9-1-1963

Marian Philatelic Study Group of Coros, Whole No. 8

A. S. Horn

W. J. Hoffman

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Marian Philatelic Study Group of Coros

REV. A. S. HORN, Chairman
W. J. HOFFMAN, Editor

NEW ISSUES

SUDAN: Stamp depicts reproduction of the Blessed Virgin on well-preserved fresco from ruins of church at Wadi Halfa.

ANGOLA: Of the 19 coats-of-arms issued for various towns and cities in Angola (there will be more) four are with Madonnas.

Additional details as to date of issue, and if possible a picture of the stamps, will be obtained for the next issue.

FOLLOWING ARE ISSUES NOT PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS MARIAN STAMPS:

50 fils value. TOMB OF THE VIRGIN, JERUSALEM (Scott #388). Details in right column.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, TONGRES. 1 fr. + 50 c., dull violet. Statue of MADONNA over portal.
(Scott #707.) Story in right column.

(Scott #709.)

BRAZIL: (A-4). Issued May 13, 1961. THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY.

Wreath and open book superimposed over map of Brazil.
2.50 cr. value, blue.
Issued to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Mary Order. (Scott #16.)


Information on Brazil and Reunion supplied by Henrique T.A.S. Fernandes.

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SCOTT NUMBERS FOR RECENT ISSUES:
Germany: Regina Martyrum stamp - #862
Luxembourg: Black Virgin - #394

FORTHCOMING ISSUE: Liechtenstein has scheduled for release Aug. 26, 1963 three stamps of the Red Cross Centenary series; among them is one of The Holy Family, 100 centimes value, ultramarine, gray blue, red and light gray.

TRANS-JORDAN "HOLY PLACES" ISSUE
This set of stamps, in two sheets and in brilliant multi-color and modernistic frames, depict four Christian and four Moslem Shrines. Each sheet contains four rows of four copies of the same subject, face value of each stamp is 50 fils. One sheet depicts Christian Shrines and the other Moslem Shrines. Marginal inscription is printed in four languages—Arabic, French, German and English.

The Christian Sheet is inscribed "Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men." The inscriptions have a direct reference to one of the "Holy Places" depicted on the sheet, the Christian excerpt referring to the Nativity Church, Bethlehem.

The Christian Shrines: 1st row - The CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN'S TOMB, in violet brown and olive with frame and sky of turquoise blue (Scott #388); 2nd row - Basilica of The Agony, Bethlehem, in crimson, turquoise blue, olive green and brown violet; 3rd row - Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, in turquoise blue, orange brown and olive green; bottom row - The Nativity Church, Bethlehem, in olive green, turquoise blue, sapia and lilac (Scott #391).

OUR LADY OF TONGRES - "CAUSE OF OUR JOY"
(Scott #707) Since the beginning of the 14th century the first Episcopate See of Belgium was established at Tongres, and there was founded a cathedral dedicated to the Holy Virgin. The title "Our Lady, Cause of Our Joy" has been associated with the statue since 1456, and its solemn crowning took place in 1890.
CASTLES OF THE QUEEN

Our Lady as Queen of the World has her castles everywhere. Here are a few of her more famous shrines.

St. Mary Major in Rome, the Liberian Basilica, the greatest church dedicated to the Mother of God. In its Burghese Chapel is the historic painting venerated as "Salus Populi Romani." This famous castle of Our Lady is also known as the Basilica of Our Lady of the Snow because Our Lady herself pointed out the site for its construction by having snow fall on that spot on August 5, 350.

Shrine at Lourdes, France. It was here that the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. On her last apparition the Virgin announced, "I am the Immaculate Conception." A million people every year visit the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. The town of Lourdes has an historical background. It was founded by the Romans and called Lepusida. During the Middle Ages the castle of Lourdes witnessed many battles. It was besieged once and again by the Moors, the Spaniards, and even the English. Today Lourdes is the site of one of the most beautiful castles of Our Lady, its gilded domes and spires glistening against a background of nature beauty in the heart of the Pyrenees.

