A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS - A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

NEW ZEALAND: (A-1 Category.) Christmas stamp released in Oct. 1963, 2½d value, reproducing Titian's THE HOLY FAMILY. Printed by photogravure as near as possible to the painting's actual colors.

The release of these special Christmas Stamps by New Zealand over the past several years resulted from a request by the Christian Festivals Committee to postal authorities to assist them in their campaign "To Put Christ Back Into Christmas." This committee is composed of members of many religious denominations, and for the past four years has selected the design for New Zealand's Christmas Stamp.

(Maximum card forwarded by Father Horn.)

VATICAN: (A-1 Category.) Christmas stamp released November 22, 1963; three-value set, 10, 40 and 100 Lire. Design depicts NATIVITY SCENE in sub-Saharan African style, within circular vignette. Same design on all three stamps. Printed on crossed keys watermarked paper.

The design reproduces a terra cotta plaque by Andreas Bukuru of the School of Fine Arts at Kiheta in Burundi. The inscription "Nativitas D.N.I. Christi" (Birth of Our Lord Christ) at the top of the stamps also appeared on previous Vatican Christmas issues.

The Vatican is once again pointing out the universality of the Church. The 1962 release was in Indian style and the 1961 in Chinese style.


**LUXEMBOURG:** (A-1 Category.) Issued Dec. 2, 1963, set of six stamps, "Caritas" (Charity) issue, among which is a one franc plus 25 cents value stamp depicting St. Anne and THE CHILD MARY. Series issued on the 1000th anniversary of the City of Luxembourg. Designs for the set depict emblems of the main brotherhoods formed by Luxembourg's craftsmen during the Middle Ages and which lasted until the French Revolution. These emblems were first carried in a jubilee procession in 1781 honoring Our Lady of Luxembourg. St. Anne is the patroness of tailors.

***

**ECUADOR:** (A-1 Category.) Released Nov. 7, 1963, a reissue of Ecuador stamp, Scott #655, of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 80 centavos value surcharged with values of 10, 20, 50 and 60 centavos, and overprinted "Dia del Empleado Postal" (Day of the Postal Employee.) All are overprinted "1961" although not released until Nov. 1963.

From information supplied by Carlos Miranda Cruz we learn that Aug. 1st of each year is the "Day of the Postal Employee." For 1961 the Government ordered an issue of stamps for the benefit of the postal employees; the issue being the overprinting of the 80 centavos stamp of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. The Ecuadorian Philatelic Association has always voiced its disapproval of overprinting because of the many errors which appear (double impressions, bad impressions, inverted impressions, etc.), and which on some occasions were intentional.

Heeding the protests of the Ecuadorian Philatelic Association, the Director of Nails acceded to the non-issuance of the overprints, ordering that they be burned; the day of the incineration, however, never arrived.

At the present time the supply of low value stamps is scarce and these 1961 overprints were therefore released. It was noted that the ink on the 60 centavos stamp was "blue" whereas the authorization decreed "black ink." It therefore necessitated special authorization by the Government for this variance, and as a result the 60 centavos stamp went on sale some days after the other values had been released. (Article on the rare interpretation of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: depicted on these stamps is on page 4.)

**GREECE:** (A-1 Category.) Set of eight low-value stamps released Dec. 5, 1963 to complete program for this year's celebration of the millennium of the founding of the religious community of Mt. Athos. The issue features objects of religious significance.

The 4.50 Drachmae stamp depicts PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE, which pictures the VIRGIN MARY, the Christ Child, St. Joseph holding two white doves, Saint Simon and the Prophetess Anna.

We did not have sufficient time to obtain further details, but perhaps some of our readers who are familiar with Greek can supply us with a translation of the inscription on the stamp.

***

**ANGOLA:** (A-5 Category.) A set of 18 stamps released Nov. 6, 1963, depicting Churches, among which are two MARIAN CHURCHES:

(1) 2 Escudo value, OUR LADY'S CHURCH at Benguela;
(2) 4.50 Escudo value, CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ARRABIDA, Lobito.

