

Browsing the Web: Touring A Unified Italy, Part 2

by John F. Dunn

We left off last month on our tour of Italy—commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of the nation—with a relaxing stop on the island of Sardinia.

This “Browsing the Web” was inspired by the release by Italy of two souvenir sheets to celebrate the Unification. Since then, on June 2, Italy released eight more souvenir sheets depicting patriots of the Unification as



well as a joint issue with San Marino (pictured here, the Italian issue) honoring Giuseppe and Anita Garibaldi, Anita being the Brazilian wife and comrade in arms of the Italian leader. The sheet also commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the granting of San Marino citizenship to Giuseppe Garibaldi.

As we continue heading south, I reproduce again the map from Part 1 of this article. (Should you want



to refresh your memory, you can go to the Stamp News Online home page and select the Index by Subject in the upper right to access all previous Stamp News Online articles, including Unified Italy Part 1.

So...moving right along (and still in the north), we next come to Parma, which also is one of the Italian States that issued its own pre-Unification era stamps.

Modena

Modena was founded in the 3rd century B.C. by the Celts and later, as part of the Roman Empire and became an important agricultural center. After the barbarian invasions, the town resumed its commercial activities and, in the 9th century, built its first circle of walls, which continued throughout the Middle Ages, until they were demolished in



the 19th century. After a brief Mantuan domination in 1289, Modena went back under the dominion of the House of Este in 1336, who governed it until 1796. During that time, in 1598, Modena became capital of the Este Dukedom and was built up with many religious and civilian buildings.

Reflecting Modena's status as the capital of the Este Dukedom, the Palazzo Comunale, or Ducale, in Modena is not one building, but the result of the restructuring six 18th century administrative buildings dating as far back as 1046. The present clock tower (center) was built in the late 15th century, after the old Civic Tower was demolished in 1671 following an earthquake.



May 3, 1999 First Day Cover for Sc. 2292, for the Military Academy of Modena, which is housed in the Palazzo Comunale



A March 1, 1853 registered letter with Modena 1852 5 centesimi, Sc. 1



Italy 2002 for 150th anniversary of first Modena stamps, here the 1853 1 lira, Sc. 9

Modena had only a brief life as a stamp issuing entity, issuing stamps between 1852 and 1859, when Modena was annexed to the Kingdom of Sardinia and began using Sardinian stamps.



An Oct. 20, 1861 cover to Milan with a Sardinia 20 centesimi blue Victor Emmanuel II issue, Sc. 12a.

Parma



Italy Sc. 603, showing the bell towers and first stamps of Modena (Sc. 5, left), and Parma (Sc. 5, right)

Parma, which is just east of Modena, was the third Italian state to issue stamps, as the Duchy of Parma, in 1852. From a "World of Stamps" article that first appeared in *Mekeel's & Stamps*, we learn:

This duchy, originally established in 1545, had been re-established after the fall of Napoleon, and was ruled by a duke from the Spanish branch of the Bourbon dynasty. From August 25, 1849, Charles III was the duke of Parma.

The Bourbon coat-of-arms was the main design feature of the stamps issued for Parma on June 1, 1852. Duke

Charles III was assassinated March 26, 1854. His son was then a minor, so Duchess Marie Louise functioned as regent until she handed over power to a provisional government on June 9, 1859. The provisional government prepared for union with Sardinia, and organized a plebiscite and the duchy became part of the Kingdom of Sardinia from March 18, 1860.



The Parma 1859 Provisional Government 80c high value, Sc. 16.



A First Day of Issue usage of the 1853 Newspaper Tax stamp, Sc. PR2, tied to a newspaper dated April 13, 1853, and cancelled on arrival by a Piacenza boxed grill on April 15.

Following the establishment of the provisional government, for a short while in August 1859, stamps of Sardinia were put into use, but already on August 27, new stamps were issued by the provisional government. This consisted

of the text "Par-mesan State" and the value contained within an octagonal frame and with no pictorial element. This design had already been introduced 1853



A portion of an August 26, 1853, newspaper with a Parma 1853 9c (right) used in combination with a Modena 5c applied on arrival there.

for two newspaper tax stamps.

The stamps of Parma were withdrawn on January 31, 1860.

Parma's many attractions reflect its elegant, history-rich past, which is reflected in everything from its buildings to its food.



Left, first day cover for 2007 issue picturing the Parma Cathedral, Sc. 2784; and below, a photograph of the Cathedral and Basilica



A wedge and wheel of the world famous Parmigiano Reggiano cheese on a recent Italian stamp.

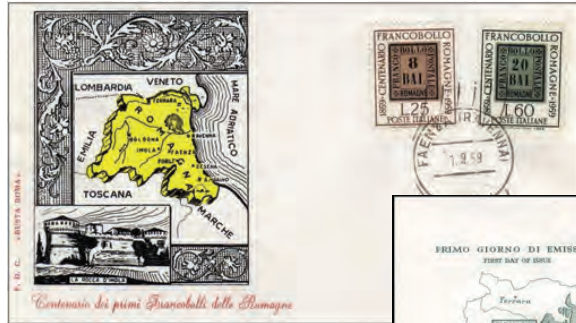


The Piazza Garibaldi in Parma as seen in a night photo and on a 1985 stamp, Sc. 1651a, issued for Italia '85. The stamp also shows the Piazza Garibaldi at the right.

