

Vatican Notes

Volume VI

May - June 1958

Number 6

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

BRUSSELS EXHIBITION ISSUE - Early this year the Vatican announced that a set of four commemorative stamps and a souvenir sheet would be released in April to mark the "Participation of the Holy See in the Brussels International Exhibition of 1958" (see Vatican Notes, Volume VI, No. 4, January - February, 1958.) In March it was learned that the Vatican's "Civitas Dei" pavillion, consisting of a church, large assembly hall, and dining area, was to be portrayed on the stamps. The issue was to consist of 35, 60, 100 and 300 Lire values with the souvenir sheet having the same total face value, namely 495 Lire. However, at the same time it was also learned that printing and sale of the souvenir sheet would be restricted and rationed on the basis of one sheet for each ten sets of the stamps. When this news was received, a philatelic storm broke over the Vatican Postal Service.

Such a system would make it impossible for collectors to obtain the souvenir sheet without paying a very high premium if it could be obtained at all. Needless to say this would greatly impede the efforts of the Vatican Philatelic Society to promote Vatican philately. VPS President William Wonneberger sent off an immediate protest to the Vatican Director of Posts. A copy of this protest was sent to Francis Cardinal Spellman with the assurance that His Eminence would safeguard the interests of the average collector by doing what he could to prevent the plan being placed into effect.

Carl P. Rueth (VPS honorary member), Editor of Linn's Weekly Stamp News, was also advised. He immediately lodged a protest with the Vatican postal authorities with a copy going to Cardinal Spellman. Mr. Rueth also contacted Ernest A. Kehr (also a VPS honorary member), Stamp Editor of the New York Herald Tribune, who was overseas to enlist his aid in preventing the restricted printing and sale of the souvenir sheet. Knowing Mr. Kehr's interest in Vatican philately, members can rest assured that he took whatever action he could to help.

Mr. Wonneberger also contacted his correspondents in Italy requesting their assistance in bringing pressure to bear upon the authorities. He learned that Italian dealers and collectors were similarly outraged at the proposed restrictions and had met with Vatican authorities. Mr. Fernando Levi of the firm of Vittorio Lo Bianco, Inc, although not a VPS member, also protested to the Vatican authorities and contacted his correspondents in Italy to enlist their aid. He also contacted the American Stamp Dealers Association who, in turn, lodged a protest with Vatican officials.

Because of this strong opposition, the Vatican first delayed the planned issuance of the Brussels series until April 20th although it had been scheduled for release a week earlier. The issuing day was again delayed with the new date tentatively set for April 28th or 29th. Reports stated that this was for the purpose of making more sheets available for sale and to remove the restrictions. As this issue of Vatican Notes goes to press, word has just been received that the issue date is now set for May 10th and that there are no known restrictions either on the printing or sale of the souvenir sheets. Further details on this issue with the customary illustrations will be carried in the next issue.

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The contribution of the Vatican Philatelic Society to the successful efforts to remove the restrictions on the Brussels issue recalls a previous similar instance. Several years ago VPS joined with other organizations in protesting to the government of Panama against the issuance of stamps in a manner not in the interest of collectors. (See Vatican Notes, Volume V, No. I, July 1956.) Panama had agreed with a private contractor to print and release a series of 262 stamps portraying the Popes from St. Peter to Pius XII. The circumstances behind this issue were far from favorable. VPS, together with Linn's, the Collectors of Religion on Stamps Society, and Ernest A. Kehr did all in their power to prevent their release for purposes which were obviously not of a true philatelic nature. Although twelve of these labels were finally placed on sale, collectors had been so thoroughly alerted that the majority of the stamps were never sold and were finally destroyed with all further issues cancelled. While the Brussels issue situation is obviously not of the same nature as the "Panama Popes", the two do serve to illustrate that concerted efforts on behalf of philatelists in a reasonable cause can have highly beneficial results.

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A commemorative issue (10, 15, 35 and 60 Lire values) is scheduled for release by Vatican City during May to mark the second centenary of the birth of Antonio Canova (1757 - 1821) who was the creator of the new Italian statuary art. Two of his great monuments are still to be seen in St. Peter's Basilica - the statues of Popes Clement XIII and Clement XIV. Canova was previously portrayed on the 10 Lire value (Scott 90) of the Pontifical Academy issue of 1944.

