

Vatican Notes

Volume X

July-August 1961

Number 1

A POSTMAN'S NIGHTMARE!



A novel first day cover was produced for the issue marking the centenary of L'Osservatore Romano (Roman Observer), The Vatican City newspaper. The masthead and upper portion of the front page of the first edition were reproduced on the entire face of the cover. The Pontifical State 1 Baj. stamp was illustrated in its actual color though smaller in size and tied to the "newspaper" with the grill cancel of the Pontifical State. The left margin bears the circular cancel of Rome in red, noting the date, July 1, 1861.

OFFICERS

President----William Wonneberger, Jr. 320 First Ave. Stratford, Conn.
 Vice Pres.----Rev. William Fletcher Box 532 Fairfield, Conn.
 Secretary----Wallace R. Smith 165-15 Union Turnpike Flushing 66, N.Y.
 Treasurer----Frederick J. Levitsky 13 Lesley Avenue Auburn, Mass.
 Membership Chmn.---Joseph Lopreiato 119 Brook St. New Britain, Conn.
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 Pontifical State Chmn.---Rev. William Fletcher (temporary)
 Slide Program Chmn. Rev. Robert W. Contant St. Mary's Church Decatur, Ind.
 Sales Dept. Mgr. Peter Butkus 160 Maujer St. Brooklyn 6, N.Y.
 Membership List---Charles L. Moushey 119 E. State St. Alliance, Ohio
 Translation Chmn.---Bro. Camillus, OSF 41 Butler St. Brooklyn 31, N.Y.
 Research Co-ord.---Miss Rita Murphy 44 Beaver St. Framingham, Mass.
 Circulation Mgr.---Patrick J. Conway 2981 Lincoln Blvd. Cleveland Hgts. Ohio
 Editor-----Francis J. Welch Box 9847 Rosslyn Station
 Arlington 9, Virginia

The three values were affixed to this cover and hand cancelled on the first day. Note the small scroll below the 70 Lire value. This was the space permitting the sender to insert the name and address of the addressee.

Yes, they were sent through the mails! When one such cover was received the postman was asked, "Where's the name and address?" The reply, "Who knows, but who else would get it but you." Postmen throughout the world had to give more than a passing glance to these covers to know to whom they were to be delivered.

The 40L. value was printed in red brown and black. It illustrates the mastheads of the first issue and the issue of June 29, 1961. The home of the Roman Observer is depicted on the 70 L. stamp which was printed in light blue and black. The 250 L. denomination has as its design a modern press on which the newspaper is printed at the present time. Yellow and black were the colors chosen for this stamp. All stamps were designed by the Grassellinis and printed by the photogravure method at the State Printing Office, Rome. The stamps were arranged in panes of 40 (5x8) with the inscription at the top of the pane reading one sheet of forty stamps, Value---Lire.

To mark the occasion the Roman Observer issued a mammoth 68 page edition. This profusely illustrated edition reviews the outstanding events of world importance according to the Pontificates of the popes who have reigned during the newspaper's history. A history of the paper is illustrated by photos of its various homes over the years.

Of particular interest is the cover sheet of the centenary edition. It comprises 4 pages (1,2,67,68) printed on a paper slightly heavier than the rest of the edition. Page one bears a full color portrait of Pope JOHN XXIII. Page 68 bears 7½"x9½" full color reproductions of each of the three stamps released to mark the centenary of L'Osservatore Romano. The stamps were released on July 4, 1961, and will remain valid for postage until September 30, 1962.

ST. PAUL'S ARRIVAL IN ROME

On June 13, 1961, a set of six commemoratives was released to mark the 19th centenary of St. Paul's arrival in Rome. The 10L. and 30L. values bear a map showing St. Paul's journey from Cesarea to Rome. The 15L. and 75L. stamps depict St. Paul's arrival in Rome based on a sculpture by Maraini. The 20L. and 200L. denominations bear the Basilica of St. Paul outside-the-walls, Rome.

The stamps were designed by the Grassellinis. Piero Grassellini was responsible for the designs depicting the map of St. Paul's voyage and the basilica. His wife executed the design for St. Paul's arrival in Rome.

The stamps were printed at the State Printing Office, Rome in panes of 40 stamps (5x8). by the photogravure method. They will remain valid for postage until June 30, 1962.

