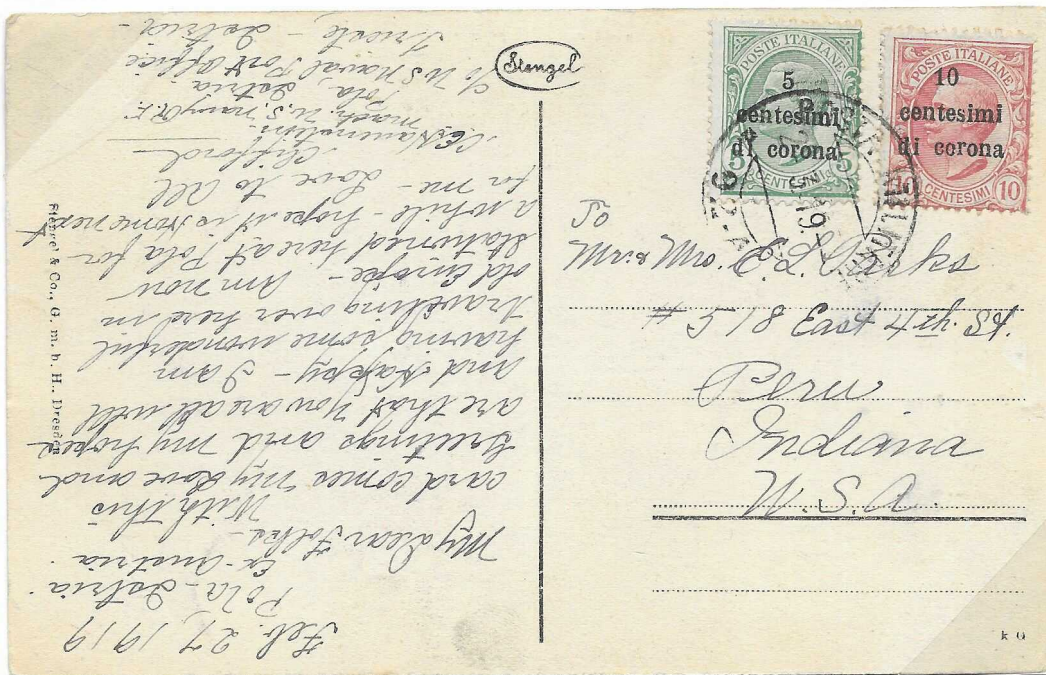
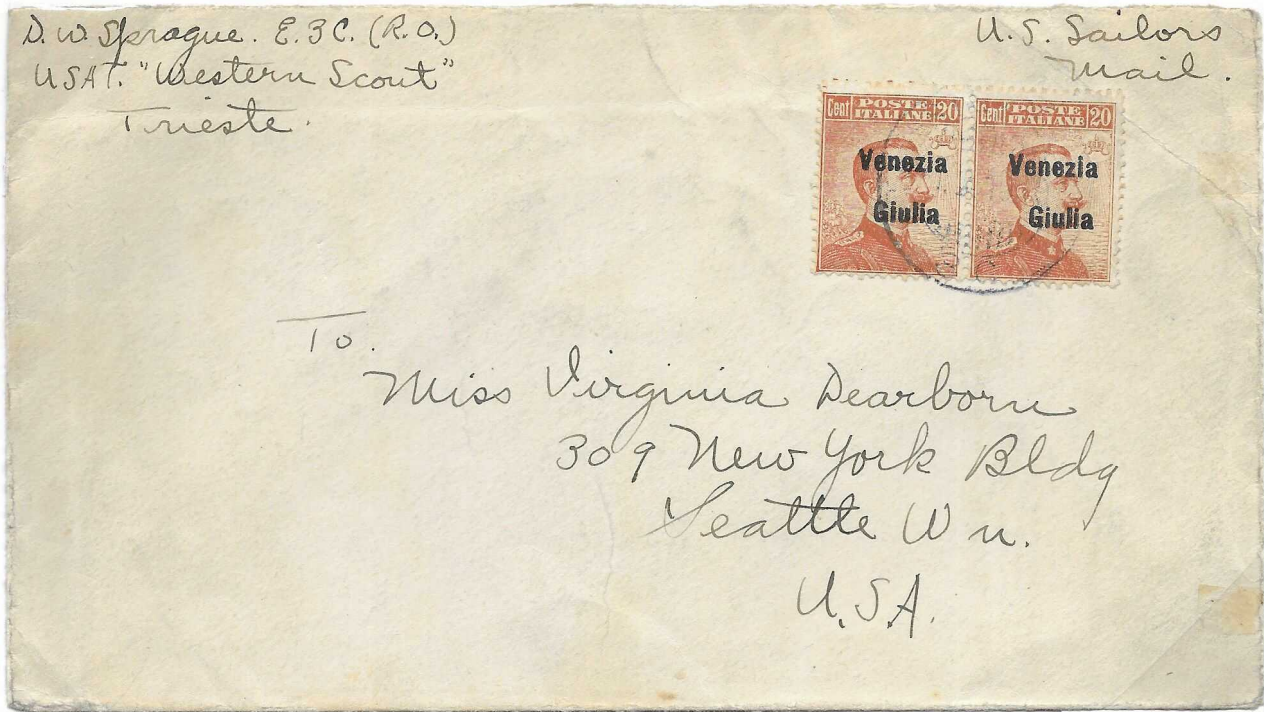


