

# Vatican Notes

Vol. IV

May 1955

No. I

## ST. PIUS X



Through the courtesy of Edmondo Pizzi, designer of the St. Pius X commemoratives we illustrate the photograph he used as a model in designing the three value set to mark the Canonization of St. Pius X.

The photograph was supplied him by the official pontifical photographer, Felici.

This report contradicts rumors that the design for this series was taken from the canonization banner of St. Pius X.

This issue has enjoyed such popularity that it is no longer on sale at the Vatican. A few weeks ago the post office limited the purchasers to one set each to enable them to go around as much as possible. As a result of this demand the issue has increased an average of 50% and stocks are reported to be none too large.

It is also reported that the six value set issued to mark the Marian Year has enjoyed a remarkable popularity and it is sold out at the Vatican Post Office. Like the St. Pius X issue, it too has increased 50% in price.

Here again is proof that collectors should purchase their needs as soon as possible after they are issued if they expect to get them at the lowest possible price.

SORRY!!

That's about all we can offer for the lack of Vatican Notes the past few months. It has become impossible for Miss Hughes to continue the printing of the Notes through no fault of her own. The Board of Governors has tried to locate another member who could undertake the printing of our monthly publication but this was to no avail. As a result we were forced to procure samples and price quotations from commercial printers. We then found it to be impossible to have the Notes produced any longer within the budget of the society and an increase in dues was a necessity. It was then decided that if we must increase the dues the Notes should be better if possible. We located a printer who would provide us with our monthly publication fully printed and illustrated but not to exceed our income with a nominal 50¢ dues increase per year.

This is the first issue to appear by this new printing method. We hope it will please you and encourage you to continue membership in the Vatican Philatelic Society. Under this new arrangement we will have a monthly publication, issued regularly, that will not only contain the latest printable data but the latest photographs, varieties, and other material that was not possible to illustrate before. As if these advantages were not enough, it will now be possible for us to have the Notes mailed on a certain day each month. This mailing date will appear in the next issue.

According to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Vatican Philatelic Society we can not increase the dues without a vote of approval of the members. We therefore ask you to vote in favor of the dues increase if you wish to continue receiving Notes of this caliber. If the majority of the votes cast as NOT in favor of an increase of 50¢ a year we will be forced to issue our society journal on a bi-monthly basis.

Both because of the increase and the fact that the "new Notes" will enable us to illustrate, we have decided to discard the Special Fund Fee. We will make every effort to obtain the material formerly purchased from this fund and to supply it to members with the costs being paid from the treasury. In this manner, the dues increase will be practically in name only.

Nevertheless, we need your vote of approval or disapproval before the first of June. Therefore, why not sit down now and drop a card or note expressing your opinion to:

William Wonneberger, Jr.  
67 Jefferson Street  
Stratford, Connecticut

If you do this today we will be able to announce the results in the very next issue of, Vatican Notes.



These two illustrations were used by Edmondo Pizzi in designing the issue to mark the 25th anniversary of the Lateran Pact. The portrait of Pope Pius XI is the same as the one used in designing the issue of 1929 while the Vatican view was a reproduction of the special delivery stamps of 1933. Both of these are illustrated through the courtesy of the designer.

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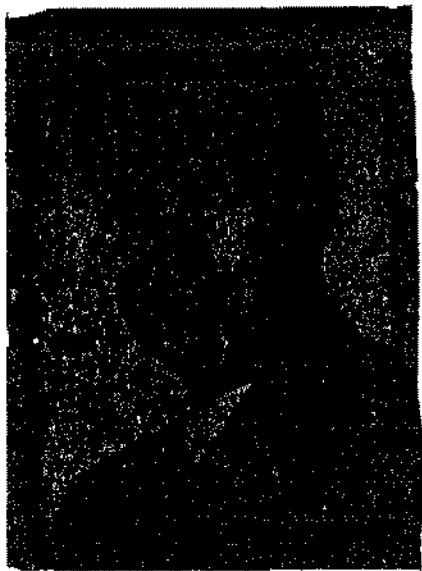
#### VATICAN CATALOG NOW BEING ISSUED

Believe it or not, we are finally able to start the specialized catalog of Vatican City that the society has been working on for the past two years. The first installment appears in this issue. The listing will continue in this form until all the issues up to and including those of 1939 have been completed. At that time we will issue an introduction which will illustrate and explain the various listed varieties as well as the basic knowledge of watermark and perf detecting, a Vatican philatelic dictionary, and a complete guide to the using of the catalog. This introduction will explain in permanent form the why and wherefore of the arrangement of the catalog listings as well as colors, and other data. To help us complete this work we ask you to wait until this section is issued (approximately 2 or 3 months) before asking any questions about the listings.

