Campione d'Italia

A geographic anomaly

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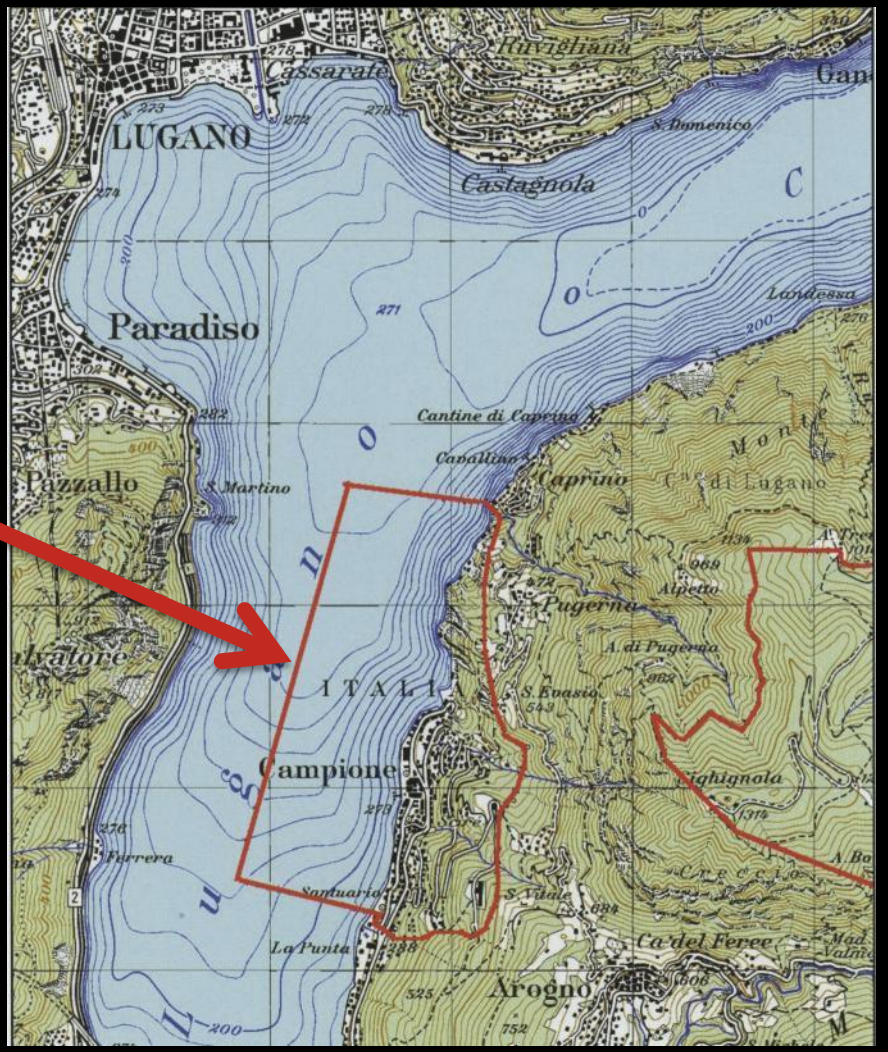
Hamilton Township Philatelic Society
November 20, 2018

FROM CAMPIONE, EVERYTHING ONE SEES IS SWITZERLAND

WHERE IS CAMPIONE D'ITALIA?



