



Vatican Notes

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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

NACIONES UNIDAS 聯合國



PEACE AND PROGRESS

1945 — 1970

6c

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Vatican issued three stamps Oct. 8, 1970, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. L.20 is from Michaelangelo's "Creation of Adam" on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. L.90 is the head of Eve from the "Fall of Adam and Eve" by Michaelangelo on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. (Cf. Vatican Notes Vo. XV, #1, pp.2-4). These two subjects signify the unity of the human race in its common origin, Adam and Eve. L. 220, an olive branch, symbolic of peace, the purpose of the UN.. A special FD cancel consists of a single circle with ONU (UN) at the top with the UN symbol, the dates 1945 1970 indicating the 25th anniversary. The date 8-X-70 indicate the date of the First Day (prima die), and Poste Citta Del Vaticano, indicates the country of origin.

On Oct. 24, 1945, in San Francisco, the following nations signed the UN Charter: Argentina, Brazil, Byelorussian SSR, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Rep., France, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Ukranian SSR, USSR, United Arab Rep., United Kingdom, USA, and Yugoslavia. Later in 1945 other signatories were: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Canadam Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, India, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Uruguay and Venezuela. As of this date there are 126 members of the UN.

The history of development of the UN is as follows. On Aug. 14, 1941, the United States and the United Kingdom agreed on basic principles called the Atlantic Charter. Twenty six nations opposing the Axis in WW II accepted the Atlantic Charter, using the words "United Nations" on Jan. 1. 1942. In the Moscow Declaration of Oct. 30, 1943, the USSR, China, the USA and the UK agreed to set up an international organization to keep world peace. At Dunbarton Oaks Conference, the same four nations outlined preliminary proposals for such an organization, Aug-Oct. 1944. Fifty nations attended the Sanfrancisco Conference, April-June 1945, drafting and adopting the UN Charter on June 26. Poland, unable to attend, signed later, ebcoming a charter member. On Oct. 24, 1945, a majority of the nations ratified the Charter, so Oct. 24 is celebrated as United Nations Day.

The Charter sets as purposes: to maintain world peace and security; to develop friendly relations between nations; to achieve world cooperation in solving international economic, social, cultural or humanitarian problems; encouraging respect for human right and fundamental freedoms for all; to be a center for the actions of nations to attain these common ends.

Seven principles bind all signatories:- All members are sovereign and equal. They fulfill UN obligations in good faith. They will settle international disputes peacefully. They will refrain from the threat or use of force. They will give every assistance to the UN. The UN will insure that non-UN members act in accord with the Charter. The UN will not interfere with the internal affairs of any country.

To impliment the purposes of the United Nations, six organizations were formed: The General Assembly; the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council; the Trusteeship Council; the International Court of Justice; the Secretariat.

The General Assembly: Can discuss any questions mentioned in the UN Charter or related to the powers of functions of any of the UN organs. Each nation has one vote, two thirds required to pass a measure.

The Security Council: responsible for keeping international peace. Five permanent members (China, France, USSR, USA and UK) with ten non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two years, each have one vote, nine needed to pass a measure.

The Economic and Social Council: directs and coordinates economic and social work of the UN and its related agencies. Vote by majority.

The Trusteeship Council: administers and supervises Territories placed under it.. Terms have been approved by the General Assembly; or in strategis areas, by the Security Council. Composed of members administering Trust Territories; permanent members of the Security Council not administering such territories, and as many members, elected for three years, as the General Assembly thinks necessary.

The International Court of Justice: sitting at the Hague, Netherlands, judges international matters referred to it.

The Secretariat: performs the administrative functions of the UN, headed by the Secretary General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. (Trygve Lie, Dag Hammarskjold, U Thant).

Headquarters of some UN Agencies:-

Geneva, Switzerland:- Un Conference on Trade Development (UNCTAD); International Labor Organization (ILO); World Health Organization (WHO); International Telecommunications Union (ITU); World Meterological Organization (WMO); General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Berne, Switzerland: Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Vienna, Austria: International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEA).

Rome, Italy: Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

Paris, France: UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Montreal, Canada: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

London, U.K.: Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO)

Washington, D.C.: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BANK); International Finance Corporation (IFC); International Development Association (IDA), International Monetary Fund (FUND).

