ITALIAN PERFINS

It is well known that the term “PERFIN” is the abbreviation of the words PERForated INitials (or INsignia), that is to say stamps being perforated with different patterns (letters, numbers, monograms, designs).

In Italy the different patterns discovered so far are about one thousand. This exhibit shows a selection of documents really gone through the mail, franked with some of these patterns.

EXHIBIT PLAN

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ITALIAN PERFINS

Trade perforations on Italian stamps

The idea of perforating stamps with a firm’s initials or insignia with the double aim of better personalizing correspondence and discouraging any possible theft or misuse, came from Great Britain where stamps were first adopted and where it was accepted that they could be perfumed by private companies or persons.

In 1868, Mr. Slopé obtained the licence for the exclusive use of his universal punching machine which he had patented in 1858. He was then able to profit from his invention up to 1872, when the patent expired.

In Italy such procedure was authorized starting in year 1882, following the request of some interested companies, but the need of any license was abolished with a law of 1889 that approved the new postal regulations and, with the exception of an interruption during World War Two, the possibility of perforating the stamps has never been abolished.

To this purpose it must be said that the perforating operation was usually performed with manual punching machines, by folding the stamps sheet or block like an accordion, and inserting them under the punching head, made of numerous punching pins arranged in such a way to form an initial. By applying a force on the puncher lever, the needles lowered until they entered into the holes, punching in this way the paper and removing the tiny confetti.

By folding the sheet like an accordion, the perfins obtained simultaneously at every transfer under the punching machine, resulted half straight and half upside-down or specular, depending upon the horizontal or vertical folding of the stamps sheet and the direction of introduction into the equipment.

How this worked, can be seen from an example below (block of fifteen 10 lira stamps of the Floral issue). This shows the perforation C & M of the import company Calame & Matthey of Genoa, which it used between 1904 and 1928 to mark its stamps. In this case a sheet of one hundred stamps, from which comes the block in question, was progressively folded horizontally every two stamps, and introduced from the folded side under a double headed perforator, which carried out simultaneously two both right and mirrored perforations on the underlying stamps.

The second step was to make a second folding at a distance of two columns, repeating the previous operation, always introducing the sheet into the punching machine from the folded side. This folding and perforating process was repeated a third and a fourth time, always excluding the stamps already perforated. At this point only the first and last column of the sheet needed to be perforated, and the operation could be made separately from the sheet, or the stamps could be folded at the midpoint of the sheet, introducing the two margins, laid one upon the other, under the punching head.

Before performing this last step, usually the white edges of the sheet were eliminated, as they would have not allowed the punch to align correctly. Sometimes the margins themselves were folded and perforated; sometimes the operation was not carried out, and on other occasions the margins were perforated twice. And so, we have examples of stamps without perforation being used together with stamps having single or double perforation.

The exhibit shows some of these cases, and demonstrates the widespread use of the system, used for a century by many banks, and by large and small companies throughout the country, leaving a lasting mark in the Italian stamp collecting area.

Unusual block of fifteen 10 lira stamps of the Floral issue used in Genoa on November 2, 1916 probably to pay some telegraphic rate. Is is the highest perfins’ postage of the period known to date.
MARGIN OF THE SHEET OF STAMP PERFORATED

Credito Italiano
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1907 - 1958
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 15
24 holes

1928. Perforation on a 10 cents “Leoni” stamp, printed matter rate
from Genoa to the town itself
(position CS)

This is an unusual case, because the margin of the pane of stamps
was not removed as usual during the perforation operations; and
therefore the perfin has the perfinned margin
of the sheet still attached
Pagano Francesco di F.sco - Anglo American Stores
Taormina (Messina)
only one specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 9 x 14
27 holes

1907. Perforation on a 10 cents “Floral” stamp, domestic postcard rate,
from Taormina to Turin
(position N)

Unusual case of a stamp perforated after being
applied on the postcard
(also the card under the stamp is perforated).
The only document so far known in such condition
THE “FRANCALETTERE”

Among the older Italian perforations, the so called “Francalettere” are stamps originally glued on special advertising lettercards produced and sold at a reduced price relative to the stamp’s actual value, by the firm “La Francalettere” - Leghorn. The selling price, is indicated by the perforation C1 on the 2 cents, C4 on the 5 cents, and C18 on the 20 cents stamps, as the lettercards were sold at just 1 cent, 4 cents or 18 cents respectively. Of course, the stamps still maintained their original franking value.

With the Royal Decree n. 6152 dated June 20, 1889 approving the new postal rules, it was definitively sanctioned with the article 32 the right to perforate one’s stamp with initials and numbers:

Art. 32.

The stamps must be used in the same conditions as the ones of origin. They can be perforated with the sender’s initials, or with certain numbers not exceeding in dimensions the third of the stamp’s area. Not acceptable are stamps with missing parts exceeding the tenth the dimensions of the stamp itself, or composed with several assembled parts.

Moreover, stained stamps or stamps spread with any substance are not allowed.

Starting in 1889 the number of the perfins’ users multiply, and this collection aims to give a demonstration of the capillary diffusion of this protective and refined system, adopted during at least a century for the commercial mail.
In Italy, the General Post Office Department allowed the use of perforated stamps by a resolution issued on the 1882 Bulletin n. 2 - Paragraph 34, but the official general authorization was granted by a law only in 1889. It is interesting to read the text of the said Postal Bulletin concerning the usage of perfins for the first time in Italy:

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Perforated stamps.

The General Post Office Department has received the request from a commercial firm to authorize the firm itself to frank their mail with stamps perfinned with the sender's initials.

