

Vatican Notes

Vol. IV

October 1955

No. VI

NEW ISSUE NEWS

As we go to press this month we find busy activity in the Vatican preparing for the following new issues:

1. Sometime ago, it was reported that a new set of airmail stamps was due from Vatican City. It was further reported that the designs for this issue would be taken from the statues of angels on the Ponte San Angelo. Early in September it was reported that they would be released in late Autumn with a total face value of 350 lire. Just this week we received a report that it was revised and the issue would be "pictorial" in nature and composed of six to eight values with a total face value of 600 lire. We are no longer certain of the designs originally announced, the number of stamps, or the exact date of issue. It is now scheduled for release in late October.
2. A set of six stamps with a total face value of approximately 100 lire will be released in late October or early November to honor the Swiss Guards. The Swiss Guards were formed by Pope Julius II (20L. stamp of the Pope's of St. Peter's) in 1505 to provide a bodyguard for the reigning Pontiff. In all probability, this issue is intended to mark the 450th anniversary of their founding.
3. A commemorative issue, possibly a single value, will be issued in late October or during November to mark the fifth centenary of the death of Pope Nicholas V. He is famous as a patron of the arts with one of his most outstanding achievements being the centralization of the Government of the Catholic Church at the Vatican and his plans for the Vatican itself. His planning and works were so thorough that he is known as, "The Father of the Modern Vatican".

4. A third commemorative issue is planned for release sometime during the remainder of 1955 or in early 1956. Though we have not received further confirmation from official sources, this is probably to previously announced series to commemorate the tenth centenary of the death of St. Eugene, after whom the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, was named. St. Eugene, Bishop of Carthage in Africa, died on July 13, 505, in a monastery he built and governed near Albi.

5. Also expected is the previously announced parcel post issue. This series will have a relatively high face value and is expected to be a rather long issue. It will be the first definitive parcel post stamps released by the Vatican as the issue of 1931 was a provisional. It is seriously doubted if this set will make its debut in 1955.

PAST ISSUE DATA REPORTED

During the past month we have received a number of statistics requested by VPS members. We would like to point out that the following information was received from an OFFICIAL source in the Vatican government and is correct. It will contradict the claims of many that has been previously publicized.

1. The first day of issue of the 100 Lire aerogramme released last year is November 18, 1954. Collectors should pay careful attention to this as many aerogrammi were sold in this country as first days that did not bear this date.

2. The design of the Fra Angelico stamps is attributed to Prof. Edmondo Pizzi. He took his theme from a fresco in the Chapel of Pope Nicholas V, located in the Vatican Museums in the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City.

3. The designer of the postage due issue of 1954 was Prof. Anderlini Boezio.

Once again we solicit the opinions of members as to the contents of future issues of VATICAN NOTES. We have received a request for a checklist and short articles are the Marian Year stamps of various nations. If enough requests are received for this item we will deviate from our strict Vatican and Roman States copy and provide you with this sideline collecting data.

Frankly, we are stumped! Only you can help us out of our muddle! Work has begun on the catalog listing of the 1852 issue of Roman States stamps. As most of you know, there are numerous shades of

color for most values. We can follow either of the two listed methods in compiling the data on Roman States stamps. To be of the best possible use to members we need to know which you prefer. This is the only time we will appeal to you for an opinion on this matter so send it today. Whichever method that the majority elect will be followed. The methods are:

1. The VPS catalog can list even the most minute shades of color to give members the most complete listing in the world. The disadvantage to this will be that we will be unable to refer you to a color guide to check the color but will have to use the colors listed in some foreign catalogs.

2. We can list only those shades that have a marked difference in color or price. This will be greater by far than the listings in Scott's catalog and will enable us to use the same color chart used in determining the colors on Vatican stamps.

Please members, let us know which you prefer NOW!!

After mailing each issue of VATICAN NOTES that requests a vote or opinion from members we receive a number of replies that state that the officers were elected to make minor decisions such as those listed. We do not consider anything for which we solicit your opinion as minor. This is YOUR society and it is a failure unless YOU get what YOU want. Of course it is impossible to please everyone but we always have and always will be guided by the choice of the majority. To do otherwise would be a defeat of the purpose for which we were organized and it would eventually mean the passing of the Vatican Philatelic Society. Won't you tell us what you want? We don't mean in giving your vote on specific items listed in the Notes but of any particular phase of our field that you feel should be covered. WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS, OPINIONS, AND VOTES!!

Please excuse the bad illustrations in the postage due identification charts in the September Notes. Though the photographs supplied to the printer were good something unexplained caused poor illustrations. This will again appear in a future issue but instead of using photographs we will use artists' drawings.

A number of members have requested new catalog pages for the September Notes. They complain that a page was received with printing on one side only. We take this opportunity to advise all members that the third page of illustrations for the surcharges of the Provisional Issue of 1934 was printed on one side only. This was done to enable members to insert it in the proper order in their catalog sheets and not break the continuity of listings. We also call your attention to the fact that in this issue there are two pages printed on one side only. This too, was done to enable you to arrange the sheets in order and not be forced to keep turning pages to get the needed information.

