

Vatican Notes

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VPS ELECTIONS

Once again members have the opportunity to vote for the officers to guide the Vatican Philatelic Society for another year. Due to an emergency last year at this time the present slate of officers was continued for another term to insure the important work and troubles of VPS would be cured and not to pass them along to a successor should they fail to be re-elected.

The elective offices of the society are that of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Those appointed by the president and NOT subject to election are Membership Secretary and Roman States Chairman.

Here is a chance to choose the people you feel will do the most for the VPS in the next twelve months. Send your nomination for candidates for the elective officers today to:

William G. Cote
616 Graydon Avenue
Norfolk 7, Virginia

The full list of nominated members will be printed in the May Notes to give each member the opportunity to cast his ballot for the candidate of his or her choice. He or she will not be on the list unless you nominate them.

Again we repeat, nominations for candidates for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer are now open.

ROMAN STATES

The May 29, 1956 issue of Linn's Weekly Stamp News will be sponsored by the Vatican Philatelic Society. Roman States will dominate the articles and stories of this issue. A number of members have been working hard on the material for this issue and hope to recruit many collectors who are not now members of the VPS as a result of this special edition. This special issue will have a secondary purpose, the launching of the VPS Roman States Chapter in a real manner. Up until this time the Roman States material has been treated through

a series of short notations and an information service. The June issue of Vatican Notes will begin a series of works on this important phase of Vatican philately of never before published material that will be of great help to the beginner as well as the specialist. At the present time we will limit this to two pages a month. The amount of space devoted to the philately of Roman States will be strictly governed by the number of registered Roman States collectors, the more we have, the more of the Notes that will be devoted to it. Why not help yourself? If you are a Roman States enthusiast or are seriously thinking of collecting them, contact the Roman States Chairman, Louis Klien 526 Guarantee Trust Building Atlantic City, New Jersey. Tell him what you are interested in, how long you have been collecting, and what material you would like to see in the Notes. Lou is a grand guy and will give you all the help he can.

CONGRATULATIONS

Father Herbert A. Phinney, our Vice President, has been awarded a seat in the Saint Gabriel Philatelic Academy. He has certainly earned his appointment to this honor society for the long hours of work spent in promoting Vatican philately and his works of other countries. This brings the total of VPS members of the Academy to six. Father Horn, another VPSer, is President of this international society.

WARNING!!

During the past month we had the opportunity of examining a stamp issued for the Beatification of Pius X (Scott #145-48) bearing the autograph of Casmira Dabrowska. The stamp was purchased at a nice premium as "a stamp autographed by the designer" according to the collector. Miss Dabrowska DID NOT design this issue, Prof. C. Mezzana was responsible for it. She was responsible for the designs of the St. Maria Goretti, Mater Misericordiae, and the new St. Gabriel airmail stamps only. If you want such an item go right ahead and purchase it but do not do so with the idea it is autographed by the designer of the issue.

VPSer Harry J. Howard of 25 Malone Avenue, Belleville 9, New Jersey has obtained about 15 to 20 photographs of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. The are beautiful multicolored photos of the Holy Father, on the reverse side is a colored photo of St. Peter's Square and Basilica. Harry has offered them on a first come first served basis to members at his cost plus a stamped return envelope. This would make a nice frontispiece for your album. If you desire to have a copy send 20¢ and a stamped addressed envelope to him at the above address. The size of the photo is 8¼"x8¼" so make that return envelope large enough. If sold out, your money will be returned to you in the envelope you send. Please, Harry is doing you a favor,

be sure to follow the instructions given. Mr. Howard has been instructed to ignore the request of any member who does not do so.

VPS MEMBERS

A vote of thanks to Mrs. Catherine H. Dunn of Libertyville, Ill. for aiding us in preparing this and forthcoming issues of Vatican Notes.

