

### The Issues of the



Fig. 22

# United States Allied Military Government In World War II

By Harry W. Wilcke M.D.

**[Publisher's Note:** *With the distinguished writing of Dr. Harry W. Wilcke—and the able assistance of Joseph V. Bush—U.S. STAMPS & Postal History is proud to introduce this important Handbook and Catalog of the issues of the U.S. Allied Military Government during and after World War II.*

*As Dr. Wilcke notes below, these postage stamps, most of which were printed, issued, and supervised under postal operations directly administered by our country, have received scant notice in the specialized catalogues of U.S. issues, even though our postal services in other nations militarily occupied by the U.S. (i.e., the Philippines, Cuba, etc.) have such recognition. We agree that this situation very much needs to be corrected.*

*This Handbook comes to our readers as part of your subscription to USS&PH. It is the first of many such handbooks which will be made available **only** to our readers. RLN]*

### INTRODUCTION

Whereas 1991 commemorated the 50th anniversary of the start of America's fighting involvement in World War II, 1993 marks the 50th anniversary of the start of the peace process in that war.

To this end, preparations were made months and even years in advance to develop a system for governing the occupied territories under military control. This system was first called the Allied Military Government in Occupied Territories (AMGOT), but the name was soon shortened to Allied Military Government (AMG). The AMG set up training programs in several places including North Africa. The military establishment assigned servicemen who were experienced in various aspects of government to the program.

As part of the plan, communications were considered most important and the restoration of postal services was given high priority. The U.S. War Department ordered the production of postage stamps for use

in these temporary military possessions. The job was assigned (as shown in Fig. 1) to the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), a part of the Treasury Department, which designed, printed and distributed stamps to be used by civilians in the occupied territories. In addition, the War Dept. also ordered the production of currency for each of the occupied countries (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Order to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to proceed with printing the first AMG stamps for Italy in July, 1943.



Fig. 2. Type of currency issued by the Allied Military Government in Germany.

### WHAT ARE AMGs?

These three capital letters, though often seen in articles and advertising in philatelic journals, are still something of a mystery to most collectors. In a philatelic sense, the expression AMG refers to the occupation stamps issued by the Allied Military Government. These were printed for the most part by the BEP to be used in Italy, France, Germany, and Austria.

Demand in immediate post-war Europe soon outstripped the supply of the BEP-produced stamps and the AMG printed additional issues locally in the occupied countries. All of these were produced under the strict supervision of the U.S. and the Allies.



Fig. 3. High value of Sicily AMG issue.



Fig. 3A. Naples Overprint on Italy Royalist issue.



Fig. 3B. The AMG Bari Wolf issue.

### PHILATELIC ACTION OF THE AMG

As soon as Sicily became secure, the first AMG was put in place. In August, 1943, the restoration of the postal services began, and the AMG put the BEP-produced stamps for Italy into use (Fig. 3). The AMG worked so well in Sicily that it was then introduced into areas of mainland Italy as they were conquered. However, in view of the Italian surrender in September, 1943, the original AMG stamps were not put on sale on the mainland and hence the first issue is usually called the AMG Sicily issue.

In Naples, the AMG overprinted three Italian stamps of the 1929 Royalist series with *GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO* (Fig. 3A). At about the same time, the AMG granted permission for the Italian provisional government of Marshal Badoglio to issue a single stamp which has since come to be known as the *Bari Wolf Issue* (Fig. 3B).



Fig. 4. AMG-VG Overprint on Italian stamp.



Fig. 5. The AMG-FTT Overprint of the Local Type

Later, in the disputed territory of Venezia Giulia at the head of the Adriatic Sea, the Allies introduced an AMG after occupying the area in

1945. This continued until the peace treaty was signed with Italy in 1947. Throughout that period, the AMG issued postage stamps (Fig. 4).

Subsequently, the AMG was continued in the Free Territory of Trieste (FTT) for an additional eight years until the dispute with the Yugoslavians was resolved. The FTT was divided between Italy and Yugoslavia by the United Nations in 1954. During those years of military occupation the AMG issued a significant number of stamps (Fig. 5).



Fig. 6. AMG France II issue with value overprint



Fig. 7. AMG Germany "AM POST" issue.



Fig. 8. AMG Austria "Posthorn" issue

After the invasion of France, the stamps printed in Washington for the AMG in that country were put into service. These U.S.-produced issues, although controversial, were widely employed by the French postal system (Fig. 6).

The most extensively used issue of the AMG series was that produced for Germany. Because of the stamp wording, it became known as the *AM Post* issue (Fig. 7).

The final AMG series for Europe was for Austria. The BEP printed 17 values and these were used to limited degree after the Austrian liberation (Fig. 8). Later, 15 of the values were overprinted *PORTO* by the Austrian government for use as postage dues.

To summarize, the AMG produced a series of 132 basic stamps for use in these temporary United States military possessions in Europe. These include the Sicily, the Naples and the AMG-VG issues for Italy, the two sets for France, plus those for Germany and Austria.

Also under the AMG collecting umbrella, we note several other entities including the Italian Provisional Government issue, called the *Bari Wolf*. Then, the AMG-FTT issued in excess of 200 postage stamps in the Free Territory of Trieste. Also, two of the *AM POST* issue were later overprinted as Travel Permit Stamps in Germany.



Fig. 9. AMG Administrative Revenue stamp.

In passing, we should remember that there were also fiscal issues for the AMG-VG and the AMG-FTT which present the possibility of extending an AMG collection (Fig. 9). And finally, the AMG produced postal stationery in Venezia Giulia, the Free Territory of Trieste and in the Germany Bizone.

## AMG COLLECTING

Of the basic AMG collection of 132 stamps, 70 were printed by the BEP in Washington. These emissions were designed by members of the BEP, people who are also associated with the U.S. stamps of the time. The other 62 AMG stamps were printed overseas as a matter of expediency.

There are other facets of AMG collecting: for instance, all the values printed at the BEP are collected in Plate No. blocks just as are issues of the United States. Due to the wartime conditions of procurement and quality control, there are many varieties of papers, perforations and inks which add interest to these stamps. Some spectacular errors have surfaced through the years. Essays, proofs and specimens add interest to a number of the issues.

