1-1-1970

The Marian Philatelist, Whole No. 46

A. S. Horn

W. J. Hoffman

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New Year's Greetings to all our members. Thanks to the assistance of one of our members we are able, at least temporarily, to continue the publication of THE MARIAN PHILATELIST. In the name of all our members I wish to thank Mr. Hoffman for his constant devotion to the study of the Blessed Virgin on stamps. His unselfish contribution in time and effort has made the continuation of our paper possible.

May God bless you.

Father Horn

NEW ISSUES

ANGUILLA: The philatelic press indicated that a 4-stamp Christmas set would be issued, and gave designs and values as listed on page 65 of the November 1969 issue. Recent information states: "4 definitive values of Anguilla were overprinted CHRISTMAS and released October 27, 1969." The designs mentioned for Anguilla are seen on the ANTIGUA Christmas issue; see below.

ANDORRE (FRENCH): (Class 2). A 3-stamp set issued October 20, 1969. Designs depict incidents mentioned in the Apocalypse as seen on the Retable in the Church of St. Jean de Caselles, a Romanesque Chapel dating to c.1100. Seen on the 0.30 value is THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - the winged woman standing on the crescent. At the center bottom is St. John the Evangelist with his symbol, the Eagle. The 7-headed dragon is at upper right, and God the Father at top center. Chapter 12 of the Apocalypse tells "the woman clothed with the sun, standing on the crescent of the moon. The great red dragon had seven heads and ten horns and on his head seven diadems. He stood before the woman who was ready to be delivered of a man child so that he could devour her son. She brought forth her son who was to rule all nations. And her son was taken up to God."


6c,35c (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE MAGI by Gugliemo de Marcillat, dating to 1516, from the Cathedral of Cortona, Italy.

10c,50c (Class 2) - THE NATIVITY from a German window dating to the 1500's by an unknown artist.

AJMAN: This "tread with caution" country has issued a set of 8 values, perf and imperf, plus perf and imperf sheets, printed on gold and silver foil, with the designs depicting the Christmas theme in mosaic effect. We have not seen the stamps, however, Clare McAlister, of "The Fine Arts Philatelist," supplied us with the following data:

2 dh (Class 2) - PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE by Memling; right wing of "The Three Kings Altarpiece Triptych," painted c.1470; in the Prado.

3 dh (Class 2) - MARRIAGE OF ST. CATHERINE by Correggio. No data available.

4 dh (Class 2) - MADONNA AND CHILD WITH ST. JOHN by Botticelli. In the Louvre, Paris. Also seen on 20 dh of December 1968 issue by Ras Al Khaima; see page 17 of March 1969 issue.

45c, 40c, 39c, 31c, 24c, 13c, 12c, 10c, 7c, 4c, 3c, 2c, 1c, 6c, 35c, 10c, 50c, 60c, 75c, 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 5.00, 20.00

Business Address:
424 West Crystal View Avenue
Orange, California 92667, U.S.A.
BELGIUM: (Class 1). Christmas issue of 4 values, date of release not known. The design shows a detail of THE SISTINE MADONNA by Raphael. See article on page 68 of September 1967 issue, also on Saar issue of August 1954 (Scott 251); German Democratic Republic issue of December 1955 (Scott 277); Ecuador issue of November 1968, and Liberia issue of June 1969.

BELGIUM: (Class 2). Christmas stamp having 1,50 fr. value released December 15, 1969. Design shows detail of MARY AND JOSEPH from the CENSUS AT BETHLEHEM by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (c1525/30-1569). The original is a panel 45.5 x 65 inches in the Royal Museum, Brussels. Work is signed and dated 1566. This issue adds another episode in the Philatelic Life of the Virgin. The stamp was not available when we went to press; the illustration and additional information will be in the March 1969 issue.

BELGIUM: (Class 8m) The 3F value in the 2-stamp set issued November 10, 1969 shows

5 dh (Class 2) - FLIGHT INTO EGYPT by Giotto (1266?-1337). A fresco in the Madonna Dell' Arena Chapel, Padua, which was erected in 1303 by order of Enrico Scrovegno.

