3-1-1964

The Marian Philatelist, Whole No. 11

A. S. Horn
W. J. Hoffman

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NEW ISSUES


Scott’s December Journal lists a change in catalogue number for the Costa Rica stamp issued March 1963. It was listed as #RA17 but is now identified as #263. As indicated above, the December 1963 issue of the MADONNA AND CHILD by Bellini (in blue) is #RA17.

VATICAN CITY: Included in the set released Jan. 4, 1964 commemorating Pope Paul’s visit to the Holy Land are the following: 25 lire, red-brown, view of the BASILICA OF THE NATIVITY in Bethlehem (A-5 Category), and the 160 lire, blue, reproducing the WELL OF THE VIRGIN MARY in Nazareth (A-6 Category). All stamps except the highest value bear the date in Roman numerals.

The Basilica of The Nativity is the least of this Vatican design: The fortress-like construction to the right is the Monastery of the Armenians; the Basilica is the building in the far distance, the one half of the stamp seen to the left. The small entrance to the Basilica is lost in the last shadow. The Jordan stamp shows the Church to better advantage.

JORDAN: The high value, 80 f, in the set of four stamps released Jan. 4, 1964 on the occasion of Pope Paul’s visit to the Holy Land, depicts the CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY (A-5 category.) The stamps are inscribed in Arabic and English-Latin, with the Latin reading “Papa Paulus VI Visit to The Holy Land.” There was a delay due to achieving this text, and one set of negatives was destroyed. The original idea was to have it all in English, but the Apostolic Delegation requested the Latin inscription.

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Article on the CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY and WELL OF THE VIRGIN MARY on page 22.

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GREECE: Included in the Mount Athos series, released Dec. 5, 1963, are two monasteries dedicated to Our Lady. The 6 Drachmas value depicts the Church of Great Lavra, dedicated to the ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY (A-6 Category), Scott #777. It ranks first among all the Monasteries and was established in 963 by Athanasius. The 30 Lepta value depicts the Vatopédion Monastery also dedicated to THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY (A-6 Category), Scott #770. See article on page 21.

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FORTHCOMING ISSUES

SPAIN: Due for release Feb. 24, 1964, 3-stamp series commemorating the MONASTERY OF SANTA MARIA DE HUERTA.

ANDORRA (Spanish P.O.): Expected to be released Feb. 27, 1964, a 6 pesetas stamp depicting THE VIRGIN OF MERITXELL, designed after the primitive Madonna sculptured in the 8th century and now located in the Chapel of Meritxell.

ITALY: Scheduled for release Feb. 18, 1964, 2-stamp set commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death of Michelangelo. One of the stamps will portray THE MADONNA OF BRUGES; the other will depict the head of Nicodemus (supposed to be a self-portrait of Michelangelo) from The Pisa at Florence.

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On Dec. 17, 1963 this country released a series of definitives showing historical development of sailing ships. Among those issued are two with Marian names: the 5 E value - "OUR LADY OF CONCEPCION", and the 6 E value - "OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS." (A-3 Category). It is probable that Our Lady appears on the sails, but further research will be necessary to verify this. See arrow.

NEW LISTINGS: MADONNA IN MINIATURE

GERMANY (BERLIN) Scott #9N85: Father Horst has supplied the view card of "The Singing Angels," depicted on this 1950 issue in honor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, from a painting by Jan Van Eyck (1390-1440).

An arrow points to the embroidery of a MADONNA AND CHILD. The design is a detail from an altar of the Cathedral of St. Bavon, in Ghent, Belgium, the work of the Brothers van Eyck. The Cathedral of St. Bavon is pictured on a Belgian stamp, Scott #6-81. Article on page 26.

HUNGARY: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Benjert supplied the following, translated from the May 1959 issue of the German GABRIEL:

In 1936 Hungary issued set of five stamps for the 250th anniversary of the recapture of Budapest from the Turks.

Scott #500: On the flag, on the left, is a picture of a MADONNA, MARIAN PHILATELIST.

Scott #501: The Hungarian soldier is holding a flag; the MADONNA picture is found to the right of the head of the soldier.

Scott #1047: 1953 series issued for the 250th anniversary of the insurrection of 1703. The MADONNA is shown on the lower flag, under the picture of Prince Francis Rakocy II. Here is the Patroness of Hungary wearing the crown of a Prince instead of a King. Confirmation was obtained from the designer of the three stamps, Alexander Lezgady.

PANAMA: Included in a series of Churches on Stamps, issued July 20, 1962, are four which contain a Madonna in Miniature. The stamps were issued to publicize freedom of religion in Panama.

Scott #C258: Church of The Sanctuary, 8¢ (A-1):

The statues seen above the main portal are those of the BLESSED VIRGIN and Pope Pius XII, kneeling. Built in Panama City in 1949, this church is called "The Sanctuary" since it is a National Shrine. The statuary group represents the consecration of the world to Our Blessed Lady.

Scott #C259: Church of St. Anne, 15¢ (A-1):

This airmail stamp shows the colonial style church of St. Anne in Panama City, built in 1730. In the central niche of the facade is seen a statue of OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL. On Her second apparition to Catherine Laboure, Our Lady gave instructions to have a medal struck as She looked in the apparition - standing on a globe with rays of light streaming from Her hands. The first of these medals were distributed in June 1832.

Scott #C265: Church of St. Mary's, Balboa, Canal Zone, 1 Balboa (A-1): This Catholic Church was built in 1916 by Vincentian Father Thomas J. McDonald. Just below the cross which surmounts the facade is a statue of OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL.
Scott #446: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 15¢ (A-1). This was included in Supplement #2 to the Madonna Handbook. On top the facade is a statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, to whom the church is dedicated. The church was built in 1957, and although recent in origin it appears the architect had the Cathedral of Milan in mind when designing this church even though building blocks covered with plaster were used and not marble.

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LIECHTENSTEIN VARIETY - Scott #48

Mrs. Kenneth Fletcher, Chicopee, Massachusetts, informed us of a variety of this stamp which she had in her collection. She generously let us photograph it for the MARIAN PHILATELIST so that collectors could be made aware of this existing variety. The stamp is a 1920 issue, 80 halern value, bright red, depicting THE PATRONESS OF LIECHTENSTEIN. You will note that one star is missing from the crown of stars encircling the head of The Madonna.

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Following are Scott catalog numbers for new issues listed in the January 1, 1964 MARIAN PHILATELIST:

- Austria Christmas Stamp Scott #718
- Luxemburg St. Anne & Mary Scott #1523
- Spain Christmas Stamp Scott #1196
- Vatican Christmas Stamp Scott #372-74

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NOTICE

DUES FOR 1964 ARE NOW PAYABLE. Please check your membership card, and if the date of expiration is "Dec. 31, 1963" then dues for 1964 are payable. To save expenses we are not mailing out "due notices."

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FOR THE MARIAN LIBRARY: Mrs. Gertrude Casper has donated a book, "THE MADONNA" by Jean Guitteny, to our Library; it contains 99 reproductions of art masterpieces, 42 in full color. Text is in English, and provides a running commentary on the art masterpieces reproduced. Published by Tudor Publishing Co., New York.

NEW MARIAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Please note the following number changes for Argentina: in issue #7, Nos. 14 and 15 were duplicated; please change #14 to #17, and #15 to #18.

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ARGENTINA:


The City of Ramos Mejia and the Parish of Our Lady of Carmel joined in celebrating the 60th anniversary of its founding and patronage. Among the cultural acts programmed for this celebration was the presentation of the traditional Christmas Philatelic Cancellation by the Argentine San Gabriel Philatelic Association. Between Dec. 21 and 23, and 26 and 29, the cancellation depicted OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, Patroness of Ramos Mejia; on the 24th and 25th it depicted a NATIVITY SCENE. Both designs are the work of designer Hector Viola.

Cancellations and background data supplied by Senor Jose Antonio Brovelli, Argentine St. Gabriel Guild.

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SPAIN:

Barcelona, Nov. 29, 1963. NATIVITY SCENE. "That you may anticipate, I send you Christmas Felicitations."

Cancellation supplied by Antonio Benet, of Valencia, Spain.

MARIAN PHILATELIST

March, 1964
CONGRATULATIONS to Rev. Chester A. Wisniewski, Paterson, New Jersey, for being awarded a SOJEX Trophy for his exhibit of "MARIOLY GO WORLD PHILATELIC." We also learn that Rev. Wisniewski has been invited to exhibit in Paris, and we wish him SUCCESS.