Mariazell, the West's shrine nearest to the Iron Curtain, is nestled in the beautiful mountains 50 miles southwest of Vienna. It is nestled in snow most of the winter and is a haven for skiers. St. Lambert and the Benedictines established Mariazell in 1157. Louis the Great, King of Hungary, ordered a large Gothic church built in 1390 in gratitude for his victory over the Bulgars. An average of 300,000 annually make a pilgrimage to the shrine and pray that Mary will again turn back the hordes from the East as she did for Louis the Great nearly 500 years ago.

A ROSARY OF CHURCHES

The following article by Ruth Oswald appeared in the Oct. 1954 issue of OUR LADY'S DIGEST. We feel it is a beautiful background for MARIAN CHURCHES, which this issue of our Bulletin covers, since it gives a thumb-nail sketch of some of the magnificent churches dedicated to Our Lady. We have inserted pictures of stamps, where available, and the Scott numbers for the stamps which depict the churches Miss Oswald mentions.

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Every Rosary ever made is a thing of beauty linking heaven and earth together. Rosaries have been made of nearly every material known to man: rubies, diamonds, pearls, polished wood, pellets of iron, glass, silver, gold, stone, and even of string. Poets have made rosaries of verses, composers have fashioned them from song, children often make rosaries of flowers.

One of the most beautiful and enduring rosaries ever conceived was made by Mary's grown-up children in Europe during the Middle Ages - A Rosary of Churches. Cities, small towns, and even villages vied with one another to rear cathedrals to Mary. Into these edifices were poured the savings and manual labors of whole cities. Architects stand in awe before these churches today and wonder how they could have been erected from the most primitive of materials and in the days before modern science had solved nearly all problems. Many architectural secrets used in rearing Mary's cathedrals were learned often enough from the trial and error method. The miracle of their erection is a heartwarming story.

Many of Mary's churches have faded into oblivion; some were bombed out during World War II; others have been rebuilt time and time again; some are still standing in all their untouched glory, treasure houses of ancient masterpieces of art, sculpture, glasswork and architecture.

The building of these cathedrals was not a burden imposed on the people, as many modernists have charged, rather it was a labor of love. Those who had money, gave money; those with jewels and possessions donated them to building funds; those who had talent, devoted it together with their very lives. Sculptors, architects, artists, goldsmiths, stained glass artisans and workers of all kinds used their talents to plan and beautify Mary's churches. Those who had carts used them to haul stone and material from the quarries and wharfs; those who had nothing to give in a material way gave of their hands and backs in manual labor. Even princes and kings served as dray horses in the streets carting materials or hoisting great stones into place.

As far as is known, OUR LADY'S CATHEDRAL AT CHARTRES (Scott B186, 638) is the oldest of this Rosary of Churches still in existence. Even before the apostles arrived, there was a Celtic shrine at Chartres "dedicated to the Virgin who would bear a great king." A church was built over this pagan shrine, and in the church was enshrined the tunic which the Blessed Virgin supposedly wore while on earth, the gift of Emperor Constantine. It was at Chartres that St. Bernard pleaded in 1148 for crusaders to rescue the Holy Land. The cathedral was destroyed many times, but in the 11th century the real and lasting church was built with a forest of columns and a treasury of art, jewels and glass.

The second of Mary's Rosary of Church, born of a dramatic story and still standing, is ST. MARY MAJOR in Rome (Italy #535-36, Vatican CA1, 130). A Roman named John had no heirs so in 352 willed his fortune to Mary, asking for a token of her acceptance. In August, the hottest season in Italy, snow fell one night on Esquiline Hill. Mary appeared to John in a dream and told him to use his money in building a church in honor on the spot where snow had fallen that night. John found the snow and walked knee-deep in it. He built the church Mary had requested. When the Holy Manger was discovered by Queen Helena, it was enshrined in this cathedral. This St. Mary Major Basilica, often called "Our Lady of the Snows," was also the recipient of the first gold carried back by Columbus from the New World, as was also the first gold discovered in Australia.

Mary's Rosary of Churches cluster along the Rhine like fairy castles out of old operas. A notable one was built at SPEYER (Scott #350) on the ruins of the temple which Romans had consecrated to Diana. It was the sight of this cathedral which inspired St. Bernard to break out into the strains of his beautiful hymn "Oh Motherly, Oh Sweet Virgin."