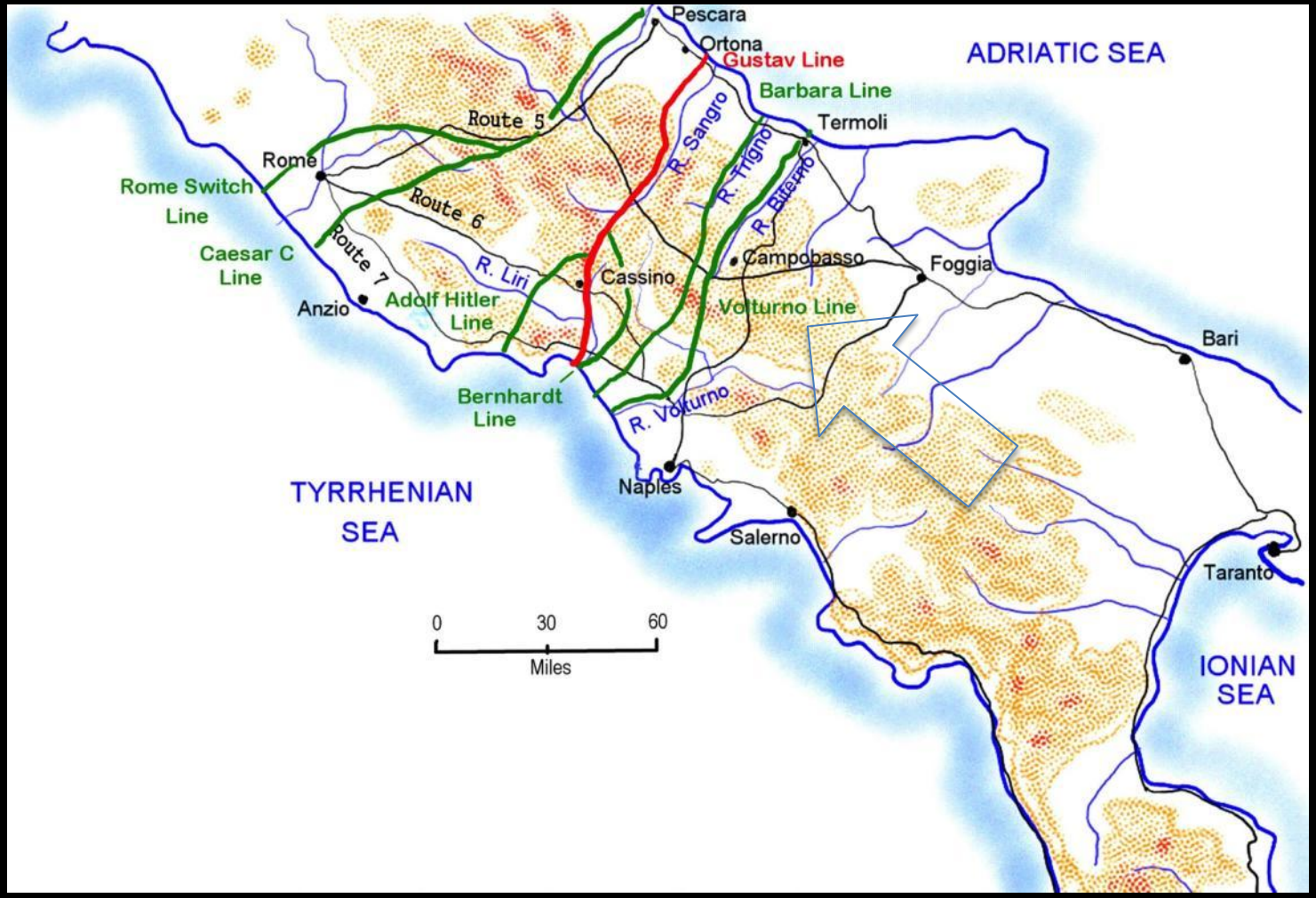
HOW OBSCURE IS CAMPIONE D'ITALIA PHILATELY?

