

Vatican Notes

Volume X

November - December 1960-1961

Number 3

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS



The 80th birthday of Pope John XXIII was commemorated by the issuance, on November 25, of the set of six stamps shown above.

The Roncalli family coat of arms is shown on the 10L stamp and a likeness of the Pope on the 115L stamp. Other values show the scenes of Pope John's baptism (25L); his ordination (30L); his episcopal consecration (40L) and his coronation in St. Peter's Basilica (70L).

The stamps bearing the likeness of Pope John and of his family coat of arms were designed by Piero Grassellini, and the remaining stamps of the set were designed by Edmondo Pizzi.

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NATIVITY - 1961

For the third successive year, Vatican City has issued a set of stamps commemorating the Nativity. As with previous issues, this year's set consists of three values, each showing the same design, in multicolor, but with differently tinted borders. The design is a Nativity scene by the Chinese artist Luca Ch'en. The top of each stamp bears the Latin inscription "Nativitas D.N.I. Christi," (Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ) below which is the year date 1961 in Roman numerals. At the left of the design is an inscription consisting of six Chinese characters. These translate into English as "Respectfully presented by Yuen-tu CHEN."

The same Nativity scene shown on the Vatican City stamps appears as the entire front cover of "MARYKNOLL" magazine for December. For those collectors who want an unusual tie-in for their Nativity stamps, the "MARYKNOLL" cover would be an excellent piece of collateral material.

This set was issued on November 25, and consists of 15, 40 and 70 Lire values. The 15L stamp has a gray green border; the 40L, a gray border; and the 70L a lilac border. The central design on all three values is multicolored, with red, blue and green predominating.

Both of the foregoing sets are perforated 14, and were printed by photo-gravure, in panes of 40 subjects, on paper watermarked with the familiar crossed keys design.

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHERN OHIO CHAPTER

One of the most active of V.P.S. Chapters, NORTHERN OHIO meets regularly at the Women's Federal Bank Building, 320 Superior Avenue, in downtown Cleveland. The December 7 meeting was highlighted by a talk by the newly elected vice president, Richard Deutsch, who discussed the air mail issues of Vatican City and outlined their historical background.

William P. Eibner has been elected Chapter President for the coming year. Other officers elected are Richard Deutsch, vice president; Mrs. Etta Donahue, secretary-treasurer; John P. Clark, program chairman; Mary Stepien, "Bulletin" editor; Leo T. Jadus, assistant editor; Jessie Tomazewski, sergeant-at-arms.

This Chapter takes justifiable pride in the accomplishments of one of its members, Mrs. H. M. Hildebrandt, whose presentation of Madonnas on Stamps has been awarded many honors. In February, Mrs. Hildebrandt won a second prize at the Garfield-Perry show; in May, she won another Memorial Trophy, an American Topical Association award, and a Best Topical at the Lakewood Stamp Show. At the recent Cuy-Lor Stamp Show she received the Open Competition Popular Award, the COROS Award, the A.T.A. Award and the Art Award. Congratulations, Mrs. Hildebrandt!

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

At the November meeting of the EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER of the V.P.S., the following officers were elected: Dr. Augustino Forcucci, president; Miss Rita Murphy, vice president; Miss Elizabeth Pucciarella, treasurer; Rev. Herbert A. Phinney, secretary.

Spring meetings are planned for Sunday evenings at 6:30 P.M. on April 29, May 27 and June 24, 1962. At the April meeting, William P. Quinn will display and speak on a specialized section of his collection of Vatican maximum cards. Fr. John Cusack, author of several articles on places consecrated to the Blessed Virgin in Ireland, will speak on his Madonnas on Stamps collection. The June meeting is usually a club exhibition and banquet. Meetings will take place at St. Augustine's Hall, 9 F Street, South Boston, Mass.

