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Marian Philatelic Study Group of Coros, Whole No. 4

A. S. Horn
W. J. Hoffman

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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

News has just reached your editor that our Chairman, Reverend Father A. S. Horn, was awarded two gold medals for his "Bible Quotations" stamps exhibited in Germany recently. The collection was exhibited in the "Hall of Honor" Section, and the gold medals were awarded at both Monchengladbach and Osnabruck. CONGRATULATIONS, Father Horn.

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NEW ISSUES

ETHIOPIA: Ethiopia is regarded as the world's most ancient empire, and on Nov. 2, 1962 released stamps picturing religious events, saints and ancient kings. The series came out on the 32nd anniversary of the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I, and is the first of the annual issues honoring those who helped make Ethiopia the world's oldest Christian nation. The designs are by Ethiopian artist Afewerki Tekle, in h-color photography. Among them is a MADONNA on the 10 centimes value honoring King Bazen. The Madonna is on the left side of the stamp. Bazen ruled Ethiopia from 7 BC to 10 A.D. During the 8th year of his rule, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and the birth scene is depicted on the stamp with a view of Bethlehem in Biblical times.

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VATICAN: The Vatican will issue three Christmas stamps this year; one will be a Nativity by an Indian artist. It is not known if all three stamps will be of the same design or three different ones.

VATICAN: Stamp publications have indicated that the Vatican's Ecumenical Set, issued Oct. 31, 1962, includes vignettes from Raphael's painting "The Madonna of Foligno", these being "Madonna with Lamp", "Praying Madonna", and "Madonna with Children". Research of available sources and a study of Raphael's paintings do not bear out the "Madonna" theory. These vignettes represent "Faith", "Hope", and "Charity", all by Raphael. The "Charity" theme was used years ago by the Saar and costs quite a bit today. These vignettes have nothing to do with "The Madonna of Foligno". The three Theological Virtues are painted on wooden panels in monochrome green (Chiaroscuro) and formed the predella for Raphael's "Descent from the Cross", a painting which is in the Borghese Gallery in Rome; this was painted in 1507. The "Madonna of Foligno" does hang near these panels in the Vatican Gallery and so perhaps this error was started that way. These little pictures are not details from the larger painting, but formed a decorative base on which the painting stood.

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COLOMBIA has postponed until sometime in 1963 the Ecumenical Council Commemorative issue which was to include LA VIRGEN DE LA PENA.
COSTA RICA: Four Christmas stamps issued, on one of which is a Madonna by Giovanni Bellini. This is found in the church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari at Venice. These Christmas stamps come out in neat sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps.

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ITALY: Has issued 2 stamps for end of 1st session of Ecumenical Council. Design is taken from 6th Century Syriac Gospel and depicts Holy Ghost descending on Apostles and Blessed Virgin.

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TURKEY: Finally issued on Dec. 8 the four stamps in honor of the House of the Virgin Mary at Ephesus.

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COLOMBIA: (A new find). In 1958 a series of stamps were issued commemorating the Centenary of the birth of Msgr. R. M. Corrasquilla, Rector of the Seminary of Our Lady of the Rosary in Bogota. The stamp design also includes a picture of the facade of The Church of Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1938, this same church, which has a Madonna over the main doorway, was used on a stamp, #458. This new item includes Nos. 696, 0315, 0316, 0335, 0341.

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MADONNA OF FOLIGNO: This is considered one of Raphael’s masterpieces and was painted for Sigismund Conti of Foligno as a thanksgiving. It appears that Sigismund was in great danger from a meteor or thunderbolt and promised an offering to Our Lady for his safety. In the upper portion of the canvas sits Our Lady in heavenly glory, by Her side the Infant Jesus, and both look down on Conti, kneeling below. Behind Conti stands St. Jerome who seems to be presenting Conti to Our Lady; on the opposite side are John the Baptist, pointing upward, and St. Francis who is extending his right hand towards the worshippers, supposed to be assembled in the church, and recommending them to the Virgin. In the center is an angel-boy holding a tablet. In the landscape background is the City of Foligno, overshadowed by a storm cloud and a meteor is in midair; above is a rainbow, a pledge of peace and safety. This picture was painted when Raphael was but 28 years old. It was placed over the high altar of the Ara-Coeli in 1511, but in 1565 a descendant of Conti’s moved it to her convent in Foligno, from where it was taken by the French in 1792. Restored to Italy in 1815, it was placed among the treasures of the Vatican. (Extracted from "Legends of The Madonna" by Jameson.)

