreign papers, I can only attribute it to an incomplete explanation given by you of my letter of the 16th December last. This tax, imposed since 1852, on the occasion of the Austro-Estense-Parmense League, and included in the Notification of the 19th October, 1857, does not concern the Postal interest in the slightest degree, but indirectly the community at large, for which each Government is free to arrange as it may think best; and if the method of applying the tax by means of a stamp was chosen, it was only because it was the simplest for facilitating the official work. Seeing, however, that the name of the method may give another meaning to the nature of the tax, I have decided to change the method, and, therefore, in future you are to apply an ink stamp of 10 centesimi to the political foreign newspapers.

"I request you then, in order to remove every doubt, to send to the Head Office of the Sardinian Post a copy of the present and of my preceding letter.

" TARABINI."

No notice of this change was given to the public. The Minister of Finance advised his colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, about it in the following letter, to which is still attached a set of eight proofs of the stamps, impressed in black on white, slightly surfaced paper.

" Modena, 4th February, 1859.

" Ministry of Finance.

" To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Modena.

" In order to remove the suspicion that the tax to which political foreign papers are subject, in accordance with the Notification of this Ministry on the 19th October, 1857, is a postal tax in contravention of the Art. 13 of the Sardinian Convention, I have thought it convenient that in future the same tax should be applied with a different stamp from that used hitherto, which shall bear the inscription, 'TASSA GAZZETTE, CENT. 10,' with the Estense eagle, and as per the enclosed specimen.

" I beg to advise your Excellency of this Arrangement which is due to a protest from the Ministry of Public Works at Turin to the General Post Office here, and remain, &c.,

" TARABINI,

" F. PARENTI, Vice-Sec."

The engraver, Felice Riccò, of Modena, to whom the execution of the new die was confided, finished it at the beginning of February, 1859. I have not been able to find his invoice, but in the cash book of the Ministry of Finance we find that for this work Riccò was paid 18.11 lire.

The stamp, square in shape, shows the Estense eagle with folded wings surmounted by a crown and enclosed in a double circle, having the inscription, "TASSA GAZZETTE, CENT. 10." It was impressed in black on white paper. (See Plate III, No. 14.)

“Modena, 3rd February, 1859.

“To His Excellency the Minister of Finance.

“In accordance with your Excellency’s verbal orders, I have had the enclosed stamp for foreign newspapers made by the engraver, Mr. Riccò, in place of the stamp now in use.

“CESARE ZOBOLI.

“Economato of the Ministry of Finance.”

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs had not heard of the protest from the Sardinian Post, he asked as under for explanations from the Ministry of Finance, which the following note of the 11th February communicated to him :—

“Modena, 10th February, 1859.

“Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“To His Excellency the Minister of Finance, Modena.

“I have received your Excellency’s letter of the 4th inst. with the proof of the new stamp which in future is to be applied to foreign papers.

“While thanking your Excellency for the communication, I may add that I do not know what the protest is which you mention as having come from the Ministry of Public Works at Turin, and I therefore request you to favour me with some details, if you think it convenient and necessary that I should know them.

“G. FORNI.”

“Modena, 11th February, 1859.

“Ministry of Finance.

“To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Modena.

“In reply to your esteemed dispatch of yesterday, I beg to send you enclosed copies of documents which will inform you how the protest of the Ministry of Public Works at Turin came about, to remedy which I thought it best to change the style of the stamp for the tax on the foreign newspapers, established with my Notification of the 19th October, 1857, on which matter there was no necessity for first consulting with your Excellency, the Postmaster-General stating that everything had been arranged satisfactorily.

“TARABINI.

“F. PARENTI, Vice-Sec.

After the fall of the Ducal Government in June, 1859, a decree of the Dictator Farini, dated 12th July, announced by the *Gazzetta di Modena*, No. 27, of the 17th July, 1859, abolished the stamp tax on foreign political newspapers imposed by the decree dated the 19th October, 1857, but it was not reproduced in the *Raccolta Ufficiale degli Atti di Governo Dittatorio*, &c., and not even in the Official Papers of the Modenese and Parmense Provinces.

A decree, dated 18th August (Series No. 14) announced :—“On the 1st of September next, the customs line between the Provinces which constituted the Parmense States and the others which formed the Estensi States will be removed,” and another decree of the 6th October (Series No. 46) also abolished the customs lines between the Modenese and Parmense Provinces and the other Provinces annexed.

## Descriptive Part.

ISSUE OF THE 1ST FEBRUARY, 1853.

The tax of 9 centesimi on the foreign political papers introduced into the Duchy was represented at the commencement by a hand impressed stamp, in black ink, on the front sheet of each periodical, sometimes on the left, more often on the right, of the top margin.