The Department, in consideration that similar stamps are already allowed by several foreign postal administrations, and that such permission has generated so far no inconvenience, has decided to grant the use of perforated stamps, under the condition that the holes should not be larger than a pinhole and that the initials dimensions should not exceed the third of the stamp's area.

The name of the applicant firm is not known, but to date we know three different perfins coming from the early period. These should be considered the incunabula of the Italian perfins and are the following:

G - UGC - SSJ
Cadeo (Piacenza)
the only one perfin so far known dated 1882
dimensions mm. 10 x 8.5
12 holes

1882. Perforation on a 2 cents “General 1863 issue (De La Rue)” stamp
Cadeo municipality form sent on April 25, 1882
from Fiorenzuola d’Arda (Piacenza) to Cortemaggiore (Piacenza).
Domestic printed matter rate
(position N)

The stamp is perforated with a G, probable initial of Mr. Ghelfi, the
document signer. This municipality manager could have been also
the owner of a firm bearing the same name “Ghelfi” and could have
occasionally used one of his own perfins.

It is the oldest example of a perfin used in Italy and the only one
known so far with this pattern
Since the end of 1883 there is evidence of the use of the perfin UGC, belonging to the firm Ulrico Geisser & C. in Turin.

Ulrico Geisser & C. - General of Consul Switzerland Turin
perforation known in the period 1883 - 1900
dimensions mm. 7 x 16.5
28 holes

1887. Perforation on a 50 cents and 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps, domestic rate for a two postage registered letter from Turin to Vercelli (positions N - BS)
In 1885 also the firm Siegmund Strauss Junior of Milan used its own perfins.

Siegmund Strauss Jr.
Milan
perforation known in the period 1885 - 1912
dimensions mm. 6.5 x 17
42 holes

1900. Perforation on a 10 cents "Humbert the 1\textsuperscript{st} effigy" stamp,
domestic postcard rate from Milan to Palermo
(position NS)
In 1885 many banks started to use perfins and become later the most important users for of perforated stamps, for a long time.

Banca Nazionale (Banca Nazionale Toscana)
Rome
perforation known in the period 1885 - 1901
dimensions mm. $9 \times 14.5$
38 holes

1885. Perforation on a 1 cent “General 1863 issue - London (De La Rue) printing” stamp + a second identical stamp not perforated for a total of 2 cents, first step domestic printed matter rate, from Rome to Genoa (position C)

“Banca Nazionale” in Rome was the first user of perfins among all the Italian banks.
In Italy no public office had ever the opportunity to use perfins to take precautions against stamps’ pilfering. However the problem where existed as it can be evinced from the document below:

The stamp used to frank this document, sent on the 20th July 1893 from Catanzaro to the Mayor of Motta S. Lucia (Catanzaro) has been intentionally killed with the official marking of the “Intendenza di Finanza” of Catanzaro, sender of the letter, probably to take precautions against the removal of the stamp before its postmarking (which appears close to the said marking).
PERFORATIONS’ POSITION PLAN

Each pattern could be found placed in eight different positions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Normal</td>
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<tr>
<td>NS</td>
<td>Inverted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Upside down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>Inverted upside down</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Vertical towards the high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS</td>
<td>Inverted vertical towards the top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Vertical towards the bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS</td>
<td>Inverted vertical towards the bottom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Diagram showing different perforation patterns]
POSTAL DOCUMENTS FRANKED WITH COUPLES, STRIPS AND BLOCKS OF STAMPS BEARING PERFORATIONS PLACED IN VARIOUS POSITION

Gelmi Heer
bookbinder and typolithography supplier
Milan
perforation known in the period 1903 - 1910
dimensions mm. 8 x 16
40 holes

1904. Perforation on 2 x 5 cents “Floral” stamps,
foreign postcard rate from Milan to London
(positions NS+N)
POSTAL DOCUMENTS FRANKED WITH COUPLES, STRIPS AND BLOCKS OF STAMPS BEARING PERFORATIONS PLACED IN VARIOUS POSITION

Società Editrice “Unitas”
Milan
perforation known in the period 1925 - 1927
dimensions mm. 6,5 x 19,5
32 holes

1925. Perforation on 4 x 5 cents “Leoni” stamps + two additional 20 cents not perforated “Michetti” stamps, domestic letter rate from Milan to Angera (Como) (positions B+BS - BS+B)
POSTAL DOCUMENTS FRANKED WITH COUPLES, STRIPS AND BLOCKS OF STAMPS BEARING PERFORATIONS PLACED IN VARIOUS POSITION

Banca Mobiliare
Joint-stock company - Fiume
perforation known in the period 1924 - 1938
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 14
34 holes

1925. Perforation on 8 x 5 cents “Leoni” stamps + one additional 60 cents “Michetti” stamp, foreign letter rate from Fiume to Zurich (Switzerland)
(positions N - N+NS)
DIFFERENT PERFINS USED TOGETHER

Unione Cooperativa S.A. - Milan
perforation known in the period 1907 - 1916
dimensions mm. 15 x 15
32 holes

Unione Cooperativa S.A. - Milan
perforation known in 1907 only
dimensions mm. 9 x 10
38 holes

1907. Perforation on a 10 cents and 5 cents “Leoni” stamps, domestic letter rate from Milan to Ragusa
(10 c. position NS - 5 c. position CS)

This exceptional document is franked with two stamps, each bearing a different perforation of the same company. The perforation made on the 10c stamp has been recently discovered and it is about one half the dimensions of the other well known pattern
1919. Perforation on a 20 cents "Victor Emmanuel the 3rd" stamp overprinted "Venezia Giulia" and a 5 cents "Leoni" stamp overprinted "5 Centesimi di corona", foreign letter rate from Trieste to Zurich (Switzerland) (positions N - CS)