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NOTRE DAME OF RHEIMS (Scott #874) had its beginning in the 5th century, but the real masterpiece was the rebuilt cathedral of the 13th century. Kings of France were crowned here amid majestic statues, canopies, festoons, panels, pinnacles, flowers, foliage and garlands sculptured in stone.

During the 13th century, NOTRE DAME OF PARIS (Scott B217), as we know it, was completed. It was ravished during the French revolution, but the scars were repaired and today it remains one of the most beautiful of all ancient structures.

Mary's devotees built a Gothic masterpiece at AMIENS (Scott #8137) in 1522 with a treasury of wood carvings which are richer than any others in the world.

During the 13th century Mary's devoted children added to the rosary by building an unbelievably beautiful cathedral in the city of FREIBURG (Scott #586) on the last spur of the Black Forest.

England built churches to Our Lady before the Reformation. Our Lady of Lincoln (not depicted on any stamp, unfortunately) was one of the loveliest of them and contained treasures which were stolen. Many of England's Marian cathedrals were transformed into Protestant churches while others were destroyed. There are records that the medieval statue of Our Lady of Lincoln was crowned with a silver gilt crown.

CATHEDRAL OF PISA (dome on Italian stamp, Scott #482) was built in thanksgiving to Our Lady for the first great victory won by Christians over Mohammedans in 1063. The leaning tower of this cathedral, one of the wonders of the world, was built deliberately in its present form in order to create something architecturally different architecturally different just to honor Mary. How this slant was effected has never been fully understood by modern builders. Seven bells of 850 pounds each were installed in the tower, while a stairway of 350 feet led to the top from which Galileo performed many of his immortal experiments.

There is a touching story behind OUR LADY'S CATHEDRAL AT ANTWERP (Scott #897). The city lay in utter ruins in the wake of Norman Invasion. The people had defended their city valiantly but lost. As they went hopelessly about the ruins of their once beautiful town, a man found a small statue of the Blessed Virgin lying unscarred in a heap of rubble. He called to others and showed what he had found. It was a symbol of hope. They built a chapel over the statue, and later the church grew into a beautiful cathedral with a belfry in which 90 bells of varying tones were hung, and 238 arcades were supported by 126 pillars. The music from the bells drifting through these pillars made music the like of which the world has never before heard.

Spain added her share to Mary's Rosary of Churches. In the year 1221 they built the CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF BURGOS (Scott #625), designed by the celebrated Cellini. No stained glass windows dimmed the brilliance within. On entering, the worshipper found himself dazzled.
It seems that each of Mary's churches vie with each other for some distinctive feature to identify it from the others in the halls of heaven. NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL OF STRASBURG (Scott #391) reared the largest steeple in the world; it grew to a height of 486 feet.

THE CATHEDRAL OF SEVILLE (Scott #628) was built on a hallowed spot where pagan and Christian forces met in mortal combat. For five centuries the land had been lost to Christ under domination of the Moslems. Andalusia was saved when St. Ferdinand won a victory freeing the land of the Moors. They built a church on the triumphal spot where the Arabs had surrendered. No expense was spared in this addition to Mary's Rosary of Churches, on whose walls Murillo painted his immortal masterpieces.

We wish to express special appreciation to Father Horn since in this issue we have liberally used much of the material he has supplied over the past years in articles published in THE AGE OF MARY, and before that in QUEEN OF THE MISSIONS. Due to our move to Orange, California, most of our philatelic material was in storage and not wishing to delay publication of the Bulletin, we relied on Father Horn's articles.... Editor.

We have learned from Father Horn that at the Italian Stamp Show for the Roman section of the Gabriel Society at Reggio Calabria, held May 23-26, 1963, STAMPS OF THE MADONNA album pages received a silver medal.

CORRECTION of error listing in Supplement #2 of Madonna Handbook, printed in Feb. 1963 issue of The COROS Chronicle: The Souvenir Sheet listed under Colombia, No. 440a, is incorrect; no sheet was issued for the reissue of Scott No. C439 - The Nativity by Vasquez.

Appreciation for "assist" to: Charles L. Murphy, Mrs. O. R. Goss, Mrs. Clare McAlister, Ed Polodna.