At the exhibition at Reading Pa., VPS members were well represented. Armando Pagliai showed his Vatican material in the Court of Honor of the COROS section. Lou Klien exhibited his RS covers; Ed P. Fichter displayed part of his Vatican collection; members displaying other than Vatican material were the Rev. A. S. Horn, Guido Nizzi, Aloysius Paruzynski, and others of whom we have not received confirmation of.

Joseph Hudec of Chicago, Ill. has been elected Secretary of the Israel-Palestine Philatelic Society.

Our honorary member, Ernest A. Kehr, has written a brochure on Vatican philately for Washington Press. Release of it is planned for this month and the price to be approximately 60¢. Full details will be given in the next issue of the Notes.

We have had the opportunity to examine the manuscript and the galley proofs of this publication and can not recommend it too highly. It should be responsible for many new members for VPS as Mr. Kehr has given the society a wonderful plug.

AGE OF MARY

A monthly magazine entitled Age of Mary has, since its inception, carried a monthly article of "Madonna on Stamps" by VPSer Father A. S. Horn. We have received permission to re-print the article that deals with the Vatican stamps and will do so in the next issue.

SPECIAL MAILING

The menus of the banquet in honor of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, held in conjunction with the Vatican-Marian Year Exhibition have been mailed out to members. Unfortunately there were not enough to go around. We chose the only fair way and mailed them to members according to the length of membership. Should anyone receiving it

not desire to keep it please advise Wm. Wonneberger, Jr. 67
Jefferson St. Stratford, Connecticut.

The enthusiasm expressed by members of the new printing of the Notes has been tremendous. We agree, the printing is more distinct and readable than previous issues. The photograph depicting Pope Nicholas V was sort of an experiment in methods of illustrating. Though it costs more to prepare illustrations in this manner your comments show that is what you want, needless to say, as this is your society that is what you will get in future issues.

Because of the added expense in preparing the Notes we will not be able to stick to ten pages per month each month as it was done in the past. Finances dictate the size of the Notes and will continue to do so in the future.

Back issues of Vatican Notes are available of all issues from May 1955 to date at 25¢ per issue. Discounts given for orders of ten or more copies of ONE issue. Make checks and money orders payable to the Vatican Philatelic Society and send with the list of issues you need to:

William Wonneberger, Jr.
67 Jefferson Street
Stratford, Connecticut

The story behind the stamps for the Pontificate of Pius XI begins in this issue and will continue until completed. Again, due to unforeseen circumstances, we must abandon the chronological order. We begin with the Definitives of 1933 and will print the Conciliation story in the next issue.

Our Membership Secretary, William G. Cote of 616 Graydon Avenue Norfolk, Virginia has received a new supply of application blanks. Why not write for a supply and enroll those collectors you meet with? The bigger the membership the bigger the Notes.

During the past month a complete roster of members was mailed to each and every VPSer. We hope this will provide you with the necessary addresses to contact those residing near you. You will be suprised at the renewed interest mutual exchange of ideas and personal meetings will bring to you. Remember too, local chapters of VPS are possible with only three members. Why not consult the list and see to it that your locality becomes the home of such a chapter.

THE VATICAN GARDENS.



The Vatican Gardens lie to the rear of the Apostolic Palace and St. Peter's Basilica, enclosed by the walls of Vatican City State. Those to the rear of the Palace are the Old Gardens and those to the rear of the Basilica are the New Gardens.

The Old Vatican Gardens lying behind the Palace are bounded generally by the Vatican Wall and the remnant of the Leonine Wall. In it one finds the English Garden with palms, orange and citron trees. There also is the Casino of Leo XII with walks lined by boxwood, oaks and ilex trees. In this garden also lies the Fountain of Paul V and the barracks of the Papal Gendarmes. The vineyards and vegetable gardens have their place too. Amid the lawns, flower beds and walks is the Fountain of the Blessed Sacrament formed of a monstrance whose rays are formed by water, flanked on each side by jets of water representing the candles. In the Casino of Pius IV women visitors were received until they were allowed to enter the Palace by Pius IX. At one time cages here held lions, gazelles, ostriches and poultry.

