

Vatican Notes

Volume VII

January-February 1959

Number 4

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

The following issues are expected to be issued soon but, at the present time, no definite dates have been set.

Set commemorating the persecution of 258 A.D. and portraying the Five Martyrs.

Set of two low values to mark the inauguration of the new Vatican radio station which is located at Santa Maria di Galeria (just outside of Rome).

Coronation issue for Pope John XXIII.

New regular issue to replace the Popes of St. Peter's Issue. Supposed to be of an entirely different design.

A set, of possibly two low values, to honor the patron Saint of one of the Eastern European countries. This will be another set in a series honoring the Church of Silence behind the Iron Curtain.

The 100 Lire aerogramme issued by Vatican City in 1954 has been reprinted. The reprint differs from the original in the imprinted stamp and inscription, " Aerogramme ". The original was printed in dark carmine while the reprints are printed in what appears to be orange or orange-red.

WARNING

Copies of the 5 and 85 Lire values (Scott # 159 and E14) have been reported to exist with a privately applied BLACK OVERPRINT. The overprint consists of a black frame crudely applied and the date of the day of death of Pope Pius XII. The date is in Italian. No further details are available on this supposed issue. Collectors are hereby warned that such overprints are NOT officially issued and should not be purchased as such.

VPS LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER. -- At the regular monthly meeting of the St. Louis Chapter the following officers were elected: Edward Fohl, President; William G. Weld, Vice-President; and Miss Barbara Lawrence, Secretary-Treasurer. Robert J. Hutcheson, the previous President, was elected Member at Large, and will, with the other elected Officers, constitute the Board of Governors.

With this meeting the Chapter inaugurated its new meeting place. Through the courtesy of the Rev. Edward Borawski, the Chapter has been allowed to meet permanently at St. Adalbert School in East St. Louis, Illinois (a three minute drive across the river from St. Louis). Rev. Borawski is a member of the Polonus Philatelic Society (Poland). The address of St. Adalbert School is 617 Summit, East St. Louis, Ill. Monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday at 8 PM and any visiting collectors will be most welcome

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At a meeting of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the VPS, Sunday, Nov 30th, 43 members applauded a talk, demonstration, and exhibition by Thomas H. Boland of Haverhill, Mass. Mr. Boland, whose exhibit of Council of Trent (Vatican) won the popularity vote at the APS Convention at Boston in 1951, gave a talk and demonstration on the preparation of album pages by the ' silk screen ' process and presented a sample page to each member. His exhibition included pages from the Cardinal Spellman Collection, showing illumination by Sister Mary Andrew and Mr. Boland used in mounting Religion on Stamps and Vatican.

Newly elected officers of the Chapter are William P. Quinn, President; Frederick Levitsky, Vice-President; and Miss Rita Murphy, Secretary-Treasurer. Outgoing President L. Paul Marini turned the Chapter over to Mr. Quinn who had previously been Vice-President. Both Mr. Quinn and Mr. Levitsky are Officers of the Vatican Philatelic Society: Mr. Quinn being Membership Secretary and Mr. Levitsky having been Treasurer since its founding in 1953.

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The Secretaries of all VPS Chapters are asked to send their Chapter news to the Editor so that it may be included with any others that may be received. Please make note of the dead-line date, as noted elsewhere in this issue.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The last page of this issue is your ballot for the Election of Officers for the current year. It will be noted that the only nominations listed are for the same slate of Officers which are currently in office. The reason for this is that the only nominations received were those renominating the present governing body of your organization. At the bottom of this ballot there is space for remarks and all members are asked to both send the ballot in immediately and also to submit their views on matters concerning our organization. In regards to the Election of Officers we ask the members to state their own reasons for the lack of nominations: is the present slate of Officers actually wanted or are they being reelected simply due to a lack of interest by the members. The ballot is designed so that it may be folded into an envelope and either stapled or sealed with gummed tape.

CHANGE OF EDITORS

George Baker, the previous Editor of Vatican Notes, has resigned for personal reasons. All of the members owe him a vote of thanks for the wonderful job he did and for what he contributed to the success of our publication.

