



Enrico Sturani

**ITALY! WAKE UP!**  
**A "BOOT" FULL OF POSTCARDS**  
**all the symbols of our Homeland**

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**text in Italian**

In a roundup of 232 pieces, from end-nineteenth century to present days, postcards reveal themselves as spy of Italian people collective imagination. An imagination that drove them to nationalistic fanaticisms, but sometimes to critical and not without irony visions too.

Like any other State, Italy is symbolized by its own flag but its three colours are enough too. A Monarchy until 1946, Italy was symbolized by the King and, perhaps, even just by some of the House of Savoy's attributes. Sole Country with an immediately recognizable shape, Italy coincides with it but the "boot" is often represented upside down. The Mother Country, like any allegoric device of academic matrix, shows Herself in ancient clothes that, depending on the circumstances, match Her austere image with others of mythological matrix, gathered from the Roman world or associated to the Founding Fathers of Risorgimento. It was during interventionism that Italy took young, attractive and even audacious likeness and motions. During the twenty years of Fascism, Italy coincided with the symbol of lictor's fasces and this was often replaced by the Duce's image.

In conclusion, Italy is so varied that suspect has arisen that its symbolic value is uncertain. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why the Mother Country was mocked, in recent years, together with all the other symbolologies swinging between rhetoric and kitsch.

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Preface by Maurizio Pagliano

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II - Splendour and decline of patriotic symbols

Homeland colours - Homeland forms - The allegoric figure of the Mother Country - Libyan war. An outburst of symbols - Joyful symbols of interventionism - The Great War - Origins and growth of fascist symbols - Patriotic symbols of the Republic

Essential bibliography



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We are available for further information  
and for high resolution images on demand.  
**The author can be contacted for interviews.**



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**ERRATA**

page 10 - line 11 - read

Basti pensare che le allegorie rinascimentali, come la *Venere* di Botticelli, ...

page 30 - line 8 - read

... come alternativa all'inno di Mameli si è proposto “Volare” di Modugno; ...

page 30 - line 26 - read

... mondiali di calcio di Madrid e di Berlino; ...

page 66 - image 76 - read

In questa cartolina del 1903 i Padri della Patria sono riuniti dinanzi alla carta geografica dell'Italia: da sinistra a destra, ecco Giuseppe Mazzini, il re Vittorio Emanuele II, Giuseppe Garibaldi e Camillo Cavour, tutti protagonisti del Risorgimento.

page 146 - image 228 - read

“Campioni del mondo. Arrivano le medaglie dorate a 24 carati. Prima uscita in edicola dal 19 luglio in esclusiva con La Gazzetta dello Sport”. L'urlo di Del Piero. L'Italia può andare fiera di “un uomo così”. 2006



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