

Vatican Notes

Volume VII

May - June 1959

Number 6

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

May 25th saw the release of two previously announced issues. One was the long awaited set to mark the 17th Centenary of the Persecution of 258 A.D. Total face value was 550 lire. The second was the set to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Lateran Pact with a face value of 130 lire.

Forecast predicts that the forthcoming airmail set, in December, will consist of 13 values and have a record high face value of 4500 lire. This report is unofficial but comes from a reliable source

The 4 and 6 Lire values of the 1954 Postage Due set are now completely out of stock and it has been officially announced that they will not be reprinted.

Many collectors have expressed comments on the Coronation issue of April 2, 1959. These comments range from " the best yet " to " the worst yet ". Many have tried to put into this issue the future policy of the Vatican postal authority as this is the first issue of the new pontificate. It is much too early to come to any conclusions. Also many comments have been made about the long delay in the issuance of the Coronation Set. It will be remembered that the previous Coronation Set, for the Late Pope Pius XII, was not issued until three months after the coronation took place.

VPS LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

DELEWARE VALLEY CHAPTER -- Meetings of this chapter have been suspended for the summer season. The next meeting will be held in October at the Catholic Literary Philopatrian Club in downtown Philadelphia, and will also be the occasion for the election of Officers for the 1959-60 year.

The season closed with a total of 26 members; the high number due partly to an interesting innovation which the chapter started last year. Each new member, as he joined, was given a card in memory of Pope Pius XII which had been cancelled on the day of his death. Their plans are to continue giving this welcome gift, to future new chapter members, until their supply is depleted.

Those interested should contact the Chapter Secy - Matthew D. Kelley Jr., 130 Hickory Lane, Rosemont, Pa.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER -- A very important resolution was adopted at the April meeting which will be of interest to all VPS members.

Many members, of the religious, are very much interested in Vatican Philately but, due to their vow of poverty (which is required of numerous orders), they are unable to pay the VPS annual dues because of straightened finances brought about by the vow of poverty.

This Chapter will pay the VPS dues if the following two conditions are followed; First: Such religious must inform the Chapter that they wish to take advantage of this offer (because some may resent being offered this membership without being asked); Second: The applicant must be bound by vows of poverty, which leaves out all secular clergy.

If any VPS members know of such religious will you have them contact William Quinn, 435 Adams St., Milton, Mass. or Rev. Herbert A. Phinney, 377 Walnut Ave. Roxbury 19, Mass,

The Chapter will be willing to accept donations, from those who may be also interested in this project (either other Chapters or any individuals). In this way the privilege, of extending membership to those to whom it may be financially denied, will be shared by others than just this Chapter.

Your editor again requests the various Chapter Secretaries to send in news items regarding their respective Chapters.

VPS member, Kenneth Platt in England, has submitted the following information from the April 1959 issue of the London ' Stamp Magazine ', originally discovered by Nicholas Nolan of Dublin, Ireland.



' A startling variety is shown on the Vatican City Apparition of the Virgin Mary 25 L. of February 1958.

Across the stamp, level with the head of the Virgin Mary, appears a dense white cloud, running from the Grotto to the trees.

The fibres of the paper are quite unbroken, ruling out the possibility of the ink having been scraped away.

Over the past years members have been highly complimentary over the illustrations in VATICAN NOTES: and they should know that the fine high standard is due to Everette J. Payette of 1604 South Custer Road, Monroe, Michigan.

Ev, a professional photographer, has reworked or recopied every single illustration we have used. If VPS had to pay for his services it would run well over \$ 100.00. He is presently working on a special project (to be announced shortly) that will again benefit all members.

We have learned that he is in need of a colored picture postcard showing the capitol building in each of our states. It is a near impossible task without the help of friends.

To show Ev you appreciate his efforts would EACH member, residing in the vicinity of a state capitol, send Ev such a card?

He hasn't asked for this aid but, believe me, he needs it! It will cost less than a dime so how about it?

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DUES NOTICE

\$ 2.00 Dues, for the Year 1959-60, are due on June 30, 1959.

