

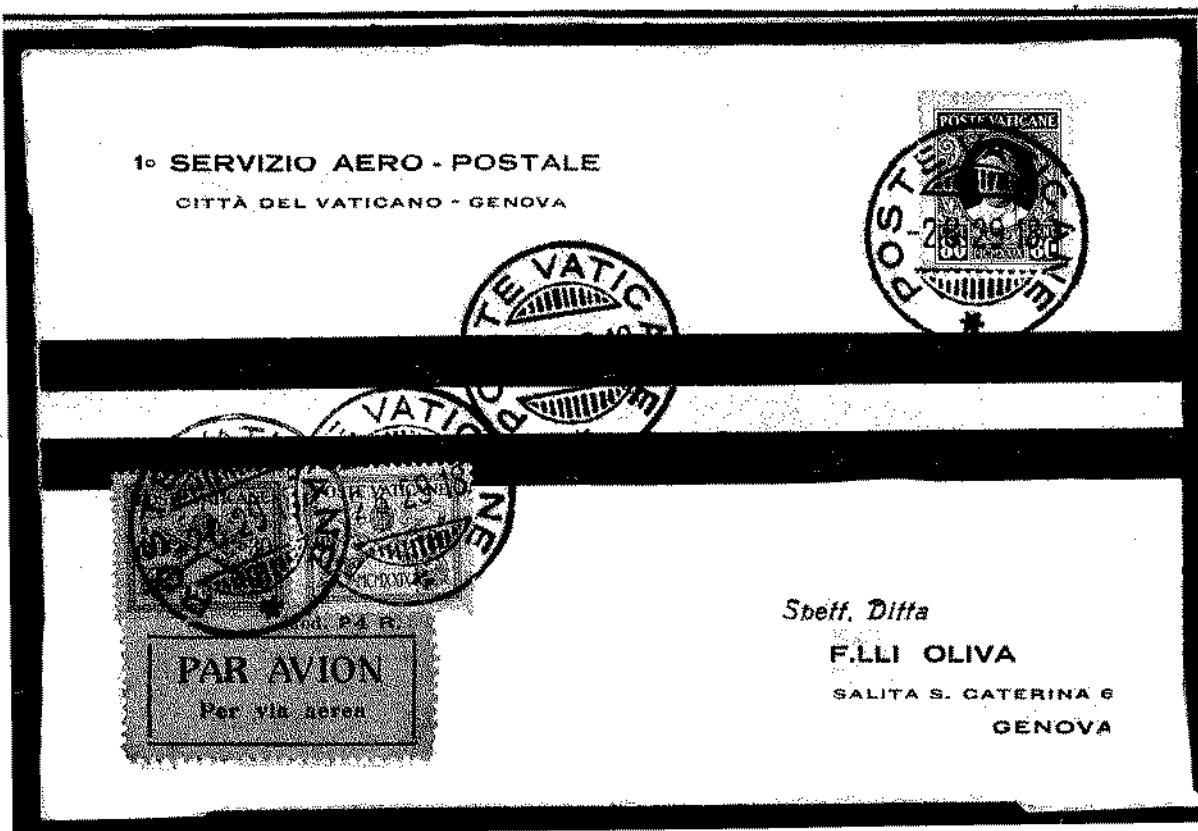


Vatican Notes

Volume XII.

November-December 1963

Number 3.



VATICAN FIRST FLIGHT COVERS.

In the course of years I have acquired half a dozen Vatican "first flight" covers and have seen an equal number in the possession of other V.P.S. collectors. In the old Pergolesi Catalogue there is a list of Vatican "first flights" noting destination, date, value and nothing more. When Pergolesi temporarily disappeared from the public scene, D'Urso succeeded to this catalogue which he publishes under his own name, continuing these listings.

Constant searching though books for information and questioning of collectors brought no more information on Vatican "first flights" than is given in these catalogues, until one day I received a reply to a letter sent to a New York collector who had a tremendous collection of Italian First Flight Covers, Labels and allied material, which I had seen exhibited at a meeting of the Italy Stamp Group. I quote this letter in part:-

President----- William P. Quinn, 435 Adams St., Milton, Mass.
Vice-President----- Rev. Herbert A. Phinney, 100 Landham Rd, Sudbury, Mass.
Secretary----- Wallace R. Smith, 165-15 Union Turnpike, Flushing 66, N.Y.
Treasurer----- Frederick J. Levitsky, 13 Lesley Ave., Auburn, Mass.
Membership Chairman)---- Miss Rita Murphy, 44 Beaver St., Framingham, Mass.
Research Coordinator)
Slide Program Chairman--- Rev. Robert W. Contant, St. Mary's Church, Decatur, Ill.
Sales Dept. Manager----- Peter Butkus, 160 Maujer Ave., Brooklyn 6, N.Y.
Translation Chairman----- Brother Camillus, O.F.M., 41 Butler St., Brooklyn 31, N.Y.
Chapter Coordinator----- Dr. Augustine T. Forcucci, D.M.D., 20 Waldo Rd., Milton, Mass.

