

Vatican Philatelic Society

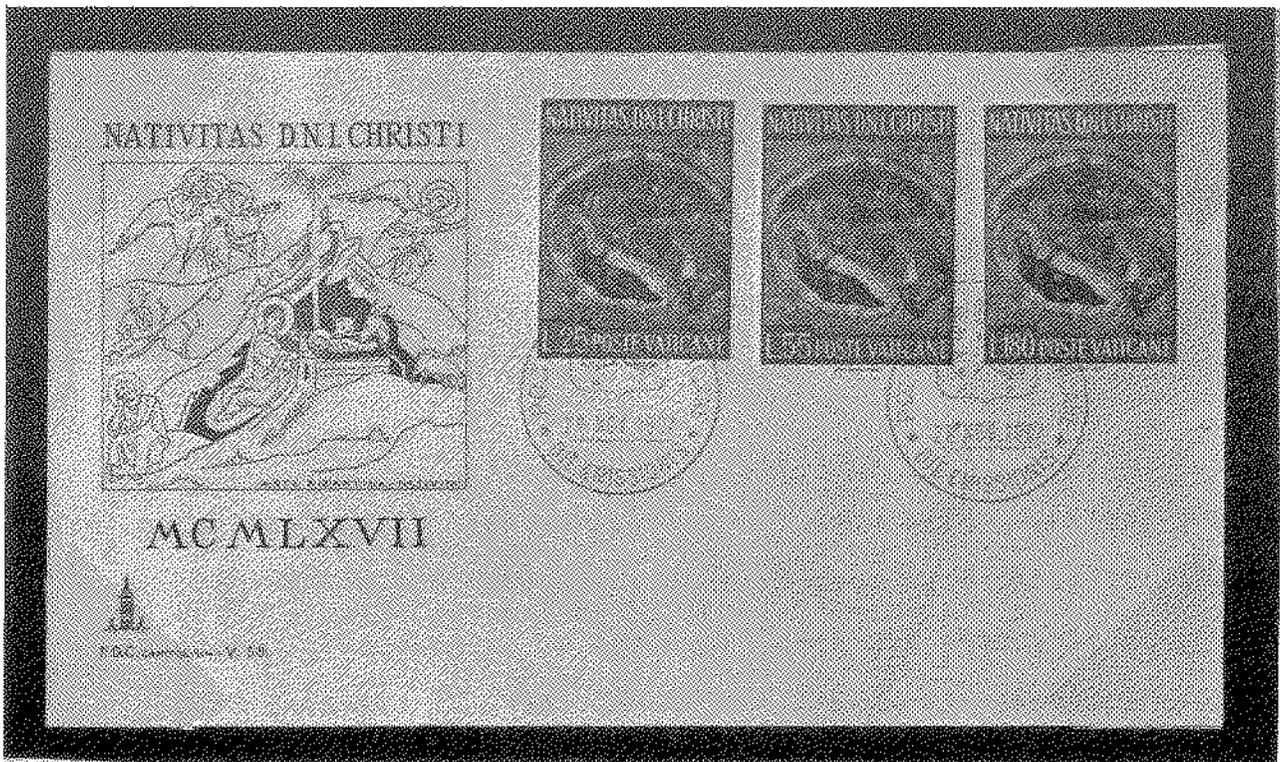
Vatican Notes

Volume XVI.

March-April 1968

Number 5.

FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS OF VATICAN CITY.

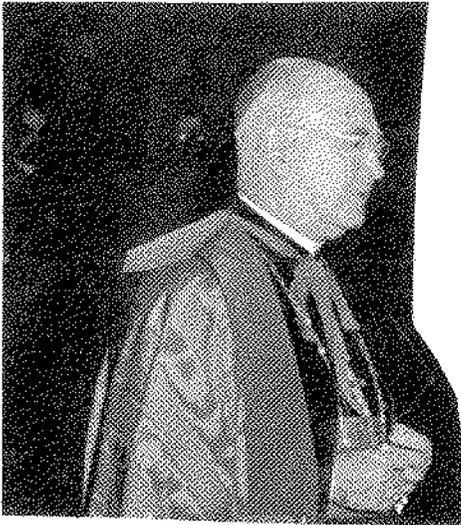


Special First Day Cancellation -

On 1967 Christmas Commemorative stamps, issued Nov. 28, 1967, showing Nativity in the Byzantine style of art.

