

Province of Campobasso  
County of Molise  
(up to 1859)



**Other territories.** In order to complete the analysis of Gerola's proposals, a mention must be made of the coats of arms suggested for some territories across the political borders of the Kingdom, but situated within the Italian geographical area.



**Corsica**, the island between Sardinia and Tuscany, belonging to France, has

had since the 14th century the head of Moor <sup>135</sup>, whose origin and exactly the same as the above

meaning are mentioned Moors of Sardinia. Its white flag bearing this emblem is widely known.



Gerola proposed the same, but he restored the original yellow background as it appears in the Gelre armorial, following his personal trend to enhance his suggestions with a little touch of originality. It can be noted in other cases: the capital letters **HU** added to the shield of Piedmont, the "castle" on St. George cross of Liguria, the closed book of Venetia, the forgotten original red background of the Dalmatia arms. Such a propensity is also present on the proposal for *Malta*. It is the traditional height-pointed cross, but half red on white and half white on red, and not the usual white on red.

Last citation is the shield proposed for Switzerland of Italian or Ladin expression, with the combined arms of *Ticino* and *Grigioni* cantons.



**Conclusion.** The regional coats of arms proposed by prof. Gerola appear to be simple and meaningful. They draw inspiration from the local traditional symbology, direct (old shields and ensigns, arms of ancient rulers) as well as indirect (history, coins, famous artworks). And, last but not least, they could be easily transformed into flags, save only few exceptions. This fact has been a lost opportunity for some modern local authorities searching for a flag to adopt. Unfortunately Gerola's proposal has been quite forgotten.

Nevertheless about forty percent of today's regional flags recall Gerola's drawings. But this is due most of all to the intrinsic strength of certain symbols, so deeply rooted as image of a territory that the choice has been practically unavoidable.

Vexillologically speaking, the modern flags could be tentatively divided in groups:

*the classical ones* – Piedmont, Trentino-Alto Adige, Venetia, Sicily, Sardinia – flags that recall well known emblems. Symbolism prevails over aesthetics;



*new projects* following more or less the heraldic rules – Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Tuscany, Abruzzo, Basilicata, Campania – that generally show good aesthetics;



*modern logo graphics* – Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Umbria, Calabria – not always aesthetically satisfying;



*seemingly approximate and improvised patterns* – the Marches, Latium, Apulia - questionable if not bad flags.



Leaving this out of consideration, from the point of view of the symbolic value, both 1927 shields and today's flag are never banal, as a strong reference to the local history, traditions, folklore, natural beauties is always present.



### Endnotes:

1. *Atlante storico del mondo*, Milan, 1994
2. G. Gerola, *Gli stemmi storici delle regioni d'Italia*, "La Lettura", XXVII, 5, 1927. According to G.C. Bascapè and M. Del Piazzo in *Insegne e simboli*, Rome 1983, Gerola had already done some of these projects in 1911.
3. *Atlante delle regioni d'Italia*, Rome, 1951.
4. Generic bibliography: "Vexilla Italica", 1, 1993; 1, 1996 - *Stemmi antichi e moderni delle Province, dei Capoluoghi di Provincia e delle Regioni d'Italia*, CISV, 1985 - R. Rossetti, *Emblemas regionales de Italia*, Proceedings XI ICV, Madrid, 1985.
5. "Vexilla Italica", 2, 1984; 2, 1995; 2, 2000.
6. Regional law 4, 16 January 1984.
7. A. Betocchi, *Breve storia dei simboli della Lituania*, "Vexilla Italica", 2, 1998.
8. "Vexilla Italica", 2, 1985; 2, 1992; 2, 2000 – Regional law 26, 7 July 1997
9. The coat of arms and the gonfalon were adopted by regional law 85 (12 June 1975). Both have the same emblem of Camuna rose on, but the gonfalon bears also a representation of the historical *Carroccio*. – "Vexilla Italica", 1979; 2, 1984; 2, 2001.
10. Decree of the President of the Republic 21 March 1983.
11. "Vexilla Italica", 63, 2007.
12. "Bollettino Ufficiale", Province of Bolzano, 18/1-II 2 May, 2001 – "Vexilla Italica", 63, 2007.
13. Regional law 27, 27 November 2001 in "Bollettino Ufficiale Regionale" 49, 5 Dec. 2001.
14. Recognition decree 12 February 1931.
15. A. Ziggjoto, *Le Repubbliche Marinare: Genova e Venezia*, in "Armi Antiche" 1968 and 1994 (revised form).
16. Regional law 56, 20 May 1975 in "Bollettino Ufficiale Regionale", 22, 1975, modified by regional law 7, 22 February, 1999, in BUR 18, 1999 – "Vexilla Italica", 2-3, 1977; 2, 2001.
17. Several data on the introductory chapter of *Gli stemmi dei Comuni e delle Province dell'Emilia-Romagna*, Bologna, 2003.

18. A. Savorelli, *Pegaso in Toscana*, Firenze 2004. The figure of pegasus on the first model of Tuscany flag (1990-1995) was taken from an engraving on the cover of a cultural journal, *Il Pegaso*.
19. Adopted by regional Law 37, 30 October 1973.
20. Regional law 5, 18 May 2004, in "Bollettino Ufficiale Umbria", n. 23, 1st June 2004.
21. The logo was introduced by regional law 13, 15 March 1980.
22. Officially adopted in 1984 (regional law 58, 17 September 1984) and slightly modified in 1986 (r. law 5, 8 January) – "Vexilla Italica", 2, 1985; 1, 1986; 2, 2001 and courtesy of A. Martinelli (*in litteris*).
23. Regional law 29, 21 May 1999 in "Bollettino Ufficiale Regionale", 22, 4 June 1999. – "Vexilla Italica" 1, 1997; 2, 2000.
24. "Vexilla Italica", 1979; 2, 2001
25. Regional law 28, 8 September 1988 in "Bollettino Ufficiale Regionale" 167 suppl., 28 Sept. 1988.
26. Regional law 22, 10 August 2001, in "Bollettino Ufficiale Regionale" 129, 27 August 2001..
27. Because of some ambiguity in the text of the law, the flag is also represented without green and red vertical stripes.
28. "Vexilla Italica", 1, 1986; 2, 2000.
29. "Vexilla Italica", 1, 1993.
30. "Vexilla Italica", 2, 1990; 2, 2001.
31. Claes Heinen, called "Gelre", *Armorial*, folio 62 (recto). This armorial, among the most important in Middle Ages, was compiled between 1370 and 1395. The original manuscript is in the Royal Library of Bruxelles
32. "Vexilla Italica", 2, 2001.
33. Regional law 6, 16 March 2006, in "Bollettino Ufficiale Valle d'Aosta", 14, 4 April 2006 – "Vexilla Italica", 62, 2006
34. "Vexilla Italica", 2, 1985; 1, 1986.
35. R. Breschi, M. Dalceri, *Bandiere di Corsica*, "Vexilla Italica", 62, 2006

### About the author



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