

Italian Occupation of Austria

By Howard Grenzebach



During World War I, Italy invaded southwestern Austria where the armies were immediately bogged down in trench warfare. When the war ended Italy occupied parts of Austria and Dalmatia (now, the southern part of Croatia) but was pushed out of Dalmatia by treaty, retaining only the city of Zadar.

Italian stamps were overprinted for use in the two countries. While at first glance the overprints seem alike, they are different in a few respects.

The stamp on the left was used in Austria and has serifs and curly cues on the letters while the overprint on the right, used in Dalmatia, is plain. The letters on the Austrian stamp is of a slightly smaller font and the spacing between the lines are larger. Note the scan below comparing the two. BTW, I didn't cut the stamps, I just scanned them that way.

And now you know how to tell the difference.



Howard Grenzebach is currently a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.