

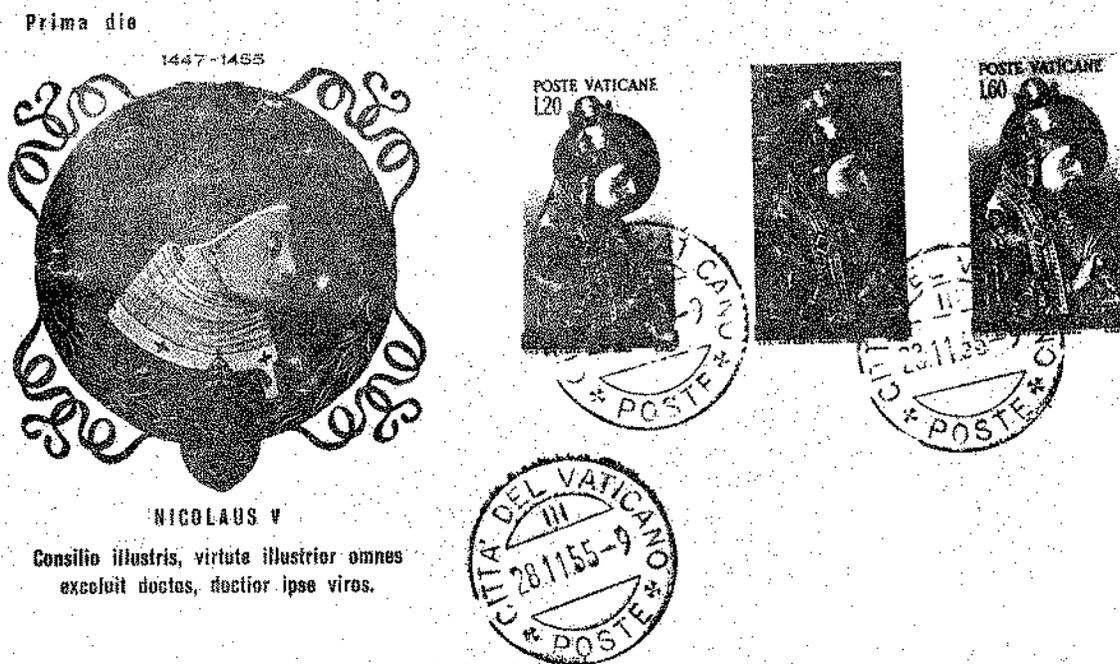
Vatican Notes

Vol. IV

December 1955-January 1956

No. VIII

POPE NICHOLAS V RELEASED



On November 28, 1955, the Vatican Postal Administration released a set of three commemoratives (illustrated above) to mark the 5th centenary of the death of Pope Nicholas V.

The stamps were designed by Edmondo Pizzi and printed by photogravure in sheets of fifty stamps (10x5) at the State Printing Office at Rome. The sheets are watermarked with the Crossed Keys and in the left margin is the inscription, (translated from Italian) "ONE SHEET OF FIFTY STAMPS VALUE L. ___". The effigy of Nicholas V and the inscriptions on the stamps are in sepia. The background color of the 20 lire stamp is light blue, the 35 lire stamp is pale rose, and the 60 lire stamp is emerald green.

Edmondo Pizzi used a detail of the fresco, "The Farewell of St. Lawrence" for the design of the stamps. This painting was executed by Fra Angelico, and like the fresco used for the Fra Angelico commemoratives is found in the Chapel of Pope Nicholas V in the Vatican Museums.

When Fra Angelico painted the scenes of the lives of Saints Stephen and Lawrence in this chapel he incorporated the effigy of Pope Sixtus II in a number of his works. As there are no likenesses of Sixtus II in existence, Fra Angelico used the features of the then reigning pontiff, Pope Nicholas V, in his frescoes. That is why the original painting identifies the depicted pontiff as Sixtus II.

Pope Sixtus II, portrayed in the Farewell of Saint Lawrence was canonized a saint. In the frescoes Fra Angelico included a halo to denote this. When Edmondo Pizzi copied the detail he failed to realize that Pope Nicholas V, was NOT canonized and included the halo in the design of the stamps. This is a designer's error. Collectors are reminded that he should NOT be referred to as Pope St. Nicholas V, but simply Pope Nicholas V.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

During the month of January a set of airmails are planned to be released by the Vatican Postal Administration. No further details are known as we go to press. This set might be of a high face value to replace those depicting the Dome of Saint Peter's Basilica. This seems to be realistic in that the long awaited definitive airmails are scheduled to portray the various angels on the Ponte San Angelo.

