



PHILATELIC SECTION.





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The Stanley Gibbons Philatelic Handbooks

A HISTORY OF
THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF
SICILY

WITH TWENTY PLATES OF AUTOTYPE ILLUSTRATIONS

BY
EMILIO DIENA

TRANSLATED BY E. B. EVANS



LONDON
STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED
391, STRAND, W.C.

1904

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF
SICILY

THE HISTORY OF THE

1842



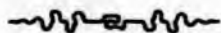
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PREFACE.



THE Stamps of Sicily or, to use the official designation, of the "Dominions beyond the Phare," which formed part, under a separate Administration, of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, are so interesting, not only from an artistic, but also from historical and philatelic points of view, that a study of them grounded on official papers and on the examination of specimens in the collections of some of the leading specialists, seems to be entitled to particular attention from the philatelic public.

Considering that the Postal Administration of Sicily contributed to our collections only one set of stamps, the use of which lasted for a period of less than nineteen months, the short history, from its adoption to its withdrawal, seems to the mere casual observer to afford scope rather for an article than for a monograph.

But if we take into consideration the historical period during which the life of these stamps lasted, the existence of different plates for certain values, some of which were subject to retouching; the numerous shades in which the stamps were printed, and the fact that further issues were contemplated, at first by the Bourbon Postal Authorities and later on under the Dictatorship and Lieutenantcy of the Sicilian Provinces, the field of our researches will soon be found to be much wider than could have been anticipated.

On the other hand, we are not satisfied with a simple reference to the official decrees and a description of the stamps. In the words of a learned and painstaking philatelist, the late Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, "no history can be considered complete which fails to indicate the policy which was the mainspring that brought about each particular event." Therefore we have endeavoured "to know the exciting causes and the steps which led up to the event, as well as the motives that guided the actors." This is our excuse for allowing an amount of space, which by some may perhaps be considered too ample, to the information concerning the different surface-printed essays prepared during the last Bourbon period, and the accepted (though never issued) type for the Sicilian Provinces, prior to their official annexation to the Kingdom of Italy—two chapters which do not constitute the less interesting portion of the curious philatelic history of Sicily.

To Monsieur Moens we are indebted, in this instance also, for much

of what was known about these stamps from the early period of stamp collecting, an article having been published in his magazine, *Le Timbre-Poste*, for July, 1866, which was reprinted in book form in 1877. With the view of supplementing in some degree the old information, I contributed a few notes to the same magazine from November, 1894, to March, 1896, particularly pointing out the existence of different plates and of numerous and sometimes queer-looking retouches. My notes were in course of publication when I obtained access to further documents, of which it was my intention at first to make immediate use. But later on I decided to leave the article unfinished, considering the compilation of a volume in which all the information I had gathered on the subject might be merged, to be more appropriate.

A few facts remaining still unsettled, I waited a long while before putting the matter in regular order, and, no doubt, I should have waited still longer, had not some friends both at home and abroad, including the Publishers of these Handbooks, urged me to publish what information I have collected upon the subject.

I hope that my fellow-collectors and all who are interested in the Stamps of the Italian group will help me, by supplying further particulars and correcting the errors into which I may have fallen. For my own part, I promise to publish further information as soon as I succeed in collecting it.

My thanks are due to my friends who liberally put at my disposal their collections of Sicilian Stamps and Essays. The assistance of Major Evans, who undertook the translation of this volume (by no means an easy task), cannot be adequately appreciated by anyone but myself, and I desire to express to him my cordial gratitude.

In concluding, I shall be glad if this volume, as it is now presented, may afford to the reader an amount of interest proportionate in a small degree with the keen pleasure I have experienced in compiling it.

ROME, *May*, 1904.

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„ E.	1 gr.	„ I.	Retouches.*
„ F.	1 gr.	„ I.	Retouches.
„ G.	1 gr.	„ II.	Retouches and varieties.*
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„ I.	1 gr.	„ III.	Lower half.
„ J.	2 gr.	„ I.	Upper half.
„ K.	2 gr.	„ I.	Lower half.
„ L.	2 gr.	„ II.	Upper half.
„ M.	2 gr.	„ II.	Lower half.
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* NOTE.—Owing to the fact that these illustrations were arranged in England and not under the immediate supervision of Dr. Diena, and that it was impossible to make alterations in them after the plates for them had been prepared by the Autotype Company, a few errors have unfortunately crept into them, necessitating the following corrections:—

PLATE B. The number "31" should be under the left lower stamp of the first block of four, not under the centre of the block.

PLATE C. In space No. 17 should be inserted "(See Pl. E)".

PLATE D. In space No. 52 should be inserted "(See Pl. E)".

PLATE E. The stamps attached to Nos. 18*b* and 51*a* should be numbered "17" and "52," respectively.

PLATE G. The inscription "Plate III.," over the lower block of four, should be struck out, and the plate should be lettered at foot, "1 gr., Plate II. Retouches and varieties."

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THE STAMPS OF SICILY.

INTRODUCTION.

*HISTORICAL SKETCH—ADMINISTRATION—POSTAL SERVICE—
CURRENCY—GEOGRAPHY.*



APLES and Sicily have several times been separated, politically, and reunited. The first union took place in the year 1130 A.D., under Ruggero II., of the Norman Dynasty, who joined to the Grand Countship of Sicily the Duchy of Puglia, and the Countship of Aversa, Gaeta, Naples, and Amalfi. From this period the conjoined States were known as the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. To the Norman Dynasty that of Hohenstaufen succeeded in 1194, and the first House of Anjou (1266-1282). The famous Sicilian Vespers caused the revolt of Sicily and the separation of the two Kingdoms, Naples adhering to the House of Anjou, and Sicily to that of Aragon (1282-1435). From 1435 to 1458 the two crowns were again united, but after the death of Alfonso V. of Aragon the two Kingdoms were separated once more. Reunited afresh under Ferdinand II. of Aragon, surnamed "The Catholic," they remained thus until 1713, under the rule of the Austro-Spanish Dynasty. The Treaty of Utrecht, concluded in that year, gave Sicily to Victor Amadeus of Savoy (1713-1721), while Naples, together with Sardinia, passed under the dominion of Austria. In 1720, Victor Amadeus exchanged Sicily for Sardinia, and thus the Two Sicilies were again united, first under Austria and, in 1735, under a branch of the House of Bourbon. This branch of the family coming to the throne of Spain in 1759, a younger branch of the same House obtained the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

The two Kingdoms were again parted, as a result of the French conquests in 1806-1815, during which period Sicily remained under the rule of Ferdinand IV. of Bourbon, who was then eight years of age, under the guardianship of the Minister Tanucci, and later, under that of Maria Carolina; while at Naples reigned first Joseph Napoleon (Buonaparte), 1806-1808, and afterwards Joachim Murat, 1808-1815.

In 1815 the two Kingdoms were reunited under Ferdinand IV., who

assumed the title of Ferdinand I., and reigned until 1825. He was succeeded by Francis I., who had twice held the reins temporarily, while he was Crown Prince. He governed under the authority of his father, with the title of Vicar-General, first in 1812, when Lord Bentinck endowed Sicily with a liberal constitution, of English pattern, and again in 1820, when the riots broke out at Naples.

By his second marriage Francis I. had a son, who became Ferdinand II. in 1830, and a daughter, Maria Cristina, who was Queen Regent of Spain from 1833 to 1840.

The Sicilians hoped to take advantage of the revolution that broke out at Naples in 1820, in order to improve their own position. A deputation which proceeded to Naples and begged of the King to grant independence to Sicily received a somewhat encouraging reply. But the results soon proved that he had no intention of discontinuing the tyrannical government of heretofore. On the 15th September, 1820, 10,000 soldiers, under the command of General Florestano Pepe, landed at Milazzo, but they were repulsed by the people near the gate of Palermo.

Shortly after, however, an agreement was concluded, under which General Pepe obtained possession of the city. But the Neapolitan Parliament refused to confirm this treaty, although it granted but few privileges to the Sicilians. General Pepe was at once recalled, and was replaced by General Colletta, with instructions to revert to the harsh measures which had already excited the people so strongly against the tyranny of their rulers. As if force could restore peace, as soon as the Austrians had made themselves masters of Naples, a detachment of 6,000 men was sent over to the Island. From that time Sicily was ruled by a Viceroy, and when Ferdinand II. came to the throne, in 1830, Prince Leopold of Syracuse, brother of the King, was sent to fill this office.

Sicily continued, nevertheless, to labour under heavy taxation, which only increased the discontent of its inhabitants. Fresh commotions arose, and with the object of putting them down General Del Carretto was sent from Naples, and laid a still heavier hand upon the unfortunate Islanders. Numerous were the massacres that took place during this terrible period, and the agitation lasted for many years. Commencing in 1847, further risings took place, which culminated in a public demonstration at Naples on the 27th January, 1848, when the people demanded a Constitution. In the meantime General Del Carretto was dismissed, and a new Ministry was formed, with the Duke of Serra Capriola as President. Peace was thus restored, in appearance at least, to the Kingdom of Naples, but in Sicily the agitation still continued. The provisional Government of Palermo, presided over by Ruggero Settimo, declared, on the 3rd February, that the people would not lay down their arms until ample modifications, in a plainly liberal direction, had been introduced. A fresh attempt to throw off the Bourbon yoke was made a few months later. On the 10th July of that year the Sicilians proclaimed their independence and unanimously elected the Duke of Genoa, Ferdinando-Maria, King of Sicily, but the Duke declined to accept the Crown.

In the meantime King Ferdinand II., taking advantage of a political

reaction, prepared a fresh military expedition against Sicily, and in March, 1849, the Bourbon power was re-established.

In 1856 more troubles arose, which we cannot relate here. In 1857 and 1858, on the other hand, the patriots, seeing the inutility of open insurrection, began to make secret preparations for a revolution, keeping up constant communication with the liberal party on the mainland and with the Sicilian patriots in exile.

The year 1859 was memorable in the history of Italian Independence, since it saw the commencement of the principal events that occurred in the Peninsula, events which could not but echo loudly in the hearts of the people of Sicily. On the 22nd May, in that year, Ferdinand II. died at Caserta, at the age of forty-nine years and five months, after a long illness, accompanied by terrible sufferings. He was succeeded on the throne by Francis Maria Leopold, Duke of Calabria, who took the title of Francis II. He was the only son of the former, and was born on the 16th January, 1836, his mother being Maria Cristina of Savoy, daughter of Victor Emmanuel I., King of Sardinia. Still quite a young man, and having always been prevented by the orders of his father from taking any part in public affairs, he commenced his reign under very difficult conditions. We may note that one of his first acts was to appoint Paolo Cumbo as Minister of State for Sicily in place of Cassisi, and Cammarota as Minister of Finance in the Island in place of Castrone. Cumbo was soon replaced by Michele Gravina, Prince of Comitini.

It was in Sicily especially that the Bourbon rule had become more and more unpopular. The idea of approaching revolution had reached such a point that a committee was formed, which decided to act in the name of King Victor Emmanuel II., with a view to carrying into effect the dream of a United Italy. A large supply of arms had been collected in Palermo, and part of these were concealed in the Convent of Gancia, where the Brethren, belonging to the Franciscan Order, were Liberals. It was decided that the revolt should break out on the 4th April, 1860; but the Bourbon police had full notice, both of the conspiracy and of the day and hour at which it intended to act. The Bourbon troops were called out, and a small number of the insurgents betook themselves to the convent, where they sounded the alarm bell, in the hope of obtaining assistance. The monks were taken prisoners, together with the insurgents, and a few days later were brought before a court-martial and condemned to be shot on the 14th April.

Not long after, on the 5th May, General Giuseppe Garibaldi embarked from the celebrated rock of Quarto, about five kilometres from Genoa, taking with him a thousand of the bravest of the patriots, survivors of the struggles of 1849 and 1859, and set out quietly for Sicily with his steamships *Piemonte* and *Lombardo*, the first commanded by Garibaldi himself, and the second by General Nino Bixio. The two leaders had decided upon following a route along the coast, in order to escape the notice of Bourbon men-of-war, who had orders to prevent any assistance reaching the Sicilian insurgents. On the 7th May the two ships arrived at Talamone on the coast of Tuscany to obtain supplies and ammunition from the commandant of the fortress

of Orbetello. On the 9th they departed from Talamone, passing near Sardinia in a direct line towards Cape Bon on the African coast. During the night of the 10th to 11th the two ships changed their course towards the western coast of Sicily, and on the 11th they were pursued by the Bourbon vessels *Stromboli* and *Capri*, which did not, however, succeed in preventing Garibaldi and his followers from landing at Marsala, a little port in the province of Trapani. The disembarkation took place, in fact, on the 11th May, and all the military stores were safely conveyed to land. Shortly afterwards the Bourbon ships rained shot and shell upon the two empty vessels, now abandoned on the shore!

On the arrival of Garibaldi, the Bourbon garrison at Marsala fled without offering the slightest resistance. The news of the landing of the brave Garibaldians soon spread throughout the Island, and encouraged the patriots to recommence the struggle which they had been obliged to abandon a few weeks previously. Garibaldi at once appointed a provisional Government, and he published two proclamations calling upon the Islanders to throw off the Bourbon rule. The corps of volunteers quickly increased in numbers, and with the new material was formed that army of brave men who fought so heroically and successfully at Calatafimi, on the 15th May, against the Bourbon troops, and who pursued the glorious march on Palermo, which was reached during the night of the 26th to 27th of the month, and where a Dictatorship was established. Trapani and Catania were set free on the 4th June. The Royalists were soon left in possession of no more than Augusta, Syracuse, Milazzo, and Messina. The capitulation of Milazzo, a town rather more than seventeen miles from Messina, took place on the 20th July. Garibaldi was thus master of the whole Island, with the exception of the citadel of Messina. On the 25th July the advanced guard of the Garibaldian forces encountered the advanced guard of the defenders of the city. The fighting that followed was not of long duration. The Neapolitan Government was quite ready to abandon Sicily, provided that Garibaldi would undertake not to attack them on the mainland. On the 27th Garibaldi entered Messina, and on the following day an agreement was arrived at, under which the Bourbon troops, to the number of 12,000, were to quit the city, leaving, however, the citadel, the Laterna, and the fortress of San Salvatore in the hands of the Bourbons.

The memorable battle of the Volturno, on the 1st and 2nd October, decided the fate of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

On the 13th February of the following year, after a sanguinary struggle, the capitulation of Gaeta took place. The young King, Francis II., had taken refuge there more than three months previously; he now escaped on board the French steamer *La Mouette*, and disembarking at Terracina, proceeded to Rome, where he sought in vain to gather together the remaining members of his party who were still faithful to him. General Cialdini soon after, on the 22nd, commenced the attack upon the citadel of Messina. On the 9th of March the old Bourbon Marshal Fergola, who was holding the citadel, opened a feeble fire upon the besiegers. After three days of fighting the white flag was raised upon the citadel, and at 10 p.m. on the 12th the garrison surrendered at discretion.

It only now remains to describe the manner in which the new régime was organised in the Island. From the 14th May, Garibaldi assumed the title of Dictator, and a few days later he decreed that "all judgments and public acts should be signed *in the name of Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy.*" In the beginning of June he decided upon giving to his improvised Government a more regular form; he appointed Ministers, entrusting to Francesco Crispi, who had been his companion in this heroic expedition, the Ministry of the Interior and of the Treasury. But very shortly after Crispi handed over the Treasury to Domenico Peranni, keeping the Portfolio of the Interior and remaining Secretary to the Dictatorship. Dr. Giovanni Raffaele took charge of the Public Works Department. The Island was now divided into twenty-four Districts, and a Governor was placed at the head of each. The Italian flag was adopted from the 13th June.

Crispi was of too austere a character to succeed in winning popularity, and the people of Palermo begged Garibaldi to dismiss him. Garibaldi consented, though much against his will, and put at the head of the Interior Department D. Vincenzo Fardela, Marquis of Torrearsa, who, a few days later, was replaced by Baron Natoli. But it would take me too long to follow all the changes that the Government underwent in the persons of its Secretaries of State. It is, on the other hand, important to note how opinions were divided on the subject of annexation. There were some who desired that it should take place immediately, while others were of opinion that it would be advisable to wait until the whole Island had been cleared of the Bourbon troops.

In the meantime, under an arrangement made between King Victor Emmanuel, Count Cavour, President of the Council, and Garibaldi, Agostino Depretis was appointed Vice-Dictator, on the 22nd July. He set to work to introduce into the Island the Statutes and Ordinances of Piedmont. In the beginning of September Depretis requested the Dictator to summon a plebiscite in the Island, but Garibaldi replied that it would be better to wait a little longer.

Meanwhile Depretis and Crispi went over to the mainland to consult with the Dictator, who happened to be at Naples, and the controversy as to annexation was thus left to seek its own solution. Under these circumstances no decision was come to, and Depretis, finding that the principal object of his mission had failed, sent in his resignation.

Garibaldi was again at Palermo on the 17th, and the Ministers there begged for immediate annexation, which he did not yet think it advisable to agree to. He then appointed Antonio Mordini as Vice-Dictator, and formed a new Ministry, in which Domenico Peranni again held office at the Treasury, and Paolo Orlando took the Department of Public Works.

After consultation with Garibaldi, the Vice-Dictator Mordini appointed the 21st October for the plebiscite in Sicily, and on the same day another plebiscite was held on the other side of the Straits. The people of Sicily were called upon to vote on the following proposition:—

"The Sicilian people desire a single and indivisible Kingdom of Italy, with a limited Monarchy under King Victor Emmanuel and his legitimate descendants." The formula, which provoked a certain amount of criticism,

was dictated by Crispi. The result of the voting showed 432,052 in favour of the proposition and only 667 against it. This overwhelming majority was a faithful indication of the patriotism which filled all hearts at that period. The vote was accepted by King Victor Emmanuel on the 2nd December, the day on which he entered Palermo, acclaimed with a warmth even more genuine and more unanimous than that with which he was received by the people of Naples.

On that day the period of government by Dictators and Vice-Dictators came to an end, with the institution of a Viceroyalty for the Sicilian Provinces, and the Senator Marquis Massimo Crodero di Montezemolo was appointed Viceroy.

As during the Dictatorship, so also under the Viceroyalty, the persons appointed as Governors were frequently changed, as was also the number of Departments. We need only state that the Viceroy Montezemolo, having resigned, was replaced by General Alessandro Della Rovere, on the 14th April, 1861; and that the Viceroyalty was put an end to by a Royal Decree, dated 5th January, 1862, to take effect from February the 1st of that year.

The last act of the Congress of Vienna, on the 6th June, 1815, had established the same form of legislature and a uniform system of administration throughout the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. It was not, however, possible in practice to adopt such complete uniformity, owing to a difference of traditions, and of habits and customs, and in some measure also to the very different nature of the two peoples. It was therefore necessary to retain the division of the Kingdom into its two parts, the one continental, "on this side of the Phare," and the other insular, "beyond the Phare."

A law of the 8th December, 1816, established a complete separation of all public offices, and in consequence of this the natives of the mainland could not obtain appointments or hold office in the Island, nor the Islanders on the mainland. Exceptions were made in the case of some of the highest offices of the State. A later ordinance, of the 31st October, 1837, modified this rule to the extent that the number of natives of the Continent who might hold office in the Island was not to exceed that of the Islanders appointed to exercise public functions on the mainland.

The Central Administration was composed of the following Royal Secretaryships and Ministries of State: The Presidency of the Council (the Premiership), and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Religion and Public Instruction, Treasury, Interior, War and Marine, General Police, and Public Works. Besides these there was also a Minister for Sicily, residing at Naples, which office was several times abolished and re-established. The last time that the latter took place was under a Royal Decree of 26th July, 1849, and the office was reorganised by another Royal Decree of 21st March, 1855. There was also a Viceroy of Sicily, who resided at Palermo. The Viceroy was always to be a Prince of the Royal Family or some other personage of the highest distinction, for whose guidance there was a Council, consisting of a Minister of State and five Heads of Departments, each representing a certain branch of the Administration. The departments thus represented were: Justice, Religion, Treasury, Interior, and Police. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of War and Marine served for the whole

Kingdom, and had their offices at Naples. In the concluding years of the Kingdom the Viceroyalty and the office of Minister of State were held by the same person. The Minister for Sicily, who resided in Naples, attended to the business and the propositions that were forwarded to him by the Viceroy in Sicily, and he made reports upon them, in the more important cases, to the King for the information and decision of the latter. He also conducted the correspondence with all the Ministries of State, and especially with those of the President of the Council, Foreign Affairs, and War and Marine, upon all matters concerning their departments relating to Sicily.

It rarely happened that the same laws, decrees, and notices were promulgated and put in force at the same date in the two parts of the Kingdom. In the majority of cases the promulgation and application took place first in the Provinces on the mainland, and, after the results had been seen, the law was put in force in the Island, often with suitable modifications.

The administrative arrangements of the Dominions "on this side of the Phare" were prescribed by the law of the 16th April, 1819, for the Provinces still known by the ancient title of "Valli." The principal officer of each Province was termed the "Intendente," who was appointed by the King. The Provinces were subdivided into Districts, over which were Sub-Intendenti, also of royal appointment. The Districts in turn were composed of Communes, presided over by Syndics, the choice of whom belonged sometimes to the King and sometimes to the Intendente of the Province.

The Dominions beyond the Phare, in the latter part of the Bourbon period, were divided for administrative purposes into seven Provinces (Palermo, Messina, Catania, Girgenti, Noto, Trapani, and Caltanissetta), consisting of 24 Districts, 157 Circuits, and 357 Communes.

For the reforms introduced into the administration during the Dictatorship, the Vice-Dictatorship, and more especially under the Viceroys of the King of Italy, we would refer our readers to the short notes on this subject which we have already given. The main details of the Government, after numerous modifications, with a view to the extension to the Island of the fundamental Ordinance of 1848 and the Sardinian Laws and Regulations, gradually assumed, by a slow but continuous process of adaptation, all the characteristics, forms, and functions of the administration of the Kingdom of Sardinia.

The Post Office (General Administration of the Posts and Letter-Carriers) was under the authority of the Ministry of the Treasury, under which were also the Departments of Roads and Bridges, Forests, Game Licenses, etc. The charge of the Electric Telegraphs, introduced at the end of 1856, was also under the Ministry of the Treasury.

A Decree passed during the Dictatorship of Garibaldi, dated 7th June, 1860, established a separate Department of the Secretariat of Public Works, and the Postal Service was placed under the charge of this Department.

A treatise on the origin of the Postal Service in Sicily would far exceed the limits imposed upon this work. It is sufficient to state that the Posts there, established in the fifteenth century under the title of "Correrie," which they retained down to the eighteenth century, were in the hands of the

House of Taxis, and more directly of the Family of Çapata, or Zappata, who were related to that House.*

Passing over the reforms introduced by Charles II., in 1747, and by Ferdinand IV., in 1806, we may note that the subordination of the Post Office to the Ministry of the Treasury dates from 1809.

On the Restoration of the Bourbons in 1815, the rates for letters were modified by a Decree of the 28th October in that year, which came into force in Sicily on January 1st, 1816.

Another Decree of the 10th June, 1817, cancelling the tariff referred to above, established (Art. 2) the following rates for letters that were despatched from one part of the Royal Dominions to another :—

A letter of a single sheet	10 grana.
„ of a sheet and a half	16 „
„ of two sheets	20 „
Per ounce	40 „

These rates were reduced by one half for letters transmitted from various points in Calabria to the Dominions beyond the Phare, and *vice versa* (Art. 3).

But the Postal Service between the two parts of the Kingdom stood in need of many improvements, which were frequently demanded by the people. Some provision was made for this by a Royal Decree of the 25th March, 1819, for the Province on the mainland, and by one of the 10th November of the same year for Sicily. The principle of a postal monopoly was established by this law.

Inasmuch as this forms the basis of all the other laws that followed, it seems only right that we should deal with it somewhat fully.

We reproduce here some of its more important Articles :—

“Art. 1. The General Administration of the Posts in our Dominions beyond the Phare shall be under the immediate and exclusive direction of the Ministry of our Viceroy.

“Art. 3. The General Administration of the Posts shall have at Palermo a Chief Directorate, composed of a Director-General, a Chief Secretary, an Inspector, and an Accountant.

“Art. 9. The Communes in which no Post Office is established shall be served, as is customary in this part of our Royal Dominions, by the Communal Clerks, so far as the despatching and distribution of letters is concerned. The Clerks will have no claim to payment for this service.”

The Regulations made in pursuance of this Decree, and bearing the same date, divide the classes of correspondence into unpaid, prepaid, registered, and “di Real Servizio” (“On the King’s Service”).

It is worth while to reproduce in full some of the Articles of these Regulations :—

“Art. 2. The letters are to be accompanied by invoices, which the Post Offices from which the letters are despatched must address to the Offices to which the letters are consigned. In these invoices will be detailed the dates of despatch, and the number and nature of the various letters, in the manner and according to the instructions to be given herewith.

“Art. 3. The place of origin and the nature of the letters are also to be shown by the stamps which must be impressed upon the letters, in the manner and according to the rules to be framed under these Regulations.

* According to a document, dated 1590, a certain Francesco Çapata had obtained from Charles V. of Spain the office of “Chief Courier” (Postmaster-General) of Sicily, with the right of transmitting it to four generations of his descendants.

In a document, dated 1689, there is mention of a Vincenzo Çapata, “Chief Courier” of Sicily, residing at Messina, as well as of the existence of twenty-nine Postmasters in the island, each of whom received a salary of thirteen ducats per month.

"Art. 8. It is forbidden for the employés of the Post Office to receive the letters by hand, except those of Public Officers and those which the senders desire to prepay or to register. All other letters must be deposited in the letter-boxes.

"Art. 16. The letters will be charged in accordance with the distance they have to be conveyed, and their weight and size. Every Postmaster and official will receive for this purpose from the General Administration a table of the charges and distances between his Post Office and the others, in accordance with the tariff.

"Art. 17. The charge, expressed in figures representing *grana* and *cavalli*,* must be marked on the letters in numerals so plain and of such size as to prevent, as far as possible, any alteration being made.

"Art. 18. On the letters on which the postage is to be paid in the place at which they are to be delivered, the charge must be denoted on the side of the address. On letters that are prepaid or registered for the interior of the Kingdom, the amount must be noted on the side on which the letter is closed.

"On prepaid letters for foreign countries, and on Registered letters sent only to the Papal States, the amount received for revenue of the General Administration must be noted on the address side, in the left-hand upper corner."

The tariff annexed to the Decree and to the Regulations of 10th November, 1819, with which we are now dealing, established the following rates for letters within the Kingdom :—

"A. LETTERS WITHIN THE DOMINIONS BEYOND THE PHARE.

"*Letters addressed to Communes within the Circuit of the same Post Office.*

From one sheet up to one ounce exclusively . . .	grana 2†
Per ounce	" 8

"*For distances up to 50 miles.*

Letters composed of a single sheet . . .	grana 5
" " a sheet and a half . . .	" 8
" " two sheets . . .	" 10
Per ounce	tari 1

"*For distances beyond 50 miles and up to 100.*

Letters composed of a single sheet . . .	grana 8
" " a sheet and a half . . .	" 10
" " two sheets . . .	" 14
Per ounce	tari 1'10

"*For distances beyond 100 miles.*

Letters composed of a single sheet . . .	grana 10
" " a sheet and a half . . .	" 14
" " two sheets . . .	tari 1'—
Per ounce	" 2'—

"B. LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE DOMINIONS ON THIS SIDE OF THE PHARE.

"*For the Provinces of Calabria, Basilicata, and Principato Citeriore.*

Letters composed of a single sheet . . .	grana 10
" " a sheet and a half . . .	" 16
" " two sheets . . .	tari 1'—
Per ounce	" 2'—

"*For Naples and all the other Provinces.*

Letters composed of a single sheet . . .	tari 1'—
" " a sheet and a half . . .	" 1'12
" " two sheets . . .	" 2'—
Per ounce	" 4'—"

* 10 *cavalli* = 1 *grana*.

† The tariff as published gave the amounts of the rates in two columns, the first in the currency of the Provinces on the mainland (*grana* and *cavalli*), and the second, which is reproduced here, in the currency of the Dominions beyond the Phare (*ducats* and *grana*); 1 *tari* = 20 *grana*.

Newspapers for the interior of the Kingdom were charged 2 grana for any distance, and the same rate was fixed for books, that is, 2 grana for one to five sheets of printed matter; beyond five sheets the rate was 2 grana for each sheet. The *Official Gazette of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies*, and the *Official Gazette of Palermo* passed free by post.

The same regulations fixed the rates for letters addressed to places abroad, the prepayment of which was compulsory, the rates to be charged upon those that arrived from abroad, and the special rates for letters sent by sea routes.

As we have seen, the system upon which the tariff for letters was arranged was that of zones. The first zone included a range of 50 miles, measured from each Post Office; the second, distances of from 50 to 100 miles; and the third, the distances beyond 100 miles. It was thus necessary for every office to keep a table of the various distances, showing within which zone the other offices were situated, taking account of the route by which they were to be reached.

In the Island there were laid out eight different main postal routes, as follows:—

	From Palermo to Messina, by the shore road.
”	” Licata.
”	” Messina, by the mountain road.
”	” Catania.
”	” Mazzara.
”	” Syracuse.
”	” Noto.
”	” Messina to Syracuse.

Prepaid letters and registered letters addressed to the Dominions beyond the Phare had all to be forwarded to the Head Offices at Palermo or Messina, which were the only ones authorised to check these letters.

I have thought it useful to explain at some length the details of the Postal Ordinance and the Regulations of the 10th November, 1819, but much more might be said upon the same subject. That Ordinance may be considered the fundamental law, which all those that followed tended to modify.

Up to 1839 the conveyance of letters was entrusted to Courriers on horseback. By Royal Edicts of the 5th February, the 11th April, and the 17th and 23rd December, 1838, a system of mail coaches was established, the use of which commenced in 1839, and thus the mounted posts were gradually abolished, with great increase in carrying power.

A law of the 8th February, 1842, made certain changes in the tariff for correspondence in the interior of Sicily. In the same year, on the 9th May, a Postal Convention was concluded between France and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies for a period of two years. This came into force from the 6th August of that year (1842), and made arrangements not only for the exchange of correspondence between the two countries by mail steamers, but also for correspondence with the various Italian States, the Island of Malta, Greece, etc., as well as through the French Post Offices at Alexandria, Constantinople, the Dardanelles, and Smyrna.

Another Convention was dated the 23rd December, 1852, and lasted till the 1st January, 1854. This, besides regulating the conveyance of letters by land, dealt also with their conveyance by sea, both by means of the mail-boats of the two States, and also by merchant vessels. This Convention also contemplated the conveyance of mails between the continental and insular portions of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies by means of the French mail-boats, and by a line between the offices at Messina and Naples, and had a most important effect upon the development of the means of communication in the Island.

It was not until 1845 that the first Neapolitan steamers reached Sicily.* But the Steam Navigation Service of Sicily only arose in 1848, during the revolutionary period. The Provisional Government of Sicily commenced the organisation of some lines of steamers between the ports of the Island. The first that were engaged were the steamers of the Rostand Company of Marseilles, which were to make six voyages per month; that is, three from Palermo to Civitavecchia, Leghorn, Genoa, and Marseilles, and three from Palermo to Malta and Constantinople. The Rostand Company had entrusted their business in the Island to the firm of Ignazio and Vincenzo Florio, which became so well known later and took so great a part in the development of the maritime communications of the Island itself.

In June, 1856, a contract was concluded with the "Navigation Company of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies," for a service of steamboats between Naples and Palermo; this provided for a weekly service during the term of two years. Another contract was made on the 6th November, 1856, with the Florio Company for a service of steamboats around Sicily, with monthly visits to the neighbouring islands—Favignana, Pantellaria and Lampedusa, Ustica and Lipari. There were two voyages per month, one to the east, Palermo to Syracuse, touching at Messina and Catania, and the other to the west, Palermo to Girgenti, touching at Trapani.

A few months later, as the affairs of the "Navigation Company of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies" were not going on very satisfactorily (in fact, the Company was obliged to go into liquidation not long after), at the express desire of King Ferdinand II., Cassisi, the Minister for Sicilian Affairs at Naples, entered into negotiations with the Florio Company, with a view to their taking over the service of steamboats between Naples and Palermo, and between Naples and Messina, for a subsidy of 60,000 ducats per annum. These contracts were concluded on the 18th October, 1858, and the 15th April, 1859, and were to last until the 15th April, 1865. But, on the Italian Government coming into power, a fresh contract was entered into on the 27th July, 1861, which lasted up to the 31st December, 1867.

All this marked the beginning of an improvement in the postal facilities, but the insufficiency and bad condition of the roads, together with the plague of brigands, formed very serious obstacles to the development of the mail services, which were undoubtedly much inferior to those of the other Italian

* The first steamship that ploughed the Mediterranean belonged to the Neapolitan Navy. This was the *Ferdinand I.*, more commonly known as the *Royal Ferdinand*, which was launched at Naples in August, 1818. It started on the 27th September of that year on a trial trip to Leghorn, Genoa, and Marseilles.

States. As far as railway communication was concerned the Bourbon Government, which could boast of having opened the first railroad in Italy, the line from Naples to Portici, eight kilometres in length, which was opened on the 4th October, 1839, had constructed none whatever in Sicily, where the first railway service was only started on the 28th April, 1863, with the main line from Palermo to Bagheria, a distance of thirteen kilometres.

If we also take into account the really dreadful state of ignorance that prevailed,* for the Bourbon Government in no way favoured education, and the fact that industries and commerce were in a very elementary condition, we need not be surprised that, in spite of the extraordinary moderation of the inland postal rates, the amount of correspondence was very restricted.

According to a publication of a semi-official nature, which came out in 1856,† there existed at the beginning of that year seventy-nine Post Offices in the Island, of which seven were Head Offices and seventy-two ordinary offices. There was a Head Office in the capital of each Province, that is, at Palermo, Messina, Catania, Girgenti, Noto, Trapani, and Caltanissetta. The following is a list of all these Post Offices:—

Acireale.	Corleone.	Piazza.
Adernò.	Giardini [di Taormina].	Piedimonte.
Aggira (or Sto. Stefano d'Argirò).	Giarre.	Pietraperzia.
Alcamo.	Girgenti.	Polizzi.
Alimena.	Lentini.	Ragusa.
Augusta (or Agosta).	Leonforte.	Randazzo.
Avola.	Licata.	Regalbuto.
Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto.	Marsala.	Roccapalumba.
Barrafranca.	Mazzara.	Salemi.
Biancavilla.	Mazzarino.	Sambuca.
Bivona.	Messina.	Sant' Agata.
Brolo.	Milazzo.	Santa Caterina.
Bronte.	Misilmeri.	Santa Flavia.
Buccheri.	Mistretta.	Sto. Stefano di Camastra.
Burgio.	Modica.	Sciacca.
Calascibetta.	Naro.	Scicli.
Calatafimi.	Naso.	Siculiana.
Caltagirone.	Nicosia.	Siracusa.
Caltanissetta.	Noto.	Spatafuora.
Caltavuturo.	Palagonia.	Termini.
Casteltermini.	Palazzolo.	Terranuova.
Castelvetrano.	Palermo.	Trapani.
Castrogiovanni.	Partinico.	Vallelunga.
Castroreale.	Paternò.	Villafrati.
Catania.	Patti.	Villarosa.
Cefalù.	Petralia Soprana.	Vizzini.
	Piana dei Greci.	

* According to the census of 1861, out of the whole population of Sicily (but, it is important to note that no distinction of age was made) there were reckoned to be 902 unlettered persons out of every 1,000 inhabitants. In 1871 the proportion had fallen to 872. Among the conscripts enrolled in 1896, 55·04 per cent. could neither read nor write.

† *General Index of the Communes, Sub-Communes, Hamlets, Villages, Boroughs, and Islands of Sicily, with their distances from the Capital, from the chief town of the Province and of the District, as well as from the Post Office to which each Commune is attached.* Compiled by VINCENZO LO JACONO, Director of the Royal Posts and Letter-carriers in the Province of Trapani (Palermo, Tipografia del Commercio, 1856, in 4to, pp. 29 + 4).

To these were added in 1859:—

Canicatti	;	by Decree of 22nd July, 1859.
Chiusa	"	" "
Lercara	"	12th September, 1859.
Alli	"	3rd November "

thus making a total number of 83. The office at Alli was very soon suppressed—we do not know exactly at what date—and it was not reopened until the 1st April, 1864. During the last months of the Bourbon rule there were no doubt a few other offices opened. We are unable to furnish complete information upon this point, and we can only add to the names mentioned above those of Gibellina, Novara, and Petralia Sottana.

We are convinced that the total number of Post Offices established in the Island prior to its annexation to the Kingdom of Italy did not amount to 100. Certain official statistics, reproduced in various publications, gave the number 138 as that of the Post Offices existing "in 1859," but that is certainly incorrect. That number was only reached in June, 1861. A list published under the authority of the Director-General of Posts in Italy, in that month, included the following offices, in addition to the other 86, and, deducting the distributing office at Alli, thus brought the number up to 138. Among those names we have marked *nine* with a star (*), in which the opening of the office had been authorised, but did not actually take place until a few months later:—

Aidone.	Francofonte.	Raffadale.
*Aragona.	*Ganci.	Ribera.
Bagni Canicattini.	Lipari.	Riesi.
Belpasso.	Marineo.	Rosolini.
Bisacquino.	Mascalucia.	S. Angelo.
Caccamo.	Menfi.	*S. Cataldo.
Cammarata.	Militello.	S. Giuseppe.
Campobello [Girgenti].	Mineo.	Sto. Stefano di Bivona.
Campobello [Trapani].	Misterbianco.	Santa Lucia.
Castelbuono.	Montemaggiore.	Santa Margherita.
Castellamare.	Monte S. Guiliano.	Scordia.
Cattolica.	Mussomeli.	Serradifalco.
Centorbi.	Niscemi.	Sortino.
Cerami.	*Palma.	Spaccaforno.
Ciminna.	Pantellaria.	Tortorici.
*Comiso.	*Partanna.	*Troina.
Favignana.	*Prizzi.	*Vittoria.
Florida.		

In this list we find the first offices established in the little Islands adjacent to Sicily, such as Lipari, Favignana, Pantellaria, in which there were no Post Offices under the Bourbon rule. In September, 1861, a weekly service was established between Palermo and Syracuse, touching at the island of Lipari; another weekly service between Palermo and Girgenti, touching at the islands of Favignana and Pantellaria,* was started in that

* The postal distributing office at Pantellaria was opened in 1861, that at Ustica on the 1st July, 1862, and that at Lampedusa on the 1st January, 1869.

year, as well as one every fortnight between Palermo and Ustica; and, finally, a weekly one between Girgenti and Lampedusa, by means of sailing-boats.

A list published under the Director-General of Posts in Italy, in 1862, showed a total of 171 Post Offices in Sicily on the 1st August of that year. This number was composed of 8 Head Offices,* 29 offices of the first class, 64 of the second class, and 70 distributing offices.

The standard coin of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was the *ducat*, which was equivalent to 5 *tari* = 10 *carlini* = 100 *grana*, value francs 4.25. The *grano* was divided into 10 *cavalli* or 2 *tornesi*. From 1818 there was current in Sicily the *ducat*, divided into 100 *grana*, but the *grano* was termed a *bajocco*, and the *cavallo* (or tenth part of a *grano*) was known as a *piccolo*.

The currency that was in use in the early part of 1818 remained in common use in Sicily; that is, the *onza* (ounce), divided into 30 *tari* of 20 *grana* each. The *onza* was therefore equal to 3 *ducats*; the *tari* was also divided into 2 *carlini*. But it must be remembered that the *tari*, *carlino*, and *grano* of this currency had only half the value of the coins of the same names in use in the Post Offices of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies on the mainland.

It is of especial importance for us to note that, while the Sicilian *grano* was worth only 2½ *centesimi* of Italy, the Neapolitan *grano* was of the value of 4½ *centesimi*.†

A Decree of the Vice-Dictator Depretis, dated 17th August, 1860, provided for the introduction into the Sicilian Provinces of the Italian *lira* as unit of currency. We reproduce here some portions of that Decree.

“Art. 1. The unit of currency in Sicily is the new Italian *lira* or *franc*.”

“Art. 6. The Mint of Palermo is re-opened.”

“Art. 14. The old currency at present in circulation, until it shall be withdrawn or recast, will continue to be legally current as before, and cannot be refused in payment, even when the debt is expressed entirely in the new money, in which case it shall be accepted at the value stated in the annexed Table B.”

“Art. 15. In the payment of liabilities expressed in the old currency, the new money shall be accepted at the rate laid down in the annexed Table C.”

“Art. 16. From January 1st, 1861, all notaries and other public officials authorised by law to receive taxes levied on leases, licenses, agreements, and similar documents, must express the amounts received in the equivalent value of the new currency, as well as in the old, under penalty of a fine of twenty-five lire.”

“From the 1st July, 1861, all rates and taxes must be expressed in the new currency, only, under penalty of a fine of fifty lire.”

“Art. 17. The accounts of receipts and expenditure of all the public departments having been made up in *Ducats* and *Grana* for the closing fiscal year 1860, the balances,

* To the seven Head Offices mentioned before, there was added one at Syracuse.

† By many writers on philatelic matters, and also in books written by officials of the Italian Post Office, the mistake has been made of stating that the Italian postage stamps, bearing the embossed portrait of Victor Emmanuel II., with values in *tornesi* and *grana*, were put in circulation in Sicily from 1861, in the place of the Bourbon stamps, although the latter were, in fact, suppressed in 1860, not in 1861. If writers would only remember the difference in the currency, they would not make and repeat a statement that has absolutely no foundation. That series of stamps was never in use in Sicily, but only in the Provinces on the mainland.

running accounts, and all the revenues of the State, the Provinces, the Communes, the Public Establishments, and every other Public Department, shall, commencing with the coming fiscal year 1861, be reckoned in *lire* and *centesimi*."

TABLE B.
Value of the old currency expressed in the new :—

Currency. Pieces.	Exact Weight in grammes.	Legal Standard of fineness, in thousandths.	Value in the new currency.	
			Lire.	Centesimi.
Of 12 tari or carlini, or of 120 Neapolitan grana	27,532	833½	5	10
Of 10 tari (1 ducat)	22,943	"	4	25
" 6 "	13,766	"	2	55
" 2 "	4,588	"	—	85
" 1 "	2,294	"	—	42½
1 Sicilian grano	—	—	—	2½
(Other coins in proportion.)				
Ounce nominal			12	75

TABLE C.
Value of the new currency expressed in the old :—

Currency. Pieces.	Value in the old currency of Sicily (not decimal).	Value in the Neapolitan decimal currency.
Gold, at 20 lire	Tari 47, grana —	Ducats 4, grana 70
" at 10 "	" 23 " 10	" 2 " 35
Silver, at 5 "	" 11 " 15	" 1 " 17½
" at 2 "	" 4 " 14	" — " 47
" at 1 lira	" 2 " 7	Grana 23, cavalli 5
" at 50 centesimi	" 1 " 3½	" 11 " 7.5
Bronze, at 5 "	Grana 2, piccoli 2.1	" 1 " 1.75
" at 2 "	Piccoli 5.64	Cavalli 4.70
" at 1 centesimo	" 2.82	" 2.35

A Royal Decree (No. 123) of the 17th July, 1861, ordained (Art. 2) that "The coins struck by the late Governments shall continue to have legal currency in the respective Provinces." Another Decree (No. 128) of the 28th of the same month ordered that the provisions of Arts. 16 and 17 of the Decree of the 17th August, 1860, which have been reproduced above, should not be enforced until the 1st January, 1862. Finally, a Royal Decree (No. 1,673) of the 15th February, 1864, once more prolonged the term to the 1st March of that year.

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean. From a geographical point of view it forms a kind of appendage to the Peninsula, from which it is divided by the Straits of Messina, some 3,100 metres (rather less than two miles) wide at their narrowest part. It is hardly 80 kilometres (about 49 miles) from Malta. Its peculiar form, almost an isosceles triangle—with a base of 180 kilometres (about 110 miles) from Cape Faro to Cape Passero, and its apex at Cape Boeo, with two sides measuring 290 kilometres (180 miles) and 272 kilometres (169 miles) respectively—led to its receiving the Greek name "Trinacria." The outline of the coast measures 1,098 kilometres (682 miles), and the area of the Island is 25,461 square kilometres (10,031 square miles).

The population of the Dominions beyond the Phare (*i.e.* of Sicily and the adjacent islands) on the 31st December, 1853, amounted to 2,231,020, that is to say, more than a third less than that of the continental portion

of the Kingdom. The number was divided amongst the seven Provinces, as follows:—

Palermo	541,326
Caltanissetta	185,531
Catania	411,832
Girgenti	250,795
Messina	384,664
Noto	254,593
Trapani	202,279

At the end of 1881, Sicily and the adjoining islands contained 2,927,901 inhabitants; and according to the last census, taken February 10th, 1901, the population had increased to 3,530,799.

The adjacent islands, that were inhabited to a greater or less extent in 1853, were sixteen in number, viz. Femina and Ustica, belonging to the Province of Palermo; Alicudi, Filicudi, Lipari, Panaria, Salina, Stromboli, and Vulcano, belonging to the Province of Messina; Lampedusa and Linosa, of the Province of Girgenti; Favignana, Formica, Levanzo, Marettino, and Pantellaria, of the Province of Trapani.

The climate of Sicily was justly celebrated from the very earliest times for its healthiness and the softness of the air. Cicero, who knew it well, says "the weather is never so bad that the sun does not shine at least once in the day." The temperature in January is almost always near 50° Fahrenheit. The heat in summer is mild enough; in July and August it is seldom over 80°.

The flora is very rich. The date palm flourishes there; oranges and lemons are exported in enormous quantities; cotton and the papyrus are also grown.

CHAPTER I.

(a) THE POSTAL REFORM OF 1859—THE ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.



WE have already stated how rarely it happened that the same Law, Decree, or Rescript was published and put in force simultaneously in both parts of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and how frequently, on the contrary, it happened that the innovation came into effect first on the mainland and later on in the Island Provinces. This was the case with the Postal Reform, which was introduced in the Dominions on the mainland from the 1st January, 1858. It consisted for the most part in the abolition of the system of charging according to distance, under the tariff for letters within the Kingdom, adopting in its place the idea of uniform postal rates for the whole of these Dominions, a reform which was connected with the introduction of adhesive postage stamps, which had been in use in all the other Italian States for some few years past.

The original authority for this reform, in the continental portions of the Kingdom, is to be found in the Royal Decree of the 9th July, 1857, which it seems advisable to reproduce here, since it served as a basis for the system afterwards adopted for Sicily:—

“Ferdinand II., by the Grace of God, King of the Two Sicilies, Jerusalem, &c., Duke of Parma, Piacenza, Castro, &c., Hereditary Grand Prince of Tuscany, &c., &c.”

“Desiring to introduce into the Department of the Royal Posts and Letter-carriers all the reforms and improvements that are required by the present conditions of industry and commerce, and that have for their object the facilitating of the public service and rendering postal communication both in the interior and with foreign countries more rapid and more frequent.

“On the proposition of our Secretary of State and of the Treasury;

“And with the approval of our Council of State;

“We have resolved to decree and do decree as follows:—

“1. Letters and packets for the interior and for abroad are to be franked by means of a postage stamp, representing the amount of the postal rate payable in advance.

“The use of the postage stamp is optional. Letters and packets that are not franked, in the manner stated above, will nevertheless be transmitted, but they will be charged at a higher rate, to be paid by the receiver, as indicated below.

“Prepayment by means of a postage stamp will be obligatory in the case of newspapers and printed matter of all kinds, both for the interior and for abroad.

“2. The postage stamps will be of rectangular design, bearing the Lilies, the Horse, and the Trinacria, with the inscription *Bollo di Posta* and the indication of the value.

“They will be of seven kinds and values, that is to say, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 grana.

“3. The postage stamps will be printed and sold for the revenue of the State.

“A supply of them will be kept at the General Post Office and sub-offices, at the Post Offices in the chief towns of Provinces and districts, also by the registrars and collectors

of taxes, and the retailers of stamped paper, and generally in all the Communes by the persons authorised by the Government to sell stamps.

"4. No persons will be permitted to retail or distribute postage stamps, besides those mentioned in Article 3.

"Contraventions of this article will be punishable by a fine of 20 ducats, and the stamps seized will be confiscated for the benefit of the State.

"5. It will be considered a breach of the above-named article, for retailers of postage stamps to sell or cause them to be sold elsewhere than at their offices.

"6. The retailers or distributors of postage stamps who may be found by the Agents of the Government not to be in possession of a sufficient quantity of stamps for a fortnight's supply, will be punished, according to the circumstances of the case, by a fine of 6 ducats for the first offence, and for a repetition of the offence, in addition to the fine they will be deprived of the licence to sell postage stamps.

"7. In order that stamps that have once been used may not be employed a second time, the post office clerks will apply to the stamps, upon the despatch of letters and packets, the mark *annullato*.

"8. All clerks and other persons attached to the administration and to the service of the Royal Posts, who shall remove the postage stamps from letters, with the view of selling or using them for their own profit, will be considered as having caused loss to the Royal Revenues and will be punished according to the provisions of Art. 213 of the penal statutes.

"9. Whosoever shall falsify or counterfeit* the postage stamps; servants of the State who, taking advantage of their position, shall commit this crime in the offices of the Royal Government; distributors of falsified or forged stamps; those who shall knowingly make use of them or assist in their sale; private persons who shall manufacture dies or other tools or machines used exclusively in the preparation of stamps, and persons who, knowing of the manufacture of forged stamps, shall not report the same to the administrative or judicial authorities; shall be punished, according to the circumstances, under the provisions of Article 263 of the laws relating to the crime of counterfeiting copper coins, and of Articles 265, and 267 to 271 of the same laws.

"10. The value of the stamp or stamps affixed to a letter should agree with the amount of the postal rate. If that value is less than half the amount of the rate, the receiver will be charged with the whole rate; if on the contrary it is not less than half, the post office clerk should note upon the letter the amount of the deficiency, which will be paid by the receiver.

"11. The tariff for letters shall be uniform throughout the Kingdom on this side of the Phare, irrespective of distance. The rates shall vary with the size of the letter, up to two sheets, and according to the weight for letters of more than two sheets.

"12. The uniform rate for each single-rate letter, that is to say composed of a single sheet, shall be 2 grana. For letters of one sheet and a half, 3 grana, and for those of two sheets, 4 grana.

"For letters consisting of more than two sheets, the charge shall be by weight, rising by weights of 5 *trappesi* up to one ounce, the charge for which shall be 8 grana, and for smaller weights the charge shall be decreased proportionately, but without reckoning fractions less than one *trappesi*.

"The rate for letters within the capital, or between communes in the same district, shall be 1 grano, with graduations corresponding with those given above.

"13. The uniform postal rate for newspapers and printed matter of all kinds shall be a half grano for each sheet.

"14. Letters not prepaid by means of postage stamps will be subject, in addition to the rates stated above, to a further charge of one-half of the said rates in proportion to their size and weight.

"15. For the transmission of letters and printed matter between the two parts of the Kingdom, the system hitherto in force will be adhered to provisionally, until postage stamps shall be introduced in the provinces beyond the Phare.

"16. There remain in force the provisions of Articles 2, 9, 10, and 13 of the Royal Decree of 25th March, 1819, relative to unauthorised methods of transmission of letters, which must be carried out exclusively by the General Post Office Department.

"17. In order to facilitate the employment of postage stamps, and to render the house-to-house distribution of letters more prompt and accurate, and in order to improve the postal service in the interior of the capital, there shall be established in the centre of each district a Post Office, with a cashier, a clerk, and four letter-carriers.

"18. There will be three despatches each week of letters for the interior of the Kingdom, and six for Terracina.

"19. The Postal Service for the interior of the Provinces shall correspond with the new system of Postal Service, with an increase of mails, postmen, and agents, in proportion

* The two words used in the original have practically the same meaning, but the one translated "falsify" no doubt has a wider sense, and covers fraudulent altering of the value, cleaning off postmarks, and all frauds in connection with stamps.—TRANS.

to the number of despatches of letters and to the necessity for rapidity and exactitude in the transmission of correspondence between the communes and the chief towns of provinces, districts, and circuits.

"The officials of the provincial postal service shall be appointed by the Intendants, under the authority of the General Administration of Posts, which will issue regulations and exercise general superintendence over the postal service.

"20. The present Stage Coaches shall be abolished, and the conveyance of passengers will be carried out by the Mail Coaches charged with the transport of correspondence.

"21. In addition to the existing footposts, there shall be established a footpost which will leave once a week by the Puglia line, from Naples to Lecce and back, by way of the Abruzzi from Naples to Teramo and back, and for Molise, from Naples to Campobasso and back.

"22. The new postal service will commence to come into effect on the 1st January, 1858.

"23. Our Secretary of State for the Treasury will submit for Our Sovereign approval the necessary regulations for the exact application and execution of the postal service in its various particulars, according to the principles which We have decreed.

"24. All the laws, decrees, and regulations relating to the Service of the Royal Posts and the letter-carriers remain in force, with the exception of those earlier provisions which are cancelled by those of the present decree.

"25. Our Minister of State for the Treasury, and the Secretary of State and Director of the Ministry of Justice, are charged with the execution of the present Decree, so far as it concerns their several Departments.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.

"FERDINAND TROJA,

"Secretary of State,

"President of the Council of Ministers.

"S. MURENA,

"Secretary of State for the Treasury."

As may be seen from Art. 15 of the preceding, nothing had as yet been arranged in reference to the extension of the Postal Reform to the Dominions beyond the Phare and the introduction of postage stamps into those provinces. But we have ascertained that, as soon as the Decree given above was published, the Minister for Sicilian Affairs, residing at Naples, sent some copies of it (on July 20th) to His Majesty's Viceroy in the Island, requesting the latter to lay before him suggestions in reference to the adoption of postal reforms in Sicily. The Viceroy, in a private letter of 26th September, replied that he would shortly attend to this matter.

When the "Regulations for carrying into effect the System of Postage Stamps" in the continental portion of the Kingdom were published, bearing the date of the 28th September, 1857, copies of these were also sent (on the 20th October) to the Viceroy "with a request for proposals in reference to Sicily."

The correspondence upon this subject between the Minister for Sicily, residing at Naples, and the Viceroy may be said to commence with an official communication of November 14th and the following private letter, in which the question of postage stamps is referred to:—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"NAPLES, 23rd November, 1857.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I have requested Your Excellency in my official letter of this date to furnish me with some suggestions as to the proposed Decree and Regulations for the adoption in Sicily of the use of postage stamps, and to that letter I add this upon another point, on which I would consult Your E. privately and confidentially.

"Y. E. has proposed, with a view to facilitating the verification, in the post offices, of the value of the stamps affixed to the letters, in order to see whether they represent the amount of the charge laid down for the size and weight of the packet, that the seven

different stamps should be printed on paper of different colours. The very same idea also appears to me to be a suitable one, and there can be no doubt that the difference of colour would render the verification more speedy, because it would be possible to recognise the value of a stamp at a glance, and without reading the inscription.

"It appears to me however to be necessary to fix upon the colours beforehand, and I propose, subject to your approval, to fix upon different colours for the stamps of half grano, one, two, and five grana, which are those most commonly used, and to print in a uniform colour those of ten, twenty, and fifty grana. I would fix the colours, and limit the varieties of them, so as to choose colours which, when placed together in any manner, would not produce combinations of colours that are not recognised by the Government of our Kingdom."*

"I beg of Y. E. to consider with the greatest of care this further suggestion of mine, and if you think it practicable, I shall be obliged if you will decide upon the colours in which those stamps are to be printed which Y. E. considers should be different one from another, having regard both to the postal service and to the necessity for guarding against all difficulties, and I have therefore thought it desirable, in the interest of the Royal Service, to submit to Y. E. all my views, in order to obtain your advice, before submitting to H. M. the King the proposals upon which we are consulting.

"Accept, &c., &c.,

(Signed)

"GIOVANNI CASSISI.

"To His Excellency Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of H. M. the King in Sicily, Palermo."

Nothing had so far been decided as to the design to be adopted for the postage stamps of Sicily nor as to the manner in which it was to be produced, but we learn from the following letter that a certain Giuseppe La Barbera, optician and skilled mechanic at Palermo (whose name will recur frequently in these pages), on his return from Paris, where he had obtained information regarding the manufacture of stamps, had made verbal proposals to the Minister for Sicily at Naples, giving him certain details upon this subject. In the following letter we find mention for the first time of the intention to place the head of the King upon the Sicilian postage stamps:—

"NAPLES, 21st January, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—When Signor Giuseppe La Barbera was leaving this place to proceed to Paris, from whence he has now returned, I instructed him to make enquiries and to obtain information as to the methods that are employed in France for the manufacture of Postage Stamps.

"He has, in accordance with my instructions, given me a verbal description of a method which seems to be different from either of the two which have been suggested for the manufacture of the Sicilian postage stamps, under the proposals contained in your official report of the 14th November last, and in your confidential letter of the 12th December just past.

"I therefore beg that Your Excellency will be so kind as to hear what Signor La Barbera has to suggest, and to give an opinion upon the information which he has collected, and upon the proposals which he is in a position to submit to Y. E.'s judgment, and to do me the favour of communicating to me your matured opinions, pending which I will not lay my propositions before H. M. the King.

"On my own part, permit me to submit to Y. E. that I think it would be far more reverent to place the sacred effigy of His Majesty upon the postage stamps for Sicily, in place of any of the designs that have been proposed, and I mention this idea to Y. E. now that a definite proposition is made, which Y. E. may be pleased to put forward for the manufacture of the stamps which we are considering.

"I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed)

"GIOVANNI CASSISI.

"To His Excellency Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of H. M. the King in Sicily, Palermo."

The proposal to reproduce the effigy of the Sovereign upon the stamps of Sicily having been accepted, the Minister for Sicilian Affairs transmitted to the Viceroy a photographic portrait, of small size, showing King

* It was evidently considered necessary to avoid the possibility of the use of combinations of stamps of different colours for political purposes. Hence, probably, the adoption of a uniform colour for all the values of the Naples issue.—TRANS.

Ferdinand II. facing to the left, in order to obtain his opinion upon this before submitting the scheme for the approval of the King :—

“NAPLES, 2nd February, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I have had reproduced by photography a miniature portrait of H. M. the King, which is to form the design of the engraving from which is to be printed the stamp for the Post Office Department of this portion of the Royal Dominions. The portrait is to be surrounded by engraving in various colours, for the better distinguishing of the value of each stamp, and the inscription will be ‘Bollo della posta di Sicilia,’ instead of ‘Sicilia’ only. As I promised Your Excellency in my confidential letter of 28th January last, I have the honour to forward to Y. E. enclosed in an envelope this photograph together with copies of the Postage Stamps of Naples, in order that Y. E. may be able to compare the one with the others.

