

# *Vatican Notes*

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Second Quarter 2015



## *Pontifical State Mourning Covers*

**Also in this issue:**

**1957 Collegio Capranica Issue • New Issues  
Vatican Postcards Unusual Views • Airmail to Europe**



# Notable Postcard: Jakarta, Indonesia

GREG PIROZZI — GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET



Dutch Colonial Trading Co., Jakarta.



▲ Rare 23 Oct 1957 airmail postcard addressed to Djakarta, Indonesia. Franked with a total of £135. The airmail rate for this card is not clear since the listed airmail rate to the Netherlands Indies as of Sept 1951 was £150. However, during the same period, the rate to southeast Asia (included nearby Malaya) was £100. It is possible that the sender was confused and applied the £100 airmail rate + the standard external postcard franking of £35 and the card was not assessed postage due.

Jakarta, (formerly Batavia), was the major settlement of the Dutch East India territory from 1610 until 1949. The Dutch still owned key sectors of Indonesian economy during most of the 1950s, including banking, oil and shipping. Only in late 1957, the nationalization of Dutch assets would begin and by 1960, almost all Dutch assets in Indonesia had been taken over and Dutch citizens were expelled from Indonesia.



# Vatican Notes

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# President's Message

GREG PIROZZI — [GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET](mailto:GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET)

Dear VPS Members,

I begin with an apology for the very late appearance of this issue of the *Vatican Notes*. Over the last six months we have been focused on the sale of our home and moving to a nearby "55+ community" by August. It has been exhausting, working full-time and with limited time available to work on philately.

The issue brings to you an extensively researched article on the postal history of Pontifical State mourning covers by our expert member John Yopp. To our knowledge, it is the first coverage of this specific subject relating to the Pontifical State in the philatelic literature. The detailed postal-historical information provided by John is remarkable. It very much helps to bring these scarce, to rare, examples alive and truly draws you into the time period.

The other significant article is by member Lou Giorgetti covering a more modern topic of postal history relating to the 400th anniversary of the Collegio Capranica in Rome and a visit by Pope Pius XII in 1957 to celebrate the occasion. Although relatively "modern", this is difficult commemorative issue to find examples of postal history due to its limited printing and only six months of postal validity.

I have continued to publish a series of brief articles highlighting uncommon Vatican postcard views. I would very much like to see any examples from our members. Do you have one to share?

My thanks to both Dennis Brady and Dennis Oniszcak for all their efforts to keep the VPS functioning and growing, as well as to Marvin Lanahan, our webmaster, who continues to do a superb job in reaching out and engaging with our member. Finally, we have a number of society positions open, including Associate Editor and Advertising Chair. Please consider lending your talents and let me hear from you!

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# Vatican City New Issues: February 2022

GREG PIROZZI — GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET

The stamps for the Pontificate of Pope Francis 2022 issue are part of the activities and initiatives for the Year of the Family, called by Pope Francis on 19 March 2021 on the occasion of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph and the fifth anniversary of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Accordingly, this year's postage stamp issue is dedicated to the main relationships that are experienced in the family: marriage, for the €1.10 value that reproduces a photo from 14 September 2014 when Pope Francis celebrated in Saint Peter's Basilica the group wedding of twenty young couples; the family, for the €1.15 value, which depicts the Pope while baptizing a child on the day of the Baptism of the Lord; children, for the €2.40 value which represents the Pope while embracing a child; finally, grandparents, for the €3.00 value featuring the Pope showing affection to an elderly lady during a general audience. The stamp series aims to represent the love, care and tenderness that Pope Francis has for all families, especially for the most fragile members.

## Bicentenary of the Birth of Giovanni Batista deRossi

23 February 2022 will mark the second centenary of the birth of Giovanni Battista de Rossi (1822-1894), unanimously considered one of the "founding fathers" of the science of Christian archaeology. He was Scriptor and then in charge of the Vatican Apostolic Library, first secretary of the Commission of Sacred Archaeology, established by Pius IX in 1852. Founder and director of the first specialized journal in the field, the "Bullettino di Archeologia Cristiana", he began the publication and reviewed all the Christian inscriptions of Rome (prior to the seventh century). He was the author of various scientific publications and important books on underground Christian Rome, and an in-depth study of the main Roman catacombs that he wrote following important discoveries he himself made. The Vatican wishes to celebrate this important anniversary with a commemorative stamp with a face value of € 2.50, designed by Stefano Morri, in

which the figure of Giovanni Battista de Rossi is reproduced in the foreground against the background of the excavation of the Hypogeum of the Flavi in the catacomb of Domitilla.

## 1900th anniversary of the Martyrdom of Saint Marcian

In 2022 the Vatican celebrates the 1900th anniversary of the Martyrdom of Saint Marcian, the first bishop of Tortona, who suffered martyrdom in 122 during the persecution of Emperor Hadrian. According to tradition, the figure of Saint Marcian is tied on the one hand to the first disciples of Jesus, and on the other hand to the very first evangelizers of the Po Valley. He came from a pagan family and was converted by the Apostle Saint Barnabas, a companion of Saint Paul on his missionary journeys. He would have been confirmed then in the Christian faith by Saint Syrus, the famous first Bishop of Pavia, and one of the most active sowers of the truth in the lands of northern Italy. In 1875 Baron Guidobono Cavalchini Garofoli had a new chapel built on the site of Marcian's martyrdom for the celebrations marking the 1800 years since the beginning of the episcopate of the holy martyr. The stamp depicts a portion of polychrome stained-glass window representing the beheading of the Saint, placed in the apse of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Guard in Tortona, built by Saint Luigi Orione between 1926 and 1931.

## Aerogram 2022

On 12 March 1622 in Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, Gregory XV canonized five new Saints: Isidore, a farmer from Madrid devoted to charity and prayer, Carmelite Sister Teresa of Avila, the founder of the Philip Neri Oratory, the founder of the Society of Jesus Ignatius of Loyola and Jesuit Father Francis Xavier. Originally, the ceremony was to concern Isidore alone, but since in January 1622 the process for the canonization of the other four blessed was almost concluded, the Congregation of Rites decided to celebrate a "multiple" canonization, the first in



▲ Left, Four values showing Pope Francis celebrating the Year of the Family. Right, 1,900th anniversary for the martyrdom of St. Marican.



the history of the Congregation established in 1588. The canonization ceremony marked a historic event, given the notoriety of the Saints. Vatican philately will dedicate its Aerogramme 2022 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of this group canonization. The illustration of the aerogramme reproduces the detail of a painting commissioned by notary Antonio Antonacci about ten years after the canonization, a work by an unknown artist depicting the five Saints at the bottom of the painting. The work is preserved at the church of the Convent of Santa Maria di Loreto in Toro. Reproduced in the value imprint of the aerogramme is a side of the medal coined for the event, which characterized the second year of Gregory XV's pontificate.

### Easter 2022

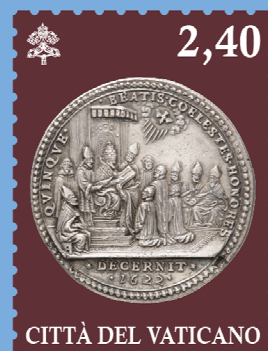
The Easter of Resurrection 2022 issue also features the theme from the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, in which

Pope Francis affirmed that the married life of spouses is a full participation in the Paschal Mystery of Christ and His Resurrection. The Easter stamp with a face value of € 1.15, designed by the Spanish painter Raul Berzosa, takes inspiration from the Byzantine icon of the descent to the underworld in which Christ is depicted taking by the hand the progenitors of humanity, Adam and Eve. The artist reproduces the Risen Christ holding the hands of two spouses surrounded by the flag of the Resurrection, to signify that they also participate in the Paschal Mystery. In the painting, the face of the Risen Christ is turned towards the bride, to recall that the announcement of the Resurrection was entrusted precisely to a woman, Mary Magdalene, whom for this reason Pope Francis has honored with the title of Apostle of the Apostles.



IV CENTENARIO DELLA CANONIZZAZIONE DI  
S. TERESA DI GESÙ, S. IGNAZIO DI LOYOLA, S. ISIDORO AGRIC.,  
S. FRANCESCO SAVERIO, S. FILIPPO NERI

**AÉROGRAMME**



JOH. ENSCHEDÉ 2022

▲ Aerogram 2022 commemorating the 4th century of the canonization of five saints: Sts. Ignatius Loyola, Teresa of Jesus, Isidor Agricola, Francesco Saverio and Filippo Neri.

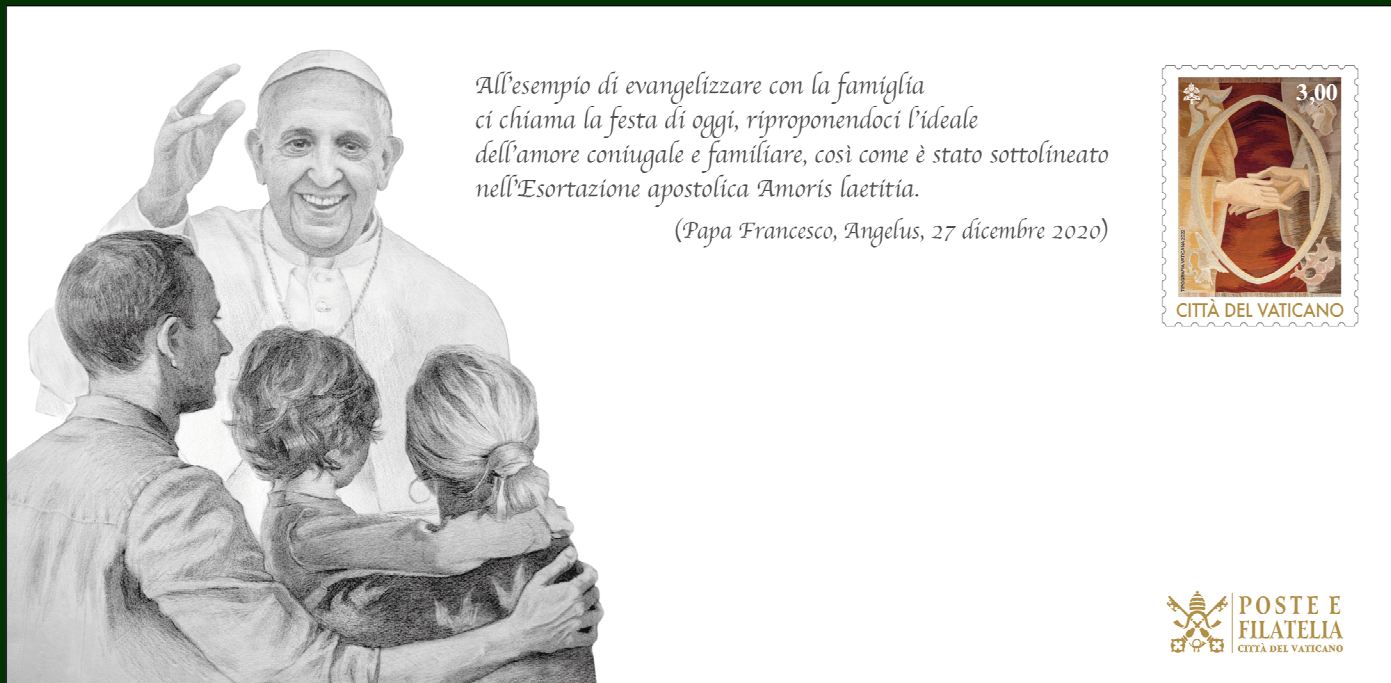


◀ Easter 2022.

▶ Bicentenary of the birth of one of the founder of Christian Archeology.







▲ The Philatelic Envelope 2022 also reflects the theme of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year and celebrates the importance of family unity and love. “It is good to reflect on the fact that the Son of God wanted to be in need of the warmth of a family, like all children...In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope“ (Pope Francis, Angelus, 27 December 2020).

The image of the Pope blessing a family is the work of artist Vitaliy Shtanko. Reproduced in the value imprint is a tapestry by Camilian Demetrescu (1924-2012), dedicated to Marriage, one of nine tapestries called “Hierofanie” donated to Benedict XVI on 2 January 2018 and currently on display in the Gallery of the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican.

## Vatican City New Issues — Technical Details

Stamp	Date Issued	Face Value/ Price of Set	Format (mm)	Perforations	Printing Process	Printer	Maximum Printed
Statio Orbis Mini-sheet	10 Mar 2022	€3.00	129.5 x 93.5	11.5	Offset, 4 colors	Bpost (Belgium)	35,000
Year of the Family	22 Feb 2022	€1.10, €1.15, €2.40, €3.00	40 x 30	11.5 x 11.5	Offset, 4 colors	Bpost (Belgium)	50,000
Easter	22 Feb 2022	€1.15	30.5 x 41	13.7 x 13.7	Offset, 4 colors	Printex (Malta)	45,000
200th Birth Anniversary De Rossi	22 Feb 2022	€2.50	41 x 30.5	13.7 x 13.7	Offset, 4 colors	Printex (Malta)	46,000
5ht centenary Pope Adrian VI	22 Feb 2022	€2.00	30 x 40	11.5	Offset, 5 colors	Bpost (Belgium)	50,000



# STATIO ORBIS

SECONDO ANNIVERSARIO

*Come i discepoli del Vangelo siamo stati presi alla sprovvista da una tempesta inaspettata e furiosa. Ci siamo resi conto di trovarci sulla stessa barca, tutti fragili e disorientati, ma nello stesso tempo importanti e necessari, tutti chiamati a remare insieme, tutti bisognosi di confortarci a vicenda.*

(Papa Francesco, 27 marzo 2020)



▲ On 27 March 2020 in a deserted, rain-soaked Saint Peter's Square, Pope Francis entrusted the world scourged by the pandemic to Mary's protection. These are images that touched everyone's heart and will likely never be forgotten. Two years on, Vatican philately wishes to remember that day of prayer and hope.

The miniature sheet depicts the Holy Father as he walks alone up the steps leading to Saint Peter's Basilica. Providing the Holy Father with strength, consolation and hope were the Crucifix of San Marcello al Corso, carried in procession over the centuries by Romans invoking an end to epidemics, and the Salus Populi Romani, the ancient Marian icon that has always protected the Eternal City. Beyond the Piazza, in the solitude of forced isolation, the whole world watched the event, praying with the Bishop of Rome.



◀ Vatican City commemorates Pope Adrian VI on the fifth centenary of his election to the papacy. Adriaen Florisz Boeyens was the last non-Italian pope until the election of John Paul II and the last pope from the Holy Roman Empire, as well as the only one of Dutch origin. He died only a year after his election to the papacy. The brevity of his pontificate did not allow him to be more effective in his peacemaking efforts. Most of the official documents of Adrian VI disappeared shortly after his death. The stamp has a value of € 2.00 and reproduces a painting of the Pope with the tiara enclosed in an oval, painted in oil on canvas. An anonymous artist created the work between 1522 and 1599, basing it on a commemorative medal in which the Pope appears portrayed in the same manner. The painting is owned by the Rijksmuseum Centraal and has been on loan since 1993 to the Residence of the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Holy See.







# *The Resurrection of Christ by* **Piero della Francesca**

JAMES C. HAMILTON

Piero Della Francesca ca. 1415-1492) was born Borgo (village) Sansepolcro, a market town in Tuscany, then part of the Papal States. His family was engaged in the business of leather and dyeing and also owned property including farms. In his early career, he spent about three years in Florence. Art historian Frederick Hartt suggests he developed “the technical resources, the knowledge of perspective theory, and the form, light, and color so evident in his work,” suggesting he likely studied the paintings of Masaccio and Castagno. Della Francesca spent most of his life in the village of Sansepolcro where he was a member of the town council for most of his adult life. It is located in the foothills of the Apennine Mountains.

His fresco, *Resurrection of Christ* was completed in the 1460s for the civic hall of Sansepolcro, where it remains today, although it was moved once within the hall in the 16 century. The fresco is 225cm x 200 cm (89 in. x 79 in.) in size. Hartt notes that Sansepolcro means Holy Sepulcher, also stating, Della Francesca composed *Resurrection* not as a historical event, but as “a timeless truth which one could meditate on any rocky hillside above Sansepolcro.”

