

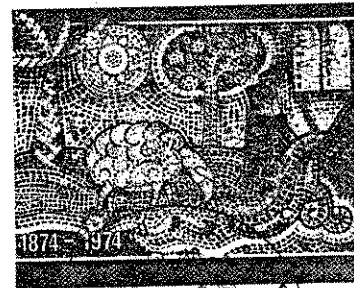
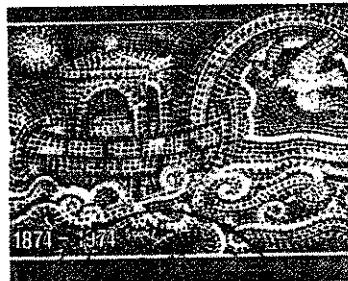
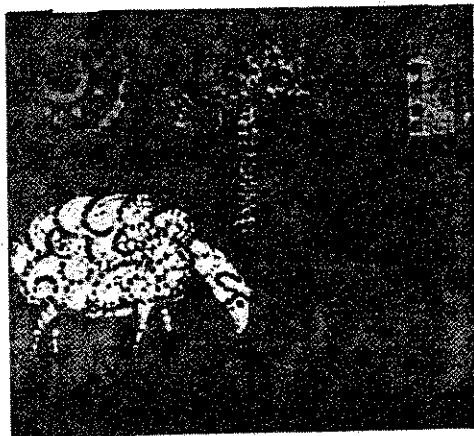


Vatican Notes

VOLUME XXIII

JULY - AUGUST 1974

NUMBER 1



UNIONE
POSTALE
UNIVERSALE

1874 - 1974



★ ★ ★
THE STELLE

F. D. C. VATICANO

CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

The Vatican issued two stamps on the 23rd of April 1974 for the observance of the centennial of the Universal Postal Union. A scene from The Flood is presented on the L50 stamp. It depicts Noah's Ark with the rainbow together with the dove bringing the olive branch. The L90 stamp shows a sheep at water which is running from a mountain on the top of which are the Tablets of the Law. The stamps were issued in panes of 30 and have a perforation of $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. 1,600,000 complete sets were printed in five colors offset on glossy white paper by I.P.S., ROME.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Secretary, Wallace R. Smith, has submitted the following Official Results of the balloting for the Officers of the Vatican Philatelic Society for 1974 - 1976:

PRESIDENT	Arthur E. Lohan	104 Votes
VICE PRESIDENT	Rev. George L. O'Brien	105 Votes
SECRETARY	Wallace R. Smith	105 Votes
TREASURER	Frederick J. Levitsky	105 Votes

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NEW OFFICERS

President Arthur E. Lohan is recently retired after 40 years of service with the A & P. He began stamp collecting in 1922 as a result of observing the letters his mother was receiving from Ireland. Having graduated from Boston College High School in 1926, he matriculated to Boston College and received his degree in 1930. He entered the Second World War as a 2nd lieutenant, served in Italy with the 36th Infantry, Texas National Guard, and was discharged as a Major. It was during his service time that he met Father Phinney, at Camp Croft, and was introduced to Vatican stamp collecting. Arthur is a Founder of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum in Weston, Mass. and is currently serving as Vice President of the Boston Philatelic Society. Though at one time, he collected World-Wide, Arthur has now restricted himself to Vatican, British Colonies, Morocco, Algeria, and Costa Rica. The latter interests him because he also served there during the War.

Vice President Reverend George L. O'Brien is presently the Chief Defender of the Bond of the Diocesan Tribunal of the Diocese of Worcester, Mass. He is a novice to stamp collecting, having come to it by way of coin collecting. In 1970 he began with United States and gradually expanded to United Nations, Vatican, Ireland and Israel. He attended the Archrival college of Arthur's Alma Mater, Holy Cross College in Worcester. He was assigned by then Bishop John Wright to study at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and was ordained by Bishop Wright on May 15, 1958. The early years of his priesthood were spent in parish assignments, primarily engaged in the apostolates to the youth - CCD and CYC. For his work in this area he was presented by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan, on behalf of the National Catholic Youth Organization, the Medal "For God and Youth" in 1971. Previous to taking up his present assignment last July he attended the School of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America.

