



# Vatican Notes

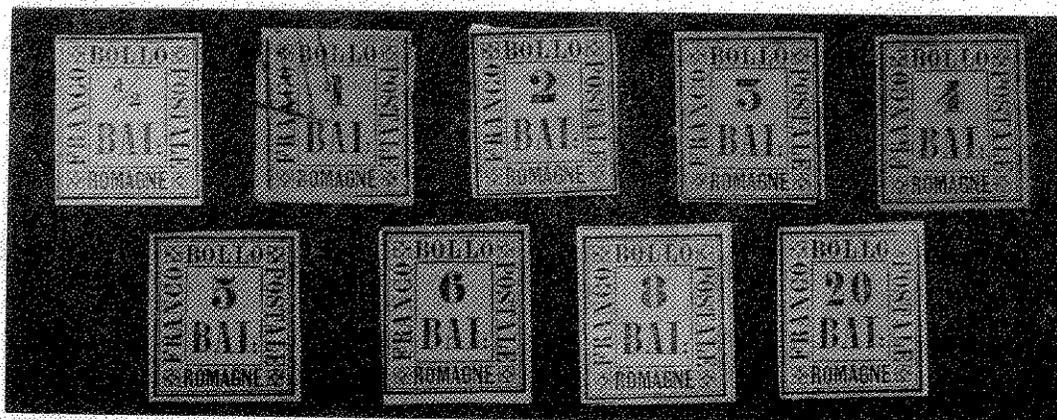
Volume XVII.

May - June 1969.

Number 6.

## ROMAGNE

## 1859



### STAMPS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ROMAGNA (ROMAGNE)

SEPTEMBER 1, 1859 to JANUARY 31, 1860

The stamps of the Provisional Government of Romagna have always been of interest to collectors of the Pontifical State, because Romagna was for a long time part of the Pontifical State up until 1859. As a Provisional Government it continued to use the stamps of the Pontifical State until they were exhausted. As a Provisional Government, as part of the Royal Province of Emilia in the Kingdom of Sardinia, and even for a time under the Kingdom of Italy, the Postal Markings of the Pontifical state were used at most of the Post Offices of Romagna on Romagna stamps, on Sardinian stamps and Italian stamps, at first to a great degree, then in diminishing frequency as the Postal Markings of Sardinia and Italy were supplied gradually.

The Postal Markings of the Pontifical State are found on mixed franking of the Romagna stamps, e.g. with Sardinian stamps (cover- Feb. 9, 1860, and with stamps of Lombardy-Venetia (cover Sept. 15, 1859).

The Romagna was the northernmost part of the Pontifical State and included the Papal Legations of Bologna, Ferrara, Forli and Ravenna. Being furthest from Rome, it was always the hardest to protect and control.

Austria quelled the uprisings in Northern Italy in 1848 and 1849, and in the same period the French troops restored Rome to Pope Pius IX, and the Pontifical State was entire once more. But in 1859 the French backed the Piedmontese King of Sardinia against Austria, and defeated Austria at Magenta and Solferino. Napoleon III made a quick peace with Austria, by which Austria gave up Lombardy but not Venezia. A vague agreement was made for an Italian Confederacy under the presidency of the Pope; but former rulers were not returned to power in the various northern Italian States.

Cavour, Prime Minister for Sardinia, set up independent governments in Tuscany, Modena, and Romagna, with the backing of England. These Provisional Governments shortly voted union with Sardinia, to form a few years later the Kingdom of Italy. The Provisional Government of Romagna ruled a territory formed from three states, Bologna, Ferrara and Romagna, a combination of the former provinces of Forli and Ravenna.

Stamps of the Provisional Government of Romagna were not yet printed so the stamps of the Pontifical State were used in the Romagna under the Provisional Government, but soon were in short supply. Only on Sept. 1, 1859 did this Government issue stamps of their own to replace those of the Pontifical State (1/2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 20 bajocchi values). The stamps of the Pontifical State were invalidated on that date in Romagna. Even though the Italian Lira was the official currency of Italy (the Pontifical State changed its stamps to centesimi values in 1867), the old postage rates were not changes, and their stamps were printed in bajocchi values.

Bisects of these stamps appeared almost immediately, in an attempt to adjust the bajocchi values of the Romagna to the centesimi rates used in Sardinia (1 baj. = 5 cent.). Even though there were thousands of remainders after the annexation of Romagna to Sardinia, shortage of stamps in some Post Offices in certain values caused other bisects. The rarest of these bisects is the LOWER RIGHT HALF of a diagonal split of the 6 baj. on cover.

According to a decree of Jan. 12, 1860, the stamps of Sardinia became the official stamps of Romagna on Feb. 1, 1860, since the Romagna had by then become part of the Kingdom of Sardinia (later the Kingdom of Italy in 1863). Yet some of the stamps of the Provisional Government of Romagna are found on cover as late as March 21, 1860, some time beyond the last day of validity (Jan. 31, 1860).