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

When one considers the great interest shown in Vatican stamps throughout the world, it would seem that every collector of Vatican would be seeking an organization such as ours to further his enjoyment in collecting. There are thousands of these collectors who should be members of the Vatican Philatelic Society and this drive is offering you a chance to help your society by enrolling at least one new member. As an incentive for all members to get behind this six months drive, we will award "Commendation Ribbons" (suitable for bookmarks, or if mounted in your album will add a note of distinction to your collection) to each member who enrolls one or more new members, and a trophy will be awarded to the one who enrolls the most new members. A minimum of four new members is required in order to be eligible for this award.

RULES

- 1 - This drive will run from January 1st to June 30, 1971.
- 2 - a) Commendation Ribbons (Bookmarks) will be awarded to all who obtain at least one new member.
b) A trophy will be awarded to the member obtaining the most new members during this period. A minimum of four is necessary.
- 3 - Enrollments for less than one year will not be eligible for awards.
NOTE: This drive is during the latter half of our fiscal year, and therefore to be eligible for awards the enrollments must be for this period plus the coming fiscal year. As per our rates shown on application form, those joining between January 1st and March 31st must pay dues of \$3.00; Those joining between April 1st and June 30th must pay \$2.50. All of these enrollments will then run to June 30, 1972.
- 4 - IN the event of a tie for the highest number of enrollments, the deadlock will be broken by the highest amount of enrollments paid for. For example, if ten members tie with five enrollments each, and nine of these have four enrollments at \$3.00 each and one at \$2.50, while the tenth member has five new members at \$3.00 each, then the tenth member will be declared the winner. If after this elimination a tie still exists, the award will be made to the member who reached the winning total at the earliest date as shown on the date applications were received by the Membership Chairman.
- 5 - Any application received after January 1st but before this notice reaches you, will be credited to the proper member provided his name appears on the application or he notifies us that he was responsible for enrolling the new member.
- 6 - Officers of the Society are eligible to compete, but before being declared a winner, the Officer must sign a statement that he was responsible for obtaining the new member and that the new member did not contact him first. In this latter case, the new member will not count in the Officer's total.
- 7 - An application form is enclosed with this issue of VATICAN NOTES and we sincerely hope that you will give it to a prospective member. Additional forms will be mailed to you on request, or you may ask to have the form sent directly to the applicant.
- 8 - Winners will be announced as soon as possible after deadline.

In presenting the V.P.S. to prospective members, it is essential to have only a few facts at your finger tips. What are these facts? As all of our members know, our Society offers substantially the same type of

services that are offered by other specialist societies. Our "VATICAN NOTES" is certainly the equal of any publication of a specialist group as to content. Thumbing through the pages of issues of the past few years, we find the usual amount of philatelic information that one would expect, including such articles as: - "The Vatican Air-Mail Markings" - "Forgeries Of Various Issues" - "Vatican First Day Cancellations", etc. In addition we find pertinent articles that go far beyond the stamps to enrich one's knowledge of the persons, places or events depicted on the stamps, such as: - "The Papal Coat-of-Arms" - "The Works Of Charity Performed by Pope Pius XII during W W II" - "Zeppelin Flights and Covers" - "The Eucharistic Congresses held in India and South America" - Summary of UNESCO REPORT ON CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE NUBIAN MONUMENTS" - "Vatican's Participation in World Fairs", and many others. This is information that can be obtained only after many hours of research - information that definitely will not be found in regular stamp journals nor Sunday supplements.

Our COLORED SLIDES OF VATICAN STAMPS are available on loan to all. Our TRANSLATION SERVICES are available upon request for those who may need assistance in translating philatelic material. We offer information on all aspects of Vatican philately and will gladly answer questions of this nature. We PUBLISH NAMES and ADDRESSES of all who wish to swap stamps or sell to other members. We have Chapters in several large cities and are constantly looking for more to be formed wherever sufficient numbers warrant it.

The above facts are the essential ones needed when trying to sign up new members. Won't you please use the enclosed application form soon in order to help your Society, and at the same time receive a commendation from the Society? With just a little extra effort on your part at this time you may be the one to receive the trophy.

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N E W S.

