



# VATICAN NOTES

VOL. 1, NO. 12

JULY, 1954

## V. P. S. OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

When all the ballots had been counted, the recent election showed all present Vatican Philatelic Society officers had been re-elected. A tabulation of the results follows:

### President:-

Wm. Wonneberger, Jr. 34 Fred. Wichelt 4

### Vice-President:-

Fr. Herbert Phinney 36 Fr. Ennis 2

### Secretary:-

Robert Kessens 28 Hugo Barbic a 10

### Treasurer:-

Frederick Levitsky 31 Thos. Bolend 7

Need we even ask where the remainder of the ballots are??

\* \* \* \* \*

## STATISTICS ON RECENT ISSUES

Name	Pius X	Marian Year	Post Dues
Stamps per Pane	40	50	100
Designer	E. Pizzi	E. Pizzi	L. Anderlini
Engraver	---	**	T. Cionini
Printer	State Printing Office in Rome		
Printing Method	Photogravure	Engraved	Engraved
Watermark	Crossed Keys	Crossed Keys	Crossed Keys
F. D. of Issue	June 29th	June 26th	April 30th

\*\*The engravers for the Marian Year issue were: V. Nicast; for the 3; 6; and 20 L stamps, and M. Canfarini for the 4; 12; and 35 Lire stamps.

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

V. P. S. Membership Dues for the 1954-55 Fiscal Year were payable July 1st. It has been called to our attention that a considerable number of members have not as yet entered their renewals.

If you want to continue to enjoy Vatican Philatelic Society membership, your dues of \$1.50 should be forwarded to V.P.S. Secretary Robert W. Kessens, 543 E. Leith Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, prior to August 1st. All who fail to remit by this date shall be notified that they are arrears during August. Members so notified who have not paid their dues by September 30 shall be dropped from the membership list.

It has also been brought to our attention that a certain degree of misunderstanding apparently exists in connection with the 50¢ Special Fee. The 50¢ contribution is not an increase in dues, and is not a yearly contribution. It was voted upon by the members for a single payment to purchase special items. Those who do not contribute will not receive items purchased from the Fund. When the Fund is gone, the question of another contribution may arise, and will be once again settled by a vote of the members. Some members have sent in \$1.00 to the Fund. Such contributions have been placed in the Fund intact, with no recording of two year's payments. If any of the members who sent in \$1.00 would like 50¢ back, we will gladly refund it. 50¢ was expected from each member. Anything over that amount is considered to be received at the generosity of the members, and not an advance yearly payment.

VATICAN INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION  
OPENS IN NATIONAL PHILATELIC MUSEUM SEPTEMBER 22, 1954

According to a Press Release received from the National Philatelic Museum, Broad and Diamond Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. the following are the up-to-date details on the Vatican Exhibit to be held this fall:

To simultaneously commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the first Vatican postage stamps in 1929, and the Maxian Year, the National Philatelic Museum, in Philadelphia, will be host to the finest and the most comprehensive exhibition of Vatican and related stamps ever presented in one place at one time.

The exhibition, which will be under the patronage of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and is endorsed by Vatican officials, will use the museum's entire facilities for one month beginning September 22.

Plans for the remarkable display have been under way for more than one year and the preliminary work already accomplished promises to make it one of the most important events ever presented in the Museum.

While in Rome for the canonization of St. Pius X, Cardinal Spellman made many important personal arrangements for unprecedented participation by Vatican postal and ecclesiastical officials. His Eminence brought back with him some material, while other displays, being especially prepared, will be brought to the United States during the summer months.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum also will publish a book of no fewer than 200 pages, under the editorship of Ernest A. Kehr.

It will contain articles of a philatelic nature, specially prepared and written by the world's foremost students of Vatican City and Roman States issues, as well as features about the Vatican and Catholicism written by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Dr. John Harrington and others in the Vatican or the United States.

The exhibition will be formally dedicated by Cardinal Spellman and Archbishop O'Hara of Philadelphia, on Wednesday, September 22, 1954.

+ + + + +

MEET THE MEMBERS

PETER K. MURPHY - Chairman of Catalog Committee

Pete was born on September 11, 1936 in Medford, Mass. but has spent most of his life in Winchester, Mass., which is a residential town near Boston. He attended a Catholic grammar school and graduated from Father Matigon High School in Cambridge, Mass. on June of this year. Next September he will be a Freshman at Boston College.

All of us remember the way that we first began to collect Vatican stamps, and probably one of the most unusual was the way in which Peter first began to collect them. Pete has a friend in the Vatican who is one of the Swiss Guards. He writes to him frequently and with almost every letter he sends a few stamps. Besides stamps, he also sends remembrances of the different Vatican highlights, such as the Holy Year, Marian Year, Canonization of St. Pius X, etc. Peter also has another source of stamps and that is through a dealer who he describes as "One of the best Vatican Stamp dealers" -- none other than our own Wm. Wonneberger.

Besides stamps, International correspondence is one of Pete's chief likes. He corresponds and has made many wonderful friends in France, Italy and Africa. He acquired these names through the International Friendship League of Boston. This league has been set up just for the purpose of creating good will among nations, according to Pete.