With this issue we complete the stamps issued during the Pontificate of Pope Pius XI. Corrections and omissions have been

ARCHEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

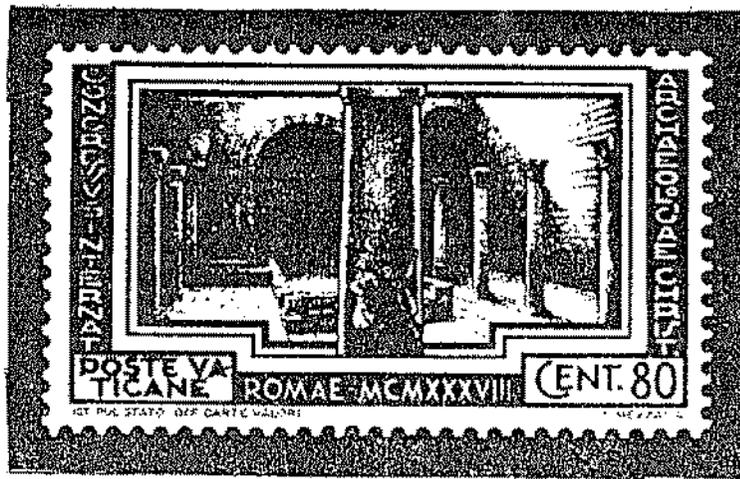
First Day of Issue:	October 12, 1938
Last Day of Validity:	December 31, 1940
Designer:	Corrado Mezzana
Printer:	State Printing Office, Rome
Printing:	150,000 (?)
Printing Method:	Photogravure
Watermark:	None
Perforation:	Block perforated 14
Stamps per Pane:	50 stamps
Type of Issue:	Commemorative
Inscription:	One sheet of 50 stamps value _____



Crypt of St. Cecelia in the
Cemetery of St. Callixtus
A31

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 89 | A31 | 5 cent. Sepia | a. Saggio overprint (black) |
| | | | b. Gutter pair |
| 90 | A31 | 10 cent. Red Orange | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | | b. Gutter pair |
| 91 | A31 | 25 cent. Dark Green | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | | b. Gutter pair |

ARCHEOLOGICAL CONGRESS
(continued)



Basilica of Sts. Nereus and
Achileus in the Cemetery of
Domitilla
A32

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 92 | A32 | 75 cent. Scarlet |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (black) |
| | | b. Gutter pair |
| 93 | A32 | 80 cent. Violet |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Gutter pair |
| 94 | A32 | 1,25 lire Dark Blue |
| | | a. Saggio overprint (red) |
| | | b. Gutter pair |

INTERREGNUM ISSUE

First Day of Issue:	February 20, 1939
Last Day of Validity:	March 2, 1939
Designer of Ovpt.:	Unknown
Printer:	Vatican Typography
Printing:	#95 160,000
	#96 300,000
	#97 300,000
	#98 170,000
	#99 270,000
	#100 300,000
	#101 300,000
Printing Method:	Typography
Type of Issue:	Regular

INTERREGNUM ISSUE
(continued)

All statistics given on the preceeding page apply to the overprint only. All other details are the same as those of stamps #1-7 of the Conciliation issue.



A33

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| 95 | A33 | 5 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #1 |
| | | a. "E" of "VACANTE" broken at top (80) |
| | | b. Offset of overprint |
| 96 | A33 | 10 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #2 |
| 97 | A33 | 20 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #3 |
| | | a. "E" of "VACANTE" broken at top (80) |
| | | b. "SEDE VACANTE" lacking |
| | | c. "MCMXXXIX" lacking (traces exist on stamp) |
| 98 | A33 | 25 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #4 |
| | | a. Shifted overprint |
| | | b. Overprint of very fine letters |
| | | c. Overprint slate black in color |
| 99 | A33 | 30 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #5 |
| | | a. "E" of "VACANTE" broken at top (80) |
| 100 | A33 | 50 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #6 |
| | | a. "E" of "VACANTE" broken at top (80, but only in some panes) |
| | | b. "TICA" of "VATICANE" lacking, frame broken at top |
| 101 | A33 | 75 cent. (black) overprint on stamp #7 |
| | | a. Shifted overprint |
| | | b. "MCMXXXIX" lacking (traces exist on stamp) |

Variety #100b is not of the overprint but the basic design. This variety has not been reported on any other copy of stamp #6 or of the subsequent overprints of it.

Unconfirmed reports claim that various stamps of this issue are found with double overprints and overprints blurred so badly that it is not legible.

CORRECTIONS

During the preparation of the catalog sheets of Vatican City stamps issued during the Pontificate of Pope Pius XI, the following typographical errors occurred.

Conciliation Issue

On page four the plate number of the 1,25 lire is listed as #34. The line should read:

1,25 lire	32	Lower Left
-----------	----	------------

Postage Due Issue of 1931

On page six omit "E of Lire and" in listings #17b and #18c. On page seven omit "and E of Cent" in the listing of #22a. These varieties should read as follows:

17b	E of Cent broken
18c	E of Cent broken
22a	E of Lire broken

The above varieties apply to the original stamp and not to the overprint or surcharge.

Parcel Post Issue

On page 8 the following addition should be made to stamp #35:

b. Shifted overprint

Definitive Issue of 1933

On page 11 the type of perforation at the head of the listings should read:

Perforation:	Linear perforated 14
--------------	----------------------