THE STORY BEGINS BEFORE WORLD WAR II

WORLD WAR II FIRST BROUGHT CENSORSHIP TO CAMPIONE'S MAIL

THIS 1942 COVER SHOWS RARE CAMPIONE CENSORSHIP MARKING AS WELL AS ITALIAN NATIONAL CENSORHISP TAPE

FROM SICILY, IN 1944 THE ALLIES FOUGHT NORTH UP THE ITALIAN BOOT



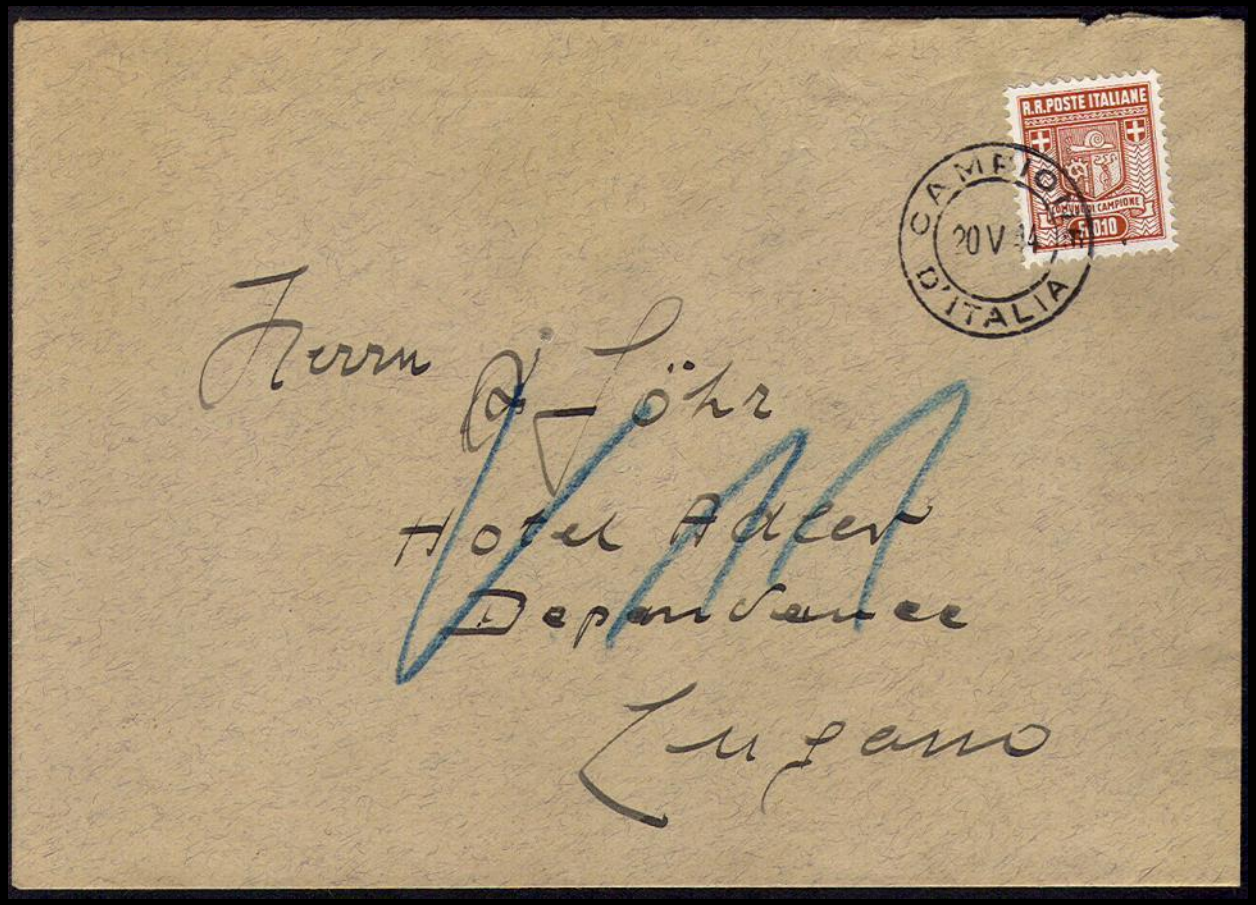
FIRST ISSUE OF STAMPS FOR CAMPIONE D'ITALIA – MAY 20, 1944