Under the Provisional Government of Romagna the Postal Markings of the Pontifical State continued to be used on the Romagna stamps, and later on the stamps of Sardinia and Italy as they came into use in Romagna

The Pontifical State Post Offices in the Romagna were:-

BOLOGNA: Bazzano, Budrio, Castel Franco, Castel Maggiore, Crespellano, Lojano, Medecina, Minerbio, Porretta, S.Gionavvi in Persiceto, S. Lazzaro, Vergato, Castel S.Pietro.  
CESENA: SAVIGNANO.  
FAENZA: LUGO (Cotignola, Fusignano, Massa Lombarda) Bagnacavallo, Brisighella, Castel Bolognese, Conselice, S. Agata Ferrarese.  
FERRARA: PONTELAGOSCURO Argenta, Bondeno, Cento, Comacchio, Codigoro, Copparo  
 Massa Fiscaglia, Migliaro, Porto Maggiore.

IMOLA: Forlimpopoli (Capitals underlined = PO 1st Class of Direction  
RAVENNA: Alfonsine, Cervia, Russi. (Capitals = 1st Class of Distribution dependant on  
RIMINI: S. Arcangelo, Verucchio ( PO of Direction  
 (Lower Case= 2nd Class PO of Distribution depending  
 ( on PO of Direction or 1st Class Distri-  
 ( bution.

The stamps of the Romagna Provisional Government had a short official life, Sept. 1, 1959 to January 31, 1960, five months. The remainders were sent to the Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Sardinia at Torino, together with the metal cliches from which they were printed. A great number of the remainders were "appropriated" by government workers and sold to dealers. Later the Ministry of Finance sold the rest of the Remainders to dealers. When the capital of the Kingdom of Sardinia was moved from Turin (Torino) to Florence in 1860, they brought along the cliches of the stamps of the Provisional Government Romagna. There also went the cliches of the stamps of the Pontifical Government, after the seizure of Rome, Sept. 20, 1870 by the Kingdom of Italy. Shortly afterward the cliches of the stamps of the Pontifical State and the Provisional Government of the Romagna were sold to Usigli, as well as the postal markings of grills and cancels. (Cf Vatican Notes, Vol. XIV, #5, p.6). Usigli and later J.B. Moens (Vatican Notes, Vol.XV, #6, p.9) made reprints of the Romagna stamps from these cliches. Later there were forgeries made. Dr. Patton lists four groups of forgeries attributed to Moens, Goldner and Fournier, each group containing subheadings. (Dr. Donald S. Patton, "The Romagna"1953).

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NEW MEMBERS.

- 2196. Miss Jean P. Wiegand, 10 S. Douglas Ave., Margate City, N.J. 08402.
- 2197. Mr. Gerland E. McNamara, 50 Douglas St., Southington, Conn., 06489.
- 2198. Mr. Henry A. Gieffers, 35 Sutton Place, New York, N. Y. 10022.
- 2199. Mr. Frank Elliott Jr., 41 Benson St., Milford, Conn., 06460.
- 2200. Ite Wagner, 315 King St., Port Chester, N.Y. 10573.
- 2201. Mr. Emanuel Rinzivillo, Box 33, Montrose, N.Y., 10548.
- 2202. Mr. John B. Sidebotham, 4731 Northwood Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., 19124.
- 2203. Mr. Joseph Pendleton, 1420 Bushivick Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11207.
- 2204. Mr. Robert P. Birkfeld, 103 Bay 32nd St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11214.
- 2205. Mr. Frank J. Malinowski, 159 Eagle St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11222.
- 2206. Mr. Denis J. Donohue, 43-12 56th St., Woodside, N.Y., 11377.

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NEW ISSUE.

On April 28, 1969, Vatican will issue a new set of three stamps (Lire 50, 90, 130). They commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of CEPT, and will be topically in the EUROPA series.

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CHAPTER NEWS.

Chicagoland Chapter:-

Further plans for COMPEX will be made - May 30-31, June 1.

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Annullo postale 10.2.39  
applicato per errore - anchize  
20.2.39: 1° giorno di emissione.

An article had been written for the last issue of Vatican Notes about a cover which had been illustrated in Vatican Notes Vol.X, #4, p.9, which showed a marking of correction enclosed in a rectangle. The marking reads: ANNULLO POSTALE 10.2.39 APPLICATO PER ERRORE - ANCHIZE 20.2.39 1° Giorno di EMISSIONE. It was not printed because information and illustrations, which appear below, were received from Mrs. Ione E. Madritsch, of Milwaukee. She and her husband Ed had noticed similarities to the illustration in Vol. X, #4 of Vatican Notes of Jan-Feb 1962. She pointed out the constant peculiarities of the cancel used on these covers. The outer circle has a flat spot over the VA of VATICANO and a slight indentation over the TIC of VATICANO.