Mail your check or money order NOW to

Wallace R. Smith, Secretary
165-15 Union Turnpike,
Flushing 66, N. Y.

Include your name and membership number.

ACT NOW

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VPS SALES DEPT.

Many VPS members seem to be unaware that your organization has had a Sales Department to serve them in obtaining items for their collections and also to give them a way to dispose of their own duplicates.

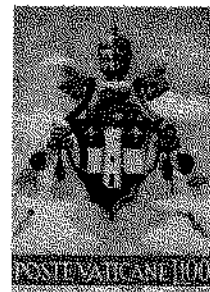
At the present time only the stamps of the Vatican are handled but if enough members show an interest in the earlier Pontifical States, or other related items, such additions will be made.

Many members, who requested empty sales books, have failed to return these books containing their duplicates. All who have these books are requested to send them to the Sales Dept. Manager so that they can be sent along to other members requesting material to be purchased.

All members interested in purchasing or disposing of Vatican Stamps, through the VPS Sales Department, are asked to contact

Margaret Berthot, Manager
317 S. 4th Street,
Clearfield, Pa.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE FOR THE CORONATION OF POPE JOHN XXIII



Date of Issue: April 2, 1959. The set is composed of 4 values with 2 designs each common to two stamps. The 25 L. and 60 L. depict Pope John XXIII bestowing the Apostolic Blessing; the 35 L. and 100 L. depict the coat-of-arms of Pope John with two angels supporting it by the key hilts against a background of sky and clouds. The stamps are multicolored and printed by the photogravure method at the State Printing Office, Rome, in sheets of 40 stamps on paper watermarked with the Crossed Keys. The Designs were executed by Grassellini, a new-comer to Vatican Stamps.

The reported, but unconfirmed, printing of this issue was 2 million copies. If true, it will compare with the all time high for a commemorative set.

On October 29, 1958, Pope John XXIII set November 4th as the date of his coronation. It is the feast of St. Charles Borromeo, a favorite saint of the Pope. On November 4th, in an unexpected sermon delivered at his Coronation Mass, he declared that he began his reign "having at heart in a very special manner our task as the shepherd of the entire flock". The tiara, or tripple crown, was placed on the Pope's head by Nicola Cardinal Canali at 1:00 P.M., Tuesday Nov. 4, 1958 climaxing a four and a half hour ceremony, marking the official beginning of the reign of John XXIII. His reign is historically dated from Nov. 4, 1958, even though he was Pope, in fact, from the moment after his election when he said: "I accept".

More than 400 people were in the procession which entered the vestibule of St. Peters preceding the Pope, who was borne on the sedia gestatoria. In the Vestibule the Pope descended from the sedia gestatoria and sat on a temporary throne, where he received the obedience of the Canons of St. Peters. Once more seated on the sedia gestatoria he entered the basilica and was borne through the crowd to the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, where the Pope dismounted and knelt for a moment of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The procession then moved to the Chapel of St. Gregory on the Epistle side of the basilica where Pope John received the