VENEZIA GIULIA
American Sailors Mail

Trieste
1 February 1919

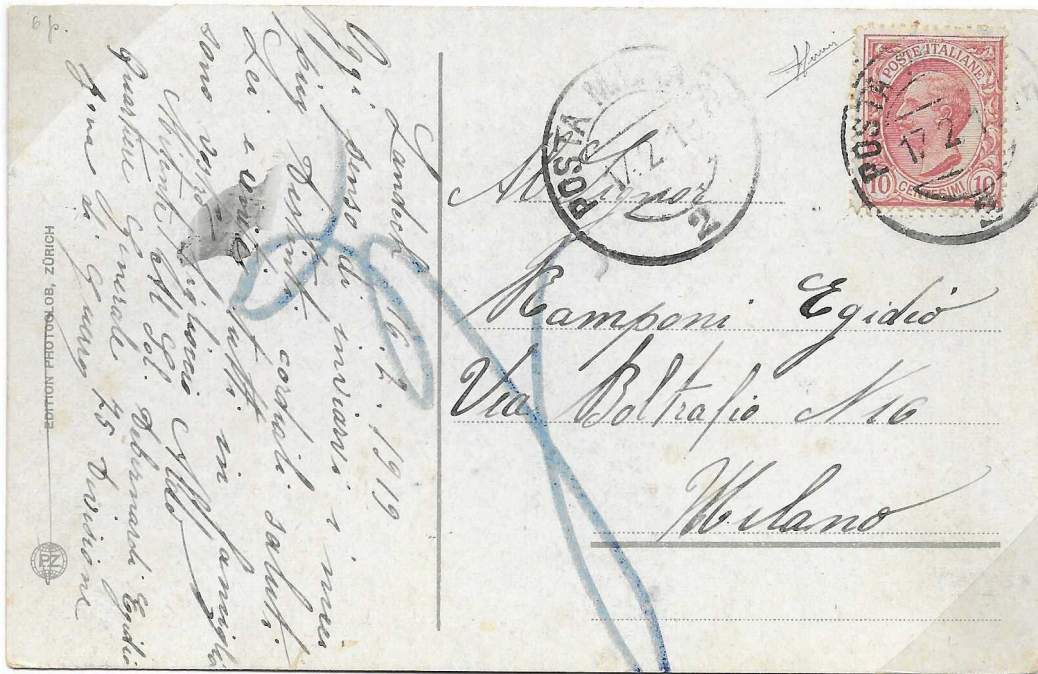
Posta Militare 92-A
27 March 1919



At the end of the war, American warships in the Mediterranean sailed into the former Austro-Hungarian naval bases, including Fiume, Pola, Spalato and Trieste. Mail from U.S. sailors sent through the Italian military or civil post offices provides one of the most unusual usages of the Italian overprinted stamps.

