

Vatican Notes

Volume VIII

January - February 1960

Number 4

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

On Dec. 14th, 1959 the two sets, ' The Nativity of Our Lord ' and the ' St. Casimir ' were issued as mentioned in the last issue of The Vatican Notes. Both of these sets, in your editor's opinion, show a great improvement over the past few issues. Of interest, to our members, will be the special article regarding the artist responsible for the St. Casimir issue. This is to be found on the last pages of this issue of the NOTES.

On February 29, 1960 there will be issued two sets of commemoratives. For the present time the policy of releasing two different issues continues. This practice was inaugurated to enable the authorities to issue those sets originally scheduled for release during the Pontificate of Pius XII. This also enables administrative aims to be accomplished through dual first days.

The first issue will be composed of a 15 and 60 lire denomination to commemorate the first Diocesan Synod of Rome. The design, common to both values, will depict the central portion of St. John Lateran Basilica in the background. The tabernaculum, containing the bones of St. Peter and head of St. Paul, will dominate the foreground.

The second issue will commemorate the Fifth Centenary of the Death of St. Antoninus of Florence. This set will consist of four values in the denominations of 15, 25, 60 and 110 Lire. A bust of the saint, a detail of a statue, will grace two of the values. The other two stamps will depict a detail of a relief showing the saint predicating.

St. Antoninus was Archbishop of Florence from 1446 until his death in 1459. During this period of political turmoil, and in frail health, he ruled with skill and vigor. The prime receivers of his love and care were the poor and oppressed who returned his love many fold. He is also noted as a moral theologian and for his writing on local and international law.

SLIDE PROGRAM - Reverend Robert W. Contant, who was announced as the new Chairman of the VPS Slide Program in last month's issue, is working on the ' write-up ' of the color-slides for distribution to members for use at philatelic ' Vatican Programs ', etc.

Father Contant is now announcing a contest for those interested in the back-ground of the designs of Vatican Issues. This means the different designs used by the Vatican and NOT the story behind the reason for issuance. The rules are very simple: Each design write-up will consist of a maximum of 30 seconds reading time. Write-up should be typed on 3" x 5" file cards. Entries are to be sent direct to the Rev. Robert W. Contant, St. Mary's Church, Decatur, Indiana. the closing date, for entries, is August 1, 1960. The prize for the best entry will be 12 different Vatican Maximum Cards.

Father Contant deserves all the help we members can give to him and it is our hope that he will be overwhelmed by entries.

CHANGE OF CIRCULATION MANAGER - For four years Leo. A. Stevens has served VPS as circulation manager and for this period the membership has increased from some 250 members to over 1000 members. He has done a magnificent job of getting the VATICAN NOTES to all members but has now found it necessary to relinquish these duties, due to business and personal reasons.

The new Circulation Manager, effective with the Jan-Feb 1960 issue, is Patrick J. Conway, 2981 Lincoln Blvd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.

We wish Pat all of the best in this new position.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - In listing the addresses of VPS Officers the address of the membership chairman was listed incorrectly. As it was listed it read 341 Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, California. The correct listing should have been 341 South Canon Drive. Leaving the one word off has delayed a lot of correspondence. All members are asked to make this correction in their correspondence file.

We wish to remind all members that the contents of VATICAN NOTES is the responsibility of your editor and all items for the NOTES, or comment on anything pertaining to items published in the NOTES, is to be taken up with your editor and not with the circulation manager.

VPS LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER - At a recent meeting of this chapter the following officers were elected: A. Houston Barnett, President; Earl Hodges, Vice-President; Ray Tierce, Secy-Treas; and Waller A. Sager, Editor of the chapter's Newsletter. The President, Mr. Barnett, is also Membership Chairman of the Vatican Philatelic Society.

Two other items are worthy of mention, in regards to this chapter. On January 3rd they held a joint meeting with the local membership of COROS (Collectors of Religion on Stamps). The main section of the meeting consisted of an illustrated lecture by Mrs. Florence Reeves of La Verne College on the subject ' The Madonna in Art '.