Next issue we will present sketches of the Officers who were re-elected for the information of new members.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Period: July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1974

To: Arthur H. Lohan, President

Balances reported on June 30, 1973:

Checking Account	\$ 544.51
Savings Account	1460.12
	<u>\$2004.63</u>

Received:

Dues: 359 Payments for 1973-74	\$ 718.00
72 Payments for 1974-75	144.00
11 Payments for 1975-76	22.00
6 Payments for 1976-77	12.00
5 Payments for 1977-78	10.00
2 Payments for 1978-79	4.00
9 New Members @ \$2.00	18.00
4 New Members @ \$1.50	6.00
11 New Members @ \$1.00	11.00
6 New Members @ \$0.50	3.00
Interest on Savings Account	112.16
Advertising in NOTES	16.00
Special Contributions	2.58
	<u>\$1078.74</u>
Subtotal =	<u>\$3083.37</u>

Paid:

Postage	\$ 56.52
Envelopes	9.37
Donation toward ASDA Lounge Expense	25.00
Dues Envelope, Printing	42.00
Dues Notice, Printing	4.23
VATICAN NOTES	
Printing (6 Issues).	1235.85
Postage	212.08
Mailing List Changes	3.05
Annual Bulk Mailing Fee	30.00
	<u>\$1618.10</u>

Balance on Hand, June 30, 1974:	\$1465.27
Worcester County National Bank	\$ 192.99
Worcester First Federal Savings	1272.28
	<u>\$1465.27</u>

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. Levitsky

F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

ERRORS & VARIETIES

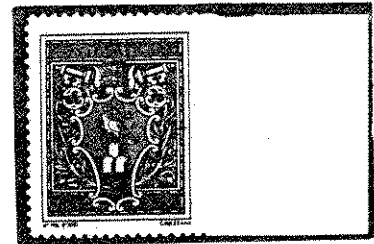
By Fred Levitsky.

Scott No. 93

Perforation Error

Imperforate at Left & Right Margins

Perforation errors exist in a number of forms on this issue. Poor quality control existed in the Italian State Printing Office during the period after World War II. Bolaffi lists this error as No. 93b with a catalog value of \$18.00 each.



Scott No. 122

Perforation Error

Double Perforations at Lower Margin

This is the 1 Lira - "Roman Basilica Issue of 1949.

Double perforations constitute a common form of perforation error.

This stamp is catalogued by Bolaffi as No. 122a at a value of \$4.00 for a single.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Article 1 - NAME

Section 1 - The Name of the organization shall be "The Vatican Philatelic Society."

Article 2 - OBJECT

Section 1 - The object of the Society shall be to promote the collecting of the Pontifical State and Vatican City State, and to provide the opportunity for the exchange of knowledge concerning them.

Article 3 - MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 - Any person interested in the stamps of the Pontifical State and the Batican City State may become a member.
- Section 2 - All members shall pay dues as hereinafter provided and shall be entitled to all privileges of the Society and shall receive the official organ of the Society, "Vatican Notes" and other publications which are distributed free of charge.

Article 4 - OFFICERS

- Section 1 - The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- Section 2 - The President shall appoint committees as required; shall have the general direction of the affairs of the Society; and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with this office.
- Section 3 - The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President when the President is unable to do them himself.
- Section 4 - The Secretary shall keep a record of all decisions of the Board of Governors; collect membership fees, and handle all correspondence of the Society and perform such other duties as are generally associated with this office. He shall render an annual report for publication in the July-August issue of the Official Organ.
- Section 5 - The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Society; shall receive from the Secretary such monies as he may collect; shall pay all bills of the Society on approval as provided in the By-Laws; shall perform other such duties as are generally associated with this office. He shall render an annual report for publication in the July-August issue of the Official Organ.