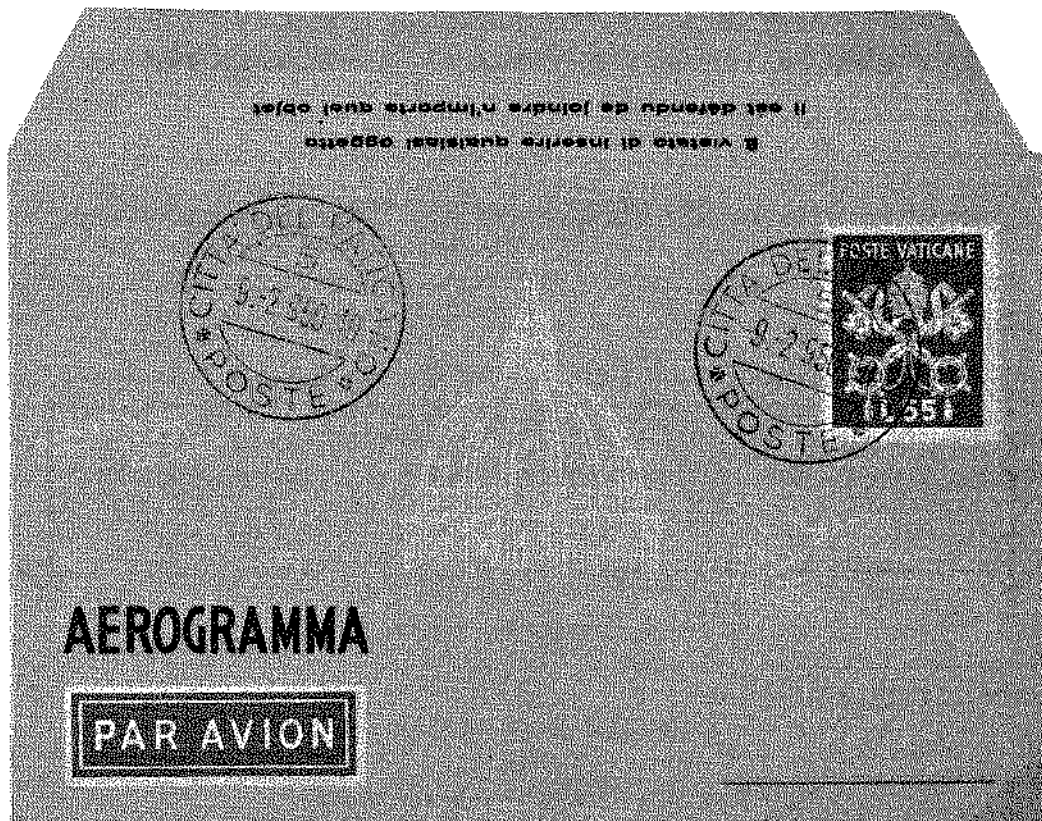
V.P.S. member Rev. Cyr T. Puthenangady of South India and Bill Quinn, our former Membership Secretary, have exchanged numerous letters during the past few years. Recently, Bill received a pamphlet written by Fr. Puthenangady, entitled "Kerala Vanquishes the Communists" and in the next issue of VATICAN NOTES we hope to print some interesting excerpts from this document. Incidentally, Bill advises that his correspondent would welcome any used stamps; if you would like to help a fellow V.P.S. member in India, stamps may be sent to:

Rev. Cyr T. Puthenangady
S.H.Church
Chalil, K.K. Mangalam P.O.
via Shirtallay, Kerala
South India

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER

This live-wire Chapter has again issued a monthly news letter. Titled "THE EPISTLE," the well written bulletin contains a number of items concerning Chapter activities, among which we note a mention of plans for entering the COMPEX exhibition in 1962.

THIS IS AN EXPERIMENT.....



From time to time, we may want to illustrate the aerograms of Vatican City, and perhaps some of their varieties. In order to determine whether our present reproduction methods will satisfactorily illustrate an aerogram, we are trying out the one shown above.

The aerogram shown (#2) bears a February 9, 1950 postmark - the first day of issue.

V.P.S. member Joseph T. May of San Francisco advises that a number of group meetings have been held in that city, and that plans are underway for the formation of a V.P.S. chapter. Mr. May also calls attention to the forthcoming WESTPEX exhibition at San Francisco in April. This is a national show, and is open to all collectors, regardless of club affiliation. Any V.P.S. member who wishes to obtain information concerning WESTPEX, or to exhibit, may contact the Secretary, Mrs. Nina S. Thomas, 3822 Harrison Street, Oakland 11, California.

Veteran V.P.S. member Thomas E. Elnan received the Grand Award in the Wichita Stamp Club's division of the United States Cancellation Club's annual exhibit, held at Wichita, Kansas October 13 - 15. Tom's first place award was given for a fine display of Roman States material.