“With a view to laying the matter before H. M. the King, before bringing forward the official proposals, I beg that Y. E. will be pleased to examine the designs which I have the honour to transmit, and to send them back to me on the return of the same steamer, with your opinion upon the form and the colours of the stamps, and with all the observations that may occur to Y. E.’s exalted mind, for the further benefit of the service of H. M. the King.

“I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed)

“GIOVANNI CASSISI.

“His Excellency, Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo.”

The proposals which the Minister Cassisi had communicated to the Viceroy were accepted by the latter, and the photograph of the King was returned. Some remarks were added, on the subject of the paper and the gum to be chosen, and the place where the stamps were to be printed. It should be specially noted that nothing had yet been decided with regard to the method to be adopted for the engraving and printing of the postage stamps, a point which should obviously have been settled before purchasing the presses required, to which reference is made repeatedly in the letter that follows :—

“MINISTRY OF STATE.

“DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

“PALERMO, 3rd February, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—You have been pleased to inform me, in various confidential letters, of what has been suggested in reference to the system of postage stamps to be introduced into Sicily, and of what has been proposed upon this subject by Signor La Barbera.

“This is indeed one of the usual marks of your great courtesy, inasmuch as Y. E. might very well have taken whatever measures appeared to you to be suitable, without any necessity to consult me upon the subject, for which I render to you my especial thanks.

“In accordance therefore with the very courteous invitation received from Y. E., I would inform you that from what has been explained to me by Signor La Barbera in regard to the manufacture of the postage stamps for Sicily, certain questions have arisen with reference to the quality of the paper, as to the adhesive matter to be used, and as to the presses that will be employed for this work. It would therefore be necessary to ascertain whether the kind of paper that is required for such stamps can be found there (in Naples) or whether it will have to be obtained from abroad; and in regard to the mucilage it should be remarked that that which is employed in these parts of the Kingdom is not of good quality, and it will be advisable to ascertain where a better kind can be obtained.

“I would therefore beg that Y. E. would be so kind as to inform me how you would wish this part of the work to be provided for.

“In reference to the presses I would further request that Y. E. would do me the favour of informing me whether they are to be constructed here or should I order them elsewhere.

“There are also a few words to be said in regard to the place to be selected for the manufacture of these stamps. This place should be adjoined to the office of the General Administration of Posts, and since that office is not capable to providing even three rooms for this purpose, it might be possible to arrange with this view, if Y. E. would permit, to hire certain small houses, belonging to the Archiepiscopal Estate of Monreale, which are contiguous to the Post Office at Palermo, and which could consequently be conveniently annexed thereto.

“I have now to speak of the specimens of Postage Stamps, which Y. E. has had the goodness to send to me in your esteemed letter of yesterday, and I would state that

the designs with the sacred effigy of the King might well be adopted for Sicily, with the engraving in the various colours that are noted, and with the alteration in the inscription as indicated by Y. E.

"I have only now to await the instructions that may be issued by our August Sovereign, under Y. E.'s advice, for the introduction here also of the new system of prepayment of letters, and with this view I beg to return the envelope enclosing the photograph which you were so kind as to send me.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) "PRINCE CASTELCICALA.

"To H. E. Sig. D. Giovanni Cassisi, &c.,
Minister for Sicilian Affairs, Naples."

Together with the preceding official letter, there was despatched another of the same date, but of a confidential nature, which is really of the greatest interest, since it shows how extremely timid the suspicious Bourbon Government was at that time. The Viceroy of Sicily lays before the Resident Minister at Naples his anxiety in regard to the fact that the combination of the colours *red*, *blue*, and *green* proposed for the stamps might lend themselves to demonstrations in a Franco-Italian direction. Another difficulty, no less serious, which occurred to him, was that the application of the word "Annullato" (which had been adopted as a cancellation in the continental portion of the Kingdom) to the sacred effigy of the King would, in his opinion, constitute a gross act of irreverence! The following are the terms in which these apprehensions were expressed:—

"MINISTRY OF STATE.
"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 3rd February, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In my other letter of this date I have had the honour to lay before Y. E. matters relating to the introduction of Postage Stamps in Sicily.

"I would now beg to draw Y. E.'s attention, in the strictest confidence, to two points in regard to the specimens of the stamps to be used for the franking of letters.

"Among the different colours of the impressions of these stamps there are *red*, *blue*, and *green*. I would beg of Y. E. to consider whether there will be any possibility of preventing the combining of these colours together, with the *white* ground of the paper to which they will have to be affixed.

"Moreover, a more serious matter still, I would remind Y. E. that the postal officials must strike upon these stamps the mark that cancels them; but this cancellation may sometimes, either through simple carelessness, or in the hurry of completing the work of the post office on the arrival or departure of the mails, chance to be struck upon the sacred effigy of the King, and I do not see how it will be possible absolutely to prevent such irreverence taking place.

"I beg therefore that Y. E. will most carefully consider these remarks of mine, will weigh them with your superior knowledge, and take such steps as may appear to you to be most fitting.

"I desired to lay these two points before Y. E. in a separate letter, so that, if they do not appear to be worthy of special attention, Y. E. may be able to advise His Majesty in deciding as to the other letter, which I have had the advantage of addressing to you, without any further difficulty.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) "PRINCE CASTELCICALA.

"To H. E. Signor D. Giovanni Cassisi, &c.,
Minister of State for the Affairs of Sicily, Naples."

The various propositions that had so far been put forward in reference to the postage stamps of Sicily, and all the correspondence upon this subject which had passed between the Minister Cassisi and the Viceroy are summed up in the letter quoted below, which possesses the greater importance for us in that reference is there made to the contents of certain other letters, to which we have not had access. We gather that, from the 28th January, the execution of "the design of the effigy of His Majesty" had been entrusted "to the skilful artist, Signor Aloisio," that is to say,

to the engraver, Tommaso Aloisio* Juvara, who, as we shall show later, was at that period "Professor in ordinary of engraving in copper and steel, and with the newest methods," at the Royal Institute of Fine Arts at Naples. The same document also shows us that the design for the special cancellation mark, which was to be of such shape as to perform the obliteration of the postage stamp "without touching the sacred effigy of the King," was drawn by the painter, Carlo La Barbera, and forwarded to the Viceroy. We find also an allusion to the proposal to adopt "shades of the same colour, in order to avoid the danger that might arise from the use of the colours decided upon." It is likewise of interest to remember that, so far as the production of the stamps was concerned, the Minister for Sicilian Affairs intended to leave the work entirely in the hands of the authorities at Palermo:—

"NAPLES, 8th February, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I am greatly obliged for the great kindness and courtesy with which Y. E. has replied to my letters on the subject of the manufacture of the postage stamps for this part of the Royal Dominions. In order to completely explain my view, I beg that Y. E. will permit me to sum up in regular order, in this letter of to-day, all the propositions that I have had the honour to submit to you in my confidential correspondence.

"Whilst fully agreeing with your wise proposal regarding the difference of colour to be employed for the various postage stamps, I begged you to consider (23rd November last) the possibility of forming by means of these various colours combinations that are neither approved nor permitted by our Royal Government.

"I announced to Y. E., on the 21st January, that Signor Giuseppe La Barbera, on his return from Paris, had brought information regarding a new method of manufacturing postage stamps, I begged Y. E. to hear Signor La Barbera and to form an opinion in accordance with your superior knowledge on the matters upon which he thought himself able to give you information, and I laid before Y. E. the idea which had occurred to me of placing upon the postage stamps, as a sign of the greatest respect, the Sacred Effigy of His Majesty in place of the designs that had been proposed, and this idea of mine I submitted to Y. E.'s wise discretion.

"I informed you, on the 28th January, that with a view to carrying out my suggestion I had entrusted to the skilful artist, Signor Aloisio, the design of the effigy of H. M., in accordance with which the stamp was to be engraved, and I promised to send to Y. E. the little photograph which was to form the model for the engraving, that Y. E. might give me an opinion upon it.

"In fulfilment of my promise, I sent to Y. E. on the 2nd February the photograph of the sacred effigy of H. M., with the design for the various stamps, in different colours according to their respective values, and I indicated the inscription that should be engraved upon them. However, owing to want of time, and to my desire to send you the photograph by the steamer which was leaving the same day, I omitted to explain to you that my idea was that the colour of the stamps should be uniform, and with the photograph various colours were mentioned only in order to leave to His Majesty the choice of the colour that might be most pleasing to him. I omitted also, for the reason stated above, to send to Y. E. the cancelling stamp, the designing of which had been entrusted to the painter, Carlo La Barbera, with special instructions to find a means of not touching the sacred effigy of the King, and I do not know how that design, which was in my possession at the time when the letter was written, escaped being enclosed with the others.

"Y. E., in your three most valuable letters, the first dated the 12th December, and the others of this month, undated, which reached me on Friday by the steamer *Ercole*, accepting my ideas as to the colours, proposes instead of different colours, shades of the same colour for the four lower values and a uniform colour for the other three, and presaging my own thoughts, you were pleased in the two other letters to consult me as to the method of production of these stamps, the place where they are to be manufactured, the paper and gum to be employed, and the presses with which they are to be printed, but I have not been able to gather the exact opinions which Y. E. would wish to submit to the high judgment of H. M. the King. I have therefore thought it my duty to refer to our correspondence, and having recalled to Y. E.'s memory what has already been said, and explained what I have to say further, I beg Y. E. to be so kind as to honour me with your sagacious decision:—

"1. As to the form of the postage stamps, with which we are dealing, informing me

* We find the name spelt as often Aloisio as Aloisio; we have decided to use the latter form in the text of this volume, because we have seen the name thus in the autograph of the artist.

whether you propose to accept my suggestion, or whether you think of employing the method proposed by Y. E. in your most valuable letter of 13th December, referred to above. In the latter case, His Majesty would never be informed of what I had suggested.

"2nd. If Y. E. should prefer to have the effigy of the King engraved, as to the form of the cancelling mark, the design of which I now have the honour to send you, or as to any other which Y. E. may think of proposing.

"3. As to the colour of the stamps, whether it should be uniform for all, or different for some and the same for the others, or in shades of the same colour.

"And the replies of Y. E. to these enquiries of mine will serve as a basis for the definite resolutions of the proposed Decree and for the regulations to be formulated by Y. E.

"In regard to the production of the stamps, the printing, the paper to be purchased, and all the materials for their manufacture, and the artists to be employed, it was always my intention as I now assure you, to leave all these matters to the wise discretion of Y. E.; I would only beg to recommend to the prevision of Y. E. the obtaining beforehand of everything that is necessary for the complete production of these stamps, so that no difficulty may be encountered in carrying out the work, in the manner and by the date that may be appointed by His Majesty for the adoption in Sicily of the new method of franking letters.

"On my own part, I shall always be pleased to comply with any demands of Y. E., wherever there may be occasion for my assistance in the introduction of this new service in this part of the Royal Dominions.

"In order that Y. E. may have everything under your own eyes, I have the honour to return the designs sent to me by Y. E., and the photographs made here, and to send you the design for the cancellation stamp, and three postage stamps of France, with the cancellation mark applied to them.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
 (Signed) "GIOVANNI CASSISI."
 "To H. E. Prince Castelcicala,
 Viceroy in Sicily, Palermo."

The choice of the King's effigy was approved by the Viceroy, as we have already seen, and the design for the cancellation stamp was also accepted. In regard to the selection of the colours, the idea of a uniform tint for all the values, such as had been prudently adopted for the continental portion of the Kingdom, having been abandoned, he proposed to employ a different colour for each value, and with a constant view to "preventing any inadmissible combination of colours,"* he resolved to employ dull or neutral tints for the *green* and the *red* (the colours which in combination with the *white* of the paper would have formed the Italian "tricolour").

The Viceroy had, no doubt, fully realised the difficulty of getting the stamps properly manufactured in the Island, and had good reasons for pointing out the convenience of having them produced in Naples.

"MINISTRY OF STATE.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 13th February, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In your valued letter of the 8th of this month, resuming the contents of our confidential correspondence on the subject of the manufacture of the postage stamps for this part of the Royal Dominions, and adding other valuable observations to those that had already been made, you further requested my opinion upon these three points: 1. The form of the stamp. 2. That of the cancellation mark. 3. The colour of the stamps.

"As regards the first point, I can only agree with the idea so wisely conceived by Y. E., namely, that of placing upon the stamp the sacred effigy of His Majesty, instead of the designs that had been proposed.

"In regard to the second point, I also concur in the wise proposal of Y. E. to substitute for the word 'annullato' the other mark shown in the design forwarded to me. Except that I think it well to point out that, in that case, Article 13 of the Regulations should be modified thus: 'The verification of the stamps being finished, the officials appointed

* It is interesting to compare the fears expressed in these words with the provision made in the Decree of the 25th June, 1860, by King Francis II., during the last struggle of his Kingdom.

"Art. 4. Our flag shall henceforward be adorned with the National Colours, in three vertical bands, always retaining in the centre the Arms of our Dynasty."

Comment is unnecessary.

to despatch the letters shall apply to the postage stamp a mark adapted to render it useless, and shall take care never to cover the indication of the value which is engraved at the bottom of the stamp.'

"In reference, however, to the third point, it does not appear to me that it would be well to adopt a uniform colour for all the stamps. The difference of colour renders it easier for the officials of the post to recognise at a glance the value of the stamp. I am therefore of opinion, unless Y. E. should decide otherwise, that there should be as many colours as there are stamps, adopting those shown in the proofs which Y. E. has sent to me; and in order to prevent certain combinations of colours that are not permitted, I would suggest the suppression of either the *green* or the *red* included in the seven colours referred to, and the substitution of a second *green* or a second *red*, of a different shade, according as the one or the other colour is retained. Taking advantage also of the courtesy shown me by Y. E., I venture to request that you would arrange for the engraving and the designing of the stamps to be executed in Naples, both because there are better artists there, and also because the work can be better carried out under Y. E.'s direction.

"I would likewise beg of you to ascertain whether it is possible to obtain in Naples a finer quality of paper than that upon which the stamps in use there are printed, and if so at what price. And in regard to the gum to be used, I should be further indebted to the courtesy of Y. E. if you would make enquiry of H. E. the Minister of the Treasury, with a view to obtaining something better.

"Finally, in reference to the time necessary for completing the organisation of this new stamp manufactory, I await Y. E.'s response to my questions as to the stamps, the paper, and the gum, before making any statement upon that point.

"I have the honour to return to you herewith all the papers alluded to above, and I remain, &c., &c., &c.,

(Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

"To the Minister for Sicily, Naples."

Whilst this correspondence was taking place between the Viceroy and the Minister, the former had received an offer from the engraver Giuseppe Barone for a supply of stamps, and that artist had submitted some Essays printed in relief (*see* Plate A, No. 1) but since, as we have seen, it had been decided to adopt the portrait of the King, Barone had offered to submit fresh Essays, which should bear the King's effigy, also in relief. It is unnecessary to publish here the proposal that was made by Barone, under the date of March, 1858, since the substance of that proposal is reproduced in full in the letter which follows:—

"MINISTRY OF STATE.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, *March*, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Whilst awaiting the orders to be issued by His Majesty, under Y. E.'s advice, in regard to the service of Postage Stamps for Sicily, and whilst also awaiting the information and explanations, with which I trust you will kindly furnish me, in reference to the manufacture of these stamps and the presses required for that purpose, I have been seeking here also the means necessary for the suitable and ready carrying out of this same object.

"And D. Giuseppe Barone, a skilled engraver of Palermo, has offered to execute the production, in such designs as may be prescribed, with the presses required, which he has planned and which can be constructed here.

"He has submitted to me certain specimens, which I consider most estimable in exactitude and clearness, and which he assures me can be produced in any design desired, substituting the sacred effigy of the King for the lilies and the crown, if such is desired, and this can be shown in relief in the stamp, in the same manner as the crown and lilies appear, and the indication of the various values can be added.

"He assures me that he can easily print three thousand of such stamps in a day in whatever colour one may wish, and in the values necessary, but he requires not less than three months for the construction of the presses and the engraving of the said stamps.

"I think it desirable to inform Y. E. of this, and to forward to you the sheet containing the specimens that I have mentioned, in order that you may make such use of them as you think fit, adding that, according to the statement of this engraver, he can obtain here the paper, colours, and gum for the manufacture of the stamps in the manner proposed.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,

(Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

"To H. E. Signor D. Giovanni Cassisi,
Minister of State for Sicilian Affairs, Naples."

We have seen that, in reference to the various questions relating to the choice of a device to be reproduced upon the stamps, the inscriptions, the shape of the obliterating mark, and, on the whole, also in regard to the colours, a complete agreement had been now arrived at between the Minister for Sicily and the Viceroy. The time had now come therefore for submitting the whole matter for the approval of the King. And in order to lay the scheme before the Sovereign more suitably and in more complete form, and also with a view to giving him a clearer idea of the matter, the Minister Cassisi had taken the trouble to have prepared representations of postage stamps, roughly executed by lithography, printed in seven different colours, and affixed to a sheet of paper to which was also attached a photographic portrait of the King, shown in profile to left, which was to be engraved.

The letter which we reproduce here tells us that the proposal received the King's sanction on the 28th February, and that the engraving of the die was entrusted to the engraver Aloysio. Of which the Minister for Sicily sent official information to the Viceroy:—

“ROYAL MINISTRY OF STATE FOR SICILIAN AFFAIRS.

“(Treasury, No. 661.)

“NAPLES, *4th March*, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—After Y. E. had fully adopted my suggestion of placing the sacred effigy of the King upon the postage stamps of Sicily, instead of the emblems of the two parts of the Kingdom, I had the postage stamps designed by the painter, Carlo La Barbera, and a cancellation stamp which, whilst answering the purpose of preventing the use of the stamps a second time, might form an ornament to the sacred effigy of His Majesty. And I submitted for approval, affixed to a sheet of paper, the photograph which is to form the model for the engraving from which the stamps with the effigy are to be printed, seven stamps printed in different colours by lithography to plainly indicate the value, that is to say, in: 1. Bright yellow. 2. Brown. 3. Sky blue. 4. Vermilion. 5. Prussian blue. 6. Violet. 7. Lake. Also the design for the cancellation stamp, and finally an impression of the completed stamp, cancelled to show how the cancellation stamp should be used, by impressing it upon the stamps which bear the sacred effigy of His Majesty.

“I submitted to H. M. the considerations which had led to the choice of these colours, after various experiments that were made with a view to making sure that each colour could be recognised both by day and at night, and I begged of H. M. that the skilful artist, Signor Aloysio, might be entrusted with the engraving of the die from which the postage stamps were to be produced. Finally, I informed H. M. of Y. E.'s complete agreement with the plan which I proposed.

“And H. M., at Gaeta, under the date of the 28th February just past, deigned to give full sanction to my proposals.

“In the King's Name I have the honour to communicate this to Y. E., for your information, forwarding to you herewith a copy authenticated by me of the sheet submitted to H. M. which contains the various designs that have now been approved by him.

(Signed) “GIOVANNI CASSISI.

“To H. E., the Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo.”

This official communication of the approval of the King, was suitably accompanied by a private letter, containing numerous details regarding the manufacture of the stamps then in circulation in the continental portion of the Kingdom, with the intent that these might serve as a guide for the production of the series for Sicily. The student of Philately will read this report with interest; it increases our information upon that subject, and confirms what we have already published, derived from a study of the stamps themselves.*

The labels with a uniform value of 10 grana, to which the Minister,

* *Le Timbre-Poste*, 1893-94.

Cassisi, alludes, are the Essays produced in lithography by La Barbera, in the centre of one of which a small photograph of the King was affixed.

This report shows us that the system examined in Paris by Giuseppe La Barbera was that of printing by typography (surface-printing), adopted from the first, as we are aware, by the French Government, a system which La Barbera proposed for the Sicilian stamps, and which, at that time, as may be gathered from the document which we reproduce, appeared likely to be adopted.

" NAPLES, 4th March, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with the greatest satisfaction that I have had the honour to communicate to Y. E. this day the Sovereign approval of H. M. the King of the designs for the postage stamps of Sicily, which, in place of the emblems of the two portions of the Kingdom, will bear the sacred effigy of His Majesty.

"I now write to Y. E. confidentially upon the same subject, to add a few words to what has been said officially, and to furnish you with all the information that I have been able to collect as to the manufacture of the postage stamps in this part of the Royal Dominions, in order to comply with the various requests made to me by Y. E., in your valued confidential letters, two without date and the third dated 13th February.

"In accordance with your sagacious remarks, as Y. E. will see, I have omitted *green* from the colours chosen for the postage stamps, and those which I submitted to H. M., and which have been approved by him, are the result of various combinations prepared with a successful result by the painter, Signor Carlo La Barbera, and presenting distinct differences which are visible either by day or at night, and in whatever way they may be placed together they cannot produce combinations of colours that are disapproved and forbidden by our Royal Government.

"Y. E. will see that all the impressions bear the value '10 grana'; this was done to avoid having to reproduce the design upon seven stones, and being thus printed from the one stone, the colour only being changed, they all bear the same inscription.

"It still remains to assign the value to each colour, and I beg of Y. E. to make this choice, informing me how they are to be arranged, as there should be indicated in the draught of the Regulations the colour and value of each stamp.

"The artist, Signor Aloisio, having been appointed by H. M. to engrave the sacred effigy of the King, nothing else remains to be done before putting the work in hand, and I have made the necessary arrangements according to the requirements of Signor Aloisio, at the same time requesting him to have the other die engraved for the obliteration.

"In regard to the question whether these postage stamps should be manufactured in Palermo, there would certainly have been no need for me to discuss this with Y. E., if you had not yourself done me the honour of specially desiring it.

"The manufacture of the postage stamps of Sicily by the electro-type process requires the construction of the blocks which form the plates from which the stamps must then be printed. This system of construction of plates and printing is the one which Sig. D. Giuseppe La Barbera told me he had learned in France, and upon which he will be able to furnish Y. E. with the fullest particulars, and I do not suppose that it is impossible to find in Palermo artists capable of constructing the plates, the making of which consists solely of soldering with great accuracy a number of similar pieces of metal upon a perfectly flat metal plate.

"The plates having been made, ordinary printing presses are all that are required, and the size of a plate for printing 200 stamps appears to be such as is commonly used in ordinary printing.

"If these ideas of mine are correct, I think that it should be possible to provide in Palermo everything required for the manufacture of the stamps.

"When the plates are ready, it will be necessary to provide a place for printing the stamps, and to select the paper and the gum for affixing them.

"Y. E. is very wise in pointing out the office of the Department as a fitting place for the manufacture of the stamps, as the difficult charge in question should be left, as is the case here, entirely under the care and responsibility of that Department, and Y. E., with your wonderful foresight, will know how to make fitting provision and to take all the precautions that you may consider necessary in dealing with the printing of stamps which are a species of paper money.

"In compliance with the inquiries contained in Y. E.'s last letter on the subject of the paper and the gum, I have obtained detailed information as to that which is used here, and I can assure Y. E. that they are not fully satisfied here with what has been done hitherto.

"The paper is made in Naples, in the paper mill here, and is of a special form and of a size to contain 200 stamps on the sheet.

"It is manufactured with special marks,* and is strewed with lilies; † at one end of the

* Watermarks.

† Fleurs-de-lis.

sheet are the initials of the manufacturer, and in another place the inscription 'Bollo di posta.' This paper has turned out a little too thick, and it is intended, when a fresh supply is made, to have it made thinner.

"The mucilage that has been employed from the first is composed of fish glue, gum [Arabic?] and British gum. With the first supplies a very ordinary mixture of this was employed, which, applied to a heavy paper, produced stamps that were very thick and stiff. The composition of this gum has not been changed, but the ingredients of which it is composed have been purified, and thus better results have been obtained, which are still however not quite satisfactory.

"It should be noted that applying the gum thickly to the stamps stained the paper, and as a temporary measure the system was adopted of applying to the paper, after the stamps had been printed and previous to spreading the gum over it, a thin layer of starch, which prevents the staining of the paper.

"On the whole this service is not as yet carried out in a way to serve as a model for that which is to be established in Sicily, more especially as the service there is to be organised on a different system from that adopted here.

"After the above information, which I have been able to collect and which I have the honour to bring to the knowledge of Y. E., I would beg you to be pleased to consider what facilities this city [Palermo] offers for the carrying out of the manufacture of the stamps in question, and what need there may be for having the work done elsewhere, and I also beg to forward to Y. E. a sheet of paper gummed by a method, which has been submitted to me by the painter, Signor Carlo La Barbera (in order that Y. E. may examine it), and which when compared with that used here appears much superior to the latter.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.

"To H. E. Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo."

(Signed)

"GIOVANNI CASSISI.

The document which we now insert shows us that Giuseppe La Barbera had succeeded in obtaining the contract for the manufacture of the stamps which, it should be remembered, were to be printed by typography. We also learn what were the colours definitely proposed for each value, and we see that *green* was strictly forbidden. In regard to the paper, it was decided that this should be sent from Naples.

"MINISTRY OF STATE.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 9th March, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It was no less gratifying to me than to Y. E. to receive the communication of the Sovereign rescript, approving the designs for the postage stamps of Sicily, which, differing from those of Naples, are to bear the sacred effigy of our Sovereign Lord the King; and none the less that, from the indefatigable exertions of Y. E. and your talent for pushing forward any improvement, I was able to expect such a prompt and successful result of your special efforts to obtain from the King his sanction for impressing upon the postage stamps His Majesty's sacred effigy.

"I would here thank Y. E. for the extreme kindness with which you have been pleased to favour me with the information regarding this new service for Sicily.

"As soon as the engraving ordered from the artist Aloisio reaches me, there shall be provided here all that is necessary for the manufacture of these stamps by the electrotyping method referred to by Y. E. Signor Giuseppe La Barbera, who studied in France the method of manufacture and the printing of these stamps, has offered to manufacture promptly and on the spot the plates required. And it is also possible, according to him, to construct and to purchase two presses similar to those used by printers, and to obtain here the colours and the gum for gumming the paper. I have informed him as to the method adopted in Naples to prevent the gum from staining the paper of the stamps, and found that he had already heard of it and also knows how to dry the gummed paper in such a manner as to avoid its becoming creased in any way or otherwise injured.

"A contract will be entered into with the said Signor La Barbera for the carrying out of this work, and a place is also being prepared for the immediate construction of the plates and for the manufacture of the stamps from them. For this purpose there has been taken over part of the house of a tailor, which by a curious anomaly was inside the building intended for the Post Office; this place has already been examined by Signor Puglia, the architect, and will be restored and secured for the use for which it was intended. Arrangements are at the same time being made for the permanent acquisition of this place.

"The simultaneous construction of the presses and the plates requires a period of at least two months, according to the statement of the above-mentioned Signor La Barbera; and as it would require about the same time to obtain these articles from abroad, it seemed

to me preferable to have them made here, and the more so because the plates for the stamps must be finished with all possible care, and cannot possibly be completed until two months have elapsed after the arrival of the engraving which is to be made by Signor Aloisio.

"A better quality of paper could certainly be obtained from abroad, but I think that the security afforded by the difficulty of counterfeiting the paper made at Naples, on account of the special marks which it contains, should be considered of more importance than the superior quality of the foreign paper. I would now, however, only request Y. E. to be so good as to decide by your superior judgment whatever you think to be most convenient, and, whether it is to be obtained from abroad or in Naples, that you would undertake to provide that the paper required shall be supplied to Sicily.

"I have only now to assign the values to the various colours decided upon for the postage stamps. And since Y. E. has been so courteous as to wish to leave the choice of this to me, I think, if not displeasing to Y. E., that the value one-half grano may be assigned to the *bright yellow*; one grano to the *brown*; 2 grana to the *sky blue*; 5 grana to the *vermilion*; 10 grana to the *Prussian blue*; 20 grana to the *violet*; and 50 grana to the *lake*.

"After this, with renewed thanks for the great care which Y. E. has devoted to carrying this matter to a successful result,

"I have, &c., &c., &c.

"To H. E. Sig. D. Giovanni Cassisi,
Minister of State for Sicilian Affairs, Naples."

(Signed)

"CASTELCICALA.

A letter which we do not reproduce here, dated 16th March, 1858, addressed by the General Administration of Posts in Sicily to the Viceroy, announces that, it having been decided that Signor Santi Noera, an official in that Department, should proceed to Naples, together with the typographic printer Francesco Lao, "to obtain full information on the subject of the manufacture of the postage stamps," those two gentlemen had left on the 13th of that month.

The Minister for Sicily at Naples had not, however, been previously informed of this, and he therefore wrote in no very cordial manner to the Viceroy, under date of the 16th, saying that had he been notified he would have dissuaded him from sending these two persons, especially because he had already directed the Postmaster-General of the continental Dominions, Signor Cervati, to collect all the information that might be useful for the instruction of the postal authorities in Palermo. It might be worth while to reproduce this letter in full, but we are compelled, for the sake of brevity, to content ourselves with quoting one paragraph which certainly speaks plainly enough:—

"Signor Cervati, who with good reason had withheld all information as to the inland service, made no difficulty about confiding to me that when he was appointed Postmaster-General he found nothing prepared for a postal service, which must absolutely be inaugurated on the 1st of January then at hand. He was placed between two equally difficult alternatives, either to delay the opening of the service and thus to cause a public scandal after the Decrees had been published, or to make a bad beginning. To save the honour of the Royal Government, he courageously adopted the second alternative, and he ingenuously confessed to me that, at the present moment, a visit for the purpose of finding fault would present only too many opportunities for doing so, but would not afford any instruction whatever."

After this frank statement, it is no wonder that the Minister Cassisi advised, in a confidential letter of the 16th March, that the two officials should be recalled to Palermo. Indeed, a few days later, a telegram from the Viceroy ordered them to return.

The official letter of the same date, which we reproduce below, tells us, amongst other things, that there was an idea of adopting for the stamps of Sicily the same watermarked paper that was used for those

of the continental portion of the Kingdom, and also that the Minister for Sicily approved of the arrangement of the colours for the various values which had been proposed by Prince Castelcicala:—

“NAPLES, 16th March, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I have the honour to reply to your esteemed confidential letter of the 9th inst., in which you have been so kind as to inform me of the arrangements which you have thought of making, in accordance with the Royal rescript of the 4th of this month, for carrying into effect the new system of the introduction of postage stamps in Sicily.

“The engraver, Signor Aloisio, in reply to my enquiries, states that he will not be able to complete in less than a month the work which he has undertaken entirely at my request, having in fact refused to engrave the plates that are made here for the postage stamps of Naples. Y. E. has informed me that, on the arrival of the engraving referred to, there will be provided at Palermo all that is required for the manufacture of the stamps by the electro-type process, and that a contract will be made with the mechanician of the Light-houses, D. Giuseppe La Barbera, for the construction of the necessary plates, on the system which he has explained that he learned in France.

“I consider moreover that Y. E. has very wisely decided upon a place inside the Post Office building for the speedy execution of the manufacture of the stamps and the plates, which in the opinion of La Barbera will take two months after you receive the engraving.

“In regard to the place of manufacture, I cannot too strongly impress upon you the care that must be taken to prevent any loss of the completed stamps, which occupy the same position as paper money. It is understood that the presses also will be constructed in Palermo, under such conditions that within the period of two months they may be ready to proceed with the stamps and the plates.

“I agree with Y. E. in thinking that the paper upon which the stamps are to be printed could be obtained of better quality abroad, but I think it a most wise idea of Y. E. to make use for the present of that which is employed by the Post Office at Naples, on account of the special marks which it contains for the purpose of discovering fraud, if unfortunately there should ever occur a case of suspected forgery.

“As soon as the Decree for Sicily has been sanctioned by H. M., I will not fail to make an application upon this point to H. E. the Minister of the Treasury, or, better still, to make an arrangement with the Director-General of the Royal Posts here, whom I cannot praise too highly.

“It is to be hoped that the introduction into Palermo of the use of stamped paper, and at the same time that of postage stamps, may encourage the industries of the country by the establishment of paper-mills, such as that of the Baron Turrisi, now closed, and may thus directly contribute to the Revenue, and also provide for the manufacture of paper for postage stamps with different marks from those in the paper used at Naples.

“In regard to the values which Y. E. has assigned to the variously coloured stamps, I have no remarks to make upon what you have very judiciously decided, and therefore cannot but fully agree with the arrangement that Y. E. has made.

“To H. E. Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo.”

“I have, &c., &c., &c.,

(Signed)

“GIOVANNI CASSISI.

From the preceding letter we also learn that Aloisio, the engraver, had stated that it would not be less than a month before he could deliver the die which he had been requested to engrave. The Viceroy took care in the meantime that this period should be usefully employed at Palermo, in preparing the rooms required for the manufacture of the stamps. In regard to the paper, he still considered it convenient to adopt that which was being used at Naples, “until it is realised here how good a speculation it would be to establish a paper mill.” In the meantime Signor Giuseppe La Barbera had submitted to the Viceroy an estimate “for furnishing all that is required for the manufacture of the postage stamps of Sicily, and for the making and printing, of the same.” This offer was for the space of one year, after which the Department was to have full liberty to get the work done elsewhere, if it thought fit. The offer was transmitted to the Minister at Naples, on the 20th March. We do not think it necessary to reproduce

it here, contenting ourselves with quoting the remarks that were made upon it by the Minister Cassisi:—

“NAPLES, 5th April, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—From the offer made by D. Giuseppe La Barbera, which Y. E. has forwarded to me in your esteemed letter of the 20th March, which reached me on the 2nd April, by the steamer *Corriere Siciliano*, I gather as follows:—

“1. That he undertakes to reproduce, by the electro-type process, the postage stamps with the sacred effigy of the King, from the engraving on steel which is to be provided by the Government.

“2. That he undertakes to produce the plates for the printing of the stamps by typography.

“3. That he undertakes to supply within three months the two iron presses and all the articles described in his offer, which are considered necessary for the reproduction and printing of the stamps; and this for the sum of one thousand Ducats.

“4. That finally he undertakes, for the term of one year, to execute the printing of the said postage stamps, upon the special paper to be supplied to him by the Royal Government, at the price of eighty grana for each thousand stamps of whatever colour may be required, and to be responsible for all the necessary expenses.

“Y. E. informs me that it was not found possible to induce La Barbera to make better terms either in regard to the cost or to the period of the contract, and that you think it would be well to agree to his proposals, as there seems to be no one else at present who understands better than he does how to carry out this work, as he has studied the process in France. And in regard to the printing, Y. E. has remarked that the duration of the contract is to be one year only, and after that the Post Office Department and the Government will be free to make such arrangements as may be necessary for the service.

“Nevertheless, Y. E., with your usual courtesy, has been pleased to ask my opinion before accepting or rejecting this offer. Accustomed as I am to comply with all that Y. E.'s wisdom suggests, I do not know what to say regarding the offer of La Barbera, as I do not understand the special requirements of the system, which he says he learnt in France, or whether there are others in Palermo who could undertake the work on better terms, or carry it out with the accuracy required by the Royal Government, in the organisation of a service which is entirely new in Sicily.

“This question may be left entirely to the wise discretion of Y. E., who, being armed with all the powers of your high position, will be able better than I can to decide upon the method which you think most suitable, in order that the service may be established and carried on with the greatest possible economy and may yield results in accordance with the hopes of us both. And it is a wise plan to limit the contract to one year, so that after that time the Government may be fully at liberty to take advantage of the experience thus gained to introduce all the improvements that it may think fit to adopt.

“Y. E. will not, however, forget to take the precaution of ascertaining whether all the articles, a detailed description of which is given in the proposals, are absolutely necessary for the work, and whether the prices charged are exorbitant; and also that in the written agreement which must be signed by the contractor the obligations that are undertaken by him are more exactly expressed than they are in the offer submitted by La Barbera.

“I gather from his proposal that he undertakes to construct two sheets of copper with 200 holes, in which it appears that there are to be fixed the blocks produced by the electro-type process, which, in other words, are to form the plates to be used in the two presses for the printing of the postage stamps. If these sheets of copper are used for this purpose, it seems to me that it would be prudent to have another made, to be held in reserve, so that, in case of any damage occurring, the Department may not be in a difficulty through being unable to make it good; and in my opinion it would also be well that, in the case both of this and of the other articles that are to be purchased, security should be given by the contractor, and that he should undertake to return them at the end of the year, or, as may be arranged, in such condition that the Government may not be obliged to make them all afresh; it may be that Y. E. would think fit to make it a condition that the contractor should return these things in the state in which he received them, or should pay for any deterioration.

“La Barbera asks for the printing the sum of 80 grana for every thousand stamps, of whatever colour, and he pays all the expenses of the production. It seems to me that the latter expression includes also all manual labour, that is to say, that all the workmen are to be paid by him, and that no expenditure upon this matter is to fall upon the Department. If such is the case, I think it will be necessary to have it specified in the contract.

“And since, judging from the sheets of copper mentioned above, each plate is to contain 200 blocks, it appears to me that what he asks is 80 grana for every 5 sheets printed, which should contain the 1,000 stamps named by him. I am not in a position to judge whether this price is reasonable or exorbitant, having regard to the number of sheets that must be printed, especially on the first establishment of the service, when all the post offices and the licensed vendors of stamps must be furnished with sufficient supplies.

"I leave it entirely to Y. E.'s discretion to decide upon whatever you think it best to arrange in the interests of the Revenue. What in my opinion should without fail be provided for in the contract, is the right of the Department to take every precaution that may be thought necessary to prevent fraud of any kind being committed, and the better to secure this most important object, I think that the Government should reserve power to refuse to admit into the Department any workmen proposed by the contractor, in whose honesty and trustworthiness entire confidence cannot be placed, and also to expel any that have been admitted, if at any time any doubt should arise as to their character; these workmen should be subject during the time that they are at work to all the conditions and rules that may be imposed by the Royal Government, to prevent fraud in the manufacture of the postage stamps.

"These are the suggestions that I would briefly submit for Y. E.'s consideration, and that only because you have been pleased to ask for my opinion. Nevertheless it is entirely in Y. E.'s power to do whatever you may think best for the carrying out of this new service. And if in the first establishing of it some sacrifices may be necessary, they certainly will not be unprofitable if the object is attained of commencing this system well, leaving to time and experience the attainment of all the other advantages that may be hoped for.

"With these sentiments, I have the honour to return to you the original offer of La Barbera,

"To H. E. Prince Castelvicala,
"Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo."

"And to remain, &c., &c., &c.

(Signed) "GIOVANNI CASSISI.

The Viceroy announced to the Minister, on the 23rd April, that the agreement with the machinist Giuseppe La Barbera was ready, and was about to be signed. It is sufficient to quote a portion of that letter here:—

"All that is possible has, I think, been done to obtain better terms in the matter of expenditure and wages, but La Barbera maintains that he has already in his offer made the greatest concessions, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Royal Government. Nevertheless he is willing to add a third plate complete, that is to say, a sheet of copper, 200 blocks corresponding with the original steel die, and 1,400 pieces of copper containing the inscription denoting the different values of the stamps, for the same charge of 1,000 ducats, which was agreed upon for only two such plates, and for all the other articles necessary for the printing of the said stamps. The said La Barbera is to be paid for this printing at the rate of 1 ducat 50 grana for every 2,000 stamps, irrespective of colour, so that there is also a slight saving as compared with his offer, in which he asked 80 grana for every 1,000 stamps.

"The agreement for this new service in Sicily is therefore concluded, and the building required for the work is ready. We now only await the engraving to be made by Signor Aloisio, before putting the work in hand."

The agreement between the Royal Post Office Department and La Barbera was executed at Palermo, in legal form, on the 7th May, 1858, and was communicated on the 12th of that month to the Minister Cassisi. It is rather a long document, consisting of twelve articles, one of which contains a list of the machines, tools, utensils, and various materials which La Barbera was to furnish. We must confine ourselves to quoting certain portions only:—

"Art. 1. Signor La Barbera undertakes to manufacture, by the electro-type process, from the engraving on steel supplied by the Royal Government, the number of 600 postage stamps (*sic*)* in copper, with the sacred effigy of the King, exactly identical with the said steel die.

"Art. 2. Signor La Barbera also undertakes to make the plates for the printing of the stamps by typography, that is to say, three sheets of copper with 200 holes in each, and 4,200 quadrangular pieces of copper with the inscription 'Poste di Sicilia' on each, and with the indication, in the corresponding parts, of the seven different values of the postage stamps, in accordance with the annexed pattern; with the understanding that if the

* The words used are "bolli di posta," which mean literally *postage stamps*, but here of course mean blocks, or clichés, from which stamps may be printed. The word "bolli," which is constantly used in these documents in the sense of *stamps* ("franco-bolli," or "bolli di posta"), is employed also for the articles that are to be inserted in the sheets of copper from which the stamps were to be printed, and I have there translated it as blocks.—TRANS.

inscription mentioned above is engraved upon the steel die, the contractor shall only be obliged to provide the pieces of metal required for the indication of the values of the said postage stamps, to the number of 4,200 pieces as before. These pieces of copper are to be fashioned in such a way as to enclose the postage stamps [or clichés] that will be, as stated above, reproduced by the electro-type process, and so that they can be exactly fitted into the holes in the sheets before mentioned.*

"Art. 3. Signor La Barbera further undertakes to supply two iron presses of foreign manufacture, suitable for printing the said postage stamps, and also the following articles necessary for the reproduction and printing of the same stamps . . . for the sum of Ducats 1138.84.

"Art. 4. The above-mentioned La Barbera undertakes to carry out, for the term of one year, to be reckoned from the day on which the bringing into effect of the new system of postage stamps in Sicily shall be ordained by the Royal Government, the printing of the postage stamps in the prescribed colours, upon special paper which shall be supplied to him by the Royal Government, and in such quantities as may be required.

"Art. 5. The 600 postage stamp blocks, in copper, the 4,200 quadrangular pieces of copper, the two presses, and all the other articles described above, are to be of the best quality, and fit for the manufacture of the postage stamps of Sicily, for which they are to be used, and shall be prepared by La Barbera, in the building appointed for that purpose by the Royal Government, within three months at the latest from the day on which the engraving expected from Naples shall be handed over to him.

"Art. 6. It shall be the duty of La Barbera to furnish all the other articles that may be necessary for the immediate execution of the printing of the said postage stamps.

"Art. 7. The making of the plates, the pieces of copper, the electro-typed blocks, and finally all the work required in the manufacture of the postage stamps shall be done in the building set apart for that purpose.

"Art. 8. If, at the expiration of the term of three months from the day on which the above-mentioned engraving is handed over to La Barbera, the said articles have not been got ready by him, either as a whole or in part, he shall be liable to a fine of 200 ducats, in addition to the expense necessary for obtaining the articles that are wanting for the fulfilment of his contract. If afterwards the articles shall be found, either wholly or in part, to be unsatisfactory, Signor La Barbera shall be compelled to reconstruct them at his own expense and without any compensation.

"Art. 9. The Post Office Department shall have the right to take all precautions to prevent fraud . . .

"Art. 12. Signor La Barbera undertakes to return, in perfect condition, at the end of the year, the presses, sheets, and quadrangular pieces of copper, and all the articles described above, that are used in the manufacture of the postage stamps, and to pay for all deterioration that they may have suffered.

"Art. 13. When La Barbera shall have handed over the presses, the dies, the plates, and all the articles described above, and they shall have been found satisfactory and fitted for the purpose for which they are intended, he shall be paid the sum of 1,000 ducats by the Royal Government, and these articles shall be held to be thus purchased on the account of the Government and shall become the property of the latter.

"There shall also be paid to La Barbera the price of 1 ducat 50 grana for every 2,000 stamps of whatever value that are printed by La Barbera to the order of the Postmaster-General, it being expressly understood that the payments are to be made at convenient periods, but if payment shall not be made when a supply of stamps has been furnished amounting to 300 ducats, La Barbera shall have a right to suspend his work and to demand the compensation to which he is entitled."

The following letter is of interest to us; in it the Minister for Sicilian Affairs announces to the Viceroy that he has received the original die "from the skilful artist Signor Aloisio," together with proofs in various colours, and the engraving of the cancellation stamp, and that these works having been laid before the King, "His Majesty had deigned to express himself as fully satisfied with them." These articles were to be transmitted to the Viceroy in Palermo, together with the letter that follows.

* It seems evident that Signor La Barbera expected that the engraver would only produce a die bearing the effigy of the King, reproductions of which would be inserted in frames of copper on which the inscriptions would be cut.—TRANS.

It may be noted that in the contract with La Barbera, which we have reproduced in part, mention is always made of plates for 200 postage stamps, to correspond with those of the stamps for the continental dominions. Now we see, on the other hand (we suppose at the suggestion of Aloisio), that it is proposed to "diminish the number of postage stamps on each plate," with a view to "facilitating the printing" and to obtain at the same time a saving in the supply of paper.

"NAPLES, 29th May, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In your esteemed confidential letter (undated) of April last, Y. E. was pleased to announce to me the conclusion of the contract with Signor La Barbera for all the work required, in reference to the printing, for the manufacture of the postage stamps of Sicily, and that the place where the work was to be carried out was ready, and that you were only awaiting the engraving which had been entrusted to the skilled artist, Signor Aloisio.

"I have the pleasure of announcing to Y. E. that the latter has completed his work, that I have had the high honour of submitting it to H. M. the King, and that H. M. has deigned to express himself as fully satisfied with it.

"Signor Aloisio, before handing over the engraving, desired to make trial of it, and has submitted to me various specimens of stamps which he had printed in the colours prescribed in the Royal Rescript,* which I had the honour to communicate to you in my letter, No. 661, of the 4th March last.

"I now therefore beg to forward to Y. E., in a small case:—

"1st. A little box containing the engraving of the stamp, in steel, and the seven punches indicating the various values of the seven stamps.

"2nd. A key to be used for turning the four screws which hold the two sheets of steel intended for forming the mould for the electro-typing process, and the fifth screw which keeps in place the punch indicating the value of the stamp, when it has been placed perfectly level with the die containing the head of His Majesty.

"3rd. A slip of steel for pushing out the punch indicating the value of the stamp, when the latter has to be changed.

"4th. A small wedge of wood for setting the punches perfectly level.

"5th. A specimen of the stamps printed in various colours.

"6th. Lastly, a cancellation stamp.

"I have to inform Y. E. that Signor Aloisio has covered, temporarily, both the die bearing the effigy of H. M. the King and the punches for the stamps with a layer of wax, to prevent any corrosion, in case they should accidentally be touched, and he particularly recommended that in handling both the die and the punches, care should be taken that no moisture whatever may reach them, even by contact with the hand, to avoid rust which would certainly ensue.

"Y. E. will find that the cancellation stamp has been fitted with a handle of a special form. This form has been invented for the purpose of acting as a guide for those who have to use it as to the manner in which it is to be employed, the stamp being necessarily held by this handle, the right hand is in a position to impress the cancellation, so that it may not deface the sacred effigy of the King. I have only had one of these cancelling stamps made, to serve as a pattern, and I have had the handle made of brass, so as to show the shape of it with the greatest accuracy, leaving it to Y. E. to order the engraving of as many as may be required for the various post offices, and to have handles affixed to them, in the same shape as the pattern, but of lighter material so as not to tire the stampers.

"Y. E. being now supplied with the articles enumerated above, and having indicated to me, in your esteemed confidential letter of the 9th March last, the values which you propose to assign to the stamps, according to their various colours, I should have been able to submit to H. M. the King the proposed Decree and Regulations for the bringing into force of the new service in Sicily. I have, however, thought it prudent to beg of Y. E. to be so good as to cause all the operations necessary for the production of these stamps to be carried out first, so as to make quite sure that the plates, their condition, the colours and the printing of the stamps, everything in fact, may be in accordance with what has been thought out and proposed, so that the Royal decisions of H. M. the King may be evoked when there is full certainty that there will be no difficulty in fulfilling the Royal orders. I will therefore wait until Y. E. is able to give me this information, after the experiments which you may be so good as to make.

"Finally, I think it not unnecessary to inform Y. E. that it has been remarked here that the printing of the stamps from plates of 200 each presents certain difficulties, and these it is supposed may be greater still in the case of the stamps of Sicily, which are

* The colours were indeed those that had been decided upon, but not those assigned to the various values, as had been arranged.

larger than those of Naples, moreover paper of large size would be very expensive. I therefore beg Y. E. to be so good as to see whether it would be convenient to reduce the number of stamps on each plate, which would facilitate the printing, and render it possible to obtain the paper at less cost. And thus after all that has been done, I must await Y. E.'s definite instructions for the obtaining of the paper, as I cannot do anything final in the matter until Y. E. shall have informed me of the exact dimensions of the sheets, which must depend upon the arrangement of the plates.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.
(Signed) "GIOVANNI CASSISI.

"To H. E. Prince Castelvicala,
Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo."

The proofs of the postage stamps were, by some mistake, omitted from the letter given above; they however reached Palermo on the 2nd June.

On the 9th of the same month there was paid to Aloysio, the engraver, "the sum of 139 ducats 80 grana; that is to say, 39 ducats 80 grana for expenses incurred by him for the purchase of pieces of metal, etc., required for the engraving of the effigy of H. M. our Lord the King, from which the postage stamps of Sicily are to be printed, and 100 ducats for the engraving executed by him."

On the arrival of the materials prepared by Aloysio, the Viceroy sent for La Barbera, and arranged "that experiments should be made in electro-typing." It was decided that the number of reproductions in each plate should be reduced, but it was not yet settled what the reduced number should be.

In regard to the production of the plates by electro-typing, La Barbera had been led quite astray in relying upon what he had studied in Paris, since we know that the engraving of Aloysio was such as to produce plates to be used for copper-plate printing, not surface-printing as he had supposed. As the result of an exchange of ideas between the authorities at Naples and those at Palermo, La Barbera again betook himself to Naples, and the original die was in consequence transmitted back to that city, to enable La Barbera to complete his studies and to make fresh trials. A later document tells us that, together with La Barbera, Francesco Lao, the printer, also travelled to Naples on the same business.

"ROYAL MINISTRY.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 18th June, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The machinist, Signor La Barbera, charged with the printing of the postage stamps engraved on steel by Signor Aloisio at Naples, leaves to-day on his way to that place, in accordance with Y. E.'s desire to explain to you in person the difficulties which he has encountered in carrying out the arrangements that had been decided upon.

"In order that Y. E. may have before you in these circumstances the engraving above-mentioned and all relating thereto, I hasten to forward to you with this letter the little box which contains the die and which you were good enough to send me recently, with all the articles mentioned in your esteemed letter of the 29th May last, together with a copy in copper produced by La Barbera from this same engraving and by the method proposed, in order that you may be able to form an opinion upon it.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.
(Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

"To H. E. the Minister for Sicily, Naples."

Aloysio also took part in these studies and trials made by La Barbera. We find, in fact, that the former presented to the Minister for Sicily, on the 7th July, a supplementary account of expenses incurred "in making

mechanical alterations in the die for the postage stamp of Sicily, with a view to obtaining electro-type reproductions of it, and for trials in electro-typing, lithography, and surface-printing." From this account, the total of which was 36 ducats 90 grana, we gather that Aloysio, requested to be reimbursed 20 ducats (included in the total) paid to a certain Signor Haydrie "for having discovered the easiest method of reproduction by electro-typing." We note also the following items:—

"To the lithographic printer for proofs	D. 1.20
To the surface-printer for proofs printed from the die	" 1.20
Other proofs printed from small electro-type plates, made by the said Aloysio in company with Signor Haydrie	" 1.60"

And also a charge of 70 grana for the carriage of a lithographic press.

The lithographic proofs were probably intended for the labels previously mentioned, prepared by Carlo La Barbera, in the centre of one of which the small photograph of the king had been inserted. But of other proofs not a trace has come down to us, and we are inclined to suppose that they were carefully destroyed.

In the meantime a Royal Decree was published, which ordered the introduction of the use of adhesive postage stamps in Sicily, commencing from the 1st January, 1859. We reproduce this:—

"ISCHIA, 5th July, 1858.

"FERDINAND II.
"BY THE GRACE OF GOD,
"KING OF THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES,
"JERUSALEM, &c.,
"DUKE OF PARMA, PIACENZA, CASTRO, &c.,
"GRAND HEREDITARY PRINCE OF TUSCANY, &c., &c., &c.

"With reference to Articles 11 to 14 of the Royal Decree of the 9th July, 1857, which run as follows.*

* * * * *

"With reference also to Article 15 of the same Royal Decree, by which it was ordained that the system hitherto in force for the conveyance of correspondence between the two parts of the Royal Dominions, should be continued, as a temporary measure, until such time as the use of postage stamps should be adopted in Sicily.

"On the proposition of Our Ministers, Secretaries of State for Sicilian Affairs and the Treasury;

"And on the advice of Our Common Council of State;

"We have resolved to decree and do decree, as follows:—

"Art. 1. From and after the 1st January, 1859, the use of postage stamps being introduced in Sicily, the present provisional system shall cease, and the arrangements contained in Articles 11, 12, 13, 14 of the Royal Decree alluded to above shall be extended both to correspondence by post in the interior of Sicily and to that between the two parts of the Royal Dominions.

"Art. 2. The franking of the letters shall be done by means of the postage stamps supplied in each of the two parts of the Kingdom. The charge for letters not prepaid shall always be for the profit of the Treasury of the place at which the letters are received.

"Art. 3. Our Ministers, the Secretaries of State for the Affairs of Sicily and for the Treasury, shall formulate and submit for the approval of the Sovereign suitable regulations for the prevention of fraud and contravention of the law in the postal service between the two parts of the Royal Dominions.

* This Decree is given on page 17, and we do not repeat the Articles here.

"Art. 4. Our Ministers, the Secretaries of State for the Affairs of Sicily and for the Treasury, and the Viceroy of that part of Our Royal Dominions are charged with the execution of the present Decree.

(Signed) "GIOVANNI CASSISI,
"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.
(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
"President of the Council of Ministers.

"Certified Copy.

(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
"President of the Council of Ministers."

The application to the insular portion of the Kingdom of the postal tariff in force in the continental provinces had already been approved. The Decree for the issue of the Postage Stamps, and the Regulations for their use, still remained to be formulated, in accordance with the Decree quoted above. The following letter deals with these questions :—

"MINISTRY AND ROYAL DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE AFFAIRS OF SICILY.

"NAPLES, 9th July, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—At the Common Council of State on the 5th of this month H. M. the King deigned to appoint for the correspondence between the two parts of the Kingdom, and for that in the interior of Sicily, the postal tariff approved by H. M., by the Royal Decree of the 9th July, 1857, for the correspondence in this part of the Royal Dominions, and as soon as the sacred signature of H. M. shall have been affixed to the Royal Decree for carrying this into effect I shall have the honour to communicate it to Y. E.

"And, as you will read, the new tariff will fix the rate for letters from the 1st January, 1859, and the Decree also appoints that date for the introduction into Sicily of the use of postage stamps.

"With the Royal Rescript of the 4th March last, No. 661, I had the honour to communicate to you the Decisions of the Sovereign which settled the design and the colours of the postage stamps for Sicily, and Y. E. with your usual promptitude has since been occupied in putting into execution the plans approved by the Sovereign.

"It now seems to me to be time to draught the proposed Decree and Regulations for bringing into force the system of postage stamps in Sicily from the 1st January, 1859, as nothing is now wanting to enable us to submit to H. M. the King a complete scheme.

"I have therefore to make this request of Y. E., and would beg of you to be so very kind as to favour me with any fresh suggestions that you may wish to make, modifying as seems to you best those which you were so good as to send me in your esteemed letter of the 14th November, 1857, marked with the No. 4921.

"And here I beg to draw the attention of Y. E. to the manner in which the division of the receipts for the letters which, after passing through the continental Dominions, are conveyed to Sicily, or which are despatched from Sicily to foreign countries, is to be adjusted with the Treasury of this part of the Royal Dominions, and to the steps to be taken to avoid the loss to the Royal Revenue of this part of the Kingdom which might result from the inexact application of the provisions of the postal convention with France, on which subject I wrote to Y. E. in my official letter of the 1st June last, No. 2052.

(Signed) "G. CASSISI,
"Minister and Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily."

On their return to Palermo, La Barbera and Francesco Lao,* the printer, commenced their work. On the 24th of August La Barbera "had already provided all the articles required of him by his contract, with the exception of one press and one other article."

The Postmaster-General, at the request of the Director of the Finance Department of the Viceroy, had not failed to put pressure upon La Barbera in order to induce him to submit proofs of the postage stamps as early as

* The two were paid, on the 30th July, 1858, a sum of 72 ducats "for having examined and elaborated the method for the manufacture of the postage stamps."

possible. The letter which we reproduce here contains a promise from La Barbera to present the proofs within a few days. It is interesting to hear from La Barbera himself the account of his repeatedly unsuccessful attempts.

“GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE POSTS IN SICILY.

“No. 1976. Subject :—The Manufacture of the Postage Stamps.

“PALERMO, 30th August, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Signor La Barbera, the contractor for the manufacture of the postage stamps, being pressed for information as to the results of his trials, has responded as follows, in a letter of the 27th of this month :—

“In reply to Y. E.’s esteemed official letter of the 24th inst., No. 1928, I have the honour to inform you that, after indescribable labour and no small expense, I am at last in a position to be able to submit to Y. E., within a few days from this, the proofs which I have now fortunately succeeded in producing.

“I beg, however, that Y. E. will not forget that if my work was not at first successful, it was not my fault. The method which I had studied in Paris, and of which I was to make use under the contract entered into, was an entirely different one ; with a view, however, to complying with the orders of the Royal Government I prepared to employ this method, and desiring to follow the advice of Signor Aloisio I made matrices of pure lead for the reproduction of the die ; these however when immersed in the bath did not produce the results that I desired, as Y. E. has been able to perceive. I was then obliged to destroy all that I had done, and to make use of other chemical materials. At last, thank God ! after continuous labour, I am ready to furnish, within a few days from now, proof impressions, which I venture to hope will turn out to your complete satisfaction.

“I will then forward to Y. E. an account of all the articles and materials that I have been obliged to purchase and which have to be purchased, for carrying out this new method, suggesting also other improvements to be introduced, with a view to the successful production of the whole number of plates that are required.’

“I have the honour to inform Y. E. of this, in continuation of my respectful report of the 24th instant, No. 1928.

(Signed) “MARCHESE S. GIACINTO.

“Postmaster-General.

“To H. E. Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of Sicily, Palermo.”

The articles which had previously been provided by La Barbera were to serve, as we know, for the manufacture of the postage stamps by typography. As the printing had to be done by the copper-plate process, it was necessary to purchase various other apparatus. We abstain from reproducing the full list of the further equipment that was obtained, and content ourselves with noting a few of the items :

“A coining press, for striking impressions from the die.

“Fourteen smooth plates of hammered copper, upon which to solder the postage stamps (*sic*) reproduced by the electro-type process.

“Two pads of leather for engraving upon.

“Two little furnaces, with gratings over them, for heating the plates for the printing.”

At the same date (10th September) La Barbera wrote to the Postmaster-General :—

“Having spent fully 32 days in carrying out the new and most difficult process of copper-plate printing from electro-type reproductions, with indefatigable labour, requiring the assistance of other persons for the mechanical execution of the work, with great expense for the setting up of the striking press, and the copper-plate printing press, for the purchase of sulphate of copper, zinc, sulphuric acid, ammoniac, &c., for the first, second, third and fourth experiments that were made, I leave it to the generosity of the Royal Government to be so kind as to grant me equivalent compensation.”