The stamp, engraved in brass, consists of two concentric circles, 4mm. distant, the outer one having a diameter of 25mm. Between the two circles we read at the top, "STATI ESTENSI," and at the bottom, "CENT. 9."; in the middle portion, in two lines, "GAZZETTE ESTERE" (see Plate III, No. 6).

I have not been able to ascertain the name of the engraver. There were three stamp offices, viz., at Modena, at Reggio, and at Massa, and each office had a stamp for impression on the newspapers, in the same manner as each was provided with a series of stamps for playing-cards and for advertisements. It was only on the 3rd of February that the Ministry of Finance sent the "Stamp for stamping the newspapers" to Reggio and to Massa. I am convinced that the two stamps of Reggio and of Massa were sub-types of that used at Modena, which I have reproduced in Plate III, No. 6; they differed from the latter in the shape of the characters, etc., because each was engraved separately, but they were not, however, different in shape, nor had they a different inscription.

I know two types of this stamp in addition to that used at Modena. One is probably a reprint obtained from the stamp which served at Reggio or at Massa. It is distinguished from the Modena type especially by the words "GAZZETTE ESTERE," which are in somewhat smaller characters; ESTERE measures  $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. instead of  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , and the first and the last letter E of this word are respectively under A and under the second T of GAZZETTE, instead of being under GA and TE. These data will suffice to distinguish this sub-type, which I have only seen impressed in a deep black on white machine-made paper of recent make.

The other known to me is certainly a forgery, executed in 1876 at Florence for account of a certain E.C.U., who likewise forged the newspaper stamp of Parma. We see that the forger copied the stamp used at Modena (the one I have produced), and succeeded well enough. The letter N, however, of CENT. is to be noticed, which in the imitation is wider, and especially the 9, which has a more modern appearance; the lower extremity of that figure, instead of extending a little towards the left, is turned up. These imitations were impressed by the above (who besides being a stamp merchant was likewise a librarian) on margins of old books or papers; those I have seen are on striped hand-made rather absorbent paper, yellowed with time and of too ancient manufacture, whilst the papers of 1853 on which the genuine marks were impressed are on machine-made plain paper.

This mark being fixed (*i.e.*, impressed directly on the papers) is very little sought for by collectors; but I do not think there is any argument in favour of excluding it from those collections in which the other newspaper stamps are admitted.



The small inquiry for these marks makes the price relatively low, while really they are rare, having only been used for the short space of two months.<sup>1</sup>

ISSUE OF THE 1ST APRIL, 1853.

*First Printing (29th March, 1853.)*

The hand stamp just mentioned was substituted from the 1st of April,<sup>2</sup> by an adhesive stamp, similar to the postage stamps, except that in the bottom inscription appears "B.G. CEN. 9" in large type (letters B.G. and figure 9, 1½mm. high, CEN. 1mm.).

The letters B.G. are the initials of "BOLLO GAZZETTE." The figure 9 is not followed by the full stop in any specimen (see Plate III, No. 7).

The printing is in black on a reddish-violet machine-made paper, which readily fades if exposed to the light and if subjected to the action of chemicals.

#### TYPOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION AND PRINTING OF THE SHEETS.

When reproducing the letter sent by the Magazziniere del Bollo to the Postmaster-General on the 31st March, 1853, I called attention to a specification at the foot of same, from which we see that the first printing of adhesive stamps of 9 centesimi, *i.e.*, the one of which we are speaking, with the bottom inscription in large type, consisted of half sheets, containing 120 each.

And since the printer's proofs on white paper shew the impression of a single group of 60, I am convinced that every half sheet of 120 consisted not of two distinct groups, but the same group repeated twice. I have, however, not been able to decide how the one was arranged in respect to the other and what distance existed between the two. The group was not surrounded by printer's lines in any part.

This first printing was executed in obedience to the orders of the Ministry of Finance, dated 16th March, 1853, and as it was necessary that the new stamps should be ready for the 31st of that month, time was probably too short for the printer to obtain a sufficient supply of type small enough to compose the inscription "B.G. CEN. 9," so that it should conveniently be contained in the small space left empty in the lower portion of every "cliché." The type adopted for this first printing would hardly go in the small space, therefore the line below the loose type could not be set so as to exactly close the rectangle, and on account of the extra height of the letters, had to remain a little lower in all the "clichés."

Probably for this reason, only a single group of sixty was set up, in which, except for some slight displacement of the pieces, no variety or error is to be noticed.

<sup>1</sup> From the report presented to the Sovereign, which I have previously given, it appears that the Newspaper Delivery Office of Modena, from the 7th February to the end of March, 1853, impressed 8,182 stamps on foreign papers.

