



Vatican Philatelic Society

# Vatican Notes

---

VOLUME XXII.

MARCH - APRIL 1974.

NUMBER 5.

---

To the Membership:

This is a call for help from the membership. The Vatican Philatelic Society has been in existence for over twenty years. Now, because of death and sudden illness, the most important leadership positions are unfilled. Unless there is a response, your Society may no longer exist.

Because of sudden illness, Father Phinney can no longer serve as Editor of the NOTES. This is effective immediately. Therefore, we need a new Editor to continue the excellent work of Father Phinney.

No nominations have been received to date for the offices of President and Vice-President. Unless we have such nominations and assistance in editing the NOTES, there is little reason to attempt continued operation of the Society.

To determine if assistance will be forthcoming, this issue and the next issue of the NOTES will be published, at least in reduced size. An Interim Editor has volunteered and communications concerning the NOTES should be sent to:

Rev. George L. O'Brien, Interim Editor  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

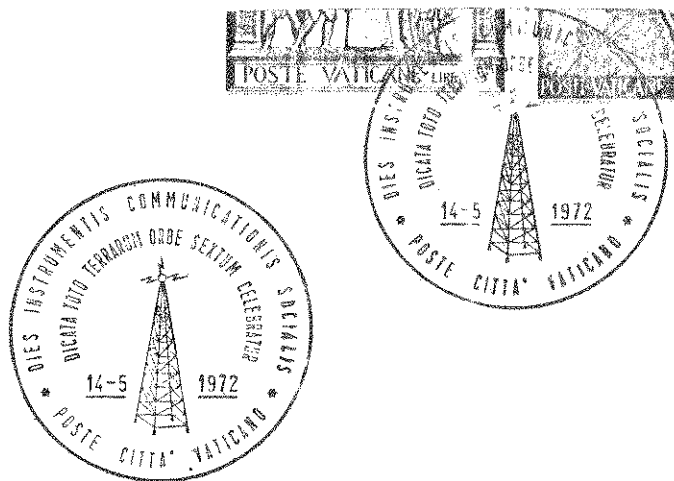
Nominations should be submitted as soon as possible. One or more of our active Chapters should be able to provide the needed leadership for the Society with a nominee for president. Such nominations should be submitted to Secretary Wallace R. Smith, 165-15 Union Turnpike, Flushing, N.Y. 11366 and the Interim Editor.

Sincerely,

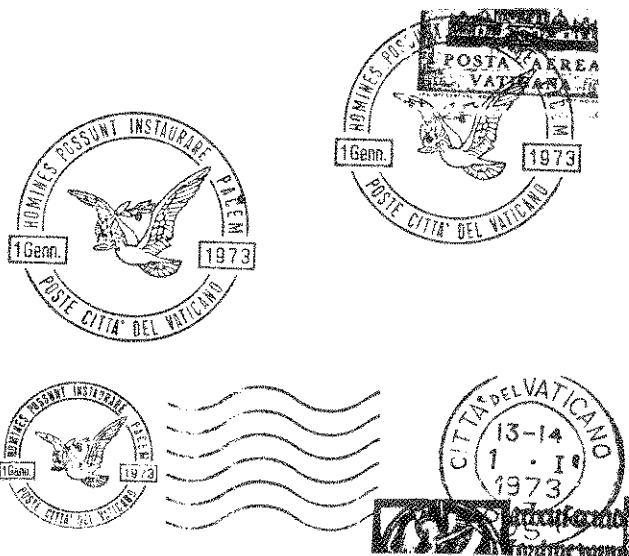
F.J.Levitsky, Treasurer

SPECIAL VATICAN CANCELLATIONS

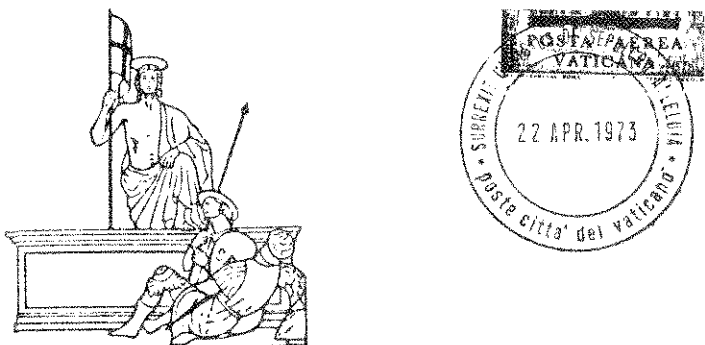
Frederick J. Levitsky



Cancellation marking the sixth World's Social Communication Media Day, May 14, 1972. The cancellation reads: "Throughout the world there is celebrated for the sixth time a day dedicated to the instruments of social communication."