Los Angeles Chapter recently elected:- Pres. Gerald L. Hovley; Vice-Pres. John W. Tunis;
Sec.-Treas. J. Ray Tierce; Program Chairman: Fr. Floyd A. Jenkins, S.J.. On July 14
the Chapter participated in the annual barbecue held by Stella Maris House. The
Chapter meets the first Sunday of the month.

"First Flights of Vatican are few indeed. As you know, Vatican State came into existence [postally on Aug. 1, 1929] when aviation was well established and an accepted, even common means of transportation. As you look at the catalogue you can see that the air mail stamps came even later [June 22, 1938]. There are, however, some first flights but always connected with Italy. These first flights were never promoted by the Vatican State, but by private individuals who hoped to reap a profit from them. A large stock is held by....., a firm whose owner was in business in Rome for 20 years and was there when the Vatican Post Office opened."

At the suggestion of this collector, I carried on correspondence with the author of an Italian catalogue on Italian first flights, but learned nothing more than the above, except that I could finance and publish a catalogue, which the author would write for me on Vatican first flights.

The U.S. Post Office, as far as I can learn from their publicity releases, schedules and announces U.S. first flights, and I presume that this is generally the practice with other countries. I have been unable to uncover a shred of evidence that the government of the Vatican City State has ever scheduled or sponsored a first flight. Most of the cacheted "first flight" Vatican covers which I have seen have as addressee the dealer mentioned above. Prices for these privately manufactured "first flights" are very high in some instances.

To satisfy the curiosity of V.P.S. members we shall endeavor to reproduce from time to time some of these covers which are in the possession of V.P.S.ers, with whom I have corresponded. Pictured above is the first listed "first flight" from Vatican to Genoa, August 2, 1929, the second day of existence of the Vatican P.O. This cover bears franking of L. 1.30, and is backstamped GENOVA * POSTA AEREA 3-8-29-13. I have a similar cover which bears L.0.50 extra postage for some reason, carrying L.1.80 value in stamps for franking. It has two back stamps: ROMA FERROVIA * POSTA AEREA 3-8-29 (Rome Railway Station); and GENOVA CENTRO * POSTA AEREA 3-8-29-13.

Except for the POSTA AEREA cancellation, which I presume guarantees that the cover was flown, there would be a grave doubt in my mind whether or not it was flown. Bolaffi's Catalogue, 1963, on page 35, gives the surface rate of Vatican mail in 1929 as L 0.80 for the first 1/2 oz. and L.0.50 for the next additional 1 1/2 oz. It does not give air mail rates. Most of this first "first flight" cover which I have seen have the L.1.30 franking., which is the cost for the first 2 oz. first class surface rate. Being of a suspicious mind, I examined the backstamps of the second mentioned cover. The ROMA FERROVIA does not give the hour of cancellation. The GENOVA CENTRO gives 13 hours or 1:00 P.M. as time of arrival. Frome the point of view of time, these letters could have been cancelled in Rome shortly after midnight, have been put on an express train, and could easily have reached Genoa by 1:00 P.M. the same day. I anyone has more definite information, we would be glad to print an article on the subject by them..

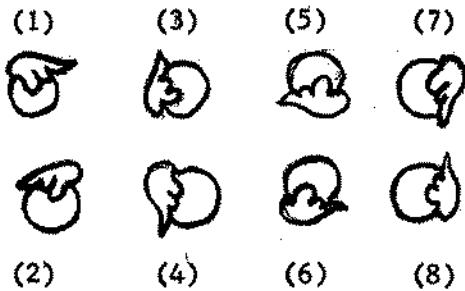
THE WINGED WHEEL WATERMARK

The Winged wheel watermark is properly an Italian watermark and not Vatican. Bolaffi states that the winged wheels are arranged on the paper in horizontal rows of 20 with a gutter space between the 10th and 11th rows. In this gutter space and on the outer borders in watermark is the inscription POSTE ITALIANE vertically. Since Vatican stamps are printed at the Italian Government Printing Office, it is not surprising that Italian paper would be used when Vatican paper is not on hand. Italian paper with the winged wheel watermark has been used for three issues: Prisoner of War (99-101) of September 12, 1945; the Holy Year issue (132-139) of December 21, 1949; and the Palatine Guard issue (140-142) of September 12, 1950.

In the "Key to This Catalogue" of Bolaffi's, it is stated that the position of the watermark is determined by looking at the stamp from the reverse side. This particular watermark can appear in eight possible positions. In the Italian issue of Oct. 20, 1950, "Italy at Work", which ran through many printings, it is recorded in only four positions. All eight positions have never been confirmed in any one Vatican set of stamps, or even in all the sets.