CATHARINE HUGHES

Readers of VATICAN NOTES will recall that a number of our early issues were edited by Miss Catharine Hughes, and that she did an excellent job on them. We like to think that Miss Hughes' association with V.P.S. (she's a charter member) was of value to her, for she is today an outstanding playwright. The following interesting sketch of Miss Hughes appeared in the June issue of THE SIGN, and is reprinted through the courtesy of its editors:

"New York drama critics say you will be hearing more about Catharine Hughes, twenty-five, whose 'Madame Lafayette' was chosen as golden jubilee production at the Blackfriars' Theater. Playwriting, most exacting of the literary arts, usually requires extensive apprenticeship, but this difficult play about the dedicated wife of the French idealist was a first venture by Miss Hughes, publicity director for Sheed and Ward. She was given the idea and the encouragement by Father Thomas Carey, O.P., Blackfriars' co-founder, as she was interviewing him for a magazine. 'It was hard to tell who was interviewing whom, she recalls. Then followed three summer months over a hot typewriter, an autumn of re-writing, and a winter of casting and rehearsals. She caught the fever of the community of talent that is the theater. 'It is much more pleasant than sitting down in a corner to write by myself.' On a stormy night in March last year, she saw her lines walk and talk on the off-Broadway stage, and the critics filed out to announce the arrival of a playwright. Miss Hughes started out from Lancaster (Pa.) Catholic High School wanting to be a newspaperwoman, working at advertising, writing for Catholic magazines. In 1957 she came to New York and Sheed and Ward. Her experience at Blackfriars' pointed her toward a career in the theater; now she's busy writing a novel with a theatrical background."

THOSE SALES BOOKS.....

Our Sales Department Manager, Peter Butkus, advises that members' sales books sold through the V.P.S. Sales Department are limited to \$30.00 per book, thus the more expensive stamps of Vatican City and Roman States may not be sold through the sales books. They MAY be sold if the seller will notify the manager as to what stamps he has for sale, their condition and price. This also applies to First Day Covers; the seller should indicate whether these are cacheted or not. All stamps and covers will remain in the possession of the seller until a buyer has been located. All transactions will be handled through the manager.

A number of sales books have been mailed out to those who requested them at a fee of 15¢ per book. Thus far, only a few have been filled and returned to the manager. Members are not obligated to fill their books, but are asked to make every effort to do so, as there is a growing need for stamps to be sold to V.P.S. members. Those wishing to sell their stamps as outlined above should write to Mr. Peter Butkus, 160 Maujer Street, Brooklyn 6, N.Y.

CITIZENS OF THE VATICAN

No less fascinating than the stamps of Vatican City are those accounts which provide an insight into the daily lives of its people. Msgr. James I. Tucek authors this interesting article, which is reprinted for VATICAN NOTES readers through the courtesy of NCWC News Service.

"There is no unemployment problem in Vatican City State. It is not allowed.

If a Vatican City citizen can no longer justify his citizenship by rank, appointment or employment at the Vatican by the time he is 25 years old, he automatically becomes an Italian citizen. In the rare instances where his father was a citizen of some nation other than Italy before becoming a Vatican City citizen, then the 25-year-old's citizenship reverts to that nation.

The first citizens of Vatican City acquired their citizenship in 1929 when Vatican City State was created by the Lateran Treaty between the Holy See and Italy. Since that time, citizenship in Vatican City is acquired by birth into a family whose father is a citizen or by appointment to one of the high offices in the Vatican which automatically confer citizenship.

The question of Vatican City citizenship is governed by a law of 1929 which is based on one principle: residence justified by reasons of rank, appointment or employment. The only non-residents of Vatican City who have a right to Vatican City citizenship are the Cardinals of the Vatican administrative staff who live in Rome.

A large number of people are authorized to maintain residence in Vatican City without being citizens. They include the members of certain communities of Religious who do special works - the Sisters who specialize in the repair of tapestries, the Brothers who operate the Vatican switchboard, and the Brothers who work in the Vatican clinic and pharmacy.

Included also are a number of laymen who work in the government offices as well as the students of the Ethiopian College, which is located inside Vatican City.