The first proofs printed by La Barbera were submitted personally by the Postmaster-General to the Director of the Treasury in Sicily on the 3rd September. The Postmaster-General’s opinion on these first proofs was

favourable. We shall see, however, that this opinion was not shared by the other authorities.

The question of the paper to be employed still remained undecided, and in fact, although it was now only two months and twenty-one days to the date fixed for the issue of the postage stamps, this matter was left unsettled some time longer:—

“GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTS IN SICILY.

“No. 2044.

“PALERMO, 9th September, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In my respectful letter of the 30th August last, No. 1976, I informed Y. E. of the report made by Sig. La Barbera, the contractor for the manufacture of the postage stamps, in reference to submitting the results of the work that he had carried out, and on Friday last I proceeded in person to the Royal Ministry and conveyed there the first proof impressions, which fortunately were successful both as regards the colours and the engraving, and which I flatter myself have been received with satisfaction by Y. E.

“The work is progressing, and I hope that it will be satisfactorily and definitely completed.

“With this view it is my duty to point out to Y. E. that, under Art. 4 of the contract made with Sig. La Barbera, the paper required for all the printing of the postage stamps is to be supplied by the Royal Government.

“For the fulfilment of the orders of H. M., in reference to the carrying into effect of this new service on the 1st January, 1859, this General Administration will be obliged to furnish not only the post offices but also all the Communes of the Island with postage stamps of each kind, in order that everyone may be able to take advantage of the establishment of this new and most useful service. It is necessary, however, in order that the impressions may reach these places at the appointed time, to set to work printing the postage stamps of all the colours at the end of October or quite the beginning of November, so that in December they may be distributed on all the lines and throughout the Communes, according to the regulations, which I venture most respectfully to request may be done. I have thus to request that Y. E. would be so good as to issue suitable orders, that Sig. La Barbera, the contractor, may be provided with the paper required for the commencement of the printing in question.

“And since the contractor mentioned above has repeatedly insisted upon it being done, I venture to reiterate the request contained in my report, No. 1928, of the 24th August last, that Y. E. would be so good as to confirm the contract entered into with the said La Barbera.

“I am confident that the first proofs just submitted, which have turned out so successful, and with which Y. E. will certainly be satisfied, are due to the uninterrupted exertions of myself and of the chief secretary, who, in order to gain our object, have spared neither time, care, nor supervision to produce a good result, and we shall both of us continue our exertions until the completion of the work, which we trust will be to the satisfaction of H. M. and also of Y. E.

(Signed) “MARCHESE S. GIACINTO,
“Postmaster-General.

“To H. E. the Viceroy of Sicily.”

The Viceroy in his turn forwarded a little sheet of twenty-five proofs received from La Barbera to the Minister for Sicily at Naples. The latter at once recognised that the work required improvement. From the letter which we reproduce below, we learn for the first time that it was proposed to print the postage stamps in sheets of a hundred. This, however, was not yet definitely decided upon, as it was not certain that La Barbera would be able to construct plates of that size, and it was not known whether these would fit the special paper selected, to the providing of which attention was again urgently requested.

In regard to the question of the special obliteration mark for the postage stamps, although it had previously been decided to adopt the form that had been approved by the King, that question still came up for consideration. It was pointed out that the use of such a cancellation mark would present certain difficulties, and it was sought to have the decision on the subject reconsidered.

THE STAMPS OF SICILY

"ROYAL MINISTRY.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 15th September, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—While steps are being taken to improve the plates produced by the galvano-plastic system from the die engraved by Signor Aloisio for the postage stamps for Sicily, and while it is being attempted to enlarge them to such an extent that they may contain at least as many as a hundred, I think it is not unnecessary to draw Y. E.'s attention to other matters of interest in relation to the same service.

"I have already had the honour to speak to you upon these points on another occasion, for instance, in regard to the paper which is to be used for printing these stamps, and it was decided that it would be preferable to employ that which is used by the Post Office of Naples, and that Y. E. would be able to provide this for Sicily after the dimensions had been fixed.

"The experiments that have hitherto been carried out, have resulted in the production of plates for 25 stamps, of the size that Y. E. may be pleased to ascertain from the sheet enclosed herewith; I should suppose that the paper to be obtained ought to be of the dimensions of the sheet that I also send, which is four times that of the plate produced for 25 stamps, besides the blank margin necessary to facilitate the printing.

"With this paper we should be able to carry out the printing of a hundred stamps at once, if it is found possible to produce a plate of that size, and it would also serve, when cut up, for printing from the plates of 25 stamps already produced.

"Y. E. therefore, unless you are of a different opinion, can now be so good as to take the necessary steps for purchasing, on account of Sicily, as soon as it can possibly be obtained, the quantity that may be thought suitable, which in my opinion should not be less than ten thousand sheets = 1,000,000 stamps. And I limit myself for the present to this quantity, as I have not abandoned the idea of purchasing abroad other paper more suited for the purpose for which it is required, to which intent I should be most grateful if Y. E. would undertake to make similar enquiries, both as to the quantity and the price of the foreign paper.

"Lastly, I am obliged to lay before you the observations that have been made by the General Administration of Posts on the subject of the obliterating stamp.

"This stamp, although its use is facilitated by the special form of the handle that is fitted to it, still requires great care in its application, and will involve great loss of time, not only on that account, but because it requires to be applied to every stamp that may be affixed to each letter.

"Looking at the cancellation stamps that are employed in foreign countries, I should suppose that it would be preferable to adopt the system of applying to the stamps upon each letter a mark bearing the date of despatch, which in any case should not be omitted. And since this stamp would answer the purpose, it might be formed in such a way as to give an impression in a horizontal line across all the postage stamps that might be likely to be found upon any letter.

"I beg, however, that Y. E. would be so kind as to tell me, with your usual courtesy, whether you think it fitting that the use of this method of cancellation should be permitted instead of the stamp appointed for that purpose, which has been ordered, and awaiting your esteemed replies to all the points mentioned above,

"To H. E. the Minister for Sicily, Naples."

"I remain, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

It was very natural that the Minister for Sicily, who had seen the perfect impressions obtained at Naples by Aloisio direct from the original die, should not have been satisfied with the defective proofs produced by La Barbera at Palermo. It is most interesting to see how the defects came to be noticed by the Minister. Although there is no documentary evidence that such was the case, it seems not improbable that these proofs were shown to Aloisio himself. At all events, we see by this that the Minister was impressed with the importance of assuring perfect execution.

Here we find mention for the first time of the name of another artist, Antonino Pampillonia, about whom we shall hear a good deal more. His method was recommended as one that would have resulted in a better system for the production of the postage stamps, removing the difficulties which had been encountered by the other artists at Palermo.

In regard to the perennial question of the paper, the Minister left that still undecided.

"ROYAL MINISTRY
"FOR THE AFFAIRS OF SICILY.

"NAPLES, 17th September, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Your most esteemed confidential letter of the 15th inst. reached me by yesterday's post.

"In forwarding me a proof impression of postage stamps, printed from a plate of twenty-five stamps, Y. E. has urged me to arrange the purchase of the paper, and has been pleased to communicate with me upon the subject of the cancellation stamp, which you would wish to be changed for one indicating the date of despatch.

"I cannot but acquiesce in the urgency of Y. E.'s demands, for since the new system should commence from the first of next January, these matters must be decided and prepared in advance.

"From the information that Y. E. has been so good as to give me in the letter referred to, I gather that the experiments made down to the present time have resulted in proof impressions of sheets of twenty-five stamps only, and that it was hoped that further trials would enable a plate of a hundred stamps to be produced.

"I have reflected upon the fact that, after experiments made during a period of some two months, it has only been possible at present to produce a plate of twenty-five stamps, and if I am to judge from the proof sent to me, I am forced to confess that we certainly cannot congratulate ourselves upon the results obtained from these experiments. I have examined one by one the stamps contained in the proof referred to, and I have had to note with regret that not one of them exhibits the clearness that is to be desired, all of them being either more or less indistinct in one part or another, or damaged in such a way as to alter the sacred effigy of H. M. by lines which in no way correspond with those of the original engraving.

"I fully agree that, as this system is to be introduced on the 1st January, it is necessary for me to consider the paper and also the cancellation mark, but it appears to me to be still more necessary that before anything else the accuracy of the reproductions to be made from the original die must be assured.

"It appears to me therefore, and Y. E.'s sagacity will lead you to agree with me in this, that the experiments made up to the present, in the method of reproducing the dies, have not produced the result that was previously expected.

"After trials lasting for about three months, all that we have obtained is a plate of no more than 25 stamps, which are altogether wanting in clearness, for I do not doubt that the impressions sent to me were the best that could be obtained, and it is greatly to be feared that these plates will not be able to resist the wear and the heavy pressure which they must undergo in the press; I therefore feel it my duty to impress upon Y. E. my earnest request that we may not be put to the grave inconvenience, either of not being able to commence the new system on the 1st of January, or, worse still, of being obliged after it has commenced to interrupt it, to the great discredit of the Royal Government.

"I leave it entirely to the knowledge and the wise discretion of Y. E. to decide whether for the printing of the postage stamps it will be best to follow the method which is still in the experimental stage, or to adopt another method that is more certain, easier, and less costly. And in considering this second plan, I may inform you that it was suggested to me by Signor Pampillonia, who is entrusted with the preparation of the stamped paper, that he, having the use of the machines employed for the stamped paper, or by means of other more simple machinery to be obtained in France, would be ready to establish an office for printing the postage stamps from the original die engraved by Chevalier Aloisio, by more simple methods and at moderate cost.

"If what Signor Pampillonia has told me is true, and if Y. E. should decide to abandon the method still on trial, it would be of the greatest importance that the matter should be settled at the earliest possible date, so that it may be arranged in time for the new method to be carried out by the 1st of next January, more especially if it should be necessary for Signor Pampillonia to proceed to France.

"I do not doubt that Y. E., after carefully considering what I have had the honour of laying before you, will be pleased to communicate to me as soon as possible your most esteemed replies, so that it may be possible to consider in good time not only the question of the paper, but also what is to be done in the matter of the suggested form for the cancelling stamp.

"To H. E. the Prince Castelcicala,
Viceroy of H. M. in Sicily, Palermo."

"I have, &c., &c.,
(Signed) "GIOVANNI CASSISI.

The criticisms passed by Minister Cassisi upon the poor success of the proofs were shared by the Viceroy, who in the letter which we reproduce below gives us further details as to the various attempts made by La Barbera, and we learn that the latter had hitherto confined his efforts to the construction of small plates of twenty-five stamps.

It was recognised that there was not now sufficient time to provide for a new system of reproduction, and it was therefore determined that the system already adopted should be improved, as far as possible, so as to assure the production of a sufficient supply of postage stamps by the date fixed for their issue.

At the same time it was decided to employ Pampillonia to study the question at Paris, and the method of printing by typography, which was also suggested by La Barbera, was evidently agreed to. Pampillonia declared that he could obtain from the *taille-douce* engraving of Aloisio reproductions for printing by typography. We shall see later whether he was able to fulfil this promise or not.

“ROYAL MINISTRY.

“DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

“PALERMO, 19th September, 1858.

“YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I certainly cannot deny that the results obtained hitherto by the work of La Barbera upon the postage stamps for Sicily by the galvano-plastic method have not been very successful, in spite of the long time that has been occupied, and the expense and very great labour that they have involved. Time, expense, and labour which have been increased by the inexperience of the person who undertook the execution of a method of which he was entirely ignorant both in principle and in practice, and who lacked both means, instruments, and knowledge, which he has had to acquire by great exertion, through the making of innumerable experiments, and by seeking in indirect ways assistance from anyone who was known to have some knowledge of these matters.*

“But I can assure you that I did not intend when transmitting to Y. E. the impression of the 25 stamps in my last letter of the 15th inst. to submit a proof of the best work of La Barbera in this matter, or of the only work that he has completed.

“That impression was only intended to show the dimensions necessary for the paper, as it is desired to print a hundred of such stamps in one sheet, but by no means all that can be expected from improvements made by further study and experiment.

“Such being the case, it is not, I think, to be expected that the stamps of which we are speaking should correspond exactly with the samples submitted to Y. E. and to His Majesty, or that they should be approximately equal to these latter.

“I have to inform Y. E. that the first impressions in lead were not at all satisfactory, because the lead easily oxidized and did not adhere to the copper; there was then employed a composition of lead, antimony, and tin, and by means of a coining press impressions were taken of the Effigy of the King on little pieces of this material of the size of the original engraving of Signor Aloisio, and afterwards soldered together so as to form larger rectangular plates of 25 stamps each; these having been placed in the bath with the necessary galvano-plastic apparatus have already produced several plates of copper to serve for the printing of the postage stamps.

“These plates of 25 stamps each, which have been found to be more easily produced by this process than the larger plates of 50 or 100 in one piece, have to be joined together in sets of four by soldering them upon a single piece of copper, so as to form a single plate of 100 stamps for each value, and therefore 28 of these plates of 25 stamps will be required to produce seven plates of 100 each for the seven different values.

“And as five plates of 25 stamps are finished, and 15 more will be ready in the course of three or four days, there remain eight other similar plates to be made, which will require some fifteen days at most, according to La Barbera.

“This process is therefore lengthy, difficult, and expensive; it requires to be frequently renewed, because these plates cannot last a very long time; there is the danger also that the original die might easily be damaged, so that it would no longer produce satisfactory results, especially in going to work mechanically without the required theoretical, scientific knowledge, the want of which also renders doubtful the exact reproduction of the plates, the accuracy of which is further liable to be affected by the influence which changes in the atmosphere have upon the materials. But nevertheless, since no other easier, more perfect, and more certain method can be made use of in the short space of time that remains, for the postage stamps to be printed and distributed throughout Sicily by the first of next January, I do not doubt that with diligent work and much expense those that are to be supplied by La Barbera can be ready in time.

* Allusion is made here to a certain Giuseppe Perez, employed in the Department of Justice at Palermo, who was believed to be experienced in reproduction by calcography. He had obtained permission from the Viceroy to assist La Barbera and Lao in their work.

"But as this system will have to be abandoned shortly, I share the opinion of Y. E. that this work should be carried out in future by a different process, which may unite to facility of execution, accuracy, and economy. And this Signor Pampillonia has already assured me can be successfully accomplished, by reproducing exactly in relief the flat engraving of Chev. Aloisio, and preparing for it such a machine as to produce a careful and accurate impression of the postage stamps in colour. But the new engraving and the machine alluded to will have to be made in France, and under the supervision and with the assistance of Pampillonia. Two months at least will be required, according to him, to complete this; it would therefore be absolutely necessary for him to proceed at once to Paris, and he should return to Palermo not later than the last day of November. I have, not without very great difficulty, induced him to accept this charge, in spite of the numerous duties to which he says that he has to attend at present, and serious personal interests which may be injuriously affected by his absence from Palermo; but he goes first to Naples and will present himself to Y. E., in order to explain to you in person his ideas upon this important business, and he will then be guided by the arrangements which in your opinion should be adopted.

"To H. E. the Minister for Sicily, Naples."

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

The Minister for Sicily replied to the letter given above, approving its contents, and waiting for "information as to the results of the steps taken for procuring the paper, with a view to obtaining that best adapted to the use for which it is intended."

A few days later, the Viceroy informed the Minister for Sicily that La Barbera had "already" succeeded in producing a plate of 100 reproductions. The Minister this time was of opinion that the work was greatly improved. But nevertheless he thought fit to send La Barbera to Naples (this was the third time) despatching there once more the original die in a small box. Renewed requests were also made for the supplying of the paper!

"ROYAL MINISTRY.

"DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 22nd September, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Signor La Barbera has already succeeded in reproducing by the galvano-plastic method a plate of 100 postage stamps in one piece of copper, and I do myself the honour of forwarding it* to Y. E., that you may be able to see with your own eyes and be convinced of the degree of perfection to which this work has attained. And since Signor La Barbera has expressed a wish to proceed to Naples for the purpose of more fully informing Y. E. of all that has been done up to the present time, I have thought it well to agree to this, being persuaded that it will not prove disagreeable to Y. E. to hear from him in person of the difficulties which he has had to overcome in order to bring the experiments that have been made to a successful result. Wishing also to enable Y. E., if you should be pleased to do so, to carry out further experiments there, under the direction of persons better acquainted with these matters, I have thought it well to forward to you this day the original engraving of Signor Aloisio, without which the work can be continued by the assistants of Signor La Barbera during the few days that it may have to be kept there.

"I do not on this account give up the idea of proceeding with the change of system, in the manner pointed out to Y. E. in my letter of the 15th inst. If all other reasons were absent, there would still remain the following—that the expense of the method now adopted is enormous, and that there is great waste of time and to very little purpose, when we consider both the short period that the plates will last, and the uncertainty of maintaining the perfection of the impression that has now been reached; so much so that, although it is now certain that we can obtain by the method adopted the stamps required for the franking of letters by January next, it is nevertheless undesirable, as I showed in my previous letter, that this method should be continued, both for reasons of economy and on account of the imperfection of the work.

"I cannot too strongly urge Y. E. to be so good as to provide the Postal Administration here with the paper required for the stamps that must be printed, of which I spoke in my letter of the 15th inst., so that it may be possible now to prepare a sufficient quantity

* This, no doubt, meant an impression from the plate; but the plate itself was also taken to Naples by La Barbera and Lao, who made some trial impressions there, as we learn from the Minister's letter of September 27th, which we reproduce below.

of these stamps to insure in any case the inauguration of the new system for franking letters at the time ordered by the Sovereign. I also ask this at the earnest request of the General Administration of Posts, in order that we may be able to make use at the same time both of La Barbera himself and of the persons who assist him in the galvano-plastic operations as well as in the printing of the stamps. Finally, I must not omit to beg that Y. E. will favour me with your opinion in reference to the expedition to Paris of Signor Pampillonia, who holds himself in readiness to start on the order of Y. E.

"Awaiting this favour and your esteemed replies, with the return of the plate which I am sending you—

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
 "To H. E. the Minister for Sicily Naples." (Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

But, notwithstanding the presence of La Barbera in Naples, the Minister for Sicily did not consider it convenient to allow other trials to be made there, and he replied (on the 23rd September) that the preparing of other specimens at Naples "would have given publicity to things which should be kept strictly private." The little box containing the original die was therefore once more sent back to Palermo.

From this date the postage stamps of the Aloysio type were called "provisionals," and the scheme was pressed forward of obtaining others produced by typography, adopting the proposal to entrust this business to Pampillonia. It may be noted that, whilst the Minister Cassisi was so cautious as to oppose the attempting of fresh experiments at Naples with the original die, the Viceroy was rash enough to propose to hand over to Pampillonia, to be used at Paris, nothing less than a matrix impressed from that very die, a proposition which was not, however, carried out.

"ROYAL MINISTRY,
 "DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, 25th September, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I trust that by this time Y. E. has received the plate of a hundred postage stamps, produced by Signor La Barbera by the galvano-plastic method, which, having reached me when the steamer was about to leave, was sent to Y. E. separately from my last letter.

"The work is being carried on here with all care and diligence, and I have more and more reason to believe that there will be no lack of the stamps in question to enable the new service to be carried into effect with them, as a provisional matter, commencing from the first of January next.

"We are awaiting indeed with great impatience the paper which Y. E. may be pleased to send, as you have been so good as to promise, to enable us to proceed immediately to the printing of the stamps.

"As Y. E. approves, Signor Pampillonia will leave for Naples next Wednesday, and will thence proceed to Paris, after receiving your instructions and orders, with a view to providing for this service of postage stamps in Sicily at less cost and in a better and more certain manner. He has stated that he will not require the original engraving of Signor Aloysio, in order to execute his commission in France; it will be sufficient for him to have the photographic copy of the Sacred Effigy of our Sovereign Lord the King, the design for the postage stamps, and the colours that were approved by H. M., and which reached me with the Royal Rescript of the 4th of March of this year.

"If Y. E. should also in your wisdom think fit to hand over to Pampillonia at the same time the proofs of the stamps in colours which were printed there [in Naples] from the engraving of Aloysio, which you forwarded to me with your most esteemed confidential letter of the 29th May, you will be able to do it there, because I returned these proofs to you with my private letter of the 18th June, and Y. E. should have them by you still, as I have not received them since.

"I will take care that Signor Pampillonia himself shall be provided with one of the matrix dies that have been produced from the steel engraving of Signor Aloysio, in the composition of lead, antimony, etc., which are prepared by La Barbera and which correspond exactly with the original die, as Y. E. will also be able to see.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
 "To H. E. the Minister for Sicily, Naples." (Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

The Minister returned the following reply :—

“ ROYAL MINISTRY
“ FOR THE AFFAIRS OF SICILY.

“ NAPLES, 27th September, 1858.

“ YOUR EXCELLENCY,—La Barbera and Lao, who have come to Naples under the instructions of Y. E., have shown to me the plate of one hundred postage stamps prepared by them by the galvano-plastic process from the engraving of Signor Aloisio. And in order to give proof of the accuracy of their work, they have themselves executed here in Naples, without the aid of the machines and materials required for the task, the printing of a sheet of stamps, to which they have added the accompanying petition.

“ In this they have declared that they are ready to supply, in consignments delivered every fortnight, commencing from the first fortnight of next October and ending on the 31st December, all such stamps as may be required by the Director-General of Posts for putting in execution the new system of postage stamps on the 1st January of the coming year, undertaking to make similar deliveries, in the same manner, during the whole duration of their contract.

“ I have the honour to forward to Y. E., together with their petition, the proof from the plate printed by them here in Naples. And since, from the experiments previously made, little reliance was placed in the security of their method, and it had been decided, in agreement with Y. E., to send to Paris D. Antonio Pampillonia, I think I cannot do better than leave it entirely to the high intelligence of Y. E. to consider whether, after the fresh proof that has been submitted by the said La Barbera and Lao, and the undertaking which they have entered into, it would be necessary to make any change from their system, and in consequence whether we should or should not send Pampillonia to Paris, or take other steps for the better carrying out of the work.

“ The matter seems to me to be in every way an urgent one, since it is as impossible to commence the use of new method by the 1st of next January, as it is of the greatest importance to insure the success of the method to be adopted for the manufacture of the postage stamps.

“ This is a question which can only be decided by Y. E. and you can, if you wish, call in in consultation the Director of the Department, and also if you think it necessary all the Directors in council, and further hear what Pampillonia himself has to say; and finally, if it should be considered necessary, you can obtain the opinion of men acquainted with the work, so as to proceed with all security in such a way as not to have to reproach yourself for any want of foresight.

“ Leaving it all to the wise councils of Y. E. and fully agreeing with you so far, I have only to await the honour of further communications from you that I may agree with whatever Y. E., with your sagacity and prudence, may arrange.

“ I have, &c., &c., &c.,

“ To H. E. Prince Castelcicala,
“ Viceroy in Sicily, Palermo.”

(Signed) “ GIOVANNI CASSISI.

The success of the new proofs, considered satisfactory, and the assurance that a sufficient quantity of postage stamps would be received in time for their distribution to the post offices, had dispelled the anxieties of the Viceroy and of the General Administration of Posts in Sicily. The Viceroy, in view of this, was undecided whether to confirm the appointment which it was proposed to entrust to Pampillonia, an appointment which, although it would appear to have been decided upon, had not yet received any official sanction. The Viceroy resolved to leave the matter to be decided by the Council of the Directors of the Departments of State. This Council, at its meeting on the 30th September, “decided, by a unanimous vote, to send Pampillonia to Paris, to purchase there a machine which, at less expense and with greater facility and accuracy than by the present galvano-plastic method, might insure more permanently the printing of the postage stamps of Sicily.”

The Viceroy communicated this decision to the Minister Cassisi on the 2nd October, informing him that Pampillonia would stay at Naples to receive his further instructions. From this letter, to which was added a Report

upon the method hitherto pursued in the manufacture of the Sicilian postage stamps, we need only extract the following paragraph :—

“ . . . the thin laminæ of copper that are obtained by this process last so short a time and the details and outlines of the engraving reproduced upon them are so liable to be defective, that not more than five hundred impressions can be obtained from each of them, and in consequence the galvanic baths have to be constantly at work.”*

In the meantime the paper had been supplied at Naples under the directions of the Minister, and he had announced that ten † reams had been delivered to Signor Lao, who started the same day for Palermo. In reference to this subject the Minister added :—

“ This paper, which I have had to purchase myself, bears no conventional mark [water-mark], but other provision shall be made when the time comes for having the paper made that is to serve permanently for the postage stamps.”

The paper in question was in fact ordinary, white machine-made paper.

On the 3rd October Pampillonia arrived at Naples on his way to Paris. The Minister Cassisi confined himself to delivering to him, on the 5th, a set of seven proofs of the different values and colours, printed from the original die, proofs which, as we learn from a letter of the 4th October, had been impressed with the Seal of the Ministry and Department of State for the Affairs of Sicily, as a control mark. Pampillonia gave a formal receipt for these proofs.

And now we find once more brought forward the question of the design of the cancellation marks, which after having once been decided (see page 26) was yet not finally settled. The Viceroy, on the recommendation no doubt of the Director-General of Posts in Sicily, insisted upon the adoption of another form of obliteration. Although, as is well known, this proposal was not carried out, it was nevertheless so near being adopted that we think worth while to reproduce in full, as a curiosity, the letter in which this is dealt with.

“ ROYAL MINISTRY.

“ DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

“ PALERMO, 3rd October, 1858.

“ YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I have not yet been able to order the engraving of the cancelling stamps, in accordance with the model with which Y. E. favoured me in your confidential letter of the 29th May of this year, which are required for all the post offices in Sicily, because, as I had the honour of informing you on the 15th of September last, I considered that it would be preferable to employ the stamp with the date of despatch of the letters as a cancellation mark upon the postage stamps.

“ By this method the necessary formalities would be fulfilled by means of a single stamp, and where more than one postage stamp was affixed to the same letter, a thing that very frequently happens, they would all be cancelled together, without need of repeating the mark as many times as there were stamps upon the letters; the advantage that would be gained by thus accelerating the performance of these innumerable operations at the moment of the departure of the mails must be evident to all. Neither would there be in this any danger of displaying irreverence towards the Sacred Effigy of our Sovereign Lord the King, because it would simply be a matter of affixing a date.

“ Y. E. was so kind as to inform me, in your most esteemed letter of 17th of the same month of September, that you would have the goodness to consider this matter, so soon as you were assured of the exactitude of the dies that were to be obtained from the original engraving.

“ And since this part of the work is now sufficiently advanced, both in the matter of a provisional issue and of a permanent one, as Y. E. is well aware, and the time is now

* This Report was drawn up by Signor Perez, who had assisted La Barbera and Lao (see note on page 42).

† Later documents speak of *twenty* reams.

approaching for the introduction of the new postal system into this part of the Kingdom, I venture to request of your courtesy that you would decide what mark will be most suitable to be adopted for the cancellation of the postage stamps, so that the engraving of it may immediately be ordered and that all the Post Offices may be furnished with it in good time.

"With this object in view I think it useful to forward to you herewith an example of the cancellation in the form proposed,* and I would add that, if Y. E. should think fit in your wisdom to adopt it, it would be well that it should be expressly ordered by H. M., both in order that this practice may be generally understood, and also because it would form a modification of the postal law, by which the date of despatch is to be impressed upon the back of the letter, not upon the side of the direction or superscription.

"I am persuaded that Y. E. will be on the point of obtaining the orders of H. M. as to the Decree and Regulations for this service, for which I submitted through Y. E. the corresponding proposals in my report of the 28th August last, and I therefore refrain from troubling you further in this matter, and with feelings of the highest regard

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,

"To H. E. the Minister for Sicily, Naples."

(Signed)

"CASTELCICALA.

Finally, from a letter of the 16th October from the Minister Cassisi, we learn that the question of the form of the cancellation stamp had been again submitted to the King at Gaeta, at the Council of State in that month, and that they "had not thought fit to alter the decision arrived at in regard to the method of cancellation of the postage stamps, which had been already approved by H. M. in the Royal Rescript of the 4th of last March." We are thus enabled to prove, as absolutely a matter of fact, that the adoption of so peculiar a form of obliteration was in accordance with the express and deliberate desire of the Sovereign himself.

On the return of La Barbera and Lao from Naples, nothing further was wanting to enable the printing of the postage stamps to be proceeded with. Lao requested authority to commence the printing, and it is of interest to note that the first question was what colour should be chosen for the 1 grano stamps, and what quantity was to be printed.

"GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTS IN SICILY.

"No. 2317.

"Subject: The Printing of the Postage Stamps. *Very Pressing.*

"PALERMO, 9th October, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—D. Francesco Lao, the typographer, having returned from Naples, together with the contractor for the manufacture of the postage stamps for this part of the Royal Dominions, has written to me as follows:—

"Twenty reams of the paper for the postage stamps having been delivered to me by H. E. the Minister, I forward it to you, informing you that as a further precaution I have left with the aforesaid Minister a similar sheet duly signed by me.

"Everything being now ready for commencing the printing, and desiring myself to set to work upon it, I beg that you will inform me of the quantity required, as well as the colour to be employed for the postage stamps of the value of One Grano."

"And in order that there may be no question as to the quality of the said paper, three sheets of it have been signed by me and by him, one to be kept in the Department, another to be taken by him, and the third to be submitted to Y. E., who will be so good as to find it here enclosed.

"I therefore beg that Y. E. will deign to permit the printing of the said stamps to be commenced, as we are already almost in the middle of the month of October, for the first quarter's supplies, so that all may be ready to carry into effect the Sovereign wishes of the King on the 1st January next.

"And I take this opportunity of repeating my request that Y. E. will be pleased to ask for the Regulations for the use of the said postage stamps.

(Signed)

"MARCHESE S. GIACINTO.

"To H. E. the Viceroy in Sicily.

"Postmaster-General.

"(Treasury Department.)"

* We have not seen this.

In accordance with this communication, the Director of the Treasury Department under the Viceroy transmitted to the Postmaster-General, on the 11th October, "the specimens or patterns of the different values, with indication of their respective colours, in order that the printing may be carried out."

The printing was commenced immediately, in the place appointed for it, and under the supervision prescribed.*

Although the date fixed for the issue of the stamps was drawing near, neither the Royal Decree nor the Regulations upon the subject had yet been published. It was not until the 2nd December that the Minister for Sicily forwarded this Decree to the Viceroy; and the Regulations were sent with another letter, of the 11th.

Both the Decree and the Regulations are here reproduced :—

"FERDINAND II.

"BY THE GRACE OF GOD,

"KING OF THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES,

"JERUSALEM, &c.,

"DUKE OF PARMA, PIACENZA, CASTRO, &c., &c., &c.,

"HEREDITARY GRAND PRINCE OF TUSCANY, &c., &c.

"Having considered the report of Our Viceroy in Sicily :—

"On the proposition of the Minister, Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily at Our Royal Court ;

"By advice of Our Common Council of State ;

"We have resolved to Decree, and we do Decree as follows :

"Art. 1. From and after the 1st January, 1859, the letters and packets that are despatched for the interior of the two parts of the Kingdom, and for abroad, shall be franked by affixing to them a postage stamp, representing the amount of the postal rate paid in advance.

"The use of the postage stamp [on letters] shall be optional.

"The franking by means of postage stamps shall be obligatory for the despatch both of newspapers and of printed matter of all kinds for the interior of the Kingdom and for abroad.

"Art. 2. The postage stamps shall consist of small rectangular pictures bearing Our Effigy, with the inscription 'Bollo della Posta di Sicilia' and the indication of the value.

"These stamps shall be of seven different kinds according to their various values, viz. one-half grano, one grano, two grana, five grana, ten grana, twenty grana, and fifty grana.

"Art. 3. The postage stamps shall be printed and sold for the account of the Government. There shall be a supply of them kept at the General Post Office, and at the post offices of the chief places of the provinces, as well as by the receivers of taxes and various dues, and in all the communes by those who may be authorised to sell them by the Royal Government.

"Art. 4. No one shall sell or distribute postage stamps, who does not belong to one of the classes mentioned in the above Article.

"Offenders against this prohibition shall be liable to a fine of twenty ducats, and the postage stamps found in their possession shall be confiscated for the benefit of the State.

"Art. 5. Shall be considered contraveners of the preceding Article, persons licensed for the sale of postage stamps who may sell them or cause them to be sold elsewhere than at their public offices.

"Art. 6. Whenever it shall be proved that at any of the shops or other depôts of sellers or distributors there is not on hand a supply of postage stamps, sufficient at least for the probable consumption of fifteen days, the agents thus offending shall be punished, according to the circumstances of the case, by a fine of six ducats for the first offence, and by the loss, in addition to the fine, of the authority to sell postage stamps in case of a second offence.

"Art. 7. In order that a stamp which has already been used may not be put to a fraudulent use a second time, the persons appointed for that purpose shall, at the time of the despatch of the letter or packet, impress upon the postage stamp a mark in black of the subjoined design approved by Us.

* We make use, in another part of this volume, of the verbal and documentary information which we have obtained, relative to the various printings of the postage stamps.

"Art. 8. All officials or other persons employed in the Department, or in the service of the Royal Posts, who remove postage stamps from the letters, for the purpose of selling them, or of otherwise making them the object of private speculation, will be considered guilty of fraud to the prejudice of the Royal Revenues, and will be punished according to the provisions of Article 213 of the penal laws.

"Art. 9. Whosoever shall have falsified or counterfeited the postage stamps, officials who, taking advantage of their official positions, shall have committed this offence in the very offices of the Royal Government, distributors of forged or counterfeited stamps, those who knowingly shall have made use of or dealt with them, private manufacturers of dies or of any other instrument or machine intended exclusively for the production of stamps, and those who, having knowledge of the manufacture of forged stamps, do not report the fact to the administrative and judicial authorities, shall be punished, according to the circumstances, under the provisions of Article 263 of the penal laws, relating to the offences of counterfeiting the copper coinage, and under those of Articles 265, 267, and 271 of the same laws.

"Art. 10. The value of the stamp or stamps to be affixed to a letter must correspond with the amount of the postal rate. If the value of the stamp or stamps affixed is less than the amount of the rate, the whole amount will be charged to the receiver of the letter.

"In cases, however, where the stamp affixed may not be less in value than half the rate, the postal official will note upon the address side the amount deficient, which, to complete the charge, shall be paid by the addressee on the receipt of the letter.

"Art. 11. The tariff, and the franking of letters, both in the interior of Sicily, either by the sea or the land route, and from one part of the Royal Dominions to the other, is regulated by the Royal Decree of the 5th July, 1858.

"Art. 12. Are also approved by Us the annexed regulations for the application and execution in Sicily of the use of postage stamps in all their details, in accordance with the principles authorised by Us in the present Decree.

"Art. 13. All the laws, decrees, and regulations relating to the Royal Posts and letter-carriers remain in full force, so far as they are not annulled by the provisions contained in the present decree.

"Art. 14. Our Minister, the Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily, and Our Viceroy in that part of Our Royal Dominions, are charged with the execution of the present decree.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.

(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
"President of the Council of Ministers.

(Signed) "GIOVANNI CASSISI,
"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily."

"REGULATIONS

"For the Introduction of the System of Postage Stamps in Sicily, which will take place from the 1st January, 1859.

"Chapter I.

"Prepayment of the charge by means of the affixing of Postage Stamps.

"Art. 1. The franking and the prepayment of the charge upon letters, newspapers, and printed matter, whether obligatory or optional, shall only be accomplished by the affixing of one or more postage stamps.

"Art. 2. The same postage stamp must be used exclusively for the payment, also in advance, of the charge for letters, newspapers, and printed matter, which private persons intend to despatch under the title *registered*, to be delivered, together with a receipt, by the post offices to those to whom they are addressed.

"Such letters, &c., must necessarily be handed in at the post offices by the persons sending them, who must obtain a ticket of receipt, to serve, where it may be necessary, to facilitate the recovery of *registered* letters or printed matter.

"Art. 3. For letters, newspapers, and printed matter that may be despatched under the title *registered* the rate shall be double that fixed by the Royal Decree of the 5th July, 1858.

"Art. 4. The affixing of the postage stamps upon the letters and the wrappers of printed matter should always be done by the senders themselves, the stamps should be placed on the address side, and, properly speaking, in a line above the latter, commencing at the left and continuing towards the right.

"Art. 5. The postage stamps of Sicily will all be printed upon vellum paper, but will vary in colour for each of the seven different kinds, in order that the values may be distinguished with the greater facility, under the provisions of the Sovereign Resolution of the 28th February, 1858.

"Chapter 2.

"The Examination of Prepaid Letters, the Cancellation of the Postage Stamps, and the Charge for Insufficient Prepayment.

"Art. 6. When the letter-boxes are cleared of the letters and printed matter, those franked by means of postage stamps will first be separated from those on which the postage is to be paid by the receivers.

"Art. 7. The letters on which postage is to be paid by the receivers will be charged in accordance with the rules prescribing the additional rates under the provisions of the Royal Decree of the 5th July, 1858.

"Printed matter and Newspapers not provided with the postage stamps representing the payment of the postal rates will be retained in the post offices, whether addressed to places in the interior of the Kingdom or abroad.

"Art. 8. The letters, newspapers, and printed matter franked by means of postage stamps previous to their despatch will be examined in Palermo by the Controllers of the General Despatch Office, and in the provinces by the respective agents, to ascertain whether the postage stamps affixed to each letter, packet, newspaper, or book, correspond with the rate.

"Art. 9. In the case of the letters for the interior of the Kingdom and for abroad, on which the prepayment of postage is not obligatory, if the value of the postage stamps affixed is not less than half the postal rate, the controller or agent shall write upon each letter, in red ink, *Taxed for insufficient prepayment*, and shall mark in the same ink the difference between the value of the stamps and the amount of the rate.

"Where the value of the postage stamp is less than half the rate, the whole of the letter, together with the additional rate, shall be charged to the receiver.

"Art. 10. The newspapers and printed matter, addressed either for the interior of the Kingdom or for abroad, on which the stamps affixed are of less value than the legal rate, shall be retained in the post offices; whether the difference is or is not less than half that rate, and there shall be no right to restitution of the value of the stamps affixed to these.

"Art. 11. Shall also be retained in the post offices all letters addressed to foreign states, on which the prepayment is obligatory, where the value of the stamps affixed is in any way less than the amount of the rate. The senders of these may, however, if they please, within a period of not more than six months, go to the office at which they had posted the letters, and supply the deficiency by means of the stamps required to complete the payment of the charge. In any case they cannot claim or obtain the restitution of the value of the stamps upon the letters retained in the offices.

"On the other hand, the post offices are obliged to despatch to the addressees of letters retained a note informing them of the fact.

"Art. 12. Newspapers, printed matter, and letters, held for want of sufficient postage, shall be marked with a stamp in black, bearing the date and the word 'GIACENTE' (*retained*).

"Art. 13. The examination of the stamps being completed, the officials attending to the despatch of the letters will impress upon the postage stamp the cancellation mark and must take care never to cover the indication of the value, which is inscribed at the foot of the stamp.

"Art. 14. The general office of arrival of mails in Palermo and all the provincial offices will examine whether the cancellation mark has been impressed upon the postage stamps affixed to the correspondence that reaches them from other offices, and whenever this has not been done, they will immediately cause it to be impressed, and at the same time will report the fact to the Postmaster-General; when the official in fault will be reprimanded by the Postmaster-General for neglect of duty, and in case of a subsequent offence he may be suspended from his functions for from fifteen to thirty days.

"Art. 15. The prepaid letters, newspapers, and printed matter for the interior of the Kingdom will always be despatched in a separate package, and must be accompanied by an invoice, in which will be shown the total number of items. And similarly the letters for abroad must be despatched in a separate package, with invoices showing the number, the place of destination, and the amount of the postage, of which the portion belonging to the Post Office Department will be kept distinct from that which must be accounted for to the credit of the foreign State.

"For registered letters, newspapers, or printed matter the same rule will be observed as that stated above, but the invoices must also show the names of the senders and the addressees, the place of destination and the rate paid upon each.

"Art. 16. Whenever any loose stamp is found in the packages of prepaid or registered letters, care shall be taken to affix it afresh to the letter to which it shall be found to belong, after examination of each letter, newspaper, or packet of printed matter, to ascertain whether the stamps affixed correspond with the legal rate.

"Art. 17. It is forbidden for any authority, functionary, or agent of the Royal Government to send in the packets on the Royal Service letters addressed to private and unofficial persons, or which may be unconnected with the duties entrusted to them.

"Art. 18. In pursuance of the preceding Article, when the heads of the post offices have any suspicion that letters upon unofficial matters or addressed to unofficial persons are to be found in the packets on the Royal Service, they shall personally present themselves with the packets in question before the authority, functionary, or agent, and request that the packets be opened in their presence, and if letters, newspapers, or printed matter unconnected with the service are found, they will withdraw them and charge postage upon them to be paid by the addressees. They will forward information of the case to the Postmaster-General, who will make a report to the Viceroy, in order that such further steps may be taken as the circumstances require.

"Art. 19. The charge by distance being abolished, letters consisting of *two sheets of paper* will be taxed by the office of despatch and entered in the invoices under the special heading *Double rate letter*.

"This must be understood as referring to those letters on which the senders have not prepaid the postage by affixing postage stamps, or to those taxed for insufficient prepayment.

"Art. 20. The arrangements regarding letters that cannot be distributed remain in force, the post offices forwarding them to the Head Post Office will transmit with them, in reference to the unprepaid letters, a tabular statement, in which they will indicate for each office of origin the total number of unpaid letters and the amount due upon them, and against these they will note, also office by office, the number of letters not distributed and the corresponding amount of postage, in order that a comparison of these figures may show the number of letters distributed and the amount of the postage collected, which will form part of the money to be accounted for by the cashier.

"Chapter 3.

"*The Manufacture, Storage, and Sale of the Postage Stamps.*

"Art. 21. The General Administration of Posts at Palermo is alone entrusted with the ordering of paper to be manufactured for the postage stamps of Sicily; and by means of the open receiving of tenders, to be held from time to time before the Council of Administration, it will proceed to make contracts for the furnishing of the said paper, in such quantity and at such time as shall be decided by the Viceroy on the proposition of the Postmaster-General.

"Art. 22. There shall be a Chief Storekeeper at the Head Office of the Department who will have a triple charge, the keeping of the blank paper, and the stamps when completed, and the despatch and distribution of the latter.

"He shall give security in public bonds to an amount to be fixed by the Viceroy.

"Art. 23. The blank paper furnished by the contractor shall be deposited with the Chief Storekeeper, an account being drawn up in quadruplicate, signed by the contractor, the Storekeeper, the Inspector, and one of the Heads of the Department. Of the four copies, one will be retained by the Storekeeper, another will be forwarded to the Viceroy as authority for the payment to be made to the contractor, a third will be passed to the Accountant to show the stock to be debited to the Chief Storekeeper, and the fourth will be preserved in the office of the Chief Secretary.

"Art. 24. At the beginning of the month of November the Postmaster-General will request from the Viceroy authority for the manufacture of the postage stamps required for the consumption of the first quarter of the following year.

"The same shall be done at the beginning of February, May, and August, for the second, third, and fourth quarters of the current year.

"Art. 25. On receipt of the permission from the Ministry, there will be drawn from the stock the quantity of paper corresponding with the number of stamps authorised of each of the respective natures, and the preparation of the stamps will then be proceeded with.

"The work of this manufacture will be carried out under the official superintendence of the Postmaster-General, and in the presence and under the responsibility of the Inspector, assisted by one of the Heads of the Department, who shall be appointed in turn by the Postmaster-General.

"Art. 26. As soon as the manufacture is finished, the place where the presses, plates, and tools are kept will be closed. This place will have a strong door, with a double lock, the different keys of which will be carefully and exclusively kept by the Postmaster-General.

"Art. 27. Reports of the drawing of the paper from the depôt, and of the manufacture of the stamps, will be drawn up in quadruplicate and signed by the Inspector and by the Head of Department present at the printing.

"Art. 28. The sheets of completed stamps will be immediately handed over to the Storekeeper, who will acknowledge the receipt of them upon the four copies of the report relating to them, and will also sign the other copies of the report of the drawing of the paper.

"Art. 29. The Postmaster-General will affix his *visé* to the various reports, and will forward one copy to the Viceroy; of the other three, one will be retained by the Accountant, another by the Storekeeper, and the third will be preserved in the office of the Chief Secretary.

"Art. 30. The reports transmitted to the Accountant will serve as materials for drawing up the account of the credit of the Storekeeper for the blank paper drawn from the store, and of his debit for the printed stamps.

"Art. 31. The Chief Storekeeper will keep separate accounts of the blank paper and of the printed stamps, including in these all the details showing, for the paper, the quantities received and issued, and for the stamps, not only the receipts and issues, but also the number, nature, and amount of their value.

"Art. 32. At the end of each month stocktaking will be carried out by the Inspector and a Controller appointed by the Postmaster-General.

"Art. 33. A report will be drawn up, in duplicate, of the result of the stock-taking, one copy being handed to the Storekeeper, and the other forwarded to the Accountant, in order that it may be verified and compared with the balance-sheet which must be presented by the Chief Storekeeper every month.

"Art. 34. The monthly balance-sheet, which the Storekeeper must send in, will be divided under two headings, viz. *Nature of Stock* and *Value in Cash*.

"The Debit side will show:—

"1. The balance in hand from the previous month, both of blank paper and of stamps.

"2. The receipts during the month, if any, of paper and stamps.

"3. The amount received for stamps sold by the Storekeeper himself.

"The Credit side will show:—

"1. The issues of blank paper.

"2. The postage stamps despatched to the provinces, the receipt of which has been acknowledged by the accountants.

"3. The payments into the Public Treasury, which will be made every five days under special heads, and vouched for by the receipts of the accountant.

"4. The discount allowed to the stamp vendors authorised by the law.

"Art. 35. There will be a stock of postage stamps at the post office in each of the chief towns of provinces, and the postmasters in those places will therefore hold the office of Storekeepers of postage stamps.

"These Postmasters will give additional security in public bonds, of an amount to be fixed by the Viceroy on the proposal of the Postmaster-General.

"Art. 36. The postmasters will forward to the Postmaster-General, on the first of each month, a requisition for the stamps which they consider necessary for the consumption of the following month, both in their own office and in the other offices of the province. The requisition will give details of the numbers and natures of the stamps.

"Art. 37. The Postmaster-General, after consultation with the accountant and having the requisitions reckoned up, will arrange for the various consignments being despatched by the Chief Storekeeper; which will take place from the 10th to the 20th of each month, care being taken to send the supplies first to the most distant places, next to those of medium distance, and lastly to the nearest; so that by the end of the month the post offices may all be fully supplied.

"Art. 38. In addition to these supplies calculated upon the monthly consumption, the Post Offices should keep a reserve of stamps equal to the requirements for fifteen days; thus for the first establishment of these offices, a quantity of stamps sufficient for forty-five days should be sent.

"Art. 39. Every consignment of postage stamps despatched by the Chief Storekeeper to the Post Offices must be made up in a carefully closed package and secured with three seals; it will further be accompanied by an invoice, in which will be detailed the number and nature of the stamps, their total amount, and the gross weight of the package. These same details will be entered on a receipt form, which will be attached to the invoice.

"The closing of the packages will be done in the presence of the Inspector and of a Controller to be appointed by the Postmaster-General, who, together with the Chief Storekeeper, will compile an account of the same. And in order that the packages containing the postage stamps may not be opened by mistake, without the previous examination to be mentioned shortly, they will be distinguished on the address side by a yellow label, with the following inscription:—*Bolli di posta. Peso lordo del pacco . . . rotoli.* [Postage stamps. Gross weight of the package . . . rotoli.*]

"Art. 40. The opening and examination of the packet containing postage stamps will be made by the postmaster, with the assistance of the controller of the province.

"Art. 41. The weight of the package having been checked, and the number, nature, and amount of the stamps found to agree exactly with the invoice, the receipt will be signed by the postmaster, and countersigned by the provincial controller, and will then be despatched by the first post to the Postmaster-General who, after it has been noted by the accountant, will pass it to the Chief Storekeeper, for whom it will serve as a discharge.

* *Rotolo*, a weight = 1½ lbs.

"Art. 42. If any discrepancy should be found on the checking and comparison with the invoice, it will be necessary to draw up a report, in which will be shown :—

"1. The condition of the covering of the package.

"2. The condition of the seals.

"3. The gross weight of the package.

"4. The number and nature of the postage stamps, and the amount of those found in the package.

"5. The difference between this number and nature and that shown in the invoice.

"6. There should be added any other details that may assist the Postmaster-General in ascertaining the cause of the discrepancy found.

"Of this report, made in duplicate and signed by the postmaster and the provincial controller, one copy will be retained by the postmaster and the other will be at once sent to the Postmaster-General.

"Art. 43. The Postmaster-General, after considering the information contained in the report, will take such steps as the circumstances appear to require.

"Art. 44. The postmasters will keep careful accounts, and will every month forward a balance-sheet to the Postmaster-General, similar to that prescribed for the Chief Storekeeper by Articles 31, 33, and 34.

"Art. 45. The Chief Storekeeper and the Postmasters are authorised to sell postage stamps, both to private persons by retail, and to the accountants of the posts, the secretaries of the communes, the receivers of registration and taxes, and to all others who shall be authorised by the Postmaster-General to sell stamps; taking from them the value of the stamps, less the discount to which they will be entitled, as stated below.

"Art. 46. The accountants of the posts and the other persons, mentioned in the preceding Article, are under obligation to provide themselves, and each one of them separately in accordance with the requirements of the district in which he resides, with a supply of stamps from the Chief Storekeeper or from the postmasters of their respective provinces sufficient for the probable consumption of at least fifteen days. Those failing to do this will be punished in accordance with Article 6 of the Royal Decree of the 29th November, 1858.

"Art. 47. The Chief Storekeeper and the Postmasters cannot refuse to supply postage stamps to those who demand them on immediate payment, whether private persons, or any other agent or vendor authorised to retail them.

"Art. 48. Any such refusal will be proved by a report drawn up by the Syndic of the place of residence of the Storekeeper or the Postmaster, at the instance of the person demanding the stamps, and after hearing the evidence of the Storekeeper or Postmaster.

"The report drawn up by the Syndic will be forwarded to the Postmaster-General, in order that he may take such disciplinary measures as the circumstances of the case may require, by a fine of not less than ten ducats for the first offence, and by suspension from office, in addition to the fine, in case of a repetition.

"Art. 49. The Storekeeper and the Postmasters are authorised to allow a discount of two per cent. to the agents or other persons authorised to retail stamps, in proportion to and in accordance with their requisitions for stamps accompanied by immediate payment of the price; each demand for stamps must therefore be made by a requisition in writing, at the foot of which the person making the requisition will acknowledge the receipt of the discount of two per cent.

"Art. 50. The Storekeeper and the Postmasters will keep for their own benefit one-half per cent. on the value of the stamps sold by them to private persons.

"Art. 51. The Chief Storekeeper and the Postmasters will render accounts every year to the Accountant-General's Department, through the Postmaster-General's Department, which will forward also its own summaries of accounts, after their examination by the accountant.

"Chapter 4.

"*Proceedings to be taken for detecting fraud in the use of the Postage Stamps.*

"Art. 52. Whenever a postal official shall perceive that a stamp affixed to a letter or packet has been already used, or is forged, he will abstain from applying the cancellation mark to it. He will instead write upon the letter in red ink—*Sent to the Head Office on account of suspicion of fraud.*

"Art. 53. This letter will then be enclosed by the postal agent in a packet, together with a report addressed to the Postmaster-General at Palermo.

"Art. 54. If, on examination of the postage stamp at the Head Office, there is no certain evidence of fraud, the note affixed to the letter will be cancelled, and the letter forwarded to its destination. If however the stamp is recognised to have been used, or to be a counterfeit, the letter will be sent, with a statement of the facts of the case, to the Magistrate of the District in which the place is situated to which the letter is addressed.

"Art. 55. The Magistrate will summon before him the addressee, and handing him the letter, will request him to open it and let him know by whom it is signed.

"In the case of the letter being without signature, he will demand of the addressee all possible information that may aid in finding out the author.

"Art. 56. The said Magistrate will then retain in his own possession :—

"1. The portion of the letter bearing the signature of the sender.

"2. The covering sheet, or, if there should not be one, the part of the letter on which is the address and the stamp found to be fraudulent.

"Art. 57. These pieces of evidence will be returned to the Postmaster-General by the Magistrate, accompanied by a report in which will be given all the statements made by the addressee in reference to the person sending the letter.

"Art. 58. The Postmaster-General, adding these papers to the report made by the postal agent who detected the fraud, will send them all to the legal agent of the Treasury, so that he may take the necessary proceedings, either for the recovery of a fine in the case of a postage stamp that has been already used, or for the punishment of the offender in the case of forged stamps.

"Art. 59. When on the opening of the fraudulently franked letter it is seen that this is only the cover of another letter addressed to a third person, the Magistrate will demand from the addressee of the cover all the information that he can give him in regard to the sender, and also as to the second addressee ; and, summoning the latter before him, he will proceed again as laid down in Articles 55 and 56.

"Art. 60. If the letter in question should be addressed to a foreign country, or to a person who has gone to a foreign country, it will be retained at the Head Office, with the reports relating to it, until it is reclaimed by a person residing in the Kingdom, in which case it will be dealt with as prescribed in the two Articles quoted above.

"Art. 61. All the other provisions contained in the Royal Decrees, Regulations, and Instructions relative to the service of the General Administration of the Royal Posts and letter-carriers remain in full force and legality, so far as they are not annulled or altered by the present Regulations.

"CASERTA, 29th November, 1858.

"Approved.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.

"True Copy.

(Signed) "G. CASSISI,

"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily."

The printing of the postage stamps, which, as we have seen, was commenced on the 12th or 13th October, had made such progress that a considerable supply had been delivered to the Post Office Department. As soon as the copies of the Decree and Regulations, of which 300 had been printed, were ready, they were distributed to the seven Post Offices in the Provinces on the 11th December. The letter which we now publish tells us that the first despatch of postage stamps to the Post Offices was made on the same day, so that the issue might really take place on Saturday, the 1st of January, 1859, as had been ordered.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

"No. 2877. "Subject :

"Reporting the first Despatch of Postage Stamps to the Chief Towns in the Province.

"PALERMO, 14th December, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—All had been prepared in this Department for the transmission to the postal agents in the provinces of the necessary regulations for the commencement of the new service of postage stamps, and also for the despatch of sufficient supplies of the postage stamps themselves, and we were only awaiting the promised Sovereign Regulations.

"As soon as the printed copies of the Regulations mentioned above, accompanied by the esteemed letter from the Minister, of the 11th December inst., No. 4669, arrived, on Saturday last, the packages were despatched by the mail of the same day to the Postmasters of the chief towns in the provinces, and the circulars relating to the same subject were despatched to the other Postal Agents.

"I fulfil the duty of giving an account of this to Y. E., that you may have the first news of it, and will forward later the official report of this first despatch and of the manufacture of the stamps.

(Signed) "MARCHESE S. GIACINTO,

"Postmaster-General.

"To H. E. the Viceroy in Sicily,
Finance Department."

It thus became possible for the circulation of the postage stamps to commence from Saturday, January 1st, 1859, and we have in fact met with letters, franked by means of postage stamps, which were despatched on that very day.

We have examined numbers of official papers of the years 1859 and 1860, but by far the greater part refer to a later supply of paper for further printings of the stamps, and to the payments for these, etc. We shall make use of these documents in the descriptive portion of our work. Other letters refer to the manufacture of new types of stamps, which, as we have stated, had been determined upon even before those issued had been put in circulation; these letters we have set aside for a separate chapter.

There are but few official notices and documents dated in 1859 or 1860, referring to the Bourbon issue of stamps, which we need reproduce.

Since, however, as has been already stated, the Governments of the two Provinces of which the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies was composed were entirely separate, it was necessary that the use in one part of the Kingdom of the stamps belonging to the other should be explicitly prohibited. The following Decree, and the Regulations attached to it, relate to this matter. The publication of these in Sicily did not take place until July, when they were distributed to the various post offices and exhibited there for the information of the public.

"CASERTA, 10th May, 1859.

"FERDINAND II.

"BY THE GRACE OF GOD,

"KING OF THE KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES,

"OF JERUSALEM, &c.,

"DUKE OF PARMA, PIACENZA, CASTRO, &c., &c.,

"HEREDITARY GRAND PRINCE OF TUSCANY, &c., &c., &c.

"In reference to Article 3 of the Royal Decree of the 5th July, 1858, relating to the reorganisation of the postal service in the Royal Dominions beyond the Phare, under which were provided suitable regulations with a view to the prevention of frauds and offences in the postal service between the two parts of the Royal Dominions,

"By the advice of Our Minister, the Secretary of State for the Treasury, and of the Minister, the Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily at Our Royal Court;

"With the consent of Our Council of State;

"We have resolved to Decree and do Decree as follows:—

"Art. 1. Are approved by Us the annexed Regulations for the sale and use of the postage stamps, and for the conveyance of correspondence by post between the Royal Dominions on this side and the Royal Dominions beyond the Phare, adding to the usual means of conveyance by the mail steamers permission also to send the letters by merchant steamers, with compulsory prepayment of the postage of the letters by means of the affixing of postage stamps corresponding to the rates established by the Royal Decree of the 6th December, 1858.

"Art. 2. Our Minister, the Secretary of State for the Treasury, the Minister, the Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily at Our Royal Court, and Our Viceroy in the Royal Dominions beyond the Phare, are charged with the execution of the present Decree.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.

(Signed) "S. MURENA,
"Minister, Secretary
of State for the
Treasury.

(Signed) "G. CASSISI,
"Minister, Secretary
of State for the
Affairs of Sicily.

(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
President of the Council
of Ministers.

"True copy.

"Certified copy.

(Signed) "G. CASSISI,
"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily.

(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
President of the Council of Ministers."

"10th May, 1859.

"REGULATIONS

"For the Sale and Use of the Postage Stamps, and for the conveyance of correspondence by Post between the Royal Dominions on this side and the Royal Dominions beyond the Phare.

"Art. 1. The use and sale of the postage stamps of the Royal Dominions on the Continent are prohibited in the Royal Dominions in the Islands, and the use and sale of the postage stamps of the Royal Dominions in the Islands are similarly prohibited on the continent.

"Art. 2. Letters, packets, and printed matter sent by post, although provided with postage stamps, will be considered as contravening the laws and regulations in force in all cases where they are found to be postmarked otherwise than with the mark of the post offices of that part of the Royal Dominions to which the stamps belong.

"Art. 3. All those who in the Royal Dominions on this side of the Phare shall sell or distribute the postage stamps of the Royal Dominions beyond the Phare, and *vice versa*, and all those who being licensed for the sale of postage stamps in the one or the other part of the Royal Dominions shall contravene the prohibition expressed in Art. 1, will be liable to a fine of twenty ducats, and the confiscation of the postage stamps that may be found in their possession.

