



VATICAN NOTES

VOL. 1, NO. 8

March, 1954

- NOMINATIONS -

V. P. S. has an election coming up this June. All officers are up for re-election. Your nominations can be forwarded to the editor. We have one suggestion from Bill Wonneberger on this: Don't you agree that it would be a good idea to make Fr. Phinney a full-fledged Vice-President? Father presently has the title "Advisor of Religious Aspects", and we feel the excellent job he has done in supplying some of the data on the religious meanings of Vatican issues warrants greater recognition.

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LATERAN TREATY ISSUE

Recently received statistics on the Lateran Treaty issue mentioned in our February edition provides the following information. Full title is "25th Anniversary of the Signing of the Lateran Pact", with the first day listed as February 12, 1954. The stamp was designed by Edmondo Pizzi, and printed by the Photogravure process, watermarked Crossed Keys, 50 stamps per pane. It is a bi-color, depicting Pius XI and a view of the Vatican in 25L and 60L values.

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POLL OF THE MEMBERS

What do you think is the best design to appear on Vatican issues in the past 25 years? That's the question for our March poll. So let's have your opinion, and the reason for it. We'll give a breakdown of both in our April edition.

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CORRECTION!

It has been called to our attention that the article on the Vatican Post Office which appeared in February needs some clarification. The P. O. described by Paul O'Connell is merely a sub-station, used mostly by pilgrims. The main office is an edifice on the right side of the square, in the village that houses the other Vatican public services. In addition to the one mentioned in the articles, there are two other sub-stations, one on the roof of St. Peter's and the other in the Vatican museum.

CATALOG NEWS

The two specialist dealers in V.P.S. have teamed together on furthering the catalog. Fr. Leiternann of the Vatican Stampmart, and Bill Wonneberger have started on the actual listings and pricing of stamps issued during the Pontificate of Pius XI. As soon as this is completed, they expect to tackle the issues during the Pontificate of Pius XII. Barring anything unforeseen, it should be completed later this year. We'll keep you posted on progress.

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VATICAN LITERATURE

Have you missed some of the books published on the Vatican? If so, VPS member Wm. G. Cote, 616 Graydon Ave., Norfolk 7, Va., may provide you with a solution. Bill will loan any of the books listed below to members. His only stipulation is that the borrower send 12¢ in stamps to prepay postage, and that the book be returned within one week, prepaid, in the same packing. (Only one title at a time, please.)

- THE VATICAN by M. Therese Bonney, 131 pg.
- THE VATICAN and its Role in World Affairs, by Chas. Pichon
382 pgs.
- THE VATICAN & Holy Year, by Fenichell & Andrews, 115 pg.
- ST. PETER'S On the Vatican, by Augustin McNally, 216 pg.
- WHITE SMOKE OVER THE VATICAN, by Don Sharkey, 172 pg.
- THE VATICAN, Behind the Scenes in the Holy City, by Ann
Carnahan, 195 pg.
- ROME, PORTRAIT OF THE ETERNAL CITY, by Bittner & Nash, 171 pg.
- 1950 HOLY YEAR OF JUBILEE (Official Guide), 63 pgs.
- ANNO SANCTO 1950, France, about 100 pgs.
- THE GREAT MANTLE, Pope Pius X, by Burton, 238 pgs.
- PAGEANT OF THE POPES, by J. Farrow, 394 pgs.
- GUIDE TO ROME, by Ludwig Curtius, 185 pgs.

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Frederick W. Weichelt is on the lookout for Vatican City postal cards No. 3 & 4 (with the overprinted values). If possible, he would like to obtain two of each, but one will do. He also advises that a check will be forwarded by return mail. If you can be of any assistance, the address is 1153 E. Sylvan Ave., (Whitefish Bay), Milwaukee 17, Wisconsin.

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You may recall that last year a vote was taken on whether the V.P.S. should merge with the American Philatelic Society. The members decided to remain independent. Fr. Zephirin Magnan, has provided the opinion that it would be a good idea to merge with the "Collectors of Religious Stamps". This is not actually a formal poll, but we would like your opinion.

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HAVE YOU SENT IN AN ARTICLE FOR VATICAN NOTES? WHY NOT SIT DOWN TONIGHT AND TRY TO GIVE US A HAND?

Joseph A. Tinsley has called our attention to a new booklet published by the Catholic Travel League, 1341 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y. The booklet is entitled "The Marian Year 1954", and sounds like an interesting supplement to any Vatican collection. There is no charge.