She pointed out that the incorrect date on the illustration in Vol. X, 10-2-39, was the date of death of Pope Pius XI, while one of her illustrations showed the incorrect date of 2-18-39, the date of Ordinance No. 1, which authorized the stamps, which was marked inside the correction rectangle with red pencil and does not show clearly in the illustration. A third illustration shows the date of 20.3.39 and bears the correction marking.

In the article which had been written and not printed in the last issue, two possibilities were suggested to account for the error of dates: 1- it was done by error; 2- it was done deliberately.

Possibility 1: Either on the evening of Feb. 19, or the morning of Feb. 20, the clerk had begun to change the date on the cancel, and had changed the 9 of 19, but forgot to place the 2 in the position of the 1 of 19, which resulted in a date of 2.10.39, either because he was distracted or forgot.

Possibility 2: This involves a "cancellation of favor" by a clerk. Such is known in Italian Post Offices, e.g. Naples, and could have happened in the Vatican P.O.

With the receipt of the other illustrations from Mrs. Madritsch, another possibility reared its ugly head - forged cancellations for the sale of covers with phony dates. When the forger found that he could not sell, he used the marking noting the error of dates, mentioned in paragraph one.

The only way to determine this was to send one cover to Ing. Alberto Diena to authenticate the cancel. Since all cancels had the same characteristics, if one cancel was authentic/forged, the all cancels were either authentic or forged. Ing. Diena pronounced that the cancel sent to him (10.2.39) was authentic, but was cancelled "by favor". It was supposed to be sent by Air Mail, but was neither sent nor flown, never passing through the mails.

So the whole business comes back to Possibility 2,- some clerk in the Vatican Post Office, must have done some juggling of the date slugs in the same cancel, and did some fancy cancelling for someone. Note that the addressee on all covers illustrated is the same.

The marking reads: "Postal cancel 10.2.39 applied through error - instead of 20.2.39, the first day of issue." Not being an expert on printing, two covers were examined by half a dozen people, and all agreed that it was a handstamp of rubber, applied with a purplish black ink. This could be because there was no sale of the covers as genuine errors of cancellation, or to cover up the accomplice in the Post Office, intimating that it was a genuine error.

Figure 1.

Date:- 10.2.39-9

Cancel- black

Rectangle with correction- purple.

(plane - red)



Figure 2.

Cancel - red.

Date: 18.2.39.19

Rectangle with correction- purple

Incorrect date pencilled in with red pencil inside correction rectangle after

ANNULLO POSTALE- 18.2.39.19 under 75 Cent stamp.

(plane - purple)

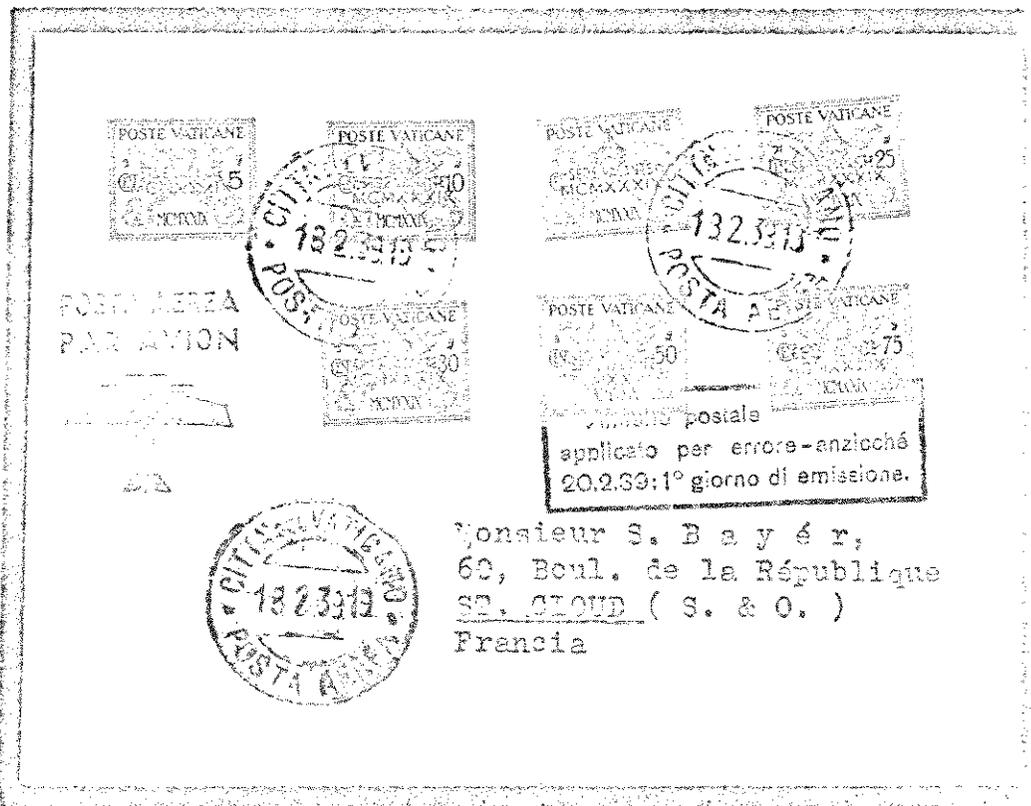
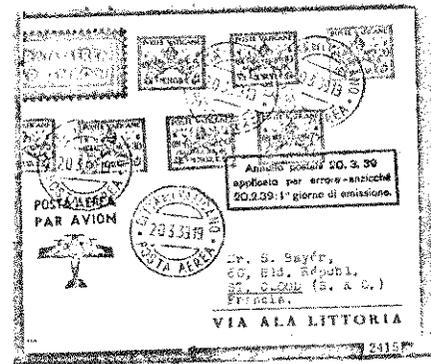