Cardinal Spellman

Honorary V.P.S. Member.



† F. Cardinal Spellman

The death of Francis Cardinal Spellman on Dec. 2, 1967, was regarded by all as the passing of a great man. It is a great loss to his Church and Archdiocese, because of his diplomatic and administrative abilities. It is a loss to the military for whom he was the Catholic Ordinary in the United States, because of his personal concern for each serviceman. Both as a great Churchman and a great American his loss will be felt because of his great moral courage, his charity and his expansion of education. Among philatelists he not only added great prestige to stamp collecting, but he was the founder and builder of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum at Weston, Mass., with a sincere interest in philatelic research. A great man with a great soul has passed from our midst. May he rest in peace.

V.P.S. ELECTED OFFICERS.

- President: MR. WILLIAM P. QUINN, 435 Adams St., Milton, Mass., 02186.
 Vice-Pres.: REV. HERBERT A. PHINNEY, 70 Devine Way, So. Boston, Mass. 02127.
 Secretary: MR. WALLACE R. SMITH, 165-15 Union Tpk., Flushing, N.Y., 11366.
 Treasurer: MR. FREDERICK J. LEVITSKY, 13 Lesley Ave., Auburn, Mass., 01501.

V.P.S. APPOINTED OFFICERS.

- Membership Chairman: Miss Rita F. Murphy, 44 Beaver St., Framingham, Mass. 01701.
 Chapter Coordinator: Mrs. Ione E. Madritsch, 5854 North 35th St., Milwaukee, Wisc., 53209.
 Slide Program Director: Mr. John Ciaramaglia, 34 Adams St., Waltham, Mass., 02154.
 Back Issues Chairman: Comm. William L. Meissner, 27 Lorraine St., Roslindale, Mass., 02131.

BACK ISSUES OF VATICAN NOTES.

Back issues of Vatican Notes from Vol. IV, #8 through the present issue, Vol. XVI #5, are available with a few exceptions from Comm. William L. Meissner, 27 Lorraine St., Roslindale, Mass., 02131.

1. Each issue costs \$.35
 2. Postage 1 to 6 issues costs \$.25.
- Each multiple of 6 issues or any fraction thereof is \$.25 for postage.

FORGERY OF THE 7 BAJ.

(7 Baj, #4)

1. LL of BOLLO extend too far downward. Letters of FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE ill formed.
2. Tiara too square in shape.
3. Tabs of Tiara have well defined interior lines.
4. 7 too thin.

Black ink on white paper.



1. **BOLLO**

2. 

3. 

4. **7**

The Genuine 7 Baj.

1. bottoms of LL of BOLLO even with other letters. FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE has well formed letters.
2. Tiara rounded in shape.
3. Tabs of Tiara have interior lines NOT AS WELL DEFINED AS FORGERY.
4. 7 is thicker and better shaped.

Black ink on blue paper



1.

OLLO

2.



3.



4.



VATICAN CITY FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS.

The only record of any philatelic observance that I can find concerning Vatican City was on June 28, 1933, when the Central Post Office Building was officially opened with Pope Pius XI and the Marquis Camillo Serafini, Civil Governor of the Vatican City State, present. I have been unable to find record of any first day observance, even on the opening day of the Vatican City Postal Service on August 1, 1929, or since. When on the opening day of the Vatican City Post Office an ordinary cancel was used. (Fig. 1). On some covers of August 1, 1929 I have seen a cachet struck on the cover with black ink, a single line circle containing the Papal Coat of Arms and the legend: "Poste Vaticane".