The subject of these contemplated airmails is the Archangel Gabriel, patron of the postal and telecommunications services. It was the Archangel Gabriel who carried the message to Mary that she was to be the Mother Of God.

Though no official word has been received, collectors can expect a commemorative issue during 1956 to mark the fifth centenary of the death of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, more commonly known as the Jesuits.

Still no word has been received on the airmail definitives that are to replace the airmail issue of 1947. Likewise, further details of the previously announced parcel post definitives have not materialized.

Perhaps the debut of these issues has been postponed to enable the Vatican to issue a few commemorative issues. This has happened in the past.

JUST ARRIVED!!!

Primo Giorno di Emissione
First day Cover

San
Bartolomeo
Grotta-
ferrata



2/IV

Abate Confondatore del Monastero STAM



R CITTÀ DEL VATICANO
1225 F



Before the master copy of this issue is completed a new issue of Vatican City makes its appearance.

On December 29, 1955, the Vatican released the set of three stamps depicted on the above first day cover to mark the 9th centenary of St. Bartholomew of Grottaferrata. Values are 10 lire brown and slate black, 25 lire carmine and slate black, and 100 lire deep blue green and slate black. The design, common to all three values depicts St. Bartholomew with a view of the Monastery of Grottaferrata in the background.

The chapel in this monastery is named after St. Bartholomew and St. Nilus. It is of the Basilian order and begun by St. Nilus. Initial reports indicate that St. Bartholomew was actually responsible for its construction.

The stamps were printed in panes of 60 stamps (8x8). The space in the upper right corner of each sheet, the size of four stamps, is found the inscription, "One Sheet of Sixty Stamps Value L." which is usually found in one or more of the pane's margins. This is collectable as a corner block of five similar to that of the St. Maria Goretti issue. The stamps were printed at the State Printing Office at Rome by the photogravure method. In addition to commemorating St. Bartholomew, this set marks the debut of a new Vatican stamp designer, M. Melis.

VATICAN TOPICAL STAMPS

In the December 1954 issue of Vatican Notes a list of the stamps of countries other than Vatican City which paid tribute to a person, place, thing, or event connected with Vatican City and the Roman States was printed to enable members to form a Vatican Topical collection. At various times we have listed additional stamps for such a collection as they were issued or became known. Here are a few new reports.

Egypt #273-276 and #278

In 1949, Egypt issued a set of five stamps and two souvenir sheets to publicize the Agricultural and Industrial Exposition at Cairo. Four of these stamps and one of the souvenir sheets depict the statue, Father Nile, found in the Vatican Museum.

Italy (new issue)

A short time ago Italy belatedly released a set of two commemoratives to mark the fifth centenary of the death of Fra Angelico. For the designs the Italian government used two frescoes found in the Chapel of Nicholas V where the source of the design for the Fra Angelico and Nicholas V commemoratives of Vatican City are also located. The 10 lire stamp was taken from "St. Stephen distributing alms" while the design of the 25 lire value depicts, "St. Lawrence distributing the wealth of the Church"

Before requests are received for reprints of the original list of Vatican Topical Stamps it is well to explain none are available. If enough members show interest in a reprint of this list with illustrations of the stamps it will appear in the Vatican Notes as soon as space and finances permit.

VATICAN SUPPLEMENTS

As we go to press Washington Press has informed us that the new supplement for their White Ace album pages for Vatican City is on the presses and will be ready by the time you read this. The supplement sells for 25¢ and provides spaces for the St. Boniface, Fra Angelico, Pope Nicholas V, and the new St. Bartholomew issues. This set of two pages can be ordered from your favorite Vatican dealer.

LINN'S SPECIAL ISSUE

On December 26, 1955, Linn's Weekly Stamp News printed a special Vatican Philatelic Society edition. In spite of the short time this has been in the hands of collectors we have received 39 inquiries of what the VPS offers. We hope to enroll each of these as a new member and expect more to request information.