Also included are: Details of the angels from "The Madonna of the Pomegranate" by Botticelli, in the Uffizi, Florence; Detail of "Jesus Among the Doctors" by Hoffman; "The Baptism of Christ" by Verrochio, in the Uffizi, Florence; Detail of Christ from "The Agony in the Garden" by El Greco, in the National Gallery, London. The S/S show "The Adoration of the Magi," however no information available as to artist or location.

We list the above issue merely for information.

AUSTRIA: A 2 schilling value Christmas stamp issued November 28, 1969 depicting VIRGIN AND CHILD. Stamp is inscribed Egger-Lienz at right bottom. Previous information stated that the issue would be "Marian," however, no additional data is available at present.

BURUNDI: A 6-stamp Christmas issue released December 2, 1969, with souvenir sheet included. Stamps not available for illustration, but designs as follows:

5F (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE MAGI by Rubens. No data available.

6F (Class 1) - THE VIRGIN WITH INFANT AND ST. JOHN by Giulio Romano (1492-1546). Original in the Borghese Gallery, Rome.

10F (Class 1) - THE MADONNA OF THE MAGNIFICAT by Botticelli (1444-1510). In the Uffizi, Florence. Also seen on Ajman issue of November 1968 and on Burundi issue of November 1968. See article on pages 28-29 of March 1969 issue.


26F air (Class 1) VIRGIN AND CHILD detail from SACRED CONVERSATION by J. Negretti, better known as Palma Vecchio (1480-1529), a Venetian painter of the High Renaissance. No details available at present as to location.

50F air (Class 1). VIRGIN AND INFANT detail from THE MADONNA WITH SAINTS ANTHONY OF PADUA AND ROCH by G. Barbarelli, better known as "Giorgione" (1478-1516). Original canvas, 36-1/4 x 52-3/8 inches, is in the Prado. It is a good example of the "Sacred Conversation" theme so much in favor at that time in Venice. Work came to the Prado in 1839.

Two souvenir sheets show the three ordinary mail stamps and the three airmail stamps, with decorative border; 25,000 issued with one-half perf and one-half imperf.


1c (Class 1) - MADONNA WITH SAINTS JEROME AND DOMINIC, by Filippino Lippi (1451-1504). Original in the National Gallery, Rome, painted c.1457.

John F. Kennedy tunnel at Antwerp. In left background is seen the STEEPLE OF THE NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL seen from the left bank of the river. The steeple rises 306 feet, and is of High Gothic style.

10¢ (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH SAINTS by Hans Memling (1433-1494.) No data available.

20¢ (Class 1). VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH SAINTS by Robert Campin, Master of Flemalle (1375-1444), a Flemish painter. Location of original not known at present. The Master of Flemalle was active at the same time as Jan van Eyck and Van der Weyden; name stems from altars he did in the Abbey of Flemalle (near Liege), which are now in the Stadel Institute, Frankfort. He is identified as being Robert Campin, born in Tournai. Praeger's Encyclopedia states some scholars believe that works attributed to the Master of Flemalle are actually the early works of Roger Van der Weyden.

30¢ (Class 1) - THE MADONNA OF THE BASKET by Correggio (1494-1534). Original in National Gallery, London, measures 13-1/4 x 9-7/8 inches. It was a very famous picture for at least a decade. At one time it belonged to Philip IV of Spain, and was in the Royal Collection in 1789. Was brought to England in 1813 but found no buyers; taken to Paris and in 1825 sold to a private dealer who re-sold it to the National Gallery, London, for 3,800 pounds.

The souvenir sheet contains the 5 stamps of each design plus a label bearing picture of Queen Elizabeth. The margin reproduces a 15th century manuscript border.

DOMINICA: Continuing its tradition of Christmas stamps bearing Religious Paintings, a 4-stamp set plus souvenir sheet was issued, however, exact date unknown. Stamps not available for illustration but values and designs are as follows:

6¢ (Class 2) - THE HOLY FAMILY WITH THE LAMB by Raphael (1483-1520), in the Prado.