After he was appointed to head the Catalog Committee, Pete gathered together hundreds of varieties and errors and sent them to his committee. They are compiling them and very soon the catalog will be completed. His committee consists of Bill Wonneberger, Leo A. Stevens, Paul O'Connell and Peter Allen.

During the summer, Pete works at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford doing odd jobs. He has taken piano lessons for seven years and enjoys playing. (Ed. Note: Can we have another Liberace in our midst???) Some of Pete's major interests for the summer months are swimming, sailing, golfing, and tennis.

# # # # #

YEARLY REPORT OF VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
BY THE SECRETARY

The total number of members shown on our roster as of July 1, 1954, is 134.

The charter closed June 30, 1953 with 104 members listed as charter members.

To date, July 10, 1954, 66 members have paid their dues and special fee of \$2.00. 68 members are now two weeks delinquent, therefore, we have a net paid up membership at the present date of July 10, 1954.

One Honorary membership was extended to Carl P. Rueth, Editor of Linn's Weekly Stamp News.

There were no deaths, resignations or expulsions reported to the secretary.

This report respectfully submitted this date of July 10, 1954.

(S) Robert W. Kessens  
Secretary  
The Vatican Philatelic Society

List of members by States, Possessions and Foreign Countries.  
Our society is represented by 27 states, 1 Possession and 1 Foreign Country.

Alabama	1	Montana	1
Connecticut	3	New Jersey	9
California	7	N. Carolina	2
Colorado	1	New York	15
Illinois	16	New Mexico	2
Indiana	5	Ohio	11
Iowa	1	Oklahoma	1
Kansas	2	Pennsylvania	7
Kentucky	1	Texas	2
Louisiana	1	Virginia	3
Mass.	14	Wisconsin	6
Minnesota	5	Washington	1
Maryland	3	Hawaii	1
Michigan	5	Canada	6
Missouri	3		

Total: 134 Members

Robert W. Kessens,  
Secretary  
The Vatican Philatelic Society

NOTE: Due to the amount of space consumed by the annual reports (July 1, 1954) of the Treasurer and Secretary, it will be necessary to conclude Mr. Barbiera's Council of Trent translation next month.

Fort Wayne, Indiana  
July 10, 1954

To the Members of V.P.S.

Greetings from your secretary.

As stated in my first annual report we now have a total of 134 members on our roster, of which, 66 have paid their dues and special fee in the amount of \$2.00 for the year July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1955. The members have until August 1, 1954 to send in their dues to the secretary or be declared delinquent. The members not making returns by August 1, will then be sent a delinquent notice by the secretary and if no return is received by him, by September 1, 1954, these members will be dropped from the rolls of the Society.

You members who have not as yet sent in your dues please do so at once. This way you will only be helping the Society as a whole but will also show your appreciation to the officers and the Editor of the Vatican Notes for the big job they have been doing for YOU the past year. The secretary will especially appreciate your sending your check or money order to him by August 1, thereby making his job a little easier and also saving the Society the expenses entailed in the mailing out of delinquent notices.

Remember, keep this in mind. As time rolls along and our Society increases in membership the officers of your Society, who incidentally serve without pay, are planning big things for the Society. Possibly in the not distant future we may be able to hold a Convention at some central city where all members can meet, exchange ideas and also have a wonderful time.

One of the ways we all can help our Society grow is, if each member will commit themselves to sign just one new member in this coming year. We can then double our membership. Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and put a drive of this kind over.

If any Society members have any ideas, suggestions or criticism for the benefit of the Society, its officers, etc. will you please advise Miss Catharine Hughes, Editor of the Notes, or your Secretary, Robert W. Kessens and we will do anything possible to accede to your wishes.

Let this be our MOTTO for the coming year:  
"FORWARD FOR A 100% GAIN IN MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR."

With kindest regards and a special thanks to the many members who have corresponded with me the past year, I remain

Philatelically yours,

Robert W. Kessens  
Secretary,  
The Vatican Philatelic Society

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
Treasurer's Report

Period: July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954

Balance Reported July 1, 1953:..... \$000.00

Received:

Dues: 113 Payments for 1953-54.....	\$169.53
43 Payments for 1954-55 .....	64.50
1 Payment for 1955-56 .....	1.50
20 New Members .....	30.00
Special Contribution for Membership Cards.	1.50
Special Contributions for Postage .....	3.00
Advertising in VATICAN NOTES .....	5.00
Special Fund .....	25.00

Total= \$300.03

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charges .....	6.60
Membership Cards .....	6.50
Supplies .....	7.52
Postage .....	15.36
116 Goretti Maximum Cards .....	16.86
125 Topix Magazines .....	18.75
<u>VATICAN NOTES</u>	
Paper .....	32.07
Postage .....	23.41
Supplies .....	22.94

Total" \$ 50.01

Balance on deposit at Worcester County Trust Co. = \$110.01

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

DO YOU WANT "VATICAN NOTES" TO RETAIN ITS PRESENT POLICY OF MONTHLY ISSUES? IF SO, WE MUST HAVE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MEMBERS. V. P. S. IS YOUR SOCIETY. VATICAN NOTES IS YOUR PUBLICATION. WE GUARANTEE YOU'LL NEVER RECEIVE A REJECTION SLIP FROM US ON YOUR ARTICLES!! HOW ABOUT IT?