STAMP ISSUE ORDANANCES

No issue of Vatican stamps is valid for postage unless their issuance is officially decreed by the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City. This ordinance embodies the details of the particular stamp issue which is of vital interest to philatelists. In the following pages we illustrate the 4 page pamphlet which carries the decree. Pages one and two bear the text, pages three and four are blank, hence, not illustrated. STAMPS OF THE ST. PAUL ISSUE HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY AFFIXED TO THIS DOCUMENT AND CANCELLED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE. THEY ARE NOT A PART OF THE DOCUMENT AS SUCH.

We will be happy to depict the ordinances of future stamp issues and/or their translation if desired by members. If you wish this to become a regular feature of VATICAN NOTES advise the editor. Your response will determine whether they are illustrated or not.

BALANCE OF STAMP PROGRAM FOR 1961

On October 6, 1961 a set of four values will be released to commemorate the 15th centenary of St. Patrick. No details available at this time other than the denominations are to be 10, 15, 40, and 150 Lire.

A set of ten stamps will be released by which the life of Pope John XXIII will be depicted by the buildings in which he has resided from birth to the Chair of Peter. Release expected within the next two months.

The set of stamps portraying the works of Michelangelo found in the Sistine Chapel and Raphael's masterpieces are still scheduled to be released near the end of the year.

No claim can be made that the above is complete. Vatican City has sprung many surprise issues in the past.

ACTA APOSTOLICAE SEDIS



IMPLEMENTO PER LE LEGGI E DISPOSIZIONI
DELO STATO



DELLA CITTÀ

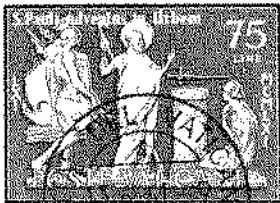


DEL VATICANO

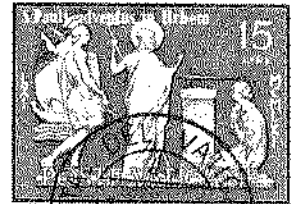
Pontificato di S. S. Giovanni XXIII - Anno III

N. XXVI - Ordinanza della Pontificia Commissione per lo Stato della Città del Vaticano con la quale è autorizzata la emissione di una serie di francobolli destinati a commemorare il XIX Centenario della venuta di S. Paolo Apostolo a Roma.

13 giugno 1961



LA PONTIFICIA COMMISSIONE
PER LO STATO DELLA CITTÀ DEL VATICANO



In virtù dei poteri confermati dal regnante Sommo Pontefice Gio-
vanni XXIII alla Pontificia Commissione col provvedimento 7 novem-
bre 1958;

Visti gli art. 2 e 20 lett. e) n. 5 della legge 7 giugno 1929, n. II, sulle
fonti del diritto;

Udito il parere del Consigliere generale dello Stato;

ORDINA

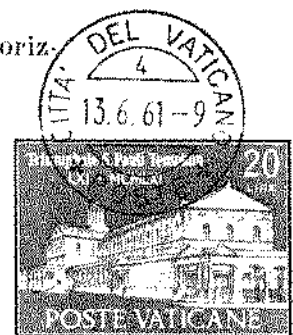
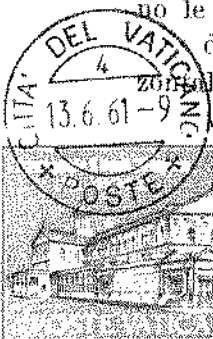
Art. 1. - È autorizzata la emissione di una serie di sei francobolli de-
stinati a commemorare il decimonono centenario della venuta di San
Paolo Apostolo a Roma, da valere per il pagamento delle tasse relative
alle corrispondenze in partenza dalla Città del Vaticano.

Art. 2. - I francobolli di cui all'articolo precedente, stampati in roto-
calco su carta recante in filigrana il disegno delle Chiavi decussate, han-
no le seguenti caratteristiche:

dimensioni: mm. 30x40 compresa la dentellatura, formato oriz-

zionale;

valori: L. 10, L. 15, L. 20, L. 30, L. 75, L. 200;



soggetti: i valori da L. 10 e L. 30 rappresentano una carta geografica ove è tracciato il percorso del viaggio compiuto dall'Apostolo da Cesarea di Palestina a Roma e recano, in alto a sinistra su tre righe, l'iscrizione: « ITER S. PAULI ERGA ROMAM LX-LXI - MCMLXI »; a destra su due righe l'indicazione del valore; in basso l'iscrizione: « POSTE VATICANE »;