Figure 3.  
Date 10.2.39-9



Figure 4.  
Date- 20.3.39.19  
Same incorrect date  
found in rectangle  
after ANNULO POSTALE:  
20.3.39.



In all four illustrations, notice that the same cancel is used on the stamps. It can be identified by peculiarities of the outside circle. There is a flat place over the VA of Vatican and an indentation over the TIC of Vatican.

A SPECIAL EVENT.

A SPECIAL EVENT COVER is one which is cancelled on the date on which the Special Event took place and usually has an appropriate cachet applied to it either before or after cancellation. In the past ten years VATICAN SPECIAL EVENTS COVERS have become increasingly numerous. All collectors cannot see the reason for some of them. But if a collector is making a topical collection of a special sort, special events covers might well add to it. If one is keeping a total or partial chronology of papal events, such covers would form the backbone of the collection. There are some such covers which would add interest to any Vatican collection, commemorating events such as the recent visit of President Nixon to Pope Paul VI on March 2, 1969. Since this was a Sunday, and presumably the Vatican Post Office was closed (as it is supposed to be), the question of the correct date could pose a problem.

In his visits to NATO nations, Pres. Nixon visited Belgium, England, Germany, Italy and France and came back on March 2, 1969, to Rome to see Pope Paul, the last day of the eight day tour. Because Pope Paul was making a Lenten Retreat when Pres. Nixon visited with the Italian Government, the visit did not take place at that time. Airforce ONE, landed at Fiumicino (Leonardo Da Vinci) Airport, where the presidential party was greeted by Msrg. Martin J. O'Connor of Scranton, Pa., President of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications. A helicopter landed the president in St. Peter's Square. This was the first landing of a helicopter there. Pres. Kennedy had landed in the Vatican Gardens.

Entering by the Bell Gate Pres. Nixon was saluted by the Swiss Guards and Palatine Guards, and was met in the Court of St. Damasus by the Marquis Giulio Sacchetti and Prince Carlo Pacelli (nephew of Pope Pius XII). They led the presidential party to the throne room where they were met by Card. Amleto Cicognani, Papal Secretary of State and former Apostolic Delegate at Washington for 25 years. He conducted Pres. Nixon to the papal library where Pope Paul VI awaited him. There the conference was held, each speaking through his interpreter; for Nixon Gen. Vernon A. Walters, for the pope Msgr. William A. Carew of Canada. The fifth party was Archbishop Casaroli, Secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church.

Meanwhile in the Room of the Madonna Card. Cicognani, with Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, Substitute Papal Secretary of State, Msgr Luigi Dossena, Vatican expert on Vietnam, Archbishop Gaspari, Undersecretary of the Council for Public Affairs for the Church, and Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate at Washington, met with United States Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and William Rogers, National Security Adviser, in a conference which lasted an hour and a quarter.

After his 75 minute talk with Pope Paul, the Pope and President exchanged gifts, and the President departed. In the Clementine Hall Pres. Nixon stopped and talked with students from the North American College (seminarians from the USA), making the quip that he would like to visit the college on the Janiculum Hill, because it was one of the few colleges where there would be no demonstration against him.

Taken by helicopter to the Fiumicino Airport, the President boarded Airforce ONE, and left Rome at 6:50 P.M. Rome time (12:50 P.M. EST) and landed at Andrews AFB in Maryland at 9:55 P.M. after a flight of 9 hours 5 minutes.

This was the sixth time that a President of the United States met a Pope. Woodrow Wilson met Pope Benedict XV in 1919; Dwight D. Eisenhower met Pope John XXIII in 1959; John F. Kennedy met Pope Paul VI in 1963; Lyndon B. Johnson met Pope Paul VI twice, once when the Pope visited the United Nations in October 1965, and again at the Vatican in December, 1967. President Nixon and Pope Paul VI have met previously in 1963, 1966 and 1967.