Among those who have right of citizenship by right of office or employment are: those who hold high official positions in the various congregations and offices of the Holy See, diplomatic representatives of the Holy See, the papal gendarmes and those who are permanently employed in the personal service of a pope.

When the Vatican City State was created in 1929, there were 522 citizens and 250 residents who were not citizens. The number increased through the years. By 1948 there were 890 citizens. Today there are about 1,000 citizens.

The last birth in Vatican City was on March 3, 1960, and the last birth before that was in 1954. The most recent death was on Sept. 16, 1961. The marriages of Vatican City citizens, on the other hand, are relatively high. The last marriage was on Oct. 15, 1961.

All Vatican City citizens are recorded in three special registers. The first contains the names of the popes. So far, it contains only three names: those of Pius XI, Pius XII and John XXIII. There was no Vatican City State before Pope Pius XI.

The second register lists all the cardinals who are Vatican City citizens. The third and largest contains the names of the ordinary Vatican City citizens.

Identity cards are issued to each citizen and passports are issued each year."

CANCELLATION RESEARCH PROJECT

One of the most useful of the research projects undertaken by V.P.S. members is the study of Vatican City cancellations. Fr. Herbert Phinney, of the EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER, has pioneered in this study in the U.S., and makes the following preliminary report:

In my possession are more than 400 postmarks on First Day Covers, Commercial covers, First Flight Covers, Maximum Cards, etc. Each one was examined for type and listed chronologically for the purpose of finding the earliest date of use of each type. Except for the first day of existence of the Vatican Postal System (August 1, 1929) this listing is no guarantee of its first day of usage. It lists only those in my possession; however, this is a step in the direction of finding out. With the cooperation of V.P.S. members in reporting their types and dates of postmarks, the earliest date of usage will be narrowed down. Information from home and abroad indicates that Vatican postal officials do not readily give out this information, either through lack of records, or of time and personnel.

To write down a postmark without reproducing it graphically, I use a system not original with me, which gives an accurate description of a hand cancel. All hand cancels that I have seen consist of a single outside circle within which is an upper and a lower "moon" which divide the circle into three spaces. In the top space is an inscription, either "Poste Vaticane" or "Citta Del Vaticano" (this latter having either small or large size capitals forming the "del"). In the middle space is given the date in numerals (day, month, year, and sometimes the hour). In the bottom space - when "Citta Del Vaticano" is at the top - is the inscription "Poste" or "Posta Aerea" or - with "Poste Vaticane" at top - a star or an asterisk. At both ends of "Citta Del Vaticano" are marks of separation, situated at left and right of the date; generally, 6 or 8 pointed asterisks or 5, 6, or 8 pointed stars, or Maltese crosses.

The moons can be both empty or both filled with vertical lines, or the top moon can have within it a numeral, while the bottom moon remains empty. The numerals can be either Arabic or Roman.

The first listing is the date, since the primary concern is with that. Then to distinguish the type of cancel there follow: 1. the top inscription with indication whether the "del" is in smaller capitals (small del) or capitals of the same size (large del) as "Citta --- Vaticano." 2. the type of separation at each end of the top inscription (when "Poste Vaticane" is in lower space) is indicated by 6, 8 asterisks; 5, 6, 8 stars (indicating number of points to asterisk or star) or Δ . 3. the bottom inscription. 4. the type of "moon" - empty, lined, with Arabic numeral (Arb. 1, etc.) or Roman numeral (Rom. I, etc.) 5. the diameter of the outside circle in millimeters (necessary especially in the types which use Arabic numerals).

A mimeographed list in chronological order will be sent to those who send me a list of their cancels listed in this fashion, containing all the cancels I have. To others it will be sent on receipt of a self-addressed envelope carrying double postage. In gathering this data it is possible to come nearer to the first date of usage of each type of hand cancel, and eventually the last date of use, as well as listing other types of hand cancels. My collection is particularly lacking in the early years cancellations, and is incomplete. All information will be welcomed by:

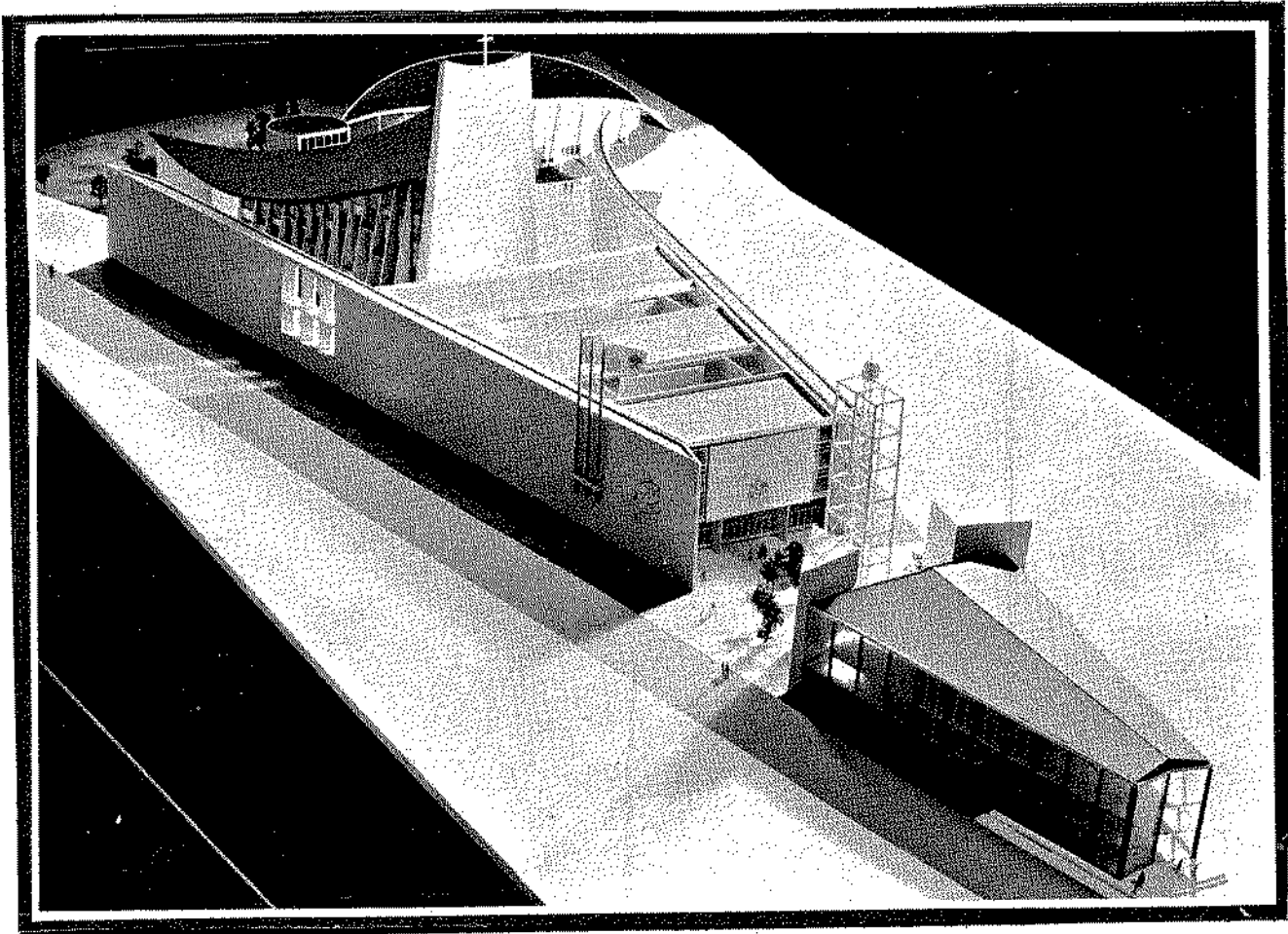
Rev. Herbert A. Phinney
377 Walnut Avenue
Roxbury 19, Massachusetts