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The 5 Lire value (Scott C24) of the Archangel Gabriel airmail issue has been reported with the watermark reversed. All known copies up to this time have had the key hilts of the watermark to the left side of the stamp (gum side up.) The new variety has the key hilts facing right. At this time it is not known if this is the result of a new printing or simply the result of paper being fed to the press in reverse.

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C33-34 SIZE VARIATIONS EXPLAINED - VPS President William Wonneberger reports that inquiries made in Rome have clarified the size differences noted in the recent Vatican issue of C33-34. Actually, the stamps when printed were of the same size and perforations. The regular gumming machine was used on the 1000 Lire stamps but a new gumming machine, which causes less paper shrinkage, was used on the 500 Lire variety. Therefore, the 1000 Lire stamps are 1 mm. smaller than

the 500 Lire because the paper shrunk more after gumming. Both stamps are actually perforated 14, with the 1000 Lire comb perforated and the 500 Lire line perforated. The perforation difference which resulted was also due to the paper shrinkage.

The above occurrence presents a good opportunity to point out several interesting and useful facts regarding stamp size and perforation measurement. When either linear or comb perforations are used, stamps can vary as much as 2 to 3 mm. in size when measured from perforation to perforation. This is not unusual since paper feed can not always be completely accurate. Consequently, when measuring stamp size, it is always accepted procedure to measure the design only since this will give consistent results, except in cases of shrinkage such as occurred above.

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NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS

(The following timely article has been prepared by the Membership Secretary.)

To prosper in the world of business, an organization oftens resorts to gimmicks and fancy trimmings to attract new customers. However, unless there is a "first-class" product to be sold, no gimmicks or trimmings will succeed in gaining or holding customers and the business will wither. Stamp collecting is not a business but there are similarities worth noting. VPS has a top product in the stamps of Vatican City and Roman States, and this, without the help of gimmicks, is constantly attracting new "customers" to reinforce the membership. In the 85 weeks during which the present Membership Secretary has held office, there have been only four during which new members were not added to the roles, and in some weeks as many as twelve new members were recorded. However, as in business, a constant search for new "customers" must be carried on if the organization is to continue to expand and improve its services.

Many members have asked: "Is there any way in which I can be of assistance to the Society? If so, I will be happy to help." There is always need for any special talents or facilities which any members may have, but for most of the membership who do not feel that they are in a position to give such help, there is still much that they can do. Four things, all directed to the all-important membership question are:

- (1) Prompt renewal of membership;
- (2) Recruiting of new members;
- (3) Joining local chapters or forming new chapters; and
- (4) Enlisting high school stamp clubs.

Membership dues for the coming fiscal year, July 1958 - June 1959, are due and payable on or before July 1, 1958. It is strongly urged that all present members renew or or before that date, and NOW is not too soon. Checks or money orders in the amount of \$2.00 should be made payable to the Vatican Philatelic Society and mailed to the Secretary - Wallace R. Smith, 165-15 Union Turnpike, Flushing 66, New York. 100% RENEWAL BEFORE JULY 1, 1958.

A very effective aid to VPS comes from members who talk about VPS to their friends, wherever and whenever the opportunity arises. An interest in Vatican philately can be aroused by showing them copies of Vatican Notes, telling them of VPS services such as those of the Sales and Translating Departments and,

of course, by letting them see for themselves the outstanding beauty of Vatican stamps. A short letter to local, particularly Diocesan, papers will frequently bring worthwhile notices. The Membership Secretary has on hand a small supply of reprints of an article on Vatican City philately which members can use with effectiveness in their recruiting activities. Ask for copies and always give the Membership Secretary's name as a source of further information.

Reports from the Chapters indicate that most members derive great enjoyment and benefit from the meetings with their fellow Vatican stamp enthusiasts and from sharing with them their knowledge and in turn learning something of value to themselves. Also, where local chapters do not exist, the work of forming one is not too arduous and much useful material is available to assist in their formation. Again, contact the Membership Secretary.