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Also seen on December 1966 Sanda & Davaar labels (see page 16 March 1967); on Panama January 1968 issue (see pages 32 and 42 of May 1968); on Cook Islands December 1968 issue (see page 24 November 1969).

10¢ (Class 1) - MADONNA OF THE ROSE HEDGE, also called MADONNA AND CHILD WITH ST. JOHN by Botticelli (1444-1510). Original in the Louvre, Paris. Also seen on Ras Al Khaima 1968 Christmas stamp; see page 17 of March 1969 issue.

15¢ (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD by Perugino (c1450-1523). No data available.

$1.20 (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD by Lippi (1457-1501). No data available.

The souvenir sheet contains the 15¢ and $1.20 values.

FRANCE: (Class 8) A semi-postal stamp with 0.70+0.10 Fr. value issued November 24, 1969 to mark 25th anniversary of liberation of Strasbourg. At top center is the NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL OF STRASBOURG. General Leclerc, the liberator of Strasbourg, is on the left.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: A 2-stamp set issued October 28, 1969 for 20th anniversary of the Republic. The 20 pf. value shows MAGDEBURG CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY. Church was begun in 1209 on ruins of a Romanesque Church. Archbishop Albrecht decided to have his cathedral incorporate French innovations he had seen at Senlis and Paris, therefore, the Magdeburg Cathedral was among the first German churches to use French-Gothic style. Nave and transept completed in 1272 in a German-Gothic style since the architect did not follow the Archbishop's request exactly. Cathedral was spared in the 1631 Sack of Magdeburg during the Thirty Years War (some say miraculously). It was heavily bombed during World War II. This Cathedral also seen on a November 14, 1955 issue by the GDR (Scott 265). The present Cathedral is a 3-aisled Basilica with single transept and five polygonal chapels. The Bishop's Gallery was built in 1240 and the West facade with its two towers was completed in 1520.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS: A 2-stamp Christmas set, plus aerogram, issued October 20, 1969. The design shows a GILBERTESQUE VIRGIN AND CHILD: 2¢ (Class 1) - shows them seated beside a grassy lakeside; while the 10¢ (Class 1) shows them on the beach.
GRENADA: The 1969 Christmas issue to be released sometime in December, exact date not known at present. This issue will be the same 4 stamps issued for Christmas 1968 but overprinted "Christmas Greetings" with the 15c value surcharged with new denomination of 2c. The designs on the 1968 Christmas stamps were as follows:


The illustrations of above designs, with article, on pages 22 and 23 of March 1, 1969 issue.

GREAT BRITAIN: (Class 2). Christmas aero-gram, with first day of issue of October 29, 1969, contains a 9d value embossed stamp depicting MARY AND JOSEPH JOURNEYING TO BETHLEHEM. Design by Fritz Wegner.

LIBERIA: Painting Set II issued November 18, 1969.

5c (Class 8m) - "View of Toledo" by El Greco, painted 1597-99, includes the BELFRY STEEPLE OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION. Original in the Metropolitan Museum, New York. Entire Cathedral scene on San Marino Cathedral issue (Scott 673) of September 1967.

35c (Class 1) - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPION by Murillo. Known as Soult version. Original in the Prado; a canvas, measuring 105-7/8 x 74-3/4 inches, painted c.1678 for the Hospital de los Venerables, Seville. Was removed to France by Marshal Soult in 1813; at his death acquired by the Louvre. In 1946, by agreement with French Government exchanged for first portrait by Velazquez of Queen Mariana. Seen in detail or entirety on Philippines Marian Year December 1954 issue (Scott 617); on Philippines December 1958 issue (Scott 646); and on Spain March 1960 issue (Scott 924).


MONTSBERT: A 3-stamp Christmas set to be released but exact date unknown at present. Designs as follows:

15c, 25c - (Class 2). KING GASPAR BEFORE VIRGIN AND CHILD. Stained glass window.

50c (Class 2). NATIVITY by Leonard Limosin (1505-1577).

ST. LUCIA: A 4-stamp set with two designs issued October 16, 1969; border design by John Waddington Studio.