A COUPLE OF SHEETS OF IMPERFORATE STAMPS ALSO LEAKED OUT

AND SEVERAL SHEETS WERE OVERPINTED “SAGGIO” OR SPECIMEN

FIRST DAY COVER – SATURDAY MAY 20, 1944

FIRST DAY COVER – SATURDAY MAY 20, 1944
CORRECTLY PAYING 10 CENT LOCAL (< 10km) LETTER RATE
ADDRESSED TO PRESUMED STAMP DEALER J. LOHR STAYING IN LUGANO



REGISTRATION OF MAIL UNDER SWISS SUPERVISION BEGAN MONDAY MAY 22, 1944

REGISTERED CARD SENT TUESDAY MAY 23, 1944 SUGGESTS NO MORE THAN 169 REGISTERED COVER SENT ON MONDAY'S FIRST DAY OF REGISTRATION

SPRING 2015 SCHWARZENBACH AUCTION FEATURED THIS TWICE MAILED COVER WITH A FULL SET CANCELLED ON THE FIRST DAY, MAY 20, AND ADDITIONAL STAMPS PAYING FOR A REGISTERED RE-MAILING ON MAY 23

REVEAL OF THIS COVER REDUCES MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FIRST DAY OF REGISTRATION COVERS TO 126

FIRST PRINTING STAMPS PAY 20 CENT DOMESITC
LETTER RATE AND 20 CENT REGISTRATION FEE

COVERS WITH COMPLETE SETS OF FIRST PRINTING STAMPS WERE PREPARED TO ORDER FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENTS IN SWISS PHILATELIC PRESS - BUT THEY ARE STILL SOUGHT AFTER