Members with high-school age sons and daughters or their friends can help considerably by sending the Membership Secretary the name of the school, the Principal's name and address, and the name of the stamp club Moderator, if there is one. All the details concerning the formation of High School VPS Affiliates together with the benefits of such Associate Membership will be explained. Remember, these are the future members of VPS.

Finally, all members of VPS should remember that each one's efforts in helping with membership recruiting is important. Inquiries on any points raised in this article should be addressed to: William P. Quinn, 26 Brent Street, Dorchester 24, Massachusetts. The membership of the Vatican Philatelic Society is about 700 at this time. With the help of the entire membership, this could be raised to a total of over 1000 during the next twelve-month period.

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CHAPTER NEWS - Mr. L. Paul Marini, President of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of VPS was the guest speaker on Vatican philately at the 906 Stamp Club, composed of inmates of the maximum security state prison at South Walpole, Mass., on March 22, 1958. This unique club, numbering forty members, is the only "inside the walls" stamp club to be accepted into the National Federation of Stamp Clubs. It was organized early in 1956 under the sponsorship of Principal Officer John A. Gavin and Supervisor Richard O. Wells of the State Prison. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and lasted for about four hours. In addition to Mr. Marini's talk, members of the club had a fine exhibition which was judged by Mrs. Richard Carroll of Springfield, Mass. and Mrs. James Shavers who flew from Barrington, Illinois for the occasion. A buffet supper was served to about 150 persons including wives of the club members and delegations from outside stamp clubs from Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

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ATTENTION VPS LOCAL CHAPTERS - The U. S. Air Force has available an excellent sound film in color of the VATICAN. Request from the Public Relations Officer of the nearest Air Force Base. Ask for Training Film 1-5018-C (AF33-600-30086.) Local chapter must provide sound projector, screen and operator.

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Of interest to VPS members is the new Minkus album of Vatican City - Roman States. A report on this album is being prepared for the next issue of Vatican Notes.

THE POPES SERIES (Continued)

35 Lire - POPE SIXTUS V (Continued)

He also added to the Vatican Palace and was responsible for supplying Rome with water. He instituted many church reforms and established the number of Cardinals at seventy. He formed the fifteen permanent congregations for the conduct of spiritual and temporal affairs with a Cardinal in charge of each. Under his aegis the Vatican Press issued an edition of the Bible revised according to Vatican manuscripts. However, because of poor printing, it was withdrawn and reissued in 1592.

The Dome

The appointment of Michaelangelo by Paul III and his confirmation in the position of Chief Architect by Julius III gave this genius unlimited authority to alter, pull down or change the building according to his own plans. He adopted the Greek Cross ground plan, enlarging the apse and transepts, strengthened the pillars for the second time and began the dome under an entirely different plan than Bramante. (Brunelleschi, one hundred and fifty years before in the construction of the Cathedral of Florence, had demonstrated the possibilities of the double dome, a drum inside and a second dome outside.) He called his plan the accomplishment of Bramante, bringing into harmony the work done by Bramante and his own plan. The drum was completed by the time of Michaelangelo's death at the age of eighty-nine in 1563-4. In the dome he borrowed ascending continuity from the Gothic and expressed it in classical lines. He left behind him drawings and models for the completion of the work up to the lantern.

For twenty-four years nothing was done to complete the dome until Pope Sixtus V ordered work to be resumed in 1588. It was completed in 22 months. Vignola and Giacomo della Porta were the architects with della Porta in charge of the Dome. Pius V had appointed Vignola and Pirro Ligorio but neither lived to see the dome completed, although Vignola completed two lateral cupolas. Shortly after the death of Sixtus V in 1590 the great dome was covered with lead and bound with enormous hoops of iron. The small cupola was erected on columns and the ball and cross placed on the summit. Under Benedict XIV in 1740 the dome showed apparent signs of weakness and it was reinforced with five other iron hoops weighing 100,000 pounds.

Clement VIII had the interior of the dome adorned with mosaics after the designs of d'Arpino. Circling the interior base of the dome in letters six feet high are the words of Christ to Peter: "Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam et tibi dabo claves regni caelorum (Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and I will give to you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.)" The mosaics on the interior of the dome are in ascending series between the sixteen stucco ribs.

