NEW ISSUES

VATICAN CITY: (A-2 Category) Released Apr. 22, 1964, for opening of New York World Fair. Set of 4: 2 depict Pope Paul; the 100 lire picture a three-quarters view of THE PIETA; the 250 lire, the head of THE MADONNA from "The Pista."

FRANCE: A-1 Category) Issued May 25, 1964 commemorating 800th anniversary of Notre Dame Cathedral. Design in beautiful colors reproduces VIRGIN AND CHILD in the famous round stained glass window. This observance had been scheduled for 1963 but postponed due to the death of Pope John. His Eminence, Paul Cardinal Marella, former Apostolic Nuncio to France, officiated as Papal Legate at ceremonies. Pope Paul delivered a special radio message from the Church of St. Louis of the French in Rome, in which he said, "Notre Dame Cathedral is a pure jewel of Gothic art, an image of the men who built it with enthusiasm."

SPAIN: (A-6 Category) Issued Apr. 6, 1964 (Scott #1203). Antonio Benet, Valencia, Spain, wrote that this Mosque, considered one of the most beautiful in Spanish architecture, has a Marian affiliation due to the fact that in the interior has been constructed a Cathedral dedicated to OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION. Scott identifies this as "Church and Moorish Palace, The Mosque, Cordoba." There is also a color variety found in the pillar to the left of the big pillar on the right.

SPAIN: (A-2 Category) Issued May 31, 1964, 1 peseta value, commemorating the Canonical Crowning of LA MACARENA. (Illustrations and article on page 46).

PORTUGAL: (A-5 Category) Set of 3 stamps released June 5, 1964, for Centenary of National Shrine of OUR LADY OF MOUNT SAMEIRO. First day cancellation carries "AM" monogram used by Lisbon, Braga, Porto, and Funchal. James Kendall, Portland, Oregon, supplied us with information on this issue released by Portugal's Postal Administration, but we were unable to obtain the stamps in time for illustration in this issue. They will be included in the next one, together with details as supplied by the Portuguese Postal Administration.

NEW LISTING

TIMOR: (A-1 Category) Aerogram, 3 Escudo value, issued 1962, depicting OUR LADY OF DILI.

We are doing research on Our Lady under this title.

Following are Scott Catalog numbers for the new issues in the May 1, 1964 MARIAN PHILATELIST:

Andorra - Virgin of Meritxell #57
Italy - Bruges Madonna #C-137
Rep. of Congo - Sede Sapientiae #475, 479
Spain - Santa Maria de Huerta Monastery #1212-1214

***
FORTHCOMING ISSUES

UNITED STATES: To be released July 22, 1964, 5-cent commemorative for centenary of Nevada Statehood. Design pictures early Virginia City, a Nevada mining town; in the center is St. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS CHURCH.

Father Paul Meinecke, present pastor, has prepared a cachet for first day cancellation, picturing "The Church on the Stamp" and the builder of the church, Father Patrick Manogue, a former mine worker in the area. Cachets with first day cancellation at Virginia City, in four colors (red, blue, green, sepia) available at 25 cents each; set of four $1.00.

Orders should be mailed to Father Meinecke, St. Mary's in the Mountains, Virginia City, Nevada. Addressed labels should also be sent.

Nevada statehood was granted Oct. 31, 1864, but on July 22, 1864, a constitutional convention adopted a State Seal.

***

AUSTRIA: "WIPA" SERIES. "Christian Vienna," to be released in July, 1964, series of 8 stamps, panoramic view of Vienna which includes 24 churches, among which are 11 Marian. See article and complete listing of churches and buildings on page 50.

***

CANADA: OUR LADY OF THE CAPE SHRINE. On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of this beautiful Rosary Shrine, a new series of seals has been released, depicting the original little chapel of the pilgrimage place of OUR LADY OF THE CAPE. The Basilica (illustrated on previous seals) will be blessed and inaugurated during this summer, probably Aug. 15th.