<sup>2</sup> A note of the Ministry of Finance, dated 5th April, 1853, informed the Intendants of Finance at Reggio and at Massa of the introduction of a stamp as used for letters in substitution of the hand stamp, the return of which was requested.

It was therefore desirable to limit the quantity of sheets of this first printing, which only comprised 100 half sheets, as we see from the following registration in the stamp book :—

“29th March, 1853. In conformity with the Ministerial dispatch of the 25th instant, the following quantity of stamps has been printed : 100 half sheets, 120 stamps each, corresponding to 50 whole sheets of 240 stamps, which are to serve for foreign newspapers ... .. sheets 50.”

The first lot (four sheets) is noted in the register of the Magazziniere under the date of 7th April, but at Modena they commenced to place the stamps on the papers in the last two or three days of March. I have, however, adopted the date of the 1st of April.

The restricted quantity of these stamps (12,000) is the most conclusive proof of their rarity, which likewise depends on the fact that there were, as far as I can ascertain, no remainders of any sort.

#### PRINTING PROOFS.

Some exist on white laid absorbent paper.

#### CANCELLATIONS.

On these stamps I have almost always met with the postmark of six parallel lines, impressed in black only. I have, however, seen some copies cancelled with a pen, and very rarely with the Modena date stamp (Plate V, No. 21) applied in black ink.

The “unused” specimens which are sometimes seen are due to some newspapers having escaped cancellation. It happened frequently enough that the authorities were careless in the matter of cancelling the stamps, because they had no value in the hands of individuals who were in no way able to use them again.

#### FORGERIES.

Among others, I know of some forgeries obtained by photo-lithography ; some were impressed in 1882 by a certain E.F. on margins of stamp sheets of the third violet-lilac printing (see Plate III, No. 9), and therefore they cannot be confused with the originals, even when offered on fragments of newspapers of that date. They exist also on a greyish brown paper and have an appearance which immediately excites suspicion. But there are others on paper which very closely approaches that of the official stamps, with, however, a somewhat reddish tinge and a little smoother. The impression is lighter, and a direct comparison with any specimen whatsoever of stamps of this type will shew up irregularities, especially in the top inscription and in the drawing of the eagle. These latter imitations are obliterated, too lightly however, with the six line cancellation mark in black. I have seen some copies with the guarantee mark of a very well known German expert.

There is no need to fear cancellation marks on original specimens, since these stamps are much rarer in their unused state than when cancelled.

*Second Printing (21st May, 1853.)*

## TYPOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION AND PRINTING OF THE SHEETS.

The second printing differs from the first in the bottom inscription composed of small type (letters B.G. and figure 9,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. high, CEN.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. high). These narrower and somewhat smaller characters allowed the bottom line to close the rectangle almost exactly, thus obtaining a more regular appearance. The figure 9 is usually followed by the full stop (see Plate III, No. 8).

Printing was done in black on machine-made reddish-violet paper, identical to that which served for the preceding printing.

Each sheet consisted of 240 stamps, arranged in four panes of sixty, as for the postage stamps.

The supply of stamps of this second printing, the only one executed with small type "B.G. CEN. 9." consists of 1,600 sheets, which were registered as follows:—

"21st May, 1853. Stamps for foreign newspapers, 240 per sheet, printed in the present month of May ... sheets 1,600."

This large quantity of 384,000 stamps sufficed for some years, viz., until the tax on political foreign papers was raised to 10 centesimi. The Modena Office immediately commenced to use the stamps of the second printing, which for two or three days were applied promiscuously with those of the first printing, which were on the point of becoming exhausted.

## VARIETIES AND PRINTER'S ERRORS.

The stamps which occupy positions 25, 66, 78, and 212 in the sheets have not got the full stop after the figure; this is here an exception, whilst the stamps with the inscription in large type never have the stop after the 9. Sometimes the stop after the figure is printed much too deeply.

The stamp which occupies position 163 has B.G. CEN. 9.; the first letter having fallen, since the line destined to keep the type firm had slipped too much to the right. This inexactness was, however, corrected during printing.

## PRINTING PROOFS.

They are on white, laid, absorbent paper. There still exists in the official archives of Modena the proof of the entire sheet which has several pen corrections.

## THE CANCELLATIONS.

Since these stamps remained in use from October, 1853, till October, 1857, we see them cancelled with many postmarks which were adopted at Modena, Reggio, and Massa in those years. (See what has been said on the cancellations of postage stamps.)

## FORGERIES.

I do not know of any clever imitation of this stamp; those I have seen are very far from the originals both in the drawing and in the colour of the paper.

As this stamp is less common in the unused state, there is no reason for being suspicious of any cancellation mark on the originals.

