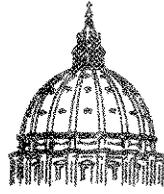


Vatican

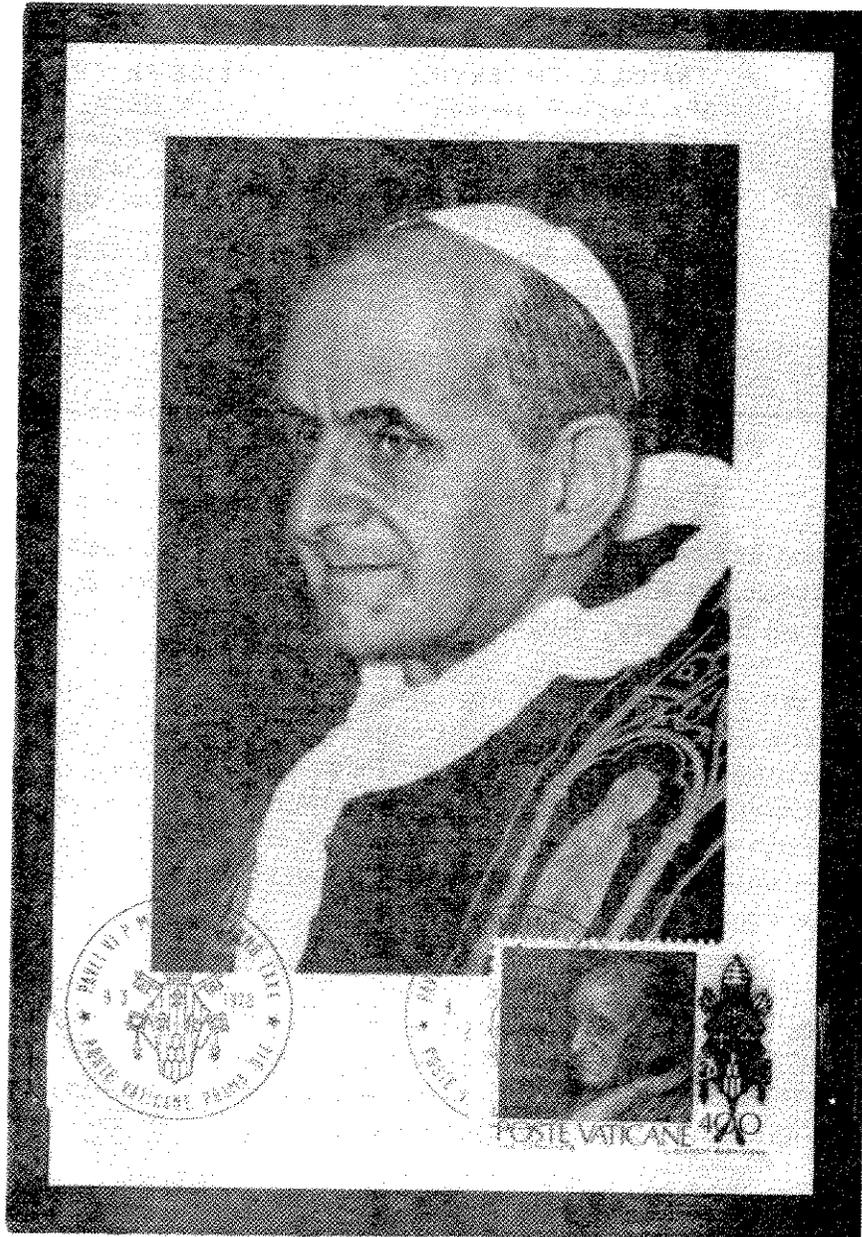


Notes

Vatican Philatelic Society

VOLUME XXVII - No. 2

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1978



Pope Paul VI * 1897-1978

IN MEMORIAM

Vatican Notes

Official Bi-monthly Organ
of the
VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Org. 1953

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Newington, Ct. 06111 - U.S.A.

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POPE PAUL VI 1897 - 1978

by Rev. G. L. O'Brien

After a Pontificate of fifteen years, Pope Paul VI died on Sunday, August 6th at Castel Gandolfo, his summer retreat, at the age of 80. His simple, but pious, funeral was held in St. Peter's Square on Saturday, August 12.

In his fifteen-year reign, the pontiff saw the completion of the historic Second Vatican Council; made initiatives for peace, ecumenical cooperation and protection of life; traveled around the world earning the popular title of "Pilgrim Pope" and streamlined and modernized Church government. He had been an outstanding leader of the Church during very critical and turbulent times, continuing the Second Vatican Council which Pope John XXIII had summoned and shouldered the even more difficult responsibility of bringing its decision into the life of the Church.

The period of mourning will continue through August 20th. The first session of the Conclave of Cardinals, called to elect a successor, has been scheduled for August 25. During the "inter-regnum" the Secretary of State, Cardinal Villot, will oversee the day-to-day functioning of the Church. Usually during this period stamps issued will carry the words "Sede Vacante" - the chair being empty. The reference is to the Chair of Peter.

Perhaps Paul's greatest contribution to mankind was in the area of Ecumenism. His concern for reconciliation among Christians was evident in his meetings with the leaders of other Christian Churches. His meeting with ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople in 1964 made him the first Pope in more than 500 years to hold conversations with an Orthodox patriarch. He also met with Anglican Archbishops Michael Ramsey and Donald Coggan and with leaders of the World Council of Churches.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Period: July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978

To: Rev. G. L. O'Brien, President

Balances reported on June 30, 1977:

Checking Account	\$ 64.93
Savings Account	714.77
	<u>\$779.70</u>

Received:

Dues: 339 Payments for 1977-78	\$1356.00
46 Payments for 1978-79 @ \$4.00	184.00
145 Payments for 1978-79 @ \$5.00	725.00
7 Payments for 1979-80 @ \$4.00	28.00
11 Payments for 1979-80 @ \$5.00	55.00
5 Payments for 1980-81 @ \$4.00	20.00
4 Payments for 1980-81 @ \$5.00	20.00
2 Payments for 1981-82 @ \$4.00	8.00
2 Payments for 1981-82 @ \$5.00	10.00
1 Payment for 1982-83 @ \$4.00	4.00
1 Payment for 1982-83 @ \$5.00	5.00
1 Payment for 1983-84	5.00
3 Add. Payments for 1978-79 @ \$1.00	3.00
21 New Members @\$1.00	21.00
19 New Members @\$2.00	38.00
15 New Members @\$3.00	45.00
6 New Members @\$4.00	24.00
3 New Members @\$5.00	15.00
Interest on Savings Account	39.08
Payment for airmail postage for NOTES	3.75
Sale of back issues of NOTES	64.00
Advertising in NOTES	309.00
Transfer from Auction Account	100.00
Bolaffi Catalog Payments	389.00
Special Contributions	92.85
	<u>\$3563.68</u>
Subtotal =	\$4343.38

Paid:

Postage	\$ 140.71
Envelopes	4.29
Letter and Card Printing	13.80
Purchase of Bolaffi Catalogs	332.00
VATICAN NOTES	
Printing (5 issues)	1247.75
Postage	215.93
Mailing List Changes	24.42
Annual Bulk Mailing Fee	40.00
Editor Supplies	38.50
	<u>\$2057.40</u>
Balance on Hand, June 30, 1978:	\$2285.98
Worcester County National Bank	\$1532.13
Freedom Federal Savings Bank	753.85
	<u>\$2285.98</u>

Respectfully submitted, F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

POPE PAUL VI - HIS FAMILY, HIS EARLY YOUTH, HIS CARREER

EDITOR'S NOTE This article will attempt to recount the family origins, early youth, and ecclesiastic career of the late Pope Paul VI. The events, and outstanding accomplishments of his fifteen-year pontificate were reported in details by the world press, and we feel it's unnecessary to restate them.

+ + +

The Supreme Pontiff of 700 million Roman Catholics who reigned as Pope Paul VI was baptized Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini. He was born at 10:00 p. m. on September 26, 1897 in the village of Concesio, Italy, located in the Po Valley 6 miles from Brescia.

+ + +

The Montini's a family of low nobility, were natives of the Lombardy region of Italy, settling in the Brescia area in the early part of the 15th century. After the Italian annexation of the Roman States, in 1870, Catholics were regarded as radicals and their social and political rights were suppressed. Giovanni's father, Giorgio, a devout Catholic, was a laureate in jurisprudence from the University of Padua. Unable to find work because of his religious beliefs, he decided to join the Catholic Movement. In 1881, the lawyer turned journalist became director of the Brescia diocesan newspaper, "Il Cittadino" (The Citizen), a position he held for nearly 25 years. A man of great eloquence, devoted in the promotion of Catholic ideals, he was instrumental in the organization of several Catholic Congresses, where he used many methods to make the populace aware of the social injustices, while at the same time promoted the social and moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Benedict XV, made aware of Giorgio's talents and fervor in the peaceable struggle for the Catholic cause, summoned him to Rome to assume the presidency of the newly formed Electoral Union of Italian Catholics, which later was replaced by the Christian Democratic Party. When the government anti-Catholic attitudes subsided, Giorgio became a member of Parliament and served for 3 terms. He retired from politics in 1924 after Mussolini seized power of Italy.

In 1895, at age 35, Giorgio Montini was married to Giuditta Alghisi, a noblewoman from Verolavecchia, also formerly known as Verola Alghisi. His bride was a petit woman of frail health, but of strong religious beliefs. An orphan since age 4, she was reared by relatives and received her education at a nearby convent. The newlyweds moved to Concesio in the outskirts of Brescia. Soon Giorgio's widowed mother, Francesca, and sister, Maria, came to live with them. The Montini's were a devoted couple sharing their deep attachment to the Church. After one year of marriage, the couple was blessed with a son, Ludovico. Giuditta nearly lost her life while giving birth to her second son, Giovanni Battista (John Baptist). The last addition to the family was given his father's name. Giovanni Battista's parents were considered upper class; they had interests in banking and publishing and were landowners. They spent their summers in Concesio and the fall in Verolavecchia at the large villa of Giuditta's family.

Since early childhood Giovanni Battista was called "Battista", a name given by his peasant wet nurse, Clorinda Peretti. He was called by that name most of his life. From a tender age he was enrolled in the Collegio Cesare Arici in Brescia, a private Jesuit school largely financed by his father. There he received his elementary and secondary education. Young Battista excelled in all of his studies, and when ill health prevented him from attending classes, a Jesuit father would go to his house for private lessons.

In the fall of 1916 the Montini brothers were drafted into the Italian Army, but Battista was left behind; he had failed to pass the physical examination. He still continued his studies, and utilized his spare time to assist wounded soldiers returning from the front. He also dedicated a great deal of his time in general civilian assistance projects. That same year he decided to become a priest and entered the seminary in Brescia. While a seminarian at Brescia, he wrote a thesis on canon law which, along with an examination, the seminary of Milan, awarded the future priest a degree in canon law. Four years later, on May 29, 1920 he was ordained in the Cathedral of Brescia by Bishop Giacinto Gaggia, a friend of his family. His first chasuble was made from his mother's wedding dress.

Don Battista left for Rome, highly recommended by Bishop Gaggia. He entered the Lombard Seminary on November 10, 1920. He took courses in canon law and philosophy at the Gregorian University, and literature and languages at the University of Rome. Bishop Gaggia, once confided to the young priest's father that his son's talents were not meant to be wasted as a parish priest. The astonishing scholastic achievements of the young priest in two short years in Rome, won the admiration of Cardinal Pizzardo, through whose recommendations in the fall of 1922 Don Battista was admitted to the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics, a pontifical school highly specialized to prepare carefully selected clerics as future diplomats of the Church.

In May 1923, Don Battista was appointed secretary to the Apostolic Nuncio in Warsaw, Poland. At age 26, he was the youngest cleric in active duty in the diplomatic corps of the Church. Plagued by ill health, after a few months, he was returned to the Vatican where he was assigned to the Roman Curia as a clerk, a tedious and demanding job.

In 1924 Pope Pius XI made him a domestic prelate and, soon after, he was appointed moderator and spiritual advisor of the Federation of Italian Catholic University Students (FUCI). Its members were known as "Fucini", a group organized to protect the Catholic student from the anticlerical actions of the government and the harassment of emerging Fascist youth organizations. Monsignor Montini advised the group to resist oppression without resorting to violence.

Monsignor spent the summer of 1924 in Paris, France, where in a short time he mastered the French language. In the following years he learned German and English aided by colleagues he met at the Vatican.

After the "Roman Question" was finally resolved in 1929, with the signing of a concordat, Monsignor Montini published an analysis of the "Lateran Pacts", supplemented by a detailed account of related historical events. As soon as Pius XI read the publication he requested to see the young author. During the audience, the Pope told the Monsignor that his article had brought "rare understanding to a difficult affair".

Monsignor was a favorite of Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli since their first meeting. "I like that intense young man!" said the Cardinal, while attending a reception in his honor. In 1932, the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Pacelli, recommended Monsignor Montini to be admitted to the faculty of the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics, where he taught diplomatic history.

On September 8, Monsignor Francis Spellman, Cardinal Pacelli's personal secretary, was consecrated Auxiliary Archbishop of Boston and departed from the Vatican. Soon after, Monsignor Montini was appointed to the personal staff of the Secretary of State. The following year he reluctantly had to abandon all outside activities and devote all of his energies to the ever increasing pressures of his position.

In 1936, when Monsignor was appointed Papal Undersecretary of State, his judgment and diplomatic skills were fully utilized during the absence of Cardinal Pacelli who was on a special mission to the United States. In 1938, the news that he had been selected to accompany Cardinal Pacelli to the Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, Hungary, left him speechless.

After the death of Pius XI, in 1939, Cardinal Pacelli was elected Pope, Pius XII, and Cardinal Maglione became head of the Secretariat of State, while Monsignor Montini was entrusted with several difficult assignments by the Holy Father himself. The most significant were:

- The establishment and operation of a Vatican Information Service to trace refugees, prisoners of war and missing persons of all countries. The world wide network of Apostolic Nunciatures was of great help to service.
- The supervision of efforts for the resettlement of displaced persons and refugees of World War II.
- The control of the Pope's efforts to alleviate hunger in all corners of the world.
- Work closely with URRA, the international refugee organization, and the U. S. War Relief Service to feed and clothe the destitutes of war.

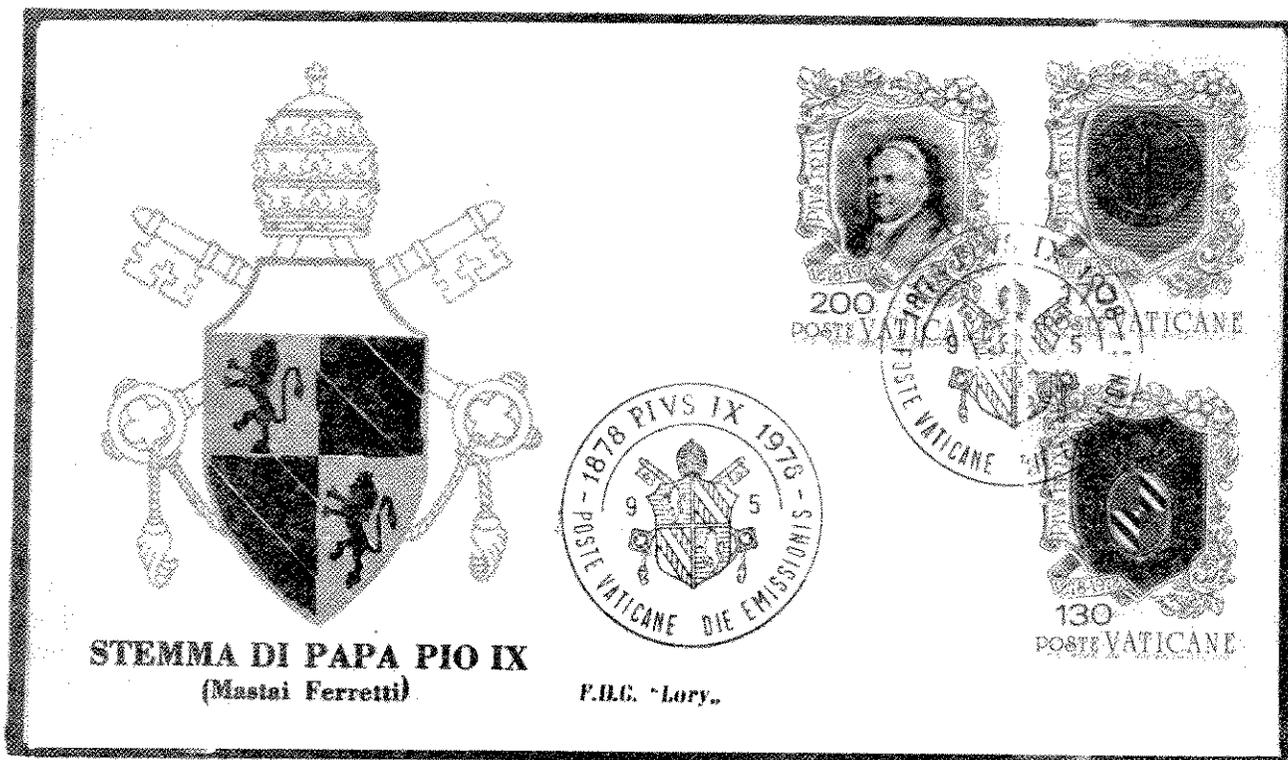
When the accomplishments of Monsignor Montini were brought to the attention of the Holy Father, he once said: "Monsignor Montini has such gifts that he is destined to render services to the Church at higher levels". A collaborator and friend of Pope Pius XII, especially during World War II, they worked closely and constantly to resolve the many problems that were confronting the Church. In 1944 the Monsignor was appointed Substitute Secretary of State.

In 1948, the organizing committee of the Democrazia Cristiana (Christian Democratic Party) called on the Monsignor for advice and guidance. Many in the group were former university students with whom he had become acquainted while serving as spiritual advisor and moderator of "FUCI". Several of the organizers were his close friends who later became prominent political leaders in the Italian Government. Among them: Gronchi, President; Scelba and Moro, Premiers.

In an effort to restrain the increasing influence of emerging Communist factions, the Holy See openly declared total support to the Democrazia Cristiana (Christian Democrats), and backed its claim with words and financial deeds. In later years, this open support of the Vatican backfired by losing a series of elections in many localities by "Democrazia". Finally, Alcide De Gaspari, party President, and Don Luigi Sturzo, a priest and a member of Parliament, warned that if the political situation in Italy was to stabilize, the Vatican should stop interfering. The Monsignor openly agreed with the two experienced politicians. Monsignor Montini's comments infuriated a small but powerful group of cardinals in the Roman Curia, who thereafter sought ways to remove him from the Vatican.

In 1951, the Monsignor accepted an invitation to visit the larger dioceses in the United States. During his visit, he received a Honoris Causa degree from Notre Dame University. President Eisenhower received similar honors at the same ceremony. In 1952, he was appointed Pro-Secretary of State for Ordinary Affairs (non-diplomatic) and a year later declined an invitation to accept the "red hat" and join the Sacred College of Cardinals.

... to be continued

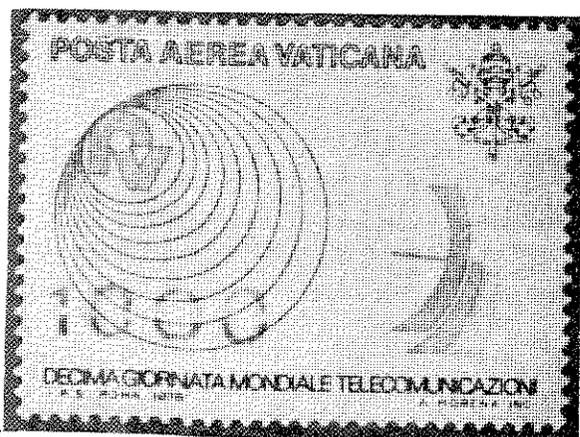


POPE PIUS IX - DEATH CENTENARY 1878 - 1978

The first centenary of the death of Pope Pius IX was commemorated by the Vatican Posts with a multicolor series of three values. The stamps were placed on sale on May 9, 1978, the opening day of "Pope Pius IX Philatelic Exhibition", held in Rome - Italy.

Although the three values have a basic common design, consisting of a floral arrangement incorporating two scrolls with the inscription PIUS IX 1878-1978, the central design varies in each stamp. The 130L reproduces the Pope's coat of arms, while the Pope's seal, used in the "Bull" defining the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, is found on the 170L value. The 200L depicts a portrait of the Pope from a painting in the Vatican Apostolic Library. The legend POSTE VATICANE appears under the floral design at the bottom of each stamp, while the value is located directly above the word POSTE.

The stamps, designed by P. N. Argittu, are vertical in format and measure 30 x 40 mm. with a perforation of 13-1/4 x 14. The total printing amounted to 1,150,000 complete sets, distributed in sheets of 40 stamps. Printing was executed in rotary photogravure on white glossy paper by the State Polygraphic Institute, Rome-Italy. Historical background on this issue in the next edition of the "Notes".



New Airmail Issue 11 July 1978

World Telecommunications Day

The series comprises three values: 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 lire at a total cost of 6,000 lire.

MORE IN THE NEXT EDITION OF "NOTES".



Front cover of publication reproduces
the Fazzini Medal.

To commemorate the centenary of the death of Pius IX and the philatelic history of the Pontifical States, an exhibition was held in Rome, Italy on May 9 through 14, 1978. The event took place in the Braschi Palace, home of the Rome Museum. The organizing committee was headed by Msgr. Igino Ragni and sponsored by the Italian Philatelic Association of Rome with the cooperation of the Vatican and Italian Postal Administrations. The Manifestations were appropriately named the "Alberto Diena Philatelic Exhibition," a well deserved homage to the late Dr. Diena, an eminent scholar of all the aspects of Pontifical States philately, a respected expert in philatelic circles around the globe.

The exhibition, devoted exclusively to rare stamps and covers of the Pontifical States period, represented the most exhaustive gathering of the philatelic gems in the field ever assembled under one roof. All materials displayed were especially selected from various private collections of Italian gold-medal winners. Rareties from the Vatican and the Card. Spellman Philatelic Museums were also on exhibit. Among the many frames, there were stamps in full sheets from the first and second issue, historical covers, documents, letters from the stampless period and covers, covers franked with French stamps used by the troops assigned to the protection of the States of the Church. This impressive display provided the observer an eyeful of events and postal services of the Pontifical States era.

Other papal philatelic gems included: a single copy of the 3 cent. green, not issued; a cover with an 80 cent. strawberry pink, as well as one among a multicolor franking; a 1 baj. postal forgery; a cover franked with a one-sixth of a 6 baj. stamp denoting payment for the 1 baj. rate; an irregular block of six of the 50 baj. on a piece; a cover with an imperforate strip of five 3 baj. rose grey with gutters; a cover with five values including a strip of three values of the 1 scudo; a cover having a strip of five of the 2 cent. perforated, the second stamp having the "2" missing; the only known copy of the 1/2 baj. bisected and cancelled with a dated postmark instead of a pen stroke; a strip of three and one of four of the 1/2 baj. tete-beche error, and finally the only existing sheet of the 20 baj. prepared for release but never issued.

The exhibition committee prepared several covers with special cancels, in addition to post cards and related souvenirs. Medals "the Angel" designed by Italian sculptor Pericle Fazzini were coined in gold and silver (45 mm.) and sold at \$420.00 and \$35.00 respectively. A 180-page catalog PIO IX - LA SUA GENTE - LA SUA TERRA (His people - his land) lavishly illustrated in color and black and white was also available for approximately \$20.00. This impressive publication contained an excellent biography of Pope Pius IX, postal history, documents, portraits, buildings, coins, stamps, and genealogical charts, in addition to the program and general information about the exhibition. A souvenir sheet reproducing an essay of the first papal stamp was distributed free to visitors at the Italian Postal administration booth. Special cancellations for the occasion were also available. ■

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Changes of name or address should be reported to:
Miss RITA F. MURPHY - 44 Beaver Street - Framingham, Ma 01701

- 2521 Ms. J. Horiniak, 32 Ovida Ave., Islington, Ontario M9B1E1 (Canada)
2522 Angel Manuel Robado, P.O. Box 344, Brockton, MA 02403
2523 Dennis R. Brady, 14 Swan Trail, Fairport, NY 14450
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2526 Daniel J. Carlin, Jr., 442 No. Linwood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224
2527 Martin Widiss, 9418 Oakmore Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90035
2528 Paul E. Carr, 1322 Cranwood Square South, Columbus, OH 43229
2529 Earl C. Carey, P.O. Box 691, Vian, OK 74962
2530 Alex Plattowski, 1656 Conklin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124
2531 Ferdinand F. Tauber, 345 6th Street, Whitehall, PA 18052
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2533 Joseph Gangemi, 132 West Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10312
2534 Edgar J. Gallardo, 753 Elizabeth, San Francisco, CA 94114
2535 Cdr. Fred Schanze, Jr., USN Ret., 11705 Francis Drake Dr., Jacksonville FL 32225
2536 Joseph F. X. McGuirl, 217 Brunswick Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302
2537 Gerald Stein, 2621 Palisades Ave., Riverdale, NY 10463
2539 Peter Z. Grande, 1393 East Sally Court, East Meadow, NY 11554

CHAPTER NEWS

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The last meeting of the Spring season was held on June 4 at the Gene Kunda home. Plans for the annual picnic in August were to be discussed. The next meeting will be held on September 10, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. at 557 N. 108 Street, one block west of Highway 100. North of Bluemound Road.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER - The annual competitive exhibit and dinner were held on June 4 at the St. Richard Church in Danvers, MA. Ida Gervais received first prize for her beautifully mounted Vatican sets; John Costello's St. Paul on Vatican stamps earned him second prize, and the Rev. Philip K. Harrigan, S. J., took third prize for his exhibit of Vatican stamps relating to Catholic Action. Thirty members attended the event and an auction preceded the buffet-dinner. Next meeting will be held in September.

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER - Again this year the Chapter will participate at COMPEX '78 to be held on June 2 - 4. This active group has exhibited at COMPEX at each annual show since 1962. A recent article in Linn's Stamp News outlined the Chapter participation to the Show and a brief history of the Chapter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gene Lieberman who was awarded a small gold medal at TAIPEX '78 for his outstanding exhibit of Pontifical States material at the international show held in Taipei, Formosa.

NEW YORK CHAPTER - The chapter has announced its participation to the "Stamp Festival 1978" sponsored by ASDA, to be held on September 14 - 17 in New York's Madison Square Garden.

This & THAT

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE DEADLINE EXTENDED

The officers of VPS have extended the "drive" deadline to DECEMBER 30, 1978 as announced in the last edition of the "Notes". We would like to remind everyone that four (4) VALUABLE PRIZES worth WELL OVER \$250.00 await the hard working recruiters. Details on page 7 and 11 of the May-June 1978 "Notes". Application blanks available from: Miss Rita Murphy, 44 Beaver Street, Framingham, MA 01701.

INCORRECT DUES ... HELP! - We are informed that numerous new members, enrolled during the current "Membership Drive" have remitted improper payment of dues; old application blanks are the reason. Please inform prospective members of the present dues structure, in effect since April 1978. Your cooperation will enable the Membership Chairlady in processing the applications promptly and eliminates unnecessary and costly correspondence with the applicant. We urge everyone to discard or correct old "Applications for Membership" blanks.

BOLAFFI CATALOG RELEASE POSTPONED - Member - dealer John Raith, U. S. distributor of the Bolaffi's Specialized Vatican Catalog, has informed us that the new release date for the catalog has been set for October 1978.

THANK YOU MR. KEHR ! - Our deep appreciation goes to VPS member Ernest A. Kehr for the continual publicity of VPS through his syndicated stamp columns.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. DIENA - VPS member Dr. Enzo Diena, Rome-Italy, has been appointed to the APS Foreign Affairs Committee to represent APS in Southern Europe. He also received appointment to the "Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" of the British Philatelic Federation Ltd. in London, England. The signing of the "Roll" is considered one of the highest honors one could receive in the philatelic field.

BALLOTING RESULTS

Wallace R. Smith, VPS secretary, has submitted the following official results of the balloting for officers of the Vatican Philatelic Society for 1978-80.

President - Rev. George L. O'Brien	42 votes
Vice-President - Frank E. Welch	26 votes
Lawrence Black	15 votes
Secretary - Wallace R. Smith	42 votes
Treasurer - Frederick J. Levitsky	42 votes

All the appointed officers have been retained for another term.

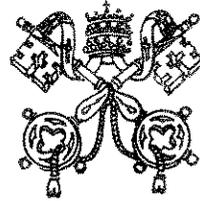
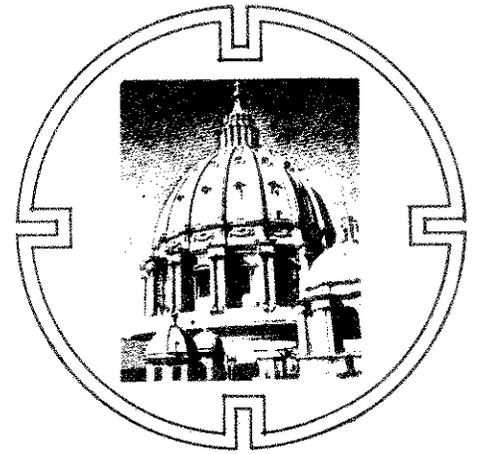
ATTENTION MEMBER DEALERS

Your pricelists, bulletins, publications, auction catalogs etc. etc., will be mentioned in the NOTES if the Editor is informed or placed on your mailing list.

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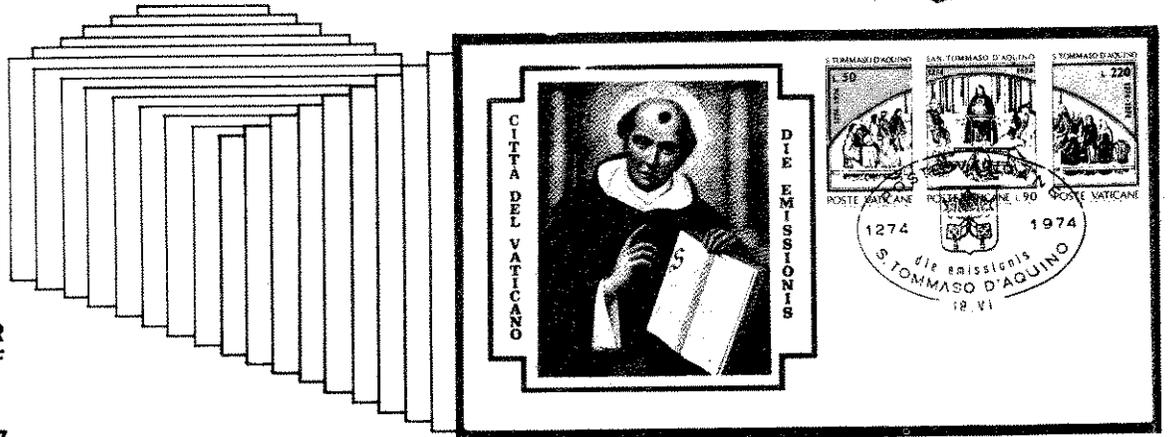


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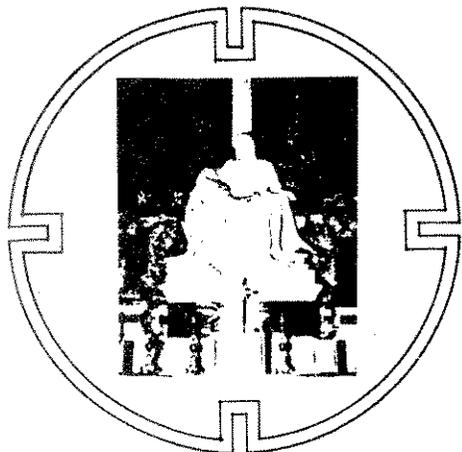
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