While the AMG stamps are recognized by and listed in the *Scott Catalogue*, they are widely scattered under the listings of these liberated countries. Efforts to have them listed in the *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps* as temporary U.S. possessions have to date been unsuccessful.

The popularity of the AMGs seems greater in Germany and Italy than in the United States. This fact not only affects retail prices of the material but is making it increasingly difficult to buy large lots and collections even in the U.S.A. where the foreign dealers are regularly placing bids.

Prices have been rising at the rate of 10% a year in Italy, which boasts three major catalogs dealing in the Italian AMG issues. Buyers there are avidly seeking the few errors and varieties that exist.

In Germany, the *Michel Catalog* is boosting the AMG issues in a major fashion. The listings in their specialized catalog have risen from a few paragraphs a few years ago to nearly 15 pages at present.

In the U.S.A., a more complete historical account of the AMGs along with comprehensive listings of the varieties appears in the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. This is obtainable from Joseph V. Bush, Inc., P.O. Box 626, Bonita, CA 91908.

This present handbook and catalog of the AMG issues is presented by *U.S. STAMPS & Postal History* magazine in an effort to give an overview of this material that is not readily available to the American collecting fraternity. It is hoped that during this time of recollections of the World War II period, some who have seen some of the AMG stamps and wondered what they represented, or who have been unaware of this very interesting collecting area will be alerted to its potential and will find the same pleasure from collecting AMGs that many have in the past.

## THE AMG CATALOG LISTINGS

### AMG SICILY



Fig. 10. AMG Sicily plate block with both colored and black plate numbers.



Fig. 11. AMG Sicily marginal inscription block for the color plate.

Printed by the BEP in Washington, D.C. for the U. S. War Department. Design: Original wash drawing by Wm. K Schrage; approved June 4, 1943 Engravers: Edw. Helmuth; Frames, lettering; C. Arlt; center ornament; J. Vail: numerals

This issue was printed by offset lithography on a two color press. The basic stamps are in color with country and monetary designation added in black. It was apparently the plan to use the same design for all of the occupied countries by simply replacing the country name and monetary designation. However, the design of the first nine stamps included unit values 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 50, and 60. Unfortunately, these values did not fit in with the monetary systems of the countries other than Italy and new designs had to be executed for the later AMG issues.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 400, which were divided into four post office panes of 100. The sheets contained marginal inscriptions as well as plate numbers in both color and in black. (Figs. 10 & 11)

It should be pointed out that the plate numbers used are those in the BEP offset plate series and were therefore quite different from the intaglio series seen on the United States stamps of the period. The offset plate numbers were normally trimmed off the finished product at the BEP but in the case of the AMG issues, they were left in place.

#### The Plate numbers used are:

##### Colored stamp plates:

44687—15 Centesimi	44464—1 Lira
44688—25 Centesimi	44463—2 Lire
44460—30 Centesimi	44465—5 Lire
44467—50 Centesimi	44466—10 Lire
44462—60 Centesimi	

##### Black overprint plates

44622—Overprint of "ITALY" and "CENTESIMI"
44621—Overprint of "ITALY" and "LIRA" (singular)
44620—Overprint of "ITALY" and "LIRE" (plural)



Fig. 12. AMG Sicily misperforated stamp



Fig. 13. AMG Sicily. Doubling of color background.

There are two printings of this issue which are distinguished by the type of paper used:

**First Printing:** White wove paper (definite pattern seen when backlighted)

**Second Printing:** Clear wove paper (indistinct striations when backlighted)

Only the first four values have been seen on the clear wove paper. There is evidence that the higher values of the second printing were never issued but were destroyed by the Control Commission when the

issue was withdrawn from sale by the various AMG post offices.

There are numerous interesting varieties of the stamps in this series from the paper and gum types to printing errors and perforation freaks. (Figs. 12 & 13)

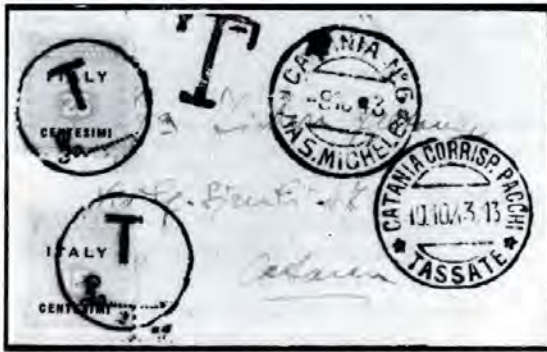


Fig. 14. AMG Sicily stamps used as postage dues.

As there were no postage due stamps issued by the AMG, stamps of the AMG Sicily series were occasionally used for this purpose. (Fig. 14). The stamps were used extensively in the restoration period and many interesting covers are to be found. (Fig. 15)



Fig. 15. AMG Sicily on cover from civilian to military mail system in Italy.

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
<i>Lithography Unwatermarked Perforation 11</i>			
<b>August 24, 1943</b>			
1	15c Pale Orange (5,000,000)	1.00	1.00
<b>September 15, 1943</b>			
2	25c Olive (15,380,000)	1.00	1.00
3	30c Light Gray (15,100,000)	1.00	1.00
4	50c Light Violet (15,780,000)	1.00	1.00
5	60c Orange-yellow (11,910,000)	1.00	1.25
6	1L Yellow-green (10,530,000)	1.00	1.00
<b>October 14, 1943</b>			
7	2L Deep Rose (7,750,000)	1.00	1.50
8	5L Light Blue (7,920,000)	1.00	3.00
9	10L Buff (7,800,000)	1.00	4.50

\* Catalog numbers from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. Values derived from the *Sassone Italy Catalog*, 1993

### AMG NAPLES

Due to the change in political environment in Italy, the AMG stamp series was not introduced into mainland Italy. The mainland came under the rule of the Italian Provisional Government of Marshal Badoglio. The then current Italian stamps were not considered offensive and their use was eventually permitted.

Once Naples had been secured militarily, three Italian stamps of the Royalist issue were overprinted in Italian: "GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO" under the control of the Allied Military Government at the printing plant of Richter and Co. which was found essentially intact in that city. (Fig. 16) The overprints were applied by offset lithography in shades of dark blue and red.



