

VATICAN NOTES

VOL. II, NO. III

NOVEMBER, 1954

2 LINN'S ISSUES FOR V.P.S.

Linn's Weekly Stamp News, through Carl P. Rueth, honorary member of VPS, has generously granted not one but two special editions of Linn's to the VPS for special editions of the society. The first is the last week of December 1955, and will feature Vatican City. The second is for Roman States, and will be featured the last week of May 1956. PLEASE do not wait til the last minute to write articles for these editions. All members are invited to submit articles for publication in these issues. Please notify the editor if you plan to do so BEFORE JANUARY 1st, and state the subject you will write on. The society will then make the necessary arrangements for informative illustrating material. Let's not have a reoccurrence of the special edition of August 30, 1954, where only three members submitted articles. You have plenty of time, so let's make these issues the finest Linn's has ever had.

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SPECIAL FEE MATERIALS

Those who have enrolled in the special fund will soon receive a brochure of St. Pius X (#145-48 and 182-84). This contains much informative matter that will be most helpful in writing up these two sets.

Suggestions for purchasing items from the special fund are earnestly sought. Please forward such suggestions to William Wonneberger, Jr., 67 Jefferson Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

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In answer to many requests, the Vatican book published by the National Philatelic Museum cannot be purchased at a discount to be passed along to members. The price of \$3.00 per copy, postpaid is enforced and no discounts allowed. Members desiring a copy of this highly informative book may purchase them from any of the following:

Sister M. Fidelma
Regis College
Weston, Mass.

Wm. Wonneberger, Jr.
67 Jefferson Street
Stratford, Conn.

National Philatelic Museum
Broad and Diamond Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa.

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IMPORTANT!!

It has been brought to our attention that certain dealers -- outside V.P.S. -- have obtained copies of our membership list, which have been utilized in a direct mailing to members of the Society. Since this unsolicited advertising campaign is frowned upon by many, we would ask that you please refrain from turning any information of this type over to anyone not a member of V.P.S.

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WANTED!!

First Day Covers: Vatican City, Scott's Numbers 14, 47-54, and B1-4.

Also: FDC of Post Cards 14-17. Write, with price, to William Cote, 616 Graydon Avenue, Norfolk, 7, Va.

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V. P. S. LABELS

In the last issue, we requested that any members interested in the seurance of small gummed envelope labels boosting V.P.S. (1,000 per \$1.50), please get in touch with the editor. To date, the response has been anything but overwhelming! If you are interested in giving our Society this form of publicity, please get in touch with the editor AT ONCE. No money should be sent at this time.

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VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT

Period: October 1-31, 1954

Balance Reported September 30, 1954: ----- \$370.94

Received:

Dues: 8 Payments for 1954-1955 -----	\$12.00
1 Payment for 1955-1956 -----	1.50
1 Payment for 1956-1957 -----	1.50
18 New Members -----	27.00
Special Fund: 33 Payments -----	18.50

60.50

TOTAL

\$431.44

Paid:

Bank Acct. Service Charge for August -----	0.99
Postage -----	5.00
Paper (1 rm.) -----	3.70

9.69

BALANCE ON DEPOSIT AT WORCESTER COUNTY TRUST COMPANY
Special Fund Total - \$109.50

\$421.75

Respectfully submitted,
F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

FORGERIES OF THE ROMAN STATE ISSUE OF 1852

by Louis Klein

Many collectors are reluctant to collecting this section of the Ancient States, "Stato Pontificio", due to the fact that they believe too many fraudulent stamps were issued.

While there has been some forgeries of the early issues, the most dangerous and clever forgeries consist of the two high values, namely the 50 baj., and the 1 Scudo. Others of the same issue are less dangerous and comparatively easy to distinguish.

About 1855 to 1857, there appeared in Bologna and the surrounding area, lithographed forgeries of the three values, to wit: 1-5 and 8 Baj. They were actually made to defraud the postoffice and not done for the purpose of confusing the collector.

These frauds were not detected and have done actual postal duty, being genuinely cancelled and when found on original covers are highly valued and bring a good premium. Remember, however, that they cannot be displayed at an exhibition, as the U. S. Postal authorities may seize them, being in violation of the Postal Regulations. Only recently, a reputable auctioneer in disposing of Roman State material, refused to auction same and returned to the owner.

These three values are generally cancelled Bologna, either in double line circle or in a grille or lattice cancel and in black. Castel S. Pietro shows a straight line Blue Cancel, while the cities of Budrio, Medicina, S. Gio. in Persiceto and Vergato used a straight line black cancel.

This is how to distinguish these fakes from originals.

1 Baj. Paper sea green

5 Baj. Paper is rose and the "J" of Baj. is damaged at the bottom and joined to the "A" of Baj. The "N" of Franco is to the right side of Postale

5 Baj. Second type- paper is also rose, the "J" is not jointed to the "A" and the arabescues in the key-bars are missing. "N" of Franco directly over "O" of Postale.

8 Baj. The "J" is too thick

8 Baj. The "J" is too thin and tapers downward.

Watch out when you purchase stamps with a straight-line cancel. Considerable number of stampless covers have had these stamps attached and cancelled as above. Don't buy unless there is a letter inside showing this city, properly dated, but for safety sake, just forget them, and look for some other items.

ROMAN STATE FORGERIES, CONTINUED

As to the 1 Scudo, again mint stamps have been washed and a fake grille put on them, as the used value is more expensive. Don't buy any unless you have an expert pass on its validity.