submitted by Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Benjert...  -2-
THE MYSTERIES OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

These stamps, issued by Spain on October 26, 1962, may become the most outstanding in the field of religious philately. The fifteen stamps portray mysteries in the life of Christ and His Mother from "The Annunciation" to the "Coronation of Mary" in heaven. The following quotations from Holy Scripture have been selected from the Old Testament and the New Testament as descriptive passages for the set. Some Old Testament texts used in Mariology are direct and formal prophecies, as for example Micheas 5:2. Others are used as reference texts to throw light upon Mariological theses. Still other texts in their application to Mary are considered a mere adaption.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

THE ANNUNCIATION: "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel." (Isaias 7:14). "And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary...And the angel said to her: 'Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son: and thou shalt call His name Jesus!' " (Luke 1:26-31).

THE VISITATION: "Who is she who cometh forth as the sun, fair as Jerusalem?...The daughters of Sion saw her, and called her most blessed..." (Canticle of Canticles 6:9-8). "And Mary, rising up in those days, went into the hill country with haste into a city of Juda...And she entered into the house of Zachary and saluted Elizabeth." (Luke 1:39-40).

THE NATIVITY: "And thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, art a little one among the thousands of Juda: out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be the ruler of Israel: and His going forth is from the beginning, from the days of eternity." (Micheas 5:2). "And it came to pass that when they were there, her days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7).

PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE: "For thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet one little while, and I will move the heaven and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land. And I will move all nations: and the desired of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of Hosts."(Aggeus 2:7-8) "And after the days of her purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they carried Him to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord: as it is written in the Law of the Lord...." (Luke 2:22-23).

CHRIST TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord hath annointed me: he hath sent me to preach." (Isaias 61:1). "And it came to pass that, after three days, they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them and asking them questions." (Luke 2:46-47).

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN: "He hath delivered his soul unto death, he hath borne the sins of many and hath prayed for the transgressors. (Isaias 53:12). "And going out, He went, according to His custom, to the Mount of Olives...And kneeling down, He prayed...And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven strengthening Him. And being in an agony, He prayed the longer. And His sweat became as drops of blood." (Luke 22:39-44).
THE SCOURGING: "There is no beauty in Him, nor comliness: and we have seen Him and there was no sightliness, that we should be desirous of Him." (Isaiah 53:2). "Then therefore Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him." (John 19:1).

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS: "Despised, and the most abject of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with infirmity." (Isaiah 53:3). "And the soldiers platting a crown of thorns, put it upon His head, and they put on Him a purple garment." (John 19:2).

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS: "But I am a worm, not a man; the scorn of men, despised by the people." (Psalms 21:7). "And bearing His own cross, He went forth to the place that is called Calvary." (John 19:17).

THE CRUCIFIXION: "They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones. They look on and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them and for my vesture they cast lots." (Psalms 21:17-19). "And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him there." (Luke 23:33).

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

THE RESURRECTION: "Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too abide in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world, nor will you suffer your Holy One to undergo corruption." (Psalms 15:9-10). "Fear not you, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For He is arisen, as He said." (Matthew 28:6).

THE ASCENSION: "God is ascended with jubilee..." (Psalms 46:6). "And the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven..." (Mark 16:19).

DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Upon my servants and handmaids in those days I will pour forth My Spirit." (Joel 2:20). "And when the days of the Pentecost were accomplished, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming: and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues, as it were of fire: and it sat upon every one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:1-4).

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN: "And so was I established in Sion, and in the Holy City likewise I rested, and my power was in Jerusalem. And I took root in an honorable people, and in the portion of my God his inheritance, and my abode is in the full assembly of saints." (Ecclesiasticus 24:15-16).