The painting shows Christ clad in a rose colored robe (red is a symbol of love and royalty), his left foot on the sarcophagus, his right hand grasping a standard with a red cross on a white field, a traditional symbol of victory. His midsection shows the wound from a spear thrust into his side while still hanging on the Cross and nail holes are located on both hands and his left foot. A wreath of victory is posed over the top of his head. In the background, the trees on the viewer’s left are bereft of leaves, but on the right, the trees are in full bloom. This is a reference to Christ’s words on the way to Calvary, “for If they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry? (Luke: 23:31).” In the lower foreground we see three sleeping guards, and one rubbing his eyes, likely soon to be amazed and confused about the scene unfolding in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The color of Christ’s skin matches the pale stone color of the sarcophagus. Moreover, the sarcophagus is not the rough hewed tomb, with a large stone at the entrance suggested by scripture. Christ’s face is frozen in time, and his eyes engage the viewer directly, as Frederick Hartt suggests, “his wide-open eyes engage ours, as if challenging us to return his stare.” This image is also conveyed in the £3000 1992 stamp which is reproduced below. Hartt states that “the visual unity of the picture” was the artistic problem that most concerned the artist. This unity is certainly accomplished in this fresco where all figures, including the trees and hills behind the Resurrection scene, as well as the four slumbering guards are in perfect balance. In another of his better know works, *Baptism of Christ*, the same unity of all figures as well as trees and land are similarly in perfect geometric unity.

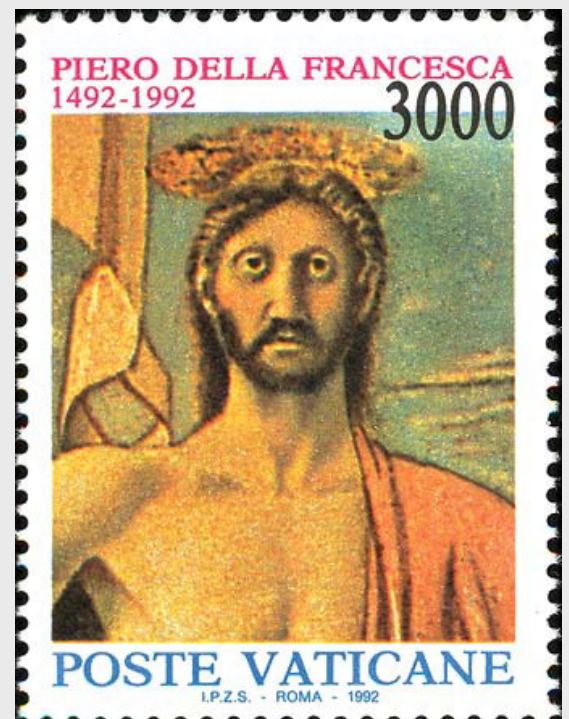
Giorgio Vasari remarks that *Resurrection of Christ* is considered the best of all the works in that city [Sansepolcro] and of all his works.”

Vatican City stamps marking the artistry of Piero Della Francesca include the 1992 set of four, Scott 904-907, which include two of his *Resurrection of Christ* stamps. Other stamps include two of the World Refugee Year issue (1960), Scott 277 and 280 which shows the Virgin Mary sheltering homeless within her cloak.

## References:

Hartt, Frederick, and Wilkins, David G., *History of Italian Renaissance Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture*, 6th edition, (Pearson Prentice Hall: 2007), pp. 281-283.

Vassari, Giorgio, *The Lives of the Artists*, translated by Julia Conaway Bondanella and Peter Bondanella, (Oxford: 2008), p. 165. First published 1549/1550, revised 1568.



▲ Jesus, a detail from *Resurrection* by Piero della Francesca, marking the 500th anniversary of his death, Scott 907 (1992).



# Postal History of Pontifical State Mourning Covers

## “Letters Bordered in Black”

JOHN YOPP - JYOPP4043@GMAIL.COM

As aptly stated on the home page of the Postal History Society: “*In postal history, research is necessary to interpret a cover and its postal markings. In doing such research, one comes face to face with the history and the personalities of a particular event, place, or postal service.*”

A study of the postal history of mourning covers and letters of the Pontifical State certainly and particularly comes face to face with the history and personalities of a particular event. The event in this case, is one of the most somber events in the social life of the writer of these letters, the death of a beloved family member or an otherwise very important person to the writer. While the majority of these letters convey the message of the death of one of these persons, they may also be used for a more general or a continuing correspondence during a culturally acceptable period of grieving following the death of that person of importance, or even to express sympathy to those grieving.

The unique nature of mourning covers is in their somber appearance that immediately informs the recipient of a death of particular importance to them is inside the cover. The envelope (cover), and usually the folded letter sheet(s) inside, are edged in black, the edges of varying width, that may or may not convey stages in the period of mourning, from thicker to thinner as the time from the death progresses. Some researchers of these covers also speculate that the black-edged mourning stationery served the dual purpose of advising the post office and letter carriers that additional care should be afforded the letter given its message and that it provided the recipient some warning of a death, thereby allowing time for composure before reading the letter.

The mourning cover (envelope) and the enclosed letter sheet(s) from the better stationers always matched. Covers were most commonly sealed with wax until the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when gummed ones replaced them. Men generally used red wax, while women used colored wax, like gold or blue. Black wax was always used on mourning covers or folded letter sheets.

There are two principal sources of information on the postal history of mourning stationery. The first is the book, *Mourning Covers: The Cultural and Postal History of Letters Edged in Black* (2003) by Ernest A. Mosher. This book, currently out of print and difficult to find, is the most comprehensive and definitive research study on worldwide mourning covers. The second is the quarterly publication, *Mourning Notes*, of the APS affiliate, *Mourning Stamps and Covers Club*, founded in 2006. The Club has an international membership that is reflected by the authors of its articles in *Mourning Notes*. Of importance to this article, Mosher, in his book, and in a 2009 follow-up article in *Mourning Notes*, has provided a number of relevant findings. Among these are that the first known example of a mourning letter was from Luxembourg written in 1767, that the peak period for the use of mourning letters was from the 1860s until the 1910s, after which their use progressively declined. He recorded only 30 such covers mailed after 1970. These, and the few other

research-based articles on mourning covers, agree that the peak use of mourning covers was in that time period, but that period closely corresponds to the Victorian Age, especially after the death of her Prince Consort, Alfred, by typhoid, on December 14, 1861. Queen Victoria wore black for the remaining 40 years of her long reign. In addition, the other important factors cited that influenced the increase in frequency of mourning letters in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were the increase in literacy, leading to more letter writing; the advent of postage stamps and postal treaties and agreements between European and other western countries that simplified the mail systems and greatly reduced the cost of postage (e.g. the one pence Penny Black stamp, introduced in the United Kingdom in 1840); and the great reduction of time for mail transit due to the increasing completions of railways throughout the world. These same factors were at play in the Pontifical State during the pontificate of Pius IX. He explicitly directed the creation of three railway lines (November 7, 1846); postage stamps were introduced on January 1, 1852; and a number of postal agreements with the other European countries, including the new Kingdom of Italy (four-fifths of the former Pontifical State), were ratified during his reign.

Mosher's published research involved more than 4,000 mourning covers from over 250 different stamp-issuing countries, including 117 that no longer exist. He lists all of these countries from which he has personally viewed mourning covers or illustrations of them.

Most relevant to this finding is that the list identifies, by asterisk, those countries that only seldomly used mourning letters. The Pontifical State (Roman States) was one of those countries, attesting to their rarity. The author, who has collected covers and letter sheets of the Pontifical States and viewed international auction offerings for over 50 years, has seen only several more mourning covers than these featured in this article. This rarity extends to the successor of the Pontifical State, Vatican City. The editor of *Vatican Notes*, Greg Pirozzi, wrote two brief articles that featured less than a dozen mourning covers from Vatican City and just one to that destination, also noting that he had seen only a few other examples in 30 years of collecting Vatican postal history.

The purpose of this article is to present and describe the research on the postal history of twenty very interesting and rare mourning covers and one folded mourning letter sheet according to the outcomes of such research defined by the Postal History Society noted above. The twenty mourning covers were mailed to very diverse destinations and recipients that certainly allows the reader to come face to face with the history and personalities of the event of the death of a loved one or an individual important to the writer of the mourning letter. Their diverse mail routes and postal services have resulted in a variety of postal markings and postage rates. The mourning letters were mailed over a wide time period, from August 31, 1837 until June 15, 1869, only 15 months and 6 days before the end of the 1,114 years of existence



of the Pontifical State. Nineteen of the letters were mailed during the long pontificate of Pius IX (1846-1878), and one during the pontificate of Gregory XVI (1831-1846), while cholera was raging in Rome. Eighteen of the twenty letters were mailed from Rome, one from Bologna, and one from England. Not unexpectedly, all were sent from cities whose

populace had higher literacy rates and during the period of the Risorgimento in the Pontifical State.

It is hoped that the readers will find the personalities of those receiving and sending these mourning letters interesting, and the rest of the aspects of the letters' postal history, informative.

**Engraved view of the harbor of Valletta, Malta.**

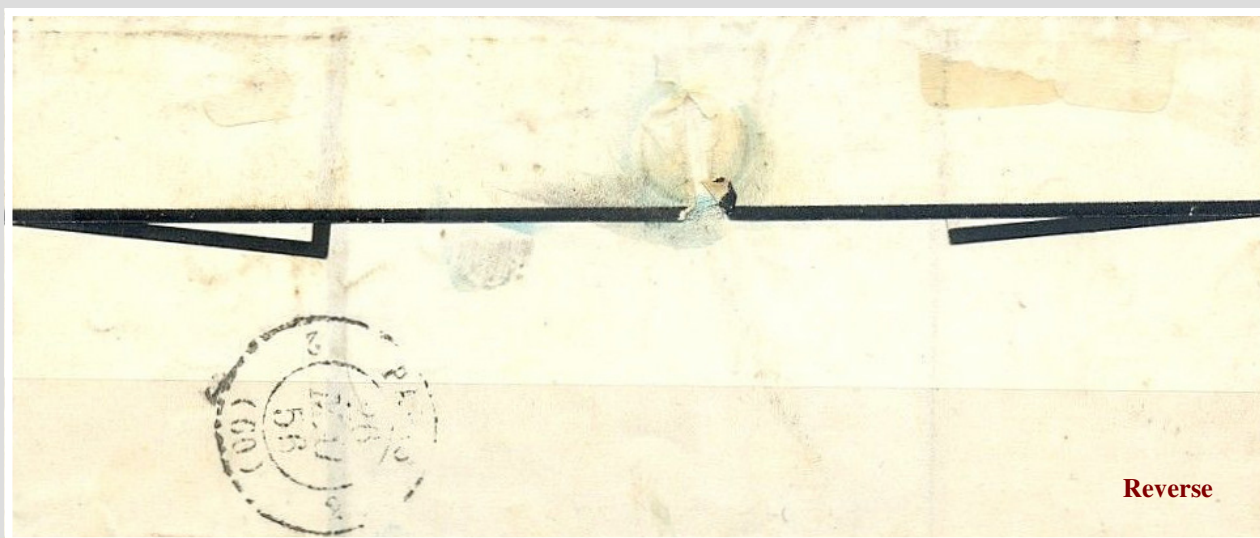


▲ Mourning cover from Rome, dated December 19, 1864, to Sig. Giovanni Messina in Malta. The cover, with wide black margins, is franked with a 1 bajoccho dark green, sheet margin, stamp (Sassone 2B) of the second composition on handmade paper and a pair of 8 bajocchi, white stamps (Sassone 9) on machine-made paper, with an interspace indicating between two panes. Stamps of the bajocchi and scudo denominations are of the first issue (1852-1867) of the Pontifical State.

The 17 bajocchi franking is the correct rate, according to the Franco-Roman Postal Treaty of 1853 for a single weight letter (up to 7.5 grams) to Malta carried by French packet. The stamps are cancelled with the grill of Rome, used from October 23, 1855 until February 2, 1868, accompanied by the Rome circular date stamp (CDS) of departure used from August 1862 until the end of July 1866. The postal treaty required that of the 17 bajocchi, 14 bajocchi be credited to France.



# Pontifical State - Cover to Paris, France



Reverse

▲ Mourning cover from Bologna, dated May 22, 1856, to Monsieur Guy Spada at 86 Rue de Bac, Paris. The letter sheet, with thin black margins (seen on the reverse), is franked with a 4 bajocchi light yellowish brown, corner margin stamp (Sassone 5a) on handmade paper, and two 8 bajocchi white stamps (Sassone 9) on machine-made paper. The 20 bajocchi franking is the correct prepaid rate according to the Franco-Roman postal treaty of October 1, 1853 for a single weight letter of up to 7.5 grams to France carried in closed mail through Tuscany and Sardinia entering southeastern France at the postal exchange town of Pont-De-Beauvosin. The Pontifical State kept 4 bajocchi of the total postage and credited to France the remaining 16 bajocchi.

The stamps were cancelled with the grill of Rome that was introduced for all postal directions on October 23, 1855. It was accompanied on the cover front by the Bologna circular date stamp, used with the grill of Rome from October 1855 until August 1859. The 8 bajocchi stamp on the right is also cancelled with the indistinct red circular date stamp inscribed “E-PONT 3/ PONT-DE- B (eauvosin)” indicating its transit route on May 26, 1856. Also, on the cover front is the red boxed “P.D.”, indicating pre-paid postage to destination (“Pagato a Destino”) which replaced the former “P.P.”, indicating postage paid (“Porto Pagato”). The reverse bears a May 26, 1856 Paris receiving circular date stamp (CDS).





DELAUNAY DEL. & SCULP.

## NOTRE - DAME

Eglise Cathédrale de Paris.

Publié par COUPÉ & C<sup>ie</sup> Editeurs.  
PARIS, LONDRES, LA HAYE.

New York, Published by H. Rowland.



# Pontifical State - Covers to New York City



▲ Mourning cover addressed to Miss Bruce at 39 East 23<sup>rd</sup> St., New York, United States of America, dated March 9, 1868. The cover with wide black margins, is franked with four imperforate stamps of the second issue of the Pontifical State (September 21, 1867 and the first in the new currency in Pontifical Lire (100 centesimi in 1 lira), introduced June 18, 1866. The stamps are a 5 centesimi (cent.) greenish blue (Sassone 16), a 10 cent. orange vermillion (Sassone 17), a 20 cent. dark brownish red (Sassone 18a), and 80 cent. bright lilac rose (Sassone 20a). The stamps of this issue are printed on white glazed or semi-glazed paper (called "German" paper). They are cancelled with a lozenge of seven rows of eight dashes, introduced in February 1868. The perforated stamps of the same design were introduced three days later on March 12, 1868 as the Pontifical State's third issue.

The total postage is 115 centesimi (1.15 Lire), which is the correct rate for each 7.5 grams of letter weight, prepaid to destination established by the Franco-Roman Postal Convention of August 31, 1866. The "3" in the letter front denotes the credit of three cents due the United States Postal Administration if the overseas transport was carried out by the British Postal Service rather than a United States steamship. The double circular Rome date stamp of March 9, 1868 on the letter front was used as a stamp of departure from February 19, 1868 until July 1869. Also on the letter front are the black boxed "P D" for "*Pagato a Destino*" ("Paid to Destination") that replaced the earlier "P.P." for "*Porto Pagato*" ("Postage Paid"), and the indistinct blue circular transit date stamp of "E.PONT. St. MICHEL". The "P D" originated with the postal agreement with France of September 8, 1838 relating to the correspondence involving the two nations by means of French steamboats. The red circular arrival stamp next to the "3" is inscribed "New York Paid All" with the March 28 date in the center verifying a 19 day- delivery from Rome.



Bird's-eye view of New York showing the waterfront, Brooklyn Bridge, with Battery Park and Governors Island in the foreground. G. Schlegel, N.Y., c1874.



▲ Mourning cover addressed to the same person (Miss Matilda Bruce) and address in New York but with important differences in postal markings. The Rome circular date departure stamp of February 6, 1868 on the cover front was used from September 21, 1867 to February 18, 1868 with the “Grill of Rome” (a rectangle of eight solid lines) canceling the imperforate stamps of the Pontifical State’s second issue. The grill cancellation was introduced in late October of 1855. The last official day of use of the grill of Rome was February 16, 1868, ten days after the letter was mailed. The imperforate stamps cancelled with the grill are a 5 centesimi (cent.) greenish blue (Sassone 16), a 10 cent. orange vermilion (Sassone 17), a 20 cent. brownish red (Sassone 18), and an 80 cent. lilac rose (Sassone 20).

The correct total postage was, therefore, 115 centesimi (1 lira, 15 cent.) for the cover of 7.5 grams or less, established by the Franco-Roman Convention of August 31, 1866. The blue transit stamp, inscribed “E.PONT. 4/ St. MICHEL”, with the date February 9, 1868 indicates that the prepaid (boxed “P D”) letter was carried in closed mail through Italy to the inland port, St. Michel (Paris) to Southampton, England, where the circular arrival stamp, inscribed “BR.(itish)Transit” (the rest indistinct), confirms that the letter was carried across the Atlantic by British steamer. The red “3” on the cover front indicates the 3 cents fee due the United States Postal Administration when the letter was carried by British steamer (packet) rather than one of the United States.

