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# Bulletin of the Madonna Study Group, Whole No. 3

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BULLETIN OF THE MADONNA STUDY GROUP

November 1, 1962

Vol. 1, No. 3

This will be the last bulletin mailed from the original mailing list. Beginning with issue No. 4, which we hope to have in the mail in January 1963, the MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP BULLETIN will be mailed only to those collectors who have signified their membership by returning the questionnaire contained in the first issue. Those who did not return this form but wish to join the Group may do so by informing W. J. Hoffman, Editor, 9333 4th Avenue, Inglewood 4, California. Beginning with issue No. 4, publication of the Bulletin will be bi-monthly.

The mailing list for the first issue and this one was composed from the COROS Year Book recently published by taking the names of those collectors who had indicated they were Madonna or Marian collectors. It is realized that some members listed in the Coros Year Book did not designate their collecting interests, consequently we may have missed some Marian Collectors.

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NEW ISSUES

AUSTRALIA: MADONNA AND CHILD. A 5d, purple, Christmas stamp is to be issued Oct. 17, 1962, portraying a Madonna and Child from a 16th century wood carving. The original is now in the National Gallery of Victoria.

COLOMBIA: VIRGIN DE LA PENA. About the end of October or early November, Colombia will release two stamps honoring the Ecumenical Council. The 60-cent postage stamp bears the likeness of Pope John XXIII. The 60-cent airmail pictures THE VIRGIN DE LA PENA. Her statue is enshrined in a small chapel located on the slopes of La Pena, one of the mountain peaks overlooking Bogota.

TURKEY: HOUSE AT EPHEBUS. Oct. 14 is the date Turkey will issue 4 stamps depicting the House at Ephesus. The 30k shows The House of the Virgin at Ephesus (Efes); 40k is the Exterior of the House today; the 75k the Interior of the House; and the 105k a Statue of the Virgin.

NORFOLK ISLAND: Nov. 19 is the issue date for a Christmas stamp, in blue, of the same design as Australia's: Madonna and Child from wood carving.

DENMARK: MADONNA CANCELLATION. A new Madonna Cancellation was issued by Denmark under date of 7-10-62 (this could mean 7 Oct. or July 10), for the "This-ted Philatelic Club", member of the Scandinavian St. Gabriel's Union. The address on the card received is "Overlaerer F. Hallundsted, Kapelvej 25, B, Kobenhavn N."

SPAIN: THE ROSARY SERIES. During Oct. 1962 Spain will issue a set of stamps featuring THE ROSARY. It is hoped these stamps will include a complete picture of each Mystery since Our Lady should be on at least twelve of these. The complete series would be within the Marian field of Philately.

PANAMA: We believe there is a Madonna on the green 15-cent value stamp in the Panama set issued July 1962. This stamp pictures the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. A view card of this church shows very prominently the Madonna statue between the two towers.

LIECHTENSTEIN: Scheduled for release Dec. 6, a trio of Christmas stamps; the 30r value, ruby, in the set depicts a PIETA.

NEW ISSUES (Continued)

NEW ZEALAND: MADONNA IN PRAYER. (Also known as "The Blue Madonna"). The 2½d Christmas stamp portrays Sassoferrato's MADONNA IN PRAYER. Issue is scheduled for Oct. 15, with sales period through Jan. 11, 1963, if not sold out earlier.

Sassoferrato was born "Giovanni Battista Salvi" (1609-1684), but took the name of his birth place, Sassoferrato, as his professional name. He did most of his work in Urbino and died in Rome. His output was small, but his world-famous MADONNA OF SASSOFERRATO now hangs in the Vatican Pinacoteca, Rome; it portrays the Madonna and Child, with the Child holding a 15-decade Rosary. Critics of this artist claim he theoretically derived much from Raphael, and that his repetitive Madonnas are based entirely on Raphael's drawings and Reno's etchings. His pictures are sentimental and colorful.