INTERPEX.

The New York Chapter of VPS represented the Vatican Philatelic Society at Interpex this year. We delayed this issue for a week, hoping to receive a report from the Chapter.

Vatican Sketches.

David Furlotte Jr.

Feb. 11, 1929 is a date to be remembered by the Vatican Philatelist. On that day, in the so-called Hall of Conciliation of the Vatican Palace, Pietro Card. Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, and Benito Mussolini, representing the Italian Government, signed the Lateran Pact, which recognized the sovereignty of the Pope over the 108 acres of the Vatican City. Later a postal treaty was added, resulting in the issuing of Vatican's first postage issue of August 1, 1929.

This concordat reinstated in the eyes of Italy the Papal temporal authority, which had ended when the Italian troops seized Rome in September, 1870, and the last of the Pontifical State. The fact of temporal rule exercised by the popes, dates deep into history, to the time of the Edict of Milan, A.D. 313, when Christianity was freed from the catechombs. In this period the Emperor and nobles presented gifts of property to the church, until by the 8th century papal rule extended to a considerable area around Rome. By the 16th century, the Pontifical State comprised some 15,000 square miles, remaining more or less the same until the seizures by the Kingdom of Sardinia beginning in 1860.

Just as the Lateran Pact did not establish papal temporal rule for the first time, neither did the treaty for postal affairs result in the first postal issues of the papal temporal authority. From 1852 to 1870 the Pontifical State had its own postal service and printed its own stamps. The postal service actually preceeded 1852, but this is the year of its first adhesive postage stamp.

The Lateran Pact ushered in a new era for the Catholic Church in its relations with Italy. The papacy now had an enclave free from external political pressures, yet removed the papacy from extensive temporal power, thus allowing it to use its energies for its spiritual mission.



Notes on: THE PONTIFICAL STATE ISSUES OF 1867 & 1868 AND THEIR REPRINTS (cont.).

5 Centesimi (Gelli & Tani Reprint).

Setting:- Sheet of 120 stamps in two panes of 60 (6 x 10) with gutter 2.75 Cm. between panes. Panes inverted in relation to each other.

Glaze:- High gloss on 1st printing. Second printing even glossier.

Color:- 1st Printing- clear blue with no tinge of green as in the genuine imperforate and perf. 11 1/2 x 11 1/2.

2nd printing:- slightly lighter than 1st printing. Cliches replaced: gum more even.

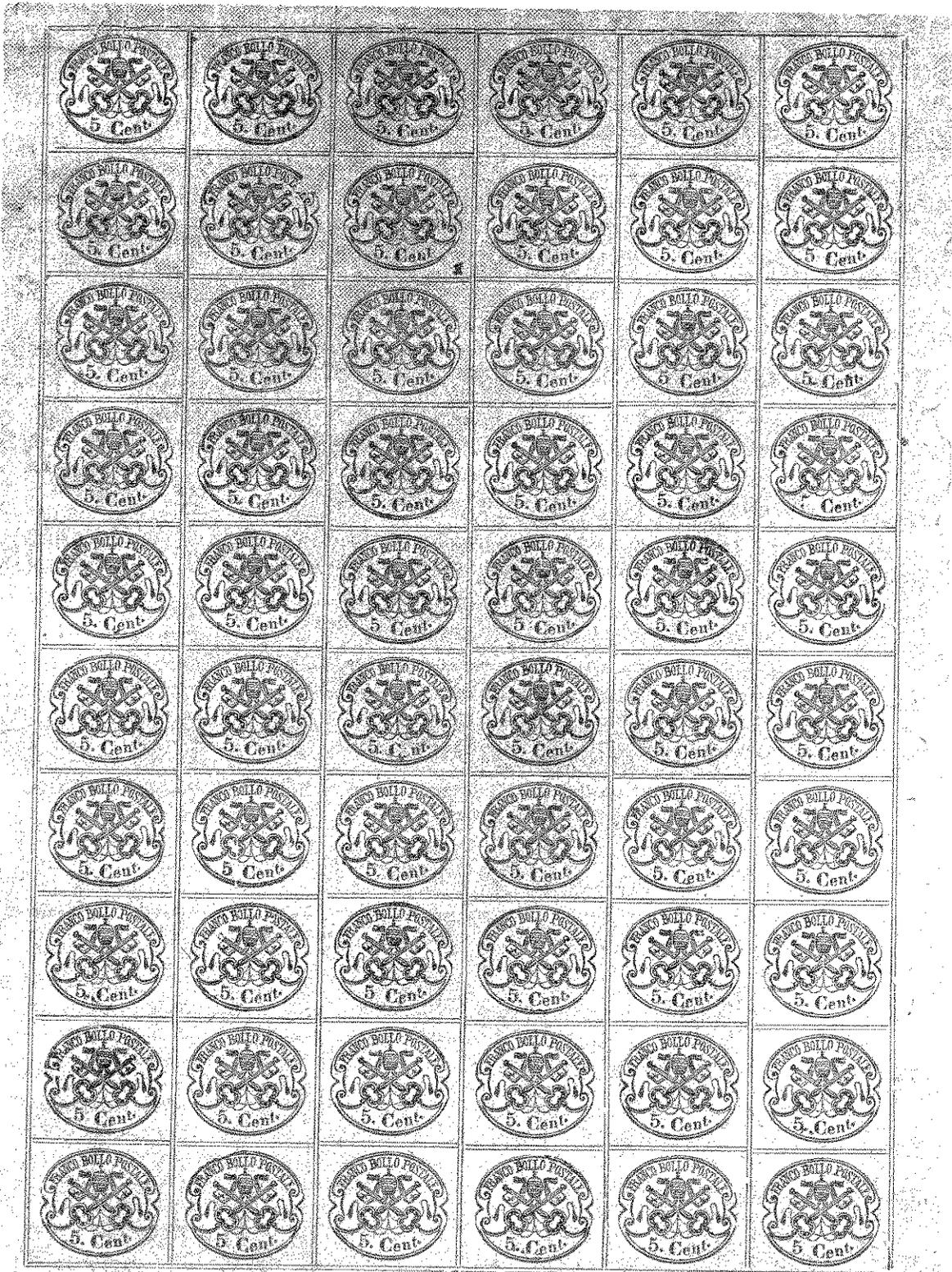
Cliche defects:- 1st printing:- period missing after "5":- 1, 12, 17, 27, 28, 38, 45, 49, 56.