DIE MADONNA IM BRIEFMARKENALBUM: Josef Franz Aumann, author. The Fifth Edition, including the first supplement, has been released, and includes 1000 stamps of The Madonna and Marian Churches, also known European overseas Marian postal cancellations. Stamps picturing The Madonna are illustrated in full size, and most of the Marian postal cancellations are also illustrated. For the first time, Marian envelopes, post cards, wrappers and official proofs of Marian stamps are catalogued. It also lists a worthwhile and up-to-date range of Marian philatelic literature. For those having the third and fourth editions, No. 1 supplement of 68 pages can be obtained for $1.00, or eight international reply coupons. Catalogue and Supplement are available in bookstores, stamp dealers, also from National St. Gabriel Societies, or by writing Stephanus Verlag, Zollergasse 34, Vienna 62, Austria. The text is in German.

Mr. Aumann includes the Ethiopian stamp, Scott #399, which we have rejected. (See issue #7, July 1, 1963), and a Japanese stamp showing a Goddess (A283); this latter is indeed a "kannon", but not the same type used by the secret Christians of Japan to represent the Blessed Virgin. ... Father A. S. Horn.

SPANISH LOCALS: Carlos Lenze, Madrid, Spain, has sent us the following interesting information:

"The first Spanish Nationalist stamps for general use (Scott 623/634) appeared in the autumn of 1936, when in many cities the Republican stamps were sold out and no new arrivals could be obtained because the Nationalists had not as yet printed any stamps. The first local is Scott #617 (615 and 615 being proofs), but cannot be considered as a stamp for general use, being used only in the city of Granada. Other locals used as stamps are Nos. 19, 20 and 22 I and II listed in Michel, page 1205. These stamps are often found on commercial correspondence. The greatest number of locals are "overcharged", which means that in addition to the normal interior postage, a war tax of 10 cts. had to be affixed."

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MARIAN PHIATELIST

March 1964
For some time we have been intrigued with the identification of the representation in the picture over the sick-bed. The January 1963 issue of our publication included this query in the "Question and Answer" section. Some thought it might be Our Lady of Guadalupe, and others opined that it might be the Infant of Prague. Neither of these seemed appropriate for this Central American country; we continued our research.

Recently we received the following letter from the engravers of the stamp: "A review of our files confirms the thought of some of your members with respect to the picture on the wall above the sick-bed. It represents "OUR LADY OF SUYAPA, THE PATRONESS OF HONDURAS."

In a 1962 issue of GABRIEL-LATINO-AMERICANO, Father Struve Haker gave a description of the image venerated at this National Shrine, and we quote: "The image is very small in size and is surrounded by a double arch of silver and mounted on a sphere of silver, set on a base of gilded wood. From the arch to the base is only 5.85". Though the image is small in stature, it is most appealing because of the sweetness of the expression on the face of the Virgin and the piety expressed by the hands of the Madonna folded in prayer."

The Shrine of Our Lady of Suyapa is depicted on a 1939 stamp of Honduras, Scott #699. The following was extracted from an article written by Father Horn, which appeared in the October 1956 issue of the "AGE OF MARY."

Fifteen minutes by car from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, along a road going east to Danli, is the Shrine of Suyapa. Within this church is the venerated tiny statue of "Our Lady of The Conception of Suyapa," carved of wood, and measuring only a little more than 2½ inches in height. Among a series of airmail stamps, issued in 1939, is a 55 centavos stamp depicting this Shrine. The 65 centavos stamp in this series represents Father Jose Trinidad Reyes who did a great deal to promote devotion to Our Lady at this Shrine.

It was late on a Saturday in February, in the year 1747. A young laborer named Alejandro Colindres, accompanied by a youngster of eight named Lorenzo Martinez, was wearily plodding his way back to the small settlement of Suyapa, fatigued after working all day in the corn field on the farm of Don Juan Jose Lozano, which was near a mountain called El Piliguan. Darkness overtook the pair before they reached home, and not being able to find their way in the black night they prepared to sleep in the open air, right where they were, with the ground as their bed. Scarcely had Alejandro's head touched the hard soil when he was disturbed by some object harder than the ground itself. Digging it out, he discovered a small image, later found to be a small statue of "The Virgin of The Conception," and this image, under the title of "OUR LADY OF SUYAPA," has become the Patroness of Honduras.