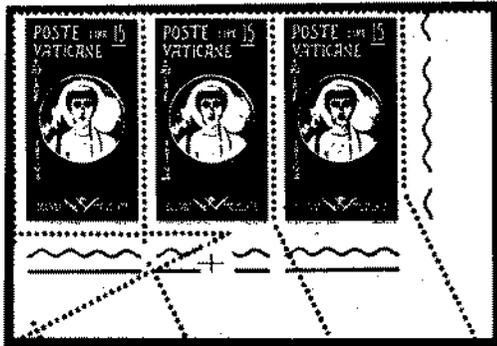
This may be a good idea for other chapters who may be located in the same city as a chapter of COROS. The majority of our interests are similar and it would be good to see more meetings such as this.

The second item is the wonderful Newsletter of this Chapter. They are having a contest, among their own members, to select a new name for their publication but, regardless of what name it bears, it is a publication which will be hard for any chapter to beat. An interesting article ' Vatican Stamps and Their Value ' is reprinted in this issue of the NOTES for the interest of our total membership.

EASTERN MASS. CHAPTER - At the election of Nov. 29th the following members were elected: Frederick J. Levitsky, President; Gertrude Brennon, Vice-President; Miss Leslie Keating, Secy-Treas.

Your Editor wishes all chapters to send in information regarding the activities of their respective chapters and will appreciate receiving copies of any Chapter publications which may be issued.

From ' Il Collezionista '



Perforation Variety of the 15 lire Value of the Valeriano Martyrs Issue.

Supplement No. 2 - December 1959

Bolaffi's 1959
 Roman States and Vatican City
 Specialized Stamp Catalogue



Postage

1959 (October 27) — ㊦ Second Anniversary of Vatican City's new Broadcasting Center at S. Maria di Galeria, near Rome. Design by Andreina Grassellini. Photogravure in three colors; printed in sheets of 80 (two panes of 40). Wmkd. ㊦ 2 (key hilts at right); ㊦ 14. Validity: until 12/31/1960. Ordinance No. VI, dated 10/27/1959.

262	25 Lire, multicolored	10	10
263	60 Lire, multicolored	15	15
2766	Cpl. Set., 2 val., 262-263	20	20

2766 ㊦ Cpl. Set., 2 val. 25 | DESIGN (same for both values): Cross-shaped antenna
 2766 ㊦ Same, on PDC 85 | of S. Maria di Galeria and statue of an angel.

Air Mail Stamps

1959 (October 27) — «Roman Obelisks» Issue. Designs by Andreina Grassellini. Engravings by Rinaldo Di Giuseppe (A), Selo Mattei (B), Alceo Quieti (C), Oberdan Torcolini (D) and Fausto Pagani (E). Recess-printed on rotary press. Wmkd. ㊦ 2 (key hilts at bottom); ㊦ 13 1/4 x 14. Ordinance No. VII, dated 10/27/1959.

35	5 Lire, dark lilac	(A)	5	5
36	10 Lire, emerald green	(B)	5	5
37	15 Lire, deep brown	(C)	5	5
38	25 Lire, dark olive gray	(D)	10	10
39	35 Lire, ultramarine blue	(E)	10	10
40	50 Lire, green	(A)	12	12
41	60 Lire, carmine rose	(B)	15	15
42	100 Lire, dark slate gray	(C)	25	25
43	200 Lire, brown	(D)	45	45
44	500 Lire, orange brown	(E)	1.25	1.25
3411	Cpl. Set., 10 val., 35-44		2.50	2.50

3411 ㊦ Cpl. Set., 10 val. 3.00
 3411 ㊦ Same, on PDC 4.00

DESIGNS — A, Lateran Obelisk and side facade of the Basilica of St. John Lateran; B, Obelisk of the Esquiline and abside of the Basilica of St. Mary Major; C, Vatican Obelisk and view of the Apostolic Palace (the lighted window is that of the room where His Holiness usually works); D, Flaminian Obelisk and Churches of St. Mary in Montesanto and of St. Mary of the Miracles; E, Sal-

ustian Obelisk and Church of the Trinità dei Monti, on top of the Spanish Steps.

ELECTRIC EYE MARKERS — Centering of perforations was obtained through an electric eye. Register markings for the electric eye, in the shape of two thin lines (one horizontal, one diagonal), are to be found on the right-hand margins of the sheets, once every three panes (one stamp in ninety shows electric eye markers on the margin).

