

Vatican Notes

Volume X

May - June 1962

Number 6

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS



MALARIA ERADICATION

Shown above are the four stamps comprising Vatican City's Malaria Eradication issue of April 6th. The stamps were received too late for illustration in the March - April NOTES. Background data on the Malaria stamps appear on Page 3 of this issue.

NEW ISSUES

The May 12 issue of "Osservatore Romano" carries an announcement concerning two of the Vatican's forthcoming stamp issues. These are the sets honoring the Catholic priesthood and that commemorating the fifth centenary of the canonization of St. Catherine of Siena. Both sets are scheduled for issue on June 12th.

The first-mentioned set will consist of five values: 10 Lire, 15 Lire, 70 Lire, 115 Lire and 200 Lire. Two designs will be featured; the first, a sculpture in the Lateranense Museum known as "The Good Shepherd," and the second, a scene depicting a fertile field, with sky in the background bearing the Latin inscription "Rogate Dominum messis ut mittat operarios in messem Suam." The stamps depicting "The Good Shepherd" will also bear a Latin inscription reading "Sacerdos alter Christus." This set will be in vertical format and each stamp will measure thirty by forty millimeters.

The set commemorating the fifth centenary of the canonization of Saint Catherine of Siena will consist of three values: 15 Lire, 60 Lire and 100 Lire. Each stamp will depict Saint Catherine in prayer and will bear the Latin inscription "V exacto saeculo a can. S. Caterinae Senensis." These stamps will be in vertical format and will measure 24 x 40 millimeters.

Both sets will be printed by photogravure on paper watermarked with the crossed keys symbols. Printing, as usual, will be done by Italy's Polygraphic Institute at Rome.

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CHAPTER NEWS

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER -- The May issue of "The Epistle", monthly newsletter of Chicagoland Chapter, is devoted to the Chapter's participation in COMPEX and to news concerning the forthcoming election of officers. This Chapter meets on the last Saturday of each month (except July, August and December), at the John Crerar Library Building, 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER -- The May 27 meeting was held in Saint Augustine's Hall, South Boston, where Fr. John Gusack spoke and displayed a portion of his outstanding collection of Madonnas on stamps. Following the meeting, an auction was conducted by L. Paul Marini, former Chapter president. As a service to its members, this Chapter furnishes Vatican City new issues at a reasonable cost.

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER -- Items of local interest are contained in the monthly newsletter from this Chapter, in addition to an informative article on the gum on Roman States issues and a short philatelic quiz. Chapter meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 261 Fell Street, San Francisco.

NORTHERN OHIO CHAPTER -- The May meeting of the Northern Ohio Chapter of the VPS was held on Thursday, May 24th at the Women's Federal Bank Building, 320 Superior Ave. By popular demand, slides of Vatican Stamps were shown again.

It was in May 1958 that this Chapter was organized. For this fourth anniversary arrangements were made by the committee for refreshments following the meeting.

A pleasant evening was enjoyed by twenty-two members and guests at the last meeting on March 29th. Leonard Zeller showed enlarged slides of Vatican stamps which were obtained from Fr. Robert Contant, Decatur, Ill. An accompanying lecture was read by Leo Jodus. Mrs. J. E. O'Brien was the lucky winner of the door prize.

June 16th will be a joyous day for Chapter member Mrs. Etta Donahue. On that day her son, Fr. M. Felix, O.C.S.O., will be ordained a priest at the Abbey of Gethsemane, Trappist, Kentucky.

Chapter member Mrs. Connie Hildebrandt participated in ceremonies at Washington for the founding of the Lincoln Philatelic Club.

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

News from the Chapters listed above was furnished by the respective Chapter secretaries, who have consistently kept VATICAN NOTES informed concerning their Chapter activities.

To those Chapters which have "kept their lights hidden under a bushel", may we say again -- Let's hear from you!