5c, 25c (Class 1). VIRGIN AND CHILD by Hippolyte Paul Delaroche (1797-1856).

10c, 35c (Class 2). HOLY FAMILY by Rubens.

No additional data available at present.

SPAIN: A 2-stamp Christmas issue; exact date of release unknown.

2 ptas (Class 2) THE NATIVITY from the High Altar of the Gerona Cathedral of Our Lady. Altar is covered with a thin silver gilt and dates to 1320-48; depicts scenes from The Life of the Virgin.

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1,50 ptas (Class 2) - THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI by Juan Bautista Mayno (Maino). Original in the Prado, Madrid. Also seen on the 26F value Burundi issue of November 1968; see article on page 30 of March 1, 1969 issue.

**SPAIN:** A 3-stamp Monastery set issued November 22, 1969. Designs show views of the ROYAL CISTERCIAN MONASTERY OF LAS HUELGAS, located in the environs of Burgos. All Cistercian Monasteries are dedicated to the VIRGIN.

1,50 ptas (Class 8). Exterior view. The tower is called "Atrium of Crusader Knights."

3,50 ptas (Class 3m). Sarcophagus in the Monastery on which is seen a CRUCIFIXION.

6 ptas (Class 8). View of Gothic Cloisters built by St. Ferdinand.

"Huelgas del Rey" means "Pleasure-grounds of the King." Edifice once the summer home for Kings of Castile. Was converted to a Cistercian Monastery for noble ladies by Alfonso VIII (1187). The convent and the church built in Gothic style in 1249 by Ferdinand III, called "The Saint," (1199-1252).

**TRISTAN DA CUNHA:** Set of stamps issued November 1, 1969 to honor Society for Propagation of the Gospels.

The 2/6 value in the set (Class 8) shows ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Tristan.

**TURKS & CAICOS:** A 4-stamp set issued for Christmas. The two designs taken from "The Book of Hours" once owned by Eleanora, the Duchess of Tuscany, now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. "The Book of Hours" was a simplified version of prayers for seven stated hours. The prayers were usually extracted from the "Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary." The two designs on the four stamps are as follows:

1¢, 5¢ (Class 2) - NATIVITY WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST.

3¢, 30¢ (Class 2) - FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

**WESTERN SAMOA:** A 4-stamp Christmas set, issued October 13, 1969, plus souvenir sheet. Stamps were listed but not illustrated on pages 67-68 of November 1969 issue.

1 sene (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD, Murillo.

3 sene (Class 2) - HOLY FAMILY or VIRGIN OF THE GOOD MILK, by El Greco.

20 sene (Class 2) - NATIVITY by El Greco.

30 sene (Class 1) - Detail from THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI by Velazquez, showing the VIRGIN AND CHILD.
VENEZUELA: A 2-stamp Christmas issue released December 1, 1969. Mr. Rafael Oriol, Caracas, forwarded the following information:

0.75 (Class 1) - VIRGIN OF THE ROSARY, a work by an unknown Venezuelan artist of the 17th century; oil painting. The original in a particular collection, Caracas.

1.80 (Class 2) - THE HOLY FAMILY, an oil painting work of the School of the Landaeta, Caracas, 18th century. The original in a particular collection, Caracas.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Data and stamps received too late for illustration and research. The issue labeled as an Art Set issued in November 1969. The 1.60 Kcs. value reproduces a CRUCIFIXION by Vincent Hloznik, painted in 1950. No additional data available at this time.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

VENEZUELA: Mr. Rafael Oriol, Caracas, has informed us that a 6-stamp is to be issued February 15, 1970 depicting COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE. In the issue will be one stamp (0.30 value) showing the CHURCH OF CONCEPCION DEL CARONI, dedicated to The Immaculate Conception, state of Bolivar, which was constructed during the last decade of the 18th century.

PANAMA: This 9-stamp issue was listed, but not illustrated, on page 67 of the November 1, 1969 issue. Following are the illustrations with additional data as to locations supplied by Clare McAlister and Kathleen Berry of "The Fine Arts Philatelist:

1c (Class 1) - MADONNA OF THE GRAND DUKE by Raphael. In Pitti Palace, Florence.

