

of Lactopeptine were stamped by New York Pharmacal for the domestic market, even though a certain percentage would end up being shipped abroad either by New York Pharmacal itself, or a broker. Once overseas, the powdered product could then be easily converted to a liquid by adding water and glycerin in the prescribed proportions. It could also be dispensed in its powdered state, or formed into pills.

As indicated above, Charles Nast reported that eight \$1.00 proprietaries were among the hoard returned from England. Yet no identifiable New York Pharmacal Association cancel has been found on such denomination. Why not? Perhaps some of the bulk quantities of the elixir had been prepared and stamped by Reed & Carnrick, predecessor to New York Pharmacal as owner of the Lactopeptine brand. Perhaps those containers, already stamped by Reed & Carnrick with stamps cancelled as shown in Figure 3, were then transferred to the inventory of New York Pharmacal upon that firm's acquisition of the brand. This would explain both denominations, each with a connection to Lactopeptine, emanating from that single English source referred to by Nast in his 1906 article.

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## Italian Snippets

**From André Dufresne.** I recently traveled to Italy where I visited a convenience store, which is where revenue stamps are sold. The lady operating the store explained that only meter-printed revenues are now available. They can be issued in any amount but the two most common values are 2€ and 16€, corresponding according to her to the most common basic rates. I bought a 2€ value, illustrated below. Most of the information on the stamp, such as the face value, is ink-jet printed on self-sticking labels measuring 6.5



x 5 mm. Below the crest of Italy are the words “Ministero dell'Economia/e delle Finanze” “Agenzia” (orange) “Entrate” (blue) (“Revenue Agency”). It bears a bar code at the bottom and a

security hologram in the left margin.

While in Rome I also visited the Sovereign Military Order of Malta because they have issued at least one set of revenue stamps, its 125 tari value shown at right. They bear the words “Diritti amministrativi”

(administration fees). I went to their Post Office at 79 via delle Carrozze and inquired about buying the revenue stamps. I was ushered to the Administrative Department on the second floor where I was informed that these stamps are no longer available. I was unable to confirm whether they were replaced by meter-generated stamps or simply discontinued. Can readers shed light?