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Sept. 1963
CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION IN MOSCOW

Despite all rigid restrictions, religion has survived in Russia, and this survival is a terrific worry to the Communist rulers. But it would be a still greater worry were they to learn of one of the old traditions of the Church, that once a place has been dedicated to Mary, though it be lost for a while, she always reclaims it. Within the very walls of the Kremlin there are two cathedrals dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, one the Cathedral of The Assumption and the other the Cathedral of The Assumption. Both appear on a Russian stamp of 1913, a stamp engraved in deep green with a postal value of 1 ruble (Scott #101).

On this stamp the Cathedral of The Assumption is seen to the left and that of The Assumption to the right. Both of these Cathedrals appear on other stamps. The Cathedral of The Assumption, for instance, is seen on a semi-postal stamp for 1905 (Scott #84). This is in a set of semi-postals from Russia from a time when such stamp usage was still quite a rarity. The extra money collected through the sale of these stamps was used as a donation to a fund for the orphans of Russian soldiers killed in the Russo-Japanese war. The 10 kopecks stamp sold at 13 kopecks, and this one, typographed in light blue, dark blue and yellow, shows The Cathedral of The Assumption. This Cathedral was the place of coronation for all Russian Emperors and the place where all Patriarchs of Moscow were entombed. It was built between 1475 and 1479 and stands on the site of a church of The Assumption which had been erected in 1325 but which fell in ruins in 1472. The design of the Cathedral was Italian. The present structure was restored and rebuilt in part after Napoleon’s invasion.

It is severely plain in exterior appearance and the whitewashed walls give no hint of the treasure contained beneath its gilded domes. In reality gigantic gilded columns support its roof and sacred pictures line its walls from floor to ceiling like a tapestry of gold and color. Its frescoes were renewed every time a new ruler came to the throne; the work of a commission named in 1912 was interrupted by the Revolution and was left unfinished. It was in this church that all Czars, from Ivan the Terrible to Nicholas II, were crowned; or to speak more correctly, crowned themselves, for no one was deemed worthy at that solemn hour to place upon the Emperor’s brow the emblem of sovereignty save the Czar himself.

CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN MOSCOW

On one of the multi-colored stamps issued by Russia in 1947 may be seen the Cathedral of The Annunciation (Scott #1145). This is to the right on the 3 rubles stamp where you see the whitewashed walls and the gilded main dome as plainly as if you were looking at a colored photograph. This stamp is large and the vivid coloring makes this a veritable travel bureau poster. This Cathedral was erected between 1484 and 1489 on the site of an earlier church built in 1397. Sacred pictures by the 15th century artist Rublev and the ikonostasis of the high altar have been preserved. All the Czars before Peter (1672-1725) were baptized and married here, and it continued to be used for royal marriages and baptisms up to the Bolshevist Revolution. There are other Russian stamps on which these churches may be seen but not as distinctly. Our Lady is still within the Kremlin walls; even the Russian stamps tell us so. (From Father Horn’s article in Aug-Sept 1956 AGE OF MARY.)

The only possible MARIAN CHURCH OF CANADA to appear on a stamp is one issued in 1908 for the Quebec Tercentenary. The 10 cent value (Scott #101), in dark violet, pictures a Quebec of 1700. Among the staples on the stamp are, from left to right, Convent of Franciscan Recollects (dedicated to Our Lady of the Angels, but destroyed by fire in 1796) the Convent of the Jesuits, The Cathedral, Seminary Chapel, and Hospital Chapel. (From Father Horn’s article in May 1956 AGE OF MARY)

ABBEY OF MARIA LAACH

A church dedicated to Our Lady is found on a German stamp (Scott #747), issued Aug. 25, 1956 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Abbey of Maria Leach. The Abbey itself dates back to 1093, the year it was founded by the Count-Palatinate Henry. The stamp is printed in maroon and gray, carries a postal value of 20 pfennigs, and shows the west facade of the grand Romanesque church. The name of this Benedictine Abbey on the southwest shore of Lake Leach in Germany is "Abbatia Beatae Mariæ et Lecum"; that is, "The Abbey of Our Lady on the Lake" and thus the German name of "Maria Leach." This Abbey has left its name in the annals of history.
and in modern times has been especially noted for its zealous propagation of the liturgical movement.