Ludwig von Pastor in his "History of the Popes" gives accounts of the efforts of Pope Sixtus V (Vol. XXI) and Pope Pius VI (Vol. XXXIX) to drain the Pontine Marshes. The first attempt in point of time was made by Pope Sixtus V (1585—1590) who turned his attention to the unhealthy swamps of Chiana near Orvieto, those at the mouth of the Tiber River, swamps near Ravenna and especially to the Pontine Marshes. The Pontine Marshes are situated south of Rome between the Alban and Volscian Hills and the sea. The problem of draining these marshes had had the attention of the Romans two centuries before Christ. Julius Caesar and the Emperors Augustus and Trajan had attempted to drain the water from the marshes, as had King Theodoric of the Goths, and several popes, especially Pope Boniface VIII (see 1949 Holy Year stamp) and Leo X who wished to reclaim this district for purposes of agriculture.

Failure of others did not hold back the energetic Sixtus V from making an attempt to dry out the marshes to free them from malaria and make them fit for agriculture. He felt that from the reclaimed lands enough corn would be produced to remedy the periodic scarcity suffered by Rome, and that it would be a help to the Apostolic Camera. He became enthusiastic over a plan presented to him in the spring of 1586 for the draining of the marshes by Ascanio Fenizi, an engineer from Urbino. One of the principal obstacles encountered by his predecessors and successors was the opposition of the great land owners, who were interested in maintaining the existing state of affairs. Fabio Orsini was entrusted with this problem and was quickly successful in dealing with it.

Ascanio Fenizi obtained from the Pope all those lands between Terracina, Piperno and Sezze which had not been cultivated for the preceding five years, in order that he might drain them and put them under cultivation. Fenizi and his heirs, as long as the work went on, were to pay to the owners each year whatever the land in question had hitherto produced. Once the draining was accomplished, they either went on paying this sum or were to hand over land to an equivalent value from the rescued district. Fenizi, after the work was finished, was to pay $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the revenues from the land placed under cultivation to the Apostolic Camera which, at the discretion of the Pope, was to be divided among the interested parties according to their shares in the cultivated land.

Fenizi was given full power to widen existing waterways, making new channels and canals to the sea, provided he compensated the owners. As the undertaking involved a large expenditure, and the advantages accruing should be very great, the privileges granted to those who helped in the promotion were never to be suspended.

Because of the malaria which was rampant in the Pontine Marshes during the summer, the work was not started on a large scale until autumn of 1586 with the employment of 2,000 workmen. The plan called for bringing the waters of the mountain streams which fed the Marshes, which stopped in the so-called Piscinara in the Fiume Antico, through a new way to be opened which was to enter the sea between Terracina and Cape Circe. All the proprietors of the Pontine Marshes who were to benefit by the project were invited in February, 1587 to contribute to the expense. There were reports of good progress in January, 1588, and in 1589 the works were practically finished. The large outlet which took a great volume of water to the sea was named Fiume Sisto after the Pope, and another smaller channel was planned beside it. Considerable acreage had been reclaimed which was found quite suitable for agriculture. On receiving this news, Pope Sixtus V decided to visit the works, which were regrettably to be abandoned after his death. On the eleventh of October, 1589, he set out with a large retinue to Terracina, passing through Marino, Velletri, Sermonetta and Sezze. Three kilometers west of Sezze at the foot of the hills of Trevi there is a stone which still bears the name "Stone (seat) of Sixtus" where he rested from his journey and looked out over the drainage works. The medal which appears on the 15 Lire and 70 Lire stamps commemorates the great project.

The work of Pope Pius VI came about 190 years later. He had been the Auditor of Cardinal Ruffo at Velletri and had first-hand information about the Pontine Marshes and the various plans for their drainage. Soon after his election to the papacy he consulted experts on the possibility of draining the malaria-infested stretch between Cisterna and Terracina and by early 1777 had decided to carry out this vast undertaking, which would be of great economic importance as well as being a great stride in public health. Gaetano Rappini, an engineer of Bologna, drew up a plan which was approved by two other engineers and work began in the autumn of 1777. Water coming from the hills was to be carried in a canal known as the Linea Pia, running parallel to the Via Appia, and was to be discharged into the sea at Terracina. The work continued rapidly and a large area was dried out by October, 1778. So that the Apostolic Camera would not be financially overburdened, a stock company was formed with a capital of 120,000 scudi, but by May of 1779 it was found that a greater expenditure would be necessary, which led to much opposition. Pius VI would not be deterred, and was encouraged by a dry summer in 1779 which rendered the work easier; however, in November great rainfalls did considerable damage which hearsay exaggerated. Despite the risk of malaria, Pius decided to visit the works and find out just how much damage had been done. On April 6, 1780 he set out for Terracina and took up residence in the Palazzo Vitelli. Since no pope since Benedict XIII had journeyed further south in this direction than Castel Gandolfo, people flocked from all sides to greet him.