Cancellation marking the sixth World Day For Peace, January 1, 1973. The cancellation reads: "Men can begin Peace." Both handstamp and machine cancellations are illustrated.



Cancellation marking the celebration of Easter, April 22, 1973. The cancellation reads: "Christ has risen from the tomb- Alleluia." The total period during which this cancellation was used is not known. A commercial cover is at hand with an April 27, 1973 date.

Vatican Issue Honoring Saint Nerses Shnorhali

Nerses was born in Cilicia in 1102, and lived to the age of 71. His Feast day is celebrated on August 3rd. Named Nerses IV Klayeci, he was called Shnorhali or "the Gracious." Catholicos Gregory II was his uncle and principal educator. The great Armenian doctor Stephen Manuk was also one of Nerses' teachers.

Gregory III Pahlavuni his predecessor, was his brother.

His residence was at Hromkla, on the Euphrates. He was a competent theologian and worked in the years 1170 to 1172 with Manuel I Comnenus for the reunion of the Byzantine and the Armenian Churches. Manuel sent the Byzantine theologian Theoranius to Hromkla for theological conferences at which Nerses and several bishops accepted the Chalcedonian formula concerning the two natures in Christ, despite the opposition of Syrian delegates.

Nerses also accepted the Byzantine calendar for the main ecclesiastical feasts to convince Patriarch Michael III Anchialus of his orthodoxy.

He became an ardent defender of the traditional doctrines of the Armenian Church against Monophysitism and was quoted in this context by Pope Pius XII in the Encyclical "SEMPTIERNUS CHRISTUS REX" in 1951.

He was one of the early leaders in the Armenian literary renaissance. Among his writings are a complaint over the fall of Edessa (1144), Biblical commentaries, and encyclical letters treating of canonical matters.

He was noted as a poet and writer of sacred hymns. His "Twenty-Four Hour Prayers" (the daily prayers of St. Nerses) was translated into 32 languages of the Christian world.

49. 7-8-53. a. First L of BOLLO lacks part of serif;  
b. 5 defective;  
c. Tiara broken; d. left key haft defective;  
e. U. lft. corner of outer frame line bevelled;  
f. Inner frame line broken at left.
50. 5-15-53. a. Outer frame sometimes makes a small point at Lower rt. Cliche 50 is usually impossible to recognize unless in a multiple or with margins proving it to be this position.
51. 3-1-63. (9-24-57). a. Defective lower serif except in early state;  
b. P of POSTALE has defective serif;  
c. Rt. banderol has nick; d. line in lft. haft interrupted;  
e. Upper right corner broken in some.
52. 3-1-63. (10-18-57). a. B of BOLLO defective at lower lft.;  
b. Rt. vine broken;  
c. Rt. banderol broken;  
d. Upper rt. corner broken at outside in some.
53. 3-1-63. a. N of FRANCO broken at lower rt. in some  
b. Defect in 5;  
c. Left ball forms hook in some. This is a difficult position.
54. 4-3-52. a. N of FRANCO usually has break.  
b. B of BOLLO broken at bottom;  
c. E of POSTALE curved up at bottom.
55. 4-3-52. a. N of FRANCO has break at left;  
b. Breaks in B of BOLLO; c. P of POSTALE defective; d. also E;  
e. Break in tiara; f. Lft. banderol serrate;  
g. Shafts broken at right; h. Frames broken at Upper right;  
i. Frames broken at lower right; j. Inner frame break at E.
56. 6-5-55. a. O of POSTALE broken; b. T broken in center;  
c. Rt. shaft broken at top; d. Frame nicked at Lower rt.
57. 2-4-52. a. Break in A of POSTALE; b. E lacks serif;  
c. Rt. vine broken; d. Outer frame broken at Upper rt. corner;  
e. Rt. key haft broken.
58. 10-4-56. a. B of BOLLO defective; b. E of POSTALE defective;  
c. Lt. ball on shaft broken;  
d. Inner frame broken at E;  
e. Inner frame broken at left; Same at Lower lft. corner.
59. 2-23-52. a. Second O of BOLLO broken;  
b. Defective 5.
60. 1-17-54. a. E of POSTALE has no serif at bottom;  
b. Rt. vine broken;  
c. Outer frame nicked at left ball.