Until the dissolution of the Abbey in the great secularization movement in 1802, Maria Laach remained a center of religious and literary activity. The church and monastery went first to the French, then in 1815 to the Prussian government; in 1820 it became private property, and in 1863 was acquired by the Society of Jesus. The Jesuits were banished from here during the Kulturkampf in 1873. The Benedictines of the Beuron Congregation moved back into the monastery in 1892. The church had been stripped of its appointments, the entire establishment was in pitiful condition, and now began a period of restoration, inaugurated with a gift of a new high altar in 1897 by Kaiser Wilhelm II.

The church is in Basilica style with a transept and double choir. Opening on the west choir, the view on the stamp, is a vestibule or paradisus with open arcades, the arches resting on slender twin columns. The doors of the church and vestibule are ornamented with sculpture. In the west choir stands the sarcophagus of the founder under a Barocco stone canopy. The magnificent structure has a cupola and five towers. (From Father Horn's article in March 1957 AGE OF MARY.)

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF MERITXELL

Our Lady of Meritxell is the principal patroness of the Republic of Andorra, the Feast being held each year on Sept. 18. Meritxell is merely a very small settlement high in the Pyrenees Mountains, the only buildings of any importance being the chapel and an adjoining pilgrimage house, the chapel being the Shrine of Our Lady. This appeared on a stamp (Scott #23) for the Republic of Andorra from 1932 to 1942; in all, 17 stamps of various values. In 1948 another design appeared which showed a very plain little oratory just above the level on which the Shrine is built.

The story of the Madonna statue preserved at this Shrine is much like that of so many Spanish Madonnas. It is of wood and dates back to the 6th century. During the Arab invasion which advanced to the valleys of Andorra, and even to parts of France, the statue was buried and lost. It was not until a long time later that the statue was again found and then only by a miracle, and that is the reason the statue is now venerated, and why there is an Annual Pilgrimage to the spot. But in this particular case, the statue was not recovered right after the departure of the Moslems, so another of the Blessed Virgin was carved and placed in the chapel.

One winter a stalk of a bramble bush which grew near the chapel pushed itself through the deep snow and began to bloom. Digging around the roots to seek the cause of this strange phenomenon, the original statue was discovered. Now both statues are to be seen in the chapel, as well as the stalk of the bramble which has been preserved.

On Oct. 24, 1872 the Council General of Andorra proclaimed Our Lady of Meritxell as the Patroness of the Republic. (From Father Horn's article in Aug-Sept. 1956 AGE OF MARY.)

MISSION DOLORES IN SAN FRANCISCO

The only United States church connected in any way with Mary to appear on a postage stamp was issued by a foreign nation, Ecuador. In 1939 Ecuador issued six stamps, all of the same design (Scott #382-7) to commemorate the Golden Gate International Exposition which opened in San Francisco on Feb. 18, 1939. The design shows a splendid view of the facade of the Old Mission Church.

Mission Dolores was the sixth mission established in Upper California by Father Serra, OFM, on June 20, 1776, just five days before the Declaration of Independence. The mission church was actually dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, and from this the city of San Francisco received its name; but the popular name for the mission was taken from the "Laguna de Los Dolores" (Lake of Our Lady of Sorrows), which was nearby and this designation hasclung to the church from the beginning.

The church was dedicated on Oct. 3, 1776 and formally opened on Oct. 8th. The cornerstone was dedicated, as far as the records reveal, on Apr. 3, 1791. Even to this day the original timbers and tiles form the roof. The church was not damaged by the earthquake of 1906. (From Father Horn's article in May 1956 AGE OF MARY.)

PAGAN TEMPLES CONVERTED TO CHURCHES DEDICATED TO OUR LADY: Two of the airmail stamps issued by Greece in 1940 will serve to illustrate the conversion of pagan temples to Christian churches as the Church came out of the catacombs.