The eight positions are as follows:

1. Wing at top of wheel, tip points right.
2. Wing at top of wheel, tip points left.
3. Wing at left of wheel, tip points up.
4. Wing at left of wheel, tip points down.
5. Wing at bottom of wheel, tip points left.
6. Wing at bottom of wheel, tip points right.
7. Wing at right of wheel, tip points down.
8. Wing at right of wheel, tip points up.



These positions are possible because the paper could be put into the printing press with any of its four edges first, or with either side up. Numbers 1, 3, 5 and 7 would result from the paper being placed in the press with the same side up, but with a different edge placed in the press first. Similarly, positions 2, 4, 6 and 8 would be printed with the same side of the paper up (opposite side to that of 1, 3, 5 and 7), but again with a different edge of the paper entering the press first.

The 1961 Bolaffi Catalogue in English gives several positions of the watermark on the three issues on which it appears. I examined a dozen copies of my own of each issue, and list the findings below.

	Bolaffi (1961)	My Dozen Copies
Prisoner of War (99)	4	4
(100)	4	4
(101)	4	4
Holy Year (132)	8 3	7 3
(133)	8 3 7	7 3
(134)	8 3	3
(135)	8 3	3
(136)	8 7	7
(137)	8 7	7
(138)	8 3	7 3
(139)	8 3	7 3
Palatine Guard (140)	7	7
(141)	7	7
(142)	3	3

This check shows that positions 3, 4, 7 and 8 are found. Position 3 is the opposite side of the sheet from position 8, and 4 is the opposite side from position 7. Positions 3 and 7 are from the same side of the sheet, but opposite ends or edges of the paper were inserted into the press for each. Positions 4 and 8 likewise are from the same side of the sheet, but again opposite edges were placed first into the press for each position. This shows that half the possible positions exist. It may be that the size of the sheet of paper and the size of the stamps so far printed would not allow the other four positions to appear. Maybe not. Remember, everyone thought that the Council of Trent issue was just a cut and dried linear perforation- always 14 x 14. One day someone started to check up on his accumulation of Trent issues with a perforation gague, and discovered a great variety of perforations in many combinations. You never know what you have until you look, do you.

FRANCOIS FOURNIER - MASTER FORGER

Francois Fournier was born in France and fought in the Franco-Prussian War. Besides this not much is known of his early life. Toward the end of the 19th century he became associated with H.L.Mercier, who had started a philatelic forgery business in 1891, to which Fournier later succeeded. In 1906 he was in Geneva, Switzerland, first at 6 Rue Corraterie, but soon moved to permanent quarters at 17 Rue du Rhone, where he remained until his death early in World War I.

At first his work was well received and won medals at exhibitions, but in 1905 when he really began to turn out forgeries, no one would accept his advertisements, so he started his own paper, Le Fac-Simile. As often happens, his forgeries were so good that they were being sold as genuine by dealers all over Europe.

Fournier called himself an art publisher. He was not a postal forger certainly, because he only reproduced stamps no longer valid for postage or of countries that no longer existed. Fournier ran a stamp repair service which employed five restorers, and claimed that any stamp he repaired would pass every examination as a first class stamp. Between 1900 and 1914 he had forged 796 sets of stamps which contained 3,671 varieties.

Organized philately attacked him. This aroused Fournier so much that he became touchy and sensitive. He started publishing Le Fac-Simile in 1910 and distributed 25,000 copies of each issue, mostly free to members of philatelic organizations whose lists he acquired, continuing until the May-August issue of 1913. It was published in French and German (later there were translations into English, Spanish and Portuguese which were very poor) in which he offered his forgeries for sale as artistic reproductions, and defended his business and position.

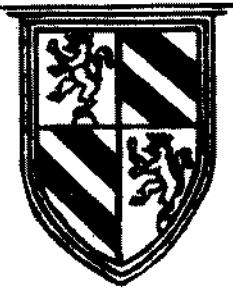
The outbreak of World War I in 1914 ruined his business, since the governments at war seized all his shipments, either looking for spy messages or confiscating his works of art as forgeries. Shortly after the start of the war Fournier died. An employee, Ch. Hirschburger, tried to continue the business, but without success. Hirschburger died in the mid-1920s and all of Fournier's stock and equipment was placed on sale, including 800 pounds of forgeries. To prevent these from falling into unscrupulous hands, the Philatelic Union of Geneva bought the whole stock in December, 1927. The tools were sent to a local museum. Four hundred special albums were prepared containing a representative selection of Fournier's work, with FAUX or FACSIMILE indelibly printed on front or back, no album containing a complete collection.

(Cf. "Fournier's 1914 Price-List of Philatelic Forgeries"; Introduction by Lowell Ragatz).

The new Masthead is by Tom Boland, Haverhill, Mass., designer of all previous mastheads for Vatican Notes.

The Genuine 50 Baj.