*Third Printing (August and September, 1855).*

## TYPOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION AND PRINTING OF THE SHEETS.

After the remarks which I have made following the documents published, there remains very little for me to add.

The stamps of this third printing have CENT. 9. in the bottom inscription, composed of the Roman Capitals as used for the postage stamps (see Plate III, No. 9). They are printed in sheets of 240 each, divided as usual into four groups; the paper is machine-made, violet-lilac in colour, and easily fades; there are very fine blue and red hairs in the pulp of the paper. The gum is brownish.

The printing was done with the same "clichés" which were used for the last printing of the 5 centesimi stamps (August-September, 1855). It comprised 2,000 or 2,007 sheets (480,000 or 481,680 stamps), which were registered under the date of 30th September, 1857, and were given out the 31st October of the same year. The registration written by the Magazziniere contains the usual mention "which were printed, etc." These stamps were, without doubt, printed in August or in September, 1855, at the same time as the 5, 15, and 25 centesimi postage stamps were printed. A confirmation of this we find in a proof sheet (white absorbent paper) which is still preserved, which has on the same side the printing for the 15 cent. stamp and for this 9 centesimi stamp. The invoice of Vincenzi, the printer, for supplying 500 sheets of paper, from which were obtained 2,000 for the stamps (quarto foglio), is dated the 18th December, 1855, but I am almost certain that the paper was delivered in August or in September. Whichever it is, it is certain that the "Delegato al Bollo" and the "Magazziniere" wished to profit by the occasion on which the press and other material had been transferred to the "Palazzo di Finanza" for printing some new postage stamps, in order to get a further supply of newspaper stamps executed by Montruccoli, the supply of the previous printing being almost exhausted. This, however, lasted until October, 1857, after which the tax was raised to 10 centesimi. Thus the 9 centesimi stamps of this third printing were never used.

## ERRORS.

The figure 9 is followed by the full stop, except in positions 128, 139, and 186. Sometimes the stop is hardly visible.

## PRINTING PROOFS.

Some exist on white, laid, absorbent paper.

*Issue of 1st November, 1857.*

The tax on foreign political papers, which had been fixed at 9 centesimi by the Austro-Estense-Parmense Customs Treaty, which expired on the 31st October, 1857, was raised to 10 centesimi.

## TYPOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION AND PRINTING OF THE SHEETS.

In conformity with the instructions contained in the letter of the 28th October, 1857, from the Ministry of Finance, viz., "for the

manufacture of the 10 centesimi stamps on paper of the same colour as that used for the newspaper stamps, but making use of the die for postage stamps," the stamps were printed with the inscription CENT. 10, which was formed of the same capital letters as used for the postage stamps (see Plate III, Nos. 1 and 9).

The paper and the gum were supplied as for the previous printing by the printer, Carlo Vincenzi. The invoice is as follows:—

" 1857, October 28. Half ream paper, elephant colour	L. 12.50
November 2. 10 lbs. 3 oz. prepared gum at 96 ...	9.84

Modena, 19th December, 1857.	L. 22.34
------------------------------	----------

December 31. Paid to the printer, Vincenzi, for paper, gum, and printing<sup>1</sup> stamps, supplied to the Carta Bollata Office, Lire tariffali 20.27."

In the register kept by the Magazziniere we read:—

"November, 1857. In accordance with the Ministerial instructions of the 28th ultimo, the herewith-mentioned number of stamp sheets of 240 each for foreign newspapers, 10 centesimi each, have been printed and gummed by the Official Printer, Mr. Montrucoli ... 390 sheets."

"4th November, 1858. Stamps for foreign newspapers, 240 per sheet, ready printed, have been gummed and finished by Mr. Carlo Montrucoli during the present month ... 610 sheets."

There was therefore executed a single printing of 1,000 sheets, of which a portion only (390) were registered at the time of issue and the other (610) about a year after. It was done with the "clichés" which, in September, 1855, were used for the printing of the 15 and 25 centesimi stamps, which, like these newspaper stamps, have no stop after the figures. It is to be noticed, however, that there has been a change of position between the two panes of "clichés" which were printed on the left side of the 15 and 25 centesimi sheets (last printing), *i.e.*, the pane occupying the upper position in the postage stamps occupies the lower position in the newspaper stamps, and *vice versa*. Not all the "clichés," however, in the sheet of these stamps occupy the same positions as in the panes of the postage stamp sheets (15 and 25 centesimi). Still, there are very few in number which changed places during the re-setting up.

We note further that each of the two couples of horizontal lines which separated the groups have been turned upside down, so that the two lines which were with the top pane are now with the lower pane, and *vice versa*.

