3-1-1970

The Marian Philatelist, Whole No. 47

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W. J. Hoffman

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ANGUILLA: (Class 1). A 5-stamp Christmas set was issued October 27, 1969. We have not been able to obtain the stamps, however the 40c value depicts a stylized MADONNA AND CHILD with "Christ mas 69" in four lines. Independent Anguilla is not recognized by Scott but is listed by Michel and Yvert. Its postal authority is St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla.

ARGENTINA: (Class 1). Single stamp, having a 20 pesos value, issued for Christmas on December 17, 1969. The design is a painting of THE VIRGIN AND CHILD by Raul Soldi. The original is in the National Military College.

AUSTRIA: (Class 1). The design for the Christmas stamp issued November 28, 1969, is taken from a painting by the Austrian artist Albin Egger-Lienz (1868-1926). The original is in the possession of the pastor of Jensbach, Father Nikolaus Pfeiffauch. In 1906, the artist painted a conventional "Nativity." With the arrival of the Winter of 1922, Egger-Lienz once more used the theme of 1906, but this time a much simplified version. The shepherds are no longer seen; only the Blessed Mother and Holy Child remain in the soft orange glow of the lantern in the stable, and only this gives us the hint that this is a NATIVITY. Even the halo over the head of the Madonna is missing.

Most of the artist's best paintings are found in the Heimatsmuseum housed in Bruck Castle a short distance from Lienz, Austria.

BRAZIL: (Class 1). A 10 centavos stamp issued for Christmas on December 8, 1969. Design depicts a CROWNED MADONNA AND CHILD bearing the title OUR LADY OF JOY. Illustration with special first day cancellations with article on page 23.

A sheet containing a 75 cts stamp also depicts OUR LADY OF JOY; it was issued December 18, 1969 (100,000 copies). Special first day cancel depicts THE VIRGIN IN ADORATION by Correggio; see Brazil #53 on page 19.

An air letter sheet also issued, having on the inside THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT by Jose Ferraz de Almeida, Jr. (1903-62); original in Museum of Fine Arts, Rio de Janeiro.

COSTA RICA: (Class 1). A 4-stamp set issued for Christmas, exact date unknown. Same 5 cts value and design, stylized MADONNA AND CHILD, on all four stamps which have backgrounds of blue, green, orange and russet.

CYPRUS: An article on the two stamps and sheet issued for Christmas on October 25, 1969, is on page 10, January 1970 issue. Below are the illustrations of the stamps with design details.

20m (Class 2) - THE NATIVITY from a wall painting in the Church of The Most Holy Mother of God Arakos, Lagoudera, dating to 1192.

45m (Class 2) - THE NATIVITY from a wall painting in the Church of Ayios Nikolaos tis Stehis, dating to the 14th century.
250m S/S (Class 1) - VIRGIN BETWEEN ARCHANGELS MICHAEL AND GABRIEL from mosaic in apse of Church of Our Lady built by the Angels, Kitt, dating to 6–7 centuries. An APS Editorial block blot has been given this sheet; see page 18.

DAHOMEY: A 4-stamp Christmas issue released December 20, 1969. We have not been able to obtain any information on the designs.

30F (Class 1) - THE ANNUNCIATION by Vrancke Van Der Stockt (15th c).
45F (Class 2) - THE NATIVITY, School Souabe (late 15th c).
110F (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND INFANT by Master Au Brocard D'Or (Master of the Gold Brocade), about 1500.
200F (Class 2) -ADORATION OF THE MAGI, School of Antwerp (about 1530).

MEXICO. (Class 8). A 4-stamp Tourism set issued January 17, 1970, calling attention to Colonial Architecture. The 40¢ value, designed by A. Cortes, shows the CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION at Puebla in the State of Puebla. The cathedral was begun in 1575 by Francisco Becerra, and consecrated in 1649 by Bishop Juan de Palafoux. This cathedral also seen on a 1950 issue (Scott 860), on a 1954 issue (Scott 878), and a 1963 issue (Scott 946).

MONTSEFAT: This 3-stamp Christmas issue was listed on page 4 of January 1970 issue but not illustrated.