***

OUR APOLOGIES for inadvertently omitting the complete address for the Italian publication "GABRIEL" in the Jan. 1, 1964 issue. It should have read: ITALY: "GABRIEL" Avv. Nicola Berardi, Editor, Via Salaria 300/c, Rome, Italy.

***

RELISTING OF ARGENTINA POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Due to the duplication of numbers, we are here relisting Argentina's Marian Postal Cancellation


Buenos Aires, Dec.25, 1960. CHURCH WITH BELL TOWER, BELL RINGING, STAR OF BETHLEHEM. "Merry Christmas" in German, French, English and Italian; at bottom "Merry Christmas" in Spanish.


Same as #11. Also authorized for cities of Rosario, La Plata, Santa Fe, Mendoza, San Juan, Rio Cuarto, Paraná, Bahía Blanca, Resistencia, Luján, and Córdoba.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST
ARGENTINA (continued)


17. Cordoba, July 6-14, 1962. CATHEDRAL OF CORDOBA, dedicated to The Assumption of The Most Blessed Virgin. "Cordoba Week-Argentina, date." Cancellation used during week-long festival; authorized to promote tourism.


************

MARIAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

Marian Churches in The Valley of The Meuse
Rev. Fr. Hub. Hechtermans, Louvain, Belgium

The Valley of The Meuse (Maase) even in the first Christian period was a center of high culture, and in each city of this valley we find a Marian Church: Givet, Dinant, Namur, Huy, Liege, Maastricht. Two of these Churches are on Belgium postal cancellations of 1963-1964.

BELGIUM:

22. Huy, 10-8-63. CHURCH OF OUR LADY AT HUY. "Tricentenary of the Seventh Yearly Festival." The statue of Our Lady venerated at these Festivals is not in the Collegial Church at Huy but in the Shrine of Our Lady of Sartre. The Seventh Yearly Feasts were announced by two other cancellations with no picture and cancelled "Huy, 15-18 August 1963, Fetes Septennales."

23. Dinant, 5-4-64. COLLEGIAL CHURCH OF OUR LADY. "Dinant-Day of The Stamp." This church also on Belgium stamps, Scott Nos. 117, B-92, IN35, IN52. (See checklist in Jan. 1, 1964 MARIAN PHILATELIST, page 13.) Near this Collegial Church of Our Lady is the famous Shrine of Our Lady of Foy; a shrine to Our Lady under this title is also found in the United States at Auburndale, New York, the city of the Jesuit Martyrs.


FRANCE:


The village of Laus is in a beautiful valley near Gap, between Grenoble and Digne and not far from La Sallette in the "Haute Alps." In 1664 Our Lady appeared to Benoite Rencuro as she led her little flock to this small valley and told her, "I am Mary, Mother of Jesus. My Son wishes to be especially honored in this valley." In 1885, on May 23, Pope Pius IX ordered that the statue of Our Lady be crowned.

FRANCE (continued)

circle reads "Our Lady of Laus, Saint Stephen-le-Laus (Htes. A.)." Within circle is inscription "Centenary of the Coronation of The Virgin of Laus, 26 June, 1955." (Not illustrated.)

Information on above received from Rev. Fr. Hub. Hechtermans, Louvain, Belgium.


Information on #11 received from Bro. Bourassa and Bro. Saumure, O.M.I., Richelieu, Quebec, Canada.

BRAZIL:

8. Rio de Janeiro, Mar. 13, 1961. SACRED HEART OF MARY. "Golden Jubilee of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Brazil - 11 to 31 March, 1961." Used on first day of issue of Brazil stamp, Scott #916, commemorating 50th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Mary Congregation in Brazil. (See article in March 1964 issue, page 25.)

FDC cancellation forwarded by Dr. Helio Correa, Rio de Janeiro, Guanabara, Brazil.

