

ITALIAN—ENGLISH PHILATELIC DICTIONARY

A

Aerogramma aerogram. Plural form is **aerogrammi**.

Affrancatura franking. Plural form is **affrancature**. ~ **meccanica** metered postage. ~ **mista** mixed franking.

Alto high, top. See also **Basso**.

Angolo corner. ~ **di foglio** sheet corner.

Anno year. ~ **Santo** Holy Year.

Annullo cancel. Past tense is **annullato**. ~ **di favore** favor cancel. ~ **speciale** special cancel.

Annullamento cancellation. ~ **sbarrato** cancellation with bars or stripes. ~ **verso** backstamp. ~ **manuale** hand cancellation. ~ **compiacenza** cancelled to order.

Appendice attached, label, tab. See also **Chiudilettera**.

 **Arancio, Arancione** orange.

 **Ardesia** slate.

Assicurata insured.

Assottigliato thinned. See also **Sottile**.

Avviso di ricevimento return receipt service.

 **Azzurro** blue. ~ **Turchese** turquoise.

B

Baiocco unit of currency used in the Pontifical (Roman) State before 1866. Usually rendered in English as bajocco; plural form is **baiocchi**, usually rendered in English as bajocchi. One hundred baiocchi equaled one **Scudo** (q.v.) Replaced by the **Centesimo** (q.v.)

Basso low, bottom. See also **Alto**.

 **Bianco** white.

 **Bigello** beige.

 **Bistro** bistre.

Blocco block. ~ **di quattro** block of four. ~ **angolare di cinque** ornamental corner block of five. ~ **di sei** block of six. ~ **foglietto** souvenir sheet. ~ **mosaico** se-tenant (used of blocks, pairs, and strips). See also **Quartina**.

Bollo postmark. Plural form is **bolli**. ~ **di posta aerea** airmail stamp. ~ **di posta ferroviaria** railway postmark. **Marca di** ~ fiscal stamp. See also **Timbro**.

Bordo margin, selvage. ~ **di foglio** margin copy.

Bozzetto design. Plural form is **bozzetti**. See also **Disegno, Soggetto**.

 **Brunastro** brownish.

 **Bruno** brown. ~ **bistro** bistre brown. ~ **nero** brown black. See also **Marrone**.

Busta cover. ~ **di primo giorno** first day cover. ~ **volo** flight cover.

C

Calcografia recess engraving.

 **Camoscio** buff.

Capovolto inverted.

Cardine hinge. **Senza** ~ never hinged. See also **Cerniera, Illinguellato, Linguella**.

Carta paper, map. ~ **di fibra**; ~ **con fili di seta** granite paper. ~ **fluorescente** fluorescent paper. ~ **di Germania** German paper; surface colored paper used in the Pontifical (Roman) State stamps of 1867 and 1868. ~ **gessata** chalky paper. ~ **matta** matte paper. ~ **semilucida** semi-shiny paper. ~ **vergata** laid paper. ~ **liscia** wove paper. ~ **patinato** glossy paper. **piega di** ~ perforation variety caused by folded paper.

Cartolina card. Plural form is **cartoline**. ~ **maximum** maximum card. ~ **postale** postal card. ~ **illustrata** picture postcard.

 **Carminio** carmine. **rosso** ~ crimson.

Catalogo postage stamp catalog. Plural form is **cataloghi**. ~ **d'asta** auction catalog. **Quotazione di** ~ catalog value.

Centenario centenary. See also **Millenario**.

Centesimo unit of currency used in the Pontifical (Roman) State and Vatican City State from 1866 to 2002. Plural form is **centesimi**. One hundred centesimi equaled one Lira (q.v.) Preceded by the **Baiocco** (q.v.) and replaced by the **Euro** (q.v.) cent.

Centro center. **Centrato** centered. **Centratura** centering.

Cerniera hinged. See also **Linguellato**.

 **Chiaro** light. See also **Scuro**.

Chiavi decussate crossed keys (of St. Peter), a watermark found on many Vatican stamps previous to 1972. See also **Filagrana**, **Ruota alata**.

Chiudilettera seals; labels.

Collezione collection.

Colore color. **Sbaglio di** ~ color error. **Cambio di** ~ color change. **Varietà di** ~ color variety. **Gradaziano di** ~ color shade.

Commemorativo commemorative. See also **Definitivo**.

Commerciante dealer.

Composizione composition.

Conio die. See also **Matrice**.

Coppia pair. ~ **invertita tête-bêche** pair. ~ **orizzontale** horizontal pair. ~ **verticale** vertical pair.

 **Cupo** deep.

D

Danneggiato damaged.

Data date. ~ **d'emissione** date of issue.

Decalco offset.

Decreto Papal decree.

Definitivo definitive. See also **Commemorativo**.

Dentellato perforated. **non** ~ imperforate.

Dentellatura perforation.

Diagonale diagonal.