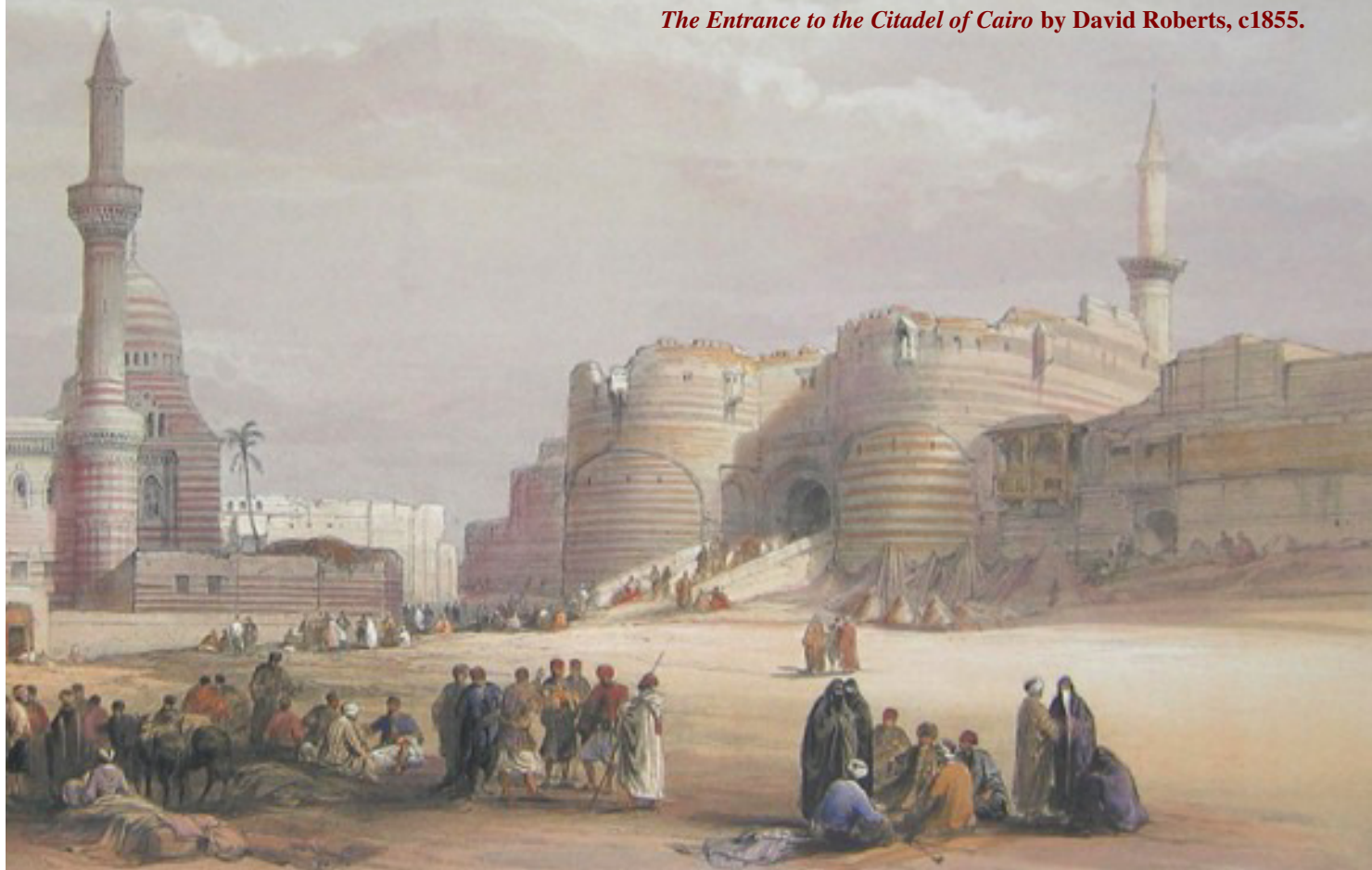
The above cover was likely transported to New York via the Inman Line steamship *S.S. City of Boston* departing Liverpool on Feb 12, 1868 and arriving on Feb 25, 1868. The cover on the opposite page was transported via the North German Lloyd Line steamship *S.S. Union* departing Bremen on Mar 14, 1868, stopping in Southampton, England on Mar 17, 1868 and arriving in New York on Mar 28, 1868.



## Pontifical State - Cover to Cairo



*The Entrance to the Citadel of Cairo by David Roberts, c1855.*





◀Registered Mourning cover addressed to Baron Francois Rivay, Chief officer of the Consul of Austro-Hungary, Cairo, Egypt, dated March 22, 1869 from Count Wardstein, Hotel de Rome. The cover, with large black margins, is franked with a pair of 20 centesimi deep rose lilac stamps printed on opaque paper (Sassone 28d). The 40 centesimi is the correct postage paid to the border of the Pontifical State for a registered letter of up to 10 grams in weight; 20 centesimi for postage for an ordinary letter and an additional 20 centesimi for a registered letter, carried by a French steamboat via Brindisi, Italy. These rates were established only for French post offices in Egypt. The stamps are cancelled with the grill of Rome, used on registered letters from July 2, 1866. This grill cancel was not used on regular mail after February 16, 1868. On the letter front are the registration postmark, “**ASSICURATA**” in black, the circular date cancel, “**DIREZIONE DI ROMA**”, first introduced on December 22, 1868, an indistinct Egyptian Viceroyal Post circular date stamp (Poste Vice Reali Egiziane), and the handwritten 14/2 for the weight in grams (14) of the letter.

There were three types of the postmark, “ASSICURATA” and the one on this letter is type 3, always used with the circular date cancel on this letter that was used until the Pontifical State fell to the Italian army (September 20, 1870). On the back of the letter are the French double circular date stamp of arrival in the post office in Alexandria, Egypt, inscribed “**ALEXANDRIE EGYPT/ 5 AVRIL 69**”; the French double circular date stamp surrounded by dots, inscribed “**LE CAIRE B<sup>AU</sup> FRANCAIS/ 5 AVRIL**” (Cairo French Maritime/ April 5, 1869), the transit postmark applied at Alexandria for Cairo; the rectangular boxed handstamp applied to registered letters arriving in Cairo, with the registration number of the letter (5080), the letter weight (POIDS) in grams (14), and the place of arrival; and the fee to be paid, 1.26 francs.

French post offices opened in Alexandria in 1837 and in Cairo in 1865, and closed, respectively, in 1931 and 1875. The Austro-Hungary Consular Office opened in Cairo only a few months before the opening of the Suez Canal on November 17, 1869. Consular offices in Egypt served as postal intermediaries in Egypt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Note that the envelope was sealed with black sealing wax in five places.



Reverse



## Pontifical State - Cover to Locarno, Switzerland



Reverse





◀Mourning cover addressed to Sig. Giuseppe Patorelli through Locarno to Bignasco in the canton of Ticino, Switzerland, dated June 15, 1869, from Rome. The cover, with thick black margins, is franked with three perforated stamps of the Pontifical State's third issue of 1868: a 5 centesimi greenish blue, shiny bright (glazed) paper (Sassone 25b), issued March 12th; a 10 cent. vermillion orange, glazed paper (Sassone 26), issued March 12th; and a 40 cent. lemon yellow, glazed paper (Sassone 29), issued August 8<sup>th</sup>.

This total postage of 55 centesimi was the correct rate for a letter up to 7.5 grams to Switzerland according to the French-Roman Postal Treaty of September 1, 1866. The letter was carried in closed mail through Italy to the postal station of St. Michel in Paris to Lyon, France, and then to Switzerland. On the cover front are the departure double circular date stamp, inscribed **"ROMA/15 GIU.69"** of the type used only from May 25, 1868 until mid-September 1869; the indistinct transit stamp of Paris, dated June 17, 1869, and the black boxed **"PD"** ("Paid to Destination") to England and France from 1862.

The Post Office of the Pontifical State kept 13 centesimi, and credited to France 42 centesimi. On the cover reverse are the June postal arrival stamps of Lyon, France, dated June 18th; Basel, Switzerland, June 19<sup>th</sup>; Luzern, Switzerland, June 19<sup>th</sup>; and Locarno, June 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Bignasco, Switzerland.**  
Population of c.200 in 1850.



## Pontifical State - Cover to Naples

▼ Mourning letter to Signora Marchesi Vigo; San Potito Hill, Naples, Italy, dated November 29, 1863, from Rome. The black-lined cover is franked with a 5 bajocchi wine rose stamp of the first issue of the Pontifical State (Sassone 6Aa), cancelled with the circular date stamp of the Roma-Ceprano Railway line, inscribed **"ROMA-CEPRANO"** with six-pointed stars on each side separating **"AMBULANZA"**. In the center of the stamp is the inscription **"1° Tr./29 Nov. 63"**. The **"1° Tr."** signifies the first train, of ultimately three pairs, serving this railway line. The Director of the Post Office of the Pontifical State approved the use of trains on this line to transport mail as mobile or travelling post offices (*Ambulanza*) on December 1, 1862. The first day of use for mail sent on the mobile post office was September 10, 1863 and it continued until September 12, 1870 when Italian troops advanced towards Rome.

The 5 bajocchi rate was agreed upon for single sheet letters up to 7.1 grams in weight to the border of the Pontifical State, according to the Postal Convention with the Kingdom of Italy. The Italian mobile post office on the border with the Pontifical State was called **"Isoletta-Napoli"**. From this point, letters were transferred to Naples on that railway. On the letter front are the railway **"ROMA-CEPRANO"** circular date stamp and the handwritten **"2"** for the 20 centesimi postage on arrival for the Italian route to the addressee. On the reverse are the double circular date stamp of the railway line for passage to Naples inscribed **"Ambulanta Isoletta-Napoli"** with the date **"29 NOV. 63"** in the center; the oval date stamp indicating arrival in Naples, inscribed **"30 NOV. 63"**; and the rectangular red delivery receipt stamp. The envelope was sealed with black sealing wax on the reverse



Napoli, View of the harbor and Mt. Vesuvius.





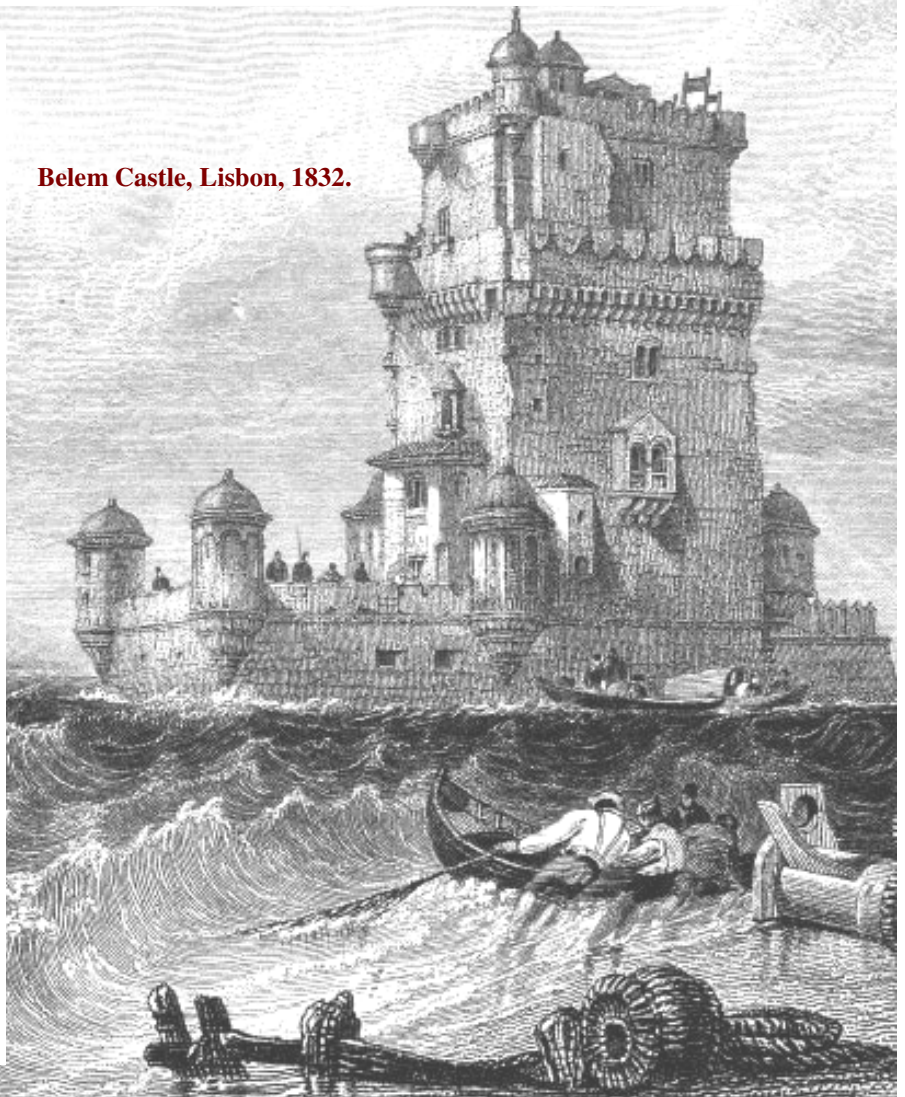
# Pontifical State - Cover to Lisbon, Portugal



▲ Mourning letter, from Rome, addressed to Sra (Mrs.) Antonia Castro on the Street of St. Sebastian, in Lisbon, Portugal, dated June 14, 1860, in care of Count da Silva. The Letter, with wide black margins is franked with a pair of white 8 bajocchi stamps (Sassone 9) and a greenish gray 6 bajocchi stamp (Sassone 7), on handmade paper, of the first issue of the Pontifical State, cancelled with the grill of Rome. The total postage is 22 bajocchi, the correct prepaid rate for a single weight letter carried through Sardinia and France to the French-Portuguese border in compliance with the Franco-Roman Treaty of April 1, 1853 (in effect on October 1, 1853).

On the letter front are the blue double circular date stamp inscribed **"ROMA/ 14 GIU. 64"**; the red, double circular French transit stamp, inscribed **"E.PONT. MAR-SEILLES/20 JUN 64"**; the black boxed **"P.P."** (*Porto Pagato*), for postage paid, established by the same Franco-Roman Treaty of 1853 to be used for letters that had no postal agreements, such as Portugal and Spain, and where the recipient would pay for the internal transport; there were three types of "P.P.", of which the type on this letter was the second, used on letters via Marseille; and the stamped numeral **"240"** for the postage charged upon arrival of 240 reis, equivalent to approximately 22 bajocchi.

Belem Castle, Lisbon, 1832.

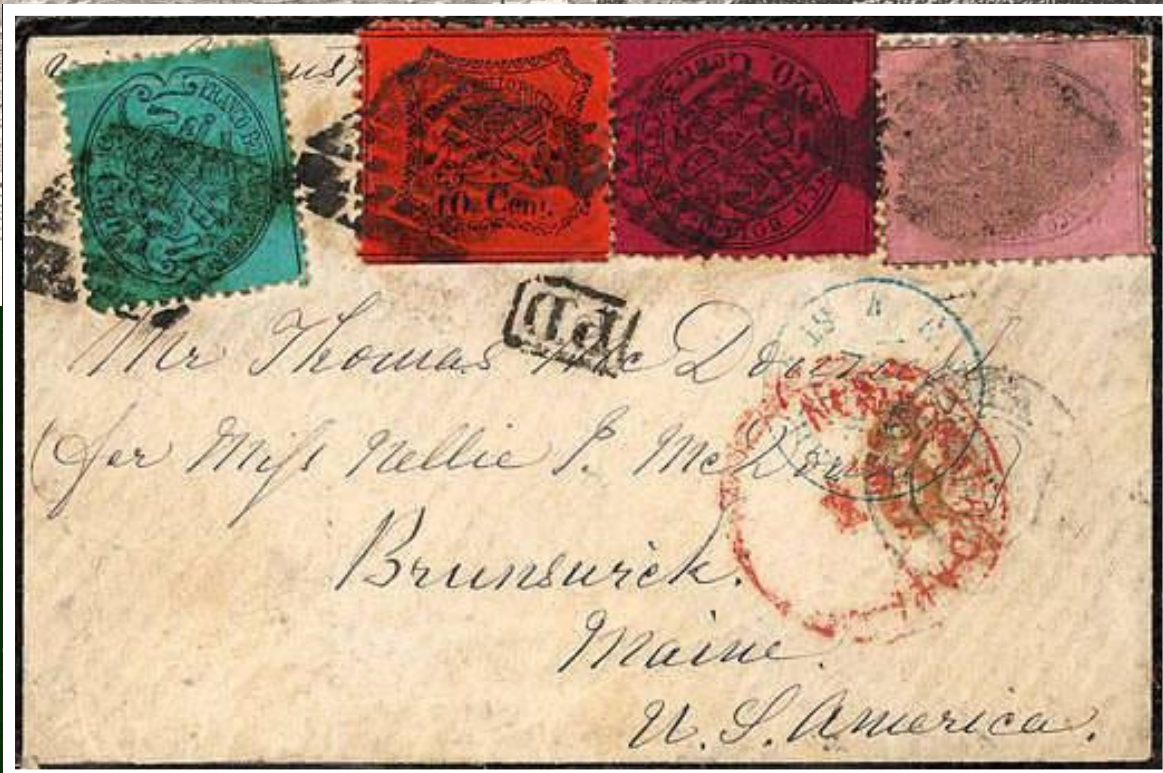




## Pontifical State - Cover to Brunswick, Maine, USA



St John River, New Brunswick, Maine frontier c.1880.