Article 5 - BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- Section 1 - The Board of Governors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Section 2 - The business affairs of the Society shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Governors, acting through the President.
- Section 3 - The Board of Governors shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur among the elected Officers until the following election.
- Section 4 - The Board of Governors shall have the power to expel any member for cause.

Article 6 - AMENDMENTS

- Section 1 - The Constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of those members who vote on the amendment, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Secretary and have been published in an issue of the Official Organ at least thirty days prior to the day on which the votes are counted.

BY-LAWS
of the

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Article 1 - DUES

- Section 1 - All members shall pay annual dues of two dollars (\$2.00)
- Section 2 - Dues are payable on or before July 1st each year. All members who fail to remit their dues for the current year shall be notified that they are in arrears. Members so notified who have not paid their dues by September 30th shall be dropped from the membership list.

Article 2 - ADMISSION

- Section 1 - Any person desiring to become a member shall make application on an approved form, answering such questions as may be properly asked, and being recommended by a member. This application when completed shall be delivered to the Membership Chairman accompanied by the current dues. The Membership Chairman shall process all applications as hereinafter described and accept as members all applicants who meet the stated requirements.
- Section 2 - Any person who has been dropped from membership in the Society because of non-payment of dues may be readmitted upon application and payment of current dues.

Article 3 - FISCAL YEAR

- Section 1 - The Fiscal Year shall extend from July 1st of each year to June 30th of the following year.

Article 4 - VOTING

- Section 1 - All voting shall be done by mail.
 Section 2 - All voting shall be done by the majority of the members voting except as provided elsewhere.

Article 5 - TERM OF OFFICE

- Section 1 - All elected Officers shall serve for a period of two years ending on August 1 in each even numbered year, or until their successors have been elected. If appointed to fill a vacancy their term of office shall be until the next biennial election, at which time a duly elected Officer shall be elected.

Article 6 - OFFICIAL ORGAN

- Section 1 - The Official Organ of the Society shall be "VATICAN NOTES."
 Section 2 - The Official Organ shall be published bi-monthly and distributed free to all Society members.

Article 7 - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

- Section 1 - The President shall appoint a Membership Chairman at the beginning of each fiscal year, said chairman not being an elected officer.
 Section 2 - It shall be the duty of the Membership Chairman to handle all applications and correspondence relating thereto. He shall review all applications, make such investigations as he may deem necessary, invite comments from members concerning applicants and report bi-weekly to the Board of Governors, listing all new applicants. If no objections are received from the Board of Governors or members during the two week period between reports to the Board of Governors, the applicants shall be declared members and the Secretary shall be so notified.

Article 8 - NOMINATIONS AND BALLOTING

- Section 1 - Nominations for all elective offices shall be prepared in duplicate and must be signed by a minimum of four (4) members in good standing who are not nominees. One copy of such nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary and a second to the Editor of the Official Organ. In addition, each copy of nominations must be accompanied by a signed letter from all nominees, excepting incumbent officers, stating that if elected they will accept the office for which they are being nominated.
 Section 2 - All nominations must be submitted by May 1st each even numbered year.
 Section 3 - A ballot shall be prepared by the Editor of the Official Organ listing the names of the nominees which were received in the prescribed manner, without provision for write-in votes. Said ballot shall be mailed with the May-June issue of the Official Organ in each even numbered year and shall be returnable to the Secretary.

Section 4 - All ballots must be in the hands of the Secretary by July 20th in each even numbered year to be valid.

Article 9 - OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The President shall appoint other committees as shall be required at any time, shall designate their duties and term of office.

Article 10 - AMENDMENT

Section 1 - These By-Laws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of those members who vote on the amendment, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Secretary and have been published in an issue of the Official Organ, mailed at least thirty days prior to the day on which the votes are counted.