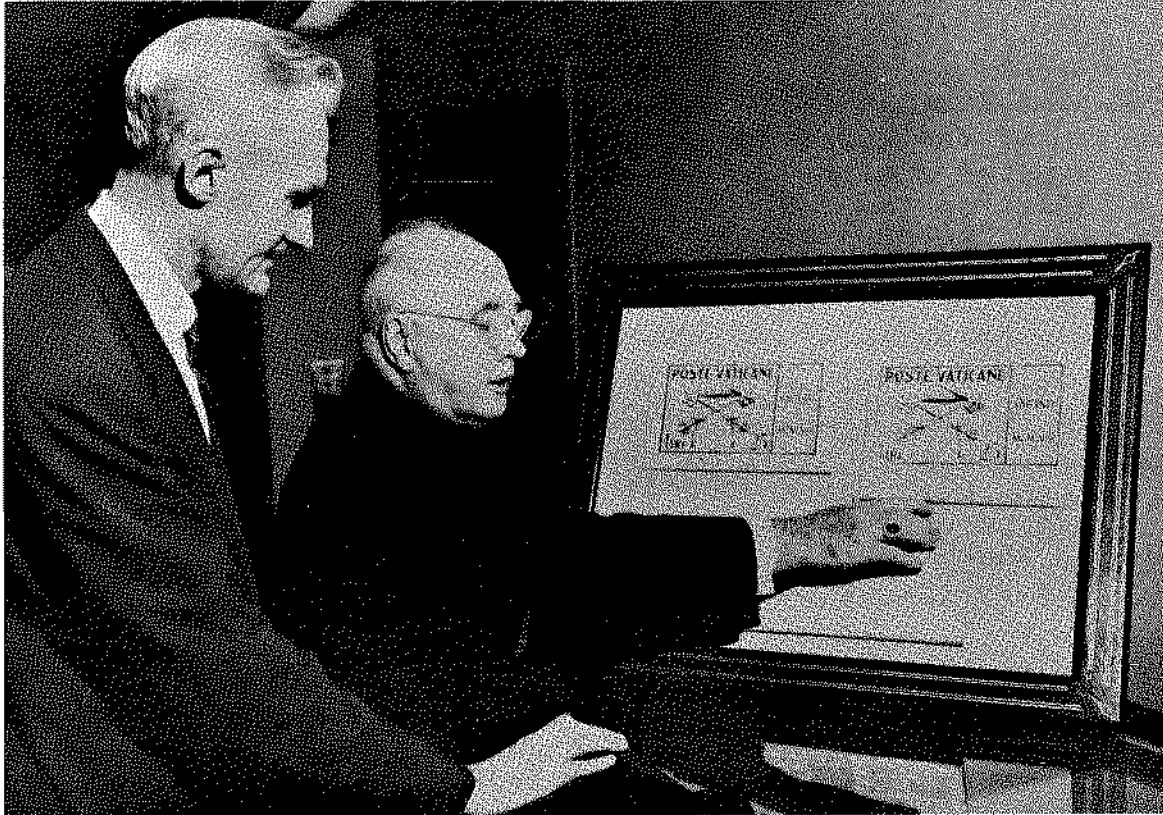
obedience of the cardinals, archbishops, bishops, abbots, and the college of the confessors of St. Peters. He imparted his blessing and intoned the Hour of Tierce of the Divine Office. The choirs continued chanting Tierce while John XXIII vested for Mass. The cardinals went to their stalls and vested in mitres and copes. The procession moved to the main altar where the master of ceremonies burned a tuft of flax in a silver basin before the Pope, chanting three times: " Holy Father, so passes the glory of the world ".

Here at the papal altar, above the tomb of St. Peter, John XXIII began his Coronation Mass assisted by Cardinals Tisserant, Canali and Ottaciani. After the Confiteor the first act peculiar to the Coronation was performed when Cardinal Canali placed the white woolen pallium over the Pope's shoulders, and the cardinals all left their stalls in seniority and made their final obedience to the Pope, who was seated on his throne. After this the Mass was continued as usual until after the orations when a procession of cardinals, Swiss Guards, mace bearers, Rota judges and consistorial advocates moved to the entrance to the tomb of St. Peter, where they chanted a litany imploring God's help for the new pontiff. The Epistle and Gospel were chanted by a subdeacon and a deacon in Latin, and then in Greek by a Greek subdeacon and a Greek deacon.

From times gone by, when violence had been done to the Pope, there remained a ceremony at the Offetory which is unique. Three host of bread are presented by the sacristan, one of which was selected by Nicola Canali, the cardinal deacon, and the other two were consumed by the sacristan in front of the Pope. The water and the wine, to be used for the Mass, were sampled by the sacristan in the Pope's presence.

The Consecration is marked by the sounding of trumpets, and the Mass pursues its usual course to the end, when two sacristans present an offering to the Pope in a white purse as a stipend for the Mass. The procession was then formed and proceeded through the basilica, out the main doors into the vestibule, up the Scala Regia and into the Hall of Benedictions above the vestibule. At the door to the Balcony of Benedictions the Pope dismounted from the sedia gestatoria and took his place on the throne on the balcony before the multitudes assembled below in St. Peters Square. The actual ceremony of coronation was most simple.