This does not mean however that if you are in possession of an unlisted variety that you should not contact us at once. By all means, anyone having such an item should write Bill Wonneberger at once to enable us to issue a revised page with such reports listed thereon. We will carefully check each report to insure its accuracy.

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PROPOSED

We have established Honorary Membership in the Vatican Philatelic Society as a means of honoring outstanding philatelists who have contributed to Vatican philately in a tremendous way. This has been a means of showing that particular individual that we are grateful for his or her contribution to our field. This honor is hereby proposed for Ernest A. Kehr, stamps editor of the New York Herald-Tribune.



Ernest A. Kehr

Mr. Kehr was the person responsible for the superb publication, "VATICAN," issued in conjunction with the Vatican Exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum in the fall of 1954. He not only edited this book but contacted the various persons who contributed the articles, took great pains in obtaining the best illustrations of which some could only be had by a personal visit to Vatican City, and he gave our society a tremendous boost by advising anyone interested in Vatican stamps to join our Vatican Philatelic Society. Many of you now reading this

have joined as a result of this plug.

Mr. Kehr has also contributed to the topical section of our field through his expose of the Panama Pope series of 259 values. It was through his efforts that the facts behind the issue were brought to light and warned all collectors of their usage to rob the "philatelic pocketbook". This would have been enough for most but Ernest Kehr continued to investigate the issue. His expose has caused such tremendous objections that the Panamanian Government has withdrawn its support of the syndicate who was to print and sell the series, at least that is the report as we go to press.

It is felt that this conferring of honorary membership on Mr. Kehr will not only be a tribute to a real philatelist but will in itself be an honor to the Vatican Philatelic Society.

Each member is requested to vote on this proposal along with the vote on the dues increase proposed on page two. We must have a clear majority of votes cast to offer Mr. Kehr the membership he so justly deserves.

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MINKUS CATALOG

Various members of the Vatican Philatelic Society will assist Minkus Publications, Inc., in preparing the Vatican City and Roman States sections of their forthcoming world catalog. Initial reports show it to be a completely new approach to cataloging and one that will benefit our field to a great extent. We will keep informing you of further details as they become available.

## CONCILIATION ISSUE

First Day of Issue:	August 1, 1929
Last Day of Validity:	December 31, 1933
Designer:	Enrico Federici (?)
Printer:	State Printing Office, Rome
Printing:	Unknown
Printing Method:	#1-7 Engraved #8-15 Photogravure
Engraver:	Unknown
Watermark:	None
Perforation:	Block perforated 14
Stamps per Pane:	#1-13 100 stamps #14-15 50 stamps
Type of Issue:	Regular
Inscription:	One sheet of _ stamps value _ in the left margin



Papal Tiara & Crossed Keys  
A1

The seven stamps of this type were printed on surface-colored paper bearing the minute wording, "POSTE VATICANE" in rows of colorless letters in the background.

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | A1 | 5 cent. Dark Brown on Pink<br>a. Saggio overprint (red)<br>b. Printing shifted in respect to the colored background         |
| 2 | A1 | 10 cent. Dark Green on Light Green<br>a. Saggio overprint (red)<br>b. Printing shifted in respect to the colored background |
| 3 | A1 | 20 cent. Violet on Lilac<br>a. Saggio overprint (red)   |
| 4 | A1 | 25 cent. Dark Blue on Light Blue<br>a. Saggio overprint (red)   |

CONCILIATION ISSUE  
(continued)