(FINIS)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members of the Vatican Philatelic Society:

I am honored that our new President, Arthur Lohan, has asked me to continue as permanent Editor of the Vatican Notes. I will delve out of the past experience of high school, college and seminary days my involvement with their publications.

Though I will try to make contributions to the content of the NOTES as well as to editing and publishing, I will rely on your good assistance in presenting articles of interest. As the Constitution states, in speaking of the OBJECT of the VPS, its purpose is "to provide the opportunity for the exchange of knowledge..." Letters, articles and suggestions will be warmly accepted.

Recently Arthur, Fred and I were able to get together for an evening and discuss many ideas concerning the VPS. We hope to gradually present them to the membership through the NOTES and receive back from you your reaction and wishes.

We thought a good starting point would be to review the Constitution and By-Laws. For that reason they are printed in their entirety in this issue. Your comments are solicited.

Though the recent election was conducted precisely according to the By-Laws, there were a couple of negative reactions. Please note that, though the By-Laws prohibit write-in votes, they do NOT forbid multiple candidates for each office. Further, through recent issues of the NOTES, candidates were earnestly solicited.

Please feel free to write to me at any time at 49 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609.

With best wishes, and asking God's Blessings upon each of you, I am

Sincerely yours

George L. O'Brien
(Rev.) George L. O'Brien
Editor



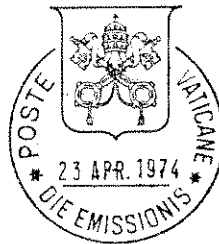
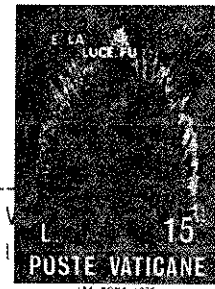
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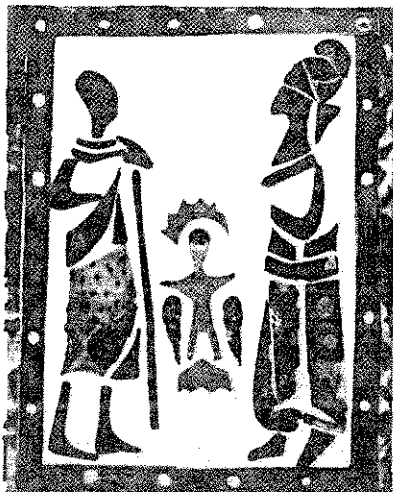
F. D. C. VATICANO

U. N. E. S. C. O.



THE BIBLE, THE BOOK OF BOOKS

The Holy See organized an International Art Competition for International Book Year. Five stamps, dedicated to the works entered in the Competition, were issued on April 23, 1974. The theme was "The Bible, the Book of Books." The theme of each stamp is: L15, And There was Light; L25, Noah abandons himself to God; L50, The Annunciation; L90, The Nativity; L100, The Lord Feeds His People. Printed in panes of 50, with perforations of 13½x14, the stamps are printed by rotogravure by I.P.S. of Rome in four colors. The designs, chosen from works submitted by youths of more than twenty nations were printed in a quantity of 1,450,000.



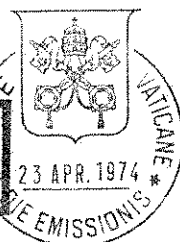
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TRE STELLE

F. D. C. VATICANO

U. N. E. S. C. O.



NEW MEMBERS

As always we wish to extend a warm elcome to the Society to the newly enrolled members and invite them, and all members, to assist this Editor with ideas, articles, and letters.