***

**HUNGARY:** (A-5 Category.) (Scott No. 1494.) Issued in 1963, 40 F value stamp, with the VOTIVE CATHEDRAL, at Szeged, DEDICATED TO OUR LADY, PATRONESS OF HUNGARY. Issued to commemorate Szegedin festival. (People in front of Cathedral are actors.)

Illustration of #1494 and #655, issued in 1939, and postal cancellation, together with article on the Cathedral on page 11.

***

**New Madonna Label:** (D-2 Category.) Issued Aug. 15, 1963 by the Roumanian Government in Exile in Madrid. Reproduces a popular picture of the MOTHER OF SORROWS AND CRUCIFIXION. Issued to commemorate 100th Anniversary of the International Red Cross.

Approximate translation of text: "The free people should help those suffering under Communism."

arian Philatelist

January 1, 1964
NEW LISTINGS

Probably the most interesting and intriguing facet of stamp collecting is the lengthy and detailed research which leads to a new discovery, or to a stamp not previously or specifically identified as a Madonna or Marian stamp. We list below some recent information generously shared with us by the researchers:

ITALY: Scott #584. (A-l Miniature.) Father Horn has located a Madonna in Miniature on this stamp, issued in 1951. She is found, and quite plainly, on the spire of the Milan Cathedral which appears on the right of the stamp. Same design, except overprinted, also on Trieste Zone A, Scott #128.

TRIESTE ZONE B: Scott #118. (A-l Miniature.) Also from Father Horn we received for comment and examination, a copy of this stamp, with the following: "The detail of a Madonna in Miniature appears at almost dead center of the stamp, and is right behind the lamp which projects a bit from the corner of the building. The detail is indistinct even though the pedestal or bracket is plain enough. The report was sent to me by Kay Ziegler, President of the ATA Fine Arts Unit. She wrote that the scene is at the Loggia in Capodistria. The Madonna is a XV century statue."

ECUADOR: (A-l Miniature.) Rev. Father Struve Haker, Editor of the Latin-American GABRIEL, and Carlos Miranda Cruz, Quito, Ecuador, have shared their research and discovery with us in the following quote from a letter which Father Haker wrote us:

"I have received a post card from Carlos Miranda Cruz which clearly proves that thirteen stamps of Ecuador must take their place in our Marian Catalogues. These are the stamps representing the Church of the Jesuits in Quito, Scott Nos. 478, 479, 480, 499, 525-527, listed as "Jesuits Church", and C16-21, listed as "Post Office, Guayquil."

I state this because on the facade, in a niche over the main door, is a statue of THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, quite visible, and below the statue, although not visible, a Marian inscription.

Scott has listed C16-21 as "Post Office, Guayquil", however, this is in error, for it is the Jesuits Church in Quito."

***

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Cassidy
R. Farin
Nancy A. Freeman
Ann D. Karlsen
Rev. Adolph C. Klein
Kathryn A. Letkey
A. G. Lowe
Miss Chrysann Metzinger
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Leonard Zeller

Marian Philatelist

506 S. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 36, California
62 rue FrancoisRolland, Nogent sur Marne, Seine, France
331 Lincoln Avenue, Oldale, California
405 W. Adams Boulevard, Apt. 401, Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
382 Onderdonk Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11237
255 MacArthur Blvd., #210, Oakland, California 94610
48 Rosemant Street, PunchBowl, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia
350 Deer Trail Dr., Canfield, Ohio
521 S. Amalia, Los Angeles 22, California
5434 North Oconto Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60656
221 Derby Avenue, Derby, Connecticut 06418
6721 Claassen Avenue, Cleveland 5, Ohio 49105

January 1, 1964
Since Ecuador has overprinted and surcharged the 80 centavos stamp (Scott 555) depicting THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, we felt the following extraction from Father Horn's article which appeared in "The Age of Mary" would be appropriate and of material assistance to new Madonna collectors...Editor

Among the set of seven airmail stamps issued by Ecuador on May 30, 1956, a Madonna is depicted on the 30 centavos stamp, but it requires a good deal of explaining that this winged figure does not portray an angel. The statue from which the stamp design was taken is on the high altar of San Francisco Church in Quito. It is a rare interpretation of "The Immaculate Conception" found only, as far as we know, in parts of South America.