The choir sang the hymn " A Golden Crown is Placed Upon His Head ". When this was finished Cardinal Tisserant recited the Lord's Prayer. Then Cardinal Canali took the tiara in both hands and placed it on the head of John XXIII, saying: " Accept this ornate tiara of the three crowns and remember that you are the Father of Princes and Kings, Pontiff of the World and Vicar of Our Saviour Jesus Christ on this earth, whose honor and glory is forever ". The ceremony was over. Pope John XXIII was crowned Pope.



The above illustration shows Chrysler Vice-President John E. Brennan and His Eminence Cardinal Spellman examining the Sede Vacante stamp designs of last October, signed by all cardinals to participate in the consistory. Among the signatures are those of the late Edward Cardinal Mooney of Detroit, which he affixed only hours before his sudden death, and that of Cardinal Roncalli who became Pope John XXIII. Affixed on the very day of His Holiness' election, it is believed to be the last item he signed as a cardinal.

Henry Goodkind, editor of the Collectors Club Philatelist made the remark, " Cardinal Spellman has given philatelic display technique the Tiffany Touch ".

Thus was summed up, in one sentence, one of the most remarkable stamp displays ever conceived. This was the exhibition sponsored by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the first Vatican City Stamps.

Exhibited at the Chrysler Automobile Salon, in New York City from April 6th to 17th, it was truly an event to remember.

The show was deliberately kept small but the 100 frames were filled with some of the most beautiful and philatelically exciting ever put on public display.

The majority of the frames contained Cardinal Spellman's personal

collection of Vatican Issues. Each parchment page's deckel edge was set against a scarlet ' backing sheet ' to give it a setting that highlighted the exquisite medieval lettering that describes the stamps. The mounting style was created and done by VPS member Thomas Boland, of Haverhill, Mass., who devoted many months of labor to the Cardinal Spellman Collection at Regis College.

In addition to the regular collection, the show also included many of His Eminence's greatest historo-philatelic treasures, all of which are unique. These were displayed in glass show cases. Among them is a pane of the Pontifical States stamp centennial issue, personally autographed by the late Pope Pius XII -- the only stamp ever signed by the late Pontiff.

Among the celebrities present, for the opening ceremonies, were James O'Brien, representing Mayor Wagner, who was in Albany; the former Postmaster General James A. Farley; John Brennan, Vice-President of Chrysler Corporation, in Detroit; James Tynion, the Secretary of the Knights of Malta; Postmaster Robert K. Christenberry of New York; Howard Coonen, Regional Director of the Post Office Department; G. Andreani, New York manager of Alitalia Airlines; form Postmaster Robert Schaffer; and E. O. Cocke, the Executive Vice-President of T. W. A.

The Clergy and Philatelic personalities present, with VPS members underlined, included Monsignori Broderick, Cooke, and Ahern of the cardinal's secretarial staff; Father Gannon, former president of Fordham University; Fathers Graham, Davis and Linz, of the 'America' editorial staff; Brothers Philipp and Camillus, of St. Francis College; George Turner of the Smithsonian Institution; Henry Goodkind of the Collectors Club; Edwin E. Elkins; Jacque Minkus, H. L. Lindquist, Bernard Davis, Herbert Rosen, Mrs. Margaret Hackett, of the A. T. A.; and William Wonneberger, President of the V. P. S.

The show was mounted by Sister M. Fidelma, Curator of the Cardinal Spellman Collection, at Regis; Sister Mary Andrew, the noted illuminating artist who decorated Cardinal Spellman's greatest treasures; Father John Harrington, Librarian of St. Joseph's Seminary; Dr. Thomas Overkeeft and Tom Boland, of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Society; Mr. Elkings, Mrs. Hackett, Bill Kiecka and Ernest Kehr.

