

Vatican Notes

Vol. IV

June 1955

No. II

ROBERT W. KESSENS

It is with deep regret that we announce that our secretary, Robert W. Kessens of Fort Wayne, Indiana has passed to his final reward.

Bob was stricken with a heart attack a short time ago and rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Gradually, he showed signs of improving and the family was informed he might be released the week of May 22nd.

In the early morning hours of May 23rd, suddenly and unexpectedly, Bob's heart ruptured in his sleep and within a few minutes he had joined his Maker.

I am sure each member joins with us in mourning the passing of a wonderful friend and fellow collector. His hard work and devotion has left an indelible mark on the Vatican Philatelic Society that we are proud to bear.

Before reading further, we humbly request that each member, in his own words and his own way, utter a prayer for a great man, Robert W. Kessens.

Sometime ago our new honorary member, Ernest A. Kehr, sent a few of the flight cards flown by TWA in conjunction with the Vatican Exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum. These served as place cards at the banquet in honor of Francis Cardinal Spellman which followed the opening of the exhibit. Up to this time these relatively rare flown cards have been in the collections of those who attended the banquet only.

It has been decided to offer these special cards to VPS members and donate the entire proceeds to Mrs. Kessens and her five young children as a remembrance of the society her husband served so faithfully.

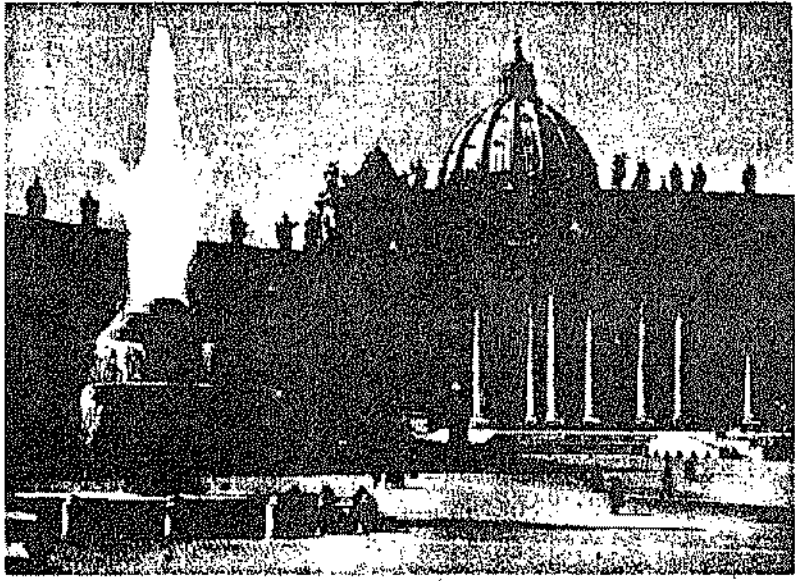
To obtain one of these flown cards all you need do is send \$1.00 and a stamped addressed envelope to: William Wonneberger, Jr.,

67 Jefferson Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

Strictly one to a member, in case of a sell out your money will be promptly refunded. We urge you to send today.

Here is an illustration of the front of the card showing St. Peter's Basilica in multicolor. We hope it will photograph well. The address side of the card bears a 6 lire Marian Year stamp and a special machine cancellation.

Along the way of TWA...



ST. PETER'S

Rome

Fast, frequent
TWA flights take you
direct to Rome.
Visitors from many lands
come to St. Peter's,
the world's largest church,
and to the Vatican
with its magnificent
art treasures.

TWA
TRANS WORLD AIRLINE
U.S.A. · EUROPE
AFRICA · ASIA

To insure the prompt and courteous service members have been accustomed to in corresponding with our late secretary, we have divided the secretary's duties in half. All requests for applications, applications for membership, or any correspondence concerned with membership should be sent to:

William G. Cote
616 Graydon Avenue
Norfolk 7, Virginia

All other correspondence normally sent to the secretary should be directed to:

Wallace R. Smith
165-15 Union Turnpike
Flushing 66, New York

MAY VOTING TABULATED

As this issue goes to press we have received the majority of members' votes. Unanimously, it was voted to extend honorary membership to Ernest A. Kehr for his contributions to our hobby.