The printing is in black on white, thin, machine paper, light lilac in colour, and this also very easily fades; it contains very minute blue hairs and some red ones. The stamps which have been subjected to the action of the sun and of chemical agents have become greyish or greenish.

<sup>1</sup> The words "and printing" must have been added in error.

After the printing of these stamps and until the fall of the Ducal Government, no more postage or newspaper stamps of the 1852 design were printed.

The first lot of stamps of this issue delivered is registered under the date of 1st November.

#### ERRORS OF PRINTING.

Each sheet presents the same error twice:—

Positions 53 and 134 ... CEN1. 10 (figure 1 instead of T).

#### PRINTING PROOFS.

I do not know of any.

#### CANCELLATIONS.

I have seen these stamps obliterated with the Modena mark (Plate V, No. 24), in blue first, then in black, and with the cancellations Nos. 2 and 3 of Plate VII frequently impressed in black. The cancellation was often omitted.

#### POSTAGE STAMPS USED AS NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

I have seen some newspapers which arrived at Modena on the 6th November, 1857, with two postage stamps of 5 centesimi each instead of the newspaper stamp. It is probable that the postal cashier had reached the end of the supply which he used to obtain, together with the postage stamps, from time to time from the "Magazziniere del Bollo," and that the clerk in the Newspaper Delivery Office had recourse to this expedient in order not to delay the delivery of the papers.

#### FORGERIES.

As the stamp is less common than the postage stamp of the same value, some speculators have tried to change the rose colour of the latter into lilac by means of immersion, but they have not succeeded in a manner to deceive an expert. Sometimes they used stamps which have the stop after the figures, and therefore the deceit was manifest. But even when they chose specimens without that stop, they did not succeed in obtaining the delicate colour of the newspaper stamps, the paper of which is somewhat thinner.

There exists one rather faithful imitation of this stamp, printed typographically on thicker paper, rather rough, of an inferior quality and less delicate colour; it has not the very fine blue and red hairs which are observed in the originals. The bottom inscription is not composed of loose type, and the figures are followed by the stop.

#### *Issue of the 18th February, 1859.*

The change in design of newspaper stamps was brought about by a complaint from the Sardinian postal authorities, who, deceived by the similarity of the postage and newspaper stamps, thought that the franked newspapers which entered the Duchy from the Sardinian

States were subjected on arrival to a *postal* tax. Although the matter was soon cleared up, as will be seen from several letters I have published, the design of the stamp was changed.

In the absence of any interior Notification or Arrangement establishing when the use of the new stamps was to commence, I have adopted the date 18th February, the day on which the Modena Office commenced to apply them.

#### THE DESIGN ADOPTED.

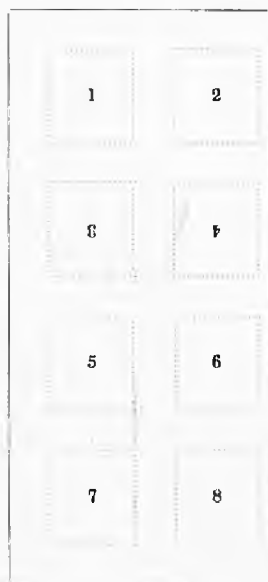
The engraving of the new type was confided to Felice Riccò, of Modena,<sup>1</sup> who engraved the design in brass; the die was fitted with a boxwood handle, so that it could be used for hand printing. The work was finished, as before stated, at the beginning of February, 1859.

The stamp measures  $20\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{2}$  mm; the Estense eagle, crowned, with folded wings, is enclosed in two concentric circles, between which is the inscription "TASSA GAZZETTE CENT. 10." with ornamentation at the corners (Plate III, No. 10).