Sept, 1963
The 55 drachma stamp in black and lake (Scott #C45) shows the ruins of the Erechtheion in Athens. This was converted into a Christian Church and already in the 6th century was dedicated to the Blessed Mother of God. The 45 drachma stamp in black and green (Scott #C44) shows a view of the Acropolis above Athens, with the Parthenon standing out very prominently. The Parthenon was used as a Christian Church for centuries. In the 12th century it was dedicated to the Mother of God. It was known as "The Great Church" and "The Cathedral Church." (From Father Horn's article in May 1956 AGE OF MARY.)

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CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF CARMEL--Malolos, Phil. I.

The only church dedicated to Our Lady which ever appeared on a stamp issued by the United States is found on a stamp issued for the Philippines in 1935 while it was still under United States dominion. The design shows the Barasoain Church which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin under the title of "Our Lady of Carmel." The value of the stamp is 1 peso, with the pictorial part of the design in black within a frame of orange (Scott #393.)

Malolos is in the province of Bulacan, just a little more than 20 miles north of Manila. The design was selected because this strongly built church was used as the seat of the First Congress of the First Republic of the Philippines. It was in this church, on Sept. 15, 1898 that the Revolutionary Congress under President Emilio Aguinaldo was inaugurated. After many years of fighting the Spaniards, the Filipinos were not at all satisfied when the U.S. took over, proclaiming "The Philippines for the Filipinos; America for the Americans."

It was only on account of its relation to this revolution that the church received the name "Barasoain" for it comes from the Tagalog "Bar-ba-soai," meaning "Village of the Revolutionaries" or in other words, "Place of the people against the (American) authority."

Although the church would appear to date back to the early days of Spanish missionaries, even the older church which stood almost on the same spot does not go back much over 100 years, for it was only in 1859 that it was first established. At that time bamboo and nipa, economical materials available at the spot, were utilized in building the church.

A more substantial church was started by an Augustinian, Father Francisco Arriola, in 1862. In 1880 a severe earthquake brought down the belfry and damaged the rest of the church. The entire edifice was destroyed by fire in 1884. So it was not until 1885 that the present structure was erected by the Augustinian Friar, Father Juan Giron. After the Revolution of 1898-99 the church was given to a Filipino priest of the secular clergy, Father Demundo Lim. Father Arsenio Reyes was pastor during the Japanese Occupation (1942-45). The statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patroness of the Church, is found on the main altar. (From Father Horn's article in May 1956 AGE OF MARY.)

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OUR LADY OF SEDNAYA--SYRIA

Convent of Miraculous Painting of Our Lady

Sednaya (Seyyidnaya) is about 23 miles north of Damascus in Syria, in the Anti Lebanon Mountains. High above the town is a fortress-like convent known as "Notre Dame de Sardanaya" now taken care of by Greek Orthodox nuns. This Shrine of Our Lady is found on a 6 Piastres stamp, greenish black, issued in 1930 (Scott #224). Another view appeared on two airmails, 25 Piastres in deep purple, and a 75 Piastres in deep blue-green, released Mar. 27, 1955 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Rotary (Scott #C187, C188.)

It is said the Blessed Virgin appeared to Emperor Justinian at this spot in 546. But more to the point, according to Eastern tradition the image of "Our Lady of Sednaya" was brought to the convent in 870. Like many similar paintings, tradition says it was painted by St. Luke. The image bears a strong resemblance to the picture of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" now preserved in St. Alphonsus Church in Rome.

The Sednaya painting is much older than that in Rome, and it is quite possible that the Roman version, which had its origin on the island of Crete, is actually a copy of "Our Lady of Sednaya." This close resemblance will not be appreciated until studies being made at Sednaya are made public.

The gold-encased image is considered miraculous and is preserved in a polygonal chapel in a silver tabernacle set in the east wall. This is the central object of an annual pilgrimage which takes place on Sept. 21. Through the centuries Moslem Sultans of Egypt and Syria have regularly sent choice oils for the sanctuary lamps of the Shrine and convent. To this day the practice is followed by pious Moslem families of Syria and Lebanon, much to the delight of Orthodox nuns who tend the famous Shrine. (From Father Horn's article in May 1956 AGE OF MARY.)