ISSUE OF 1852

4 BAJOCCHI



1. Double frame lines, Horizontal lines continuous, Vertical lines broken. Horizontal & Vertical lines are NOT joined.
2. Large break in the numeral "4"
3. Study scroll ends, no known forgery duplicates them.
4. Top right bar of the letter "J" of "BAJ" curved upward.
5. Note small tassel, study it carefully.
6. Ribbons do NOT touch tiara.
7. Cord running from keys to tassel is composed of vertical dashes.

ISSUE OF 1852

5 BAJOCCHI



1. Bottom serif of the letter "B" of "BAJ" turned downward, usually curved, but genuine stamps have been noted to have it slanted.
 2. Top bar of the letter "J" of "BAJ" curved upward.
 3. Design, including frames is 20 1/2 mm. high.
- Entire design composed of distinct lines, especially in the tiara and cords.

Fournier has executed an excellent forgery of this stamp. The only constant difference found on copies examined to date is the height of 20 3/4 mm. Other differences have been noted in various publications but they are not constant or have been noted on genuine stamps as well. The shade of pink of the forgery is much brighter than any genuine stamp examined to date, though copies of this might exist which are bleached. Though this forgery is printed by lithography, most collectors are not familiar enough to distinguish the various printing characteristics.

ISSUE OF 1852

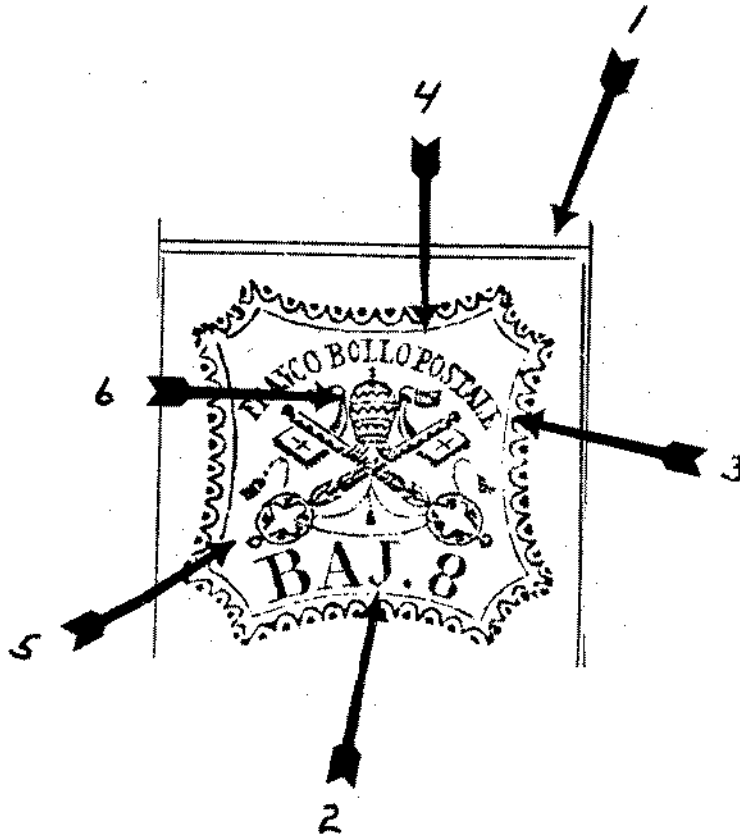
7 BAJOCCHI



1. Numeral "7" has top bar with a slanting front. The vertical bar of the numeral is wider at the bottom than at the top.
2. Note position of the dot.
3. Note shape of the letter "J" of "BAJ".
4. Decoration does not touch the numeral "7".
5. Both keys have key ring ends, the end of the right key is always open in the center. The left key end has a small center opening or none at all.
6. Note shape of tassel. Tassel is attached to keys by a cord.

ISSUE OF 1852

8 BAJOCCHI



1. Double frame line NOT joined at the corners.
2. The letter "J" of "BAJ" is pointed at the bottom.
3. The letter "E" of "POSTALE" does not touch the frame.
4. The letter "P" of "POSTALE" has both a top serif and a "foot".
5. Study shape of key rings.
6. Study the tiara very carefully.