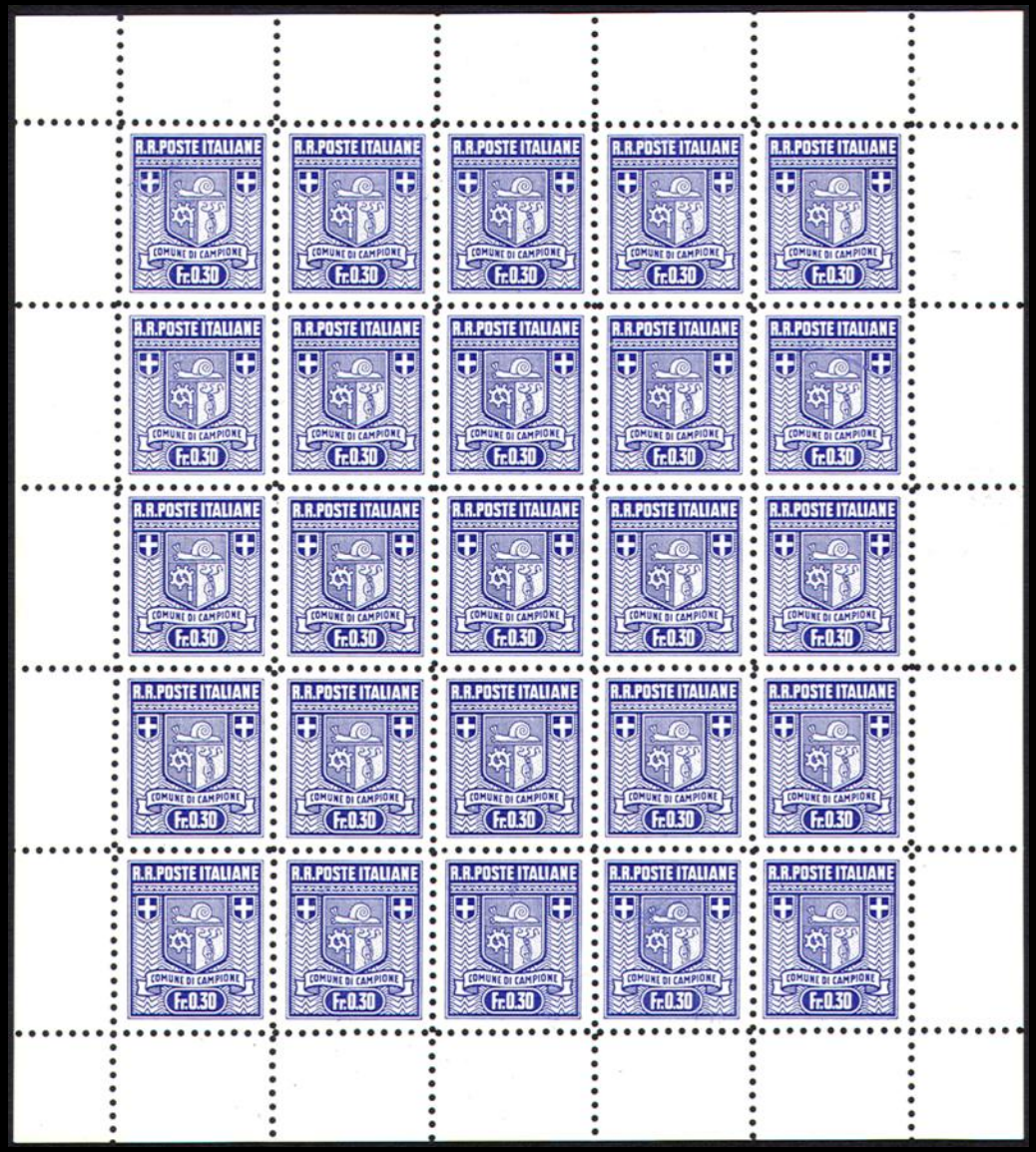
SECOND PRINTING, June 28, 1944

1ST PERF 11-1/2 LARGE HOLES 2ND PERF 11 SMALL HOLES

SECOND PRINTING

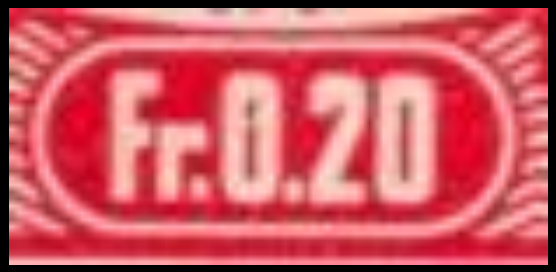
FIRST DAY COVER, SECOND PRINTING, JUNE 28, 1944