▲ Mourning letter, from Rome, dated 1869, to Mr. Thomas Mc Donald for Miss Nellie P. McDonald in Brunswick , Maine, U.S. America. The cover, with a thin black border and matching letter sheet, is franked with four stamps of the perforated third issue of the Pontifical State: a 5 centesimi greenish blue, glazed paper (Sassone 25b), a 10 cent. vermilion orange, glazed paper (Sassone 26), a 20 cent. brownish red, opaque paper (Sassone 27), and an 80 cent. light rose, glazed paper (Sassone 30), all issued on March 12, 1868. Stamps of the third Pontifical issue were printed either on glazed or semi-glazed or opaque paper. The total postage is 115 centesimi (1.15 Lire), the correct rate for a letter of up to 7.5 grams, established by the Franco-Roman Convention of August 31, 1866. They were cancelled with a lozenge cancel of seven rows of eight rectangular dashes in use only in 1869. On the cover front are an indistinct **ROMA** circular date stamp; a blue circular transit date stamp, inscribed "**E. PONT. 4/St. MICHEL**" (Paris) with an indistinct 1869 date in the center; a black rectangular- boxed "**PD**" (Paid to Destination) indicating that the letter was carried through Italy to the inland port of St. Michel to Southampton, England where an American Packet carried it to New York; and a large red circular stamp of arrival, inscribed "**NEW YORK PAID ALL**" with an indistinct date in its center. From New York it was carried by inland mail to New Brunswick, ME.



# Pontifical State - Cover to Philadelphia, USA



The United States Bank of Philadelphia, c.1840.



▲ Mourning letter, dated May 23, 1854, to Mrs. S. Francis Fisher, at 255 Walnut Street, Philadelphia U.S. of America. The cover, with medium-width black borders, is franked with four white 8 bajocchi, machine made, stamps (Sassone 9) and one 6 bajocchi, bluish grey on handmade paper (Sassone 7b), cancelled with the black double circular date stamp (CDS) of departure, inscribed **"ROMA/ 23 MAG. 54"**. This CDS was in use from January 1849 and was the first CDS used to cancel stamps in the philatelic period (January 1, 1852). It was used until the end of May 1855.

The total postage is 38 bajocchi, the correct rate determined as a supplementary foreign rate by mediation through the Austrian Postal Administration under the Austro-Italian League, on January 1, 1854. For overseas destinations, it was 38 bajocchi to the port of arrival. On the letter front, in addition to the four Roma circular date stamps, are the red double circular transit date stamp, inscribed **"E.PONT. (2) ST. MICHEL"**, with the May 1854 date in its center; the black rectangular boxed **"P.P."** ("PORTO PAGATO") for postage paid only to the port of arrival to overseas countries such as the United States where the addressee would pay the internal transport cost, as indicated by the **"5"** for "cents" in the partial strike of the large black circular date of arrival stamp, inscribed **"5 JUN 14/ New"** (YORK PAID ALL, not visible); the handwritten **"per Steamer via Liverpool"**; and the handwritten **"Answered June 17"**.

The cover was transported to the US via the Cunard packet ship *S.S. Asia*, departing Liverpool on Jun 3, 1854 and arriving in New York on Jun 13, 1854. The paddle steamship *Asia* was launched in 1850 and served until 1870.





▲ Mourning letter from Rome, dated January 26, 1869, to Monsieur Petit Meurville, French Consul to San Sebastian, Spain. The cover, with medium black margins, is franked with three perforated stamps of the third issue of the Pontifical State: a 5 centesimi greenish blue, glazed paper (Sassone 25b); a 10 cent. vermillion orange, glazed paper (Sassone 26); and a 40 cent. lemon yellow, semi-glazed paper (Sassone 29); the two lowest denominations were issued on March 12, 1868, the 40 cent., was issued August 8, 1868. The stamps are cancelled with a lozenge of six rows of seven rectangular dashes, in use in 1869 until the end of the Pontifical State. The total postage is 55 centesimi, established by the Franco-Roman Convention of September 1, 1866, prepaid to the Spanish border for a letter of up to 7.5 grams. The letter was carried through Italy in closed mail to Paris and Lyon and on to Spain. On the cover front are the black departure circular date stamp, inscribed **"ROMA/ 26 GEN. 69"**; the red double circular transit stamp, inscribed **"E.PONT. 3 . ST. MICHEL/2- JANV. 69"**; the black rectangular boxed **"P.P."**, used on pre-paid letters to borders of countries having no postal agreement, including Spain and Portugal; the red manuscript **"Beury, 25 Janvier 69"** assumed to be the sender); and the red **"4 R"** for the 4 reales tax charged on arrival. Of the 55 centesimi postage to the Spanish border, 44 centesimi was credited to France. On the reverse of the cover are the black circular transit date stamp, inscribed **"MARSEILLES-PARIS/ 29 JANV. 69"**, and two indistinct circular date stamps. The addressee, French Consul in San Sebastian, Spain, Francois Didier, Petit de Meurville, was a renowned landscape artist and portraitist, collector of art, including religious themes, botanist, and diplomat. He, and his mother, were instrumental in the founding of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, especially in making it worldwide in scope.

Francois Didier de Meurville was born on December 6, 1793 in Fonds-des-Negres in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (Haiti, after independence in 1804). His father, Ignace Nicolas Petit, was a surveyor sent to Saint-Domingue and killed by self-freed African slaves during their rebellion from 1791-1804. His mother was Benoite Victoire Marine de la Barre, of a prominent family in Lyon, France. She fled Saint-Domingue in 1797 with her son, Francois Didier, and infant daughter to Baltimore, Maryland with 1,500 other French refugees from the rebellion. She established a lifelong friendship with the Sulpicians of the University College of Baltimore, that, of great significance, with the priests Guillame-Valentin Dubourg and Benoit-Joseph Flaget. These priests were made bishops by Pope Pius VII (1800-1823) and sent to develop missions in the newly created dioceses of Louisiana (Dubourg in 1815) and Bardstown, KY (Flaget in 1808).

Bishop Dubourg pointed out to Madame de la Barre that his diocese was larger in area than France. Both bishops sought financial assistance for their missionary work in North America from Madame de la Barre, who had returned to Lyon in 1803. She started an association of her wealthy friends to collect funds to be sent to her bishop friends. Francois Petit attended the Jesuit College of Roanne, whose church is now Chapelle Saint-Michel. His mother elicited the help of Francois Petit in raising funds to support the missions in the United States. He, with his mother, became two of the founders of the Catholic Work for the Propagation of the Faith in America that paralleled the Society of the same name founded in 1819 by Pauline-Marie Jaricot, that served the missions in Asia. Francois Petit's contribution, with the help of his associates, was to merge the two societies, but of greater significance, to convince Pauline Jaricot to make the Society for the Propagation of the Faith a society to serve the Catholic missions worldwide rather than only Asia and North America. This agreement occurred in meetings during





Reverse

Map of St. Sebastian, Spain, c.1900

1822. For this work, Francois Petit was made a Knight of the Pontifical Order of the Golden Spur (*Ordine della Speron d'Ore*), also called Order of the Golden Militia, by Pope Leo XII (1823-1829). The Order, second highest to that of the Su-

preme Order of Christ, is conferred upon those who have rendered distinguished in the propagation of the Catholic faith and to the arts and sciences.

Francois Petit use his considerable talents in art and design to establish a high- quality fabric factory in Lyon. Its products included vestments for the clergy and garments for the French royalty. During this period in the 1830s-1840s, he collected religious art amassing a large collection. His business made him and his family a fortune. However, financial difficulties led to the necessity of selling the collections and ultimately, his factory. Francois Petit, a strong supporter of the Papacy and traditional religious values, became a revered figure in Spain after he aided Carlos de Bourbon (Charles V), the leader of the traditional political party and his supporters (called Carlists) and other Carlists during their exile in France after the First Carlist Civil

War (1833-39). Charles V, the first Pretender to the Spanish throne during the war to determine the succession to the throne against the “Liberals” supporting the Regent Maria Christina, for the infant Isabella II, after returning to Spain never forgot Francois Petit’s support and friendship. He gave Francois the title of Viscount of Amparo. In 1848, Francois Petit became the Vice-Consul of Alicante and in June of 1857, the French Consul to Spain in San Sebastian. He served in this capacity until 1872, supporting the Carlist party that was the principal supporter of the Catholic Church and allowed to function after the Concordat between the Spanish government and the Pontifical State in 1851.

It was during this period that the diplomat, Consul Petit de Meurville, fully engaged his talents as a painter of the landscapes of Alicante and San Sebastian and botanist (published as “La Flore de Guipuzcoa”). Much sought after, 109 of his paintings and portraits were recently auctioned, bringing four times their estimated value. Pauline -Maria Jaricot was honored on a set of three stamps of Vatican City ( Sassone numbers 338-340) for her role as a founder of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith on the centennial of her death, 1962. Francois Didier Petit de Meurville died on April 27, 1873, in Bairritz, France.

◀Francois Didier de Meurville. Portrait by Antheme Claude Honore Trimolet (1798-1866) in Spain’s Museo Zumalakarregi.





## Pontifical State - Rare Cover to Riga



Port of Riga, c.1885, woodcut print.





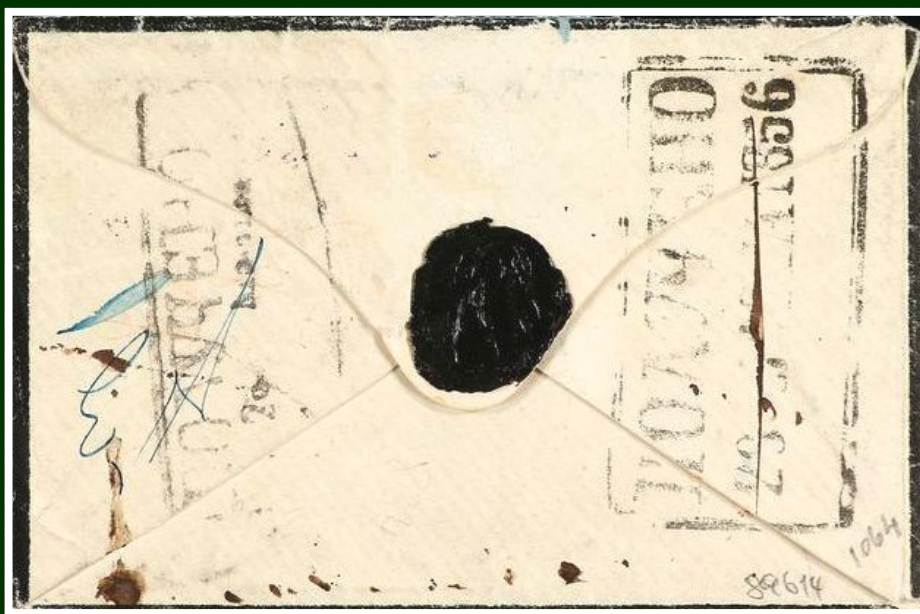
◀Mourning letter from Rome, dated March 29, 1856, to Madame de Zoeckell *nee* de Volmerange in Rausenhoff by way of Riga, Wolmar and Smilton. The cover, with black edges of medium width, is franked with a blue 7 bajocchi stamp of the first issue of the Pontifical State (Sassone 8) cancelled with the grill of Rome. On the letter front are the manuscripts “**Roussie**”, “**Livonie**”, and “**Par Riga, Wolmar, et Smilton**”. These are respectively, “Russia”, “Livonia” (In French), and “Riga”, “Wolmar”, and “Smilton” are German names for Riga, Valmiera, and Smiltene in Latvian. Rausenhoff (Rauza in Latvian) is a small village in Palzar (Palsmane in Latvian) Parish, in Kreis Walk (Valga County in Latvian) in the Smilton (Smiltene in Latvian) region of Governorate of Livonia. Livonia was one of the Baltic Governorates of the Russian Empire from 1721 until April 12, 1918. Previously known as the Riga Governorate, named by Czar Peter the Great on July 28, 1713 (Orthodox calendar), until Catherine the Great changed it to Livonia on July 3, 1783.

The Governorate of Livonia, after 1918, was divided between Latvia and Estonia. All of the cities and towns addressed on this cover are in present-day Latvia. The Governorate of Livonia was divided into nine counties (Kreis in German), of which three were Kreis Riga, Kreis Wolmar, and Kreis Walk (Smiltene region), each containing a population of 396, 101; 112, 836; and 120, 585, respectively, out of a total population of 1,299,365 for the Governorate. Of that population, 43.4% spoke Latvian (original settlers), followed by Estonian (39.9%), German 7.58%, and Russian (5.24%). Although the Baltic component of the Russian Empire, Livonia was ruled by Russian laws until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was administered autonomously by the local German Baltic nobility through a feudal Landtag. The Baltic German nobility was a privileged social class that maintained ancient right and the German language. Rausenhoff was originally a county manor, owned by a knight of the Livonian Knighthood nobility. The Governor of Livonia in 1856 was Heinrich Magnus Wilhelm von Essen.

Dissatisfied with the instability of the Russian postal system, Czar Nicholas I in the late 1830s ordered the transition of the system of postal relay stations, with postage collected by each, to a commercial one through which a contract system with contract operators collecting fees at commercial posts. But it was the Russian-Prussian Treaty of 1821 that modernized the postal system linking the Russian Empire with the other European countries. Mail entered and left Russia through the Royal Post Office in Berlin, Prussia. This cover to Livonia most likely went from Rome to Florence, Tuscany, then to St. Gallen, Switzerland, and via Baden and Berlin, Prussia to Russia. In accordance with the Postal System of the Austro-Italian League (1852), the foreign countries not belonging to the League, for which the Austrian Postal Administration was mediator, including the Russian Empire and Poland, agreed to postal rates to be paid by the states in the League. The rate to the Russian border was 16 bajocchi for ordinary letters up to 13 grams in weight. Once in the Governorate of Livonia, rates were charged the addressee for each town to final destination. The 7 bajocchi stamp on the letter may have paid the 5 bajocchi rate to Florence, Tuscany and the 2 bajocchi for transit through the Grand Duchy. The postage charged upon arrival was 40 kopeks.

In Nicholas I's postal reform, there was introduced the rectangular- boxed, double straight line- dated- postmarks of arrival at these towns on the postal route. On the reverse of this letter are two indistinct such postmarks of arrival, one for Riga (with the 1856 date) and the other for Wolmar. The capitalized first line of 8 Russian letters is “**POLUCHENO**” in the Roman alphabet, meaning “**RECEIVED**”. The other figures on the reverse are the postage rates for the other transit posts along the route. Note that the envelope was sealed with black sealing wax.