Fig. 16. AMG Naples plain paper proof of gutter pair (50c purple)

When these stamps were issued in December of 1943, a First Day of Issue ceremony was held for the first time by the Italian postal service. (Fig. 17) The idea was well received and has continued to the present.



Fig. 17. First day cover of the AMG Naples series. First FD ceremony in Italy.

These stamps were used to a limited degree on the mail. However, quantities of the issue were utilized in accounting for postage due payments. The stamps were pasted in ledgers in the amount of each day's totals. Some of the pages have survived, and the stamps may be collected in that form (Fig. 18).



Fig. 18. AMG Naples used for postage due accounting on piece of account book.

**Special note:** The less-than-widely-known nature of these Allied Military Government issues does not mean that they are generally unavailable. Many AMG stamps, in mint and used condition, can be found from numerous U.S. specialty dealers. Usages on cover can often be located in dealers' boxes, sometimes mixed in with covers from the countries occupied by the AMG.

## THE STAMP LISTINGS

Photogravure Watermark: Crown Perforation 14

Issued December 10, 1943

CAT No.*	Description	MINT:	USED
10	20c Red/Blue Overprint (360,000)	1.25	3.50
11	35c Blue/Red Overprint (50,000)	8.50	20.00
12	35c Blue/Vermilion Overprint (20,000)	45.00	55.00
13	50c Purple/Red Overprint (500,000)	0.20	1.50
14	50c Purple/Orange Overprint (200,000)	0.65	1.75

\* Catalog numbers from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*; Values derived from *Sassone Italy Catalog*, 1993.



Fig. 19 Badoglio Essay prior to Bari Wolf issue.



Fig. 20. The AMG Bari Wolf stamp used on registered cover from Bari.

### AMG BARI WOLF

With the Ministerial Ordinance of January 6, 1944, the Badoglio Provisional Government authorized the issuance of a special stamp to meet existing needs. Although Marshal Badoglio was the nominal head of the provisional government, his actions were under the sanction of the Allied Military Government authorities. It is on this basis that the stamps of this issue are considered a part of the AMG stamp issues.

The stamp itself shows the Capitoline Wolf with Romulus and Remus, the symbol of Rome, against an ornamental background. The Badoglio Government originally submitted a design with the signature of Marshal Badoglio emblazoned across the same background. (Fig. 19) This was vetoed by the Allies because it seemed too personal for a country that had just relinquished a dictatorship. First employed in the city of Bari (hence the name), the stamp was widely used throughout southern Italy. (Fig. 20)

## THE STAMP LISTINGS

Lithographed Ungummed

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
UNWATERMARKED			
B-1	50c Lilac and Light Salmon, Perf 11	----	----
B-2	50c Lilac and Light Salmon, Perf 11 x 11 1/2	----	----
B-3	50c Lilac and Light Salmon, Perf 11 1/2	0.30	0.35
WATERMARKED			
B-4	50c Lilac and Light Salmon, Perf 11 x 11 1/2	----	----
B-5	50c Lilac and Light Salmon, Perf 11 1/2	1.00	1.10

\*Catalog numbers from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. Values derived from the *Sassone Italy Catalog*, 1993.

This is an extremely fascinating issue in that there are numerous varieties to be collected including many ink and perforation types, printing flaws and errors as well as essay and proof material. (Fig. 21)



Fig. 21. AMG Bari Wolf with doubled wolf, one inverted.



Figs. 23. (left) AMG-VG stamp with inverted overprint. Fig. 24 (middle). AMG-VG stamp with double overprint. Fig. 25 (right). AMG-VG overprint missing from one stamp of a pair.



Fig. 26. AMG-VG 100L high value with double perfs at top.

Fig. 27. AMG-VG airmail stamp with double overprint, one inverted.



### AMG-VG

The Allied Military Government issued a series of 31 stamps in Venezia Giulia, the disputed territory surrounding Trieste at the head of the Adriatic Sea. These were Italian stamps which were overprinted "AMG-VG" locally in Trieste. Four different types of overprints were used for the different stamp formats.

The set of AMG-VG stamps offers many varieties of watermarks and gums as well as double, inverted, displaced, etc. overprints. (Figs. 22-27. Fig. 22 appears on page 1 of this handbook) During the more than two years of the AMG-VG, these overprinted stamps were extensively used on both domestic and foreign mail. (Figs 28-29). The stamps also saw some use as postage dues. (Fig. 30)



Fig. 28. AMG-VG registered cover to the United States with 100L high value.



Fig. 29. AMG-VG letter to New York, "routed via ACCO"



Fig. 30. AMG-VG stamps used as postage dues

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

*Photogravure Perforation 14*

CAT No.*	MINT	USED
<b>September 22, 1945</b>		
WATERMARK: CROWN		
15 10c Dark Brown; Fasces in design (3,200,000)	0.30	0.30
16 50c Brown: Air Post stamp used as regular (3,071,851)	0.30	0.50
WATERMARK: WINGED WHEEL I		
17 20c Red-rose without Fasces (2,333,000)	0.30	0.50
18 60c Dark Slate Green (2,332,821)	0.30	0.30
19 1L Violet (11,949,022)	0.35	0.30
20 2L Dark Red (12,350,908)	0.40	0.30
21 10L Purple (2,785,115)	1.00	0.25
<b>November 25, 1945</b>		
UNWATERMARKED		
22 10c Brown (3,086,000)	0.30	0.30
23 20c Red-rose (1,000,000)	0.50	0.50
24 60c Red-orange (400,000)	0.30	0.30
<b>October 16, 1945</b>		
WATERMARKED: WINGED WHEEL I		
25 5L Dark Red (4,680,136)	0.75	0.50
<b>July 10, 1946</b>		
WATERMARK: CROWN		
26 20L Light Green (350,100)	2.50	3.50
WATERMARK: WINGED WHEEL I		
27 25L Dark Green (291,656)	4.50	6.50
28 50L Dark Violet-brown (213,700)	5.50	7.50
<b>September 13, 1946</b>		
WATERMARK: WINGED WHEEL III		
29 100L Dark Lake - First printing	22.00	25.00
29A 100L Carmine Lake Second printing (142,700 - both printings)	25.00	30.00