49



50



51



52



53



54



55



56



57



58



59



60

## Plating the 5 Bajocchi

61. 8-8-52. a. Break in Rt. Banderol;  
 b. Hooked knob in some copies;  
 c. Inner frame line broken at E.
62. 9-28-55. a. E of POSTALE defective;  
 b. Rt. Vine broken;  
 c. Inner frame line broken at E.
63. 6-26-52. a. O of FRANCO broken at bottom;  
 b. B, L, O of BOLLO defective;  
 c. P, O, S of POSTALE defective;  
 d. Rt. Shaft and banderol broken; e. Rt. bit has break;  
 f. Upper left corner; g. Upper rt. side thick end nicked.
64. 7-6-61. (9-7-57). a. B of BOLLO broken below middle bar;  
 b. Nick in outer frame line at B.
65. 3-7-54. a. E of POSTALE broken;  
 b. Rt. banderol has nick; c. Rt. bit broken at corner;  
 d. Nick in outer frame line under J;  
 e. Outer frame line broken at lower rt. corner.
66. 1-10-57. a. B of BOLLO lacks serif at bottom;  
 b. Break in tiara;  
 c. Rt. knob defective.
67. 8-5-59. a. P of POSTALE defects;  
 b. Rt. banderol defective;  
 c. Rt. vine defects;  
 d. Outer frame line nicked above E; e. Also at 5.
68. 8-8-52. a. Rt. banderol broken;  
 b. Outer frame line broken above E.
69. 9-14-63. a. B of BOLLO defective;  
 b. Nick in outer frame line under B;  
 c. Nick in outer frame line u. Rt. corner;  
 d. Left vine broken.
70. 1-8-53. a. Outer frame line broken at rt. bit;  
 b. Outer frame line broken at lower rt. corner; c. Inner frame.
71. None. a. Breaks in the N, C, O of FRANCO:  
 b. Breaks in left banderol;  
 c. Defect in rt. haft;  
 d. Nick in outer frame line over O.
72. None. a. B of BOLLO DEFECTIVE:  
 b. Rt. banderol broken;  
 c. Left haft - leaf does not touch in some;  
 d. Rt. ball hooked in some.



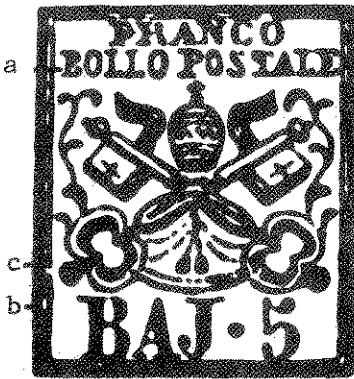
61



62



63



64



65



66



67



68



69



70



71



72

A Brief Historical Sketch - St. Mark's

The latest Air Mail Issue of the Vatican reproduces a detail from the Mosaic of St. Mark's Basilica in Venice.

The most "Oriental" church in Italy, its appearance derives from both Byzantine workmanship and native imitation. The first structure on the site was erected to house the relics of St. Mark taken from Alexandria in the early 9th Century.

The sacking of Constantinople in 1204 and the Venetian claim to a portion of the Byzantine Empire produced the four bronze horses, the marble slabs that now encase the church, and a mosaic program designed to reinforce the historical validity of the claim.

The mosaic sheathing of the doors and walls incorporates Eastern Christian elements (Christ Immanuel and the Virgin Orans, the Ascension and the Pentecost) distributed in a fashion that is quite un-Byzantine. Greek iconography is so far adapted as to substitute St. Mark for St. John the Baptist in the Deesis mosaic.



Detailed information concerning the mosaics of St. Mark's can be found in "MOSAICS OF ST. MARK'S" by P. Toesca and F. Forlati, (Greenwich, Conn, 1958) and in "THE CHURCH OF SAN MARCO IN VENICE: HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE, SCULPTURE" by O. Demus, (Washington, 1960).