2c (Class 1) - MADONNINA by Roberto Ferruzzi (1853-1934).

3c (Class 1) - MADONNA AND CHILD by Giovanni Bellini (c1430-1516). In Borghese Gallery, Rome.

4c - (Class 1) - ANNUNCIATION. 17th century Portuguese School.

5c - (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD, Van Dyck. Also known as "Madonna of the Pomegranate." In Collection Doria Babbi, Genoa.

6c - (Class 2) - HOLY FAMILY WITH ST. ELIZABETH AND ST. JOHN by Francesco Albani. No data available.

7c - (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE MAGI by Viennese Master, 15th century work in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

8c - (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS by Van Dyck. Original in Church of Notre Dame, Termonde, Belgium.

10c - (Class 2) - FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, 16th c. Portuguese School.
ARGENTINA:
32. Villa Ballester (BA), July 29, 1967. COAT-OF-ARMS OF SCHOOLS: 2nd from right are the Arms for the Institute of St. Anne with FLORAL SYMBOL OF THE VIRGIN. "Circulatory Symbol, 29 July 1967, Villa Ballester (BA), Argentina."


The 50¢ airmail souvenir sheet (Class 1) shows MADONNA AND CHILD WITH ST. JOHN by Andrea del Sarto (1486-1531), painted c.1516 and in the Borghese Gallery, Rome.

Panama is on the list of "tread with caution" countries.

MARIAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

ARGENTINA:
35. Olivos (B), October 31, 1965. Design same as #34.

36. San Isidro (B), November 7, 1965. Design same as #34.

37. V. Alsina (B), November 14, 1965. Design same as #34.

38. Platonos (B), November 21, 1965. Design same as #34.


AUSTRIA:
87. Vienna, July 30, 1969. OPEN BOOK ON WHICH ARE SEEN (LEFT) CITY PARISH CHURCH OF OUR DEAR LADY, MUNICH; (CENTER) THE MOUNTAIN SILHOUETTE OF SALZBURG; (RIGHT) ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL, VIENNA. Red meter cancel, commercial.

88. St. Florian-by-Linz, July 31, 1969. WEST WING OF BAROQUE COLLEGIATE CHURCH. In foreground, the 1714 PRANDTAUER GATE TOWER; in background NEWLY BUILT COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION built by Carlone 1686-1708. The Monastery existed since Carolingian time, and in 1071 was turned over to the "Regulated Choir-Masters." According to legend, the martyr St. Florian was buried on the site of the monastery. He was a high Roman Military Officer in the service of Diocletian, and was martyred by drowning in the Enns River c.304.

(Translation of the German text on the Austria cancels by Frank H. Benjert).

BELGIUM:
71. Farciennes, Hainault Province, November 8, 1969. OUR LADY OF LOURDES IN LOURDES GROTTO, WAINAGE. Special cancel for observance of 30th anniversary.

DAHOMEY:

SPAIN:
Nov. 12 Barcelona, November 12, 1969.
1969 MADONNA AND CHILD. "Philatelic Exposition, Barcelona."

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January 1, 1970

THE MADONNA AND CHILD by Alvise Vivarini (c1446-1503). The original is in the National Gallery, London, however, no additional information has been obtained so far.

Alvise Vivarini was a Venetian painter from Murano. He probably obtained his early training from his uncle Bartolommeo, but was later influenced by G. Bellini and de Messina. His earliest work is dated 1475. He was the second generation painter in the Vivarini family, being the son of Antonio (c1415-c1470).

See on the 1c, 7c and 20c values is THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Jan Gossaert, called Mabuse (c1478-1533). The original is a wood painting, measuring 69-3/4 x 63-1/8 inches, in the National Gallery, London.

Mabuse was a Flemish painter famous for bringing the Italian Renaissance style to Flanders. He was part of the suite of the Duke of Burgundy, his major patron, and traveled with him to Italy where he was greatly influenced by Italian Renaissance painting, which style he adopted for his future works. The masterpiece reproduced on the above three values is considered to be one of his major religious paintings.