i valori da L. 15 e L. 75 riproducono una delle formelle della porta bronzea della Basilica di San Paolo in Roma, raffigurante la scena dell'arrivo nell'Urbe dell'Apostolo, incatenato e scortato da un soldato romano, e recano, in alto a sinistra, l'iscrizione: « S. PAULI ADVENTUS IN URBEM »; a destra su due righe l'indicazione del valore; verticalmente sul lato sinistro: « LXI » e sul lato destro: « MCMLXI »; in basso l'iscrizione: « POSTE VATICANE »;

i valori da L. 20 e L. 200 raffigurano la Basilica Ostiense e recano, in alto a sinistra su due righe, l'iscrizione: « TRIUMPHALE S. PAULI TEMPLUM LXI - MCMLXI »; a destra l'indicazione del valore; in basso l'iscrizione: « POSTE VATICANE »;

colori; il valore da L. 10 verde blu; il valore da L. 15 rosso bruno; il valore da L. 20 arancione; il valore da L. 30 blu; il valore da L. 75 terra di Siena; il valore da L. 200 blu cobalto.

Art. 3. - I francobolli di cui agli articoli precedenti hanno valore, agli effetti postali, dalla data di entrata in vigore della presente ordinanza sino al 30 giugno 1962.

Art. 4. - La presente ordinanza sarà pubblicata, oltre che nei modi ordinari, mediante affissione nel Cortile di S. Damaso, alla porta degli Uffici del Governatorato e negli Uffici postali dello Stato, ed entrerà in vigore nel giorno stesso della sua pubblicazione.

Città del Vaticano, tredici giugno millenovecentosessantuno.

NICOLA Card. CANALI, *Presidente*

GIUSEPPE Card. PIZZARDO

GIUSEPPE Card. FERRETTO

AMLETO GIOVANNI Card. CICOGNANI

GUSTAVO Card. TESTA

† Primo Principi, *Segretario*

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE NOTES?????????

It is with deep regret that we announce that Robert J. Hutcheson 6606 Odell Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, is unable to continue to serve the Vatican Philatelic Society as editor of VATICAN NOTES. Bob, as he is known to his friends which are many fold in our society, has been sieged with poor health and an increased demand of time by his business.

Bob has been responsible for many innovations in the preparation of our society publication. The format of VATICAN NOTES under his editorship brought many bouquets from members and lead to the first international recognition of our journal. We are confident that he carries the best wishes of our members in his new business enterprises.

The next issues of VATICAN NOTES will mark the debut of our new editor:

Francis E. Welch
P. O. Box 9847
Rosslyn Station
Arlington 9, Virginia

Frank is already hard at work familiarizing himself with the particular problems of the official organ of the Vatican Philatelic Society. His editorship will undoubtedly be marked with many innovations to increase the interest and enjoyment of VATICAN NOTES. If Frank ejects one small iota of his knowledge and personality into the NOTES we will have a most remarkable publication.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

Joseph Lopreiato of 119 Brook Street, New Britain, Connecticut has been appointed as Membership Chairman for the coming term. Joe informs us that he has many application blanks which are unfortunately blank. Why not write him today for a few of these application blanks which your collecting friends will be happy to complete. We know he will be happy to send them to you by return mail.

NEW CHAPTER CO-ORDINATOR NAMED

Miss Barbara Lawrence of 705 Summit Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois has been named Chapter Co-ordinator. Miss Lawrence will be most happy to supply any member with the names and addresses of other VPSers in their area and particulars on how to organize a local chapter of VPS. Our society can point with great pride to many chapters throughout the United States. The personal contact amongst members that is afforded by our chapters has increased the enjoyment of our members in their favorite hobby. Why don't you look into it too, you don't know what you are missing!!

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Chapter Secretaries could greatly aid our new Chapter Co-ordinator by writing to her. She would be most happy to learn of your accomplishments and programs, yes, your problems too. Miss Lawrence is most eager to assist you in every way possible.

MEMBERSHIP LIST CHAIRMAN HARD AT WORK

Charles L. Moushey of 119 East State Street, Alliance, Ohio, our new Membership List Chairman is hard at work preparing a new membership roster of the Vatican Philatelic Society. Upon its completion a copy will be mailed to every member. This is a monumental chore requiring many many hours of labor. We know Charles will be most grateful if members will refrain from writing to him for the list. He can use only one copy of it for his personal use so is anxious to get them into the mail for others to use as well.