Your President has appointed, as the new Editor, Robert J. Hutcheson, 6606 Odell Avenue, Saint Louis 9, Missouri.

(Editor's Note: The Nov-Dec 1958 issue of Vatican Notes, devoted entirely to the Life of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, was composed and edited in full by your President Bill Wonneberger. A very beautiful job.)

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING PRIZE

All members are reminded of the current membership recruiting contest (open to all members with the exception of the President and the Membership Secretary); the following prizes have been generously offered by your President William Wonneberger Jr.

The VPS member recruiting the greatest number of new members for VPS between October 1, 1958 and June 30, 1959 will receive all new issues of Vatican City in choice of Mint or Used singles and a beautiful cacheted unaddressed First Day Cover of each issue for one entire year. If the winner does not collect first day covers, the alternate choice is given of receiving all new issues for two years. For each chapter, which enrolls a total of ten new members or more, a special gift of Vatican material will be given to be auctioned off at a chapter meeting and the proceeds used for chapter activities.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Membership Secretary and Chapter Co-Ordinator, William P. Quinn, has recently moved and his new address is 435 Adams Street, Milton, Mass.

The Year 1958 in Retrospect

The past year was noted for many things which concern all Vatican enthusiasts.

The main occurrence was the passing of our Beloved Pope, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, on October 9, 1958. His memory will be respected by all intelligent people regardless of what the leaders of certain parts of this world claim for their populations. Regardless of your faith we ask you to remember him in your prayers.

In philately the year saw the issuance of many new issues including the first, from the Vatican, acknowledging a current non-religious event in a foreign country. This was the Brussels Fair Issue of June 19, 1958.

Two other issues were for The Lourdes Centennial and the Second Centennial of Antonio Canova.

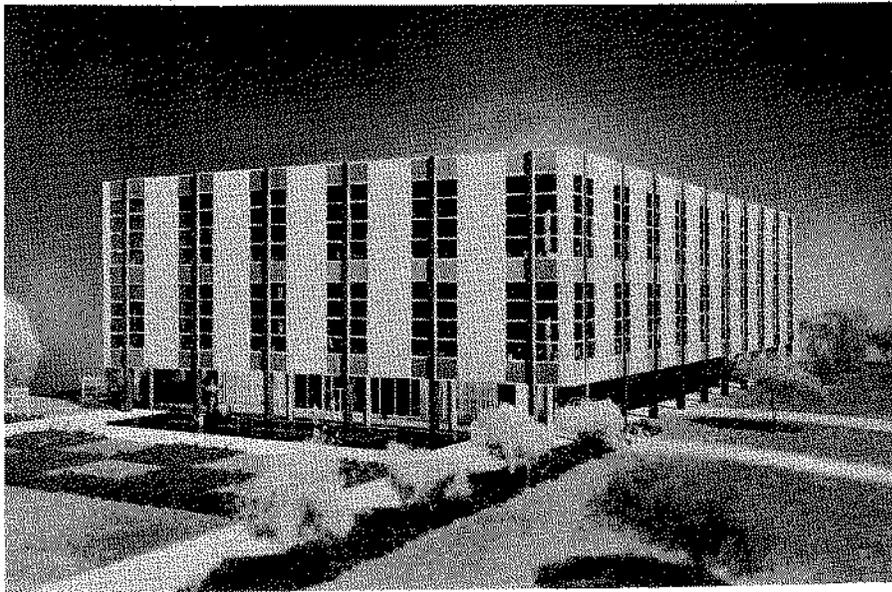
The last issue, for the year, was the 'Sede Vacante' issue of October 24, 1958.

What of the Year 1959 ?

Many informative articles are planned for our publication, starting with the current issue 'Vatican City Metered Postage'.

Future issues will contain the following: Life of Pope John XXIII, a personal eye-witness account of the 1958 Consistory by one of our members, many articles for the Pontifical State collector, and others now in preparation.