1. The point of the interior frame line does not touch leg of A of BAJ.
2. Lower left leaf has only one vein.
3. Lower right leaf- joining line broken.
4. Top of 5 has inward curve.
5. One vein in upper right leaf.
6. Both pearls joined directly to key handles.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



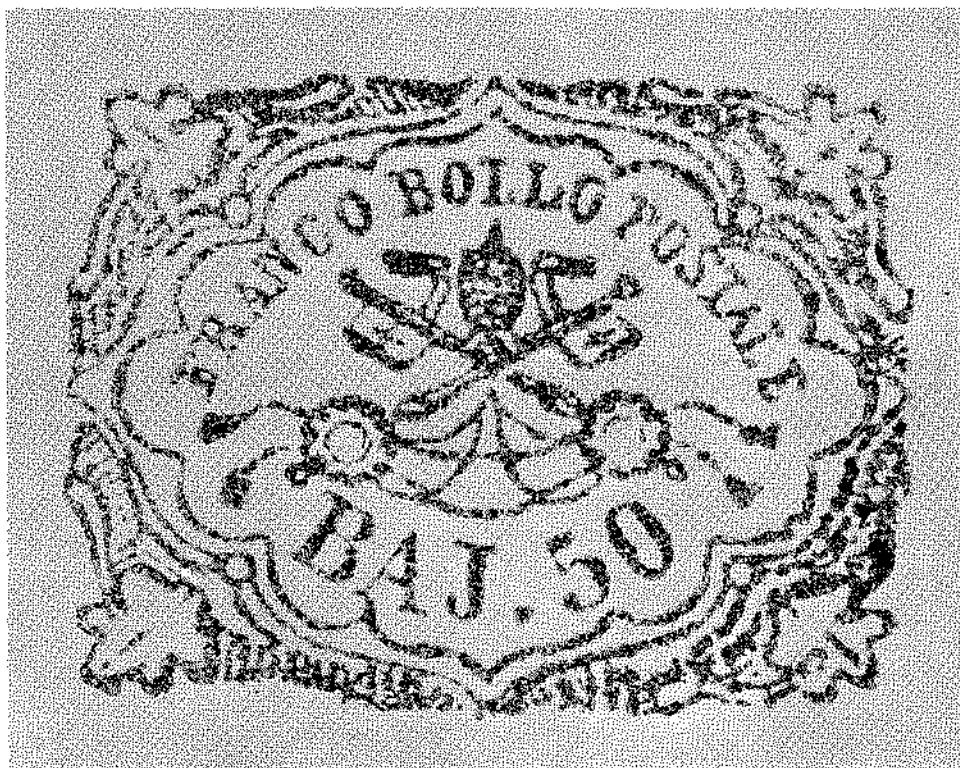
6.



FOURNIER Forgery of the 50 Baj (2nd).

1. Point of interior frame line touches left leg of A of BAJ.
2. Lower left leaf has two veins.
3. Lower right leaf- break in joining line very slight.
4. Top stroke of 5 lacks inward curve.
5. Two veins in upper right leaf.
6. Pearl joined to right key handle by line; to left directly.

(Cf. Billig #34)



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



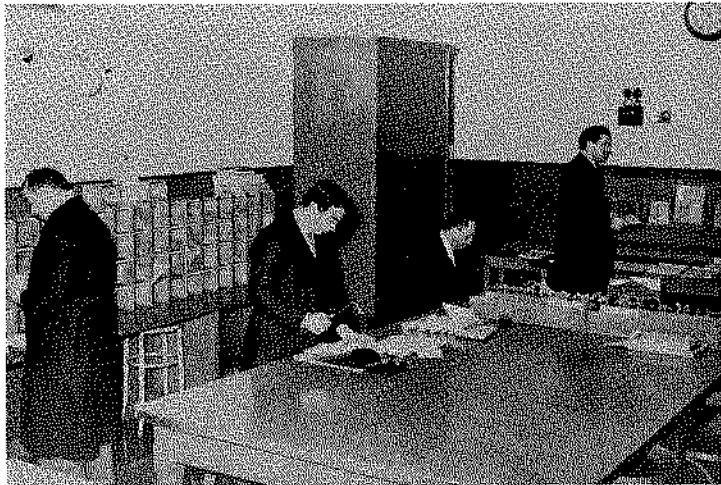
6.



The Number in the Moon. (Cont).

I quote here the answer to the letter I sent inquiring about the "Number in the Moon".

"I had no trouble getting the two bits of information you asked for. First of all, with reference to the number in the upper 'moon' of the postmark:- they are for identification of the cancel. According to the clerk, there are only three numbers in circulation now, two at the Central Post Office and one at the large post office in St. Peter's Square. All mail that cannot fit the machine for cancelling, or which has the stamps arranged in such a way that the machine cannot cancel them, are hand cancelled. So, since there are only three numbers in circulation, the numbers pertain to the cancel, and not the clerk or post office. With reference to the arabic and roman numerals, one type is not necessarily for air mail and the other for surface mail. The older cancels have roman numerals and the newer ones have arabic numerals, according to the clerk. Probably the reason that you see roman numerals on the POSTA AEREA cancel, and this is just my guess, is that the POSTA Aerea cancel is not used as much as the POSTE, and thus does not need replacing so often."