VATICAN STAMPS AND THEIR VALUE

(a Roundtable Discussion of the Los Angeles Chapter of V. P. S.)

" What is responsible for the present popularity of Vatican stamps and to what extent is it likely to continue ? ", was the first question tossed into the center of the 17 Vatican collectors who assembled for the October meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Vatican Philatelic Society. It turned out to be a question with several answers. It was generally agreed that the popularity of Vatican stamps began with the merchandising started by Bolaffi and other dealers and with the publishing of the Bolaffi catalog of the Vatican Stamps. The publicity connected with the coronation of Pope John XXIII was thought responsible for a good share of the present popularity with new collectors, as was the publicity given to Cardinal Spellman and his collection. But the lion's share of credit for making Vatican City a popular country with stamp collectors must go to the album makers, such as White Ace and Minkus, who have taken the ' work ' out of mounting a Vatican collection for the average collector.

All agreed that the outlook for Vatican stamps, price-wise and every other way, is good. The prices of the older issues are maintained by the fact that small numbers of each stamp were issued. For many years Vatican City was a country passed up by most collectors so no supplies of the early issues were hoarded. Of the later issues, the numbers issued have been increased so that there are more to go around. To be sure, there are a few scarce sets that make Vatican City a costly country to complete, but the same is true of U. S. stamps and other countries and need not be a deterrent to the new Vatican collector. We were reminded that a \$ 25.00 investment will still fill more than half of the spaces in a Vatican album!

Members reported that dealers have small stocks of Vatican stamps and seem to be afraid to sell what they have. This is indicative of a rising market and the belief, on the part of the smaller dealer, that the longer they hold their Vatican material the more it will be worth. This is why it is a good idea to pick up the Vatican stamps you need as soon as you see them offered at what you consider to be the price you are willing to pay for them. This can be determined by comparing ads in the various philatelic papers. But many of our members have found that some ads for Vatican material may be alluring and somewhat under market prices, but when orders are placed the dealers cannot deliver. So, in comparing one price-list with another, it is necessary to know which dealer can actually

deliver what he advertises. Perhaps the surest guide to the fair and proper prices of any stamps, Vatican City included, are the price-lists of the large wholesalers: such as Stolow, Lo Bianco, Fatullah & Lazar, etc., since the retailer's price is usually based upon his replacement costs. Thus the wholesale price, plus a reasonable markup of 20% to 40%, would be considered a fair price. Naturally if you can buy for less than this - don't hesitate. The opinion was also expressed that the price-lists of Pierson Ostrow seem to be about six months ahead of the market. The Scott catalog was not thought to be too reliable a guide in the case of Vatican City whose prices are still rising. Scott seems to be about a year behind in pricing Vatican City, although many of their catalog values are revised from time to time in their monthly journal.

Another reason for the short supply of much early Vatican material seems to be the fact that many European collectors, who sold their collections during and immediately after the war, are now buying again. One member, who deals in Vatican City stamps, told of an order he had received from Rome -- buying Vatican stamps at American prices for resale in Rome!

In general, the feeling of the group was that the outlook for Vatican City stamps is good. Vatican City will always be in the news and therefore will be a popular country; long after countries like Ghana and Laos have passed their popularity peaks. Anyone contemplating the start of a Vatican collection, but hesitating because he thinks the field too limited and too easily completed, can always follow the example of a couple of our members who, in addition to the stamps of Vatican City, also collect the stamps of other countries which are related to the Vatican: such as the recent Pope Pius XII commemoratives.

(Editor's Note -- Your editor is one of those Vatican collectors who also try to collect those issues, of other countries, which are related, directly or indirectly, to events concerning the Vatican City State. Such items, in his own collection, include the Marian Year issues, Lourdes Issues, Pope Pius XII Commemoratives, etc.

It is hoped that, in the near future, we will be able to publish a check list of such issues for the benefit of those members of VPS who may wish to check their collections for completeness.)

Pontifical State Postage After The Fall Of Rome, 1870

Among the rare covers emanating from the Pontifical State, those dated after 20 September 1870 (the date of the Fall of Rome to the Italian Insurgence) are foremost.

With this date the stamps of the Pontifical State were withdrawn from sale at the post-offices and the use of the Italian postage went into effect on 1 October 1870. Within the patrimony of Saint Peter the use of the postage of the Pontifical State was tolerated until 31 December 1870.