FORMAT OF FULL SHEETS OF 25 STAMPS



VERTICAL
PLATE
SCRATCHES
POS. 24

PRINTING VARIETY

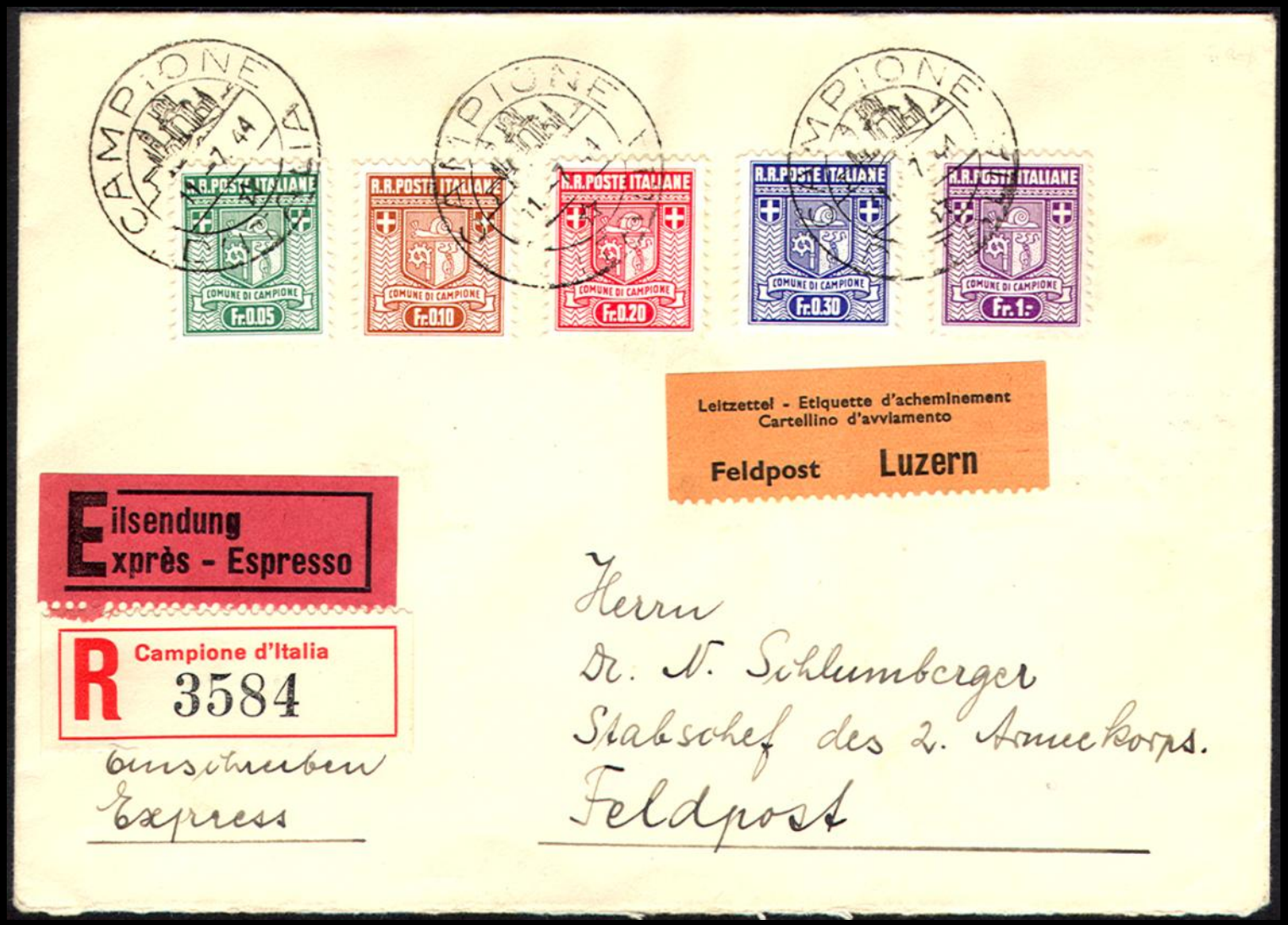


WHITE STRIKE THROUGH CENTER OF LEADING ZERO, LOWER RIGHT STAMP

PRINTING VARIETY

STRAY VIOLET HASH INRIGHT BORDER OF 1 FRANC STAMP

VERY UNUSUAL MILITARY FIELDPOST DESTINATION
REGISTERED, EXPRESS, WITH ORANGE FELDPOST ROUTING LABEL



FOLLOWING THE COLLECTOR DEMAND FOR THE ARMS ISSUE CAMPIONE COULD NOT RESIST ISSUING A SECOND MORE ATTRACTIVE PICTORIAL SET

BLOCK OF FOUR WITH MARGINAL INSCRIPTION

THE 1 FRANC VALUE HIGHLIGHTS THE LEFT PORCH OF THE SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE BASILICA IN BERGAMO BUILT BY GIOVANNI da CAMPIONE IN 1341

COMPLETE SET ON REGISTERED COVER

CAMPIONE STAMPS WENT UNCANCELLED AS THEY WERE NOT VAILD FOR MAIL TO THE NETHERLANDS, SWISS STAMPS ADDED AND CANCELLED AT LOWER LEFT