Each member receiving this issue of Vatican Notes will also receive a copy of this special issue with the compliments of Linn's. We are deeply indebted to our first honorary member, Carl P. Rueth, for making this possible.

The Vatican Philatelic Society will sponsor another edition of Linn's for the last week of June 1956 to put our Roman States undertakings before collectors. Again, in June 1957 the VPS will sponsor another issue of Linn's devoted to the stamps of Vatican City. This philatelic publication, the largest in the United States is responsible for many of the members now enrolled. They not only give us the privilege of put our field before the reader in special editions but also carry Vatican news and the stories behind Vatican stamps throughout the year. A paper who does so much for us is certainly deserving of your support.

VPS BONUS

Through the efforts and co-operation of our other honorary member, Ernest A. Kehr, each VPS member will receive a copy of the menu of the banquet given by Archbishop O'Hara of Philadelphia for His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman in honor of his efforts in conjunction with the Vatican Exhibition at the National Philatelic Museum in 1954. The menu cover depicts the arms of Pope Pius XII in color, a portrait of the Holy Father, and of Francis Cardinal Spellman. This, along with a copy of the book, "Vatican" and the flight card offered to members in the June 1955 issue of the Notes will make wonderful souvenirs of the first large exclusive Vatican-Roman States-Marian Year Exhibition ever held in the United States. Thanks Ernie, we appreciate your efforts to make this bonus mailing possible.

VATICAN NOTES SCHEDULE

We are sorry to report that only one issue of the Notes for the months of December 1955 and January 1956; as well as February and March; April and May; are possible. Our society finances are running low and it is necessary to adopt a bi-monthly schedule to keep from going in the red. It is unusual for a society the size of ours to issue a printed and illustrated publication such as ours. The officers have done everything possible and have paid many expenses, in addition to their annual dues, to keep this from happening. Now it is up to you. If each member will make every effort possible to enroll just one more Vatican or Roman States collector in VPS we can not only issue 12 issues of the Notes each year but enlarge it as well to give you the material you want and need. It takes approximately 30 members to support VPS for one month or 360 members to support VPS for one year. Help us accomplish this and thereby benefit yourself. Membership applications are available from the membership secretary, William G. Cote 616 Graydon Avenue Norfolk 7, Virginia.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!

To bring the Vatican Notes to you as soon as humanly possible Leo A. Stevens has offered to mail them to members each month. BE SURE TO NOTIFY HIM OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS! Send change of address notices to:

Leo A. Stevens
14166 Springarden Avenue
Detroit 5, Michigan

Approximately 95% of the complaints that members were not receiving the Notes was due to their failure to notify us of a change of address in 1955. Don't let this happen to you.

REGIS COLLEGE VISIT

All VPS members in the Boston, Mass. area interested in visiting the Cardinal Spellman Room and have the pleasure of viewing the Cardinal's magnificent stamp collection in a body should contact:

Peter K. Murphy
26 Lloyd Street
Winchester, Massachusetts

This VPS delegation will be lead by our Vice President, Rev. Herbert A. Phinney. We have had the honor to study this collection and it enables us to insure you of a day you will not forget.

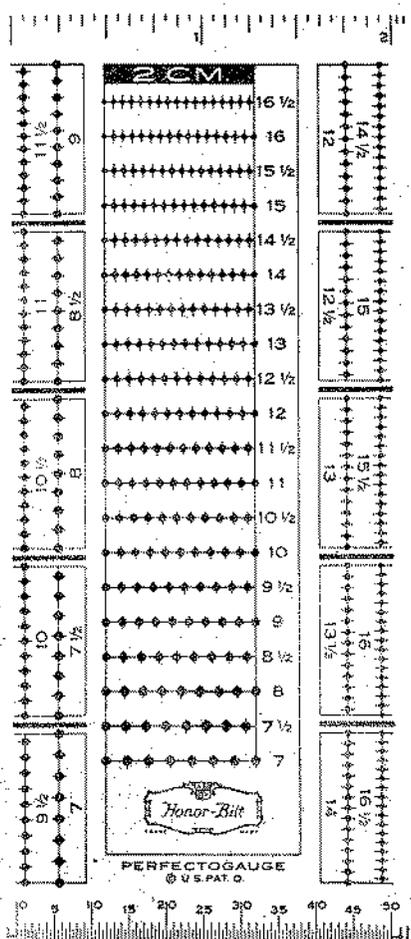
The perforation article in this issue of the Notes is part of the introductory section of the Vatican catalog. It is expected to finish this section in the next two issues before we publish the stories behind the stamps of the Pontificate of Pius XI.

