

I'M A FAN OF A FOOTBALL TEAM

TORRES OF SASSARI

Torres of Sassari is the football team of the city where I lived for many years. It is one of the oldest sports clubs in Sardinia, founded before Cagliari, way back in 1903, and it wears the same red and blue colours. This exhibition combines my passion for collecting Torres memorabilia and merchandise with my love of stamp collecting. In the first chapter, I briefly describe the club's history; this helps to better understand why so many people like me have grown fond of the team and its glorious history. The other two chapters, on the other hand, describe my first-hand experiences at the stadium and personalise the collection with my own experiences.



Two teams in photo of Panini sticker

Sticker no. 667 Panini footballers' album 2002-2003 championship (at left)

Sticker No. 721 Panini football players' album 2005-06 championship.

PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

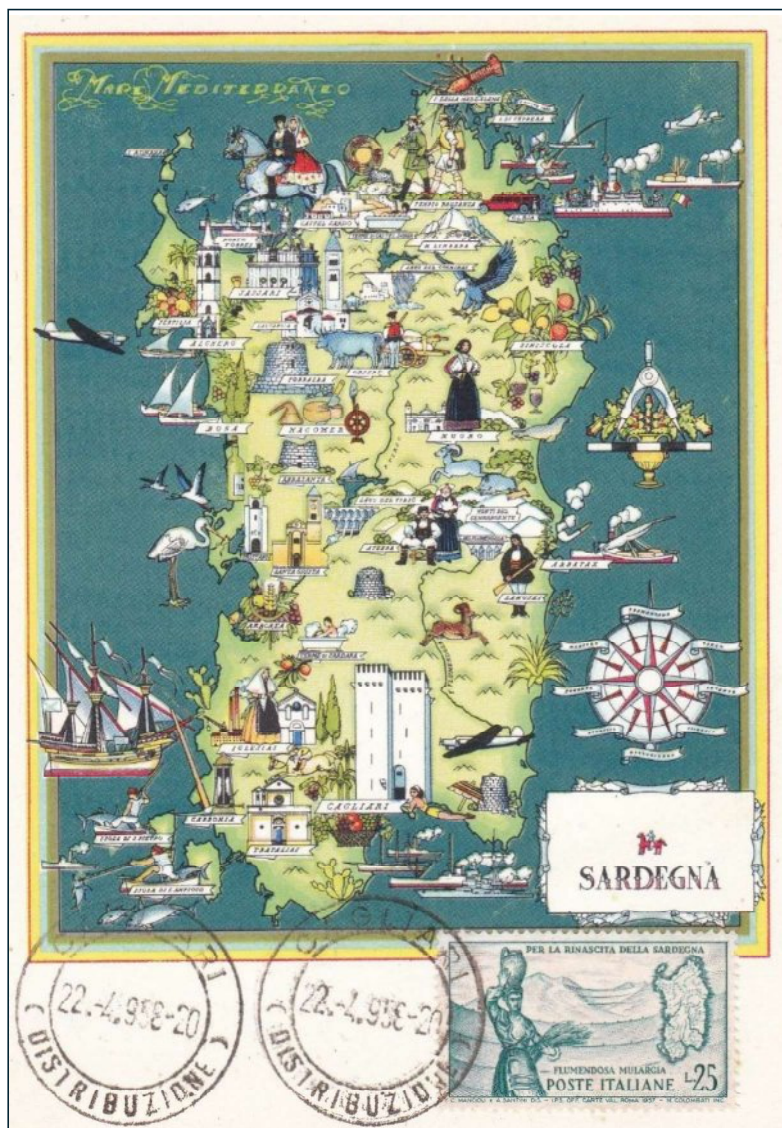
Title and plan sheets 1

1. The club I support	sheets	sheets	
1.1 The foundation	2	2.2 A dream team.....	3
1.2 A brief history	2		
2. My first experiences of supporter		3. Torres across two millenium	
2.1 I watch the matches at the stadium.....	3	3.1 Successes and failures.....	3
		3.2 Recent years	2

Totalsheets 16

The history of Torres began between April and June 1903, in Piazza Azuni in Sassari.

Postcard depicting Piazza Azuni, published by G.B. Briasco of Sassari – Photo by Captain Capriani. It was posted on 10 June 1903, around the time Torres was founded.