**December 9, 1946**

WATERMARK: CROWN

30 20c Red-rose with Fasces  
(2,000,041) 0.30 0.30

**January 8, 1947**

WATERMARK: WINGED WHEEL I

31 25c Bright Green-blue (2,867,000) 0.30 0.30  
32 3L Red (3,186,722) 0.50 0.50  
33 4L Red-orange (2,594,792) 0.75 0.40

**July 17, 1947**

WATERMARK: WINGED WHEEL I

34 2L Brown (2,119,000) 0.60 0.75  
35 6L Purple (319,886) 2.00 2.25  
36 20L Dark Red-violet (360,227) 45.00 25.00

### AIR MAIL ISSUES

WATERMARK: WINGED WHEEL I

**September 13, 1946**

37 25L Dark Blue (150,300) 2.00 2.50  
38 50L Dark Green (171,363) 3.50 5.00

**January 16, 1947**

39 2L Dark Brown (314,806) 0.30 0.30  
40 5L Dark Green ((180,242) 2.00 2.50  
41 10L Carmine (178,843 Sold) 2.00 2.50

**July 23, 1947**

42 1L Slate (498,755) 0.30 0.30  
43 25L Brown (121,102) 22.50 25.00

### AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

**September 13, 1946**

44 10L Deep Blue (541,721) 5.00 4.50  
45 30L Deep Violet (138,401) 12.50 13.50

\*Catalog numbers from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*.

Values derived from *Sassone Italy Catalog, 1993*.

### AMG FRANCE

Stamps were also issued by the United States War Department for use in liberated France and they were used extensively in the French postal system.

The stamps were issued in two series as the first issue of France I was especially criticized as having unsuitable values and colors. The France II series was then prepared to correct the alleged deficiencies of the former.



Fig. 31. Specimen booklet produced by the BEP for the France issue

### AMG FRANCE I

The design was a sketch prepared by William K. Roach from a photograph of the "Arc de Triomphe" in Paris furnished by the Washington, D.C. public library (Fig. 31).

The engravers were:

Charles A. Brooks: vignette and frame; Axel Christiansen: numerals and denominational wording; J.T. Vail and John Edmundson: other lettering.

This issue was printed by offset lithography in the usual BEP format of 400 subject sheets which were divided into four post office panes of 100. These one color stamps had both marginal inscriptions and plate numbers at the top of the upper panes and at the bottom of the lower panes. The inscription covered seven stamps and the plate number, three.



Fig. 32. Lower case "s" error on Washington Print AMG POST marginal inscription.

The BEP produced Specimen booklets for archival or presentation use for each of the four countries. Each booklet contains a pane of ten stamps (5x2 of each) of each value issued for the given area. The booklet for the France I issue is seen in Figure 32. Only a few of these have turned up in private collections.

As with the Sicily issue, these offset plate numbers were allowed to remain in place but are not in the same sequence as the intaglio numbers usually seen on U.S. stamps. **Plates used were:**

- 45440 — 5 centimes
- 45444 — 1Fr50
- 45474 — 10 centimes
- 45445 — 2Fr50
- 45442 — 25 centimes
- 45568 — 4 Fr
- 45437 — 50 centimes
- 45446 — 5 Fr
- 45443 — 1 Fr
- 45475 — 10 Fr

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

*Lithography Unwatermarked Perforated 11*

October 9, 1944

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
46	5c Bright Red-violet (8,080,000)	0.20	0.20
47	10c Light Gray (8,080,000)	0.20	0.20
48	25c Brown (8,000,000)	0.20	0.20
49	50c Olive-bistre (8,030,000)	0.20	0.20
50	1Fr Peacock Green (6,000,000)	0.50	0.50
51	1Fr50 Rose-pink (9,560,000)	0.50	0.50
52	2Fr50 Purple (4,230,000)	0.50	0.50
53	4 Fr Ultramarine (4,090,000)	0.50	0.50
54	5 Fr Black (4,160,000)	0.50	0.50
55	10 Fr Yellow-orange (720,000)	35.00	34.00

\*Catalog numbers from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*.

Values derived from Sassone Italy Catalog 1993

### AMG FRANCE II

To correct the deficiencies of the France I issue, a second series was produced. This time the stamps were produced in ten colors using a single plate, #45891. It is unknown whether the BEP ever produced stamps of that many colors from a single plate on other occasions. In addition, plates were prepared for printing in black each of the ten

values as follows:

45965	30 centimes
45931	1Fr20
45966	40 centimes
45924	1Fr50
45967	50 centimes
45962	2 Fr
45968	60 centimes
45925	2Fr40
45923	80 centimes
45963	3 Fr

The plate/inscription blocks are collected in a fashion similar to those of the Sicily issue. However, it should be mentioned that there are no marginal inscriptions included at the left side of either the upper or lower left hand panes. This was due to a faulty press and since they could not be printed properly, they were omitted intentionally.

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

*Unwatermarked Perforation 11*

CAT No. *	Description	MINT	USED
56	30c Orange (5,000,000)	0.15	0.15
57	40c Pale gray (10,000,000)	0.15	0.15
58	50c Olive-bistre (7,000,000)	0.15	0.15
59	60c Violet (5,000,000)	0.20	0.20
60	80c Emerald (3,000,000)	0.20	0.20
61	1Fr20 Brown (3,000,000)	0.30	0.30
62	1Fr50 Vermilion (50,000,000)	0.30	0.30
63	2Fr Yellow (8,000,000)	0.40	0.40
64	2Fr40 Dark Rose (3,000,000)	0.40	0.40
65	3Fr Bright Red-violet (3,000,000)	0.40	0.40

\*The Catalog numbers are from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook* and the values have been supplied by J.V. Bush, Inc.

### AMG GERMANY

The AMG Germany issue is notable because of its magnitude and importance. The many varieties encountered within this group of stamp issues is truly remarkable and collecting of this temporary U. S. Military possession can be an absorbing activity.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was not able to provide sufficient supplies to sustain the needs of the German postal system, and therefore the stamps of the BEP "AM POST" design were reprinted both in England and in Germany itself. The British printing included six of the values of this design. Then the German set was expanded.