period missing after CENT:- 9.

Flaw in POSTALE:- 8.

Flaw in "5":- 24.

2nd printing:- perfect cliches substituted for:- 28, 38, 49, but period is missing:- 8, flaw probably gone. Cliches substituted for 24 & 54.



## THE ABBEY OF MONTE CASSINO.

The ABBEY OF MONTE CASSINO is about 80 miles south of Rome. About 529 St. Benedict left Subiaco with a select band of his followers, including St. Placid and St. Maurus, because of the persecution of a jealous priest, Florentius. They went to Monte Cassino because it had been turned over to them by St. Placid's father, Tertullus. The town of Cassinum at the foot of the mountain had been destroyed by the Goths about 495. On the top of the mountain was a temple to Apollo, containing his statue and altar, where the local people still worshiped. Benedict and his followers destroyed the statue and altar of Apollo, and built there a church dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and an oratory to St. Martin of Tours. A wall surrounded the temple, with towers, since it had been the citadel of the town of Cassinum. St. Benedict took one of these towers as his dwelling. Because of this fact it was the only tower preserved until 1944, the rest being long ago destroyed. A wall 26 feet high and 14 feet thick enclosed a space outside the temple, where Cassinum of pre-Roman times had stood. Here at Monte Cassino St. Benedict lived, wrote his monastic rule, died and was buried with his sister, St. Scholastica.

The ABBEY OF MONTE CASSINO flourished until it was destroyed by the Lombards in 580. The surviving members of the community at this time fled to Rome, where Pope Pelagius II built them a monaster beside the Lateran Basilica, where they remained 130 years. Under Abbot Petronax they returned to Monte Cassino in 718, with the permission of Pope Gregory II. With a nucleus of monks from the Lateran abbey the buildings at Monte Cassino were restored and a church built over the grave of St. Benedict, which was consecrated by Pope Zachary in 748. The abbey attracted a full complement of monks, many great scholars and the abbey flourished.

In the 9th century, in 884, the monastery was destroyed by the Saracens. Abbot Bertharius and some of his monks were killed in the attack, and the rest fled to Teano. Restoration was begun in 886, but the bulk of the community did not return to Monte Cassino. Under Abbot Aligernus in 949 a return was accomplished. The abbey reached its highest prominence under Abbot Desiderius, who ruled from 1058 to 1087, when he was elected pope, Victor II. He had more than 200 monks under him, and the school of copyists and miniature painters flourished. The buildings of the monastery were reconstructed under artists from Amalfi, Lombardy and Constantinople. The abbey church was rebuilt and beautifully decorated, to be consecrated by Pope Alexander II in 1071.