Artistic postcard of Sardinia published by Italgeo – Milan in the 1950s

We are in the north-western part of Sardinia, and it is here that one of the island's most illustrious and historic sports clubs was founded. The new sports club was named 'Torres' after the **Giudicato of Torres**, one of the **four sovereign states** into which the island of Sardinia was divided between the 9th and 14th centuries, occupying the northern part of the island.



Red and blue were chosen as the club colours, and the crest featured the stylised letters **SEF T**, which stand for 'Torres Physical Education Society'.



Membership card of the Torres Historical Memory Association. The crest features the emblems adopted by Torres from 1903 to the present day.

As a sports club, it comprised sections for various sports, including **gymnastics and running**. Gymnastics was the sport in which the athletes from Torresino achieved their greatest successes in the early years of the club's existence.



In the years that followed, **cycling, rowing and fencing teams** were established.



A **marching band** accompanied the athletes and **played the Torres hymn**.

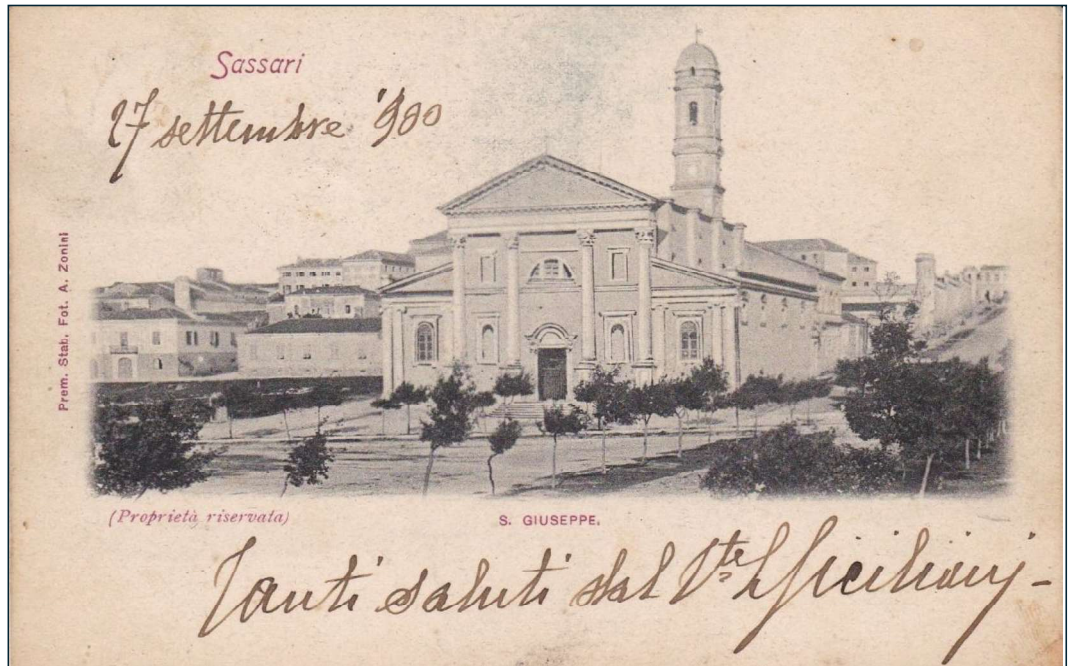


Initially, **football** was not one of the sports played by the new club. The football section was established later.



Hymn of Torres on the 2012 AMST membership card

The football section was founded in 1910, and the following year Torres organised and won the first Sardinian football championship in **the Piazza d'Armi, opposite the church of San Giuseppe**. It was not a proper football pitch, but a levelled area of hard-packed earth.



Picture postcard published by Prem. Stabilimento Zonini, posted on 27 September 1900, showing the far end of Piazza d'Armi bordered by trees, and the church of San Giuseppe.



In May 1921, the club purchased a plot of land near the **aqueduct building on which to build the new stadium**, which was opened the following year.

Torres still plays at this stadium today, and until recently it was known as the 'Acquedotto' in reference to the aqueduct that runs beneath it.

Unused postcard depicting the Sassari Aqueduct building in the 1920s, published by Lit. Armanino of Genoa—Photograph by G. Canu-Fadda, Tanfani Bookshop.