Posta Centrale.
Hand Cancel being used by clerk in center.

With reference to the AO in a circle, just as we distinguish 1st, 2nd and 3rd class mail, Vatican distinguishes in the following manner:-

First Class is marked LETTERE; Second Class is marped STAMPE; and all other mail is marked AO in a circle: ALTRI OGGETTI (other objects). Thus the AO does not necessarily appear on an air mail letter only. (I was not too convinced with this explanation, because you would think that most air mail would fall into the category of 1st Class, and therefore would not be stamped with the AO in a circle. But the clerk appeared to know what he was talking about.) If I get any other information I will let you know.

(Ed.- Pretty good for a non collector.) Continued.



Close-up of Vatican Mail Box.
Note Papal Coat of Arms.

THE REBUILDING OF ST. PETERS BASILICA AND THE VATICAN PALACE. (Cont.)Pope Julius II (Cont.).

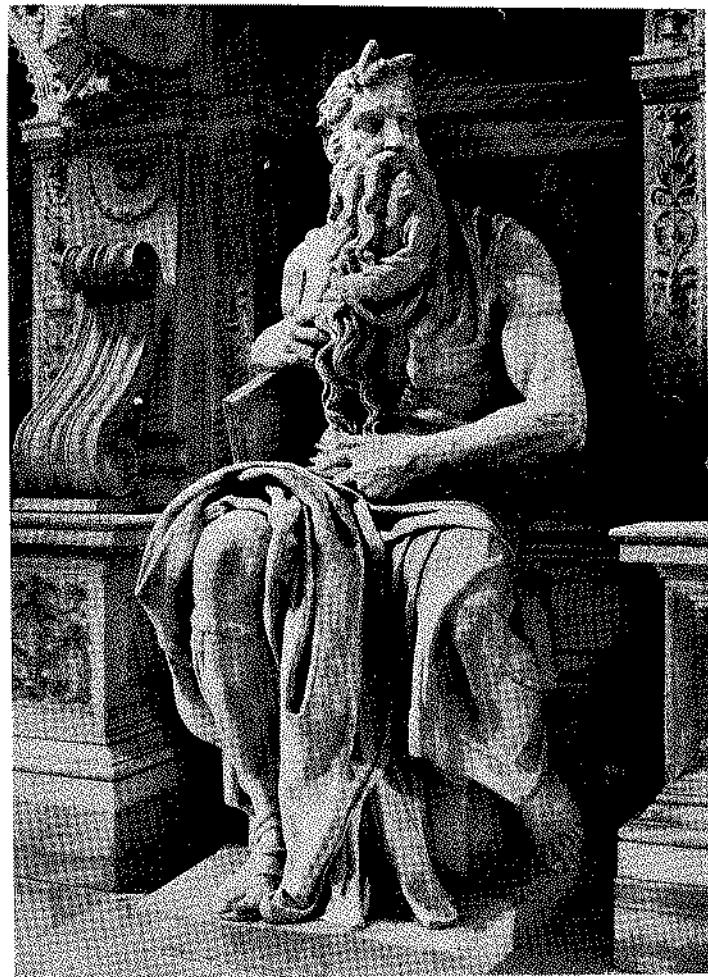
The capitals for the large interior pilasters were contracted for by Francesco di Domenico of Milan, Antonio di Giacomo of Pontasieve and Benedetto di Giovanni Albini of Rome in March, 1508. In 1510 Antonio di Sangallo prepared the centering for the arches of the cupola.

Julius II asked the King of Spain to apply a fourth of the tithes to the work, in 1508. A portion of the revenue of the Holy House at Loreto was assigned to this work, and commissioners were appointed everywhere for the collection of charitable gifts, with the power of granting indulgences to the donors on the usual conditions of confession, communion and prayers for the intention of the Pope.. It was thought that all christendom should bear the expense of the new basilica over the tomb of St. Peter. Opposition and hostility to such collections brought about misrepresentation of the attempt to collect funds. France even accused Julius II of collecting funds to be used in war.

When Julius died, the four pillars of the dome, each more than 100 paces in circumference at the base, with their connecting arches, were finished. They had been strengthened by cast-iron centerings, which Bramante had rediscovered. The choir, begun under Nicholas V by Bernardo Rosselino, was used by Bramante in part as the rear wall of the transept and in part for the choir, which was intended to be temporary. The tribune of the nave had been started and an enclosure with doric pillars for the Papal Court as high Mass was begun and later finished by Peruzzi, and was eventually done away with.

The high altar and tribune of the old basilica were still existing, but on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, 1511, solemn Masses were celebrated in the Sistine Chapel and no more in the old basilica.