Slide Chairman John Ciaramaglia died in November. Until another chairman is appointed, please write to Pres. William P. Quinn, 435 Adams St., Milton, Mass., for loan of the slides. Ray a prayer for John C.

Southern Wisconsin:

Meets at the Lions Club, 1st Sunday of the Month, Wauwatosa. where their Christmas party was held on Dec. 6.

Chicagoland Chapter:

Meeting are held on the 4th Sunday of the Month (not the last Sunday). Meetins Feb. 22, Mar.22, April 26, May 29, June 28 at Hotel LaSalle. Jim Schiltz took over as Treasuere from Ruth Holys. Bill Holton took 1st Prize at the Ravenswood Philatelic Society Past Presidents Night.

Eastern Massachusetts Chapter:

New Officers: President Anthony Paonessa,
Vice-Pres. & Treasurer Fr. Phinney; Secretary Arthur Galius.

SPECIAL VATICAN CANCELLATIONS (Cont.)
 Frederick J. Levitsky

PAULO PP. VI BENEDICENTE
 UNIVERSA ECCLESIA EXSULTANTE
 CONCILII DEC. VAT. II PATRES
 NOVISSIMAE SESSIONIS
 INITIUM FACIUNT



Cancellation marking the opening of the fourth session of the Vatican II Council on September 14, 1965. The cancellation reads: "With Pope Paul VI blessing the exultant Universal Church, the Fathers of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council begin the new session."

PAULUS PP. VI ET PATRES
 CUM UNIVERSA ECCLESIA, DE FELICI
 CONCILII DEC. VAT. II EXITU
 GRATES DEO AGENTES AB IMMACULATA
 UBERRIMOS ADPRECAUNTUR FRUCTUS



Cancellation marking the closing of the Vatican II Council on December 8, 1965. The cancellation reads: "Pope Paul VI with the Fathers of the whole Church, giving thanks for happy conclusion of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council, pray for abundant fruit from the Immaculate One." This same cancellation was also used on December 7, the day on which final promulgation of the Vatican II decrees occurred.

S. SYNODO VAT. II PERACTA
 UNIVERSALE JUBILAEUM



Cancellation marking the opening of the jubilee on January 1, 1966 celebrating the completion of the Vatican II Council. The cancellation reads: "Celebrating the universal jubilee of the Holy Synod of Vatican II."

S. SYNODO VAT. II PERACTA
 UNIVERSALE JUBILAEUM



Cancellation marking the closing of the special jubilee honoring Vatican II on December 8, 1966, the first anniversary of the closing of the council. The cancellation is identical to that used on January 1 when the jubilee opened.

PAULUS PP. VI
 INTER FILIOS IMMANI CALAMITATE
 AFFLICTOS CHRISTI NATIVITATEM
 FLORENTIAE CELEBRAT



Cancellation marking Pope Paul's trip to Florence on December 24, 1966 after the disastrous floods in the area a short time earlier. The cancellation reads: "Pope Paul VI celebrates the Nativity of Christ at Florence among his children afflicted by a great calamity."

(To be continued)

The Authentication of Stamps

by Rev. Floyd A. Jenkins, S.J..

It was not long after the issuance of the first postage stamps before human avarice and ingenuity discovered that these sticky symbols of government taxation might present a source of illegal profit. Probably the first fraud took the form of washing off the cancellation to permit a second use of the stamp. Indeed the simplest of stamp forgeries involves some alteration of the genuine stamp. We still find today not only stamps with the cancellation removed, but with gum added to create a mint appearance, or with color altered to produce a rare variety. The stamps of some countries, such as the Pontifical State which were printed on various colored papers are especially liable to these abuses. Recently a "mint" 4 Baj. resembling in color one of the rarest shades caught my eye. Since comparison with a genuine used stamp of the supposed shade revealed a great difference, it was sent to Diena and was returned with the notation, "color altered," the gum having been privately added. Perforations may be manufactured to increase the value or removed for the same purpose. A common example of the former is found in stamps of the last issue of Sardina perforated to resemble the first issue of Italy. Usually these perforations are incorrectly gauged, but not always. Fake overprints such as the Italian "ESTERO" or the Vatican Provisionals may be added with larcenous intent, not to mention false rare cancellations on stamps of, for example, the various Old Italian States. And who does not know that practically any cancelled Hamburg or Heligoland stamp is suspect?