SALES DEPARTMENT REACTIVATED

Under the managership of Peter Butkus, the Sales Dept. of VPS has been reactivated to meet the requests of members for this service. Pete has outlined the rules and regulations for this service. You will find them listed in detail elsewhere in this issue of VATICAN NOTES.

PROGRESS OF SLIDE PROGRAM CONTINUES

Reverend Robert W. Contant of St. Mary's Church, Decatur, Indiana has informed us the final stage is now nearing completion for the first group of colored slides of Vatican City stamps. He hopes to announce the regulations governing the use of these slides by members in the next edition of VATICAN NOTES. Plans call for the remainder of the slides depicting Vatican City stamps to be placed in use early in 1962. The postal stationery, revenue stamps, and the educational aids should be ready about mid 1962. Hundreds of hours of work have already been spent by a dedicated group of VPS members to make this service to members possible. Pilot showings of these slides to philatelic groups last year brought forth comments that would make a publicity agent beam with pride! We are certain you will find these an ideal program to present to your local stamp club.

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED

Miss Rita Murphy of 44 Beaver Street, Framingham, Massachusetts has been appointed as Research Co-ordinator, a new office established to assist members, particularly those engaged in the study of a given segment of the Pontifical State or Vatican philatelic field.

Anyone who has ever engaged in research realizes what a boon it is to have contact with another party undertaking a like study. The mutual assistance rendered through such contact has often determined the success instead of failure of a given research project. Making contact with others studying a segment of our philatelic field has been most difficult, often impossible for individual members. To alleviate this problem Miss Murphy has offered her services as a "clearing house" to bring together all those engaged in research in the same field. It is hoped that in this manner mutual assistance and friendship will bring to completion more studies and thereby greatly benefit all Vatican collectors.

The operation of this service is very simple. Each person who is doing research fills out the form at the bottom of the page for EACH field in which research is being conducted. If you do not wish to remove the form from the Notes a facsimile of the same size will suffice. Mail the completed form to the Research Co-ordinator. You will receive a list of names and addresses of those studying the same segment as you. Each group can work together, pair off, or make any arrangements to their mutual satisfaction they wish.

This is the only service rendered by the Research Co-ordinator at this time simply because this is the only assistance researchers have requested. If other assistance is deemed needed according to those using it their suggestions will be given serious consideration and any feasible service will be placed in use.

To the best of our knowledge, no similar service has ever been instituted by a philatelic organization. It is of vital importance that members advise Miss Murphy of their comments and suggestions of this undertaking. Miss Murphy will not be able to reply individually to all such correspondence but will do all in her power to see proper attention is given them. Any service offered by any society is only worthwhile if the membership makes use of it so **BE SURE TO USE IT!!!**

The Vatican Philatelic Society was organized to increase knowledge in Vatican and Pontifical State Philately. It can only succeed in accomplishing this through the collective efforts of its members. If we have interested members eager to work for the common good there is no limit to the services we can offer. If members are passive and prefer to sit back and let someone else do the work we can only wither and die. We can't stand still. We will either progress or fall back. We can't progress unless we have volunteers to operate services, to assist the membership through its various offices. There is a need for experienced persons in writing, photography, art, etc. There is also a need for willing workers without experience in any particular field. Don't leave it up to the other person, offer your services today either in a particular field or in a capacity which will serve the best interests of the society. If you wish to help VPS prosper and grow contact:

William Wonneberger, Jr.
320 First Avenue
Stratford, Connecticut

Of particular and immediate need is a person or persons willing to compile a list of silm which may be purchased or borrowed concerning Vatican City or its stamps. If you are interested in assisting in this manner, or can offer sources of information to a person or persons compiling this list be sure to write NOW.

V.P.S. Dues Payments for the Religious

Once again the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter will handle dues payments for those V.P.S. members of the religious who, due to their vow of poverty are unable to pay the annual dues.

This Chapter will pay the V.P.S. dues if the following two conditions are followed; First: Such religious must inform the Chapter (even though dues were paid by the Chapter a year ago) that they wish to take advantage of this offer; Second: The applicant must be bound by a vow of poverty and not have any means at his disposal, which leaves out all secular clergy.