The original course of the canal had to be diverted, but with satisfactory results. Considerable acreage was reclaimed and the Pope returned to Rome in a happy frame of mind. He repeated his inspection in April, 1781, but was unable to come there in the following year because of his visit to Vienna. He came again in April, 1783 and returned satisfied with the results, even though floods had done some damage. The cost of the drainage, which employed 3,500 men, caused much adverse criticism but Pius VI was not deterred because he saw great benefit and much profit would come when the project was completed. With the exception of 1791-1793 the Pope made this his spring holiday and from 1784 to 1796 he annually inspected the works, which time and again were held up by floods. The total amount expended over the years was 1,500,000 scudi, but in the end all that was gained was a reduction of the marshy area and not its elimination.

The transformation of the Pontine Marshes into arable land remained a pious hope for more than a hundred years. Even in the early 20th century the Italian Government was not successful in its first efforts with modern equipment. Eventually the problem was solved under Mussolini. The achievements of Pius VI which his enemies tried to minimize or deny, have been judged by impartial critics of this century to have been considerable.

On the 40 Lire and 300 Lire stamps appears a map of the project of Pius VI, on which can be distinguished the drainage canals, the Via Appia and the Linea Pia running parallel from Treponti to Terracina. Both designs bear the inscription at the top "All Peoples Against Malaria", and the efforts of the two Popes, Sixtus V and Pius VI, were not only to reclaim the Pontine Marshes for agricultural use but to eliminate malaria. With Vatican City State such a small area, there is no malaria problem to be solved there, but the efforts of the papacy in centuries past to eliminate this disease are recalled by the stamps, issued as part of the world-wide campaign against malaria.

DUES NOTICE

Dues for the year 1962-1963 are payable by July 1. Please make your remittance payable to: VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY and send it directly to the Secretary, Wallace R. Smith at 165-15 Union Turnpike, Flushing 66, New York.

In the city of Pistoia, Italy is the Ospedale del Ceppo, which derives its name from a hollow tree stump (ceppo) in which alms were once collected. This hospital was established in 1277 and between 1514 and 1525 its graceful, six-arched portico had its top decorated with a frieze in terracotta by Giovanni della Robbia, assisted by Bened. and Santi Buglioni, representing the seven corporal works of mercy. The frieze extends the full length of the portico, and its figures are beautifully colored and glazed, with the exception of the last relief on the right which was added, unglazed, in 1585 by Filippo Paladini. Interspersed are allegorical figures of the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, and some of the Cardinal Virtues, e.g., Justice.

The Corporal Works of Mercy have their Scriptural basis for the first six in the description of the Last Judgment given in Matthew XXV: 31-46: "Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matt. XXV: 34-36) The seventh can find its Scriptural basis in the story of the elder Tobias. There are also Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To visit the imprisoned
To shelter the homeless
To visit the sick
To bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

To admonish the sinner
To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To comfort the sorrowful
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive all injuries
To pray for the living
and the dead

The dominant figures in the frieze appear to be Dominicans, or Black Friars, who are sometimes represented in their white habits with black shoulder capes, and sometimes with the full length black capes, with only a bit of the white cassock showing at the bottom. The Dominicans are shown performing the corporal works of mercy. Postal card views of these subjects show that only a part of each relief was used on each stamp.



5 Lire - To feed the hungry

Only the right half of the frieze is shown on the stamp. Three Dominicans distribute bread to the hungry. Not seen at the left are Dominicans feeding the hungry at table.

10 Lire - To give drink to the thirsty

From the center of the relief we see a Dominican dispensing water to the thirsty. Six figures to the right and six figures to the left are not seen.



15 Lire - To clothe the naked

The left center of the relief appears on the stamp depicting a Dominican distributing clothing. Not shown are three figures to the left and four to the right.



