3-1-1963

Marian Philatelic Study Group of Coros, Whole No. 5

A. S. Horn
W. J. Hoffman

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Marian Philatelic Study Group of Coros

Vol. 1 No. 5

NEW ISSUES

MACAO: This Portuguese Colony issued another assistencia stamp during 1962 with a 10 avos value, having the same design as previous postal tax stamps—OUR LADY OF CHARITY. It is greenish-blue color.

ARGENTINA: POSTAL CANCELLATION OF MADONNA AND CHILD.

Mrs. Kenneth Fletcher informed us that this postal cancellation was used exclusively at the Christmas Philatelic Exhibit in Buenos Aires, Dec. 7-9, 1962 and portrays THE MADONNA by Rubens.

TURKEY: MADONNA POSTAL CANCELLATION.

From one of our "approval" sources we recently received a First Day Cover of the Turkey Madonna set released Dec. 8. The FDC was cancelled with a beautiful representation of the Blessed Virgin. It is pictured on our page of illustrations.

GERMANY: MADONNA POSTAL CANCELLATION.

Dated 7-11-62. The cancellation is from Bendorf-on-the Rhine, Sayn, Boy Scout Camp Brexbachtal. The cachet and cancellation picture the Blessed Virgin under the title "MADONNA OF THE GOOD PATH", Brexbachtal, and with the Boy Scout emblem of the Fleur-de-lis. (Illustrated on page 13.)

UNITED STATES: MADONNA METER CANCELLATION.

Margaret Sprentjak forwarded a meter cancellation from the Ave Maria Priory, Franciscan Fathers, P.O. Box 608, Lemont, Illinois. The design is from the painting "MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS". The original, by Leopold Layer (made in 1839), is in the Franciscan Church in Bresje, Slovenia, Yugoslavia. (Illustrated on page 13.)

ADDED INFORMATION ON RECENT ISSUES

ITALY: Father Horn writes that this Ecumenical Council Commemorative stamp is a design from a miniature in the Codex Syriacus which dates to the year 586, and it is known that the scribe was named Rabula. The original is in the Laurentian Library, Florence, Italy.

TURKEY: Also from Father Horn, "On the new Turkish stamps to the bottom is an inscription "Meryem Ana", which closely translated means 'Mary, Mother', but according to Turkish usage this means 'Mother of Jesus'. I was rather surprised to find that the statue in this Shrine looks more like bronze and is not in the traditional colors of blue and white."

SPAIN'S CHRISTMAS STAMP: Issue date Dec. 6, 1962. We called it "Holy Family", but recent data states "the design is taken from THE NATIVITY, famous sculpture of Pedro de Mena (1628-1688), and is now in Madrid's Museum of Decorative Arts".

SPAIN'S ROSARY SET: Spanish Government officials state they conceived the idea for this series of stamps after viewing a film on "The Mysteries of The Rosary", made in Spain by Father Peyton, in full color, with Spanish and American actors. The film had its premiere in Madrid during Holy Week of 1959.

VATICAN CHRISTMAS STAMP: Issue date Dec. 4. Three-stamp set depicts NATIVITY scene. The stamps are by photogravure and the vignette is in full color. Same for all values with only the frame distinguishing the stamps. The scene is in Indian fashion, showing a sari-clad Virgin Mary, with St. Joseph squatting Ghandi-style beside Her and the Child. It is the work of the Indian painter Markus Topno, whose work was exhibited in Rome in 1950 in connection with the Holy Year, and is reminiscent of the 1961 Vatican City Christmas stamp which depicted THE HOLY FAMILY in Chinese style. These choices are said to represent the universality of the Church.
SOME PROSPECTIVE 1963 MARIAN ISSUES

GERMANY: From their 1963 program we learn that West Germany plans to issue a one-value stamp "REGINA MARTYRUM". No further details were given as to date or occasion for the release of the stamp.

LUXEMBOURG: In 1963 this country will celebrate 1000 years of existence. Special stamps are planned to be issued. The series will contain a subject for each century, such as sites, monuments, objects, etc. The 15th century stamp will portray "THE BLACK VIRGIN" statue standing in St. John's Church in Grund. Sale of the stamps will start with the opening of the International Philatelic Exhibition "MELUSINA 1963" (April 13-21), and will also stop with it.

