

Vatican Notes

Vol. IV

September 1955

No. V

PARCEL POST ISSUE

We have received information that Vatican City will release a set of parcel post stamps before the end of 1955. The stamps will be of relatively high face value to provide for the payment of the large parcels mailed from the Vatican post office. No details as to the designs or number of values is known at this time.

This forthcoming issue will be the second series of parcel post stamps issued by Vatican City and the first distinct parcel post issue. The set released in 1931 was a "provisional" made possible by overprinting the Conciliation issue, "Per Pacchi".

Only a small percentage of members have remitted their dues for the 1955-56 fiscal year. Frankly, this has us worried. VPS expenses for one year is approximately \$700.00. We can not continue to bring a ten page monthly publication to you unless we obtain this amount. VPS WILL NOT send you a bill for your dues. Therefore, it is up to each member to assume the responsibility of forwarding his or her dues. If you have not done so, will you please mail it TODAY. Your check or money order should be made payable to the Vatican Philatelic Society and sent along with a sheet of paper giving your name, address, VPS number, city and state, to:

Frederick J. Levitsky
121 Bailey Street
Worcester 2, Massachusetts

A number of requests have been received for back issues of Vatican Notes. We are unable to supply these prior to May 1955, however, we can send members any issue of Vatican Notes printed in May 1955 or after. The cost is 25¢ per issue and are obtainable from William Wonneberger, Jr. 67 Jefferson Street Stratford, Connecticut.

A number of requests have also been received for copies of the catalog sheets. It is planned to make these available to members desiring extra sets upon the completion of each section of the catalog. The first section, Pontificate of Pope Pius XI, will be completed by November. Copies of this will be made available for a nominal fee to all members. They will be mailed flat in a presentation folder. Further details will appear in the Notes just as soon as they are ready.

Have you a variety or error that does not appear in the catalog? If so, please advise William Wonneberger, Jr., at once to enable it to be included in the "Addenda" of the catalog and thereby insure a complete listing of all varieties and errors.

Again, we dig into the mail bag and find requests for a list of all Popes and short biographies of them. This can not be fulfilled. The Vatican Philatelic Society was organized for the study of Vatican City and Roman States stamps. Therefore, only Popes portrayed on these stamps can be published in the Vatican Notes. To deviate from this policy would not be fair to non-Catholic members who are interested in the stamps themselves and the subjects they depict.

VPS will again sponsor a special edition of Linn's Weekly Stamp News in December 1955. Any member wishing to submit an article or articles for publication in this issue should have them in the hands of the editor by November 10th. Let's make this issue as outstanding as the last. The quality of the material in the last issue of Linn's sponsored by VPS reaped many new members, let's have the same results again.

Many members, unknowingly, are violating the law. When you submit an article for publication you can not copy word for word any article that is copyrighted. The penalty is quite severe for such a violation. Members are requested to bear this in mind when forwarding material for printing in the Notes or anyplace else. When you submit copy for printing please include your reference sources to enable us to ascertain no laws have been violated.

Sometime ago, we offered the actual forms used by Prisoners of War under the auspices of the Vatican Information Bureau to members. We have obtained another small supply of them and offer them to any member forwarding two three cent commemoratives and a stamped return envelope. These forms are a direct tie-in with the three Prisoner of War issues released by Vatican City. Requests for them should be sent to Silliam Wonneberger, Jr. 67 Jefferson Street Stratford, Conn.

PRISONER OF WAR ISSUES



Issue of 1942



Issue of 1943

During World War II, Vatican City released three sets of stamps of the same basic design to publicize the Vatican efforts on behalf of prisoners of war of both sides.

The first two issues, 1942 and 1943, are of the same design, color, and denominations. This has caused much confusion to stamp collectors who find it difficult to identify the issue to which the stamp belongs. The only method of identification is the date in Roman numerals on each stamp. Those of the issue of 1942 are inscribed "MCMXLII", the Roman numerals directly below "VATICANE". Those stamps of the 1943 issue are also inscribed in Roman numerals below the word Vaticane. This 1943 inscription is, "MCMXLIII" or three "I" instead of two.

The third issue is quite easy to identify. While of the same design as the first two, it is printed in different colors and of different denominations. This third issue is inscribed, "MCMXLIV" or 1944, even though it was issued in 1945.

POSTAGE DUE ISSUES.



Issue of 1945

Two sets of postage due stamps, both similar in design, have served to confuse collectors. The 1945 issue is distinguished by the thin colored wavy lines in the background. The colored lines are half the thickness of the alternating white lines. The above enlarged illustration is an example of the 1945 issue. This is the most common of the two issues.



Issue of 1946

The 1946 issue was made from redrawn plates for the printing of the colored background lines. In preparing the plates, the wavy colored lines were made the same thickness as the alternating white wavy lines. This is the rarer of the two sets with the 5 Lire value being the rarest of all.

PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1934
(continued)

≡ 40 ≡

Normal
#61

≡ 40 ≡

Wide Spacing
#61a

LIRE 1.30 LIRE

First Printing
#62

≡ 1,30 ≡

Second Printing
#62a

≡ 1.30 ≡

Small Overprint
(Saggio) #62b

≡ 2,05 ≡

First Printing
#63

≡ 2,05 ≡

Second Printing
#63a

LIRE 2.05 LIRE

Missing Comma
#63b

PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1934
(continued)

≡ 2,55 ≡

Type "AA"
#64

≡ 2,55 ≡

Type "BB"
#64

≡ 2,55 ≡

Type "CC"
#64

≡ 2,55 ≡

Type "AB"
#64

≡ 2,55 ≡

Type "BA"
#64

≡ 2,55 ≡

Second Printing
#64a

≡ 2 55 ≡

Missing Comma
#64b

≡ 2.55 ≡

Partial Comma
#64c

PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1934
(continued)



First Printing
#65



Second Printing
#65a



First Printing
#66



Second Printing
#66a

The above illustrations are actual enlargements of the stamps. All characteristics of the surcharges are illustrated in enlarged form and with this exception, are identical with those of the actual stamps.

Four different types of commas were used in surcharging the stamps of this issue. They are only of minor importance and do not warrant listing. Examples of these commas are shown in the illustrations of #64 type "AA"; #64 type "BB"; #64 type "BA"; and #64a.

All measurements given for this issue are those of the actual stamps and not of the illustrations. The surcharges illustrated on these pages are not necessarily in a direct ratio with the actual stamps.

AIRMAIL ISSUE OF 1938
(continued)



Dove of Peace
Above St. Peter's Square
A28



Elijah's Ascent
Into Heaven
A29

AIRMAIL ISSUE OF 1938
(continued)



Our Lady and Holy
House of Loreto
A30

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 82 | A28 | 50 cent. Dark Green |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |
| | | c. Paper crease |
| 83 | A29 | 75 cent. Lake |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (black) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |
| 84 | A30 | 80 cent. Dark Blue |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |
| 85 | A27 | 1 lire Violet |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |
| | | c. Paper crease |
| 86 | A28 | 2 lire Ultramarine |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |
| 87 | A29 | 5 lire Slate Black |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |
| 88 | A30 | 10 lire Maroon |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Letter watermark |