The New Gardens of Pius XI lie between the Basilica and the remnant of the Leonine Wall. With this garden Pius XI added 32 acres of beauty to Vatican City. Here we find the Ethiopian College, Radio Station H-V-J, the Governors Palace and the Tapestry Workshop. To the south are the Railroad Station and the Mosaic Studio. The Vatican Observatory is on the Leonine Wall.

Some parts of the Old Garden date from Nicholas III in the 13th century. Outstanding for their beauty, both gardens are botanically important, containing plants from every part of the world either in plots or hot houses. The Gardens are threaded with walks and here the Popes have found a place for recreation and relaxation. During World War II they became a refuge from the Nazis for Jews, anti-fascists and the homeless who overcrowded Rome.

The Railroad Station near the Porta Fabbrica is a small white marble edifice built by the Italian Government as a good will gesture in 1931. It is connected to the Italian railways by tracks entering the Porta Fabbrica. It is strictly a freight line with no passenger service. The Governor's Palace is directly behind St. Peter's Basilica and is the center of civil administration for the Vatican City State. Until his death in March of 1952 there had been but one governor, The Marquis Camillo Serafini, appointed by Pius XI. The Governor's Palace is the residence for the Governor and contain the administrative offices. Here distinguished guests find lodging.

The Vatican Observatory is situated on the Leonine Wall in the Gardens. The Observatory was begun by Gregory XIII to aid in the reform of the calendar, by building a tower above the library and museums, called the Tower of the Winds. Under Msgr. Giglii (1756-1821) this tower was better fitted and continuous observation carried on. With the foundation of the Observatory at the Roman College the Vatican Observatory fell into disuse. With the seizure of the Roman College by the Italian government in 1870, the old Gregorian Tower and one of the towers on the Leonine Wall were furnished with new instruments and put into use. In 1904 under Pius X the Gregorian Tower was abandoned to archives and the two towers on the Leonine Wall used after a gap in the wall was bridged to make access easy from one to the other. Four rotary domes were installed and a sixteen inch telescope mounted and modern equipment to make it an up-to-date observatory. Radio Station HVJ was installed under the direction of Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of radio. The building is a one story affair with two steel masts for the antenna.

The Mosaic Studio was built by Pius XI to house this work which had begun in 1576. Its works decorate the walls of St. Peters and can be found in churches all over the world. The Ethiopian College is for the training of negro priests from Africa and from its students have come many bishops.

ST. PETER'S BASILICA.



Since this subject shall be treated at length with the series of stamps of 1953 on the Basilica, we attempt here only a sketch.

St. Peter was crucified in the Circus of Nero and was buried in a cemetery outside its walls. Pope Anacletus built an oratory over his grave in 90 A. D. Under Pope Sylvester I the Emperor Constantine erected a Basilica over this spot. When it threatened collapse in the 15th century a new Basilica was begun under Nicholas V. Later Julius II secured the services of Bramante for the project, which according to Bramante's plan was to form a Greek Cross. Later Popes changed plans under various architects. Michaelangelo under Paul III returned to the Greek Cross form with his designs, and saw the dome rise, although it was not completed until after his death. Under Paul IV, Carlo Maderna changed the plan to that of a Latin Cross which hides the dome from the front. The Basilica was completed in 1614 and dedicated in 1626, 176 years after its start.

Its exterior is travertine and the interior is richly decorated with marble, mosaics and works of art. The nave is about 630 feet long and the transept almost 500 feet wide, making it the largest church in the world. Its facade is topped by 19 foot statues of Christ and the Apostles.

ST. PETER'S SQUARE.