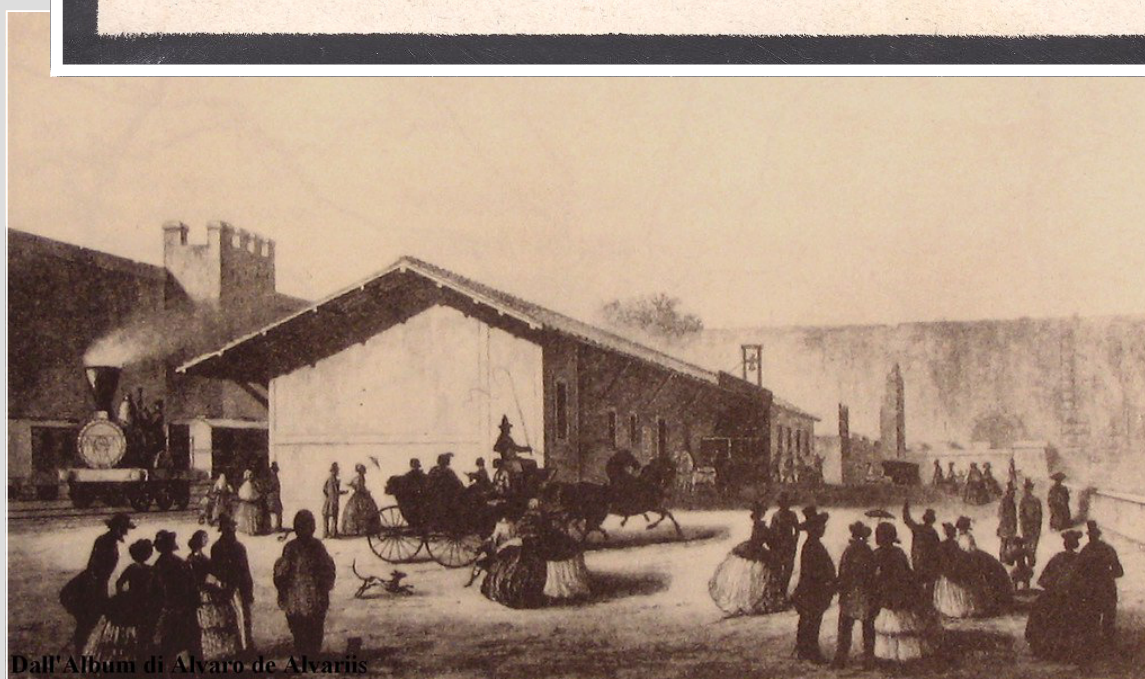
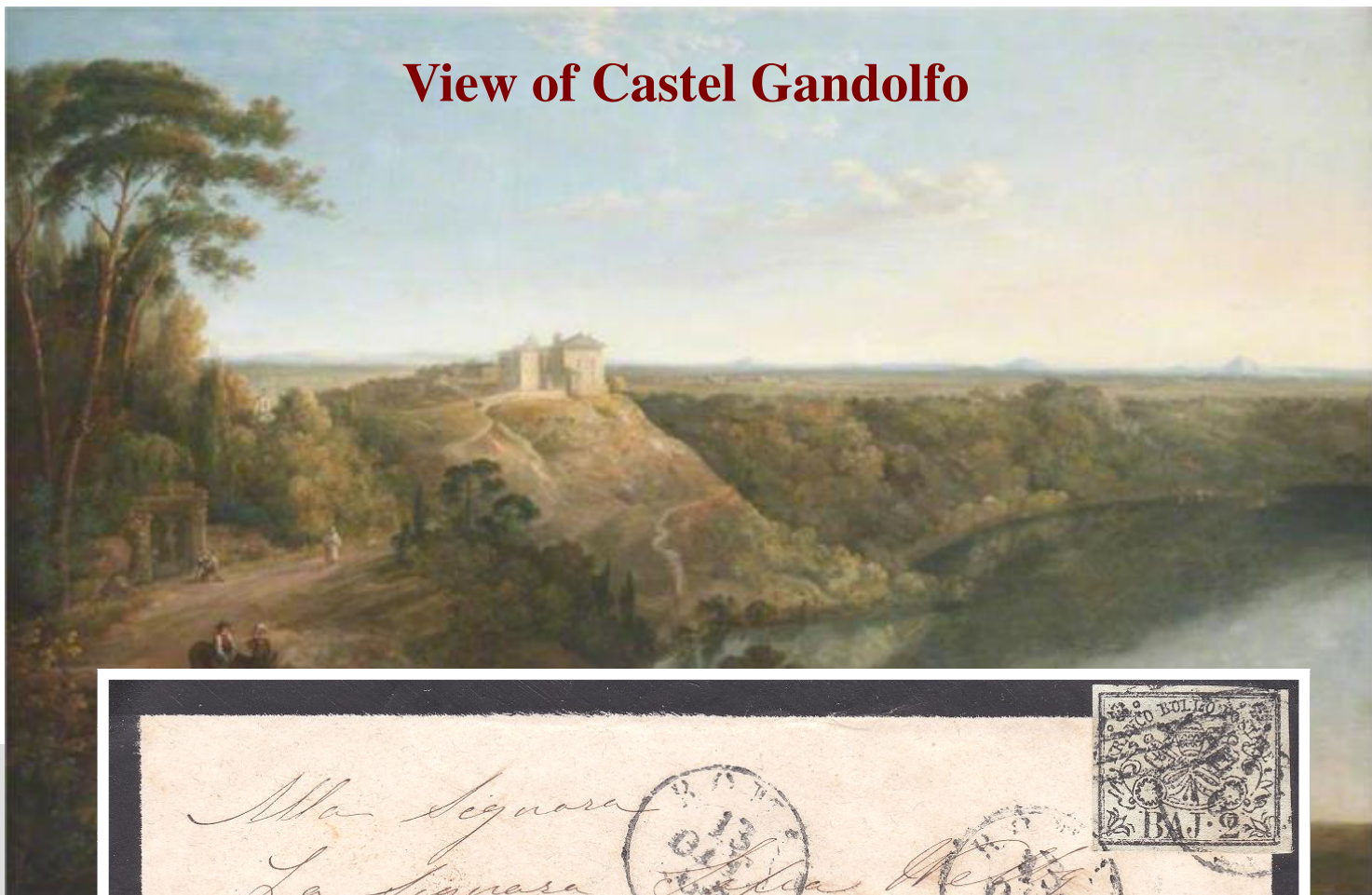
The surname “Zoeckell” is of the husband of the addressee, Madame de Zoeckell *nee* Volmerange, and is listed among the members of the Livonian Knighthood Nobility of Baltic Germans. The Zoeckell family was originally from the German nobility of Bohemia. The Volmerange name is that of a well- known French family.



Reverse



## View of Castel Gandolfo



Dall'Album di Alvaro de Alvaris

▲ 1862 view of the Porta Maggiore railway station in Roma.



# Pontifical State - Cover to Castel Gandolfo

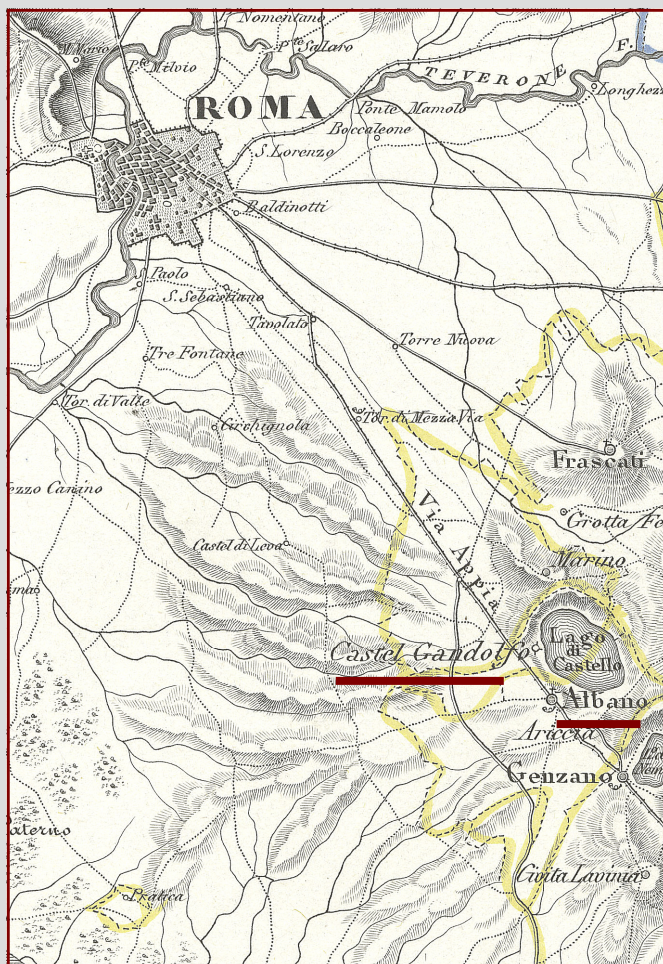


◀▲ Two mourning letters from Rome, both dated October 13, 1865, addressed to Signora Sofia Welty at Via San Martino #29, Albano (Pontifical State, Lazio). The covers, lined with wide black margins, are each franked with a 2 bajocchi, light bluish gray stamp, on thin machine-made paper (Sassone 3Ab). The left cover is cancelled with the grill of Rome and an indistinct circular date stamp (CDS) of departure. Two other CDS on the cover front are of the same type and were used from May 1862 until April 1866. They are inscribed **“ROMA /13 OTT. 65”**. The 2 bajocchi rate is the correct postage for letter weights up to 7.1 grams.

The above cover, addressed to Castel Gandolfo and redirected to Albano, is cancelled with an indistinct CDS of the Mobile Post Office of the Roma-Ceprano Railway. The cover front has the same CDS, inscribed **“ROMA-CEPRANO AMBULANZA/-Tr. 13 OTT. 65”**. Roma-Ceprano and Ambulanza are separated on each side by a 5-pointed star. The number of the train (TR.) on the CDS is indistinct. It could be train 1, 2, or 3, respectively (printed as “Tr. 1<sup>o</sup> Tr. 2<sup>o</sup>, or Tr. 3<sup>o</sup>”). This type of mobile CDS and its postal history are described in the legend of the cover franked with a 5 bajocchi stamp and its cancel. The cover front also contains, after the street address, what appears to be, in handwriting, **“2<sup>o</sup> Treno”**.

If this inscription is correct, the cover would be important in helping to resolve a controversy involving the date of first appearance of the railway cancel **“ROMA-CEPRANO AMBULANZA/ Tr. 2<sup>o</sup>”**. The postal history expert, Mario Gallenga, in his highly-regarded reference book “Storia Postale Italiana, I Bolli Di Roma” states that the number 2 Roma-Ceprano train service was begun on April 22, 1865, well before the date on the cover in this insert. In August 1866, the inscription **“AMBULANZA”** was replaced by **“AMBULANTE”**. Other postal historians of this period and subject state that no covers with the postmark “Tr. 2<sup>o</sup>” are known with the accompanying inscription “AMBULANZA”, but, rather, always with the inscription “AMBULANTE” and with dates after August 1866. To the author’s knowledge, this issue remains unresolved.

It is assumed that the first cover illustrated was also carried by a train on the Roma-Ceprano railway, and that the cancel of the mobile post office is on the reverse, as is usually the case.



▲ Detail of 1844 map showing the location of Albano and Castel Gandolfo in relation to Roma.



# Pontifical State - Cover to St. Louis, USA



Reverse



St. Louis, Missouri, c.1840.





◀Mourning letter from Rome addressed to Wayman Crow, Esquire; Crow, McCreery & Co; St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America, dated March 31, 1869. The cover, with black edges of medium width, is franked with eleven copies of the 40 centesimi, lemon yellow stamp on glazed paper, of the third issue of the Pontifical State (Sassone 29), first printed on August 8, 1868, and one copy of the 20 cent., brownish red stamp on opaque paper (Sassone 27), of the same issue, first printed on March 12, 1868. The stamps are cancelled with a lozenge of six rows of eight rectangular dashes in use in 1869. The total postage is 4.60 lire, which is four times the 1.15 lira single rate for a letter of 7.5 grams, in this case, the mourning letter weighed up to 30 grams. On the cover front are the black, double circular date stamp of departure, inscribed **“ROMA/31 MAR. 69”**, in use from January 1869 until mid-February 1870; the blue, double circular transit date stamp, inscribed **“E. PONT. 4 ST. MICHEL/ -AVRIL 69”**; the red **“3”** for the credit due to the United States Postal Service because the letter was carried by British packet rather than a packet under United States contract; and the manuscript for the charge of \$1.06 to the recipient for transit from New York to St. Louis, rather than the “22” cents, crossed out. The reverse has the black New York circular date stamp of arrival.

The cover is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity issued by the philatelic expert Enzo Diena. He notes in his certificate (translated) that the eleven copies of the 40 cent. stamp “are partially superimposed on each other, due to a lack of space on the envelope.”

The addressee on the cover, Wayman Crow, established one of the largest commercial firms in St. Louis, “Crow, McCreery & Co.,” on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Washington Streets. Mr. Crow was head of the firm that advertised “Dry Goods & General Merchandise”. However, his fame was not only as a successful businessman but rather, as, perhaps, St. Louis’ greatest benefactors. He was born on March 7, 1808 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY. His honesty and diligence in work and community led to his appointment as postmaster of Cadiz, KY in 1826. He was removed from office in 1832 for supporting Henry Clay for president of the United States. While undergoing treatment for an illness in St. Louis, MO, he decided to further his growing commercial enterprises by establishing his dry goods and general merchandise firm there, which quickly prospered. He was head of the Chamber of Commerce in the city and elected to the State Senate in 1840 and 1850.

He achieved lasting fame as the founder of one of higher education’s most prestigious institutions, Washington University of St. Louis, and also the School of Fine Arts and Museum of that university. In 1853, during his last term as senator, he drafted, proposed, and secured the adoption of its charter. In a speech, during the ceremony marking the University’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, he remarked “The Charter’s clear recognition of the literary wants of St. Louis, its absolute prohibition of partisan politics or religion in the administration of the university, attest to the liberality and practical sagacity of the mind that conceived it.” Wayland Crow died, in St. Louis, on May 10, 1885.



A. Janicke & Co. "Our City, (St. Louis, Mo.) 1859.



▼ Mourning letter from Rome, dated March 4, 1868, to Mrs. Lemoyne H. Wells, New Haven, Oswego Co., N.Y. United States of America. The cover, lined with black borders of medium width, is franked with four imperforate stamps of the second issue of the Pontifical State (September 21, 1867- March 12, 1868): a 5 centesimi (cent.) greenish blue (Sassone 16), a 10 cent. orange vermillion (Sassone 17), a 20 cent. brownish red (Sassone 18), and an 80 cent. lilac rose (Sassone 20), all on glazed paper. The first three stamps are folded over on to the reverse. The stamps are cancelled with a lozenge of seven rows of eight rectangular dashes, used from February 1868. On the cover front are the double circular Rome date stamp, inscribed **"ROMA/4 MAR. 68"**, used from February 19, 1868 until July 1869; the blue transit (through Paris) date stamp, inscribed **"E.PONT. 4 ST. MICHEL/ 7 MARS 68"**; the black boxed **"P D"** for paid to destination; the red **"3"**, for the postage due to the United States (U.S.) Postal Administration for internal transit when the overseas transit was not by a U.S. steamboat; and the red CDS arrival, **"NEW YORK PAID ALL/MAR 25"**. Transported via the **Hamburg-America Line S.S. Alle-mannia** departing on Mar 11 from Hamburg, via Southampton, England arriving in New York on Mar 25, 1868, 21 days in transit.

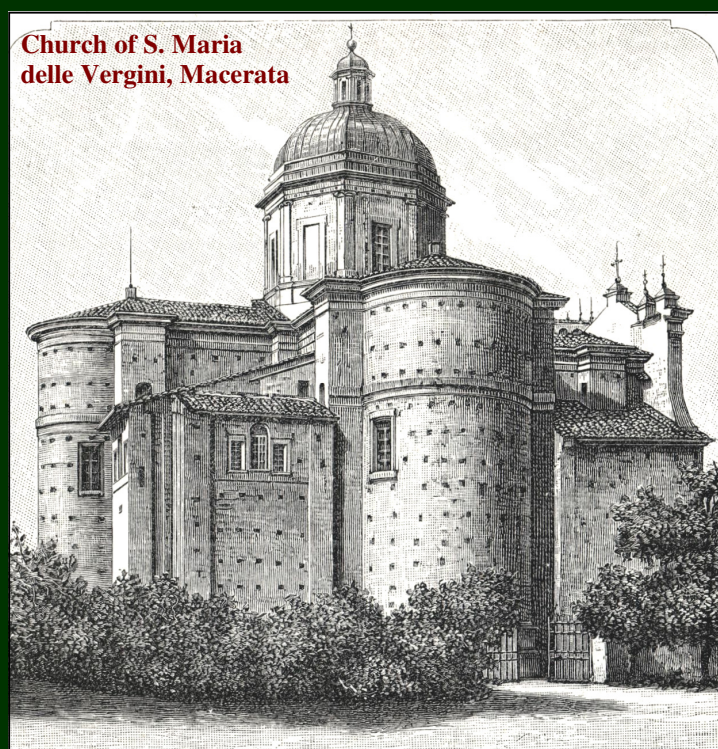
The addressee, Mrs. Lemoyne H (annah) Wells, nee' DeAngelis (May 5, 1802- January 8, 1890, was married to Chester Robbins Wells (September 8, 1799-August 9, 1867; both died in New Haven, Oswego Co., NY. The DeAngelis family originated in the Marches region of the Pontifical State (Fermo and Ascoli).