Marian Philatelic Study Group
**Marian Year Sets**

We can supply the following mint sets in fine to very fine condition:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>805-6</td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>C87-9</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vatican City</td>
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If you wish to buy all, the price is $6.00.

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**More About the Spanish Local Madonna Stamps**

These stamps issued during the Civil War in Spain over 25 years ago, are not only scarce. Most are very scarce. In reviewing the past months of research and efforts to purchase, we feel quite satisfied with the results. We have had good assistance from COROS friends, from several sources abroad, and from dealers.

We wonder now whether there are any more that we can buy or whether we have exhausted the sources. Any assistance from readers of this advertisement will be appreciated.

As for those sets which we have for sale, we suggest that Collectors of Madonna Stamps write and ask for a list of current offerings. Some of them are here today and gone tomorrow!

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**Marshall H. Williams**

Life Member of COROS No. 18

98 East Rock Road, New Haven 11, Conn.
MARIAN CHURCHES ON BRITISH STAMPS

One of these churches is seen on a stamp of Cyprus, 250 mills value, issued in 1955 (Scott #180.) This church is known as Kanakeria Church and is a characteristic example of the Byzantine architecture of Cyprus, containing mosaics dating from the 6th century B.C. It is the church of an abandoned Greek monastery of the Virgin, located on the Carpasso peninsula.

Malta supplies the next two churches dedicated to the Blessed Virgin: Victory Church and Mosta Dome. Devotion of the Maltese to Our Lady is one of their national characteristics. From Malta came the only stamp to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the presentation of the brown scapular to St. Simon Stock by the Blessed Virgin (1951, Scott #232-34), and from Malta came one of the most beautiful designs to honor the Marian Year (Scott #243-45.)

The Victory Church is on a one penny value stamp, a very effective design engraved in black, issued in 1956 (Scott #248). This church is dedicated to "Our Lady of Victory" and commemorates the victory over the Turks in 1565. It was built in Valletta in 1567, at request of Grand Master de la Vallette, who led the Knights of Malta during the siege. The church was built over the site of the foundation stone of the city of Valletta, so named to perpetuate the Grand Master. It was altered to its present form in the middle of the 18th century. It was slightly damaged during World War II, but the precious ancient sacred vestments, stored therein, were salvaged practically intact after the war.

The second stamp, 2 penny value engraved in brown, presents a view of the Marian Church claiming to have the third largest dome in all of Europe. This beautiful church stands in the little town of Mosta. The dome is depicted on Scott #250, and is 118 feet in diameter (St. Peter's is 138 feet.) The construction of this church was a remarkable feat for it was erected entirely of voluntary labor and without aid of scaffolding. It was built in neo-classic style from designs by George Croquet between the years 1853 and 1864. The dedication carved on the facade commences "VIRGINI SYDERIBUS..." "To the Virgin of the Heavens." On the lower left of these stamps is the Maltese Cross and on the right the George Cross. During World War II, King George VI of England awarded this cross to Malta "For Gallantry." (From Father Horn's article June-July AGE OF MARY.)

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Marian Philatelic Study Group --56--
The following is a partial list of stamps depicting Shrines and/or Churches dedicated to the Most Blessed Virgin. We did not include all catalog numbers for stamps of the same design depicting the same subject; as for example, Notre Dame of Paris, Cologne Cathedral, Our Lady's Church in Munich. Nor do we offer the list as complete. We are certain there are many more stamps which could be included in this list after further research. We would appreciate hearing from members who can add items towards the completion of the list.

...W. J. Hoffman...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Maria-Einsiedel at Eisenstadt</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>C25</td>
<td>Church of The Assumption of Our Lady, Hallstatt</td>
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<td>323-4</td>
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<td>CANADA</td>
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<td>B101</td>
<td>View of Quebec in 1700; steeples of Old Im. Concep. Cathedral</td>
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<td>CHILE</td>
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<td>Ruins of Ujarras Shrine</td>
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<td>St. Mary's Church, Zagreb</td>
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<td>&quot;Santa Maria La Menor&quot; Cathedral of Santo Domingo</td>
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<td>Mission Dolores, San Francisco</td>
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<td>Church of El Balaen, Quito</td>
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<td>Church of Val de Grace</td>
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<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<td>1941</td>
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<td>Freibourg Cathedral</td>
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<td>Maria Laach Abbey</td>
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Sept. 1963
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
1953 152 St. Mary's, Frankfurt-on-Oder
1954 226 Cologne Cathedral
1955 269 Erfurt Cathedral

