

PATTERNS COMMON TO GB & ITALIAN STAMPS

from **Enrico Bertazzoli**

In Italy the practice to perforate stamps to discourage thefts or unauthorised use only started around 1882. At the beginning it was necessary to get permission from the postal administration to perforate stamps but from 1889 to date, anyone is free to use their perforated stamps without authorisation.

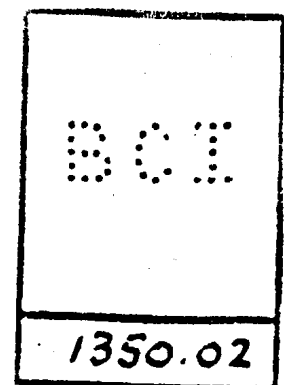
The period of most common use was between 1910 and 1930 when the introduction of meters gradually limited the need to perforate the stamps and in the last 20 years perforations have almost never been used. In comparison with the GB situation, in Italy the use of perforations was restricted to far fewer users.

At present I am engaged in carrying out a study on the perforations of Italy and of course any information or suggestions from members would be very important. Till now I have found about 700 different dies of which 500 belong to known companies and 200 waiting for their identification.

Amongst the Italian companies, a few also operated in Great Britain and probably perforated GB stamps, as well as some GB companies operating in Italy and perforated Italian stamps.

For instance the "**BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA**" with foreign headquarters in London, in the 20's and 30's probably used the pattern BCI similar to other BCI patterns used by the same bank in Italy, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Egypt, Morocco, Monaco and Turkey

[Ed:-The GB perforation BCI (B1350.02) is indeed used by Banca Commerciale Italiana and I have a cover dated 5-7-23 with GV 1d & 2½d stamps with address of the bank at 30A Threadneedle Street, EC2.]



BARCLAYS BANK operated both at home and abroad but the GB stamps are perforated BBK or B/BK but the Italian perforation is B.B. If, whilst continuing my research, I come across other 'dual' country use perforations I will inform you through the Bulletin.