"Art. 4. Whenever there shall be found or perceived in any of the post offices, among the letters to be sent from one part of the Royal Dominions to the other, letters or packets bearing postage stamps which belong to the part of the Royal Dominions to which they are addressed, the senders will be held to have contravened the regulations and will be subjected to the loss of the stamps affixed to these letters, and the latter will be despatched to their destination with a charge to be paid by the receivers.

"Art. 5. Seeing that, in accordance with Article 2 of the Royal Decree of 5th July, 1858, the letters must be prepaid by means of the postage stamps issued for each of the two portions of the Kingdom, and that this prepayment is obligatory for letters which are sent by the merchant steamers, the office of despatch, which receives the whole amount of the postage paid on the letters sent, will provide for the payment which may have to be made to the owners of the vessels.

"Art. 6. Loose letters that are collected on board the steamers which convey mails between one part of the Royal Dominions and the other, although provided with postage stamps corresponding with the amount of the legal rate, will be considered as unpaid, on account of their not bearing the mark *annullato* of the office of despatch.

"Art. 7. Whenever letters addressed from one part of the Royal Dominions to the other are provided with postage stamps which do not correspond with the full amount of the legal rate of prepayment, they will be treated in the manner prescribed by Article 3 of the Regulations approved by the Royal Decrees of 28th September, 1857, for the Royal Dominions on the continent, and of the 28th November, 1858, for the Royal Dominions beyond the Phare.

"Art. 8. In applying the provisions of Article 2 of the Royal Decree of the 5th July, 1858, the postage upon letters not prepaid by means of postage stamps shall always go to the benefit of the Treasury of the Royal Dominions to which the letters are addressed; and the prepayment made by means of postage stamps shall always go to the benefit of the Treasury of the Royal Dominions from which the letters are despatched.

"Art. 9. The registration fee on letters, and the postage upon printed matter prepaid by postage stamps, shall go in like manner to the benefit of the Administration of that part of the Royal Dominions from which they are despatched.

"Approved.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.

(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,

"Minister, Secretary of State,

"President of the Council of Ministers.

"Certified accordingly.

"True Copy.

(Signed) "G. CASSISI,
"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily.(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
"President of the Council of Ministers."

From the above it may be seen that the interest attaching to Neapolitan postage stamps bearing Sicilian cancellations, and Sicilian stamps with the postmarks of the continental provinces, which are sometimes to be found in collections, is indeed very slight. The copies that we have had opportunities of seeing upon entire letters arrived at their destination unobliterated

through carelessness, and were cancelled on arrival. This was especially evident in the case of the letters posted on board the steamers. It is astonishing that such high prices should be asked for curiosities of this nature.

It had not yet been decided what punishment should be inflicted upon the senders of letters bearing postage stamps that had already been used, a case which, as we have had opportunities of seeing with our own eyes, in examining letters of that period, was of fairly frequent occurrence.

For the continental portion of the Kingdom this was regulated by the Royal Decree of 3rd December, 1858, which we reproduce below. There was considerable, but not unusual, delay in extending the provisions of this to Sicily, which was done by Royal Decree, No. 278, of the 22nd August, 1859.

"(No. 5417) *Decree under which is Established the Punishment to be inflicted upon those who may make use of Postage Stamps already used.*

"CASERTA, 3rd December, 1858.

"FERDINAND II., &c., &c., &c.

"In view of the Regulations approved by Decree of the 28th September, 1857, referring to the application and execution of the new postal service, put in force on the 1st January of this year.

"Desiring to define the punishment to be inflicted under Article 58 of the said Regulations, when fresh use is made of postage stamps that have already been used ;

"By advice of Our Minister, Secretary of State for the Treasury ;

"With the consent of Our Council of State ;

"We have resolved to decree and do decree as follows :—

"Art. 1. The fresh use of postage stamps already used, without any attempt being made to remove the mark 'annullato,' constituting an offence of fraud, the punishment to be applied, as fixed in the said Article 58, shall be that of the police-court, which is incurred by the mere act of putting into the letter-box or into the post office a letter bearing a stamp that has been used.

"Art. 2. Our Minister, Secretary of State for the Treasury and the Director of the Ministry and Royal Secretariat of State of Mercy and Justice are charged with the execution of this Decree.

(Signed) "FERDINAND.

(Signed) "S. MURENA,
"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Treasury.

(Signed) "FERDINAND TROJA,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
"President of the Council of Ministers.

"Extended to Sicily by Royal Decree, No. 278, of the 22nd August, 1859.

(Signed) "P. CUMBO,
"Minister, Secretary of State
for the Affairs of Sicily.

(Signed) "PRINCIPE DI SATRIANO,
"Minister, Secretary of State,
"President of the Council of Ministers."

(6) *PROPOSAL BY G. BARONE—PROF. T. ALOYSIO JUVARA EMPLOYED TO ENGRAVE THE DIE FOR THE STAMPS—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THIS ARTIST—ESSAYS AND PROOFS OF THE ADOPTED TYPE—CONSTRUCTION AND RETOUCHING OF THE PLATES—THE PAPER—THE PRINTING OF THE STAMPS—THE DIFFERENT PRINTINGS—THE GUM—DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT VALUES.*

The first Essays for Sicilian Postage Stamps that were laid before the Bourbon Government were those submitted to the Viceroy of Sicily in March, 1858, by an engraver named Giuseppe Barone, of Palermo* (*see*

* Giuseppe Barone was an artist of some talent. I have seen two medals engraved by him, one dedicated to Ruggero Settimo, President of the General Council of Sicily in 1848, the other struck in connection with the Exhibition of Arts which took place at Palermo in 1870. They are well executed. Barone was in business as an engraver at Palermo, in 1858, in the Via Macqueda, near the parish church of Santa Croce. I am informed that he died of the cholera, at Palermo, in 1893.

Plate A, No. 1). These particular Essays were sent in by him simply to demonstrate the system which he proposed for the manufacture of the stamps, "which at a single impression produced the design in colour and also in white relief." Barone (according to the document reproduced at page 25) proposed to engrave a new die in steel "according to the design that should be given him." We know, however, that the offer of Barone was not accepted at that time, but we shall see that he was invited, in 1859, to submit other proposals.

Barone undertook, to commence with, to print three thousand copies per day. We shall see later, from the offer which he submitted, that he "bound himself to produce in one day as many thousands of postage stamps as the Royal Government may require." But he promised too much!

The Essays are of oblong shape, measuring $17\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ mm. The design, struck in relief, is a very simple one: Three Bourbon Lilies surmounted by a Royal Crown, with the inscription "R. POSTA DI SICILIA" below, in a curve; in each corner a little fleuron formed of dots, all upon a solid ground of colour. There is no indication of value, and in point of fact there is no room for it. We have never met with a block or even an unsevered pair of these Essays, and we believe that they were printed one by one from the original die.

Moens tells us, in his book on the stamps of Sicily, that these Essays were submitted attached to a sheet, which contained thirty-six copies in different colours, arranged in three rows, and that beneath some of the copies were written the numbers 1 to 7 (as if to indicate the colours considered suitable). He does not, however, give us a list of the colours. We note those that we have seen:—*

1. On plain white paper, without colour, in pale blue, blue, vermilion, pale rose, yellow-buff, grey, violet, greenish grey, black, pearl-grey, green, deep green.
2. On *blue* paper, in black, yellow, lilac, carmine.
3. On *yellow* ,, in black, yellow, orange-yellow.
4. On *lilac* ,, in black.
5. On *rose* ,, in black.

We have already stated that on the 28th January, 1858, Tommaso Aloysio Juvara, engraver, of Messina, who then resided at Naples, received the order from Signor Cassisi, the Minister, to engrave in *taille-douce* the die for the Sicilian Postage Stamps, with the effigy of King Ferdinand II., proofs from which were to be submitted for approval. But before describing the specimens that were sent in, we wish to give a short account of the artist who produced them.

In almost all the philatelic monographs that have been published, the authors have omitted to give any information as to the engravers of the stamps, however skilful those engravers may have been, an omission which, it seems to us, should not be left unsupplied. And since the artist who

* We would put our readers on their guard against imitations of these Essays, which were manufactured, some years ago, in Florence, by a certain E. C. U—, by means of some photographic process. These imitations may be easily recognised, as their design is not in relief. Some of them are gummed.

engraved the die for the Postage Stamps of Sicily was certainly one of the best Italian engravers of the nineteenth century, and had a reputation not only in Italy, but throughout Europe, it is but fitting that we should insert here a few details as to his life and works.* This seems the more incumbent upon us, since he suffered later from the attacks of envious detractors, who so embittered his life that he finally put an end to his existence. It is only right, therefore, that we, writing from the city of Rome, that he loved so well, where he lived for several years, and where his body is buried, should give a brief memoir of his industrious life.

Tommaso Francesco Ferdinando Aloysio, the son of Giuseppe Aloysio and Nicoletta (Juvara) his wife, was born at Messina on the 12th January, 1809. He added afterwards to his own surname that of his mother, being proud of his descent from the celebrated architect, Filippo Juvara (1685-1735), the designer of the famous Church of Superga, the Royal Burial-place near Turin. Whilst still a boy he was placed, at his own request, in the workshop of an engraver, Antonio Minasi of Messina, an artist of no great talent. "I remember," Aloysio wrote on the 23rd April, 1873, "what a rage my master was in, when, with a mad desire to commence engraving before I had even learned to draw, I engraved a head in the margin of a plate!"

Later on he had for a drawing-master Letterio Subba (1787-1868), who was a painter, sculptor, architect, and engraver of some merit, at the school from which came several talented artists. Messina, however, was too narrow a field for Aloysio, who soon longed to go to Rome. So great was his desire to view the works of art of the Eternal City that, whilst staying at Naples with an uncle, he could not wait for the latter to accompany him to Rome, but went off there suddenly by himself.

When sixteen years of age Aloysio gained from the Senate of Messina a scholarship of art at Rome, where he remained for a few years, and was a pupil of Camuccini. He then went on to Parma, where he had the good fortune to study at the renowned school of engraving of Paolo Toschi.† In 1836 he returned to his native land, and became Professor of Engraving at the Accademia Carolina of Messina. Shortly after, the Senate of that city granted him another scholarship for study at Paris. From Paris he proceeded to London, where he remained some time and studied under George Thomas Doo (1800-86) the new processes of engraving in mezzotint and in aquatint, then recently introduced. He then returned to Messina, where he again carried on the teaching of engraving. A Decree dated August 10th, 1846, appointed him an instructor at the R. Accademia of Naples, with the condition of giving lessons for six months each year at Messina, a condition from which he was relieved in 1850, in spite of strong remonstrance from the authorities of Messina.

He remained for many years at Naples, where he married, and where he had not a few talented pupils, by whom he was held in high honour, and of whom it is sufficient to mention Saro Cucinotta and Gaetano Micali.

On the 7th January, 1868, he read a paper before the Academy of Archæology, Literature, and Fine Arts at Naples on *The Past History and Present Condition of the Art of Engraving*, ‡ in which he greatly lamented the neglect that had befallen that

* Our notes are compiled from the following works:—

La R. Calcografia di Roma e la Scuola d'incisione di Tommaso Aloysio Juvara, "Gazzetta di Venezia," No. 115, April 15th, 1875.

Tommaso Aloysio Juvara, by Carmelo Pardi, in the "Nuove Effemeridi Siciliane," Series III., vol. i. pages 330-49. Palermo, Luigi Pedone Lauriel, 1875.

Vita di Paolo Mercuri Incisore, by Ignazio Ciampi (2nd edition). Rome, Salviucci, 1879.

Biografie cittadine, by P. Preitano. Messina, Tipografia Fratelli Messina, 1881.

La Cattedra di Belle Arti nella Università di Messina, by Virgilio Saccà. From the special number of the Proceedings of the R. Accademia Peloritana, on the occasion of the 350th Anniversary of the foundation of the Athenæum of Messina. Messina, Tipografia D'Amico, 1900.

† In 1847 Toschi wrote thus to Aloysio: "I am proud that my school should have given professors to four of the great cities of Europe—Eickens at Berlin, Raimondi at Milan, Costa at Venice, and you, my dear Aloysio, at Naples."

‡ Naples: R. University Press, 1868. Reprinted in the "Nuove Effemeridi Siciliane," December, 1869, and January, 1870.

art in Italy, and prophesied a better future for it, pointing out especially what had happened in that respect in France, Great Britain, and Germany.

At the beginning of 1872, in conjunction with the celebrated artist Paolo Mercuri, who had been recently stricken with paralysis, he was entrusted with the Directorship of the Royal Institute of Engraving at Rome,* an establishment which he found in very bad order, but which was quickly reorganised under his charge. He took in hand the compilation of a *Catalogue of the Prints engraved with the Burin and with Aquafortis*, on sale at the Institute (1872), another and more complete edition of which he brought out in 1874, prefacing the latter with an accurate description, which is still of much interest. Aloysio had the greatest admiration and affection for the old artist Mercuri, feelings which were fully reciprocated by the latter, and the fullest agreement existed between them, so that the Royal Institute prospered greatly under their direction. Their opponents strove to sow discord between them, but in vain.

In the meantime (as Aloysio himself writes) requests for work under the Royal Institute of Engraving reached the directors from engravers in all parts of the peninsula. But the scanty means at the disposal of the Department, means which had not been increased after the annexation of the Papal States to the Kingdom of Italy, did not enable Aloysio to comply with all these demands. On the other hand, the Papal Government had advanced sums of money to certain engravers, who had been entrusted with work which they had never executed, so that Aloysio had the unpleasant duty of drawing attention to their unfulfilled engagements. These and other causes had deeply affected his mind, excitable as it was by nature. To all this was added the violence with which he was assailed by a certain Luigi Ceroni, an engraver, who made an extraordinary claim to be entrusted with a work to cost 100,000 lire (£4,000), prior to having completed the engraving of the "Disputa del Sacramento," commenced by Calamatta, for which Ceroni had been promised a sum of 50,145 lire, being payment at the rate of 4,810 lire a year.

Aloysio, who was then sixty-five years of age, defended himself in two letters, which he published in a Roman journal, and his defence was so complete that Ceroni did not dare to make any reply. But Aloysio had fallen into a condition of despondency from which he could not be aroused. In order to divert his thoughts, he had determined to return to Messina, from whence he had been absent for some thirty years and where his fellow-citizens were prepared to give him a most cordial welcome. His departure had been fixed for May 30th, 1875, but on the morning of the previous day, he took his own life in one of the rooms that he occupied in the Institute of Engraving, by opening some of his veins with a razor, in the temporary absence of his wife. His last words were written on the wall with his own blood, forgiving his enemies and asking pardon for the deed that he was committing.

It is easy to imagine the profound impression that the tragic end of Aloysio produced in Rome, where he was so well known. He was buried with great honour in the cemetery of the Campo Verano, at Rome, and his tomb bears an inscription of which the following is a free translation:—

"TO TOMMASO ALOYSIO JUVARA, of Messina, who, in Rome the Mistress of the Arts, gained high repute as an engraver on copper, and executed works of imperishable fame. He Presided with success over the Royal Institute of Engraving. He departed this life on the 29th of May, 1875, aged 66. Caterina Pisone has erected this Memorial to her beloved husband."

We add a few remarks upon his works.

Aloysio was skilled in the various methods of engraving, etching, mezzotint, &c., and also in lithography. Virgilio Saccà, in writing of him, says with justice: "In small things as in great, his work always revealed the hand of a master, in his smaller works there is so much taste and such attention to detail, that these would perhaps be preferred to the greater ones, if it were not that the latter show his capacity for broad treatment."

* This appointment was considered an act of favouritism by some ill-disposed persons. The very slender stipend of 2,000 lire (about £80), granted by Royal Decree of January 18th, 1872, should hardly have excited much envy. It is true, however, that Aloysio had also a salary of a further 2,000 lire as Professor of Engraving, and a right to rooms in a building annexed to the Institute.

The following extract from an English letter, written at the very period when Aloysio engraved the die for the Sicilian stamps, is of interest on that account:—

“I was induced to visit the studio of Prof. Aloysio Juvara, the pupil and friend of Paolo Toschi (the famous engraver of Parma) and his chief assistant in producing those fine and finished engravings after Correggio which have excited such deserved admiration. Aloysio, I was told, had begun to engrave the Raphael by the King's permission; and on a visit I paid to his studio, I found him at work on the copper plate, already in a forward state, and exhibiting in the proofs that were shown to me such a truth and delicacy in the drawing—such softness and exquisite modelling in the heads, and so much of flowing grace, without weakness or indecision, and of firmness without hardness in the line—that I was struck with admiration, and could think of only two modern engravings with which to compare it, as a work of Art: the Blenheim ‘Madonna’ by Gruner and the Dresden ‘Palma’ by Steinla.” (Correspondence from Naples, by Anna Jameson, in the *Athenæum* for August 28th, 1858.)

The following is a list of a few of his best works, and it is to be noted that whilst many engravers have copied the designs of other artists, Aloysio in many cases engraved designs of his own:—

The Presentation in the Temple, after a picture by Alibrandi (1840).

Portraits of Vandyck and Rubens, together on one plate, engraved in London.

Portrait of Rembrandt, painted by himself, aquatint, engraved in London.

Head of Pius IX., drawn at Rome and completed at Gaeta. Dedicated to King Ferdinand II. (1849).

Portrait of Cardinal Mola, Archbishop of Messina, from a painting by Panebianco.

Portrait of the Duchess of Castelbrolo.

Portrait of the Princess of Montevago (aquatint). These two portraits were engraved to order.

Portrait of Dante, by Giotto (for the book *Dante e il suo Secolo*).

Madonna della Reggia, by Raffael (Aloysio's greatest work, 1868).

S. Carlo Borromeo Administering the Sacrament to the Plague-stricken, from a drawing by Saro Cucinotta, after the picture by G. Mancinelli. An engraving on copper, partly by Francesco di Bartolo, a pupil of Aloysio.

Besides the above works he also executed several lithographs, and among them one of large size representing *The Entry of King Ferdinand II. into Messina* (1838), from a drawing by Panebianco. On the death of Ferdinand II., in 1859, he was commissioned to engrave two portraits of him, one of them on a large scale. The plate of this, according to Preitano, was consigned by Aloysio to a friend during the political movements of 1860, and was lost.

We have now only to refer to the distinctions and honours gained by our artist. He was very proud of having received the first prize in a drawing competition, held by the Academy of S. Luca, in Rome, in 1828, before he was nineteen, when he received a scholarship. He obtained high awards at the Exhibitions at Paris, 1845; Florence, 1861; London, 1862; and at Paris, 1867. In 1868, at Berlin, where he exhibited his greatest work the “Madonna” of Raffael, he was awarded the only Gold Medal. At the Exhibitions of Parma and Rome in 1870 he also gained the first prize.

He was given the title of Cavaliere in 1851, on the occasion of the Exhibition at Naples, when the Jury were unable to award him a prize that was considered suitable to his merits. In 1859 the Royal Academy and Society of Naples elected him an Honorary Member, a distinction which had been conferred only once before, on Morghen. For his engraving of Raffael's “Madonna” he was presented by King Victor Emmanuel II. with a gold medal, struck expressly for that purpose, and bearing the inscription “A Tommaso Aloysio Juvara—Vittorio Emmanuele, 1873,” and from the Municipality of Messina he received another gold medal, bearing his profile, “as a tribute of public and well-merited honour.” Shortly after he was appointed a Commander of the Order of S. Maurice.

In gratitude to his native country which, by assisting his natural inclination for an artistic career, had enabled him to study and to develop his talents, he bequeathed to that Municipality the sum of 34,600 lire (about £1,384), the interest to form a scholarship for artists. His medals he left to the Royal Academy of S. Luca at

Rome, and to the City of Messina all his plates and his prints, which are now deposited in the Museum of that city, in a room in which there is also a bust of Aloysio in marble.

Aloysio was furnished with a photograph of the King, in profile, looking to the left. The dimensions of the stamp ($9\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ mm.), as well as the inscription it was to bear, had already been decided upon. There were to be seven different values, the same as those of the stamps for the continental portion of the Kingdom.

We have mentioned elsewhere (see page 26) that, with a view to the proposal being duly considered by the King, a sheet was prepared (of which Moens gives a description) containing besides the photograph of the effigy, in the size in which it was to be reproduced, a drawing in pen and ink of the obliterating mark, and a pattern showing the design of the stamp to be engraved, but without the head. We have recently had an opportunity of examining the sheet in question, or one of the sheets (for more than one copy may have been made), and we are therefore able to describe it fully. The numbers and explanations, the translation of which we give in italics, are written upon the sheet in a small round hand:—*

"No. 1. Proof in photography of the Sacred Effigy of our Sovereign Lord the King, which will be engraved by the famous Cav. Aloysio.

"No. 2. Pattern of the stamps and of the colours in oil, different for each value. In the centre of each stamp will be printed the Sacred Effigy of the King.

"No. 3. Pattern of the cancelling mark, which is to be applied by the Postal Officials.

"No. 4. Pattern of a postage stamp complete, and cancelled by the Postal Officials.

At foot of the sheet at left, is the inscription: "*Fully approved by His Majesty, by letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Severino, February 28, 1858, at Gaeta.*" And at right "*Carlo La Barbera, dis., 1858.*"

The facsimiles of postage stamps in various colours, attached to this sheet, are those lithographed at Naples by Carlo La Barbera, who designed the cancellation stamp.

In May, 1858, the Minister for Sicilian Affairs in Naples received from Aloysio the original die, engraved in *taille-douce* upon steel, together with proofs of each value struck from the die itself, and produced by inserting in their turn the lower labels bearing the value in figures; each label had been engraved separately. Aloysio received 100 ducats for his work.

These proofs are very carefully printed upon thick white paper, soft and porous. We reproduce two of them (*see Plate A, Nos. 2 and 3*). The effigy is engraved with the greatest skill, and shows marvellous finish, softness of

* The photograph, of the size of the stamp as issued, is heavily shaded in water-colour at foot and mounted upon a gold label, placed in the centre of the sheet at top. Immediately below it is No. 3, a drawing of the cancelling mark in pen-and-ink, in *black*.

Then follows No. 2, a horizontal row of seven frames, bearing the inscription of the 10 gr. stamp, lithographed in the following colours: *Yellow, brown, grey-blue, vermilion, deep blue, lilac, and garnet*. The *yellow* impression is gummed over one in *orange-yellow*, and the *deep blue* and *lilac* are gummed over others in the same colours.

No. 4 is one of these frames in *grey*, with the obliterating mark drawn upon it with a pen. In the middle is gummed a copy of the photograph of the King, shaded in water-colour, in *grey-black*. This is in the centre, below the row of seven.

touch, and lifelike expression. It is easy to perceive that it is the work of a most able artist.

It is unnecessary to state that the lower portion having been engraved separately for each value, as has already been said, the letters "GR.", abbreviation of *grano* or *grana*, vary with the value. The colours were as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ gr.	pale blue.
1 "	deep slate blue.
2 "	mauve.
5 "	olive-yellow.
10 "	yellow.
20 "	crimson.
50 "	bright vermilion.

Moens saw these proofs attached to a sheet of thick paper, having embossed in the left upper corner the inscription, in four lines, "*Rl. Ministero—per—gli Affari di Sicilia—presso S.R.M.*" On that sheet there were two copies of the 50 grana, one of which bore an impression of the obliteration mark. We know also the 20 grana, *crimson*, with the trial cancellation (*see* Plate A, No. 3). The obliteration is struck in *black*, heavily but distinctly. Moens adds: "All these proofs have below them a figure '8' in pencil, except the 20 and 50 grana, the figure under which has been altered to '5.' Under the 5 grana we find the words '*yellow modified.*'" No doubt these marks were made when it came to choosing the particular shades to be employed, a choice which, as we have learned from the documents already reproduced, had to be made with special care, in order to avoid the possibility of producing the Italian Tricolor by means of combinations of them.

Giuseppe La Barbera, the machinist, and Francesco Lao of Palermo, the typographer, who had undertaken the contract for the manufacture of the postage stamps, had not yet succeeded in obtaining good reproductions of the original engraving. It was necessary, in consequence, to send back the die from Palermo to Naples. Aloysio himself was obliged to make some alteration "in its mechanism," with a view to obtaining electro-type reproductions. We do not know what this alteration was, but we suppose that it had to do with the method of holding together the two portions of the die (the upper part and the label containing the value), when taking matrix impressions from it. In this connection it may be noted that the proofs printed direct from the original die are the only impressions which do not show, though sometimes very faintly, a horizontal line across the two sides of the design and extending beyond the edge of the solid background, on a level with the top of the lower label. These lines are to be seen more or less distinctly in the proofs printed later, from the plates, and in the stamps themselves; they are produced by the minute fissure existing between the lower label and the other part of the die.

It was not until September 3rd, 1858, that La Barbera and Lao were able to exhibit proof impressions of the adopted type. These were all of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano value (*see* Plate A, No. 4, and Plate B, No. 69a), printed in groups of twenty-five copies (five rows of five). The spaces between the stamps

measure 2 mm. horizontally and almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. vertically; they are separated from one another by a coloured line.

Of these proofs we have met with:—

(a) On thick paper, soft and porous:

$\frac{1}{2}$ gr., ochre-yellow, bistre, blood-red, garnet, bright blue.

(b) On ordinary, machine-made, white paper:

$\frac{1}{2}$ gr., dull blue, pale ultramarine, deep blue, lilac-grey, black.

The paper of the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., *black*, is thicker than that of the others.

These proofs are from the same plate of twenty-five,* with the exception of those in *bright blue*, which were printed from another;† the latter, however, shows the same spacing as the former, both vertically and horizontally, a characteristic which it is important to bear in mind.

The proofs in *bright blue* are better than the others, and this is due to better printing. But all these impressions of the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. in various colours are very inferior, in clearness and precision, to those which Aloysio had struck from the original die. They show divers breaks in the lines, and white dots or blotches; the outlines are not sharp, etc., so that the Minister for Sicilian Affairs at Naples was not dissatisfied without some reason.

We believe that the more successful proofs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. in *bright blue*, which nevertheless are not perfect, are those that La Barbera and Lao produced at Naples towards the end of September, 1858. When sending, on the 27th of that month, a sheet of 100 of these to the Viceroy at Palermo, they drew his attention to the fact that they had at last overcome the difficulties of the electro-type method of reproduction, as shown by the improved results. We do not know for certain, but we should suppose that this sheet was composed by joining together four little sheets of twenty-five. Some of these proofs upon the thick, soft, porous paper are gummed, but with gum of a different quality from that found, for instance, on the proofs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., *grey*, which shows clearly that they were not of the same edition. Some of the colours of the proofs mentioned above are approximately those adopted for the stamps, but they are not absolutely identical with the latter. We have seen one of these proofs bearing a cancellation, with the figures "858" (part of 1858); the first figure is 7 mm. in height, and the other two only $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This was no doubt a trial cancellation, done with one of the stamps bearing in the first line the name of the town and in the second the date; the figures "58" being probably on a movable plug, they might well be in somewhat different type from the first two figures of the date.

In regard to the method of reproduction, it may be of interest to quote a portion of the description which was drawn up, at the instance of the Viceroy, by a certain Giuseppe Perez, employed in the Department of Justice, whom we find described as "well acquainted with such matters," and who had assisted La Barbera in his experiments. The description which we reproduce was forwarded in October, 1858, to the Minister for Sicilian Affairs in Naples.

* This little plate, which was afterwards retouched, formed the fourth block of the first plate from which the $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. stamps were printed.

† Those we have seen are from the left lower group of Plate I.

"The method employed for the production of the plates for the postage stamps is that of electro-typing, which is carried out as follows :—

"A trough or tub, either of wood, glazed earthenware, or glass, is filled with a solution of sulphate of copper. Within this vessel are placed jars of porous porcelain, containing water rendered slightly acid by means of a few drops of sulphuric acid. Cylinders of zinc are immersed in the acidulated water and connected together by a conducting wire of copper, to which, by means of screws, are attached the plates or dies which it is desired to reproduce. The chemical action which is caused by the contact of the zinc with the acid water produces an electric current, which, starting from this point, which is termed the positive pole, passes through the pores of the jars, attacks the solution of sulphate of copper, and by means of the force of magnetism causes the molecules of copper contained in the liquid to deposit themselves upon the plates or dies, which should have a metallic surface. The electricity then passes by the conducting wire back to the zinc, and thus completes the circuit of the electric current.

"To produce the plates for the postage stamps, the procedure is as follows :—The original steel die is fixed in a hollow in a piece of iron. There have been previously prepared pieces of a metal composed of lead, tin, and a small quantity of antimony, cut to the size of the die. By means of a small press an impression of the engraving on the die is then struck upon each of these pieces, the four sides of which are cut with a bevel at the back. A hundred of these little pieces or matrices having been produced, they are arranged, face downwards, in a rectangular form upon a level table, and are clamped together ; they are then soldered to one another from the back, the liquid solder being poured into the channels formed by the bevelling of the edges. Thus soldered together, the back of the matrix plate is coated with wax or varnish, and it is immersed in the electric bath, attached to the conducting wire to undergo the electro-typing process described above. Remaining in the bath for five or more days, according as the strength of the current is greater or less, there is deposited upon the matrices a layer of copper of about the thickness of a grano coin. This thin plate is detached and is strengthened by soldering to the back of it other plates of copper or iron ; it can then be placed upon a press and printed from, in the same manner as all other engraved plates.

"It should, however, be observed that the copper obtained by the electro-type process being pure, and therefore to some extent deficient in toughness, is but little malleable ; and its molecules being united solely by magnetic adhesion they have not the same degree of cohesiveness as is found in cast metals. From this arises the fact that when these plates are subjected to pressure in the printing-press they will not last long, and the lines of the engraving are easily damaged ; so much so that it is difficult to obtain more than 500* impressions from one plate. It is therefore absolutely necessary to keep the electro-typing baths continually at work."

This method of reproduction was thus entirely different from that employed in Great Britain and in the United States for the manufacture of their line-engraved stamps, and being a far inferior process it consequently could not fail to produce far less accurate results.

From the letter dated September 19th, 1858, which we have already quoted, we learned that La Barbera and Lao, on their return to Palermo, went on with the construction of the plates, and that five plates of twenty-five stamps each were then ready, and fifteen others were to be completed "within three or four days."

We give later on a description of each plate, noting the various characteristics by which they may be distinguished. There are no documents stating how many plates of *each value* were constructed, but a request for payment, dated January 3rd, 1859, presented to the Ministry of the Treasury by La Barbera and Lao, shows that the total number of plates constructed by them was fifteen. We may quote here one of the three accounts attached to the demand alluded to :—

"Account of various expenses incurred in the manufacture of fifteen large plates of postage stamps.

"Expenses incurred in making fifteen large plates by the electro-type process, each plate containing one hundred stamps in various values, for zinc, tin, lead, sulphuric acid,

* It is of interest perhaps to note that the three plates of the 2 grana produced between them 16,500 sheets, or rather more than *ten times* the number of impressions allotted to them here.

sulphate of copper, and other chemical materials; for fifteen thick plates of copper; including the operation of striking 1,500 impressions of the sacred Effigy of His Majesty, and the constant work of an engraver and two assistants, calculated at the rate in all of 60 ducats per plate * 900 ducats.

(Signed) "FRANCESCO LAO.
"GIUSEPPE LA BARBERA."

All the sheets consisted of a hundred stamps, but some of the plates were made by soldering upon one backing of copper four plates of twenty-five, which were secured by means of little rivets, so as to give ten rows of ten. These were the first plates that were constructed. In the same month of September, La Barbera succeeded in producing his first plate "in one single piece of copper"; he, in fact, submitted an impression from this to the Head of the Treasury Department at Palermo, who in his turn forwarded it, on the 22nd of that month, to the Minister for Sicilian Affairs at Naples, and drew attention to the impression, which was still not entirely satisfactory, and to the fact that the plates were liable to wear out very quickly.

There is no difficulty in recognising the sheets that were printed from the plates formed of four blocks of twenty-five. Generally the space between the fifth row and the sixth differs from that between the other rows, and the rows in the two groups at one side of the sheet are not exactly in line with those in the two groups at the other side.

The plates composed of four blocks of twenty-five are as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ grano,	Plate I.
2 grana	„ I., II.
5 „	„ I.
10 „	„ I.

That is to say, five large plates, composed of twenty small ones. The results of our studies thus agree with the contents of the letter of September 19th, 1858, in which mention is made of twenty small plates.

There is no doubt that the plates constructed by the reproduction of a hundred impressions in one piece were an improvement upon the others. This may be said generally; but we have to make an exception in the case of the first plate of the 1 grano, which possesses very special characteristics. We hold that this was the first plate manufactured in this manner, as it shows more defects of reproduction than any of the others, and therefore required a greater amount of touching up.

All the plates formed of four blocks of twenty-five show signs of this recutting; they may be found also in the plates constructed in one piece, but (except in the first plate of the 1 grano) they are few in number, and two of the plates show none at all.

After these explanations, it should be unnecessary to state that the recutting was not done in order to repair wearing out that had been noticed after a certain number of printings, as happened in the case of other line-engraved stamps, such as those of New South Wales. But as some collectors, who have made only a superficial study of the question, persist in holding that such was the cause of the recutting which took place, it is well to repeat that this was done solely for the purpose of correcting the

* The Post Office Department obtained, however, a reduction in the price to 50 ducats for each plate, so that under this head the contractors received only 750 ducats.

defects of bad reproduction. It is a case, in fact, of lines having been added to complete parts of the design which were wanting. This recutting (or touching up) must have been done by La Barbera at the time when the dividing lines between the stamps, horizontally and vertically, and the outer lines surrounding the entire block of 100, were engraved by hand upon the plates.*

To remove all doubts as to the origin of the varieties caused by this touching up, it should be sufficient to examine some of the copies which show added marks or lines, but which are nevertheless printed from new plates; this will prove the accuracy of what we have stated. Besides, if these were retouches, executed upon worn plates, we should find them more commonly in the last printings, whereas, on the contrary, they are especially numerous in the earlier. We have before us a letter, posted at Palermo on January 1st, 1859, that is on the first day of the use of the postage stamps, franked with a 2 grana stamp; this copy, although printed from a plate in its earliest state, shows a so-called "retouch."

In the first plate of the 1 grano we have, as an exceptional case, stamps that have been recut twice (that is to say, a second time after a certain amount of printing had taken place), but in the others we have never seen any signs of recutting at different periods, for these touched-up varieties are to be met with in all the different stages of wear of the plates, but are naturally most easily recognised in the earlier states.

It is important that we should understand that all the fifteen plates of the Sicilian stamps were certainly completed by the end of 1858, as is shown by the fact that on January 3rd, 1859, the contractors asked for payment for them.† We shall see, however, that some of the plates were not put to press until some months afterwards. In fact, it had been decided beforehand that it was necessary to keep plates ready in reserve.

Examination of entire sheets and fragments of sheets has not, however, enabled us to decide that all the fifteen plates were actually brought into use. We have met with sheets or portions of sheets printed from thirteen different plates, as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ grano,	2	plates.
1	"	3 "
2 grana,	3	"
5	"	2 "
10	"	1 "
20	"	1 "
50	"	1 "

We do not assert that it is absolutely impossible that further research may bring to light impressions from the other two plates, but we do not think it likely that they were ever put to press. We should rather suppose that second plates of the 10 and 20 grana were prepared, but that they were never brought into use, since further supplies of those two values were

* Among the articles provided by the contractors, we find noted in the first of the three bills presented by them on January 3rd, 1859, "two cushions of leather for engraving, Ducats 1-20."

† Having seen what orders for payment were issued to the contractors, we are able absolutely to reject the idea that other plates were prepared later.

not required, and that only one printing of each ever took place.* For the 50 grana value, on the other hand, it would not have been considered necessary to construct a second plate, because only 250 impressions were printed from the one in existence, and it should therefore have been in a sufficiently good condition.

The idea of having a special, watermarked paper manufactured was given up for want of time, and also that of using the paper employed for the stamps of the Continental Provinces; and it was decided to obtain at Naples a supply of ordinary white paper, to be used "as a provisional measure." We find it designated in official letters, and reports as "plain paper." There was an intention to have a special paper for the postage stamps manufactured later, but no steps were taken towards putting this idea in execution.

The paper provided at Naples is white, machine-made, of ordinary quality and medium thickness; fragments of extraneous matter are to be found in it here and there, and being rather soft it is fairly suitable for copper-plate printing. Twenty reams of it were delivered to Lao, on September 30th, 1858, and he took them with him to Palermo. We have seen a double sheet of this paper, bearing in the right upper corner the date, "Palermo 9 8bre. 1858", and at left, diagonally, as a control mark, the signatures of the Postmaster-General, the Marquis of S. Giacinto, and of Francesco Lao, the printer. This double sheet measures 452 × 644 mm. Each sheet of postage stamps, with its full margins, should thus measure 226 × 322 mm., which we find to be the size of an untrimmed sheet which we have before us.

A report dated October 11th, 1858, proves to us the amount of this paper, and we think it worth while to quote it in full:—

"Year one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-eight.

"The eleventh day of the month of October.

"At the *Stamp Office* at Palermo.

"We, Alberigo Pingitore, Inspector under the General Administration of the Royal Posts, and Signor Vincenzo Lo Jacono, Controller in the same Department, assisted by Signor Agostino Arini, an officer appointed for that purpose;

"Having received verbal instructions from the Postmaster-General to be present, together with the Controller, at the delivery of the plain paper, to be delivered by the contractor, Signor Francesco Lao, to the Storekeeper-General, Signor Giuseppe Denti Giojeni, we assembled in this office, with the Controller, and called upon those persons to carry out the orders given; the contractor has therefore handed over, in our presence, the number of twenty reams of plain paper, composed of one hundred packets of five, or five hundred sheets to the ream, to the Storekeeper-General, who has acknowledged the receipt of the twenty reams of plain paper at the foot of this report.

"The contractor has declared that the said paper was received by him direct from His Excellency the Minister for Sicilian Affairs at Naples, with instructions to deliver it in Palermo. We have therefore drawn up the present report in quadruplicate in accordance with the regulations.

"Completed this day, month and year as above.

(Signed)

"A. PINGITORE.

"VINCENZO LO JACONO.

"G. DENTI GIOJENI.

"FRANCESCO LAO.

"AGOSTINO ARINI.

"Approved

"MARCHESE S. GIACINTO,

"Postmaster-General."

* A fact which increases the probability of this theory is that the second plate of the 5 grana, which was ready in December, 1858, was not employed until July, 1859.

The following issues of this paper were made by the Storekeeper-General to Lao the printer :—

October 12th, 1858.	837	packets of five or 4,185	double sheets.		
January 27th, 1859.	300	„	„	1,500	„
February 3rd	200	„	„	1,000	„
March 22nd	200	„	„	1,000	„
May 7th	463	„	„	2,315	„
	<u>2,000</u>	„	„	<u>10,000</u>	„

These five issues completely exhausted the 10,000 sheets purchased at Naples.

At the end of April, 1859, the Director of the Treasury at Palermo wrote to the Minister for Sicilian Affairs at Naples, requesting him to obtain there, for the account of the Post Office Department of Sicily, "twenty reams of paper similar to that which you were so good as to send for printing the postage stamps." The Minister replied, on May 7th, and asked for a sample of the paper, but on the 11th a letter was written to him, stating that he would not be further troubled about this matter, as it was found possible to procure the paper required at Palermo itself.

In the meantime the Postmaster-General had sent for Lao, and the latter approved of the choice which the Postmaster-General himself had made, of a sample of paper, sixteen reams of which (at 500 sheets = 8,000 double sheets) had been found for sale at 21 tari per ream. The Postmaster-General proposed to purchase the whole of this paper at a total cost of Ducats 33.60, which amount was paid to a certain Francesco Mantegna, who supplied the paper.

The Postmaster-General, in writing on this subject to the Head of the Treasury Department, May 6th, 1859, says :—

"Lao assures me that he has executed trial printings of the postage stamps upon such paper, which he submitted to His Excellency the Director of the Treasury."

Some sheets of this paper also were provided with a control mark, consisting of the signatures of the Postmaster-General and of the printer of the stamps, but we have not seen any of them.

Another letter (dated May 14th) from the Postmaster-General to the Treasury Department contains the following paragraph, which is of interest to us, because we learn from it that no sooner had the new paper been purchased at Palermo than a certain quantity of it was issued to the printer :—

"In compliance with orders given by superior authority, there has now been executed the delivery to the contractor for the manufacture of the stamps of the plain paper remaining in store, to the amount of four hundred and sixty-three packets of five, supplying the quantity wanting to complete the number of stamps ordered by Y. E. with the other paper now purchased, of which I will render an account to Y. E. in due course."

The order in question was for "6,000 sheets of various values," and to make up the quantity of paper required there were issued 137 packets of five, or 685 double sheets of the new paper (the last lot of 2,315 double sheets of the old paper having been issued on May 7th, as stated above).

A further issue of paper (again, of course, of that purchased at Palermo)

was made in December, 1859, or in January, 1860, consisting of 720 packets of five, or 3,600 double sheets; and another, the last, on March 9th, 1860, of 365 packets of five, or 1,825 double sheets.

We have thus:—

Stamps printed on the paper purchased at Naples . . .	1,988,000
" " " Palermo . . .	862,000
Total . . .	<u>2,850,000</u>

The deficiency to be noticed of 12,000 stamps printed upon the paper from Naples, which, as we have said, consisted of 10,000 double sheets, and should therefore have produced 2,000,000 stamps, is accounted for by the fact that during the first printing there was reported a spoilage of twelve packets of five, or sixty double sheets. This spoilage was caused partly by defective printing, and partly perhaps by defective sheets of paper. The fact was officially noted in a report dated December 7th, 1858:—

"Signor Denti Giojeni, Storekeeper, and Signor Lao, contractor, have made declaration that, at the beginning and in the course of the manufacture [of the postage stamps], in the presence of the Postmaster-General, a spoilage was proved of the number of twelve packets of five, which make sixty sheets, that should be struck off the charge of the Storekeeper, out of the twenty reams of plain paper."

The spoiled sheets were no doubt destroyed, though we have found no mention of this.

The printing commenced on October 12th, 1858. Although the plates first constructed were those formed by joining together four blocks of twenty-five, it was thought best to begin the printing with a plate constructed of a hundred reproductions all in one piece. The printers probably started with the 1 grano stamps, as a letter, dated October 9th, which we have already reproduced, shows that La Barbera and Lao, when requesting authority to commence the printing, asked what colour was to be adopted for that value.

We have not been able, however, to ascertain in what order the printing of the first supply of stamps was carried out; we can only state that the first quantity delivered included all the seven values of the series. But if it is of some interest to us to know that, in all probability, the 1 grano was the first value printed (after the various proofs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano), it is of no great importance to us to learn the order in which the other values came, especially as there was less than two months between the first and the last, since the first supply of all the values (885,000 stamps) was delivered on December 7th.

Among the articles supplied by the contractors for the printing of the postage stamps, we find "a copper-plate printing press of walnut" at a cost of 50 ducats; but in order to expedite the printing of the first supply two other presses were found necessary, and these were obtained on hire, and must have been kept at work at the same time. We find, in fact, in the account of January 3rd, 1859:—

"For the hire of two copper-plate presses for two months, in order to produce in proper time the whole quantity of postage stamps required, at 6 ducats the month for each Ducats, 24."

In regard to the colours that were employed, these appear to have been prepared as required, or so we gather from the following items in the account just alluded to :—

	Ducats.
"A bench of walnut wood, on which to place the stone for grinding the colours	4—
"Three stones for grinding the colours	4—
"Eight china jars	—40
"A pestle	—40"

One can easily understand that the inks, prepared by persons who could have had but little experience in such works, were not strictly uniform, but, on the contrary, showed many varieties of shade, and also that the proportions of the different ingredients in the mixing of the colours were not always exactly the same. Beside this, examination of the stamps shows also that the degree of fluidity of the inks varied considerably. In some printings it is evident that the ink was too thick; in others, on the contrary, it was too fluid, and some impressions show that it was too oily.

The plates were often insufficiently cleaned before the impression was taken, thus producing sheets in which the paper is slightly tinted on the surface, instead of being white; thus, for instance, we find 10 grana stamps on *blued* paper. All this serves fully to explain the marked differences of shade to be found even in stamps on the same sheet.

Further proofs of the want of care (or of skill) with which the printing was carried out are shown by the doubly printed specimens, that is, with one impression upon another, and those with an impression on both sides,* varieties which we describe elsewhere.

Chapter III. of the Regulations, dated November 29th, 1858, for the introduction of the use of Postage Stamps in Sicily (see page 51) prescribed the steps which the Post Office Department was to take whenever it was necessary to prepare a fresh supply of stamps, but practically this was carried out in a somewhat different manner. The Postmaster-General received an estimate from the Chief Storekeeper in charge of the stamps of the quantity it was considered necessary to prepare for the consumption of a period of three months. He then, having obtained authority from the Treasury Department, gave orders to the Storekeeper to deliver a certain quantity of the plain paper to the contractor. A report of such delivery was drawn up on a special printed form, in quadruplicate; the report bore (or should bear) a reference to the date of the authority received from the Treasury, and ended with the signatures of an Inspector, a Controller, a Post Office Clerk, the Storekeeper-General, and the Printer. The Postmaster-General signed each report.

When the printing and gumming of the quantity demanded was completed, the printer delivered the stamps to the Storekeeper, and another report of this was made upon another printed form, showing both the quantities of stamps of various values and also their respective and total

* It is probable that these were due to economical principles, or to a desire to avoid reporting too many spoiled sheets; thus if the first impression taken was not good enough, the sheet was turned over and another printed on the other side. The double prints would be due either to a similar cause, a wish to improve a rather faint impression, or to slipping of the paper in the act of printing.

amount. This report was signed by the same persons as the other, and treated in the same manner.

One of the copies of each report "of the delivery of plain paper" and "of the manufacture of the postage stamps" was forwarded to the office of the Viceroy, Department of the Treasury.

The following table shows the quantities of stamps of each value that were printed and the dates of the different deliveries by the printer:—

Date of Delivery to the Storekeeper-General.	½ grano.	1 grano.	2 grana.	5 grana.	10 grana.	20 grana.	50 grana.	Totals.
Dec. 7, 1858	100,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	25,000	825,000
Jan. 29, 1859	—	—	10,000	—	—	—	—	10,000
Feb. 1 "	—	—	25,000	—	—	—	—	25,000
Feb. 3 "	100,000	100,000	65,000	—	—	—	—	265,000
Feb. 19 "	—	—	100,000	—	—	—	—	100,000
Feb. — "	—	—	100,000	—	—	—	—	100,000
April 12 "	—	—	200,000	—	—	—	—	200,000
July 23 "	—	100,000	400,000	100,000	—	—	—	600,000
Jan. 14, 1860	—	60,000	300,000	—	—	—	—	360,000
April 18 "	35,000	80,000	250,000	—	—	—	—	365,000
Totals	235,000	540,000	1,650,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	25,000	2,850,000

These quantities correspond exactly with those shown in the orders for payment issued in favour of the contractors, as may be seen by the list below:—

Date of Delivery of the Postage Stamps to the Storekeeper-General.	Number of Stamps Delivered.	Cost of Printing (at Dts. 0.90 per thousand).	Date of Orders for Payment.
December 7, 1858	825,000	Dts. 742.50*	February 22, 1859
From January 29 to April 12, 1859. . .	700,000	" 630—	May 9, 1859
July 23, 1859	600,000	" 540—	August 11, 1859
January 14, 1860	360,000	" 324—	January 26, 1860
April 18, 1860	365,000	" 328.50	May 2, 1860
	2,850,000	" 2,565 00	

* This sum is included in an order for Dts. 1,350.30, in favour of G. La Barbera and F. Lao.

The very large proportion of 2 grana stamps is easily explained. It is invariably the case that the stamps representing the postage of a single-rate inland letter are far more largely used than any others. It must very soon have been noticed that the consumption of 2 grana stamps was great, since five deliveries of that value took place within a few days of one another, from the 29th January to the latter part of February, 1859. The second, third, and fourth supplies, making together 100,000 copies, were in compliance with urgent requisitions; and, in fact, we gather from the Report dated January 29th, 1859, that an order for the delivery of a part of the plain paper was given verbally. For this reason, and taking into account the time required for the gumming, we consider that those three deliveries formed part of only one printing. This would tend to simplify the classification of the stamps to some extent, but the classification is rendered difficult, in the case of the lower values, by the fact that more than one plate of the same value was sometimes employed in the same printing.

The gum was applied by hand with brushes, and not very uniformly.

At first gum arabic of very ordinary quality was used. In one of the

accounts presented by the contractors on January 3rd, 1859, there is express mention of gum arabic. This gum is brownish, and produces some effect upon the paper, rendering it more or less yellow. It may also be seen to discolour the paper of the cover where the stamp has been affixed. The gum often contains extraneous matter, such as little specks of, we think, some vegetable substance.

It must soon have been noticed, in fact during the gumming of the first supply of stamps, that the use of so impure a substance, which destroyed the whiteness of the paper, spoiled the appearance of the print. We believe that an attempt was made to obviate this in the same manner as in the case of the Neapolitan stamps, by coating the sheets, previous to applying the gum, with a layer of flour paste. We have not succeeded in actually proving this, but it is certain that the sheets of the first supply of the Sicilian stamps show at least two quite distinct variations in the gum.

For a later printing a whiter gum arabic was employed, which did not have the effect of discolouring the paper to which the stamps were affixed.

For the last printings it was found preferable to employ some other nature of glue,* mixed, perhaps, with gum arabic; the former may be recognised by its more glossy surface, showing here and there brilliant shiny dots, and by its being very slightly soluble in cold water. The stamps thus gummed adhered very badly to the letters, and may sometimes be found stuck on with wafers.

As may be seen, the study of the gum, though apparently of but little importance, is in reality of some interest, as it assists us in the classification of the stamps.

½ GRANO.

Two plates were constructed for this value, and the following supplies were delivered:—

December 7th, 1858	100,000.
February 3rd, 1859	100,000.
April 18th, 1860	35,000.

PLATE I.—Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, 221 × 261 mm. These measurements are taken from a sheet printed on the soft paper (brought from Naples). A little difference may be noticed in the sheets printed on the hard paper (bought in Palermo). This is due to the different shrinkage of the paper in the drying of the sheets after printing.

The plate is formed by the union of four plates of twenty-five stamps. As already noted (see page 64), the right lower portion of this plate was used first to print various proofs, which were submitted to the Chief of the Finance Department in Palermo for the choice of the colours for the different values; and the left lower portion was used to print proofs in *bright blue*. The stamps of the two left groups show the right upper

* From the letter of the Minister for Sicily in Naples, dated March 4th, 1858, reproduced on page 28, we gathered that for the Neapolitan Stamps "fish glue, gum [Arabic], and British gum" were used.

corner incomplete, and two white dots in the cross-lined background of the head, in close proximity to the nose. These peculiarities are not to be seen in the stamps of the right-hand groups, which show other peculiarities, due to the matrix die or to unsuccessful reduplication, a fact we mention here once for all. Nos. 6 to 10, 26 to 30, 36 to 40, 59, 60, 68, 69, 77, 78, 80, 88, 89, 98, and 100 show a white dot touching the right stroke of the "A" of "POSTA." Nos. 17, 47, 57, and 58 show a white spot in the background near the back of the head.

To these defects others must be added which exist in single stamps only. These are perhaps most conspicuous in No. 52, which has a white spot near the back of the head; in No. 73, a coloured spot in the margin, under the value; and in No. 97, in which the "R" of "GR." is joined to the "I" of "½" by a white spot. Many other defects may be detected.

Retouches.—No. 19 shows a few horizontal and vertical strokes added in the background, near the upper part of the back of the head. In No. 31 the tops of the letters of "DELLA" were redrawn. No. 69 shows strokes or lines in the background similar to those in No. 19, but they are more numerous. This stamp also shows a coloured dot in the bunch of hair on the forehead. A few other lines, completing the background in the same position, are to be found in Nos. 68* and 99, while No. 79 shows an oblique stroke completing the left bottom border of the stamp, and extending from the "B" of "BOLLO" nearly to the left bottom corner. We have thus six retouched stamps on this plate, four of which belong to the right lower group, which was recut when the entire plate was put together, the colour proofs already mentioned showing no signs of retouching. A colour proof is shown in illustration Plate B, No. 69*a*, side by side with the same stamp retouched (No. 69*b*), thus showing plainly the design before and after retouching.

The examination of a few stamps on original letters or papers did not afford conclusive evidence as to which plates were used for the different printings. That Plate I. was used for the first printing is, of course, beyond question. It seems probable that the second lot was obtained from both plates, as we have stamps from Plate II. on the soft Naples paper. The fact that impressions from the first plate are also found on the hard paper is a proof that it was used in printing the last supply, for which Plate II. was also employed.

Thus we have from Plate I. :—

(a) On *soft* paper :

- ½ grano, dull orange.
- ½ „ orange-yellow.
- ½ „ olive-orange.

(b) On *hard* paper :

- ½ grano, pale orange.

The *olive-orange* shade is very rare. It must belong to an early printing, the design being very sharp, although I have a specimen of this stamp on a newspaper dated January 11th, 1860 (Messina).

* This small retouch cannot be detected in our reproduction.

PLATE II.*—Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including exterior frame line, 217 × 247 mm. This plate was formed by joining together 100 reproductions of the die, without the previous arrangement in four groups. The space between the rows is only 1½ mm. horizontally and vertically. It will be noticed that the vertical dividing lines do not separate the space into two equal parts, the space on the right side being, as a rule, about ½ mm., and that on the left about 1 mm. The horizontal spacing is also frequently unequally cut by the dividing lines. Another peculiarity belonging to this plate is a *white* indentation in the inner rectangle, at bottom, near the right corner. This is a useful mark, although some stamps in the two lower rows are innocent of this defect.

Accidental varieties.—A *white* spot in the upper label touching the "P" of "POSTA" (No. 9); a *white* dot between "L" and "A" of "DELLA" is to be found in Nos. 6, 7, 9, 11 to 19, 24, 27, and 28; a *white* dot in the background of the inner rectangle under "P" of "POSTA" and a *white* flaw in the middle of the left frame (No. 51); a coloured spot on the right-hand part of the forehead (No. 63); left upper corner of the inner rectangle incomplete (No. 76, *see* illustration on Plate B, marked "Plate II.," left lower stamp of the group).

I have been unable to detect any retouch on this plate. The specimens on original letters, etc., that I have seen do not enable me to state whether the first printing comprised stamps from this plate. From what has been said under Plate I., it is proved that the second and third printings included stamps from Plate II.; in fact, I have a stamp from this plate on a newspaper with the Palermo postmark of March 22nd, 1859.

From Plate II. we have:—

(a) On *soft* paper :

½ grano, deep orange.
½ „ orange.

(b) On *hard* paper :

½ grano, orange.
½ „ pale orange.

THE ½ GRANO, BLUE. From a letter dated May 6th, 1859, to which reference is made at page 69, we learned that, when the stock of paper obtained from Naples was nearly exhausted, a trial impression was made on a sheet bought in Palermo by the printer, which was submitted to the Director-General of the Post Office in order to decide whether the new quality was acceptable. Unfortunately, the documents are silent as to the colour of the impression and the value. But it seems very likely that the impression was made in *blue*, as the only stamps being printed at the time were the 2 grana, and that it was found convenient to use the lowest value and a new plate. This theory is supported by the date of the original letter on which both known copies of this variety were found. This letter

* I have never seen a complete sheet of this plate. The description is given from a portion of the sheet (seventy-eight stamps), reconstructed from different blocks. The stamps missing are Nos. 2 to 5, 10, 20, 50, 60, 70, 74, 75, 84 to 87, and 90 to 97.

was addressed to Syracuse* and bears the Palermo circular postmark of April 21st, 1859 (the figures of the year are not very distinct). Therefore it seems probable that a sheet of $\frac{1}{2}$ grano printed in *blue* was inserted by mistake in a package of 2 grana, or perhaps the stamps were purloined by some clerk, used for postage, and on account of their colour passed as 2 grana.† The letter came from Palermo, where the stamps were printed.

The colour may be described as *deep dull blue*, the gum is *brown* and had some effect on the paper of the stamp as well as on that of the letter.

When the existence of $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, *blue*, stamps became known, a rascal tried to produce the "genuine used error" by putting a forged or, more likely, a posthumous cancellation on some $\frac{1}{2}$ grano colour proofs in *milky blue* and *dark blue*. The man did not anticipate that the trick could easily be detected, by the fact that all the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano colour proofs are from Plate I., whilst the used $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, *blue*, belong undoubtedly to Plate II., and are therefore easily recognisable.

It will be useful to add that no *unused* $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, *blue*, from Plate II. are known.

I GRANO.

Three plates were constructed for this value, and consignments were delivered as follows:—

December 7th, 1858	200,000
February 3rd, 1859	100,000
July 23rd, 1859	100,000
January 14th, 1860	60,000
April 18th, 1860	80,000
Forming a total of	<u>540,000</u>

The plates were obtained by the direct union of the 100 reproductions, without forming small plates of twenty-five.

PLATE I. (*see* Plates C and D).—It is very probable that when the contractors tried to produce entire plates of 100 stamps in a single piece, without first constructing plates of twenty-five, they began with this plate, which presents some peculiarities not to be found in any other. The galvanic reproductions were probably not fixed to their backing with small nails or pins, but secured to it in some other way; in fact, we do not find the small circles produced by the heads of the pins as noted in the other plates. An outer frame, consisting of a few lines joined together, so as to give the

* The letter bore the two $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, *blue*, in the left upper corner, and it had the following address in four lines:—

"Sua Ecc^{ca}.
"Cav. Sebastiano Cultrera Ascenzo di
"Montesano,
"Siracusa."

The person (a gentleman in Syracuse) who found the letter among his family's correspondence, was a collector. He therefore detached one of the specimens from the letter and put it in his collection. The letter was then sold to a Parisian collector. A few years later (in 1896, I believe) the former collector sold all his stamps to a dealer, from whom the other error (the loose copy) was resold to Prince Doria Pamphilj. This copy was shown at the Philatelic Exhibition in Manchester, 1899.

† Only half a sheet of the letter was left when I saw it. If it consisted of two sheets the inland rate of postage would have been 4 grana. The cover did not show any trace of having been charged with insufficient postage, as should have been the case if the stamps were used for their face value.

appearance of a solid bar $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in thickness surrounds the block, instead of a single line as in the other plates. This is another peculiarity of this plate.

The dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, are 219 × 255 mm. There are spaces of 2 mm. between the vertical and $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the horizontal rows. This spacing affords the best guide to the identification of the specimens from this plate. Another useful peculiarity will be found in the letters "ST" of "POSTA," which are frequently joined at top by a sort of white flaw. We find, however, that in the stamps of the third and seventh horizontal rows these letters are not joined, as may be seen in the illustrations. We frequently find a white flaw under "D" of "DELLA," the "L" of "SICILIA" prolonged to left at bottom, the last "I" of the same word prolonged to right into a sort of "L," and other similar defects, which, however, are not constant. To these tests we may add that, in doubtful cases, *i.e.* for specimens without margins, the absence of the white dash in the background near the point of the beard, which will be pointed out as a peculiarity of Plate II., will be sufficient to settle the question. We think, on the other hand, that the merest tyro will easily distinguish a stamp from Plate I. from one of Plate III.; but with the two first plates a mistake may easily be made if the various small defects are not considered.