The author of this particular statue is known, as is the date of its completion. It was so made that the hands could be removed. Behind the socket of one of them is engraved the name of the sculptor, "Bernardo Legarda," and behind the other is the inscription "Finished on the 7th of December, 1734." The Blessed Virgin has her foot on the head of a monster which represents the dragon, but this feature is quite indistinct on the stamp; only the open mouth being visible between the words "DE" and "PICHINCHA" at the bottom of the design, but the coil of the serpent may be seen above the horn of the crescent to the left. It is possible that the right hand of the statue once held a spear or fiery dart, however, this is no longer preserved if it was once there.

Although it would be difficult to trace the first portrayal of Our Lady as "The Immaculate Conception," we do have the formula set down by the Spanish painter, Francisco Pacheco, Father-in-law of the famous Velasquez, in his "Arte de la Pintura" published in 1649, a regulation generally though not always exactly followed. It has always been quite evident that the idea for the image of "The Immaculate Conception" was taken from the woman of the "Apocalypse" or "Book of Revelation," by St. John the Evangelist, as found in Chapter XII verses 1 to 5: "And a great woman appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." The "woman" in this quotation is not actually the Blessed Virgin for all the details of the prophecy do not fit her; but by accommodation the Church applies the reference to Mary.

According to the regulations set down by Pacheco, the Virgin is to be portrayed in the first spring and bloom of youth as a maiden of about twelve or thirteen years of age, with "grave sweet eyes," her hair golden, her features "with all the beauty painting can express," her hands are to be folded on her bosom or joined in prayer. The sun is to be expressed by a flood of light around her. The moon under her feet is to have horns pointing downward, receiving its illumination from above (this detail has often been reversed, but purely for artistic reasons); and the twelve stars are to form a crown over her head. The robe must be spotless white; the mantle or scarf of celestial blue. The head of the bruised and vanquished dragon or serpent is to be under her feet.

But with all the prescriptions for the portrayal of Our Lady as "The Immaculate Conception," we still have to look for a reason for the addition of wings to a statue representing Our Lady under this title. This is to be found in Chapter XII verse 14 of the Apocalypse, where we read: "And there were given the woman the two wings of a great eagle...." And this explains the exceptional usage in parts of South America, and reveals why the stamp from Ecuador shows not the Archangel Gabriel, but rather a rare representation of Our Lady as "The Immaculate Conception."
SOLILLOQUY OF A MADONNA STAMP

The more there are of us Madonna stamps the more my surprise increases. As everyone knows, we are designed, primarily, to portray a Jewess; a very simple, unassuming maiden named Miriam, a descendent of David, the Shepherd King. She was born in the little town of Nazareth—no place to get into society, to become popular, but a hidden, homely village in ancient Palestine.

True, she was beautiful. Books, poems, musicians have never ceased to praise her. Just because she was shy, sweet, home-loving, eager to make others happy, many loved her. Her name was never on the society page, that is, not while she was alive. Yet isn't it strange that she seems more alive and internationally known and admired today? Have people forgotten that she was of the Jewish race? After all, why should she be portrayed on such tiny bits of paper which find their way to every part of the world which employs a postal system? Who wants her likeness? Who are they who so treasure her picture?

Let me tell you that I come from many countries but abundantly from Spain. Quite a Catholic country—Spain! Countless Marian shrines, chapels, churches, and even parks named after Mary. Some of us come from non-Christian nations, strange as it may seem. So far the United States has never recognized Mary philatelically, nor has Mexico honored Our Lady of Guadalupe on a postage stamp, yet both countries have many collectors of Madonna stamps.

