



Vatican Notes

VOLUME XXIII JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1974 NUMBER 4

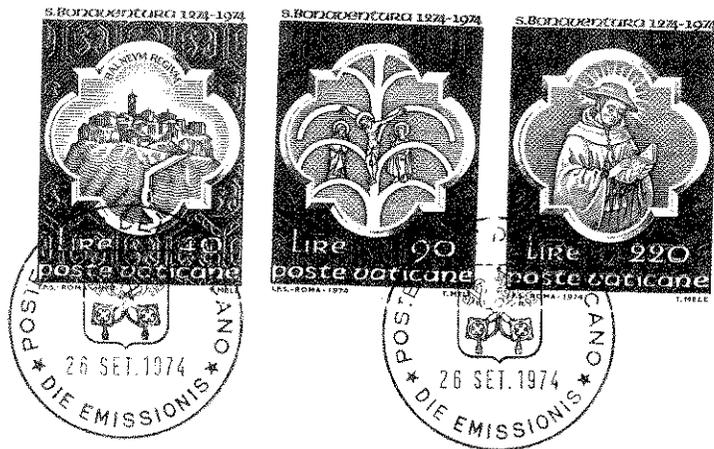


MONTEFALCO - CHIESA DI S. FRANCESCO - B. GOZZOLI

VII Centenario della morte di
S. Bonaventura
(DOCTOR SERAPHICUS)



F. D. C. VATICANO



ST. BONAVENTURE COMMEMORATIVE

Vatican City issued a series of stamps to commemorate the seventh centenary of the death of St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio. First Day was September 26, 1974. There are three values in the series, 40, 90 and 220 lire. At the top the stamps carry the inscription "S. Bonaventura 1274-1974", and on the bottom the value of the stamps in arabic-numerals together with the words, Poste Vaticane. The designs are in woodcut set on a decorative background taken from ornamental subjects of the period. The 40 lire stamp, in green and gold, presents a view of the medieval quarter of Bagnoregio known as "Civita", and has the Latin inscription, Balneum Regium. The 90 lire stamp, in purple and gold, depicts the "Tree of Life" inspired by a work of the 13th Century. The final stamp, 220 lire, in orange and gold, presents the Saint as depicted by Benozzo Gozzoli and as reproduced in the church of St. Francis at Montefalco.

SAINT BONAVENTURE

Saint Bonaventure was a Doctor of the Church, a cardinal bishop of Albano, the minister general of the Friars Minor and a scholastic. He was born in Bagnoregio in the vicinity of Viterbo about 1217 and he died at Lyons, on the 15th of July in 1274.

Little is known of his family. His father seems to have been a doctor of medicine and fairly well-to-do. His mother's name was Maria di Ritello. While still a boy, he himself tells us, he fell gravely ill and was saved from death only through the intercession and merits of St. Francis of Assisi. The miracle took place, evidently, after the death and canonization of St. Francis.

He received his primary education from the Friars in Bagnoregio and then went to Paris where he received his Master of Arts. He entered the Friars Minor there about 1243, and began to study theology. In 1253 he received his Doctorate in Scripture. Without ceasing to be a scholastic, he became the mystic as he entered more deeply into the inner life of his Seraphic Father whose life he was to analyze in his "Legend of St. Francis." Bonaventure was elected General of the Order on February 2, 1257.

In his first years in office He visited a great part of the Order to know its problems and needs. As a result Bonaventure took measures to correct abuses in the Order, especially in matters of poverty. Always he remained in residence at a small friary at Mantes-sur-Seine in France until mid-1268. He frequently preached at the University of Paris, often touching on some of the religious and philosophical troubles that disturbed faculties and students.

Gregory X created him a cardinal bishop of Albano and he was consecrated at Lyons on November 11 or 12, 1273. He then helped the Pope prepare for the Second Council of Lyons which opened on May 7, 1274. Bonaventure preached eloquently at the sessions of the Council and presided over the meetings between the Greek delegates and the Latins.

In the midst of such activity he died unexpectedly on July 15. He was buried the same day in the Franciscan church, in the presence of the Pope.

The impression Bonaventure made on his contemporaries is summed up in the "Brevis Notitia" of the Council: "At the funeral there was much sorrow and tears; for the Lord had given him this grace, that all who saw him were filled with immense love for him." Nevertheless, his canonization did not take place until April 14, 1482, due to internal strife in the Order, the Western Schism and politics.