Bramante had new designs for the Vatican Palace- practically a new building - but the death of Julius II interrupted them. Yet it was said that more was accomplished in the Vatican under Julius II than in the whole previous century.. The design for the



Moses.

By Michaelangelo- one of the three figures actually completed for the projected tomb of Julius II. (St. Peter in Chains-Rome). (Photo-Fratelli Alinari- Florence)

Cortile di Damaso was Bramante's, although built later. Bramante designed a plan for connecting the Vatican Palace, then a heterogeneous group of houses, with the Belvedere - on a rise 100 paces higher. The plan had two straight corridors lead from the old palace to the Belvedere. The space between the corridors, 70 by 327 yards, was divided into two parts. That near the old palace was to form an arena or theater. From this a broad flight of stairs lead to a terrace where a double stairway lead to the upper portion, laid out as a garden (now the Giardina del Pigna). The Theater was to have an amphitheater at one end, loggie along the sides, and a huge stage at the other end. If carried out, it would have been without rival in the world. Only the eastern galler was actually completed at the death of Julius II. Later additions and alterations have made the original plan unrecognizable.

Sixtus V cut the larger court, the theater, into two parts by building a library across it. This left the great niche out of proportion, with insufficient foreground. The loggie were walled up. The long corridor was used to house Christian and ancient inscriptions. Pius VII later built the Braccio Nuovo parallel to the library to serve as a museum.

Bramante added to the Belvedere a two story facade looking south, having at the center the giant niche mentioned above, which is about 80 feet high. On the east of the Belvedere was a tower shaped hall, which enclosed Bramante's spiral staircase. Julius II formed the nucleus of the collection of ancient sculptures, now in the Belvedere, from discoveries made during his reign. As a cardinal he had acquired the Apollo which is now in the courtyard of the Belvedere. Bramante designed the niches for the statues which adorn the Cortile, with places for Venus Felix and Antaeus in the grasp of Hercules. Laocoön, discovered in 1506, was purchased by Julius II for the Belvedere as were Tigris, the reclining Ariadne and the great statue of the Tiber.



The Sistine Chapel.

Ceiling and Back Wall Painted by Michaelangelo.

(Photo- Alinari Brothers, Florence)

Julius II, knowing of the Pieta, invited Michaelangelo to Rome in 1505 when the great sculptor was 33 years of age. Both the Pope and the artist were hot tempered. Julius commissioned Michaelangelo to design a colossal tomb for the Pope, and the sculptor went to Carrara to supervise the quarrying of the marble, and eight months task. He set up a workshop in Rome in 1506 to execute the monument with workmen from Florence. At this time Julius II decided not to erect the tomb but to rebuild St. Peters after Bramante's plan. He offered Michaelangelo the commission of painting the Sistine Chapel.

Michaelangelo wanted payment for his work and after several refusals of an audience with Julius II, he left Rome intending never to return. Messengers of the Pope overtook him at Poggibonsi, commanding him to return. Giuliano da Sangallo was sent to Florence to bring him back no avail. Nor could the II went to Bologna and asked

Finnally the went to Bologna forgiveness for were reconciled. bronze of Julius which he re- from whence



Michaelangelo

followed by letters from Julius II, to Florentine officials move him. Julius that Michaelangelo be sent to him.

sculptor relented and to beg the Pope's his rage and the two At Bologna he did a in 1507-1508 after turned to Florence in March, 1508,

Julius called him to Rome to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Michaelangelo drew cartoons for the ceiling of the Sistine. In his first plan the 12 Apostles were to occupy 12 lunettes and all other spaces were to be filled with decorative designs.

In May, 1508 the staging was erected in the Chapel. Meanwhile Michaelangelo conceived a more extensive plan for his frescoes, connecting them with the paintings already existing in the Chapel. Julius II approved and drew up an agreement.

The whole ceiling down to the windows was to be covered with figures. The artist began to search for assistants, ordered his colors and began the paintings in the autumn of 1508. Dissatisfied with his assistants, he dismissed them and painted nearly the whole ceiling by himself. He had to master the technique of fresco painting in which he had no experience.

Julius II was impatient and frequent arguments occurred which were soon forgotten. The central vault was underway by June of 1509 and Julius frequently climbed the scaffolding to urge the artist on. The Pope was now beginning a struggle for the independance of the Papacy and the liberation of Italy from France. His finances went for that purpose, leaving little for art. Michaelangelo had to present himself frequently to the Pope, usually at Bologna, for money to continue the work. Begun in November, 1508, it was finished in August, 1510, 22 months later. Lying on his back on the scaffolding day after day, the artist was bothered by paint dropping in his face. His eyes became so accustomed to looking upward, that it is recorded that to read a letter he would hold it above his head. (Cont)



Figures from the Ceiling of
the Sistine Chapel.



The Genuine #38 Surcharge.

(Types 2 & 1 "5")

+++++

The Forgery of the #38 Surcharge.