ECUADOR: The STAMPS magazine of January 24, 1970, states that the Paintings and Eucharistic Congress sets issued May 1967 have been overprinted (date unknown) for the centenary of Guayquil University. The overprint is in silver. Stamps in these issues depict Madonnas, and were listed and illustrated on pages 61 and 62 of the September 1, 1967 issues. They are not listed by Scott; Michel Nos. are 1337–1350.

ETHIOPIA: (Class 2). A 4-stamp set depicting Ancient Crosses of Ethiopia was issued December 10, 1969. The 5¢ value presents a stylized NATIVITY. We have not been successful in obtaining any information on the cross and its history. If any one is able to supply a translation of the printing, or data on the Ancient Crosses we will be most grateful.

GIBRALTAR: A 3-stamp Christmas issue released in the form of a tryptych on December 1, 1969.
5d (Class 1) - Detail of the MADONNA OF THE CHAIR, by Raphael.
1/ (Class 1) - VIRGIN OF THE ROCKS, by Leonardo da Vinci, after the London Copy.
7d (Class 1) - MADONNA AND CHILD by Luis de Morales (c1500–1586), in the Prado, Madrid. Illustrations with article on page 22.
15c, 25c (Class 2) - KING GASPAR BEFORE THE VIRGIN AND CHILD. Stained glass window.

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

PARAGUAY: Set of 9 stamps issued November 29, 1969 as a Centenary of National Epoch 1864-1870 release, together with an imperf sheet, G23.40 airmail, imprinted "Famous Paintings of Christmas." Quantities as follows: 250,000 of the seven low values; 30,000 of the 12.45 airmail, 250,000 of the 18.15 airmail, and 4000 of the sheet.

0,10 (Class 2) - HOLY FAMILY by Master Bertram of Minden. Stamp indicates XV century; Praeger states "active 1367 in Hamburg -1379. German painter of altar pieces. His most important one, painted 1379, was the altarpiece of St. Peter now in Kunsthalle, Hamburg. Design on stamp may be from this altar but we have been unable to verify it.

0,15 (Class 1) - Not certain if this is a detail of a NATIVITY or ADORATION OF THE VIRGIN, by Giulio Cesare Procaccini (c1570-1625). Have not been successful in obtaining any additional information.

0,20 (Class 2) - NATIVITY by Lorenzo de Credi (1459-1537). There is a "Nativity" by him in the Florentine Academy, but we have not been able to verify if this is the one on the stamp.

0,25 (Class 2) - NATIVITY by Master of Flemalle, Robert Campin (1375-1444). Panel measuring 39 x 25 inches, in Dijon Museum.

0,30 (Class 2) - Detail of NATIVITY or HOLY NIGHT by Correggio (1494-1534). Poplar wood, 100.8 x 74 inches, in Dresden State Gallery. Commissioned in 1522, completed in 1530. Also seen on the S/S of the Christmas issue by Rwanda; see page 20.

0,50 (Class 2) - Appears to be a HOLY FAMILY WITH ST. ELIZABETH AND ST. JOHN but have not found any data to verify. Work by Orazio Dorgianni (1576-1616).

0,75 (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE KINGS, detail, by Botticelli (1445-1510). Panel 43-3/4 x 52-3/4 inches, painted c1476-77, now in Uffizi, Florence. Painting shows three generations of the Medici family and members of Medici Court. Detail on the stamp shows two of the Three Kings: Cosimo the Elder, kneeling in front of the Infant, represents Caspar; the head seen at lower right is Piero the Gouty (d1469) represents Balthazer. Panel painted for an altar of the Lama family in Church of Santa Maria Novella, Florence, and came to the Uffizi in 1796. Another source states it was a votive offering by Medici family for being saved from an assassination plot. The painting was removed from the church at the end of the 16th cen-

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

March 1, 1970
In 1796 it appeared in the Medici Villa at Poggio Imperiale. When acquired by the Uffizi was believed to be by Chirlandaio, and was so identified until 1845, when recognized and authenticated as a Botticelli work.

12.45 airmail (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS by El Greco (1541-1614). In the Prado, Madrid. Measures 39-3/8 x 70-7/8 in. and painted c1600. Only central portion on the stamp. Also seen on the 15c value in the 1967 Christmas issue by Cook Islands. 18.15 airmail (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD by Luis de Morales (1500-1586). Wood, 33-1/8 x 25-1/4 inches, in the Prado, Madrid; came there in 1915 as gift from Pablo Bosch. Is also seen on the 7d value in the 1969 Gibraltar Christmas issue; see article on page 22.

