

“A.M.G. V.G.” Overprint Varieties and Errors

Part I—Displaced, Doubled, and Inverted Overprints

by Richard Pederson

[Author’s Note: The pictures of some stamps in this article are shown at larger than normal size to facilitate viewing the overprints and, when known, Bush numbers are provided in either the text or figure descriptions.]

Following the cessation of World War II in Europe, the city of Trieste and surrounding territory were divided with a portion (including the city of Trieste) under Allied Military Government (AMG) jurisdiction and the remainder under Yugoslavian jurisdiction. The AMG-administered area was designated as Trieste Zone A and the Yugoslavian-administered area was designated as Trieste Zone B.

The Italian name for Trieste and the surrounding area is Venezia Giulia. In September 1945, less than three months after the AMG took control of Zone A, they issued stamps for use in the administered area. Those stamps were created by overprinting current Italian stamps with “A.M.G. V.G.,” the initials standing for Allied Military Government in Venezia Giulia (AMG VG). The AMG overprinted regular issue, airmail, express, and tax stamps plus postal stationery for use in Zone A. Those stamps were in use until September 1947 when Trieste and some of the surrounding area became a free territory under the administration of the AMG. This area was then called the Free Territory of Trieste (FTT).

“A.M.G. V.G.” overprints were only in use for approximately two years. Due to the fact they were hastily created in post-war conditions, numerous overprinting errors and varieties were created. They included inverted overprints, double overprints, horizontally and vertically displaced overprints, broken characters, and offsets.

Some of the more visually striking of those varieties were the ones with displaced overprints. Displaced overprints are known to exist on many of the AMG VG issues. Typically, with vertically or horizontally displaced overprints, a portion of two different overprints appears on a single stamp. Figure 1 shows examples of several “A.M.G. V.G.” overprints that are horizontally displaced and Figure 2 shows stamps with vertically displaced overprints.



Figure 1. Horizontally displaced overprints on 10c (#15), 1L (#19), and a pair of the 20c without fascas.



Figure 2. Vertically displaced overprints on the 2L (#20) and 5L (#25) stamps.

Although I have not seen an example of an overprint that is extremely displaced both horizontally and vertically (and there is no reference to such overprints in the Bush catalog), I would be surprised if they did not exist. Such a displacement could result in portions of four overprints appearing on one stamp. The stamp in Figure 3 comes the closest of any I have seen since it shows an overprint that has a significant enough displacement horizontally and vertically that portions of three overprints are visible.



Figure 3. Horizontally and vertically displaced overprint on 10c with fasces (#15).

There were also inverted overprint errors found on a majority of the AMG VG issues. Figure 4 shows examples of the basic inverted overprint error and Figures 5 and 6 shows an example of the inverted overprint on cover.



Figure 4. Inverted overprints on 50c airmail (#16) and 2L (#20) stamps.

Double overprint errors are also found on many of the AMG VG issues (see Figure 7). On occasion, not only was one of the overprints doubled, it was also inverted and/or displaced. Figure 8

shows an example with double overprints where one is inverted and horizontally displaced.



Figure 5. On cover example of inverted overprint on the 10L (#21) along with two normal copies of the 1L (#19).



Figure 6. Magnified view of inverted overprint on the 10L stamp in Figure 5.



Figure 7. Double overprints on a 2L (#20 and an express 10L stamp (#44).

Reference: *Bush A.M.G. Catalog—Handbook*; edited by Harry W. Wilcke, M.D.; published by Joseph V. Bush, Inc; pages 12-21; 1993.

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Figure 8. Double overprint with one overprint inverted and horizontally displaced on a 20c stamp.

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