Mr. Kehr was recently awarded the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" medal by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. Presentation was made in New York by His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman. This high honor was awarded for his efforts in connection with the Vatican Exhibition, his expose of the Panama Pope Issue, and his efforts in placing our motto, "In God We Trust" on the new 3¢ and 8¢ stamps of the new regular issue.

It was also unanimously voted to increase our society dues to \$2.00 a year effective June 1, 1955. Along with this announcement comes a note that dues for the fiscal year of 1955-56 are now due. Payments of \$2.00 should be sent to the treasurer:

Frederick J. Levitsky
121 Bailey Street
Worcester 2, Massachusetts

Please, to expedite the recording of dues accurately print or write plainly your name, address, city and state, as well as your VPS number. Nothing else should be written. This should be sent with a check or money order made payable to the Vatican Philatelic Society. CASH PAYMENTS SENT THROUGH THE MAILS ARE STRICTLY AT YOUR OWN RISK. VPS will not be responsible for any cash lost in the mails.

If your dues payment is not received by July 31st you will be dropped from the society. Don't let this happen to you, send your dues today.

One of our VPS officers has been working with White Ace album publishers to make a set of pages available for stamps issued by the Roman States. As we go to press we are happy to announce that the proof sheets have already been okayed at the album will soon be on the presses. Please do not contact the printers for any details as this will hamper their issuance. Full details will appear in the Notes just as soon as the album pages are available.

We still haven't been able to get all the "bugs" out of the Notes so we can not, in this issue, announce a mailing date for each month. We will however make every endeavor to have them on the way to you the third week of each month. We also ask you to bear with us in bad illustrations until we get this problem licked.

SAINT BONIFACE ISSUE

On April 28, 1955, Vatican City released a set of three stamps to mark the 12th centenary of the death of St. Boniface, the German Apostle.

The stamps were designed by Edmondo Pizzi and printed from engraved plates of M. Canfarini, Inc., at the State Printing Office, Rome. They stamps were issued in panes of 50 stamps (5x10) without any form of marginal inscriptions.



The complete story of St. Boniface will appear shortly in the Vatican Notes.

CORRECTION!!

On the fourth page of the catalog listing in the May Notes we recorded the plate number of the 1,25 lire stamp as #34, when it should be #32. Please excuse this typographical error and make the necessary notation on your sheet to insure the accuracy of the listing. Thank you.

Numerous requests have been received to provide the Vatican Notes already punched to fit the standard three ring binder. Unfortunately this is not possible financially. An stationery store will provide you with the necessary punch for about 50¢. All you need do is mark the three holes in the left portion of the page and punch, thus saving VPS many dollars in a few seconds.

The next comment received is a request for historical notations in the catalog listing. We have omitted this intentionally as it is planned to issue the complete story behind every stamp issue and design upon completion of the catalog. It was felt that by dividing the technical data from the informative data we would be serving you better.

During the week of May 22nd each member who had subscribed to the special fund fee received a copy of, "A Good Shepherd He Was", a booklet on the life of St. Pius X who has been portrayed on seven Vatican stamps in the last four years. These were mailed by Miss Catharine Hughes. In view of the service she has given VPS over the past months in editing the Notes we are sure that all of you join us in saying, Thanks, a job well done. It was through her efforts that you have been receiving the Notes for the past months and we are sorry she can not continue her wonderful efforts.

POSTAGE DUE ISSUE OF 1931
(continued)

- 22 A8 1,10 lire (brown & black) on stamp #11
- e. Period after the number (50)
 - a. "E" of Lire and "E" of Cent broken (100)
 - b. Period after "L" of Lire (99)
 - c. Lower right part of stamp overprinted in white instead of black

To overprint this issue the plate was made for the 40 cent. value (type A6) first. When the overprinting of this value was completed the numerals and obliterating cross were removed and the same plate used for overprinting the stamps of type A5. The removal of these characters was not perfect and as a result traces of the numerals and cross can be found on the stamps of type A5.

