



# SAVOY CROSS: THE STAMP OF THE 1860 - 1862 LUIGI CARLO FARINI'S LIEUTENANCY



## The aim of the exhibit:

- To present the "Savoy Cross" and the birth on December 6th of the ½ Tornese stamp, resulting from the reengraving of the "Savoy Cross" in place of "Trinacria" during the Luigi Carlo Farini's Lieutenancy.
- To show the "Savoy Cross" in a unique manner: **for the first time in the world 97 of 100** different positions of the "Savoy Cross" have been found and displayed. The exhibit shows the most accurate and important plating of "Savoy Cross" ever.
- To show different varieties of the "Savoy Cross" and unique pieces both mint and cancelled: the exhibit presents colour types, examples with monograms, mixed frankings, pairs, great multiples, spectacular circulars and newspapers.

## The exhibit is divided into seven chapters:

- 1) Origin and first day of use (page 1)
- 2) Representation of plating of 97 of 100 positions of "Savoy Cross" plate (page 2)
- 3) Varieties: "Double T", watermarks and monogram BT (page 3)
- 4) Varieties: mixed frankings and pairs (page 4)
- 5) Varieties: rates for 1/2 and 1 sheet (page 5)
- 6) Varieties: circulars (page 6)
- 7) Varieties: newspapers (page 7 and 8)

## Highlights:

Pieces of particular interest and rarity have been highlighted with a bold frame in red

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- E. Diena, "I francobolli del Regno di Napoli e i due provvisori da mezzo tornese del 1860", 1932.  
 E. De Angelis, M. Pecchi, "Il francobollo da ½ tornese del 1860 Croce di Savoia", 2017.  
 P. Vaccari, "Francobolli e storia postale, trattato storico e catalogo", 2011.  
 G. Bolaffi, "Catalogo enciclopedico dei francobolli degli Antichi Stati Italiani 1850/1870", 1983  
 Italphil, "La collezione filatelica Ignazio Mormino del Banco di Sicilia", 1981.

The collection is accompanied by 240 expertises, of which 77 were issued in the last century



## "SAVOY CROSS": THE ORIGIN AND FIRST DAY OF USE

Garibaldi's exit from the scene and the appointment of Luigi Farini as Lieutenant of the King in November 1860 saw the birth on December 6th of the ½ Tornese stamp, resulting from the reengraving of the "Savoy Cross" in place of "Trinacria".

The Savoy Cross was printed using the chalcographic technique. At the time, chalcographic inks were prepared using an artisanal process. Walnut or linseed oil was cooked in a pot for many hours; after cooling it, a very dense varnish obtained represented the base of the ink. This varnish was ground on a marble surface and mixed with coloured pigments until a dense and homogeneous paste was obtained. While for the Trinacria a quantity of ink was prepared that was needed for a single print run, in the case of the Savoy Cross there were at least two print runs and colours.

The first colour to appear chronologically was ultramarine blue; subsequently, about a week later, dark blue appeared. There is no doubt that the choice of colour was a tribute to Vittorio Emanuele II, because the so-called Savoy blue has been one of the symbols of the House of Savoy over the centuries, present in the dynasty's coat of arms and in all the insignia of the family.

### BRIGHT BLUE



mint

(e)

(Pos. No. 31 of the plate)

### BLUE



mint

(e)

(Pos. No. 45 of the plate)

### DEEP BLUE



mint

(e)

(Pos. No. 62 of the plate)

The only postal documents relating to the first day of use of "Savoy Cross" (December, 6<sup>th</sup> 1860) are newspaper "L'OMNIBUS", corresponding to No. 113 of XXVIII year. The newspaper "L'OMNIBUS" regularly used "Savoy Cross" until February, 28<sup>th</sup> 1861 and -with very rare exceptions- the date of the newspaper is the same of the date of shipment. Subsequently "L'OMNIBUS" regularly used the ½ tornese of Neapolitan Provinces and only sporadically the "Savoy Cross".



DECEMBER, 6<sup>th</sup> 1860, large piece of the newspaper "L'OMNIBUS" No. 113 of XXVIII year with the "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark.