It is the only document so far known bearing two perfins of different issues of Venezia Giulia and Trieste used together
Moritz Tiller
Triest
perforation known in the period 1918 - 1922
dimensions mm. 8 x 14,5
38 holes

1918. Perforation on a 20 cents “Victor Emmanuel the 3rd effigy”
stamp overprinted “Venezia Giulia”, inland letter rate, from Triest to La Spezia
(position A)
Moritz Tiller & C.
Zara
perforation known in the period 1913-1922
dimensions mm. 8 x 13
38 holes

1922. Perforation on a 25 cents “Michetti” stamp, domestic postcard rate from Zara to Trieste
(position N)
Banca Nazionale
Rome
perforation known in the period 1888 - 1901
dimensions mm. 9 x 14,5
38 holes

1890. Perforation on a 2 cents
“General 1863 issue - (De La Rue)” stamp,
business card rate within the city, in this case Rome
(position N)
Carlo Belloni
Typo-lithographic Steam Printing Works
Milan
perforation known in the period 1889-1903
dimensions mm. 8.5 x 14
30 holes

1893. Perforation on a 2 cents “General 1863 issue” stamp, domestic printed matter rate from Milan to Capriata d’Orba (AL)
(position N)
Fonderie Acciaierie Terni
Società degli Alti Forni, Fonderie ed Acciaierie di Terni
perforation known in the period 1887 - 1908
dimensions mm. 9 x 18
25 holes

1895. Incomplete perforation on 3 x 2 cents “General 1863 issue - London (De La Rue) printing”, domestic printed matter rate for three postages from Terni to a destination in Italy (position B)
Credito Mobiliare Italiano
Rome
perforation known in the period 1892 - 1893
dimensions mm. 8 x 16
47 holes

1892. Perforation on 2 x 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps + 45 cents
not perforated stamp,
domestic rate for a two postages registered letter from Rome to Milan
(position B)
Pilade Pollazzi - owner of “Scena Illustrata”
Literature and arts journal - Florence
perforation known in the period 1893 - 1931
dimensions mm. 6 x 12
27 holes

1893. Perforation on a 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic letter rate from Florence to Avenza (Massa Carrara)
(position N)
Banco di Sicilia
Messina
*only one specimen known so far of this pattern*
dimensions mm. 6,5 x 9
21 holes

1895. Perforation on a 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic letter rate from Messina to Nicosia (Enna)
(position N)
Poli Odoardo
Parma
only one specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 8.5 x 12
21 holes

1892. Perforation on 2 x 20 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamps
(one not perforated)
and a 5 cents "Savoy coat-of-arms" stamp, domestic registered letter rate
from Parma to Milan
(positions N - B)
Marstaller Hausmann & C.
Bari
perforation known in the period 1886-1911
dimensions mm. 7 x 17
37 holes

1891. Perforation on a 25 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp + 5 cents “Savoy coat-of-arms” stamp, registered printed matter foreign rate from Bari to Strassburg (Germany) (position B)
E. Stoine
Creva/Luino (Varese)
perforation known in the period 1893 - 1927
dimensions mm. 9 x 15
30 holes

1893. Perforation on a 25 cents and inclined perforation on a 20 cents
“Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps, domestic registered letter rate
from Creva/Luino (Varese) to Milan
(positions NS - N)
A. Costa
Lecce
only one specimen known so far of this pattern
dimensions mm. 9 x 12
24 holes

1892. Perforation on a 25 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamp + 20 cents not perforated stamp, domestic registered letter rate from Lecce to Milan (position B)
Fonderie Acciaierie Terni
Blast-furnaces, Castings and Steel-mills co. in - Terni
perforation known in the period 1887 - 1908
dimensions mm. 9 x 18
25 holes

1887. Perforation on a 25 and 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps,
registered letter rate to the country town itself
(positions A - B)

One of the few documents so far known with the full
perforation, as on later specimens the four lowest holes are missing
Pietro Miliani
Fabbriche carta a mano
Fabriano (AN)
perforation known in the period 1889 - 1916
dimensions mm. 13 x 8
41 holes

1890. Perforation on 25 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
foreign letter rate from Fabriano to Malta
(position CS)
1887. Perforation on a 50 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamp, domestic registered letter rate from Turin to Vercelli (position BS)
Banca Nazionale
Rome
perforation known in the period 1888 - 1901
dimensions mm. 9 x 14.5
38 holes

1896. Perforation on a 40 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic rate for a letter of two postages from Rome to Verona
(position N)
1893. Perforation on a 40 cents + 3 × 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps and on a 5 cents “Savoy coat-of-arms” stamp, domestic rate for a four postages registered letter from Rome to Milan (positions NS - B - CS - N)
1901. Perforation on a 40 and 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps, foreign rate for a letter of two postages from Milan to Lausanne (Switzerland) (position N)
1893. Perforation on a 45 cents and a 40 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp, domestic rate for a three postages registered letter from Milan to Rocchette Piovene (VI) (positions NS - N)
Credito Mobiliare Italiano
Rome
perforation known in the period 1892 - 1893
dimensions mm. 8 × 16
47 holes

1892. Perforation on a 45 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp and
a 5 cents, domestic rate for a registered letter from Rome to Milan
(position AS)
Marstaller Hausmann & C.
Bari
perforation known in the period 1889 - 1911
dimensions mm. 7 x 18
37 holes