THE CORONATION OF THE VIRGIN: "I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus, and as a cypress tree on Mount Sion." (Ecclesiasticus 24:17).

"WHAT DOES CROWNING A STATUE MEAN?" It is not merely making an image with a crown, or the adding of a crown. It is an honor that can only be carried out with authoritative permission, which is given by the Chapter of Canons at Rome to images of antiquity or dignity to which pilgrims come in large numbers. It is a custom dating back many centuries. The crowning is done by the Bishop of the locale, or a representative of the Canons, if possible, with appropriate prayers. If it is a statue of Our Lady that is being crowned, the following is said as the crown is affixed: "May we who crown thee on earth deserve through thee to be crowned one day in Heaven". When the image is a picture, the crown is affixed to the canvas, or suspended above it.
THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Nativity
The Presentation in The Temple
Christ Teaching in The Temple

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

The Agony in The Garden
The Scourging
The Crowning With Thorns
Christ Carries His Cross
The Crucifixion

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

The Resurrection
The Ascension
Descent of The Holy Spirit
Assumption of The Virgin
Coronation of The Virgin

1962 Christmas Stamps
Spain

1962 Christmas Stamp
Liechtenstein

New Zealand

Our Lady of Bethlehem
1962

Our Lady of Hope
1960

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
1962

Our Lady of Le Vang
1962

Arms of Trujillo
1958

1962 Christmas Stamps
Norfolk Is.

1962 Christmas Stamp
Ethiopia

1962

Our Lady of Bels

Coronation of The Virgin

Church of Rosary
1959

Cath. of Hue
1958

Mother of Mothers Seal

Honduras
1945 RA3

Our Lady of Pochaiv

Our Lady of Zarvanytsia

Our Lady of Bels

Our Lady of Hoshiv

Pieta

Seedorf Refugee Camp
"OUR LADY OF PHILATELY"

The design of Our Lady of Philately, appearing on the postal meter cancellation, and used as the seal of THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP, first appeared on COROS Handbook #1. The artist is Sister M. Ger- vina, F.S.P.A., Viterbo College, La Crosse Wisconsin. Sister Gervina designed this representation of Our Blessed Mother exclusively for COROS for the cover design used on the "Checklist of Madonna Stamps".

As the property of the MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP, rigid controls will be placed upon the use of this postage meter. Members receiving copies of issue No. 4 are the recipients of a FIRST DAY CANCELLATION. First Day Cachets are available from your Editor at 25 cents each.

It is contemplated to issue a commemorative cachet for the Feast of St. Gabriel (Patron of Philatelists and Posts) on Mar. 24, 1963, using a similar design as on the mailing cover of this Bulletin. These will be made available to the general collecting public at 25 cents each. They will be printed on regular size envelopes with an enclosure describing the design of OUR LADY OF PHILATELY.

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Sister M. Alonza, F.S.P.A., Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wisconsin, was invited to exhibit at the International Philatelic Exhibition in Munich, Germany, held Oct. 26, 1962. The Sister's exhibit centered around the motto "In God We Trust" on United States issues, and the Holy Bible. We have had no word as to honors awarded our fellow collector's exhibit. Sister Alonza was the only woman from the U.S. who was invited to exhibit at this Philatelic Congress. She received complimentary press notices in La Crosse papers.

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Brother Jos. Bourassa, O.M.I., Richelieu, Quebec, has many Marian collections. His stamps date back only to 1951, but he has over 25,000 different pictures of the Madonna, over 125 Madonna seals, some 300 Marian and religious art books, representing over 25 years of collecting.

Beautiful seals of OUR LADY OF THE CAPE may be obtained from Brother Bourassa at $1 a sheet.

The "Bulletin" of THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP needs a name. Please send in your suggestions.

