

From Sparre to the De La Rue through the essay and the proofs

by Giuseppe Cirneco

When the contract with Francesco Matraire, the sole supplier of stamps to the Kingdom of Sardinia, approached the expiration, the Italian Government signed a contract for postage stamps with the Swedish Count Ambjörn Sparre.

But the reports from London by Costantino Perazzi about the quality of the production of the De La Rue firm, the rumors about the reliability of Sparre and his inability to respect the schedule of production, led to the negotiation of a contract with De La Rue for the supply of postage stamps.

The urgent need of a stamp for the new rate for internal letters, reduced from 20 to 15 centesimi in new postal law of May 5th 1862, brought to a supplementary order to Francesco Matraire although his contract had expired. The new stamp was printed by lithography.

A particular feature of the stamps produced by De La Rue for the Italian Government was introduced on request of Perazzi: a security underprint in colorless ink that prevented the copying of the stamps by anastatic methods.

In the exhibit it also shown the use of specimen De La Rue stamps for the testing of the new cancellers that were to be introduced for standardizing the variety of cancellers then in use.

The exhibit ends with the proofs and essays prepared by other printers in the hope to be selected as suppliers of stamps and seals for the Government.

Plan of the exhibit

Count Ambjorn Sparre	Page. 2
Francesco Matraire	Page. 3
De La Rue	Pages. 4-13
Other printers	Pages. 14-16



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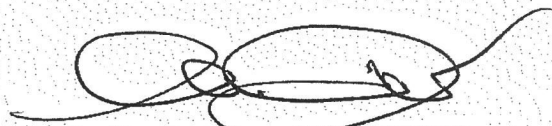
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Sparre from the De La Rue

It 'a collection that includes essays and prepared tests, officially or otherwise, for the realization of the first stamp of the Kingdom of Italy.

Most important were the Matraire, Count Ambjörn Sparre and De La Rue family. The latter was ultimately awarded the contract for the preparation and delivery of the first stamps of the Kingdom of Italy. Important are the proofs and the Matraire issue and the preparation of the Sparre watermark paper, watermark obtained for pressure cleaning. Even more interesting evidence of the De La Rue color and archival evidence and even the cancellation tests on paper overprinted stamps, as well as the cancellation of these tests annihilators stamps executed in London by Warren De La Rue.



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