Who collects me? You, possibly your neighbor, the man down the street, in the next town, the next state, across the seven seas; men and women in all stations of life, and also the youth of the world. Yes, there are numbers of persons who collect no other stamp but the Madonna stamp and related items such as maximum cards, varieties and errors of certain types. Mary is, without question, the world's most popular airborne Queen.

Why do they collect me? You wish others to respect and honor your mother, do you not? Christ, naturally, wishes us to honor His mother, does He not?

...Sister M. Alonza, F.S.P.A....

(Nota: the above is an extraction from material forwarded us by Sister Alonza, La Crosse, Wisconsin.)

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Marian Philatelist

SPAIN: OUR LADY OF EUROPE - Scott 1180-81

Rev. A. S. Horn

The original "Our Lady of Europe" was a statue of the Madonna and Child. This was originally in the chapel of the hermitage of Our Lady of Europe located where Europe began, at the southernmost point of Gibraltar. This was already there in 1502.

When the British and Dutch sacked Gibraltar in 1704, the statue was profaned by the soldiers, and the Infant was mutilated. In the meantime some Spanish Christians managed to get hold of the statue and took it to Algeciras where a new Shrine under the same title was erected. About 1870, Bishop Scandella of Gibraltar asked for the return of the image. A lighthouse had been erected on the spot of the original Shrine at Point Europa, but nearby a new Shrine was built.

At some later date an oil painting of Our Lady of Europe, in no way resembling the original statue, was hung above the statue at this Shrine. There is little doubt in my mind that the unknown artist used as his model the "Madonnina" of the Italian artist, Roberto Ferruzzi (1853-1934), which was painted in 1897. The head covering was removed and flowing hair was painted here, and the lower part was added. The folds of the skirt, at least as shown on the maximum cards, reveal the work of an amateur artist. The design as shown on the stamp and on the maximum card is the copy made of the painting by an unknown artist by Joaquin de Angulo, and this painting was sent to the Shrine of the Madonna di Campiglio, some few miles to the north of Trent, Italy, in 1961. In my opinion, it was not Ferruzzi who copied Our Lady of Europe, but the unknown artist copied freely from Ferruzzi's "Madonnina," and furthermore it will be discovered that the painting by the unknown artist did not exist before 1997. This matter is being further researched in Spain at this time.

****

Appreciation for financial assistance forwarded by the following members: Sister M. Alonza, Wm. M. Danbruski, Jos. T. May, Mrs. Kenneth Fletcher, Elizabeth Robertson, Jos. V. Wisnewski, S. G. McLaughlin. It has assisted us materially.

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We have received many letters from members expressing their satisfaction with our publication and editing efforts. To an editor these letters are always most welcome as it does make the task gratifying and very worthwhile.

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January 1, 1964
In 1935 Costa Rica issued a set of five stamps commemorating the tercentenary of the Patron Saint, OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS, affectionately called "La Negrita" by the Costa Ricans since it is of black stone. Two of the stamps depict the miraculous statue on its jewelled pedestal, and to the right is the Basilica at Cartago in which the image is enshrined. The 45 centimos stamp has the inscription "Allegory of the Finding in 1635", and on which the Virgin is minutely depicted.

This statue is considered to be the tiniest one of the Blessed Virgin honored on the Western Hemispheres. Since the date on which the statue was found (August 2nd) was the Feast of "Our Lady of The Angels", this title was given to the statue. Tradition has it that in 1635 a young mulatto girl, Juana Persira, went to the woods to gather twigs and branches for the fire. While there she saw, resting on a stone, a statue of the Blessed Virgin holding the Infant Jesus in her arms. It was dark in color and about eight inches high.

Thrilled, Juana took the image home and put it in a basket. The next day she went for more firewood, and there she saw a statue, identical to her's. She rushed home and found that her statue was gone. Again she put the statue in the basket, and this time placed a lock on it. The third day she returned to the spot and behold! the statue was there once again. Once more Juana rushed home, hurriedly opened the lock on the basket, and found her statue gone.