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OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF COBRE, Cuba #559, is now honored at the Naval Chapel at Guantanomo Bay. A copy of the 300-year old statue at Cobre stands on the left side of the chapel's sanctuary near the altar rail. Last year, on Sept. 8, Feast of Our Lady of Charity, some 200 Cuban workers on Guantanamo made a pilgrimage to the Base's Naval Chapel since it was impossible for them to visit Cobre, and brought with them a small statue of Our Lady of Charity. This impressed Chaplain Father Hilferty and gave him an idea; with the help of Msgr. Aquilera of Ponce, Puerto Rico, he ordered a copy of the statue from Spain. It arrived for the Feast Day this year, and is now enshrined in the Chapel on Guantanamo. (The above extracted from THE TABLET and sent us by Martin A. Lawlor.)

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Mr. Lawlor also sent a page from the New York Times listing several Marian events, with the thought that perhaps it might be possible to obtain postmarks during these celebrations.


Israel: Feast of The Annunciation throughout Israel, Mar. 25.

France: Feast of The Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, at Lourdes.

Portugal: Alcochete--Easter, Apr. 15, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Atalaia.

Spain: Seville, Feast of Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8.

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Our Lady's Monograms: "A" for "Ave"; "M" for "Mary"; "A" and "M" combined for "Hail, Mary"; "M" and "R" combined for "Maria Regina" (Mary, Queen).
MEMBERSHIP DUES:
$1.00 per year plus COROS membership of $3.00. Foreign: $1.50 per year plus COROS membership of $3.50.

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Our year begins January 1, and dues for 1963 are now payable. To save expenses notices for dues are not being mailed. A membership card and roster will be mailed to each member as soon as dues have been received; approximately 3½ have already been mailed to paid-up members.

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NEW MEMBERS TO BE ADDED TO ROSTER:
Rev. James, O.S.B., St. Procopius Academy, Lisle, Illinois.
Rev. Fr. J. Lapierre, O.M.I., Presbyterie Ste. Madeleine, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec, Canada. ***

Mother Mary Louise has duplicate Madonna stamps for disposal, including some Spanish locals. Interested members should write her direct at 1510 Third Avenue, San Diego 1, California.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER BOX
(1) Illustrated on page 5 is a 20 pastas stamp from Seedorf Refugee Camp in Lithuania 1946/47. Can any one give us further information on these stamps or seals?

(2) Is there a Madonna on Peru #325, 4 cts., Basilica of Lima, in the Calvary Group, center foreground in shrubbery?

(3) Is there a Madonna in the picture over the sick-bed in the design of the Honduras Stamps #RA1 and RA4 of 1945 and 1950?

(4) Who is pictured in the seal of the coat-of-arms on the Venezuelan stamps of 1959, Nos. 725-734 and 690-690?

Please send in any information you may know of in answer to above questions.

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Ed Polodna, La Crosse, Wisconsin, has informed us that THE MADONNA is on the National Wildlife Christmas Seal (2 or 3 different ones), with a Creche on the trees in the background.

On behalf of the members, appreciation is expressed to Father A. H. Menarik, North Riverside, Illinois, and the Mother of Mothers Shrine, for making possible the use of a postage meter and "OUR LADY OF PHILATELY" meter cancellation;

Also to Mrs. Pauline Zarling, President of COROS, for initiating the Study Group Library by contributing the first volume: "The Madonna in Painting" by Marcel Belvianes, translated by Susan Bellamy, printed in Milan by the Uffici Press. There are about 10 pages of prose and 56 illustrated Madonna paintings;

And to the following who sent in donations "to help meet expenses": Virginia Brautlecht, Kenneth Korte, S. G. McLaughlin, Charles L. Murphy, J. F. Haller, and A. Solczanyk.

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Numerous requests were received in the replies to the original questionnaire for a printed publication, similar to the COROS "Chronicle". Our membership is, at present, not able to afford this luxury. The current roster lists 96 collectors who have expressed a desire to participate in THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP. At $1 per year dues, this provides a bi-monthly budget of approximately $15. In the hope of being able to find other willing patrons who would assist to underwrite the cost of future "Bulletins", we have inaugurated, with this issue, a periodical by off-set printing. The cost for the 8-page issue, with one page devoted to illustrations, comes to $39.30. Printing the "Bulletin" with illustrations accompanying each article would be considerably more expensive. Your Editor has underwritten the added cost of issue No. 4. Will there be others who will assist with the next five issues? By the end of our first year we are in hopes that by tripling the membership, THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP will become self-supporting. We are using issue No. 4 as the first Bulletin financed from membership dues.