Another excellent informational pamphlet is entitled "Diplomatic Relations with the Vatican", by Robert A. Graham, S.J., and Robert C. Hartnett, S. J. The publisher is The America Press, 70 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y. Priced at 25¢, it gives a forceful presentation of a subject frequently in the limelight. This booklet has little bearing on Vatican postal issues, but will undoubtedly provide some invaluable background information.

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VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Period: February 1 - February 28, 1954

Balance Reported January 31, 1954: \$ 97.52

Received:

Dues: One member 1.50

Total \$ 99.02

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charge for December 0.61
125 Topix Magazines @.15¢ 18.75

Total \$ 19.36

Balance on Deposit at Worcester County Trust Co. = \$ 79.66

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

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THANKS, BUT S.O.S.!!!

The editor would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the many members who have been saying such nice things about VATICAN NOTES, and also those who cooperated by sending articles and worthwhile news items. It's the members who make or break any organizational publication, and we need your support -- we also need more articles. So how about it? You don't have to be a professional writer, why not give it a try?

MY LIFE MEMOIRS

WILLIAM Wonneberger, President:-

"It was six o'clock in the morning on March 23, 1931, when a new born redhead opened his eyes and yelled blue murder for the first time. That was in New Haven, Connecticut. I wasn't there for long, as Mom and Dad moved to Bridgeport when I was six weeks old. They told me later it was because of Dad obtaining a different position in the firm he was working for, I think it was because New Haven couldn't stand me any longer.

A few years went by, and I had a brother Jim, ah, somebody to fight with. It was better yet a year later when brother Bob came along in 1935. There were three of us to kick up a fuss. As all children must, I went to school, too, beginning at Blessed Sacrament School. I went as far as the fourth grade when the family pulled stakes and headed for Cleveland, Ohio. After a two year spell there it was back to Bridgeport for us. We finished up our grammar school education at Blessed Sacrament with a diploma and our usual supply of bewilderment for what Warren Harding High School had to offer. Four years of the business course zoomed by and we were out in the world to work and make a living. The American Chain and Cable Co. offered an opening, and off to work I went, in the Wilson Mechanical Instrument Division.

In 1951, after corresponding with a number of collectors, I went into the part-time stamp business with Vatican material. This same group of friends and customers formed the core of the V.P.S. Both the business and the society are doing fine.

On November 8, 1952, my high school sweetheart said "I do", and we started out married life on the outskirts of Bridgeport in the town of Stratford.

September 26, 1953, at 8:26 A.M. we were blessed with a son, Charles Francis, "Chuck" to us. He was baptized on October 25th, with an Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

Our happy family of three lives at 67 Jefferson Street, in Stratford. The hope of the future is to have young "Chuck" grow into manhood with a Vatican stamp album in one hand. Do you think he will?"

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FR. HERBERT A. PHINNEY, Advisor of Religious Aspects:-

Fr. Phinney was born on February 11, 1908, in Boston, Mass., where he attended Boston College H. S. until 1926. After two years at Boston College, he entered St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass. and was ordained a priest on May 22, 1935, by the late William Cardinal O'Connell at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. Fr. Phinney then served as curate at St. Mary's Watham, until Nov. 1942 when he entered the U. S. Army as a Chaplain, with the rank of 1st. Lieutenant. After attending Chaplain's School, Harvard University he was stationed at Fort McLellan, Ala., until March, 1943.

MEET THE MEMBERS (Continued)

In April, 1943, he landed in No. Africa at Oran, with the 36th Infantry Div., and with the same division, landed at Salerno, Italy, on September 6, 1943, continuing up to Casino. Laid low by two attacks of pneumonia, he transferred to the 24th General Hospital, Bizerte, Tunisia, May, 1944, and with the 24th General Hosp. returned to Italy, Naples, Rome, Grosseto, Florence. After hostilities had ended, Fr. Phinney returned to Camp Croft, S. C., and was separated from service, January, 1946, after making Captain in Jan., 1944.

Father Phinney then became curate at St. Raphael's, West Medford, Mass., until 1949, and Curate at Star of the Sea, East Boston, 1949-50, and has been Curate at St. Mary of the Angels from 1951 until the present. Father has been active in Catholic Youth Organizations in various parishes.

After collecting stamps as a boy, he was crossing the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, and spotted a display of Italian stamps in a shop window in 1944, and started in stamps again.