Unsettled political conditions in Italy, plus the militarily strategic position of Monte Cassino, caused the decline of the abbey. Frederick II drove the monks from the abbey in 1239, but they were restored under Charles of Anjou. Pope Celestine V tried to unite the Benedictines of Monte Cassino with his newly formed Celestines, but he resigned from the papacy before effecting this. Pope John XXII made the abbey church a cathedral in 1321, with the abbot as a bishop of a diocese which encompassed most of Abruzzi, thinking to do great honor to the abbey. Actually this brought untold trouble instead. Bishops were nominated in Avignon, when the papacy moved there, but they never visited their diocese, and only appropriated the revenues for their personal use. Under these circumstances the number of monks declined, and ruin was only a matter of time. Urban V attempted to forestall this by making himself the Abbot of Monte Cassino, and he gathered monks there from other Benedictine monasteries. This failed and absentee abbot-bishops continued to be appointed from 1454 to 1504, when Pope Julius II united Monte Cassino with the Congregation of St. Justina at <sup>Ad</sup>adua.

When the troops of the First French Republic entered Italy they plundered Monte Cassino in 1799. The Abbey was suppressed in 1866 by the Italian Government, when it suppressed all monasteries, and the Abbey was seized as state property. The Abbot was recognized as Guardian for the Kingdom of Italy, and the monks allowed to remain.

The buildings which lasted until 1944 was a rectangular mass. The only part of the original abbey, the Tower of St. Benedict was decorated by artists of the Beuron school. An entrance gate led to three courtyards, opening one on another, which date from 1515, and are attributed to Bramante (Cf. Vatican 162), though it is said that the evidence of his authorship is slight. From the middle courtyard a flight of steps leads to the basilica atrium (see illustration) which contained columns from the basilica of Abbot Desiderius, probably from the temple of Apollo. The church, the fourth on this location, was begun in 1649 from the plans of Cosimo Fansaga, and was consecrated by Pope Benedict XIII in 1727. It was richly decorated in marbles, though the plaster work on the ceiling is considered inferior.

The archives contained a vast number of documents on the history of the abbey, as well as 1400 manuscript codices and a collection of more modern texts. When the Italian Government siezed the Abbey in 1866, they planned to transfer all these works to the National Library of Naples. Intervention by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Gladstone, cause them to be retained at Monte Cassino. One of the community was appointed archivist, in the pay of the Italian Government.

On August 1, 1929, (the same day that the Vatican Post Office opened for business), Italy issued a series of seven stamps in five designs to commemorate the founding of the Abbey of Monte Cassino 1400 years before. Pictured are the building of the Abbey in 529 by the Benedictine monks; the death of St. Benedict; the courtyard by Bramante; a general view of the Abbey; St. Benedict, after the manner of a holy medal. (Italy 232-238). Five of these stamps have a surtax. Printed in colors differing from those of Italy, and overprinted, these stamps were issued for Cyrenaica (28-34), Somalia (104-110) and Tripolitania (28-34) and Eritrea (109-115), all issued Oct. 14, 1929.

During World War II the Fifth Army of the Allies was halted by German positions on the mountain mass from Monte Cassino to Mt. Cairo. Tremendous casualties suffered in attempting to take Monte Cassino prompted the Allies, who thought that the Monastery was being used as an artillery observation post by the Germans, to send wave after wave of B-17 bombers over the Abbey on Feb. 15, 1944, which reduced the Monastery to rubble. (Cf. illustration- Italy 580). It was a vain effort because it did not move the Germans from their position. It was only after the fourth planned assault that the Polish Corps in Italy, in combination with the breakthrough of the 36th Division at Anzio, that the Germans at Monte Cassino fell back in the general German retreat northward to prepared positions before Bologna.

At the end of World War II, the Italian Government, whose property the Abbey of Monte Cassino remains until this day, began the restoration of the town of Cassino and the Abbey of Monte Cassino. The completion of the restoration was commemorated by two stamps of Italy (579-580) issued on June 18, 1951. The L.55 shows an aerial view of the bombed abbey in 1944. The L.20 shows the restored abbey in 1951. Both bear the legend "Succisa Virescit", which loosely means "Destroyed it was rebuilt".

On July 2, 1965, Vatican released two stamps bearing the same legend "In the restored Abbey of Cassino Paul VI declared St. Benedict the Patron of Europe in the year 1964". The L.40 reproduces a picture of St. Benedict by Pietro Vannucci, Il Perugino (Italy 581). The L.300 shows a general view of the Monastery, apparently from a photograph.

(Cf. Vatican Notes, Volume XIV, #2, p.13).



Building the Abbey 529.



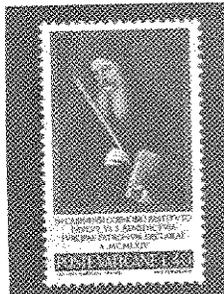
The Death of St. Benedict.



The Courtyard attributed to Bramante



General View of Monte Cassino 1929.



St. Benedict.



St. Benedict.