Logically, although not necessarily historically, the second most troublesome class of philatelic fakes are also items made from the original plates. These are the color trials, proofs, and reprints. Proofs are prints which are made from dies or plates for official inspection and are not intended for postal use. When they are worth considerably less than the corresponding stamp they may be thinned or cancelled to resemble the more valuable stamp.

Reprints, as the name implies, are later printings made from the original plates, and are also not intended for postal use. Some have been made under official sanction and often in limited quantities for various purposes. They can be distinguished by differences in color, paper, size, secret marks, etc. When the dies or plates fall into the hands of private individuals the result is often a great proliferation of these annoying items. Although these reprinters usually err in the use of color, paper, perforation and gum their products still represent a thorn in the side of most collectors. For example, it takes a specialist to cull out with confidence the reprints of the Pontifical State stamps. This in spite of the fact that after Usigli's rather good reprints, the products diverged more and more from the originals at the hands of the successive owners of the plates.

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The third type of fraud involves somewhat more painstaking activity. This is the forgery of the basic stamp. As early as 1855 at Bologna the 1, 5 and 8 Baj. stamps of the Pontifical State were counterfeited with the intent of defrauding the mails. These are the famous postal forgeries and are often, as in this case, rare enough to be more valuable than the genuine stamps. These and others can be detected by the differences in the drawing and the method of printing.¹ However, some postal forgeries were made by the same process as the originals. An example is the fraudulent stamps of Naples. And some were even superior to the original, as the 15c, 1863, of Italy. Even the United States Government has had to contend with postal forgerers, though it is difficult to see how they could hide their activities for long.

Usually when one speaks of a counterfeit he is referring to a philatelic forgery, which is a faked stamp designed to fill a space in the collector's album. These may range from crude imitations which would fool no one, to finely executed works of art which in times past have baffled experts.

The list of forgers is a rather long one and considerable research would be necessary to write their history. They did not always desire publicity nor leave a detailed record of their activities. Perhaps the most famous of these was the Frenchman Francois Fournier² who took over a business already begun in Geneva near the end of the last century. He turned out large numbers of "fac-similies" of stamps of various countries, including the Italian States. He operated within the law and sold these as space fillers to collectors who could not afford the genuine stamps. However, this did not prevent others from reselling these as originals. He also tinkered with genuine stamps in a manner not so straightforward. He died during the first world war and his successor was bought out by the Philatelic Union of Geneva which distributed 475 numbered albums of Fournier facsimiles. All of the examples were marked either on the front or the back. The remaining stock and all printing material were then destroyed before witnesses (on September 15, 1928) thus effectively putting an end to further production of Fournier forgeries. A forger, whose interesting career has been related elsewhere,³ was the Italian-born Jean de Sperati. He early acquired a thorough knowledge of printing, the chemistry of inks, paper and color, and began to copy stamps in 1906 at the age of 22. In 1909 he went to Paris where the law did not prohibit the production of facsimilies. He became so expert at forging stamps that he had many of his stamps declared genuine by experts. After some serious encounters with the law he began signing the backs of his stamps in soft pencil - which of course could be erased. Sperati's forgeries were so dangerous because of his intimate understanding of the printing processes and his meticulous art. In many cases he used genuine paper with

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original watermark or cancellation by bleaching out a genuine stamp. His story ends somewhat in the same fashion as that of Fournier. In 1954 the British Philatelic Association bought him out for an estimated \$15,000 and printed 500 numbered copies in two volumes on his work. Each of these contained some of the forgeries.