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It is said the 5 onion-shaped domes on most Russian Cathedrals represent the Four Evangelists grouped around the Blessed Virgin.
In order to launch into all possible phases of Marian collecting, as discussed in No.1, Vol. 1, this issue begins an article on Madonna seals, by Mr. A. Solczanyk. It is realized that seals are not considered a branch of philately, but they are a welcome and often added attraction to one’s collection. WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS. The following seals are pictured on page 5:

MIRACULOUS IMAGES OF VIRGIN MARY AND CHILD IN UKRAINE
Issued Feb. 1, 1954, by the Ukrainian Underground Post. Description: Eight values with four different designs, perforate and imperforate. Inscription on top: "Pidpilna Poshta Ukrainy" (Underground Post of Ukraine); on the bottom: "Maty Boza--Pokrovytelka Ukrainy" (Mother of God-Patroness of Ukraine). The designs represent the following images of the Mother of God:

(1) VIRGIN MARY AND CHILD FROM POCHAIV, (10, 20 value). According to legend, OUR LADY OF POCHAIV appeared in 1109 and 1209. After the second appearance she left the impression of Her foot on a rock, from which, miraculously, spring water began to flow. The icon itself was received from Constantinople by a family named Hoyisky. Ann Hoysky had a son blind from birth; she petitioned OUR LADY OF POCHAIV to help her, and her son’s sight was restored miraculously. The icon was then given to the Monastery of Pochaiv, where many miracles occurred. In 1675 the inhabitants of surrounding vicinity fled to Pochaiv, seeking refuge from invading Turks and Tartars; they petitioned Our Lady to protect them. She appeared above the Monastery and turned back the bullets against the invaders, and the enemy fled; this historical event is recorded in one of the best known Ukrainian songs.

(2) VIRGIN MARY AND CHILD FROM ZARVANYTSIA (15, 25 value). This icon dates back to the 12th or 13th century. During a 13th century invasion by the Tartars, the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, was destroyed and the inhabitants killed, but one monk escaped. He wandered to the west, finally arriving in the vicinity of Zarvanytsia. Here, in his sleep, he saw the Mother of God surrounded by angels. Next day he found an icon of the Virgin Mary and Child near a spring, and there built a small chapel to house the icon. Zarvanytsia became a well known pilgrimage place. The icon was crowned in 1867.

(3) VIRGIN MARY AND CHILD FROM BELZ (30, 50 value). (Now in Czestochowa, Poland). This icon was brought to Ukraine from Constantinople by the Greek Princess Ann when she wed Volodymyr The Great, ruler of Ukraine. Some say Byzantine Emperor Comnenus sent it to Polack. During a Tartar invasion in 1270, Prince Lev moved the picture to Belz Castle to save it from destruction; here many miracles occurred. In 1377 or 1392 Polish Prince Opolski moved it to Czestochowa, where it reigns as "Queen of Poland".

(4) VIRGIN MARY AND CHILD FROM HOHNY. A miraculous icon. Many miracles occurred in the house of its first owner. One day the icon began to weep; the owner decided to place it in the Monastery of Hohny (18th century). Here some 117 miracles occurred to the end of the 18th century. Bright Mountain, with its Monastery, became one of the most widely known pilgrimage centers in the western part of the Ukraine.

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MOTHER OF MOTHERS SHRINE
One of the more recent Shrines in the United States marks one of the oldest and most beautiful relationships in Christianity—that between the Mother of Christ and mothers everywhere. Dedicated on Mother's Day, 1956, by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, the outdoor Shrine is located in North Riverside, Illinois. The group of figures in the Shrine includes Our Blessed Mother standing on the globe of the earth, holding Her Infant Son. Immediately below is a figure of a present day mother holding her child. The Blessed Mother's robe envelopes the figures below in protecting gesture, and both She and the Infant Jesus look lovingly at mother and child. One of the seals from this Shrine is illustrated on page 5.