<sup>1</sup> Felice Riccò was born at Modena on the 11th May, 1817. He began to frequent the Fine Art School of his native town in 1837, where he distinguished himself by gaining many prizes. The University of Modena on the 10th January, 1849, gave him a diploma for physical and chemical science, required at that time to carry on the profession of gold and silversmith, which he practised, whilst also devoting himself to mechanical and engraving work. In May, 1856, on account of his merits, he was sent by the Duke Francesco V to Vienna to perfect himself in the art of photography and in "natural printing" "and to acquire there"—so writes Crespellani in that often-quoted work, "*Medaglie Estensi ed Austro-Estensi*," p. 23—"the necessary knowledge for opening the Mint for beating coins in Modena." He remained at Vienna three or four months, where he attended at the Imperial Press, under the management of Lewis Auer. The latter, in conjunction with Andrew Werring, head of those printing works, was known as the inventor of the "natural printing" or "physiotypy," which consists in the application of some principles on the malleability of metals and on the opposite property of other bodies, an application by which can be obtained, for example, the exact and clear impression of a leaf which has been placed between a sheet of copper and a sheet of lead which have been subjected to great pressure. Riccò succeeded in perfecting this invention, producing the impression on the copper sheet, instead of on the lead, for which he had substituted one of steel. The impression which he obtained of feathers, leaves engraved and inlaid plates, lace and the like, and with which clear typographical vignettes can be obtained, are really admirable (see an article in the periodical *Le Arti del Disegno* of Florence, year III, No. 6, of the 9th February, 1856, reproduced in the appendix in the *Messaggiere di Modena*, No. 1,823, of the 1st of March of that year). I believe I am not wrong in saying that the ground colour, printed typographically, which we see in the revenue stamps of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom and many of Austria and Hungary, which show veins of leaves, has been obtained by means of this "natural printing," although Westoby, Evans, Dr. Legrand, and others, who have described the various systems adopted for printing cash notes, postage and fiscal stamps, do not mention it. However, I doubt whether there are many applications of this natural printing now, since the large number of phototype processes are, so to speak, within the reach of all, and cover a very large field. Riccò also made some interesting discoveries in the colouring of photographic positives without the use of colours by having recourse to immersions in gold solutions of different intensities. In fact, in 1863 he deposited in the "Accademia di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti" of Modena forty proofs of photographic pictures obtained with this system. The same Academy in 1881 awarded him a prize for hand work on leather in bas-relief, with leaves, figures, etc. He also invented a system of carving and automatic sculpturing in wood. Patient, laborious, of versatile ingenuity, he gave vent in a thousand other ways to his own activity. A very modest and severe judge of his own work, he used to call the engraving of the stamp "Tassa Gazzette" a smudge, which really cannot be said to be well executed. At the beginning of last February [1894] I was going to visit him with the purpose of interviewing him, when I got the unexpected news of his illness, and a few days after I received the painful announcement of his death on the 11th of that month. At the meeting of the 17th March, 1894, of the "R. Accademia di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti," Cav. A. Crespellani read some notes about this artist.

## THE PROOFS OF THE ADOPTED TYPE.

With the letter dated 4th February, 1859, sent to the Minister of Finance and to the one for Foreign Affairs, which I have published, a block of eight proofs of stamps of the adopted type is enclosed, consisting of four horizontal pairs; the second pair is upside down, thus forming two têtes-bêches, an error which very likely existed also in the stamp sheets.



These proofs are printed on white, smooth, machine-made paper, of a better quality than that adopted for the same stamps. The eight proofs show some margin, except on the right hand, as will be seen from the sketch herewith. A friend obtained from the engraver a proof identical with those I have here mentioned, all showing, instead of lines typographically printed, a very thin line drawn in pencil on the top margin. These proofs, very accurately printed in deep black with a very new die, show up the design clearly.

## IMPRESSION BY HAND.

The impression was done by hand on white machine-made paper, which the action of gum and time has slightly yellowed. This paper, noticeable for its transparency, shows, like almost all the rest of the machine-made papers used for the postage stamps, a kind of dotted work ("sablé").

I have not been able to discover the arrangement of the stamps in the sheets, since I have only succeeded in seeing very small groups. On the paper which was to be printed by hand, there had previously been printed some thin parallel lines,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  mm. distant from each other, some in a vertical direction and others in a horizontal direction; these lines served to guide the hand of the patient printer (Montruccoli), who had to make the impressions one by one, and at the same time they showed the separation of the stamps. I have before me a block



of three horizontal pairs which only shows the lining in a horizontal direction—



and a further two separate pairs, one horizontal, the other vertical. In both there are horizontal as well as vertical lines.



But these few and small groups are not sufficient to determine the arrangement of the sheets. In fact I think it improbable that future investigation will clear this matter up.

If it were not already proved that the stamps were printed by hand, one by one, we should easily perceive it from the appearance of the larger number of specimens, the impression of which is uncertain and defective, from the unequal distances between the specimens, and still more from the fact that some stamps are printed on one of the lines, or rather on a portion of it, which would not have been the case if the stamps and the separating lines had been printed simultaneously.

The continued use of the original die must have very quickly deteriorated it; in fact, the frame line does not appear clearer, and the left bottom corner shows a slight bruise, due perhaps to a fall.

#### THE QUANTITIES PRINTED.

From the following note, only made on the 28th February, and taken from the register kept by the Magazziniere, we see that Carlo Montruccoli, chief printer of the "Tipografia Camerale," whose name appears many times in this book, carried out the printing and gumming of these stamps, which were also arranged in sheets of 240.