1893. Perforation on a 45 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic rate for a registered letter from Bari to Milan
(position B)
1892. Perforation on a 45 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp, domestic rate for a registered letter from Venice to Milan (position N)
Banca Unione Italiana
Società Generale di Credito Mobiliare Italiano
Milan
perforation known in the period 1889 - 1896
dimensions mm. 16,5 × 16
44 holes

1893. Perforation on a 45 and 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamps, domestic rate for two postages registered letter from Milan to Rocchette Piovene (Vicenza) (positions NS - N)
Banca Generale
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1888 - 1894
dimensions mm. 7 x 14
29 holes

1893. Perforation on three 45 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy”
stamp and two 5 cents “Savoy coat-of-arms”, domestic rate for a sixth
postages registered letter from Genoa to Milan
(positions NS - N)
Banca Nazionale
Rome
perforation known in the period 1888 - 1901
dimensions mm. 9 x 14.5
38 holes

1899. Perforation on a 60 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp and one 5 cents
“Savoy coat-of-arms” stamp, domestic rate for two postages registered letter
from Rome to Pisa
(positions N - CS)
Banca Nazionale (after Banca d'Italia)
Rome
perforation known in the period 1885-1901
dimensions mm. 9 x 14.5
38 holes

1898. Perforation on a 60 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp + 5 cents “Savoy coat-of-arms” stamp, domestic rate for two postages registered letter from Rome to Barge (CN)
(positions N - CS)
Banca Generale
Rome
perforation known in the period 1888 - 1894
dimensions mm. 7 × 14
29 holes

1 lira

1892. Perforation on 1 lira “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp + a 5 cents
not perforated stamp, domestic rate for four postages registered letter rate
from Rome to Milan
(position C)
Banca Generale
Rome
perforation known in the period 1888 - 1894
dimensions mm. 7 x 14
29 holes

1 lira

1892. Perforation on 1 lira "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamp + a 25 cents not perforated stamp, domestic rate for a five postages registered letter from Rome to Milan
(position C)
User unknown
Mirano (Venice)
only specimen known so far of this pattern
dimensions mm. 9 x 14
24 holes

1890. Perforation on a 20/30 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamp, domestic rate for a letter from Mirano (Venice) to Mantua (position NS)
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Milan
perforation known in the period 1893 - 1946
dimensions mm. 17 x 14.5
40 holes

1895. Displaced perforation on a 5 cents “Savoy coat-of-arms” stamp,
foreign printed matter rate from Milan to Bâle (Switzerland)
(position CS)
Calame & Cortese
Groceries and Metals agents
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1891 - 1908
dimensions mm. 6 x 18
35 holes

1900. Perforation on a 10 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamp, domestic postcard rate from Genoa to Turin (position BS)
Marstaller Hausmann & C.
Bari
perforation known in the period 1889 - 1911
dimensions mm. 7 x 18
37 holes

1899. Perforation on a 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
foreign postcard rate from Bari to Trieste
(position A)
Carlo Naef
Machines and tools for metals' manufacture
Milan
perforation known in the period 1896 - 1914
dimensions mm. 6 x 12
21 holes

1901. Perforation on a 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic postcard rate from Milan to Venice
(position C)
Figli Charvet
Pit-coals, Coke-coal, Anthracite and Briquettes
Turin
perforation known in the period 1899 - 1910
dimensions mm. 13.5 x 9
28 holes

1899. Perforation on 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic postcard rate from Turin to Oulx (Turin)
(position A)
Arthur Oulmann & C.
Naples
perforation known in the period 1897 - 1903
dimensions mm. 12 x 12
45 holes

1897. Perforation on a 10 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamp,
foreign postcard rate from Naples to Prague (Austria)
(position A)
Cucirini yarns Italian mills
Lucca
only one specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 5 x 6.5
12 holes

1899. Perforation on a 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic postcard rate from Giannotti (Lucca) to Sestri Levante (Genova)
(position CS)
Filippo Tassara & Figli (later Ferriere di Voltri) Voltri (Genoa) only one specimen so far known of this pattern dimensions mm. 6 x 13.5 23 holes

1898. Perforation on a 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp, domestic postcard rate from Voltri (Genoa) to Casale Monferrato (Alessandria) (position N)
Migone & C.
Milan
only specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 8.5 x 15.5
48 holes

1900. Perforation on a 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic letter rate from Rome to Florence
(position C)
Angelo Migone & C. - Cosmetics
Milan
perforation known in the period 1895 - 1931
dimensions mm. 7 x 17
49 holes

1901. Perforation on a 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic letter rate from Milan to Savona
(position NS)
Gio. & F.lli Buitoni - Pasta factory
Sansepolcro (Arezzo)
perforation known in the period 1898 - 1926
dimensions mm. 7,5 x 17
55 holes

1901. Perforation on a 20 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” stamp,
domestic letter rate from Sansepolcro (Arezzo) to S. Angelo in Vado (Pesaro)
(position N)
Fischer & Rechsteiner - Forwarding agent
Luino (Varese)
perforation known in the period 1894 - 1907
dimensions mm. 7 x 15
33 holes

1898. Perforation on a 10 + a 25 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamps,
foreign registered postcard rate from Luino (Varese) to Winterthur (Switzerland)
(positions CS - N)
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1896 - 1912
dimensions mm. 14,5 x 16,5
39 holes

1899. Perforation on 2 x 25 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy" stamps,
foreign letter rate for two postages from Genoa to Eschwege (Prussia)
(position C)
Carlo Belloni
Typo-lithographic Steam Printing Works
Milan
perforation known in the period 1889-1903
dimensions mm. 8.5 x 14
30 holes

