

Browsing the Web: **Touring A Unified Italy, Part 3**

by John F. Dunn

We left off last month on our tour of Italy—commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy—with a few breathtaking views of Tuscany.

As we continue heading south, I reproduce again the map used in Parts 1 and 2 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 Parts 1 and 2.)

Picking up where we left off—now in Central Italy—we next come to the Roman States, also known as the Papal States.

Quoting again from a great site for Italian history, <http://www.antichistati.com/1024/master/masteren.htm>, “...In 1866 Otto von Bismarck, Minister President of Prussia offered Victor Emmanuel II an alliance with the Kingdom of Prussia in the Austro-Prussian War. In exchange Prussia would allow Italy to annex Austrian-controlled Venice....The one major obstacle to Italian unity remained Rome.

“In 1870, Prussia went to war with France starting the Franco-Prussian War. To keep the large Prussian Army





Italy Sc. 1019, 100th anniversary of Union of Roman States with Italy.



The Vittoriano in Rome, honoring King Victor Emmanuel and celebrating the unity of Italy. The decision to build it was reached in 1878, shortly after the king's death that year.

at bay, France abandoned its positions in Rome—which protected the remnants of the Papal States

and Pius IX...Italy benefited...by being able to take over the Papal States from French authority...Italian unification was completed, and shortly afterward Italy's capital was moved to Rome....

“Following the capture of Rome in 1870 from French forces of Napoleon III, Papal troops, and Papal Zouaves, relations between Italy and the Vatican remained sour for the next sixty years with the Popes declaring themselves to be prisoners in the Vatican.... It would not be until 1929, that positive relations would be restored between the Kingdom of Italy and the Vatican after the signing of the Lateran Pacts.”

Also as a refresher, here is a brief chronology by *Mekeel's & Stamps* correspondent Christer Brunström of the stamps issued during this era:

“The Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia was the first Italian country to release stamps in 1850. Then followed the Kingdom of Sardinia and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in 1851. The Roman States, Modena and Parma followed suit in 1852. Sicily and Romagna released their first stamps in 1859. Beginning in 1861, the Kingdom of Italy was the only issuer of stamps on the peninsula except for the Roman States and Austrian occupied Venetia.”

The Scott catalogue calls this stamp-issuing entity the Roman States; our map on page 22 identifies the region

as the Papal States. If you want to draw one, the distinction is that the area controlled by the Popes was only a portion of the region in which the Roman States stamps could be used.



This cover bears a Roman States 1863 4b black on yellow, Sc. 5a, in combination with two 10c Italy Postage Dues. The 1866 cover was sent first from Rome (20 OTT. 66 cds) to Firenze, then forwarded to Cesena with the Italy Dues applied in transit. The cover shows the continued use of Roman States stamps after Italy began issuing stamps in 1861.

However, as you can see on Roman States Scott 1, the stamps portray the Papal Arms.



Roman States Sc. 1

centers and their many attractions are depicted on numerous stamps.

Rome and the Vatican are tourist centers



St. Peter's Square as seen in a recent photo from the cathedral of St. Peter in the Vatican; and on a 1961 maxicard facing the cathedral. The stamp, Sc. 765, shows the dome of the cathedral and the tower of the Lateran Palace.





A 2009 postal card commemorating the International Philatelic Festival and showing the Roman Coliseum.

We conclude this Tour of Unified Italy with the Two Sicilies, which consisted of Naples and Sicily.



Left, the 1858 Arms of Two Sicilies 1/2 grana rose, Sc. 1; right, another example tied to a September 1860 newspaper, "L'Omnibus", that contains a detailed chronicle of the entry of Garibaldi into Naples.



Left, a cover with a tri-color franking, the 1859 1gr clear olive brown, 2gr bright blue and 5gr rose, Sc. 2-4. The stamps are tied to an insured letter from Messina to Girgenti by the laurel wreath cancel that was designed so that Ferdinand II's image would not be defaced, also shown on Sc. 2935, a 2009 stamp for the 150th anniversary of its issuance, picturing Sicily Sc. 1

Naples and Sicily not only share a philatelic and historical connection, but also have the unenviable distinction of having destructive volcanoes nearby.