The piers which support the dome are enormous, given as 100 paces and 234 feet in circumference in various places. Each has a cast iron core, a technique re-discovered by Bramante. In the inner surface of each pillar is a niche occupied by a sixteen foot statue of a saint, who gives his name to the column - St. Andrew, St. Longinus, St. Helena and St. Veronica. Above the statues are smaller

niches with ballustrades containing relics related to the Saint below - the head of St. Andrew, the lance of Longinus, a portion of the True Cross, the veil of Veronica - which are exhibited in these smaller niches on festival days. The Dome from the pavement to the summit of the lantern is said to be 404 feet high; to the top of the cross 435 feet. It is 138 feet in diameter.

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45 Lire - POPE PAUL V

Pope Paul V (Camillo Borghese) was born in Rome on September 17, 1550 and died on January 28, 1621. He was of a noble family of Siena, was educated for the law in Perugia and Padua, later becoming a lawyer of ability. In 1596 he was made a Cardinal by Clement VIII and appointed Cardinal-Vicar of Rome. He was elected Pope on May 16, 1605 to succeed Pope Leo XI. Being familiar with law but not with diplomacy he was involved in many quarrels. His dispute with Venice over their civil law alienating property from the clergy attracted the attention of all Europe. Venice was interdicted and its rulers excommunicated. The situation lasted for about a year but was then settled. Pope Paul V also condemned the oath of allegiance required by James I of England. He quarreled with Austria.

Besides encouraging the completion of the major building of St. Peters and the erection of the facade, he enriched the Vatican Library and encouraged art. Criticism has been leveled at Paul V because he ordered the lengthening of the Nave of St. Peters, obscuring the Dome from close view, nullifying the whole effect intended by Michaelangelo. However the increased size was needed to accommodate the crowds attending the various liturgical functions. Bernini succeeded Maderno, the architect of the facade, and designed two campaniles to be erected one at each end of the facade. One was built but had to be removed owing to insecure foundations.



The Facade

The facade was designed by Carlo Maderno and is built entirely of travertine. It is 378 feet long and 148-165 feet high. It is approached from St. Peters Square by a flight of steps. The three stories and attic are faced by eight columns, four pilasters and six semi-pilasters of the Corinthian order. Each story has nine windows and the facade is surmounted by a ballustrade bearing statues of Christ and the Apostles, nineteen feet high. The inscription records that it was erected under Pope Paul V.

Five doors lead into the vestibule. Only the central door was bronze from the beginning, having been cast by Antonio Averulino of Florence. The door at the extreme right, opposite the Holy Door, was promoted to bronze in 1950 in a design by Consorti, and was donated by Swiss Catholics in gratitude for the safeguarding of their country during World War II. The remaining doors are wooden. Prince George of Bavaria, a Vatican Prelate who died in 1943, willed his fortune for a contest for their design. Delayed by World War II, the contest began in 1947 and by 1953, eighty-five designs had been submitted and the choice

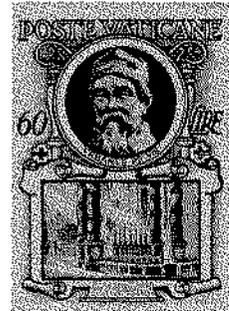
lowered this number to twelve. The final three selected were by Biagini, Crocetti and Manzu. Because of Biagini's death his design was abandoned and one by Nagni and Monteleone adopted. These doors were to be installed in 1956.

The vestibule is about 234 feet long, fifty feet wide and sixty-six feet high. At each end is an equestrian statue - Constantine by Bernini is at the right and Charlemagne by Cornacchini at the left. Five doors lead into the Basilica. The one at the right is the Holy Door, bricked up except during Holy Years. Between the doors are inscriptions taken from the front of the old Basilica.

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60 Lire - POPE URBAN VIII

Pope Urban VIII (Maffeo Barberini) was born in Florence in April of 1568 and died in Rome on July 29, 1644. Of a noble Florentine family, he was brought to Rome after the death of his father and raised there by an Uncle who was a Vatican Domestic Prelate. After securing a Doctorate of Law from Pisa in 1589, he entered into the Segnatura di Giustizia at Rome, and in 1592 Pope Clement VIII made him Governor of Fano. This was followed by his appointment to various diplomatic posts during which he was sent as Papal Nuncio to Paris in 1604. He was created a Cardinal in 1606 and in 1608 he was appointed Archbishop of Spoleto working there diligently until he was recalled to diplomatic service in 1617. He was elected to succeed Pope Gregory XV on August 6, 1623, continuing his Pontificate for twenty-one years.