She went to the parish priest, told him her story and left the statue with him; he put it into his safe, intending to examine it at some other time. The following day the priest found it gone from the safe, and when he went to the woods, there it was! He brought it home and put it into the tabernacle. At communion time the next day he noticed the statue was missing once more. In the company of several priests he went to the woods, and there once again was found the statue of "La Negrita." It was then decided that Our Lady desired a Shrine to be built there in Her honor, and since then three shrines, each larger than the prior one, have been built on this spot to which the Blessed Virgin so frequently returned.

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Angels is a beautiful church. In it is a spring bubbling through a circular stone as it did in the 18th century, surrounded by a large collection of gold and silver objects given by those who have believed themselves cured by the spring waters.

The Virgin wears a solid gold mantle, a solid gold halo, and a solid gold crown set with innumerable precious gems. It stands on a solid gold base fifteen inches high and eight inches square.

On May 12, 1950 thieves broke into the Shrine, killed the watchman, and stole the venerated image of Our Lady, together with a reported $250,000 worth of jewels. The sacrilegious...
robbery, which took place sometime before midnight, stunned the population; rewards totaling $600,000 were offered for the return of the statue, which is over 300 years old.

On June 4, 1950, the golden mantle and jewels, stolen on May 12th, were recovered. Sirens wailed and Costans went wild with joy when it was announced that the jewels had been recovered near Cartago, 20 miles southeast of San Jose. The venerated image itself was found on May 20th in the upper pulpit of the Basilica.

The feast of Our Lady of the Angels is celebrated August 2nd, which is also a national holiday. Her image is carried in pilgrimage procession to some other church, and then back to the Shrine.

The statue was solemnly crowned April 25, 1926. In 1935, Pope Pius XI made the church housing the Shrine a Minor Basilica, on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Our Lady's apparition.

MARY, STAR OF THE SEA - Argentina #517, A186

Sister M. Alonza, F.S.P.A.

The Subject: Mary has been regarded as Patroness of seamen for many years, and it is but natural that she is commonly known as the STAR OF THE SEA, particularly to seafaring folks. As far back as the 9th century, Mary was venerated under the title of "Star of the Sea." Proof of this is found in the ancient Vesper Hymn "Ave, Maria Stella" still prayed or sung by priests and religious on feasts of the Blessed Virgin. The thought expressed in the stanzas is repeated in other church melodies, such as "Mary, Star of the Ocean" and "Hail, Bright Star of the Ocean."

Why Issued: To commemorate SEA WEEK, Argentina, an ocean-bound country of South America, issued a special stamp in 1944. The design of this stamp is believed to have copied a painting by an unknown artist. During the annual "Week of the Sea" the Bishop distributes to all who bring their boats a medal depicting Our Lady as Patroness of all water transportation.

Description: Father Horn stresses two noteworthy features on the commemorative stamp "Mary, Star of the Sea," showing the double religious significance. In the upper right-hand corner a small medallion of the Blessed Virgin is pictured near a storm-tossed vessel. Near the boat is a star signifying the same idea, thereby revealing the confidence sailors place in the Madonna as their Protectress. The inscription on the stamp, translated, reads: "For those who best comprehend Our (i.e., Mary's) worth."

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PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Marian Philatelist

-7-
arms to celebrate the 4th Centenary, the documents were read to an artist, and he made the drawing as he visualized them to be from the documents."

***

We wish to acknowledge with appreciation, receipt of the following exchange philatelic publications:


GERMANY: "GABRIEL", directed by Rev. Fathers Schmidt and Anheuser, OFM.

ITALY: "GABRIEL", Auv. Nicola Barardi, Editor, Rome, 300/c


URUGUAY: "SAN GABRIEL", directed by Prof. Cielito Irigoyen Jara, Casilla de Correos, No. 1212, Montevideo.
NEW MARIAN CANCELLATIONS

BELGIUM:

16. Mol. (no date) MONOGRAM "AM" WITH CROWN, IN CIRCLE. "Edition AVE MARIA, with the address." In French. Meter cancellation. Same as above, except in Flemish.