(Pos. No. 99 of the plate, **without watermark**)

**ONE OF THREE FIRST DAY OF USE**



**FOR THE FIRST TIME  
THE EXHIBIT SHOWS  
A REPRESENTATION OF THE  
PLATING OF 97 OF 100 POSITIONS OF  
THE "SAVOY CROSS" PLATE**

*PLATING OF 97 OF 100 POSITIONS*

*The work, carried out by Pasquale Amendola, was certainly not easy, and in fact, all the specimens show more or less evident signs of the pre-existing design. All the characteristics of the paper, printing, and watermark are identical to those of the previous stamp and therefore to those of the Bourbon stamps.*

*The cross was made by engraving four thin guide lines using a burin. In the four curvilinear corners created between the cross and the surrounding circular frame, thin vertical lines were drawn—usually 12 per corner, although in some specimens this number varies.*

*The fact that all 100 specimens of the plate were re-engraved allows each one to be definitively positioned on the sheet, as each differs from the others in specific details. The differences and irregularities are often quite noticeable, with incomplete, crooked lines, or lines that extend beyond the frame, so much so that two stamps can have very significant engraving differences.*

*In this case as well, the chosen color was blue, with more pronounced shades compared to the Trinacria, perhaps because more print runs were made. Among the most important varieties, once again, is the double punching of the letter "T"—and this is no surprise, given that the plate is the same as that of the Trinacria.*

**POSITIONS  
3 - 27 - 49 - 65 - 79 - 90  
ARE MINT STAMPS**

For a graphical reason the following stamps are proposed here from the next exhibit pages:

- pos. 13 - inverted watermark - page 3
- pos. 40 - letter watermark in the margin - page 3
- pos. 61 - mixed frankings - page 4
- pos. 53 - multiple - page 5



STAMPS WITH THE "DOUBLE T" OF TORNESE

The ½ tornese stamp "Savoy Cross" was created using a half plate (100 copies) of value ½ grano 2nd plate. The "G" of grano was chiselled and in its place a "T" was engraved to indicate tornese. This operation was performed with a tiny punch, much faster than an engraving with a burin. The punch measured only 2 millimetres, was placed on the plate and then beaten with a mallet. To have a perfectly uniform mark, the punch had to be positioned perfectly vertical and the blow had to be clean. Of the various and inevitable punching defects, the most obvious is the double punching. Twelve positions were found, of which three were complete and nine were incomplete, showing only parts or traces of a second "T". Of these twelve double punchings, five are found in the first horizontal row.



½ blue tornese  
(Pos. No. 12 of the plate)  
(e)



½ deep blue tornese  
on wrapper, on newspaper piece  
(Pos. No. 8 of the plate)



½ bright blue tornese  
(Pos. No. 41 of the plate)

natural paper wrinkle  
**UNIQUE**  
(e)

STAMPS WITH THE "DOUBLE T" OF TORNESE-NEWSPAPER

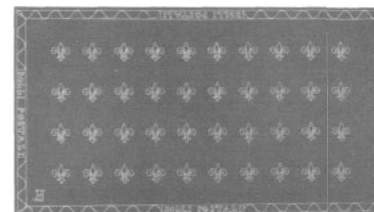


JANUARY, 22<sup>th</sup> 1861, newspaper "L'OMNIBUS" No. 10 franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled with (e) framed "ANNULLATO" postmark and below the red circle "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 22 GEN.1861"

(Pos. No. 1 of the plate)

WATERMARK

**Reproduction of the watermark used for the Bourbon stamps**



The Bourbon lilies are repeated in watermark only forty times on the sheets and this means that some stamps were printed on parts where the watermark did not fall. The 40 lilies are enclosed by a double box containing a sinusoidal line interrupted on all four sides by the legend "BOLLI POSTALI"; only in the lower right corner does the monogram "BT" appear, initial letters of Bonaventura Tajani, the paper supplier.

INVERTED WATERMARK



½ blue tornese  
(Pos. No. 13 of the plate)



(e)

WITHOUT WATERMARK

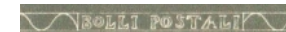


½ blue tornese  
(Pos. No. 56 of the plate)

LETTERS WATERMARK IN THE MARGIN



½ bright blue tornese  
(Pos. No. 40 of the plate)



MONOGRAM "BT"



Depending on how the watermarked sheet was printed, it is possible to find examples with the partial or almost complete monogram "BT" in the watermark at positions 99 and 100. Position 99 can also be found without watermark (personal research).