In spite of the Italian regulations some covers, bearing the postage of the Pontical State, slipped through the postal system, even some without postage-due markings or stamps.

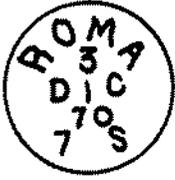
According to most philatelic authors any covers between 20 September and 31 December 1870 are possible but, after this period, such are supposed to be virtually unknown. Knowledge of a cover, posted in 1872, has been uncovered in Reading, Penn., and this author has in his own collection the following covers, all posted after 20 Sept. 1870.



15 October 1870 - Rome to Naples: bearing a 20 cent. 1868 issue, tied to cover by the diamond block grill and single circle cancellations of Rome.



14 November 1870 - Civitavecchia to Lenzburg: bearing a pair of the 10 cent. 1868 issue, tied to cover by the grill, single circle and boxed postage-due cancellations of Civitavecchia.



3 December 1870 - Rome to Florence: bearing a 20 cent. 1868 issue, tied to cover by the diamond block grill and single circle cancellation of Rome.



10 December 1870 - Civitavecchia to Chiavari: bearing a 20 cent. 1867 Italian issue, tied to cover by the large bar grill of Civitavecchia.



25 January 1876 - Rome to Venice: prepaid letter bearing a 20 cent. magenta, intermediate shade, unglazed variety 1868 issue, tied to cover by diamond point grill and double circle (with three rosettes) cancellations of Rome. The date on the canceller corresponds exactly with the hand-written date found within. Both the date and the double circle canceller offer an interesting note to Pontifical State philately. The date is five years after Rome's fall and the double circle cancellations were superceded by the large single circle long before the invalidation of the Papal postal system.

This information is offered as evidence that further study, and increased knowledge, makes the subject of philately more interesting and more fascinating. As collectors increase and develop, philately will expand and hitherto unknown facts will come to light; helping the specialist and general collector alike. Each new bit of data is another facet to a subject long neglected and little appreciated.

*A New Name In Designers Of Vatican City Stamps**by Ernest A. Kehr**(with photos by the Author)*

A new name was added to the list of artists who have been responsible for Vatican City's postage stamps. The pair of stamps issued on Dec. 14, 1959, to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Casimir, bear the credit ' V. K. Jonynas in the lower left corner under the picture.

What will come as a surprise to most philatelists here is that Vytautas Kazys Jonynas is an American who maintains an Art Studio in Jamaica, N. Y., and also teaches art courses for the Extension Division of Fordham University! It is the first time that the Vatican went beyond Rome to find a person to design one of its many colorful, attractive postage stamps.

Mr. Jonynas was born in Lithuania; he studied art there and in Paris, then returned to Kaunas and dedicated himself to creating and teaching art. When the Communists ' liberated ' his native land, he journeyed to the American Zone of Germany as a Displaced Person. Stifled himself, and noting the frustration of fellow D.P.'s who had no work and practically no recreational activities to absorb their interest and hours, he went to officials and volunteered

to open an art center. " working in a creative field their minds and hands will become occupied and at the same time they will be learning a useful craft instead of just wasting their time, " he explained. They thought well of the idea but since they were sure the occupation would be over in " a few weeks " they turned the idea down.