20 Lire - To shelter the homeless



The right center of the frieze appears on the stamp and Dominicans are seen washing the feet of a traveler, whose head shows a halo - evidently Christ in disguise. ("Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me." Matt. XXV:40) This penetrates to the motive of Christian charity. Not seen are five travelers at the left, and a figure at an open door at the right, inviting the travelers to enter.

30 Lire - To visit the sick

The stamp shows the right side of the frieze, with Dominicans caring for the sick. At the left side, not seen, as though it were across the aisle in a ward, is another sick man in bed with five Dominicans in attendance.



35 Lire - To visit the imprisoned



The left center of the frieze appears on the stamp. The central standing and the seated figure both wear a halo, again Christ in disguise as prisoners. The unseen right side shows two Dominicans bearing food to the prisoners, together with another figure.

40 Lire - To bury the dead

The left side of the frieze appears on the stamp and shows Dominicans and another man attending to a dead man. On the unseen right side four Dominicans and a mourner are conducting obsequies for another dead man.



70 Lire - Pope John XXIII

To the left of the central portrait is an allegorical figure of the Theological Virtue of Faith, and on the right a figure of the Theological Virtue of Charity, two of the figures interspersed between the Works of Mercy in the frieze.

75 Lire and 100 Lire - Special Delivery
Coat of Arms of Pope John XXIII



The same design appears on both stamps. At the left of the design is an allegorical figure of the Cardinal Virtue of Justice and at the right, one representing the Theological Virtue of Hope, both from the frieze.



VATICAN "USED ABROAD"

The January - February issue of VATICAN NOTES carried an illustration of a cover, franked with Vatican stamps, but bearing Yugoslav postal markings.

In response to the Editor's invitation for comment on this cover, V.P.S. member Rev. Emil C. Oestreich offers the following observations:

"In addition to the obvious Yugoslav and Trieste markings, I notice that

- a) the Vatican stamps had been previously used, because they are defaced by a Vatican City machine cancellation, whose date should be legible on the actual cover;
- b) the machine cancellations do NOT run off the Vatican stamp onto the envelope in order to "tie" it to the envelope. Therefore, used Vatican stamps were pasted on this envelope before it was "struck" by the Yugoslav canceller;
- c) both stamps were struck twice by the Yugoslav canceller, which MAY have been an effort to divert the eye from the previous marks on the Vatican stamps;
- d) part of the address is crossed off by means of a typewriter, including the name of the addressee, so that the letter, as it now is, is undeliverable to anyone in the town of San Pietro. The defacing as it now is would make it undeliverable and destined - if it were in postal hands - only for the dead-letter office;
- e) the date is a wartime date, when the Axis, I believe, was already in power in Yugoslavia. During wartime conditions it would be no problem (either by looting on the part of the invading soldiers or by threats or by bribes) to have a Yugoslav canceller used on a Vatican stamp. Just as readily, soldiers stationed close by might have amused themselves during their off hours by fooling around in an abandoned post-office;
- f) the time difference between the Yugoslav canceller and the Trieste postmark could readily be accounted for under the conditions outlined in "e" by the fact that it took this particular person 8 days to travel the distance under wartime conditions, during which the envelope remained in his possession.

So, it's my opinion that this envelope never went thru the mails in its present condition; that the postmarks placed on it are there "by favor"; that the perpetrator of the deed either had no intention to deceive or was a rank amateur inasmuch as his efforts don't fit postal requirements; that the present owner has an amusing envelope with several possible human interest stories behind it but with - in my opinion - no value."

Fr. Oestreich has kindly supplied for illustration the card shown below, concerning which he offers the following comment:

"The blue stamp (German) with its cancellation and cachet, applied in Merano by a German "Service" postal unit on May 30, 1944, was supposed to have gone to Hamburg, Germany at once. But 6 days later it was still hanging around Bolzano in order that the Vatican stamp (invalidated for postal use some nine months earlier!) should be defaced by an Italian canceller. Since a printed address label was used without any correspondence written nor even a signature on the postal card, we can reasonably feel sure that it is a philatelic phantasy, especially since the addressee is (or was) a stamp dealer. Notice also the trifling denomination of the Vatican stamp, one of the lowest in use in 1944."



METER ESSAY

Shown below is a meter impression prepared by the Pitney-Bowes organization for use as a meter by the Directing Committee of the 1949 Holy Year. It is believed that this essay was never adopted by Vatican City.



