

The AEGEAN ISLANDS and related entities: 1912-1942



This part of the collection of healthcare-related philately yet again reflects a disordered philatelic tangle driven by political history.

The Aegean Islands are constituted of

- 1 The Cyclades
- 2 The Dodecanese Islands
- 3 The North Aegean Islands
- 4 The Saronic Islands
- 5 The Sporades
- 6 Crete & Ionian Islands
- 7 Euboea

Two geographical entities embraced here are the Dodecanese Islands and Fiume (and Kupe) . In 1912, the twelve Dodecanese Islands, of which Rhodes (Roti) is the largest, declared their independence from Turkey. Shortly thereafter, Italy occupied the islands except for Castellrosso later incorporated in the union in 1921. During the Italian Occupation six issues of stamps related to healthcare were released and are represented in this collection.

The Hungarian port of Fiume, now known as Rijeka and part of Croatia, was occupied by Allied Forces (American, British and French) 1918 – 1919. During that period, one set of stamps relevant to this collection was issued.

General Gabriele D'Annunzio, Prince of Montenevoso, Duke of Gallese was an Italian writer, poet, journalist, playwright and soldier during World War I. He occupied a prominent place in Italian literature from 1889 to 1910 and later political life from 1914 to 1924. He has been described as "the father of Fascism" for some of his ideas and aesthetics influenced Italian fascism and the style of Benito Mussolini and, through him, Adolf Hitler;

On 12 September 1919, he led the seizure by 2,000 Italian nationalist irregulars of the city, forcing the withdrawal of the inter-Allied occupying forces. He declared Fiume an independent state, the Italian Regency of Carnaro with himself as "Duce" (leader), The Charter of Carnaro foreshadowed much of the later Italian Fascist system. Without any success in developing alliances with the Italian and individual Balkan states, he finally surrendered the city in December 1920 after a bombardment by the Italian navy. A stamp issue celebrating Dr Antonio Grossich (1849-1926) was issued over this period.

The Free State of Fiume was an independent free state which existed between 1920 and 1924. Its territory comprised the city of Fiume and rural areas to its north, with a corridor to its west connecting it to Italy. In January 1924, the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes signed the Treaty of Rome (27 January 1924), agreeing to the annexation of Fiume by Italy and the absorption of Sušak by the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

With the surrender of Italy in the Second World War, it was recommended that a confederate state be formed from the three cantons of Fiume, Sušak and Ilirska Bistrica. With the Paris Peace Treaty (1947), Rijeka (Fiume) and Istria officially became part of Yugoslavia.

POLITICAL SUBSETS EMBRACED BY THIS PHILATELIC COLLECTION [#]

DODECANESE ISLANDS

Independent Government 1912

Italian Occupation 1912–1945 (Rodi / Rhodes)

Castelrosso

French Occupation 1920-1922

Italian Occupation 1922-1942

FIUME

Allied Occupation 1918-1919

Regime of D'Annunzio 1919-1920

Free State 1920-1924

Incorporation into Italy 1924-

Fiume and Kupa: Italian Zone of Occupation 1941-1942

German Zone of Occupation 1943-1945

Annexation to the Socialist Republic of Croatia (Paris Peace Treaty of 1947)