The various governments have always been interested in preventing the production of forgeries, especially those which would deprive them of revenue. Higher values were often engraved, the design showing flesh tones, which are hard to reproduce. The papers used in many cases were watermarked. Care was taken to leave no useable margin of paper on the sheet. Secret marks were added to the design. To prevent reuse, heavy "killer" cancellations were employed or other devices to ensure a permanent inking -- the greasy gray inks and surfaced paper of the Pontifical State stamps, or the grills of early United State stamps. Fournier, incidentally, even imitated these grills. Nowadays the fakery seems to be confined more to the alteration of genuine stamps. However, the older classics change hands so often through sale or auction that there is constant need of expert opinion on their authenticity. The field of expertizing is so vast that usually a man must specialize in a certain area. For this reason the American Philatelic Society has formed an Expert Committee of 75 authorities in different philatelic areas. In addition to the reference collection of the Committee each member has his own reference collection. The Committee originally charged members of the A.P.S. \$1.00 per stamp for expertization, plus \$1.00 for a certificate with photograph and seal. The opinion of the Committee includes the classification and condition of the stamp. In England the Royal Philatelic Society Expert Committee has a similar arrangement. There are also many individuals recognized as experts for certain countries or collecting areas. Recently S. Pinchot offered 24 hour service for the expertization of U.S. stamps. Specialists in various countries, be they interested in Egypt, Japan, or Hamburg, or any other interesting country will know who are the competent authorities in their field and what their fees are. Readers of the VATICAN NOTES will probably be most interested in the work of expertizing in the Italian area. Here the names of Bolaffi, Diena, Fiecchi and Oliva stand out. To illustrate the expert's methodology we can do no better than consider the history of the Diena family, a name long illustrious in the annals of philately.

Emelio Diena, born in Modena on the 26 of June, 1860, early developed a passionate interest in stamps which he never lost during the 81 years of his remarkably productive life. A man of great intelligence and intellectual integrity he devoted his talents to the scholarly study of the stamps of Italy and the Old Italian States. In this area where there exist so many counterfeits he became an implacable and formidable enemy of

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the many forgers. His probing studies and the comprehensive reference collection which he soon built up established him as a world authority on stamps, especially those of the Italian countries. His signature on the back of a stamp is a prized guarantee of genuinity. His many writings are credited with responsibility for the popularity of Italian State Stamps among serious philatelists. In his researches he uncovered many important facts concerning the stamps of that era. His publications are written in a clear exact style which avoids dry technicality by his descriptions of stamps against their historic and postal background. In addition to the many articles which he published in various journals, Dr. Diena produced a series of monographs on the States which began in 1894 with a work on the stamps of Modena. He also helped found Il Corriere Filatelico in 1919 which is still a reference source for information on the Italian State Stamps. There is not space to detail the various offices which he held and honors accorded him. Suffice it to say there has hadly been a man in the world of philately so universally esteemed for his profound knowledge and loved for his personal integrity and modesty. On the occasion of the centenary of his birth a celebration in Rome was arranged with various speakers and awards and resulting publications. His outstanding work, to quote the words of Giulio Bolaffi,⁴ on this occasion being ably carried on in all fields by his sons Alberto and Mario and his grandson Enzo Diena.

Like all experts today, Alberto Diena has a comprehensive reference collection of the genuine stamps of all forgeable countries including all shades and varieties which it was possible to obtain. This collection includes full sheets and reconstructed sheets so that both the composition and the plate variations⁵ will be represented. Other original material such as essays and proofs are also represented. Photographs and enlargements make up for unobtainable items and there is a rich archive of philatelic literature. It is not deemed useful to amass a collection of reprints and forgeries. The expert depends on his knowledge of the characteristics of the genuine originals⁶ obtained largely by years of study and familiarity with the many stamps which he has examined during that time. Mr. Diena undertakes to give his opinion concerning the authenticity of the stamp or cover,⁷ its classification according to the Bolaffi (or any other specialized) catalogue if it is in the Italian area, and its condition. In order to do this it is necessary to make use of certain accessory instruments. The benzine dish and the ultra-violet lamp detect not only any paper watermarks but also thins, repairs and other defects. Overprints and cancellations which need expertization are compared to genuine reference copies under ultra-violet illumination and measurements may be made with the millimeter scale or transparent overlays. In some cases the material in question may be enlarged by projection for more detailed comparison. The difficult question of embossed centers which plague collectors

of Sardinia and Neapolitan Provinces is solved by visual search for known distinguishing marks, but sometimes also by projected enlargement. The classification of shades is usually accomplished by viewing the stamp along with reference copies under direct sunlight. In rare cases it may even be necessary to inspect a stamp through color filters. When the work is finished the stamp is slipped into a Blue Ribbon Mount with the opinion written beneath. If the stamp is genuine⁸ and undamaged the characteristic AD signature is written in pencil on the back. Pieces and covers will receive the signature on the front of the paper. Any genuine stamp whether sound or not may be supplied with a certificate, with a seal-affixed photograph of the stamp. Alberto Diena has assistance from his brother Mario Diena, but checks everything himself. His son Enzo handles the English correspondence. It usually takes no longer than a week after one sends his stamps by airmail before they are returned to his address.