The image was taken to the humble home of young Alejandro and the cult was of gradual growth. The origin of the tiny image? The carving was quite old when found, and it is thought to have been carved by some person intensely devoted to the Blessed Virgin, one who perhaps had a special devotion to Our Lady of Copacabana. Permission for the erection of a chapel where Mass could be celebrated was granted on November 28, 1777.

Even today, Suyapa is merely a group of primitive hovels, so it is not difficult to comprehend that in such an impoverished location the chapel was often in dire need of re-

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pairs, and was also several times damaged by storms. In 1850, after having again suffered damage, ecclesiastical permission was granted to reconstruct the edifice. This was the beginning of the structure still standing in 1956. In 1874 bells were provided, but it was not until 1889 that they were put in place on temporary wooden towers. A terrific storm in 1906 caused them to come tumbling down. The church as seen on the stamp was completed and solemnly blessed on February 2, 1922.

For many years it was realized that the church could not possibly take care of the vast crowds which assembled there on great days of pilgrimage. On February 3, 1942, the Patronal Feast of Our Lady of Suyapa, the Apostolic Administrator of Tegucigalpa, Msgr. Emilio Morales Roque, officially proposed a new and more elaborate Shrine to house the little statue of Our Lady.

In 1946, when a National Eucharistic Congress was being planned, a suggestion was made to ask for a solemn canonical crowning of the statue, but records fail to reveal if this ever actually took place.

On April 25, 1953, Pope Pius XII proclaimed OUR LADY OF SUYAPA as the National Patroness of Honduras. In the meantime, plans for the new Shrine went forward, and the first stone was laid December 9, 1954, the close of the Marian Year. A fund was started throughout the nation for the new church, replacing the one shown on the stamp.

**SPAIN: VIRGIN OF IRACHE**

Scott #1005

Issued July 24, 1961, the stamp depicts a beautiful sculpture of a MADONNA WITH INFANT JESUS on Her left arm. This work of art dates back to the 12th century and is an ancient image which has been solemnly crowned. The golden crowns worn by Our Lady and the Infant are of baroque style. The sculpture is not finished on all sides as the back of the image was attached to the altar. The robes are of mortar, but the folds in the garments are well-formed. The image is painted in colors.

The hand of the Infant, raised in benediction, is beautifully formed, the three fingers extended, symbolical of the Holy Trinity; this style is similar to that of the Greek Church depiction where the small, middle and index fingers are extended, and the thumb and ring finger curved and joined together. The Christ Child holds a scroll with a long inscription in His right hand.

The image is now in the Roman Church of Dicastillo by Estella in the Pyrenean Province of Navarre. (Translated from the October 1961 issue of the German GABRIEL.)

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

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PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS.

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MARIAN PHILATELIST
The tenth century was a period of upheaval in the Byzantine world. The Turks were nearing Constantinople and barbarians were over-running what is now the Balkans. Desiring a place of refuge and contemplative solitude, the ascetic Athanassios chose Mount Athos, a steep mountain bordering the Aegean Sea. It was then, and still is, difficult of access. Mount Athos was used to signal the fall of Troy when fires were lit on its peak.

In 963, on the high cliffs of the Chalcidice Peninsula facing the Aegean Sea, Athanassios founded a monastic community called "The Holy Republic of Mount Athos." The first monastery built was the Great Lavra; eventually twenty monasteries were erected on the mountain: seventeen Greek, one Russian, one Yugoslavian, and one Bulgarian. The giant cypress trees were planted by the founder, whose tomb is near the spot where he was felled by a falling arch during Church building.

The rule set down by the founder a thousand years ago is still followed today. The long, simple robes in fashion at the time of founding are still worn today. Members of this religious community eat meat but twice a year, and their diet is restricted to nuts, fruits, and fish. Unleavened bread is eaten during Lent and on the eves of great feast days.

The secluded and almost inaccessible mountain attracted others seeking the contemplative life of a monk, and at the peak the monasteries housed nearly 20,000 members. Today, however, some 2,000 remain, and most of these are nearing seventy.