EDITOR'S COLUMN: In line with our objectives, as stated in the first issue, to cover all phases of Madonna and/or Marian stamp collecting, we hope to include some articles in forthcoming issues on Marian postal cancellations. Mr. Arthur W. Clinton, Jr., has submitted some very interesting points in this area. One of the suggestions was the formation of a "New Issue Service" for those members interested in adding postal cancellations to their collections. The release of these new postal cancellations by various governments does not have the wide publicity that stamps receive in various philatelic periodicals. In the European countries this phase of Philately is avidly followed. We have specialized clubs in this country devoted solely to the collection of postal and meter cancellations.

The biggest obstacle to collectors of these items is the "source of supply". Most stamp dealers in this country do not stock them. They can be found at times, but then prior issues are not available. The German St. Gabriel's Guild has a service whereby collectors can obtain current issues by filling out an application form and designating their interest. The form requires information as to period of time the collector is interested in receiving the new issues, whether delivery is to be immediately on issuance, monthly, or quarterly, and the amount of money he is willing to spend either monthly, quarterly, or some other designated time period.

It is proposed to form such a "New Issue Service" for members here in this country, whereby each subscribing member would advance a deposit towards the material desired. As new releases come out and are received by the "New Issue Service", they would be mailed to collectors on the subscription list. The current monetary status of their deposit would also be listed, and when the deposit was approximately ninety per cent used, additional funds would be forwarded to the Director of the "Service". The application form for subscription membership would detail the type of postal cancellation desired, etc.

It is possible that by buying the material in quantity lots, the "New Issue Service" would or could save members some of the incidental costs inherent in stamp collecting; as for instance the cost of forwarding money to Europe and the postage on these letters. If you are interested in such a service and wish to see THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP initiate it and would subscribe for membership, please so inform Mr. Arthur W. Clinton, Jr., 390 First Ave., Apt. 6D, New York City 10, New York.

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Members may be interested to hear that The Marian Philatelic Study Group received mention in the Scandinavian St. Gabriel Magazine BOREALIS, and that acknowledgement of our publication and Group has been received from Father Stuve Hacker of the Colombian Gabriél.

Father P. Bengoechea's column in the Spanish Philatelic Magazine INFORMACION FILATELICA gave mention to the organization of The Marian Philatelic Study Group and also its First Day Cancellation of 0UR LADY OF PHILATELY.

-10-
In 1630 a farmer of Cordoba, in the interior of Argentina, hoping to revive a religious resurgence in the area, sent to Brazil for a statue of Our Lady. His emissary could not decide between a statue of "Madonna and Child" and one of "The Immaculate Conception", so purchased both. On the way back, overnight camp was made. The next morning the wagon with the statues could not be moved by any means until the statue of "The Immaculate Conception" was removed. This happened several times until finally "The Immaculate Conception" was placed with Don Bernardo Rosendo de Oramus at a nearby hacienda.

An eight year old negro slave, named Mamel, was accompanying the wagon, and was so captivated by the episode of the wagon refusing to move as long as the statue was on it, that he begged to remain with it at the hacienda. Permission was granted and Manuel became its servant and sacristan at a little chapel erected on the ranch to house the statue.

Don Rosendo died in 1670, and since his ranch was in a remote area in constant danger of attack from marauding Indians, permission was obtained to move the statue to a chapel on the ranch of Senora Ana de Mattos, 15 miles on the other side of the Lujan River. Mamel was left behind at the Rosendo hacienda. The next morning after its arrival at the de Mattos chapel, the statue was missing; it was found back on its pedestal, 15 miles away. It was returned to the de Mattos chapel, and once again it was missing, and once again found back at its original location. The de Mattos chapel had been securely locked, and it was finally agreed that no human effort had been transporting the statue back to Don Rosendo's ranch; therefore Our Lady must want Mamel to be with Her. This time he accompanied the statue to the de Mattos chapel, and there it stayed, with Mamel lovingly tending it. Its fame soon spread and it became a place of pilgrimage. In 1685 OUR LADY OF LUJAN was solemnly installed in a church built for Her, and from that time on the Feast of The Immaculate Conception (Dec.8) is observed with great splendor in Lujan.