Those wishing to use this service should contact either Frederick J. Levitsky, Chapter President, 13 Lesley Avenue, Auburn, Massachusetts of Rev. Herbert A. Phinney, 377 Walnut Ave., Roxbury 19, Massachusetts.

The Chapter will accept any donations from individuals or other Chapters who may also be interested in this project. In this way the privilege of extending membership to those religious without financial means may be shared by other V.P.S. members. Such contributions should be sent to Frederick J. Levitsky at the above address.

Vatican Philatelic Society.

Sales Department Rules

1. Books must be obtained from the Sales Department Manager : Peter Butkus, 160 Maujer St . Brooklyn 6, N.Y.. No other books will be honored.
2. Sales books cost 15¢ each postpaid.
3. Stamps placed in the books must be hinged carefully and neatly with high grade hinges. Mint stamps should be dusted with powder to prevent the gum from sticking to the pages.
4. Prices shall be set by the seller. All prices shall be indicated in INK and catalogue number must precede each price. Stamps which are to be sold only in sets shall be so indicated and the complete set price shown. Each sales book will be limited to \$30.00. Those having more expensive stamps for sale will inform the manager, the condition of stamps, the catalogue number and the price. The manager will inform the buyers and all the transactions will take place through the manager.
5. Receipt of books from members will not be acknowledged unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope or card. Always use your V.P.S. number.
6. Pricing condition and identification are the sole responsibility of the seller, and the V.P.S. assumes no responsibility therefor.
7. The Sales Manager may reject any book not deemed satisfactory for routing to the members.
8. Book will be returned or retired from use when all stamps have been sold, or when it is judged that the books no longer have sales appeal. The book or books will be returned to the owner immediately if requested, though the book has not been in circulation long.
9. Upon the return of a book and any unsold stamps to the sender, the manager will include payment for the total amount of the stamps sold, less 15% fee which will be used for the operating expenses of the Sales Department.
10. Only Vatican City and Roman State stamps will be accepted. Stamps with known forgeries existing may be included ONLY when signed by a recognized expert or expertizing body
11. Members wishing to receive books for the possible purchase of stamps or covers shall send a written request to the manager of the Sales Department. INCLUDE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER
12. IMPORTANT: Please read carefully. All sales books must be returned to the Sales Department Manager within 7 days of receipt with full remittance for all stamps retained. Check or Money order should be used in payment, payable to the Manager personally. Stamps will not be accepted and cash is sent at the sender's risk. All returns must be made VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL. Do not forget to use your V.P.S. number.
13. Fine: For the late return of books or book. Books or book kept 20 or more days from date of mailing by Manager. - 10 cents plus 2 cents per day over 20 days. Mailers postmark establishes final day of mailing and fine.
14. Only collector members may place sales books in circulation. If a shortage of available sales books exists, member dealers may be requested to submit sales books, if they so desire. All dealer books will be marked as such.
The use of commemoratives would be appreciated.

Don't forget to use your V.P.S. Number.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THE RESENT ELECTION OF OFFICERS IN THE VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

PRESIDENT - WILLIAM Wonneberger Jr	234
WILLIAM QUINN	1
VICE PRESIDENT - REV. WILLIAM FLETCHER	122
WILLIAM QUINN	115
TREASURER - FREDERICK J. LEVITSKY	233
SECRETARY - WALLACE R. SMITH	208
ROBERT J. HUTCHESON	30
TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED	241

Some members did not vote fo all officers, others voted for both men in the same office. This accounts for differences in total votes received and the votes for various candidates.