The Piazza di San Pietro is in the form of an ellipse, enclosed in great part by the collonade of Bernini. It is 366 yards long and 260 yards broad at its widest. Bernini erected the travertine collonade in 1667, consisting of 284 columns ranged four abreast, and 80 buttresses, with a wide passage between the center rows of columns. On the balustrade stand 162 statues 12 feet high. The square was paved under Benedict XII.

In the center stands the Obelisk brought to Rome from Heliopolis by Caligula, which once stood in Nero's Circus. The fountain on the right is by Maderna, and that to the left by Giovanni Bernini. Between 1800 and 1821 Msgr. Giglii of Vatican Observatory marked a meridian line in front of the Basilica, and used the obelisk as a gnomon or sun-dial index to mark the seasons by the length of its shadow.

JURIDICAL CONGRESS, ROME, 1934.



The designs on these stamps are taken from frescoes by Raphael, found in the Camera della Segnatura, one of the Stanze of Raphael in the Vatican Palace. At one side of a window under a figure of Fortitude, Justinian is represented as presenting the Pandects to Tribonian, an allusion to civil law. The original copy of the Pandects was discovered by the Pisans when they captured Amalfi in 1137 and is now preserved in the Laurentian Library in Florence, the oldest Public Library in Europe. On the other side of the window under a figure of Temperance, Gregory IX presents the Decretals that bear his name to an advocate of the Consistory, an allusion to canon law. The face of Gregory IX is actually that of Pope Julius II, the reigning Pontiff at the time. To the left in front the Cardinal is Giovanni de Medici (later Leo X) and behind him, full face is Alessandro Farnese (afterwards Paul III).

JUSTINIAN I.

Flavius Anicius Julianus Justinianus was born in Tauresium, Illyricum, about 483 A. D. He was the nephew of Justin I, Roman Emperor. Under his uncle he was well trained for government, and in his uncle's old age was the power behind the throne. He became Emperor at Justin's death in 527 and reigned 38 years until 565. The Roman Empire had fallen apart under the inroads of the Goths, Vandals and Persians. After a military defeat by the Persians, Justinian with his general Belisarius annihilated the Vandals in North Africa, conquered Sicily and Italy from the Goths, took the southeastern provinces of Spain again under Roman control. Turning to Persia he pushed back his frontiers beyond Edessa and Armenia. With this vast empire under his control he organized for unity, and one step was the codification of Roman Law.

His Corpus Juris Civilis, or Body of Civil Law, was accomplished in four steps. A commission of lawyers under Tribonian reduced the Theodosian Code to an orderly compendium with new laws inserted, called the Codex. The 106 volume mass of precedents was reduced to a fifth that size and is called the Digest or Pandects. A manual of law was compiled for students from the commentaries of Gaius and called the Institutes. Then all these three were revised in 529 and a fourth part added called the Authenticum or Novellae which contained decisions from Justinian's own courts. This great work is the basis of Canon Law, and of Civil Law in every civilized country.

THE DECRETALS OF GREGORY IX.

A Decretal in the widest sense is a papal letter containing a decree or decision. In a narrower sense Decretal means a papal decision on a matter of discipline. In a strict sense a Decretal means a Rescript, or answer by the Pope to an appeal for a decision in a matter of discipline. Again, certain collections of these papal letters are known as Decretals. This is the sense of the word used here: the Decretals of Gregory IX. There were several such compilations before that of Gregory IX, the most important being the Decretals of Gratian.

Gregory IX ordered St. Raymond of Penaforte, his confessor, to form a new collection of canon law to replace all former collections, in 1230. Raymond accomplished this in four years, following the method of the Decretals of Gratian. Out of 1971 chapters of the Decretals of Gregory IX, 1771 were taken bodily from the Decretals of Gratian, 191 are from Gregory himself, 7 from Innocent III, 2 from unknown sources. This revision eliminated the necessity of reference to several collections of Decretals, which might contain diverse and sometimes contradictory decisions. Raymond filled in gaps in canon law, reduced other sections from tedious length, and settled all uncertain matters. By the bull "Rex Pacificus" Gregory IX on Sept. 5, 1234, declared all the contents of the Decretals to have force of law from that date, so that one could not deduce that a later law abrogated a prior one. All compilations of Decretals between the Decretals of Gratian and Gregory were abrogated.

