



Vol. 1 No. 1

Nice looking banner at the top isn't it. Tom Boland of Haverhill, Massachusetts made the drawing for it in sharp and striking detail, but some of it was lost in transferring the drawing to the stencil.

In the very near future you will receive your Charter Membership cards. Thanks are due to Fred Weichelt and Brother Camillus who have sent the money to pay for them.

These three men make the officers feel that there are members of the group who are earnestly interested in pushing the Vatican Philatelic Society to the top.

Speaking of officers, here is a tentative slate for the first year. They were picked for the hard work and time spent in making this society a reality. They will hold office if you approve of them on the voting blank for the term specified by you.

President William Wonneberger, Jr.
556 Newfield Avenue
Bridgeport 7, Connecticut

Secretary Robert W. Kessens
543 East Leith Street
Fort Wayne 5, Indiana

Treasurer Fredrick J. Levitsky
121 Bailey Street
Worcester 2, Massachusetts

Advisor of Religious Aspects Father Herbert A. Phinney
377 Walnut Avenue
Roxbury 19, Massachusetts

Our group is unique in having as an officer in our society, the Advisor of Religious Aspects. It might be a long title but it boils down to this. Many of the Vatican issues have a definite tie with the Catholic religion. For example we have the Dogma of the Assumption.

a Dogma is or what the Assumption actually means. The same holds true for the Beatification (#145-8). How many know what beatification is? To define these terms accurately is a must for Vatican philately and there is no one who can do the job as well as a priest.

HELP WANTED

And we really mean it! A member who has a typewriter or unlimited use of one is urgently needed to take over the editorship of the Vatican Notes. The job consists of forming our monthly bulletin, in a neat and orderly fashion, from information supplied by members. This information is to then be typed on mimeograph stencils and forwarded for running off and mailing. If you are interested in helping the society in a badly needed position please contact Bill Wonneberger at once.

The second call for help is directed to those who can read Italian and translate it to English. The progress of the specialized catalog has come to a temporary halt due to the lack of information that is available in Italian only. It can not continue until we get translators. If you can help please contact the president.

Now for each and every member we have a task. Please list all the varieties and errors you have with a short description and send it to the Chairman of the Catalog Committee, Peter K. Murphy-26 Lloyd Street-Winchester, Massachusetts. Please use Scott's catalog number in this list. This data is needed to insure a COMPLETE listing for the catalog.

We would like to call your attention to the price lists of two of the specialized Vatican stamp dealers, Vatican Stampmart-Box 733 Phlox, Wisconsin and William Wonneberger, Jr. Both have added to their lists an offer to extend information to collectors about the Vatican Philatelic Society. The Vatican Stampmart had a full page advertisement in Linn's and also made the offer at the bottom of the ad. You may obtain these lists by writing to the dealers mentioned.

The Mission Stamp Exchange of Woodstock, Maryland has joined the society. The exchange deals in stamps of Catholic subjects such as our chosen field, Vatican City as well as the Philippines, etc. They do not have a price list but particulars are available by writing to them.

We would like to mention the other dealers who enrolled but unfortunately we have no particulars about them. If they will send a brief resume of their stock we will be glad to mention them in the Notes.

This edition carries a list of all members to date. If your name and address are not correct please contact the secretary.

No, this issue is not what you may expect each month. This edition is primarily taken up with the membership list and a call for help. Next month will carry a listing of translators that have offered help to V.P.S. members as well as a few new additional members. Nevertheless, next month's issue will give you a better idea of what to expect every month. It will go something like this.

Each issue will give the latest V.P.S. news. This will enable you to know what the group and individual members are doing to promote Vatican Philately.

"The Bookshelf" will be a monthly listing of all books, articles, etc. that have been brought to our attention. We will list the title, author, price, where to be obtained, and a brief outline of the book or article showing its relation to Vatican stamps.

A minimum of four pages will be used for the story behind the stamp. Next month you will find a wonderful presentation of the story behind the Council of Trent issue.

New issues and finds will have unlimited space. Through this section we hope to bring you information that will be invaluable in furthering your knowledge of Vatican issues. Scheduled first is a report on the pictorial post cards and will bring to your attention hitherto unknown information.

The catalog listings will be filled in as rapidly as possible. This is the biggest gap in our field to date and the main reason a number of you joined. Once again we mention that work is not to be had unless we get translators of the Italian language.