During its brilliant years, the monasteries of "The Holy Republic of Mount Athos" received and housed precious and bejeweled relics, rare books, and hundreds of precious icons in silver frames. The walls were masterpieces of mural artistry, some of which date back to 1000 A.D. The churches were beautiful examples of Byzantine workmanship, wrought by human hands and anonymous monks. Today, unfortunately, this majestic beauty is in a state of decay.

CHURCH OF THE GREAT LAVRA: (Scott #777). This monastery ranks first among those built. Established in 963 by Athanassios, it was dedicated to THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY. The entrance to the monastery is narrow, guarded by massive doors plated with iron. In past centuries, Saracens, Crusaders and Franks passed through them. These doors are still securely locked and guarded each night. The Monastery's Church, completed in 1004, has bronze doors, a gift from the Emperor Nikephoros Phokas, Athanassios' patron. A basin, measuring some eight feet across, stands at the entrance of the Great Lavra Church underneath a 11th century dome; this basin is still used each month to prepare holy water. About eighty Greek Orthodox monks are still in residence here.

VATOPETHION MONASTERY: (Scott #770). Built shortly after the Great Lavra, and also dedicated to THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, this monastery ranks second among the twenty. Some of the precious and bejeweled relics venerated here are the finger of St. John the Baptist, the skull of St. Gregory the Theologian, the girdle of the Virgin Mary, and a piece of the true cross.

PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE: (Scott #776). The stamp reproduces a parchment manuscript housed in the Ivera Monastery. (See issue #10 for illustration.)

BRAZIL: Scott #893 (A-3 Category). Stamp was issued in 1959 to commemorate Bicentenary of the Carmelite Order in Brazil. Design is a baroque organ; to the left on the bottom is a seal; there is a crown with a cross, flanked by two dragons; below is a shield with three stars, which is the Coat-of-arms of the Carmelites. Inscription with numerous abbreviations reads: "Hallowed foundation of the Venerable Third Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Arrayal." Submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Benjart.

MARIAN PHILATELIST -21- March 1964
VATICAN CITY and JORDAN: CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

When the pagans took over the Holy Land centuries ago, they wished to obliterate any evidence of Christianity, and as the churches were demolished, Mosques were built over them. Thus it was that St. Helena was able to locate and enshrine the Holy Places with churches.

The first Church of The Nativity was built by her in 326 A.D., a large and magnificent structure which stood for two centuries until destroyed by the Samaritans who swept down from the north. It was rebuilt in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. When the Crusaders came, they merely looked for ruins of St. Helena's churches, or earlier Byzantine ruins. If the old church had already been destroyed, they built a new one on the exact spot.

The church was originally in Byzantine style but changes through- out the centuries have resulted in the present edifice, a high two-story building with a canopied porch. The great buttressed walls remind one of a fort rather than a Sanctuary. From the bell tower one has a magnificent view of the City of Bethle- hem and the surrounding hills.

We have read where Pope Paul stooped to enter the Church. The entrance is less than four feet high and was intentionally made this way to keep warriors and their horses from entering.

At the entrance was a 6th century mosaic of the Wise Man. During the Persian invasion of 614, the Persians did not demolish the church because the Wise Men in the mosaic were dressed in the manner of ancient and honored Persians. A few decades later the Arabs came, and although much of Bethlehem was de-stroyed, the place of Christ's birth was respected; in fact, both Christians and Moslems of those days used the church for their religious devotions.

Four rows of Corinthian pillars still remain, remnants of Constantine, the reddish stone having come from the quarries of Bethlehem. The Basilica is 175 feet long, 120 feet wide, and the nave is 150 feet long. Having no pews makes it look longer and larger. The ceiling is 50 feet high. At one time the walls were covered with mosaics depicting events in the Life of Christ, put there during the days of the Crusaders, but only fragments remain today.

Some thirty-five years ago, during a structural survey, exquisitely patterned mosaics from the floor of the church built by St. Helena were uncovered. When Justinian rebuilt the church, he had the old floor covered with soil and built a new floor over it. The mosaics are two feet below the present floor, encased in a wooden frame, with a trap door which is kept locked; the key must be obtained from a Jordanian policeman standing nearby.