½ blue tornese  
Pos. No. 99 of the plate

**without watermark**



½ blue tornese  
Pos. No. 99 of the plate

**with monogram "BT"**



½ blue tornese  
Pos. No. 100 of the plate  
**mint with monogram "BT"**  
**ONLY KNOWN MINT**

½ blue tornese  
Pos. No. 90 of the plate

(e)



Stamp with marginal watermark (wavy lines) with part of unofficial watermark next to it (circle crossed by a vertical line)

**ONLY KNOWN WITH THIS VARIETY OF WATERMARK**



MIXED STAMPS



(e)

"Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese and Naples ½ dark carmine grano 2<sub>ng</sub> plate canceled with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark on small piece

(Pos. No. 37 of the plate)

PAIR

VERTICAL PAIR



(e)

½ deep blue tornese

(Pos. No. 4-14)

HORIZONTAL PAIR



½ deep blue tornese

postmark "ANNULLATO" without scroll (Pos. No. 21-22)



(e)

½ deep blue tornese

black circle "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 12 MAR. 1861" (Pos. No. 43-44)

**NINE MIXED FRANKINS ARE KNOWN WITH STAMPS OF THE KINGDOM**



(e)

FEBRUARY, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861, wrapper sent from Naples to Nola with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, vertical pair, and with Neapolitan Provinces ½ green yellow tornese, canceled with two complete circle red postmarks "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 23 FEB. 1861".

(Pos. No. 61/71 of the plate)



(e)

MARCH, 9<sup>th</sup> 1861, wrapper from Naples to Altamura (Puglia) with "Savoy Cross" ½ deep blue tornese, horizontal pair, canceled with two "ANNULLATO" postmarks without scroll and with at the side the red circle "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI MAR. 1861".

(Pos. No. 66/67 of the plate)

**FOUR MIXED FRANKINS ARE KNOWN WITH STAMPS OF THE NEAPOLITAN PROVINCES ONLY KNOWN WITH STAMPS OF THE SAME FACE VALUE**

**ONE OF TEN DOCUMENTS WITH "SAVOIA CROSS" PAIRS**



RATE FOR LETTER OF 1/2 SHEET

The use of "Savoy Cross" on letter is extremely rare, because -to respect the rates- it was necessary to use many specimens or mixed postage with stamps of Bourbon kingdom or of Neapolitan Provinces.

RATE FOR LETTER OF ONE SHEET



(e)

MARCH, 13<sup>th</sup> 1861, letter sent from L'Aquila to Naples with "Savoy Cross" ½ light blue tornese, **two vertical pairs from a strip of four**, canceled with two "fancy cancel" no. 32, with at the side the Bourbon red circle "AQUILA 13 MAR.1861"

(Pos. No. 43/53 and 63/73 of the plate)

**ONLY KNOWN**



(e)

Front letter addressed to Gallipoli (Puglia) with "Savoy Cross" ½ light blue tornese, **eight copies of which two single and two strips of three (one vertical and one horizontal)**, canceled with four "fancy cancel" no. 29 of Agnone.

(Pos. No. 32/33 and 43/53/63 and 21/22/23 of the plate)

**MAXIMUM MULTIPLE KNOWN ON DOCUMENT**  
*(Ex Burrus and ex Imperato collections)*



CIRCULAR OUTSIDE BOURBON TERRITORIES



(e)

**MARCH, 16<sup>th</sup> 1861**, printed circular sent from Naples to Turin (*Piemonte*), franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled with red circular "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 16 MAR 1861" and a simple circle "TORINO 18 MAR 1861", affixed upon arrival.

(Pos. No. 28 of the plate)

**ONE OF THE RARE DOCUMENTS TRAVELLED OUTSIDE OF BOURBON TERRITORIES UNIQUE DOCUMENT THAT TRAVELED ON DAY OF PROCLAMATION OF KINGDOM OF ITALY (17 MAR 1861)**

CIRCULAR



(e)

**DECEMBER, 29<sup>th</sup> 1860**, printed circular sent from Naples to Morcone (*Campania*), franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark and with the red circle next to it "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 29 DEC 1860".

(Pos. No. 14 of the plate)

STAMPS USED IN PERIPHERAL OFFICES

The use of "Savoy Cross" in peripheral offices is extremely rare. We know only five: one sent from Potenza, one sent from Teramo and three from Salerno.



(e)

½ deep blue tornese  
canceled with black circle  
"SALERNO 22 LUG. 1861"  
(Pos. No. 37)

**ONE OF FIVE KNOWN**



NEWSPAPER: IL CORRIERE DEL SANNIO  
Newspaper "IL CORRIERE DEL SANNIO" No. 5 of **NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> 1860**, franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled in black with "fancy cancel" no. 32 of L'Aquila.  
(Pos. No. 42 of the plate)

NEWSPAPER: L'OMNIBUS



**DECEMBER, 8<sup>th</sup> 1860**, newspaper "L'OMNIBUS" No. 114 send from Naples to Baronissi (*Salerno*), franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled in black with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark and a red circular postmark "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 8 DIC 1860" (Pos. No. 37 of the plate).