SPAIN:


Through the courtesy of Arthur W. Clinton we illustrate here a beautiful cancellation found on a Spanish War Tax Stamp Issue of 1898. Scott lists this stamp, in black, as #MR-19; other foreign catalogues identify the green stamp.

The cancellation depicts a MADONNA AND CHILD, with the inscription "Parochial Church of Our Lady of the Way of Albuera." Albuera is in the Province of Badajoz.

CANADA:

3. Montreal, Dec. 16, 1963. No picture. "Marie Reine Des Coeurs." (Mary, Queen of Hearts.) Meter cancellation used by Montfort Fathers, Montfort Marian Center, Montreal; a magazine published by them is called, "Queen of All Hearts." The Founder of The Montfort Fathers, St. Louis de Montfort, had a great devotion to "Our Lady, Queen of All Hearts."


5. Quebec, June 3, 1964. MADONNA AND CHILD. "Our Lady of The Sacred Heart." Meter cancellation used by the magazine "Our Lady of The Sacred Heart."


Following is additional information on Canada #1:

"Capitale Mariale du Canada" (Marian Capital of Canada) is printed in the medallion of Our Lady of The Cape, (Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Province of Quebec, Canada.) The Shrine has a post office named "Notre Dame du Cap, P.Q."

Above information and cancellations received from Bro. Bourassa, Bro. Saumure, O.M.I., Rev. Fr. Hechtermans, J. D. Durocher.
Four values of Portugal's First Independence stamps (Scott Nos. 378, 380, 382, 388) (same issue surcharged, Scott Nos. 397a-397b), depict this Marian Church and Monastery. Considered among the most famous monasteries in the world, it affords the finest example of Portuguese Gothic architecture. It was built of local white limestone, and has weathered to a lovely golden tint.

In 1385, John I vowed to erect a splendid monastery to honor Our Lady if victory against the Spanish was given him; he won the battle of Aljubarrota, and the first stone was laid in 1388, however, the buildings were not completed until 1515. John I and his English Queen, Philippa, are buried in the church, their recumbent effigies lying hand in hand. The Monastery Cloisters are particularly beautiful, the arches being filled with elaborate tracery.

The use of these stamps, instead of the regular issue, was obligatory on Aug. 13 and 14 and Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 1926. They were also overprinted, in red, "Azores."
Her complete title is "LA VIRGEN DE LA ESPERANZA MACARENA" (The Virgin of Expectation, or Hope, Macarena), but is universally called "LA MACARENA." In Arabic, "Macarena" means "the pretty one", and in Greek, "the blessed, the happy."

On May 31, 1964, Cardinal Bueno Monreal canonically crowned La Macarena. As special recognition of this event, Spain issued a special stamp picturing the head of the statue. The event was also celebrated with other ceremonies, among them the performance of the famous religious dance by the Choir Boys of the Seville Cathedral, releasing an impressive flight of doves, and the bestowing of a medal of gold by the Brotherhood of the O (see Vol. 1, No. 5, page 17, Our Lady of the O.) Pilgrims from Spanish-American countries also came to participate in this moving ceremony.

The statue, enshrined in St. Gil's Church in Seville, was carved in the middle 17th century by Luisa la Prodana, Spain's only great woman sculptress. It was intended to be "Our Lady of Sorrows," but the artist gave it such a vivid and moving facial expression that even though tears run down the cheeks there is a faint tender smile on the lips.

She has been beloved by Sevillians for almost 300 years, and as tokens of their affection they donated gifts of gold, rich materials, and even jewels. The women of Seville consider it the highest of honors if La Macarena wears their jewels in the Holy Week procession. She is a special favorite of bullfighters wherever the sport is performed, and as a means of expressing devotion and thanksgiving they donate their capes to her. This came about through a gypsy bullfighter named Joselito, an outstanding matador in the early 1900's. Joselito had developed a deep personal attachment for La Macarena, and in thanksgiving for safety in the ring he donated his elaborately embroidered capes to be made into robes for her. He also contributed the twelve emeralds which are regularly pinned on her. Bullfighters from Mexico and South America developed this same affection and also sent her gifts as well as their capes. She is reputed to have one of the most elaborate wardrobes of the "dressed Madonnas."