For Naples, it is Mt. Vesuvius, whose eruption in AD 79 led to the burying and destruction of the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

In Sicily Mt. Etna devastated southeast Sicily, including the town of Catania in 1693. Still one of the most active volcanoes in the world, its most recent eruption was in January 2011.



A 1993 maxicard picturing the Bay of Naples and a smoldering Mt. Vesuvius. The stamp, Sc. 1949, was part of a set noting the 50th anniversary of the events of World War II in 1943.



*Left, a night time photo of the 2011 eruption;
Right, the city of Catania with Mt. Etna in the distance*

Because of its location in the Mediterranean Sea, Sicily's architecture still shows traces of a diverse history. The Normans were one of Europe's strongest military powers and it is well known that they conquered England, but less well known is that they also took Sicily. On page 27 we see a mountain top fortress at Erice that traces back to the 12th and 13th Centuries.

For Greek influence, we can visit the ancient town of



Left, the fortress at Erice; right a 5th century BC Greek Temple, in Agrigento, Sicily, also seen on Italy Sc. 1522, part of a 1982 Tourism series.

Agrigento, on the south coast of Sicily. The town's main tourist attraction is the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, described as "one of the greatest legacies of ancient Greece." The well-preserved Doric temples date back to the fifth and sixth centuries BC and are what remains of the Greek city of Akragas.



A Sicilian cart panel pictures Garibaldi battling French forces on Sicily.

Sicily also fit into the history of Italian Unification when, in May 1860, Giuseppe Garibaldi and his followers sailed towards the is-



Italy Sc. 796-98, for the centenary of the liberation of Sicily, show Garibaldi's Proclamation to the Sicilians, Garibaldi meeting with King Victor Emmanuel, and volunteers departing from Genoa.

land of Sicily. In what is known as The Expedition of the Thousand, they quickly took control and Garibaldi was proclaimed "dictator" of Sicily.

On October 26, 1861 he met King Victor Emmanuel, resigned his dictatorship and handed the administration over to the King.

And this takes me back to my introduction to this three part series. Through my cousin Catherine and my brother William, I learned that our family came from the town of Mezzojuso, Sicily, which played a role, albeit a minor one in Garibaldi's Sicilian adventures. A search of the web shows that on December 19, 1856, the Italian revolutionary, Franciso Bentivegna, was shot and killed in Mezzojuso. Bentivegna was one of numerous Sicilians killed by the forces of the Two Sicilies, actions that led to the eventual liberation of Sicily by Garibaldi and his being welcomed with open arms by the Sicilians.

And while I did not discover any military actions there in 1860, I did determine that Garibaldi visited Mezzojuso from August 2-4, 1862.



The town of Mezzojuso is located a bit over 50 miles from Agrigento, described on page 27. Shown here is a view of the town and the church at its center.



And below we see a plaque dedicated to the visit of Giuseppe Garibaldi in 1862.



And so we complete a Tour of Unified Italy that began in Lombardy-Venetia in the north and concluded in Sicily off the southwest coast—at “the toe of the boot.” To bring it all together, we reproduce here the 1985 Rome World Philatelic Exposition sheet of nine stamps, Sc. 1651, depicting stamps of each of the eight Italian States plus Lombardy-Venetia.



Sc. 1651a-i, left to right, top row first (with the scene described in parentheses): Parma Sc. 10 (Parma); Two Sicilies/Naples Sc. 3 (Naples); Two Sicilies/Sicily Sc. 10 (Palermo); Modena Sc. 3 (Modena); Roman States Sc. 8 (Rome); Tuscany Sc. 5 (Florence); Sardinia Sc. 15 (Turin); Romagna Sc. 7 (Bologna); and Lombardy-Venetia Sc. 4 (Milan).