As Pope he was diligent in reforming the liturgy and in furthering the missions. His attempt to reestablish Catholicism in England failed due to the imprudence of his emissaries. Later negotiations were moderately successful. His nephews involved him in war with Parma, Modena, Tuscany and Venice. Many calumnies have been heaped on him for his failure to take sides in the Thirty Years War. Since the war involved two Catholic countries, Pope Urban wished not to side with either. His personal life is without blemish. Because of the bronze taken from under the porch of the Pantheon for the pillars of the Baldacchino, there resulted the well-known pasquinade: "Quod non fecerunt Barbari, fecerunt Barberini (What the barbarians did not do, the Barberini did.)"

The Canopy and the Chair

The Canopy or Baldacchino which rises above the Papal Altar is supported by four bronze pillars designed by Bernini and constructed in 1633 under Pope Urban VIII. The Baldacchino is about 95 feet high. The metal cast into these pillars was purchased mainly from Venice, but a part was taken from concealed beams in the portico of the Pantheon. The bees seen on various parts of the Canopy are from the Barberini coat-of-arms.

The Papal Altar, which is above the tomb of St. Peter, is used only by the Pope or a Cardinal specifically authorized for the occasion to celebrate Mass on feast days of great importance. The Canopy was intended originally to protect the celebrant and the altar from things which might fall from the ceiling. The rich decorations of the Canopy and its location over the central altar focus attention in the Basilica on the most important part, the place where St. Peter is buried.

The sunken space before the Papal Altar, surrounded by a marble ballustrade, is the Confessio. Here are suspended ninety-three lamps. Stairs lead down to the bronze doors (from the old St. Peters) opening on a space above the tomb of the Apostle. In the space in the Confessio between the stairs and the doors is a statue of Pope Pius VI by Canova.

In the background of the illustration on the stamp is seen the Altar of the Chair of Peter at the back wall of the Apse. Above the altar is the "Chair of Peter" in bronze executed by Bernini in 1667, intended to contain the wooden episcopal chair of St. Peter. Other information indicates that this chair is actually kept in a closet high in the apse wall, safely locked by three keys. Three church dignitaries each hold one of these keys, and the chair is exhibited only on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. The bronze "Chair of Peter" by Bernini is supported by four bronze figures of four Doctors of the Church - Saints Ambrose, Augustine, Athanasius and Chrysostom. About 109 tons of metal were used in its construction. The altar was dedicated by Pope Pius IX in January of 1859. On a side wall is an inscription commemorating the declaration there of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in December 1854.

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65 Lire - POPE ALEXANDER VII

Fabio Chigi (Pope Alexander VII) was born of a distinguished Italian family in Siena on February 13, 1599. He died in Rome on May 22, 1667. Being ill in his youth he was educated at home, later taking doctorates in law, philosophy and Theology at Siena at the age of twenty-seven. In 1626 he began his ecclesiastical career at Rome, working into the diplomatic field. At the termination of the Thirty Years War he was the representative of Innocent X in 1648 at the Peace of Westphalia. He was Secretary of State in 1651 and was made a Cardinal in 1652. He was elected Pope on April 7, 1655.



His reign was marked by difficulties with France under the young and ill-advised Louis XIV, brought about by the French Ambassadors who resented his success at the Peace of Westphalia. He tried to act as a peacemaker between Spain and Portugal when the latter declared independence.

Alexander VII was a Patron of Learning and of Art. He decorated many buildings in Rome, and his tomb by Bernini is one of the most beautiful in St. Peters.