When Joselito died in 1921, La Macarena was robed in black. He was buried in a baroque crypt erected by his followers, and this crypt saved La Macarena.

The Civil War menaced Seville and the Church of St. Gil. The people were concerned for the safety of the statue, and decided that Joselito's crypt would be the safest place for it. They removed Joselito to an unmarked vault and placed La Macarena in his place. When the war ended, The Church of St. Gil was rubble but La Macarena was safe! A new church was built and today she is lovingly enshrined therein. Her golden crown went to the war chest but was rescued and returned. The scarlet sash she wears indicates her status as a General in the Spanish Army.

(Our appreciation to Antonio Benet of Valencia, Spain, and Casimir Ivanitchi, Passaic, New Jersey, for providing the philatelic items illustrated above.)
This is another of the Madonna translations from the Anheuser-Rüttimann book, MARIA, KONIGIN DER WELT. Readers, I believe, would be pleased to know this as I am still receiving requests for the work.

TRANSLATION: This Arthurian Madonna gives one a puzzling impression. The artist's ideal of a Madonna may, probably, have had a spiritual and even perhaps an uplifting appeal, though to the ordinary observer the statue suggests a militant heroine. There may be, very likely, some association of the Artushof (i.e., Court of King Arthur) Madonna with Arthurian legends, for in the Middle Ages soldiers and knights congregated in the Vistula Port City, drawn there by kindred military interests. No doubt they, as well as knights of earlier days, imitated the Round Table saga of that heroic age, celebrating with wine and merriment.

COMMENTARY: Understanding the history of this part of Europe in the centuries of Middle Ages conquests would clarify the details of historic relics connected with this part of Europe. Danzig, when held by German power, bore that name; when under Poland's control, it bore the name Gdansk. The place is an important port city on the left bank of the Vistula River, approximately three miles from the Baltic Sea, into which the river empties. The German name was applied to the city from 1814 until the end of World War I, and again for the duration of World War II, during which latter period it was held to be the capital of West Prussia. In 1919, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, the port and its surrounding territory became known as the Free City of Danzig, under the protection of the League of Nations.

In 1939 it was annexed by Germany, simultaneously with Hitler's invasion of Poland, and at the end of World War II, in accordance with terms of the Potsdam Conference of July 1945, both the city and surrounding territory, together with a portion of eastern Germany, were ceded to Poland. The new Polish government renamed the city Gdansk and abolished the territorial unit of the former Free City and its surrounding area.

The wars and their consequences which followed the changing of the name of the important Baltic seaport give a flavor to the story and reason for this type of Madonna as shown on the first of a series of five semi-postal stamps issued for charity by Danzig in 1937. My Cologne correspondent states he is familiar with the stories which belong to this much fought over region. The statue, he says, was made by the sculptor Stech in the 18th century. The design was taken from an historic frieze made about the middle of the 15th century.

The Artushof was built during a time of considerable expansion for young noblemen of the armed forces, and for that reason was called the Junkershof, that is, "court for the landed gentry." The frieze designs were planned by members of this group of the aristocracy, and since most were Catholic it was not strange that their first choice in the designs should be a Madonna - but a Madonna garbed in harmony with their ideals of chivalry, for the name of this Gothic building, "Artushof", would inspire a militant bearing. The frieze portrayed themes much in line with the warlike atmosphere of the place. Regardless of the changes in governmental control by German or Polish rule, the men who lived at the Junkershof always saw that the frieze remained unharmed. That was true until World War II when many of the fine old Gothic structures were badly damaged, if not totally demolished.