The imperf sheet, G23.40 airmail, presents the central panel of the Isenheim Altar when wings are opened for the second or glorious view. On the left is "The Angels Concert," in the center is "The Virgin Waiting the Birth," and on the right "The Incarnation." The last is seen on the 3OF value in Dahomey's issue of December 1967; article on page 20 of the March 1, 1968 issue.

(Our thanks to Waller Sager, Editor of the COROS CHRONICLE, for supplying Muestra copies for illustration).

AFRICA: (Class 2). A perf sheet, 100F value, issued December 15, 1969; 25,000 copies. Design shows the main detail of THE NATIVITY or HOLY NIGHT by Antonio Allegri, known as Correggio (1494-1534), a painter of the High Renaissance. Original in the State Gallery, Dresden. See illustration and article on page 20.

ST. KITTS (CHRISTOPHER)-NEVIS-ANGUILLA: A 4-stamp set issued for Christmas on November 17, 1969.

10c, 25c (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Jan Mostaert (c1475-1555/56). 40c, 50c (Class 2) - ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Geertgen.

Illustrations with article on page 23.

VENEZUELA: A set of 6 stamps depicting Churches of Colonial Architecture was issued February 15, 1970. The 0.30 value shows THE PURISIMA CHURCH (IMMACULATE CONCEPTION) at Caroni, in the state of Bolivar. See article on page 20.

SPAIN: NEW LISTING OF MINIATURE MADONNA: Ruth Stechschulte has forwarded information which identifies a miniature Madonna. "while doing some reading on the Monastery of Poblet, I found that the Spanish stamp (Scott 1157), 3 pesetas value, with the over-all view of the Monastery, contains a MINIATURE MADONNA. The statue above the entrance to the Church is THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN. The book was 'Abbeys of Europe' by Ian Richards, published by the Hamlyn Publishing Group Limited." A Class 3m will be added to this listing in the Catalogue of Marian Stamps.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AJMAN: Mr. Sidney Katz has informed us that the ADORATION OF THE MAGI, by Bernardino Luini (1480-1532), seen on the S/S issued with the Christmas stamps, is in the Louvre, Paris.

BELGIUM: STAMPS MAGAZINE for December 20, 1969 page 737, has an article stating that the 1968 Belgian Christmas stamp was awarded "First Honors" at Verona, Italy, following an International poll taken by the Italian Philatelic Religious Association. The stamp designer, L. Verstraete, received the Association's Grand Award. The design depicts a burning candle symbolizing "Light of the World," and incorporates the MADONNA AND CHILD NATIVITY SCENE. Announcement of the awards made at annual meeting of "St. Gabriel Guild" at Verona in November 1969 by Dr. Antonio Botto, President
of "St. Gabriel" and the Provisional Director of Italian Posts.

BULGARIA: We have learned that the Opera Singers issue, mentioned on page 65 of the November 1969 issue, has been cancelled. One of the stamps in the set showed the MADONNA mentioned in Act I of Tosca. The Bulgarian Postal Administration had sent illustrations to philatelic publication stating the issue was to have been released in June 1969.

COOK ISLANDS: Additional data on the 20¢ value, illustrated on page 3 of the January 1970 issue. The original of VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH SAINTS, by Robert Campin, Master of Flemalle, is in the Samuel Kress Collection, National Gallery, Washington, D.C. The work is titled "Madonna and Child with Saints in the Enclosed Garden," attributed to the Master of Flemalle and Assistants; it dates to first half of XV century; it is a wood painting, measuring 47-1/8 x 58-1/2 inches.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS: Tony Rizzo has informed us that the Christmas aerogram does not have the Christmas stamp imprinted on the sheet. It does have the stamp design, showing the MADONNA AND CHILD in Gilbertese style, printed on the left. The two Christmas stamps were affixed and the sheet was cancelled as First Day of Issue at Tarawa on October 20, 1969.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES: A set was to have been issued April 16, 1969 with one of the stamps showing the CRUCIFIXION from the main altar of St. Anna Church. The issue was postponed, but we have been unable to learn if and when the set will be released; therefore, we will not list it in Supplement #4 to the Catalogue of Marian Stamps.