2420 Donald C. Young	43875 Nine Mile Rd.	Northville, Mich.	48167
2421 Carlton A. Ellis	246 Culver Parkway	Rochester, N.Y.	14609
2422 Charles P. O'Neill	12 Abbey St.	Armagh, North Ireland	
2423 Mario Pagliai	607 Van Nest St.	New York, N.Y.	10460
2424 John J. Smith	216 Shennecossett Rd.	Groton, Conn.	06340
2425 Richard J. O'Brien	2935 Newport Gap Pike	Wilmington, Del.	19808
2426 Francis J. Sachs	116 Highland Ave.	Jersey City, N.J.	07603
2427 B. Brittain	115 Dillotford Ave.	Styvechale, Coventry	CV 3, 5DU
2428 Edward J. Shacklett	9601 James St.	Philadelphia, Pa	19114

SWAPPING:

Michael O'Hara of 1606 Lynn Avenue in Youngstown, Ohio 44514 is interested in hearing from other members who are interested in swapping. The Editor will be pleased to list names of members who wish to engage in SWAPPING through the pages of the NOTES. The suggestion also has been made that we run an AUCTION through the NOTES. Your new officers have begun to discuss the possibilities of this. Comments from members on an AUCTION will be gratefully received by any one of the officers.

ADVERTISEMENT

V A T I C A N

- essays - proofs - errors - imperforate -

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SOLD from the Vatican P.S. member n.r. 700

Mr Francesco COSTANTINI

Corso Cavour, 60

70121 B A R I

(Italy)

Pontifical State Disinfected Mail

During 1960 and 1961, several pages on disinfected mail were published in three issues. These were part of the series of articles by Dr. Karl F. Meyer which appeared in the Weekly Philatelic Gossip during that period.

In 1962, the monumental work on "Disinfected Mail" by Dr. Meyer was published by the Gossip Printery, Inc. This book, covering disinfection of mail in the entire world, has become the standard work of reference in this field.

During the latter part of 1973, Dr. Meyer graciously consented to allow publication in the NOTES of the Papal State section from "Disinfected Mail." Dr. Meyer also provided some new information which he had acquired since publication of the book.

We plan to present the Papal State section from "Disinfected Mail" in serial form in the NOTES, a few pages in each issue. We start with introductory material in this issue.

It is with regret that we report the death of Dr. Meyer in May of this year.

"DISINFECTED MAIL"

by

K. F. Meyer, Ph.D., M. D.

Director Emeritus George Williams Hooper Foundation
and

Professor Experimental Pathology, Emeritus, University of California School of Medicine,
San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

in collaboration with

Professor C. Ravasini, M. D. Trieste

Cecil G. Teall, M. D. Sutton Coldfield, England

Professor Marino Carnevale, Mauzan, Gap, France

Professor Dr. Kurt Wagener, Hanover, Germany

P. J. Drossos, Athens, Greece

Professor S. Petkovic, M. D., Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Franz See, Vienna, Austria

"DISINFECTED MAIL" by K.F.MEYER, M.D. (Con't.)

INTRODUCTION

From the 15th until toward the end of the 19th century, decontamination of mail was described by such terms as perfumed, cleansed, purified, fumigated or disinfected. These procedures were, in essence, an attempt to destroy the agents of epidemic disease, and although some of them did truly disinfect, so far as is known disease has not been spread by means of this vehicle. How early this practice came into being has always been uncertain. It was first used against plague and several other infectious diseases, but only in the 19th century on an extensive scale against cholera. It is therefore properly believed that the term "Cholera-briefe" (cholera letter), commonly used by Central European philatelists, is too limited. Postal matters subjected to simple or elaborate decontamination should be designated by the more comprehensive term "disinfected mail."

Long before the causes of epidemic scourges were individually identified, the danger of dissemination of infection had been grasped. It can be assumed that the diseases against which disinfection of the mail was practiced were plague, classical spotted fever (typhus), typhoid fever, smallpox, yellow fever and cholera. To minimize the spread of plague, Venice and Genoa prohibited access to all those infected or under suspicion of being infected. The well known ordinance of Visconte Bernabo of Reggio near Modena, issued in 1374, must be considered the forerunner of the official decree which, during the next 500 years, brought into being a complicated and rather fantastic system of protective measures against contagion, many made meaningless by later developments, but sound on the basis of what was known at that time.