"28th February, 1859. In accordance with ministerial orders of the 4th February, No. 1,053, there have been delivered to this office by Mr. Carlo Montruccoli, sheets of stamps of 240 each to the number here booked, for the foreign political newspapers,

bearing the inscription "Tassa Gazzette, Cent. 10," which have likewise been gummed and finished by the same Montruccoli. Quantity of sheets as above received this month ... 60."

On the 29th March, 1859, 100 more sheets were registered, and a further 95 on the 16th April. Each of these two lots is mentioned as having been "received this month." The three dates I have given therefore are not those of the different printings, but of the day when the various supplies were entered in the books.

There were therefore printed altogether 255 sheets or 61,200 stamps.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF THE NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

The last supply of stamps dispensed by the Magazziniere Centrale was registered under the date of 27th May, 1859. Although the decree ordering the suppression of this tax was dated 12th July, 1859, it ceased to be exacted in June. On the political newspapers which arrived at Modena after the 11th of that month I never saw any of these stamps: their abolition thus coincides with the departure of the Duke. Further, it was only natural that the political reason for the tax having disappeared, this latter was no longer enforced.

#### THE STAMPS USED AND THE REMAINDERS.

The following is a letter from the Post Office with a list of the stamps applied in 1859, which includes those of 10 centesimi light lilac as well as those of the last issue:—

"Modena, 23rd July, 1859.

"General Post Office.

"To the Direttore 4a Direzione Finanze, Modena.

"I send you herewith the account of the newspaper stamps for 1859, showing 33,600 stamps bought for Lire 3,600; 32,640 used for Lire 3,264, and a remainder of 960 for Lire 96.

"Your most obedient Servant,

"D. D'ODEARDI."

"Newspaper Stamps obtained from the Delivery Office in 1859.

8th January	...	...	Sheets	10	...	Lire	240
20th January	...	...	"	20	...	"	480
11th February	...	...	"	4	...	"	96
15th February	...	...	"	10	...	"	240
24th February	...	...	"	12	...	"	288
18th March	...	...	"	18	...	"	432
22nd March	...	...	"	12	...	"	288
16th April	...	...	"	14	...	"	336
29th April	...	...	"	14	...	"	336
12th May	...	...	"	14	...	"	336
27th May	...	...	"	12	...	"	288

Sheets 140                      Lire 3,360

"L. BRAGLIA,

"22nd July, 1859."

"Postal Cashier.

"Account of Newspaper Stamps received during 1859.

Month.	Received.	Stamps applied.	To the Provincial Offices.
January ...	7,200	... 4,076	... 3,120
February ...	6,240	... 3,835	... 2,040
March ...	7,200	... 4,276	... 2,760
April ...	6,720	... 4,200	... 1,920
May ...	6,240	... 4,102	... 1,200
June ...	—	... 1,111	... —
Totals ...	33,600	... 21,600	... 11,040

"Received.

Stamps received during 1859 ... 33,600 (140 sheets).

"Delivered.

Stamps applied ...	... 21,600
For Provincial Offices ...	... 11,040
Remainder returned ...	... 960
Total ...	... 33,600

"CIMINAGO,

"Modena, 22nd July, 1859."

"Stock-keeper.

The approximate number of stamps of the last issue which were applied to newspapers can be calculated, I think, at about 24,480, since the lots distributed on the 8th and 10th January and 11th February (34 sheets) were certainly stamps of the November, 1857, issue.

From the list I have published previously we learnt that the remainders of newspaper stamps sent to Turin in 1863, together with the Ducal postage stamps, consisted of 759 sheets plus 200 stamps (182,360 stamps). In this number were also included those stamps on light lilac issued in 1857. Those of the last issue must have only been 35,760 (149 sheets). The 960 which had been delivered, but which were returned, were perhaps not included in the quantity sent to Turin.

### THE CANCELLATION STAMPS.

I have seen these stamps cancelled in black only, with the date stamp of Modena (Plate V, No. 24, and Plate VII, No. 2, and of Reggio, Plate VI, No. 33), but the application of the cancellation was limited to about the first eight weeks from the introduction of the stamp. I have not seen any specimen cancelled after the end of March. And, further, during this period of two months, especially in the second, the cancellation was very often omitted, so that genuine cancelled stamps are rather rare.

### REPRINTS.

The original die still exists in the official archives of Modena. In April, 1890, there were reprinted a very few copies in greyish-black

on white, smooth, thin paper, in order to judge of the state of preservation of the die. One of these reprints is reproduced on Plate III, No. 11, and by comparing the same with No. 10 the reader will be able to see the deterioration of the die.

#### FORGERIES OF THE STAMPS AND OF THE CANCELLATIONS.

These are numerous, since the simplicity of the design is a temptation to forgers. The same Riccò, in order to comply with many requests of collectors, once set about imitating his own work, but succeeded very moderately.