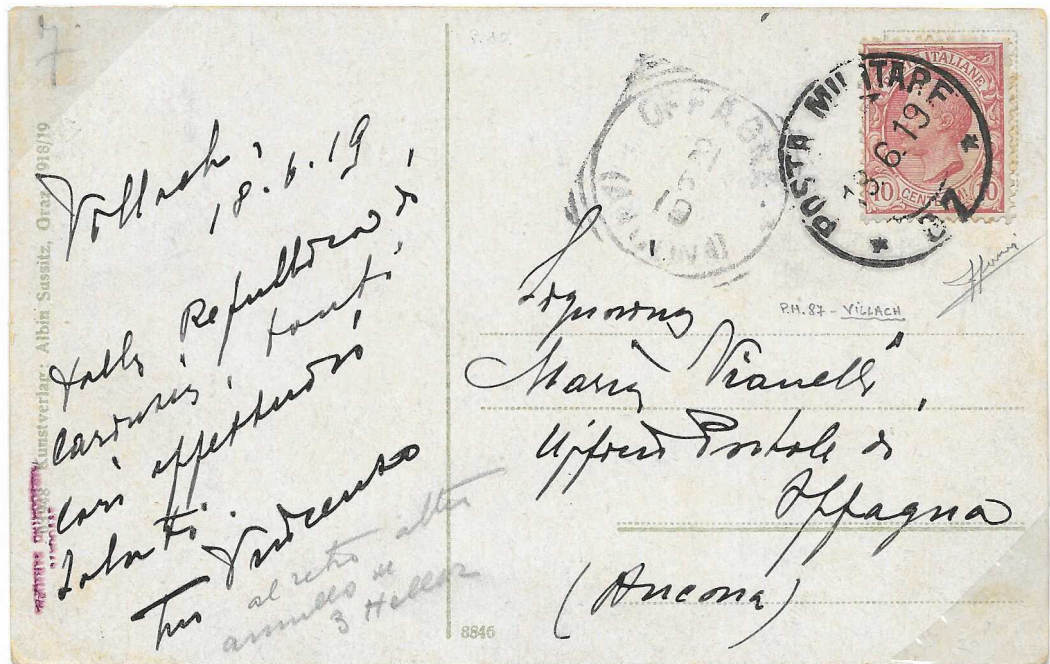
AUSTRIA - HUNGARY

In addition to occupying the Trentino and Venezia Giulia, Italian troops moved north into Austria-Hungary proper. In Austria, military post offices were operated in key locations, such as Innsbruck and Vienna, while the handling of civil mail was left to the newly-declared Republic of German-Austria. In Hungary, an Italian Military Mission functioned in Budapest. All of these forces were evacuated after the new boundaries were finalized.



Posta Militare 2
17 February 1919

Posta Militare 87
18 June 1919



The upper card was sent from PM 2 in Landeck, North Tyrol, the lower card from PM 87 in Villach, Carinthia during the occupation period.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Military Mail