OUR LADY OF LE VANG: On July 7, 1962, South Viet Nam issued four stamps, in uniform design, featuring the statue of the VIRGIN DE LE VANG, - A Vietnamese pilgrimage center. The stamps are engraved from a photograph of the statue against a background of trees. Values are 1/2d; 1d; 2d; and 8d. Legend has it that in 1825 the first edict for persecution of Christians was issued by Emperor Gia Hong. Catholic Missionaries had been in Viet Nam since 1533, and it is presumed this persecution edict was directed against them. The persecuted took refuge in the forest of Le Vang, near the ancient capital of Hue; while in the forest Our Lady is said to have appeared to them, guided and protected them during this period. In a traditionally Buddhist country, this legend has persisted over the centuries and Le Vang is still today a place of pilgrimage.

MALTA: MADONNA DAMASCENA. On Sept. 8, 1962 Malta issued a series of stamps commemorating the Great Siege (1565) Festival. In the set of four stamps is the MADONNA DAMASCENA, an ultramarine stamp of 2d value. The history of this Byzantine icon starts in 1475 when it was seen floating towards the coast of Rhodes; since then it has been considered one of the most precious and sacred possessions of the Order of the Knights of St. John.

The Great Siege of 1565 ended the infidel power with a victory over the Turks. Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette led the Knights during this epic siege, and the main city of Valetta on Malta is named after him.

The other stamps in the set are the 3d, carmine red, with a picture of the Great Siege Monument; the 6d bronze green, picturing de la Valette, Grand Master of the Knights 1557-68, and the 1/- brown purple, the assault on Fort St. Elmo. Editor's Note: A book by Ernle Bradford, titled THE GREAT SIEGE, was published in 1961. The history of the Knights, the Ottoman Empire, and the Great Siege make interesting reading.

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AZORES A78: Issued 1895 and is an overprint of the St. Anthony of Padua issue of Portugal, depicting the vision of St. Anthony. An apparent Madonna appears in the top frame. If you collect Portugal 132 as a "Madonna", then you should have this stamp from the Azores.

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Did you know that insofar as is known, Mass has never been celebrated at the altar holding the statue of OUR LADY OF THE PILAR, it being tradition that St. James is the only priest who officiated there?

As additional information to the South Viet Nam stamps, we might mention that Nos. 100 and 107 of Viet Nam picture the Cathedral of Hue, dedicated to Our Lady. Her statue stands between the two towers of the Cathedral.

### ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Response to the questionnaire contained in the first issue has been very good. Better than 55% have returned the form, indicating their desire for membership in this type of a Group. It is evident from the "comments" that a Group devoted to Marian Philately is greatly desired so that a greater amount of information may be made available and disseminated. This emphasizes a need for more active members in the field of Marian Philately.

The purpose of the Study Group is primarily to publish the findings of the various members. Not much more can be done if the work is left only to a few. Any information you have and wish to make available for publication (it does not have to be the best prose) will be beneficial to all. We especially need translations of articles that appear in foreign magazines and catalogs dealing with our specialized topic. Any little contribution from each and all will be greatly appreciated by the membership.

The following is a summary of the various items listed on the questionnaire:

LANGUAGES: Foreign languages are represented by members acquainted with French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, Portuguese, Polish, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, and India. If we had a couple of the Scandinavian countries, we could pretty well cover the globe.

CATALOGS: Members signified acquaintance with the following catalogs: Scott, Gibbons, Michel, Zumstein, Yvert & Tellier, Galvez, Bolafi, Minkus, Pofis, Czechoslovakia Specialized, Belgium, Hungary Specialized, and Sanabria airmail. Others listed various check lists of Madonnas on Stamps, Aumann, and Terenz.

NAME: The majority were in favor of the name "THE MADONNA STUDY GROUP". A few made suggestions we feel were note-worthy and should be sincerely considered, such as that the title of our bulletin should use the term "Marian" rather than "Madonna", and "Philatelic" in order to clarify the field of study. In other words, the combination of these suggestions would change the name to "MARIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY...ASSOCIATION...STUDY GROUP", etc. We feel the title should be changed pursuant to these suggestions, therefore, beginning with the first issue of the bulletin in 1963 it is proposed that the Group call itself "THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP". We would appreciate your opinions.

HOLDING OFFICE: Several members expressed their willingness to serve as officers of the Group. We hope Father Horn, our Chairman, will give us some pointers after the first of the year when perhaps he will have more time available to offer suggestions as to offices and organization.