The Editor

## BASILICAS AND TITULAR CHURCHES (1949)

by Robert E. Eller

(with supplementary information by the editor)

In the middle ages, on 89 days of the year (great feasts) the Pope celebrated solemn Masses in one after another of the great Basilicas, the twenty-five parish churches of Rome, and in certain other sanctuaries. Thus originated the practice of visits to the Penitential Basilicas for the purpose of securing special Church indulgences.

Of these churches, a number have been shown in this series of stamps. One of them is the Basilica of St. Paul, erected by the Emperor Valentinian in 386 A. D., and dedicated by Pope Siricius in 390. Restorations were made in the fifth century during the reign of St. Leon the Great, and later by Pope Symmacus (498-514). When Leon XIII was elevated to the Papacy in 1825, he requested all the Catholic nations in the world to assist in restoration of the edifice which had been almost completely destroyed two years previous.

The present basilica is surmounted by a mammoth bell tower and is the scene of some of the rarest and most beautiful adornments in the world. The interior of the Basilica is shaped like an Egyptian Cross and divided in five large naves with a white and colored marble floor. In the Center of the wood engraved ceiling appears the coat-of-arms of Pius IX. Along the church in the lateral naves run mosaic portraits of all the Popes from St. Peter to Pius XII.

St. Mary Major, another of Rome's major Basilicas, is also depicted on one of the issues. This was the first church erected in commemoration of the Virgin Mary in Rome; first called the Basilica di Sicinin, it was enlarged and renamed "Santa Marie Maggiore." The present Basilica was founded in 332 by Liberius and built by Pope Sixtus III in the fifth century. The interior is approximately 270 feet in length and divided into three naves. The impressive ceiling was made by Julian Sangallo from the first gold Columbus brought from America, and presented by the King and Queen of Spain. The apse of the Church is adorned with the mosaic works of Torrini, representing a starred heaven with the Throne of the Redeemer.

Also depicted is the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which attained its present state in 1929. The Basilica possesses two facades. The ancient facade was destroyed in about 1732, with a new one being erected in 1735 by A. Galilei. It contains two porticos, with fifteen large statues. A magnificent Head of Christ in mosaic work of the twelfth century is on the summit of the Tympanum. It is supposed that this mosaic was the work of Peter Cavallini.

Another of the Basilicas appearing in the course of this set is that of St. Peter, the most famed religious edifice in all Christendom. A detailed study of this great Basilica is planned for a forthcoming issue. The designs used in depicting these and others in the issue were the work of an eighteenth

(Continued)

century copper engraver, one Giambattista Piranesi (1720-78), and one of his contemporaries, Luigi Rossini (1790-1857). As a result, they are in some cases not exact representations of the buildings as they now stand. Of the remaining stamps, the engraving for the portrait of Pius XII is the work of Professor Corrado Mezzana.

Four of the stamps show the Churches of St. Agnes (1 L.), St. Clement (3 L.), St. Praxedes (5 L.), and St. Mary in Cosmedin (8 L.) These are known as the Titular Churches. Titular Churches are the ancient churches of Rome, formerly presided over by the chief presbyters and deacons, with others now added, from which Cardinal priests and deacons take their titles. Every Cardinal upon appointment, takes possession of his Titular church, in which he has jurisdiction and the right to a throne.

The Church of San Prassede was founded during the fifth century. Among its outstanding features are ninth century mosaics which enhance the chapel, where there is a Flagellation Column transported from the Holy Land. In the crypt of the Church are to be found relics of over 2,000 martyrs.

St. Clement's has been described as "one of the most characteristic churches in Rome", and actually consists of two churches, one atop the other. The original building reputedly was established on the site of the Saint's home, in the first century. Destroyed by the Normans, under Robert the Guiscard the Superior church was erected on the ruins in 1108 by Pope Pasquale II, and is considered an excellent example of early church architecture.

Returning the account to the Basilicas, the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem appears on the 13 L. value. This church was built by Constantin's mother, St. Helena, in the year 320. The relic of the True Cross was preserved there in a building of Roman-Christian style architecture, adorned by marble and sacred emblems.

The Basilica of St. Lawrence was founded by Constantin, and was at one time the most important church in Rome. In actuality the Basilica, built over the tomb of Lawrence, was the result of the joining of two churches, one of which had been built by Constantin in 330, and the other in 452 by Sixtus III. It was during the reign of Honorius II that the two connecting apsis were removed, and with that resulted the one church. The building is in the Byzantine style and features mosaics and frescoes. During the bombing of 1943, the basilica was almost completely destroyed, and with it five of the eight frescoes. The mosaics and tomb of Pope Pius IX were entirely saved. A stone tablet in the rebuilt atrium serves to note that Pope Pius XII was the first to visit the ruined edifice.