

Vatican Notes

Volume VIII

July - August 1959

Number 1

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

The pair of low values, to mark the inauguration of the new Vatican Radio Station (located outside of Rome at Santa Maria di Galeria), has not made its appearance at the time that this was written. This set may be issued at any time from now to October but nothing definite can be reported.

A commemorative issue is also anticipated to mark the transfer of the body of Pope St. Pius X from Rome to Venice.

The new Regular Issue is to depict famous masterpieces in the Sistine Chapel and Raphael's Stanze in the Vatican Museums. This set will replace the current series: Pope's of St. Peter's Basilica (158-68, E13-14).

Some time ago a set was announced to commemorate the Patron Saint of an Eastern European nation. This set is not mentioned in any of the current reports. It might have been abandoned, or it might still be issued. It is impossible to determine.

The following reports have been received. They are from sources new to us and their reliability is not known as of this date. we DO NOT say the following will be issued or that they are even planned. They have been received, as stated, and we list them only to keep you informed of what is going on.

1. A new set of postage dues might be released this year.
2. A set of parcel post stamps, reported over a year ago, is supposed to be under serious consideration.

In connection with the World Refugee Year, which began July 1st under the sponsorship of the United Nations, the Vatican is planning to release a set of stamps to emphasize Catholic Support of this project. The number of stamps in the set, or the values, are no known at this time.

Vatican City has been giving their postal activities, from a philatelic standpoint, a serious and drastic revision. This has been experienced by several VPS members who retained a deposit at the Vatican for new issues. They have had their deposits returned with a statement that no deposits will be accepted in the future.

This is only a small part of the efforts made to fight those who, in 1958, made a serious attempt to mar the immaculate philatelic record of Vatican City. The Vatican postal authorities have waged an unpublicized, but determined, battle to continue enabling the 'little guy' to obtain Vatican stamps.

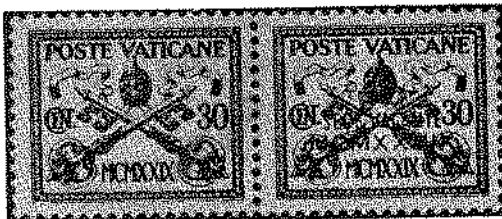
We have been putting the pieces together and hope to have a full report soon; maybe in the next issue of VATICAN NOTES.



Illustrated here is the first variety reported of the 1959 Coronation Issue.

The full sheet, of the 25 Lire value has double perforations down the right side.

No other values have been reported with this error.



It seems late for reporting an error on the 1939 'Sede Vacante' issue but up to the present we do not believe that it has appeared in any of this countries publications.

This error is a horizontal pair of the 30 Cent value. The left stamp appears to be without the overprint but does show a very faint trace. The overprint on the right stamp is less clear than a normal overprint.

It is old news now but all VPS members, I am sure, felt more than a tinge of anger on learning of the theft of the Cardinal Spellman collection on June 28th. All VPS members are asked, quite unnecessarily, to be on the lookout for items, from this collection, which they may see offered for sale. Contact William Wonneberger, 320 First Avenue, Stratford, Conn. with any information which may be of help.

VPS LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHERN OHIO CHAPTER -- To help celebrate the First Anniversary of their chapter a very fine News Bulletin was introduced in May. Members Jadus, Zeller and Stepien were the volunteers who put out this first issue and they are to be congratulated on a job very well done.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER -- This chapter is definitely not going to let any grass grow under their feet. On June 7th they held their second meeting and had twenty members and guests present. After this meeting, and before the next, they put into print a three page newsletter that will be hard to beat for other chapters. One idea, which they include, is a continuing bibliography of articles, from all major stamp magazines, on Vatican City and Pontifical State stamps and related subjects. The following Officers are to be congratulated: A. HOUSTON BARNETT, President; TOM TACK, Vice-President; GEORGE RONY, Secy-Treas; and WALLER A. SAGER, Editor and Public Relations. The chapter newsletter will be issued monthly and future issues will be 'hard put' to beat their first issue.

The sad note to report is the death of Miss Genevieve Tetrault, VPS Member # 40, who was one of the Charter Members of the Los Angeles Chapter.