The Colonnades

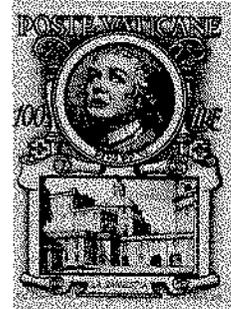
The Colonnades were designed by Bernini under Pope Alexander VI in 1667 and are generally considered to be his architectural masterpiece. They are semi-circular and fifty-five feet wide, and are supported by four rows of columns forty-eight feet high. There is sufficient room between the middle two rows to permit the passage of two carriages abreast. There are 284 columns in the two sides of the Colonnades, together with 64 pilasters. On the parapet above stand 162 statues of Saints, each statue twelve feet high. The whole structure including the statues is of travertine.

The Colonnades terminate in two galleries which lead to the facade of St. Peters. These galleries are not parallel but separate further as they approach the facade. This gives the effect of diminishing size. When viewed from the open end of the piazza one cannot believe that the galleries are almost 100 yards long. The Colonnades and galleries enclose a piazza 366 yards long to the portico of the church and 260 yards at the widest part.

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100 Lire - POPE PIUS VI

Pope Pius VI (Giovanni Angelico Braschi) was born in Cesena on December 27, 1717. He died at Valence, France on August 29, 1799. He came from a noble but impoverished family and was educated at Cesena and Ferrara. After a diplomatic mission to Naples he was appointed Papal Secretary and a Canon of St. Peters in 1755. Clement XIII made him the Papal Treasurer in 1766. He was elevated to Cardinal by Clement XIV in 1775. He retired to the Abbey of Subiaco until on February 15, 1775 he was elected Pope.



Pope Pius VI worked for the suppression of Gallicanism in France and Germany and had difficulty with Joseph II of Austria who interfered in church affairs. In the Papal States he drained the marshes near Citta della Pieve, Perugia, Spoleto and Trevi and the Pontine marshes. Roads and harbors were put in good condition. He caused the construction of the Sacristy of St. Peters and added to the Museo Pio-Clementino.

When the French Revolution occurred, Pius VI rejected the Civil Constitution for the Clergy and suspended priests who accepted it. France retaliated by the seizure of the Papal possessions at Avignon, and Napoleon was sent to attack the Papal States. During 1796 and 1797 many sections of the Papal States were seized. In 1798 Rome was attacked and the Roman Republic was declared on February 15, 1798. Pope Pius VI, although seriously ill, was taken prisoner and removed to France in 1799. Crossing the Alps brought about his death in Valence where he was buried. His remains were transferred to Rome on February 17, 1802. His statue by Canova is in the Crypt of St. Peters before the Papal Altar.

The Sacristy

The Sacristy of St. Peters was built under Pope Pius VI from designs of Carlo Marchionni about 1775. It is a separate building situated to the left of St. Peters. It is joined to the Basilica by two passageways, one of which enters at the junction of the left transept beneath the monument of Pius VIII and the other entering the Capello del Coro.

The Sacristy consists of three main halls arranged in line with the Nave of the Basilica. First is the Sacristy of the Canons, then the Common Sacristy, and finally the Sacristy of the Beneficiaries. Behind the Sagrestria dei Canonici is the Chapter Room of the Canons of St. Peters. Behind the Sagrestria dei Beneficiati is the Treasury of St. Peters. A ground plan of the Sacristy is found in Baedeker's "Central Italy" between pages 306 and 307.

The Sagrestria Commune is decorated by eight grey marble columns from Hadrian's Villa, a bronze clock from the Old St. Peters, and a picture of the Deposition by L. Sabatini said to be sketched by Michaelangelo. The Sacristy of the Canons has eight panels painted by Giotto. The Treasury contains Church plate and ornaments, some by Cellini and Michaelangelo. Vestments worn by Leo III at the coronation of Charlemagne are preserved there. In the Archives beneath the Sacristy are many ancient historical relics and manuscripts. The statue of Pius VI near the entrance of the Sacristy is by Augusto Penna.

 This concludes the presentation of the Popes series. The Background Historical Series continues in the July - August issue. It is planned to cover St. Clare, St. Bernard, Peter Lombard and the Lateran Pact in that issue.

