

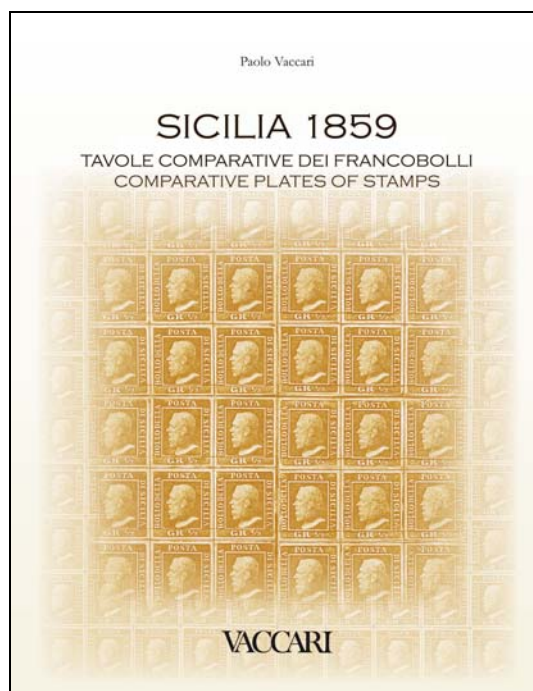
SUCCESS AND GREAT EXPECTATION FOR THE WORK CENTRED ON “TESTONI” ANNOUNCED AT “SICILIA 2009”

The volume will be available in October in Rome during the international exhibition “Italia 2009”, but it is already possible to reserve it.

From 18 to 21 June, “Sicilia 2009”, the prestigious event, took place in Palermo. Organized by the Sicilian philatelic Union with the support of Fondazione Banco di Sicilia, it aimed at celebrating “testoni”, the postage stamps with the effigy of Ferdinand II Bourbon, one century and a half after the date of their issue, and their creator Tommaso Aloysio Juvara, from Messina, two centuries after his birth.

Among the several events organized, on Saturday 20 June at 11 a.m., Paolo Vaccari announced the publication of his study about the distinctive elements of the different plates of the postage stamps of Sicily. The subject is quite difficult but also interesting because of the many differences between one exemplar and the other.

The work, presented with the precious support by Nino Aquila, President of the Sicilian philatelic Union, and Francesco Lombardo, collector and one of the best experts on the subject, will be available at “Italia 2009”, the international exhibition which will take place in Rome from 21 to 25 October 2009.



The work

Paolo Vaccari

SICILIA 1859
Tavole comparative dei francobolli
Comparative plates of stamps



**FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN COLOURS**

**in an elegant slip-case
the comparative study
the English version
the 15 plates**

fine art quality paper - hardbound - format cm 24x31
printed 2009 - code 2201E - series "Philatelic studies" no.5

Text in Italian and English

Included in a slip-case, the present work stands out with respect to previous studies thanks to the detailed study, the updates, and the reproductions in colours.



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The volume presents the plates life size and divided into four parts with the indication of the main characteristics for each stamp and the distinctive elements for each position in the sheet.

Collectors can compare the original copies checking position and variations.

Described in details even the retouches, reproduced enlarged.

Separately, gathered in a specific sleeve inside the slip-case, the 15 plates reproduced life size and in colours through the stochastic printing system to obtain better image definition and detail preciseness.

On the back of each plate, "fac-simile" has been printed to avoid any frauds.



Why the Comparative Plates of Sicilian Postage Stamps

Shortly after the General Direction of the Post of the Kingdom of Sardinia started selling, as collectibles, the remaining Bourbon stamps seized in the offices of the Island, the study of these magnificent rectangles of coloured paper began. Since then, they have been considered among the best made in the world.

As a matter of fact, a brief comparison with the other stamps available on the philatelic market at the beginning of the 1860's makes the artistic mastery of these Sicilian stamps immediately evident.

In 1863 the first studies of these stamps were published, and they were more and more specialized until Emilio Diena, the Great Master of the Italian philately, marked a milestone when he gave the fruit of his studies to the press in London in 1904. Since then, very little or almost nothing very innovative has been written about postage stamps. Some works, even recent ones, have only slightly dealt with the study of them, but they have brought to light some interesting findings on postal history and postmarks. Emilio Diena dedicated little time to these latter issues, not because he lacked knowledge, but rather because his research was only dedicated to "The History of Sicilian Postage Stamps".

The original edition, published in English in 1904, is practically untraceable. Both the later versions of the book are also difficult to find, the re-print in English, printed in 1969 by Giulio Bolaffi Editore and the Italian translated edition with notes added by Enzo Diena "Emilio Diena - Una vita per la Filatelia" (A Life Dedicated to Philately). The latter was published by the Post and Telecommunications Administration in 1989 on the occasion of the issuing of a stamp dedicated to the Great Master.

Now, in 2009, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Sicilian stamps, a new work, however following in the footsteps of Emilio Diena. Included in a slip-case are the work in colour with the comparative plates which are in all colour and have been analysed in detail in order to present their distinctive elements, the complete and full size plates, the version of the text in English.