Again your Editor requests all Chapter Secretaries to send him news items relative to their Chapters. We can all learn from the experience of the other fellow.

In our next issue we will announce the winner of the Membership Recruiting Contest. From all appearances the various chapters went all out in this competition.

Memo: To all members from your Editor.

The contents of your VATICAN NOTES can only reflect the desires of the members. It would be appreciated very much if members would let the editor know of any special articles they would like to see included in future issues, or special features that could be included from time to time. All articles, which we have printed, have been written by members of VPS and it may be that we have many more members who would like to write an article on some pet subject which is directly connected with Vatican City and Pontifical State philately. Write to Robert J. Hutcheson, Editor: 6606 Odell Ave. St. Louis 39, Mo.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Treasurer's Report : Period July 1, 1958 - June 30, 1959

TO: President, Vatican Philatelic Society

Balance Reported on June 30, 1958: -----\$ 515.08Received:

Dues: 1 Payment for 1957-58 -----	\$ 2.00
402 Payments for 1958-59 -----	804.00
118 Payments for 1959-60 -----	236.00
3 Payments for 1960-61 -----	6.00
1 Payment for 1961-62 -----	2.00
1 Payment for 1962-63 -----	2.00
1 Payment for 1963-64 -----	2.00
55 New Members at \$ 2.00 ea. -----	110.00
26 New Members at \$ 1.50 ea. -----	39.00
49 New Members at \$ 1.00 ea. -----	49.00
63 New Members at \$.50 ea. -----	31.50
2 Reinstatements @ \$ 1.00 ea. -----	2.00
1 Reinstatement @ \$.50 -----	.50
Sale of back issues of VATICAN NOTES -----	43.99
Sale of 31 Trent Booklets -----	4.65
Donation for VPS Slide Program -----	17.34
Special Contributions -----	1.30-1353.28
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Total -----	\$ 1868.36

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charges -----	\$ 10.10
Check returned by bank -----	2.00
Envelopes (1000) -----	4.78
Postage -----	49.20
Mailing to 247 High Schools	
Postage -----	28.30
Supplies -----	46.70
Mimeograph Machine -----	172.27
Membership List	
Postage -----	20.50
Supplies -----	80.59
VATICAN NOTES	
Printing (6 Issues) -----	766.25
Postage (6 Issues) -----	124.20
Supplies -----	24.08
Additional advance for future mailings -----	20.00-1348.97

Balance on deposit at Worcester County National Bank -----\$ 519.39

Respectfully submitted,

S/ F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

THE MARTYRS OF THE PERSECUTION OF EMPEROR VALERIANO

The Martyrs of the Persecution of Emperor Valeriano Set, as it is named by the Vatican Post Office, is composed of six values. The designs depict saints of the persecution as taken from effigies in the catacombs. The stamps were designed by Grassellini. All values were printed in multicolor on paper watermarked with the Crossed Keys at the State Printing Office in Rome. Each post office pane consisted of 50 stamps (10x5) arranged in vertical format. The inscription " One sheet of fifty stamps Value L. _____ " appears in the left-hand margin of each sheet. **THERE ARE NO CORNER INSCRIPTION BLOCKS OF THIS ISSUE.** The printing was by photogravure.

All values were block perforated. The five lower values were printed from plates composed of two post-office size panes and have perforations extending through the right hand margins. It is believed that the 300L. value was printed from a plate composed of one pane only as the perforations do not extend through any of its margins.



St. Lawrence is probably the best known martyr of the Catholic Church. He was one of the seven deacons of Rome. According to tradition he was placed on a gridiron and roasted alive. After being placed over the fire, and roasted for some-time, St. Ambrose states that he turned to his executioner and with a cheerful smile said, " Let my body be turned, one side is roasted enough ". He was turned and, after considerable agony, again turned to the executioner and with another smile said, " It is cooked enough, you may eat ". The conversion of Rome is attributed to him and Romans especially venerate him. He was buried in the cemetery on the Via Tiburtina. Constantine erected a chapel over his tomb, the present site of the fifth patriarchal basilica of Rome, known as St. Lawrence-outside-the-walls, (Scott #128). St. Lawrence is depicted in a multicolored medallion on a background of vermillion, the 15 Lire value of this issue.