The forgery is almost exact in all its measurements with the genuine, with less than 1/2mm variance, which is difficult to measure with an ordinary millimeter scale.

Two characteristics distinguish the forgery from the genuine:

1. The "2" has a shorter bottom horizontal stroke than the genuine. The left end of this stroke slants left to right (top to bottom) instead of being perpendicular as in the genuine.
2. The tail of the "5" slants to the left instead of pointing up as in the genuine, in the first "5". The upper perpendicular stroke of this first "5" is curved rather than straight as the genuine. The top horizontal stroke of both "5s" curl up at the right.

5 5 5 (Illustrations of numerals-
Bolaffi's Catalogue)

1st 2nd 3rd

Forgeries of the 35-40 Surcharge.#38 - 2.55 Lire on 2.50 Lire.

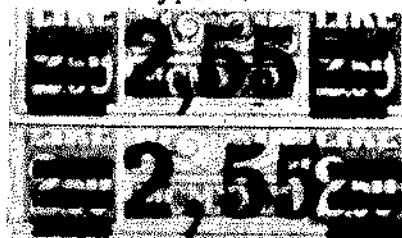
There were two printings of the genuine stamp - June 16, 1934 & July 19, 1937. In the 1st printing the distance between the left bars and the "2" is 1mm; in the 2nd printing it is 1/2mm.

The 1st printing has 3 types of "5" used in five combinations all illustrated here.

a = 1 & 1.	c = 1 & 2
b = 2 & 2.	d = 2 & 1
e = 3 & 3.	

The 2nd printing has only type 2 "5"

Commas in the 1st printing are the same as in the 1.30 Lire. In the 2nd printing all commas are type 4.



Top: first printing; bottom: second printing.

The Forged #38 Surcharge.

The Genuine #38 Surcharge.

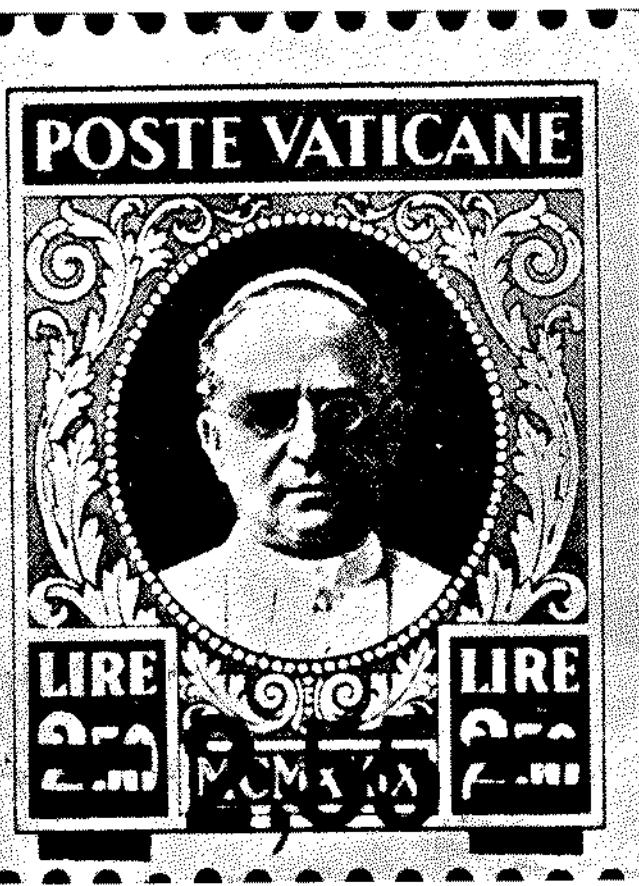
(Types 1 & 1 of "5")

The Genuine #38 Surcharge.

(Types 3 & 3 of "5")

The Genuine 38 Surcharge.

(Types 2 & 2 of "5")

The Genuine #38 Surcharge.

(Types 1 & 2 of "5")

CONSTITUTION
OF
VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Article 1 - NAME.

Section 1 - The Name of the organization shall be "The Vatican Philatelic Society.

Article 2 - OBJECT.

Section 1 - The object of the Society shall be to promote the collecting of stamps of the Pontifical State and Vatican City State, and to provide the opportunity for the exchange of knowledge concerning them.

Article 3 - MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1 - Any person interested in the stamps of the Pontifical State and the Vatican City State may become a member.

Section 2 - All members shall pay dues as hereinafter provided and shall be entitled to all privileges of the Society and shall receive the official organ of the Society, "VATICAN NOTES", and other publications which are distributed free of charge.

Article 4 - OFFICERS.

Section 1 - The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2 - The President shall appoint committees as required; shall have the general direction of the affairs of the Society; and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with this office.

Section 3 - The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President when the President is unable to do them himself.