NEW ZEALAND: On page 66 of the November 1, 1969 issue we stated that a letter received from the Post Office at Wellington informed us the 1969 Christmas stamp depicting NATIVITY by Barocci was not issued on unwatermarked paper. Previous to receipt of this letter, we received an order form for the unwatermarked stamps, and sent it in. We have received the stamp printed on unwatermarked paper and will list it in Supplement #4.

ST. LUCIA: Mr. Sidney Katz has informed us that the originals of the designs depicted on the two Christmas stamps issued October 16, 1969 (see page 4, January 1970), are in the Wallace Collection, London.

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No one has done more intensive and painstaking research into the stamps of the Madonna than the Reverend Aloysius S. Horn of Fremont, Ohio. Based on his live-long research, these pages present the historical background of Madonna stamps, including Madonna miniatures. — Printed over a light blue background of the AM (Ave Maria) Monogram and arranged alphabetically by countries. — Supplements annually, in October. The MARIAN YEAR Pages are a separate item.

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SPAIN: The 1,50 ptas stamp issued May 30, 1969 depicts a "Last Supper" on a finial in the Lugo Cathedral. Father Ramon Prieto, SJ, Madrid, has informed us that the Cathedral of Lugo is dedicated to "Our Lady of the Big Eyes." We mention this for members interested in this information.

VATICAN CITY: Father Guy Nugnes, now studying in Rome, has written us that there will be no Christmas issues from the Vatican for the next ten years; instead, there will be issues of stamps for Easter for this period.

MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

March 1, 1970
A.P.S. BLACK BLOTS

The January 1950 issue of THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST listed the following "Editorial Black Blot Assessments." We provide this data for reference and benefit of our members:

AJMAN: The mosaic Christmas issue showing paintings, printed on silver and gold foil, in four varieties plus assorted "souvenir sheets."

COOK ISLANDS: The 1969 Christmas stamp sheetlets and so-called souvenir sheet.

CYPRUS: The sheet issued with the Christmas issue.

"Editorial Black Blots" are assessed against postal issues indicating one or more of the following philatelic deficiencies: (1) A limited printing or limited "on sale" time in country of origin. (2) An excessively extended issue. (3) Unwarranted high value included. (4) No direct relationship to issuing country. (5) Oddities intentionally included with issue.

SPANISH LOCAL CIVIL WAR MADONNA STAMPS

A 7th Edition to Catalogue of Spanish Local Civil War Madonna Stamps has been issued by Marshall H. Williams, published in December 1969. We recommend it as a valuable source of data on these issues. A copy may be obtained by writing to:
MARTIAL H. WILLIAMS, 98 East Rock Road, New Haven, Connecticut 06511.

MARIAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

AUSTRIA:


BELGIUM:


from "Census at Bethlehem" by Brueghel. "St. Gabriel Circle, Brussels." First day cancel on 1969 Christmas stamp.


BRAZIL:


FRANCE:


83. Rouen, 1969. NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL. "Rouen Museum City-Center of Tourism." Regular cancel.
Strasbourg, November 30, 1968. NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL. "50th Anniversary of the victory of 1918-Strasbourg." Special cancel.


Lourdes, October 9, 1969. BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES. "Our Lady of Lourdes in the Philatelic Exposition-Rosary." Special cancel.


Germany:


Vatican City:
4. Same as #1 except larger type print used in cancel.

Venezuela:


THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

March 1, 1970
the effect and beauty of the work when viewed from the floor of the church. He followed this technique in completing this panel painting.

The detail on the stamp shows an extraordinary light radiating from the Infant Babe lying on a stone trough. This luminescence reflects in the face of the Blessed Virgin and also illuminates the faces of the peasant visitors seen on the left; probably symbolic of the "Light illuminating the world," or "The Word became flesh." The light is so brilliant it almost seems too much, as is evidenced by the woman at top left who has raised her hand as a shield against its brilliance. The woman beside her has looked up to their male companion (not included in the stamp design) seeking an explanation for this "Light" emanating from the Infant Christ Child and illuminating the darkness. By means of this radiance the artist has directed our attention to the Virgin and Child.

The original has been restored several times and has been damaged somewhat; the dark blue tones have faded, thus affecting the original shadings.