The question of signatures and monograms on the backs of stamps deserves some mention. Although expertizers sign the backs of stamps they certify as genuine, not all such markings have this significance. It was the practice of many collectors, and even some dealers, to print their initials, name or monogram on the back merely to indicate ownership. Sometimes stamps are advertized as "signed," but the signature is not that of an expert. Some companies such as J. & H. Stolow print their name on the back of stamps they sell. This is not an opinion concerning their authenticity but merely a guarantee of money back if the stamp proves to be false. Stolow now includes a photographic certificate with such lots. However, this has the same significance as their name stamp.

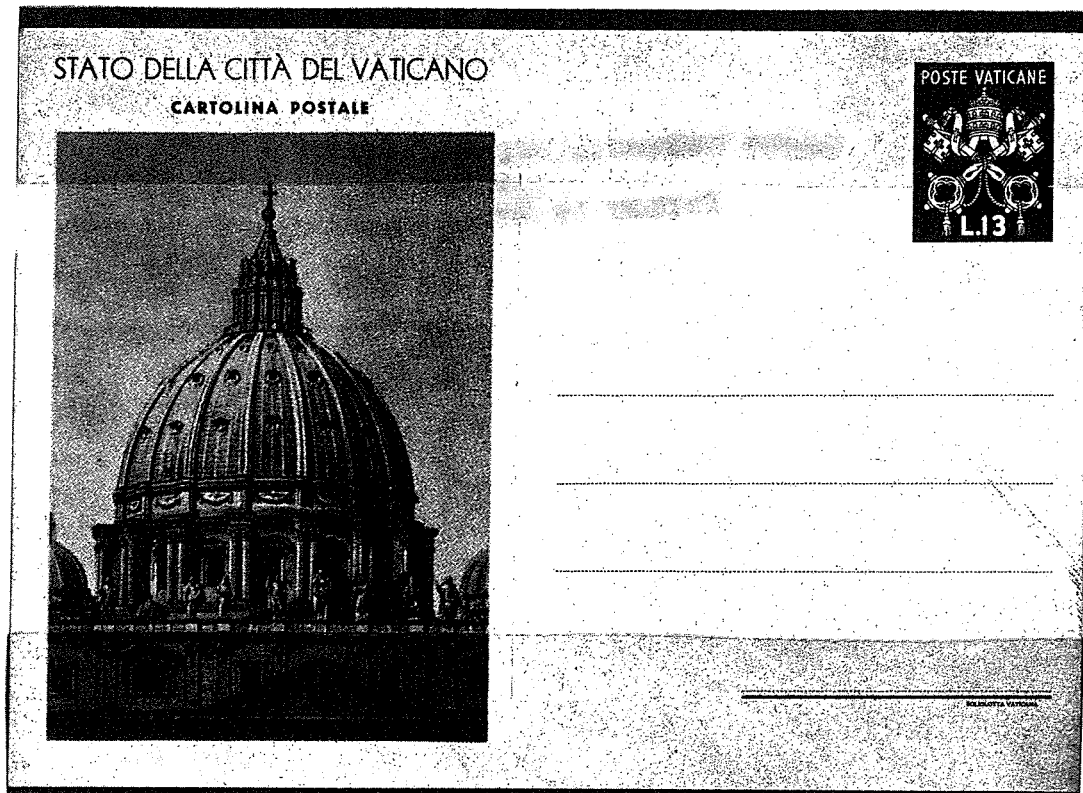
One of the emoluments of specialized philately is that after sufficient experience with the stamps of one's favorite country a certain expertise is acquired which results in one becoming his or her own expert. But there almost always remain such things as elusive colors and dubious cancellations which require the attention of one whose whole life has been devoted to this study.