The Grotto of The Nativity is some sixteen stone steps below the Church. It is almost rectangular in shape, about 40 feet long and a little more than ten feet wide. Marble covers the floor, and tapestries cover the walls up to the rock ceiling. Under the small altar is a niche, with walls and floor of marble. In the center of the niche is a large resplendent star; "1717" is engraved in it, signifying the year in which the Franciscans replaced the old star with the one now there. The Latin inscription tells all, "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary." Around the niche are suspended 53 silver lamps, continually lit.

The Franciscan Monastery, 14th and Quincy Streets, N.E. Washington, D.C., is the "Memorial Church of The Holy Land" where holy places of the old world have been reproduced, among them is the Bethlehem Grotto.

VATICAN CITY: WELL OF THE VIRGIN MARY

In the little house in Nazareth, Mary cherished her son and went about the duties of a housewife. She spun, wove, cleaned and cooked, and like all villagers went to the well to draw water for daily necessities. This well is now a venerated shrine, depicted on Vatican City stamp, being one of the Holy Places visited by Pope Paul VI.

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MARIAN PHILATELIST

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March 1964
MADONNA STAMPS

We have selected a list of mint sets, as follows, and would like to hear from any collector who has them ALL!

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We urge collectors of Madonna Stamps not to overlook the Spanish Civil War Madonna stamps. If you could share our experience in difficult efforts to buy, in being sold out and unable to replace, and the enjoyment of a new acquisition, you, too, would enjoy your eventual accumulation of these scarce stamps.

Our catalogue, of which you have a copy, is already in its first revision. We do not charge (as yet!) for these, but would appreciate 10 cents postage if you write for a copy.

Marshall H. Williams

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MADONNA DES CENTAURES: Belgium Postal Cancellation #12, listed and illustrated in issue #9.

In 1934 The President of the Motor Club of Castellano in Italy (a village 6 miles from Alexandria and 60 miles southwest of Milan), had an idea to place all his members under the protection of Mary as the picture of "Madonna della Grazie and della Creta" is deeply honored in this region. After the war many wanted to spread the devotion of the Madonna of Castellano in all Italy and later in all of Europe.

In 1946 Belgium had the first gathering by the adherents to the Madonna Des Centaures. The assembled motorists wished to call on Mary in the same way as did the veneration of the Madonna of Castellano. They collected 12,000 signatures, and on Feb. 11, 1947 Pope Pius XII declared the Madonna of Castellano as the Patroness of motorists; thereafter many motorists traveled there to implore the protection of Mary. In 1951, at the intercession of the motor clubs of Belgium, the Church of Roeulx was chosen as the place for veneration the Madonna Des Centaures. This cancellation was issued at Roeulx on June 3, 1962, on the occasion of a National Rally. (Translated from the Oct. 1963 issue of the German GABRIEL)

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

Mr. Peeters Jozef, Bevel, Belgium, also mentions that a special attraction at this ceremony is the blessing of the vehicles inside the church takes place with the motors running; this is a special attraction of the ceremony.

BRAZIL: SACRED HEART OF MARY (A-4)
Scott #116

Issued in 1961 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Mary Congregation. Stamp design includes a map of Brazil, illuminated by a star, over which is an open book; thereon is a symbol of the Sacred Heart of Mary with a Cross. To the right of the book are the dates 1911-1961, referring to the 50th Anniversary of this congregation in Rio de Janeiro. The Religious Order of the Sacred Heart of Mary was founded in 1848 at Beziers, France and sanctioned in 1873 by the Holy See. The complete name of the foundation is, "Congregations of the Sacred Heart of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The sisters devote their time to teaching in Colleges, Day Schools and Orphanages. The General Motherhouse is at Beziers, France. The first settlement was made on Mar. 11, 1911 in Brazil by Sisters who had come from Portugal. In 1958, Brazil had 7 Houses with 219 Sisters in various locations.

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

Father Horn informs us that the above stamp was one of the eight single stamps omitted from the 1963 K-Line Supplement. He has retained "Sacred Heart" although we usually change the term in our day to "Immaculate Heart" or "Blessed Heart." Will be included in the next supplement.

MARIAN PHILATELIST

March 1964

-24-
On February 15, 1949 Brazil issued a stamp picturing the Church of Prazeres in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the battle of Guararapes. In the year 1624 the Dutch conquered Pernambuco. The City of Recife today still shows many signs of the then Dutch Government, under Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange. In 1649 Brazilian patriots, in a bloody battle, conquered the Dutch in the vicinity of the mountains of Guararapes, and with this defeat Dutch control in Brazil came to an end. In remembrance of this victory the CHURCH OF THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY was built.