The reproduction which I have given of the original type will save me a minute description of the design, which the reader will find in an article published in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, 1868, Vol. VI, p. 59. To those, however, who like to know the small signs in order to distinguish originals from forgeries, I will say—however much I think it doubtful that this will be of use to them—that on the crown instead of a cross, in the genuine stamps we always see a horizontal line.

Amateurs should abstain from purchasing original stamps applied to fragments of newspapers of that period, or loose, cancelled with the Modena mark (Plate V, No. 24), which has been imitated rather well. The impression of this is in greyish-black and has a too ancient appearance.

R.D. BOLLO

POSTALE

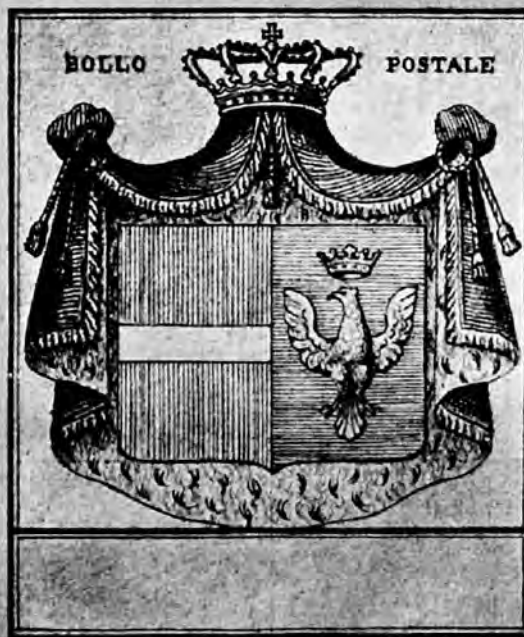
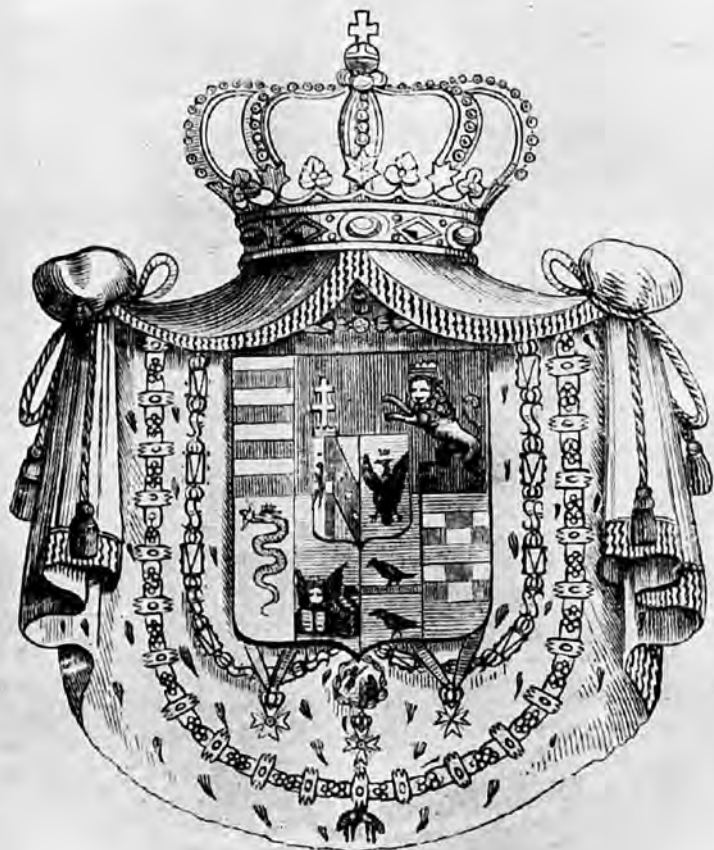


PLATE I.









# PLATE III.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

PLATE IV.



1



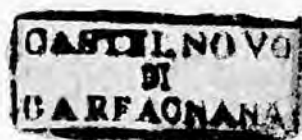
2



3



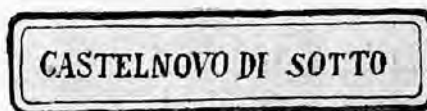
4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



13



12



14

PLATE V.



15



18



16



17



19



20



21



22



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23



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26



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PLATE VI.



28



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30



31



32



34



35



33



36



37



38



39



40



41



42



43

# PLATE VII.



1



2



3



5



4



9



7



6



8



10



11



12



13



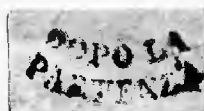
14



15



16



17



18



19