VPS MEMBERS WIN AWARDS

Congratulations to VPSer Tony Rizzo who won the bronze medallion for his exhibit of Vatican at the Austin Philatelic Society Exhibition at Chicago on October 29-30, 1955.

VPSer Leo A. Stevens left little for the other exhibitors at the Detroit Edison Philatelic Society Exhibition on December 5, 1955. Leo won the Second Award for his Vatican Maximums. His Vatican stamps won First Award in the specialized class, and the loving cup and Grand Award for the "Best in the House".

PERFORATIONS



Perforation Gauge

When the postage stamp was born no provision was made for separating a stamp from the pane. To accomplish this it was necessary to cut apart with scissors. Stamps issued in this way are commonly called imperforate, or at times unperforate stamps. An example of imperforate stamps is the 1852 issue of Roman States stamps.

As postage stamps were widely adopted it became necessary to provide a more convenient method of separating. This was accomplished in two ways, rouletting and perforating.

As neither Roman States nor Vatican City stamps were rouletted we will mention this form of separation only briefly. Rouletting is a method where a small wheel, like the rowel of a spur is passed over the paper making small incisions in the following manner:

The points of the wheel were sometimes of a shape other than a straight line as in the above example.

The second, and most widely used form of separating stamps is perforating. This process punches a line of small holes, usually round, between the stamps leaving small "bridges" of paper to hold the stamps together until they are separated. These "bridges" are called the teeth of the perforation and protrude from the stamp when it is torn from the rest of the sheet.

In the stamps of other countries the size of the perforation is often the only way of distinguishing between different printings or issues. For this reason it is necessary to have a measurement or a gauge to describe the perforation used.

Collectors throughout the world have arbitrarily adopted as a means of measuring the number of perforations found in a space of two centimeters. This means that a stamp which is perforated 14 would have 14 perforations, each consisting of a depression (the punched hole) and projection (the bridge of paper) in the space of two centimeters.

Sometimes a stamp is issued where two different gauges of perforation was used. For example, in linear perforating (see linear perforation) the pane might be passed through the perforating press which uses a perforation measuring 14 when it punches the small holes at the top and bottom of the stamps. When it is rotated 90 degrees to perforate the sides of the stamp it will be passed through a second press that might apply a perforation measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$ on the sides of the stamp. In such a case, the gauge of the perforation of the TOP of the stamp is given first, and then the sides. In the above example, the perforation would be listed as $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. When a stamp has more than one perforation gauge used in the perforating process it is referred to as a Compound Perforation.

It is possible that two stamps of the same issue might gauge slightly different. This is due to paper shrinkage. For this reason perforations are usually measured to the nearest half-perforation.

For the convenience of collectors, a perforation gauge is available to make it unnecessary to count the number of perforations in the space of two centimeters, one which is printed on the previous page. To use it all you need do is place the stamp to be gauged upon the row of black circles and move it up until a row of black circles is found where each depression of the perforation matches one of the black circles. Read the number to the right of the line and you have the perforation of that given stamp.

Because paper or cardboard is subject to slight shrinkage it is best to use a perforation gauge made of metal, especially aluminium.

In this catalog, as in all others, perforation is abbreviated to perf and imperforate to imperf. These abbreviations are so widely used that extremely few philatelic publications ever spell the two words out.

There are three types of perforation used at the State Printing Office in Rome where the majority of the stamps of Vatican City are printed-Linear, Comb, and Block.

Linear Perforation

The perforation press, moved by pedal or motor, traces a series of holes in a line in one direction. A metal piece regulates the distance between the lines of perforation corresponding to the white spaces between the stamps. All horizontal (or vertical) perforations are made on the pane in one pass through the press, (see sketch A). The pane of stamps is then turned 90 degrees and passed through a second perforating press with spaces set to make all vertical (or horizontal) perforations at once,