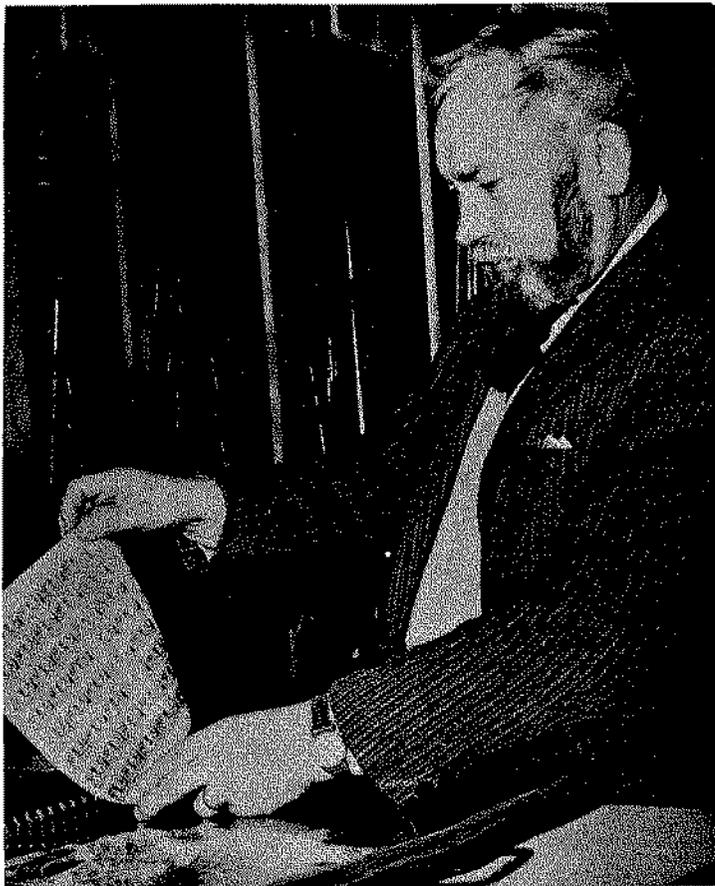




As it happened, a friend who'd shared some classes during his years in Paris, was an official in the French Zone. He heard of Jonynas' plan, was delighted to learn his old colleague still was alive and immediately invited him to open such an art center in the French Zone.

He'd barely started work in this center when French postal officials decided they wanted special stamps for the zones they occupied in Baden, Rheinland-Pfalz, Wurttemberg, and the Saar. They

had already invited four of the prominent German artists to submit suggestions on a competitive basis. His friend persuaded the officials to also extend an invitation to Mr. Jonynas. (Shortly before he left Lithuania he had designed a set for his native land. These were printed, but never saw use since all stamps were replaced with Soviet-made issues.)



Everyone of his drawings, 72 in all, were accepted and used for the sets released in those areas in 1947-48. Subsequently, Sepp Schueller, writing in " Die Sammler-Lupe ", one of Germany's foremost philatelic journals, stated: "...these are of sustained high quality, proof of a mature ability and artistic sensistivity. They are the work of a Lithuanian who succeeded in understanding the German character better than many Germans themselves, just because he is a great artist."



Interviewed in his studio-- which he shares with a former student and protege, and surrounded by examples of his work in all art media: painting, stained glass, sculpture and engraving -- Mr. Jonynas explained how he came to receive the commission for the St. Casimir stamps.

Early in 1958, the late Pope Pius XII decided to use the occasion of St. Casimir's birth anniversary as an instrument to call world attention to the persecutions of the Church in Lithuania under the Communists (Such a means was used three years earlier to focus the attention on the situation in Poland, with the release of the Wilno Madonna, and in 1956, with the Czestochowa set.)

Bishop Padolskis, a Lithuanian prelate living in Rome as an exile, wrote to Mr. Jonynas ,

inviting him to suggest a suitable design. He gave the artist one week to finish the essay and have it in Rome.

For three days he did nothing but ponder the subject and visualize what would best express the purpose of the stamps.

Told that the stamps would be reproduced by rotogravure and in three colors, he made his original accordingly. He used colored pencils and gave the portrait of the saint an expressiveness that characterizes the victim of Tuberculosis who entrenched Catholicism in Poland-Lithuania while he briefly ruled that combined kingdom before he succumbed at the age of twenty-seven.

Technical difficulties in Rome, however, not only compelled the postal administration to postpone the release of the stamps for more than a year, but also to change the medium from rotogravure to intaglio. The stamps as they appeared have only a resemblance to the masterpiece as Mr. Jonynas created it. The head of St. Casimir was reduced and made a " shoulder " instead of a strong " head ". A lateral panel at the left was completely eliminated and the lettering, which was characteristic, was changed to block and Roman.

When asked to submit a bill for his work, Mr. Jonynas refused to do so. " The honor of having been asked to do this work is payment enough. "



FIRST DAY COVER - BUSTA PRIMO GIORNO



1958

AVENTASIS KAZIMIERAS
LIETUVOS GLOBEJAS
SAN CASIMIRO
PATRONO DELLA LITUANIA
V SIMTMETIS NUO GIMIMO
V° CENTENARIO DELLA NASCITA