Romagna

Moving further east from Parma, we come to Romagna, still another short-lived stamp issuing Italian State. From an early 20th century article in *Mekeel's Weekly*, "The Stamps of Romagna," by B. W. H. Poole, we learn:

Romagna was the name given to the provinces of Bo-



Left, FDC for Italy Sc. 785-86, part of the 1959 issue for the centenary of the stamps of Romagna, picturing Romagna high



values, Sc. 8 and 9. The cachet shows the Romagna region in yellow and the gunworks (La Rocca in Bagnara, Romagna. Right,

an FDC for the San Marino 1959 issue celebrating the centenary of Romagna stamps—the Republic of San Marino being located within Romagna. The left stamp pictures Romagna Sc. 1 and the Arch of Augustus in Rimini (Sc. 437), the right stamp Romagna Sc. 6 and the Tower of Asinelli in Bologna (Sc. C109).



Top left, La Rocca Bagnara; above, Tower of Asinelli (leftmost of the Two Towers of Bologna); left, the Arch of Augustus

Bologna, Ferrara, Forlì, and Ravenna, which before 1859 formed part of the Papal States. In that year the people of Romagna, seeing the success that had attended the struggle for liberty in the north of Italy, took it into their heads to free themselves from the Papal yoke. After a short struggle the Romagnese gained their liberty and on June

12, 1859, as a necessary preliminary to union with Piedmont, a Provisional Government was formed.

The stamps then in use in the provinces were those of the Pontifical States, but the stock on hand was small and the Bologna

Post Office was soon compelled to allow stamps to be cut in half, and attempted to borrow from other States while steps were being taken to provide temporary stamps.

The first Romagna stamps were placed in circulation on September 1, 1859. They were a basic design with numerals of value within a frame and were printed on ordinary book printing presses. These stamps had a short life for they were withdrawn on January 31, 1860, and superseded by the stamps of Sardinia, which were used in Romagna until 1862, when the stamps of Italy went into use.

Tuscany

Gradually working our way down the boot of Italy, we come to another stamp-issuing Italian State—the sovereign Grand Duchy of Tuscany. From a 1938 *Mekeel's Weekly* article, “The Stamps of Tuscany,” by B. W. H. Poole, we learn:

For many eras the history of Florence (Firenze) was the history of Tuscany and it achieved its chief glory in the 14th century when Dante, Giotto, Petrarch and Boccaccio made it pre-eminent in the revival of letters and arts.

In 1807 Napoleon took the country and united it with France but seven years later Ferdinand III was reinstated and ruled until his death in 1824. His successor, Leopold II did much to further the prosperity of Tuscany and gave his subjects a liberal constitution. However, a pro-Austrian alliance finally cost Leopold his throne, for in April, 1859, a provisional government was formed and he had to flee.



A cover from Romagna to Madrid with an 1859 2 bajocchi and 20b, Sc. 3, 9.



1851 6c indigo on bluish (Sc. 7, first printing) tied by Austrian military "FELDPOST N.2" c.d.s. to cover from Firenze ("4 DIC 1852") to Leobersdorf, Austria; and an unused single of the 6c



Sc. 18

The King of Sardinia assumed command of the army. A constituent assembly was

convoked which declared for annexation with Sardinia and this was subsequently confirmed by a plebiscite in March, 1860. As a result of this step Tuscany ceased to exist as a separate country and as a part of Sardinia later became part of the kingdom of Italy.

Tuscany issued its first stamps on April 1, 1851, as part of a convention with Austria that provided for the interchange of postal communications between the Lombardo-Venetian states and Tuscany. The design of this first issue shows the crowned lion of Florence.

On October 1, 1854, a plain-looking 2 soldi stamp was issued to pay the tax on foreign newspapers. This stamp ceased to be used after November 18, 1859, when the tax on newspapers was suppressed.



1951 FDC for Sc. 568-69, commemorating the Centenary of Tuscan stamps, showing Tuscany Sc. 4 and 5.



Sc. PR1

Although the provisional government was set up April 27, 1859, the change of government was not indicated on Tuscany's postage stamps until January 1 of the following year. Then a new design was issued having as a centerpiece a shield bearing the Savoy Arms on a royal mantle surmounted by a crown. This issue had a very short life, for the stamps were superseded on January 1, 1961, by those of Sardinia.

Tuscany is one of the most beautiful regions on the face of the earth and is well known for its landscapes. We therefore conclude this leg of our journey with a few images of Tuscany on the pages that follow.



A view of Siena, in Tuscany, on 1985 Italy Sc. 1651f (also showing Tuscany Sc. 5); and in a photograph overlooking the town.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa, in Tuscany, on 1973 Italy Sc. 1117 (marking its 8th century), and in a recent photo.



And a few random views of Tuscany







To be continued next month