<u>Date</u>	<u>Top Inscription</u>	<u>Separation</u>	<u>Bottom Inscription</u>	<u>Moons</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
1-8-29	POSTE VATICANE	6 star (1 only)	POSTE	lined	28 mm
17-1-30	CITTA del VATICANO	8 asterisk	"	lined	28 mm
7-2-30	small del	8 asterisk	"	empty	27 mm
9-4-30	" "	6 star	"	lined	27 mm
11-8-30	" "	6 asterisk	"	empty	27 mm
7-1-31	" "	8 asterisk	"	small lined	27 mm
10-6-31	" "	6 star	"	empty	28 mm
14-1-32	" "	6 asterisk	"	empty	28 mm
3-2-32	" "	8 star	"	empty	27 mm
15-2-33	" "	6 asterisk	"	lined	27 mm
31-5-33	" "	8 asterisk	"	empty	29 mm
31-5-33	" "	6 asterisk	"	empty	27 mm
2-2-35	" "	8 asterisk	"	Arb. 1	27 mm
23-5-35	" "	8 asterisk	"	Arb. 3	27 mm
13-2-36	large del	6 star	"	empty	28 mm
24-7-37	small "	8 asterisk	"	? Arb. 2	28 mm
10-8-37	large "	/	"	empty	27 mm
20-2-39	small "	/	"	empty	27 mm
20-2-39	" "	6-8 asterisk	"	lined	27 mm
27-2-40	" "	6 star	"	empty	32 mm
1-9-42	large "	/	"	empty	29 mm
1-9-42	" "	6 star	"	small empty	29 mm
20-11-44	small "	5 star	"	empty	32 mm
21-4-50	large "	/	"	Arb. 10	29 mm
28-7-50	" "	/	"	Arb. 6	29 mm
31-10-50	" "	/	"	Arb. 9	29 mm
1-12-50	" "	/	"	Arb. 5	29 mm
17-5-51	" "	/	"	Rom. III	27 mm
3-6-51	" "	/	"	Rom. IV	27 mm

<u>Date</u>	<u>Top Inscription</u>	<u>Separation</u>	<u>Bottom Inscription</u>	<u>Moons</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
15-3-52	large del	/	POSTE	Arb. 7	29 mm
21-3-52	" "	/	"	Arb. 4	29 mm
25-6-54	" "	/	"	Arb. 8	29 mm
29-12-55	CITTA DEL VATICANO	/	"	Rom. V	27 mm
29-12-55	large del	/	"	Rom. II	27 mm
21-4-56	" "	/	"	Rom. I	27 mm
2-10-56	" "	/	"	Arb. 2	27 mm
19-6-58	" "	/	"	Arb. 8	27 mm
19-6-58	" "	/	"	Rom. VI	27 mm
9-10-58	" "	/	"	Arb. 7	27 mm
9-10-58	" "	/	"	Arb. 6	27 mm
21-10-58	" "	/	"	Arb. 3	27 mm
21-10-58	" "	/	"	Arb. 1	27 mm
12-1-59	" "	/	"	Arb. 4	27 mm
27-10-59	" "	/	"	Arb. 5	27 mm

22-6-38	small del	8 asterisk	POSTA AEREA	empty	28 mm
19-12-39	" "	6 asterisk	" "	empty	27 mm
15-12-43	" "	6-8 asterisk	" "	empty	28 mm
28-12-48	" "	5 star	" "	empty	28 mm
3-2-49	large "	/	" "	Arb. 1	29 mm
10-1-50	" "	/	" "	Arb. 2	29 mm
5-5-51	" "	/	" "	Rom. II	27 mm
8-5-51	" "	/	" "	Rom. I	27 mm
21-12-53	" "	/	" "	Rom. IV	27 mm
22-2-56	" "	/	" "	Rom. V	27 mm

(/ denotes Maltese cross)

BRUSSELS EXPOSITIONVatican Participation in the Brussels World's Fair of 1958CIVITAS DEI

Baron Moens de Fernig, Commissioner General of the Belgian Government at the Universal and International Exhibition at Brussels, 1958, gave the following as the purpose of this exhibition: "The 1958 exhibition will be in the first place a 'plea for man.' All nations will be able to present and defend their concept of happiness and the means to achieve it. If we are able to comprehend one another's ideas, a world wide understanding can be reached which will be based on the noble conception of man as a 'yardstick of people and races.' As soon as we are aware of that understanding, we will become conscious of the need for true solidarity among nations and the miracle of this century will take place; that is to say, the salvation of the spirit. For that is the main objective of the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition, 1958: to present a synthesis in view of new humanism."

Others stated its aim as being "to bring into prominence the great spiritual, cultural and moral problems that lie at the basis of all civilization and which urgently require new solutions because of the rapid strides of science and technology."