**Bird's-eye view of Oswego, New York, showing the mouth of the Oswego River at Lake Ontario 1855**



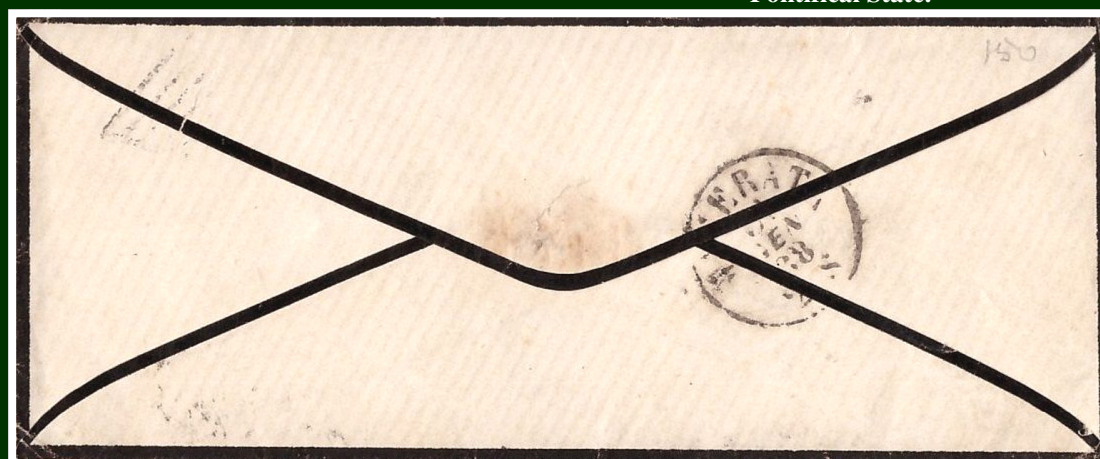




Church of S. Maria  
delle Vergini, Macerata

▲ Mourning letter from Rome, dated January 30, 1868, to Signore Pirro Lupidi, Macerata, Kingdom of Italy. The cover, with black margins of medium width, is franked with an imperforate, 20 centesimi, dark brownish red stamp (Sassone 18a) of the second issue of the Pontifical State. It is cancelled with the grill of Rome, a cancel that was discontinued 18 days later, on February 16, 1868. On the cover front is the Rome double circular date stamp inscribed **"ROMA/30 GEN. 68"**, a type used from September 21, 1867 until February 18, 1868, only on covers with imperforate stamps of the 1867-68 issue, cancelled with the grill of Rome. The 20 centesimi postage is the correct rate for all fully franked letters sent to any destination in the Kingdom of Italy, according to the Postal Agreement between the Pontifical State and the Kingdom of Italy of October 1, 1867. The black boxed **"P D"** ("Pagato a Destino"), also on the cover front was required by that agreement. Macerata was a city in the Delegation of the Pontifical State until annexed by proclamation to the Kingdom of Sardinia on November 22, 1860, that became the Kingdom of Italy (Regno d'Italia) on March 17, 1861.

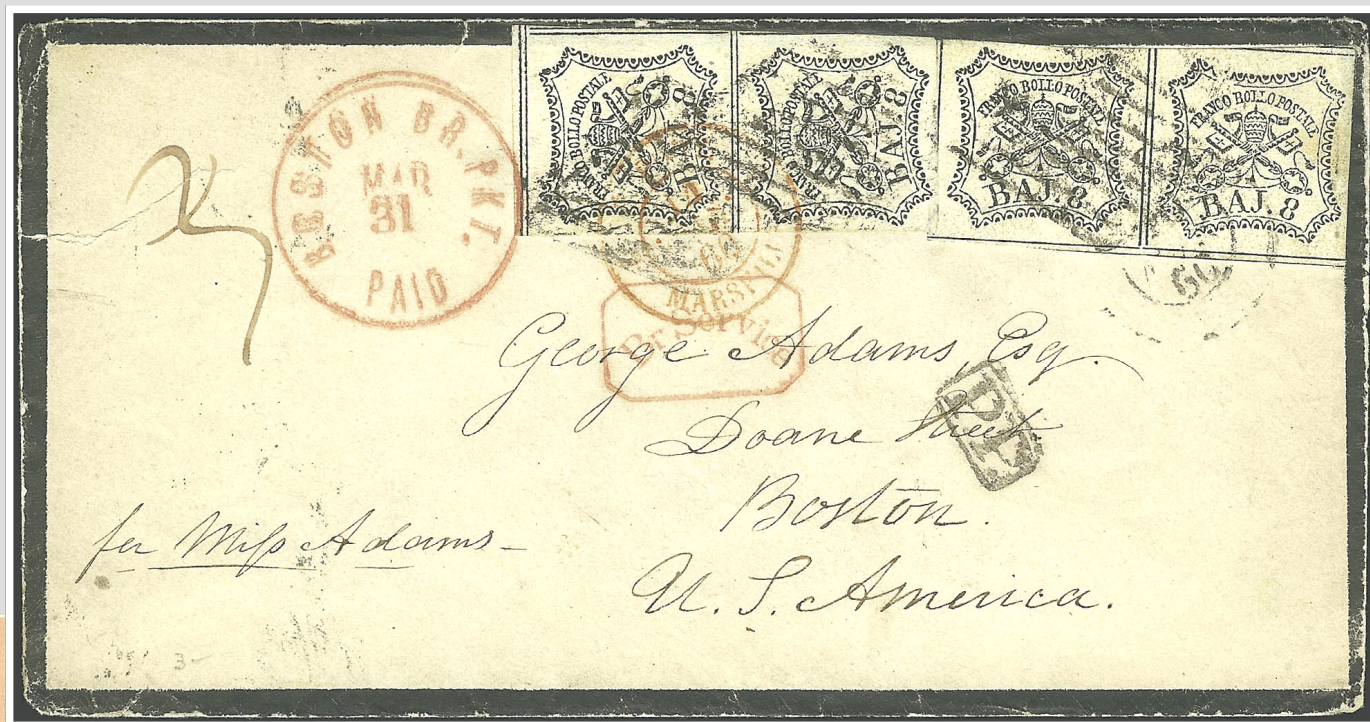
On the reverse is the CDS receipt, inscribed **"MACERATA/30 GEN/2N"**, used from 1866 until 1877. The Lupidi family ("wolves" in English) is a noble one from the Marches (Marche) region of the Pontifical State.



Reverse



## Pontifical State - Cover to Boston, USA



*Boston bird's-eye view from the north. Bachmann, John., L. Prang & Co., c.1877.*



BOSTON

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW FROM THE NORTH



◀Mourning letter from Rome, dated March 1860, addressed to George Adams, Esquire (for Mrs. Adams) on Doane Street, Boston, U.S. America. The cover is franked with two pairs of the imperforate 8 bajocchi stamp, on white machine-made paper (Sassone 9), of the first issue of the Pontifical State. The stamps are cancelled with the grill of Rome, used from October 1855, when this grill cancellation was introduced. One pair of the stamps is also cancelled with the Rome double circular date stamp of departure, used with the grill from October 1855 until April 1862. The other pair is cancelled with the red double circular transit date stamp, inscribed **“E.PONT. MARSEILLES/ 14 MARS 60”**.

The total postage of 32 bajocchi was the correct rate for a single letter of up to 7.1 grams (¼ ounce), according to the French-U.S.A Treaty of April 1, 1857. The treaty reduced the postage rate from 38 to 32 bajocchi, of which 13 and 19 bajocchi were the fees for internal and maritime transport, respectively. The letter's route was Marseilles, Paris, Liverpool, and by British Packet to Boston. On the letter front are the red circular Boston date of arrival stamp, inscribed **“BOSTON BR. PKT. PAID/ MAR 31”**; the black boxed **“P.P.”** (“Porto Pagato”), for postage paid to the port of landing for overseas countries, required by the Convention with France of October 1, 1853, where the recipient would pay for the internal transport (this type of the “P.P” stamp is the second of three); the red octagonal boxed stamp, inscribed **“Br Service”**, denoting the use of the British maritime postal service; and the manuscript **“3”** in black ink, for the 3 cents credit due to the United States Postal Administration when the overseas carrier was not by an American packet.

The letter was transported via the **Cunard Line steamship S.S. Arabia** departing Liverpool on Mar 17, 1860 arriving in New York on Mar 30, 1860 and the next day in Boston.

The addressee, George Adams, was a noted publisher, in partnership with George Sampson, of *“The Boston Directory”* by the firm of Adams, Sampson & Co., Doane Street, Boston, from 1858 until 1865. This directory, published since 1789, was the source of information for the addresses of Boston's citizens as well as all industries, commercial firms, medical and other professional personnel, and foreign agents.

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A folded mourning letter sheet from Count Giovanni Francesco Ripanti in Rome, on black-edged, wove paper- stationery, dated August 31, 1837, to His Excellency Signore Count (Carlo) Ferri in Fano. The letter, is printed Italian cursive script, translated into English, reads:

*“Count Gio(vanni) Francesco Ripanti in his name and that of his only daughter Maddalena Contessa Malatesta fulfils the painful duty of informing Signore Count Ferri of the sad and very sad news of his beloved consort Lucrezia Principessa Rospigliosi which occurred following a long and painful illness at 12 noon of the 12<sup>th</sup> of the current month, at the age of 52 years. The undersigned wants to give up his own soul, and to accept at the same time attesting his most distinct esteem of her.*

*Rome 31 August 1837”*

On the front of the folded letter sheet are the black, double circular date stamp (CDS) of departure, inscribed **“ROMA PARTENZA”** with an indistinct date in the center; the departure date stamp was used from November 29, 1834 until December 1838 and is the first CDS of Rome; and a manuscript **“5”** denoting the 5 bajocchi in postage required for letters from the second ray of the First Distance (e.g. Rome) to the Second Distance (e.g. Fano).

This mourning cover is also a fumigated one as it was sent during the severe cholera outbreak of 1837. Fumigation of letters sent from abroad and within the Pontifical State was required by the edict *“Regolamento Sanitorio”* issued by the Pontifical State’s Secretary of State, Tommaso Cardinal Bernetti, on August 20, 1831. Article 175 of the *Regolamento* required that the letters be immediately fumigated and stamped with a special seal, inscribed **“NETTA DENDRO E FUORI”** with the Papal Tiara and Keys above the inscription. The inscription is translated as “Clean Inside and Outside”. Fumigation required using a special tool to create slits in the letter so that fumes of sulfur or chlorine in a box could penetrate the inside sheet(s). Another article of the *Regolamento* required that each letter be stamped with a seal that states the disinfection site. All aspects of the tools, special handstamps, and postal routes and regulations concerning

*Arch of Augustus, Fano*



ARCO DI AUGUSTO IN FANO



disinfection and mailing of letters are described in a series of articles in Vatican Notes, Number 1, Volume XXIII to Number 4, Volume XXVI (1974-1979), by the renowned expert, Karl F. Meyer, M.D. Of particular interest to collectors of this philatelic area of interest, is that the dimensions of the slits in the fumigated letters assist in the identification of the fumigation station and postal routes used.

The mourning letter has three X-shaped slits of which one arm is 40 mm and the other 38 mm, 29 mm apart, and three horizontal slits above them, of 25 mm. On the reverse of the letter are the black confirmation of fumigation stamp, inscribed **"NETTA DENDRO E FUORI"**, with the Papal Tiara and Keys; the oval handstamp, inscribed **"COMMISSIONE SANITA DI FANO"**, confirming the destination; and the date of the letter's arrival **"4 SETTEMBRE"**. The letter was sealed with black wax.

The Ripanti, Ferri, and Rospigliosi families of the persons mentioned in this letter were among the most distinguished and noble ones of the region of the Marches of the Pontifical State. Count Giovanni Francesco Raffaele Ripanti was Count of Malviano and Metrano, a Knight of Justice of the Royal Order of St. Michael the Archangel of Bavaria, and Patrician of Jesi and other cities of the Pontifical State. The parents of his wife, Princess Lucrezia Rospigliosi (August 17, 1785- August 12, 1837), were Prince Giuseppe Rospigliosi and Maria Ottavia Odescalchi. Princess Rospigliosi's brother was Prince Giulio Cesare Rospigliosi, Duke of Zagarolo (Lazio). Their daughter, Maddalena Ripanti Malatesta (August 24, 1807- 1873), was born in the Ripanti Palace in Jesi, that still stands. Count Carlo Ferri of Fano was one of the seven Deputies of the lower house of Deputies, elected from the Legation of Urbino and Pesaro to the Civil Government of the Pontifical State, created by Pope Pius IX's (1846-1878) Constitution and granted, under pressure from the popular, lay citizen-leaders of Rome, on March 14, 1848

## Pontifical State — 1837 Mourning Letter







▲ View of the monumental Scala Regia (Royal Stairs) of the Vatican Apostolic Palace.



◀ Pius IX with the King of the Two Sicilies Francesco II (left with the dark tailcoat) in 1862 in Anzio. The person in between them is likely Cardinal Teodolfo Mertel. Left of the King stands Monsignor Talbot (arrow) and second left Monsignor Pacca (Source: Wikipedia).

Monsignor George Talbot (1816-1886), a converted Anglican priest who also served Pope Pius IX as one of his chamberlains, is notorious among English Catholics for his dislike of Newman and his remark, *“What is the province of the laity? To hunt, to shoot, to entertain.”*

In 1868 he was dismissed from the Roman curia and was placed in a mental institution near Paris. For many years the pope kept Talbot's apartments in the Vatican ready in case he should return.



## Rare Mourning Cover addressed to the Vatican



▲ Mourning letter from an English County Post Office addressed to the Honorable Right Reverend Monsignor Talbot, The Vatican, Rome. The cover, with wide black margins, is franked with two stamps of Great Britain: a two pence, perforated, deep blue stamp (Scott 29) and a nine pence, perforated, bistre stamp (Scott 40), both cancelled with an oval-shaped numeral obliterator used only in provincial post offices of England and Wales from the 1850s. The inside top and bottom of the obliterator has three bars of increasing length and two curved semi-circles on each side of a number in the center. The number is that of a post office where the letter was posted, here “72”.

The cover has no date but the two pence stamp was in use from 1858 until 1869 and the nine pence was issued in 1862, and replaced by a nine pence stamp, of slightly different design, in 1865. The total postage of 11 pence (equivalent to 22 bajocchi) was the correct rate for a letter of up to 1/4<sup>th</sup> ounce, according to the rates established by the French Mediation Agreement of January 1, 1857. The red-encircled “P D” of Great Britain indicates that the letter was pre-paid to destination. The letter was sent via Marseilles, as seen in the handwritten inscription in the cover’s upper left, and entered the transit post office of “ANGL. AMB CALAIS 1” via Paris and there carried by steamer to Civitavecchia and on to Rome by coach.

A brief biographical note on the addressee, Monsignor George Talbot accompanies the legend of this insert. The Monsignor’s remark is in a letter to Archbishop Henry Manning, Primate of England, following an article published by Father John Henry Newman in the journal “Rambler” in July 1859, titled “On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine”. The full text of the remark is:

*“What is the province of the laity? To hunt, to shoot, to entertain? These matters they understand, but to meddle with ecclesiastical matters, they have no right at all, and this affair of Newman is a matter purely ecclesiastical... Dr. Newman is the most dangerous man in England and you will see that he will make use of the laity against your Grace.”*

Cardinal Manning and Pope Pius IX were not supportive of John Henry Newman and Newman was not supportive of the declaration of papal infallibility in 1870. However, Pope Leo XIII elevated Newman to cardinal in 1879, a year after Pope Pius IX died. Cardinal Newman’s views on the role of the laity were upheld by Pope St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation in 1988, “*Christifides Laici*”. Pope Benedict XVI beatified Newman in 2010 and Pope Francis canonized him on October 13, 2019.



# Vatican City: Collegio Capranica

LOU GIORGETTI – LFG7187@COMCAST.NET



◀▲ Rare first day postcard 27 Jun 1957 addressed to Cochabamba, Bolivia. Franked with a total of £15 paying the external postcard rate.

The reverse picture on the card (background photo) illustrates the façade of the Almo Collegio Capranica in Rome.