The incapacity of the constructors of the plates is particularly conspicuous in this instance. In order to improve this plate it was therefore found necessary to retouch it in many places.

Retouches.—This plate provides the philatelist with some of his greatest puzzles, which are due to two distinct retouchings of some stamps having taken place. The first retouching was done just after the construction of the plate, and the second after a certain number of impressions, when signs of some wearing out were noted. It is evident that, in order to give a full description of the plate in its two principal states, the direct study of one impression from each state would be necessary. Unfortunately, entire sheets or large blocks are practically unknown both to myself and to the other collectors with whom I am acquainted; I have had, therefore, to endeavour to reconstruct a sheet, mainly from horizontal pairs and strips—blocks being nearly non-existent and vertical pairs or strips very rarely to be met with. It must be added that specimens with blurred impressions, printed with a too fluid ink from the worn plate, are of very little assistance or of no use at all either in the reconstruction of the plate or in the detection of the small retouches. I have located 79 out of the 100 stamps in the sheet, including many of the retouched designs; the complete plate remains still a desideratum, but I am confident that this will be attained in the near future.

We have stamps retouched only once, before the plate was put to press, and others retouched later on when, as already noted, the plate began to show slight signs of wearing out; lastly, specimens twice retouched. The first retouching will be described as *a*, and the second as *b*. Instead of describing separately the two retouchings—undoubtedly a more scientific plan—I have thought it preferable, for the sake of clearness, to describe the

different retouches in the order in which they appear in the sheet, or, to be more exact, in the reconstructed portion of it, illustrating side by side the stamps twice retouched; and lastly describing the varieties not yet located in the sheet:—

Illustrations on PLATE E.

No. 5*a*. A curved line has been drawn, in order to mark the profile of the front part of the bust; the background under the point of the beard is filled in with horizontal and vertical lines.

No. 7*a*. There is a horizontal stroke under "O" of "POSTA."

No. 14*a*. The bunch of hair on the forehead is entirely redrawn. The background above the head has been filled in with a thick blotch, which is to be seen also in the later impressions. In this cliché there is always an accidental thin white diagonal line, crossing the "T" and the left lower part of the "A" of "POSTA."

No. 16*a*. The head has been re-engraved almost entirely; the expression of the face is wholly different, the lines of the hair and beard are arranged otherwise than in the regular type, and, strange to say, the ear is entirely wanting. The left-hand part of the background is also recut. This is a very marked variety indeed. It made me think of a classical picture entrusted to a bad restorer, whose repairs no longer allow the hand of the master to be distinguished.

No. 18*a*. A decided curved line marks the profile of the front part of the bust and the lower part of the beard. A vertical line is drawn at the right lower corner of the stamp.

No. 18*b*. There are numerous very thin lines in the upper part of the hair and in the beard. The eye and ear have been wholly re-engraved. Numerous small dots on the ear, the eye, and the neck. The background is almost entirely filled in with crossed lines. A line has been drawn at the bottom of the stamp.

No. 24*a*. In the background, near the lower lip, there is a minute white flaw, partly filled in by a horizontal stroke.

No. 27*b*. The last letter of "DELLA" and the letters "OST" of "POSTA" have been partly redrawn. The background above the head is filled in with many horizontal and vertical lines. Three minute vertical strokes have been added in the background near the nose.

No. 31*a*. In this cliché the front part of the bust is very defective; the retouch consists of a few lines under it. In the background under the chin there is a white flaw, partly filled in by a horizontal stroke.

No. 32*a*. A few short horizontal and vertical lines have been added in the background, touching the upper part of the back of the head.

No. 34*a*. A few thin oblique lines are added on the upper part of the head. The bunch of hair is partly redrawn. There is a sort of thick dot at the left side of the "S" of "POSTA".

No. 34*b*. There are a few deep vertical and horizontal lines, intended to fill in a white flaw in the background over the head; these are clearly to be seen even in the last printings.

No. 51*a*. The white dot touching the nose is filled in by a few horizontal

strokes; the line of the profile of the nose is partly redrawn. This cliché also shows a deep accidental spot of colour in the white frame line just under the "S" of "POSTA".

No. 53, *probably b.* There are two short vertical lines in the background behind the neck, and two minute vertical strokes in the background touching the nose.

Illustrations on PLATE F.

No. 55a. The retouch is similar to that of Nos. 5a and 18a: a decided curved line marking the profile of the front part of the bust and the lower part of the beard. Also a thick stroke on the upper part of the nose.

No. 55b. The thin lines of the first retouch have nearly all disappeared. Five decided strokes have been drawn in the background near the eye; the eye is partly redrawn.

No. 57a. The white dot touching the nose is partly filled in by two diagonal strokes.

No. 59a. There is a short horizontal stroke under the bottom part of the bust.

No. 89a. In this cliché the top portion of the head and the upper inscription are very defective. The "O" of "POSTA" has been retouched, as also the upper part of the background, in order to show the head off better.

No. 98a. Another defective cliché. The profile of the upper part of the forehead and the nose is redrawn. A few minute vertical strokes are added in the background under the nose.

The retouched stamps which I have been unable to locate in the plate are the following:—

PLATE F. *Third and fourth stamps in second row.*—This is another marked retouch. (A) The hair and beard are extensively redrawn; the line of the profile of the nose is also recut. The bottom part of the beard is deeply outlined, and a few crossed strokes added to fill up the background under it. The ear is almost invisible even in the early printings, and entirely absent in the later ones. The second retouch (B) only consists in a very thin oblique line intended to represent the eyelid.

PLATE F. *First and third stamps in third row.*—This was a very poor cliché, having the peculiarity of presenting an accidental, deep spot of colour on the right-hand side of the bust. The bunch of hair on the forehead is remade, and consists of some extremely thin curved lines. The oblique line of the profile of the nose is redrawn; we also find a coloured blotch near the nostril. The second retouch (B) of the same stamp shows the head almost entirely redrawn, the result being a queer-looking expression, quite different to the regular one. The beard has particularly been worked over. The eye, nostril, mouth, and ear have been "embellished" with numerous dots (as found in No. 18b). The left-hand part of the background shows many new horizontal and vertical lines.

PLATE F. *Fourth stamp in third row.*—The letters "O" and "S" of "POSTA" have been slightly retouched. I think that this alteration belongs to the second retouching (B).

PLATE F. *Fourth row.*—These stamps show the oblique line of the nose slightly recut (probably A). These minute retouches are very difficult to distinguish.

The different printings.—We have already learned that the printing of the stamps, after the trial impressions of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano in different colours, began with the 1 grano. The first lot of 200,000 1 grano stamps consisted of impressions from Plates I. and II., but in what proportions nobody can tell.

It seems very likely that this plate was again used for the second lot, consisting of 100,000 stamps (February 3rd), as also were the second and third plates, and that to the second printing belong the different *olive-brown* shades, which, in fact, I have never found on original letters of January, 1859.

The stamps from this plate are only to be found on the soft porous paper. The gum is always *brown* or *yellowish brown*, of bad quality, frequently staining the paper.

- 1 grano, deep russet-brown.
- 1 „ russet-brown.
- 1 „ dark olive-brown.
- 1 „ olive-brown.

With a few intermediate shades.

PLATE II.*—Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, 214 × 244 mm. The spaces are 1 mm. between the vertical and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the horizontal rows.

What I consider to be the best guide to the identification of specimens from this plate is a defect of reproduction consisting of a short white dash in the background, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. under the point of the beard. This dash is absent in stamp No. 98. In Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20 in the place of the dash we find a minute white spot, hardly to be seen in blurred impressions.

Many other defects peculiar to each cliché exist. I will mention only the more prominent: A coloured dot under the lower lip (No. 5); the shading of the neck under the ear is colourless (No. 6); a coloured spot in the border of the stamp near the right upper corner, and a distinct white dot in the background near the forehead (No. 17); a white blotch near the front part of the bust, touching the interior frame line between the two letters of "GR." (No. 21); a white spot touching the mouth (No. 34); Nos. 30, 32, and 35 (*see* Plate G) show a double impression, this fact being most evident in No. 35; a white blotch between "G" and "R" of "GR." touching both letters (No. 38); no background under "T" of "POSTA" (No. 40); a coloured spot in the white frame line at right of "A" of "POSTA," the bottom part of this stamp always presents a blurred appearance (No. 47); a coloured dot on the lower part of the forehead (No. 55); a coloured dot on the beard and another one on the white frame line opposite "D" of "DELLA" (No. 65); a coloured dot on the flap of the ear (No. 70); a coloured dot near the eye and still another at the left side of the flap of the ear (No. 76); a white

* I have never seen complete sheets of this plate, but I succeeded in reconstructing it from pairs and small blocks. Later on, I bought an unused block of fifty stamps of an early printing.

blotch at top of "TA" of "POSTA" touching both letters (No. 90); a coloured dot at 1 mm. to left of the ear (No. 93); two coloured strokes under the "A" of "DELLA" and a coloured curved line in the white border under "GR." (No. 95); a coloured indentation in the upper part of the forehead (No. 98). The stamps occupying places 90 and 93 to 100 show a white dot in the background, near the right-hand corner of the inner rectangular frame line.

Retouches (see Plate G).—They are neither numerous nor important. No. 19 received a few horizontal and vertical lines in the background, opposite the forehead; this stamp shows a very bad reproduction of the head, the ear being entirely absent, and the drawing of the hair and beard is extremely incomplete. In No. 59 we find six vertical and two horizontal strokes drawn to fill up a white spot over the "A" of "POSTA". In No. 60 a short line was drawn in order to complete the end of the bust; this is a very minute retouch indeed. No. 69 received a few horizontal and vertical lines, filling a white spot on the background, near the front part of the bust; this stamp also shows another small retouch near the ear, consisting of a sort of blotch in which—with the help of a magnifying glass—will be seen a curved line drawn in order to partly outline the ear. No. 82 shows a very small retouch, consisting of a few horizontal strokes completing the background above the head, under the "T" of "POSTA". No. 84 is a bad cliché; the retouch consists only in a curved line outlining the upper part of the head. This stamp always shows a white diagonal scratch near the right upper corner, from the coloured outer line of the stamp touching the "D" of "DI". Another minute retouch will be found in No. 89, consisting of three horizontal and one vertical lines, to fill up a white spot in the background, touching the white frame line between "D" and "E" of "DELLA".

The different printings.—In the description of the stamps from Plate I. it has been mentioned that the first supply of the 1 grano stamps undoubtedly consisted of printings from the first two plates. That stamps from Plate II. were printed for the first supply is proved by some original letter-sheets bearing various dates of January, 1859; the earliest I have come across being the 10th of that month, from Palermo, followed by another of the 17th from Catania. It seems quite probable, however, that earlier dates may be found, but as no other supply was delivered to the Stamp Keeper before February 3rd, the above-mentioned dates are sufficient to prove the fact.* Perhaps the two plates were worked at the same time to print this value.

The second supply consisted certainly of stamps from Plates II. and III., and perhaps also of a very limited number of sheets from Plate I.

* In the very fine specialised collection of Sicilian stamps formed by Mr. T. Wickham Jones, I have seen an unused strip of four stamps (of an early printing), being Nos. 94 to 97, with large bottom margins, on which the following note in pen and ink had been written: "*Cominciate li 8 Genno 59*" (began on January 8th, 1859). The discolouration of the ink of this inscription is a proof of its early date. Although I am unable to give an explanation of that note, I have thought it worth while to put it here on record. Perhaps it was written by someone who purchased the sheet, and began to use the stamps on that date.

The third supply, printed partly on the Naples and partly on the Palermo paper, included stamps from Plates II. and III. only.

As to the fourth and fifth consignments, it seems quite probable that Plate III. only was used. We do not find, as a matter of fact, stamps from Plate I. or II. in some *greenish* shades, which are peculiar to the Plate III.

At all events the second plate was certainly used for printing larger quantities than the two others, as is proved by the proportion of stamps we have seen, and by the fact that they are frequently found on letters during nearly the whole period in which the stamps were in circulation. It follows as a consequence that the retouched stamps from this plate, although uncommon, cannot as a rule be considered rare, with the exception of unused specimens in the early *brownish* shades, fine impressions being particularly hard to find in this state.

We have thus :—

(a) On *soft* paper :

- 1 grano, deep olive-brown.
- 1 „ olive-brown.
- 1 „ brownish olive.
- 1 „ dark olive-green.

(b) On *hard* paper :

- 1 grano, dark olive-green.

I should add that stamps in *olive-brown* may be found showing two distinct impressions superposed, with about 3 mm. vertically between their corresponding lines, a result due to a certain undulating movement of the sheet at the moment when it passed under the press (*see* block of four at foot of Plate G, incorrectly marked Plate III.). I have been informed that a large unused block of this defective printing was found a few years ago, which was cut up and single copies, pairs, and blocks sold to collectors. I have also met with the same accidental variety in used condition. This must not be confounded with stamps Nos. 30, 32, and 35 of this plate already mentioned, which are due to a double impression of the press in making the matrix dies for these particular clichés; these defective types are, of course, to be found in every sheet printed from this plate.

PLATE III. (*see* Plates H and I).—This plate was formed by joining together 100 electro-types. These reproductions show a marked improvement not only on the wretched first plate, but also on the second.

The size of the pane of stamps is 215 × 244 mm., measured on a sheet printed on the hard paper. The distances between the rows are, as a rule, 1½ mm. vertically and horizontally. As in the case of the second plate of the ½ grano, the vertical dividing lines do not separate the space into two equal parts; the space on the left hand of many stamps being about ½ mm. and that on the right about 1 mm. The same irregular division of the spacing exists between the horizontal rows, the stamps showing more white spacing at top than at bottom.

In the top margin of the sheet, at 6 mm. above the sixth stamp of

the first row, we find three coloured dots . . . I wonder whether they were purposely made to identify the plate, or whether they are merely accidental.

A good point for distinguishing the stamps from this plate from those of the second is afforded by the absence of the horizontal white stroke in the background near the chin.

Here, also, the circular white spots formed by the heads of the rivets are noticeable, but they are not very numerous or conspicuous, and we do not find them in the margins, except at the left side near the first stamp in the second row.

Accidental varieties are not very prominent, and it will be sufficient to mention only a few of them. A coloured stroke on the forehead (No. 9); a *white* spot in the inner rectangle, touching the *white* frame line opposite the second "L" of "DELLA", is more or less marked on all the stamps of the third and eighth rows, and in Nos. 43, 45, and 47, while in Nos. 59 and 60 this spot is still more prominent; No. 59 shows, in addition, a *white* dot in the inner rectangle, on the background between "I" of "DI" and "S" of "SICILIA". In No. 83 we see a *white* flaw near the chin, and in No. 85 a deep coloured blotch in the *white* frame at left under "E" of "DELLA", and another on the bust.

Retouches.—These are numerous in this plate, but very minute. A defect of reproduction, noticeable in many stamps, consists of a *white* flaw in the angle formed by the neck and the front line of the bust. It is left unaltered on Nos. 12, 13, and 31 (*see* Plate H), and is more or less filled in by a retouch, consisting of an oblique line, in Nos. 32 to 40 and 53 to 59. Of course, all these sixteen small retouches are different; but I am quite unable to describe them so minutely as to enable them to be distinguished one from the other, and in some instances I am doubtful whether stamps were retouched or not.

This plate was certainly used for printing some of the 100,000 stamps of the second supply (February 3rd, 1859), as we have a pair of these stamps (with *brownish* gum) on a letter postmarked in March of that year, no other supply of this value being delivered before July 23rd. In that third printing the plate under consideration was put to press again, as proved by letters of various dates in August, 1859, bearing stamps on the hard paper, which was used for the first time for the stocks of stamps printed in July (*white* gum). I think that for the fourth and fifth printings the third plate *only* was used.

We find:—

(a) On *soft* paper:

1 grano, deep olive-green (shades).

(b) On *hard* paper:

1 grano, olive-green.

1 „ light olive-green.

The specimens ordinarily met with in unused condition belong mostly to the later printings from this plate (on the hard paper).

2 GRANA.

Three plates were constructed for this value, and the following supplies were delivered :—

December 7th, 1858	200,000
January 29th, 1859	10,000
February 1st "	25,000
" 3rd "	65,000
" 19th "	100,000
" ? "	100,000
April 12th "	200,000
July 23rd "	400,000
January 14th, 1860	300,000
April 18th "	250,000
Forming a total of	<u>1,650,000</u> stamps.

I think that the second, third, and fourth consignments (100,000 stamps) may be considered as one printing; in fact, from the delivery of the second lot to that of the fourth, only five days elapsed. The reason of these small consignments was the exhaustion of the first lot and the necessity for promptly sending further supplies to the various provincial Post Offices.

It is absolutely impossible to ascertain how many stamps were struck from each plate. It has been already stated that two or three copper-plate printing presses were used simultaneously. The existence of stamps from the first and second plates used on original letters, bearing various dates in the very early part of January, 1859,* is an unquestionable proof that both plates were used for the first lot of 200,000 stamps. These two plates will be here designated as "first" and "second" only as a matter of convenience. I prefer to call Plate I. that showing the greater number of retouched stamps, in accordance with what occurred in the case of other values.

PLATE I. (*see* Plates J and K).—Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, 215 × 244 mm.; these measurements are taken from a sheet printed on the hard Palermo paper.

This plate was composed of four groups of twenty-five stamps. The distances between the stamps are, as a rule, 1½ mm. between the horizontal rows and 2 mm. between the vertical; but at the conjunction of the groups the distance is about 2¼ mm. between the vertical rows.

In the stamps of the left upper group we see two *white* spots in the background, near the nose, while in those of the right upper group one *white* spot is to be found touching the nose. There are other *white* spots peculiar to this group, but it is sufficient to mention the one on the inner frame line at right opposite the "C" of "SICILIA". There are no constant peculiarities enabling the stamps of the left lower group to be distinguished from those of the right one; thirteen stamps, however (Nos. 55, 61, 72, 73, 74, 75, 81, 82, 83, 85, 91, 92, 93) of the left lower group show a *white* spot touching the bottom inner frame line near the front part of the bust, above the letter "G" of "GR.",

* I have a 2 grana stamp of Plate I. on an original letter postmarked Palermo, January 1st, 1859, and another of Plate II. on an original letter of the 4th of the same month.

a peculiarity not existing on the fourth group. A very small *white* dot in the background, near the eyebrow, will be seen in every stamp of the two lower groups.

In several places upon the sheet, and particularly in the bottom margin, there are circular spots of different sizes, formed by the heads of the rivets used in fixing the plate to its backing.

The process of reduplication gave poor results, and in addition to the defects already mentioned as belonging to each group, others may be noted. The following may perhaps be considered the most noticeable: A large *white* spot in the inner rectangle, under "A" of "POSTA" (No. 25); a *white* mark closely resembling a comma near the figure "2" (No. 30); a large *white* spot in the inner rectangle above the figure "2" (No. 44); a white spot joining "IL" in "SICILIA" (No. 46); a coloured spot in the bunch of hair on the forehead, one on the nose, and two *white* ones on the neck (No. 57); a coloured spot on the forehead near the eye (No. 59); in No. 95 the beard near the mouth is very badly drawn; a curved white line forming a sort of tail on the left side of the "G" of "GR." (No. 97); a white spot disfiguring the "G" of "GR." (No. 100).

Retouches.—These are numerous: No. 7 shows a few very thin horizontal lines at top, to the right of the "A" of "POSTA"; No. 8 has similar thin lines at the left of that word; No. 36 has a few vertical lines completing the left lower corner, and the left top corner, where a circular spot formed by the head of a rivet is to be seen, is filled in by a thick stroke. Nos. 51, 55, 71, 78, 81, 82, 84, 88, 92, and 94 have a few additional curved strokes which make the bunch of hair on the forehead more plain. The same Nos. 55, 78, 81, and 82 show also a few dots on the forehead. In Nos. 84 and 94 the retouches already noted are so minute that they are difficult to see with the naked eye in the later printings. In No. 82 there are, in addition, some lines which appear to part the hair near the top of the head. In No. 57 the "G" of "GR." was partly recut—its horizontal stroke is too much prolonged to the left. In No. 79 the figure "2" is outlined at right side and a horizontal line is drawn at the bottom of this figure touching the fullstop. No. 91 has a few vertical and horizontal lines completing the left bottom corner, which had been left white by one of the very frequent defects in reproduction. Thus sixteen stamps on this plate had been retouched.

From this plate stamps were printed on both qualities of paper:—

(a) On *soft* paper:

2 grana, deep cobalt.
2 „ ultramarine blue.
2 „ dull pale blue.

(b) On *hard* paper:

2 grana, dull blue.
2 „ pale blue.

Specimens from two different printings have been found with an impression on both sides of the paper. In the second of those mentioned below the impression on the gummed side is very faint and is inverted with

reference to that on the face. In neither case do the two impressions exactly correspond.

(a) On *soft* paper :

2 grana, deep cobalt.

(b) On *hard* paper :

2 grana, pale blue.

Both the specimens I have seen are postmarked.

PLATE II. (*see* Plates L and M).—This plate, like the first, was formed by the conjunction of four groups of twenty-five stamps. The dimensions of the plate and the spacing between the rows are the same as in Plate I.

An examination of the two plates side by side proves that electro-type reproductions of the groups of twenty-five stamps were taken. The constant peculiarities respectively noted for all the stamps of the top groups and for the right lower one are also found here; the left lower group in this plate is the only different one. It shows the white dot touching the nose as found in the second group of both plates. It is, therefore, difficult to state in many cases to which of these two plates a stamp belongs. The colour is of no help in this direction, although some shades are not identical for both plates. The third group of the first plate had nine retouched stamps; this group being perhaps considered defective was not reproduced, and an electro-type reproduction of the second group of the first plate was put in its place.

Some of the more noticeable defects on this plate are the following: A large white spot in the inner rectangle under the "A" of "POSTA", as noted in the first plate (No. 25); a white blotch at right of "G" (No. 68); the lower part of the figure "2" omitted (No. 79), which was subjected to retouching in the first plate; a white spot disfiguring the "G" of "GR." (No. 100). Many stamps on this sheet show the right bottom corner very incomplete. These and other defects are, of course, more prominent on the stamps from the last printings, in which they have, so to say, a *snowy* appearance.

The presence of small circular spots, caused by the heads of rivets, is also to be observed here, but they are less numerous and prominent than in Plate I.

Retouches.—These are less numerous, not because this plate is an improvement on the first, but because the recutting of the bunch of hair on the forehead, so common in the first plate, was not introduced here.

In No. 45 the right lower corner is completed by several very distinct lines intersecting each other, one of which forms the bottom line of the figure "2"; No. 57 shows a retouch of the "G" of "GR.", to correct the defect shown on the stamp in the first plate; only a portion of the curved body of this letter had been traced, and the horizontal stroke is here too short. In No. 71 we see a few vertical lines at bottom near the left corner; in No. 81 the letter "A" of "DELLA" has been partly recut, a few intersecting lines were added to the background near this letter to fill up the corner, and a horizontal line was drawn above "POSTA". No. 83 has also some sharp intersecting lines near the left upper corner, and the right part of the "A" of "DELLA" is strengthened. We have thus five retouched stamps for this plate.

We do not know how many impressions were taken from this plate, but the fact that the retouched stamps belonging to it are less common than those from Plate I. seems to indicate that it was less used.

From this plate also stamps were printed on both papers.

(a) On *soft* paper :

- 2 grana, deep cobalt.
- 2 „ ultramarine blue.

(b) On *hard* paper :

- 2 grana, dull blue.
- 2 „ pale blue.

PLATE III. (*see* Plates N *and* O).—The remarks concerning the second plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano and the third of the 1 grano may, in great part, be applied to this. It is formed by the combination of 100 electro-types, in ten rows of ten, without first constructing groups of twenty-five stamps. The reproductions show here a marked improvement on the other plates of this value, and no retouches were made.

The size of the pane of stamps is 215 × 243 mm., measured on a sheet printed on the hard paper. The spaces, as a rule, are $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. between the horizontal rows and 2 mm. between the vertical.

The absence of the defects of reproduction noted for the other plates of this value is sufficient to distinguish the specimens printed from this. *White* spots occur also on this plate, but they are not so plain nor so numerous. The absence of the *white* dots touching the nose, or near it on the forehead, as noted for each group in the other plates, is the very best guide to distinguish the stamps from this plate. Another means for distinguishing these stamps consists in two minute *white* dots, one of which is among the shadows behind the ear and the other upon the neck, 2 mm. away from the first; but they are very difficult to find, particularly in the early printings. They appear upon all the stamps of this plate, except those of the first horizontal row.

Here, also, it will be useful to note a few defects: Coloured dots on the margin over "A" of "POSTA" (Nos. 2 and 3); a white stroke in the background touching the eyebrows (No. 37); two coloured dots on the forehead (No. 61); a coloured dot on the forehead touching the background (No. 70); two minute coloured dots on the forehead (Nos. 75 and 82); two coloured dots between the nose and the eye and two others on the forehead (No. 96).

Here also we have the presence of *white* circular dots, caused by the heads of the rivets.

From this plate printings were made on both qualities of paper:—

(a) *Soft* paper :

- 2 grana, deep blue.
- 2 „ deep dull blue.

(b) *Hard* paper :

- 2 grana, deep dull blue.
- 2 „ dull blue.
- 2 „ pale blue.

It is important to note that the real *deep blue* is peculiar to this plate. Impressions from the two other plates were printed in a few intense shades of *cobalt* and *ultramarine blue*, approaching this very nearly, but the philatelist with a good eye for shades will distinguish it. These *deep blue* stamps are perhaps the most favourable examples of the Sicilian issue, being printed from a well-executed plate in its first state, and the clear gum not injuring the whiteness of the paper. It is a rare stamp unused, but the *cobalt* and *ultramarine blue* of the other plates are also difficult to obtain in "mint" condition.

I have not found 2 grana stamps from Plate III. on original letters of the first four months of 1859; we meet with only a few in May, 1859, the earliest I have found being on a piece of original letter with the Palermo postmark of the 6th of that month, the colour of the stamp is *deep blue*. I have also before me a letter dated May 14th, franked with a *dull blue* stamp. These two very distinct shades belong, therefore, to the supply of 200,000 stamps of April 12th, 1859, for which it seems quite probable that Plate III. was put to press for the first time. I think that for the subsequent printings this plate was extensively employed, but stamps from Plates I. and II. are frequently found on the hard paper, a proof that they also were used for the later printings. It is upon letters of the months of 1860, during which the set was in use, that the stamps of Plate III. are most frequently found.

Here also we have stamps printed on both sides. The specimen I have seen, which is postmarked, is printed in *dull blue*; the impression on the gum side is very faint. The two impressions correspond exactly in position.

On *soft* paper :

2 grana, dull blue.

5 GRANA.

There were two plates and two printings of this value.

First Printing.

PLATE I. (*see* Plates P and Q).—This was used for printing 100,000 stamps, which were delivered to the Storekeeper on December 7th, 1858. Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, 215 × 250 mm. This is the size of a sheet on the soft porous paper; a little difference may be noticed in sheets printed on the hard paper (214 × 247 mm.). The spaces are 1½ mm. between the horizontal rows, and 1¾ mm. between the vertical ones.

This plate was formed by the combination of four groups of twenty-five stamps. In the first, second, and third groups the right upper corners of the stamps are incomplete, and there is a *white* dot upon the nose of the portrait. In the fourth group there are two *white* dots below the right stroke of the "A" in the word "DELLA." Many stamps of the fourth group show also another *white* dot, 2 mm. from the left upper corner; but the presence of the two dots below the right stroke of the "A" of "DELLA" just mentioned distinguishes the specimens belonging to this group.

The accidental varieties are numerous, as usual in the plates formed of

four groups. Coloured blotches are found in the *white* borders in many stamps belonging to the outer rows. No. 23 has three oblique strokes near the hair on the forehead under the "s" of "POSTA"; No. 24 has two *white* spots under the letters "TA"; No. 26 a short line in the inner *white* frame under the "A" of "POSTA"; No. 39 a coloured blotch under the "A" of "DELLA"; No. 52 two *white* spots nearly in the centre of the stamp; No. 60 has a coloured blotch near the nape of the neck; No. 99 two coloured blotches—one on the forehead, and the other in the upper part of the head.

No. 67 looks as if it had been added afterwards to the plate. Perhaps a wrong or defective electro-type was replaced by another.

Retouches are neither numerous nor marked. Nos. 5 and 10 have received a few intersecting strokes at the left of the word "POSTA", while in Nos. 9 and 46 similar strokes are visible to the right of the same word. In Nos. 9 and 19 a short vertical stroke or line completes the right upper corner; this line is too much prolonged upward in No. 19. Another retouch, difficult to perceive in indistinct impressions, consists in a curved line outlining the front part of the bust on No. 91.

Only the soft porous paper was used for this printing.

Impressions in :—

- 5 grana, deep carmine.
- 5 „ carmine.
- 5 „ carmine-rose.
- 5 „ brick-red (shades).

The *brown-red* variety sometimes mentioned is due to chemical change from the uncommon *brick-red* shades. This is an opinion that is accepted by other specialists. The first sheets printed were, no doubt, those in *deep carmine*, in which even the finer lines of the design are to be clearly seen.

Opaque *yellowish* gum full of little *black* specks.

Second Printing.

Both plates were used for this printing, which consisted of 100,000 stamps, delivered to the Storekeeper on July 23rd, 1859.

PLATE I.—The impressions from this plate are always more or less indistinct. It is impossible to state how many sheets were struck from this plate for the second supply, but the defective impressions obtained must have necessitated the use of another plate at an early period.

Retouches.—They are, of course, the same as those mentioned under the first printing, but are often difficult to perceive owing to the bad printing. Their rarity is a certain proof that the use of the first plate for the second printing was soon discontinued.

Although for the 1 grano and 2 grana stamps delivered on the above-mentioned date both qualities of paper were used, I have never seen nor heard of 5 grana stamps of the second printing on the Naples paper, and it seems likely they do not exist.

I have always been under the impression that stamps belonging to the second supply were only printed in the various shades of *light red* or *pale orange-red*, and I was surprised at coming across an unused copy of a

5 grana stamp, printed in a peculiar *dull rose* shade, on the hard Palermo paper, and with the unmistakable shiny gum of the later printings. My idea is that the printers tried at first to prepare the second supply of this value in *rose*, somewhat in conformity with the first printing, but the very pale shade obtained being found unsatisfactory, they soon had recourse to the *orange-red* pigments. This, however, is only a matter of opinion. At all events, the 5 grana stamps in the peculiar *dull rose* shade are extremely rare.

We have thus stamps from Plate I. in the following colours :—

5	grana, dull rose.
5	„ light red.
5	„ orange-red.
5	„ pale orange-red.

Shiny gum only used for this printing.

PLATE II. (*see* Plates R and S).—This was formed by the union of 100 electro-types ; the reproductions are very carefully made.

Dimensions of the pane of stamps 216 × 243 mm. The spaces are 1½ mm. between the horizontal rows and 2 mm. between the vertical.

On the margin of the sheet in the left upper corner two oblique strokes are found thus, “//”. I do not think that these are intended to distinguish this plate from the first, although that is possible.

The absence of the defects mentioned under the first plate, and especially of the *white* dots under the nose, will be sufficient to distinguish the stamps belonging to this plate. Doubts can only be raised in the case of very blurred impressions.

A few casual blotches are found : No. 3 shows a blotch in the right upper corner ; another blotch covers the second syllable of the word “SICILIA” in No. 57 ; No. 86 shows a coloured spot in the background touching the front part of the bust ; No. 99 shows a *white* spot in the inner rectangle, under the word “DI”. Other minor defects are seen in various parts of the sheet.

Retouch.—No. 90 has two parallel horizontal lines marking the bottom inner frame over the “G” of “GR.” ; they were drawn a little too wide apart, so that the inner *white* frame is too thick in this place.

Stamps from this plate are found in :—

5	grana, deep orange-red.
5	„ vermilion (shades).

The stamps of the second printing are all rare in used condition ; but they are very frequently found with forged postmarks. The earliest used copy I have seen is on a letter from Palermo, dated December 29th, 1859. The first supply was by no means exhausted when the second was distributed, as proved by the existence of many stamps of the first printing amongst the remainders. It is probable that many Post Offices never received 5 grana stamps of the second printing.

10 GRANA.

There was only one plate of this value (*see* Plate T) and a single printing, consisting of 100,000 stamps, which were delivered to the Storekeeper on December 7th, 1858.

Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, 212 × 250 mm. The spaces between the stamps measure 1½ mm. horizontally and vertically.

The plate is formed by the combination of four groups of twenty-five stamps.

The stamps of the two upper groups have the right upper corner incomplete, and there is a *white* dot upon the nose which does not show so distinctly as in the lower values. In the background of the stamps of the two lower groups there is often a minute *white* dot, near the chin, and in many other cases another and larger *white* spot near the front end of the bust, touching the inner white frame.

Accidental varieties are numerous. We will note a few only: Gashes are found in Nos. 27 and 91; No. 57 has a coloured spot on the beard, and No. 58 a coloured dot on the front part of the bust, just over the "R" of "GR." The left lower portion of No. 67 is very badly reproduced, so that the "B" of "BOLLO" and the letters "GR" have a blurred appearance. No. 94 shows a diagonal coloured scratch crossing the ear, and No. 95 shows two scratches, one across the mouth and the other across the chin.

Retouches.—Four or five stamps of the top row have been retouched so far as the upper portion of the top label is concerned. No. 1 shows a horizontal line over the word "POSTA"; No. 4 shows four horizontal lines at the left side; in No. 5 a line has perhaps been drawn under "POSTA"; the top frame line of No. 8 is entirely recut, but it has been drawn too low, touching all the letters in the upper label; in No. 9 the right top corner is redrawn. To complete the right upper corners of Nos. 11 and 21, three lines were added to the first and one to the second, in the latter this line projects across the space at right. The left bottom corner stamp of the sheet (No. 91), a stamp already mentioned for its numerous accidental gashes, presents also a few horizontal strokes completing the background, near the front part of the bust.

We do not find worn impressions, but sometimes copies may be seen showing that the plate was insufficiently inked. Stamps on more or less *bleuté* paper are due to the plate having been badly cleaned.

The soft porous paper only was used for this value.

Impressions as follows:—

- 10 grana, indigo.
- 10 „ indigo-black.
- 10 „ deep Prussian blue.

Very clear and sharp impressions are uncommon.

The gum is *brownish* or *yellowish*, and the oily appearance of some copies is due to this; sometimes the gum is opaque.

20 GRANA.

There was only one plate of this value (*see* Plate T) and a single printing, consisting of 100,000 stamps, which were delivered to the Storekeeper on December 7th, 1858.

Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line,

213½ × 245 mm. The spaces between the stamps measure, as a rule, 1½ mm. horizontally and vertically.

The plate was formed by the direct combination of the 100 electro-types, which were sufficiently well made.

A few accidental varieties may be observed: A thin line crosses Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 from the space between "DELLA" and "POSTA" in No. 4 to the second "L" of "DELLA" in No. 8; No. 40 has a blotch in the space at right between the stamp and the outer frame line; Nos. 46 and 47 have a *white* spot on the second "O" of "BOLLO"; white spots are to be seen in Nos. 41, 53, 95 on the bottom label. We refrain from mentioning many other defects, which, of course, are difficult to describe.

Retouch.—No. 72 was retouched for the purpose of filling a *white* spot between "GR." and "20"; the upper part of the figure "2" was outlined. The effect of this attempt makes it *possible* to read "120" instead of "20". This variety was chronicled for the first time in *Le Timbrophile* of Paris, for June 30th, 1868, as due to some accident. A forgery of this supposed *error* exists, but, as might perhaps be expected, the unnecessary figure "1" is made far too prominent.

The number of sheets printed being small, we do not find worn impressions.

Only the soft, porous paper was used for this value.

Impressions as follows:—

20	grana,	slate-black.
20	"	slate-grey.
20	"	bluish slate.
20	"	purple-slate.
20	"	dull purple.

The *purple* shades are not common, particularly in used condition; but I consider the real *slate-black* shade to be the rarest. The *greenish* shades frequently met with are due to the action of some chemical substances or to exposure to sunlight. The gum is *brownish* or *yellowish*.

50 GRANA.

There was only one plate of this value (*see* Plate T) and a single printing, consisting of 25,000 stamps, which were delivered to the Storekeeper on December 7th, 1858.

Dimensions of the pane of stamps, including the exterior frame line, 213 × 245 mm. The spaces between the stamps measure, as a rule, 1½ mm. horizontally and vertically.

The plate was formed by the direct combination of the 100 electro-types, which were carefully made.

The following are the more marked accidental varieties: A few gashes on the forehead (No. 8); a few thin lines upon the bust (Nos. 69 and 80). No. 62 always presents a double imprint (as noted in the case of Plate II. of the 1 grano), giving to the letters of the inscription the appearance of being much fatter. The same peculiarity, though less marked, may be observed in No. 70.

Retouch.—No. 93 was retouched for the purpose of completing the

bottom border of the stamp; a somewhat oblique line was drawn from the "R" of "GR." nearly to the right corner of the stamp. Another line cuts the "O" of "50" horizontally at bottom; a few strokes are to be seen between the two figures of "50". In this retouched stamp the right stroke of the "A" of "DELLA" is partly covered by a coloured blotch, which is not due to retouching, as I erroneously stated in a previous article.

Only the soft paper was used for this value.

Impressions as follows:—

50 grana, brown-lake.

50 „ deep brown-lake.

There are also a few *reddish* shades. Sometimes the stamps present an oily appearance, due to the action of the bad *brown* gum.

CHAPTER II.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BOURBON STAMPS—THE REMAINDERS.



THE withdrawal from circulation of the Sicilian Postage Stamps took place about the end of May, 1860, in the provinces of Palermo, Noto, Girgenti, and Caltanissetta. We have searched in vain for any official order for this; it does not appear among the Decrees of the Dictatorship period. All that we have been able to learn about it is derived from documents of later date. Naturally, however, the withdrawal of the Bourbon stamps would have been ordered soon after the entry of Garibaldi and his troops into Palermo, which took place during the night of the 26th–27th of May. As far as the provinces of Catania and Trapani are concerned, which were freed from the Bourbon yoke on the 4th June, the withdrawal would have happened, we suppose, a few days later.*

At Messina, and in that part of the same province which remained in the hands of the Royalists, the use of the Bourbon stamps continued during a good part of the month of July.† The suppression took place perhaps on the 28th, the day on which, under the convention arranged between Generals Medici and Clary, the Bourbon troops evacuated that city.

The Sicilian Postage Stamps were thus in use for but little over eighteen months.

We relate in another chapter how the Dictator's Government immediately decided to prepare a new series. A letter from the Department of Public Works, dated Palermo, 14th June, addressed to the Postmaster-General of Sicily, says in fact:—

“It will be well to reorganise the usage of postage stamps. All the existing postage stamps are declared obsolete, and can no longer be made any use of.”

It became necessary therefore to have recourse once more to the old system of payment in cash of the postage on letters, but in most cases the postage was left to be paid by the receiver.

* Although prepayment in stamps was abolished, I think that if a letter thus franked was found from time to time in the mails during the months of June and a part of July it was sometimes treated as prepaid, either as a measure of toleration, or through the carelessness or the ignorance of some post-office clerks. I have seen a letter bearing the Catania postmark of June 22nd, 1860, and another from Terranuova of July 5th, both franked by stamps.

† The latest date of use that I have met with is the 17th of that month, at Messina, upon a letter addressed to Malta, to which place prepayment was compulsory.

No arrangements, however, had yet been made for the withdrawal of the Bourbon postage stamps remaining at the post offices, or in the hands of the licensed vendors or the public.

We have a letter, dated the 22nd June, from the Governor of the District of Terranuova (Caltanissetta), in which he forwards to the Secretary of State for the Treasury a request from the postmaster of that commune, to the effect that he may be reimbursed the sum of Ducats 4944, for Bourbon Postage Stamps remaining in his possession. A reply, of the 6th July, stated that no action could be taken in this matter until the resumption of the system of franking letters by means of postage stamps, when we may presume that the obsolete stamps would be exchanged for those of the new régime.

But, as we shall show elsewhere, the issue was delayed more than once by difficulties, both of a technical and an administrative nature. It appears that it was to have taken place on the 1st January, 1861, but this was not found possible even then.

We reproduce here a letter relating to the question of the exchange of the postage stamps:—

“Very urgent.

“POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, SICILY.

“No. 47. Subject: The Exchanging of the Old Postage Stamps for the New ones.

“PALERMO, 5th January, 1861.

“SIR,—This Department, in the act of bringing into use the new postage stamps, issued a circular explaining to all its Agents the nature of the new denominations of these stamps in Lire and Centesimi; and their corresponding values in the existing decimal currency of ducats, grana, and decimi; and since these Agents, under the law still in force, have on hand (paid for in advance) a supply at least sufficient for a fortnight's consumption, they were instructed to transmit the old stamps remaining in their hands to the Storekeepers of their respective provinces, so that they may be exchanged for the new stamps, and they were charged also to warn the licensed vendors at their respective places of residence, who are also supplied with stamps at their own expense, as above, to do the same thing.

“Later on it was considered advisable to carry out a general exchange, before bringing the new stamps into use, and to fix a date for the completion of the exchange, in order to ascertain the amount of the old stamps still in existence, which had to be deducted from the value of the new stamps, and thus by proceeding to burn the old stamps to prevent any further exchanging which might affect the interests and security of the revenue. It was therefore arranged to publish a fresh notice, establishing a fixed date for the sending in of these stamps. At the same time the idea occurred to me, that, as the first circular applied only to the licensed agents, obliged to act as vendors of the stamps, a second published in the same terms might be considered a breach of good faith on the part of the Government, if it omitted to make mention of the old stamps which, as paper money, might remain in the hands of private persons, who make use of them, not only for the purpose of franking their letters, but also for the transmission of small sums from one place to another. I was convinced that in making suitable arrangements for what is honest and just, I could not but receive the approval of the Government, the guardian of good faith; however, in my anxiety not to exceed my powers, although I considered myself authorised to issue the first circular, on account of the obligation laid upon the vendors of stamps, I thought it necessary to obtain higher authority for the issue of the second, however just and honest it might be.

“It is on this account that I beg of Your Excellency to immediately be so good as to authorise me to exchange not only the old stamps now remaining in the hands of the postal agents and all the other vendors compelled by law to keep them, but also those in the hands of private persons, and to issue the necessary instructions for the carrying out of this within a fixed period, at the end of which the stamps shall no longer be recognised.

“To the Councillor of the Lieutenantcy charged with Direction of Public Works, etc.”

(Signed) “FR. PEREZ,

“Councillor of the Accountant's Department, and Acting Postmaster-General.

The Department of State for "Public Works and Means of Communication" (a title then recently introduced) had written, on the 5th February, 1861, to the Postmaster-General in Sicily, asking for "a report of the value of the postage stamps purchased at the central Dépôt in Palermo and at those in the Provinces, both by the postal agents and by the revenue collectors, as well as by the licensed vendors, under these separate heads."

The reply to this is contained in the interesting letter which follows, in which we find confirmation of what has been already stated as to the duration of the use of the Sicilian Postage Stamps.

"GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF POSTS IN SICILY.

"No. 880.

"Subject:

"Sale of Postage Stamps in the first half-year of 1859 and 1860.

	1859.	1860.
"Palermo	D ^{ts} 5,479'71 ...	D ^{ts} 3,778'14
Messina	" 5,299'63 ...	" 3,913'29
Catania	" 2,832'58 ...	" 2,210'09
Noto	" 1,210'03 ...	" 908'41
Girgenti	" 805'54 ...	" 595'67
Caltanissetta	" 480'38 ...	" 523'34
Trapani	" 1,161'98 ...	" 836'40
	D ^{ts} 17,269'85	D ^{ts} 12,765'34"

"PALERMO, 26th February, 1861.

"SIR,—In reply to your esteemed official letter of the 5th inst., No. 159, I have the honour to report that the sale of the postage stamps in the year 1860 did not continue to the end of the first six months, their use being abolished about the end of May, except at Messina, where it lasted up to the first portion of July.

"The account required by the letter above-mentioned would therefore be incomplete in the case of that year, and I in consequence present to you in the left-hand margin the result for each Province, both of the first half of 1859 and of the same period of 1860; noting that this second period ends with the month of May for Palermo, Catania, Noto, Girgenti, Caltanissetta, and Trapani, whilst for Messina it goes up to the month of July.

"Finally, I have to report that it is not possible to separate the special amounts paid by the Postal Agents, the Revenue Collectors, and the licensed Vendors, all the privileged vendors being placed under one heading in the accounts.

(Signed) "FR. PEREZ,

"Councillor of the Accountant's Department, and Acting Postmaster-General."

"To the Councillor of the Lieutenantcy Charged with the Direction of Public Works, etc."

In March, 1861, the withdrawal of the postage stamps had been carried out in part, and those remaining in the Post Offices of the provinces, and in the hands of the licensed vendors, were collected at the Head Office of the Department. This was done in accordance with a circular letter despatched in February or March.

From a circular letter, dated 27th April, addressed by the General Administration of Posts to the Head Offices of Provinces and to all the Post Offices, we extract the following:—

"The old postage stamps, other than those which were returned to this Department, must not be reckoned with the new ones, but each Office will be relieved of the charge for their value under rules which will shortly be issued by the Royal Government."

The stamps in the hands of private persons still, however, remained to be dealt with, and for the withdrawal of these it was necessary to wait until the introduction of the Sardo-Italian postage stamps into the Island had taken place. This was provided for by a Notice from the General Post Office

Department, dated 27th April, which we reproduce in another chapter, which arranged for the exchange of the Bourbon postage stamps, for corresponding values of the new stamps, during the whole of the month of May, 1861.

An order issued by Cavaliere Giuseppe Pagni,* Inspector-General of the Italian Posts, who was sent to Palermo on special service, with the powers of Administrator-General, contained instructions for the drawing up of a statement of the remainder of the stamps, and for the transmission of the latter to Turin. We do not indeed see what necessity there was for sending these remainders to the Headquarters of the Italian Post Office, without waiting until the withdrawal of the stamps remaining in the hands of private persons had been completed. Perhaps it was thought necessary to have some further control over these stocks? Or perhaps some stamp collector at Turin had a voice in the matter? We cannot say.

Anyhow, we have below the report of this stocktaking, followed by the letter from the General Post Office Department in Sicily that accompanied the remainders themselves, which were put in a linen bag, enclosed in a wooden case and despatched to Turin :—

“ Year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, The twenty-third day of the month of April. At the General Post Office, We, Alberico Pingitore, Inspector, and Signor Vincenzo Lo Jacono, Controller, of the above-mentioned Department,

“ Having read the official order of the Inspector-General, acting as Administrator-General, No. 1480, dated the eighteenth of this month, in which we are directed to take over from Signor Torres all the obsolete postage stamps of these Provinces, and to add to these all those in the hands of the Storekeeper-General at Palermo,

“ Having received the reports of June 8th, 1860, January 7th, 1861, and March 18th last, we have assembled at the place where the said postage stamps are deposited, and proceeded to commence the examination in the following manner :—

“ We commenced operations by summoning Signor Giovanni Noera, Chief Accountant, as having been concerned in the first report of June, 1860, and the former Acting-Storekeeper, Francesco Patricola, and after having uncovered the seals affixed to the cupboard containing the stamps in store at Palermo, and having verified these seals by comparing them with those impressed upon the said report, we broke them; and as the key of the cupboard could not be found, we sent for a locksmith, by the order of the Inspector-General, and the locksmith having opened the cupboard with the aid of his tools, we have found the following stamps :—

“ Parcel of half grano, No	91,748, = Ducats	458-74
“ one “	86,897	“ 868-97
“ two “	159,163	“ 3,183-26
“ five “	102,380	“ 5,119—
“ ten “	20,069	“ 2,006-90
“ twenty “	57,412	“ 11,482-40
“ fifty “	17,671	“ 8,835-50
Total	535,340	“ 31,954-77

“ These agree in number and value with the above-mentioned report of June 8th, 1860, and we have made a separate parcel of each kind, duly sealed, which we are going to add to the two other packets, as stated in the following report; the present has therefore been signed by Messrs. Noera and Patricola.

(Signed)

“ GIO. NOERA.

“ FRANCESCO PAOLO PATRICOLA.

“ In continuation, having summoned the Storekeeper Signor Filippo Torres, we passed to the examination of the stamps delivered to him under the reports of January 7th and

* Cavaliere G. Pagni, an officer of high repute, was the last Superintendent-General of Posts in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and after the annexation of those provinces he passed into the Italian Post Office Department. He took an active part, as Italian Delegate, at the International Postal Conference held at Paris in May, 1863, where he brought forward the proposition of a uniform international rate, which resulted later in the Universal Postal Union. He died at Signa, October 29th, 1887.

March 18th, 1861, commencing with the package from the Post Office at Messina, and we have found the contents to correspond in detail and in total :—

	No.	Ducats
	24,151,	852-44
“ Those of Catania	„ 36,545	„ 1,220-45
„ Noto	„ 36,006	„ 1,446-23
„ Girgenti	„ 9,459	„ 692-69
„ Caltanissetta	„ 37,671	„ 1,411-17
„ Trapani	„ 15,832	„ 676-32
Total	159,664	„ 6,299-30

“ Of which we have made a packet duly sealed.

“ We then passed to the examination of [the stamps returned by] the authorised Agents and vendors in the Provinces,* which agree in detail and total—No. 24,606—Ducats 544-90.

	No.	Ducats
“ Province of Palermo	1,898,	39-67-5
„ Catania	„ 7,374	„ 177-38-5
„ Girgenti	„ 1,564	„ 85-00-5
„ Messina	„ 3,980	„ 85-86-5
„ Noto	„ 3,651	„ 86-22
„ Trapani	„ 6,139	„ 120-75
Total	24,606	„ 544-90

General Total 719,610, Ducats 38,798-97.

“ These we have enclosed in a bag, duly sealed.

“ Afterwards the seven packets of the Storekeeper at Palermo, and those of the Post Offices, and of the Provinces, nine packets in all, have been placed in one bag, the mouth of which has been tied up and sealed, and it has been delivered to the above-mentioned Storekeeper-General, Signor Filippo Torres, to be held at the disposal of the Postmaster-General.

“ The present report of all the above is drawn up in triplicate, one copy to be kept by Signor Torres, and two for the Accountant and Director, for future reference.

“ Completed this day, month and year, as above.

(Signed) “ A. PINGITORE.
“ VINCENZO LO JACONO.
“ FILIPPO TORRES.”

“ DEPARTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS IN SICILY.

“ Year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, the 29th day of April, at the General Post Office in Palermo ;

“ I, the undersigned Chief Inspector of Posts, certify that I was present at the closing of a wooden case containing a linen bag, duly sealed with sealing-wax, with two seals inscribed ‘ Amministrazione Generale delle Poste in Sicilia,’ on which case was affixed by me the following address : ‘ Ministry of Public Works—General Post Office Department—Turin.’

“ In confirmation of which I have drawn up this report.

(Signed) “ ENRICO CEPPI.”

“ DEPARTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS IN SICILY.

“ First Division—No. 1627.

“ Subject : The old Postage Stamps.†

“ PALERMO, April 30th, 1861.

“ In accordance with the arrangements made with Cav. Pagni, Inspector-General of the Posts of the Kingdom, there have been collected in this Department all the old postage stamps which existed in the General Store at Palermo, in the hands of the Chief Storekeepers in the Provinces, and of the authorised Agents.

* We notice that there is no mention in this account of the stamps returned by the retailers in the Province of Caltanissetta. Possibly these were included in the 37,671 copies returned by the Post Office of that province. This seems the more probable since, although Caltanissetta had a smaller population than any of the other provinces, it returned a larger number of stamps, as shown in the second list.

† According to a letter from a certain Charles C. [Cocorda], dated Turin, March 1st, 1864, and published in *Le Timbre-Poste* for April, 1864, some remainders of the Sicilian Postage Stamps were burnt at Palermo. We do not attach any great importance to this statement, because we have learned from the documents already quoted that the Sicilian stamps called in, first from the offices, and afterwards from private persons, were despatched later to Turin. If there was really an *auto-da-fé* (as stated by Charles C.) at Palermo, it was not carried out by the Postal Authorities, but by some private individual, and probably on a very modest scale. But it must be noted that Cocorda, who was well known to what we may term the first generation of Italian collectors, had an interest in spreading a report that large numbers of unused Sicilian stamps had been destroyed, because, thanks to his relations with certain officials of the Postmaster-General's Department in Turin, he had obtained great quantities of remainders. He himself published a price list in 1864.

"An exact account of them having been taken, a report has been drawn up which is forwarded herewith, for the information of superior authority.

"The said postage stamps, as is shown by the other report annexed, are despatched by to-day's steamer to your Department, in accordance with the instructions of Cav. Pagni.

(Signed) "G. COSTANTINO,
"Inspector-General,
for the Postmaster-General.

"To the Ministry of Public Works,
General Post Office Department, Turin."

In pursuance of the notice to the public, dated 27th April, to which we have previously alluded, the return of the stamps in the hands of private persons was carried out, stamps of the Sardo-Italian issue being given in exchange. This exchange was not entirely completed within the month of May, as had been prescribed, and an instruction from the General Post Office at Turin, dated 16th July, authorised an extension of the term up to the end of that month.

We have compiled the following table from the reports that were made:—

Dates of the Reports.	½ grana.	1 grana.	2 grana.	5 grana.	10 grana.	20 grana.	50 grana.	Total.	Value.
May 9, 1861 ¹	3,364	2,847	3,969	686	545	141	47	11,599	D ^{rs} 265-17
June 6 " 2	2,143	4,712	7,103	1,363	360	306	91	16,078	" 410-74½
" 13 " 3	27	612	658	2	—	—	—	1,299	" 19-51½
" 13 " 4	41	461	483	37	—	—	—	1,022	" 16-32½
Aug. 6 " 5	102	1,375	1,523	139	120	68	17	3,344	" 85-77
Sept. 10 " 6	14	—	—	5	14	2	—	35	" 2-12
	5,691	10,007	13,736	2,232	1,039	517	155	33,377	D ^{rs} 799-64½

¹ Returned by private persons in the City of Palermo; sent to Turin May 17th.

² Received from various offices in the Provinces of Palermo, Caltanissetta, Messina, and Noto. Of the 50 grana, eighty-nine came from the office at Messina and two from Palermo. Sent to Turin June 8th.

³ From the office at Girgenti; sent to Turin June 13th.

⁴ From the office at Caltanissetta; sent to Turin June 13th.

⁵ From various offices in the Provinces of Palermo, Catania, Caltanissetta, Girgenti, Messina, and Noto. Of the 50 grana, two came from Palermo and fifteen from Terranuova. Sent to Turin August 6th.

⁶ From the Communal Clerk of Lipari. There were no post offices in this small island, and the Communal Clerk, who kept a supply of postage stamps, had not received the notice as to the withdrawal of the stamps in time to comply with it. He handed over the stamps to the Department of Public Works, which forwarded them to the Post Office of Palermo. They were sent to Turin on September 10th, 1861, and from a note in pencil on the letter which accompanied them, we gather that the stamps had been delivered to Inspector Pagni, who had drawn up the list of them.

From a study of the documents reproduced above, the reader will perceive that it is not possible to compile an absolutely exact account of the quantities of stamps that were used, and of those that formed part of the remainders. In fact the report, dated April 23rd, of the remainders first sent to Turin does not furnish us with sufficient details. It gives a list of the quantities of the different values only in the case of the stamps left in the Central Dépôt; of those that were returned by the Provincial Post Offices and by the authorised vendors, we find only an account of the total numbers and of their total value. An examination of the reports of January 7th, and March 18th, 1861, therein referred to, would probably have enabled us to ascertain the quantities of each value that was returned; but those two reports we have not been able to find.

We have also discovered that a small return of stamps from various offices, amounting to Ducats 873½, took place on July 9th, 1861; but regarding this there is no information given as to what values it contained, or even how many copies in all.

We have therefore to content ourselves with incomplete details.

The face value of the stamps printed amounted to . . . Ducats	92,075—
Of those returned and despatched at various dates to Turin . . .	39,607'34½
Leaving . . .	52,467'65½

as the value of the postage stamps that were used, including those that were left in the hands of the public after the period allowed for their exchange. And reckoning that these stamps were in circulation for about eighteen months, this gives a sale of some 2,914 ducats (or 12,384'50 lire) per month, no very large amount.

We have seen that the entire number of Sicilian postage stamps that were printed amounted to 28,500 sheets, that is to say,

2,850,000 stamps.

Of these there were returned:—

From the Central Depot	535,340	
From the Provincial Offices	159,664	
From the Authorised Vendors	24,606	
From Private Persons	33,377	752,987 "
Leaving used or retained by the public	2,097,013	"

Then deducting the stamps returned—

From the Provincial Offices	159,664
From the Authorised Vendors	24,606
Total	184,270

of which, as we have said, we do not know the quantity of each value, and confining ourselves necessarily to the stock in the Central Depot and the greater part of the stamps returned by private persons, we are able to make up the following table:—

Values.	Quantities printed.	Returned from the Central Depot and private sources.*	Difference.
½ grano	235,000	97,439	137,561
1 "	540,000	96,904	443,096
2 grana	1,650,000	172,899	1,477,101
5 "	200,000	104,612	95,388
10 "	100,000	21,108	78,892
20 "	100,000	57,929	42,071
50 "	25,000	17,826	7,174

Although the figures in the third column are only of use to us for purposes of comparison, they enable us to determine to some extent the proportion between the number used and the number that remained of each value. We see that the quantity of 20 grana used was very limited, and that of the 50 grana still more so.

The details that are wanting would not, we think, modify to any great extent the relative numbers of the remainders of the 10 and 20 grana; the

* The numbers not included in this statement appear to be rather too important to be neglected; 184,270 is nearly one-fourth of the 752,987 copies returned. Their value is not in the same proportion, being only 6,844'20 ducats out of 39,607'34½, or about two-elevenths of the whole; but by adding about 35 per cent. to the numbers of the five lower values, and 12 to 15 per cent. to those of the two higher, in this column (deducting the same numbers of course from those in the last column), a list would be made which would agree sufficiently nearly both in numbers and in value with the totals given in the reports.—TRANS.

10 grana, *unused*, is undoubtedly rarer than the 20 grana in the same condition. The relative rarity of the different values, in descending scale, if we disregard varieties of colour and shade, would be as follows:—

<i>Unused.</i>	50, 10, 20, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 5, 2 grana.
<i>Used.</i>	50, 20, 10, 5, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 „

We need not be surprised at finding the 5 grana, *unused*, in the last place but one in the list, when we know that only a limited number of copies of the second printing of that value, in *orange-red* and *vermilion*, were put in use.

