

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

Part II—Offsets and Constant Printing Flaws

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.]

In this final installment of my discussion of A.M.G. overprinting varieties and errors, I will discuss both offsets that appear on the reverse of the AMG Venezia Giulia (VG) issues and some of the constant printing flaws that occurred on those issues. First, I will deal with offsets, which are more properly referred to as “set-offs.”

Set-offs often occur on the back of freshly printed panes of stamps that are stacked upon one another before the ink is completely dry. This causes the image from the front of the stamps to be transferred to the back resulting in a full or partial reverse image on the rear of the stamps. Set-offs can also occur when the press operates without paper being fed to it resulting in the ink be applied directly to the blanket cylinder covering. Then, when a sheet of paper is fed through the press, the ink left on the blanket cylinder transfers a reverse copy of the intended image to the back of the sheet. Set-offs occurred on a number of AMG VG issues when the overprint was added to the previously printed sheets of Italian stamps.

Figure 1, on the following page, shows the front of five AMG VG issues. Figure 2 shows the back of the same five stamps, each clearly exhibiting set-off on the back or gum side. The “A.M.G. V.G.” overprints on the backs are a mirror image of those on the front and, on some of the stamps, are nearly as clear.



Figure 1. “A.M.G. V.G.” overprints on Bush numbers 16, 17, 18, 21, and 24.



Figure 2. Set-off showing a reverse or mirror image of the overprints on the same stamps shown in Figure 1.

Next, I will show some of the constant printing varieties found on AMG VG stamps. The overprints were applied by a printing plate containing 100 overprints. Figure 3 shows several of the regular issue stamps with the overprint, each having a broken “V.G.” Figure 4 shows an enlarged picture of a set-off, exhibiting the same break, on one of the regular issue stamps. The break in the “V.G.” is due to a defective or damaged printing plate. Once such a break occurs, the variety appears on all stamps printed from the same plate position, until the printing plate is repaired or replaced.



Figure 3. Broken “V.G.” constant variety on Bush numbers 31, 22, and 23.



Figure 4. Broken “V.G.” off-set.

A broken “G” in “V.G.” variety can also be found on each of the large format horizontal stamps for Venezia Giulia, such as the airmail and special delivery issues. Figure 5 shows an example of the 10 Lire value, from the third airmail issue, blown up in size so that the broken “G” is easier to see. For all airmail and special delivery issues, the broken “G” can appear once in position 45 or 90 of the printing plate used to apply the overprint.



Figure 5. Broken “G” in “V.G.” constant variety on Bush number 41, the 10 Lire airmail.

There are also two broken “G” in “A.M.G.” varieties that appear on one horizontal large format regular issue (Bush #29) and on all the airmail and special delivery issues. Type “a”, which appears in positions 3 or 33 of the printing plate, is slightly farther to the right and at a more pronounced angle than type “b”, which appears in positions 25 and 50 (or 100 for Bush #29). Figure 6, from the *Bush A.M.G. Catalog - Handbook*, shows what the type “a” and “b” broken “G” overprints look like.

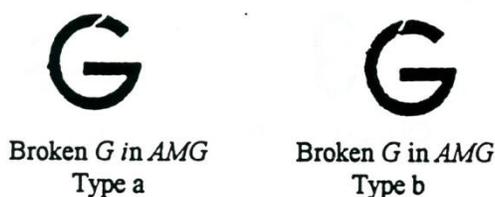


Figure 6. Broken “G” overprint types.

Figure 7 shows the type “a” broken “G” on the 10 Lire special delivery stamp and Figure 8 shows an example of the type “b” overprint on the fourth airmail issue 25 Lire stamp.



Figure 7. Type “a” broken “G” in “A.M.G.” constant variety on Bush #44, the 10 Lire special delivery stamp.



Figure 8. Type “b” broken “G” constant variety on Bush #43, the 25 Lire airmail stamp.

The final two varieties to be covered are the closed “G” in “A.M.G.” and the missing period in “V.G.”, both of which appear on the large vertical format regular issue stamps, Bush numbers 27 and 28. Figures 9 and 10 show examples of the 50 Lire regular issue stamp (Bush #28) with the closed “G” and missing period (“.”).



Figure 9. 50 Lire regular issue with closed “G” in “A.M.G.”.



Figure 10. 50 Lire regular issue with missing “.” after “G” of “A.M.G.”

[Author’s Note: I want to thank club Directors Mark Fionda, Dave Beeby, and John Hotchner for supplying many of the pictures used to illustrate this article. If you have any comments, corrections, or additions, please contact me via E-mail at rich@pedersonstamps.com or by mail at PO Box 662, Clemson, SC 29633.]

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