- 5 A1 30 cent. Indigo on Yellow  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 6 A1 50 cent. Indigo on Salmon Buff  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 7 A1 75 cent. Brown Red on Gray  
a. Saggio overprint (red)



Pope Pius XI  
A2

The stamps of this type were printed on white paper

- 8 A2 80 cent. Light Carmine Red  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 9 A2 1,25 lire Dark Blue  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 10 A2 2 lire Olive Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 11 A2 2,50 lire Red Orange  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 12 A2 5 lire Dark Green  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 13 A2 10 lire Black  
a. Saggio overprint (red)  
b. Without the inscription, "POSTE VATICANE"

CONCILIATION ISSUE  
(continued)

- c. A single stamp (70) of one of the panes is much less clear as a result of the printing process. This copy should be collected as a pair with a normal copy.



Pope Pius XI  
A3

The stamps of this type were issued to prepay the special delivery rates.

- 14 A3 2 lire Light Carmine Red  
a. Saggio overprint (red)  
b. Tail of the numeral "2" defective (41)  
15 A3 2,50 lire Dark Blue  
a. Saggio overprint (red)

Each pane of stamps bears the plate number assigned to that particular value. The colors of these numbers are the same as those of the stamps. In the case of stamps of Type A1 the color is that of the design and not of the background. The plate numbers are collectable in either single or block form.

Under each plate number appears from one to four dots. These dots denote the position of that particular pane in the printed sheet.

Value	Number	Position
5 cent.	40	Lower Right
10 cent.	37	Lower Right

CONCILIATION ISSUE  
(continued)

Value	Number	Position
20 cent.	42	Lower Right
25 cent.	43	Lower Right
30 cent.	38	Lower Right
50 cent.	33	Lower Right
75 cent.	36	Upper Left
80 cent.	35	Lower Left
1,25 lire	34	Lower Left
2 lire	39	Lower Left
2,50 lire	41	Lower Left
5 lire	45	Lower Left
10 lire	44	Lower Left
2 lire (S.D.)	46	Lower Left
2,50 lire (S.D.)	47	Lower Left

These numbers will also be found on subsequent surcharges and overprints of the Conciliation Issue.

PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1931

First Day of Issue:	October 1, 1931
Last Day of Validity:	February 28, 1947
Designer of Ovpt.:	Enrico Federici (?)
Printer:	Vatican Typography
Printing:	Unknown
Printing Method:	Typography
Type of Issue:	Regular

The above statistics apply to the surcharge only. All other details are the same as those of type A1.

This provisional value was issued to meet the increased demand for stamps to pay the postal card and printed matter rate.



PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1931  
(continued)



A4

- 16 A4 25 cent. (red) surcharge on stamp #5  
a. Offset of surcharge  
b. Shifted surcharge

POSTAGE DUE ISSUE OF 1931

First Day of Issue:	October 1, 1931
Last Day of Validity:	August 1, 1943
Designer of Ovpt.:	Enrico Federici
Printer:	Vatican Typography
Printing:	Unknown
Printing Method:	Typography
Type of Issue:	Postage Due

The above statistics apply to the overprints only. All other details are the same as the corresponding values of the Conciliation Issue.

Each of the following were overprinted and surcharged with a frame of small "T" in brown. The wording and values were applied in black.

POSTAGE DUE ISSUE OF 1931  
(continued)



A5



A6

- 17 A5 5 cent. (brown & black) on stamp #1  
 a. Background of color shifted  
 b. "E" of Lire and "E" of Cent broken (1)  
 c. Right leg of first "A" of Segnatasse shorter (92)
- 18 A5 10 cent. (brown & black) on stamp #2  
 a. Inverted overprint  
 b. Missing frame  
 c. "E" of Lire and "E" of Cent broken (1)  
 d. Right leg of first "A" of Segnatasse shorter (92)
- 19 A5 20 cent. (brown & black) on stamp #3  
 20 A6 40 cent. (brown & black) on stamp #5



A7



A8

- 21 A7 30 cent. (brown & black) on stamp #10  
 a. CFNT instead of CENT (48)  
 b. "Q" instead of "O" (81)  
 c. "O" broken at right (92)  
 d. Comma instead of period (85)