VENEZUELA: LA PURISIMA CHURCH, CARONI-Feb.1970

The 0.30 value stamp in the set issued February 15, 1970, depicting Churches in Colonial Architecture, presents the LA PURISIMA CHURCH (The Immaculate Conception), at Caroni in the state of Bolivar. The church was constructed in the last decades of the 18th century, and is a unique example of development which originated in Guayana a century and a half ago.

The church is a great rectangle, and its spacious interior gives the effect of a great Salon for there is nothing to distract attention from its spacious unity. It is a most unique Colonial Church in existence in that it has no main or principal arch between the chancel area and the nave; it has only, over the main entrance, a lofty choir supported by a daring arch which was so well constructed it has resisted 150 years of inclement weather. Also deserving attention is the treatment given by the Friars to the belfry construction. It is a rare case of a tower being constructed in one of the corners which serves as a base for two of its four walls and also forms the Sacristy, contrary to the normal placing of the belfry in line with the facade.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

K-LINE MADONNA PAGES

Mr. Kobylka has informed us he is now preparing the next issue of the K-Line Madonna pages. Additional data on cost, etc. will appear in the March 1970 issue.
BELGIUM: CENSUS AT BETHLEHEM, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder - December 15, 1969
by Jozef Peeters, Bevel, Belgium

Belgium's annual Christmas stamp, having a face value of 1.50 fr., was issued December 15, 1969 at all post offices and on December 13 and 14 at Anderlues, Evere and St. Nicolas. The design, by the J. Malvaux Establishment, depicts the detail of MARY AND JOSEPH ARRIVING AT BETHLEHEM FOR THE CENSUS. First day cancellation also shows this arrival (see Belgium #72 on page 19). The stamp adds an episode in the Philatelic Life of the Virgin not heretofore depicted on postage stamps, and is welcomed by Madonna stamp collectors.

The detail on the stamp is from the painting which presents the scene mentioned in the Gospel of St. Luke, II 1-5 -- the arrival at the "Brabantine-Bethlehem" on Christmas Eve. Joseph has obeyed the order of Emperor Augustus and has reached his place of enrollment.

To evoke the Biblical theme, Bruegel renounces any attempt at historical reconstruction and paints the life of a Brabantine village of the period, deep in the heart of winter, at dusk when the red disc of the sun sinks in a cold, clear and snowy sky. Mary and Joseph are not distinguished from the villagers, they are a part of them.

St. Joseph is dressed in a brown wrap, wearing a beige hat with a very large brim. A straw basket hangs on his left arm, and a scrub-saw, symbol of his trade, is slung over his left shoulder. With his right hand he points to the way to the census-taker to pay his tribute money.

Behind him follows the gray donkey, and the ox, which is to play a part on the night of Christ's Birth, already a part of their company. Mary sits sideways on the donkey. Her somewhat wan face looks out from under a white linen cap, and a pale blue blanket is wrapped about her. A large wicker basket lays before her.

In spite of the extreme realism of his interpretation of this event, Bruegel communicates to the spectator an impression of uneasiness. This he does by painting a gloomy and cold December day with an implied threat which hangs over the community, showing the "Census" as a prelude to the "Massacre of the Innocents." It is a presentation of humanity going about its normal business without being aware of what is in store for it, and corresponds to Bruegel's idea of "the great spectacle of nature that is turned to the man."

Pieter Bruegel the Elder was born c1525/30 at Brogel and died in 1569 at Brussels. He painted this masterpiece in 1566, signed and dated it. It is now in the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels, having been acquired by the Museum in 1902. He combined the painting of religious art with rural Flemish milieu, and surpassed his predecessors by his grandiose conception of nature and the manner in which he associates human beings with it. His works are more than just paintings for they are interpretations of peasant environment of the period, and for this reason he has remained one of the most popular artists in history. What is more remarkable is that at this period the Italian Renaissance was sweeping all before it, yet Bruegel kept his Dutch feet firmly on the ground and remained close to the peasant people he came in contact with each day.

The Habsburg Collection of Bruegel's works was hidden in the salt mines during World War II, and then sent traveling for seven years, finally returning to the Royal Museum at Brussels.