Posta Militare 151
8 January 1919
14 May 1919

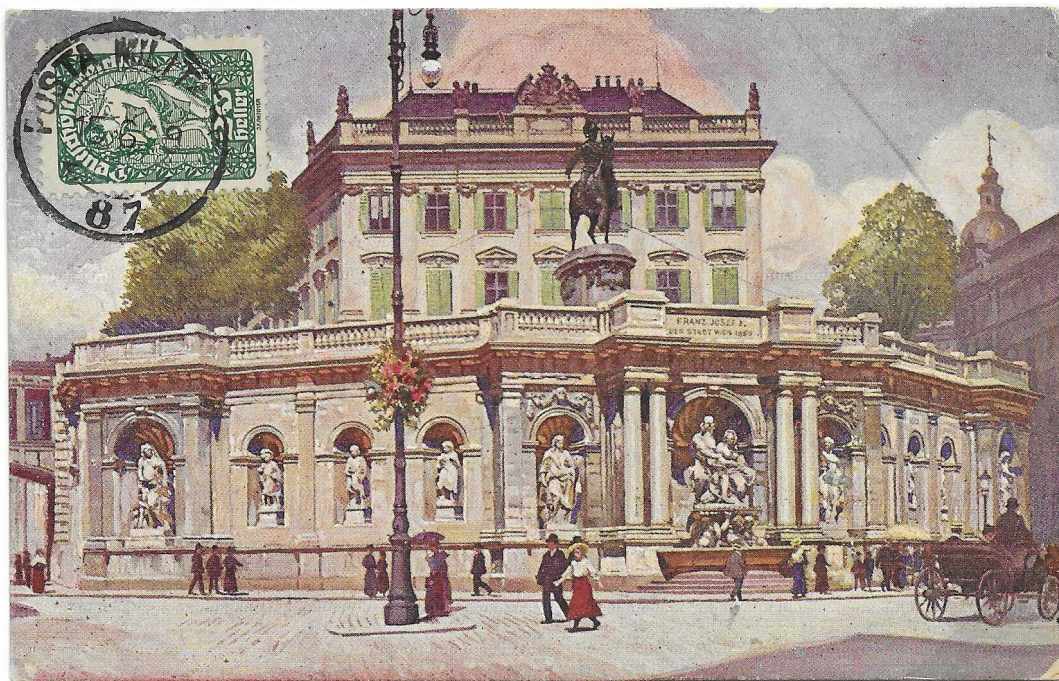


PM 151 operated in Austria from November 1918 to November 1919, primarily in Innsbruck, the capital of the North Tyrol. Lower card, sent at the printed matter rate has cachet of the "HQ Innsbruck Station/Refugee Office." not seen otherwise by exhibitor.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Military Mail

Posta Militare 124
8 June 1919

Posta Militare 87
15 June 1919



Picture postcards of Vienna sent from the Austrian capital. Upper example has cachet of the "Telegraph Service of the Italian Military Armistice Mission/Vienna." Lower card franked with German-Austria 20 heller adhesive and sent to Bologna.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Armistice Commission

Posta Militare 81
19 January 1919

Posta Militare 151
3 October 1919



Upper cover was sent by an Italian Colonel from the High Command of the Armistice Commission in Vienna. Lower cover from PM 151 in Innsbruck to Milan was sent by a member of the Civil Affairs and Repatriation Section of the Italian Armistice Commission.

"Missione di Vienna" Airmail Vignette

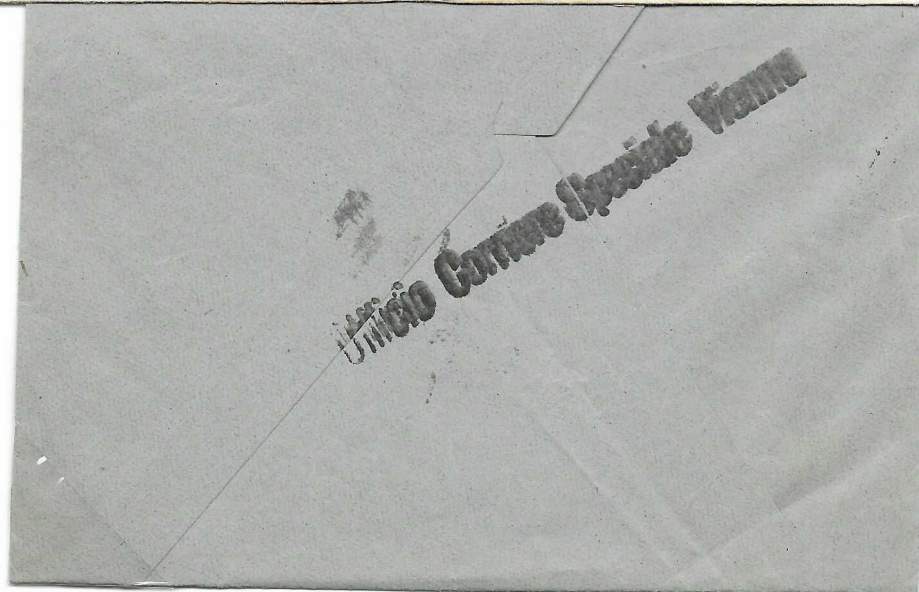


In April 1919 a special semi-official vignette was printed for the Italian Military Mission in Vienna to prepay fees on airmail flown back home on Italian planes. These were affixed to letters and cancelled with a two-line marking reading "Aspern Airfield." Only 42 copies of this label were issued. The sender's address on the reverse of the cover is noted as "Italian Armistice Commission Caproni, Aspern Field, Vienna, Austria."