Section 4 - The Secretary shall keep a record of all decisions of the Board of Governors; collect membership fees, and handle all correspondence of the Society and perform other such duties as are generally associated with this office. He shall render an annual report for publication in the July-August issue of the Official Organ.

Section 5 - The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Society; shall receive from the Secretary such monies as he may collect; shall pay all bills of the Society on approval as provided in the By-Laws; shall perform other such duties as are generally associated with this office. He shall render an annual report for publication in the July-August issue of the Official Organ.

Article 5 - BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 1 - The Board of Governors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2 - The business affairs of the Society shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Governors, acting through the President.

Section 3 - The Board of Governors shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur among the elected Officers until the following election.

Section 4 - The Board of Governors shall have the power to expell any member for cause.

Article 6 - AMENDMENTS.

Section 1 - The Constitution may be amended at any time by a two thirds vote of those members who vote on the amendment, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Secretary and have been published in an issue of the Official Organ at least thirty days prior to the day on which the votes are counted.

BY-LAWS OF
VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Article 1 - DUES.

Section 1 - All members shall pay annual dues of two dollars (\$2.00)

Section 2 - Dues are payable on or before July 1st each year. All members who fail to remit their dues for the current year shall be notified that they are in arrears. Members so notified who have not paid their dues by September 30th shall be dropped from the membership list.

Article 2 - ADMISSION.

Section 1 - Any person desiring to become a member shall make application on an approved form, answering such questions as may be properly asked, and being recommended by a member. This application when completed shall be delivered to the Membership Chairman accompanied by the current dues. The Membership Chairman shall process all applications as hereinafter prescribed and accept as members all applicants who meet the stated requirements.

Section 2 - Any person who has been dropped from membership in the Society because of non-payment of dues, may be re-admitted upon application and payment of current dues.

Article 3 - FISCAL YEAR.

Section 1 - The Fiscal Year shall extend from July 1st of each year to June 30th of the following year.

Article 4 - VOTING.

Section 1 - All voting shall be done by mail.

Section 2 - All voting shall be done by the majority vote of the members voting except as provided elsewhere.

Article 5 - TERM OF OFFICE.

Section 1 - All elected Officers shall serve for a period of two years ending on August 1 in each even numbered year, or until their successors have been elected. If appointed to fill a vacancy, their term of office shall be until the next biennial election, at which time a duly elected Officer shall be elected.

Article 6 - OFFICIAL ORGAN.

Section 1 - The Official Organ of the Society shall be "VATICAN NOTES".

Section 2 - The Official Organ shall be published bi-monthly and distributed free to all Society members.

Article 7 - MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN.

Section 1 - The President shall appoint a membership Chairman at the beginning of each fiscal year, said chairman not being an elected officer.

Section 2 - It shall be the duty of the Membership Chairman to handle all applications and correspondence relating thereto. He shall review all applications, make such investigations as he may deem necessary, invite comments from members concerning applicants and report bi-weekly to the Board of Governors, listing all new applicants. If no objections are received from the Board of Governors or members during the two week period between reports to the Board of Governors, the applicants shall be declared members and the Secretary shall be so notified.

BY-LAWS OF
VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. (cont)

Article 8 - NOMINATIONS AND BALLOTING.

Section 1 - Nominations for all elective offices shall be prepared in duplicate and must be signed by a minimum of four (4) members in good standing who are not nominees. One copy of such nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary and a second to the Editor of the Official Organ. In addition, each copy of nominations must be accompanied by a signed letter from all nominees, excepting incumbent officers, stating that if elected they will accept the office for which they are being nominated.

Section 2 - All nominations must be submitted by May 1st each even numbered year.

Section 3 - A ballot shall be prepared by the Editor of the Official Organ listing the names of the nominees which were received in the prescribed manner, without provision for write-in votes. Said ballot shall be mailed with the May-June issue of the Official Organ in each even numbered year and shall be returnable to the Secretary.

Section 4 - All ballots must be in the hands of the Secretary by July 20th in each even numbered year to be valid.

Article 9 - OTHER COMMITTEES.

Section 1 - The President shall appoint other committees as shall be required at any time, shall designate their duties and term of office.

Article 10 - AMENDMENT.

Section 1 - These By-Laws may be amended at any time by a two thirds vote of those members who vote on the amendment, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Secretary and have been published in an issue of the Official Organ, mailed at least thirty days prior to the day on which the votes are counted.

(Finis)

CHAPTER NEWS.

The St. Louis Chapter of V.P.S. took part in the 29th American Philatelic Congress, sponsored by the Mound City Stamp Club, on October 11, 12, & 13, 1963, in the Ivory Room Exhibition Hall of the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel in downtown St.Louis. In 40 frames they covered Papal State stamps and covers, postal stationery, 35-40, errors, proofs, air mails and the Reign of Pope John.

The Chicagoland Chapter was a participant in COMPEX on May 31, June 1 & 2, 1963, at the Hotel LaSalle, Chicago.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VATICAN NOTES

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