It was first at Ragusa (1377) in Dalmatia, on the eastern shore of the Adriatic that all persons coming from an infected region were detained at a point distant from the city for thirty days (trentina). This period was soon found too short and was extended to forty days (quarante giorni from whence the word quarantine), for the first time enforced in Marseilles in 1383.

Venice was far ahead of all other cities in its control of sanitation, and it created in 1438 the Provveditori della Salute della Terra (Supervisors of the Health of the Land) and its Ministry of Health and endowed it with large powers specified by a sanitary code. Ships and men were detained, cargo was unloaded in lazarettos, and susceptible articles were fumigated. When the state of health warranted, the quarantine period was correspondingly reduced.

Frari (1810), in his treatise on plague and health measures, stated that in 1493 the Supreme Magistrate of Public Health in Venice began to extend health precautions to mail and letters. For the first time they perfumed every letter coming from infected or suspicious places. This date has recently been indirectly documented by Dr. Cecil G. Teall, whose collection includes a letter dated 1485—eight years earlier than Frari's—that bears evidence of treatment with vinegar. This is the first convincing evidence that mail was disinfected in the 15th century.

According to S. Romanin (1853), fumigation of papers and letters to prevent contagion of epidemic diseases was

introduced in 1527. During the plague epidemic of Venice in 1575, an order was issued on November 6th, "that all papers from the Lazzeretto Vecchio are to be subjected to fumigation and all strings and cords which might serve as sources of contagion are to be removed before transfer to the Central Office of the Magistrato della Sanita" (Rodenwaldt, 1953).

According to A. E. Trout (1947), in 1637 in Great Britain recipients of letters from plague-infected areas made some attempt to disinfect them.

On October 28, 1680, a rescript issued by the Principality of Hannover to the regional post office gives detailed instructions for the fumigation of letters (Heinsen, 1933).

Anton Kumpf-Mikuli (1931-1933) wrote in his monograph that he had a letter from the plague region of Provence, in France, dated 1724 (not 1774, as incorrectly copied by several authors).

Disinfection of the mail, then, began in Venice and certain European states in the 15th century and by the early part of the 17th century had come into fairly general use throughout Central and Southern Europe. It can be divided into four periods: the early period (1485-1730), the interim period (1730 to 1830), the later or cholera period (1830 to 1890) during the second pandemic of cholera, beginning in 1830 with the appearance of the disease in Central Europe, and the recent period (1890-1957). Its use lessened considerably after 1850, and from 1884 was discontinued as a general practice by most European countries. But it was still used in Chile in 1887. In isolated outbreaks, such as that of yellow fever in Louisiana and Florida, of plague in San Francisco and Honolulu (1900), Tunis (1929) and Suez (1943), of typhus at Tripolitania (1943), of cholera (1947) (Koppanaris, 1947) and of smallpox in the U. S. A. (1902), either the mail was disinfected before it left the epidemic area, or it was disinfected at the port of entry or in transit (Patton, 1951). Contrary to general belief, mail continues to be disinfected, ineffective though this measure is now known to be. A collector should therefore not confine himself to the earliest periods, the recent period offers many interesting and relatively inexpensive cachets.

In general the development of disinfection progressed from a simple superficial procedure to one of greater complexity and thoroughness. At first only the outside of the piece was treated, and only with the simplest solutions—water or vinegar. This was changed according to knowledge acquired in later times and eventually both the outside and inside were treated with fumes or solutions that could actually destroy micro-organisms. It is easy to understand why this ineffective means of disease control was pursued when one realizes that only in the last seventy years have the mysteries of contagion been largely dispelled. Infectious diseases were spreading along trade routes, which coincided with the mail routes, and one link between the infected in one area and those in another area was certainly articles transported by mail. And even now, in times of great uncertainty and panic it has been irresistible to go back to this ancient practice.