From 1929 to 1960 I can find no special First Day Cancel. The current cancel lying on the counter seems to have been used. These cancels were of the same general type:- (Fig. 1) a single line circle with half-moons at top and bottom, with the date in the horizontal space between the half-moons, giving (usually in numerals only) the day, the month and the year, and sometimes the hour. These cancels varied in size and other aspects. At the top could be POSTE VATICANE (early) or CITTA DEL VATICANO, while at the bottom (with POSTE VATICANE) would be a star, or (with CITTA DEL VATICANO) could be either POSTE or POSTA AEREA. In the cancels bearing the legend CITTA DEL VATICANO at the top, there were separation at each side consisting of either asterisks or stars with a varying number of points, or as is usual in the later usage there are different types of Maltese Crosses to isolate the top legend from the bottom.

Sometimes the half-moons both top and bottom were filled with a varying number of vertical lines (early); or the top half-moon would enclose a numeral (either arabic or roman) either alone or in combination with a letter of the alphabet (more recent), and the bottom half-moon is empty. In this way, if more than one type of cancel was being used on a First Day, it is possible for a given FDC to be found with more than one type of cancel.

The usual hand cancel was used on all FDCs in BLACK ink until 1960 with the exceptions that on Sept. 1, 1942, for some reason a grayish blue ink was used, at least on some covers, and on March 12, 1957, when RED ink was used to apply the current cancel to all FDCs seen of the St. Dominic Savio issue.

The first change from the current cancel to a special FD cancel came with the Refugee Year stamps on April 7, 1960, when a truly FD cancel was used for the first time (Fig.2). This cancel consists of a shield at the left containing the general Papal Coat of Arms, while opposite it to the right are four horizontal lines of equal length, with DIE EMISSIONIS in capital letters between the second and third of these lines. Below and to the left of the shield is a single line dating circle without half-moons, in which the CITTA DEL VATICANO at the top is separated from the POSTE at the bottom by Maltese Crosses; and the date is given horizontally in the middle, day, month, year and hour.

For the Works of Mercy regular issue of Nov. 8, 1960, a single line dating circle,^r without half-moons was used, with no separation marks between the CITTA DEL VATICANO at the top and the POSTE at the bottom. The date is given in the usual place, day, month, year and hour. (Fig. 3).

Vatican then reverted to the use of the usual hand cancel for FDCs until the issuing of the St. Vincent dePaul and 1960 Christmas sets, when a new type of special FD Cancel was used. (Fig.4). This consisted of a similar but smaller single line dating circle as used in Fig.2, containing the same legend but different type of Maltese Crosses. To the right of this circle are four Maltese Crosses, two middle lines of the same length, but shorter than the top and bottom lines which extend further to

the left. The dating circle was repeated below without the killer lines.

For the St. Meinrad issue of Feb. 28, 1961, a type similar to Fig.2 was used, except that the dating circle which appeared below and a bit to the left of the shield is smaller. For this issue red ink was used. This same type of FD Cancel was used in black ink for the issues of St. Leo I, St. Paul, Osservatore Romano, St. Patrick, 1961 Christmas, 80th Birthday of Pope John XXIII, Malaria, Pauline Jaricot, Vocations, St. Catherine of Siena and the Archeological Congress, as well as for the Air Mail issue of March 3, 1962. (Fig. 8)

On Sept. 30, 1962 the II Vatican Council set saw a new FD Cancel (Fig.5). At the left is a shield containing the general Papal Coat of Arms, while at the right is a four line slogan: IOANNES XXIII P.M./MAGNO CUM PATRUM CONCURSU/CONCILIUM OECUMENICUM/VATICANUM II CELEBRAT. Below this in script is Die Emissionis (On the day of issue). Below the shield is a single circle dater similar to the ones used in previous special, but with different style letters and Maltese Crosses.

A similar cancel to Fig. 5, but with a different four line slogan at the right: ECCLESIA IN OEC. COLLECTA CONSILIIUM/ANGELICUM ITERAT CONCENTUM/GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEO/ET IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS, below which is the script Die Emissionis and a similar dating circle, was used for the FD of the 1962 Christmas issue on Dec. 4, 1962. (Fig.6).