When we recall that stamp collecting in Europe had an earlier start among a greater number of peoples, and that topical collecting of a religious nature had its beginning in them, it is easy to understand why the Danzig Artushof Madonna was selected for the 1937 semi-postal charity series. These portrayals had appeal, and attraction is a good salesman.

Knowing the history of the period it is no wonder that the Artushof Madonna reflects Christ's Mother garbed to fit the militant atmosphere of the time in which the original frieze designs were made.

The statue, Mr. Colsmann says, was near the right of the entrance to the Artushof which has, with increasing additional artifacts, been regarded and named as a museum.
OUR LADY IN THE NATIONAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART, BRUSSELS - Belgium Scott B-511

Rev. Hub. Hechtermans, Louvain, Belgium

The plateau of Koekelberg, dominating the surroundings of Brussels, had been chosen at the beginning of the current century by King Leopold II as a site for a National Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The 75th anniversary of the independence of Belgium was the opportunity to carry the plan into execution. On Oct. 12, 1905, Leopold II laid the first foundation stone, which was consecrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Goossens.

After the war of 1914-18, the first plan of the Louvain architect, P. Langerock, was forsaken. Belgium had grown too poor. A young architect of Ghent, Van Haffel, projected a new plan, and on May 25, 1935, His Eminence, Cardinal van Roey celebrated the first Holy Mass in the large apse. After the second World War of 1940-45, the same Cardinal solemnly consecrated the vast nave (room for 20,000 pilgrims) on Oct. 14, 1951. Belgium stamps of 1939 and 1952 represent this Basilica but the Holy Virgin does not appear on them.

Behind the altar of The Blessed Sacrament, when we turn right, we come before the altar of the Glorious Queen of Peace, to whom the country was consecrated centuries ago. This consecration was renewed on the platform of the Basilica on September 5th of the Marian Year 1954, in the presence of King Baudoin, high ecclesiastical and civil authorities, and 300,000 faithful people.

But for the Marian Philatelist it is very interesting to know that OUR BLESSED LADY is represented on one of the stamps of 1952: the 1.75 franc plus 25 centimes, Scott B-511. At the top of the baldachin over the high altar can be seen a bronze statuary group representing Calvary: The Crucified Christ with His Holy Mother and St. John. This statuary was carved by Harry Elstrom(11/8/1905) a Belgian artist of Danish origin. One of his beautifully carved Madonnas can be seen in the Church of Mary, Medistrix of All Graces, at Louvain.

BRAZIL - Scott #695: VIRGIN OF THE GLOBE.
Charles L. Murphy, Quincy, Massachusetts, has informed us that there exists an imperforate copy of this stamp; he has it in his collection. The stamp was issued in 1950 to commemorate the centenary of the establishment in Brazil of the Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul.

SPAIN - Scott #1105. SAN JOSE CONVENT, AVILA.
Sister Francis Eugene, O.C.D., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has asked if any of the members can tell her whether the Seal of the Order of the Monastery is depicted on this stamp.

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July 1, 1964
The exhibit of "The Madonna in Spanish Philately" won the Gold Medal in the Topical Field at WESTPEX.

For advanced or beginning collectors of Madonna Stamps this colorful and charming country deserves particular attention.

Following offerings are mint, or lightly hinged, in fine to very fine condition.

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AND - The Local Civil War Madonnas
These are listed in the 1st Revised Edition of our Catalog (free for asking).

Marshall H. Williams
Life Member of COROS No. 18
98 East Rock Road New Haven 11, Conn. 06511
In 1965 there will be held, in the former Imperial Palace of Vienna, an International Stamp Exhibition - "WIPA 1965." To invite visitors, the Austrian Postal Administration shall issue a series of stamps with a panoramic view of Vienna as seen from the first Vienna skyscraper built in 1936. On the stamps will be seen 24 churches, chapels and monasteries, some very clearly and some recognized only by their characteristic steeples. All in all one can get a splendid impression of "Christian Vienna" from these stamps.