Unlike modern codes, the Decretals of Gregory IX relate a controversy, called the Historical Part, which has no force of law. This is followed by the Disposing Part which contains a solution of the case, and this part alone has the force of law. The rubrics and titles were also given the force of law when their sense was complete.

THE CATHOLIC PRESS CONFERENCE, 1936.

THE BELL AND DOVES.



Bells from time immemorial have been used to announce news. The Passing Bell announced to the village that a person was in his last agony. Another bell announced his death, while another bell tolled for his burial. Bells reminded people to pray for the departed souls, particularly on the eve of All Saints Day. The De Profundis Bell each evening had the same message. The Angelus Bell three times a day reminds one of the birth of Christ and our redemption. The Curfew calls for the extinguishing of lights and the retirement of respectable people. The Classicum, or ringing of several bells at once, announced occasions of joy.

Church bells have been used to announce the celebration of Mass or have called people in the fields to meditate at the Consecration of the Mass as the bell marks its occurrence. Tolling of bells for a quarter of an hour in the evening reminded people of a fast day on the morrow. Bells were rung at times of storms, or danger, because of the special blessing they received in their consecration: "The Voice of the Lord is in Power; the Voice of the Lord in Magnificence." (Ps. XXVIII, 4.) On days of national rejoicing there was a special way to ring the bells, and by another customary manner they were rung on days of mourning.

Probably because of this history, the designer chose the bell as a symbol of the Catholic Press, whose work is to announce news or give information. Likewise it might be that the doves flying out from the bell are a symbol of the Peace of Christ, announced through the Catholic Press.

CHURCH DESIGN.



The Osservatore Romano in announcing this series of stamps tells us that this design shows the facade of a Gothic-Byzantine Cathedral, before which stands an open missal which rests on newspapers and reviews. Other catalogues identify these articles as books and newspapers. However, the allegory of Catholic Press is unmistakable.

ST. JOHN MELCHOIR BOSCO.



John Bosco was born August 16, 1815, at Becchi, near Castelnuovo d'Asti Piedmont, Italy, of poor parents. When he was 2 years old, his father died, and his mother struggled to raise him properly. Educated first by the parish priest, he entered the seminary at Chieri in 1835, and was ordained priest in 1841 by Archbishop Franzoni of Turin. He was assigned to parish work in Turin. While saying Mass on Dec. 8, 1841, a ragged boy, Bartolomeo Garelli, was chased from the church by the sacristan. Dom Bosco became his friend and with him started his first Oratory for poor boys, to teach them religion and to educate them.

As the number of boys at the Oratory grew, so did their noise, and so did the complaints of the neighbors. Dom Bosco had to move his meeting room several times. His mother came to help him in his work, and spent the remainder of her life beside her son. She sold all her possessions to aid him with funds. Dom Bosco started a night school for working boys, and then trade and vocational schools. After much hard sledding, the City of Turin finally took notice of his work and gave him financial support. Dom Bosco gathered fifty priests for this work and with the approval of Pius IX he established the Society of the Salesians. Under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin his work so flourished that at his death there were 250 Salesian houses in the world caring for 130,000 children. This year of 1888 saw 6000 priests doing this great work, and the Third Order of Salesian Cooperators of nuns had been established to help.

Orphanages, recreational centers, schools for working children, schools and homes for the young, and night schools all came from the love of this man for children, while at the same time he and his Salesian priests carried on their other priestly duties. Dom Bosco died January 31, 1888. Pius X declared him Venerable in July of 1907. Pius XI beatified him in 1929 and canonized him Easter Sunday of 1934. His Feast Day is the day of his death, January 31st.