The type of Fig. 2, but with the smaller dating circle was used for the Freedom from Hunger issue on March 21, 1963. This was followed by a new type of FD Cancel (Fig.7), for the Balzan Medal commemoratives on May 8, 1963. The Papal Coat of Arms of Pope John XXIII is at the left, and at the right a three line slogan: PACEM IN TERRIS/COMMENDARE HOMINIBUS/BONAE VOLUNTATIS, with the script Die Emissionis below the slogan. Beneath and to the right is a single line dating circle of the type comonly used now with these special cancels.

For the Interregnum issue (Fig. 8) the smaller dating circle with the shield, killer bars and Die Emissionis, similar to Fig. 2 was used June 15, 1963.

With the Coronation of Pope Paul VI a new cancel was introduced, resembling Fig.7, on Sept. 16, 1963 (Fig.9). The Papal Coat of Arms of Pope Paul VI is at the left, while at the right is a two line slogan: CORONA AUREA/SUPER CAPUT EIUS. Below is the single circle dater now common with the special cancels.

Departure to a new type of FD Cancel came on Non.22, 1963, for the Christmas issue of 1963. (Fig. 10). It is a large single line circle open at the top. Through this opening the general Papal Coat of Arms without shield extends down into the circle. POSTE VATICANE is at the top and DIE EMISSIONIS is at the bottom, with separation of two five pointed stars. At lower center is the date, underlined. The circle is 1 5/16 inches across. This same cancellation was used on the same day for the Sts. Cyril and Methodius commemoratives.

The special cancel that appears as Fig. 12, when used alone, was first used with a four line slogan to its left (Fig. 11): PAULUS PP. VI/PRO CHRISTIFIDELIUM UNITATE/ET PRO MUNDI PACIS PEREGRINUS/APOSTOLICUS IN TERRA SANCTA, of Jan 4, 1964, on the stamps commemorating Pope Paul's Visit to the Holy Land.

The dating circle part of the above special cancel was used alone on March 10, 1964, for the Nubian Monuments issue, and the World Fair issue on April 22, 1964. It is a single line circle, open at the top. Through this opening the general Papal Coat of arms in a shield extends down into the circle. POSTE VATICANE at the top and DIE EMISSIONIS AT the bottom are separated by Maltese Crosses. The date is underlined (Fig. 12).

This same FD Cancel, Fig. 12, was used on June 16, 1964, for the Michaelangelo issue, with a four line slogan to its left: MICHAELANGELUS/CHRISTIANO AFFLATU PERMOTUS/ARTEM EXPRESSIT/ROBURE AMPLITUDINEQUE MIRANDAM.

Fig. 12 was used alone for the FDCs of The Red Cross, Nicholas of Cusa and 1964 Christmas stamps.

For the visit of Pope Paul VI to India for the 38th International Eucharistic Congress, Fig. 12 was used in combination with a five line slogan at its left: PAULUS PP. VI/CHRISTUM ADORATURUS/IN SIGNUM DILECTIONIS/ERGA OMNES POPULOS/AD INDIARUM ADVOLAT ORAS. (Fig. 13). Fig. 12 was used alone for the Uganda Martyrs issue, March 16, 1965.

The commemoratives of Dante find Fig. 12 used in combination with another slogan cancel to the left in six lines: SUAE GENTIS/IMPERITURA GLORIA/UNITATIS ASSERTOR/POPULORUM/DIVUS POETA/FIDEM CECINIT DIVINE, May 18, 1965 (Fig.14).

Again this same dating circle was used for the commemoratives of St. Benedict, on July 2, 1965, with a five line slogan at the left: QUI CRUCE LIBRO ARATRO/PACIS UNITATIS CIVILIS CULTUS/EUROPA GENTIBUS FUIT MAGISTER/A PAULO PP. VI/EI SDEM PATRONUS CONSTITUITUR. (Fig. 15)

On Oct. 4, 1965, on the occasion of the commemoratives of Pope Paul's Visit to the United Nations, Fig. 12 was used at the right with a four line slogan at the left:- PAULUS VI PM/UT CAUSAE PACIS IN MAXIMO/NATIONUM CONCESSU PATROCINETUR/NEBORACUM AERO ITINERE PETIT.