18. Antwerp. 7-4-63. TOWER OF TOWN HALL OF ANTWERP CONTAINING A STATUE OF THE MADONNA. (statue directly above the "4." of the date.) "Day of The Stamp."


The post card is a view of the Town Hall of Antwerp, and the postal cancellation contains the upper portion of the Town Hall, and also the statue of the MADONNA enthroned there. This Town Hall was built around 1560, replacing an old one. The architect substituted a statue of Brabo, the legendary hero of Antwerp for the formerly enthroned statue of Our Lady. However, following a campaign by the Jesuits, in 1587 a new statue of Our Lady was placed in the niche on the front facade and Brabo was removed. This statue of Our Lady was sculptured by Phillipus de Vos, and is still there today!..Father Hub. Hechtermans.

Belgian cancellations Nos. 16 through 18 sent us by Father Hechtermans, Louvain, Belgium; Nos. 19 and 20 by Peeters Jozef, Bevel, Belgium.

Mr. Jozef also supplied data to correct Belgian cancellations in Bulletin No. 9:

Cancellation #9 was misread as to the city, which should be Louveigne, and not Loujeigne. This cancellation given by the same automobile post which gave cancellation #13. Banneaux is a hamlet of Louveigne. The usual cancellations of Louveigne do not carry the text "Banneaux Notre Dame."

Cancellation #15 is "Our Lady of Steps." The word "the." should be omitted.

HUNGARY:

BRAZIL:
rio de Janeiro. 9-3-56. MONOGRAM "M" IN CROWNED ORNAMENTAL FRAME. "First Day of Circulation of the stamp commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the Marist Brothers in Northern Brazil."

PORTUGUESE COLONIES:
ANGOLA:

GERMANY:


The following have been listed in our publication but not previously illustrated: (Graciously supplied us by Father Hechtermans.)

Marianisches Sekretariat
St. Grignion von Montfort
SALZBURG
Alpensiedlung

Marian Philatelist


This former Cistercian Monastery was founded by the Duke of Bavaria, Ludwig II. The motive being reparation for a jealous deed, a story unknown to many. Because of his deed, Ludwig received the surname "Thé Starn." In 1256 he had his wife, Maria, daughter of Duke Henry II of Brabant, beheaded because he suspected her of infidelity. After her death he realized her innocence, and at the direction of the Holy Father founded a Monastery of Reparation.

The first foundation was at Thal by Aibling, followed by a second in 1261 in Olching on the Amper. From here the monks settled in what is today's Fürstenfeld. It was a desolate, uncultivated swampland of Amper, inhabited by wild animals, a valley the Cistercians gladly selected for their settlement in remembrance of Clairvaux, the "Bright Valley of St. Bernard." (Translated from the Sept.1963 German GABRIEL.) *** submitted by Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Benjert...

HUNGARY: VOTIVE CATHEDRAL AT SZEGED

In 1937 the southern Hungarian city of Szeged suffered a terrible flood. Of 5595 homes only 297 remained habitable. A vow was made to build a church if they succeeded in rebuilding the city. The new city was more beautiful than ever, and erection of the magnificent church, begun in 1930, was completed in 1932. The Votive Church is also the Cathedral of the Szeged Bishop who resides in Szeged. It is 264 feet long, 100 feet wide, 276 feet high. It was dedicated to OUR LADY, PATRONESS OF HUNGARY in 1932. The Cathedral Plaza is bordered on two sides by arcades, making it adaptable for festival performances, already held here before the World War, and now held every summer. This Votive Cathedral is now shown every year on a postal cancellation of the City of Szeged; the same cancellation being used to advertise the summer festival for the people of Szeged. The festival is of a secular nature. (Translated from the Oct.1959 German GABRIEL.) *** submitted by Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Benjert...