It is necessary, however, to bear in mind the fact that large numbers of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano were employed for franking printed matter, and were therefore likely to be destroyed. Taking this into consideration, we are inclined to believe that this value should be placed fourth in the list of *used* stamps, instead of fifth.

But all this only applies to the relative rarity of the different *values*. We must hasten to add that the varieties of *colour*, and not merely of *shade*, are so marked that the principal ones at least cannot be neglected in such calculations, and in practice they are not, even by the general collector, so that the relative philatelic value depends principally upon the degree of rarity of these varieties and upon the condition of the specimens.

We think it not unfitting to reproduce here what we wrote a few years back on the subject of the remainders of the postage stamps of Romagna,* because the remarks that we made on that occasion are the very same that occur to us now in reference to the remainders of Sicily:—

“A question, which naturally arises, is, What has become of this enormous quantity of stamps?† The reply is a simple one, it is the love of collecting and, above all, that of collecting money, that in 1862, 1863, and later caused the easy absorption of these stamps at Turin. From Turin the good old stamps of the Italian States have departed in bales to France especially, to Belgium and elsewhere, sold or exchanged for other stamps.

“We are able to affirm that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs possesses in its collection, at the present day, no more than a single, miserable unused set! Our readers can form their own opinion as to the reason for this.”

Some of our friends, belonging to what we are accustomed to call the first generation of collectors, who were living at Turin in the sixties, have often spoken to us of that City as a Philatelic Paradise, and of the great facility that then existed for obtaining, simply at the request of some acquaintance at the Ministry of Public Works, stamps of several of the old Italian States, unused, among which “the heads of King Bomba” were the most popular with collectors old and young. No care whatever was taken of those stamps at the General Post Office, at that time under the above-named Ministry, and we have been told by several persons that they were at the disposal of the clerks and other persons employed there. The stamps could hardly have disappeared more quickly and completely, if the sheets had been placed on the counter, like advertisements in the shops, labelled with the request, “Please take one”!

* *Les Timbres-Poste des Romagnes* par E. DIENA, suivi d'une *Etude sur leur Réimpressions*, par J. B. MOENS (Bruxelles, Moens, 1898), page 47, etc.

† The stock of remainders of the stamps of Romagna was 4,995 sheets, or 599,400 copies.

CHAPTER III.

NEW ISSUES PROPOSED DURING THE CONCLUDING PERIOD OF THE BOURBON GOVERNMENT.



WE have already stated in Chapter I. that neither the Minister for Sicilian Affairs in Naples, nor the Viceroy in the Island was satisfied with the manner in which the manufacture of the Postage Stamps had been carried out, because the copper plates were not sufficiently durable, were very expensive, and did not produce very fine impressions.

Both Giuseppe La Barbera and, afterwards, Antonino Pampillonia had studied at Paris the methods employed there for the printing of stamps. On their return they had given information upon this subject to the authorities at Naples and at Palermo, and had easily persuaded those authorities of the advantages of the typographical method of reproduction. These studies and suggestions, as we have stated elsewhere, were made previous to the issue of stamps in Sicily, so that before the series in the type adopted had been actually put in circulation, it was already regarded by the authorities as a provisional one. In fact, we learn from various documents that these stamps would never have been issued at all, if there had been sufficient time to prepare a series printed by typography before the date that had been fixed for the introduction of Postage Stamps in Sicily.

The correspondence which led to Pampillonia being sent to Paris is somewhat voluminous, but it will be found interesting. He was evidently an energetic person, and he did not fail to give full information regarding his proceedings to the authorities both at Naples and in Sicily, and as they had to consult one another there was necessarily a good deal of time lost.

We are sorry to be obliged to omit many letters, reports, and accounts, of some importance, but we must content ourselves with reproducing the most interesting of them.

In the two letters that follow, Pampillonia gives an account of what he had done in Paris with the view of obtaining a supply of typographed stamps by the date appointed for the issue. The second letter is of special interest on account of the information given in it regarding the Lecoq machine.*

* The Lecoq machine, with improvements that were introduced later, was adopted by the Post Office Department of Peru in 1862. We find in an official publication by José Dávila Condemarin, entitled *Coleccion Postal* (Lima, 1870): “. . . on the 5th September, 1862, the Lecoq machine, which

"PARIS, October 11th, 1858.

"EXCELLENCY :—

"Under this same date I have written to H. E. the Minister, as follows :—

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I arrived here safely on Friday, and on Saturday and Sunday I visited the principal engravers (omitting Lesaché, who appeared to me unfitted for so urgent a case, on account of his age and the slowness of his work). Messrs. Barre, Barette, Caqué, Merloz, and Oudiné would not undertake to produce the die and the matrix within the short time that I indicated, and they demanded both a great amount of time and fabulous prices, taking advantage perhaps of my urgency, and at the same time of the fact that it is a Government business.

"At last I was obliged to apply to my friend Lesaché, who has assisted with zeal and disinterestedness in the construction of the dies and matrices for the stamped paper. I told him that my word and my honour were pledged for the printing of the postage stamps, that it specially concerned me, and that I had voluntarily undertaken it at my own risk and peril; Lesaché, appreciating the difficulties of my position, accepted the work, after much discussion and solicitation, and there has this day been signed a contract of which the following is a copy :—

"Signor Pampillonia of Palermo, proprietor, temporarily residing at Paris, 69 Rue de Provence, and Monsieur Lesaché, engraver, living at 45 Rue Richelieu, have agreed as follows :—

"M. Lesaché binds himself to engrave upon a steel die the portrait of the King of Naples, with the inscription surrounding it (to serve for the production of the postage stamps of Sicily) according to the pattern delivered to him by Sig. Pampillonia; since, however, this pattern is engraved in *taille-douce*, and it is impossible to produce the same effect by an engraving in relief, Lesaché will nevertheless endeavour to execute it with the greatest accuracy, so that it may resemble the pattern as nearly as possible, and he guarantees that it shall be superior to the die of the French postage stamps.

"M. Lesaché also engages to manufacture the matrix and to deliver to Sig. Pampillonia all that is necessary for striking as many copies as may be required, on Nov. 10th next.

"Sig. Pampillonia, on his part, will pay to M. Lesaché the sum of one thousand francs, on the receipt of the die and the matrix with indication of value. If however the work undertaken by M. Lesaché should be completed in all respects and M. Lesaché shall deliver the whole by October 31st, instead of November 10th, Sig. Pampillonia engages to pay him as a premium the sum of 200 francs, in addition to the 1,000 francs agreed upon as above.

"If by accident the die should be broken in the act of striking the matrix from it, M. Lesaché undertakes to make a new one for the sum of 300 francs, in addition to the 1,000 francs agreed upon.

"If the matrix should be worn out in striking the printing dies, M. Lesaché promises to make a new one every time that it is worn out for the amount of 50 francs each.

"If all is not completed and delivered at the appointed time, except in the case of a breakage of the die or the matrix, M. Lesaché will pay to Sig. Pampillonia the sum of 500 francs as damages and interest.

"Signed in duplicate at Paris, Oct. 11th, 1858."

"From the above Y. E. will see that I have left nothing undone to secure accuracy, care, and economy in the execution of my mission. In the meantime work is going on at the Post Office at Palermo, independently of what I am doing, and as I hope to return about the end of November, and to bring with me the printing dies, the paper, and the ink, we shall be able as a temporary measure to make use of the typographic presses that are in the post office there.

"To-morrow I will go to Lecoq, the machinist, to arrange with him whether it is possible to use the machines for the stamped paper, which I brought with me, and finally to seek for some more economical and more simple system than either the typographic presses or the machines for stamping paper. With this view I brought with me a scheme, which (in order that it may be more easily understood, treating as it does of technical matters) I had translated into French at Palermo.

"If Lecoq, as I hope, will render me able assistance, I shall make 14 printing dies, instead of the 100 which would be required for typographic printing, that is, 100 for each

had been ordered for this purpose, commenced working, and it has continued in use down to the present day" (p. 198, Note).

Moens (*Les Timbres du Prou*, Bruxelles, 1878), says, p. 46: "Having seen the Lecoq machine at work at Brussels, we are able to state that it is ingenious and so simple that a child could work it and produce fifteen to twenty thousand stamps an hour, printed on endless bands of paper. The stamps come out of the machine completely finished. Rollers, furnished with the colour desired, print the frame; the paper is moved forward, and an embossing die adds the Arms in relief. Later still the back is gummed, and the strip then issues from the machine."

value, since with two dies for each colour we shall be able to print with the machine for the stamped paper.

"Finally I hope that Lecoq will enter into my plans for a new machine, most economical, simple, and of great accuracy, which we could get made within a few months.

"I anxiously await the favour of a reply, so that I may know what Y. E. thinks of the contract which I have already signed, and without which the engraver would not have commenced his work. I beg that you will let me know whether all the conditions are satisfactory to you, or whether you wish me to abandon the undertaking; in the meantime I await your orders, to which I will strictly adhere. But Y. E. may say to me:—You tell me that you are anxious for my opinion and that you await my orders and my approval, after you have already signed a contract, and while the engraver is doing the work. Excellency, I was not able to wait ten days, the shortest time in which your reply could reach me, as it was necessary to make the utmost haste in order to carry out what I had promised, unconditionally, within the very restricted time allowed. But Y. E. need not give yourself any trouble if the contract is not in accordance with your views; in case Y. E. should order me to abandon the whole matter, the Royal Treasury will not be responsible in any way.

"Your Excellency, such is what I have been able to do up to the present, the business is going on well, I am certain that, if no breakages [of the die, etc.] take place, the stamp made in Paris will be brought into use by the 1st of January. The great labour is my own, as for the sake of economy and accuracy I must strike the printing dies at the French mint with my own hands; but I have need of rest, and I must not think of my own affairs, which I have put on one side. I await your reply, and beg you to send me in the letter an impression of your Arms in sealing-wax.

"I hope to be able on Thursday to give you further news as to the machines, which I am sure will do wonders.

"I have, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed)

"ANTONINO PAMPILLONIA.

"To H. E. Commander Giuseppe Castrone,
Director of the Treasury in Sicily, Palermo."

"PARIS, 14th October, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In continuation of my letter of the 11th inst., I have written to H. E. the Minister as follows: Your Excellency,—I have the honour to inform you that for two days I have been working with the machinist, Lecoq, with a view to producing something of great accuracy and perfection, and I must say that M. Lecoq, although he is not by nature enthusiastic, has greatly interested himself in my position, as has also M. Lesaché; and this is the result.

"By the end of this month I am promised delivery of a beautiful machine, which can be worked by one man, and which at each descending stroke produces two postage stamps at a time, total in one day 20,000, and 30,000 later on when the person who works it has gained the necessary experience. This machine rolls and unrolls the paper in the form of an endless ribbon, and inks the dies at the same time; it cuts one stamp from the other, but without separating them.* It is true that the typographic press can print 100 stamps at once, whilst this prints only two, but the accuracy and clearness given by this new machine cannot be attained by typography; it is also necessary to wait while the workman supplies the ink, whereas with the new machine we avoid all this, and we obtain perfection in the impression. If Y. E. thinks that this new machine, giving 20,000 stamps [per day], which can commence work at Palermo at the beginning of December, is sufficient for supplying the postage stamps and satisfactory, I beg that you will be so good as to write to me as soon as possible, and by telegraph, and I will obtain two machines, and more if Y. E. desires, seeing that Lecoq has placed the whole of his factory and workmen at my disposal. The price of each of these machines complete is about 700 francs.

"To-day I am occupied about the manufacture of the paper, which I hope to obtain gummed, if possible, so as to save time in that respect and avoid this further trouble.

"I wish, as I promised Y. E., to bring everything with me, so as to be able to set to work on my arrival without delay.

"I believe that I can also produce this perfect result by means of another machine, on the rotary system, as I promised Y. E.; my original plan is most simple, it will further produce double the number, still with one workman; this machine requires no supervision, as it indicates automatically the number of such stamps printed in a day, in an hour, or as required. M. Lecoq has promised to give me on Sunday a plan for this, which he is working upon at the present moment, together with an estimate of the expense of carrying it out, which plan and estimate I will submit to Y. E., and, if you approve, I will have it executed as soon as possible.

* This was evidently a method of perforation, or more likely of rouletting, as in the case of the 2 c. stamp of Peru, 1873.

"Y. E., this is what I have been able to do in five days, including Sunday; I now await Y. E.'s authority for what I have done and for what you desire me to do, as I have already written to you in my letter of the 11th.

"Your Excellency,—it appears that there is nothing further for me to do, I therefore request your most esteemed reply; I have left my address at Paris in your office.

"I remain, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed)

"ANTONINO PAMPILLONIA.

"To H. E. Commander Giuseppe Castrone,
Director of the Treasury in Sicily, Palermo."

The contract which Pampillonia had planned with the engraver Lesaché was approved by the Minister for Sicily at Naples, subject to confirmation by the Viceroy at Palermo, but before the latter had time to send his sanction, the letter reproduced above, of October 14th, reached Naples. Doubt then arose whether to purchase the machine that Lecoq had already constructed, or the other more rapid one which he was engaged upon. Finally this was left to the choice of Pampillonia himself. He, in the meantime (October 26th), sent to the Director of the Treasury at Palermo a proof of a cancelling mark, manufactured at Paris; this was merely a reproduction of the design of Carlo La Barbera, the painter, but more accurate than those produced at Naples and Palermo (*see* Plate A, No. 8):—

" . . . I am still busy with the cancelling mark, of which I enclose a proof; I want to know how many of them should be made, and whether they are to be used by hand or with a little machine, like that which I had the honour of showing you, which supplies itself with ink. This would have the advantage that no mistakes could be made with it, when applying the cancellation in such a way as not to disfigure the Sacred Effigy of His Majesty. These little machines would be like those which I brought for the dies for stamped paper."

In the same letter Pampillonia stated that he counted on being able to reach Palermo, with all the apparatus, at the end of November.

On the 3rd November Pampillonia despatched to the Minister a proof of the postage stamp engraved by Lesaché, with the following letter:—

"PARIS, *November 3rd*, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—This morning as soon as the die was completed we printed a proof from it, to be sent to Y. E., together with an impression in metal similar to the matrix of steel which I am going, I hope, to strike to-morrow. This die is not yet finished, because it still requires some retouching in order to render the engraving finer and more delicate, and if anything should then be wanting it can be added in the matrix. Y. E. will find the ground work engraved with lines. I thought it well to order this for three reasons. First, because that of Aloisio was thus; second, because I thought it necessary to make a difference between the two shades, that of the ground of the medallion and that of the inscription; and lastly, in order to render it more difficult of imitation by forgery, there being more work in it. As regards the likeness, by means of my constant supervision, I think that we have made some little improvement, since I have heard that people were not fully satisfied with the likeness; but it should be considered how difficult a thing it is in so small an engraving in relief of this nature, which is not like the sculptured relief of a coin or a medal, and which was executed in so short a time. All is well, so long as Y. E. remains satisfied with what is being done, but if on the contrary you have anything to tell me, please let me know it at once, by telegraph, so that I may be able to have another die made. Patience, it will only be for twenty days more at most. In the meantime, I am going to harden the die to-morrow, on the supposition that Y. E. will be satisfied with it, and in order not to lose time, and the matrix will then be struck from which to impress the dies for making trial of the machines now completed; the coloured ink likewise I have already obtained, the paper in strips, the die for the cancelling stamps, in fact all is ready.

"I have received the telegram, as well as the letter dated the 25th ultimo, and I do not fail to thank you for all the confidence you have placed in me.

"I would beg of Y. E. to communicate to me by telegraph whatever your opinion may be as to the above-named proof, for my satisfaction.

"Accept the expression of my most profound esteem and respect.

"P.S.—To what I have said above, I would add, in order to make myself more clear, that if the die has to be entirely re-engraved I shall require at most another twenty days' time, and please tell me from what original it is to be copied, whether from the photograph of La Barbera, from the engraving of Aloisio, or from some of the coins of 1858, which are better known and more recently engraved, and which can easily be obtained here; if you are not pleased with the two natures of engraved ground, and would prefer to have them both in the same shade, it would not take more than five or six days.

"It should be understood that whatever alteration Y. E. may order will be carefully carried out and without any loss to the Royal Treasury. If the crossed lines of the background of the head appear to you to be too light, they can be made finer and closer, and will produce a better effect.

"Your devoted Servant,

"To H. E. Cav. Giovanni Cassisi, (Signed) "ANTONINO PAMPILLONIA.
Minister and Secretary of State to H. M. the King
for the Affairs of Sicily, Naples."

Whilst the preceding letter was on its way to Naples, Pampillonia was informed by the Director of the Treasury (November 5th) that the cancelling stamps had already been provided for at Palermo. He added that three stamping machines might, however, be supplied for use in the post offices at Palermo, Catania, and Messina, which were the most important ones, and this was done. Both the Minister at Naples and the Viceroy were in agreement in their disapproval of the specimen sent from Paris, and we see from the letter quoted below that the engraver was instructed to adhere strictly to the engraving of Aloisio.

"ROYAL MINISTRY OF THE TREASURY.

"PALERMO, *Nov. 13th*, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The opinion pronounced by Y. E. upon the new engraving for the postage stamps of Sicily, with the Sacred Effigy of our sovereign the King, executed in France under the direction of Sig. Pampillonia, could not be more accurate or more definite.

"This new engraving is indeed defective both as a work of art and as a portrait; and we understand that Pampillonia asks for a pattern from which to execute a new and improved die. Although he had full authority for the choice and construction of the machines required for the printing of the said postage stamps, as regards the new die for those stamps it was expressly understood that no alteration whatever was to be made in the design engraved by Sig. Aloisio, a copy of which was given to him; and this was not only stated here and repeated several times verbally to Pampillonia, but was also stated by him in writing, as shown plainly by the letters, of which Y. E. was so good as to furnish me with copies in your most esteemed letter of the day before yesterday.

"I cannot but most fully agree with the very just observations made by Y. E. to Pampillonia upon this point, and I hope that he will be able to find means of carrying out the commission entrusted to him with greater exactitude.

"The new Postal Service will not, however, be in any way hindered by this, since that Department will be provided by the beginning of next January with a sufficient number of stamps, obtained by the copper-plate process from the original die engraved by Sig. Aloisio, to meet all requirements.

"I beg Y. E. to accept my best thanks for the most kind manner in which you have been pleased to inform me of all these matters, and

"I remain, &c., &c., &c.,

"To H. E. the Minister for Sicily, Naples." (Signed) "CASTELCICALA.

Pampillonia was not discouraged by his ill-success, and he lost no time. It is interesting to follow the narrative of the efforts he made in Paris, and to see how he himself laboured in the workshops of Lecoq, in order to hasten the completion of the machine and secure its proper working.

"PARIS, *November 21st*, 1858.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 10th inst. Now that I have collected myself again and am on the eve of departure, I take the liberty of letting you know that my troubles have been caused not

solely by the stamp, but rather by difficulties with the machine, since I had indeed set my hopes upon a little machine, worked by a pedal, constructed by Lecoq for printing small notices, adding to it, however, certain mechanism which I had planned at that time, of which I brought a description from Palermo translated into French, and which Lecoq himself admired and approved. A drawing was first made of this, which was then copied mathematically to scale; then work was commenced upon all the parts, both in iron and bronze, which when finished were put together, and upon trial innumerable difficulties were found, among which not the least important was that such thin paper could not be passed through it without tearing, especially at the ends of the strips. I was dismayed. I passed sleepless nights trying to find means to overcome this, but as far as that was concerned I was certain that all would end well; it was the want of time that caused me so much distress. From that time I had to instal myself in the factory and to work with my own hands—a thing quite contrary to the practice of such establishments—but through the interest which they took in my unfortunate position, and the esteem in which they held me, both the workmen and the manager have acted so as to enable me to make use of whatever machines were required, and of all the hands of this magnificent establishment. The absence also of Lecoq from Paris for ten days has resulted in success having crowned all my efforts, and the machines have reached such a state of perfection that in a single day, by the hand of one person alone, without great exertion, in fact quite easily, a hundred thousand stamps can be produced, so that in four days a sufficient supply for a whole year could be made, and the cost is nothing. The improvements which I have obtained are not yet known to Lecoq, as I thought that he might have thwarted me, for fear of losing the commission for the large machine which he is planning and designing, and which is now unnecessary; it would have cost, as Lecoq had told me, fifteen thousand francs. One only would be sufficient out of the two I was commissioned to obtain, but as I have ordered two, so much the better, as it will be a very good thing to have one in reserve. I send you a little strip, stamped with the rejected die, of which I have made use for the proofs, the one which shall be approved will be put in use at Palermo. Under these circumstances I shall take the liberty of bringing with me to Naples one of the two machines, so that I may have the pleasure of showing it to Y. E.

“Enclosed you will find a proof of the new die. This is the best that can be done at Paris in relief on steel.

“I am sending this proof without the knowledge of Lesaché, as he says that he still requires until Wednesday to put the finishing touches and to make the shading uniform. The work of Cav. Aloisio being in *taille-douce*, it could never be imitated exactly in relief; and I would further take the liberty of pointing out that I was not responsible for the engraving of the stamp, since I was able neither to give advice from the artistic point of view, nor to guide the hands of the artist; the machines on the other hand, which I could direct and upon which I could work with my own hands, were under my immediate supervision.

“The specimens which I enclose, only serve to show the manner in which the machine stamps them, they are in strips of unlimited length and all in one piece, that is to say without joint; one is without gum (No. 1); another is with the gum, but too thin (No. 2), this is done to show the capabilities of the machine; and the other (No. 3) is as it should be, the gum being thicker and ready for use. Do not regard the colour, if it has printed badly, because this was not cared for, as it was not intended as a proof of the engraving; on Wednesday the die will be hardened, and the matrix struck, from the latter not more than fifty working dies will be stamped, as that number is sufficient, and, if God grants that no damage happens to the matrix or the die in the hardening, on Saturday or at latest on Monday I shall be on my way back.

“The engraver says that the nose requires retouching.

“Your most humble Servant,

“To H. E. Cav. Giovanni Cassisi, (Signed) “ANTONINO PAMPILLONIA.
Minister and Secretary of State for Sicilian Affairs
To H. M. the King, Naples.”

Pampillonia forgot to enclose the proofs of Lesaché's new die in the letter quoted above, and sent them to Naples on the 23rd November. The diligent machinist arrived there at the beginning of December, bringing with him one of the two Lecoq machines which he had purchased. The machine did not reach Naples uninjured, but it was soon repaired in some way, so that it could be worked there. The Minister, who saw it in action, greatly praised the precision and rapidity with which the machine worked. He recognised,

however, that there was no time then to obtain from it a sufficient supply of postage stamps, and the more so because he had still not received a satisfactory die, and the approval of the Sovereign had yet to be obtained.

He therefore advised the Viceroy to order the Postmaster-General to supply the offices with the postage stamps of the Aloysio type which were then being printed at Palermo. He suggested, however, that a supply should be prepared sufficient for the first quarter only of 1859, after which a decision should be obtained from the King as to changing the method of producing the postage stamps.

The Viceroy, on his part, promised to submit the proposal to the King in official form, so soon as the machines reached Naples and were found to work satisfactorily.

We find that the first Lecoq machine arrived at Palermo in January, 1859, but it did not work sufficiently well, owing to the injury received on the journey from Paris to Naples, which had not been properly repaired. The Viceroy was therefore of opinion that it would be prudent to await the arrival of the other machine that had been ordered, so as to be able to feel sure that nothing else would happen to interrupt the regular supply of the required quantities of postage stamps.

The first proofs printed at Palermo with that machine (we do not know what these were) satisfied the authorities, both in respect to the impression "and the exactness of the colours." Also the two qualities of paper in rolls were considered very suitable for the postage stamps, but the supplies of these brought from Paris were limited; there was only enough of the pelure for 360,000 stamps, and of the thicker quality for 230,000. The smaller size also was found more convenient than that of the Aloysio type. But the question of the new type for the stamps still remained undecided. Pampillonia suggested "to add to the engraving brought by him from Paris four Bourbon lilies, at the four corners, which would be additional ornaments."

It is curious to note that the Minister also attached no little importance to the addition of the Bourbon lilies, in reference to which he wrote (February 10th) "they would not only be ornaments but also a further guarantee, rendering forgery of the stamps more difficult."

But as regards the Effigy Cassisi wrote :—

"It is not a question of artistic merit, in which allowance can be made up to a certain point, after all the difficulties that have arisen in this matter, but it is a question of resemblance which is entirely wanting in these stamps, so much so that it is impossible to recognise by any single feature the sacred effigy of His Majesty. And this absolute want of resemblance, which can be noticed in the new stamps when looked at alone, cannot fail to catch the eye of everyone when they are compared by the public with those put in circulation provisionally, which bear a good portrait of the King."

And he proceeded to state that he could not consent to substitute a new type for that then in use, until a perfect resemblance had been obtained. He recommended the Viceroy to consult Pampillonia, with a view to finding a remedy for this great defect.

Pampillonia, more painstaking than fortunate, informed the Minister, in a letter of February 12th, that he had ordered "three other dies, from three artists in France, so that he might select the one that was most perfect

both in the engraving and in the likeness." We have found no record of the names of the other artists of Paris who were employed by Pampillonia. He sent the Minister a proof of one of the three dies, with the request that he would retain it until the arrival of the other two, and added, "I expect one of them this week, and the third later." In reference to the one sent, he drew attention to the fact that it was hand-struck, and said, "no notice need be taken of the border of pearls in the outer frame, which were inserted in error, it will be for Y. E. to decide whether to introduce a pearled border here or not." He ended by stating that should the other proofs not be approved, he would continue his attempts until he obtained satisfactory results.

But Sig. Cassisi, the Minister, after the repeated failures of Pampillonia despaired of getting from him anything that would be acceptable. He in the meantime informed the Viceroy that there was at Naples, at this time (February 28th), the engraver Giuseppe Barone, of Palermo, whom we mentioned before (see page 57), who had come to submit to the King a medal that he had engraved with His Majesty's Effigy, which had gained the approbation of several artists. He added :—

"At my request, Barone has stated that he is willing to engrave the new die in relief* for the postage stamps, preserving the excellent portrait of that engraved by Aloysio. I do myself the honour of informing Y. E. of all this, begging that you will be so good as to take such measures as, in your wisdom, you may think most fitting, if you think it well to entrust to Barone the engraving work which has been already so often attempted without success."

In the meantime Barone returned to Palermo, where he was soon sent for by Sig. Castrone, Director of the Treasury, who was working upon the postage stamp question with the Postmaster-General. We do not know exactly what work Barone was asked to perform, whether it was the engraving of a new die, or only to make fresh attempts, in conjunction with Lao, the printer, to improve the printing of the stamps. We find, however, that each of them received 60 Ducats—"as remuneration for services rendered in the interests of the General Administration of Posts."

Thus time went on, without the question of the new type being settled.

The Treasury Department on the 10th May requested the Postmaster-General to have a list compiled of the articles obtained by Pampillonia, who had at that time pressed for payment of the expenses incurred by him in Paris. The report, which was drawn up with the assistance of Pampillonia, was not completed until May 28th. We learn from it that the second Lecoq machine had reached Palermo some time previously. We quote here the list of the articles mentioned in the inventory, which were placed in a room at the Royal Mint, and left under the charge of Pampillonia, who was employed there as machinist :—

"Two rotary machines, complete, for printing the postage stamps, each with its counting apparatus, one going up to ten thousand, and the other to a million. The said machines are furnished with pedals, so that they can be worked by the foot.

"Fourteen fittings with little cylinders, seven for use with each of the said machines, for printing the seven values and colours of the postage stamps.

"One matrix.

* The words "a rilievo" in the original led Moens to believe that Barone intended to produce an embossed design, but we hold that what was meant was a die for typographic printing.

"One die, with slips for the various values.

"Fifty working dies, as follows :—

"Eight for printing the half grano stamp.

"Eight for those of one grano.

"Eight for those of two grana.

"Eight for those of five grana.

"Eight for those of ten grana.

"Five for those of twenty grana.

"Five for those of fifty grana.

"Seven cancelling stamps.

"Three little machines for use with the said cancelling stamps.

"Nine boxes of ink, seven of which contain the seven different colours for the postage stamps, and two of varnish.

"Ten kilogrammes of paper, gummed and ungummed."

To the foregoing lists it would be well to add the account, dated June 8th, 1859, of the articles purchased by Pampillonia in Paris, which, with expenses, amounted to Ducats 2,929.16.* But we will content ourselves with reproducing some of the items noted in the bills of those who supplied them, which are attached to the account.

The bill of Lesaché, the engraver, is dated December 1st, 1858 :—

"One matrix in steel for postage stamps, inscribed 'BOLLO DELLA POSTA DI SICILIA—GR.' with an effigy in the centre . . .	frs. 300 —
"Fifty working dies in copper, including letters and figures . . .	„ 1,500 —."

The bill of E. Lecoq, mechanical engineer, is dated November 30th, 1858 :—

"Two rotary machines with pedals, furnished with counting apparatus, for printing the postage stamps . . .	frs. 3,947 —
"Three machines for the cancelling stamps . . .	„ 360 —
"Seven cancelling stamps . . .	„ 150 —."

Bill of Lefranc and Co., manufacturers of printing inks, dated November 2nd, 1858 :—

"15 kilogrammes of different colours, and 4 kilogrammes of varnish frs. 445—."

Lastly, a bill, dated November 30th, 1858, of the Paper Manufacturers, A. Cousin and Co. :—

"6 kilogs. of pelure paper, in rolls, at 4 f. 50 . . .	frs. 27—
"Gumming and cutting the pelure paper . . .	„ 55—."

To these accounts were added two others, of the well-known firm of shipping agents, L. Deonna and Co., of Marseilles, one of December 4th, 1858, for carriage of a case from Paris to Naples and to Palermo, and the other, dated May 14th, 1859, for carriage of another case from Paris to Palermo.

The account of Pampillonia alluded to above, which accompanied these various bills, contained the following note :—

"N.B.—The foregoing account does not include the cost of the first matrix and die for the postage stamps, which was not approved by H. E. the Minister, and which is therefore at the loss of Signor Pampillonia."

He had already received certain sums on account, and on the 16th June, 1859, he was paid a further amount of Ducats 218.69, but we shall see that the account was only finally settled some *years* later by the Italian Government.

* This amount included items that were not connected with the manufacture of the stamps, such as letter-paper with printed heading, a counting apparatus for the stamps for playing cards, etc.

The death of King Ferdinand II., which took place at Caserta on the 22nd May, led naturally to the consideration of an issue of stamps bearing the effigy of his successor, Francesco II. At the Council of State, held on June 6th, the young King, in agreement with the proposal of the Minister for Sicilian Affairs, ordered that the engraving of the new die for the postage stamps should be entrusted to Barone. The Viceroy was officially informed of this decision by a letter of the 10th of that month. The Postmaster-General also received notice of this, but a few days later he was instructed not to give any definite orders on the subject to Barone without first informing the Viceroy.

Barone had been repeatedly sent for, and had held consultations both with the Director of the Treasury and with the Postmaster-General, but no precise commission had yet been given to him. On the 11th August, however, he made a request, through the Postmaster-General, for "a copy of the Effigy which is to appear on the new money, about to be coined at the Royal Mint, by the engraver Luigi Arnaud, as he had not been able to find any good portrait of His Majesty." And it was added that, if this could not be done, an accurate likeness of H. M. should be delivered to Barone, so as to avoid any responsibility on the part of the engraver for the resemblance of the effigy.

The Viceroy wrote in this sense to the new Minister, Paolo Cumbo, who since June had replaced Cassisi as Secretary of State for the Affairs of Sicily, at Naples. The latter, however, replied, on 11th September, that neither photographs nor coins with the effigy of the new King were yet obtainable. We gather, nevertheless, that Barone had already made a die, leaving a space in the centre for the engraving of the Royal Effigy; but we know of no impressions of this work.

The Postmaster-General who, as stated elsewhere, had in 1858 advocated an alteration in the form of the obliterating mark, had taken advantage of this opportunity—and perhaps also of the change of some of the officials—to point out the desirability of adopting a different cancellation. He proposed the use of the mark inscribed "ANNULLATO," as employed in the continental provinces. But the Viceroy replied that it would be absolutely impossible to use the Neapolitan obliterating marks, and advised the adoption of a stamp composed of little dots (probably such as was then used in France), "which would not disfigure the Sacred Effigy of the King"; this proposal was approved by the Minister at Naples, but it was never carried out.

In the meantime the articles which Pampillonia had purchased were left under his charge, in a room at the Mint at Palermo. The Postmaster-General advised that, for greater safety, they should be removed to the room where the postage stamps were printed, in the building of the General Post Office. This proposal was accepted, but Pampillonia—no doubt vexed at his own ill-success, and disgusted at the work being entrusted officially to Barone—refused to hand these things over, asserting that he had received no instructions from the Director of the Treasury. Being, however, again called upon to do so, "in the name of the Government," he gave up the articles in question on March 10th, 1860. A formal report of the transaction was drawn up, in which is shown also the machine for cutting the paper

into strips, for use in the Lecoq printing presses. The whole of the articles were taken to the place appointed.

But all this apparatus and materials still remained unused. The Revolution which broke out in the Island had turned the attention of the authorities from the consideration of this matter, which we shall see was resumed from another point of view under the Government of the Dictator and the Vice-Dictators, and was pursued further during the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Island under the King of Italy.

The following is a descriptive list of the Essays that we are acquainted with:—

The first type, engraved by E. Lesaché of Paris, is found in three different states:—

- (a) With both the Effigy and the inscription upon a solid ground (Plate A, No. 5).

No value, black on India paper.

- (b) Effigy retouched; the profile of the nose is formed of a straight line, instead of being turned up, as in (a). The background of the effigy is formed of diagonal crossed lines, showing a lozenge pattern, but the engraving of the ground is not yet finished. The background of the inscription is still solid, except that at the left upper corner the artist had commenced to cut fine scrolled lines.* (Plate A, No. 6).

No value, black on India paper.

- (c) Die complete, except for the figures denoting the value. The effigy, as in (b) is on a ground of lattice-work, with a little cross* in each lozenge. The inscription around it is on a ground of fine scrolled lines* (Plate A, No. 7).

Proofs of this were printed with the Lecoq machine, upon continuous strips of paper. We have before us a copy printed upon the overlapping ends where two strips joined, as may be seen also in the stamps of Peru that were printed with machines of the same nature. The impressions came from the machine in horizontal strips; those we have seen had a space of about 1 millimetre between them. We have:—

On ordinary, white paper.

No value, black, blue.

On white pelure paper.

No value, black, blue.

Some copies are gummed, and two different qualities of gum are found on them. A considerable number of copies must have been printed, as these proofs are fairly common, especially in *blue*; † in fact, we learn from a letter from Pampillonia that impressions were taken of this type after it had been rejected, in order to show the working of the Lecoq machine.

* These details are not shown very clearly in the illustrations.

† Forgeries exist of this Essay, produced some years back, by means of some photographic process, by a certain E. C. U— of Florence; they are printed in various colours on *white*, and in *black* on coloured papers. They can be easily recognised by the printing, which is far from clear.

The Essay shown in No. 8 (Plate A) is the same as No. 7, but with a proof of the cancelling mark, which was also engraved by Lesaché, who supplied seven of the cancellers.

Pampillonia having been directed to adhere strictly to the Aloysio type, we have another Essay, which is a reproduction, in reduced size, of the adopted design. This also was engraved by Lesaché (Plate A, Nos. 9 and 10).

We have only seen one copy of this:—

No value, black on India paper.

Moens notes, of this same design, but with the inner frame formed of two white lines instead of one:—

No value, blue on white.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, blue-green.
 1 „ blue.
 2 grana, violet.
 5 „ orange, vermilion.
 10 „ olive-yellow.
 10 „ deep blue.
 20 „ rose.
 50 „ vermilion.

Then comes the design with pearly border and the four Bourbon lilies in the corners, as suggested by Pampillonia and mentioned by the Minister Cassisi in his letter of February 10th, 1859. We do not know the name of the author of this engraving, but judging from the form of the letters used in the inscription, we should suppose that it came from the studio of Lesaché (Plate A, No. 13). It is evidently the one submitted by Pampillonia in his letter of February 12th.

No value, black on white.

The Essay shown in Plate A, No. 14,* is probably another of Lesaché's productions.

No value, black on white.

Finally we have two different effigies (Plate A, Nos. 11, 12), printed in *black* on white paper. We do not know who supplied Pampillonia with these, but they certainly are no improvement on the others. Possibly these are the other two referred to on February 12th.

* No. 14 is copied from a fac-simile.

CHAPTER IV.

PROPOSED ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS DURING THE DICTATORSHIP, THE VICE-DICTATORSHIP, AND THE LIEUTENANCY IN THE SICILIAN PROVINCES.



AMONG the first acts of the Dictator's Government in Sicily were the suppression of the Bourbon postage stamps and the adoption of the Coat-of-Arms of Italy.* A letter dated June 14th, 1860, from the Secretary of State for the Department of Public Works (to which the Post Office was then attached) gave instructions to the Marquis San Giacinto, who continued to hold the office of Postmaster-General, regarding the production of a new design. And from the letter that follows we learn that the work of preparing a new die had been entrusted to an engraver of Palermo, named Giovanni Ficarotta.†

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

"No. 38.

"PALERMO, 16th June, 1860.

"Subject: New Die for the Postage Stamps.

"SIR,—In accordance with the instructions contained in your esteemed letter of the 14th inst., an order has been given to Sig. Giovanni Ficarotta for the engraving of the new postage stamps, the present stamps being abolished. Ficarotta will place himself in communication with Sig. Francesco Lao, as the only person who has knowledge of these matters, and directions have been given to both of them to take the greatest care in the manufacture of the stamps in the form prescribed in the letter mentioned above.

"I will report the result to you in due course.

(Signed) "MARCHESE S. GIACINTO,
"Postmaster-General.

"To the Secretary of State
for Public Works and Means of Communication, Palermo."

Two days later the Minister for the Department of Public Works wrote to the Postmaster-General "strongly urging him to get everything completed as quickly as possible"; and on the 26th June the Postmaster-General assured him that he had personally visited Ficarotta, in order to greatly hasten him, that he had, however, found nothing ready, but had received a promise for the following week. On the 27th the Director of Public

* It would be useless to look for any signs of the personal direction of Garibaldi in the postal reforms. A man of action, he did not concern himself with the public departments, and could not do so. In confirmation of this we find in the *Life of Sir Rowland Hill and History of Penny Postage* (London, 1880): "On Thursday (April 21st, 1864) Caroline (Lady Hill) and I dined at Fishmonger's Hall to meet Garibaldi. I was a little afraid of the undertaking, but I enjoyed the meeting, and am, to say the least, none the worse for it. I had some conversation with Garibaldi about the state of the Italian Post Office, but it was evident that he felt but little interest in the matter" (vol. ii. p. 417).

† Giovanni Ficarotta was in business as a jeweller and engraver at Palermo, No. 21, Via dei Materassai.

Works renewed his solicitations, and on the following day he gave orders for the return to Pampillonia, the engineer, of the machines for printing the postage stamps, which we described in the preceding chapter. From this we may infer that it was intended to make use of these machines and the materials obtained in Paris for the printing of the new stamps.

Ficarotta shortly afterwards informed the Post Office Department that by the 16th July he would be ready to make the first trial of the printing of the postage stamps, in conjunction with Lao. But this was not, as a matter of fact, carried out until the 28th of that month, on which day the first two specimens were submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State for Public Works, as we gather from the following letter:—

“POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

“No. 867.

“PALERMO, *July 28th*, 1860.

“Subject: Patterns of Postage Stamps.

“SIR,—In accordance with the instructions of superior authority, this Department has spared no pains with a view to the preparation of the new postage stamps at the earliest possible date and with the greatest accuracy in their manufacture.

“The work is completed to-day, and Sig. Ficarotta, with the assistance of Sig. Lao, has put the new dies in use and has printed the first specimens of the stamps.

“I have the honour to forward them to you, as Secretary of State, begging that you will be so good as to inform me whether they meet with your entire approval.

(Signed) “BARONE ORIOLES,

“To the Secretary of State

“Chief Secretary, for the Postmaster-General.

for Public Works and Means of Communication.”

The Essays enclosed in the above letter, which we describe at the end of this chapter, were of similar design to the postage stamps then in use in the Tuscan Provinces, bearing the Arms of Savoy (Plate A, No. 15). These Essays bore the value in *grana*, and were printed typographically. The Secretary of State for Public Works submitted them in turn to the Vice-Dictator Depretis, who thought it would be better to have the value expressed in *centesimi* of a *lira*:—

“DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

“POST OFFICE BRANCH.

“No. 662.

“PALERMO, *August 2nd*, 1860.

“SIR,—Having submitted to the Vice-Dictator the proof of the postage stamps, which you sent me with your report, No. 867, of the 28th July last, it has been decided that the rate should be indicated in Italian money. It is necessary for this purpose to remake the labels bearing the values, and to insert in them the centesimi of a lira corresponding with the grana, adding one centesimo when the exact equivalent would give a fraction.

(Signed) “G. LA LOGGIA,

“To the Postmaster-General.”

“Secretary of State.

But the decision regarding the indication of the value in Italian money gave rise to some difficulties in the matter of accounts, which the Postmaster-General pointed out to the Secretary of State, and suggested that, if it was desired that the values should be expressed in Italian money, it would be advisable to add the corresponding equivalents in Sicilian currency:—

“POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

“No. 1082.

“PALERMO, *August 18th*, 1860.

“Subject: Indication of the rates upon the new Postage Stamps in Centesimi of the Italian Lira.

“SIR,—By the official letter of the Secretary of State, dated 14th June last, it was decided, with a view to reintroducing the use of postage stamps, to substitute a new die, bearing a small, square Cross, around which should be engraved conventional ornaments,

to prevent forgery, and on the three sides the words 'franco-bollo postale,' and at foot the value in Sicilian money.

"In accordance with that decision, this Department informed you that Sig. Giovanni Ficarotta had been commissioned to engrave the die, according to the instructions mentioned above. In reply, in your letter, No. 39, of June 18th, you recommended that steps should be taken in order that all might be completed as early as possible. Great pressure having been put upon Ficarotta, he completed the new stamps, which were submitted to you with a report from me, dated July 28th last, enclosing the first specimens.

"In your reply of the 2nd inst., you inform me that you have submitted the proof of the new postage stamps to the Vice-Dictator, and that you have decided that the rates shall be indicated in Italian money, inserting the centesimi of a Lira equivalent to the grana, and adding one centesimo when the exact equivalent results in a fraction.

"The Chief Accountant, having been instructed by me to furnish a table of equivalent values, writes as follows, under date of the 13th inst:—

"In accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for Public Works, dated the 2nd inst., communicated to me in your letter of the 6th, I forward to you the table of the reduction of the various natures of Postage Stamps of this Department to their equivalents in centesimi of an Italian Lira, reckoned both with the exact fractions, and also with the whole number completed, so as to include those fractions.

"As, however, the values in centesimi of a Lira are not represented by the coins in use, I have added a further column showing them in Sicilian money, from which it will be seen that in each case there are fractions in hundredth parts of a grano, of some importance in the lower values, which are those most commonly used.

"If then the Government decides to issue the new stamps with values in centesimi of a Lira, without first introducing the new monetary laws, establishing the actual equivalents and placing the State accounts upon the same basis, I think it indispensable that there should also be denoted upon the stamps the nominal equivalent in the money in use, in its exact amount, and the corresponding value of the various natures hitherto in use, both to obviate any controversy with the public, and for the regular correspondence between our books and the accounts of the accountants, who act under the direction of this Department.

"It should also not be forgotten, that in reality the indication of value in centesimi must remain purely nominal, not only on account of the difference already alluded to in the monetary laws, the representative equivalents, and the accounts, but also still more because the terms of the tariff cannot be altered without rescinding the Convention with France.'

"In doing myself the honour of bringing this to your superior knowledge, I beg of you to issue such orders as will put an end to the just complaints of the public and regulate this important branch of the service.

(Signed) "BARONE ORIOLES,

"Chief Secretary, for the Postmaster-General.

"To the Secretary of State
for Public Works."

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

"Table of the reduction of the value of the Postage Stamps from the currency in legal use, to the new currency, about to be established in Italian Lire.

Natures of Stamps now in use.	Corresponding Values in Lire.		Amounts in Sicilian Money corresponding with those in the last column.
	Exact calculation with fractions, at the rate of Gr. 23 to the Lira.	In whole numbers, including the fractions.	
Grana, $\frac{1}{2}$	Lire, 0'02 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lire, 0'03	Onze, 0 1'38
" 01	" 0'04 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 0'05	" 0 2'30
" 02	" 0'08 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 0'09	" 0 4'14
" 05	" 0'21 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 0'22	" 0 10'12
" 10	" 0'43 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 0'44	" 1 0'24
" 20	" 0'86 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 0'87	" 2 0'02
" 50	" 2'17 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 2'18	" 5 0'28

"PALERMO, August 11th, 1860.

(Signed) "GIOVANNI NOERA,
"Chief Accountant.

(Countersigned) "BARONE ORIOLES,
"Chief Secretary."

The question of the currency to be indicated upon the new stamps remained unsettled for some time.

The continual changing of Statesmen and of Officials during this period of transition prevented any uniformity and continuity in the direction of

the Departments, and necessarily delayed every reform. Thus we find that the Secretary of State for Public Works, Giovanni Interdonato, disapproved of the adoption of the Arms of Savoy for the design of the postage stamps, although this had previously been decided upon. In order to render the stamps uniform with those then in use in the Sardinian States, and in almost all the annexed provinces, he thought it preferable to employ the profile of King Victor Emmanuel II. The following letter, addressed to the new Secretary of State for Public Works, shows that the construction of a new die had been decided upon and entrusted, by a verbal order, to Ficarotta. The latter had, in fact, commenced the engraving of the new die.

“POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

“No. 1488.

“PALERMO, 22nd September, 1860.

“Subject: Payment of Ducats 92 to Sig. Ficarotta, the engraver.

“SIR,—Sig. Giovanni Ficarotta, the engraver, has requested payment of the sum of 400 lire, equal to 92 ducats, for work done for this Department.

“He engraved a first die for postage stamps, ordered by an Official Letter of 14th June last, but as this was found unsuitable by the previous Secretary of State, who wished to have the Cross of Savoy replaced by the effigy of H. M. King Victor Emmanuel, it became useless.

“A verbal order was therefore given by the Secretary of State himself, to the above-named artist, to engrave another die, similar in all respects to that which is now in use in Piedmont—this second die is now in course of manufacture.

“Besides this, Ficarotta has engraved the Coat-of-Arms for the P.O. Money Orders, which has already been delivered to me.

“As I therefore find Ficarotta's charge to be correct, I report it to you, begging that you will give the necessary orders for payment to him of 400 lire.

(Signed) “GIOVANNI DEL CASTILLO,

“Postmaster-General.

“To the Secretary of State
for Public Works.”

In the meantime fresh changes took place in the staff of the political administration of the Island. With the view no doubt of hastening the preparation of the postage stamps, and in order that this might be done with all the necessary precautions, Giuseppe Albergiani, engineer, who had recently been appointed Director of the Department of Public Works, was charged with the superintendence of this matter.

In compliance with a request from this official, the Post Office Department asked permission from the Treasury for Giovanni Ficarotta and his son Pietro, a clerk of the post office as superintendent, and a man charged with the working of the press, to have access to the room at the Mint where the coining-press was kept, in order to strike the matrices with the new die. This permission, after some delay (everything still went on in the usual deliberate fashion), was naturally granted.

A letter from Albergiani, dated 5th October, shows us what point had then been reached by the work executed by Ficarotta:—

“He has prepared the die of the new type ordered from him, and has completed—with the exception of a few necessary touches—the engraving in deep recess of the head of the King. He has prepared 100 pieces of bronze, on which to impress this head with the punch, and this punch is also ready. Five tinned plates of bronze are furnished, upon each of which are to be fixed a hundred rectangular frames of postage stamps of the same value. Lastly, there have been prepared five matrices, dies and cases for the five different rectangular frames of the said postage stamps, of different colours and values.”

We might gather from this information, which is not very clear, that besides the die for the effigy, that for the border of the stamp was also finished. On the contrary, however, a letter of later date, from Francesco

Perez, who had been appointed Acting Postmaster-General, requested from the Department of Public Works, a decision as to the inscription to be inserted in the die of the postage stamp, and at the same time drew attention to the fact that it had not yet been settled in what currency the values were to be stated.

"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

"No. 1846.

"PALERMO, *October 23rd*, 1860.

"Subject: The inscription to be placed round the postage stamp.

"SIR,—After that, in accordance with your esteemed letter of the 14th June last, it had been decided by your Department of State, with a view to the reintroduction of the use of postage stamps (the stamps then existing having been annulled), to substitute a new die, bearing a small square cross, around which were to be engraved conventional patterns to prevent forgery (these patterns to be registered in an official report and to be kept secret), and to inscribe around the stamp the words *Franco-bollo postale*, and at foot the value in Sicilian currency; Sig. Ficarotta, the engraver, set to work and produced a first die for the postage stamp, in accordance with the above directions, and since your predecessor desired that the Cross of Savoy should be replaced by the Effigy of H. M. King Victor Emmanuel, this first die became useless.

"The die with the Effigy of His Majesty having been finished, before having the words *Franco-bollo postale* engraved around it, this Department thinks it advisable to raise the question, whether the Government would think proper to add to the above-mentioned inscription the word *Siciliano*, following the system which was adopted by Tuscany under circumstances almost identical with ours.

"The inscription indeed adopted by Tuscany for the postage stamp, and still in use there, is that of '*Franco-bollo postale Toscano*.'

"In the opinion of the writer the same might be adopted here, only changing the word *Toscano* into *Siciliano*, or instead that of *Franco-bollo delle R. Poste in Sicilia* [Postage stamp of the Royal Posts in Sicily].

"In regard to the indication of the currency, before deciding what is to be done, it is necessary to await the decision of the Government upon the report from this Department dated the 18th August last, No. 1082.

"Desiring, however, to hasten the completion of the new die, I must beg of Y. E. to be pleased to decide what you think suitable, both for the inscription and for the indication of the value.

(Signed)

"FRANCESCO PEREZ,

"Acting Postmaster-General.

"To the Secretary of State
for Public Works."

At last a decision upon these points was obtained, in the letter which we quote here:—

"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

"POST OFFICE BRANCH.

"4th Section, No. 2663.

"PALERMO, *October 27th*, 1860.

"SIR,—In your report, No. 1846, of the 23rd inst., you proposed that the new die for the postage stamp should bear in the frame the words '*Franco-bollo postale Siciliano*', in a similar form to that employed in Tuscany, where the word '*Toscano*' is expressly indicated. You also requested the decision of the Government as to currency in which the value is to be expressed, making reference to a report from your Department, No. 1082, of the 18th August last.

"In regard to the first part of this report I see no difficulty in agreeing to your proposal, and you can therefore have engraved upon the die the inscription that you suggested.

"Concerning the value of the postage stamp, I see that some questions were raised by your Department about expressing it in centesimi of a Lira. It was then proposed to inscribe upon the stamp itself the equivalent of the centesimi in the currency then in use. I do not know whether you share the opinion, which your Department then held upon this subject; but I think it well to ask you to reconsider the matter, as it seems to me that the indication of the value would be too complicated, and that it would moreover become useless, when we have, as has been Decreed, representative coins in Lira and Centesimi of a Lira. In my opinion the difficulty, which it is thought would be occasioned by the difference in the currency, might well be got over by means of explanatory Circulars addressed to all the postal Agents, and by at the same time making known to the public, by Notices exhibited at the offices, what would be the actual value to be assigned to the centesimi indicated upon the postage stamps expressed in the current coins.

"I should be obliged if you would favour me with your opinion upon this matter.

(Signed)

"P. ORLANDO,

"Secretary of State.

"To the Postmaster-General."

In accordance with the above, the Post Office Department ordered Ficarotta to insert in the die the inscription that had been decided upon, and to put the value in Italian currency (November 6th).

And since it had been decided that the equivalent for each value should be fixed, by means of a circular letter to the officials and a notice to the public, the Post Office submitted the table of equivalents for the approval of the Department of Public Works:—

“POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

“No. 2215.

“PALERMO, *November 24th*, 1860.

“Subject: The ratio between the currency now in use and the Italian Lira, calculated for each nature of the Postage Stamps of Sicily.

Centesimi, 5=	Ducats, 0	01-5
“ 10=	“ 0	02-5
“ 20=	“ 0	05—
“ 40=	“ 0	09-5
“ 80=	“ 0	19—

“SIR,—In continuation of what I had the honour to state to Y. E. in my report of the 6th inst., No. 2007, regarding the inscription and the value in centesimi of a Lira upon the new postage stamps, I have the pleasure of submitting for your approval the table of equivalents, given above, for the five natures of these stamps, between the current money of Sicily and the Italian Lira, to be afterwards communicated to the public by means of an official notice, and by a circular to all the Agents of the Department, so as to serve as a basis for the collection of the postal rates, until the Sicilian copper money shall be withdrawn from circulation.

(Signed) “FRANCESCO PEREZ,

“Acting Postmaster-General.

“To the Secretary of State
for Public Works.”

This table of equivalent values was approved, under date of November 26th, but as the Department had received no notification of the stamps being ready, renewed inquiries were made, asking on the 11th December when they would be issued.

But no sooner was one question decided and one difficulty overcome, than fresh causes of delay arose! It still remained to be settled what tariff should be applied to the correspondence in the interior of the Island.

“POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

“No. 2349.

“PALERMO, *December 11th*, 1860.

“Subject: The Rates to be collected upon correspondence within the interior of the Island.

“SIR,—On the first of January next the use of the new postage stamps for the franking of correspondence is to be resumed.

“The question therefore arises whether the tariff in force in the Continental Provinces should be applied to the correspondence in the interior of the Island from that date, or whether the rates in force in Sicily should continue to be charged.

“The application of the tariff in force in the Continental Provinces would produce the following results, viz:—

“1. That for prepaid letters the same rate would be paid as is collected for unpaid, whilst under the system at present in force in Sicily the rate is one-third less for prepaid letters than for unpaid, the idea being to encourage prepayment and to reduce the number of letters that cannot be delivered.

“2. That whilst at present for every single-rate letter, that is of a single sheet, which is sent unpaid, the charge is six grana Sicilian, under the new tariff of the other Italian Provinces the rate would be ten grana, and no longer by the sheet but by weight.

“3. For printed matter and newspapers, whilst at present the rate is calculated at one grana Sicilian for each sheet, under the new system the charge would be by weight, so that a sheet not exceeding twenty grammes in weight would be charged one centesimo, from twenty to forty grammes two centesimi, from forty to eighty grammes four centesimi, from eighty to a hundred and twenty grammes six centesimi, and for every forty grammes an additional two centesimi.

“Prepayment under the existing system has to be made by means of postage stamps,

as in the case of letters, whilst under the continental system printed matter must be prepaid in cash, so that it would be necessary to reintroduce the means of control, which had been done away with as a result of the prepayment by means of stamps.

"In doing myself the honour of submitting to Y. E. these suggestions, which it may be well to bear in mind in giving a decision upon this matter, I think it useful to point out to you that, if the Government should come to the conclusion to allow the present tariff to remain in force for the present, it would be possible to employ for the franking of a single-rate letter the 10 Centesimi stamp, which corresponds, according to the table of equivalents approved by the Government under Resolution No. 3581 of the 26th November, with 2.5 grana Sicilian, which would obviate the necessity for preparing postage stamps of another value, besides those already approved.

"On the other hand, on this supposition (that is, that the present tariff should remain in force for the correspondence within the Island) a difficulty would be encountered in regard to the tariff for printed matter and newspapers; seeing that, whilst those addressed to the furthest limits of Italy would be charged only one centesimo, those for the interior of the Island would be charged one grano. In consequence, even admitting that for letters the postage should continue to be charged in accordance with the existing tariff, it would appear fitting that, unless you think right to arrange otherwise, for printed matter and newspapers addressed to places within the Island the same rate should be charged as for those addressed to the Italian Provinces on the continent.

"Lastly, I think it my duty to submit to Y. E. that, whatever may be the rates to be charged for printed matter and newspapers, it would in my opinion be advisable to continue the system of prepayment by means of stamps, in order that it may not be necessary to maintain the system of control for this portion of the service.

"One other petition I have to make to Y. E., and that is that the decision of the Government upon the questions raised may be issued as promptly as possible, bearing in mind that the introduction of the new service should take place on the 1st January next, and that the alterations to be made in the existing tariff should be made known to the public in good time.

(Signed) "FRANCESCO PEREZ,

"To the Councillor of the Lieutenancy
in charge of the Department of Public Works."

"Acting Postmaster-General.

A decision was soon arrived at, establishing the rate of 10 centesimi for each single-rate letter:—

"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

"POST OFFICE BRANCH.

"4th Section, No. 3823.

"PALERMO, December 17th, 1860.

"SIR,—For the reasons presented by you with so much sagacity, in your report No. 2349 of the 11th inst., I have approved of your proposal that the existing tariff should remain in force for correspondence within this Island, on the reintroduction of the system of postage stamps upon the 1st January next, employing however for the single-rate letters the 10 centesimi stamps, which correspond, according to the approved ratio, to 2.5 grana Sicilian, with the only difference that for printed matter and newspapers addressed to places within the Island the same rate is to be charged as is charged for newspapers and printed matter addressed to the Italian provinces on the continent.

"I approve at the same time of the prepayment of postage on these newspapers and printed matter being made by means of postage stamps.

(Signed) "P. ORLANDO,

"To the Postmaster-General."

"Councillor of the Lieutenancy.

It was found impossible, after all, to issue the new stamps on January 1st, 1861, as had been intended, since Ficarotta, although repeatedly solicited both verbally and by letter, had not delivered what had been ordered from him, as it was not yet ready.

We find, however, that on the 27th December the new Inspector-General of Posts in Sicily, Marchese Giuseppe Costantino,* together with other officials, and a notary, proceeded to Lao's printing establishment, where various trials were made with the materials prepared by Ficarotta. Of these trials—the results of which did not prove satisfactory—a formal report was

* Appointed to this office by a Decree of the Vice-Dictator, dated October 25th, 1860 (No. 302).

drawn up, from which report we confine ourselves to quoting certain details. Nine sheets were printed, seven of which were in *black*. Two of these and one in colour were placed one on the top of the other, and the effigy of the King was then impressed in relief upon the three sheets together, with the result that the embossing was feeble and indistinct. Ficarotta then declared that he was still in want of suitable machines and implements, both for the printing in colour and for the embossing, and that he had ordered a proper striking press for this purpose from the well-known Florio foundry, but that it had not yet been delivered. He asked for two days more, to enable him to see whether it was possible to produce satisfactory impressions, with the typographic presses. The report ended with a declaration that the Post Office Department, having already permitted too much delay on the part of the engraver, considered itself relieved of all responsibility in the matter, and held him answerable for the consequences of the delay.