On June 9, 1954, the Belgian Government through its Ambassador, Viscount Berryer invited the Holy See as an independent sovereign state to participate in the Brussels World's Fair. On September 17, 1954 the Holy See accepted and named a Belgian, Paul Heymans, former Minister and President of "International Aid" and "Caritas Catholica" as Commissioner General for the Vatican. Mr. Heymans stated that the Vatican exhibit would show visitors what the Roman Catholic philosophy is, what Christ's empire, the "Civitas Dei" (City of God) has done for civilization

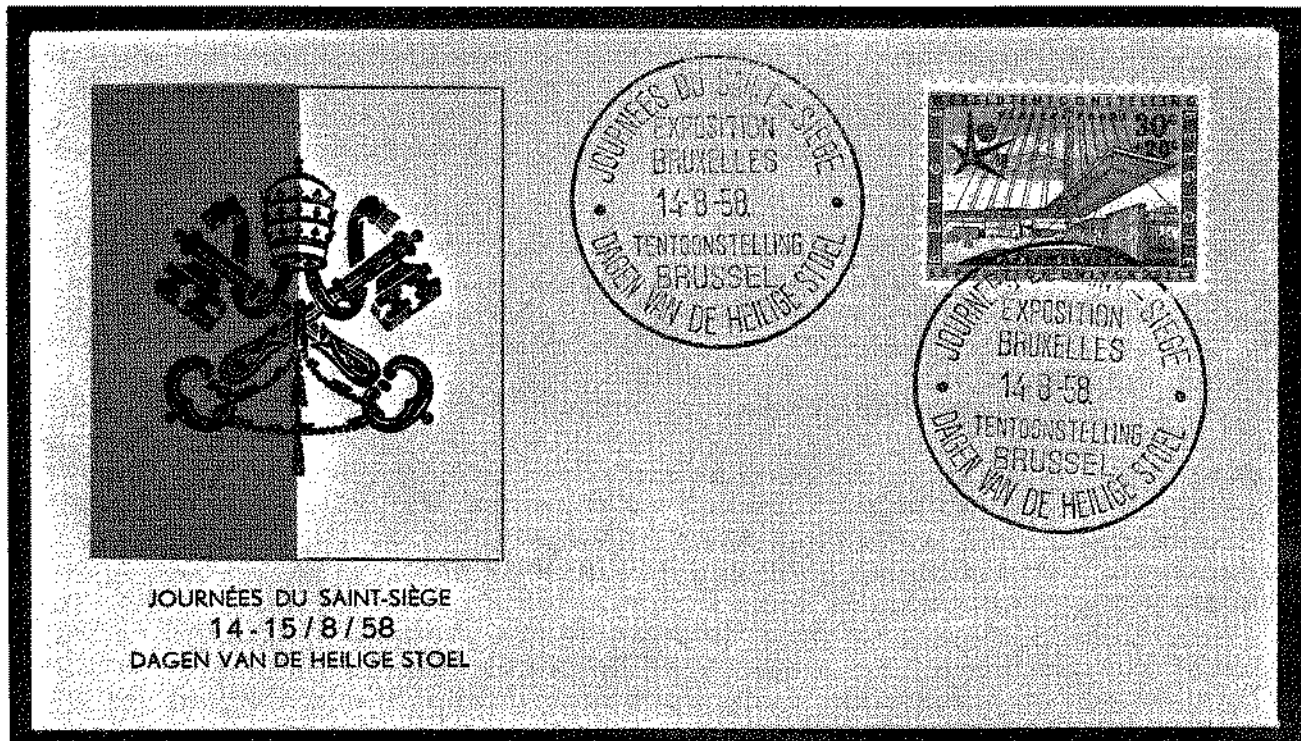
BRUSSELS WORLD'S FAIR (Cont.)

in the course of history, and what it means for the world of today and of the future. By November of 1955 a provisional program was drawn up, approved by Cardinal van Roey, Archbishop of Malines, and Msgr. Forni, Apostolic Nuncio in Brussels, which constituted a base for the acceptance by the Vatican of the invitation of the Belgian Government.

The maximum assignment of space on the fair grounds was 25,000 square meters in the area of foreign exhibits. All participants received much less space than they requested. The Vatican received 14,220 square meters, located near the center of the foreign exhibits. Mr Heymans had pledged, in the name of the Vatican, to present the final plans for the Vatican Pavilion no later than June 20, 1956; to have the outer structure ready by June 30, 1957, and to have the pavilion finished and ready for inspection on March 31, 1958. The fair was scheduled to open on April 3 and to close on October 15, 1958. Mr. Heymans saw to the formation of various Catholic committees in the nations of the world to schedule conventions in the Vatican Pavilion during the fair.