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

-11-

Marian Philatelist

January 1, 1964
TO THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP MEMBERS:

We are happy to begin the New Year with a title for the Study Group periodical --MARIAN PHILATELIST--the name most frequently suggested by our members. It defines our purpose clearly and meaningfully.

In our first year of organization and publication, our periodical has gone to collectors in many foreign countries, thus establishing a relationship enriching and valuable. We have sincerely tried to edit the best periodical possible with the latest issues illustrated and with as much background material as was available. It has been rewarding to hear from members that these efforts have met with their satisfaction and that the work and research involved were appreciated.

Our special thanks and appreciation to REV. FATHER A. S. HORN, who, as Chairman, has directed and assisted us; to our Advertisers; to the members who assisted us voluntarily with the financial aspect of furnishing the best periodical possible. We should also like to include those whose enthusiasm for our organization induced others to join us.

On behalf of the Marian Philatelic Study Group, I wish to acknowledge and extend appreciation to the foreign St. Gabriel Guild Organizations who have accorded us notice in their own publications, and permitted use of material from their publications which has been most beneficial.

The following will be of interest to the members as it does express the results of our first year of organization:

In the April 1963 issue of INFORMACION FILATELICA (Madrid, Spain), the following appeared, with a design of "Our Lady of Philately" heading the column on "Marian Philately."

"The Marian Philatelic Study Group of the United States, under the editorship of W. J. Hoffman, has demonstrated vitality and a desire to accentuate each and every issue of Mary in the world of Philately. It has conceived and given to the public a new title in honor of the Virgin - OUR LADY OF PHILATELY. For this title a sketch of a modern image, executed by Sister M. Cervina, of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wisconsin, represents the Mother of God in a praying attitude, around which is the inscription "Our Lady of Philately."

This Mariological postal event was used for the first time in the United States, under the sponsorship of the Marian Philatelic Study Group, on the 25th of December, 1962. The Nativity, the grand feast of Christmas, was given the beautiful date for the Virgin Mary to make its first appearance in the world of U. S. Philately."

The following resolution was received from a sister-organization in Valencia, Spain: "THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASOCIACION FILATELICA MARIANA, in a meeting held the 28th of July, 1963, took the following action: Those present examined the Bulletin of the Marian Philatelic Study Group, which with such good judgment is edited by W. J. Hoffman, and which in its July 1, 1963 issue included extensive Marian Philatelic literature and a comprehensive chronicle of Our Lady of The Abandoned, reproducing by Photography one of the postal cancellations issued by our Association. It pleases me to communicate to your Group congratulations for this extensive knowledge of Marian Philately. Signed at Valencia, Spain, July 30, 1963, by Don Carlos Mestre Dascals, President."

The Marian Philatelic Study Group is honored by such recognition.

W. J. Hoffman, Editor

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The Marian Philatelic Study Group has received several letters from foreign members expressing their sympathy and condolences to us as a Group and as individual Americans on the death of President John F. Kennedy. We feel this is most thoughtful and on behalf of the Study Group extend our appreciation for the condolences conveyed.

The following letter from the ASOCIACION FILATELICA MARIANA, signed by Senor Don Carlos Mestre, President, Valencia, Spain, expresses the sentiments conveyed:

"My dear friends and beloved brothers in Mary: Our Marian Philatelic Association, joined to your Group by its sentiments of love for Our Queen and Mother, unites itself as one

Marian Philatelist

January 1, 1964
in the sorrow which in these moments you feel for the irreparable loss of the Catholic President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, felled by an assassin's bullet, which took his young life, dedicated to conserving the peace, and stopped a heart which beat in unison with our Roman Apostolic Catholic Church.

"The United States has lost a great President who, by example, gave a constant lesson of integrity to the entire human race. His simplicity and manliness, his humility and sincere democracy, his clean public and private conduct were attractive to friends and enemies.