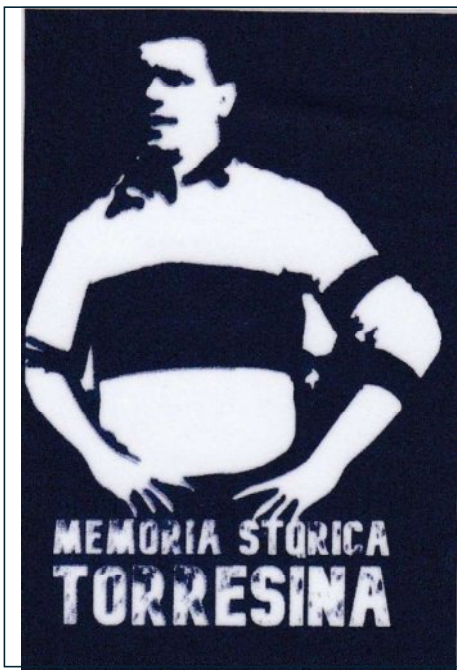
A memorial plaque was unveiled at the new stadium to commemorate the people of Torres **who fought in the Sassari Brigade during the First World War**.





Many athletes from Torres have competed in the Olympics. The first to win a medal was the boxer Gavino Matta, who won bronze at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

A postcard from the German Reich showing the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, where the competitions were held.



Returning to the football section, I would like to introduce a Torres legend from the 1950s: **Marzio Lepri**, originally from Umbria, who grew so fond of Sassari that he never left, and who remains one of Torres's all-time leading scorers, having netted 123 goals during his ten-year spell with Torres.

To introduce the years during which I was a fan, I present this postcard featuring famous Torres players and coaches, many of whom I saw in person.



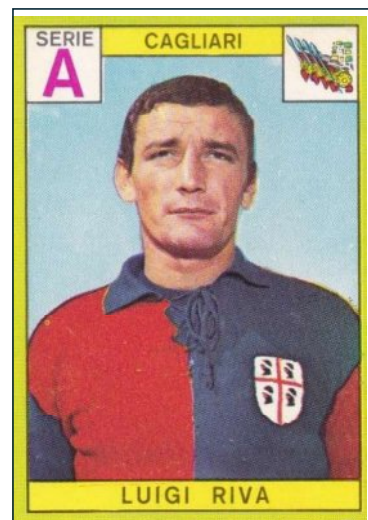
Sticker featuring Marzio Lepri.

Postcard from the "Torres Historical Memory Association" featuring Torres players and coaches of Torres.

2. My first experienced of supporter

2.1 I watch the matches at the stadium

I started going to the stadium during the 1968–69 season, a year before Gigi Riva's **Cagliari football team** won the First Division championship and the Italian title. Back then, and even now, I was a supporter of both teams, and **Gigi Riva remains my hero to this day**.



“Valida” sticker from the Panini footballers’ album for the 1968–69 season.

Official postcard of U.S. Cagliari from the 1969–70 season, posted from Jerzu (Nu) to Bellinzago (No) on 9 March 1970.

Torres were playing in the Italian third division (Serie C) and many big teams came to Sassari. The most notable of these was **Genoa**, Italy’s oldest club and a multiple national title winner. Around a thousand fans travelled **from Genoa** for the occasion; Genoa won the match and were promoted to Serie B, whilst Torres were relegated to the fourth tier.



The Lanterna, the symbol of Genoa, on an unpostmarked postcard published by Stabilimento grafico Cesare Capelli, Milan.



2. My first experienced of supporter

2.1 I watch the matches at the stadium

The following year, the team was again promoted to the third division and, in the 1972-73 season, avoided another relegation.

Card no. 522 from the Panini 1972-73 football league album, featuring the Torres team



During those years, **I too played football as a goalkeeper**, and so I particularly remember Martino Zaccheddu, that team's goalkeeper, who was very skilled at dealing with aerial balls.



Monaco 1966 – Pair of colour proofs.



Open registered letter sent at the printed matter postage rate from Milan to Carbonara (Padua) on 29 August 1934, with 10 c. for the printed matter rate, 60 c. for the registered postage, and an additional 5 c. for excess postage. A rare example of an airmail stamp being used for ordinary post.

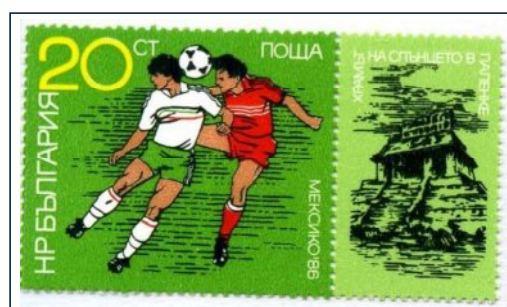
In that year's team, and indeed in the years that followed, I admired one player in particular: Paolo Morosi, a **brilliant midfielder who always played with his head held high** and delivered crucial passes to his teammates.