GREECE
1940 C45 Erechtheum (once Ch. of Our Lady)
1940 C44 Acropolis (once ded to Our Lady)

GREAT BRITAIN
1951 287 Church of O.L. (Cliffs of Dover)

GUATEMALA
1937 C37 Hill of Carmel
1935 C49 Our Lady Church - Hill of Carmel
1939 C118 " "

HAITI
1950 354 The Assumption Cathedral
1953 C59 " "
1955 RA17 Church of The Nativity of Mary

HUNGARY
1948 C87 Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral
1924 820 St. Mary Major
1932 C41 " "
1946 482 Cathedral Domes, Pisa
1948 C128 Florence Cathedral
1950 535-6 St. Mary Major
1951 568-9 Florence Cathedral

ITALIAN SOCIAL REPUBLIC
1944 30 Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan

CAMPIONE D’ITALIA
1944 10 C Church of Our Lady de Ghirli
1944 1 F Basilica of Our Lady, Bergamo

MALTA
1956 248 Our Lady of Victory Church
1956 250 Mosta Dome, dedicated to The Virgin of The Heavens

MEXICO
1942 C120 Our Lady of Zapopan Shrine
1942 C121 Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
1951 853 Church of The Purisima
1960 C252 Dolores Church

MONACO
1939 160 Immaculate Concep. Cathedral

NEWFOUNDLAND
1933 215 Kings College of Our Lady of Eton

PANAMA
1936 287 The Assumption Cathedral
1937 297 " "

PARAGUAY
1944 C145 Oratory of The Virgin
1946 C162 " "
1938 346-8 " "
1955 493 Santa Maria Cornice

PHILIPPINES
1935 393 Barasoain Church of Our Lady of Carmel

POLAND
1925 227 Holy Gate of Ostra Brama
1937 308 O.L. of Częstochowa Shrine

POLISH OFFICES IN DANZIG
1937 1K28 Basilica of Częstochowa

GERMAN OCCUPATION OF POLAND
1940 1170 St. Mary’s Church, Cracow

PORTUGUESE INDIA
1951 500-10 Ruins, Church of O.L. of Health 512, 514
515

RUSSIA
1905 84 Cathedral of The Assumption
1913 101 Cathedrals of The Annunciation and The Assumption
1947 1145 Cathedral of The Annunciation

SOMALI COAST
1946 C13 Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral

SPAIN
1936 625 Cathedral of Burgos
1936 625 Cath. of Seville "La Giralda"
1936 637 Cath. del Pilar, Zaragoza

SYRIA
1930 224 Convent of O.L. of Sednaya Shrine
1925 J35 "Tartous"
1955 C187 Convent of O.L. of Sednaya Shrine
1955 C188 " "

TRANS-JORDAN
1954 314-16 Mosque of El Kasr (Ancient Church of Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple.)

TRISTAN DA CUNHA
1954 24 St. Mary’s Church

VATICAN
1949 125 St. Mary's in Cosmedin
1949 130 St. Mary Major
1950 133, 137 " "
1957 229, 231 Mariatzell
1957 223-6 St. Mary’s in Aquiro
1959 C36, C41 St. Mary Major
1961 300 Einsiedeln
1961 319 St. Mary’s in Monte Santa

WURTTEMBURG
1920 0167, 0171 Cathedral of Ulm
1948 0169, 0173 Church of The Nativity of Mary at Zwiefalten

*****

The accompanying illustration depicts the new seal of OUR LADY OF PHILATELY. Seal is 1-1/8" x 1-1/2" in size, off-set lithography, in shades of Marian blue, on white gummmed paper, perf. 12. They come 10 seals to the sheet; each sheet is 3 3/4" x 6 3/4". We offer these at 10 cents per sheet of 10 seals, or 25 sheets for $2.00. Your requests for this beautiful philatelic Marian seal will be filled by your Editor.

****

Marian Philatelic Study Group