From all appearances 1959 will be a memorable year in the short history of your organization and, on a closing note, the Officers of the Vatican Philatelic Society wish to take this opportunity to extend their best wishes to all members for the year 1959. The best of everything to you and yours.



PIUS XII MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Vatican Microfilm Project began with a conversation between Rev. Paul C. Reinert, S. J., President of Saint Louis University, and two of his faculty members, Rev. L. J. Daly, S. J., and Rev. J. P. Donnelly, S. J. Fr. Daly suggested microfilming the priceless documents of the Vatican Library, not only for the sake of preservation (for documents, like all human works, do not last forever), but especially for American scholars, who were separated by the Atlantic Ocean from the manuscript treasures of Europe. This conference was in March 1950.

During the following months negotiations were carried on regarding the project. Rev. James Naughton, S. J., first American ever to hold the office of Secretary of the Jesuit Order, was most helpful in securing the blessing of the Holy Father upon the suggestion. In Nov. 1950 Fr. Reinert wrote the formal request to Most Rev. Abbot D. Anselmo, Prefect of the Vatican Library, setting forth the security and central location of Saint Louis University, its extensive program of graduate studies and the benefits which the Vatican Manuscripts would bring to American scholars. On Dec. 15, 1950, the Prefect of the Vatican Library wrote the official answer in the name of the Holy See granting the permission and making Saint Louis University the sole depository of these treasures.

In Feb. 1951, Frs. Donnelly and Daly left for Vatican City, and after a short time, Fr. Donnelly returned to Saint Louis while Fr. Daly in Rome began drawing up a list of manuscripts to be photographed. Meanwhile, Fr. Reinert was seeking additional aid so that the project could be developed to its fullest extent. The project was made known to the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, and Mr. Luke E. Hart ably seconded and explained the proposals. As a result, the Knights of Columbus together with Saint Louis University established the Foundation for the Preservation of the Historical Documents at the Vatican Library. The vision and generosity of the Knights of Columbus was truly remarkable, for the tremendous importance of the project was not nearly so clear then as now. During the following months equipment was secured in the U. S. and shipped to Vatican City. The Vatican photographic laboratory did the filming, with Mr. M. E. Brand of Graphic Microfilm and Mr. E. T. Freel, then of Remington-Rand, acting as technical consultants.

The Vatican printed and manuscript materials may be considered under three headings: (1) the archival collections which contain the 'state papers' of the Vatican as a civil and ecclesiastical government; (2) the printed books; (3) the huge collections of handwritten volumes or codexes (each codex contains sometimes two or three, sometimes thirty or forty individual handwritten treatises, documents or books). The microfilming project is at present concerned with this last division and the object is to obtain on film all manuscripts that experts believe to be of present or future use to scholarship in the Western Hemisphere, as far as this can be done within the budget requirements.

Conditions for using the filmed manuscripts are exactly like those at the Vatican, and all are invited to make full use of the materials available. The cataloging system of the Vatican has been followed and the various Vatican indexes are present in film, photostat or print.

(to be continued)

Vatican City

Metered Postage.

Several offices of the Vatican City State are known to use metered postage. The first known, in point of time, is under the date of 1944 from Ufficio Informazioni - Segreteria di Stato. Seen with more recent dates is that from the Libreria Editrice Vaticana, encountered on cover and on what seems to be a tape attached to packages of books published by this agency. The semi-official newspaper of Vatican City, L'Osservatore Romano, uses metered postage as does the monthly review published by Vatican City - Ecclesia. A more recent type used by the Governatorato (Government of Vatican City State) and the Propaganda Fidei (Propagation of the Faith), is supposedly due to be replaced by a new type of metered postage.