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SERVICES FOR VPS MEMBERS

The attention of all VPS members is called to the excellent services available to them through the Sales and Translation Departments of the Vatican Philatelic Society. These services were described in detail on pages 3 - 5 of Volume VI, Number 3, November - December Issue of Vatican Notes and interested members should refer to this issue for the rules and regulations governing the operations of these departments. The Manager of the Sales Department is Miss Margaret Berthot, 317 South 4th Street, Clearfield, Pa., who welcomes any inquiries or requests for services. Requests for translation service should be addressed, for the time being, to the President - Mr. William Wonneberger, jr., 320 First Avenue, Stratford, Conn.

All VPS members are requested to give their VPS membership number when writing to any officer or department of the Vatican Philatelic Society.

In connection with the services of the Sales Department, it should be pointed out that this department not only serves as a source of supply for Vatican stamps but can serve as a means of disposing of duplicates. Members are advised that sales booklets obtained from the Sales Department are NOT to be used for private transactions among members but are for department use only. Any infractions of this rule should be reported to the Manager of the Sales Department.

POSTAGE DUES OF THE ROMAN STATES

by William A. Johnson, jr.

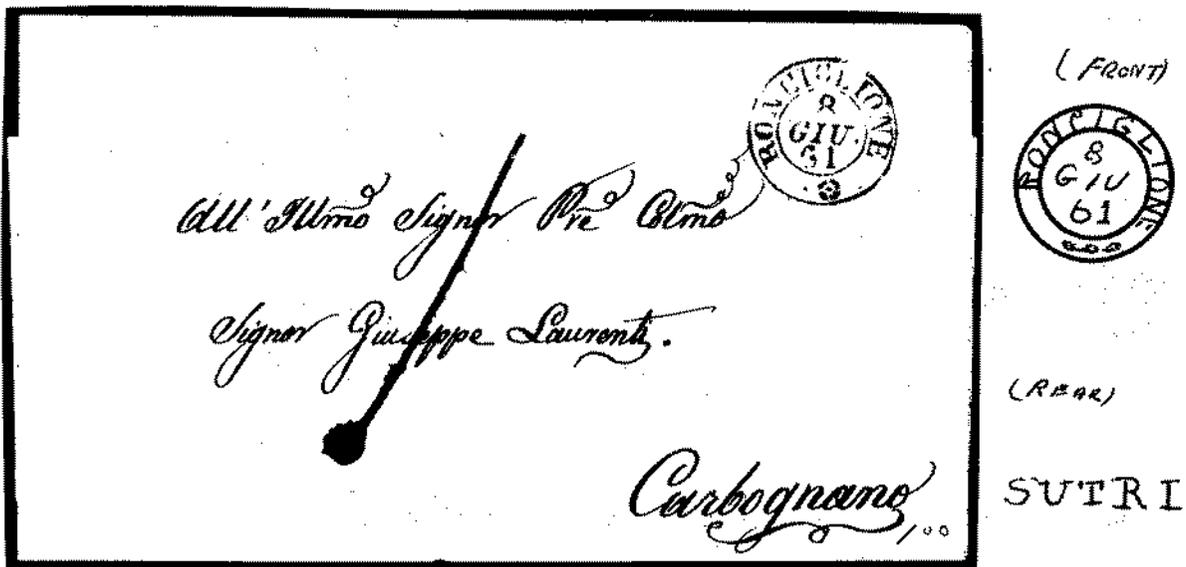
From January 1, 1852, when the first series of stamps were issued by the Papal States, until December 31, 1863 the use of stamps for the prepayment of postage was optional. If the sender of a letter did not apply a stamp or stamps of the proper value before mailing it, the postal clerk of the sending post office affixed the proper stamps to the back of the letter and the addressee was required to pay the postage due.

Only the larger post offices had a supply of stamps. This accounts for the fact that many letters were posted without any stamps affixed. This, of course, made necessary the use of postage due procedures. In such cases Roman States stamps were used as postage dues and attached to the back of the envelope at intermediate or destination post offices.