...submitted by Mother Mary Louise...

John Werst wrote to the Argentine Embassy in Washington for details on this famous Shrine, and the following is the reply he received: "The City of Lujan is a small town in the province of Buenos Aires, about an hour's ride from the capital. It is built on the banks of the Lujan River, and is named for Diego de Lujan, killed by Indians on that spot. A magnificent Basilica was built for THE VIRGIN OF LUJAN in one of Lujan's small chapels and it was inaugurated in 1910 by the Infanta of Spain, Isabel of Bourbon, who had come to Argentina that year to participate in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of our independence. The many miracles attributed to the VIRGIN OF LUJAN have made this Basilica a center of attraction in the spiritual life of our country and of the Continent. She is the Patroness of Argentina and much loved in Uruguay and Paraguay also."

Editor's Note: This statue is but 1½" high, doll-like in appearance, with wide open blue eyes, golden halo, dressed in heavy shining robes and a bejeweled crown. General San Martin passed through the Andes after a victorious battle and laid down his sword in the church honoring OUR LADY OF LUJAN. Argentina has a regiment in its army dedicated to this Patroness, and its members call her "The General of Lujan."

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Murillo is called Mary's painter. No other artist has left such a treasury of Marian art. His Marian paintings portray Mary in almost every phase of Her natural and mystical life. No matter what phase of Mary's life he portrayed, he surrounded Her with angels and cherubs. Some say there are 25 while others state 40 known original paintings of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION theme. A giant mosaic of one of his IMMACULATE CONCEPTIONS is in the National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C.

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MOTHER OF MOTHERS SHRINE SEALS:
Father Menarik, Director of the Mother of Mothers Shrine, will be happy to mail a sheet of Madonna seals of this Shrine to all who will write to him. Address: Mother of Mothers Shrine, North Riverside, Illinois. A description of the Shrine statuary and the seal were in issue No.4.
QUESTION AND ANSWER BOX

A recent issue of Rio Mundi, illustrated on page 13, depicts native art work. A correspondent in Spain said he was told this was a native conception of THE VIRGIN OF AFRICA. It will be noticed that both Mother and Child have crowns. Can anyone identify whether this is a MADONNA stamp?

FOLLOWING ANSWERS RECEIVED TO QUESTIONS IN ISSUE NO. 4

(1) Seedorf Refugee Camp in Lithuania.
Mrs. Kenneth Fletcher: I have six stamps (3 perf. and 3 Imperf.) of the design in the illustration; values are 10, 10 1/2, and 15 Pastas, in brown, orange and blue inks, respectively. These are Lithuanian Displaced Persons Mail stamps, issued 15 yrs. ago in Germany. Descriptions, catalog nos. and prices can be found in MÜLLER'S German Specialized Catalog, 1960, pages 3512-3517. Would say these were not from Seedorf but Montgomery. Purchased my stamps from Oscar V. Rouch, 525 West End Ave., New York 24.

Sylvio: The stamp illustrated is not Seedorf but Montgomery, a British Refugee Camp. The Montgomery stamp has a Pieta, in 3 values (10, 10.90 and 20). The Seedorf stamp has a Resurrection. I have the three values, 10, 10.90 and 20. These are all mint stamps. Also have two Murmansk Camp stamps Oflag VIIA; one purple and one brown; the purple one is mint, the other cancelled "Murmansk Ofl VIIA". Also have two stamps of Our Lady of Swarzewo, Patron of the Fisherman on the high seas. These two stamps are the two editions of the stamp; one has white dot (1st edition), and the other has two white dots (2nd edition). Also have stamps from Woldenberg Concentration Camp in 5, 10 and 20 values, in two editions; one edition is printed on cigarette paper, the other is printed on wrapping paper (thick). The 5 value represents a statue carved by the prisoners for their chapel; the 10 value is the Madonna of Ostrobrama (See Vatican 169/91), and the 20 value is Our Lady of Czestochowa (See Vatican 216/18). These are all cancelled "Woldenberg" during 1943. Full story can be obtained by getting in touch with Mr. Edward Nowak, Sr., at Polonus Philatelic Society, Chicago, or Sister Fidelma, Regis College, Boston, Massachusetts.