The stamps produced for Germany were the most widely used of the AMG series for Europe. When it became apparent that the quantity of the nine BEP values plus the six reprinted in England would be insufficient for postal needs, the printing plant of Georg Westermann was found in Braunschweig (Brunswick), Germany that could produce the needed quantities. The set was then expanded to 20 values in three size formats. (See Fig. 36)



Fig. 33 (left). Note the extra loop on "p" of "stamps" in the margin of the AM POST Washington Print. Fig. 34 (right). Severely retouched "2" in the plate number. Both are the 15 Pfennig value.

## THE WASHINGTON PRINTING

The original design was a wash drawing by William A. Roach of the BEP. Single color stamps were printed by the offset process in a 400 subject sheet which was then divided into four post office panes of 100.

Each of the panes of 100 contains a marginal inscription produced by a typewriter and plate numbers which were typeset. Both the right and left panes have the same marginal markings. The inscription is at the left and the Plate number on the right in the top margin of the upper panes and the bottom margins of the lower ones. This tends to make immediate differentiation of the pane positions difficult.

### Marginal Inscriptions:

Why the marginal inscriptions were prepared by a typewriter (and a poor one at that!) is a mystery. Further, the numerous abnormalities which resulted can only be explained by wartime demands at the BEP, including not enough highly skilled BEP workers. The most notable flaw to appear in the marginal inscriptions was the use of a lower case "s" in the word "Stamps" on the 4 Pfennig upper left position. (Fig. 32) Another interesting variety occurs on the 15 Pfennig where there is an extra loop on the "p" of "Stamps" (Fig. 33)



Fig. 34A (left). Lower left plate no. block of the Washington Print AM POST issue showing number in lower right corner as it is on all panes. Fig. 35 (right). Misperforation due to paper fold on the AMG Germany Washington Print.

### Plate numbers:

Here again we should point out that these are offset plate numbers that were not trimmed as was usual with the BEP products. They are in a completely different series than the intaglio numbers of the period. (Fig. 34A)

The typeset plate numbers, like the typewritten inscriptions, are not without their problems. Many figures are misaligned or slanted. The heavily retouched "2" on the 15 Pfennig is certainly difficult to comprehend (Fig. 34)

### Plate Numbers used:

45685	3 Pfg
45871	12 Pfg
45866	4 Pfg
46582	12 Pfg (2nd Ptg.)
45867	5 Pfg
46583	12 Pfg (Later ptgs.)
45868	6 Pfg
45872	15 Pfg
45869	8 Pfg
45873	25 Pfg
45870	10 Pfg

### Perforations

Perforating problems also surface from time to time, again resulting from the need to produce large quantities urgently (Fig. 35).

### Paper types

The first printing of the Germany series was done on a light colored, clear paper. Eight of the values appear on a clear paper that is about 0.11 mm. thick. Two of the values were printed on a thinner clear paper (0.6-0.9 mm.) The 5 Pfennig stamp is only seen on the clear, thin paper while the 6 Pfennig is on both types.

The second and subsequent printings were on a cloudy or porous paper which varies between 0.10 to 0.12 mm. thick. The color of the porous paper varies from an off white to a light tan color.

## THE STAMP LISTINGS

*Lithographed Unwatermarked Perforation 11*

CAT No.*	Description	MNH	USED
<b>June 20, 1945</b>			
66	3 Pfg Lilac (39,810,000)	0.15	0.70
67	4 Pfg Light Gray (38,980,000)	0.15	0.70
<b>March 19, 1945</b>			
68	5 Pfg. Emerald (100,070,000)	0.15	0.35
69	6 Pfg Yellow (119,910,000)	0.15	0.35
70	8 Pfg Deep Orange (121,480,000)	0.15	0.35
<b>June 20, 1945</b>			
71	10 Pfg Brown (68,760,000)	0.15	0.35
<b>March 19, 1945</b>			
72	12 Pfg Rose-violet (205,560,000)	0.15	0.15
<b>June 20, 1945</b>			
73	15 Pfg Cerise (69,250,000)	0.15	0.35
74	25 Pfg Ultramarine (70,440,000)	0.15	0.35

\*Catalog from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. Catalog values are derived from the *Michel Germany Specialized*, 1993.

## THE BRITISH PRINTING

Through the U.S. War Department, the British authorities requested the BEP to provide them with plates for additional production of the AMG Germany issue of "AM POST" stamps in England. The BEP originally agreed to this request but for some reason they ultimately refused to comply. Therefore, new plates were made in England, closely following the BEP design.

These stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons in England by the photogravure process. There were two printings, the first of which had smooth, yellow gum. The second had a white, streaky gum applied. The two printings can be positively identified on mint stamps by the type of gum appearing.

The stamps of 3, 5, 6, 8, and 12 Pfennigs were printed in sheets of 400 examples for division into four panes of 100. The 4 Pfennig and also some the 12 Pfennig stamps were printed in sheets of 200 examples which yielded only two panes.

Marginal markings are limited to the cutting guide lines plus plate numbers which consist of a single number plus a letter indicating the position of the pane in the plate. A, B, C and D run clockwise from the upper left corner. **Plate numbers are as follows:**

6A, B, C, D	3 Pfg
1A, B, C, D	6 Pfg
5A, B	4 Pfg
4A, B, C, D	8 Pfg
3A, B, C, D	5 Pfg
2A, B, C, D	12 Pfg

Perforations are in the 14 range and there are seven perforation combinations of 14<sup>1/4</sup>, 14<sup>1/2</sup> and 14<sup>3/4</sup>. Some combinations do not exist on all the values and others of these are extremely scarce.

## THE STAMP LISTINGS

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
Printing total for all values: 527,000,000			
<b>September 19, 1945</b>			
75	3 Pfg Blue violet	0.15	0.35
<b>September 14, 1945</b>			
76	4 Pfg Gray	0.15	0.35
<b>September 4, 1945</b>			
77	5 Pfg Green	0.40	3.50
<b>August 28, 1945</b>			
78	6 Pfg Yellow	0.20	0.35
<b>September 14, 1945</b>			
79	8 Pfg Orange-red	1.00	7.00



August 28, 1945

80 12 Pfg Brown-violet 0.15 0.35

The above values are mixed perforations, gums and or paper types.

\*Catalog numbers are from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*.

Values are derived from the *Michel Germany Specialized*, 1993.