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Military Mail

Posta Militare 124
27 April 1919

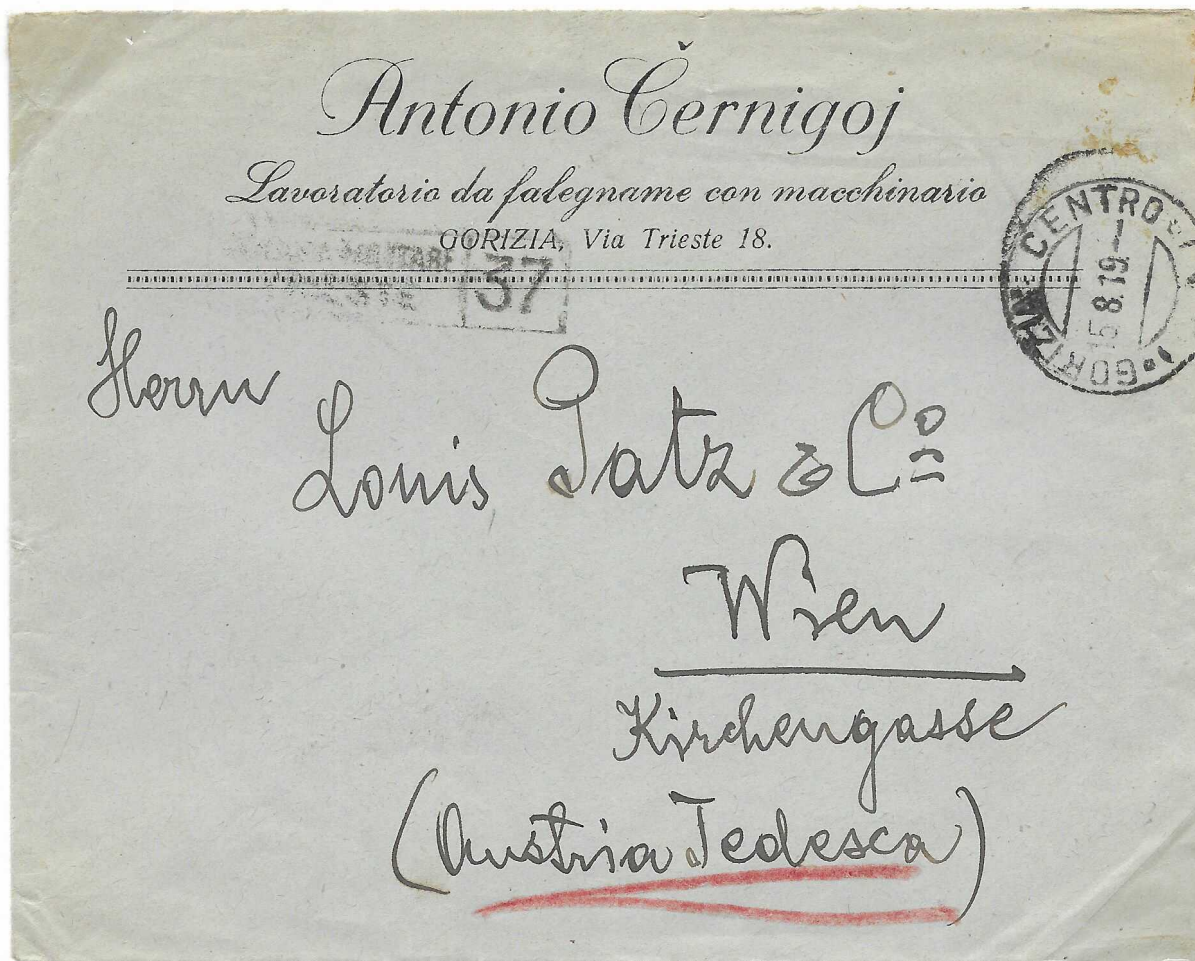
Trieste
4 September 1919



Surcharged stamps for the liberated territory were not valid in the military post offices in Austria proper, so a normal Italian stamp was added to pay postage on the upper cover. Lower example is inbound from Trieste to Vienna, where it received a censor marking inscribed "Special Courier Office Vienna" on the reverse.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
Courier Mail

Gorizia
15 August 1919



While Italian troops were stationed in Austria, the military ran a courier service to deliver mail between Trieste and Vienna. Most such letters seen by exhibitor were franked with the "Venezia Giulia" overprinted stamps, postmarked in Trieste and turned over to the couriers for delivery. Thus, this example is unusual in that it is obviously a commercial letter but without any evidence of postage being paid. (This may reflect the fact that it was sent from Gorizia, which was also in the annexed territory.) Backstamped with a straight-line marking inscribed "Special Courier Office Vienna."

AUSTRIA - HUNGARY
Boundary Commission

Bolzano
26 May 1919
4 June 1923

Commission de Délimitation de la Frontière entre l'Autriche et l'Italie. — Délégation Autrichienne
Österreichisch-italienischer Grenzregelungs-Ausschuss. — Österreichische Delegation.