DUES NOTICE

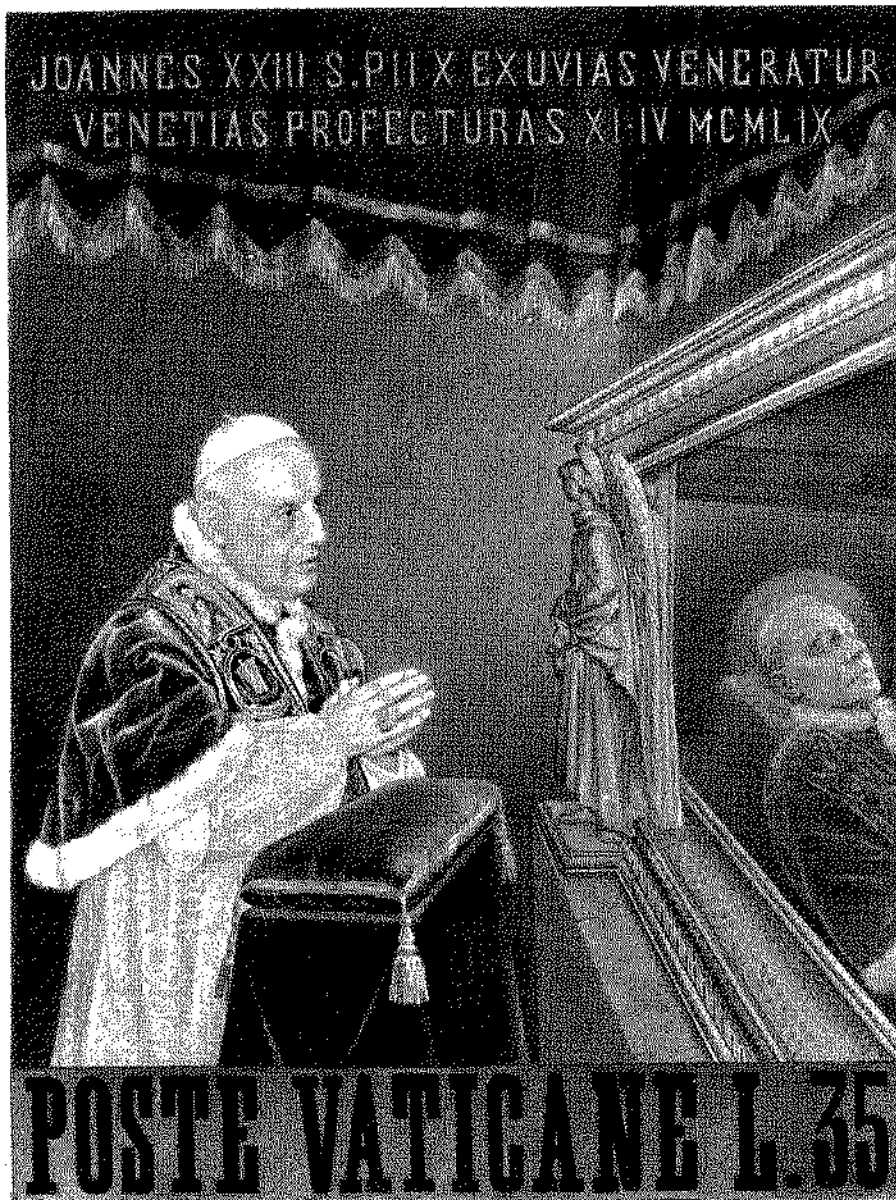
\$2.00 DUES PAYABLE JULY 1, 1961 FOR THE YEAR 1961-1962 \$2.00

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MAKE REMITTANCE PAYABLE TO: -VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
% WALLACE R. SMITH, SECRETARY
165-15 UNION TURNPIKE
FLUSHING 66, N.Y.

MENTION MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WHEN SUBMITTING DUES. DO NOT SEND STAMPS.

DABROWSKA DESIGN WINS AWARD FOR VATICAN CITY



The President of the St. Gabriel World Union has awarded a special diploma for the most beautiful stamp selected by an international jury, from the stamps of the postal administrations of the world to Vatican City for the year 1960.

The design chosen was a work prepared by Miss C. Dabrowska which was used for the 35L. stamp of the Translation of the relics of St. Pius X issue which was released on April 11, 1960.

The President of the Union presented a reproduction of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary based on the work of a 19 century work of an unknown Austrian artist to Miss Casimira Dabrowska, through an Italian Representative, for her execution of this work of art.

This is the second consecutive year Vatican City has been so honored. The 1959 award was given for the set of three stamps marking the Nativity, again the design of Miss C. Dabrowska.

News of this award was given in L'Osservatore Romano the beginning of July. We hope to attain a complete

translation of the article for future publication.

To the best of my knowledge (and subject to verification as yet not available) the only time Vatican City received this award in the past was for C. Mezzana's design used for the Archangel Raphael issue.

Art critics and stamp collectors alike have expressed deep admiration for stamp designs executed by Miss Casimira Dabrowska over the years. Designs which have been subjected to strong criticism have been voiced for many current Vatican stamps but never for one of Miss Dabrowska's designs. Because of this, we find it hard to understand why her works of art are not used exclusive for Vatican stamps.