Fig. 36. Three sizes: AM POST Brunswick

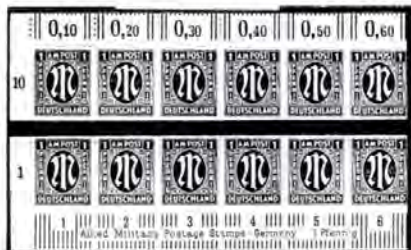


Fig. 37. Typical German marginal markings on Brunswick AM POST with added inscription in English in lower left or all panes.

### THE BRUNSWICK PRINTING

When the printing plant of Georg Westermann in the British zone was found to be suitable for stamp production, the Military Government ordered stamps in twenty denominations from the Brunswick (Braunschweig) firm. The values up to 25 Pfennig are in the small size of the Washington and British Printings. A medium size was used for the values from 30 to 80 Pfennig and the 1 Mark stamp was printed as a large format stamp. (Fig. 36)

The exact sheet printing format for these stamps is unknown. It is thought that they were printed three panes across on plates for either 300 or 600 subjects which were cut into the post office panes of 100.

There are no plate numbers on the Brunswick stamps. The typical marginal markings appearing on German stamps of the period are present. In addition, there is a typewritten marginal inscription in English which appears in the bottom margin of all panes. It is therefore impossible to distinguish the plate position of a given pane. (Fig. 37)

There are control numbers appearing on some panes of the Brunswick print. On the first printing, these numbers are black, with five or six digits and on the second printing, the numbers are red and have two to four digits. Later printings are devoid of control numbers.

The Brunswick stamps are perforated with four combinations of 11 and 11½. As with the British printing, all combinations do not exist on all values and some of the perforation combinations are very scarce.

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

*Lithography Unwatermarked Perforation 11 to 11½*

The exact printing quantities of most of the Brunswick AM POST values are usually given as "in excess of 24,000,000". Exceptions to this are:

8 Pfg	3,500,000
4 Pfg	7,000,000
80 Pfg	possibly as few as 650,000 printed (Most valuable and key issue.)
1 RM	1,500,000

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
<b>October 11, 1945</b>			
81	1 Pfg Light Slate-gray	0.40	1.40
82	3 Pfg Light Violet	0.40	0.50

October 31, 1945

83 4 Pfg Olive-gray 0.40 0.70

August 30, 1945

84 5 Pfg Emerald-green 0.40 0.70

August 21, 1945

85 6 Pfg Orange-yellow 0.40 0.50

October 9, 1945

86 8 Pfg Red-orange 2.50 5.25

August 29, 1945

87 10 Pfg Light Brown 0.40 0.70

August 25, 1945

88 12 Pfg Light Purple 0.40 0.45

August 28, 1945

89 15 Pfg Light Carmine 0.40 0.70

October 10, 1945

90 16 Pfg Light Blue-green 0.40 3.50

October 23, 1945

91 20 Pfg Light Cobalt-blue 0.50 0.70

October 19, 1945

92 24 Pfg Light Brown-lilac 0.50 3.50

August 29, 1945

93 25 Pfg Light Ultramarine 0.50 3.50

September 11, 1945

94 30 Pfg Gray-olive 0.50 8.75

September 17, 1945

95 40 Pfg Lilac-carmine 0.50 0.90

September 17, 1945

96 42 Pfg Light Green 0.50 1.00

September 19, 1945

97 50 Pfg Light Gray 0.40 1.50

September 28, 1945

98 60 Pfg Light Red-brown 0.50 5.25

99 80 Pfg Midnight blue 35.00 105.00

January 21, 1946

100 1 RM Light Olive-gray 5.60 35.00

\*Catalog numbers are from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*.

The values are derived from the *Michel Germany Specialized*, 1993.



Fig. 38 (left). The three printings of the AM POST: Washington Print, left; British, center; and Brunswick, right. Fig. 39 (right). Features of Brunswick Print: right foot of "M" curved and small white triangle in upper right corner of design.

### THE THREE AMG GERMANY ISSUES

Distinguishing the three issues of the German "AM POST" stamps is not difficult (Fig. 38). Those in the perforation range of 14 are from the British printing. Those with perfs in the 11 range and on values not found in the Washington Print are from Brunswick.

For the rest, the right foot of the central "M" provides a clue: On the Brunswick product, the curve of the foot matches that of the oval frame while on the Washington product the curve is somewhat flattened. Finally, there is a white triangle in the upper right corner of the Brunswick stamps just below the value tablet that is lacking on the Washington Print. The Brunswick design is highlighted in Figure 39.

### TRAVEL BOARD FISCAL STAMPS

The "AM POST" stamps became invalid for postal use on October 31, 1946. Many of the original stamps were still on hand, especially the 8 and 12 Pfg. values. In 1947 these two values were overprinted in black for use as passport Travel Permit stamps for travel into and out of

Germany. (Fig. 40) These overprinted stamps were valid for approximately three months after which a new series of stamps was issued for this purpose. While the entire series is included in many AMG collections, only those formed by overprinting the AM POST stamps are listed here.



Fig. 40. 8 Pfg. Washington Print AM POST overprinted for Travel Permit in passport.

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

Overprinted in black:

Military  
Permit  
Office

Fiscal Stamp  
\$ 1

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
<b>February 15, 1947</b>			
TP-1	Overprint \$1 on 8 Pfg	50.00	100.00
TP-2	Overprint \$2 on 12 Pfg	100.00	150.00

Catalog numbers from the *Bush AMG Revenue Catalog*. Values from J.V. Bush, Inc.



Fig. 41. Marginal inscription plate no. block of the AMG Austria "Posthorn" issue.

### THE AMG AUSTRIA ISSUE

The War Department also ordered, and the BEP produced, a series of 17 stamps for use in liberated Austria. Inasmuch as the Austrian postal system had stamps available which were acceptable to the Allies, these AMG stamps were used for regular postage to a limited degree.

In 1946 all but two values of the series were overprinted "PORTO" by the Renner Government in Austria for use as postage dues.

This issue was designed by William K. Schrage and engraved by Edward Helmuth at the BEP in Washington, D.C.