Devotion honoring the Blessed Virgin under this title of the "Seven Joys of Mary" originated with the Franciscan Order. Our Lady herself pointed out the Rosary of the Seven Joys, known as the Franciscan Crown, as a devotion pleasing to Her. The annals of the Order state that a young man, generally believed to be James of the Rosary, entered the order; being a fervent client of Our Lady, he decked Her statue daily with a wreath of flowers. As it was not permitted him in the novitiate to continue this practice, he thought of leaving the order but first knelt before a statue of Our Lady to tender his respects. There the Blessed Virgin appeared to him and said: "Remain here, and do not grieve because you no longer weave a wreath of flowers for me. I will teach you how you can daily weave a crown of roses that will not wither and will be more pleasing to me and more meritorious for yourself." And then she taught him the Rosary of the Seven Joys.

1st Joy
At The Annunciation.
Spain #1140

2nd Joy
At The Visitation expressed in the 'Magnificat.'
Spain #1141

3rd Joy
At The Nativity of Our Lord and the Adoration of the shepherds.
Spain #1142

4th Joy
At the Adoration of The Magi.
Vatican City #268

5th Joy
At the Finding of Her Divine Son in the Temple.
Spain #1144

6th Joy
At the Resurrection of Her Divine Son when, according to tradition, He appeared to His Mother first of all.
Spain #1150

7th Joy
At her own Assumption into Heaven and Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth.
Spain #C173

MARIAN PHILATELIST

-25-

March 1964
"The story behind the stamp" is always of interest, and thus it was that the "Singing Angels" stamp resulted in this article on the Cathedral which houses the work from which the stamp design was taken.

The Cathedral of St. Bavon (in Flemish St. Beefs), though somewhat heavy in external appearance, is one of the most handsome of Belgium's churches in its internal proportions. It was founded in 944; the actual choir and crypt were rebuilt in 1228, and the whole was finished in the beginning of the 16th century.

There are 24 chapels in the side aisles and around the choir. These contain pictures. In the famous "11th Chapel" is one of the finest works ever produced by the early Flemish school - the masterpiece of the brothers Hubert and John Van Eyck, celebrated all over Europe. The subject is "The Adoration of the Spotless Lamb." The Chapel containing the subject was erected by Jodocus Vydts, Lord of Pamela, his wife, Isabella Borluit, and family, as a chantry and as a crypt for themselves. The pictures are placed on the east side above the altar. The whole now comprises twelve parts, which may be considered as divided into two lines - the upper one of seven and the lower one of five pictures. The most important is the central picture of the lower row which, although begun by Hubert, was finished by John. It has given the title of "Chapel of The Lamb" to the entire composition. It shows the wounded Lamb standing upon an altar. His blood pouring into a chalice, while at the sides are angels - - kneeling, singing, or in rapt adoration. Some bear the emblems of the sacrifice, namely, the spear, nails and sponge; others hold the cross and the pillar; two angels kneel in front tossing censers.

More than 300 heads may be counted in this wonderful production, all finished with the most scrupulous minuteness. The upper part of the picture contains, in three compartments, the figures of God the Father, with John the Baptist on one side and the Virgin on the other. The beauty and grace of The Virgin's countenance are probably only surpassed by some of Raphael's Madonnas.

The focal point is The Lamb in the center, as described in the Revelations, surrounded by angels and approached by worshippers in four groups: On the right, the holy virgins and female saints; below, the apostles and saints of the New Testament; on the left, above, the bishops and founders of monastic orders, while below appear the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament; in the horizon rise the Towers of the New Jerusalem, copied from some old Flemish town.

Considering the period when it was painted, this picture is remarkably free from the stiffness of the early school. The strength and freshness of the colors in a painting 500 years old is truly wonderful.

Two pairs of shutters or folding doors below and two above, painted within and without, also by the Van Eycks, originally formed a part of this picture. The whole was taken to Paris by Napoleon, but the center portions alone were returned. The six most important of the wings are now at Berlin, having originally been bought by a picture dealer for about $1250.00 and later sold for at least ten times that sum to the King of Prussia.