CANCELLATIONS OF THE PONTIFICAL STATE - DELIVERY MARKINGSRev. William Fletcher

This article in the series on cancellations of the Pontifical State will concern itself with all those markings that appear on letters as directives for delivery or identification marks of delivery.

The development of these markings follows the progress of the methods used for mail delivery, being traced through the stages of the courier, the horse-back rider, the stage coach, the steamboat and the railroad. Such a development covered a period of six centuries, from the Fourteenth through the Nineteenth, and some of the terms once adopted continued through the era of the postage stamp until 1870. The foreign terms used for these divisions are PEDONE (literally foot soldier; applied, courier), CAVALCATA (literally cavalcade; applied, pony express, by horse-back), DILIGENZIA (stagecoach), PAQUEBOT (steamboat) and STRADA/FERRATA (railroad).

In some instances mere terms or words were used as directives; in others, drawings or diagrams, sometimes alone or with one or more of the terms written out. For the sake of brevity, only in the case of the diagrams will illustrations appear in this article. In the past postal histories on this subject, markings were included which are in no way postal in their origin or meaning. Such markings, very interesting in design and significance, are generally trademarks of the guild or business to which the sender belonged. Postal markings date from the Fourteenth Century, in Latin, French and Italian, penned and printed, in the predominating colors of black, red, green, blue violet and orange.

Historically several marks seem to have appeared at about the same time, all meaning much the same. For clarity the following markings or postal directives have been grouped according to their appearance and use. The dates given in all instances are those personally owned by the author. Earlier examples may exist, but to this writer's knowledge they do not. If such be the fact, appreciation for their knowledge would be tremendous.

COURIER, PONY EXPRESS, STAGE COACH MARKINGS:

- CITO (haste) used in numerous repetitions from once to nine - 1489
 CITISSIME, CITISSIMO, CITISSIME-ME (with the greatest speed possible)
 URGENTE, URGENTO, URGENTA, URGENTISSIME (urgent) - 1507
 SUBITO, SUBITA, SUBITTA (immediately) - 1504
 POSTES P., POSTAS P. - 1551
 VOLANTE, VOLANDO, VOLANDA (fly) - 1502
 VOLANDO DIE NOCTU (fly day and night) - 1501
 STAFFETTA (literally small stirrups; applied, courier, express) - 1503
 Figure #1 - estafette or stirrup, used to denote number of horses used - 1487
 " #2 - lines used to denote the number of stops made in delivery - 1499
 " #3 - printed postal stationery - 1504
 " #4 - printed postal stationery - 1504
 " #6 - estafette or stirrup with VOLANDO within - 1507
 " #8 - hangman's gallows to warn carrier against delay - 1501
 " #9 - hangman's gallows
 " #11 - cross-roads to indicate pony express - 1549
 " #12 - cross-roads with the letter "U" and word "Franca" (free) - 1556
 " #13 - cross-roads and Cito (not the St. Andrew Cross as many claim) - 1541

FRANCA (free, tax exempt) - 1556
 D.T.P./D.T.P. (Diligenzia Trasporto Postale) - 1797
 PAR POSTA SUBITO (by direct post) - 1781
 G.A.D.P. (General Administration of the Post) used in a monogram - 1801
 BEASTS OF BOLOGNA - lion, ass and horse. cf. VPS NOTES VIII:3 - 1769
 COURIER MARKINGS: PG, FG, SR, SV, AB, CB, PA, AS (colorless indentations) - 1734
 COURIER MARKINGS: cf. figures # 14-18, 20-23, 26-27, 29-30 - 1757
 IMPRESSA DELLE DILIGENZIA PONTIFICE (Pontifical State Stagecoach) cf. #28 - 1837

STEAMBOAT MARKINGS

VIA DI MARE (by sea) - 1801
 VOIE DE MER (by sea) - 1803 used during the French Occupation of Napoleon
 PAR VAPEUR (by steamboat) - 1849
 SV (STRADA VAPORE, by steamboat) - 1849
 PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE (Mediterranean Steamboat Service) - 1839
 VAPORE ITALIAN (Italian Steamboat Service) - 1849
 VPM/V.P.M. (Vapore Paquebot Mediterranea - Mediterranean Steamboat Line) - 1850
 COL VAPE AISTRIACO (Austrian Steamboat Service) - 1851
 AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO (Austrian Lloyd Agency) - 1853
 PAQUEBOT (steamboat) used at the bottom of the double circle cancel - 1860