As with the other AMG issues, those for Austria were printed in sheets of 400 subjects for eventual separation into panes of 100. These were single color stamps and each had a marginal inscription in English which was typeset and located in the left hand side of all panes; in the upper margin of the top panes and the lower margin of the bottom panes.

Again these were printed with offset plates and the plate numbers remain visible on the right hand side of the panes following the inscriptions. (Fig. 41)

#### The Plates used were:

46916	1 Groschen
46511	8 Groschen
46500	30 Groschen

46506	3 Groschen
46494	10 Groschen
46501	40 Groschen
46508	4 Groschen
46495	12 Groschen
46505	60 Groschen
46509	5 Groschen
46496	15 Groschen
46512	1 Schilling
46517	5 Groschen
46499	20 Groschen
46513	2 Schillings
46510	6 Groschen
46497	25 Groschen
46514	5 Schillings



Fig. 42. AMG-FTT definitive issue with Rome overprint.

Interestingly, the second plate produced for the 5 groschen was the only plate duplicated. Plate No. 46517 was used for only a bit more than one thousand impressions. It is without doubt the rarest of the AMG plate numbers and indeed one of the least common of all BEP plate numbers. To date, this Plate number has only been seen on the "PORTO" overprinted stamps. It is probable that the stamps from this printing were never issued as regular postage stamps.

As with the other AMG issues, the Austria series was printed in the normal 400 subject sheet and then cut into the four panes of 100.

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

Lithographed Unwatermarked Perforation 11

The printing totals are the BEP production figures. The quantities which were overprinted "PORTO" for each value remain unknown.

THE AUSTRIA ISSUE			
CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
<b>November 20, 1945</b>			
101	1 Gr Aquamarine (quantity uncertain)	0.15	0.20
<b>June 28, 1945</b>			
102	3 Gr Deep Orange (7,220,000)	0.15	0.20
<b>July 15, 1945</b>			
103	4 Gr Buff (5,000,000)	0.15	0.20
<b>June 28, 1945</b>			
104	5 Gr Bright Green (10,100,000)	0.15	0.20
105	6 Gr Red-violet (40,500,000)	0.15	0.20
106	8 Gr Rose-pink (30,440,000)	0.20	0.20
107	10 Gr Light Gray (10,000,000)	0.20	0.20
108	12 Gr Pale Buff-brown (57,960,000)	0.20	0.20
<b>July 15, 1945</b>			
109	15 Gr Rose-red (20,000,00)	0.20	0.20
<b>June 28, 1945</b>			
110	20 Gr Copper Brown (20,130,000)	0.20	0.20
111	25 Gr Deep Blue (20,230,000)	0.20	0.20
112	30 Gr Bright Violet (15,400,000)	0.20	0.20
113	40 Gr Light Ultramarine (10,240,00)	0.20	0.20
114	60 Gr Light Olive-green (10,160,000)	0.20	0.20
<b>August 3, 1945</b>			
115	1 Sh DarkViolet (3,200,000)	0.40	0.20

116 2 Sh Yellow (3,200,000)	0.50	0.60
117 5 Sh Deep Ultramarine (3,200,000)	0.50	0.60

\*The catalog numbers for the Austria issues are taken from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. The values were supplied by J.V. Bush, Inc.

### THE AUSTRIA PORTO ISSUE

PORTO Overprint in Black

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
118	3 Gr Deep Orange	0.20	0.20
119	4 Gr Buff	0.20	0.20
120	5 Gr Bright Green	0.20	0.20
121	6 Gr Red-violet	0.20	0.20
122	8 Gr Rose-pink	0.25	0.25
123	10 Gr Light Gray	0.25	0.25
124	12 Gr Pale Buff-brown	0.25	0.25
125	15 Gr Rose Red	0.30	0.30
126	20 Gr Copper Brown	0.30	0.30
127	25 Gr Deep Blue	0.30	0.30
128	30 Gr Bright Violet	0.30	0.30
129	60Gr Light Olive-green	0.30	0.30
130	1 Sh Dark Violet	0.50	0.50
131	2 Sh Yellow-orange	0.60	0.60
132	5 Sh Deep Ultramarine	0.70	0.70

\*Catalog numbers are from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. Values supplied by J.V. Bush, Inc.



Fig. 43. AMG FTT with "SAGGIO" specimen overprint



Fig. 44. AMG-FTT corner inscription block of five stamps and 4 labels.



Fig. 45. AMG FTT Workers' issue: badly misperforated and overprint inverted.



Fig. 46. AMG FTT high value definitive with doubled overprint.



Fig. 47. AMG FTT with special commemorative overprint inverted.

### THE AMG-FTT

The signing of the peace treaty with Italy in 1947 marked the end of the AMG-VG. However, the city of Trieste and its suburbs remained a point of contention between Italy and Yugoslavia. Therefore it was necessary to continue the military government. And, when the United Nations established the Free Territory of Trieste (FTT) in February of 1947, the AMG-FTT was established.

The Free Territory was divided into two zones: Zone "A" was overseen with 10,000 American and British troops. Zone "B" was occupied by the Yugoslavian forces of Marshal Tito. Trieste enjoyed the privilege of issuing its own postage stamps, which, in Zone A, were overprinted "AMG-FTT".

The AMG-FTT stamps were of Italian issue and were at first overprinted locally in Trieste as those of the AMG-VG had been. Ultimately, the overprinting task was undertaken by the Italian Government Printing Office in Rome.

An interesting and complex collection may be formed with the postal issues from Trieste, Zone A. And while approximately 10% of the Italian issues during those years was overprinted for Trieste, it is surprising that many of the Trieste stamps are far less expensive than their unoverprinted counterparts even though many fewer of them could exist. (Figs. 42-47)

### THE STAMP LISTINGS

This listing is designed primarily to convey the extent of the philatelic involvement that characterized the FTT. The stamps will be listed and priced in sets to make this overview more practical.

\*The catalog numbers are from the *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*. The values are derived from the *Sassone Italy Catalog*, 1993.

