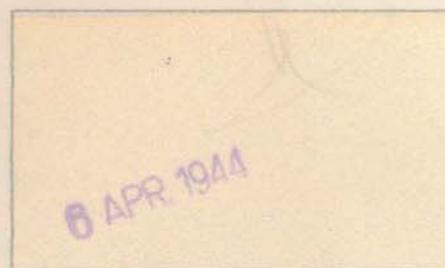


## Destroyed Monuments, First Set

This set was designed and printed in Rome, then part of the Italian Social Republic (RSI). Four ordinary stamps and one express stamp were prepared. The express stamp was in 1.25 Lire denomination that was supposed to pay the fee for express delivery. Preparations started in January. Final proof was approved in April. Printing and distribution was achieved partly before the date of issue, 5 June 1944. These stamps are not known used in Rome due to Rome being taken by Allies the day before. The designs were Drummer Boy calling people to fight, and some historical buildings that were destroyed during the war.

The pictures of the destroyed buildings also are accompanied by the latin phrase "Hostium Rabies Diruit", "destroyed by the enemy's fury", as a reminder to the classic Latin phrase "Hostium rabies diruit opus non ideam", "The enemy's fury (or violence) can destroy the structures but not ideas", to encourage Italian people to keep the fight against the strong enemy. The underlying inspiration was that the enemy was "wrong" and the RSI represented the "right".



Approval signature and date on reverse

Final proof of the Express stamp, approved on 6 April 1944

**The only known example**

**C**



Essays of the first set, with diagonal "SAGGIO" overprints.

Two partial sets are known. No collector is currently known to own a complete set.

**C**