The choir and transepts of the Cathedral are lined with black marble; the balustrades are of white or variegated marble, a species of decoration which though splendid, yet being in the Grecian style, by no means befits a Gothic Church. The gates of the chapels are of brass, and statues and paintings ornament every vacant space.

Over the choir, at a considerable elevation, are affixed the arms of the Knights of The Golden Fleece. The twenty-third and last Chapter of the Order was held in this church by Philip II of Spain in 1559.

Ed Polodna, 1219 So. 16th Street, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, writes he has duplicate Madonna stamps for sale. Interested parties should write him direct.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR DUES FOR 1964 if the expiration date on your membership card is "December 31, 1963."

MARIAN PHILATELIST

March 1964
In 1942 Mexico commemorated the 400th anniversary of the founding of the City of Guadalajara, and for the occasion issued two stamps depicting Marian churches.

The 20¢, green and black, Scott #C120, depicts the CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN in Zapopan. This plastersque edifice gives the 17th century town a claim of distinction. As a historical note of interest, we might mention that it was from here that the founding fathers of the California missions set forth.

The 40¢, olive, yellow and green, stamp of this set, Scott #C121, depicts the CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, at Guadalajara. It is of Spanish design, and was built between the years 1571 and 1618, and is considered one of the finest architectural specimens in the country, beautifully decorated within. It faces the Plaza In the center of the city.

A regular postal issue for the same occasion was a 10¢, orange and blue, stamp of a view of Guadalajara which includes the GUADALAJARA CATHEDRAL. Being rebuilt and remodeled many times, practically every known style of architecture is represented in this historical edifice. The beautiful center dome was added in 1908. In this Cathedral is the painting of "The Assumption" by Murillo.

In 1943, included in a set commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of the City of San Miguel de Allende, was a 5¢ stamp, brown, Scott #782, picturing the interesting church of OUR LADY OF SOLEDAD. The facade of this church is very beautiful and the main tower strongly resembles the Gothic style. It is one of Mexico's more modern churches.

LIECHTENSTEIN PIETA - Scott #372

On Dec. 6, 1962, this country issued a Christmas stamp depicting a Pieta. The design on the stamp was taken from a 32" Pieta, carved of wood, hollowed in the back, which formerly stood in the church prior to the present one. It was moved to the "Dehkapelle" (wayside shrine) on a hillside south of the village. In 1949, after renovation, it was returned to the parish church, and now stands in a niche on the east side of the church. The late Gothic work of art is modeled after the Pieta in Vrin. Christ repose, horizontally on the lap of His Mother, and His stiff left arm hangs downwards. Worthy of mention is the careful anatomical moulding of the corpse, especially the chest of Christ. During repainting the original work of 1490 was distorted considerably, but at the time of the renovation of the church it was restored by A. Gassner of Bludenaz. (Translated from the Dec. 1962 issue of the German GABRIEL.)

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

MARIAN CHURCHES OF MEXICO

MARIA IM SEE - Valdes

This church is set on a rocky island in the Vel-des Sea. Being an old country-seat for most Slovenians, it is considered the "Wedding Chapel." Every Sunday one can see wedding parties, bedecked in rich native costumes, cross over to the Island Church and in solemn procession proceed up the broad impressive granite steps.

Jugoslavia 1951
Scott #C41

It is also depicted on the following stamps:
Jugoslavia, 1932, Scott #827
Jugoslavia, 1934, Scott #C2
Jugoslavia, 1959, Scott #528

March 1964
This is a photograph of a beautiful MARIAN MAP OF SPAIN picturing sixty-five different Madonna Shrines of Spain, plus Fatima and Lourdes. The map is in beautiful and vivid colors, and measures 18½ by 18½ inches. It is printed on heavy paper 34½ x 25½ inches, which provides ample room for mounting the stamps depicting these Madonnas, should one desire to do so.

We learned of this map through Mrs. Benson of San Francisco, California, and were fortunate in locating a source of supply in Spain. They are available at $4.25 each, postage paid, from the business office of THE MARIAN PHILATELIST, 424 Crystal View Ave. West, Orange, California 92667. All proceeds will go towards financial assistance in publishing our periodical.

The photograph supplied through the courtesy of Ed Polodna, La Crosse, Wisconsin.