

# PHILATELIC BULLETIN



2024

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## Stamp Quiz



Here is this month's Stamp Quiz. Part of a stamp is shown here. Can you guess the country, stamp, and denomination? Rules: The stamp quiz stamps will always be definitives and not particularly uncommon! Here's a hint: this stamp was part of a series issued in the 1950s. If you think you know it, please send your guesses to the me at:

centonzevincent@gmail.com. Good luck!

## Non-Postage Stamp on Periodical

By Vincent Centonze

The item shown in Figure 1 is the upper half of the front page of a periodical with an interesting stamp affixed. The periodical is the German illustrated news and political magazine, *Über Land und Meer* (Over Land and Sea), which was published in Stuttgart, Germany, between 1858 and 1923. Like many periodicals, *Über Land und Meer* would likely have been sent by mail under a newspaper and periodical wrapper.



Figure 1. German periodical *Über Land und Meer*, with interesting

However, in many cases, stamps were affixed directly to the periodical. Such an instance is shown in Figure 2, which shows a cropped image of a portion of the Italian newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, with a 25 centesimi Victor Emmanuel III definitive of 1926 (Italy Scott 82) tied directly to the paper for postage. In this case, it appears to have paid a 25 centesimi international printed matter rate to Nuland, in the Netherlands.

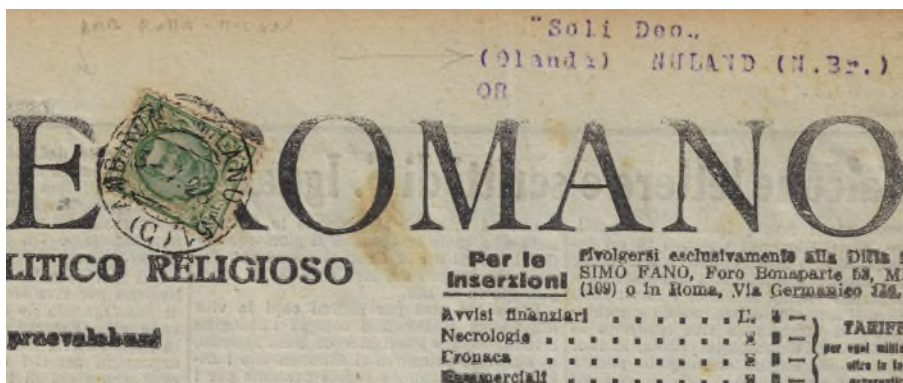


Figure 2. 25 centesimi Italian Victor Emmanuel III definitive of 1926 tied directly to a newspaper to pay the newspaper rate to Nuland in the Netherlands. The cancel on the stamp is dated July 3, 1928.

Continued on next page



## The Prez Sez ...

Hello Summer!

As per past practice there will be no meetings at the Universalist Church in June, July and August.

We will instead meet at a local restaurant for show, tell and ask. As noted in several emails, the Perkins at Fruitville that we used last summer has closed permanently. Several club members made useful suggestions for a meeting place. June's meeting will be at Gecko's (351 N Cattlemen Rd, Sarasota, FL 34232 ). Unfortunately their separate dining room is already in use on Tuesday evenings. They have agreed to seat us together at one side of the dining area. If you are coming to this meeting please arrive between 5 and 5:30 PM

At our last meeting we were treated to a fascinating talk by Mark Isaacs about how he discovered in a large auction lot a stamp that (if genuine) cataloged for a LOT of money - and then the steps he took, the folks he contacted and resources he tapped to find out that what he had was a Facsimile - not necessarily well known to the non specialist - thank you Mark! He also treated us to a display of his very complete classic era Indo-China.

Hope to see you in June for supper and stamps at Gecko's Pat

### Non-Postage Stamp on Periodical (Continued)

However, we can tell that the periodical shown in Figure 1 was *returned* to the publisher. In most cases, if the addressee was not known, the periodical would have been returned to the sender still sealed in the wrapper. However, in this case, a stamp was affixed to the newspaper and canceled, but not for the purpose of paying postage to mail the newspaper to the subscriber as is the case with the Italian stamp. Nor was the stamp affixed to shown payment of a tax levied on the paper itself. Rather, this stamp was affixed for return to the publisher. To make things even more interesting, it is not even truly a postage stamp in the sense that it paid any postage. The "stamp" is quite interesting; it is known as a "Retourmarke" or "Retourbriefe" stamp (I'll refer to it as a Retourmarke). Retourmarken are not newspaper stamps and were never intended for postage. They were more like official seals than postage stamps. They were mostly used to reseal undeliverable covers with no return address after the covers had been opened to ascertain the sender's information. They were used in Germany in the 1860's in six cities. Each city's Retourmarke has a slightly different design and contains the city name. The six cities included Augsburg, Bamberg, München, Nürnberg, Speyer, and Würzburg. It is very rare to see one affixed to a returned periodical. Figure 3 shows a cropped image of the Retourmarke, from Speyer, affixed to the periodical. The periodical was apparently sent to an address in Speyer, in Rhineland-Palatinate, where the addressee was most likely not known. Or perhaps the wrapper had been damaged and lost in transit. Because the newspaper's publisher in Stuttgart was ascertainable, indeed it is printed on the paper, the post office in Speyer applied the Retourmarke and returned the item to the publisher.



Figure 4. Nürnberg Retourmarke .



Figure 3. Cropped image of Speyer Retourmarke on German periodical.

Figure 4 shows a Retourmarke from Nürnberg. Retourmarken are little known and even less collected. They are listed and priced in the *Michel Germany Specialized Catalogue*, which notes that forgeries exist. Michel describes the forgeries as being crudely executed on poor quality paper. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Album Weeds*, written by R.B. Eareé in 1906, he mentions the forgeries under Bavaria in Volume I. Eareé described Retourmarken as "Returned Letter Labels" but does not illustrate them or describe the forgeries, but rather dismisses the issue because they were not true postage stamps. If you collect Retourmarken, or have comments email the editor at: [centonzevincent@gmail.com](mailto:centonzevincent@gmail.com).

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