1900. Perforation on a 2 cents and 1 cents "Savoy coats-of-arms" stamp, domestic printed matter rate from Milan to Paris (France)
(positions BS - CS - AS - A)
Pilade Pollazzi
Owner of “Scena Illustrata” - Literature and arts journal
Florence
perforation known in the period 1893 - 1931
dimensions mm. 6 x 12
27 holes

1901. Perforation on 5 x 2 cents “Savoy coats-of-arms” stamps,
domestic postcard rate from Florence to Aosta
(position N)
Lega Industriale Italiana
Florence
Perforation known in the period 1899 - 1901
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 14.5
47 holes

1899. Perforation on a 5 cents “Savoy coats-of-arms” stamp,
foreign printed matter rate from Florence to Görlitz (Germany)
(position N)
Francesco Parisi  
Forwarding agent  
Milan  
only specimen so far known of this pattern  
dimensions mm. 8.5 x 14  
26 holes

1901. Perforation on 2 x 5 cents “Savoy coats-of-arms” stamps,  
domestic postcard rate from Busto Arsizio (Milan) to Galliate (Novara)  
(positions A+BS)
1919. Perforation on 1 cent "Floral" stamp, special reduced inland editors rate from Rome to Treviso (position CS)
Corsini & Meriggiani
Lead pipes, bullets and different goods manufactory
Bologna
perforation known in the period 1903 - 1940
dimensions mm. 5.5 x 17
40 holes

1905. Perforation on 5 x 2 cents “Floral” stamps, domestic postcard rate from Bologna to Recanati (Macerata) (position N)
1917. Perforation on a 2 cents “Floral” stamp, domestic printed matter rate from Maglie (LE) to Cesaro (LE) (position BS)
Enrico Koelliker & C.
Manufacture of pumps & sanitary fittings - washing machines
Bovisa (MI)
perforation known in the period 1908 - 1912
dimensions mm. 11 x 19.5
49 holes

OMAGGIO della CASA
Enrico Koelliker & C.

COSTRUZIONI POMPE
e IMPIANTI D'IGIENE - LAVANDERIE
BOVISA presso MILANO

STAMPATI URGENTI
Sezione IMPIANTI LAVANDERIE

Signor
Gastov D’Aleva

Cesarea

1912. Perforation on a 2 cents “Floral” stamp,
first step domestic printed matter rate from Bovisa (MI) to Ceserara (MN)
(position B)
Legler Hefti & C.
Ponte S. Pietro (Bergamo)
perforation known in 1912 only
dimensions mm. 7 x 15.5
53 holes

1912. Perforation on a 2 cents “Floral” stamp,
domestic printed matter rate from Ponte S. Pietro (Bergamo) to Bergamo
(position BS)
A. Bertelli & C.
Chemical & Pharmaceutics products
Milan
perforation known in the period 1902 - 1912
dimensions mm. 7 x 21,5
49 holes

1905. Perforation on a 5 cents “Floral” stamps,
foreign printed matter rate from Milan to Buenos Ayres (Argentina)
(position AS)
Giovanni Ciappi - Florence

perforation known in 1906 only

dimensions mm. 14.5 x 14

41 holes

1906. Perforation on a 10 cents “Floral” stamp,
domestic postcard rate from Florence to Santa Croce sull’Arno (Pisa)
(position N)
Cartiera Rossi Milano/Perale
Unione Cooperativa di Consumo
Perale (Vicenza)
perforation known in the period 1907 - 1912
dimensions mm. 17 x 17
60 holes

1907. Perforation on a 10 cents “Floral” stamp,
domestic postcard rate from Perale (Vicenza) to Turin
(position AS)
T.C.I. Consolato di Palazzolo Acreide
(Console in carica G. Judica dei Baroni Bauli)
Syracuse
**perforation known in 1904 only**
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 8.5
17 holes

1904. Perforation on a 20 cents “Floral” stamp, domestic letter rate from Palazzolo Acreide (Syracuse) to Catania (position N)
Riccardo Jona
Commissions and shipments
Ancona
perforation known in the period 1889-1902
dimensions mm. 8 x 15
34 holes

1901. Perforation on a 20 cents “Floral” stamp, domestic letter rate from Ancona to San Ginesio (MC)
(position A)
Pirelli & C.
Gum and gutta-percha manufacture
Milan
perforation known in the period 1897 - 1922
dimensions mm. 10.5 x 16
41 holes

1906. 1,75 lira postal stationery parcel post despatch card from Milan to Sofia (Bulgaria) with two additional stamps to cover the foreign rate of 2,50 lira available for a parcel exceeding 3 Kg.
Only the 25 cents "Floral" stamp is a perfinned specimen (position B)
Credito Italiano
Naples
perforation known in the period 1906 - 1932
dimensions mm. 9 x 14,5
21 holes

1906. Perforation on a 40 cents “Floral” stamp,
domestic rate for a registered letter from Naples to Amantea (Cosenza)
(position A)
1908. 1.75 lira postal stationery parcel post despatch card from Milan to Sofia (Bulgaria) with three additional stamps to cover the foreign rate for a total of 2.50 lira available for a parcel exceeding 3 Kg.
The 45 cents and 25 cents “Floral” stamps are perfinned specimens (positions B - CS)