Jerome W. Winn: I have both sets of 3 each bought in 1961, and am still in doubt as to their 100% authenticity. The dealer had the following to say about them: "Lithuanian DP Camps Seedorf and Montgomery were situated in Western Germany in Land Niedersachsen. The above camps, as all other camps of a comparatively small number of inhabitants, were disbanded and their population transferred to a large Baltic DP camp at Stade, westwards of Hamburg at the mouth of the river Elbe. The closing down of smaller camps and forming of a large DP camp of all Baltic nationalities accounts for the STADE overprint on former postal issues of Seedorf and Montgomery."

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(2) Picture over sick-bed on Honduras RA3 and RA4 of 1945 and 1950:

Donald Anderson: The small picture is rather indistinct, but I wrote this stamp up in my collection as being that of the Holy Infant of Prague. I haven't seen anything in print regarding this, so it is only a guess on my part.

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COROS plans to issue a St. Gabriel Cachet in connection with INTERPEX in New York City, which Exhibition will close on St. Gabriel's Day, March 21. The Marian Philatelic Study Group therefore will not issue a St. Gabriel Cachet, as was previously announced. Additional details on the COROS St. Gabriel Cachet will appear in The Chronicle.

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APPRECIATION on behalf of the members to the following for their financial "assist": S.G. McLaughlin, L. Czyzewski, Mrs. Kenneth Fletcher, A. W. Clinton, Jr., John Werst, Rev. Chester A. Wisniewski, Donald Anderson, Frank Flaschner, Louis Mihalyfy, Rev. Donald Eggleston, Mrs. Genevieve Mattison, Raymond Deely, Muriel Murphy, Mrs. O. R. Goss, H. A. Cunningham, Mrs. Gertrude Casper.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 1963 ARE NOW PAYABLE. $1.00 per year plus COROS membership of $3; Foreign $1.50 per year plus COROS membership of $3.50. Marian Philatelic Study Group membership card and roster will be mailed on receipt of dues.
THE DAMASCENE MADONNA appeared on a stamp of Malta issued 9-7-62. It was issued in a series to commemorate the Great Siege of 1565. The legend is told that in the year 1175 this picture was moved, by a lamp, towards the coast of Rhodes. Since then it has been treasured as one of the most precious and holiest possessions of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, now known as the Knights of Malta. It was exposed for veneration in the Church of Eleimonitria until the year 1522.

As the Islands were lost by the Knights, they carried the picture with them in their wanderings to Candia, Messina, Civitavecchia, Rome and Viterbo. In 1530 it was brought to Malta with other possessions of the Order. Grand Master Villers de L'Isle Adam brought it to the Church of St. Catherine, in Borgo del Castello, now Vittoriosa, where it remained until 1587. Then it was brought in solemn procession to the Greek Church, which was built in its honor.

Grand Master La Vallette honored this Madonna. On the morning of Sept. 7, 1565, when the defeated Turks fled to their ships, this heroic Grand Master, followed by his Knights and a large troop of Islanders, kneeling before the altar in thanksgiving gave his cloak and sword to the Madonna. The cloak and sword are still preserved in this old church in Vittoriosa, which is dedicated to "THE DAMASCENA".

The picture which is today encased in a silver frame is not the same as the faithful originally honored. Restorations and repaintings changed the picture. However, under the colors are still visible the heavy strokes and the shining gold of the Byzantine Icon. This Madonna picture is highly honored by the Maltese. In 1931 it was solemnly crowned. The decree was signed by the then Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, who later became Pope Pius XII. (Translated from the German GABRIEL, Nov. 1962 issue.)