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION: The majority preferred a loose organization to begin with, and charter and by-laws as we progress.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES: Willingness on the part of members to submit articles was excellent. This is what will keep a Study Group "alive". We would like to build up a good back-log of information for future bulletins. The articles need not be lengthy, nor in the "King's Best Language" (it is the Editor's job to edit). Members who feel they are not conversant enough with the English language need not feel handicapped. Articles and information are definitely needed.

DUES: The majority were in favor of dues to defray costs, with \$1 per year most frequently mentioned; therefore, dues will be \$1 per year to Coros members and \$4 a year to non-Coros members.

Other comments on financing the Group were: "Let the Group act as agent for foreign and/or domestic philatelic publications relating to Marian and/or Madonna information, with the money received used to meet publishing expenses." "Set up a library containing pamphlets and books on our subject which members could rent with the rental going towards expenses or purchasing new library material." "Institute a stamp circuit with duplicates, either given to the Group as a gift or sold for members on a membership basis (same as in Coros)."

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With regard to a sales circuit or the disposal of duplicates, we feel it best, in the beginning, to provide space in the Bulletin for names and addresses of those who have duplicates for disposal; other members can then contact them directly. Perhaps at a later date, after the Group has had a "running start", something on the order of a sales circuit can be initiated.

Suggestion was made to have the Bulletin in printed form (such as Coros Chronicle) instead of its mimeographed format. This would be very nice if we had several hundred dollars a year to meet printing costs. Perhaps with a wider circulation we may be able to take advertising which could absorb a large percentage of the publishing costs, or until we find a generous benefactor.

Perhaps a great help to individual collectors would be to initiate a "Question and Answer" Section in the Bulletin where members could request or supply information. The questions and answers would be published when the information was obtained.

We feel the organizing of the Marian Philatelic Study Group can best serve the entire field of Collectors of Religion on Stamps by maintaining association with COROS. Articles and material on Madonna and Marian stamps can and will still be published in the Chronicle. When the Coros Handbook No. 1 was released, we promised that annual supplements would be printed in the February issue of the Chronicle each year; this will still be done. One of the major and compelling purposes for organizing our Group was to provide more space for publication of needed information which the Chronicle cannot handle. In this sense, the Marian Philatelic Study Group, although devoted exclusively to Marian Philately, should be an adjunct to the Coros Chronicle.

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#### OUR LADY OF APARECIDA: Brazil 805

This stamp was issued in 1954 to publicize the Marian Year and depicts the Madonna over the map of Brazil. The town of Aparecida is called the "Spiritual Capital of Brazil". The Marian Shrine is on the famous Presidente Dutra Highway, between Rio and Sao Paulo. The word "aparecida" means "appeared", and the famous Shrine is so named because of the miraculous image of Our Lady which was found floating in the Paraiba River, 1½ miles from the Shrine, in a spot called Porto Itaguassu. People said the statue "appeared" - hence the name. The Shrine is not visited by too many Americans, however, in 1960 over 3 million pilgrims came to Aparecida. Some of the statistics show that over 30 baptisms a day were given, 2000 marriages performed, and half a million Communion distributed. An average of 10 Masses a day are celebrated here. The new Basilica, when completed, will be the largest in South America and the second largest in the world. The town has a population under 10,000, but is the seat of the Archbishop because of the importance of the Shrine. Some of the great feasts celebrated here are Sept. 8, commemorating The Coronation of Our Lady of Aparecida in 1904; Oct. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida; and December 8, because the full title is "Our Lady of The Immaculate Conception of Aparecida".

----submitted by Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Benjert...

The MARIANIST Magazine wrote they had received several subscriptions from readers of our Bulletin and expressed their appreciation to all.

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Miss Marie Kalish writes that Collectors of Marian Stamps may be interested in the "Immaculate Heart Messenger". Each issue features an article on some well known (sometimes little known) Marian Shrine, some of which are pictured on stamps. Subscription rate \$1 per year. Address: 221 W. Madison St., Chicago 6, Illinois.