F.A. Seiler
Cloths trade
Milan
perforation known in the period 1905 - 1911
dimensions mm. 7 x 16
44 holes
1906. Perforation on a 50 cents “Floral” stamp, foreign rate for a registered letter from Genoa to Corfù (Greece) (position B)
Società Nazionale di Trasporti F.lli Gondrand
Milan
perforation known in the period 1901 - 1924
dimensions mm. 10,5 × 15,5
29 holes

1903. Perforation on a 50 cents and a 25 cents “Floral” stamps,
foreign letter of three postages from Milan to Berlin (Germany)
(positions A - AS)
Credito Italiano
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1908 - 1931
dimensions mm. 11 x 15
23 holes

1908. Perforation on a 50 cents “Floral” stamp,
foreign registered letter rate from Genoa to Paris (France)
(position N)
Fratelli Gondrand
Società Nazionale di Trasporti F.l.li Gondrand
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1901 - 1950
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 15
39 holes

1906. Perforation on 4 x 50 cents + 25 cents “Floral” stamps,
foreign rate for eight postages registered letter from Genoa to Paris (France)
(positions B - BS)
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1907-1895
dimensions mm. 4.5 x 13
32 holes

1.0.8
L. 1
60 cents
overprinted
25 cents

L. 1
60 cents
overprinted
25 cents

1924. Perforation on a 1 lira “Floral” stamps + 60 cents overprinted 25 cents “Michetti” stamp,
foreign rate for an insured 200 lira value letter from Genoa to Mentone (France)
(positions N - NS)
Stigler
Stigler Machine-shops
Milan
perforation known in the period 1919 - 1934
dimensions mm. 9 x 15
21 holes

1926. Perforation on 2 lira Express “Victor Emmanuel the 3rd effigy” stamp
+ 2 lira & 25 cents x 2 “Floral” stamps,
foreign rate for two postages express letter from Milan to Paris (France)
(positions N - NS)
Stigler
Stigler Machine-shops
Milan
perforation known in the period 1919 - 1934
dimensions mm. 9 x 15
21 holes

1926. Perforation on 2 lira Express “Victor Emmanuel the 3rd effigy” stamp
+ 2 lira & 25 cents x 2 “Floral” stamps,
foreign rate for two postages express letter from Milan to Paris (France)
(positions N - NS)
1926. Perforation on a 5 lira + 1 lira + 3 x 1,25 lira “Floral” stamps and one 5 cents “Leoni” stamp, domestic rate for an insured letter of 14 postages with a declared value of 200 lira, from Trento to Bolzano (positions AS - B - A)
Credito Italiano
Carrara
perforation known in the period 1908 - 1931
dimensions mm. 11 x 15
23 holes

1929. Perforation on a 5 lira and 1,25 lira “Floral” stamps,
domestic rate for a registered letter of ten postages from Carrara to Lucca
(positions BS - AS)
1928. Perforation on 5 lira x 2 + 25 cents “Floral” stamps + 1.25 lira “Alessandro Volta” stamp, foreign rate for an insured 1.750 lira value 3 postages letter from Milan to Paris (France) (positions N - NS - C - CS)
Credito Italiano
Rome
perforation known in the period 1914 - 1947
dimensions mm. 8 x 11
20 holes

1924. Perforation on 3 x 10 lira and 2 x 1 lira “Floral” stamps on a front part of a large envelope, foreign rate for a multi-postages insured letter from Rome to France (positions B - BS)
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Genoa
perforation known in the period 1925 - 1932
dimensions mm. 4.5 x 13
32 holes

1925. Perforation on 1.75/10 lira “Floral” stamp and on a 25 cents “Michetti” stamp,
foreign rate for a registered letter from Genoa to Dortmund (Germany)
(position N)
PERFORATED ADVERTISING STAMPS

Credito Nazionale
Rome
perforation known in the period 1901 - 1925
dimensions mm. 7 x 16
24 holes

1924. Perforation on 2 x 50 cents “Amilcare Piperno al Corso” advertising stamps,
foreign letter rate from Rome to Langnau (Switzerland)
(positions AS - A)

This is one of the few examples of stamps with a second perforation on the publicity tab. In addition, the advertising stamps were not officially admitted to frank foreign letters, unless the publicity tabs was eliminated.
Also postal stationery has been perforated in some unusual case, although the postal rules were not clear about the possibility to perforate the same.

Fischer & Rechsteiner
Forwarding agent
Venice
perforation known in the period 1890 - 1924
dimensions mm. 8 x 16.5
44 holes

1890. Perforation on a 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” postal stationery card from Venice to Munich (Germany) (position N)
Pilade Pollazzi - owner of "Scena Illustrata"
Literature and arts journal - Florence
perforation known in the period 1893 - 1931
dimensions mm. 6 x 12
27 holes

1895. Perforation on a 10 cents "Humbert the 1st effigy"
postal stationery card from Florence to Rome
(position A)
Enrico Salsi
Vines dealer
Traversetolo (Parma)
only one specimen known so far of this pattern
dimensions mm. 11 x 13
23 holes

1901. Perforation on a 10 cents “Humbert the 1st effigy” postal stationery card from Traversetolo (Parma) to Turin (position N)
Società Italiana Tessile
Società Il Truciolo
Carpi (Modena)
perforation known
in the period
1912 - 1939
dimensions mm. 8 x 15
35 holes

1913. Inclined perforation
on a 1,75 lira postal stationery
despatch card with
"Victor Emmanuel the 3rd
effigy" from Carpi (Modena)
to Bruxelles (Belgium)
(position N)
Damman & C.
production and trade of seeds and bulbs
S. Giovanni a Teduccio (Naples)
perforation known in the period 1895 - 1914
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 16
44 holes

1911. Perforation on a 1.25 lira postal stationery parcel post despatch card with “Victor Emmanuel the 3rd effigy” and one additional 1 lira “Floral” perfinned stamp from S. Giovanni a Teduccio (Naples) to Darho (Danmark)
(position N)
The politics of influence followed by the European big powers, led in the Nineteenth Century to the creation of postal offices in foreign lands, of importance for commercial connections, but without efficient postal services. These post offices often entrusted to the Consuls and available to anyone, were quite numerous, in particular throughout the Ottoman Empire and its regencies, owing also to its decadence and its progressive disgregation, that brought it to the “Capitulations” and renunciations in favour of the European powers.