We would like to make one page a month available to those who are looking for specific items. This service will be free to members provided THE MATERIAL SOUGHT IS FOR THEIR OWN COLLECTION. We will not list wants of material that can easily be bought from a Vatican dealer. The idea of listing items that collectors are disposing of will be given consideration. In this line we will reserve the right to refuse a listing of the items if it is thought that a business is being run and the column being used for free advertising. This service of listing offerings will not apply to dealers.

How does this line-up appear to you? If you like it, fine. If not holler good and loud to the secretary.

Many of you have offered to write articles for the Notes. Please start on them now as we urgently need articles for future issues. The only requirement is that it be typed in double spaced copy and only on one side of a sheet.

Please be sure to send in the voting blank sent with this issue. We need this information to enable us to plan our program.

The National Philatelic Museum.

On May 20, 1953, the Roman States and Vatican City Centenary Exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum came to a close. A summary was sent to the editor listing the material exhibited. This summary was sent by Bernard Davis, a member of V.P.S. and personal comments of the exhibition were sent by Edward P. Fitcher another member.

By combining the two reports we find that the highlight of the exhibition was a showing of Roman States covers totaling over four hundred with a cancellation for all the post offices of the Roman States. These cancellations were on whole covers and some on part covers mounted on 434 pages. It is believed that this collection was shown through the courtesy of J. & H. Stolow, a wholesale stamp dealer and famed auction house in New York. The collection made a lasting impression on Ed Fitcher and he is sure everyone who had the privilege of seeing it will find it something worth remembering.

Vatican City did not take a back seat to the Roman States. In this field we find a large collection of unique items in the variety and error line, some of these pieces the property of the Museum's recent accessions to its permanent collection. This new material is very strong in perforation varieties.

Those interested in staging an exhibition of Roman States and Vatican City material can borrow considerable material presently on display at the museum by contacting Dr. Gustave A. von Gross, Curator; National Philatelic Museum, Broad and Diamond Streets, Philadelphia 22, Pennsylvania. This is a very favorable offer and many of you that have written to me asking for the loan of some of my personal collection can further the presentation of our chosen philatelic field by calling upon Dr. von Gross.

The Press Release of the museum carried a good sized acknowledgment of the Vatican Philatelic Society. It further states that this showing of Roman States and Vatican material coincides with the forming of V.P.S. Mention is made of our first issue of Vatican Notes appearing in June and urges interested collectors to contact us.

This collection of collections was the largest ever assembled under one roof to show material of our field. If anyone had the pleasure of viewing this exhibition I am sure he will long remember it. The Vatican Notes would like to carry a story by anyone of our members who attended this exhibition. We will all benefit from a personal view of the showing. If you saw it why not write an article about it and send it to the editor.

Just a short note to advise you that the...

Vatican Philatelic Society
Charter Membership

Number	Member
1	William Wonneberger, Jr. 556 Newfield Avenue Bridgeport 7, Connecticut
2	Fredrick J. Levitsky 121 Bailey Street Worcester, Massachusetts
3	Father Herbert A. Phinney 377 Walnut Avenue Roxbury 19, Massachusetts
4	Father John Zipay 27 Girard Avenue Plymouth, Pennsylvania
5	Peter K. Murphy 26 Lloyd Street Winchester, Massachusetts
6	Peter J. Gillen 623 Grand Avenue St. Paul 5, Minnesota
7	Thomas H. Boland 53 Wingate Street Haverhill, Massachusetts
8	Father Francis T. Ennis 761 Harrison Avenue Boston, Massachusetts
9	Edward P. Fichter 1006 Franklin Street Reading, Pennsylvania
10	Mrs. Marguerite Jodoin 560 Loring Avenue Salem, Massachusetts
11	Jack Nash Carbery 755 North Pine Avenue Chicago 44, Illinois
12	Father John J. Lynch S.J. Mission Stamp Exchange Woodstock, Maryland
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51	Brother Camillus, O.S.F. St. Francis Monastery 41 Butler Street Brooklyn 31, New York
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- 57 John B. Clark
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85	Wallace R. Smith 165-15 Union Turnpike Flushing 66, New York
86	Bernard Davis National Philatelic Museum Broad & Diamond Streets Philadelphia 22, Pennsylvania
87	Edward A. Cieckiewicz, Jr. 121 Terrace Avenue Jersey City 7, New Jersey
88	Raymond L. Slater 1701 Seventh Avenue West Birmingham 4, Alabama
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