"But if the United States has lost its President, Spain has also lost a friend, and the Catholics have lost a brother in this great family in Christ and the Most Holy Virgin to which we belong. We also have a heart which weeps, and we wish through the medium of this letter to indicate to our brother-group that we are united in sorrow, and that our prayers wend their way to heaven for this martyr who confessed his religious sentiments without hypocrisy, and who tirelessly worked for peace among men with a smile on his lips and faith in his heart.

"In my own name and that of the Asociacion Filatélica Mariana, which I represent, I express to you, and through you to the Marian Philatelic Study Group, our most sincere condolences for the fallen brother, John F. Kennedy, of whom the Catholics of the whole world, we feel, are so proud."

*****

MARIAN CHURCHES AND SHRINES IN BELGIUM

Rev. Father Hub. Hechtormans, Louvain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Scott No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady, Dinant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>B42</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp, (miniature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>B44</td>
<td>Ruins Abbey of Our Lady of Orval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>E4</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Tournai (Tournay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>B97</td>
<td>Abbey, Our Lady of Orval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>B132&amp;141</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady, Bruges (miniature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>B250&amp;253</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, (Tournay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>B287</td>
<td>Abbey, Our Lady of Orval (different types and seals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>B367</td>
<td>Shrine of Our Lady of Halle (Basilica, but the first portion of the church is St. Martinus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>362 &amp; 364</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady of Antwerp (miniature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>B44</td>
<td>Church of Le Carmelites &amp; Chapel-Shrine of O.L. of Chevremont (miniature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>B453</td>
<td>Chapel - Shrine of Our Lady of Chevremont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>B478</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Tournai (miniature)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>B561-565</td>
<td>Convent of Beguins of Bruges &quot;The Vineyards of Mary&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Q339-Q360</td>
<td>Our Lady of Le Chapel, Brussels Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp, and Our Lady of Tournay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>B616</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady of the Sand, Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>B636</td>
<td>Church (Collegial) of Our Lady, Thuin (2nd tower) and Church (Collegial) of Our Lady, Walcourt (also a famous Shrine of Our Lady)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>B707</td>
<td>Basilica of Our Lady, Tongres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>B710</td>
<td>Shrine of Our Lady of Hanswyk, Mechelen (Malmsdy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNDER GERMANY: Eupen & Malmedy Issues: 1915-1920 Belgian stamps overprinted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Scott No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1N35</td>
<td>Malmedy 16 (Eupen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1N52</td>
<td>Malmedy 30 (Malmedy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1N24</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp (Eupen &amp; Malmedy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1N38</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp (Eupen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1N55</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp (Malmedy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marian Philatelist

-13- January 1, 1964
COMMENCING THE NEW YEAR

RECENT NEW ISSUES OF 1963:

ANGOLA - MADONNAS ON COATS-OF-ARMS
05 10 .30 .50 17.50 (5) 2.00

LIECHTENSTEIN - RED CROSS (3) .75

SPAIN - OUR LADY OF EUROPE (2) .20
- OUR LADY OF RANSOM (5) .20

TRANSJORDAN - CHURCHES (8) 2.50

LOOKING AHEAD:

Certain stamps consistently improve in price from one year to another, both as to catalogue and market. Such stamps seem high-priced at any given time.

BELGIUM
B241-8 9.50
" 8561-6 14.25
HUNGARY
462-5 22.75
LIECHTENSTEIN
171a 42.00
" 284-6 6.15
LUXEMBOURG
886-91 6.90
MONACO
262-73 16.75
PARAGUAY
C134-46 14.25
SAAR
816-22 17.25
" 869-73 16.00
VATICAN
143-4 8.15

NEW OFFERINGS OF SPANISH LOCALS:

ORPHANS
8 1.45
9 1.45
10 1.45

COIN
72 18.25

SEGEOVIA
101 7.50
101a 8.25
102 7.50
102a 8.25

Marshall H. Williams

Life Member of COROS No. 18

98 East Rock Road New Haven 11, Conn. 06511