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Pope St. Sixtus II was the reigning pontiff at the time of the executions having succeeded Pope St. Stephen I. He was the most highly venerated of the martyred popes after St. Peter. Pope St. Sixtus met his death on August 6, 258. He had gathered with the faithful in the catacombs and, while preaching to them, the group was set upon by the soldiers of the Emperor Valerian who had forbidden such gatherings. As he was led off, to be beheaded upon his own throne, St. Lawrence followed him weeping and called out, " Father, where are you going without your deacon " to which the pontiff replied, " I do not leave you my son, you shall follow me in three days ". He was interred in the cemetery of St. Callistus on the Appian Way. Pope St. Sixtus II is portrayed on the 25 Lire value on a background of bright purple. He was previously depicted on the set of two values honoring Fra Angelico (Scott #195-96).

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The 50 Lire stamp was printed in turquoise-blue with the multicolored medallion superimposed. It depicts St. Agapitus.

The 60 Lire value depicts St. Felicissimus against a background of bronze-green.

Both of these saints were deacons. They suffered martyrdom, together with four other deacons, with Pope St. Sixtus II.



They were laid to rest in the cemetery of Praetextatus across the Appian Way from the cemetery of St. Callistus where the remains of the martyred Pope were placed.

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St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, played an important part in the development of Christian thought during the third century. Among his works are found the famous treatise on the unity of the Church and many important letters. He was born in Africa in the year 200. While serving as a lawyer he was converted to Christianity. At the age of 49 years he was elevated to the episcopate. During the persecution, under the Emperor Decius, he was forced into hiding. St. Cyprian organized his flock to alleviate the suffering during the plague of 252-54. He met his fate during the first Edict of Valerian and suffered under the executioner's sword in 258. St. Cyprian is portrayed on the 100 Lire value of this issue. He is depicted in the medallion printed on a background of brownish-purple.



St. Fructuosus was Bishop of Tarragona, at that time the capital of Spain. He was seized, along with two of his deacons, on Sunday, January 16, 259, as he was sleeping in his bed. He was brought before the Governor, Emilian, who had ordered his arrest along with Augurius and Euclogius his deacons. He was questioned and told he must worship the pagan gods but the Bishop, and deacons alike, refused to worship any but the true God. The infuriated Emilian ordered that all three were to be burned at the stake. They were returned to prison to await their martyrdom six days later.

Christians were not alone in sorrow of loosing their bishop. Pagans, as well, had tear filled eyes as they saw St. Fructuosus led to the amphitheatre for execution. His rare virtues made him loved by all. He, and his two deacons, were tied to the stake to be burnt. At first the flames left the bodies untouched and consumed the bonds about their hands. They then stretched out their arms in prayer to offer their souls to God before the flames consumed them. The likeness of St. Fructuosus is found on the 300 Lire value. The medalion, in which he is portrayed, is placed against a yellow-brown background.

It may be of interest, to our readers, as to what happened to the Emperor Valerian.

Shortly after the martyrdom of Pope St. Sixtus II an invasion of the empire caused a cessation of the persecutions. Valerian marched to a campaign which was to mean his defeat, capture, and death. To him came the most ignominious end that was to befall a Roman ruler. During his imprisonment he was used by his Persian conquerer as a human stool upon which to step to the saddle and after his death, in these shameful circumstances, his corpse was stuffed with straw and publicly exhibited as a trophy of his defeat.