57/100 186/1-24



COMMISSION DE DÉLIMITATION
DE LA
FRONTIÈRE ENTRE L'AUTRICHE
ET L'ITALIE



-462319

Monsieur Charles Ladreyt

9 Boulevard de la République

Ammonay (Ardeche)

France

A delimitation commission was charged with determining the new frontiers between Austria and Italy. Above examples show mail sent by Austrian and French delegates to the Commission. In the former case, a special red seal was applied on the reverse, which is the only such example seen by exhibitor.

AUSTRIA - HUNGARY
Boundary Commission

Bolzano
19 July 1921

Wien
2 November 1923

COMMISSION DE DÉLIMITATION
DE LA
FRONTIÈRE ENTRE L'AUTRICHE
ET L'ITALIE



Monsieur Coltier - Longuet.

20, Rue Menut.



Mademoiselle PERNET,
Chemin de Blémur

P I S C O P, par St-BRICE

(Seine-et-Oise)



F r a n k r e i c h

In fact, the boundaries of the South Tyrol remained in dispute between Austria and Italy for an extended period, even until the end of World War II. As a result, the Delimitation Commission continued its work substantially longer in this area than elsewhere, which explains the late use of the envelopes and cachets of the group in 1923 and 1924. Upper cover is an imprinted envelope of the French Delegation sent from Bolzano to Vienna, with a special cachet on the reverse. Below is a cover with the cachet of the French Delegate from Vienna to France.



Most of the Italian troops sent north were deployed in Austria, but a small military mission was sent to Hungary proper. Above card was sent by a telegrapher stationed in Budapest, most likely by military pouch. It was censored in Trieste en route.

FIUME

Fiume was the primary Hungarian port on the Adriatic. When Croatia seceded from Hungary on 29 October 1918, Croatian volunteers moved in and occupied Fiume. They remained in control until 17 November, when an Interallied occupation force arrived. The Allies then administered the city until 12 September 1919, when the adventurer-poet Gabriele d'Annunzio staged a coup and took charge. Under the Treaty of Rapallo signed in November 1920, Fiume was designated as a Free City; it was later annexed by Italy on 12 January 1924.