CAT No.*	Description	MINT	USED
<b>1947</b>			
1-14	First Definitive Issue	28.00	2.25
<b>1948</b>			
15-18	Supplemental Definitive Vals.	125.00	9.00
18-29	Risorgimento Commem.	78.00	78.00
30-32	Trieste Philatelic Congress	3.25	3.20
33	Bassino Bridge Re-Opening	1.50	1.20
34	Donizetti Commem.	4.00	1.20
<b>1949</b>			
35	1949 Milan Fair	8.50	1.20
36-39	Venice Anniv.	38.00	25.00
40	UPU Commem.	4.50	4.50
41	Roman Republic Centenary	60.00	70.00
42-44	European Reconstruction	7.50	7.00
45	Mazzini Commem.	9.90	3.50
46	Alfieri Commem.	9.90	3.50
47	Trieste Election	4.50	2.50
50	Magnificent Lorenzo	8.25	3.50
51	Palladio Comm.	21.00	15.00
52	1949 Bari Fair	8.50	3.50
53-54	Volta Anniv.	18.25	15.00
55	Holy Trinity Bridge	4.50	2.75
56	Catallus Comm.	4.25	2.75

57	Cimara Comm.	4.50	2.50
58-69	Second Definitive Issue	112.00	16.00
<b>1950</b>			
70	1950 Milan Fair	3.75	1.75
71	Auto Exhibition	2.50	1.50
72-73	UNESCO Conf.	15.00	12.00
74-75	Holy Year	15.00	12.00
76	Ferrari Comm.	4.00	2.25
77-78	International Radio Conference	33.00	33.00
79	Muratoriano	4.75	2.25
80	Guido D'Arezzo	4.00	2.25
81	1950 Bari Fair	3.50	2.25
82-83	Trieste Fair	4.00	2.75
84	Wool Industry	1.50	1.50
85-87	Tobacco Conf.	30.00	30.00
88	Venice Arts	3.75	1.75
89	Righi Commem.	3.25	1.75
90-108	Italy at Work	16.50	9.25
<b>1951</b>			
109-110	Tuscany Centen.	45.00	45.00
111	Auto Exhibition	1.75	1.75
112	Altar of Peace	1.75	1.75
113-114	Milan Fair	6.50	6.50
115-117	Internatl. Gymnastics Fest.	20.00	30.00
118	Textile Expo	1.75	1.75
119	Columbus	3.50	3.50
120-121	Monte Cassino	3.50	3.50
122-124	Trieste Fair	2.50	2.50
125	Peruguino	1.25	1.10
126-127	Milan Art Exh.	4.50	4.50
128	Milan-Varese Bicycle Race	1.50	1.25
129	Bari Fair	1.50	1.25
130	Michetti	1.50	1.25
131-133	Sardinia Cent.	3.25	3.25
134-135	Census Propaganda	2.00	2.00
136-137	Festival of Trees	2.25	2.25
138-140	Verdi	3.75	3.75
<b>1952</b>			
141	Bellini	1.10	0.75
142	Vanvitelli	1.10	0.75
143	Sports Philatelic Exh.	1.10	0.75
144	Milan Fair	2.50	3.00
145	DaVinci	0.35	0.35
146-147	Modena-Parma	1.80	2.00
148	Naples Fair	0.90	0.65
149	Venice Art Exh.	1.00	0.65
150	Padua Fair	0.90	0.65
151	Trieste Fair	0.90	0.65
152	Bari Fair	0.90	0.65
153	Savonarola	0.90	0.65
154	Alpine Troops	0.90	0.65
155	Aeronautics Conf	2.25	3.75
156	Cardinal Massaia	1.10	0.65
157-159	Armed Forces	1.60	1.60
160	Mancini	1.00	0.65
161	Gemito	1.00	0.65
<b>1953</b>			
162	Martyrs of Belfiore	0.90	0.65

163-164	2nd DaVinci Iss.	4.00	3.50
165	Messina Exhib.	0.90	0.65
166	Thousand Mile Auto Race	0.90	0.65
167	Knights of Labor	0.90	0.65
168	Corelli	0.90	0.65
169	St. Clare Assisi	0.90	0.65
170-177	3rd Definitives	33.00	33.00
178-180	Trieste Fair	1.60	1.75
181	Mountain Festival	1.10	0.65
182-183	Argiculture Exh.	1.25	1.25
184-185	NATO Comm.	3.25	3.50
186	Signorelli	0.90	0.65
187	Bassi	1.00	0.65
<b>1954</b>			
188-193	Tourist Issue	2.25	2.50
194-195	Lateran Pact	1.20	1.50
196-197	Television	1.25	1.50
198	Tax Appeal	1.00	0.50
199	Helicopter	0.90	0.65
200	Resistance Comm	0.90	0.65
201	Catalani Comm	0.90	0.65
202-203	Marco Polo	1.25	1.50
204-205	Trieste Fair	1.25	1.50
206	Touring Club	0.90	0.65
207-208	Interpol Conf.	0.90	0.90

#### AIR MAIL ISSUES

<b>1947</b>			
1-6	First Air Mails	13.25	7.50
7-11	Radio Congress	13.25	10.00
<b>1948</b>			
13-15	High Value Airs	87.50	37.50
16	1000L Air Mail	145.00	175.00
17-19	Trieste Philatelic Congress Issue	2.50	2.50
<b>1949-52</b>			
20-26	2nd Air Mails	45.00	45.00

#### AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

<b>1947</b>			
1	151 Dk. Carmine	0.35	0.35
2	25L Brt. Red Orange	20.00	5.75
<b>1948</b>			
3	30L Deep Violet	5.50	6.00
4	60L Carm-Rose	12.50	10.00
5	35L Violet: Battle of Naples	4.00	4.50
<b>1950</b>			
6	60L Carm-Rose	1.75	1.25
<b>1952</b>			
7	50L Lilac-Rose	1.75	1.25

We trust that this introduction to the AMG stamps of post-war Europe has proven of interest. Collecting the issues for these temporary United States military possessions can provide a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction in amassing the issues and their variations as well as the acquisition of philatelic and historic knowledge in the process.

**Bibliography:** BEP Goes to War, *The American Philatelist*, November 1990; *Bush AMG Catalog-Handbook*; *Bush TRIESTE Catalog-Handbook*; *Bush AMG Revenue Catalog-Handbook*; *MICHEL Deutschland-Spezial Catalog*; *POSSESSIONS*, Journal of the U.S. Possessions Philatelic Society; *SASSONE Italy Catalogue*; *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*.