THE SENDER'S MESSAGE DISQUALIFIED THE POSTCARD FROM THE 5 CENT PRINTED MATTER RATE, SO 5 CENTS POSTAGE DUE WAS COLLECTED BY THE SWISS ENGINEERING AND LANDSCAPE DEFINTIVE

10 CENT DOMESTIC POSTCARD RATE

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20 CENT DOMESTIC LETTER RATE, 1948

20 CENT DOMESTIC LETTER RATE, 1946
TO VETERINARY OFFICE – STRONGEST CASE FOR NON-PHILATELIC USE

20 CENT LETTER RATE TO SWITZERLAND, NON-PHILATELIC?, 1950

40 CENT REGISTERED LETTER RATE

80 CENT REGISTERED EXPRESS LETTER RATE TO SWITZERLAND, 1944

90 CENT EXPRESS POSTCARD RATE, 1951

1 FRANC SOLO USE TO SWITZERLAND, 1947
20 CENT LETTER RATE, 20 CENT REGISTRATION, 60 CENT EXPRESS FEE

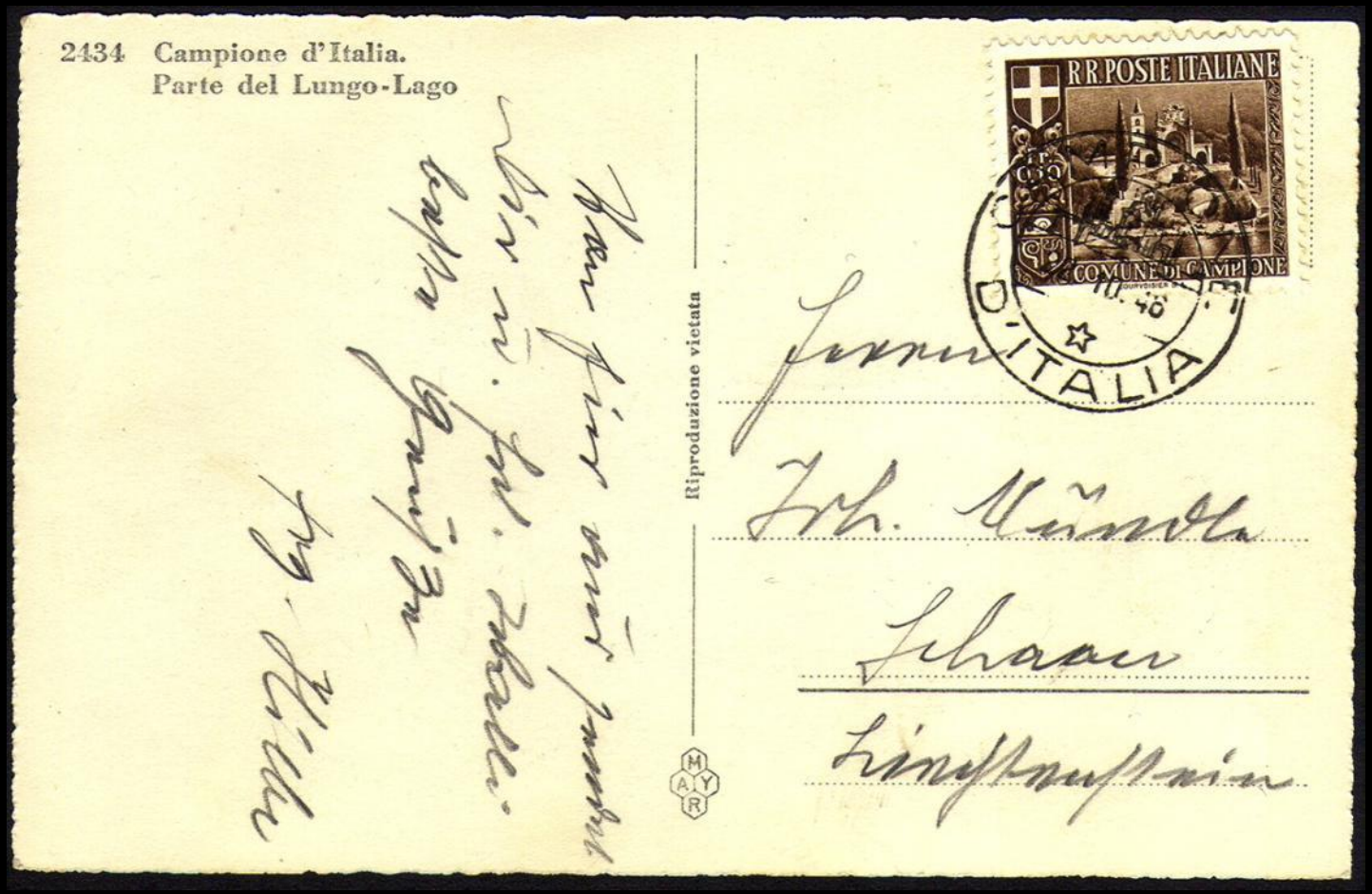
COVER ORIGINATING IN CAMPIONE WAS SUPPLEMENTED WITH SWISS POSTAGE FOR THE CONNECTION TO KLM'S 1946 FIRST FLIGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA

AMONG MY FAVORITE COVERS IS THIS UNAUTHORIZED CAMPIONE ORIGNATION OF A COVER SENT ON SWISSAIR'S INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO THE USA IN 1947

STAMP DEALERS PREPARED AN ARRAY OF MIXED AND MATCHED MULTIPLE FRANKINGS OF THE SECOND PRINTING AND PICTORIAL ISSUE STAMPS – HERE IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE

MAIL FROM CAMPIONE TO LIECHTENSTEIN WAS ALSO ACCEPTABLE AND TREATED AS DOMESTIC MAIL THANKS TO A BILATERAL SWISS-LIECHTENSTEIN POSTAL CONVENTION

10 CENT POSTCARD RATE



20 CENT LETTER RATE TO LIECHTENSTEIN
THEN FORWARDED WITH 20 CENT LIECHTENSTEIN
STAMP PAYING FOR REGISTRATION

3X OVERFRANKED REGISTERED COVER TO LIECHTENSTEIN

EXPRESS FEE ON THIS LETTER FROM LIECHTENSTEIN WAS SHORT PAID BY 10 CENTS. DOUBLED PENALTY DUE WAS COLLECTED BY 20 CENT CAMPIONE STAMP – PROBABLY A PHILATELIC CONTRIVANCE

AFTER CAMPIONE STAMPS FELL OUT OF USE, MAIL FRANKED WITH SWISS STAMPS COULD BE MAILED AT CAMPIONE WHERE IT WAS TRANSPORTED BY BOAT TO LUGANO WHERE IT ENTERED THE SWISS POSTAL SYSTEM

10 CENT DOMESTIC POSTCARD RATE, TO ST. GALLEN, 1953

40 CENT INTERNATIONAL LETTER RATE, TO USA, 1950

NOTE FROM CAMPIONE POSTMASTER EXPLAINING THAT CAMPIONE STAMPS WERE NOT VALID TO THE USA

Campione d'It. 21/III/50

Eg. Sig.re,

A nome del Sig. Franco Lascilanda Le inviamo una busta affrancata con francobolli di Campione d'Italia obliterati. Le facciamo presente però che i francobolli di Campione d'Italia sono valevoli esclusivamente per a ffrancare la corrispondenza che da Campione sia diretta in Svizzera. Le lettere che da Campione siano indirizzate all'estero devono (Come la presente) essere affrancate con franco bolli svizzeri.

Ben distintamente salutandola.

Il Gerente

CAMPIONE D'ITALIA 21.-3.50

FAREWELL TO CAMPIONE D'ITALIA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!