Monte Cassino



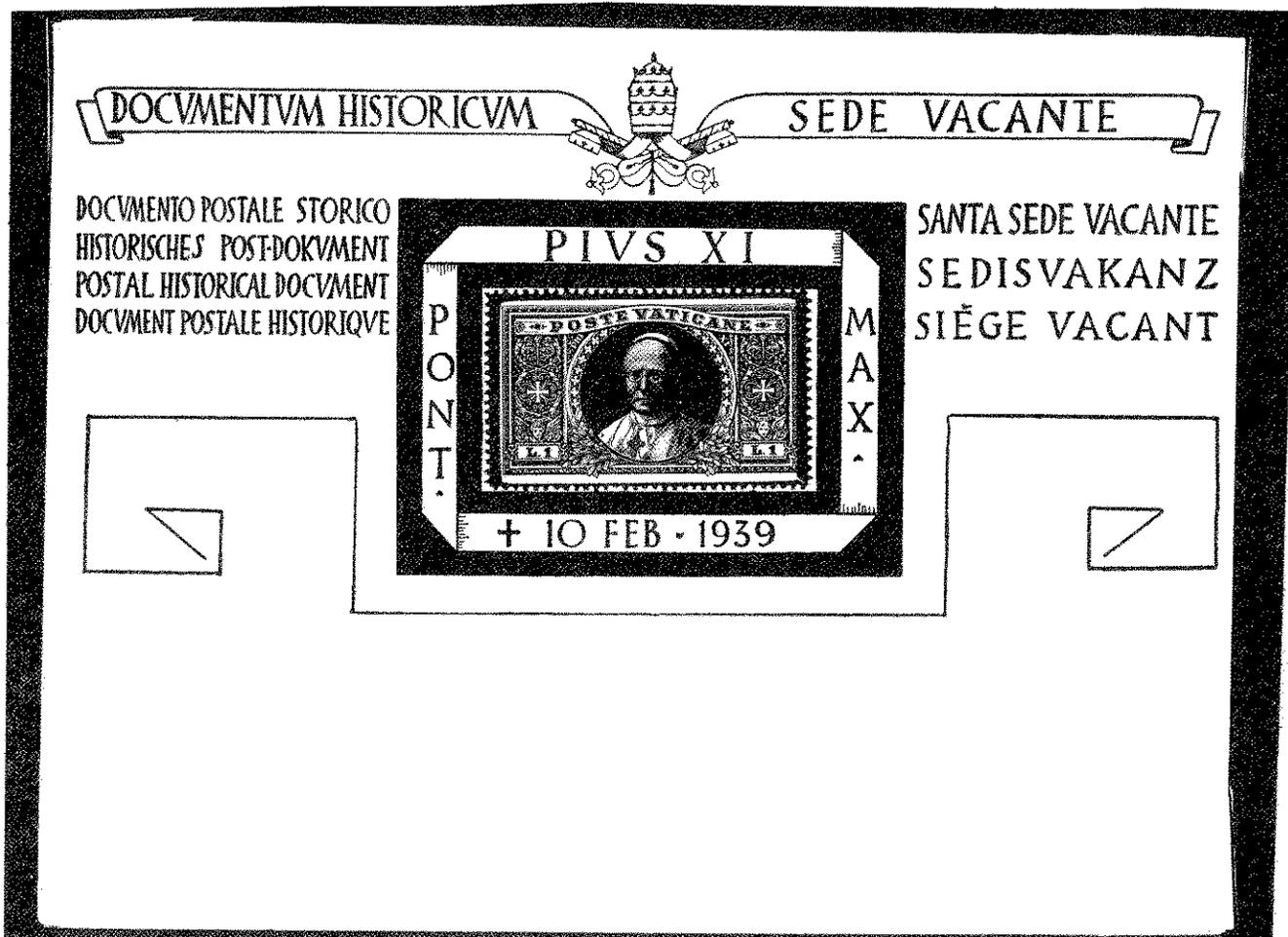
Destroyed Monastery 1944.



Restored Monastery 1951.

A VATICAN PRIVATE OVERPRINT.

From Bolaff's 1968 Sepcialized Vatican Catalogue we quote the last line under #19-34, p.42: " In 1939, after the death of Pope Pius XI, a certain number of copies of No. 28 were privately overprinted with a typographed black border in memoriam." This is the 1 Lira value. Many of these were mounted on covers, as shown here. A small number, according to an unconfirmed source, were cancelled at the Vatican Post Office. One in the possession of VPS Treasurer, Fred Levitsky, contains not only a copy of #28 with the typographed border, but also five of the Sede Vacante series of 1939. All stamps bear a Vatican cancellation of March 3, 1939, with #28 socked on the nose.



The legend at the top of the cover translates: "Historical Document-the See being Vacant.

The four legends at the left of the cover in various languages find their translation in the third line: "Postal Historical Document".

The three legends at the right in various languages translate: "Sede Vacante" or the See (or chair, seat) is vacant (or empty)"