Forerunners

Fiume
17 November 1918

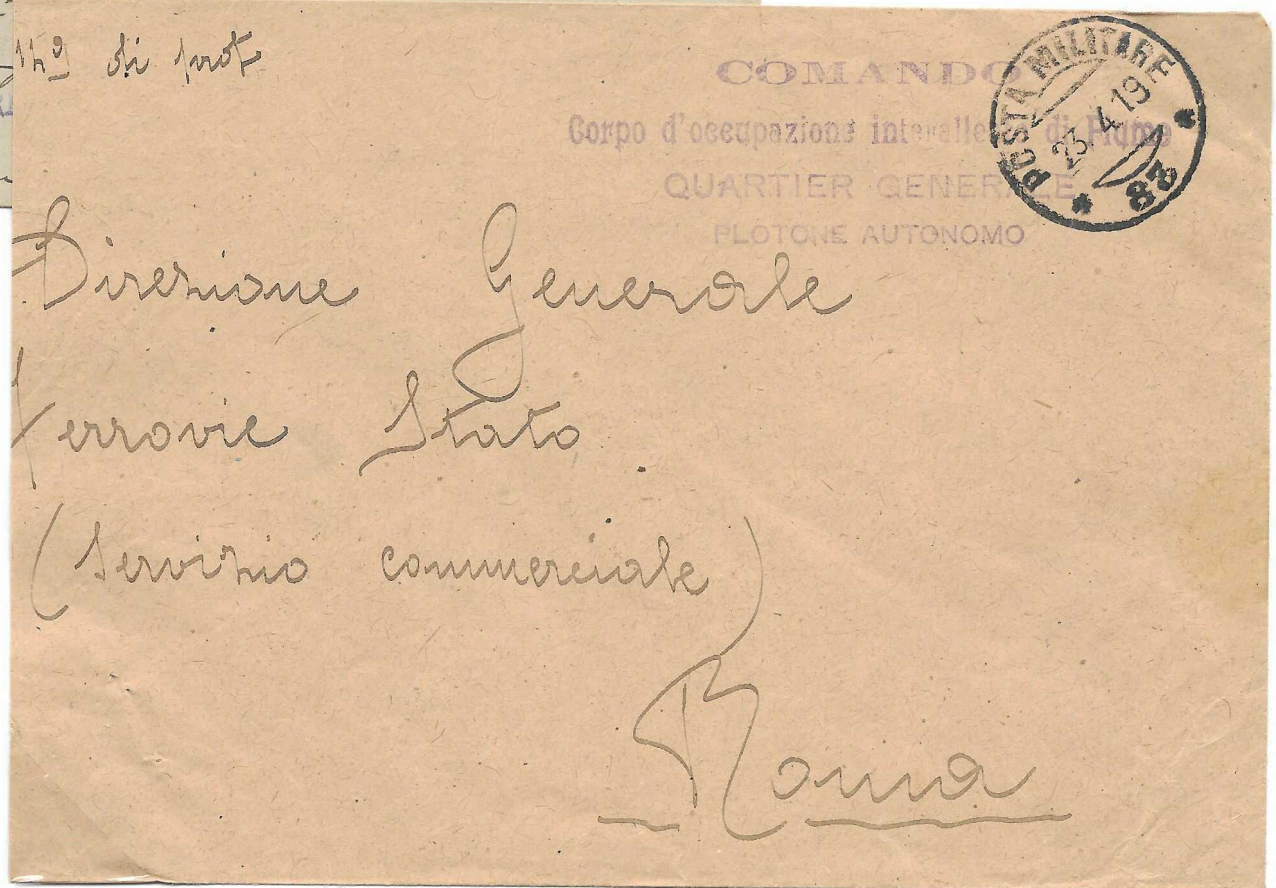


A few of the Croatian "SHS Hrvatska" overprints are known used in Fiume on 16 and 17 November 1918, just prior to the arrival of the Allied troops. This presents an unexplained anomaly as the overprinted stamps were supposedly not issued until the 18th. Nevertheless, the cover shown above is backstamped for arrival at Latisana in Udine Province on the 20th.

FIUME

Italian warships arrived in the port on 4 November and landed troops the following day, dispossessing the Croatian forces. In due course, an Interallied Control Commission was set up to administer the territory. Although the Peace Conference wanted to establish a Free City, Italian insurgents headed by d'Annunzio seized control on 12 September 1919. His forces were eventually dislodged at the end of 1920, and a Free City government functioned until the area was annexed to Italy on 22 February 1924.

Poste Militare 83
5 February 1919
23 April 1919



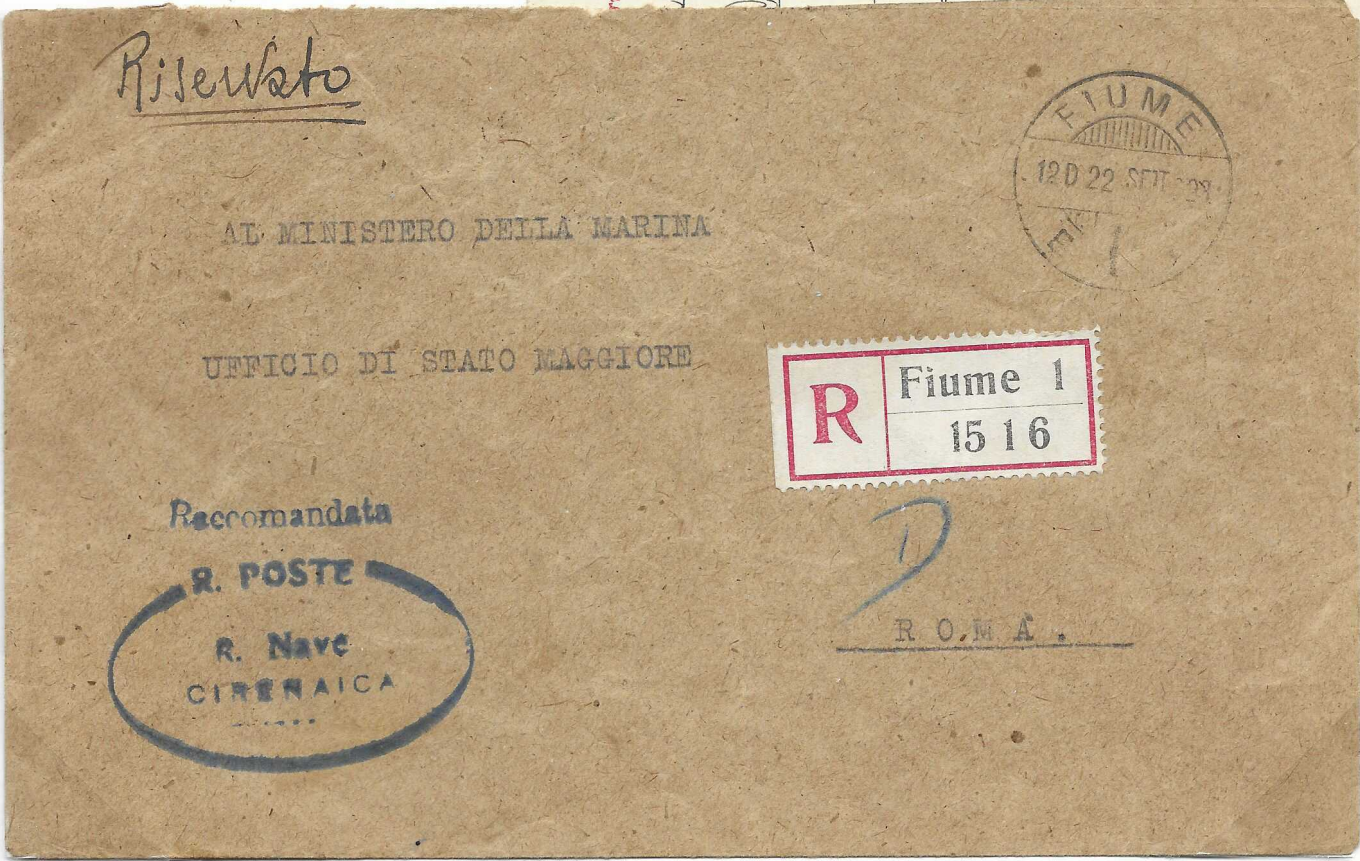
In order to calm the situation from threats by local militia demanding immediate annexation to Italy, the occupation troops functioned on behalf of the "Interallied Occupation Corps in Fiume," as reflected in their unit cachets.