Crédit Lyonnais
Constantinople
perforation known in the period 1908 - 1922
dimensions mm. 8 x 10.5
30 holes

1910. Perforation on a 25 cents “Michetti” stamp overprinted “Costantinopoli 1 Piastra 1”, foreign letter rate, from Constantinople to Vienna (position NS)

Documents franked with perfins of Italian Postal Offices abroad are uncommon
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Constantinople
perforation known in the period 1920 - 1923
dimensions mm. 4.5 x 13.5
32 holes

1922. Perforation on a 1 lira “Floral” stamp overprinted
“Costantinopoli - Piastre 7 - Para’ 20”,
foreign letter rate, from Constantinople to Vienna
(position B)
1923. Perforation on an 85 cents “Michetti” stamp overprinted
“Costantinopoli - 15 Piastre”,
foreign rate for a registered letter, from Constantinople to Barmen (Wuppertal - Germany)
(position N)
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Constantinople
perforation known in the period 1920 - 1923
dimensions mm. 4,5 x 13,5
32 holes

1922. Perforation on 2 x 60 cents “Michetti” stamps overprinted
“Piastre 7 - Para’ 20”,
registered letter rate to Italy, from Constantinople to Milan
(position N)
User unknown
Tripoli
perforation known in the period 1914 - 1917
dimensions mm. 5 x 17
37 holes

1914. Perforation on a 10 cents “Leoni” stamp,
postcard rate to Italy, from Tripoli to Cremona
(position NS)

This Italian perfin overprinted “Libia” is so far the only
known specimen on a document regularly gone through the mail.
Banca d'Italia
Tripoli
only one specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 8 x 13.5
25 holes

1934. Perforation on a 20 cents "Libyan Sybil" stamp,
postcard rate to Italy, from Tripoli to Ceccano (Frosinone)
(position N)

The only document known so far with this perfin
Fratelli Gondrand  
Società Generale Trasporti  
Tripoli  
only one specimen so far known of this pattern  
dimensions mm. 7 x 11.5  
18 holes

1936. Perforation on 2 x 50 cents stamps commemorating the  
"10th Tripoli Exhibition",  
airmail letter rate to Italy from Tripoli (Libya) to Livorno  
(positions NS+N)

This is the only document so far known franked with this perfin
ITALIAN COLONY ERITREA
(Asmara)

Banco di Roma
Eritrea (Asmara)
only one specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 7.5 x 15.5
24 holes

1938. Perforation on a 1,50 lira (Airmail)
“African scene” stamp,
two postage airmail letter rate to Italy, from Asmara to Merano (Bolzano)
(position N)

The only document known so far with this perfin
A. Cobianchi
Ironmongery
Florence
perforation known in the period 1936 - 1942
dimensions mm. 4 x 10
17 holes

1937. Perforation on 2 x 50 cents “Imperial” stamps,
airmail letter rate to Italy from Tahuna (Tripolitania) to Florence
(positions BS+AS)
Crédit Lyonnais Jérusalem
Jerusalem
perforation known in the year 1910? only
dimensions mm. 12 x 9
23 holes

Photographic enlargement

1910? Perforation on a 25 cents “Michetti” stamp overprinted
“Gerusalemme - 1 Piastra 1”,
foreign letter rate, from Jerusalem to abroad
(position AS)

The only one specimen known to date
for a perfin of the Italian Jerusalem Office
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS

Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Military post use)

The use of perfins on military post documents is very uncommon.
In some cases the use was correct, as the sender was the perfins’ owner
himself during his military service.
In other cases the perfins were recycled or pilfered.

Francesco Parisi - Forwarding agent
Milan
perforation known in the period 1901 - 1903
dimensions mm. 10,5 x 16
26 holes

1915. Perforation on a 10 cents “Leoni” stamp, reduced military
letter rate from “4’ Reggimento Bersaglieri - 15’ Compagnia”
war zone to Monza (Milan)
(position N)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS

Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Military post use)

Francesco Parisi - Forwarding agent
Milan
perforation known in the period 1915 - 1977
dimensions mm. 6,5 x 11
25 holes

1917. Perforation on a 5 cents “Leoni” stamp, reduced military postcard rate from Military Post Office “111° Reggimento Panteria” war zone to Tradate (Como) (position BS)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Military post use)

Fratelli Berio
Olive oil production
Oneglia (Imperia)
perforation known in the period 1916 - 1941
dimensions mm. 8 x 14
21 holes

1916. Incomplete perforation on a 20/15 cents "Victor Emmanuel the 3rd" stamp, full domestic letter rate from Military Post Office
"Artiglieria Pesante - 32ª Armata"
war zone to Garlasco (Pavia)
(position A)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Military post use)

Francesco Parisi - Forwarding agent
Milan
perforation known in the period 1915 - 1977
dimensions mm. 6.5 x 11
25 holes

1917. Perforation on a 10 cents “Leoni” stamp,
on a military free post postcard used as a common postcard,
domestic postcard rate from Rovigo to Genoa
(position A)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Military post use)