▼ Medal issued for the visit of Pope Pius XII on 21 Jan 1957.





Founded in 1457, the Almo Collegio Capranica, or Capranica College, is the oldest college in Rome. In 1957, Vatican City issued four stamps commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the College (illustrated below). There are some interesting stories related to this issue which will be reviewed in this article.

### The Cardinal

The founder of the College was Cardinal Domenico Capranica, who established the school on the grounds of his palace. Cardinal Capranica was born in Capranica in the province of Prenestina in 1400 and, by the age of 23, he had attended the University of Padua, been ordained a priest, and was created Cardinal by Pope Martin V. Due to his young age, his elevation to Cardinal was not published until 1430. In the interim, he served as governor of Perugia. Pope Martin V died prior to Cardinal Capranica's formal elevation to Cardinal, and that transition was sabotaged by his enemies, who convinced Pope Martin's successor, Pope Eugene IV, to nullify Capranica's cardinalate. Following a period of poverty and personal devastation, Cardinal Capranica was reinstated as Cardinal in 1432.

### The College

Capranica College was founded on the grounds of the Capranica Palace in Rome. The College is due east of the Vatican across the Tiber River. Cardinal Capranica established the College in 1457, and it was the first of many

colleges to be sited within the confines of the city of Rome. The first class at the College consisted of 31 students (16 enrolled in theology and 15 in canon law). The Cardinal personally drew up the constitutions for the school, which serve as the models for other colleges of this genre. He also donated his library to the school, although some of the most valuable volumes of that library were subsequently transferred to the Vatican. Some notable facts related to the College include:

During the siege of Rome in 1527, the Capranica students were among the few defenders of the gate at Porta di Santo Spirito, and all of them (along with their rector) died when the gate was breached. The word "Almo" ("who gives life") in the College title serves as a remembrance.

The College was closed from 1798 to 1807, during the period of the Roman Republic. It reopened following the French Revolution, with a smaller student body of 13, in 1807.

The patron saint of the College is Saint Agnes, a virgin and martyr of the early Church who was martyred in the year 304 AD. The main chapel on the college campus is the Chapel of Saint Agnes, believed to be the oldest church dedicated to the saint.

### Notable Alumni

The College's website lists a number of graduates that the





school entitles “Figures of Holiness”, including the following four graduates from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries:

Monsignor Joseph Edward Flanagan attended the College starting in 1909. He later founded Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska.

Blessed Monsignor Luigi Novarese attended the College in the 1930’s. Following his ordination, he worked in the Vatican Information Office during World War II. He founded the Marian Priestly League in 1943, the Volunteers of Suffering in 1947 and the Silent Workers of the Cross in 1950. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2013.

Giacomo Paolo della Chiasa, the future Pope Benedict XV, attended the college in the 1870s.

Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII, attended the college in the 1890’s.

### The Stamps

In 1957, Vatican City issued four stamps (Scott 223 to 226) celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Capranica College. The set is interesting when one looks at the stamp designs and the events they commemorate.

The £5- and £35 values are identical images depicting Cardinal Capranica, his coat of arms and a view of the Col-

lege. The interesting stamps are the £10 £100 values, which are again identical in design. On the right side of the stamp is a profile image of Pope Pius XII (facing left). On the left is an oval frame surrounding the inscription: “Pius XII P.M. Capranicense Collegium Revisit XXI-I-MCMLVII”, which roughly translates to “Pope Pius XII Capranica College Revisit January 21, 1957”. The event commemorated is Pope Pius XII’s return to the College on its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Included in this article are photographs taken during the Pope’s visit. One can view a brief newsreel report of that visit in 1957 on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMnbOuBYTg0>

### Postal History of Capranica College

This article contains many postal covers using the stamps of the Capranica College issue, including a variety of first day covers for the four stamps issued in 1957. There are some exceptional items in this display, including:

Two spectacular covers containing multiple copies of the Capranica stamps addressed to the first president of the Vatican Philatelic Society, William Wonneberger.

The stamps, covers, postcards and photographs help tell the story of the first Roman College, the commemoration of its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a visit from one of its most esteemed graduates.

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◀ ▲ Photos of the visit of Pope Pius XII to Capranica College on 21 Jan 1957.



*Madonna with Child and Saints by Antoniazio Romano, Chapel of the Almo Collegio Capranica*



▲ A selection of first day covers cancelled on June 27, 1957 with various cachets illustrating the façade and a commemorative medal of Pope Pius XII visit to Capranica College.



► ▼ A variety of first day covers cancelled on June 27, 1957.

(Right) Registered local cover to Rome.

(Middle left) addressed to Lugano, Switzerland with a cachet illustrating a view of St. Peter's dome and the Castel St. Angelo along the bottom.

(Middle Right) Registered cover from the Vatican Philatelic Office to Parma, Italy.

(Bottom) Likely unique, large registered cover with an cachet containing a photo portrait of Pope Pius XII and the façade of the Capranica College to Assisi, Italy.

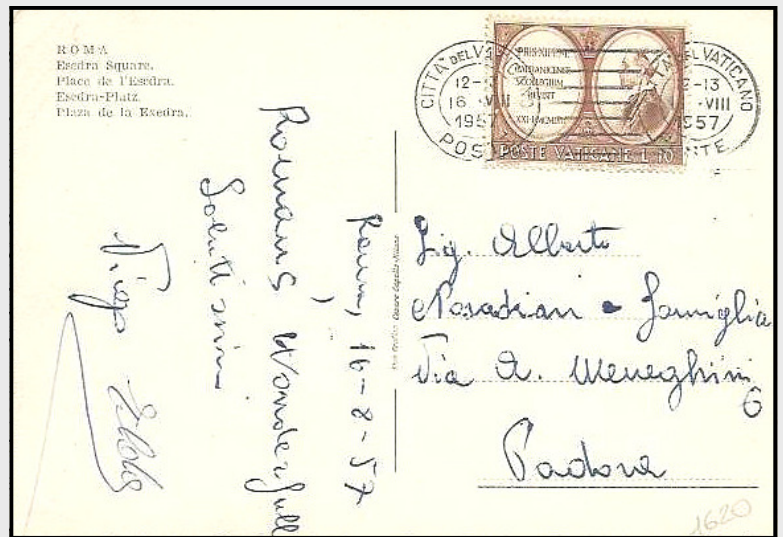




► 16 Aug 1957 postcard to Padova, Italy. Franked with the £10 stamp paying the internal postcard rate of 5 workds or less.

▼ Scarce 15 Oct 1957 large format postcard to Vilshofen/Donau, Germany franked with a complete set of the Capranica issue. The write makes mention of attending a papal audience with Pius XII.

From a postal history persepctive, the Capranica issue is generally scarce to find on cover since it was only valid from the date of issue — 27 Jun 1957 to 31 Dec 1957, less than six months.







◀ Rare 16 Sept 1957 express postcard to Palermo, Italy. £10 internal postcard rate 5 words or less + £90 express fee. 17 Sept Palermo arrival cancel.

▶ 10 Oct 1957 cover to Milano, Italy. Franked with a total of £25 paying the internal letter rate. The stamps are cancelled with an early usage of a handstamp roller cancel device with wavy lines.



◀ 18 Jan 1958 airmail printed matter from the extra-territorial Palazzo di Propaganda Fede to Washington, DC. £10 external printed matter per 50 grams + £25 per 30 grams x 2 steps = £100 for the airmail fee to the US.

Interestingly, the £10 Capranica stamp was no longer valid for postage as of 31 Dec 1957.

▶ Undated cover addressed to Dublin, Ireland franked with a total of £70 (corner margin horizontal pair of the £35 Capranica stamp). The postage overpaid by £10 the £60 external letter fee.







▲ Rare 1 Aug 1957 airmail registered manuscript to Oxford, England. The letter weighed 160 grams and was franked with a total of £221. £55 external manuscript rate per 250g + £65 external registration + [£15 per 20 grams airmail fee to England x 7 steps = £105] = £220. The letter was overpaid by £1.



◀ Scarce 30 Dec 1957 registered cover to Reggio Emilia, Italy. Mixed franking with a total of £240. £25 internal letter per 15 grams + [£25 each additional 15 grams x 5 steps = £125] + £75 registration = £225. Underpaid by £15.

Second to the last day of the stamp validity.





# Capranical College Issue — Errors & Exceptional Usages



▲ ◀ Scarce £35 and £100 horizontal imperforate values.

► Scarce 30 Dec 1957 airmail cover to Hollywood, CA. £120 total franking. £60 external letter + £60 airmail fee to the US per 5 grams.

Second to the last day of the stamp validity.







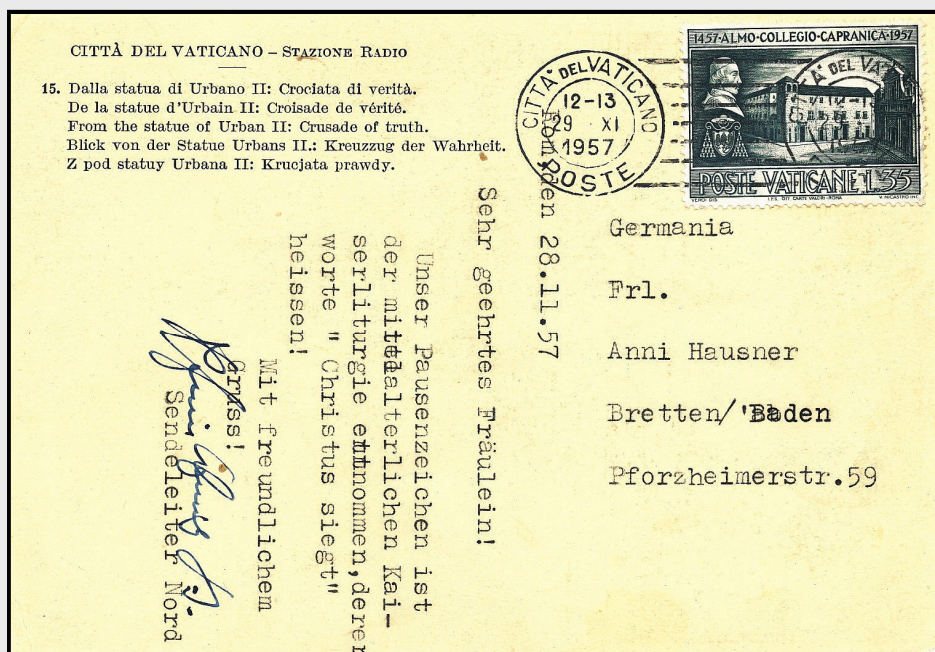
▲21 Aug 1957 registered airmail cover to Stratford, CT for a letter weighting 35 grams. Rate: £60 external letter first 20 grams + £35 each additional 20 grs + £65 external registration + [£60 airmail fee per 5 grs x 7 steps = £420] = total £580.

The recipient, Mr. Wonneberger, was the founder and first president of the VPS in 1953. Largest known multiples of the £10 stamp used on cover.

▼4 Oct 1957 airmail cover to Stratford, CT. £60 external letter + + £60 airmail fee per 5 grams = £120.







◀ 29 Nov 1957 postcard to Bretten, Germany franked with the £35 value paying the external rate.



▲ Scarce 31 Dec 1957 registered airmail cover to Tripoli. Libia. Rate: £60 external letter first 20 grams + £65 external registration + £30 airmail fee per 5 grs. = total £155. Last day of postal validity, however, the year date on the cancel is incorrect and reads 1958.



# Unperforated £100 Value Proof Sheet

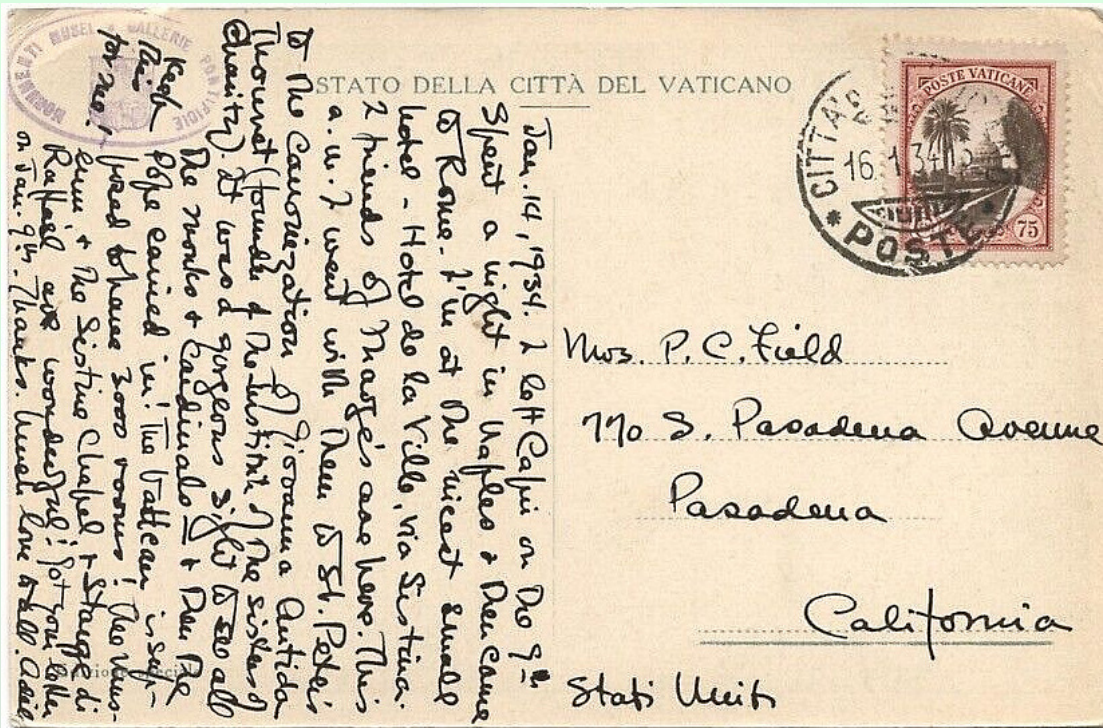


▲ Likely unique unperforated proof sheet of 50 stamps of the £100 value of the Capranica College issue. Note the wide selvage margins that are printed with engraved geometric designs. The paper also has a slightly bluish tint.



# 1934 Postcard: Witness to a Canonization

GREG PIROZZI — GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET



◀16 Jan 1934 postcard to Pasadena, CA. Franked with the 75c value of the Gardens & Medallions issue (Scott 26) paying the external postcard rate.

The message on the card notes attending the canonization ceremony of St. Giovanna Antida Thournet.

▲Message: *"Jan 14, 1934. I left California on Dec 9th, spent a night in Naples and then came to Rome. I'm at the nicest small hotel—Hotel de la Vile, via Sistina. 2 friends of Margies are here. This a.m. I went with them to St. Peter's to the canonization of Giovanna Antida Thournet (founder of the Institue of the Sister of Charity). It was a gorgeous sight to see all the monks and cardinals— and then the Pope carried in! The Vatican is supposed to have 3,000 rooms! The museum and the Sistine Chapel and Stanze di Raphael are wonderful! Got yourn letter on Jan 9th. Thanks much. Love to all. Adele Keep this (postcard) for me."*



◀**Jeanne-Antide Thouret** (1765-1826) entered the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul to serve the poor and work in hospitals, first in Langres and then in Paris. In 1797, Thouret founded a school for poor girls in Besançon and in 1799, founded the Sisters of Charity. During the French Revolution, when religious communities were suppressed and many priests and religious were killed, she was ordered to return to her family's home, but she refused and was badly beaten when she tried to escape the authorities. Thouret returned to Sancy in 1797, where she founded a small school for girls and worked with the sick until she had to flee to Switzerland, Germany, and then back to Switzerland in 1799, where she opened a school, hospital, and a congregation called the Institute of the Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul, which eventually expanded into France and Italy.

In 1802, she began working with prisoners and in 1807, her community was officially named the "Sisters of Charity of Besançon". In 1810, she traveled to Naples, where she cared for "Incurables" at a hospital. She also opened a school and a pharmacy at a convent they were given. Pope Pius VII approved their community, which he named "Sisters of Charity under the protection of St. Vincent de Paul", in 1819. As of 2020,

there were 4,000 sisters, spread over 27 countries, in the Sisters of Charity community, who provide a variety of services for the poor. Thouret died of natural causes in Naples in 1826. She was beatified on May 23, 1926 and canonized on January 14, 1934 by Pope Pius XI. Her statue appears among the 39 founders of religious orders at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Her feast day is May 23.



# Use of the Vatican Post Official Seal

GREG PIROZZI — GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET



◀The reverse of the cover bears a very scarce usage of the Vatican Post Office official letter seal.