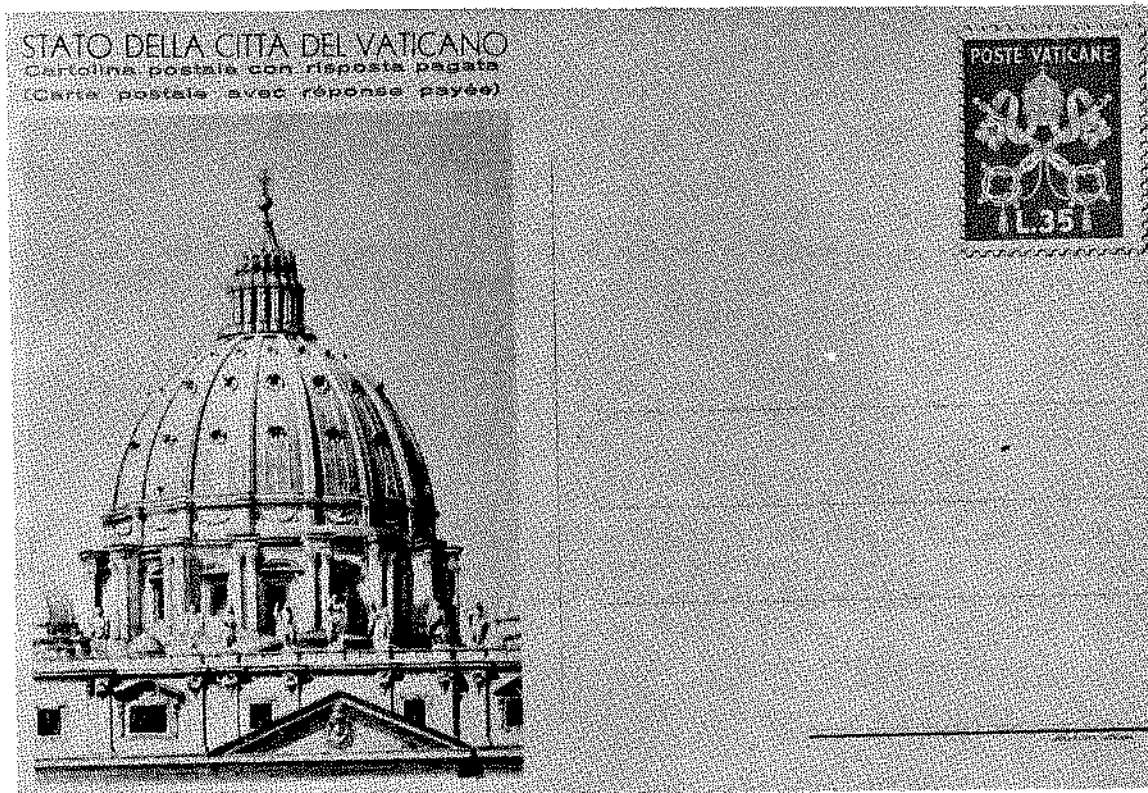
POSTAL CARD VARIETIES



The four different types of pictorial postal cards, issued by Vatican City in 1950 and 1953, have been found without the imprinted stamp. Some do have a trace of color while others are without any trace whatsoever. A careful examination seems to rule out a color changling and it appears that all are legitimate varieties.



The new pictorial reply cards, issued in 1958, have been found with the colored view on the right side and the adress lines on the left. Both pairs have been noted in this condition. These are clearly examples of improper cutting of the sheets as they come from the printing press. At the present time, unfortunately, efforts to determine if these are legitimate varieties (due to sheets of postal cards NOT being offered for sale) or whether they are a manufactured variety (made possible by purchasing sheets of unsevered cards and then cutting to suit someone's whim) have not proved successful. We do know such manufactured varieties are common with U. S. Postal Cards but whether the same applies to the Vatican cards is not known.



The pair of 35 Lire pictorial reply cards have been noted with a "poorly centered stamp". The sender's card has the imprinted perforations touching the left side of the imprinted stamp. All red and black inscriptions, on the balance of this card, are in their normal positions. The reply card, of this pair, is completely normal in all respects.

The 1958 and 1959 editions of the Bolaffi Specialized Catalog of Vatican City lists the 1949 pictorial postal cards as #6-9 three dotted address lines of equal length, and #10-13 first dotted line shorter than the last two.

The 1950 issue is likewise allotted major numbers for the address line differences: #14-17 for lines of equal length and # 18-21 for those with a short first line.

By assigning major catalog numbers to cards which differ only in the length of the first dotted address line the idea is conveyed that there are eight cards to each issue.

This is NOT the case. The Vatican Postal Authorities officially state that each issue is composed of four cards. In this we concur. Should collectors wish the line differences listed, one of these types should be considered as a minor variety and not as a major one. For example: address lines, of equal length, can be listed as #6-9 for the 1949 issue and the same cards, with the short first line, as #6a-9a. This would place them in the category in which they belong, minor varieties.