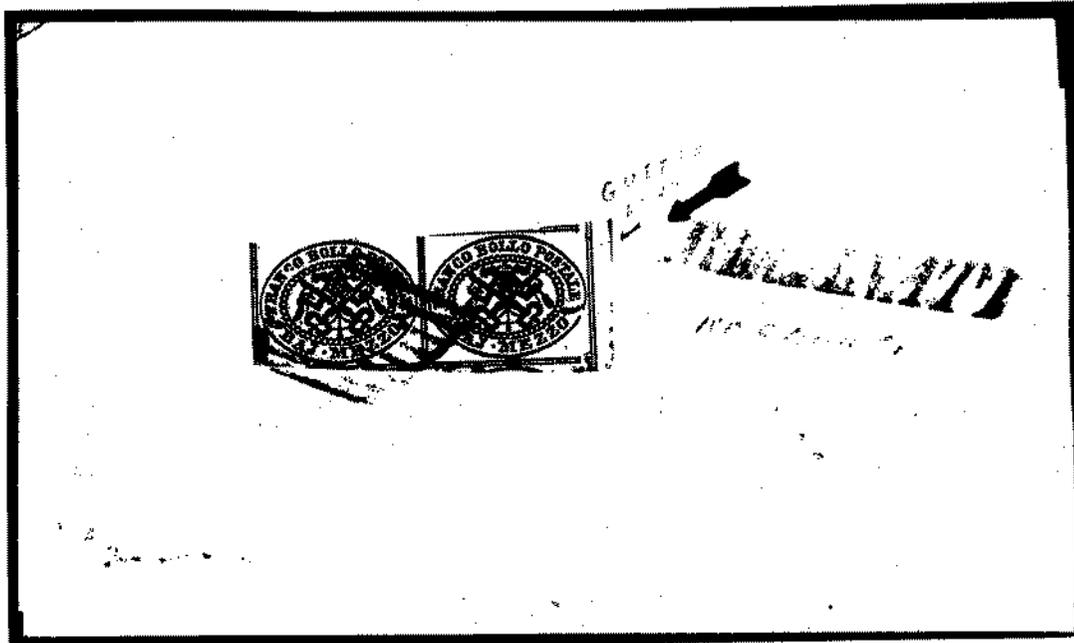
Because of oversight or carelessness letters occasionally passed through post offices uncanceled. This gave rise to Roman States covers which actually passed through the mails and yet showed stamps in mint condition. It also led to the re-use of stamps upon occasion.

Three examples of postage due procedures are shown. In the first, the envelope (front shown) was cancelled at the sender's post office. In the second and third (backs shown) cancellation was at an intermediate point and at the destination respectively.

Cover from Sutri to Carbognano - June 2, 1861



Editor's Note: The black borders in the illustrations have no relation to the covers, and are used solely for contrast.



Note:

Second stamp shows part of a gutter line pair

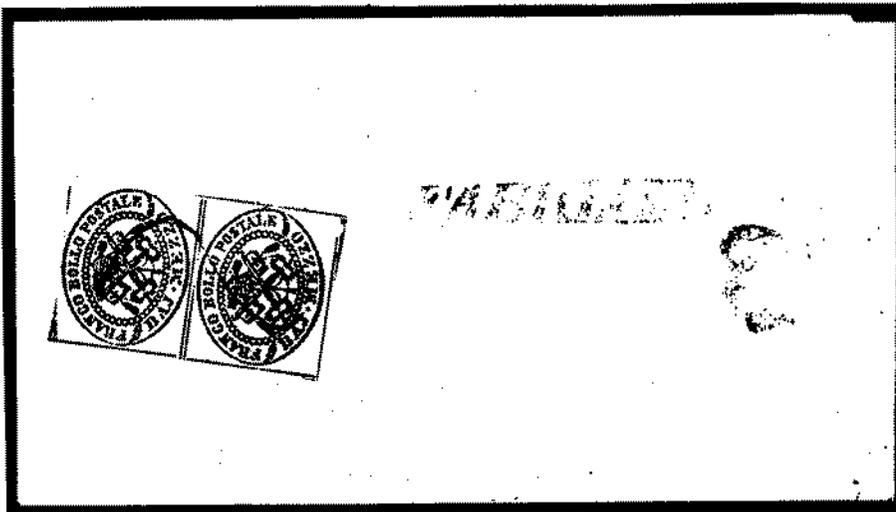
(FRONT)



(REAR)

MACERATA

Cover from Macerata to Civitanova - February 17, 1856



Entire letter from Casa to Fabriano - August 22, 1859

(REAR)

FABRIANO

(This article will be concluded in the July - August issue of VATICAN NOTES.)