UFFICIO INFORMAZIONI (SEGRETERIA DI STATO)



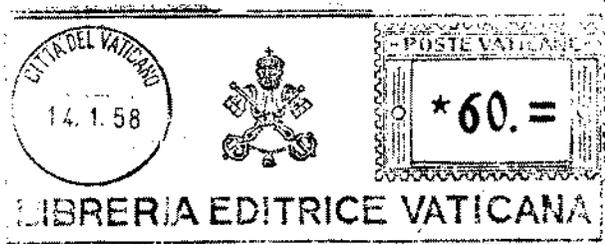
Translated to read Office of Information (Secretary of State). This type of metered postage is now obsolete. Metered postage of this office is enclosed in a rectangle $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $1\frac{9}{16}$ inches high, formed by a double border of lines of equal thickness. The printed stamp, within this rectangle, has a tablet inscribed

" Poste Vaticane " at top and the indication of value in the center, and is placed toward the upper right of the rectangle. Its simulated perforations form part of the border of the enclosing rectangle at the upper right side. The numerals of value are $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm high. The date circle is in the upper left corner, a single circle with " CITA DEL VATICANO " in serified capitals at the top and the date just below the center.

Across the bottom of the rectangle a single line of capital letters shows the inscription " UFFICIO INFORMAZIONI ". In the center, toward the top, is the papal coat of arms. The tiara seems wider at the top. The top crown is formed of two lines above which are five marks, surmounted by a curved line on which is a pearl and cross. The second crown is formed by two solid lines between which is a line of dashes; above these lines are five marks. The bottom crown appears to be formed by two solid lines with a line of dashes between them, surmounted by five marks.

The ends of the key bits are marked off into four sections, wider than the rest of the bits. Slanted lines, from these ends to the key shafts, reduce the size of the main body of the key bits and enclose a small cross. The ribbons pass under the key shafts on the outside and over them on the inside. A double ring encloses the key shafts at their crossing. Double line cords, with a single tassel interrupting them in the center, join the key handles. Between the coat of arms and the inscription "UFFICIO INFORMAZIONI" there is a second inscription in smaller capitals in a curved line that dips toward the center: "SEGRETERIA DI STATO".

LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA (Vatican Book Publishers)



Metered postage, of this office, is enclosed in a rectangle 3-9/16 inches wide and 1-7/16 inches high, formed by a double border of lines of equal thickness. The printed stamp, within the rectangle with tablet inscribed "POSTE VATICANE" at the top and indication of value in the center, is placed in the

upper right corner, with its simulated perforations forming part of the border of the rectangle at the right toward the top. The numerals of value are 6mm high. The date circle is in the upper left of the rectangle - a single circle - with "CITTA DEL VATICANO" at the top and the date across the center. Across the bottom of the rectangle, in a single line of capital letters, is "LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA". In the center, toward the top is the papal coat of arms. The tiara seems wider at the top. The three crowns are marked by indentations on both sides of the tiara. Each crown is composed of a horizontal line with three short vertical lines beneath. There is a cross on top of the tiara but no pearl.

The ends of the key bits are marked off into three sections, and are wider than the rest of the bits. Slanting lines, from these ends to the key shafts, reduce the main body of the key bits. The ribbon passes under the key shafts on the outside and over them on the inside. The key handles are connected by a single cord with one tassel

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ECCLESIA - REVISTA MENSILE (The Church, a Monthly Review)



Metered postage, from this office, is enclosed in a rectangle 3-1/8 inches wide and 1-3/8 inches high, formed by a double border of lines of equal thickness. The printed stamp, within the rectangle with a tablet inscribed " POSTE VATICANE " at the top and the indication of value in the center, is placed in the upper right corner with its

simulated perforations forming part of the border both on the top and side of the upper right corner of the rectangle. The numerals of value are 4mm high. The date circle is in the upper left corner of the rectangle: being a single circle with " CITTA DEL VATICANO " at the top and the date across the center.

In a single line, across the bottom of the rectangle in two different heights of Capital Letters, is " ECCLESIA - REVISTA MENSILE ". In the center, toward the top, is the papal coat of arms. The tiara is wider at the top. A pearl and cross surmount the tiara. The top crown has a base of two horizontal lines over which are five pearls; the bottom crown looks like two horizontal lines with three pearls above.