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

The word "Damascene" means "of" or "from" Damascus, such as we find in the name of St. John Damascene. The Madonna called "The Damascene Madonna" has its relation to a "prototype" of the Madonna of this style and at least traditionally goes back to St. John Damascene and a legend from his life. According to the biographer of St. John Damascene, he was falsely accused of treason by a caliph about 730 and was sentenced to have his right hand severed at the wrist. The sentence was executed. Through the intervention of the Blessed Virgin the amputated hand was miraculously restored. In thanksgiving, St. John Damascene had a silver hand attached to an image of the Blessed Virgin, as a memorial of the miracle. It became a custom for painters to reproduce this picture with the Blessed Mother having three hands. It is called the "Madonna de Tribus Manibus", or "of the three hands". And so pictures of Our Lady of this type were copied more or less faithfully and were given the name "Masonna Damascena" or "The Damascene Madonna". It is this type which the Maltese stamp design portrays.

...Father A. S. Horn...

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MISSION DOLORES CACHET THEME: Historic Mission Dolores of San Francisco is the subject of the cacheted covers and seals The Association for Western Philatelic Exhibitions is issuing in connection with WESTPEX, to be staged March 21 to 24 at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco. The design, by Nat Levy, is based on an old print in the Wells Fargo Bank's history room. The covers, mailed to receive the postmark of The Exhibition's postoffice, are 20 cents each; 85 cents for the set of 5. The seals are 25 cents per set of 5. Orders for covers and seals may be sent to Fred S. Wolfe, 776 Mission St., San Francisco 3, California.
The following article is divided into two parts: the first is Sister Alonza's translation of the original work in MARIA KOENIGIN DER WELT by Father Clemens Anheuser, O.F.M., and Mr. Eduard Ruttmann, and the second is the Sister's commentary. Both sections were originally intended to be published in a book-form translation of MARIA KOENIGIN DER WELT.

**TRANSLATION**

The Argentine Republic issued a commemorative stamp in 1951 for financing the Eva Peron Foundation. The adhesive is graced with a reproduction of Michelangelo's most famous masterpiece, his PIETA, which had been carved by the renowned sculptor when he was scarcely 25 years old. The statue has the distinction of being the only piece which bears the inscription of the artist's name.

A PIETA design is always a group composition depicting the Blessed Virgin and Her Divine Son—that is, the dead Body of the Savior resting on the lap of His Mother. Mary's countenance portrays vividly her intense grief. The original PIETA is now in St. Peter's, in Rome, in the first chapel to the right as one enters the Basilica. The figures are life-size and touchingly life-like. Critics have observed how amazingly free of Traces of anguish was the countenance of the Madonna. When the sculptor was told of the remark, he promptly and pertinently replied, "The Immaculate Virgin would not be other than great and noble in Her Sorrow."

Illustration #2: Michelangelo's PIETA. 1951. Issued with surtax for the Eva Peron Foundation, photogravure, perforated 13 1/2, 2.45 pesos plus 7.55 pesos. Greenish-black.

**COMMENTARY**

The Artist: Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564). Michelangelo was a born genius with a very strong bent for art; his artistic powers were early and readily recognized, but his first love was sculpturing. When only in his early twenties, he received the important commission from Jean Cardinal de Groslye of St. Denis, France, to carve a carrara marble PIETA. That figure is now in the Chapel of the Madonna della Febbre, St. Peter's, Rome. The contract for the commission was signed August 27, 1498, and its terms have been well preserved. The late Father Edward F. Goreshe, S.J., in his "Great Christian Artists" gives a detailed account of the Cardinal's order: "The Maestro Michelangelo of Florence is to make at his own proper cost a PIETA of marble, that is to say, a draped figure of the Virgin Mary with the dead Christ in Her arms, the figures to be life-size, for the sum of four hundred fifty gold ducats in papal gold, to be finished within the term of one year from the beginning of the work."

It took the maestro somewhat longer than one year, for although he began work in 1507, the statue was not completed until 1500, and that was before he was 25 years of age! When critics remarked to him that the features of the Sorrowful Mother was strikingly youthful, his reply was both ready and pertinent: "Purity enjoys eternal youth." Though the Madonna's face vividly depicts the grief of Christ's Mother, it is, nevertheless totally free from the anguished traces of sorrow generally chiselled by deep suffering of soul and heart.