Fratelli Gondrand
Società Nazionale di Trasporti F.Lli Gondrand
Turin
perforation known in the period 1939 - 1941
dimensions mm. 5,5 × 9
17 holes

1941. Perforation on 2 x 50 cents “Imperial” stamp,
air letter rate from the Army Post Office N. 29
(59° Reggimento Artiglieria “Cagliari”) to Genoa
(position A)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS

Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation

(Military post use)

Credito Italiano
Milan
perforation known in the period 1895 - 1905
dimensions mm. 10.5 x 13.5
24 holes

1917. Perforation on a 5 cents “Leoni” stamp, reduced military postcard rate
from “Comando 9° Raggruppamento Batterie d’Assedio”
war zone to Cologno Monzese (Milan)
(position N)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Military post use)

Francesco Parisi - Forwarding agent
Milan
perforation known in the period 1915 - 1977
dimensions mm. 6,5 x 11
25 holes

1916. Perforation on a 5 cents “Leoni” stamp,
reduced military rate from Military Post Office “37ª Divisione” war zone
to Luino (Varese)
(position B)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Civil post use)

Società Bancaria Italiana - Milan
perforation known in the period 1907 - 1926
dimensions mm. 19 x 16,5
40 holes

Pirelli & C.
Gum and gutta-percha manufacture - Milan
perforation known in the period 1897 - 1922
dimensions mm. 10,5 x 16
41 holes

1913. Perforation on a 5 and 10 cents “Leoni” stamps,
registered letter rate within the city (Milan)
(position CS for the pattern S.B./I. - position B for the pattern P&C)

Fraudulent use of different perfins to frank the same letter
is quite rare. Only few documents are known
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Civil post use)

User unknown
Milan
perforation known in the period 1909 - 1919
dimensions mm. 8,5 x 16
43 holes

Unione Cooperativa S.A.
Milan
perforation known in the period 1907 - 1916
dimensions mm. 15 x 15
32 holes

1910. Perforation on 2 x 5 cents “Leoni” stamps, foreign postcard rate
from Milan to Doubs (France)
(position B for the pattern F&B - position NS for the pattern ☩️ )
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Civil post use)

Banca Commerciale Italiana - Milan
perforation known in the period 1907 - 1985
dimensions mm. 4.5 x 13
32 holes

Credito Italiano - Milan
perforation known in the period 1922 - 1977
dimensions mm. 7 x 13
19 holes

1934. Perforation on 2 x 25 cents “Imperial” stamps, domestic letter rate from Milan to Bolzano
(position CS for both patterns)
FRAUDULENT USE OF STAMPS
WITH COMMERCIAL PERFORATIONS
Fraud causing a loss to the firms owners of the perforation
(Civil post use)

Advertising Chile sodium nitrate Delegation
Dott. Luigi Raineri
Rome
perforation known in the period 1916 - 1926
dimensions mm. 10 x 9
19 holes

1922. Perforation on a 15 cents “Leoni” stamp as franking integration
of a 25 cents B.L.P. overprinted “Michetti” stamp on
“Busta Lettera Postale”
from Venice to Udine
(position N)
Dante Sereno
Ancona

Only one specimen so far known of this pattern
dimensions mm. 9 x 16.5 (for both initials)
13 holes for letter D
11 holes for letter S

1923. Perforation on 2 x 10 cents “Leoni” stamps, domestic rate for business cards, from Ancona to Fano (Pesaro) (position N)

Very unusual document as a stamp is perforated with the initial of the name and the other with the initial of the sender’s surname.

It is the only known case of different initials of the same person, perforated on two different stamps used together.
A case of halved advertising perforated stamp

Corsini & Meriggiani
Bologna
perforation known in the period 1903 - 1941
dimensions mm. 5,8 x 17,4
40 holes

Ditta CORSINI & MERIGGIANI
DI DOMENICO E VITTORIO MERIGGIANI
BOLOGNA

SIG/

GIOVANNI TODESCHINI

RUSSI (Ravenna)

1924. Perforation on 50 cents advertising halved “Michetti” stamp. Domestic letter rate from Bologna to Russi (Ravenna) (position AS)

Advertising stamps could be used on mail to foreign destinations, after removing the lower section, that one showing the advertisement. With regards to domestic mail, the sender had the choice to remove the appendix or to leave it on, but the first case, as seen on the cover shown here, is quite rare. The stamp had probably the “Tantal” advertising appendix.
DEFECTIVE PERFORATIONS

As the perforating operations were made manually, the defective perforations produced are many and almost all the patterns are existing with perforating errors such as: duplicated, botched up and even unidentifiable perforations. In this section some example of such defects are shown.

DOUBLE PERFORATION OF THE SAME PATTERN

(from left to right: regular pattern - reproduction of the defective stamp’s face - original perfin back side up)

Double vertical perforation

Inverted double perforation (one upside down)

Inverted double vertical perforation

Double horizontal perforation

1923. Double crossed F.S. perforation on the lower of the two 15 cents “Leoni” stamps
DOUBLE PERFORATION OF THE SAME PATTERN

Stamps with double perforation tied to one stamp perforated regularly

1937. Vertical and horizontal double A.G. perforation on two 50 cents “Imperial” stamps tied together

DOUBLE PERFORATION OF DIFFERENT PATTERNS
1924. Advertising 50 cents “Singer” stamp with a turned & inverted B.C perforation (part of B.C.I.) become B.O.B with the last B inverted owing to the perforation made with the stamp transversally folded like shown by the pattern reproduction on the right margin.