Figure 12 was used for all FDCs in 1966 and 1967 with the following exceptions:-

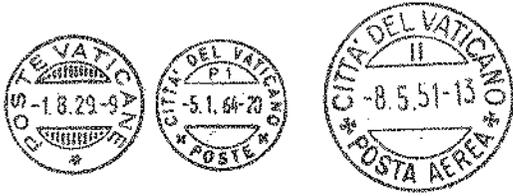
For the Polish Millenium Commemoratives, Fig. 12 was again used with a four line slogan at the left: UNIVERSA ECCLESIA GRATULANTE/FIDELISSIMUS POLONIAE POPULUS/A RECEPTA CHRISTI FIDE/ APUD CZESTOCHOV VIRGINEM CELEBRAT.

For the commemoratives of the Martrydom of Sts. Peter and Paul, Fig. 12 appears at the right with a boxed slogan at the left: ECCLESIARUM PRINCIPES/PACIS TRIUMPHALES DUCES/ET VERA MUNDI LUMINA. Apparently both are hand stamped because the position of the boxed slogan varies in position on different covers.

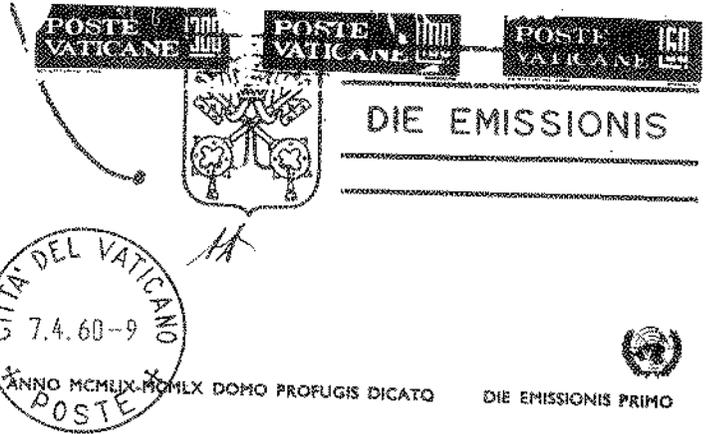
FDCs of Vatican's first Air Mail on June 22, 1938, were cancelled by one of the regular type hand cancels, with CITTA DEL VATICANO at the top and POSTA AEREA at the bottom, with the date in the horizontal space between the half-moons. The second issue of air mails, at least the two I have, have the hand cancel with POSTE at the bottom. Ordinarily the common hand cancel with POSTA AEREA at the bottom was used on all air mail FDCs until March 13, when the first type of Die Emissionis (Fig. 8) but with the smaller dating circle was used on the Archangel Gabriel stamps.

There is no FDC service at the Vatican P.O. One is lucky sometimes, when ordering new issues from the Vatican P.O. to get FD Cancels on the covers sent to him. Usually FDCs with the special cancels must be obtained from dealers, who present themselves, or through their agents, at the correct window at the Vatican P.O. to secure the special FD Cancellations, as is done most often in the USA, even though the U.S. Post Office furnished FDCs service.

When the special FD Cancels of Vatican were begun in 1960, these were apparently applied at a special table, desk or by machine, according to the type of cancel (hand stamp or machine), when the covers are presented at the designated windows. In a great many instances I have FDCs bearing the ordinary hand cancel of First Day date, which were run through the ordinary desk where commercial mail was being cancelled that day, so one can have on the same page FDCs with special cancels and the ordinary hand cancel.