FIUME
Naval Mail

Regio C.T. Vincenzo Orsini
7 December 1918

R. Nave/Emanuele Filiberto
26 April 1919

Fiume
22 September 1923



As a major port, Fiume saw a number of Italian warships using the harbor. These examples are sailors mail, including a card from the *Vincenzo Orsini* and a free frank card from the *Emanuele Filiberto* to the Italian consul in Pensacola, as well as an official cover from the *Cirenaica* to the Naval Ministry in Rome.

FIUME
Overprints on Hungary

Fiume
15 January 1919
4 February 1919



Siguo

To



The first Fiume stamp was handstamped on the 20 filler stamp of Hungary with the name of the city in thick letters. This was intended as a trial printing, but the demand for stamps was high so 300 copies were released for sale in the post offices on 1 December 1918. Moreover, between 3 December 1918 and 7 January 1919, the authorities issued a total of 31 different stamps with a thin "Fiume" overprint, some applied by typography and some by hand. Most were on the "wheat harvesting" and "parliament building" designs, but others were included.

GUGLIELMO OLIVA

PERITO FILATELICO

GENOVA

PIAZZA DELLA LIBERTÀ, 4-3

TELEF. 52.079 - 582.414

Certificato N. 2697

FIUME - 1918 - 20 filler bruno, usato, con grande sovrastampa nera a mano. N° 1 del catalogo Oliva 1946.

Ho esaminato il francobollo sopra descritto, che reca la grossa sovrastampa a mano di tipo non approvato e del quale una riproduzione fotografica é unita al presente certificato.

A mio parere l'esemplare ha la sovrastampa originale, é privo di difetti occulti e l'ho firmato.

Aggiungerò che questo francobollo dovrebbe essere considerato filatelicamente regolare in quanto che i fogli recanti tale sovrastampa sperimentale furono regolarmente venduti allo sportello.

Genova, 29 Marzo 1954.



Roma, 17 giugno 1997

FIUME 1918, 10 k. bruno lilla e lilla con soprastampa a macchina + sei valori della stessa serie (Sass. N. 21 + 6, 14, 15, 17, 18 e 20) + 80 f. verde giallo e verde chiaro con soprastampa a mano del II tipo (Sass. N. 16/I) su telegramma del 29 marzo 1919 da Fiume a Trieste.

A nostro parere l'affrancatura qui sotto fotograficamente riprodotta è originale in ogni sua parte. Poiché trovasi tuttora in ottimo stato di conservazione, data la sua rarità, il telegramma è stato firmato per esteso.

C. M. G. P.