Anyone interested in more information on these churches can obtain it from a book entitled "MARIANISCHES WIEN" (Man Vienna), by Father Hugo Pfundstein, O.S.B. The 200-page book, with illustrations, is in German, and is priced $1.50 postpaid. Orders should be sent to Pfarramt Schotten, Freyung 6 a, Vienna I, Austria.

Each of the eight stamps is distinguished by the points of the compass. We begin the listing of these Vienna buildings, going from left to right, and identifying churches with "numbers" and secular buildings with "letters of the alphabet."

WEST
A. Houses of Parliament.
2. Church "Mary of Snows," Church of the Minorite Fathers (known from previous stamps).
3. Papal Basilica "Maria Treu" of the Piarist Fathers.
4. Church of St. Francis Seraphicus, Breitenfeld.
B. Town Hall with four small and one high towers.

NORTHWEST
5. Church of The Divine Saviour, known as "Votive-Church" in New Gothic style.
6. Church of The Saviour on Mount of Olives, of The Most Sorrowful Mother, and of St. Canisius (Jesuit Fathers).
7. Papal Basilica "Our Lady of The Spots" with Abbey of Benedictine Fathers. (In 1958 a special cancellation was issued using the old seal of the abbey for their 800-year festival.) In the background of the stamp is "Kahlenberg" (barren mount), which was of importance during the liberation of Vienna from the Turkish siege in 1683.

NORTH
C. Gasometer.
8. Church of St. Brigit.
D. Barracks.
E. Tower for anti-aircraft guns I.
F. Tower of Vienna Insurance Company.
G. Like E.

NORTHEAST
9. Church "St. Mary on the Stairs" of the Redemptorist Fathers with a particularly nice tower; in the Church is the tomb of the Patron Saint of Vienna, St. Clemens Maria Hofbauer.
10. Church of St. Leopold.
11. Church "St. Mary of The Angels:" Left, on top of the facade, and right on the top of the small tower are big statues of St. Mary.

EAST
12. Church of St. Peter.
15. St. Stephen's Cathedral. (Already known on stamps.)

SOUTHEAST
16. St. Anne's Church.
17. Church "St. Mary's Visitations" of the Salesian Sisters.
J. Tower of a dwelling.
K. Belvedere Castle.
18. Baroque tower in the foreground from the Reformed Church (Calvinist).

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

-50- July 1, 1964
SOUTH
20. St. Charles Church (the prettiest cupola is known from former stamp issues).
21. Former Imperial Church of St. Mary and St. Augustin.
22. Church of St. Elizabeth.
L. Three cupolas from Imperial Palace (Hofburg).

SOUTHWEST
M. Museum of Fine Arts (Kunsthistorisches Museum).
N. Like E.
23. Garrison's Church of The Holy Cross.
O. Like E.
P. Museum of Natural History.
24. Former St. Joseph's Chapel in the Imperial Palace.

We hope that all collectors will be pleased with these many Churches of Vienna and their identification.

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THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

July 1, 1964
VATICAN CITY ISSUE FOR WORLD'S FAIR

The two photographs were forwarded by Rev. Father Horn. They reproduce miniatures by Casimira Dobrowska and symbolize THE PIETA and the World's Fair.

Illustrated also is a First Day Cover with the set of the four stamps.

MARIAN CHURCHES OF ANGOLA

Rev. Father Volkaerts, Brussels, Belgium has sent us information identifying nine Marian Churches in the set of eighteen stamps issued by Angola Nov. 6, 1963. Three of these have been mentioned and illustrated in previous issues of THE MARIAN PHILATELIST, as indicated in the listing. The list of nine is as follows:

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<td>30 c.</td>
<td>Luanda</td>
<td>Cathedral of Our Lady of Remedios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>496</td>
<td>1 escudo</td>
<td>Malange</td>
<td>Cathedral of The Assumption of Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>498</td>
<td>2 &quot;</td>
<td>Benguela</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady of Populo (Jan. 1964 issue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501</td>
<td>3.50 &quot;</td>
<td>Cabinda</td>
<td>Mission Church of The Immaculate Conception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>4.50 &quot;</td>
<td>Lobito</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady of Arrabida (Jan. 1964 issue)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504</td>
<td>5 &quot;</td>
<td>Cabinda</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady Queen of The World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505</td>
<td>7.50 &quot;</td>
<td>Cacuso-Malange</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady of Fatima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>10 &quot;</td>
<td>Lubango</td>
<td>Mission Church of Our Lady of Dolors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508</td>
<td>15 &quot;</td>
<td>Luanda</td>
<td>Church of Our Lady of Cabo (May 1964 issue)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. PHILATELIC MATERIAL: Postal stamps, used stamps, first day covers, maximum cards, proofs, perfect postal items.

A. "The postal stamp constitutes the principal and outstanding element of our collection." (Regulation Art. 2)

It is therefore the postal stamps to which we must give our principal attention. In thematic philately it is the design represented on the stamp which interests us most since we mount our collection pursuant to this motive.

Fortunately for us, and very probably for all specialized collectors, facilities exist permitting mounting a thematic collection in a large number of subjects. There is such a quantity of subjects that it is advisable to work rather in depth than to have a great extensive theme. Unless one wishes to have a very voluminous collection, it is better to limit the theme; for example, instead of devoting ourselves to all the churches of The Virgin.

That which we occupy ourselves with, especially in religious philately, we notice on one hand that though it is not a field with unmanageable quantities of stamps we are yet able to specialize in a great number of religious themes, even going into much detail.

(1) We understand the meaning of "postal stamp" to mean "the frankling value issued by the Administration of Mail of a country. The postage stamp which we use in our collection ought to be authentic and in good condition. (Art. 3 of the Regulation) Our collection should be thematic before all philatelic. We do not have to collect anything except irreproachable stamps, having considered the condition (i.e., color, paper, etc.), regular perforation, well centered, original gum, and good general condition.

As do all philatelists, we love rarities and classics provided they fit in our theme. (Regulations of expositions award 10 points for the general state and rarity of the stamps exhibited.) Even so, for great advantage of the thematic collections, we find it easy to mount a beautiful thematic collection without seeing ourselves obligated to excessive costs.

(2) In regard to the postal stamps, a great many questions present themselves, some of which we resolve on continuing:

(a) Mint stamps or used stamps? In principal, a collection composed of used stamps has the same value as another mounted with mint stamps provided the image which interests us has not been heavily cancelled on the used stamps. Since we base our collection on the image, this should be prominent (imagine the image of a Virgin whose face was completely covered by the name of a post office). It will be preferred, therefore, to use only mint stamps which project the image in a much better state. What is not advisable, in every instance, is to mix on one page mint stamps and used stamps, (Art. 5), unless the used stamp would be a great rarity, or the postmark have some importance or special character.

(b) Secondary motives (miniature motives): It is very difficult to give a rule in convincing form in this respect, therefore, the observations we give have no more than advisory character. A secondary motive is a detail on the stamp or postmark when the principal motive does not fit within our theme.

(aa) Those stamps on which the motive of our theme plays an important part, though it be projected in miniature form, are not secondary motives (for example, The Virgin, small, in a Nativity Scene).

(bb) When the principal motive of a stamp is without importance for our theme, its secondary motive can be utilized for our collection; for example, a landscape with a Marian Church. In such case we advise finding first a stamp on which appears the principal motive of our theme and later surround it with stamps containing it as a secondary motive; for example, Belgium Express, Yvert No. 5, Scott No. E-4, Antwerp Cathedral, which can be encircled by the following stamps: Yvert Nos. 145, 297, 766, 768, 990, Scott Nos. 119, B-97, 362, 364, 443.