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OUR LADY OF FOURVIERE -- WALLIS AND FUTUNA: C13

These are a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean, northeast of Fiji; they are French overseas territory, with an area of 100 square miles, and a population of approximately 10,000. The following was translated from the July 1962 issue of GABRIEL:

In 1836, P.J.C1. Marie Colin, founder of the Marist Fathers, sent missionaries, under the direction of Msgr. Pompalliers, to Middle Oceania. Among these was the soon famous and heroic Bishop Bataillon (shown in right medallion on the stamp), and Father Louis Marie Chanel (airmail stamp, Wallis and Futuna C12, 1955). They began their journey from Lyon, France, where they first dedicated themselves to OUR LADY OF FOURVIERE (stamp of France, #395, 1939). Msgr. Pompalliers named his mission-ship "Santa Maria" and Bataillon named his "Stella Matutina", or "Morningstar" (pictured on the 33 fr. stamp C14).

P. Bataillon, with Brother Jos. Luzy, were left on the island of Wallis, and in spite of armed hindrance, took possession of the Island under the title "Mary, Queen of Peace". In 1842 the King was baptised and perhaps Queen Amelia, who is shown in the left oval of the stamp C13. By 1843 all islanders were Christians.

P. Bataillon had a small church built in Mata Utu, but today there stands a state-ly church "Notre Dame de l'Esperance" (Our Lady of Hope), and between the two large towers stands a statue of OUR LADY OF FOURVIERE.

On the neighboring island of Futuna, P. Chanel worked with Brother Nizier. Aroused by the suspicions of his Minister, the King had P. Chanel murdered, however, the murderer was later converted, as well as all of Futuna, including the King. The main church of the Island is "Our Lady of the End of the World", also called "Notre Dame des Martyrs".

...submitted by Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Benjert...

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In 1961 Paraguay issued a set of seven stamps, three of which were for airmail, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic University in Asuncion. Around the seal is found the inscription "Universidad Catolica - Nuestra Senora de la Assuncion". Scott numbers these 598-601; the airmails are C294-96.

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The official seal of the City of Los Angeles has a rosary drawn into it, to "suggest the part played by the Mission Padres in founding "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles" (in other words, the City of Los Angeles, whose full name is "The City of Our Lady, Queen of The Angels".)

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Montreal was once known as "Ville Marie de Montreal" (City of Our Lady of the Royal Mountain).

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The pillar on which stands OUR LADY OF PILAR is on the spot where the angels placed it over 1900 years ago. Her feast day is Oct. 12th - the date Columbus discovered America.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY GUADALUPE - KODEN, POLAND -- #278, 286

Poland is associated with Our Lady of Czestochowa, but one of the most overlooked Shrines is that of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Koden, Poland. Scientists agree that the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe at this shrine is "miraculous", both in the nature of the painting and particularly that the material of the painting should have disintegrated centuries ago.

One hundred years after the miracle at Guadalupe in Mexico, under the most extraordinary circumstances, a Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (of Spain) was begun in Koden, Poland. Koden, at one time was the center of resistance of Lithuania, which so bitterly resisted Communism that most of its population was annihilated during the past 30 years.

About 1631, one Nicholas Sapielha, garrison officer in Vilno, made a pilgrimage to Rome for better health. Attending Mass in the Papal Chapel he saw a beautiful painting of the Blessed Virgin and became fascinated with it. Unbeknownst to the Pope, he made a deal with the Sacristan to purchase this painting for 500 pieces of gold. Of course, this unlawful sale was soon found out and the Pope, through the Polish Apostolic Delegate, imposed the following conditions on Nicholas: (1) Return to Rome all the sacred things he had taken away (including the painting and relics of 59 saints); (2) be imprisoned for one year in a designated prison tower; (3) bring to completion the church of St. Anne in Koden; and (4) make a pilgrimage on foot from Koden to Rome. However, through the intercession of the Polish Apostolic Delegate, only two of the conditions were finally enforced: only the relics were to be returned, and the pilgrimage made to Rome, but not on foot.

Several traditions surround the origin of the painting Nicholas brought to Koden: one is that the Benedictine Abbot St. Augustine painted it at the request of St. Gregory, the Pope, hence the designation of the picture as the "Gregorian Image of the Blessed Virgin".

In 1875 the Russian Czar appropriated St. Anne's Church for the schismatics, and the miraculous picture was transferred to Jasna Gora (Bright Mountain), and remained there for more than 50 years. In 1927 it was brought back to Koden and is still there.

There is a book published on this, entitled "The Blessed Crime", written by Sophia Kossak, with a new edition issued in 1958.

...submitted by Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Benjert...