The carving has the distinction of being the only work of Michelangelo's which bears the inscription of the artist's name. Records of the time report that two men from Lombardy passing by the PIETA paused to admire it; one man told the other that the figure group was the creation of a Milanese sculptor, Solar Il Gobbo. Michelangelo, overhearing the remark, immediately shut himself up in the chapel and engraved his name on the band which he had carved to hang diagonally from the Virgin's left shoulder to Her waist. To the Cardinal he gave this reason for his act: "I did this work out of purest love for Our Lady. I wished to leave a memory of my intention to Her to be mindful of me."
The Stamp: Over and over the question has been asked - "Why did Argentina issue such a definitely religious stamp as Michelangelo's PIETA in 1951, at the very period of her political history when Juan Domingo Peron, her President, had been exercising ruthless measures against the Catholic Church, despite the fact that he had been brought up in that faith?"

There are several good reasons, but the predominant one might well be the women of Argentina. The choice of the stamp design reflected their deeply religious spirit, and the affection they had for Eva Duarte, wife of the President, gravely ill at this time. President Peron wished to honor Eva nationally, and instituted the Eva Peron Foundation. He put her in charge of the fund raising, and gave her direct control of all welfare organizations in the country. Its financial support came from levies of taxes on workers' wages, pressure on employers for "gifts", and contributions from municipal and state bodies, as well as from the National Government, plus confiscated properties of enemies of the regime; and, lastly, from the surtax on certain special postal issues. The most attractive stamp in the postal issues was that bearing the reproduction of THE PIETA.

The selection of this design for the stamp was most timely. It was a becoming gesture to express the honest grief of the women of Argentina to their beloved and popular leader, Eva Duarte de Peron, during her fatal illness. Eva died July 26, 1952. The stamp elicited an exceptional amount of attention and admiration.

Mr. Eduard Ruttimann, Basel, Switzerland, co-author of the original German text, is internationally known for his outstanding Madonna collection. He says that for rarities and specialities for the professional collectors, extra types of issues are made by some of the postal departments of various countries; such issues (proofs and essays) have been the speciality of Mr. Ruttimann's (also Father Horn's), and these rare types are intensively sought after by the avid collectors. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that these special prints may not be used for regular postage. Of the PIETA issue, both Father Horn and Mr. Ruttimann possess the following values:

2.45 Pesos plus 7.55 Pesos, solferino (brilliant bluish-red) imperforate.
2.45 " " 7.55 " " blue, imperforate.
2.45 " " 7.55 " " black, imperforate.

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Editor's Note: Recent news from Vatican City states THE PIETA has been moved to a location giving visitor's a better view. It is the sixth time the statue has been moved (the last time in 1949), and art experts say its present position is nearer to what Michelangelo had in mind. After much pro and con, the latest word is that THE PIETA will be brought to New York City for exhibition at the 1964 World's Fair in that city.

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NEW MEMBERS -- Add Names to Roster

Fr. C. Tourigny, O.M.I., Delmas, Saskatchewan, Canada.
Joseph V. Wisniewski, 4014 Oak Avenue, Brookfield, Illinois.
H. A. Cunningham, 201-1112 Broughton Street, Vancouver 5, British Columbia, Canada.
Mrs. Sophia Webb, 36 New Britain Avenue, Newington, Connecticut.
Rev. Father Desider Hoffmann, 2128 Elyria Avenue, Lorain, Ohio.
Marie-Ann Krutka, 506 Quincy, Pueblo, Colorado.
Joseph T. May, 783 Polk Street, San Francisco, California.
Eugene F. Donnelly, 22 Immel Street, Rochester 6, New York.
Lenore McLaughlin, 132 South Normandie, Los Angeles, California.
Eleanor E. Kepp, 2700 San Marino Street, Los Angeles 6, California.
Mr. Eduard Ruttimann, Lagitezstrasse 90, Basel, Switzerland.
Mrs. Levi Neprud, 323 North 11th Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin.
Ethel Thalheimer, 1811 Colonial Road, Baltimore 7, Maryland.
Stephen Leszynski, 234 South Tenth Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin.
Alice Hoffman, 5906 West Bouleuad, Los Angeles 43, California.
Mission Stamp Club, Sacred Heart Seminary, Shelby, Ohio.
Frank Rodgers, R. R. 2, Urbana, Illinois.
Evelyn McMann, 2116 West 15th Ave., Vancouver 9, British Columbia, Canada.
The following is the conclusion of an article on a description of Ukrainian Seals depicting Our Blessed Lady, as forwarded by Mr. A. Solczanyk, one of our members. He has informed the Editor that these seals are available for anyone interested from Mr. John Bulat, P.O. Box 91, Yonkers, New York. Other sources are also available to collectors.