NOTES

1. First described in detail by Dr. Emilio Diena in Il Corriere Filatelico, translated by A. Palethorpe in the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, September 10, 1921.
2. See "Francois Fournier's Facsimilies" by the Rev. E.S. Ford in Stamps, Feb. 5, 1944.
3. "Jean de Sperati, Master Forger and Philatelic Rogue," by Gustave Detjen, Jr., Stamp World, 1962.
4. "Emilio Diena a cent'anni dalla nascita," Il Collezionista Italia Filatelica, editorial by Giulio Bolaffi, June, 1960. Some unpublished articles by Dr. Diena are included in this same issue.
5. There are various causes for variation from position to position in a sheet of stamps. In the two printings of the Vatican provisional overprints somewhat different type is found in various combinations together with different spacing between the type and horizontal bars. This makes necessary a familiarity with the whole sheet and it becomes almost impossible to find any one characteristic common to all positions in the sheet.
6. "Distinguishing Characteristics of Classic Stamps," by Hermann Schloss, 1951, H. L. Lindquist Publications, is written on this principle. Some other works describe both the originals and the forgeries known to the author: the Stiedl-Billig series of "Grosses Handbuch der Fälschunger" is very useful because of its enlarged photographs of originals and forgeries.

The famous "Album Weeds," by the Rev. R. B. Earee, has been reprinted by Lindquist Publications. Lindquist also offers "The Forged Stamps of all Countries," by J. Dorn, and "Illustrated Catalog of All Known Reprints of Officially Issued Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery, 1840-1892," by Kalchkoff, Hilkes, and Evans. The Educational Research Bureau of Washington has "The Early Philatelic Forgeries of All Countries," 1953, edited by Lowell Ragatz, and "Reprints of 19th Century Postal Adhesive Stamps and Their Characteristics," 1954, E. D. Bacon. And there are others prepared for individual countries. But, in general, the most useful of those mentioned above are the first two by Schloss and Steidel-Billig.

7. Some of the stampless covers also fall within his competence, especially in the Italian area. Anyone sending stamps for expertizing should send them by registered mail. The U.S. post office does not insure letters to Italy for more than \$8.00 or so. If insurance is imperative some other private insurance must be obtained. (However, I have never heard of any loss in the mail). Diena returns everything by registered mail which is included in the basic charge (\$6.00 minimum for anything up to 6 stamps. 85 cents for each additional stamp.)
8. Diena also indicates whether a stamp is a forgery or a reprint. What is one to do with such items? It is a good idea to stamp "Forgery" or "Reprint" on the back with indellible ink as Schloss suggests. Stephen Rich (Western Stamp Collector, Jan. 29, 1957) insists that they should be destroyed. But there are some who, unlike Mr. Diena, make collections of such reference material. Although there is a law in the U.S. prohibiting the owership of forgeries, practically speaking this seems to refer to fogeries of stamps still valid for postage. Forgeries are not sold publicly as such in the U.S. but sometimes are represented in auctions as "proofs," "reprints," or "reference material."

POSTCARDS OF VATICAN CITY.

POSTCARD # 7.

Postcard #7 was issued March 1, 1949, under Ordinance XLIX of that Year. At the top right is the stamp imprinted in blue on the white card, showing through (in white) POSTE VATICANE, the general Papal Coat of Arms and L.13. Below this, printed in black, are three address lines of equal length, and a shorted double line (the top line in dashes and the bottom line rather heavy). Under the bottom double line for address is POLIGLOTTA VATICANA, showing that the cards were printed by the Vatican Poliglot Press.

At the top left of the card we find STATO DELLA CITTA DEL VATICANO (State of the City of Vatican,- or as we say it, Vatican City State), printed in black. Also in black directly below this line of print in smaller, heavier print is CARTOLINA POSTALE (postal card or post card).

Occupying most of the left side of the card is Michaelangelo's Dome of St. Peters Basilica, the ballustrade with eight of the statues of Christ and the Apostles and the attic. A faint vertical blue line separates the picture from the address panel. We can see blue, green tan and brown in the colors.

Bolaffi states that the L.13 rate was intended for use inside Italy for 1948, postcards with full correspondence, and these cards of 1949 fulfill a need (Bolaffi, 1970, p.37). The rate changed in 1950 to L.20 for this class of postcard