JAMAICA: 1969 CHRISTMAS ISSUE

A 3-stamp set was released October 25, 1969. Seen on the 2c value is almost the entire painting of THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Vincento Foppa (c1427-c1515), now in the National Gallery, London. The original is a good painting, 94 x 83 inches, from an altarpiece, and now considered as one of his major works completed in his old age, c. the beginning of the 16th century. At one time the work belonged to Cardinal Fesch. It was sold at auction in 1845. It was purchased by the National Gallery in 1863.

Foppa was born in Brescia and considered the founder of the Milanese school. His later
work influenced greatly by Mantegna and Bellini. He worked in Milan for the Sforza family, and became an honorary member of the household in 1468. His earliest dated work is the Crucifixion at Bergamo, done in 1456.

The same design as is seen on the 2¢ value stamp also is seen on a stamp in the 1969 Bahama Christmas issue; see page 65 of the November 1969 issue, and page 6 of this issue.

October 16, 1967; see article on page 9 of the January 1, 1968 issue.

A detail of the ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Dosso Dossi (cl 1480-1542), is seen on the 8¢ value. The original is a wood painting, 33-1/2 x 42-1/2 inches, in the National Gallery, London.

Dosso Dossi was christened Giovanni de Lutero di Costantino. He was a Ferrarese painter from Trento, which is called "the Dossi," and thus acquired his professional name. He was a friend of Titian and accompanied him to Mantua in 1519. Most of his work was done in and around Ferrara, although he did travel to Venice and Rome.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Kathleen M. Berry for the two First Place Awards at NORBAPEX and the Sacramento Exhibit for her "St. Gabriel the Heavenly Messenger."}

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THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

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Thank you very much for the financial assistance and encouragement. Editor.
Unfortunately we did not obtain the stamps before we went to press so they could be illustrated with this article. We are grateful to Clare McAlister of "The Fine Arts Philatelist" for supplying the following interesting information on this issue, extracted from "The Painted Churches of Cyprus," by Andreas and Judith A. Stylianou. We feel certain members will obtain the stamps before too long, and we are therefore including this article in this issue for reference information.

Seen on the 20m value is THE NATIVITY from a wall painting in the Church of Panayia tou Arakos (Most Holy Mother of God of Arakos), at Lagoudhéra, dating to 1192. This Church is a famous "painted church," single aisled vaulted building, with a dome over the center, and arched recesses set in the side walls to form the arms of the cross. The Church retains the most complete series of paintings of the main Byzantine period in the island, representing the neo-classical in its full bloom in style and iconography, standing on the border-line as the climax of Byzantine art of the Comenian period.

The painting of the Church is recorded on a panel over the north door, which reads: "The most venerable Church of the Most Holy Mother of God of Arakos was painted by donations and the great desire of Lord Leon, son of Authentes, in the month of December of the year 6701." This date translates as 1192 A.D. "Authentes-ai" was the name given by Byzantines to upper class personages, especially the governors of the district of the Byzantine Empire; therefore, Lord Leon must have been the son of a notable inhabitant or local governor of the island.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST is found on the south side of the western vault and presents one of the most satisfying compositions of the theme. There is a sweet expression of calm motherly satisfaction on the Virgin's face as she looks towards her New-born Son.

No data is available thus far on THE NATIVITY reproduced on the 45 m value stamp which shows a wall painting in the Church of Ayios Nicolaos tis Stehis, dating to the 14th century.

The 250m souvenir sheet presents THE VIRGIN BETWEEN THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL AND GABRIEL, a mosaic in the apse of the Church of Panayia Angeloktistos (built by the angels), located seven miles west of Larnaca. This Church of the Virgin Mary, found on the northwest end of the village, is another example reflecting the persistence of the Cypriotes. It is a cruciform domed building of the 11th century, constructed on the ruins of an early Byzantine Basilica. On the south and west ends are extensions in Frankish style.