1. MOTHER OF GOD. (1 shilling). Issued Jan. 1, 1950 for the collection of membership dues at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in London. The background design of the seal is in the form of a Trident, The Ukrainian Coat-of-arms, and designed by Wolodymyr Kaplin. The inscription on the top: "Ukrainska" (Ukrainian) and on the bottom: "Katslytska Tserkva" (Catholic Church). This stamp reissued Sept. 1, 1953 with the same value but in blue color. There also exists a green stamp on yellow paper with the same value.

2. THE NATIVITY. (10, 20, 30, 40 values). Issued Jan. 7, 1954 by the Underground Post of Ukraine to obtain funds to fight communism. The seal depicts the Nativity of Christ and was designed by Myron Levytskyj. Inscription on top reads "Z Risdvm Khrystovym" (With the Nativity of Christ), a Ukrainian greeting during Christmas; on the bottom "Pidpilna Poshta Ukrainy" (Underground Post of Ukraine). There also exists an imperforate, tete-beche (top against bottom) double values and inverted value varieties.

3. MOTHER AND CHILD. Issued in 1952 by the Ukrainian Nationalist Organization to raise funds for liberation. This sheet consists of three different stamps: on the left is Archangel Michael (5 cents); center, Our Lady and Child (10 cents), and on the right a group of carol singers in Ukraine (25 cents). All three designs have the same inscription on the bottom: "Vyzvolmyj Fond" (Liberation Fund). The 10 cent stamp shows on the right, just below the star, the "Trident".

4. VIRGIN MARY AND CHILD. Issued May 15, 1954 in Munich, Germany, to commemorate the Marian Year by the Ukrainian National Council. The stamp was designed by Urij Kulchyckj. There exist sheets both perforate and imperforate with eight stamps, each of the same design, and four different values - 10, 15, 25, 50. The inscription on the top: "Poshta UNR" (Ukrainska Natsionalna Rada - Ukrainian National Council). On the bottom, "Mariisky RIK 1954" (Marian Year 1954).

5. OUR LADY OF LOURDES. Issued Feb. 11, 1958 by the Ukrainian Museum in Cleveland to commemorate the centenary of Lourdes. Miniature sheets of four stamps of two designs, perforate and imperforate. The inscription in Ukrainian on the left border reads: "Presviata Bohorodyce" (Holy Mother of God); on the top "Neporochno Zachata" (Conceived without sin); on the right "Tsarytse Ukrainy" (Queen of the Ukraine); on the bottom "Zakhysty nash narod" (Protect our people).

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MEANING OF SYMBOLS SHOWN ON SOME OF THE MADONNA STAMPS: Sun and Moon: The Book of Revelations refers to a "woman clothed with the sun, having the moon under her feet, on her head a crown of twelve stars, Lily and Rose: Emblems of Mary's virtues and characteristic of Her purity. Tower of David, Temple of Solomon, City of David: Borrowed from the Canticles and introduced by artists into pictures and stained glass windows. Cedar of Lebanon: Expressive of Mary because of its height, its incorruptible substance, its perfume and healing virtues attributed to it in the East. Star: Often found in front of the Virgin's veil or on the right shoulder of her mantle. "Stella Maris", "Stella Maria" are among interpretations of Mary's Jewish name of "Miriam".

We have learned that Rev. Chester A. Wisniewski has a Marian stamp collection nearing the 1000 mark, and that his collections have won the BEPEX Trophy and the Topical Association Certification for "Best in Class". Congratulations.