Destra, destro right. **Superiore** ~ upper right. **Inferiore** ~ lower right. See also **Sinistra**.

Dicitura wording. See also **Inscrizione**.

Die emissionis (Latin) day of issue, often found in Vatican City first day cancellations. See also **Primo giorno**, **Prima die**.

Difetto fault.

Difettoso faulty.

Disegno design. Plural form is **disegni**. See also **Bozzetto**, **Soggetto**.

Dittico diptych (two different, conjoined stamps that form a single continuous design). Examples are Scott numbers 945a, 947a, 949a, and 951a in the Sistine Chapel Restoration issue of 1994 and 970a from the Christmas issue of 1994. Be careful to distinguish from a **Blocco mosaico** (q.v.) See also **Trittico**.

Doppio double. ~ **incisione** re-entry. ~ **stampa** double impression.

Dorso back. See also **Recto**, **Verso**.

E

Effigie portrait. ~ **in rilievo** embossed portrait.

Emissione issue. ~ **congiunta** joint issue. **giorno d'** ~ day of issue.

Errore error.

Esemplare copy, example.

Espresso express, special delivery.

Eestero foreign.

Etichetta a label perforated and gummed like a stamp; applied to mail to indicate the purchase of special services; sometimes found in the selvage of recent Vatican City stamps.

Euro unit of currency, consisting of one hundred Euro cents, used in Vatican City from 2002 to the present. Plural form is sometimes rendered as **euros**. Preceded by the **Lira** (q.v.) and the **Scudo** (q.v.)

F

Falsificazione counterfeit.

Falso per posta, falso per servire postal forgery; i.e. a counterfeit stamp designed to deceive postal authorities and deprive them of revenue.

Fermo posta a postal service in which mail is held at the post office until the addressee calls for it. Known in America as general delivery; sometimes also called *poste restante*.

Ferroviano railway.

Filagrana watermark. See also *Chiavi decussate, Ruota alata*.

Frama commonly used term for a stamp purchased from a vending machine; from the name of the Swiss firm that manufactures many of the machines.

Francobollo postage stamp. Plural form is **francobolli**. ~ **di servizio** official stamp. ~ **di beneficenza** semipostal stamp. ~ **ricordo** commemorative stamp. **distributore** ~ stamp vending machine. ~ **ordinari** definitive stamps.

Foglietto miniature sheet.

Foglio sheet. Plural form is **fogli**. **Posizione sul** ~ position in sheet. **Bordo di** ~ sheet margin single (sometimes abbreviated BdF). **Angolo di** ~ sheet corner single (sometimes abbreviated AdF).

Fondo background.

Formato format.

Fotocalcografia photogravure.

Fotolitografia photolithography.

Franchigia free frank.

Frazionato bisected.

G

 **Giallo** yellow.

Gomma gum. ~ **originale**, ~ **integra** original gum. **Senza** ~ without gum.

Gommato gummed.

 **Grigio** grey.

I-L

Illinguellato never hinged. See also *Senza cardine*.

Incisione engraving.

Inchiostro ink. ~ **oleoso** oily ink; used on stamps of the Pontifical (Roman) State between 1854-56 to make the washing off of cancellations difficult.

Inconsueta unusual.

 **Indaco** indigo.

Indirizzo address.

Insieme set, series. ~ **completa** complete set. ~ **incompleta** short set. See also *Serie*.

Interotto interrupted.

Interspazio gutter. See also *Ponte*.

Inscrizione inscription. See also *Dicitura*.

Lato side.

Lettera letter.

Libretto booklet.

 **Lilla** lilac.

Linguella hinge. See also *Cardine*.

Linguellato hinged. See also *Cerniera*.

Lira unit of currency, consisting of one hundred *Centesimi* (q.v.), that was legal tender in the Papal (Roman) State and Vatican City State from 1866 to 2002. The plural form is **lire**. It was preceded by the *Scudo* (q.v.) and succeeded by the *Euro* (q.v.)

Litografia lithography.

M-O

Macchiato stained.

 **Malva** mauve.

Mancolista want list.

Margine margin.

 **Marrone** brown.

Matrice die. See also *Conio*.

Metà, Mezzo half.

Militare military.

Millenario one-thousandth anniversary. See also *Centenario*.

 **Monocromatico** monochrome. See also *Policromo*.

Multiplo multiple. See also *Singolo*.

 **Nero** black. ~ **bruno** black-brown.

Non emesso unissued.

Numeri di cilindro plate numbers.

Odontometro perforation gauge.

 **Oliva** olive.

 **Oltremare** ultramarine.

Orizzontale horizontal. See also *Verticale*.

P-Q

Pacco postale parcel.


Perforato a zig-zag roulette perforated.

Perforazione perforation.

Perito expert. **Certificato de** ~ expertizer's certificate.

Per pacchi parcel post; found overprinted on the Conciliation Series of 1929.