PARCEL POST ISSUE

First Day of Issue:	October 1, 1931
Last Day of Validity:	August 1, 1943
Designer of Overprint:	Enrico Federici
Printer:	Vatican Typography
Printing:	Unknown
Printing Method:	Typography
Type of Issue:	Parcel Post Regular

The above statistics apply to the overprints only. All other details are the same as those of the entire Conciliation Issue, #1-15.



A9

- 23 A9 5 cent. (black) on stamp #1
- a. "I" of Pacchi broken to resemble small i (93)
 - b. "P" of Per broken at top (86)
- 24 A9 10 cent. (black) on stamp #2
- a. "I" of Pacchi broken to resemble small i (93)
 - b. "P" of Per broken at top (86)
- 25 A9 20 cent. (black) on stamp #3

PARCEL POST ISSUE
(continued)

- | | | |
|----|----|---|
| 26 | A9 | 25 cent. (black) on stamp #4 |
| 27 | A9 | 30 cent. (black) on stamp #5
a. Shifted overprint |
| 28 | A9 | 50 cent. (black) on stamp #6
a. "AC" of Pacchi broken in middle (34, 35) |
| 29 | A9 | 75 cent. (black) on stamp #7
a. Inverted overprint |

One plate was used for overprinting all stamps of type A9. It is entirely possible that the speck varieties such as #23 a and #23 b are common to other values but went unrecorded.



A10

- | | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 30 | A10 | 80 cent. (black) on stamp #8 |
| 31 | A10 | 1,25 lire (black) on stamp #9 |
| 32 | A10 | 2 lire (black) on stamp #10
a. Inverted overprint |
| 33 | A10 | 2,50 lire (black) on stamp #11
a. Inverted overprint
b. Double overprint |
| 34 | A10 | 5 lire (black) on stamp #12
a. Shifted overprint |
| 35 | A10 | 10 lire (black) on stamp #13
a. Double overprint |

PARCEL POST ISSUE
(continued)



All

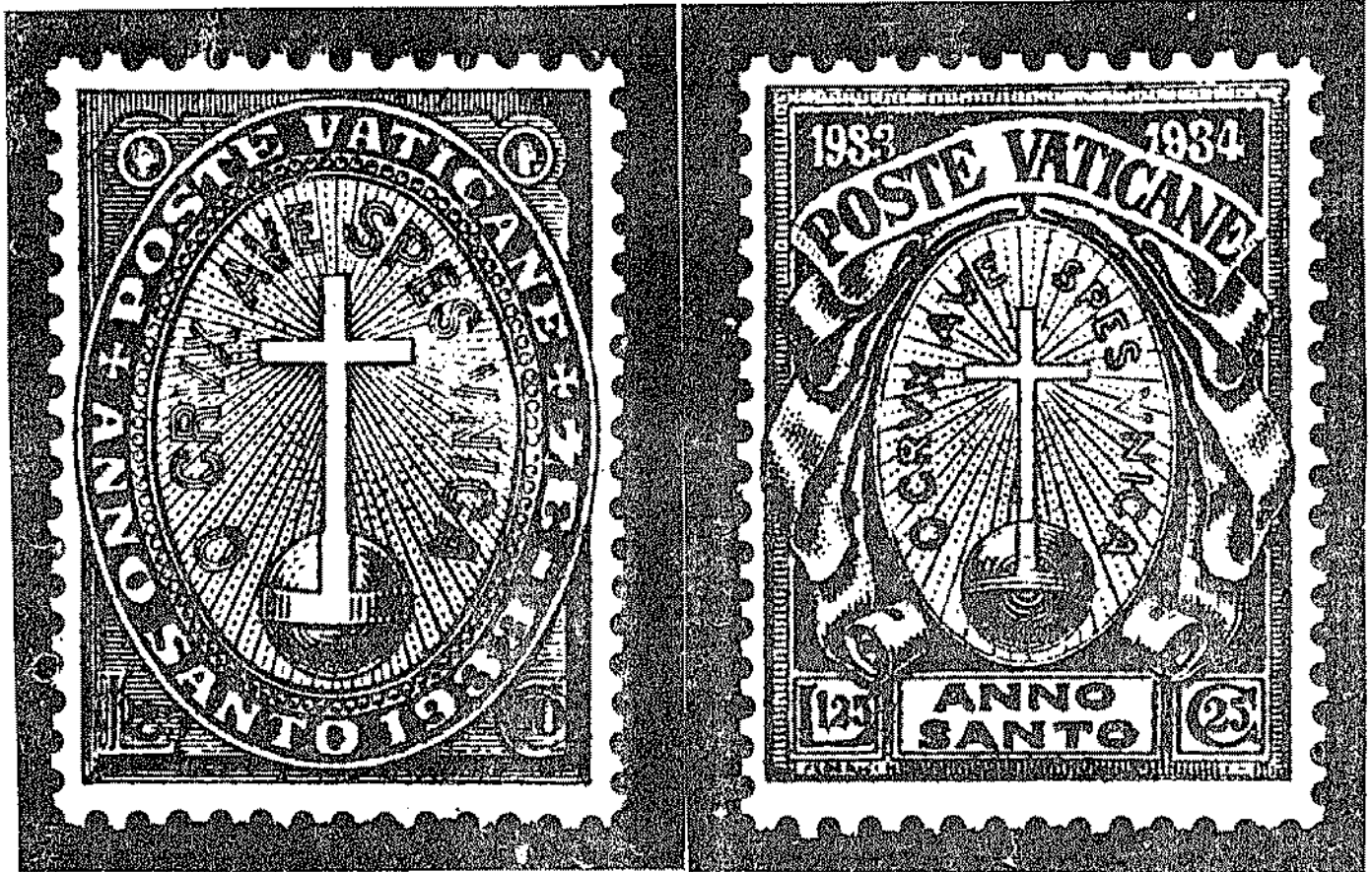
- 36 All 2 lire (black) on stamp #14
a. "AC" of Pacchi united at bottom (46)
- 37 All 2,50 lire (black) on stamp #15