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OUR LADY OF THE O: In the days when no feast of any kind was celebrated in Lent, a feast similar to the Annunciation was kept on Dec. 18. When the Annunciation was formally celebrated on Mar. 25, this feast of Dec. 18 was retained and given the name "Our Lady of Expectation". It is still kept in Spain, and the explanation given that former Vespers ended in the long drawn-out "O" to express mankind's longing for the Savior, but more probably is derived from the first "O" of the Vespers sung on this feast.

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MADONNA AND MARIAN SEALS

Since we wish to publish all data available in our specialized topical field, we submit the following information on Madonna and Marian Seals and Holy Childhood Christmas Seals sent us by Brothers Bourassa and Sauvére, O.M.I., of Quebec. Some of the seals are illustrated on page 13.

OUR LADY OF THE CAPE: Madonna in full 4-color process and the new Rosary Shrine in the background; 40 seals per sheet, in two types (difference in background color). This famous Shrine's history dates back to the early settling of Canada by the French. The statue was given to the Shrine somewhere around 1845. At the dedication of the restored Chapel on June 22, 1880, witnesses saw the eyes in the statue move as in a living person. The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate were given charge of the Shrine in 1902. In 1904 the statue was crowned. The beads of the rosary Our Lady holds are from olive wood from Gethsemane. The seals are issued to assist with financial construction of the New Rosary Basilica at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, and may be obtained from Brother Bourassa, Novi-ciat Notre Dame, Richelieu, Quebec, Canada.

LA GROTTE DE LOURDES: Issued in sheets of 40 seals, in 2 colors and 2 different types of color-sets in each sheet, by the Assumptionist Fathers for the benefit of their Lourdes Grotto at their National Sacred Heart Shrine "Canadien Montmartre." Available at $1.00 per sheet from Canadien Montmartre, 1679 St.Louis Road, Quebec City 6, Canada.

MSGR. EUGENE DE MAZENOD: Founder of a Marian Order - The Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Seals issued in 1961 for the first centenary of his death. His cause for beatification is in Rome since 1936. Anyone wishing these seals may obtain them by sending a 1-cent commemorative to Brother Bourassa.

HOLY CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS SEALS

The Holy Childhood Association is a world-wide mission aid society of Catholic children, dedicated to the Divine Child, whose object is prayer and sacrifice for pagan children. The American Branch of this Association has been issuing Christmas Seals for many years to assist in the support of its missionary work. The first seals appeared in 1918 and have continued since. The Divine Child is most often represented, but the MADONNA is on 16 of the 45 issues. Most of these seals have been drawn by local Pittsburgh artists and are printed in full color. They are sold in sheets of 10 since 1955, and in sheets of 25 before that. Father A. O. Reitan, C.S.Sp., is the National Director of the American Branch and is also a stamp collector. Miss Anne Mae Martin takes care of the Father's collection, and is appointed to assist interested Christmas seal collectors. Any interested member may write Miss Martin at the Association of the Holy Childhood, 800 Allegheny Ave., Pittsburgh 33, Pennsylvania.

Description of the "Madonna Seals" issued:

1925 - Madonna and Child; red, green.
1926 - Madonna offering Jesus to Chinese boy; dark blue, red, yellow-green.
1927 - Niche of Madonna and Child being decorated by boy and girl; multicolor.
1928 - Madonna and Child at the crib with boy and girl.
1929 - Madonna offering Child to boy and girl.
1930 - Madonna and Child at the crib with boy and two girls.
1931 - Madonna and Child at the crib with boy and two girls. (Different from 1927.)
1932 - Madonna disposing Child in Manger with boy and girl.
1933 - Madonna with Babe in lap honored by four children.
1934 - Madonna with Jesus honored by boy and girl.
1935 - Madonna receiving three children (of different races) at the crib.
1936 - Madonna and Child with three children (different races); star in blue background.
1937 - Madonna kneeling at crib with three children (one is Oriental) and a lamb.
1938 - Madonna smiling down at Child, with blue background full of stars.
1939 - Madonna and St. Joseph adoring Christ Child; bright star with brilliant ray reaches the Savior. Seal has unusual dimensions: 3/4" x 1 1/2" vertical.
1940 - Madonna and Child, close-up view; Child has modern yellow halo. Except for 1961, general measurements are 1-1/6" x 1-1/8" or 1-1/4".

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