**THIRD DAY OF USE (Ex "Archivio di Baronissi")**



**DECEMBER, 8<sup>th</sup> 1860**, newspaper "IL PAESE" No. 64 sent from Naples to Messina (*Sicilia*), franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled in black with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark and a red circular postmark, with a "MESSINA" postmark, affixed upon arrival.

(Pos. No. 64 of the plate)  
**THIRD DAY OF USE**



**FEBRUARY, 16<sup>th</sup> 1861**, newspaper "LA PAROLA CATTOLICA" No. 6, franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark.

(Pos. No. 22 of the plate)



NEWSPAPER: OMNIBUS



FEBRUARY, 5<sup>th</sup> 1861, newspaper "L'OMNIBUS" No. 64, sent from Naples to Tagliacozzo (Abruzzo) franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled in black with the framed "ANNULLATO" postmark. (e)

(Pos. No. 44 of the plate)

NEWSPAPER: L'INDIPENDENTE

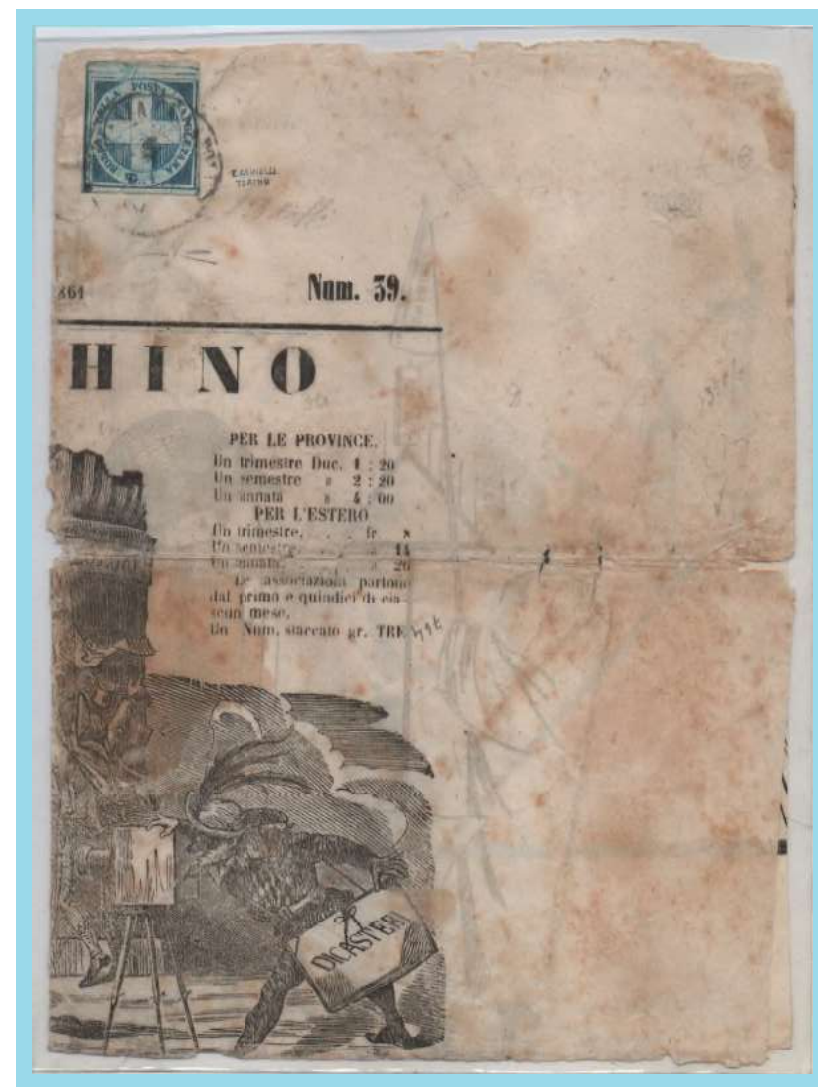


APRIL, 15<sup>th</sup> 1861, large fragment of newspaper "L'INDIPENDENTE", franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled in black with the circle "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI 18 APR 1861"

(Pos. No. 31 of the plate)

NEWSPAPER TRAVELLED IN THE PERIOD OF KINGDOM OF ITALY

NEWSPAPERS: L'ARLECCHINO



MARCH, 31<sup>th</sup> 1861, newspaper "L'ARLECCHINO" No. 39, franked with "Savoy Cross" ½ blue tornese, canceled in black with the circle "PARTENZA DA NAPOLI".

(Pos. No. 27 of the plate)

NEWSPAPER TRAVELLED IN THE PERIOD OF KINGDOM OF ITALY