In the meantime the Post Office Department had received a proposal from Giuseppe Porcasi, engineer, "for the manufacture of a die and of whatever may be necessary for the immediate production of the postage stamps." Porcasi declared that the machines which the late Government had obtained from Paris could quite well have been used for the work, adding that he believed that within a month they could be put in a condition to work perfectly, and all would be ready for the printing.

On the 2nd January the Department requested authority to make a contract with Porcasi, whenever he should be found capable of carrying out the work properly. It was also suggested that—as a more simple design—the Royal Arms should be reproduced upon the stamps, as in the Tuscan Provinces. Thus the idea of reproducing the Arms—which had been adopted and then abandoned a few months earlier—was again suggested, and was approved by the Director of Public Works on the 8th January.

Porcasi had put the Lecoq machines in order in the course of a few days, and the Post Office Department was authorised to make a contract with him, under the following conditions:—

"1. Porcasi must undertake to commence the manufacture of the Postage Stamps within a period of not more than twenty days, and to prepare in the meantime the die and whatever else is necessary for the work.

"2. The die must be engraved, by the artist employed, at the office of the Department, in a room appointed for that purpose, where he will be under supervision until it is completed, and when finished it must be handed over to the Department, which will give a receipt for it.

"3. The paper to be used in the machine must be measured and numbered at each end by the Department, so that from the number of rolls of paper it may be possible to calculate in advance the number of stamps that will be produced."

The draft of the contract to be entered into with Porcasi was submitted to the Director of Public Works on the 16th January. We do not think it necessary to reproduce it, and will only state that it included, besides the putting in order of the presses, which had already been done, doing the same for the machine for cutting the paper into strips. It stated also that the stamps were to bear the Royal Arms, and were to be printed in a different colour for each value, but what the values were to be or how many was not shown. The charge for them was fixed at 7 tari per 1,000, the paper to be furnished by the Government. The contract was intended to last for

a period of six years, and Porcasi bound himself to begin the printing on February 1st.

Whilst the Post Office Department was waiting for the approval of the proposed arrangement with Porcasi, Ficarotta had been making other experiments; he made use this time of the presses at the Virzì printing establishment, and printed with them sheets of a hundred stamps in ten rows of ten, with more successful results than before. He put forward an offer on the 11th January to print the postage stamps, in various colours, upon paper supplied by the Department, at the price of 20 tari per 10,000 copies, a saving of 5 tari per 1,000 as compared with the offer of Porcasi.

Now the difficulties began all over again. The first objection was that the dies had been left for some time in the hands of Ficarotta, and, in spite of the honesty of the latter, the Department was not satisfied with the safety of this course; the second was the uncertainty of obtaining a sufficient supply of stamps.

As may be seen, there was a keen rivalry between the two engineers. In fact the offer of Ficarotta contained a declaration "that he desired to defend his own work from the claws of envious impostors and ignorant printers, who had commenced the struggle to his prejudice." Ficarotta declared that he had two plates of 100 stamps ready, one for 10 and the other for 20 centesimi. He was so proud of his work that he requested the permission of the Government to exhibit the "new machine" and the prints produced by it to the Royal Institute for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, and Manufactures in Sicily, in order to obtain a medal, or at least honourable mention, for his invention.*

Ficarotta obtained fresh permission to continue his work at the Mint, and he requested payment of 100 onze, of which 60 were for the first die with the Arms of Savoy, and 6 for the six movable pieces denoting the various values; also 4 onze for "another die with a small head and inscription around, which was not completed, as the Government ordered that the head should be embossed"; and lastly for a die, in relief, for the Postal Money Orders.

The draft of the contract with Ficarotta for the supply of the postage stamps is dated March 9th, 1861. We do not hesitate to reproduce it in full, since it was accepted, in a letter of the same date, by the Director of Public Works, who had already affixed his seal to it.

"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

"1. Sig. Ficarotta declares that all the articles described in the annexed account, which have been supplied and are to be supplied by him, and are necessary for the printing of the new postage stamps with the head of His Majesty in relief, are sold to the General Post Office Department for the sum of nine hundred ducats, that sum to include all work and labour done and to be done, under the following conditions.

"2. Ficarotta undertakes that all the said articles shall be fit for use for the proper printing of 80,000 sheets of postage stamps of perfect quality, including all the eight different kinds, and to renew at his own expense, part or the whole of the articles in question, in such manner that the Department shall be put to no expense for the printing of the 80,000 sheets, whatever may be the particular quantities to be printed from each plate.

* This Institute was charged, by a Decree of March 22nd, 1861, with the collection of the various products of Agriculture, Manufactures, and Fine Arts in Sicily, for the Italian Exhibition, held at Florence in September, 1861.

"3. When the printing of the 80,000 sheets is finished, Sig. Ficarotta is bound to hand over to the Department all the articles described in the account, in good condition and fit for further printing.

"4. It is agreed that Ficarotta on his part is bound to print the 80,000 sheets of stamps in such proportion and number for each plate or value as shall be required by the Department, providing at his own charge all the expenses necessary for presses, printers, assistants, ink, and colours according to the varieties that may be decided upon by the Department, as well as the gum to be applied to the backs of the sheets, at the charge and expense of the said Ficarotta, in such manner that the Department may not be liable for any other expense for the manufacture of the said postage stamps, beyond the payment of ten lire Italian for every hundred sheets of stamps, and the supplying of the paper.

"The Department however grants permission to Ficarotta to make use of the colours now existing in its possession, to serve for the first printing, in the condition in which they are, but without assuming any responsibility if they should not turn out to be suitable for the printing. And this concession of these colours is not intended to lessen the obligation of Ficarotta to provide them, as stated in Art. 4.

"5. It is established and agreed that the printing of the number of 80,000 sheets of stamps is obligatory on the part of Sig. Ficarotta, and optional on the part of the Department, the latter being only obliged to have twenty thousand sheets printed, with the option, if it so desires, of ordering further quantities up to the number for which Ficarotta has contracted.

"6. The Department, whatever may be the number that it shall order to be printed, whether 20,000 sheets or any other number not exceeding the 80,000, has the option of having them printed in whatever number of each of the eight kinds it may think fit to order, and with the condition that further orders, subsequent to the first supply, are not to be for less than 10,000 sheets at a time, except as otherwise provided in the following Article.

"7. In the event of the Department, after completion of the printing of the 20,000 sheets alluded to above, not desiring to make use of the services of Ficarotta for the further printing and production of the stamps, he will be relieved of all obligation in the terms of Art. 2, except that of handing over all the apparatus in good condition and fit for use.

"8. Sig. Ficarotta binds himself to execute the said printing, as well as all other work necessary to the execution of the same, submitting himself to the rules and regulations that, for the safeguarding of the interests of the Government, may be laid down by the Postmaster-General, and without any claim for compensation.

"9. Payment for the printing or production of the postage stamps, including everything, will be made in accordance with the consignments delivered into the store of the Department, and attested by the requisite reports.

"10. Ficarotta acknowledges having received in advance 94 ducats, on account of the 900 ducats to be paid for the engraving, etc., in accordance with Art. 1. A further sum of 206 ducats will be paid to him as soon as he shall have executed the printing of the postage stamps from the first four plates that shall be ordered by the Department. The remaining 600 ducats are to be paid to him when the printing of the stamps from the four other plates is completed, and will be retained until that time as a guarantee for the fulfilment of all the obligations undertaken by Ficarotta.

"11. It is further agreed that Ficarotta is to commence the printing of the stamps from the two plates already completed, viz. those of Cent. 10 and Cent. 20, within forty-eight hours from this date, without fail, and he undertakes to deliver after twenty days from this present the plates for printing the stamps of Cent. 01 and Cent. 02, and to commence printing from them immediately; and the remaining four plates, for the values 05, 40, 80 Centesimi and One Lira, are to be delivered one each week, and the printing from them is to be commenced immediately, according to the number of each that may be ordered by the Department.

"12. Ficarotta undertakes to deliver five hundred sheets per day, from the day when the printing is commenced.

"13. It is expressly agreed that in case of failure in any one of the above-mentioned deliveries, Sig. Ficarotta is personally subject to the payment of a fine of ten ducats for every day that such failure continues, and he understands that he becomes liable to the fine by the mere fact of such failure, and without the need of any summons.

"14. Ficarotta is also liable to imprisonment, both on account of the fines and for failure in any of the obligations which he has undertaken, and on account of the damages and costs to which he may be condemned for non-fulfilment of his contract.

"15. Sig. Ficarotta chooses for his legal residence No. 21 Via Materassari.

"Approved

"PALERMO, *March 9th*, 1861.

"PRINCIPE DI SANT'ELIA,

"Councillor of the Lieutenancy."

Nothing was now required but the Agreement in legal form, but while the Post Office was preparing to execute this, the Director of Public Works notified that Department "to suspend for the moment the signing of the contract for the manufacture of the postage stamps, pending the receipt of further instructions."

This communication, dated March 11th, was caused by the arrival, on the morning of the previous day, of Cav. Giuseppe Pagni, Inspector-General of Posts in Italy, who had been entrusted with the superintendence of the reorganisation of the postal service in Sicily, with the assistance of some of the continental officials, with a view to preparing, in as short a time as possible, for the union of this service with that of the other Italian Provinces, which had already been reorganised by a Royal Decree of December 15th, 1860.

We have alluded in our Introduction to the truly miserable condition of the postal service in Sicily at this period; it was such that the arrival of this officer of the Italian Postal Department in the Island may be said to have been the beginning of a new era.

It will be sufficient to allude here to the suspension of all further steps for the manufacture of special postage stamps, and, to the order therefore given, on the 23rd March, for the return to the General Post Office Department of all the articles, machines, etc., used for the manufacture of the stamps, a report being drawn up and preparations thus made for the payment of the accounts of those who had furnished the apparatus. The report, which was compiled on the 28th of March, included the account of Porcasi for having put in order and cleaned two machines for printing the stamps and for the construction of another machine for applying the gum to the paper.* This was accompanied by a list of the articles supplied by Ficarotta, which we do not reproduce, as we think it preferable to quote here the account which he presented on the same date, and which enables us to ascertain the point which his work upon the manufacture of the postage stamps had reached:—

"Statement of the payments to be made to Giovanni Ficarotta for the Postage Stamp prepared by the order of the Government.

"By desire of the Government, after two other dies had been prepared for the production of the postage stamp, which two will remain at the disposal of the Government, a third steel die was ordered of upright rectangular shape, with the inscription *Franco-bollo postale Siciliano* round it, and the values below in centesimi of a Lira, and within the rectangle an oval frame to contain the head in profile of King Victor Emmanuel impressed in colourless relief.

"Cost of the steel and of two punches for facilitating the work . . .	onze, 10 0 0
"Engraving the above, that is, making an original die, taking a matrix impression from it, recutting the latter and then taking impressions therefrom upon two punches . . .	onze, 30 0 0

"Paid to persons employed at the mint for services in connection with the mechanical work upon the said stamp, and to the man who worked the striking press . . .	onze, 4 12 0
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"From this last die, approved by the Government, there was struck a Matrix in rectangular form, showing the inscription round it with little ornaments in the corners of the rectangle and the value, and with a blank oval space in the centre for the reception of the head. From which matrix

* The total amount of the bill of Porcasi was 116 onze and 9 tari, from which some reduction was afterwards made.

there were then cast eight other matrices upon each of which the value was engraved, commencing with one centesimo and going up to one lira	onze, 8 0 0
"Cost of these eight matrices with the various values at 15 tari each	" 4 0 0
"From these were obtained eight reproductions in copper, by means of a Galvanic battery, and thus eight dies in relief were produced, with the value assigned to each, and these were then inlaid in eight pieces of copper sufficiently strong to stand the casting. Cost of acid, zinc, and sulphate of copper	onze, 16 0 0
"All the said dies for embossing the head of the King in colourless relief, and the rectangular frames for the production of the stamps having been thus completed, the manufacture of the plates for the printing was next proceeded with, each of these containing 100 rectangular pieces, one inch thick, and discouraged by the excellence of the printing of the specimens obtained from abroad and in difficulty from the novelty of the work, we found it necessary to print numerous proofs, and at last arrived at perfection and completed the work with satisfactory results; the last proofs being printed in the presence of Prince S. Elia and Signor Perez, the Postmaster-General, at the printing house of Sig ^r . Virzi. At present there are only two plates, instead of eight, the charge for which is 5 tari for each block, which is less than the cost of those obtained from abroad. One of these plates is that of the 10 c. value, and the other that of the 20 c.	onze, 33 10 0
"From the die of the head were struck 100 pieces in bronze of oval form, and ten more for use if required, corresponding in shape with the oval spaces in the frames, at 6 tari for each piece	onze, 22 0 0
"These heads were fixed upon as many pieces of metal equal in shape and in all respects to those of the frames, so as to have the same dimensions as the latter, at 5 tari each	onze, 18 10 0
"Previous to this work several dies were engraved on steel, some in <i>taille-douce</i> and some in relief. Seven plates of bronze, two inches thick, and about four inches square, on which were to be engraved the first postage stamps, and which, through stoppage of the work on account of changes that the Government desired to have made in the inscription and in the emblems, could no longer be used, and have been handed over to the Department, together with the other articles	onze, 24 0 0
"Three wooden chases for holding the blocks of the three plates, sheets of zinc, tin for backing, brass hinges, paper for printing the numerous proofs, extra payments to the printers, carriage of three heavy plates, and other small expenses	onze, 18 0 0
"Gum for gumming five reams of paper in sheets, the former purchased in Palermo, 10 rotoli at 18 tari per rotolo	" 5 14 0
"Other gum obtained from Naples, for the sake of economy, for gumming other paper, 14 rotoli at 14 tari per rotolo	" 6 16 0
"Freight by steamer of the said gum	" — 15 0
"Paid to two persons who applied the gum to the paper, employed for 15 days at 9 tari per day for the two, together with the cost of coals and a pot [for melting the gum]	onze, 5 0 0
"Purchase of a broad brush for applying the gum	" — 12 0
"Having contracted for the supply of eighty thousand stamps, I found it necessary, to ensure the production, to make another matrix from which to produce another punch for striking the blocks, and to manufacture another plate of the heads, costing with its frame, all in steel, and struck in the coining press	onze, 10 0 0
"For which I made 120 rectangular pieces of bronze, to give greater strength and to stand the embossing of so large a quantity of stamps, which were first cast, then squared to a pattern of steel, and levelled most accurately, at 5 tari each	onze, 20 0 0
"Purchase of two and a half quintals of type-metal, for making ten plates in all, two for the heads and eight for the frames, of which three only were made, and the rest of the material handed over to the Department, at 6 onze per quintal	onze, 15 0 0
"For a die engraved with three letters, for Sig. Perez, the Postmaster-General, for marking the ten reams of paper	" — 24 0
"Paid for carriage of the whole to the Post Office	" — 24 0
"For my assistance in all the above-mentioned work, commencing with the first die ordered with the Arms of Savoy, the second with the head of the King in relief, and finally the third die with the head in plain relief and the frame in colour, extending over the space of about seven	

months of continuous labour and trying of new methods for the successful carrying out of the work, which at last has been brought to the highest perfection in every respect, in regard both to the engraving and the mechanical reproduction, as is shown by the proofs that have been submitted

	onze, <u>80 0 0</u>
Total	„ <u>332 17 0</u>

(Signed) "GIOVANNI FICAROTTA,
"Engraver to the Royal Mint.

"PALERMO, *March 28th*, 1861."

How the accounts of Porcasi and Ficarotta were discharged we learn from the following letter addressed to the Treasury Department:—

"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

"4th Section, No. 631.

"PALERMO, *27th April*, 1861.

"SIR,—The manufacture of the new Postage Stamps was entrusted to Sig' Giovanni Ficarotta, the engraver. He had commenced the engraving of the dies, which in accordance with instructions from higher authority underwent various alterations, and remain unfinished. An agreement was arranged, and was on the point of being concluded with him, under which all the charges for the first work done by him were to be discharged by payment to him of the sum of 900 ducats.

"Another experiment was carried out by Sig' Giuseppe Porcasi, the engineer, with a view of utilising certain machines which were at the Post Office, for the manufacture of the stamps, and he had already put these in working order, and got them ready for use.

"All this has however been rendered useless, since it has been decided that the postage stamps to be put in circulation in this part of the Kingdom of Italy are to be obtained from the General Post Office at Turin, and these have in fact been supplied and are about to be brought into use.

"It being necessary however to compensate both Ficarotta and Porcasi for the expenses incurred by them, and for the work carried out, as well as for all the articles prepared and delivered to the Department; at the advice of the Postmaster-General, who has consulted with Cav^{re} Pagni, the Inspector-General of Posts in the Kingdom, in reference to the machines upon which Porcasi has worked, and which, at the request of the said Inspector-General, have been despatched to Turin, I beg that you will give the necessary orders to the Treasury for making the following payments:—

"1st. To Sig' Giovanni Ficarotta, the engraver, nine hundred and ninety ducats, that is to say 900 ducats for the first work executed by him, and 90 ducats for the cost of the dies engraved.

"From this sum there should however be deducted 400 lire, which were paid to Ficarotta on account of work done and to be done.

"2nd. To Sig' Giuseppe Porcasi, engineer, three hundred ducats for the work of putting in order the machines for the manufacture of the stamps.

"3rd. To Sig' Giovanni Ficarotta, engraver, ninety ducats for an embossing die in steel, for use on the Postal Money Orders.

(Signed) "PRINCIPE SANT' ELIA,
"Chief Secretary.

"To the Treasury Department."

But now questions as to these payments began to be raised by the Treasury Department, which considered that they ought to be charged to the Government of the Kingdom, instead of being borne by the Treasury of the Sicilian Provinces. This was the more justifiable, since it was by the order of Sig' Pagni, the Inspector, that the machines for printing the stamps and for cutting the paper into strips were sent, at the beginning of May, to the General Post Office Department at Turin, which acknowledged the receipt of them on May 17th, 1861.

The question as to the payments was decided, on the 17th May, to the effect that a separate account should be kept of them "to be accounted for later by the central administration," which was done.

We gave a detailed account, in Chapter III., of the commission given by the Bourbon Government, in 1858, to Antonino Pampillonia, for the purchase in Paris of two machines for printing stamps and another for

cutting the paper into strips, also of the different dies which he had engraved, and other matter prepared for the manufacture, etc. Pampillonia's charges not being completely satisfied, he was obliged to make appeals at various periods for payment of his account. This was not indeed authorised until March, 1865! We need say no more; but it may not be useless to point out how badly the inertia of the officials compared with the enthusiasm and energy which the active engineer displayed in carrying out his task. It may serve, at the same time, to show how, unfortunately, the procrastination of the Public Offices is a curse in Italy, as well as in some other countries, as the reader may learn from the following summary of the papers relating to this affair:—

December 23rd, 1861.—G. Costantino, Divisional Director of Posts in Palermo, makes a report to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury Department, at the instance of Antonino Pampillonia, upon the utility of the machine for cutting paper brought from Paris.

May 23rd, 1862.—Petition of A. Pampillonia to the Royal Commissary of the Sicilian Provinces at Palermo, requesting payment for the machine for cutting paper.

May 30th, 1862.—The Royal Commissioner calls for information, from the Divisional Director of Posts, regarding the petition of Pampillonia.

June, 1862.—G. Costantino, Divisional Director of Posts in Palermo, replies to the preceding letter, stating that he reported, in a letter dated December 23rd, 1861, to the Chief Secretary of the Treasury Department, upon the utility of the machines purchased by Pampillonia.

June 11th, 1862.—The Royal Commissioner requests from the Divisional Director of Posts the documents necessary to support the petition of Pampillonia.

June 17th, 1862.—The Divisional Director of Posts replies to the Royal Commissioner that he does not possess the documents asked for, as they were sent to the Lieutenant Governor by the late Administration, with a report dated March 27th, 1860.

October 15th, 1862.—The Royal Commissioner reports to the Treasury Department that the machines purchased by Pampillonia were despatched to Turin by the Post Office Department of Palermo, and that the payment for the machine for cutting paper appears to be authorised under Chapter 53, arrears of closed accounts in the balance-sheet of 1861.

April 1st, 1863.—Petition of Pampillonia to the Prefect of Palermo, for payment of his account to the amount of 2,416 lire.

April 14th, 1863.—The Prefecture of Palermo refers the petition of Pampillonia to the Treasury Department, supporting Pampillonia's demand.

August 21st, 1863.—The Treasury Department (Excise Branch) forwards the petition of Pampillonia to the Director-General of Domains and Taxes for authentication.

August 27th, 1863.—The Director-General of Domains and Taxes calls for explanations from the Prefecture of Palermo in regard to the petition of Pampillonia, the previous correspondence on the subject not having been forwarded to that Department.

September, 1863.—The Director-General of Domains and Taxes forwards to the Department of Public Works the papers received from the Prefect of Palermo, relating to the machine provided by Pampillonia for the postage stamps.

September 1st, 1864.—Petition of Antonino Pampillonia of this date, in which he requests payment of 2,416 lire for the machine for cutting paper, and at the same time complains of the great delay in making the payment, in spite of the numerous claims presented by him.

March 18th, 1865.—Decree of the Minister of the Treasury, under which payment is ordered of the sum of 2,416 lire for the machine for cutting paper, thus complying at last with the petitions of Pampillonia.

The first design was, as we know, no more than a somewhat unsuccessful copy of the postage stamp issued by the Provisional Government of the Tuscan Provinces in January, 1860. This was engraved on steel by Giovanni Ficarotta and bore the inscription "FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE SICILIANO." The lower label, bearing the indication of the value, was movable, as in the case of the stamps of Tuscany, and seven separate pieces for the various

values were prepared and supplied by the engraver. It was decided that a secret control mark should be introduced into the design, but we do not know whether this was really done, or what this mark was to have been.

We have never seen an original impression of the type described above, but a friend has kindly given us a description of the two specimens which were sent to the Department of Public Works with the letter of July 28th, 1860, which we have reproduced (page 115).

These were printed in colour on ordinary white paper :—

1 grano, vermilion.

1 „ green.

The die of this design, with the value 10 grana attached, is now preserved in the Italian Postal Museum, where it was sent on September 19th, 1901, from the Government Printing Office for Stamps, etc., at Turin. We have been permitted to obtain an impression from it, in *red* aniline ink, for reproduction in this volume (*see* Plate A, No. 15).

We have seen that this design was abandoned, in favour of one with the effigy of King Victor Emmanuel II., in profile. Ficarotta first set to work upon a die which was to have the effigy engraved together with the rest of the design, but this was also given up, on the receipt of an order that the effigy was to be in relief. We know of no impressions from this unfinished die.

The other die produced by the same engraver was also on steel; it was a coarse imitation of the design of the stamps of Sardinia and Italy (issues of 1855–58–61), with the same inscription as that on the die described above (Plate A, No. 16). It may be noted as a curious fact, that this design has fleur-de-lis ornaments in the corners. In addition to the separate labels for the various values, and the plates for the embossed head, plates for the frames of two values were prepared, 10 and 20 centesimi.

We are able to give a description of a sheet of 100, printed in *black*, and composed of ten rows of ten stamps, of the 10 c. value, among which, owing to careless mixing of the blocks, Nos. 74, 92, and 98 are 20 c. We notice also that Nos. 2, 11, 26, 27, 40, 51, 53, 56, 57, 65, 70, 76, 84, 85, 86, 89, 97, 99, have no dot after the word "DIECI." This dot was probably not in the original label, but was added afterwards to the separate blocks.

According to the history given, there were two separate printings of these essays, the first at Lao's office, and the second, which was more successful, at the establishment of Virzi; but we are not in a position to identify the two printings, and we can only note the various copies that we know of.* All are printed on white, machine-made paper :—

(a) *Without the embossed head.*

10 cent., black (with or without dot after DIECI).

20 „ „

20 „ rose.

* These essays (which are in reality more than mere essays) were mentioned for the first time, I believe, in the *Schweizer Illustriertes Briefmarken-Zeitung* (Berne), No. 11, dated November 22nd, 1880, in which a somewhat improved illustration is given. The 20 cent., *yellow*, is mentioned here under that authority. I find it also listed by A. REINHEIMER in his *Kuragefasste Beschreibung der Essays-Sammlung von Martin Schroeder, Leipzig* (Leipzig, 1903), where fine autotype illustrations of many Sicilian essays will be found.

(b) With the embossed head.

10 cent.,	grey-black	(with or without dot after DIECI).
20 "	" "	
20 "	black.	
20 "	yellow.	
20 "	carmine-red.	
20 "	dull rose.	
20 "	" "	(with head inverted).

The two designs which we reproduce here are not described in any of the documents that we have examined, but we believe that we are not mistaken



in stating that they were engraved by Giuseppe Porcasi. In fact, in the account which he presented on the 28th March, 1861, we find:—

“Two matrices of copper, engraved for making trial of the machines . Onze, 8—.”

These designs are very roughly engraved, and were printed in pairs, horizontally, in *vermilion*, by means of the Lecoq machine, which had been, as we know, put in order by Porcasi. In one of them is a figure of “Italia,” inspired perhaps by the Swiss postage stamps of 1854, which were then in use; the other shows a profile to right of King Victor Emmanuel II. I should suppose that the letter “P” in each corner of the latter is intended for the initial of the name of their author.

I have seen a horizontal strip of four of these proofs, in which one impression is struck upon the joined ends of two strips of paper; conclusive evidence of the fact that they were printed with the Lecoq machine.

Previous to engraving, or causing to be engraved, these two designs, I believe that Porcasi, in order to show that he had succeeded in rendering the Lecoq machine fit for use, had obtained impressions (also in *vermilion*) of a design consisting of a solid rectangle, bearing in the middle what appears to be an impression from a small Bourbon coin, with the effigy of Ferdinand II. to right, surrounded by the inscription, “FERD. II. D.G. REGNI VTR. SIC. ET HIER. REX.” This design, impressions of which are sometimes found in old collections together with the two reproduced above, were also printed upon strips of white, gummed paper. But to show more satisfactorily that he had put the machine in proper order, Porcasi would seem to have afterwards produced the other two designs, since the impression from the coin gave very imperfect results.

CHAPTER V.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SARDO-ITALIAN STAMPS INTO THE SICILIAN PROVINCES.



AS in the continental portion of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies the Bourbon Postage Stamps remained in circulation for some time after the annexation, so also the Sicilian series might perhaps have continued in use in the Island, if the design had not included the effigy of a Bourbon, which rendered it unbearable to a people whom the *plebiscite* must have shown to be irreconcilably hostile to the fallen dynasty. There could therefore be no question about the withdrawal of these postage stamps from circulation. But certainly no one imagined, when the suppression of the Bourbon stamps was ordered, that there would be so much difficulty about the issue of the new ones, or that it would be necessary to revert, for any length of time, to the system of prepayment of postage in cash.

It has sometimes happened, especially in Colonies far distant from the mother-country, or in countries which obtain their postage stamps from abroad, that the supplies have been exhausted for a short time, and the prepayment of postage in money has become temporarily necessary. But we believe that we are not mistaken in asserting that what happened in Sicily, namely, the reversion for a period of about eleven months to this inconvenient and tedious method, is an absolutely unique incident in the history of postal communication. In the preceding chapter we saw what a combination of unfavourable circumstances arose to bring about this extraordinary state of affairs, which certainly would not have happened—even under these peculiar political conditions—in a country where the Postal Administration was of a less primitive nature, or was in the hands of more capable officials.

We find curious evidence of the mode of procedure of the Sicilian Post Office Department (without straying away from our subject) in the fact, that, although the use of postage stamps was abolished almost throughout the Island in May, 1860, the special office for the charge and supply of stamps, in which various officials were employed, had not been done away with ten months later, so that those officials had had nothing, or next to nothing, to do the whole of that time.*

* We have obtained this information from a letter of Signor Pagni, the Inspector-General, dated Palermo, March 15th, 1861. He suggests that the work of the charge and distribution of the postage stamps could have furnished occupation for, at the most, one clerk only.

As we have stated elsewhere, the arrival of the Inspector-General at Palermo marked the commencement of a reorganisation of the postal service, and the cessation of numerous abuses. After having personally investigated the condition of affairs in the Post Office Department, and considered the reports received from the other continental officials who had accompanied him to the Island and had visited the various provinces, he set to work to prepare a new tariff, as he states in a private letter, that we have seen, dated April 8th, 1861 :—

“I am now compiling a tariff, from which I have removed the [rates for a] sheet, a sheet and a half, and two sheets, substituting for the internal postage also the simple rate by 10 grammes, of which no one can complain, as the former practice was inconsistent with any good system. The most difficult point is the adjustment of the rates in centesimi with the currency of the country, but this too will be arranged.

“And all the expenses for furniture, scales, cancelling stamps, printed forms, letter bags, &c., from what funds are they to be paid? I only know one thing, and that is that, as they are absolutely necessary, I have not hesitated to order that the things most urgently required shall in the meantime be made.”

Although the date for the issue of the Sardo-Italian postage stamps in Sicily had not yet been fixed, we find that on the 12th March Inspector-General Pagni had telegraphed to the General Post Office Department at Turin, asking for a preliminary supply. In accordance with this, the first despatch of Sardo-Italian postage stamps was made from Turin, *via* Genoa, on the 15th March, 1861, in the following quantities :—

1 centesimo	.	.	.	.	20,000
2 centesimi	.	.	.	.	10,000
5 "	.	.	.	.	10,000
10 "	.	.	.	.	20,000
20 "	.	.	.	.	15,000
40 "	.	.	.	.	10,000
80 "	.	.	.	.	5,000
					<u>90,000</u>

These quantities were considered (and were in fact) insufficient, so that, by a telegram of the 19th March, the Inspector-General requested the following additional supply, which was despatched on March 22nd :—

1 centesimo	.	.	.	.	40,000
10 centesimi	.	.	.	.	50,000
20 "	.	.	.	.	100,000
40 "	.	.	.	.	10,000
80 "	.	.	.	.	5,000
3 lire	.	.	.	.	500
					<u>205,500</u>

These two consignments produced a stock of 295,500 stamps, but by a letter of March 30th the General Post Office Department in Sicily reported to the Director of Public Works at Palermo that there had been delivered to the Treasurer of the Post Office in that city 345,500 postage stamps, so that another supply of 50,000 stamps, the values of which are unknown to us, must have reached Palermo in the course of that month.

On the 12th April, a further supply was despatched from Turin, consisting of the following :*—

1 centesimo	.	.	.	.	40,000
10 centesimi	.	.	.	.	25,000
20 "	.	.	.	.	50,000
40 "	.	.	.	.	5,000
80 "	.	.	.	.	5,000
					125,000

The reason for sending these small supplies, instead of one large one, was no doubt the fact that the modest establishment of Sig^r Matraire at Turin, which had been able to supply the limited requirements of the Sardinian Provinces, was not in a position to comply promptly with the large and constantly increasing demands of the various provinces forming the new Kingdom. The hurry in which the manufacture was carried out accounts for the defects that have been noted, such as specimens with the embossed head inverted, the notable variations in colour, etc.

The quantities of stamps that had reached Palermo were now sufficient for the needs of the first few weeks, but the resemblance between the design of the Sarde-Italian postage stamps and that of the type produced by Ficarotta (Plate A, No. 16), and the fact that all the materials for the manufacture of the latter were still in the hands of their maker, caused the delay of the issue, as a measure of precaution. This is proved to us by the letter which we reproduce here :—

"PALERMO, *April 11th*, 1861.

"It had been decided that the new postage stamps should come into use from the 16th of last month, but the undersigned, thinking it necessary, in the interest of the Department, that the machine, the paper and the colours, which were to have been used for their manufacture here, should first be withdrawn from the hands of the manufacturer, had the arrangements for the issue suspended.

"All difficulty being now, apparently, on the point of being removed, the system of prepayment of postage in cash may be abolished from the 1st May next. In the meantime every Office will enter in its accounts the amount of postage received, in accordance with the old system.

"The undersigned makes the foregoing report, in reply to the official letter of the 5th inst., adding that he will shortly have occasion to report further upon this subject.

(Signed) "G. PAGNI,

"To the Ministry of Public Works,
General Post Office Department, Turin."

"Inspector-General.

From another document we learn that there was an idea of reintroducing the use of postage stamps on the 15th April, but it could not take place even then, as the regulations regarding the new tariff were not yet ready. It was also necessary to wait until the new list of officials was approved.

It may be of interest to hear, from another private letter of the same Inspector-General Pagni, dated April 16th, what were the reforms that were about to be introduced :—

"If however by the 1st May, about which it seems to me there should be no difficulty, the new list of officials is approved, the Departmental Director will inaugurate his administration with various immediate innovations : there will be local letter-boxes and probably a branch office at the Harbour ; there will be an improvement in the service of distribution, with the new sorting-boxes ; the public will at last have a tariff that can

* We only reproduce the lists of the stamps despatched to Palermo previous to the date of issue.

be understood, not perfect, but easily to be corrected, and a fixed and authorised ratio between the Italian and Sicilian currency ; there will be an end to the nonsense of charging the letters by sheets and half sheets, the sole basis being in future the weight ; it will be possible to put the stamps in use, and at last to change the old ones that are still in private hands, &c. I have myself drafted all the circulars, given all the necessary instructions, verbally and in writing. . . ."

The distribution of the Decrees and Regulations did not take place until the 17th April, when it was carried out under the following circular letter :—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

"Subject : The Despatch of the Postal Regulations and of certain Instructions.

"PALERMO, April 17th, 1861.

"The unification of the Posts of Sicily with those of the other Italian Provinces having been carried out, it becomes necessary that our postal methods and discipline should also be considerably altered in many respects, in order that this most important branch of our public service may be brought to the state of perfection which it has reached in free and civilised countries.

"Whilst your Office is informed of the approaching visit of a superior Officer of the Department, charged with giving, verbally, detailed instructions regarding the innovations about to be introduced, there are forwarded in the meantime :—

"1. A little book containing the Royal Decree of December 15th, 1860, and the Departmental Regulations relating thereto.

"2. A copy of the Instructions for conducting official correspondence, and for the compilation of the monthly return with its accompanying reports.

"3. A copy of the special Instructions regarding the postage stamps.

"It will be well that in the meantime every official should take care to read and study attentively the above-mentioned Regulations and Instructions, in order that he may be in a better position to understand the verbal explanations that will be given to him, and thereafter to put them in practice.

"Every Postmaster is called upon to acknowledge at once the receipt of this circular letter, and to despatch his receipt officially registered, that is to say entered in the invoice amongst the insured letters.

(Signed) "G. COSTANTINO,
"Departmental Director,
for the Inspector-General.

"To the Post Office at . . ."

Another Circular, which we also reproduce, accompanied the new tariff for correspondence and the table of the ratio between the Italian and Sicilian money.* The postage stamps were sold at the following rates :—

1 cent.	.	.	.	$\frac{1}{4}$ bajocco.
2 "	.	.	.	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
5 "	.	.	.	1 "
10 "	.	.	.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ bajocchi.
20 "	.	.	.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ "
40 "	.	.	.	$9\frac{1}{2}$ "
80 "	.	.	.	19 "
3 lire .	.	.	.	$70\frac{1}{2}$ "

"GENERAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IN SICILY.

"PALERMO, April, 1861.

"It having been Decreed (17th April, 1860) that the unit of currency in Sicily also shall be the Italian Lira or Franc, and as this reform should from this date come into force in the postal service, there is forwarded to your office a general tariff for the charges upon letters and printed matter, in which these charges are expressed in the new currency ; and in order that the postal Officials and the public may know what is the corresponding amount to be recovered or paid in the Sicilian money that is still in circulation, there is placed at the head of the tariff a table of the equivalent values.

"To this tariff are added various notices, necessary for carrying it out properly, which every official must take care always to bear in mind.

* See the explanation of the currency given in the Introduction, page 15.

"Under this tariff the basis for the application of the rates is always the weight, and not the size or the number of sheets. As soon as possible there will be sent to all the offices that are not already supplied with them, scales with the new weights in grammes.

"Moreover, as the postage on letters must no longer be indicated in bajocchi, but always in Italian money, in fact in *decimi* or half *decimi* of a Lira, there is added a detailed table of the ratio between the Sicilian currency and the Italian Lira, and between the latter and the former, to the information in which the officials must refer in order to ascertain what is the corresponding amount in Sicilian money that must be charged to the public.

"There is also forwarded herewith the Royal Decree relating to the Staff of the Administration of the Posts of the Kingdom of Italy, dated December 15th, 1860, and the Regulations relating thereto, dated January 27th, 1861, now extended to the Sicilian and Neapolitan provinces also, for the personal information of all concerned.

"More than one copy of the above-mentioned tariff and table are forwarded to you, in order that one may be kept always posted up at the Office, open to the view of the public, and another inside.

"Moreover there must be kept always affixed at the Office a Notice, in which is shown the hours during which the Office is open to the public, the days and hours of the arrival and departure of the mails, the proper time for posting letters, and finally a list of the places served by that Office.

(Signed) "G. COSTANTINO,
"Departmental Director,
for the Inspector-General.

"To the Post Office at . . ."

We think it unnecessary to reproduce here the "Special provisional Instructions, relative to the Postage Stamps," published on the 20th April. In these it is stated (Art. 1) that the Postage Stamps were supplied in sheets of fifty copies.

The public could have obtained no information as to the reforms to be introduced until the 27th April, when the following Notice was posted up at the offices and reproduced also in the local newspapers:—

"NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

"On the first of May next there will be put in circulation the new Postage Stamps, with values in the Italian decimal coinage, for the franking of letters and printed matter, the postage on which from that date cannot be prepaid otherwise than by the affixing of the said stamps upon the covers to be franked.

"The old Sicilian postage stamps will be able to be exchanged at any Head Post Office in the Island for the new stamps, at the rate shown in the tariff, during the whole of the month of May.

"At every Post Office there will be found posted up for the information of the Public the general tariff of the charges on correspondence in Italian currency, together with the equivalent in Sicilian money now in use; as also a general table of the ratio between the Italian currency and the Sicilian, and *vice versa*.

"Both the tariff and the table above-mentioned are on sale at the Head Post Offices, at the price of 10 cent., or 2½ bajocchi, each.

(Signed) "G. COSTANTINO,
"Departmental Director,
for the Inspector-General.

"PALERMO, April 27th, 1861."

As regards the Postal Tariff, we cannot reproduce it here in its entirety, and must content ourselves with quoting a few of the items:—

Postage of prepaid letters, up to 10 grammes in weight, within the	
Sicilian Provinces	cent. 10
Letters not prepaid	„ 15

The progressive rate by weight was the same as that fixed for the whole of the Kingdom: 10 c. for each 10 grammes up to 50 grammes, inclusive; from 50 grammes upwards the single rate only was added for each 50 grammes, that is, 10 c. for each 50 gr.

For registered letters, either for Sicily or for the other Italian provinces, there was a fixed charge of 25 centesimi, in addition to the ordinary postage.

For printed matter the rate was 2 c. for every 40 grammes. Packets not prepaid were charged at the letter rate. Newspapers despatched direct from the publishers were charged 1 c. per 20 grammes, either for the interior of the Sicilian Provinces or for other parts of the Kingdom.

Prepaid letters for delivery within the city, or within the postal district of the office at which they were posted, were charged 5 c. for every 10 grammes.

Letters addressed to other Provinces of the Kingdom, whether prepaid or unprepaid, were charged 20 c. for every 10 grammes.

During the long period that the system of prepayment of postage by means of Postage Stamps was suspended, the public had become accustomed to leave the postage to be paid by the receivers of the letters. In fact, official returns show that out of 3,261,438 letters despatched from Sicily in 1862, the unpaid numbered 1,881,780, that is, 502,122 more than the prepaid. This number decreased in a constantly increasing ratio during the subsequent years.

CHAPTER VI.

POSTMARKS AND CANCELLATIONS.



THE Postal Law of November 10th, 1819, contained in Part VII., Chapter I., the following instructions relative to the marking of correspondence :—

“Art. 233. All letters, of every description, are to be marked in the manner described below.

“Art. 234. The postmarking stamps will be supplied from the Head Office of the Department. The expense of keeping them in proper order and of the ink [for use with them] will form part of the authorised expenditure of the Post Offices.

“Art. 235. In Palermo the stamps will be carefully kept under lock and key by the Inspector ; and in the Provinces by the Postmasters or other Officers.

“Art. 236. Each office will have the following stamps :—

“1. A stamp bearing the name of the office.

“2. A stamp bearing the word ‘FRANCA’ [= *Free*].

“3. A stamp bearing the word ‘ASSICURATA’ [= *Insured or Registered*].

“4. A stamp bearing the words ‘REAL SERVIZIO’ [= *On H. M. S.*].

“Art. 237. In addition to the stamps mentioned in the preceding article, the charging and despatching office at Palermo will have :—

“A stamp giving the day, month, and year.

“A stamp with movable figures for the use of the Director-General.

“A stamp bearing the word ‘Corretta’ [= *corrected*].

“A stamp bearing the word ‘Scarto’ [= *waste or useless*; presumably to be struck on papers that were to be destroyed].

“Art. 238. All these stamps are to be impressed in oil colour, in red. The clerks will take special care not to strike the stamps upon the writing on the letter.

“Art. 239. The stamp indicating the name of the office must be applied to all letters, of every description, that are despatched from the office at which they were posted. On letters despatched from the offices in the provinces, this stamp is to be impressed upon the address side, in the right upper corner. On those despatched from Palermo, it is to be impressed on the side on which the letter is closed.

“Art. 240. Franked, insured, and official letters, despatched either from Palermo or from Provincial Offices, in addition to the stamp mentioned in the preceding article, must be marked with the stamp indicating their nature. This stamp is always to be impressed upon the address side, in the left upper corner.

“Art. 241. All letters, of every description, that are despatched from Palermo or arrive there, must be marked in the charging and despatching office with the stamp indicating the day, month, and year of their despatch or arrival. This stamp is to be impressed across the part where the letter is closed.

“Art. 242. Letters despatched by the Provincial Offices through the General Post Office, whether to other offices of the Dominions beyond the Phare, or to the Dominions on this side of the Phare, and to places outside the Kingdom, and all those that pass through Palermo addressed to Offices in the Provinces, are to be marked with the date of their arrival in Palermo.

“Art. 243. Letters which, having remained undelivered at the Provincial Post Offices, have to be returned to the General Post Office, must be marked, previous to their return, with the stamp of the office returning them. This stamp is to be struck on the side on which the letter is closed.

“Art. 244. Prepaid letters from Palermo, which are transmitted to the delivery office, in addition to the stamp mentioned in Art. 241, will be marked on the address side with the stamp bearing a movable figure, for use at the General Post Office.

"Art. 245. Letters wrongly addressed or wrongly charged are to be marked on the address side with the stamp bearing the word '*Corretta*', at the time when the address or the charge is rectified. On letters upon which the address is rectified, the stamp '*Corretta*' should be added, also the date mark.

"Art. 246. Letters that cannot be delivered, after they have been examined as prescribed in Part V., when they are forwarded to the office for undelivered letters, are to be marked on the side on which they are closed with the stamp bearing the word '*Scarto*'. The date stamp is to be added.

"Art. 247. The stamp prescribed by Art. 241, for letters despatched from Palermo, should be struck upon them as soon as they have been sorted for the various routes, in accordance with Art. 39.

"Art. 248. Franked letters in Palermo and in Messina should be stamped as soon as they have been taken out of the letter-boxes, in accordance with Art. 51 and 62.

"Art. 249. Letters that are to be delivered in Palermo will be marked after the Controller has compared them with the tariff and fixed the charges to be collected, in accordance with the instructions contained in Art. 101 and 111."

The Regulations, dated November 4th, 1853, for carrying out the Postal Convention of December 23rd, 1852, between the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and France, which came into force from January 1st, 1854, ordered (Art. 10) that insured letters should be impressed "on the address side with a stamp in red ink bearing the word '*ASSICURATA*'." That correspondence of all kinds should bear "on the address side a stamp indicating the date of posting and the place of origin" (Art. 11). That franked correspondence to be exchanged between the two States must have on the address side a stamp in red ink, intended to indicate to the officials of the country to which the letter was addressed the extent to which it was franked, that is to say, "P. D." for letters franked through to their destination, and "P. P." for those franked only up to a certain stated point (Art. 15); and, finally, correspondence addressed to the Colonies and to other countries beyond the seas, sent *via* France and despatched from ports in the United Kingdom, must bear the words "via d'Inghilterra" (Art. 16).

The study of the postmarks of the period previous to the introduction of postage stamps would be beyond the scope of this volume; I may state, however, that I have had an opportunity of examining some few letters posted in Sicily in the early part of last century. These bear, on the address side, the name of the place of origin, in capital letters, and a number indicating the rate paid. Those that reached Palermo are marked, on the reverse side, with the month only of arrival (and occasionally the day), thus, "7 BRE. 1818."*

A curious mark is found upon some of these letters, consisting of a monogram formed of the initials "M. S. G.", in an oval, struck in *red* ink (1818-9); or the same initials with the abbreviation "AMM." below them, in *violet* ink (1827). Another letter, dated 1836, shows the letters "M. S. G. A.", in antique capitals, in one line. The meaning of these initials is *Marchese San Giacinto, Amministratore* [Postmaster-General].

But these are only a few of the numerous marks that were employed.† There is a stamp, made of boxwood, in the Italian Postal Museum, which came from Vizzini (Catania), and which consists of a double oval, containing

* I have seen a letter bearing the circular date mark "PALERMO—ARRIVO", on the address side, and on the reverse one of the old oblong marks "21 APR^o 1860" (the figures both of the day and year were changeable), which had evidently been resuscitated for temporary use. I may add that it was only very rarely that the arrival stamp was struck on the reverse side of the letter.

† I have found another of these old marks, with initials, upon a letter of April, 1860. It may be one with "M. S. G. A.", but it is so indistinct and incomplete as to be illegible.

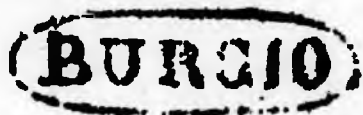
the inscription "MARCHESE SAN GIACINTO", and in the centre the letters "P. L.", in a monogram, which, I think, may stand for *Posta Lettere*.

This is not the only specimen of a postal die engraved on boxwood; † there are several others of that material in the Postal Museum, bearing the names of places, or the words "ASSICURATA", "REAL SERVIZIO", "VIA MARE", and "VAPORE".

Impressions from the stamps engraved on wood can be recognised by the letters being badly shaped and in some cases uneven in size; they also show, at least upon the letters of 1859-61 that I have seen, signs of wear, sometimes very evident, so much so that they are almost illegible, which places great difficulties in the way of anyone who might desire to reproduce the marks of all the different offices, as I should have been glad to do.

The marks of the various towns consist, as a rule, of the name enclosed in a plain oval frame, varying in size, sometimes with a small ornament at each side. This shape was also adopted for some of the marks of offices in the Continental Provinces of the Kingdom. I have not been able to determine at what date this form of mark was introduced, but it was long before the introduction of Postage Stamps. I have found it upon letters from various offices in 1821 and the following years.

I give here a list of the marks of places (without date) that are known to me, from among which I have selected a few only for reproduction. I do not pretend that this list is complete; it is only a contribution (the first, so far as I am aware) to the study of this question, which perhaps may be of interest to but a small number of my readers.



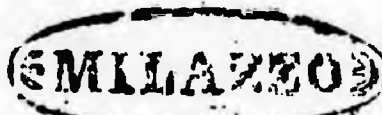
1



2



3



4



5



6

Acireale. Two types. One 45 mm. wide,*¹
the other 33 mm. wide, without orna-
ments.

Aderò.

Aggira.²

Alcamo.*

Alimena.

Augusta.*

Avola.*

Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto.

† This is shown also by a letter, dated April 9th, 1861, from Inspector-General Pagni to the Postmaster-General at Turin, in which the former says: "At present the practice is to postmark the letters with wooden dies, without a date, which almost all the offices possess."

- Barrafranca.
 Biancavilla.
 Bivona.*
 Brolo. Two types. One 45 mm.,* the other 36 mm.
 Bronte.
 Burgio. Ill. No. 1.
 Calascibetta.³
 Calatafimi.
 Caltagirone.
 Caltanissetta.
 Caltavuturo.
 Canicattì. Two types. One 45½ mm.,* reading Canicattì; the other 42½ mm., reading Canicattì.
 Casteltermeni. Ill. No. 2.
 Castelvetro.
 Castrogiovanni. Two types. One 43 mm., the other 46½ mm.
 Castoreale.
 Catania. Ill. No. 3.
 Cefalù.*
 Chiusa.*
 Corleone.*
 Giardini.*
 Giarre.
 Girgenti.*
 Lentini.*
 Leonforte.
 Licata.*
 Marsala.*
 Mazzara.*
 Milazzo.* Ill. No. 4.
- Mistretta.
 Modica.
 Naro.
 Naso.*
 Nicosia.*
 Noto.*
 Palazzolo.*
 Patti.*
 Petralia Soprana.⁴
 Petralia Sottana.
 Piazza.*
 Pietrapertusa.
 Ragusa.*
 Randazzo.*
 Regalbuto.
 Salemi. Two types. One 43 mm.;* the other 35 mm.,* with smaller letters, Ill. No. 5.
 Sambuca.*
 Sant' Agata V.D.
 Santa Caterina.
 Santo Stefano di Camastra.
 Sciacca.*
 Scicli.
 Siculiana.*
 Siracusa.
 Termini. Ill. No. 6.
 Terranova.
 Trapani.
 Vallerlunga.
 Villaroza.
 Vizzini.*

¹ A * signifies that the name is between two fleurons or some other ornaments.

² I have seen three letters written at different dates in 1859 from this small town, but the postmark, evidently engraved on boxwood, being deeply worn, is illegible, so that it is impossible to state whether it reads "Aggira" or, as I rather believe, "San Filippo" (d'Argirò), the older name for this town.

³ Formed of ordinary capitals, 5½ mm. high, without a frame.

⁴ Reading "PET. SOPRANA" in very badly formed capitals, enclosed in a rectangular frame. This was no doubt engraved on wood.

The Office at Messina frequently made use of the old mark reproduced in No. 7, of which I have seen two varieties, and which was on rare occasions employed also as an obliteration, as was indeed the case, though very exceptionally, with the other name marks.

MES 1859
30 NOV
 7

The Office at Palermo had two kinds of circular date mark, bearing the words "ARRIVO" and "PARTENZA", respectively; I only reproduce two

varieties of each, but I know of four of the former and five of the latter. These were found necessary for marking the letters that arrived at Palermo from other places and those that were despatched from that office; they were struck upon the address side.



8



9



10



11

The Offices of the chief towns in the Provinces, *i.e.* Caltanissetta, Catania, Girgenti, Messina, Noto, Syracuse, and Trapani, had also circular date marks bearing, below the name, two branches (see Nos. 12, 13, 14).



12



13



14

I will only just mention the marks lettered "ASSICURATA",* with which every office was furnished, some of them made of wood (No. 15), others of brass (No. 16); and the marks "REAL SERVIZIO", for official correspondence, also in wood, as No. 17, and in brass, as No. 18. These, in some cases, had fleurons or other ornaments at the ends.



15



16



17



18

The following illustrations show two of the marks struck on correspondence coming by the sea route:—



19



20

* On a letter despatched from Palermo no longer ago than February 1st, 1898, I found one of the old "ASSICURATA" marks, in an oval frame, of the Bourbon type; a last relic of an historical period long past.

To these I have to add a large circular mark with the inscription, "VAPORE COMMERCIALE—POSTA DI MESSINA," which I have found on letters from 1853 to 1863.

I think that the marks "DA SICILIA," in ordinary capitals, and "SICILIA," in sans-serif letters, were used on board the mail steamers (1861-63).^{*} The fact that these are sometimes found on stamps of the special set for the Neapolitan Provinces gave rise to the erroneous statement that this set was used also in Sicily.

To the marks which I have already described, or which are mentioned in the Regulations of 1819, it remains to add those for the insufficiently paid correspondence. They bear "INSUFFICIENTE", "FRANCOBOLLO INSUFFICIENTE", or "AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE". The Office in Palermo also made use of a mark formed of two concentric circles, bearing the inscription, "LETTERE CON DOMICILIO CAMBIATO" (letters with changed address), and in the middle, in a curved line, "PALERMO."

On the fall of the Bourbon Dynasty no changes were made in the postmarks. The officers of the Sardinian Postal Administration, who were sent to Palermo, constantly complained of the undated marks continuing in use in the Post Offices, except those in the chief towns of the various Provinces. In a report, dated May, 1861, sent to Inspector-General Pagni, we read:—

"The postmarks containing no indication of the hours, it is still impossible to distinguish the actual time of posting or arrival of correspondence. The system of always stamping the marks both of arrival and despatch upon the address side often renders it extremely difficult for the distributors to read the addresses of the letters."

Another report from the officer sent to reorganise the Postal Service in the Provinces of Caltanissetta and Girgenti, dated May 24th, 1861, points out that the absence of the date of posting renders it impossible to decide when letters that have not been delivered should be included amongst the unclaimed [*i.e.* sent to the Dead Letter Office].

But the Inspector-General, even before these complaints reached him, had been thinking of replacing the old stamps by new ones. In a letter to the Postmaster-General, dated April 9th, 1861, he writes:—

"I may tell you that the stamps for the Post Offices can be manufactured here, at the same cost as in Turin, and I have therefore told the engraver that he may begin to work upon them."

This referred to the circular marks, two of which are reproduced here:—



21



22

These were introduced in May and June, 1861. It will be found that in some of them the numerals of the year date, instead of being "61," are inverted figures "19."

^{*} The mark "PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI" (in three lines), which is frequently found on letters bearing the Sicilian stamps, is not mentioned here, because it was struck at Genoa.

For a description of some of the marks of the mail steamers, my readers are referred to the interesting article by Dr. Knopf in the *Mitteldeutsche Philatelisten-Zeitung* (Görsnitz), vol. vii., 1898, pages 65, 80, and 95, and vol. viii., 1899, pages 68 and 144.

The most interesting portion of this chapter is, perhaps, that relating to the special mark for cancelling the postage stamps, which is referred to in several documents that have been quoted earlier in this work, and which was adopted for use under Art. 7 of the Decree of November 29th, 1858 (*see* page 48).

It may be useful to briefly resume here the references to this subject contained in the official papers that I have had an opportunity of examining:—

A letter from Minister Cassisi, dated Naples, February 8th, 1858, tells us that on January 28th he had received from Carlo La Barbera, the painter, the design for a cancelling stamp of such a form "as not to touch the Sacred Effigy of the King" The Minister at the same time forwarded to Palermo "three stamps of France with the cancellation mark struck upon them." The form proposed had already been accepted by the Viceroy of Sicily, and was shortly after laid before the King, who fully approved of it (February 28th), after having seen the effect produced by the cancellation when applied to the design of the postage stamps, as shown upon proofs prepared for that purpose, which were submitted to him. This approval was put in writing in the Royal Rescript of March 4th, 1859.

On the 29th May the Minister for Sicily in Naples sent to Palermo, together with the original die for the postage stamps, and some proofs struck from the die itself under the supervision of the artist, a cancelling stamp engraved in brass, with a handle, also of brass, of a special shape "invented for the purpose of acting as a guide to those who have to use it." It was pointed out that "the right hand is in a position to impress the cancellation so that it may not deface the Sacred Effigy of His Majesty," and it was added that this stamp was to serve as a pattern for those to be supplied to the various post offices, only substituting handles of lighter material "so as not to fatigue the stampers." The proof reproduced in Plate A, No. 3, shows an impression from the pattern cancelling die.

We have seen also that the Post Office Department had pointed out to the Viceroy the inconveniences of this special form of cancelling mark, viz. the great care required in the use of it, the loss of time caused by cancelling each postage stamp separately, etc., and suggesting that date stamps would be preferable. These remarks were communicated to the Sicilian Minister at Naples on the 15th September. On the 9th October the Viceroy repeated the same recommendations in regard to the form of mark which appeared to be more convenient for a cancellation, pointing out that it could not be considered an act of irreverence towards the person of the King to impress "a simple date" across the stamps. At the same time the Viceroy wrote to the Chief Secretary of the Post Office, requesting the latter to forward to him by return "the proof of the cancellation mark that might be impressed upon the Postage Stamps by means of the date stamp that is applied to the letters."* Finally, the question being again submitted to the King on the 12th October, at Gaeta, he did not think

* The proof with trial cancellation, mentioned on page 64, must have been the one referred to here.

fit to alter the decision already made; and this was communicated to the Viceroy on the 18th of the same month. The order for the manufacture of these cancelling stamps must have been at once forwarded to the Postmaster-General, since we find that by the 1st January, 1859, all the Offices had been provided with them; but I do not know by whom they were engraved or how many were made. The four copies that are in the Postal Museum are all, like the pattern sent from Naples, engraved on brass, but with wooden handles, the shape of which is in no way uncommon. It is important to note that all the copies were separately engraved, and therefore differ slightly one from another.

The cancellation was, as a rule, impressed in *black*,* but some offices struck it also in *blue*; I have stamps postmarked in *blue* by the offices at Syracuse, Santa Caterina, and Siculiana, and one on a letter from Patti, with the cancellation in *light rose*. It is probable that the cancellations were also sometimes struck in *red*, the colour frequently used for other postmarks, but I must confess that all I have seen in that colour were forgeries.

We have also learnt from the Documents published (page 110), that when the Bourbon Government determined to change the stamps and to obtain specimens of surface-printing, Signor Pampillonia, who was entrusted with the ordering of these and the superintendence of their manufacture in Paris, also had seven special cancellation stamps made, an impression from one of which is reproduced on Plate A, No. 8. We may suppose that the others were of the same design, perhaps merely reproductions from one original. From the account rendered by the firm of E. Lecoq, dated November 30th, 1858, we learnt that the seven cancelling stamps cost 150 francs, and that the same firm supplied also "three machines for cancelling stamps" at a cost of 360 francs, but the documents give no description of these, and I only learn from an account of Signor Porcasi, who repaired them, that one of these machines was put in use, I suppose for postmarking the letters in one of the principal offices.

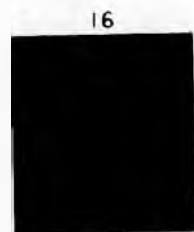
I have stated above that the old postmarks of the towns, both without and with the date, continued in use for a long time after the fall of the Bourbon Government; some of the offices also continued to use the Bourbon cancellations, perhaps only in 1861, and I have seen, though infrequently, the Sardo-Italian postage stamps thus cancelled.

* The words "in black," in the translation of the Decree given on page 48, are quoted from Moens' book. I have since discovered that they do not exist in the original.





PL. A



Proofs and Essays.

Plate I.

PL. B.