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What is purported to be the oldest statue of Our Lady in the U.S. is located at Carmel, California. It was brought to Mexico in 1769 by Junipero Serra and was called "Our Lady of Bethlehem", but early California Missions called it "La Conquistadora" (Our Lady of Conquest).

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There is a tradition that Columbus worked Our Lady's initials into his signature.

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Queen Isabel of Spain sent the first gold ever mined in the U.S. by white men to decorate the ceiling of the world's foremost church of Our Lady - St. Mary Major in Rome.

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What is believed to be the heaviest Rosary is at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of The Mountain, on the Portuguese Island of Madeira. After World War I, as a thanksgiving offering, it was built of boulders and chains from ships torpedoed in Funchal Harbor.

HOUSE OF OUR LADY AT EPHESUS

In view of the fact that Turkey will again issue stamps honoring this Shrine, the following was extracted from an article by Father Horn in the May 1956 issue of THE AGE OF MARY.

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In 1953 Turkey issued the 20 kurus and 1 lira stamps showing the interior and exterior of the recently restored HOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY, located about 5 miles from what now remains of once glorious Ephesus, but one travels many more miles to really get there. It is reached by starting out from a village called Selcuk, a little over two miles from the principal ruins of Ephesus -- all that remains of Ephesus as far as present habitation is concerned.

Both of these stamps have inscribed in the upper right: "Panaya Kapulu". The word "Panaya" comes from "Panagia", the terms the Greeks apply to the Blessed Virgin and which actually means "The Most Holy". The second word "Kapulu" is Turkish and means "door", but it is also a metaphor which stands for "a house with a door". The two terms taken together are translated as "The House of the Most Holy Virgin".

Tradition around Ephesus says Mary made her home here for some time with St. John the Evangelist and, according to local tradition, that she also died here. The Feast of The Assumption (Aug. 15) is celebrated with great solemnity at this Shrine on the Sunday following the date of the 15th. In 1953 that Sunday was Aug. 16th and this date was used on the first-day covers for the Ephesus stamp series. Many of the stamps were cancelled at a special post office set up at Panaya Kapulu itself.

The statue above the altar on the 20 kurus stamp, also visible thru the doorway on the 1 lira stamp, is a copy of the Madonna of the Miraculous Medal and of comparatively recent origin. In 1896 it was on a pedestal in the court before the ruins of the house, but not too long ago it was thrown into a nearby ravine by vandals. It was recovered in a damaged condition, both hands having been broken off, and has been allowed to remain in this state in the renovated chapel within the house.

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Editor's Note: Mrs. Kenneth Fletcher wrote us that a picture of this house, as portrayed on the 1953 stamp, is on page 35 of the Sept. 1962 issue of Holiday magazine.

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During 1962 to date, Spain has authorized two Madonna postal cancellations. The first was used at Jaen, Spain, from the 9th through the 11th of June, to commemorate the First Marian Philatelic Exposition at Jaen. This exposition was held in conjunction with the end of the Jubilee Year of OUR LADY OF CAPILLA.

The second Madonna cancellation was used at Barcelona on the 27-29 of June. It portrays OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP and was authorized to commemorate the Ninth Philatelic Exposition held by the Guild of Insurance Underwriters in Barcelona.

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SPAIN'S ROSARY SET: The following information was received Oct. 22 concerning the Spanish issue of THE ROSARY SET. The exact date of issuance has not yet been announced. It is presumed it will be during October as that is the "month of the Rosary". There will be 15 values, each corresponding to the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, with five values in each division. Each mystery will be represented by a painting of similar size and printing as the former Greco, Murillo, etc. issues. The Incarnation (Murillo) 25c; Visit to Elizabeth (Correa) 70c; Nativity (Murillo) 80c; Presentation in the Temple (de Campana) 1 pta; Jesus Lost and Found Again in the Temple (artist unknown) 1.50 pta; Prayer on Mt. Olive (Giaquinto) 2 pta; The Flagellation (Alfonso Cano) 2.50 pta; Crowning of Thorns (Tiepolo) 3 pta; Jesus Carries the Cross (Greco) 5 pta; Crucifixion (Murillo) 8 pta; Resurrection (Murillo) 10 pta; AIRMAILS: Ascension (Bayeau) 25 c; Pentecost (Greco) 1 pta; Assumption (Cerezo) 5 pta; Coronation (Greco) 10 pta.