GIBRALTAR: CHRISTMAS ISSUE - December 1, 1969

The 3 values are printed as a tryptich depicting Madonna masterpieces. The printing covers the border of the stamps, therefore the stamps are rouletted and not perforated to avoid destroying the printing.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST -21- March 1, 1970
The 5d value presents most of the MADONNA OF THE CHAIR by Raphael (1483-1520) after the work in the Pitti Palace, Florence. The original is a circular painting, 28 inches in diameter. It has been depicted, in entirety or in detail, on the following issues: Paraguay September 1968; Dominica December 1968. See articles for additional details on page 24 of January 1, 1969 and page 25 of March 1, 1969 issues.

The 1’ value presents the London version of the VIRGIN OF THE ROCKS by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519). The original is a wood painting measuring 74-5/8 inches x 47-1/4 inches, in the National Gallery, London. It was commissioned in 1481 for a chapel in S. Francesco Grande in Milan. Documents exist which state that: only Leonardo was to paint the panel; that he left Milan without completing it; that it was still unfinished in 1490 and, finally, that he did receive payment for the work in 1507. 13 years after the end of the 15th century the work was moved to the Hospital of S. Caterina alla Scala in Milan. It was hung there in 1508 by the painter Gavin Hamilton, and acquired in 1880 by the London National Gallery from the Earl of Suffolk.

For comparison purposes, the Louvre version is a canvas: the position of the figures in both versions are identical although facial expressions differ slightly. The name is omitted and the Angel points to St. John. There are other differences in rock formations in the background and foreground. See the article on the Louvre version on page 24 of the September 1, 1966 issue.

The 7d value presents almost the entire painting of the VIRGIN AND CHILD by Bartolomeo Farnese (c1500-1586), called "El Divino." The original is a wood painting, 33-1/8 x 27-1/2 inches, now in the Prado, Madrid. Morales was the most enthusiastic interpreter of religious subjects, especially Madonnas, and because of this was given the name "El Divino".

The stamp shows a Virgin and Child in a most appealing manner. Morales' treatment of his contemporaries of excessive affection, yet in this painting he lives as a Mother and Child in a position familiar even in this modern age. The young Blessed Virgin is directing her entire attention to the infant she holds in her arms. He, in turn, looks up at her and one can almost feel the love and adoration he has for her. His right hand reaches for the substance of Life for which she was chosen to provide by The Father. The artist uses light and dark shadows to emphasize the Virgin and Child, and to add to the mysticism of the subject.

Morales was born and died in Badajoz. His early life is obscure. He was a prolific painter but lived in a poverty-stricken and isolated province, which was more military than artistic. He was deeply religious and transferred this into his works. His earliest recorded work is a Madonna dated 1546 in Badajoz. One source stated that perhaps he might have attained greater honors and fame had not El Greco appeared on the scene.

DOMINICA: 1969 CHRISTMAS ISSUE

$1.20 (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD by Lippi. No data has thus far been obtained on the designs seen on the last two values.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST -22- March 1, 1970
The 5d value presents most of the MADONNA OF THE CHAIR by Raphael (1483-1520) after the work in the Pitti Palace, Florence. The original is a circular painting, 28 inches in diameter. It has been depicted, in entirety or in detail, on the following issues: Paraguay September 1968; Dominica December 1968. See articles for additional details on page of January 1, 1969 and page 25 of March 1, 1969 issues.

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For comparison purposes, the Louvre version is a canvas; the position of the figures on both versions are identical although facial expressions differ slightly. The halos are omitted and the Angel points to St. John. There are other differences in foliage and rock formations in the background and foreground. See the article on the Louvre version on page 60 of the September 1, 1966 issue.

The 7d value presents almost the entire painting of the VIRGIN AND CHILD by Luis de Morales (c1500-1586), called "El Divino." The original is a wood painting, 33-1/8 x 25-1/4 inches, now in the Prado, Madrid. Morales was a most enthusiastic interpreter of religious subjects, especially Madonnas, and because of this was given the name "El Divino."

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DOMINICA: 1969 CHRISTMAS ISSUE

The issue was listed on page 3 of the January 1, 1970 issue but not illustrated.

6¢ (Class 2) - THE HOLY FAMILY WITH THE LAMB, by Raphael, in the Prado.
10¢ (Class 1) - MADONNA OF THE ROSE HEDGE, Botticelli. In the Louvre.
15¢ (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD by Perugino.