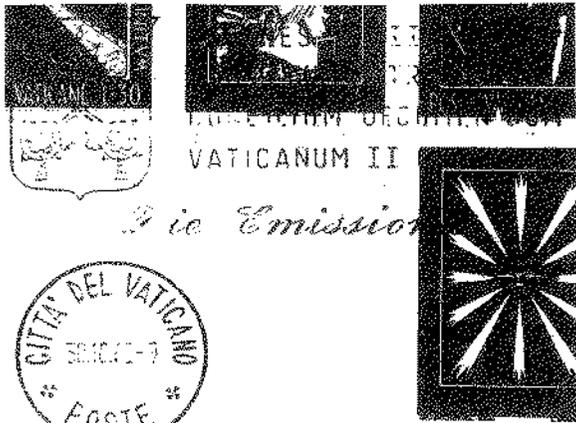
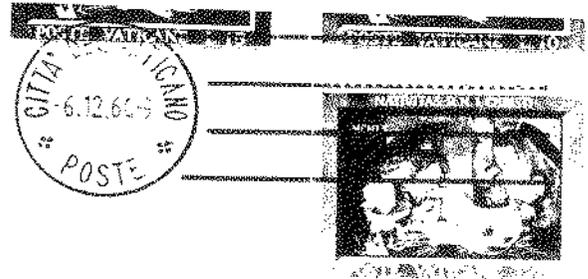
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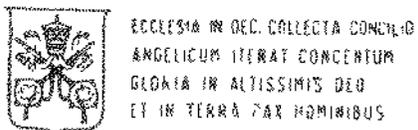
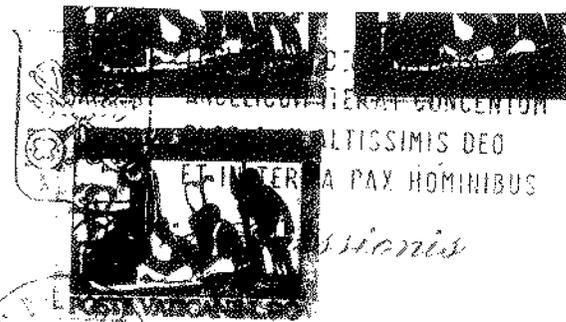
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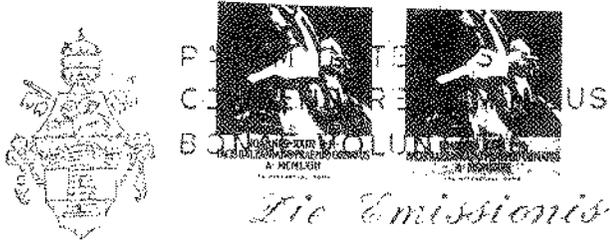


Die Emissionis

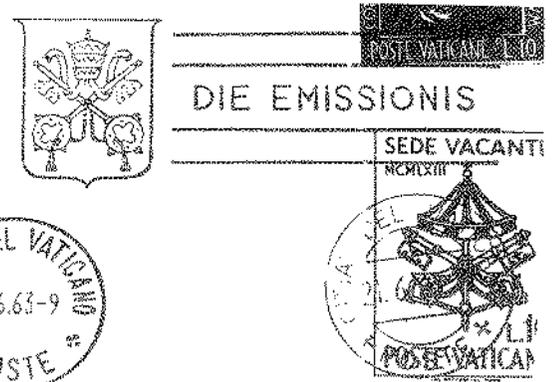


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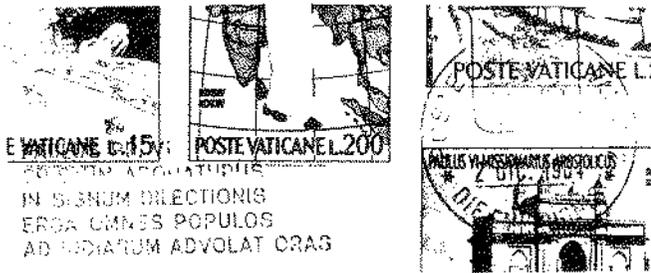