RAILROAD MARKINGS

AMBULANTE - circular cancellation with five and six pointed stars - 1867
 AMBULANZA - circular cancellation with five and six pointed stars - 1863
 VIA SARZANA (by way of Sarzana to guarantee speed) - 1865
 FRANCOBOLLO INSUFFICIENTE (insufficient postage) - 1866
 AFRANCAMENTO INSUFFICIENTE (prepayment insufficient) - 1867
 BOLLO INSUFFICIENTE (postage insufficient) - 1868
 PD/P.D. (prepaid) used with and without a rectangular frame

GENERAL MARKINGS

PORT PAYE - cf. figure #25 - 1784
 P.P. (Port Paye) used with and without a frame - 1801
 P.D. (Pagato Dazio, duty paid) cf. figure #7 - 1559
 P.R. (Posta Romana) used with single and double line frame - cf. figure #24 - 1792
 CONSEGNA (literally deposited; applied mailed/military orders within) - 1799
 A CONSEGNA (as above) - 1801
 DE, DES., DEV. (Debourses, payment) cf. Figures #31 and #32 - 1705
 FRANCO, FRANCA, FRANCO, FRANCATO (free) - 1556
 FRANCA A DESTINO - 1815
 CAMPIONI SENZA VAPORE (used rarely) denotes request for land route - 1857
 PAR GENE, PAR GENES (by way of Genoa) - 1799
 PAR SARZENE (by way of Sarzana) - 1806
 VIA DI TERRA (by land) - 1851
 DECIMES/DECIMES (taxed) - 1799
 BAIOCQUE/BAIOQUE (tax figure or amount) - 1751
 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 6 (tax markings) cf. Figure #5 - 1681
 SERVIZIO ACQUE E STRADE (route by land and water) - 1851
 POSTE RESTANTE (hold until called for) - 1841
 FERMA IN POSTA, FERME IN POSTE, FERMA IN POSTE (hold until called for) - 1848
 RISERVATA (hold) - 1860

CHARGE (taxed) - 1801
 T.S. (Tasse sufficiente, tax sufficient) - 1857
 T.P. (meaning indefinite) used within a small circle - 1859
 P.L. Porta Lettere, postman delivered - 1855
 IMPe. (Impostazione, taxed) - 1817
 TASSA RETTIFICATA (tax corrected) - 1853
 RACCOMANDATA, RACCOMANDATO (registered) - 1808
 AFFRAN:INSUFF (prepayment insufficient) - 1860
 AFFRANCATA (free) - 1831
 ASSICURATA (insured) - 1830
 INSUFFICIENTE (insufficient payment) 1839
 BOLLO INSUFFICIENTE (postage insufficient) - 1853
 FRANCOBOLLO INSUFFICIENTE (same as above) - 1860
 AFFRANCAMENTO INSUFFICIENTE - 1861
 PARTENZA (departed) - 1840
 DOPO LA PARTENZA (too late, after departure) - 1842
 ARRIVO (arrival) used in circle and rectangle with name of town and date - 1848