In the conch of the apse, a remnant of the early Byzantine Basilica destroyed by the Arabs, is the finest church mosaic surviving in the island. It pictures the VIRGIN MARY ATTENDED BY THE TWO ARCHANGELS. The Virgin stands with Christ in her left arm, a style which came to be known as the "hodegetria." The wings of the angels are painted in imitation of peacock feathers with "eyes," which is unusual and perhaps symbolic. The angels are clad in chitons (a tunic or loose garment) and himation (oblong mantle worn as street dress). This mode of portrayal recalls the famous mosaic of the Empress Theodora and her retinue in the Church of St. Vitale, Ravenna.

Due to discrepancies the Kittì mosaic has puzzled Byzantine art students, and has been assigned to every century between the 5th and 12th, however, the characteristics suggest that it belongs to a transitional phase of development.

A newly discovered decorative border arching across the front of the apse (and this is shown on the sheet) is composed of ducks, parrots and stags, flanking graceful fountains enveloped in acanthus foliage; it is divided in the center by a 3-dimensional cross inside a medallion. Most of these symbols and motifs date to the 6th and 7th centuries.

The stamps will be illustrated in our March issue, with a reference to this article.
The 3c value reproduces the central detail of THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS by Louis Le Nain (c1593-1648), painted in 1640. The original is in the National Gallery, London. Same design is seen on the 1/6d value in the 1967 Christmas issue by Great Britain, released in November 1967 (Scott 518); see article on page 8 of the January 1, 1968 issue.

The 11c value also shows a masterpiece previously reproduced on a postage stamp; this is the detail of THE VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH ST. JOSEPH from THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS by Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665). The original was painted c1636-37 and is in the National Gallery, London. This same detail is seen on the 1967 Christmas issues by New Zealand and Niue released in October 1967; see article on page 86 of the November 1, 1967 issue.

The 12c value shows almost the entire painting of THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Gerard David (c1460-1523), a Flemish painter. The original, a wood painting 23-1/2 x 23 inches, is in the National Gallery, London.

Gerard David was born in Oudewater but was active mostly in Bruges. He was the last great painter of the Bruges school. His work was influenced by van Eyck, van der Weyden, Memling and van der Goes, but he owed a great deal to van Eyck from whom he learned the most. He came to Bruges in 1483 and was admitted to the guild in 1484, becoming its head four times. He was named the town painter in 1494. He traveled in Italy, and finally settled in Antwerp in 1515. He was extremely active and left a great many paintings.

The 15c value shows almost the entire painting of THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Vincenzo Foppa (c1427-c1515). This same design is seen on the 2c value in Jamaica's 1969 Christmas issue; see page 8 of this issue for additional details.

EL GRECO'S PORTRAYAL OF PENTECOST -- See page 71 of November 1, 1969 issue

Pentecost is an important Feast in Jewish and Christian Religions. In the Old Testament it falls fifty days after Passover, and in the Bible is known as the Feast of the Weeks or the Feast of the First Fruit. Its religious observance commemorates the delivery of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. For Christians, this Feast observed fifty days after the Crucifixion, commemorates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room. Converts to Christianity were baptized on this day, and since they wore white garments, the day became known as Whitsunday.

One of the earliest representations of Pentecost is in the Rabula Gospels. This is depicted on the Italian issue of December 8, 1962 (Scott 866-67); see article on page 35 of May 1, 1964 issue. It is an Eastern Orthodox portrayal with its arched ceiling representing the "upper room." It includes the Blessed Virgin as representing Christ's Church on earth. This interpretation survives in Eastern Orthodoxy. El Greco was a Crete and was influenced by it. This is reflected in his painting of PENTECOST; he shows the arched ceiling and includes the Blessed Virgin, and also another woman which was considered very startling. He painted himself into the picture (the elderly man with the pointed beard looking at the viewer rather than up), giving the reason that after the Descent of the Holy Spirit all men heard others speak in their own tongue, and since he spoke several languages he "belonged" in his representation of this Feast.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST -11- January 1, 1970
**MADONNA SETS**

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The above are unused, mostly mint, and fine to very fine.

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