As one may notice this work is completely new in the layout and printing method implemented as we have not used the traditional four-colour screen or digital printing. This as a consequence of our belief that these two "archaic systems" would damage the fine detailed print of the plates and their portions, which are necessary to better compare them with the originals. We have chosen to use the stochastic printing system, which is also utilized in the reproduction of illuminated manuscripts and works that must be as close to the original as possible, especially in the fine details.

In our specific case, even the tiniest detail must be made visible in order to give the collector the chance to make a thorough comparison of the original stamp with the 100 on the complete sheet. The plates in the volume have been divided into blocks of 25 in order to identify each individual stamp more easily. The main characteristics of each stamp are noted so that one may pinpoint the placement of it and single out its variations caused by the wearing or different inking of the printing plate.

The retouched stamps have been reproduced in an enlarged and colour version with detailed descriptions so that the plating of the stamps on the sheets may be easily identified.

The images of the plates have come from various sources. Those of the grano first plate, first and second state, are the only complete ones in existence and have kindly been loaned by the Diena family of Rome, to whom our sincere thanks are due. The majority of the remaining images belong to our archive, among which some photographs have been donated by the late Bruno Barbacovi (Lavarone 1906 - Dimaro 1987). In addition to studying B.L.P. stamps of the Kingdom of Italy, Barbacovi also dedicated much of his time to building up the plates of Sicily. Others also come from the original sheets or are the result of the rearrangement of large blocks.

It has been said that philatelic collecting has evolved over the years and now tends to focus primarily on postal history. Philatelic collecting has indeed evolved, yet this has occurred much less radically than others may think. There are two different ways to collect and research stamps, yet both have their own undeniable value. However, in recent years there has been a marked return to the antique. This has involved the studying of stamps, among which those from Sicily prevail for their characteristics as they are so varied.

The main reason to publish this work is certainly not to revolutionize what Emilio Diena wrote more than one hundred years ago, but rather it is to offer collectors a simple and updated instrument to study in more detail the wonderful stamps of Sicily, whose undeniable beauty will live on forever.



The author

Paolo Vaccari took up the hobby of philately and postal history as a child by collecting postage stamps and participating in exhibitions, conferences and seminars. In 1977 he decided to put his wealth of experience and knowledge into practice when he turned his passion into a business to which he could dedicate all his time. The postal history and stamp business was enriched with the publishing activity in 1989, which came to publish important volumes of philatelic literature, many written by Paolo Vaccari himself. From this date onward he has published over 70 catalogues and numerous treatises on postal history, among which the *Catalogo Vaccari - Francobolli e storia postale - Antichi Stati Italiani, Governi provvisori, Regno d'Italia - 1850-1900* (Vaccari Catalogue - Postage stamps and postal history - Italian States, Provisional Governments, Kingdom of Italy - 1850-1900). The catalogue has reached its XIII edition and over the years has received prestigious recognition nationally and internationally. Furthermore, *Vaccari Magazine*, whose editor is Paolo Vaccari, has also achieved excellent worldwide recognition and celebrated twenty years of publication in 2008.

His breadth of volumes and articles include detailed studies on various aspects of stamps and the postal history of the Italian States.

Paolo Vaccari received the Philatelic Oscar from the Italian Academy of Philately and Postal History for the numerous studies he has published.

He has received over one hundred awards of recognition worldwide for his written and published works.

He also received the *Regione Toscana* cup and the *Fiorino d'Oro* for displaying specialized philatelic collections of the XIX century from the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

In 2008 he received the *Ragno d'Oro - UNICEF* award in the business category, an award granted to people from Modena who have contributed to increasing the prestige of the city of Modena within the country and abroad.

He is a member of the *Accademia dello Scoltenna*;

of the *Deputazione di Storia Patria per le Antiche Province Modenesi*;

of numerous Italian and foreign philatelic associations.

He is also a member of the national register of journalists - special section;

of the *Unione Stampa Filatelica Italiana* (USFI).

He is a philatelic expert for the C.C.I.A.A. and the Court of Modena.

He has taken part in appraisals and provided expert analyses for Credit Institutions.

He is a member of the Philatelic Veterans Register since 1985 (at the time he had participated in seminars, selective studies, planned exhibitions, etc. for 30 years).

Since 1993 he has been a Trade Master with 40 years of experience in the business at the time.

He is a member of the *Club Elite de la Philatélie* of Monte Carlo, presided over by Prince Ranieri, a closed number club in which only 100 important philatelic experts worldwide may take part. In the six world exhibitions that have taken place up to now, he has received the highest Monacan recognition each time, the Ranieri gold medal.

He is a member of the *Académie Européenne de Philatélie* with headquarters in Paris;

and has been a member of the *Consulta per la filatelia del Ministero delle Comunicazioni* since 2001.

He was named honorary partner of the prestigious Italian Association of Postal History (A.I.S.P.) with headquarters in Milan in 2009.



The presentation



During the presentation, from left to right: Nino Aquila, Paolo Vaccari, Francesco Lombardo.



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20
years

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