PRO CHRISTIFIDELIUM UNITATE
 ET PRO MONDI PACE PERGRINUS
 APOSTOLICUS IN TERRA SANCTA

-11-



-12-



POSTE VATICANE L. 15
 ACCQUATIPLES
 IN SIGNUM DILECTIONIS
 ERGA OMNES POPULOS
 AD IUDICIUM ADVOLAT CRAS

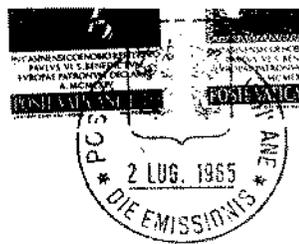
-13-



SVAE GENTIS
 IMPERITURA GLORIA
 UNITATIS ASSERTOR
 POPULORUM
 DIVUS POETA
 FIDEM CECINIT DIVINE

-14-

SUI CRUCE LIBRO ARATRO
 PACIS UNITATIS CIVILIS CULTUS
 EUROPAE GENTIBUS FUIT MAGISTER
 A PAULO PP. VI
 EISDEM PATRONUS CONSTITUITUR



-15-

PAULUS VI P. M.
 UT CAUSAE PACIS IN MAXIMO
 NATIUM CONSENSU PATROCINETUR
 NECESSARIUM AEREO VITARE PETIT



-16-

A ONCE-ONLY WAY TO HINGE STAMPS

Miss Eveilyn McMann.

For those who like to mount even mint Vatican, this method is easy and economical. Cut a card 1/8th inch larger than the stamp; the mount can be framed by an inked line along the extreme edge of the card, if desired. Hinge the stamp to the mount, hinge the mount to the page. Any later remounting gives wear and tear and marks only to the card, and the hinge is more easily removed from the card than from the stamp, mint or used.

Cards, index card quality, or cut from last year's Christmas cards - plenty of these have white, pale gray or buff colored unprinted areas - or turn over the printed side and use the back. Some Vatican issues appear better on a gray mount, which also shows-up the perforations very clearly. Mounting a mint and used stamp- one mount cut to allow a narrow space between the two stamps placed side by side or one above the other on the same piece of card. This is sometimes preferable also to many separate mounts, as in an issue with six or more values.

This mount system also works well for the actual write-up. Use an album page, or reuse the back of a discarded page, and without any frame lines these blend into the page, and the mounting is seldom noticed. The chance to experiment is far greater, the calamity of ink blots, or errors in the note are eliminated and save rewriting an entire page. Try a long line of comment, an oblong or a block - just write out one and see how it fits the page, maybe try all three, then do the perfect one and hinge it securely.

If one has printed pages with frames already done, a card mount the size of the stamp serves the same purpose of once-only hinge marks.

Save space and money. When mounting a long issue, such as twelve mint and twelve used values of the 1966 Vatican definitives, begin to mount on a "left page" which results in a double page spread when the album is opened flat. The left page is quite safe from damage if it is placed at the back of the preceding page and both are held together by a plastic page protector or sleeve. This system is also very handy to mount a Vaticana issue opposite the related Vatican issue on the right page. By placing two pages in one sleeve the bulkiness of numerous pages is considerably reduced while the safety factor remains 100 %. The display of a special cover, when the back is as interesting as the front is easily managed by the used of a glassein interleaf page, for the writing shows through quite clearly in most cases. Mount with transparent art corners and place in a plastic sleeve for easy turning. Excellent for reading postmarks or a letter of a folded cover and other postal history material.

Notes on : THE PONTIFICAL STATE ISSUES OF 1867 & 1868 AND THEIR REPRINTS. (CONT.).10 Centesimi: (Moen's reprint):-

Setting:- Usually found in sheets of 120 stamps in two panes of 60 (6 x 10), with narrow gutter (7-9 mm) between panes. Possibly the 10 Cent. also comes in sheets of four panes as described in the foreword for Moen's reprints, Vol. XV #6 of Vatican Notes, and in Vol. XVI #4 under 5 Cent.

Glaze:- There is no glaze at all, the paper having a matt surface.

Color:- darker than any of the genuine, even darker than the vermilion orange remainder.

Gum: Imperforates gumless; perforates thin light gum. Perf.: 11 1/2 x 11 1/2

