

**CATALOGING and CORRELATING**  
**the**  
**POSTAL CARDS & LETTER SHEETS**  
**of**  
**TRIESTE “A” ... AMG-FTT**  
  
**1947 to 1954**

**OBJECTIVE**

The intent of this exhibit is to present a logical and comprehensive catalog listing and cross reference for the Postal Cards and Letter sheets issued by the Allied Military Government Administration for use in Zone “A” of the Free Territory of Trieste. Inclusive in the listings are the forerunner issues from Venezia Giulia (AMG-VG) and the Trieste “A” (AMG-FTT) issues. These cards and letter sheets were in use from mid September of 1947 to 1954 when Trieste “A” became part of Italy. Trieste “B” is not considered.

**BACKGROUND**

All cards and letter sheets issued by the AMG Administration were created by overprinting the issues of Italy with the letters AMG-FTT , T.L.T. or combinations of the two in varying formats and sizes. The overprints were first applied by hand stamp locally and then converted to machine overprinting by the Government Printing Office in Rome starting in late 1949. There are four distinct groups ... postal cards, postal cards with reply card, letter sheets and air letter sheets, the latter only being machine overprinted. All four types exist for Trieste “A”. Only postal cards exist for the Venezia Giulia forerunners.

The variety and inconsistency of the early hand stamped overprint combinations and formats provided the catalogers and listing entities a challenge. All proceeded differently. Some commingled the four types, others separated the four and yet others produced a combination. Numbering systems are inconsistent.

Further, a complete listing of all cataloged, recorded and observed overprint types, combinations and varieties does not exist in one single reference for the AMG Cards and Letter Sheets. This exhibit provides a consolidated reference, examples of key individual items, gives background data on the issue groups and correlates all major references to the numbers established here in.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MATERIAL**

All items presented are mint unless the used condition was the only available example. The issue quantities range from over a million such as the 8 September 1952 Letter Sheet to as few as 500 in the case of the *Natale Tristino* issue of December 1953. Many issues were less than six thousand and present a challenge to locate. The item considered to be the rarest is the “Green Color Missing Error” from the *Natale Tristino* issue ... an example of which is included. Other errors and varieties such as paper color differences, indicia color variations and multiple and inverted overprints are also represented. Bogus cards are also included to complete the reference. It should be noted that the period of time to assemble this data and material is in excess of twenty five years.

**ORIGINAL WORK**

The Exhibit organization and listing content is based on an on an in-depth review of all specialized catalogs, literature, auction catalogs, internet sources and personal observations of relative examples. This has resulted in a logical, organized catalog layout that presents a consolidated listing of Cards and Letter Sheets issued for use in Trieste “A”. It has also resolved some of the conflicts in issue dates and release quantities. The cards and letter sheets are now properly grouped by issue date and base card or sheet.

## **EXHIBIT STRUCTURE**

The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Title Page / Introduction
- Venezia Giulia ... AMG-VG
  - Brief Introduction and Overprint Type(s) description
  - Postal Cards (VG-)
- Trieste "A" ... AMG-FTT
  - Brief Introduction
  - Descriptions of the 9 basic "Overprints" used
  - Postal Cards (PC-) ... Genuine & Bogus
  - Postal Cards with Reply Card (PR-) ... Genuine & Bogus
  - Letter Sheets (LS-)
  - Air Letter Sheets (AL-)

## **LISTING METHODOLOGY**

Each issue is defined by the ability to break it down into a single base Italian card or sheet, the issue date and issue quantity. Within each issue there may be more than one overprinted card or sheet such as the hand-stamped varieties which can have multiple combinations of overprints. Each "issue" starts on a new page and shows a chart of all of the known varieties and correlations to other catalogs and references. This chart appears only on the first page of the issue. If more than one variety exists in the issue the assigned number from the chart and a brief description is provided on each subsequent page. Item numbers are assigned sequentially for each group and are preceded by the letter prefix noted above in the "structure" outline. For major varieties or combinations in each issue a capital letter is assigned following the numerical designation. Minor varieties and errors carry succeeding numbers and lower case letters for distinction.

The correlation section of the "Type & Correlation" charts is complete and provides all known numbers assigned by specialized catalogs and literature. Items not cataloged but observed are noted in the table and indicate the origin of the information.

The emphasis on material presented is to provide examples of the individual issues and not on their use. Mint examples are considered more desirable for cataloging reference purposes.

## **REFERENCES**

References below are in two groups... the first being the catalogs and literature for which correlations are made and the second group is for general specialized reference.

### **Correlation References**

- Bornstein ... Specialized, rare AMG Trieste catalog published in Trieste in 1955
- Bush ... J.V. Bush Inc., Bonita CA, Postal Stationery Check List, 1997
- C.E.I. ... Specialized Italian era catalog, Milan, Italy, 2002
- Higgins & Gage ... Postal Stationery Catalog, Section 17, "T", 1980, California
- Michel ... Western Europe Ganzaschen-Katalog, Germany
- Sassone ... Specialized Italian Era Catalog, Rome, Italy
- Unificato ... Specialized Italian Era Catalog, Milan, Italy
- Zanetti & Giannetto, AMG-VG, Governo Militare Alleto della Vennezia Giulia, Milan, Italy

### **General References**

- Wilke ... The AMG Story, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, Columbus, OH 1994
- V. Bianco & Ram Stamp Company .. Auction Catalogs from early 1990's to present
- Various Internet sources and auctions
- Miscellaneous overseas (Italy & Germany) Auction Catalogs

## SYNOPSIS

# CATALOGING and CORRELATING the POSTAL CARDS & LETTER SHEETS of TRIESTE "A" ... AMG-FTT 1947 to 1954

### BACKGROUND

The exhibitor has been collecting the AMG Area for well over 30 years. As with many philatelic endeavors, we all start out with the self directed challenge of filling spaces in an album using the Scotts or similar catalog as a guide. On the way to completing this daunting task we soon discover items that these "standard" catalogs do not recognize everything that we have gathered. Some items, not quickly identified are often set aside for a period of time until curiosity gains the upper hand and we seek out sources that will solve the mystery as to what "gem" we may have.