But also forward Marco Piga, who scored **plenty of goals against opposing goalkeepers** and often secured victory for the team.

Trieste zone "B" 1952 – irregular perforation at left.

In defence, centre-back Silvano Gelli was excellent, particularly with **his heading ability**.





The team I remember most from those years was **U.S. Olbia**, the team we played **in the derby** against, because although the two teams weren't from the same city, they were from the same district.

**Tutto Torres*, a newspaper dated 1 December 1979, was one of the first to be distributed free of charge at the stadium. In its headline, it describes the Torres v Olbia match as a 'derby à la Coramina'—a reference to a heart-stimulating medication.*



I went to Olbia to watch Torres just once, **on 23 December 1984 – the date on this ticket** – for fear of violence or restrictions imposed by the authorities.

One of the teams that gave me the most satisfaction was the one that won the Serie C2 championship in 1987, securing promotion to the third division. Two great Sardinian players were in the team.

One of them was sold to **Napoli SSC** at the end of the season and went on to **win the Italian league title**.



It was **Gianfranco Zola**, who went on to win European cups whilst **playing for Parma A.C.**

He later made his mark in England whilst playing for Chelsea, earning the nickname '**Magic Box**' for his brilliant plays.



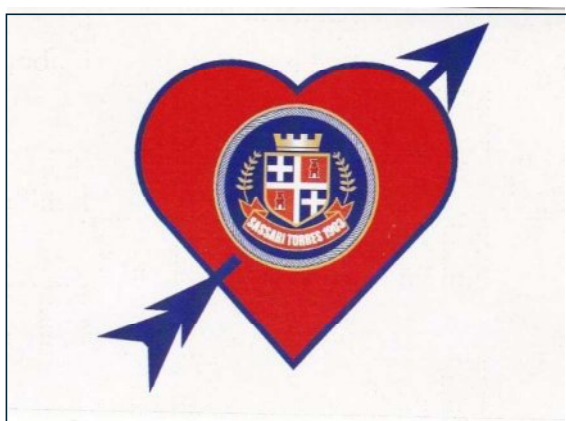
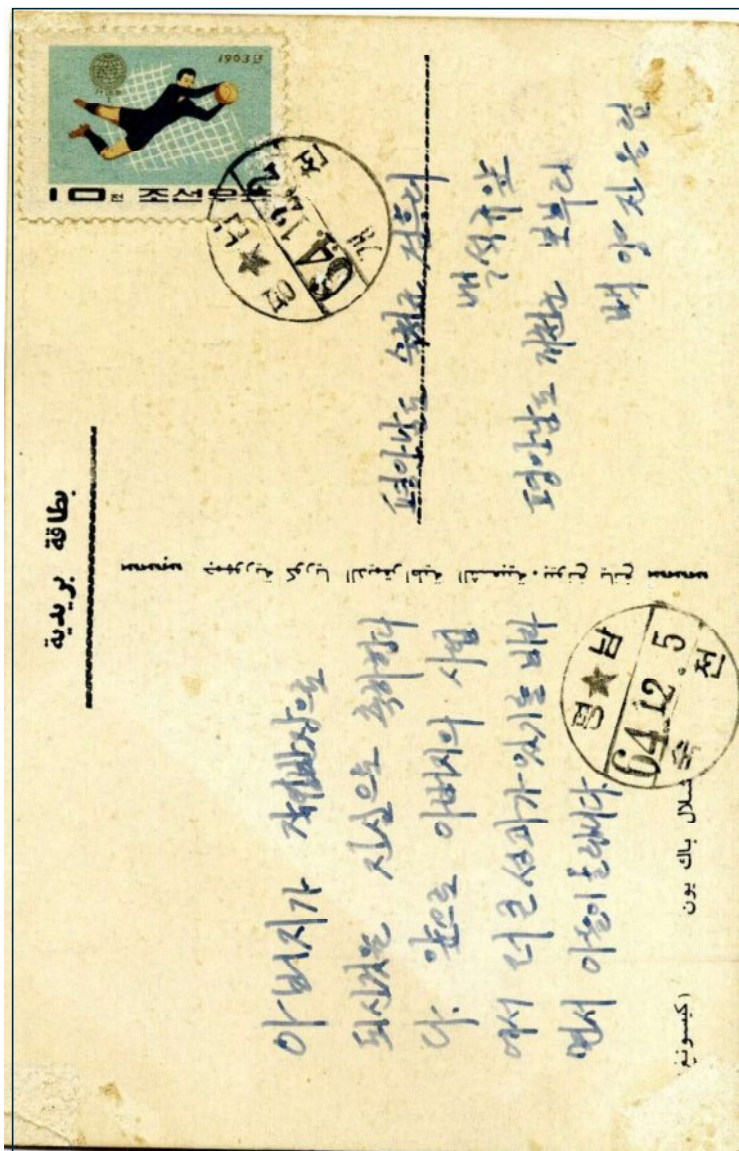
Card no. 222 from the 1993–94 Panini footballers' album