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ITALIAN PHRASE COLUMN

<u>Phrase or Word</u>		<u>Definition</u>
Coppie		Pair, couple
Coppia Verticale		Vertical pair
Doppio cerchio		Double circle
Coppia Orizzontale		Horizontal pair
Ferrovia		Railway
Grandi Margini	gr marg	Large margins
Aero gramma		Air Letter
Basso		Bottom, Base
Blocco di Quattro		Block of four
Blocco Maggiore		Larger than four
Carta a Mano		Handmade paper
Croce		Cross
Molto Bello	BB	Unusually fine
Molto Raro	RR	Very Rare
Nitida		Good, outstanding
Ornato		Adorned, beautiful, ornament, embellishment

"HOW I ASSEMBLED MY PRESENT VATICAN CITY STATE STAMP COLLECTION"

by Frederick Wm. Weichelt, vps No. 43

(Ed. Note - Although this varies from articles we have carried in the past, we think you will find it both interesting and informative.)

"It was one of those gloomy days, dark and rainy. Our activities were confined to indoors. We could not pick a better time to enjoy our common hobby - stamp collecting.

As I was looking over a new set, just acquired, Ed said: "Say, that is a colorful issue of stamps". "Yes", I answered, "it's the new Council of Trent Issue. This is the mint set and I also have a set in postally used condition, a first day cover and a booklet, giving all the historical data of these stamps and one of each of them affixed to it's individual historic event in the book."

You know, I have been collecting Vatican City stamps since they were first issued on August 1, 1929. They are all beauties, and I am convinced, they should be a part of every philatelists' collection. They are artistically designed, come right down to the point of their historical background. Color selections are outstanding and now, The Vatican Philatelic Society in it's famous "Vatican Notes", will really give you all the data on each issue and help you keep your collection up-to-date, album-wise and historically.

I told Ed that day in 1946, how I was re-assembling my collection with the help of the new White Ace pages for Vatican City stamps, which had just made their appearance on the American market. Up to that time, I had used plain white 3 ring pages.

Because I collect mint as well as used singles, also some blocks and first day covers, I went ahead and purchased two sets of these new printed White Ace album pages and also some blank White Ace album pages for Vatican City stamps.

The first page or frontis-page in the album can be used to put a map of Vatican City State or a picture of some interesting part therefrom.

The second page in the album is used to give historical data on Vatican City, like location, government, area, population, currency and how it was established from the Roman States in 1852, to present day Vatican City State in 1929. This information may be obtained in either Scott's postage stamp catalogues: the volume including stamps of Europe or the entire world volume.

As I had a few Roman States issues, I made them part one of my collection. They are mounted on blank White Ace Vatican City album pages, with the inscribed headline "Roman States".

In part two, I put all mint singles of Vatican City issues and inserted (in their proper places), blank Vatican City pages mounted with blocks of four of some issues.

Part three holds the postally used singles of Vatican City issues and some booklets and souvenir cards with cancelled singles on.

Part four is the first day covers and special covers as well as lettersheets department. Lettersheets are mounted two to the page - the top one in mint and the bottom one with first day cancel.

In the next and last department, which could be called part five, I have historical data from clippings as well as our very helpful "Vatican Notes". These notes fit perfectly as they are the same size as the album pages.

At present, I have two volumes for my collection. As the years go by, another volume may have to be added as not to crowd the collection.

Under each stamp and cover, I put Scott's catalog number in pencil. As it sometimes becomes necessary to change the catalog number as additional values of a set appear, the pencil notations can be changed quickly. I also pencil in the date of issue of each stamp or group of stamps.

(Note: As I do not collect so-called "errors", I have no special place provided for same; but I believe it is done in several ways; either in a separate part of the album or incorporated with the regular copies to show the variation side by side.)

With all this said and done, I really enjoy looking over my collection and adding new issues, which I temporarily put on a so-called stock book page in the back of the album until they are permanently incorporated in the collection.

Last not least, I want to mention that I have described my own layout of the collection just to give those an idea who are just starting in or who would like to revamp their present setup. Of course, there are collectors, that want to lay out their collection on plain white or black or even colored pages or want to show each stamp in mint and used, singles and blocks, etc., on the same page. Again, others are using the well-known Scott album pages, all ready for the stamps, and several others are now offering ready-made pages. Whatever type you use or choose, it is to spend some time on a worthwhile and educating hobby in your own way, to get the best of your interest and pleasure and to fit your pocketbook. And while you are collecting the stamps of Vatican City State, primarily for pleasure, nothing is lost. So far not a single issue has lost in value and many have increased theirs several times.

Thanks to the outstanding work of our Mr. William Sonneberger, the officers and our new editor of VATICAN NOTES, Catherine Hughes, we will have a lot to look forward to, to enrich our knowledge historically and philatelically - in following our hobby of collecting the stamps of Vatican City State with pleasure and with a purpose.