Such was the personal experience with the AMG area. Specialists dealers in this collecting area were discovered and contacted. Specialized materials of interest and an integral fit into the collection began to grow. As the philatelic material grew so did the number of "specialized references". We discover that there is life beyond Scotts.

References for Trieste "A" Postal Stationery however was not as plentiful as with stamps. Higgins & Gage was the most readily available but has not been updated since the 1980 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "T" volume. Many of the Italian catalogs did not list postal cards and letter sheets until the late 90's. Further the references that were available were neither consistent nor complete.

The 74 postal card and letter sheet examples exhibited have been assembled over a period of 25 years or more. It started with a few obtained in a remainder AMG collection and then progressed as noted above. Interest in the postal stationery items was also a stimulus. As they were gathered along with various references it became apparent that a logical and meaningful form of cataloging and displaying was needed. Further there was no consolidated reference for all of the issues, varieties, overprint combinations and errors defined in one easy reference.

### OBJECTIVE

The intent of the exhibit is founded in the need to consolidate all available issue information, organize the example cards and letter sheets and provide a correlation to existing literature. This needed to be done in a logical easily understood format that can be used as a comprehensive reference and could be expanded as new items are added or discovered. Through this objective, the result approaches a new and complete catalog which provides a format in which the philatelic material can be shown in a meaningful and organized manor. Note that the intent is to show the types of cards and sheets that were issued not the usage. Therefore, where possible only mint cards are shown.

### ORGANIZATION

The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Title Page / Introduction
- Venezia Giulia ... AMG-VG
  - Brief Introduction and Overprint Type(s) description
    - Postal Cards (VG-)
- Trieste "A" ... AMG-FTT
  - Brief Introduction
  - Examples of the 9 different Overprints used
    - Postal Cards (PC-) ... Genuine & Bogus
    - Postal Cards with Reply Card (PR-) ... Genuine & Bogus
    - Letter Sheets (LS-)
    - Air Letter Sheets (AL-)

Each issue exhibited has a beginning page which includes a description of the issue, the issue date and quantity, the first example of the item and a "Type & Correlation Table". The table includes descriptions of all known cards or sheets of the issue, notes that are needed to clarify the origin of the listing and its status in the exhibit. The correlation section provides the respective cataloging cross references to all known literature listings.

Note that the issues of Venezia Giulia, AMG-VG, are included as they were useable from mid September 1947 when the American / British Administration took control of the "A" Zone until 1 October when the first AMG-FTT issues were released.

### **LISTING METHODOLOGY**

Each issue is defined by the ability to break it down into a single base card or sheet and the issue date and issue quantity. Within each issue there may be more than one overprinted card or sheet such as the hand-stamped varieties which can have multiple combinations of overprints. Each "issue" starts on a new page and shows a chart of all of the known varieties and correlations to other catalogs and references. This chart appears only on the first page of the issue. If more than one variety in the issue the assigned number from the chart and a brief description is provided on subsequent pages as required. Item numbers are assigned sequentially for each group and are preceded by the letter prefix noted above in the "structure" outline. For major varieties or combinations in each issue a capital letter is assigned following the sequential numerical designation. Minor varieties and errors carry succeeding numbers and lower case letters for distinction of the item listed.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MATERIAL**

All items presented are mint unless the used condition has been the only available example. The issue quantities range from over a million such as the 8 September 1952 Letter sheet to as few as 500 in the case of the *Natale Tristino* issue of December 1953. Many issued quantities were less than six thousand and present a challenge to locate.

The item considered to be one of the rarest from Trieste "A" is the "Green Color Missing Error" from the *Natale Tristino* issue ... an example of which is included. Only two examples are known to have been offered since the early 1990's. The example shown is one of these.

Other errors and varieties such as paper color differences, indicia color variations and multiple and inverted overprints are also represented. Bogus cards are also included to complete the reference. It should be noted that the period of time to assemble this data and material is in excess of twenty five years and major variety listings are now over 95% complete with the early hand stamped types being the most elusive.

### **REFERENCES**

References below are in two groups... the first being the catalogs and literature for which correlations are made and the second group is for general specialized reference.

#### **Correlation References**

- Bornstein ... Specialized, rare AMG Trieste catalog published in Trieste in 1955
- Bush ... J.V. Bush Inc., Bonita CA, Postal Stationery Check List, 1997
- C.E.I. ... Specialized Italian era catalog, Milan, Italy, 2002
- Higgins & Gage ... Postal Stationery Catalog, Section 17, "T", 1980, California
- Michel ... Western Europe Ganzaschen-Katalog, Germany
- Sassone ... Specialized Italian Era Catalog, Rome, Italy
- Unificato ... Specialized Italian Era Catalog, Milano, Italy
- Zanetti & Giannetto, AMG-VG, Governo Militare Alleto della Vennezia Giulia, Milano, Italy

#### **General References**

- Wilke ... The AMG Story, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, Columbus, OH 1994
- V. Bianco & Ram Stamp Company .. Auction Catalogs from early 1990's to present
- Various Internet sources and auctions
- Miscellaneous overseas ( Italy & Germany) Auction Catalogs