The other was Mario Piga, from Palau, who wore **the red and blue number 10 shirt** and had returned to Torres after playing in Serie A.



A miniature T-shirt that used to be found in children's surprise vending machines in the late 1980s

I have fond memories of that team, particularly the goalkeeper, Sergio Pinna from Sassari, known as 'La Curraccia' (the crow) because, in his black shirt – the same colour as the bird – he would make spectacular saves to defend his goal.



Two more Sassari players set **the Rossoblù hearts**: one was Roberto Ennas, who scored **ten goals** and was the team's top scorer.

Gadget sticker



The other was Walter Tolu, who was able to get past opposing defenders **with his dribbling and speed**.

Torres secured promotion in their final away match, which was watched by 1,500 fans. I didn't attend in person, but I followed **the match on the radio signal**.



The largest group of organised supporters present at the away match were the **“Indians”**.

To celebrate the promotion, **Dinamo Zagreb** were invited; they have played in the Champions League on several occasions and are the only international team I have seen in Sassari.



Topps football sticker no. 422 from the 2015–2016 UEFA Champions League series, featuring the Dinamo Zagreb crest.

A cyclostyled newsletter published by the “Indians” ultras group to mark their 15th anniversary in 1997.

Winning the league title gave Torres the chance to play against **Cagliari Calcio**, who had just been relegated from the second division, in the derby between the two capital cities of the north and south of the island.



The team achieved good results in its early years in the C1 league, particularly in the 1988–89 season, when it finished fourth, level on points with **Brindisi football**.



A ticket for the Torres v Brindisi match played in Sassari on 14 May 1989, which Sassari won 1–0.



Gadget sticker

The club's glory days were short-lived, however, as in 1991 it went into administration due to financial difficulties and, for the first time since 1903 – the year it was founded – a new club had to be formed, under the name **Sassari Torres**.

The team played for years in the amateur leagues and in the fourth tier of the national league, without achieving any significant results.

The trend began to change in 1997, when **Tore Pinna** arrived – a **goalkeeper with excellent aerial skills** who was deeply committed to the club and was praised by the fans behind him.



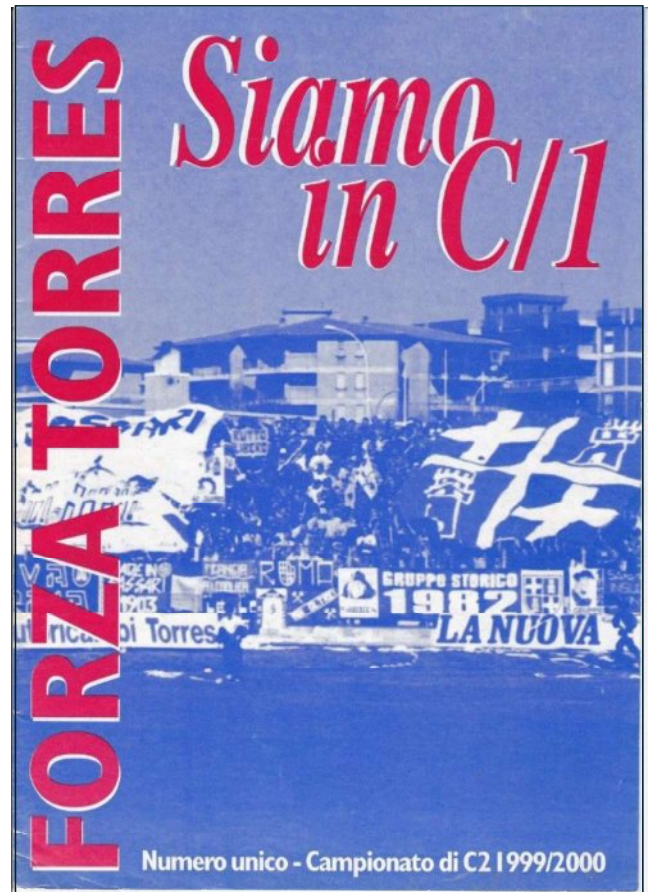
A comic book featuring Tore Pinna, which was distributed at the stadium during those years (40% reduction).



