

VATICAN NOTES

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SEPTEMBER, 1954

VATICAN MARIAN YEAR EXHIBITION TO BE GREATEST IN MUSEUM'S HISTORY

The special exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum, in Philadelphia, under the patronage of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, to simultaneously mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vatican City State and the current Marian Year, promises to be the greatest and most important in the museum's history, according to Bernard Davis, founder and director.

Returning from a trip to Europe, where he passed a week in Rome, Ernest A. Kehr, editor of the more-than-200-page book being published for the occasion, stated that Vatican officials are co-operating in every way possible to bring the Holy See's message to the United States through its postal paper.

Cardinal Spellman already arranged many details and procured important articles for the book last May, when His Eminence was abroad to participate at the canonization of St. Pius X.

During Mr. Kehr's stay, he conferred with Count Enrico Galeazzi, Cardinal Costantini, Prof. Leone Gessi, and other officials to complete the necessary arrangements. All of them, Kehr said, were most cooperative in every way.

The Vatican for the first time prepared an exceptional display of material taken from its postal and philatelic archives to show essays, proofs, stamps and covers of the Roman States period of 1852-1870, and the Vatican City period of 1929 to date. Much of the material, which is contained in two huge racking cases, never was publicly seen before since it is kept in the Governor's Palace, which is not open to tourists.

Kehr also was given extraordinary permission to photograph the Vatican grounds, buildings, tombs, treasures in the museum and library, and His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, at Castelgandolfo, for use as illustrations in the book. The exhibition, which will run for six weeks instead of the usual four, to enable all parochial school pupils to visit it in groups with their teachers, will be opened at a formal banquet given by Archbishop John F. O'Hara, in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Bellevue Stratford, on September 22.

CATALOG INFORMATION

The main work on the catalog is now finished and the catalog committee is presenting the completed work of the listings of varieties and errors sent in by the members. This is the last call for members to send in their list of varieties and errors in their collection for inclusion in the catalog.

Work has started on the preliminary outline of part one of the catalog, the stamps issued during the Pontificate of Pius XI 1929-39. The main task here is the listing of the stamp color. We do not want to list a meaningless color as is the way of most catalogs, but to supply a reference to check the color as is given. This will be by means of a color gauge. We realize that due to different printing methods and inks as well as papers, such a guide cannot be 100% as it appears on the chart. The government or other catalog may say it is deep carmine for example. This may be true but if it matches the light carmine color on the color gauge, we will list it as light carmine. In other words it will be listed as the color it matches on the gauge, not the actual color of ink used. A lot of time and effort have been used in this matter and of all the means discussed this seems to be the best and easiest to use. To offset the chance that a collector may obtain a different color gauge than the one used in listings we will supply one with the first part of the catalog.

This is where the women will come in. We need 6 or more women who have a Vatican collection to use this color gauge to check their stamps. They will make a list of the color of the stamp as it appears on the gauge. These findings will then be compiled and cross-checked to determine the color to be listed in the catalog.

We need the use of a typewriter with the type numerals and letters found in printed books. This will enable us to prepare the master sheets for offset printing in a neater and more pleasing print. If any member owns or has the use of such a typewriter, and is willing to type 50 pages over a period of time, please contact William Wonneberger, Jr.

We also need someone that can copy with great accuracy about a dozen numeralsto illustrate the type numeral used for various overprints. This will enable us to make this catalog a ready guide for the identification of the different varieties of overprints.

These three phases will enable us to bring to completion work on the proposed society catalog of Vatican City up to a point where plates can be made for its printing and subsequent distribution. If you can help with any of the listed work, please contact Bill Wonneberger, Jr., 67 Jefferson Street, Stratford, Conn., as soon as possible.

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R. S. TRANSLATIONS

In the bulletin there was mentioned that I would translate your material from French and Italian into English. Please remember that a lot of material is commercial correspondence, and my translations are only when material is such that it has a historical interest.

The reason I am holding you down to this so closely is the fact that I must secure such translations from linguistic friends, as I do not have any knowledge of these languages personally and must rely on the kindness of such friends to translate, and do not wish to abuse their desire to help.

PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND, when requesting letters or documents to be translated.

Louis Klein, Chairman
ROMAN STATES COMMITTEE

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"R. S. SHORTIES"

Want some fun? Try and see how many circular dated cancels of Roma you can secure. There are known 23 different cancels in addition to one with Roma-Via Di Mare. Three different types of Roma Cerrano - Ambulante (RR) or Ambulanza, with also three different train numerals of each type.

The number of straight line or fancy Roma cancels are too numerous to list. Remember that when you see Roma printed "Rome", this is the cause of the French influence on the Papal States, and the "E" is the french spelling.

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Why does one find the 1/2, 1, and 2 baj. stamps on the back of the cover instead of the front?

This was caused by the Postal Regulations of the Papal Government, requiring stamps only when mail was being sent abroad.

This enabled one to address a letter to his relative in a nearby community or State and have the postage collected on its arrival. The postal clerk would attach the necessary postage on the back of the letter and collect the carrying charges when delivered or called for.

In reality this is truly a "POSTAGE DUE" letter, but there being no actual postage due stamps of Roman States, the ordinary postage stamps were utilized for this purpose by direction of the postal authorities.

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NEW ISSUES . . .

The following subjects are contemplated for commemoration by the Vatican City State in the coming years:

1. The 16th Centenary of the birth of St. Augustine, probably before the end of this year.
2. The 7th Centenary of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, probably before the end of the year.
3. The 19th Centenary of the death of St. Eugenius, Bishop of the See of Carthage. This commemorative might not be re-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOW I MOUNT MY VATICAN STAMPS:-

When my collection of Vatican City stamps had grown quite a bit I decided to mount them. There are two ways to mount stamps. One way is to mount them in a standard printed album or devise an album strictly original. Well, after pondering a bit I decided to compromise. I use a Lindner album with the clear acetate pockets which show off the stamps to great advantage and also protect them. They are just a bit expensive, but then my stamps deserve the best. I also have my own innovations and mount certain sets and single stamps on quadrille pages using designs of my own. For instance, the early provisionals 35-40 are mounted on a special page and well protected. Other sets like the Basilica set 122-131, the St. Maria Goretti set, and the Pope Pius X and first semi-postal set, B1-4, I design my own page. A true collector always mounts his or her stamps according to his or her own originality. You'll find that the original mounted pages win the biggest prizes at stamp exhibitions.

In rebuttal I say, use both types of mounting! Printed albums for protection and original pages to bring out your own creative qualities.

John A. Gaydos
V.P.S. #36

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VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
Period: August 1 to 31, 1954

<u>Balance Reported July 31, 1954:</u>	-----	\$188.92
<u>Received:</u>		
Dues: 16 Payments for 1954-55	-----	\$24.00
2 Payments for 1955-1956	-----	3.00
6 New Members	-----	9.00
Special Fund: 18 Payments	-----	11.00
		47.00
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$235.92</u>
<u>Paid:</u> Bank Acct. Service Charge (June)	-----	1.23
Postage	-----	5.00
		6.23
BALANCE ON DEPOSIT AT WORCESTER COUNTY TRUST CO.		<u>\$229.69</u>
SPECIAL FUND: \$51.50 Total		

Respectfully submitted,
F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer