

Vatican Notes

The Journal of The Vatican Philatelic Society

The First Philatelic Society in The United States Devoted Exclusively to Vatican City and Roman States Stamps

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Featuring:

- Washington 2006 Review
- Vatican Interim Mail

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Perugino and the Vatican

By Greg Pirozzi

One of the most distinctive and artistically pleasing recent issues of the Vatican Post is the sheetlet and set of four stamps released in 2005 depicting the Resurrection along with details of the painting by Perugino that is currently found in the Papal Apartment in the Apostolic Palace. The technical particulars of this issue were covered in the Sept. 2005 issue of the *Vatican Notes*. Interestingly, the issue was first scheduled to be released on April 5, 2005. However, the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2 delayed the issue until June 9th. In addition to the beautiful and dramatic subject matter of the issue, the top of the single €2.80 value of the sheetlet is perforated in a semi-circular shape, unique for a Vatican issue. The brief article that follows summarizes the life of Perugino and his association with the Vatican.



Perugino – The Resurrection

Born in Città della Pieve in the province of Umbria in central Italy, Pietro Perugino (1445-1524) was a well-known and prolific painter of the Italian Renaissance. Umbria's most renowned artist had a long, prolific and

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY PRESIDENT DAN CELANI

Dear VPS Members,

Let me welcome every one to the 21st century. We have arrived. Starting with this issue we will be embracing additional color until the entire newsletter is in full color. We have voted for this and as you can imagine, it isn't cheap, but we are worth it.

This is all part of the movement to build our membership base by retaining members after the first year by giving more value for their dues dollar. If you notice in the left hand column, Tom Atkins is no longer the editor. He will retain his positions as Advertising Mgr and Index Chairman. Greg Pirozzi will edit the Notes for a few issues until Dan Piazza wraps up the work on his Doctoral degree and then Dan will take over the editorship of the Notes.

Shortly after the first of the year, Tom Adkins' updating of the Index will be published on our web site. This will give members who want to do research on various Vatican stamp topics, the information needed. Eventually, the Index will be made available in print form for those who are not into the internet, however, an exact date is not yet known for that.

If you haven't paid your dues, you will be hearing from Joe Scholten. With the increased cost of the Notes, we are not going to be so generous and keep sending you copies if your dues are not paid.

Our Auctions have pretty much returned to the participation level that we enjoyed before ending them for lack of an auctioneer. Dave Valley has done a remarkable job of bringing back this popular feature. There is one bottleneck however. Although there is an actual set of auction rules, not all members are following them. The problem lies with the auction lot description cards. We have them available to members. If you send a SASE to Dave at the address on the left he will send you a supply of these cards used to describe your lots.. You don't have to use our cards but you do have to give Dave the catalog #, description and minimum bid etc. I know it seems early in the year but this is the last issue of the Notes for this year so I want to wish all a happy Holiday season. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly (Sunday only, from noon to midnight 586-420-9592) with your complaints or comments.

Dan Celani

(Continued from page 1)

mercurial career. He was baptized Piero di Cristoforo Vannucci, but history knows him as "Il Perugino," the man from Perugia after the provincial capital city of Umbria. By the age of nine, Pietro was apprenticed to a master painter at Perugia, and from there moved to Florence. The date of this first Florentine period is not known with certainty, but by 1472 he completed his apprenticeship, and was enrolled as a painter in the confraternity of St Luke. Although Perugino was skilled in the primary technique of the time, fresco, he was one of the earliest Italian practitioners of oil painting.

Perugino in Rome

Perugino returned from Florence to Perugia, where his Florentine training enabled him to secure a number of important commissions. In 1480 he was called to Rome by Pope Sixtus IV to fresco panels for the newly built Sistine Chapel walls including: Moses and Zipporah, the Baptism of Christ, and Christ Giving the Keys to Peter. Pinturicchio accompanied Perugino to Rome, and was made his partner, receiving a third of the profits. The Sistine Chapel cycle of frescoes were the major high Renaissance patronage commission in Rome. Perugino also painted the Assumption, the Nativity, and Moses in the Bulrushes on the Chapel altar wall. Unfortunately, these works were later ruthlessly destroyed to make a space for Michelangelo's remarkable Last Judgement.

At age 40, Perugino left Rome after completion of

the Sistine Chapel work in 1486, and between 1486 and 1499 he worked chiefly in Florence, making one journey to Rome and several to Perugia, where he may have maintained a second studio. He had an established studio in Florence, and received a great number of commissions. During this period it is highly likely that the young Raphael joined his studio as an apprentice.

In 1501, the 26 year old Michelangelo, on one occasion, reportedly told Perugino to his face that he was a bungler in art (*goffo nell arte*). Vannucci promptly brought a court action against Michelangelo.



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Last Days

gelo for defamation of character, but was unfortunately not successful. Apparently spurred by this episode, Perugino produced several of his greatest masterpieces shortly after, including the Madonna and Saints for the Certosa of Pavia, and sever other works. By 1508 Pope Julius II had summoned Perugino to the Vatican to paint the private papal apartments, specifically the Stanza of the Incendio del Borgo. The Pope soon preferred, however, a younger competitor, Raphael, who had been trained by Perugino. After painting a series of ceiling medallions with the figures of God the Father in different glories, he retired from Rome to Perugia in 1512.

Although he had fallen from grace, Perugino never stopped painting. His last work, a Madonna with Child, was completed just before he died at the venerable age of 77, long after he could have retired and lived off the considerable revenues of his studio. But Perugino had a restless soul. He was in Fontignano in 1524 when he died of the plague. Like other plague victims, he was hastily buried in an unconsecrated field, the precise spot now unknown. As he lay dying, the man who had dedicated his entire life to painting scenes of Christian devotion refused to be given extreme unction. Reportedly, he wanted to see what would happen to the soul of a non-believer.



Perugino—Self Portrait 1494

the 2005 and 2006 issues are in!



mint complete year sets

2005	\$57.84 (28 stamps)
2004	\$59.75 (50 stamps)
2003	\$58.10 (45 stamps)
2002	\$48.00 (34 stamps)
2001	\$49.10 (32 stamps)
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Vatican : New Issues

By Fred Keating

JUBILEES OF SAINTS IGNATIUS, XAVIER AND BLESSED FAVRE

On March 16th of this year, Vatican City released a set of stamps celebrating the jubilees of three luminaries of the Catholic Church, St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier and Blessed Pierre Favre.

The earthly journey of Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) ended 450 years ago with his death in Rome. Together with a group of eight companions called "friends of the Lord," he was unanimously recognized as the founder and creator of the Society of Jesus. His anniversary coincides with the commemoration of the 5th centenary of the birth of the two other "friends": Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552) and Blessed Pierre Favre (1506-1546).

All three represent a unique characteristic of the Society of Jesus. In a small house in the centre of Rome, **Ignatius of Loyola** spent the last 16 years of his life, marked by a number of mystical experiences. In all humility, he encouraged and governed, through his letters (numbering over 7,000), the increasing numbers of Jesuits spread throughout the world.

Francis Xavier, patron of the missions, represents in particular the apostolic zeal of the Society, founded to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel throughout the world in every mission entrusted to it by the Pope. Daring, courageous and ready to face dangers on land or sea to "save souls," he was betrayed by merchants and political leaders jealous of his success and died "happy and poor" at the age of 46 as he gazed on the mountains of China where his apostolic work flourished.

Blessed **Pierre Favre** was the famed spiritual director of both well- and lesser-known people from around Europe. At the age of 40, he died in Rome, exhausted from his constant travels around Europe, which were to have taken him to Northern Italy where the Pope had invited him to the Council of Trent as a theologian.

The commemoration of these first three of the nine Jesuit companions is linked to the birth of the Society of Jesus approved by the Pope in 1540. Its purpose was to serve the Lord and his bride, the Church, under the direction of the Roman Pontiff, at a time marked by spiritual upheaval. After all, this was the age of Luther, Calvin and Henry VIII, and the Church, under attack on several fronts, had much need of its champions, and Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre undertook the task in exemplary fashion.

Issued on March 16, 2006, these three stamps have a value of €0.45, €0.60 and €2.00, with a perforation of 13, in a 30 x 40 mm format. Designed by Daniela Longo, they were printed by

Cartor of France using the offset process. They were issued in sheets of 10 in a 104 x 174 mm format, with a total value of €3.05.

The three stamps are in rose, blue and brown, with the honoree centered in the middle. Above the portrait is a banner with the legend 'Citta del Vaticano' and at either end of the banner are two disks, one with an inscribed cross, one with the initials 'ihs' inside. On either side are garlands of flowers. The name of the honoree and the life span are inscribed vertically between the flowers and the portrait itself—'San Francisco Saverio 1506-2006', for example. Below the portrait is the denomination, with the word 'Euro' and the papal seal inscribed be-



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tween. The total run is 300,000 complete sets.

EUROPA 2006: INTEGRATION

The ability to deal effectively with the key issue of integration will determine what concrete hopes there are for creating societies marked by greater mutual respect and harmony. Given that basic principles of integration policies are often rooted in notions of freedom, respect and the importance education, it seems appropriate to develop these themes with this latest series of postal stamps. One stamp shows a church, a mosque and a synagogue, as a way of symbolizing the importance of religious freedom and the ability practice it anywhere in the world.



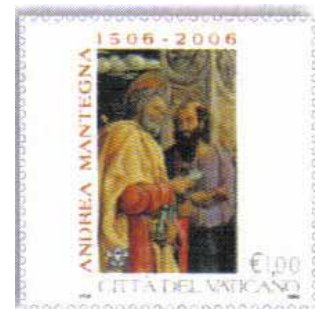
The other stamp depicts children at school, the place where together, as future citizens of the world, they can learn to appreciate ethnic, social and cultural diversity. Both stamps show “Europa” in the upper left corner, the papal seal in the upper right corner, the legend “Citta del Vaticano” in the lower left and the denomination—either €0.62 or €0.80—in the lower right.

These two values were issued on March 16 in a 30 x 40 mm format with a perforation of 13. Designed by Claude Andréotto and printed by Cartor of France, they were printed in offset for a total run of

300,000. They were printed in sheets of ten (104 x 174 mm) and have a total value of €1.42. The first Europa theme united six European countries in 1956, as they issued a common design in a show of solidarity, possibly being the first step in the creation of a sort of “United States of Europe.” Over the past fifty years, then, the Europa issues have evolved from a common stamp *design* to a common *theme*, and the original six countries have expanded to more than thirty. The Europa stamps, including those of the Vatican, have become a very popular collecting interest worldwide.

FIFTH CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF ANDREA MANTEGNA

The fifteenth century painter, Andrea Mantegna was born on the Island of Carturo, near Padua, some time between the end of 1430 and the beginning of 1431. When he was ten years old, he moved to Padua where he joined the workshop of Francesco Squarcione. At that time, artists such as Paolo Uccello, Filippo Lippi and Donatello worked there, creating a rich and stimulating cultural panorama for a young artist like Mantegna.



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In 1457, he received the commission for the San Zenone Polyptych located in the saint's church in Verona, marking one of his best works and one which is depicted on this special postal stamp issue.

In 1460, Ludovico Gonzaga invited Mantegna to stay at Mantua, where the young man became a court artist under the patronage of Gonzaga. Here, he worked on the renowned "The Wedding Chamber at the Palazzo Ducale," "The Dead Christ," "Saint Sebastian," "Ecce Homo" and "The Death of the Virgin," achieving a wonderful reputation for light and composition. Andrea Mantegna died on 13 September 1506. The main scene is depicted inside a classic quadripartite. The lower paintings in the predella show Scenes of the Passion, which are today kept at the Louvre, while The Crucifixion is maintained at the Museum of Tours. The three stamps of this issue depict the Madonna and Child, Saints Gregory and John the Baptist, and Saints Peter and Paul. Issued on March 16, 2006, these three stamps have a face value of €0.60, €0.85 and €1.00 with a total cost of €2.45. Using rotogravure, ITVF

of France printed the set in sheets of 10, with a perforation of 13 in a 36 x 36 mm format. Thus, the sheet size is 95,33 x 210 mm, and the total run is 300.000 complete series. Also issued on March 16, the leaflet has two values totaling €2.80. The format is 21.14 x 37 mm, also with a perforation of 13. The total size of the leaflet (shown smaller than actual size) is 95.33 x 116 mm, and the total printing is 120,000 leaflets.

PHILATELIC-NUMISMATIC COVER XX WORLD YOUTH DAY

On April 3, 2006, the Vatican released a most unusual issue, a philatelic-numismatic cover [PNC] celebrating the Twentieth World Youth Day held this year in Cologne, Germany. On the face of the cover, we see a photograph of Pope Benedict XVI standing on a platform and addressing the youth of the world. In the background is Cologne Cathedral. The special postmark is in the upper right, canceling the Youth Day stamp, and in the upper left is the papal seal below the legend, in Italian, "XX Anniversary of the World Youth Day." In the lower center is the Vatican coin issued to celebrate the event.

The envelope (shown smaller than actual size) measures 12 x 8 cm. It was printed via offset with



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but 15,000 copies. The stamp has a face value of €0.62; it has a format of 45 x 26.49 mm with a perforation of 13 ½ x 13 ½. It was printed, using the offset process, by Cartor of France. The attached coin has a nominal value of €2.00 and was issued in a brilliant-uncalculated condition. Minted by IPZS of Italy, it was originally sculpted by Daniela Longo and engraved by Ettore Lorenzo Frapiccini.

PHILATELIC YEARBOOK 2005

On April 3rd of this year, the Philatelic Office of Vatican City was pleased to present to collectors the 2005 Annual Yearbook. This wonderful resource brings together the entire philatelic series for the year, along with news on the numismatic production and the postal cancellations in use by the Vatican Postal Service throughout that year. The volume is in four languages: Italian, French, English and German. The cost of the yearbook is €60.00. In our next issue, look for the travels of the Pope, the anniversary of Mozart and much, much more!

Washington 2006 Retrospective

By Daniel A. Piazza

The first general membership meeting of the Vatican Philatelic Society since BALPEX 2003 was held on May 27, the opening day of the Washington 2006 international philatelic exhibition. Approximately 20 people convened at 2:00 p.m. and heard president Greg Pirozzi report on the state of the society and the slate of officers and propositions for the July 1 election. Of particular interest was the announcement that a new printer, Zander Press of Wisconsin, has been selected for *Vatican Notes* and that color will be introduced over the next eighteen months, a prospect that pleased the members in attendance.



Panorama of the vast Exhibition floor



Exterior of the Washington Convention Center

Discussion then turned to the future of *Vatican Notes* in general. There was general consensus that content has been lacking and that Roman States and postal history had come to dominate recent volumes of the journal despite the fact that most members collect Vatican stamps. The editorial staff was encouraged to make a concerted effort to see that Vatican stamps — including topicals — are better represented in future editions. The quality of images has also been poor and must be addressed.

The meeting adjourned and was followed by Greg Pirozzi's lively and entertaining presentation on

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“The Holy See and Communications During World War II.”



The joint VPS and Society of Israel Philatelists floor booth



VPS webmaster Dan Piazza (L) and Sec.-Treasurer Joe Scholten



VPS members Greg Pirozzi (L) , Dana Gioia and Michael Krejci



VPS Members Mike Keller (Seated) and John Schorn (C)

Outside of the meeting, VPS activities at W2006 centered on the Society’s booth, #2550, shared with the Society of Israel Philatelists. It was manned by members throughout the week; hundreds of show-goers visited and took Society literature and membership applications.

Roman States collectors who attended the show had the opportunity to visit three outstanding exhibits: "**Roman States**" by **Dr. Saverio Imperato** in the FIP Championship class; "**Letter Mail from**



Vatican Post representative Sig. Nicola Di Foggia (R)

the Roman States to Foreign Destinations, 1852-1870" by **Thomas Matha** in the European Postal History class; and "**Forgeries of the Roman States 1 Scudo**" by **Sergio Sismondo** in the Single Frame class.

Notable Postcards: A Philatelic Fraud Unraveled

By Joseph J. Gerace

Editors Note: The following Notable Postcards article is the first of what is hoped to be a new regular feature for the Notes.

A rather unusual postcard caught my eye as I browsed through a dealer's box at Washington 2006 [Figure 1]. It was franked with an Italian 45 centesimi King Umberto stamp of the 1891-96 series. "A postcard franked with a 45 cent. stamp?", I thought to myself. "That is very unusual. The 45 cent. stamp had originally been issued to pay a combined rate of 25 cent. for registration fee, and 20 cent. for postage on a letter weighing 15 grammes or less." (15 grammes is about one half an ounce.)



Figure 1. Vatican Picture Postcard to Estonia

The card was addressed to Tallinn the capital of Estonia, and bore a message in Estonian, with the word "Vatikan", clearly understandable to a non-Estonian reader like myself. No doubt it had been mailed by a tourist visiting Rome. Turning the card over, the picture side showed a view of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome [Figure 2]. The card had clearly originated in Rome. However, there was no sign of

any Registry marking.

Examining the postmark more carefully, I realized what had happened. The stamp which had originally franked this card had been removed and the 45 cent. Umberto stamp substituted in its place. The stamp had been carefully chosen so that the "Città" postmark blended in with the postmark on the 45 cent. stamp. The outer circle on the card almost perfectly matched that on the stamp, and was close to being a complete circle with the "Città di Vaticano" postmark. The postmark on the stamp even had a "V", for "Vaticano", close to the left edge of the stamp. However, upon close examination,

the postmark on the stamp turns out to be "Treviso", and is dated "28 ? 00". (28 [unknown month] 1900 as seen in Figure 3).

Judging by the portion of the Vatican postmark still remaining on the card, it appears that this type was used between 1930 and 1935. There were two major types of this postmark. The earliest date I have for this postmark with barred lunettes and small asterisks is 21 April 1930, and the latest date is 2 May 1935. The earliest

date I have for this postmark with non-barred lunettes and small asterisks is 6[?] August 1931, and the latest date is 2 April 1933. However, since I am working with only a very small sample, it is likely that the dates of these postmarks can be expanded. The portions of the Vatican postmark remaining on the card do not permit us to determine

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Vatican Mail: The Interim Period

By Michael Krejci

Although most of the territory that had made up the Papal States was already occupied, the end finally came when troops stormed the city of Rome on September 20, 1870 and incorporated it into the Kingdom of Italy. Until the signing of the Lateran Treaty on February 11, 1929 the papacy existed in a kind of stateless condition while continuing to exercise its authority over the world-wide Church. For 59 years, during this “interim period”, Vatican Offices and Congregations were dependent on Italian authorities for a minimum of civic services, including the posting and delivery of mail.

The next few issues of *Vatican Notes* will look at a some examples of official Vatican mail from this largely unexplored time period. Readers who may have similar material are encouraged to write an article or share the image of a cover so that others may benefit.



Jeanne Bigard – Foundress of the Society

Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle

In 1889, Stephanie and Jeanne Bigard – mother and daughter – answered a desperate plea for help from the missions. The French missionary Bishop of Nagasaki, Japan - Msgr. Jules Alphonse Cousin - had written to the two women asking for help to keep his seminary open because he had run out of the funds necessary to help educate local Japanese men to serve their people as priests.

The Bigards came to the Bishop's assistance and started a small group for this purpose in their native Caen, France. Thanks to regular correspondence with diverse missionaries, mother and daughter were convinced that a local community would never become completely Church without its own indigenous bishops, priests, and religious.

Jeanne and Stephanie asked other people for contributions so that the needs of numerous young people who wished to become priests could be met. Jeanne went on to invite numerous persons to join her group of mission supporters. In this way, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle began.

In 1901 the central office was moved to Paris and later to Fribourg in Switzerland to facilitate its civil recognition and to have a more autonomous administration of its funds. In 1920 the Society's main office was moved to Rome.

With the Encyclical Letter *Ad Extremas Orientis* issued in 1893, Pope Leo XIII encouraged all Catholics to support the work of the missions. On May 3, 1922, Pope Pius XI declared the Society of St Peter Apostle “Pontifical.” The Society's offices moved to the Palazzo di Propaganda Fide, which would become an extraterritorial part of the Vatican when the Lateran Treaty was signed in 1929.

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The Cover

Posted on April 30, 1928 the cover bears three Italian stamps, a 1.25 L., 1926 issue (Scott #88) and two 50 cent., 1927 issue (Scott #192). They bear a Rome registered cancellation: ROMA (RACCOMANDATE) 30.4.28 (April 30, 1928). There is a registry label from the central Rome post office, #5340. The cover is addressed to the director of the woolen mill in the village of Gavardo. Bostone is the postal address near Brescia in northern Italy.

A series of backstamps on the reverse of the cover



Reverse: Letter Seal of the Society



Cover from the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle posted in 1928

highlight its journey:

ROMA FERR. RACCOM. 30.4.28 - Rome rail station
AMB ROMA-TORINO 30.4.28 - Rome train cancel to Turin
BRESCIA FERROVIA (RACC) 1.5.28 - Brescia rail station
BOSTONE -2.5.28 - Receiving post office.

Finally, an embossed, gummed seal in red reveals the Vatican office of origin. The cover comes from the National Administration (Direzione Nazionale) of the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle (Opera Pontificia di S. Pietro Apostolo) for the formation of indigenous clergy in the missions (per la formazione del clero indigeno delle missioni).

References on the web:

Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle (from the Vatican web site):http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cevang/pont_soc/pospa/index.htm

Leo XIII's Encyclical "Ad Extremas":http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/leo_xiii/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_24061893_ad-extremas_en.html

Editor's Addendum: After receiving this article from Michael Krejci, I realized that I had a related cover from the POSPA posted after 1929 with Vatican stamps. What follows is a brief presentation.



Figure 1. Cover from the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle posted in 1937 to the Ivory Coast

Posted on July 19, 1937 this registered cover is franked with 3.50 Lire and was first addressed to the remote village of Sinematiali, Korhogo Province and then redirected to Katiolo located in the Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire). The Ivory Coast, a French colony from 1893 until independence in 1960, is an exceedingly rare destination for Vatican mail. The large cover bears the imprinted seal and address of the General Counsel of the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle for the formation of Indigenous Clergy, originating from the Palace of the Propagation of Faith. The 3.50 Lire rate pay for a registered letter of between 20-40 grams in weight and is arrived at as follows: (1.50 Lire Reg. + 1.25 Lire first 20g + 75c up to 40g). The remarkable journey this cover traveled can be traced by a series of dated backstamps (Figure 2) and is illustrated in the map shown (Figure 3, next page).

1. Rome Railway Registration
2. Torino-Modane Railway (North to France)
3. Abidjan—Ivory Coast (Via ship)

4. Ferkessdougou—Ivory Coast (Via Rail)



Figure 2. Routing backstamps

The addressee, Father Joseph Diss, S.M.A., a member of the order of the Society of African Missions (SMA), was the Apostolic Prefect of Korhogo located at the Catholic Mission. He was appointed

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Figure 3. Map of the Ivory Coast – Korhogo indicated

Prefect in 1921 and died in 1938. Today, in the Diocese of Katiola, Roman Catholics number ~10% of the population of slightly over half a million.

African Mission Fathers

The Society of African Missions was founded on December 8, 1856 in Lyon, France. The initials "SMA" stand for the name in Latin: Societas Missionum ad Afros. The Founder, Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac, was a French clergyman who had a strong commitment to bring the Gospel to the peoples of Africa. Sadly, the early years of SMA were marked by tragedy. The first SMA missionaries, including Bishop Brésillac, arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone (West Africa) in the spring of 1859. All of them were struck by yellow fever and most died. Brésillac died on June 25, 1859 only weeks after arriving in Africa. He is interred in the SMA chapel at Lyon and is currently a candidate for canonization by the Catholic Church.

Despite the difficult beginnings, SMA survived and flourished. Today, SMA has locations around the world and more than 1000 priests, brothers, and



Catholic Mission – Dabou, Ivory Coast 1922

laypeople serving throughout Africa. The international administrative headquarters of SMA is in Rome.

The American Province of SMA was established in 1941 and is headquartered in Tenafly, New Jersey. Missionaries of the American Province serve in the African countries of Liberia, Ghana, and Kenya. They also serve in the United States, primarily in



St. Paul Cathedral located in Abidjan, Ivory Coast

the Archdioceses of Newark (New Jersey), Boston (Massachusetts), and Washington, D.C. as well as in locations throughout the country where there is a significant population of African heritage.

(Continued from page 10)

if the postmark had barred lunettes or not.



Figure 3: Detail of the Postmark

Having a range of dates within which this postcard was probably posted, enables us to determine what denomination of postage stamp this postcard originally bore. According to "Principal Vatican Postal Rates from 1929 to 1950 (in Lire)", *Vatican Notes*, May 2006, page 4, the rate for a postcard addressed to a foreign destination, other than Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia, from 1 August 1929 to 1 December 1944, was 75 centesimi.

Which Vatican stamp originally franked this card? The small area of the card affected rules out the commemorative size 75 cent. International Legal Congress issue of February 1935. That stamp would have extended over the top edge of the card. The 75 + 15 cent. red "Anno Santo" vertical format charity stamp of April 1933 is somewhat smaller, and would fit the space. The only other candidates are the 75 cent. carmine on gray stamp of the 1929 series (which is in horizontal format), and the 75 cent. red and brown of the 1933 "Gardens" series (which is in vertical format). In placing a single, off cover example of a 75 cent. carmine on gray, horizontal format, of 1929 over the place where the King Umberto stamp presently is, I found that the top circle of the Vatican postmark would have fallen on the postcard, due to the inadequate height of the stamp. The original stamp had to be tall

enough to have taken the complete Vatican postmark, without any of it falling on the card. Lifting the top of the King Umberto vertical format stamp a bit, I did not see any postmark underneath. Therefore, the stamp which had been removed had been a vertical format stamp. That left the 75 + 15 cent. "Anno Santo" charity stamp, and 75 cent red and brown of the 1933 "Gardens" series, both about the same size and in vertical format, as prime candidates for what had been removed. Which do you think probably originally graced this card?

After pointing out the substitution to the dealer, and discussing it with him, and in view of the fact that I was purchasing some other items, he did not charge me anything for the card. It is unfortunate that the original stamp was removed, as Estonia is an unusual destination for Vatican mail. However, on the other side of the coin, we would not have a clever philatelic fraud to unravel either, if someone had not "manipulated" this card!



Figure 2. St.Peter's as seen from Bernini's Colonnade

The Pontifical Corner: Classic Literature

By Rev. Edward J. Mallowney, S.S.J.

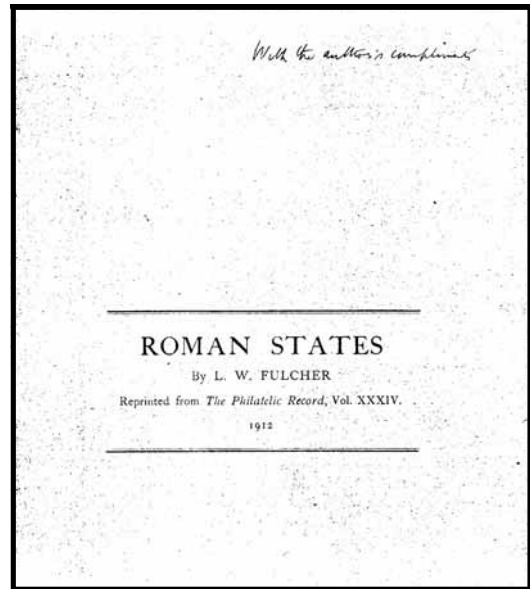
There is more to collecting the stamps of the Roman States than just the stamps. Being knowledgeable about them adds enjoyment and interest. Want to be an expert? Well, you must do some reading. There are philatelic libraries and web sites; and then there is your personal library on the subject.

We all go to stamp shows, but not all look for something other than stamps. Search out the literature. There are recently published books and articles, but there are times you'll look down and see a box of old publications. It doesn't hurt to thumb through that box and at times find an interesting item or two. It happened to me at a small show in Bowie, Maryland at a dealer's table from England. Pictured are two finds that added to my library and, I hope at some time in the future, my knowledge.

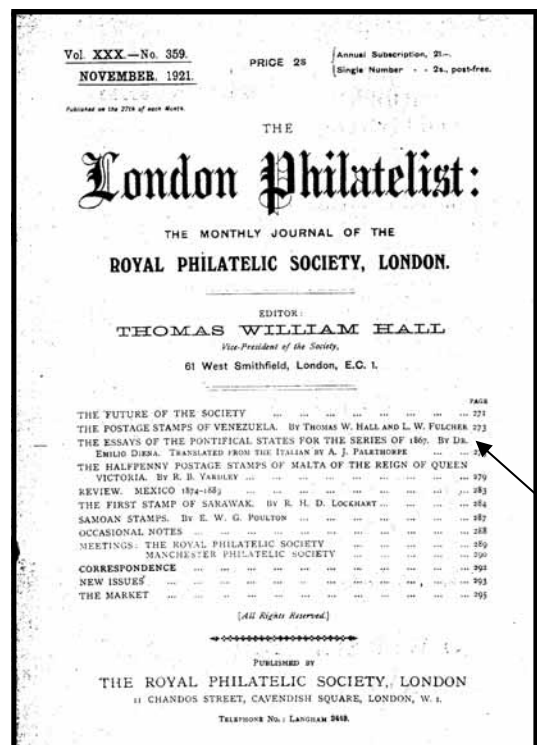
The first Roman States stamps appeared January 1, 1852—the middle of the nineteenth century. I don't know when philatelists started to write about them, but the two pieces I picked up were published in 1912 and 1921. The 1912 article by L. W. Fulcher was reprinted, so the literature on the Roman States started early!

Many articles repeat information, this confirms facts that have been noted previously, but you'll find a new tidbit that adds to your already gathered facts. Be on the lookout for these old and sometimes beat-up publications, they are usually cheap. These two old publications I acquired I never saw before and maybe will never see again. My cost was \$7. What does a recently published book cost today?

It was a joy to find these two items. I was happy to hold items that showed there was a great interest in the Roman States stamps so many years ago. These authors certainly added to today's knowledge and interest. Do we have any members who will carry on this fine tradition?



Roman States by L.W. Fulcher published in 1912



THE ESSAYS OF THE PONTIFICAL STATES FOR THE SERIES OF 1867. BY DR. EMILIO DIENA. TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN BY A. J. PALETHORPE ... 275

The London Philatelist - November 1921

Vatican Errors – 1945 Postage Due Issue

Illustrations provided by Bernard Bujnak

With the exception of the 1946 Council of Trent series and the Overprinted Definitive issue of Pope Pius XII in 1945, the second Vatican postage due series issued in 1945 has the most numerous catalogued printing varieties. No less than 21 imperforate varieties alone are listed in the 2004/2005 edition of the *Catalogo Enciclopedico Italiano*.

The post-WWII period for the printing of Vatican stamps was a time of great disarray. Both the Italian State Printing works (Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato) and the private Staderini Printing Works in Rome likely had few controls over their production efforts and the release of a wide variety of errors occurred to the delight of collectors.



5 cent. imperforate left margin



20 cent. Mis-perforated with design shifted up.



1 Lira horizontal pair imperforate left margin.



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Vatican Cinderella - Decennale

The Vatican cinderella label illustrated at right was contributed by our VP, Dick Leiternann. Printed entirely in black, the design depicts the two stylized coat of arms for Pope Pius XI (left) and the Italian House of Savoy flanked by the Fascist symbols. The label was issued to commemorate the 10th anniversary (Decennale) of the Conciliation between the Church and Italian State in 1939 as the Roman numerals on the bottom indicate.



First Joint Stamp Issue between Singapore and the Holy See Commemorates 25 Years of Diplomatic Relations

Singapore Post News Release

Singapore, 12 October 2006 — To commemorate the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the Holy See, a joint issue was launched today at the Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM). This is also the first joint stamp issue between the two countries.

The joint stamp issue, designed by designer Irio O. Fantini from the Vatican City, features the Merlion and St Peter's Basilica on the 50¢ stamp. The Merlion is Singapore's iconic mascot which overlooks Singapore's Marina Bay while St. Peter's Basilica, an iconic landmark in the Vatican City, has a dome designed by Michaelangelo. The other stamp valued at \$2 depicts both the flags of Singapore and the Holy See flying proudly side by side.

The Guest-of-Honor for the launch was His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of Singapore. Archbishop Nicholas Chia and Mr. Leong Keng Thai, IDA's Deputy Chief Executive & Director General also attended the event, which was organized by Singapore Post and SPM.

In his welcome speech, Mr. Leong Keng Thai expressed his pleasure in witnessing the unveiling of the joint stamp issue which symbolizes the continuing good ties between Singapore and the Holy See. Describing the icons on the stamps, Mr. Leong said, "the Saint Peter's Basilica, of splendid architecture and rich history, is a dominant feature in the Holy See's skyline. Its splendor

is unparalleled." On Singapore's mascot, the Merlion, he added, "The lion's head alludes to the fabled beast that was spotted by Prince Nila Utama in the 11th century, which led him to name this island "Singapore", from the Malay word 'Singa' for "lion" Singapore is the English equivalent of *Singapura*. As for the Merlion's fish-like body, it symbolizes Singapore's origins as a prosperous seaport."

His Excellency Archbishop Pennacchio in his speech called the joint stamp issue "a tangible sign of the excellent relations existing between the two diplomatic entities". He said, "As we see in the stamps the waving flags and the symbols of both the City States, we express the desire of looking forward together to the future for a better world, where harmony and dialogue prevail." He also encouraged youths to cultivate the hobby of stamp collection as stamps are an effective medium to transmit the values and culture of a country and to keep the bonds of friendship closer between peoples and cultures.

In conjunction with the stamp launch, Singapore Post and SPM are organizing an exhibition titled "Vatican City" at SPM from 12 October to 12 November 2006. Through the exhibition, visitors can learn about the Vatican City's history, people, economy and culture. For more information contact the Singapore Philatelic Bureau at www.singpost.com. For more information on the exhibit please visit: ww.spm.org.sg



Special Commemorative Cover with affixed Singapore and Vatican Stamps

Vatican Postal Rate for Samples

By Greg Prozzi

From 1929 until 1974 the Vatican post office had a special concessionary rate for items sent under cover that were classified as commercial samples with no associated monetary value. The term for this class of postal object in Italian is *Campione Senza Valore* or samples without value. Over the past 18 years of collecting Vatican postal history, I have only come across a handful of covers that were posted using this special rate. As you will appreciate below, deciphering the specific postal rate paid by these items can be particularly challenging.

The first cover, illustrate in Figure 1, is a good example. Post-marked Nov. 9, 1953 this oversized registered cover was sent via airmail to Immaculata, PA and is clearly annotated *Campione Senza Valore*. The cover is also handstamped AO (Autre Objets) in French to indicate that the contents was an item other than a letter or postal card with correspondence. A "Passed Free US Customs at Philadelphia" handstamp is also present indicating that the contents were not assessed a duty fee by US customs upon inspection.

The reverse (Figure 2) bears a New York Air Mail Field registry backstamp dated Nov. 13, 1953. The return address of the sender also appears as "Opere di Religione", which is the institution that serves as the Vatican Bank. The Istituto per Le Opere Di Religione (IOR) or Vatican Bank was formally es-

tablished by Pope Pius XII in 1942 and was charged with managing the finances necessary to administer the religious works of the Holy See. In 1990, John Paul II extended the operation of the IOR to include more traditional banking services to religious institutes, Vatican citizens and dependent Vatican employees.



Figure 1. Cover containing samples without value - *Campione Senza Valore*



Figure 2. Reverse, Vatican Bank origin

The cover is franked with a total of 675L. in postage that includes the 500L. airmail value of the Dome of St. Peter issue (Scott # C22), the 100 and

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(Continued from page 19)

35L. values of the Popes and Basilica issue (Scott #164, 168) and the 40L. value of the 1949 Roman Basilicas issue (Scott #130). To fully understand the rate structure for this cover, it is necessary to refer to several Vatican postal ordinances that list the specific rates. Ordinance #LXX of January 30, 1952 stipulated a rate of 12L. per 50 grams or fraction thereof for samples with a minimal franking of 25L. (i.e. if the item weighed less than 50 grams the franking was 25L.) to overseas destinations. The same ordinance document listed a registration fee of 65L. Ordinance #LXXV of January 23, 1953 indicated a rate of 55L. per 20 grams for AO items sent via airmail to US destinations. The total postage for this cover based on a weight between 200-220 grams can therefore be calculated as follows:

Samples Rate	L.12 x 5th step = L.60
Airmail Rate	L.55 x 10th step = L.550
Registration	L.65
Total Postage	L.675

The second cover, illustrated in Figure 3, also has an interesting story to tell. Postmarked January 13, 1955, the cloth pouch was sent via airmail to Las Vegas, NV and franked with 125L. in total postage. The printed address label indicated that the contents were Campione Senza Valore. Several auxiliary markings were applied including an AO handstamp, as well as a “Passed Free US Customs – Denver” and a “Letter Package: Collect Ten Cents” handstamp by the US on arrival. The letter package fee was collected

with the application of a postage due stamp. The return address was the Pontifical North American College in Rome which was located a short distance from the Vatican and has the status of extra-territorial property. In the analysis of this cover, how is the rate arrived at? The most likely explanation is that this item weighed between 20-40 grams and even though it contained samples, as indicated, it was sent at the lower printed matter rate in effect during this time.

Ordinance #LXX :	
External Printed Matter per 50 grams	= L.15
Ordinance #LXXV :	
Air mail surcharge for AO items mailed to the US, L.55 per 20 grams x 2 nd step	= L.110
Total Postage	= L.125

Since there was a minimal franking of 25L. required for samples if the item weighed less than 50 grams, in this example, the sender was able to save 10L. by using the lower printed matter rate. Technically, as long as the envelope did not contain correspondence, even though it was a commercial sample, it could be posted under the AO category. Do any of our readers possess other examples of the *Campione Senza Valore* sample rate?



Figure 3. Vatican Letter packet posted under the printed matter rate to Las Vegas, NV

Vatican Aerogram: Dealer Price List

By Dick Lettermann

The aerogram illustrated in Figure 1 appears to be a fairly typical example that a collector can find. First issued on May 8, 1951 with a value of 80 Lire, it was postmarked on December 4, 1951 and addressed to Reading, PA. What makes this example exceptional, however, is what is on the inside. This aerogram contains the complete Vatican City printed price list for the stamp dealer E. Pagnini who was located in Rome at the time (Figure 2). It is a remarkable historical document in that it included all stamp issues, postal cards and aerograms issued to date. The price list also includes several documentary revenue stamps! Some prices include \$27 for the mint Provisional Overprints (Scott #35-40) and \$6.00 used, \$3.50 for the mint Tobias airmail issue (Scott #16-17). FDCs were also available and included the soon to be released Gratianis set (Scott #20-21) for \$2.00. All

of these items today are key pieces to completing any Vatican collection. Do any of our members recall Signor Pagnini as a dealer?



Figure 1. 80 Lire Aerogram to Reading, PA – 1951



Figure 2. Vatican Price List from dealer E. Pagnini

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Vatican City Special Cancellations

by Frederick J. Levitsky



Cancellation marking Vatican participation in the **World Philatelic Exhibition WASHINGTON 2006** from May 27 to June 3.



Cancellation honoring the Pope's visit to Spain on the 8th and 9th of July 2006. The cancellation reads: "**Benedict XVI Gathers Families at Valencia.**"



Cancellation marking Vatican participation in the **RICCIONE 2006** stamp exhibition on September 1 to 3. The cancellation reads: "**58th International Fair of Stamps.**"



Cancellation honoring the Pope's visit to Germany from September 9 to 14, 2006. The cancel reads: "**Benedict XVI returns to his Fatherland.**"



Cancellation marking Vatican participation in the philatelic exhibition **ROMAFIL – Hall of Stamps** from October 6 to 8, 2006.

Vatican City Stamps-on-Stamps: A Philatelic First?

By Daniel A. Piazza

After the death of Pope John Paul II, two Pacific Island nations released stamp-on-stamp issues featuring values of the Vatican City 1939 *Sede Vacante* overprints. The stamps have just recently been assigned catalog numbers by the Scott Publishing Company, and your author was able to procure the pictured specimens from an American dealer.

The Republic of Palau, about 500 miles east of the Philippines, issued a stamp featuring Vatican City #61. The Federated States of Micronesia, just northeast of New Guinea, depicted Vatican City #67 on their issue. Both stamps were released on August 9, 2005 and denominated at 37¢. They were printed in sheets of twelve, perforated 13 × 13¼, and decorated in the selvage with a panoramic photo of St. Peter's Square. The Palauan stamp has been assigned Scott #841, while the Micronesian issue is #658.

Palau (pop. 20,000) and Micronesia (pop. 108,000) were both formerly United Nations Trust Territories administered by the United States. Upon receiving their independence from the UN, they entered into a compact with the U.S. whereby they adopted the dollar as their currency and agreed that their postal rates would be pegged to U.S. rates. Hence the denomination of both stamps at 37¢, then the first-class domestic postage rate in the U.S.

The other two former trust territories in the Pacific, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, do not appear to have participated in the issue. Do members know of other countries that have released stamp-on-stamp issues featuring Vatican City stamps, or are these the first?



Palau - Vatican Stamp-on-Stamp Design



Micronesia - Vatican Stamp-on-Stamp Design



Location of Palau and Micronesia in the Western Pacific

Holy Year 1950 – Commemorative Folder



Commemorative Folder illustrating all of the Popes leading the Holy Year from Boniface VIII in 1300 – Cancelled on December 24, 1949

In 1950, a few years after World War II, Pius XII called the 25th Holy Year with a focus on the following indications: the sanctification of souls through prayer and penance and unfailing faith in Christ and the Church; action for peace and protection of the Holy Places; defense of the Church against constant attacks by her enemies; prayers for the gift of faith for those in error, and for unbelievers; the promotion of social justice and assistance of the poor and needy. It was also during this year (November 1st, 1950) that the Pope defined the Assumption into Heaven of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a dogma of the Catholic faith.



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Grand Rapids, MI 49507-2829

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