The 1999/2000 season saw another glorious moment that I remember with particular excitement. We were in the Serie C2 league, and **Torres had to face a team that had previously played in Serie B: Rimini**. With a magnificent comeback, the team finished top of the table, secured promotion to Serie C1 and **sent the Torres ultras into ecstasy**.



Card no. 731 from the Panini 1999–2000 footballers' album, featuring the crests of Rimini and Torres.



A newspaper published to mark the team's promotion to Serie C1, featuring the Curva Nord, the historic heart of Torres's fanbase. The photo has been reduced by 40% from its original size.

'Carraioru di Ruseddu' was the anthem of that season. The carraiori were the people who carried water from the **Rosello fountain** into the city of Sassari, as there were no aqueducts.



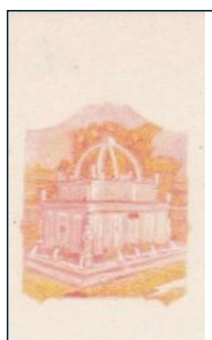
Stamp issued featuring the Rosello fountain.



Black and white printing proof with moved perforation



Colours proofs imperforated



Colour proof perforated at the top and at the left



Block of four colour proofs imperforated

3. Torres across two millennium

3.1 Successes and failures



The first season in the top flight was a resounding success, and the team managed to stay up. One of the most significant victories was **the 3–0 win over Palermo**, a club with a long history in Italy's top two divisions.

Ticket for the Torres v Palermo match played in Sassari on 25 March 2001

To bring good luck, the coach had a famous **song by Giuseppe Verdi**, the great Italian composer, played before the match. Ever since then, the same song has been played at the start of every Torres match.



After years of highs and lows, we come to the 2005–06 season, when **Torres had the satisfaction of beating Napoli**, a team that spent just one season in Serie C after having been Italian champions twice.

Torres-Napoli commemorative sticker

At the end of the season, the team was withdrawn from all leagues. In fact, the following year it resumed playing **as part of the women's team**.



A season ticket for league matches featuring a player from the men's team and a player from the women's team.

3. Torres across two millennium

3.2 Recent years

The team started out in Sardinia's second amateur division, was immediately promoted to the first, but it took a full three years to reach the national amateur league (LND). I remember that season well because Torres won it with a record points tally (87).



In 2013, the club celebrated its **110th anniversary** in style, **defeating Civitavecchia 5-1** and securing promotion to the next division for the second year in a row.



The match ticket is the only one in the league to commemorate the club's 110th anniversary

After two seasons, Torres returned to competitive football and the **old Serie C – now known as Lega Pro** – which paved the way for the return to Sassari of teams with a rich history, including some from the top flight. It was a golden era that I look back on with great fondness, because I've never before witnessed the **glorious red-and-blue shirts** rise three divisions in just three years.



Gadget sticker featuring the club shirt



2014-15 League Pocket Calendar

Once again, the joy was short-lived, as three years later the team was relegated back to the amateur leagues, playing a derby against the neighbouring village of Uri.

Ticket for the match between Torres and Uri



The team was immediately relegated back to the third tier of the national league, but in 2024 they secured a fantastic second-place finish at the end of the regular season. **'Fallu Baddà'** was the slogan chosen by the club for that year, referring to the ancient **'Discesa dei Candelieri'**, a parade that is synonymous with the city's identity. **It is a drummer who sets the beat to make the candelieri dance**, and the same beat resounds with every Torres goal. I therefore hope to hear that beat resound many times so that I can celebrate many victories for my team.



Season ticket featuring the slogan "Fallu Baddà"



A postmark designed by Filippo Sanna in 1988 depicting the drummer

Postcard published by Salvatore Porcu, sent from Sassari to Rhodes on 4 August 1937 depicting the candelieri and their dance.