(cc) When the principal motive is completely foreign to our theme, we must proceed with caution, and perhaps it would be better not to use it (for example, the stamp of Ecuador,
Yvert No. 656, Scott 657, antater design but also in the coat-of-arms is a miniature Holy Virgin; visitors at an exhibition, in this case, naturally will question why they must see this animal in a Marian collection.

(dd) When the secondary motive is so small that only with a magnifying glass can it be found, it is better to exclude it from our collection.

(c) Are we able to use Local Stamps, Charity Issues, etc? A stamp is philatelic when it has relation to the mail, or when sold for franking, or employed as a surtax, etc. Local issues have their reason for existence, such as in case of war, as an example, when sufficient postal stamps are not available, or used as obligatory surtaxes, as was done in Spanish cities during the Civil War, or during Christmas in Macao. What we categorically reject are all classes of vignettes or purely private issues because none have a connection with philately. A good criterion in this respect is to obtain a letter or cover actually accepted, cancelled and transmitted through the mail ("sought after" say the French of such items).

(d) Complete or Incomplete Sets? As we look for the image on the stamp we are, in principle, "declared enemies" of having to purchase complete sets. A set is a fictitious entity which groups various stamps at the time of issue, individual items of which cannot be secured. There are collectors who buy the complete sets, keeping the undesired stamps in special classifications to preserve their commercial value in case of sale. I believe that a thematic collection is valued more when not clogged with stamps having no relation to the theme. Certainly, many times one must pay a little more to obtain a stamp of some years back as dealers do not wish to sell mint stamps out of a set.

(e) "Complete" Collections: Should we have in our collection absolutely all the stamps which have relation to our theme, or is it sufficient to have some quantity of these? Normally, we should have all the stamps which exist for our determined theme, for example, the determined church, since this is of double influence in the judging of our collection. Regulations award 15 points on the volume of our collection and 10 points on state and rarity. But there are other factors which we must take into account as there are some stamps with many face values; to take them all would bring a very notable disproportion to our collection. For an example, on the Cathedral of Nicaragua it is said there exist some 250 different stamps with this design, more than of any other church in America. In this case we must collect some, although it would undoubtedly be a great satisfaction to have them all in the "filing cabinet."

The number of stamps we use naturally also depends on the purse of the collector, and I wish to repeat again that there is a good method in mounting a beautiful collection without extravagant expenditure.

(f) Hinged Stamps: There are collectors who reject stamps, even if mint, if there is an indication they have been hinged. I accept this line of thinking for recent issues but have a liking for hinged stamps when dealing with very old stamps. Just because these come from collections in which they have been affixed with hinges, or have been re-gummed (which is worse), let us be reasonable and not reject them.

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NOTE: For the Cathedral of Leon, Nicaragua, there are 123 different stamps with the same design for ordinary mail, 40 for airmail, 53 for "official service", 13 for "official air service", and 3 for TASSAS postals - making a total of 232 stamps with the same design; although not very long ago among these stamps were discovered some not authorized by the Administration of Mails but produced by suspicious dealers. In any case, we are able to affirm without fear of error that no other church in the world, Marian or not, exists on so many stamps, identical in design but in different colors and face values. The churches most depicted, such as Notre Dame of Paris, St. Mary's of Danzig, St. Peter's of Rome, Rheims Cathedral, Cologne Cathedral, St. Mary's of Cracow, Mariazell, and others, cannot match this proximity or, better put, this tiresome uniformity. ....Rev. R. Struve Haker...

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The foregoing translated from the May 1964 issue of "GABRIEL - LATINOAMERICANO", edited by Rev. Father Struve Haker, and submitted to our readers through the cooperation of Father De Troyer and Father Haker.

As a footnote I should like to mention that as collectors of Marian Philately we should be made aware of miniatures, etc. As cataloguers we believe they should be listed, but leave to the individual collector the choice of whether or not these will be included in his or her collection. .... W. J. Hoffman, Editor ...

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

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July 1, 1954