As a matter of caution, do not buy any high priced stamps or bi-sects of the Roman States, without having them expertized. A small cost for such service will pay off on a possible resale.

There is a known fraud of the 1/2 Baj., which is easily detected. If this stamp shows a single line of separation, it is a fake.

In my next article I will get you a list of what the original stamps of the 1852 issue should contain if genuine, and you can become sort of an expert yourself by making comparisons with your stamps.

Another good test is to measure the length and width of your doubtful stamp against what you know to be genuine.

When the first issue is completed we will then take up the subject of the 1867-8 issues, which contain many fraudulent and reprints.

Study your stamps carefully, as with the crude printing of those days, you will find many plate flaws, such as broken letters, porition of design missing, etc., but most of the early issues contain varieties which are constant and are extremely difficult to acquire.

FINIS

NEW APPLICANTS

The following have applied for membership in V.P.S. since the October issue:

Sister Mary Ronaldo, OSF
St. Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave.
Evanston, Ill

James J. Dermody
738 Dean Street
Brooklyn 3, N. Y.

Mrs. John R. Palmer
Box 630, R.D. 2
Annapolis, Md.

Charles DelGiudice
7726 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, 28, Pa.

John A. Blandford
2723 Greenwood Ave.
Louisville, Ky.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

by William Wonneberger, Jr.

1. Why does the year 1952 appear on the St. Maria Goretti stamps instead of 1953, the year it was issued?

The year 1952 marked the 50th anniversary of martyrdom of St. Maria Goretti, the event which this issue commemorated. This has nothing to do with the stamp being issued in 1953 as foreign countries do not always issue the commemorative of an anniversary during the anniversary year.

2. What is a Fiscal stamp?

A Fiscal stamp issued by the Vatican means that the stamp was issued for internal revenue use. They are similar to the documentary and revenue stamps of the U.S. in that they are a fee levied on a transaction that takes place in Vatican City.

3. What is the history of the Roman States?

This answer would require too much space to answer in this column. You may find this information in any good Encyclopedia.

4. I have heard Pius XII referred to as the 261st Pope and the 262nd Pope, which is correct?

Pope Pius XII is the 262nd Pope, he is also referred to as the 261st successor of St. Peter.

5. Are there plate numbers on Vatican sheets?

Yes, on some issues. We are working on a complete and accurate compilation of all such issues, the plate numbers, and positions. This will appear in the catalog VPS is working on.

6. I have heard that two different types of the numeral "2" were used for applying the surcharge on #14, is this correct?

We have received such reports but have not found anything to substantiate this story. No such copies have come to our attention.

7. What is the actual first day of aerogramme type 6?

It is not December 28 as you suggested. The official first day was December 21, 1953. We have sheets ascertaining this as well as the official communication of the Vatican government.

8. Was PC 3-4 officially issued? If so, why can't I buy them?

Without a doubt PC 3-4, the overprinted post cards bearing a new value of 2 and 5 lire were officially issued. You cannot buy them as the supply was extremely small and they were bought up by collectors and used for postal purposes. All I can suggest is keep hunting for them, many collectors are after them.

HOW TO START COLLECTING ROMAN STATES
by Louis Klein

(Ed. Note) In the process of duplicating the October issue, we inadvertently omitted the inclusion of the final portion of Mr. Klein's article. The following will serve to complete this initial Roman States release.)

Step number two, followed through with endeavoring to garnish at least one pre-stamped cover, starting with the year 1800 and down to 1852, the date of stamp issuance. If you think this was an easy task, just try same, as it is quite difficult in the early 1800's to secure even one cover for those years. It took me over one year and plenty of hunting until I could complete this section.

Now, with this basic foundation, I thought it would be well to secure some older items and set out on a "hunting" spree. The result I purchased two covers, one dated 1458, which was carried by stage coach and the second 1459, carried by horse, and known as a Calvacatta Cover. This is somewhat similar to our American "Pony Express", as the cover was carried by horse from Roma to Imola, making the stops at various cross roads designated on the Schedule. I was able to pick up a Schedule and in it contained the route, and the number of hours ridden by the courier between two cities and signed by the rider when he had ridden around 17 to 20 hours. I also obtained some original documents of various Popes, Bishops, etc., of the Papal Empire.

My latest is really something worth tackling, and I put on my boxing gloves and have gone to town. That is to collect gutter pairs on covers, major varieties. While I have done quite well in this sub-division, I surely took on a hard nut to crack.

I could go on listing various other types of collecting in this country, if you really wanted to specialize, such as Ferrara Cross, Cholera or disinfection covers, railway mail, stage coach, courier military covers, etc., etc., but delving into them would take up too much space, without any real value to you as a collector.

What I am really trying to place before you, that is you want to really collect this country, the field is extremely vast in its scope, in addition to the stamp end.

I am now closing with this thought in mind to you--COLLECT WHAT YOU WANT--HOW YOU WANT--BUT COLLECT AND ENJOY YOUR HOBBY.

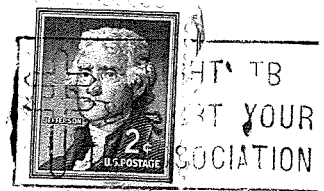
I will shortly follow through with an article showing you how to look for genuine Roman States stamp, by giving you exactly what to find on the original stamps, so that you can really become an expert in the detection of your own stamps.

Tell me your RS troubles, as that is what my position is supposed to be - a trouble shooter. All you have to do is to write me your problem and if I do not know personally, have sufficient contacts who can answer same, and without cost to you.

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VATICAN NOTES

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