

The Coat of Arms of the Republic of San Marino

San Marino is the oldest republic in the world; its **coat of arms** stylises its fundamental elements: sovereignty represented by a closed crown, the territory represented by the peaks of Mount Titano and Liberty, a word written under the coat of arms, a fundamental value left by its founding saint. Laurel branches serve as ornamentation.



Imperforate at left

Letter among the few known from the 2nd year of use of the first San Marino postage stamps, 1878, sent on April 22 from San Marino to Padua; note that the postmark is still the double blue circle used when San Marino stamps did not exist and Italian ones were used.



The **closed crown** was used in 1862, a few years before the **first Republic stamps** were issued in 1877. In these stamps, unlike most issues of the time, the coat of arms was used to represent the sovereignty of the state, rather than the king or head of state, to symbolise the authority that gave value to the stamps.



Archival proofs of the first stamps that were kept at the printer's, the OCV of Turin, to check for possible forgeries by ill-intentioned persons.

In the centre of the coat of arms are **three peaks surmounted by ostrich feathers**, representing those of Mount Titano. the first nucleus on which the Republic was founded.

This was due to a donation of land received from the Holy Founder, San Marino, by the Roman woman who owned it.



Registered letter sent from San Marino to Munich franked with a 15 centesimi provisional postal card for tariff reduction, which pays the internal tariff. To reach the required rate, 35 cents have been added, of which 25 are the recommendation fee and 10 cents the difference between the internal and foreign tariff



Detail of the central part of the coat of arms in the essays, not adopted, sent to the Republic by the French printer Riesters.

Postcard with a face value of 10 centesimi, at a single rate for Italy and foreign countries, sent by registered mail from San Marino to Herisau (Switzerland). In addition, 25 centimes have been added for the registration fee.



The word **Libertas** on the lower part of the coat of arms has its own representation: a **woman wearing a crown with three towers on her head**.

The towers symbolise the **three peaks of Mount Titano**, where the major fortifications of the city of San Marino are located.



Gutter pair

The **female figure of Liberty** has its full representation in the **Statue** sculpted by the sculptor Galletti in the square of the same name.



Black print proof



Registered letter sent from Serravalle to Lugo (Italy) of 1 September 1920 with 0.25 cents on the reverse side for internal tariff and 0.30 cents for the registration fee, taxed at 10 c. (Italian) for poste-restante.



The coat of arms has taken on great importance for the San Marino people, who have placed it at the centre of their **flag**.