In mystical theology Bonaventure has always been regarded as "the prince par excellence who leads us by the hand to God" (Pope Leo XIII).

ERRORS & *vAR*ieties

By Fred Levitsky.

PRINTING VARIETY

SCOTT No. 113

75th CENTENARY COUNCIL OF TRENT

MISPLACED CENTER, SHIFTED 2mm TO THE LEFT



This issue, being in two colors, required to be passed through the presses. Poor alignment on the second pass results in the two sections of the stamp not being printed in the correct relative positions. Hence, a "misplaced center."

There are many errors and varieties available in the Council of Trent issue. When this issue was printed, 1946, shortly after the end of World War II, quality control in the Italian State Printing Office was poor.

Misplaced centers may be found displaced, in varying degrees, in all directions of the compass.

Note the illustration of the 1.50 lire stamp in the Bolaffi catalog, the center is shifted up.

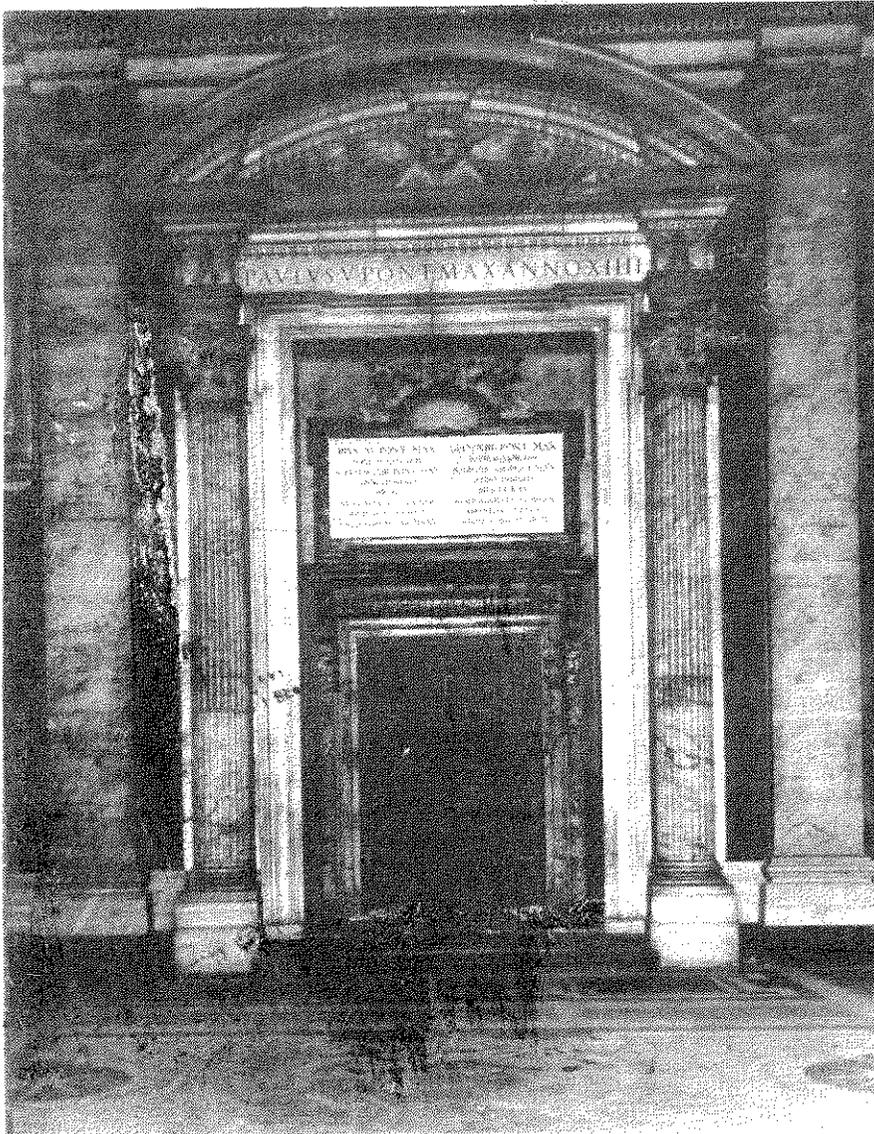
BOLAFFI CATALOG

Some members had indicated that they had difficulty in securing the 1975 Roman States and Vatican City Catalogue. A letter of inquiry was sent to the publisher in Italy. The response indicated some copies are still available. The Editor is purchasing a few copies of this latest issue. However, for large purchases in the future we would be able to get a much better price than the current \$6.00, perhaps \$4.00. In mid-year we will poll the membership for a response to this proposal to see how many would want the next issue of the catalogue. It is published only in English.

NEW MEMBERS

We have four new members to extend a cordial welcome to in this issue. All of us should encourage fellow philatelists to become interested in Roman States and Vatican stamps as well as to become members of our Society.

2440 Bernice Strandell 682 E. 155th St. So. Holland, Ill. 60473
 2441 Joseph Schmotzer 43-38 149th St. Flushing, N.Y. 11355
 2442 Mrs. James Gowen 2611 Belle Haven Dr. Lawrence, Kans. 66044
 2443 James P. Aubele 4053 Greensburg Pike Pittsburg, Pa. 15221



THE HOLY DOOR OF ST. PETER'S BASILICA

THE HOLY YEAR

This is the fourth in a series of articles for the Holy Year 1975.

At 11:30 PM on Christmas Eve, Pope Paul the Sixth knocked with a ceremonial hammer on the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, the door opened and the 1975 Holy Year was inaugurated. The pontiff then entered the Basilica and proceeded down the aisle to the high altar where he celebrated Midnight Mass.

The ceremonies of the opening of the Holy Doors of Rome's other major basilicas took place on Christmas Day. All four of the doors have been sealed closed since December 24, 1950, the date that marked the close of the Church's last Holy Year. The ritual of the Holy Door was, according to tradition, the invention of John Burckhard, the master of ceremonies to Pope Alexander VI, and was first used to begin the Jubilee or Holy Year of 1500. It was Alexander VI who first used the silver hammer to strike the door and who created the four Holy Doors.

Renewal and Reconciliation once again were the ancient themes for the inauguration of the 1975 Holy Year and the central act of the ceremony remained the same: the symbolic tapping of the door with a hammer.

The Holy Door, a huge marble slab facing the atrium or front porch of St. Peter's had already been loosened from the moorings that had held it fast for the past quarter-century. An inner set of bronze doors had also been taken away.

Block and tackle were set in place to enable the great stone door to swing away at the tap of the Pope's hammer, symbolizing the Church's forgiveness of sin through God's power.

The glittering gilt interior of the majestic basilica, beckoning through the newly-opened door, has always symbolized God's welcome home to his forgiven, reconciled, renewed children. And the "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," intoned in Latin by the Pope, has long been seen as a homecoming hymn of praise.

Later, on Christmas Day itself, the Holy Father celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and delivered his Christmas greetings to the world and his traditional blessing "Urbi et Orbi" - to the city (of Rome) and to the world. He directed three Cardinal-legates to open the holy doors at Rome's three other major patriarchal basilicas on Christmas Day - St. Paul's-outside-the-Walls - St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major.

VATICAN POSTAL STATIONERY

On January 4th, in Los Angeles, the Higgins and Gage Co. had an Auction Sale which was primarily Postal Stationery. Included in the sale was a large section of Aerogrammes (Air Letters). There were some Vatican City lots, material that doesn't show up very often. The sale was cataloged by Kessler. Following is a report of prices realized, in each case the price realized in followed by the catalog value in parentheses. All lots were unused, fine to very fine.

Lot 426: #1 through #8, 8 values\$27.50 (52.50)
 Lot 427: #4a the 80L without brown overlay inside..\$22.00 (50.00)
 Lot 428: #4b the 80L with blue printing missing....\$35.00 (75.00)
 Lot 429: #7c the 100L with double impression black.\$35.00 (75.00)
 Lot 430: #7e the 100L with printing inverted\$75.00(200.00)

It would appear that the Kessler prices are a little bit out of line.

Higgins and Gage are the publishers of a world wide catalog of Postal Stationery, Section 19 of the catalog, the final section, was just published. It includes the Vatican and is a simplified listing without any varieties. Postal cards #3 and #4, the L2 and L5 overprints, are not priced. There is a footnote that states: "#3 and #4 were announced but have never been seen. Possibly never issued." Members of the V.P.S. know that they were issued. Fr. Phinney pictured them in the "Vatican Notes." (Volume XVIII, No. 6, Page 8) At the auction, I had an opportunity to question Ed Fladung, Editor of the catalog, about this footnote. He told me that he worked with a major Italian source of Postal Stationery and that the statement came from that source!!! Somebody is mistaken, that's sure.

Fr. Phinney in his article gave two possible reasons for these cards' high catalog values:

1. Either there was a small quantity of each printed, or
2. There was a large use of these values.

From my own experience I suspect that reason number one might be correct. At any rate there are probably more mint than used cards around. It would be interesting to find out just how many #3 and #4 cards, mint and used, are in the collections of V.P.S. members. I'll volunteer to run a survey, if you, the members, will cooperate. Drop me a line and let me know what you have. If you have used cards, a photo copy of both sides would be appreciated, or lend me your cards and I'll make the copies and return your cards. I'll report the numbers in some future issue of "VATICAN NOTES." I'll keep your names confidential if you prefer.

WRITE: John J. Blessington
 4302 St. Clair Ave.
 Studio City, CA 91604

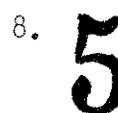
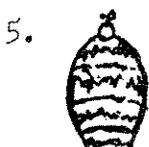
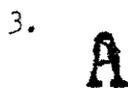
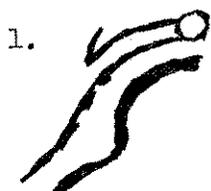
EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you, John, for
 responding to our request for
 material to print in VATICAN NOTES!

Forgery of the 50 Baj.

(50 Baj. #14)

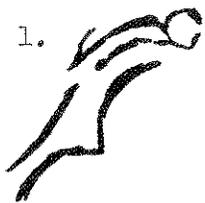
This is very similar to the 50 Baj. forgery #13 listed in Vol. XIV, No. 1. No. 13 is Billig #36 and the present stamp is listed by Billig as his #41. Actually, our #13 may have been printed from worn plates of this forgery or produced by poor inking of the plates.

1. At upper left, 2nd frame line from inside not broken above R of FRANCO.
2. At lower right, no break to left of leaf.
3. A of FRANCO rounded at top.
4. A of BAJ rounded at top.
5. Tiara is oval shaped.
6. Lower serif of second L of BOLLO not noticeably higher than on first L.
7. Inner frame line rounded under A of BAJ.
8. 5 of 50: top stroke not pointed; inside of loop curved; lower ball to right of downstroke.



The Genuine 50 Baj.

1. At upper left, 2nd frame line from inside is broken above R of FRANCO.
2. At lower right, characteristic break at left of leaf.
3. A of FRANCO is pointed at top.
4. A of BAJ not rounded at top.
5. Tiara wide at top and narrow at bottom.
6. Second L of BOLLO has lower serif higher than first L.
7. Inner frame line is pointed under A of BAJ.
8. 5 of 50 has pointed top stroke, inside of loop straight, lower ball to left of downstroke.



Instruments and Equipment Used for Fumigation (Con't.)

bent at an angle, so that they may not be moved during the operation. Soldered-on bars divide these trays into compartments. In each one of the compartments must be poured liquefied carbolic acid (liquefied through heat). At the extremity of the plate or tray are placed supporters for frames on which letters and the other objects to be disinfected are placed. The divisions for these frames are about five centimeters one from another to prevent that the letters be too close to each other and to leave some free space for the vapors of the carbolic acid. Frames for larger

packages are placed directly on the trays. Letters and other things must be left exposed to the heat for three hours.

"People who are in charge of this must wear a cotton mask around the mouth and the nose. Before and after performing the operation, these people must wash their hands and arms in a solution containing five per cent of carbolic acid and they disinfect with it also the dresses used during such an operation.

"This apparatus soon proved to be inadequate for its scopes and in 1881 there were proposals for making it

even more efficient. A similar apparatus was installed in the Lazaretto of Megline, while instead in the Hungarian Lazaretto of Martinschizza near Fiume the old system of disinfection was kept."

In emergencies, for example during the 1900 plague outbreak in Honolulu "letters were fumigated at the main post office by clipping off two opposite ends of the envelope and spreading out a batch of such mail in an airtight room where it was subjected to three hours treatment of sulfur fumes after which the mail was forwarded to its destination" (Green, 1953).

Handstamps or Cachets, Labels, Perforation Slits Signifying Disinfection

My own study of letters I have had the opportunity to examine has revealed methods of disinfection similar to those already pointed out by Bernardelli (1931) and Salmon (1909) and subsequently by Patton (1951).

1. *Disinfection of the Outside of Letters.* Beginning in 1733 at the large lazaretto at Semlin letters from Asia Minor, the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans were opened, fumigated and resealed with a distinctive wax seal. Around 1780 the letters were not opened; the wax seal was not used to close the flaps but was placed on the back of the letter to indicate that it had passed through Austrian Contumaz. It was replaced by the manuscript annotation "Netto fuori e sporca di dentro." During the early period the letters were, with very rare exceptions, disinfected only on the outside. This is indicated by the wording of the official Italian cachet or the handwritten certification "NETTA FUORI E SPORCA DENTRO" (clean outside and dirty inside). It was used until the mid 1830s in many of the large Contumaz stations that had a large volume of mail but could not afford thorough decontamination. Although it may have rendered letters safe for handling by postal authorities, it did not solve the problem. The recipient who handled the inside of the letter was presumably liable to infection, and one person who contracted plague or cholera was likely to spread it to another.

2. *Disinfection of Outside and Inside. a. Opening.* The next procedure was therefore to open the letter and disinfect both the inside and the outside. As early as 1733 this was adopted in the lazaretto at Semlin. The documents or letters were opened without breaking the original seals,

and when the disinfection was completed they were resealed by the health or postal authorities with a small wax seal on the official stamp, "SIGILL-(UM) CONSIL(IUM) SANITATIS" (seal of the council of health).

Between 1780 and 1830, for some unknown reason only the outside of the mail was disinfected, but by 1833 most letters passing through Semlin were opened, resealed with a round wax seal and marked with provisional cachets in which the word "SPORCA" had been filed out. Subsequently these handstamps were replaced by new markers always carrying the legend "NETTO DI FUORA (or FUORI) E DI DENTRO" (clean outside and inside).

In the early 17th century (first seen on a letter from Bayreuth in 1624) the closing of letters with cords was replaced with sealing wax or plastic made from a mixture of flour with gum and non-poisonous red coloring. The moistened preparation was placed as a wafer between the end folds of the letter. With the aid of a handstamp a heraldic or emblematic imprint was made through the paper on the wafer. (Johnston 1928 and K. F. Meyer 1959).

At Venice, beginning in 1770, the letters were opened on arrival at the station, disinfected and then resealed with one or two wafer seals of the health authority. A soft sealing wax was placed between the flaps of the folded letter, and when the handstamp was pressed down on the paper overlaying the soft wax, an imprint known as a wafer seal was formed. Wafer seals, invariably showing St. Mark with the winged lion, are eagerly searched-for collectors' items. Bulky letters or those enclosed in wrappers were always opened in order to permit thorough decontamination.

Apparently this method was considered undesirable because it did not insure privacy and because it was time-consuming.

3. *Labels.* Recent findings by Lucien P. Herlaut in Belgium (1953-1955) call attention to certification of disinfection by means of labels (etiquettes). During the cholera epidemic of 1830, all letters from foreign countries under suspicion of the disease or known to harbor it were subjected to purification. At the border station of Belgium, a sanitation commission, the mayor of the town or the postal director performed this service and a printed label attested to the disinfection, which was carried out irrespective of the already conspicuous cachet from foreign lazarettos. This form of double disinfection was rigorously adhered to by the Belgium sanitary authorities.

Safety certification labels (Verwahrungs-Siegel wegen Desinfection) were employed by the Austrian post office at Podwolowska as late as 1879. On a rare letter addressed to the military authorities at Graz (Styria-Austria), the mayor of the town of Botzen on the Etsch advises in a printed ornamented label that "no trace of cholera has been observed and, as a matter of fact, fresh air prevails."

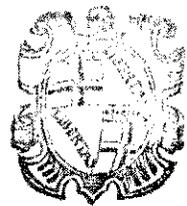
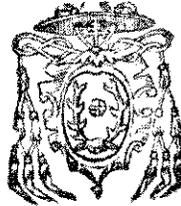
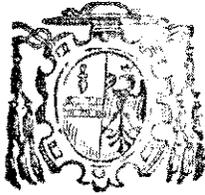
4. *Perforation.* The method then adopted for fumigating the inside of the letters was to perforate them with punch holes. It was used chiefly by the Austrian and German Contumaz Stations or "Rastelamts," where the perforations were made with the rastel described. Letters having passed through Semlin show variable patterns of small regular and large irregular punch holes without material damage to the paper inside. Examination of many letters with perfora-

DISINFECTED MAIL

BANDO

PER OCCASIONE DI PESTE.

Publicato in Bologna alli Febbrao 1625.



SE bene con diuersi Bando publicati a' Mesi passati in questa Città, furono banditi molti luoghi infetti, e sospetti di Contagio, per li certi auuili da più parti riceuuti, cò prohibirne perciò affatto il loro comertio; nondimeno sentendosi pure di presente, per lettere di varie Città, & per Bando stampati, che il sudetto male si vada dilatando con gagliardi progressi in molti luoghi, e specialmente in Palermo, & in altre parti della Sicilia; Si è giudicato ispediente, in negotio tanto importante di ridurre non solo alla memoria di ciascuno i Paesi, che già sono stati banditi, ma notificare ancora quei, che di più si bandiscono, per maggiormente procedere quanto humanamente si può à così grande, e formidabile flagello. Però l'Illustrissimo, e Reuerendissimo Sign. Cardinale Vbaldino Legato de latere, ad imitatione delle altre Città corrispondenti, con partecipazione, e consenso dell'Illustrissimo Sig. Consolniero di Giustitia, e de' Signori Assanti del Regimento sopra la Sanità, bandisce nuovamente da tutta questa Legatione col presente Bando tutti gl'infrascripti Luoghi, Città, & Terre, con li loro Territorij, e giurisdictioni, & insieme ogni persona, animale, mercantie, danari, lettere, e qual si voglia cosa, che venisse, ò fosse condotta da quelle parti, ò che vi fosse passata, ouero che poco, o molto n'hauefle toccato, sotto le pene contenute in altri Bando già publicati, & della perdita d'ogni sorte di robbe, che s'introducessero, nè con fedi di sanità, nè senza, contra la forma, & contenuto di questo Bando. Dichizzando, che nelle istesse pene incorreranno, e faranno compresi Vetturali, Conduccieri, Barcaroli, Albergatori, & ciascun altro, che in qual si sia modo riceueranno, condurranno, ò alloggiaranno alcuna persona, robbe, e mercantie, che si spicassero da detti paesi infetti, ò che per quelli fossero passate; applicandosi le pene pecuniarie, animali, e merci per la terza parte all'accusatore, per l'altra a' luoghi pij, & il restante all'Offitio della Sanità. Sia dunque auuertito ogn'vno di non contrauenire, perche contro li trasgressori si procederà con ogni rigore, & senza vna minima remissione. In quorum fidem &c. Dat. Bonon. die . . . Mensis Februarij 1625.

I Luoghi infetti, che si bandiscono sono questi.

In Sicilia.

LA Città di Palermo.

Trapani.
Castel Ventrano.
Carini.
Marinco.
Naso.
Monteale.
Arcamo.
Alessandria di Sicilia.
Conigliano.
Piana.
Blurgio.
Parco.
Partemio.
Mafala, con tutti
I Luoghi de' suoi Territorij.

Luoghi delle Prouincie di Stiria, e Carintia infetti.

Otto Gratz tre leghe verso la
via publica.
S. Florian.
Vvilna.

Ernauffem.
La beniz.
Morech.
Maspurgo.
Belsizza, e Puffa.
S. Spirito intorno à Studeniz.
Petrovia, &
Rachspurgh.
Tutti i Luoghi nella Sciria, e
nelli confini di Carintia.
Marinbergo, &
In vna Villa verso Cilla, lon-
tana da Lubiana vna gior-
nata, e meza.
Nouachia.
Dobrua.
Lozocchi.
Città di Cilla.
Gonouiz.
Gomiz.
S. Primus.
Allarsdel.
Maret, &
Plauburgh luogo della Carin-
tia lontano quattro leghe
da Clargfurt.

R. Card. Leg.
Aeneas Magn. Vex. Iust.

In Bologna, per Vittorio Benacci, Stampator Camerale.

(To be con't.)

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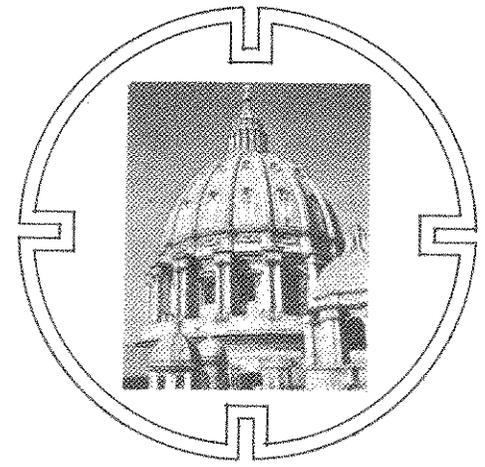
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6632 N. 13th St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85014

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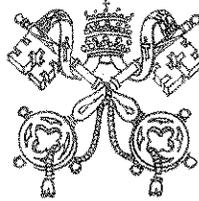
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Papal State Material, especially Precancelled
COVERS.

VATICAN CITY • NEW ISSUE SERVICE



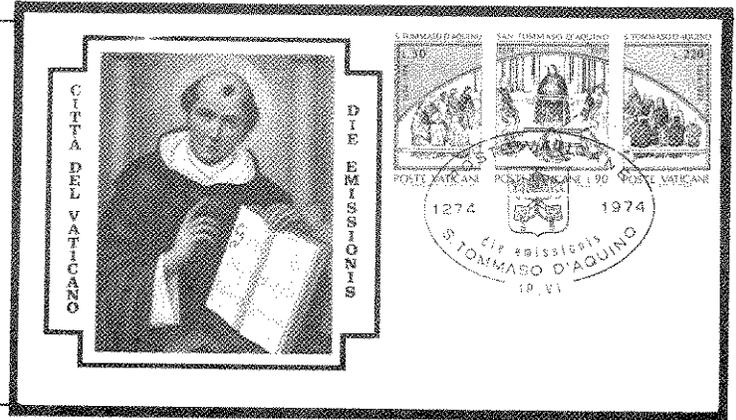
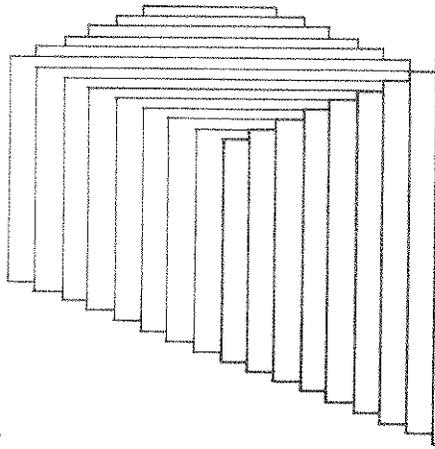
- FIRST DAY COVERS
- MAXIMUM CARDS
- FOLDERS
- EVENTS
- ACTAS
- MINT
- USED



MANUFACTURER OF THE FULL
COLOR ZASO Z SILK CACHET

EXTENSIVE STOCK
OF VATICAN FDC'S,
MAXIMUM CARDS
AND EVENTS

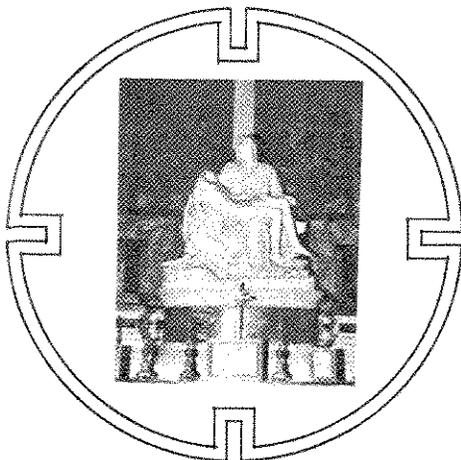
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SERVING THE VATICAN
COLLECTOR SINCE 1957



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NO OBLIGATION TO BUY. CANCEL ANYTIME.
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WILL BE SHIPPED AT ONE TIME
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GOLDEN SERIES FDC	___	G. S. MAX. CDS.	___
KIM FDC	___	MATCHED COR. BLKS.	___
RODIA FDC	___	MIN. SHEET FDC	___
RUSSO FDC	___	MINT SETS ___ BLOCKS	___
CAPITOLIUM FDC	___	SHEETS	___
SILK MAX. CDS.	___	USED SETS ___ BLOCKS	___
PARCH. FOLDERS FDC	___	ACTAS	___
		EVENTS	___

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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