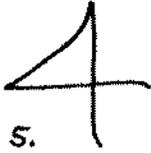
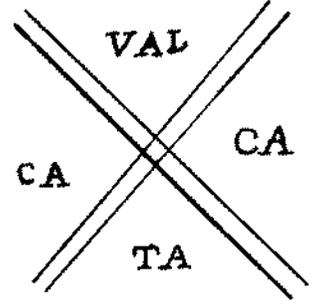
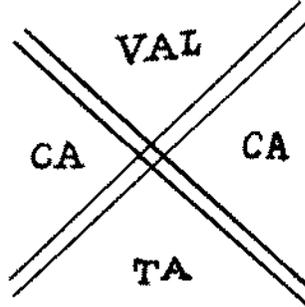
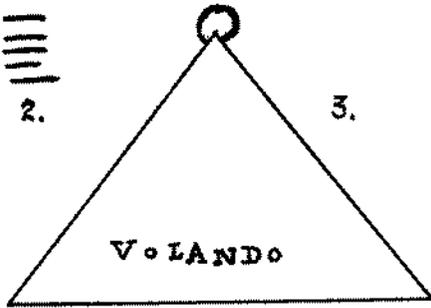
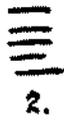
These markings, clear from their meanings either literal or applied, show the development of the postal cancellation system from earliest times. It is very interesting to note that many of them are French in wording and origin. This should not be strange as the French Postal System was highly developed quite early as things postal go. With the establishment of the various Bureaux throughout Europe, and in particular in Italy, Rome being the largest and best, the French way, so to speak, became the pattern. When Napoleon took over the government of the various sections of Italy, including the Pontifical State, the French postal code became the official system. After the retreat of the French, much of the system remained, so much so that when Pope Pius VII issued his monumental Letter of Instruction on 24 April, 1816 and his Motu Proprio of 6 July of the same year he adopted the efficiency established and then left behind in the Postal Service by France. In some cases the French terms were translated into the Italian during the periods of the Italian Kingdom between the various Napoleonic campaigns; in other instances Latin held strong from the primitive days of the postal systems. In any case, the Pontifical State used the best afforded her, regardless of origin. Her postal service developed well under the progress made by her neighbor states and governments. Her system of mail cancellation became equal and in many instances superior to any in existence between the Fourteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

In the illustrations which follow, attention is called to figures #3 and #4. In these two diagrams perhaps the first postal stationery can be found. Both are printed on letter paper to be used as the front section of the packet for the address. Figure #3 has the two directives Staffetta and Volando printed above and within the Estafette or Stirrup, topped by the rider's loop. It measures 47½ by 55 mm. dated 20 August, 1504 and originates in Ferrara. Figure #4, also from Ferrara is dated 6 May, 1504. It has Ferrara printed both at the top between the Subitos and at the bottom, measuring in toto 66 x 85 mm. As far as this writer is aware only two known copies of these exist, both in private collections. Apart from the study of cancellations and the directives for mail delivery, they form an interesting part to the genesis of printed postal stationery. Undoubtedly other examples must exist, similar, yet originating in other sectors of the Pontifical State.

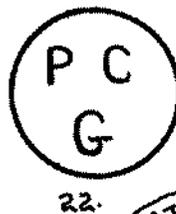
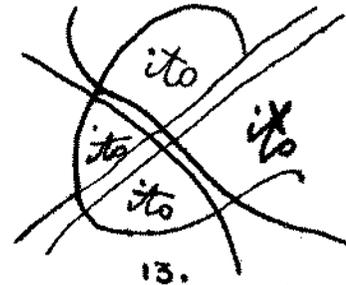
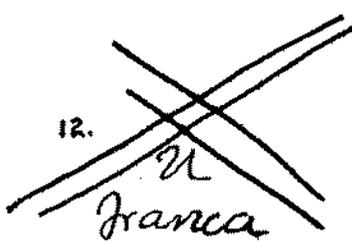
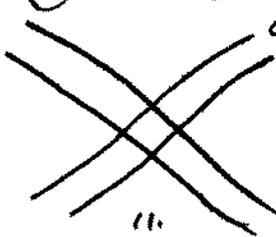
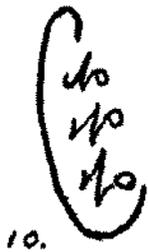
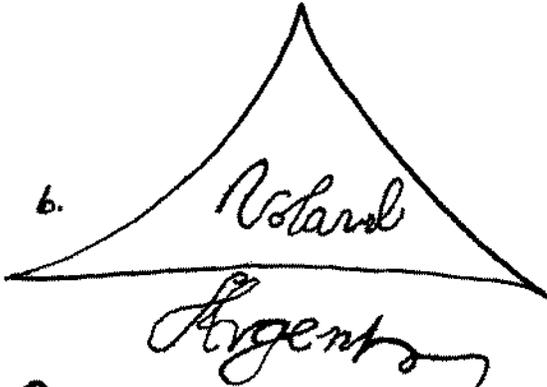
Any information relating to any phase of this article will be greatly appreciated by this author; information regardless of how small or insignificant.

STAFFETTA.

Subito Ferrara Subito.



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26. SV

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