31



79

99



19



68



69^a

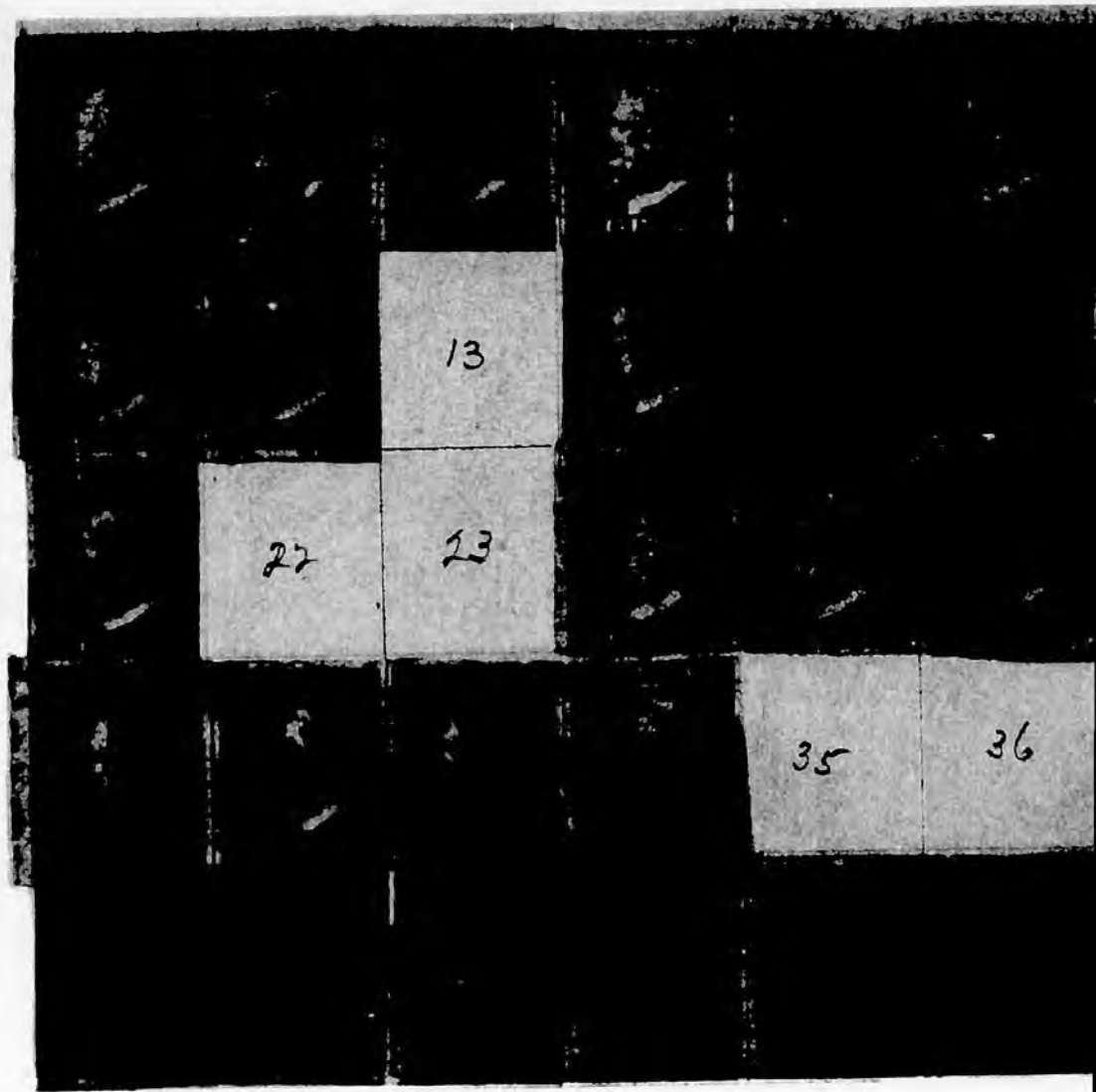


69^b

Plate II.



$\frac{1}{2}$ gr. plates I. and II., and Retouches.



1 gr. plate I. Upper half.

PL. C.

17

18

19

(See H.E)

27

(See H.E)

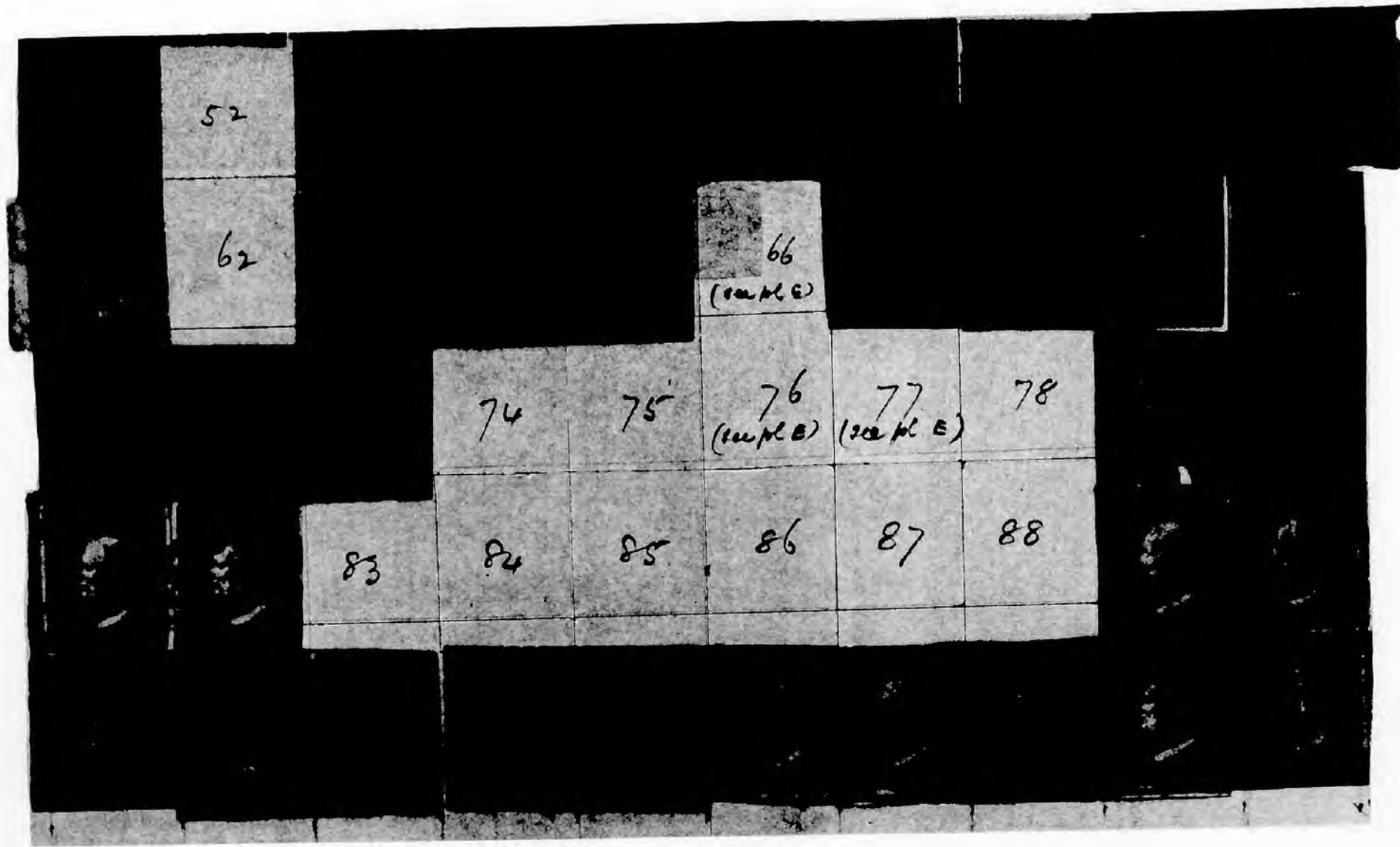
29

37

38

47

48

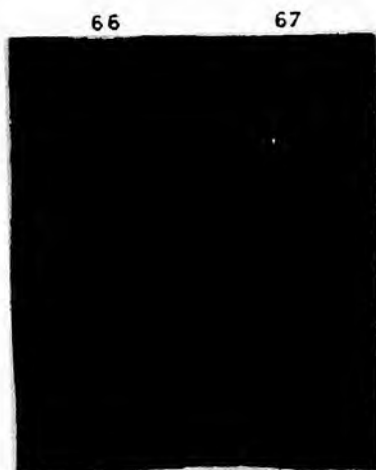


1 gr. plate I. Lower half.

PL. E.



5^a



66

67

76

77



7^a



14^a



16^a



18^a



18^b



24^a



27^b



31^a



32^a



34^a



34^b



51^a



53^b

1 gr. plate I. Retouches.

Plate I.

PL. F.



55_a



55_b



57_a



59_a



89_a



98_a



A



B



A



B



B



A



A



A



A

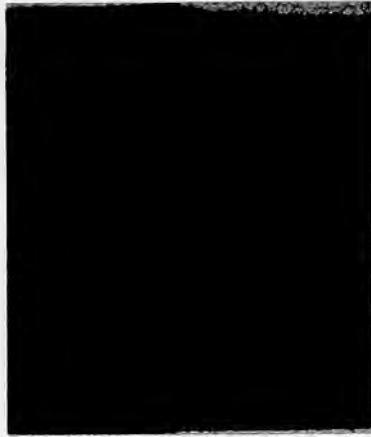
1 gr. plate I. Retouches.

Plate II.

PL. G.



19



59



60



69



82



84



89



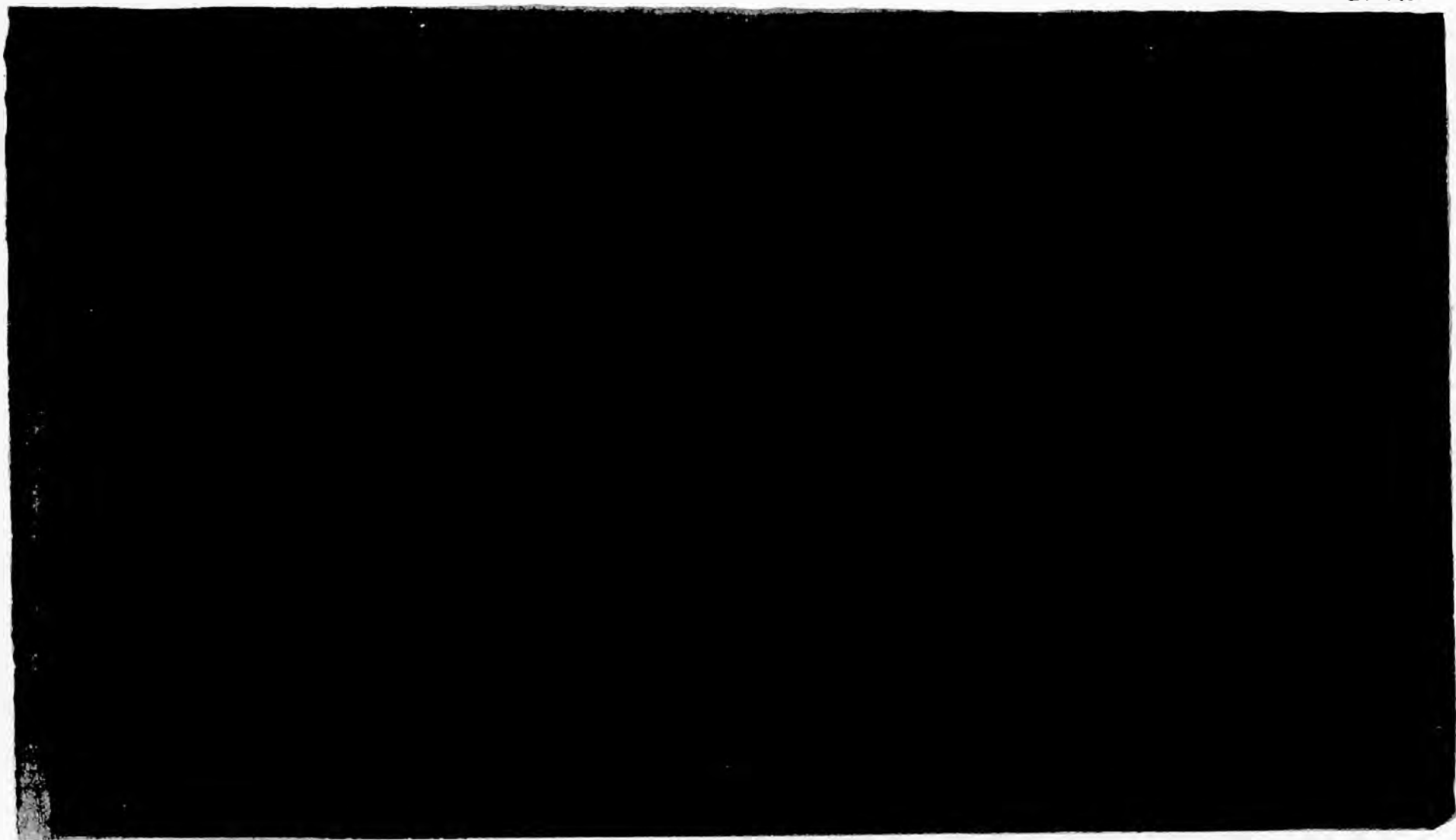
35

Plate III.



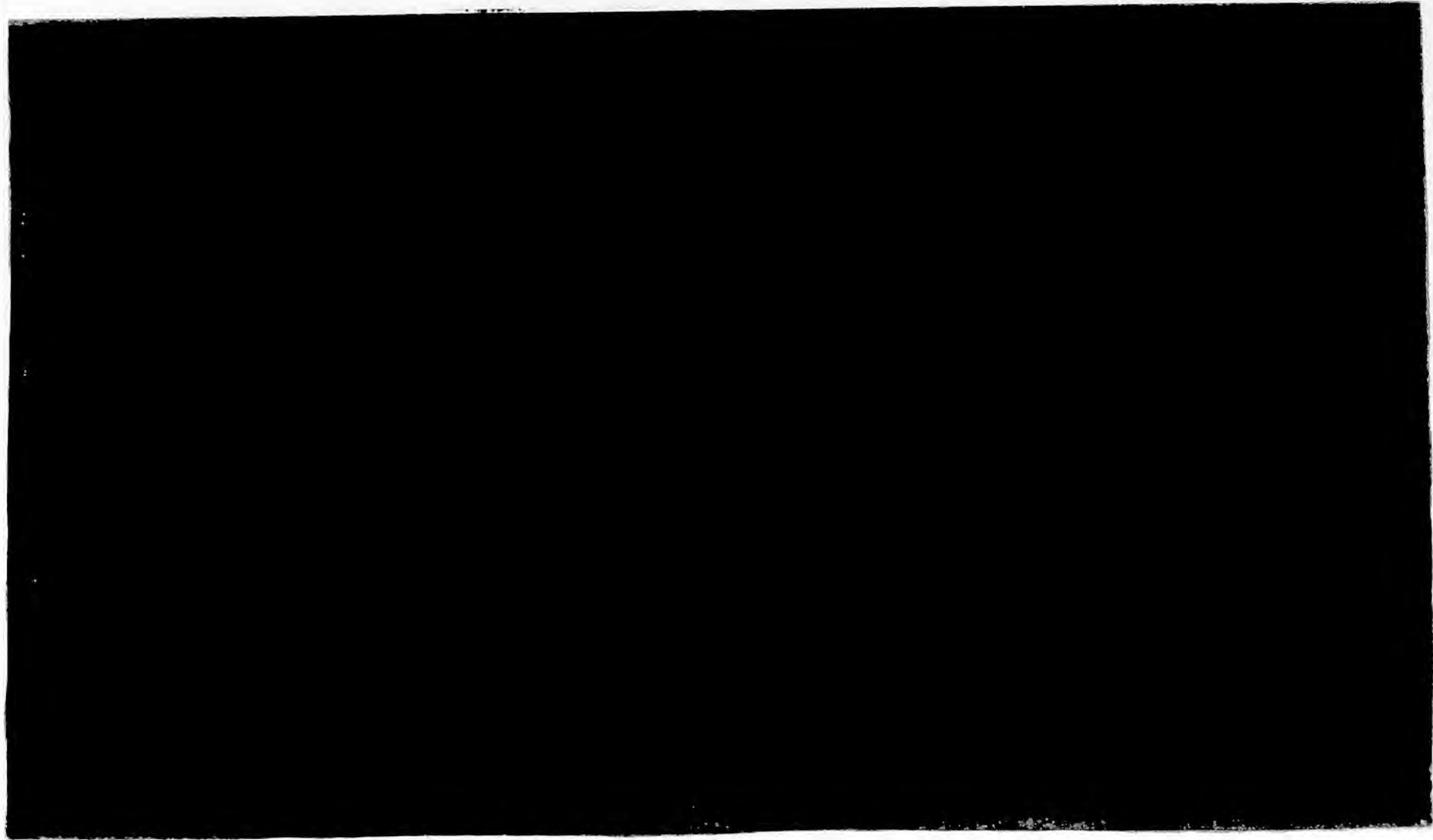
1 gr. plates I. and II. Varieties.

PL. H.

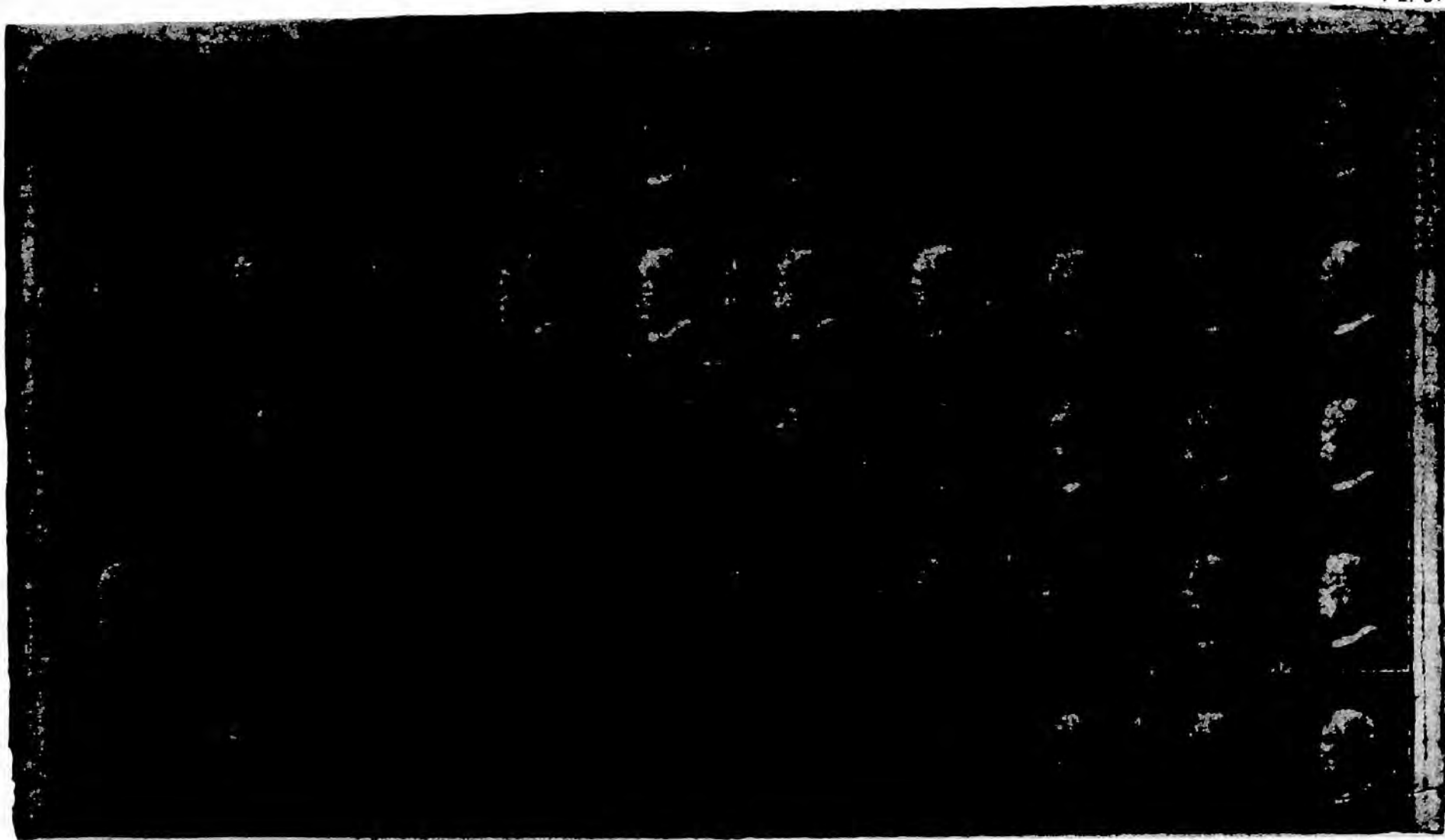


1 gr. plate III. Upper half.

PL. I.

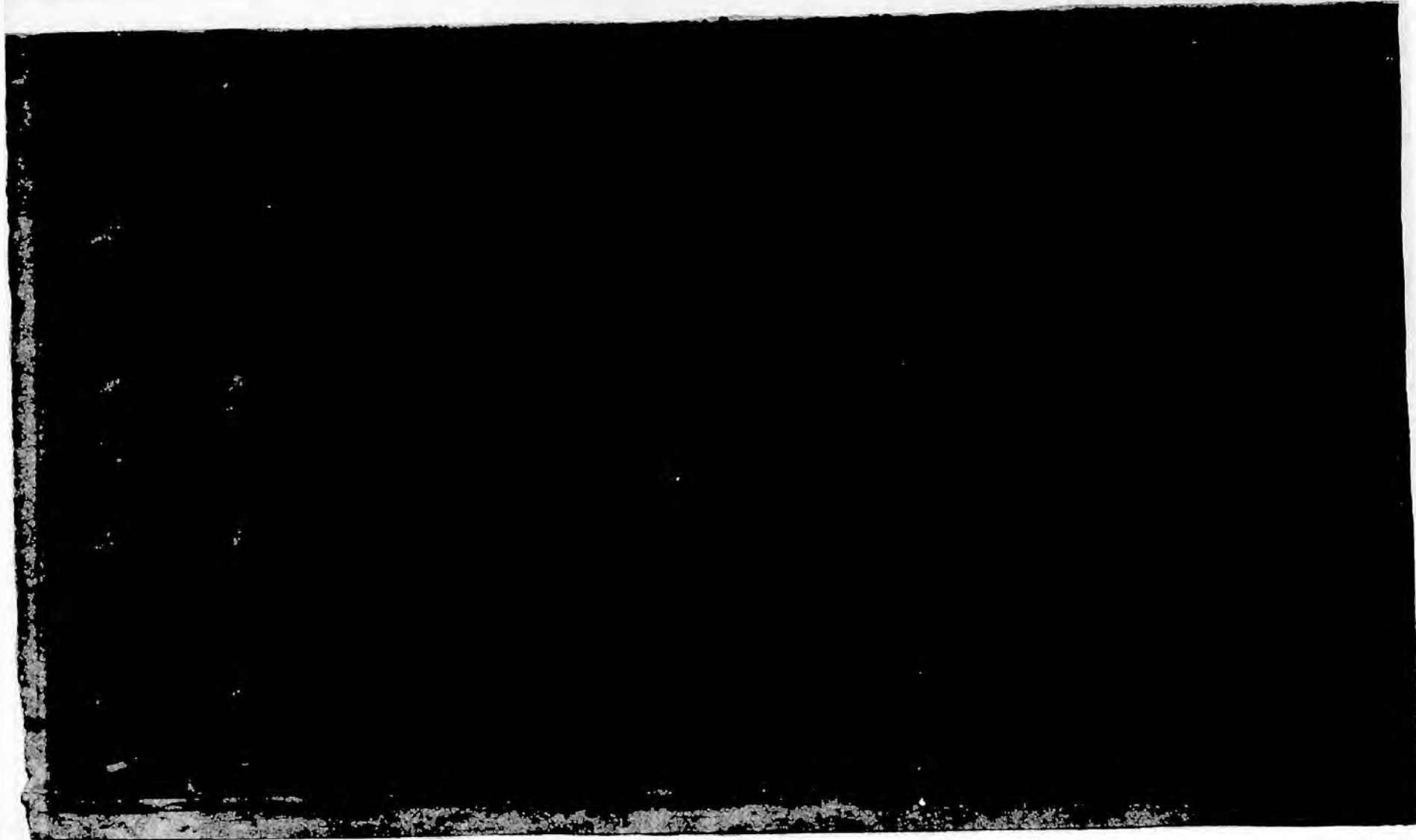


1 gr. plate III. Lower half.

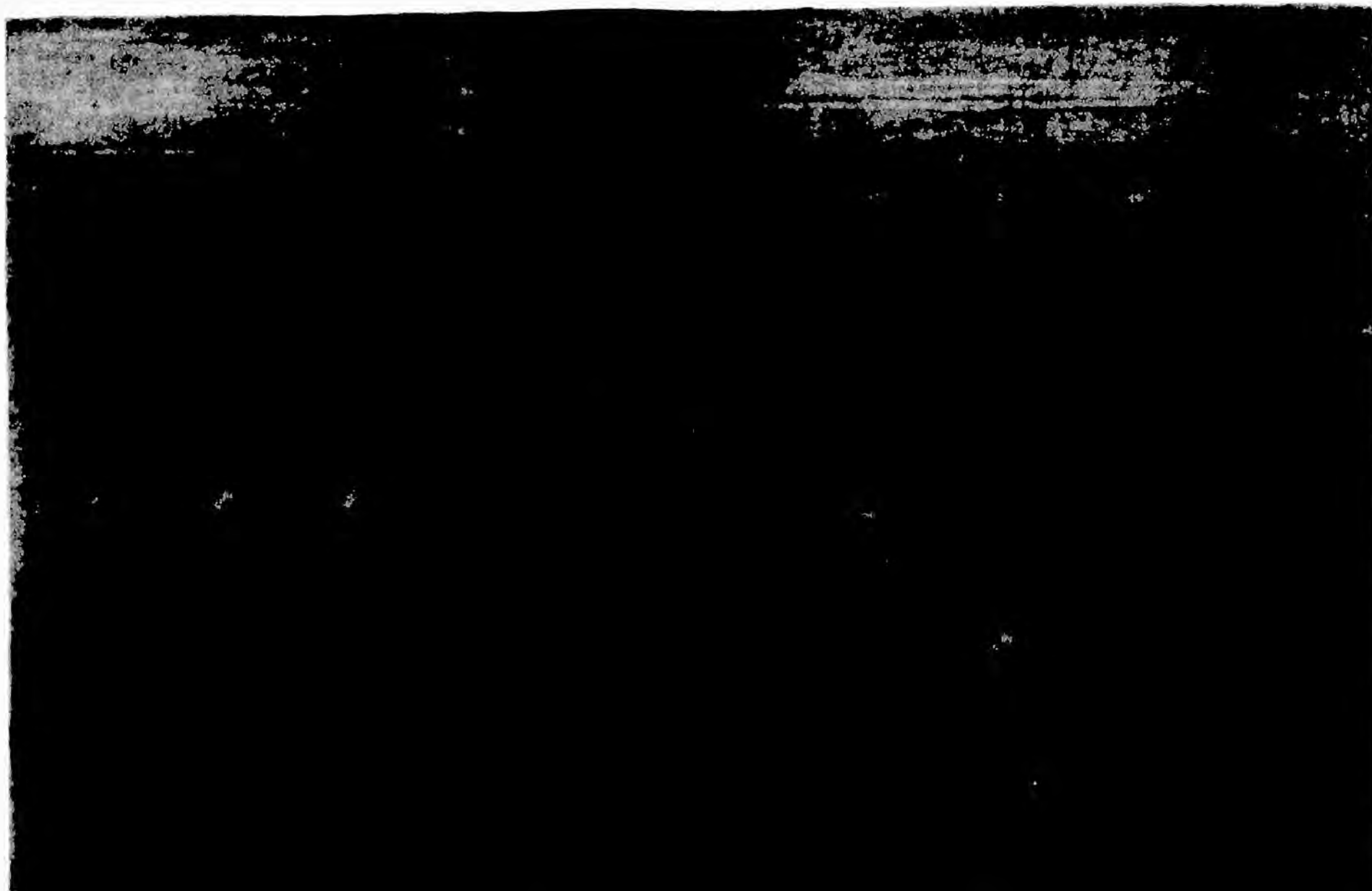


2 gr. plate I. Upper half.

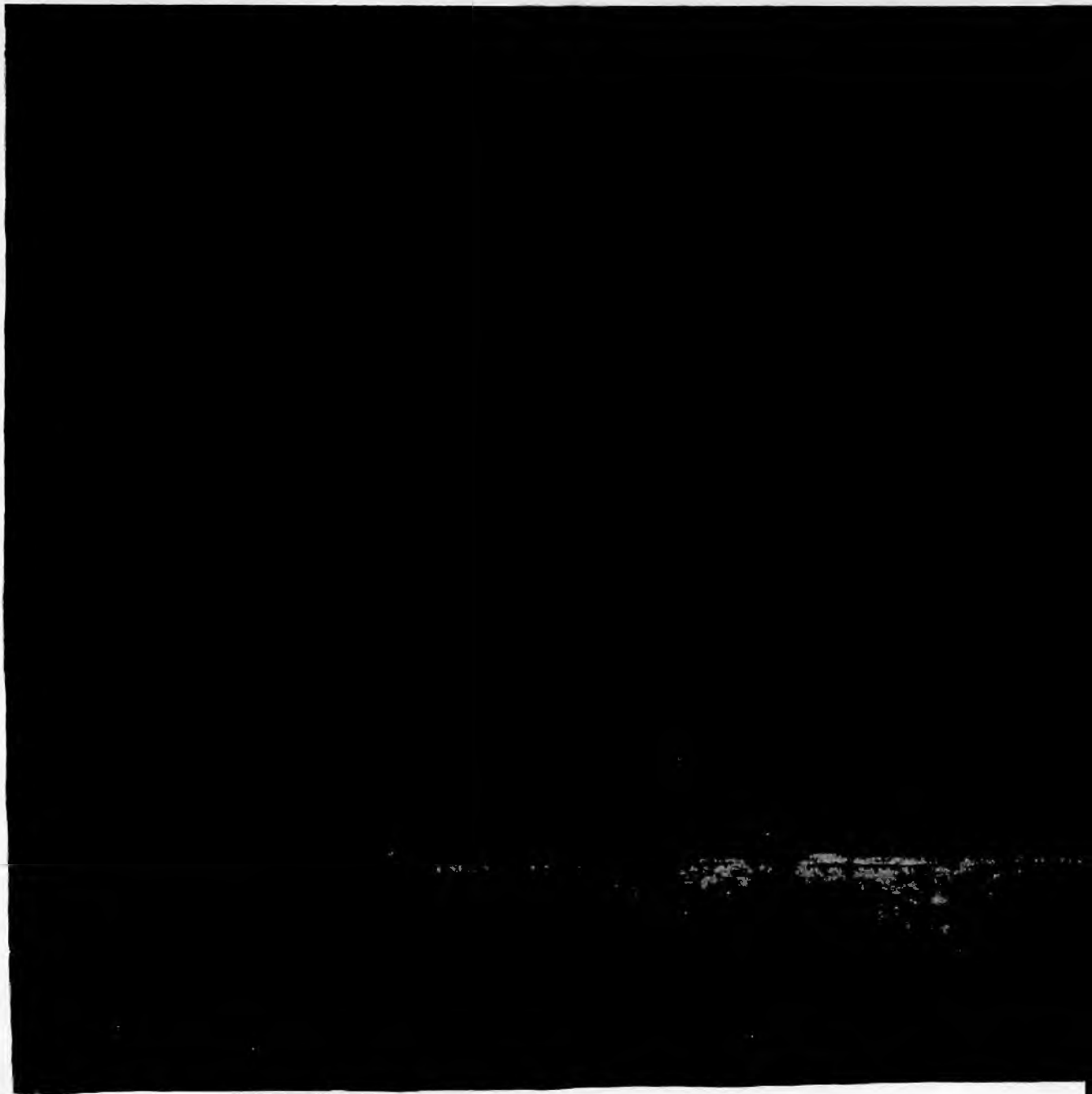
PL. K.



2 gr. plate I. Lower half.



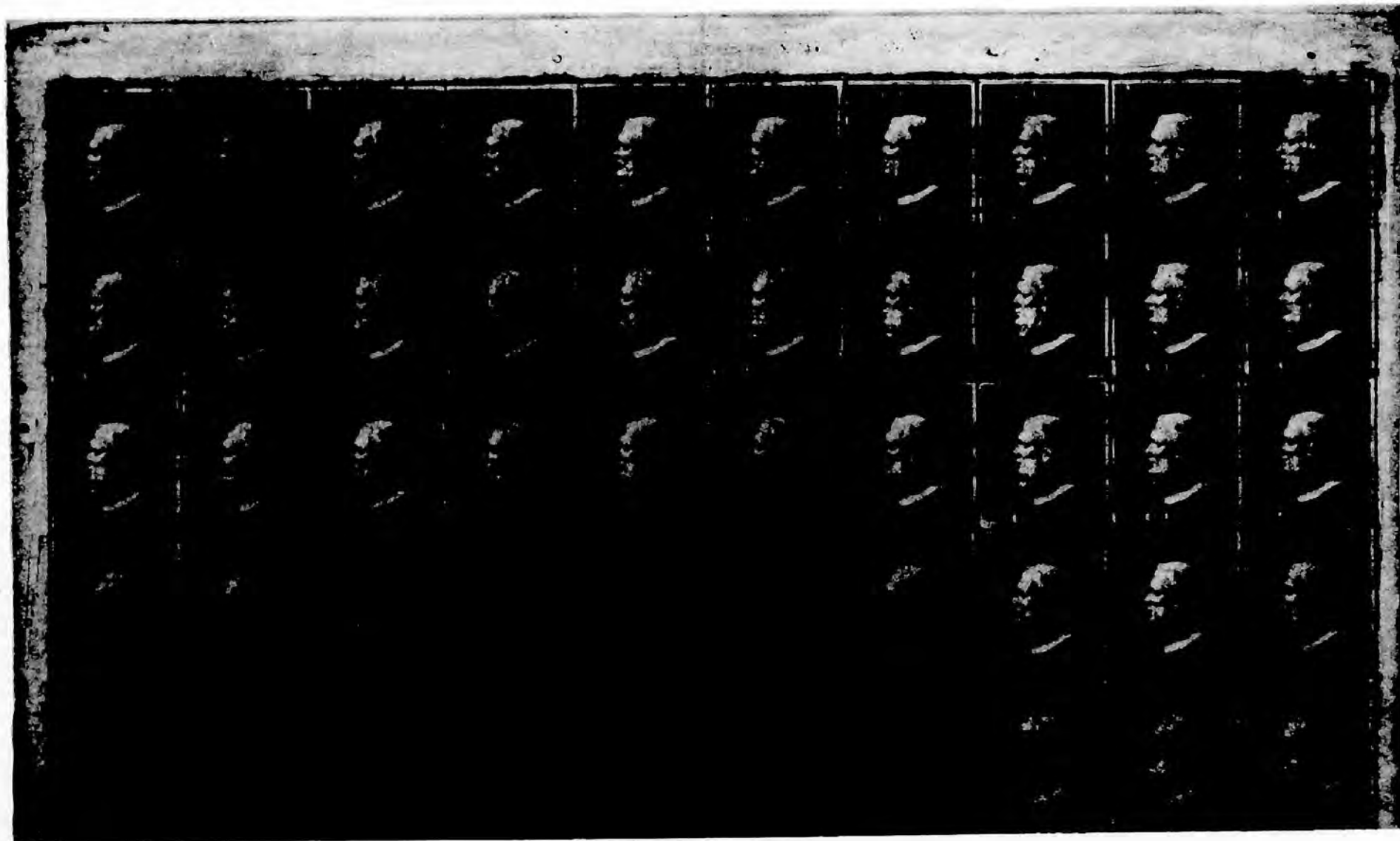
2 gr. plate II. Upper half.



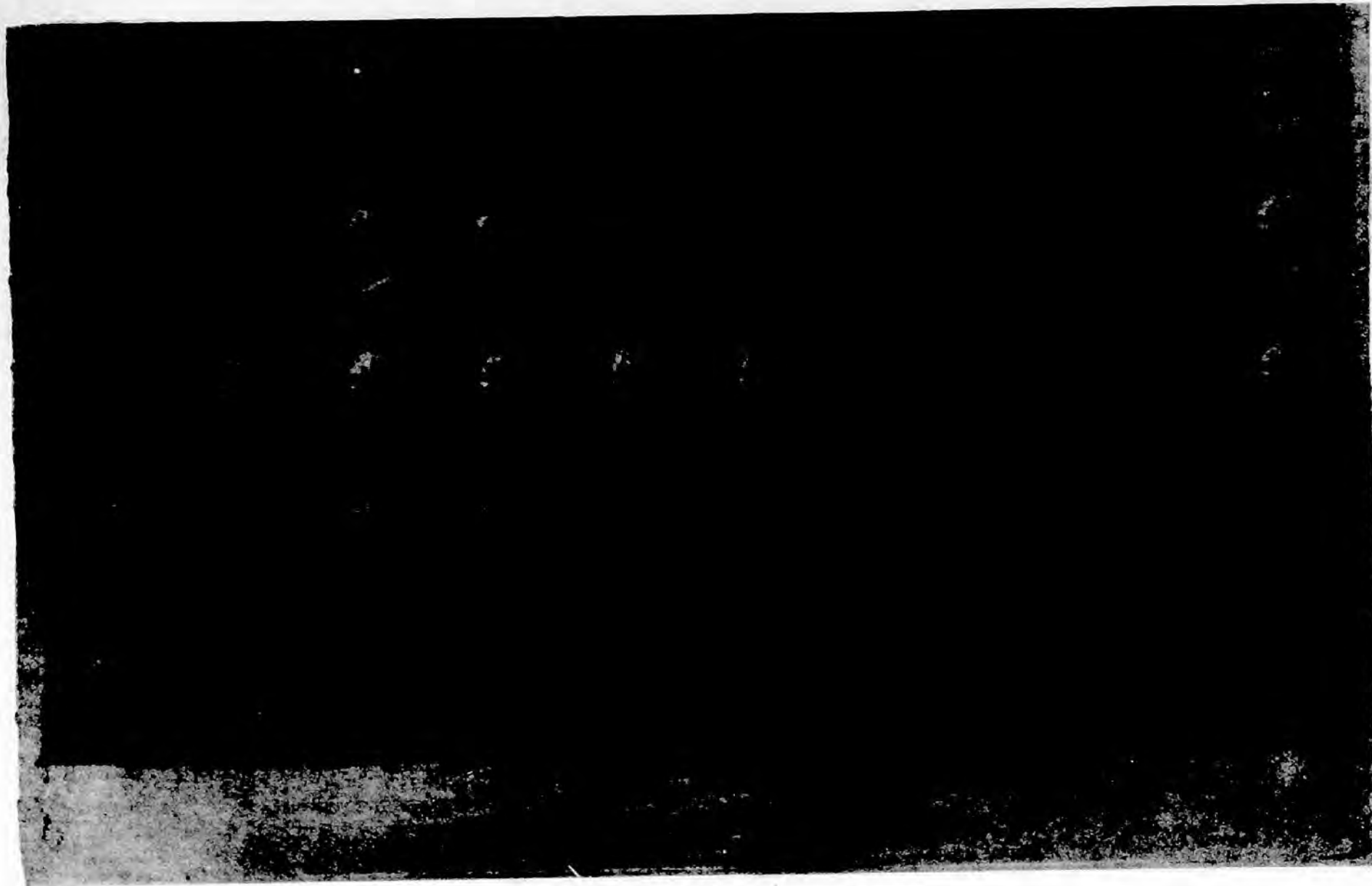
2 gr. plate II. Lower half.

PL. M.

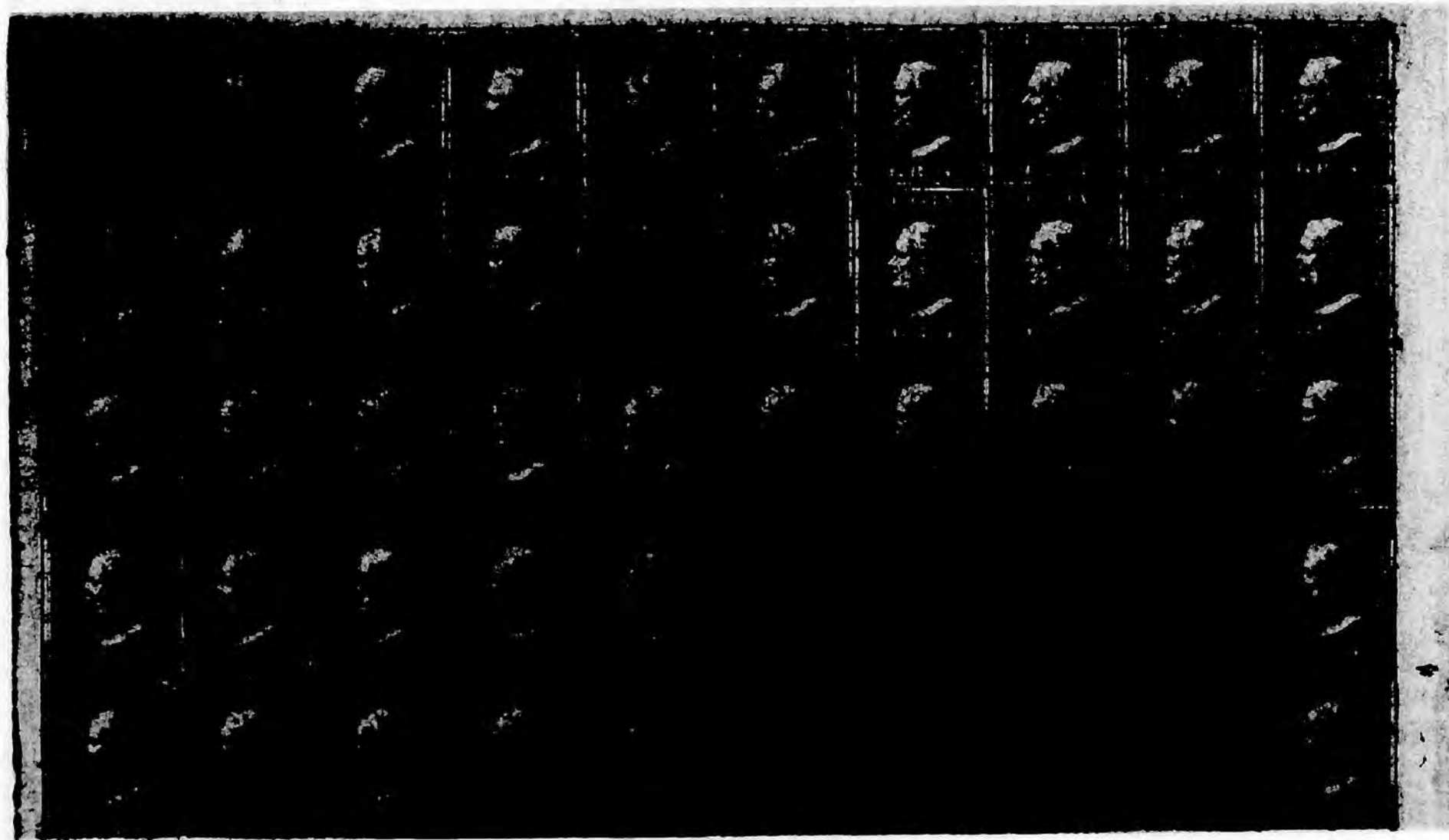




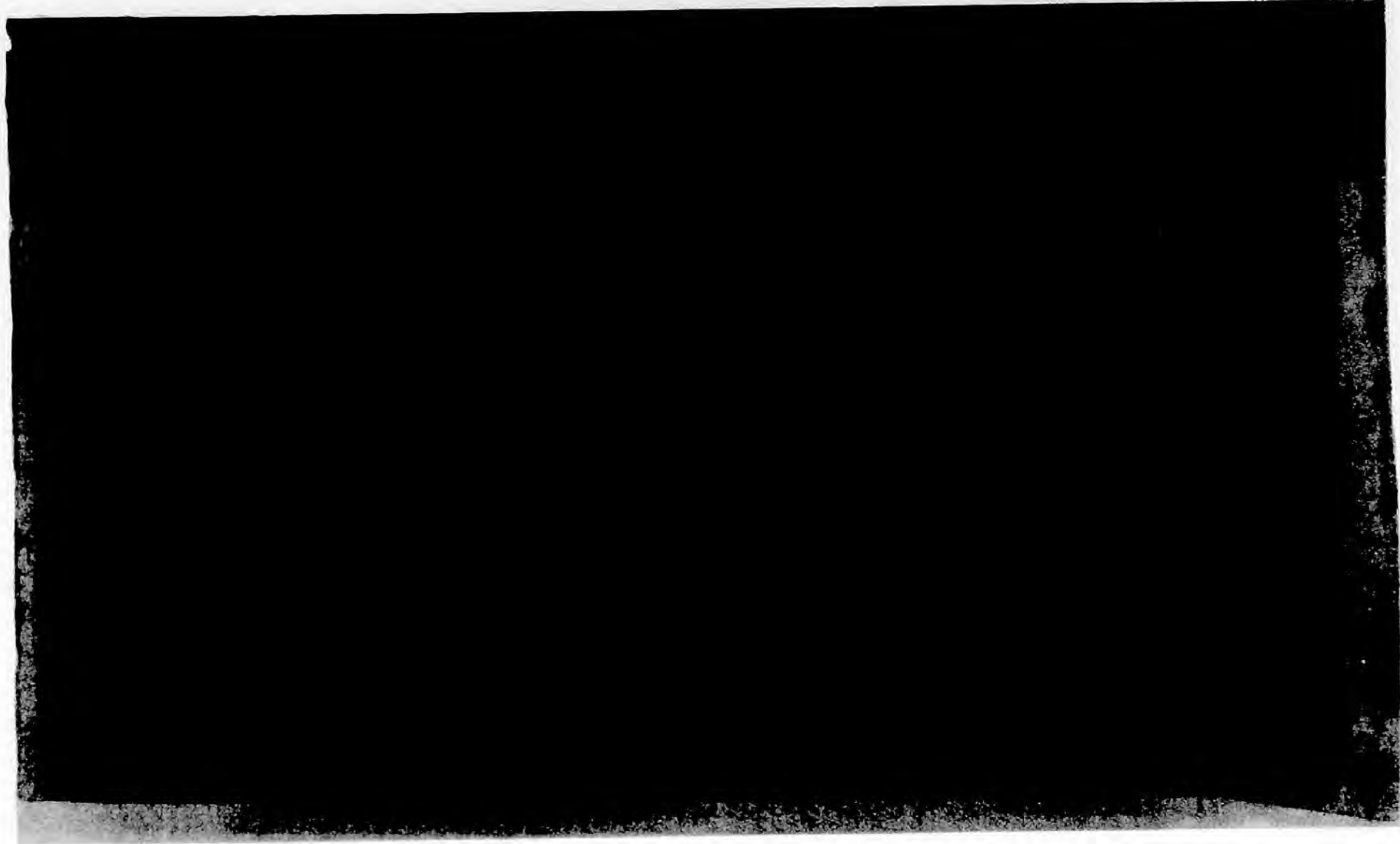
2 gr. plate III. Upper half.



2 gr. plate III. Lower half.

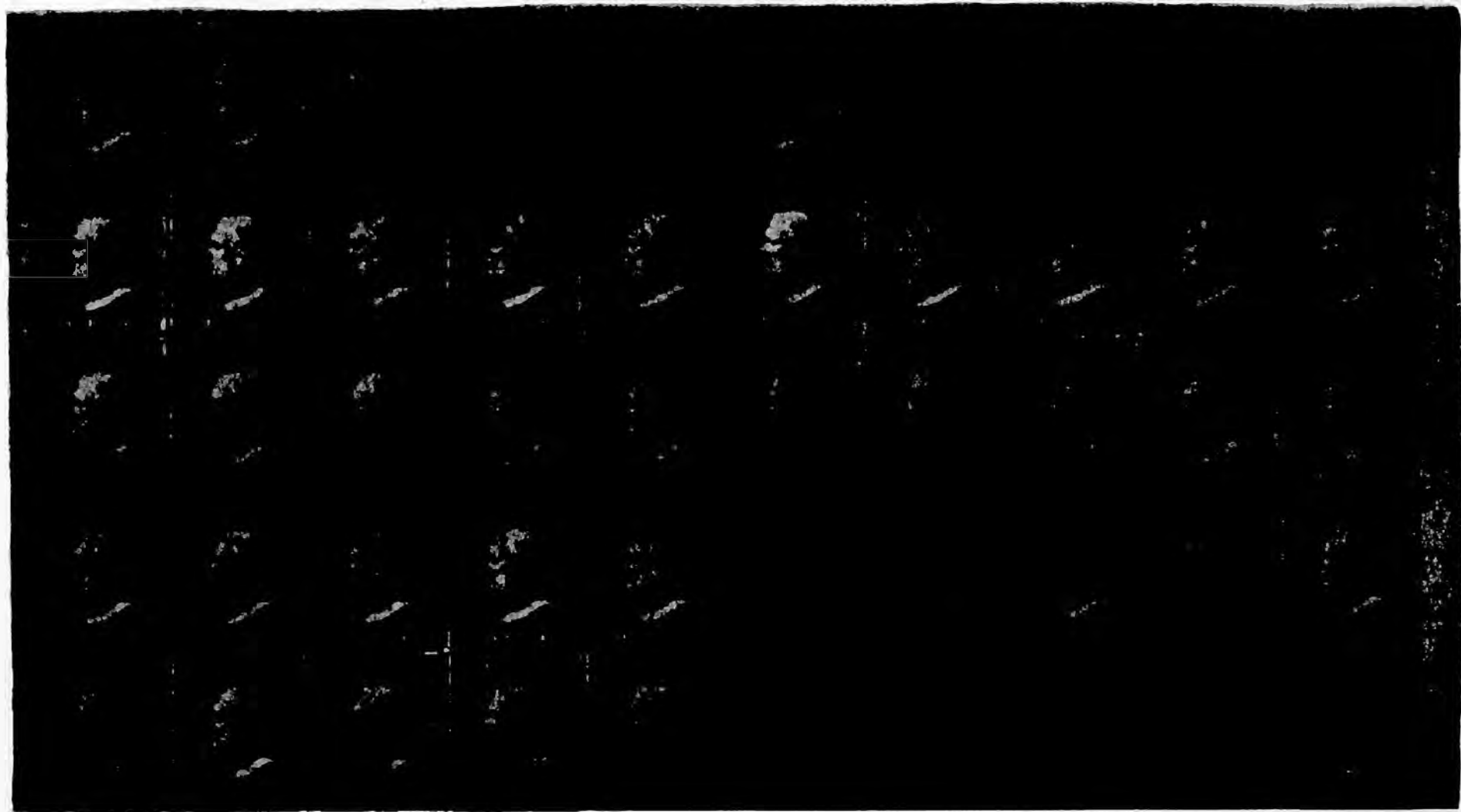


5 gr. plate I. Upper half.

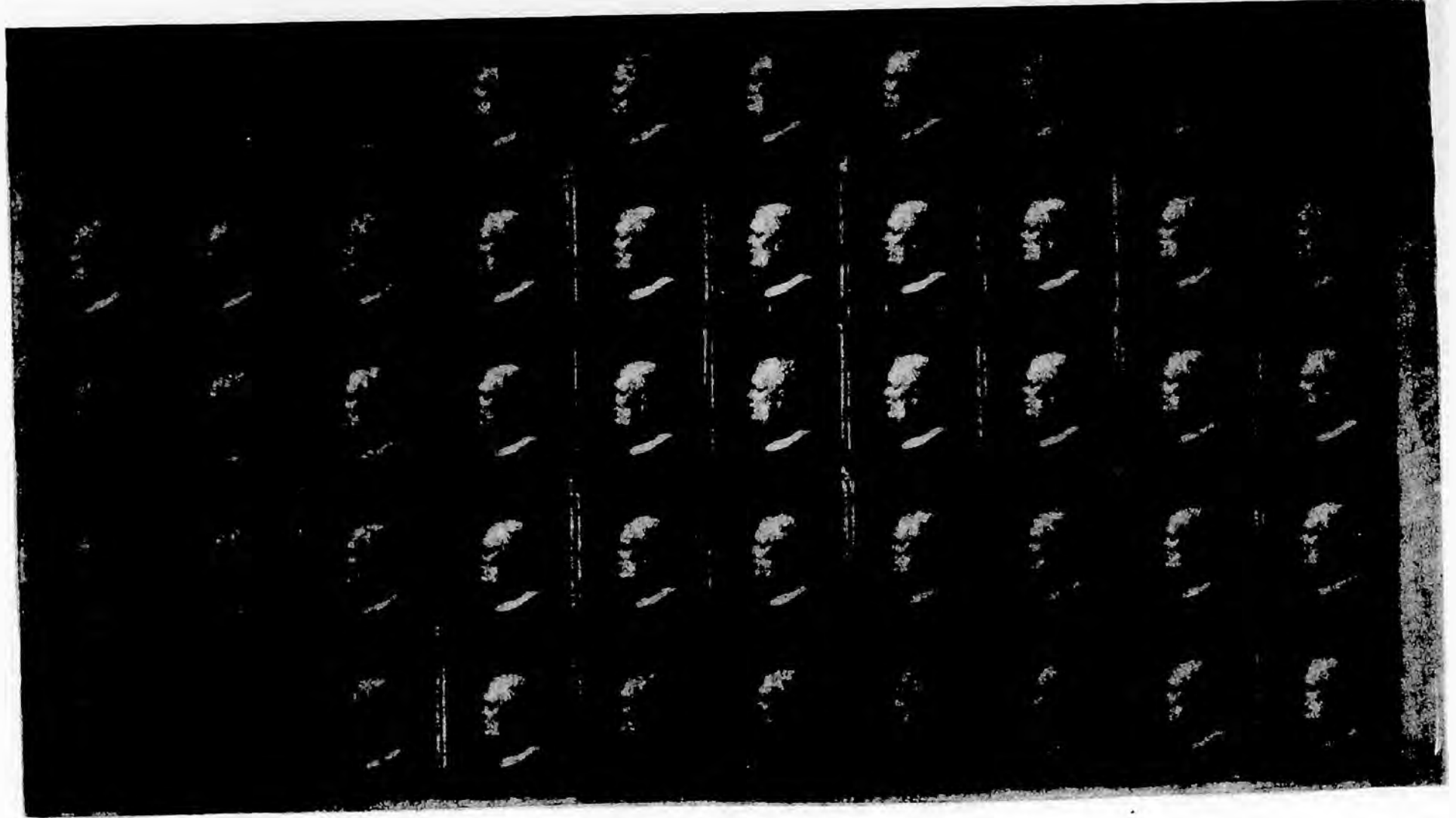


5 gr. plate I. Lower half.

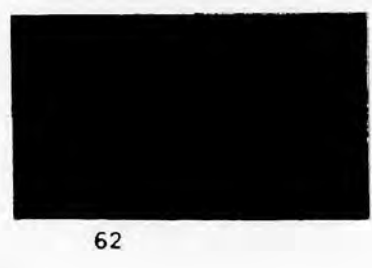
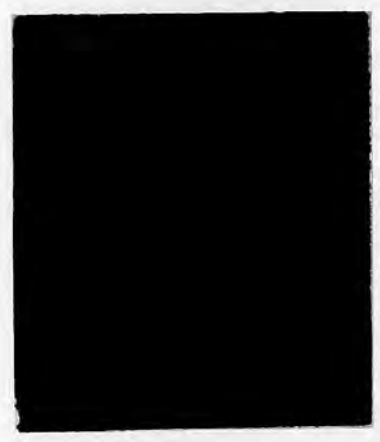
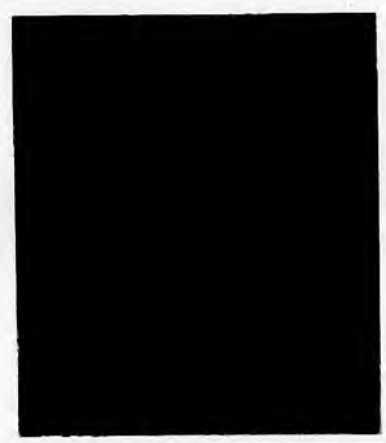
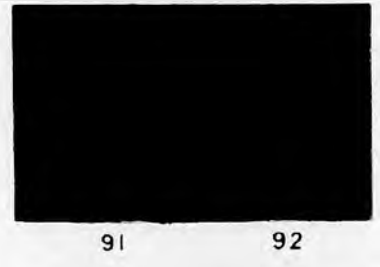
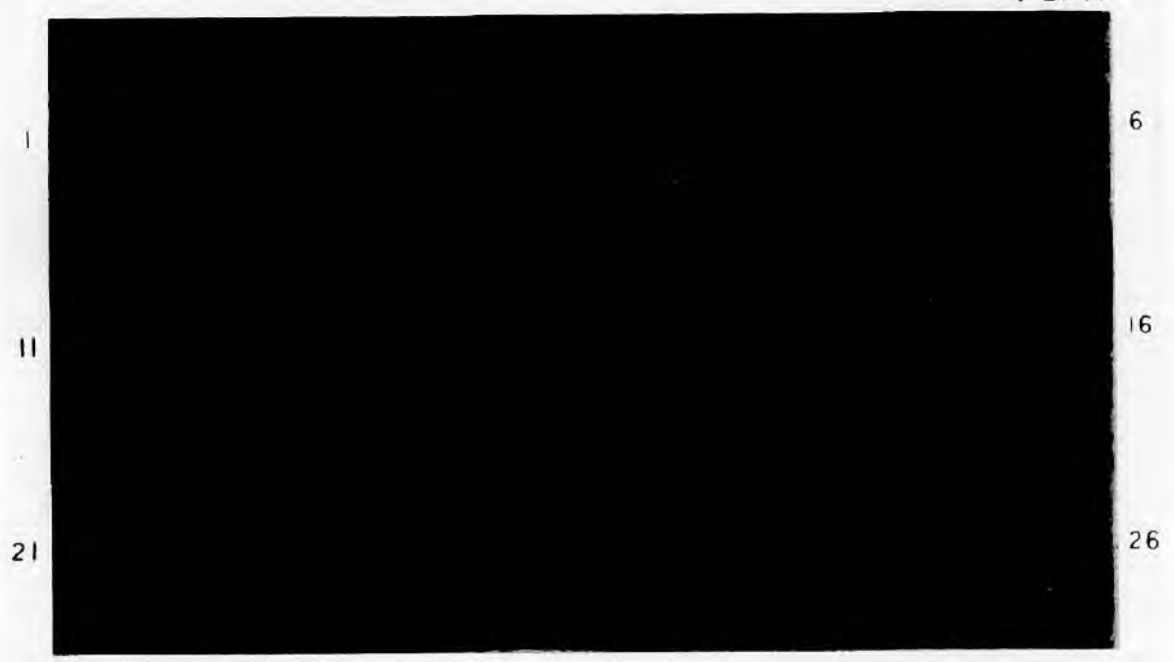
P.L.R.



5 gr. plate II. Upper half.



5 gr. plate II. Lower half.



10, 20, and 50 gr. Retouches and Varieties.