The ribbons pass under the shafts of the keys on the outside and over them on the inside. The bottoms of the key bits are in four sections and are wider than the main body of the bits. A cord, with two tassels, joins the key handles. There is no central cord.

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO (The Roman Observer)



Metered postage, from this office, is enclosed in a rectangle 3-5/8 inches wide and 1 1/4 inches high, formed by a double border, the outer line being thicker than the inner line. The printed stamp, within the rectangle with a tablet inscribed " POSTE VATICANE "

at the top and the indication of value in the center, is placed at center right with its simulated perforations forming part of the border of the rectangle at right center. The numerals of value are 6mm high. The date circle is centered to the left - a single circle - with " CITTA DEL VATICANO " at the top and the date across the center

In the center bottom, in two lines, is " L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO ". At the top center is the papal coat of arms. The tiara is wider at the top. Each crown consists of three horizontal lines. The ribbons pass over the key shafts on the outside and under them on the inside. The key bits are square with a hollow cross which is open at the bottom of the key bit. The key cord resembles those on the stamps of the Pontifical State, including a central cord with one tassel.

The latest type of metered postage has been used by the Government of the Vatican City State and by the Office of the Propagation of the Faith, but bears the origination of no office. It differs from the previous metered postage in that the printed stamp, the papal coat of arms, and the date circle are separate and not enclosed in the usual large rectangle of lines.

The printed stamp is rectangular, being 1-3/8 inches wide and 1 inch high with simulated perforations. A tablet, at the top, bears the inscription " POSTE VATICANE " preceded and followed by a dot. The side panels bear more complicated decorations than the comparatively simple panels of previous meters. The indication of value, in the middle of the stamp, is preceded by a diamond or tilted square and the numerals of value are quite close together. The stamp is in the usual position at the right of the group.

The Papal Coat of Arms occupies the center. It is enclosed in a flat-topped shield 1/2 inch wide and 1/2 inch high. The tiara and crossed keys are on a background of vertical lines. Both ribbons

pass over the shafts of the keys and join into one ribbon where the keys cross, then fall into a single line which divides again into two ribbons and touch the key handles.

The dating circle, which is at the left, is a single line circle with hollow half-moons at top and bottom. Between these half-moons is the date in numerals (Day, Month, Year) in a horizontal line. Between the bottom half-moon and the circle is " POSTE " preceded and followed by Greek crosses. Between the top half-moon and the circle, in capital letters, is " CITTA DEL VATICANO ". All three parts of the meter are printed in red ink.

Information has been received that this type of metered postage is due to be replaced by a revised meter showing wavy lines above and below the papal coat of arms.

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Vatican City

Permit Postage



Permit postage has been seen on covers which have originated from Actes Ordinata Ephemerides, Secretarius Centralis Congregationum Marianarum, Borgo S. Spirito #5, Roma. It was used for printed matter as the word " STAMPE " on the cover indicated.

A rectangle, in the upper right corner of the cover, measures 1-9/16 inches wide and 5/8 inches high and is divided into two boxes. The left box is 15/16 inches wide and 5/8 inches high

containing, in two lines, " CITTA DEL VATICANO ". The right box is 5/8 inch by 5/8 inch and contains, in two lines, " PORT PAYE ".

A rectangle, in the lower left corner of the cover, measures 2-3/16 inches wide and 3/4 inch high and contains the following four lines:-

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|---|
| TARIFFA RIDOTTA EDITORI Autorizzaz. N. 101329-III-29 del. 21-12-1951 dalla Direzione Prov. le Poste di Roma. |
|---|

STAMPE

TARIFFA RIDOTTA EDITORI
Autorizzaz. N. 101329-III-29
del. 21-12-1951 della Direzione
Prov. le Poste di Roma

(A literal translation of the above reads: Reduced Publishers Rates, Authorization Number 101329-III-29 of Dec. 21, 1951 under the Provisional Direction of the Post Office of Rome.)

The printing is found in blue, purple, and black. It is presumed that it could be found in any color ink.

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