Piegato creased, folded.

 **Polychrome** policromo. See also *Monocromatico*.

Ponte gutter pair. Plural form is **ponti**. See also *Interspazio*.

Posta mail. ~ **aerea** air mail. ~ **militare** military mail. ~ **prioritaria** priority mail. ~ **ordinaria** ordinary letter mail.

Pregiato scarce.

Prezzo price. ~ **a richiesta** price on request (sometimes abbreviated P.A.R.). ~ **netto** net price.

Prima die (Latin) first day, sometimes found in first day cancellations of Vatican City. See also *Die Emissionis*, *Primo giorno*.

Primo first. ~ **giorno** first day, sometimes found in first day cancellations of Vatican City. See also *Die Emissionis*, *Prima die*.

Prova di stampa proof.

Provvisorio provisional; used especially of the 1934 and 1937 provisional issues.

Quartina block of four. See also *Blocco*.

Quarto quarter.

Quotazione quotation.

R

Raccomandata registered.

 **Rame** copper.

Raro rare.

Recto reverse (back) side of a stamp or cover. See also *Verso*, *Dorso*.

Riga horizontal row. See also *Stricia*.

Rigommato regummed.

Rilievo embossing.

Riparato repaired.

Ristampa reprint.

Ritocco retouched.

 **Rosa** pink.

 **Rosso** red. ~ **carminio** crimson.

Rotocalco rotogravure.

Rovesciato reversed.

Ruota alata winged wheel; a watermark found on three Vatican stamps issued in the 1940s and '50s. See also *Chiavi decussati*.

S

Saggio specimen.

 **Salmone** salmon.

Sbarra bar.

Sbiadito faded.

Sconosciuta unknown.

Scudo unit of currency, consisting of one hundred *Baiocchi* (q.v.), used in the Pontifical (Roman) State prior to 1866. Plural form is **scudi**. Replaced by the *Lira* (q.v.)

Secondo second.

Sede vacante (Latin) literally, the chair (of St. Peter) is vacant; used on postage stamps issued during a papal interregnum.

Segnatasse postage due.

Semiufficiale semi-official.

Senza without. ~ **gomma** without gum. ~ **cardine** not hinged.

 **Seppia** sepia.

Serie set, series. ~ **completa** complete set. ~ **incompleta** short set. See also *Insieme*.

Servizio filatelico philatelic service; postal service in which a cover is cancelled and returned directly to the postal customer instead of processing it through the mail. Known in America as "handback service."

Sfondo background.

Singolo single.

Sinistra left. **Superiore** ~ upper left. **Inferiore** ~ lower left. See also *Destra*.

 **Smeraldo** emerald.

Soggetto subject, motif, vignette. Plural form is **soggetti**. See also *Disegno*, *Bozzetto*.

Soprastampa overprint. ~ **a mano** overprinted by hand.

Sottile thin. See also *Assotigliato*.

Sopraprezzo surcharge.

Sovraprezzo variant of *sopraprezzo*.

Sovrastampa variant of *soprastampa*.

Sperimentale experimental.

Spesso thick.

Spezzato broken.

Spostata moved; shifted.

Stampa printing. Past tense is *stampata*.

Stampe printed matter.

Stella star.

Storia postale postal history.

Strappato torn.

Striscia strip. ~ **di tre** strip of three. ~ **di quattro** strip of four. ~ **di cinque** strip of five. See also *Riga*.

Su, sul: on. ~ **frammento** on piece.

T

Tavola printing plate. **Numero di** ~ plate number.

Terzo third.

Timbro postale postmark. ~ **di gomma** rubber hand stamp. ~ **di legno** wooden handstamp.

Tipo type.

Tipografia typography.

Tiratura quantity printed; literally, "pulled," as in "pulled from the press."

Triplo triple.

Triregno Papal tiara of three crowns; seen on many stamps of Vatican City and the Roman (Papal) State.

Trittico triptych (three different, conjoined stamps that form a continuous design.) For an example, see Scott #557a, the St. Thomas Aquinas death anniversary issue and Scott #931, the Feast of the Ascension issue. Be careful to distinguish from a *Blocco mosaico*. See also *Dittico*.

U-V

Ufficio office. ~ **filatelico** philatelic office. ~ **postale** post office.

Usate used.

Valore value.

Varietà variety. ~ **di stampa** printing variety. ~ **di dentellatura** perforation variety.

 **Verde** green. ~ **Turchese** turquoise green.

 **Vermiglio** vermilion.

Verso front (face) of a stamp or cover. See also *Recto*, *Dorso*.

Verticale vertical. See also *Orizzontale*.

 **Violetto** violet.

 **Vinaccia** claret.

Volo flight. ~ **speciale** special flight. **primo** ~ first flight

If you have downloaded this glossary from the Vatican Philatelic Society's Web site at <http://www.vaticanphilately.org>, be sure to check back periodically for newer updated versions.