HOLY YEAR OF 1933

First Day of Issue:	April 3, 1933
Last Day of Validity:	December 31, 1947
Designer:	Enrico Federici
Printer:	Institute of Engraving, Paris
Printing:	1,000,000
Printing Method:	Engraved
Engraver:	Institute of Engraving, Paris
Watermark:	None
Perforation:	12x13 Block perforated
Stamps per Pane:	50 stamps
Type of Issue:	Commemorative

The surtax on the following four stamps was used to help defray the expenses of this special Holy Year of Jubilee.

HOLY YEAR OF 1933
(continued)



Cross & Orb
A12

Cross & Orb
A13

38	A12	25 cent. plus 10 cent.	Green
39	A12	75 cent. plus 15 cent.	Orange Red
40	A13	80 cent. plus 20 cent.	Red Brown
41	A13	1,25 lire plus 25 cent.	Slate Blue

There are no reported varieties of this issue.

DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933

First Day of Issue:	May 31, 1933	
Last Day of Validity:	#42 & #51-54	December 31, 1940
	#43-50 & #56-59	February 28, 1947
Designer:	#43-50 & #58-59	F. Schirnbock
	#42 & #51-57	Enrico Federici
Printer:	State Printing Office, Rome	
Printing:	Unknown	
Printing Method:	Engraved	
Engraver:	Unknown	
Watermark:	Crossed Keys	
Perforation:	Block perforated 14	
Stamps per Pane:	#42-50	100 stamps
	#51-59	50 stamps
Type of Issue:	Regular	



Arms of Pius XI
A14

- 42 A14 5 cent. Brown Red
- a. Saggio overprint (red)
 - b. Imperforate
 - c. Letter Watermark
 - d. Inverted watermark

DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933
(continued)



Apostolic Palace
A15

- | | | | |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 43 | A15 | 10 cent. Dark Brown & Black | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Saggio overprint (red) b. Shifted center c. Letter watermark |
| 44 | A15 | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. Green & Black | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Saggio overprint (red) b. Inverted watermark |
| 45 | A15 | 20 cent. Red Orange & Black | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Saggio overprint (red) b. Inverted watermark c. Shifted center d. Horizontal perf incomplete e. Orange color frame f. Bluish paper, front & back |
| 46 | A15 | 25 cent. Dark Olive Green & Black | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Saggio overprint (red) b. Inverted watermark c. Shifted center d. Letter watermark e. Offset f. Imperforate |