"Civitas Dei," a non-profit organization, had been incorporated under Belgian law, and the committee formed by Mr. Heymans officially met on July 15, 1954 for the first time. Rev. Jan Joos, C.I.C.M., was appointed secretary general.

Mr. Heymans and Fr. Joos went to Vatican City in June of 1956 and received approval of the doctrinal and architectural plans.



Cover showing cancellation used at the Fair on Vatican City Days

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS

The chief architect was Paul Rome, assisted in committee by Roger Bastin, Jacques Boseret-Mali, Rudger Langaskens, Georges Pepermans and Eugene Stassin. Other architects aided them.

The triangular shape of the allotted plot of land influenced the general architectural plan. The name of the pavilion, Civitas Dei (City of God) inspired the architects to design the building layout as an impressive city surrounded by massive walls without gates, readily accessible to all people. The imposing unadorned walls convey the idea that the glory of the City of God does not consist

BRUSSELS WORLD'S FAIR (Cont.)

in sumptuous externals but mainly in its internal beauty. A large church was necessary to provide facilities for attendance at Mass for multitudes and for exhibiting liturgical objects. Since religious concerts were to be given in the church, a Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament was added, to give opportunity at all times for visits to the Blessed Sacrament and for confessions. The exhibition section consisted of three buildings, each three stories high, with easy stairways and escalators. On the ground floor these three merge into one huge room, but on the upper floors they were separated from one another by two large halls. At the narrow end of the plot was built a restaurant for 2,000 people where they could eat at modest prices. Joined to this building were the offices. An auditorium seating 1,200 people was planned for the space under the aerial bridge that passed nearby.

Although most of the committee for the Vatican exhibit was Belgian, the actual completion of the work was entrusted to various national and international committees.

THE CHURCH

It was first planned to have an open church with a covered altar, and a belfry, but because of rain in the spring and fall, it was decided to build a covered church. Expense was a determining factor, and when a Swedish construction firm suggested anchored steel cables to hold the roof, the unusual design of the pavilion's church was determined. It has been labeled "ultra modern," but it was a logical design for a church intended to last only six months. It was a relatively inexpensive solution for a covered church, and actually it converged attention where it should be - on the altar. The roof was only 20 feet high at the rear and extended to 80 feet over the altar. A sloping floor descended towards the sanctuary, increasing the visibility of the altar. There was only one altar at the front, other altars being located at the rear, where the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and six small oratories were located.

The altar was soberly designed, made of Belgian blue stone, surmounted by a lavishly decorated ciborium with gold and mosaics. The sanctuary offered ample space for pontifical ceremonies, and had an episcopal throne. The ambos and a communion rail separated it from the rest of the church. At the entrance of the church was a modernistic statue of the Queen of Peace. Other than the sanctuary, the church was severe.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel was richly decorated under the architect Pinsard. The ceiling, decorated with lightly gilded stucco, was designed as a huge monstrance, with a number of openings through which daylight fell on the altar. The walls were plain, while the floor was of black marble. The altar was detached from the back wall, and was made of Roman travertine. A rich tabernacle and canopy were decorated with stones and gilding. An elaborate crucifix was suspended by almost invisible attachments.

Six small chapels or oratories were decorated by the French and German members of the committee. The oratories of Matrimony, Confirmation, and Extreme Unction were done by the French, while those of Baptism, Penance and Holy Orders were done by the Germans. The sacristies were entrusted to a committee from Luxembourg. Both the main church and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel had their own organs.

The Commisariat-General of the Belgian Government assigned to each foreign pavilion a "National Day" which would emphasize some aspect of its national life. The "International Catholic Days" for the Vatican pavilion were August 14 and August 15.

On August 14 the Pontifical Legate, Cardinal Siri of Genoa made his official visit to the Vatican Pavilion. Later in the day there was an organ concert, while in the evening, Cardinal Agagianian, Bishop Fulton Sheen, and Chancellor Conrad Adenauer spoke on the theme "For a more human world."

(to be continued)