The square seal is perforated on two sides and imprinted in black "Amministrazione Delle Poste Vaticane". It is also cancelled with a Vatican City CDS.

Typically, postal administrations produce official seals to use for sealing a letter that required opening for inspection or was somehow damaged during handling. Here the seal is clearly used as a security closure device. Can our readers provide other examples?



▲ Scarce 28 May 1942 cover from the Vatican Post Office Philatelic bureau (Governatorato della Città del Vaticano —Ufficio Filatelico) to Nazi-occupied Eindhoven, Holland. The philatelic franking consists of the complete set of the Pope Pius XII definitive series first issued on 11 March 1940 (Scott 72-76).

The cover was examined in transit by German the censorship office located in Munich and bears the Ad hand-stamp censor marking (*Auslandbrief-Prüfstelle*— Foreign Mail Censorship Office), but bears no evidence of being opened. The manuscript signature name of E.(rnesto) Durantini who was the director of the Vatican Philatelic office during this time, also appears on the reverse.



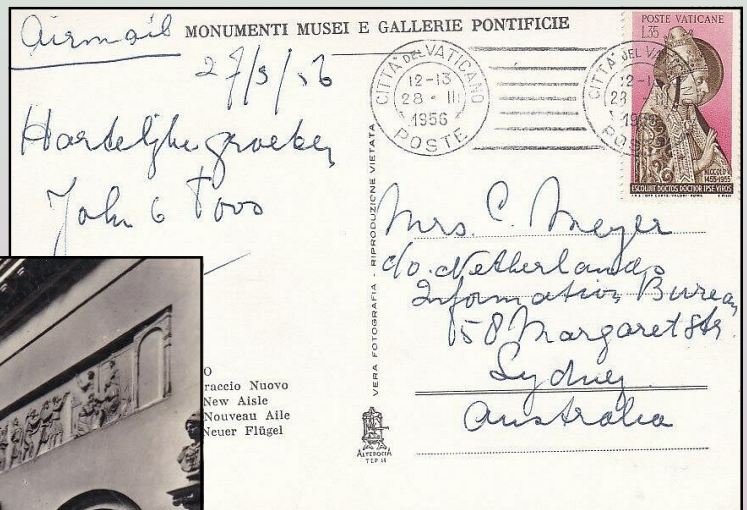
# Vatican City Unusual Postcard Views: Vatican Museums

GREG PIROZZI — GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET



▲ 18 July 1933 postcard to Wilmington, DE franked with 75c paying the external postcard rate.

Photo of the entrance to the Vatican Museums build by Pope Pius XI in the early 1930s. The entrance passed thru the ancient walls surrounding the Vatican City state.

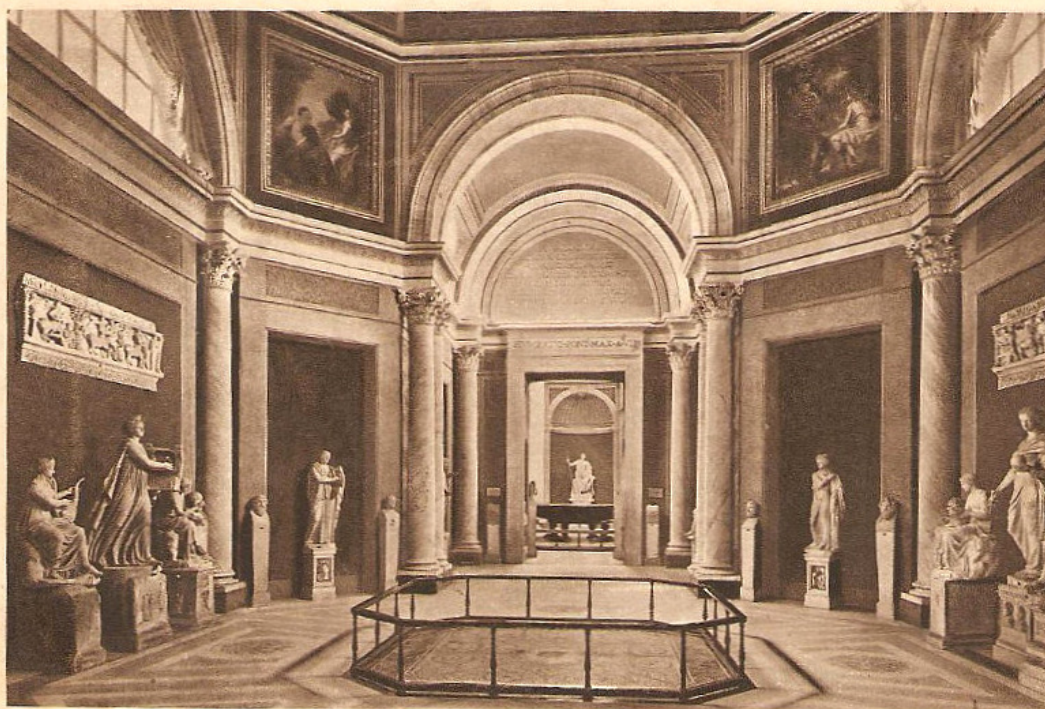


▲ 28 Mar 1956 postcard to Sydney, Australia. £35 external surface mail rate.

The Braccio Nuovo (New Wing) of the Vatican Museum complex was build under Pope Pius VII (1800-1823) by Roman architect Raphael Stern. It consisted of a neo-classical gallery 65 meters in length covered by a barrel vault ceiling, decorative stucco friezes and ancient Roman stone mosaic floors.







*Città del Vaticano - Museo di scultura - Sala delle Muse*

◀Hall of Muses, Vatican Museums, a series of classical sculptures representing the muses of art, poetry, music, and dance.

► 27 February 1943 postcard to Erdevik, Serbia, then part of (or disputed territory with) Croatia (Hrvatska) in Yugoslavia.

The postcard is franked with £0.25, the five words or less rate to an address outside Italy. An unreadable Erdevik postmark appears on the front.

The 31/II and a boxed 15 censor marks are also shown on the cover. Along with a straight line “*Verficato Per Censura*” handstamp. The stamp is Scott 77 (1942).



The Hall of Muses (*Salla della Muse, Museo di scultura*) was established in 1784. The collection was located originally near Tivoli at the “Villa of Crassius,” 30 km (18.6 mi) ENE of Rome. The statues included Apollo with a lyre and a statue of Athena, and other Greek men dating to the era of Emperor Hadrian (r. 117-138). The number of muses varied from three to nine in Greek and Roman mythology and are sometimes named after the nine daughters of Zeus. The variable list of nine muses includes Epic Poetry, History, Love Poetry, Music/song/love poetry, Tragedy, Hymns, Dance, Comedy and Astronomy (later Christian Poetry). In the 19th century, statues in the Hall of Muses were adjusted to conform to a similar list, and each muse accompanied by a symbol associated with what it represented.



# Pontifical State to Rome - Palazzo Capranica

JOHN YOPP - JYOPP4043@GMAIL.COM



*The Sala degli Affreschi, a Renaissance room in the Palazzo Capranica, Rome.*



▲ Scarce over, from Viterbo, capital of the Apostolic Delegation of Viterbo (Lazio region), dated December 17, 1859, sent to Signore Carlo Cavalier Sagretti, Monte Citorio, Palazzo (Palace) Capranica, Ultimo piano (top floor), Roma. Franked with a single and a pair of one bajocco, greyish green stamps (first composition of two types of lines separating the stamps, 1852-1861), on handmade paper (Sassone 2, Scott 2a), of the first issue of the Pontifical State (1852-1867). The stamps are cancelled with the "Grill of Rome" that was always used with the circular date stamp on the cover front, inscribed "VITERBO/17 DEC. 59" from April 1857 until February 1865. The postage of 3 bajocchi, was the correct rate for a single-sheet letter, mailed within the same Postal Distance between Offices of Direction, not bordering.

Cavalier Sagretti's family, originally from Ascoli Piceno, moved to Barbarano (Romano) in the Delegation of Viterbo, in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and became prosperous landowners in the 1830s and 40s. In 1848, Carlo Sagretti, 33 years old, was a Lieutenant and Commander of the Carabinieri in Albano (Comarca of Rome) and arrested because he was involved, with other Carabinieri and prominent officials, in a conspiracy. He was imprisoned in the Castel Sant'Angelo and tried in the Tribunal of the Congregation of the Sacra Consulta. Following the intervention of his brother, Monsignor Salvo Maria Sagretti, a distinguished associate of Pope Pius IX and the Pope himself, he was tried again, freed, and sent to his home in Rome. Carlo, then became a strong supporter of the Pope and the Pontifical State, joining the Pontifical Gendarmes. He sided with the Papacy during the invasion of Giuseppe Garibaldi's troops in 1867. He was awarded the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great (one of the five papal orders of knighthood) for distinguished personal service to the Pontifical State. His descendants still reside in Barbarano Romano as distinguished citizens.

One of the few surviving buildings of Rome dating back to the 15th century, the Palazzo Capranica is an interesting example of the beginning of Renaissance architecture (1457). The palace was built for cardinal Domenico Capranica who wanted a residence for his family and a college for clergymen.



# Secretary-Treasurer Report

DENNIS BRADY — DBRADY7534@GMAIL.COM

At this writing we have just completed our fiscal year. As I have noted before our fiscal position remains steady as a result of the many generous members donations we receive over and above the annual member dues.

With the very significant assistance of our New Member Chair Dennis Oniszcak, we have taken a new approach this year to membership renewal. We have moved as much as possible to the use of email and started the process in early June, a few weeks before our year end.

Thank you to all who responded to this new approach. We have entered the new year with a solid rate of renewals. Much time and effort is spent on our annual renewals. If you are one of the 72, as of this writing, who have not renewed I strongly urge you to complete the process. This can be done by check payable to the Vatican Philatelic Society mailed to the Treasurer or by PayPal accessible from our website. I do not want to have to delete you from the list of active members receiving Vatican Notes and lose your access to the members only section online.

Thank you for your support of our Society.

*Dennis Brady* — Secretary, Treasurer, VPS

## Financial Summary

As of June 30, 2022

Checking/Savings	
Checking - M & T	\$ 9,201
Commercial Savings	\$ 21,541
Pay Pal	\$ 70
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>\$ 30,813</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 30,813</b>
Prepaid Dues	\$ 4,631
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 4,631</b>

Income & Expenses  
July 1 - June 30, 2022

Income	
Advertising	\$ 900
Donations	\$ 2,743
Interest Income	\$ 4
Membership Dues	\$ 6,612
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,258</b>
Expense	
Bank & Pay Pal Fees	\$ 202
Member Recruitment	\$ 156
Web Expenses	\$ 1,588
Vatican Notes - Mailing	\$ 956
Vatican Notes - Printing	\$ 5,464
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 8,366</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,892</b>

### REQUEST from the EDITOR

Dear VPS Members, your help in supporting the society both financially and operationally is now more important than ever!

- Please consider making a donation to secure our future. Many members have made an additional annual donation and we are most thankful for this support. Printing and mailing costs continue to rise to maintain a quality quarterly journal of 240 annual pages.
- With the passing of Jim Hamilton, we urgently need a candidate to fill the role of Assoc. Editor and to help with advertising.
- I ask each of you to please consider contributing an article for the *Notes*. I would be most happy to work with you on any topic of interest and can supply you with numerous ideas. Please contact me directly! - gpirozzi@comcast.net

### Vatican Philatelic Society Website

**[www.vaticanstamps.org](http://www.vaticanstamps.org)**

Webmaster: Marvin Lanahan –  
mlanahan404@comcast.net

Support the VPS with your Subscription Dues  
and Annual Donation



# 1956 Angel Airmail Issue — Saggio Perforations



▲ Rare 1956 airmail issue (Scott C24-32) SAGGIO (Specimen) perforation overprints. The perforations are applied both vertically and horizontally thereby avoiding the main figurative element of the stamp design.

## The 2021 New Issues are in Stock

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# Cover Corner: Scarce Europe Airmail Rate

GREG PIROZZI — GPIROZZI@COMCAST.NET

As of 1951, the airmail rate from Vatican City to all locations in continental Europe was established at £25 per 5 grams in weight. The scarce examples below show are unusual as they document the second step rate for letter weighing more the 5 grams.



◀15 June 1953 airmail cover to St. Etienne, France. Franked with £110 of the Popes and Basilica issue (Scott 160, 168).

Manuscript notation in the upper right “Peso controllata gr 7.5” (weight checked 7.5 grams). Posta Aerea (airmail) CDS.

The rate includes £60 for an external letter of up to 20 grams + [£25 per 5 grams x 2 steps = £50] = £110.

►10 Jun 1953 airmail cover to St. Etienne, France. £110 total franking consisting of the two values of the Popes and Basilica issue (Scott 163, E14 ).

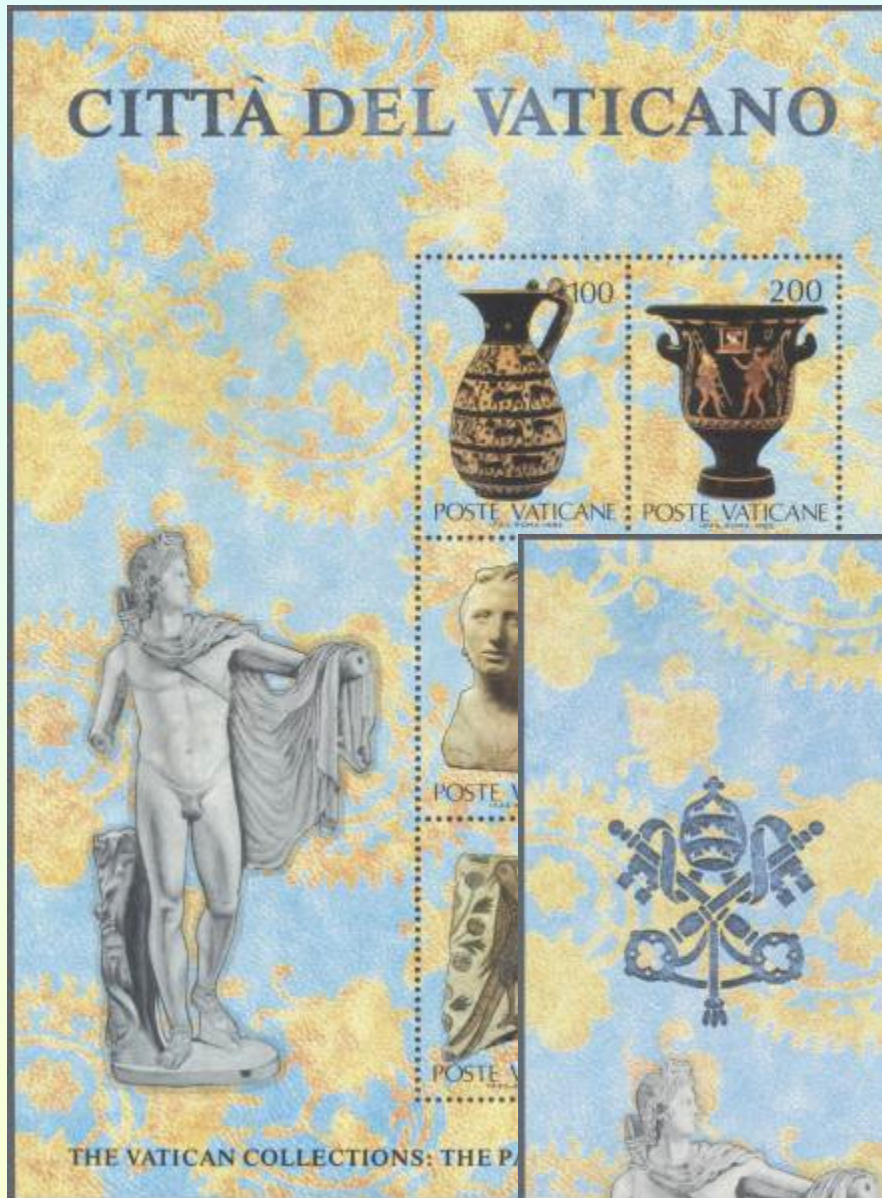
Manuscript notation in the upper right “Peso 8 gm” (weight 8 grams).

The rate includes £60 for an external letter + [£25 per 5 grams x 2 steps = £50] = £110.





# 1983 Papacy & Art Sheetlet Errors



◀Missing Papal Keys silver printing.

►Missing “Città del Vaticano” silver printing.

It is not know how many of either of these sheetlet errors exist. In over 30 years of collecting, I have only seen a handful offered at various auctions. They are likely very scarce to rare item of Vatican City philately.