$1.20 (Class 1) - VIRGIN AND CHILD by Lippi. No data has thus far been obtained on the designs seen on the last two values.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST -22- March 1, 1970
A 10 cts. stamp issued December 8, 1969 for Christmas. The design shows a CROWNED MADONNA AND CHILD bearing the title of OUR LADY OF JOY (ALEGRÍAS). It is taken from a painting brought to Brazil in 1558 from Europe (attributed to 15th century Spanish School) by the Franciscan Father Pedro Palacios. Frei Virgilio Berri, O.F.M., of the Convent of Penha, has informed us that this painting is by historical proof the oldest Marian picture in Brazil. Father Palacios also founded the Monastery of Our Lady of Penha (Rock). This Monastery was depicted on Brazil issues in 1951 and 1964, Scott 712 and 984. The painting was part of a shrine at the entrance of Vitoria Bay prior to its being transferred to the Monastery.

Two special cancellations were authorized; they also depict the image seen on the stamp.

ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS-ANGUILLA: CHRISTMAS ISSUE - November 17, 1969

The issue consists of four values having two designs, the originals of which are in the Rijks Museum, Amsterdam. The stamps use the formal name "St. Christopher" rather than the familiar "St. Kitts."

The 10c and 25c values present the central detail of the ADORATION OF THE KINGS by Jan Mostaert (cl475-1555/56), famous Dutch painter. The scene is placed within the ruins of a palace and small statues are seen in the niches of the crumbling walls. The Blessed Virgin, in Dutch attire of the period, and with reddish hair, holds the Infant Christ upon a red cloth spread over her laps. Her eyes are upon the Christ Child as He reaches out to accept the Gift of one King. The King from the East stands behind him. On the right is St. Joseph, kneeling in adoration.

The 40c and 50c values show the ADORATION OF THE MAGI by Geertgen (cl1465-1495), which is also placed amidst the ruins of a large edifice with the walls barely standing. This was an allegory which many painters used to paint a Nativity or Adoration implying the birth of a new life through the Birth of Christ. The seated Blessed Virgin holds the Child upon her lap. He is accepting the gift from the kneeling King, with the other two Kings standing behind him. St. Joseph, holding his staff, stands on the right. In the background are seen the entourages of the Magi.

Very little is known about Geertgen except that he came from Leyden and died in Haarlem cl490 at age 28. He is believed to have studied under Ouwater and served an apprenticeship in book illustrating at Bruges cl475. He moved to Haarlem and was appointed the official painter to the Knights of St. John, with whom he lived, and thus became known as "Geertgen tot Sint Jons" - Geertgen of St. John.

NEW MEMBERS

Louis Francis Burgess 16, Kingsley Avenue, Rugby, Warwickshire, England
Edward A. Streher 565 Onderdonk Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237
Miss Vivian Marie Wills 136 Beaumont Avenue, San Francisco, California 94118

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION AND DEEP GRATITUDE TO: Arthur W. Clinton, Jr. $25.00; Frank Rodgers $20.00; Rev. George L. Stowell $7.00; Frank J. Malinowski $7.00. PATRONS: Wm.M. Danbruski, Ed Polodna, Dorothy Truhon, Rev. John H. Lima, Mrs. Miguel Morales, Samuel G. McLaughlin, Joseph R. Onorato, Martin A. Lawlor, Mrs. Bernard T. Gatti. ASSOCIATES: Muriel Murphy, Mrs. Clare McAlister, Anne Miltz, Rev. Guy Nugnes, A.J. Paruzynski, Eugene Marciniak. ASSIST: Raymond T. Kelly. Your letters of commendation and encouragement, and financial support, are most gratefully received and appreciated.
AN AWARD WINNING COLLECTION

One of our customers has asked us to offer this collection for sale.

It has been exhibited in three states and received four awards in its class.

It consists of Spanish Local Issues of the Marian Theme depicting the Holy Virgin and Churches dedicated to the Holy Virgin.

It is written up in interesting detail and the pages are beautifully decorated by hand with a great deal of time and effort.

It contains many stamps which we have never seen before. There are only 12 empty spaces.

The owner estimates a retail value of $572.95. The asking price is $225. This would be a fine property for a permanent exhibition in a Library, a School, or for personal investment. We think it is a real bargain.

MARSHALL H. WILLIAMS
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