



Vatican Notes

Volume XVI.

November - December 1967

Number 3.

COMMEMORATING THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ARCHEOLOGICAL CONGRESS.



THE 6th INTERNATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

On Sept. 25, 1962, Vatican issued four stamps in two designs to commemorate the 6th International Christian Archeological Congress which met at Ravenna Sept.23-28, 1962. The 40 and 100 Lire values pictured part of a bas-relief of a christian sarcophagus found in the Cemetary of Domitilla on the Via Ardeatina in Rome. The center of the relief shows the cross surmounted by the Chi Rho, symbol of Christ, surrounded with a triumphal crown. Two soldiers sleep at the foot of the cross. The triumph of the Cross of Christ is indicated, Christ's victory over death and sin, the Cross Unconquered.

The 20 and 70 Lire values reproduce a marble slab from a youn boy's grave, which bears the pictures of Saints Peter and Paul, each with his name inscribed beside it, and the Chi Rho above the name of Peter. Both of these pieces are from the first century of Christianity and are found in the Lateran Museum.

Cf. stamps commemorating the 4th International Christian Archeological Congress held at Rome in 1938, Vatican #55-60, which show the Crypt of St. Cecelia in the Catecombs of St. Callixtus on the Apian Way, and the Basilica of Saints Nereus and Acchileus in the Catecombs of Domitilla on the Vi Ardeatina, Rome.

100 th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE RED CROSS. (Vat.392-4, Sept.22, 1964)

JEAN HENRY DUNANT, a Swiss, wrote "Un Souvenir del Solferino" in 1862, describing the sufferings of the wounded on the battlefirld of Solferino, when the French and Sardinian armies fought the Austrians, in which more than 30,000 were killed or wounded. He urged the formation of voluntary aid societies for the relief of the wounded, and urged that this help be international and neutral.

The Societe Genevoise d"Utilite Publique of Switzerland took up the suggestion and an international conference was called with delegates from sixteen countries, which met in Geneva in 1864 "For the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field". A convention was signed by twelve of the sixteen countries attending, providing for the neutrality of the aid personnel of the armed forces, and the neutrality of the civilians who voluntarily assisted them, with an international emblem to mark personnel and supplies. To obtain the symbol the Swiss flag was reversed in color (a white cross on a red field) to become a Red Cross on a white field, in honor of Dunant.

Signatories of the Geneva Convention with its subsequent revisions and tresties include most civilized countries. There are National Red Cross Societies in more than 68 countries. The International Committee of the Red Cross, founded in 1863, is composed of 25 Swiss citizens who serve as neutral intermediaries in time of war. The League of Red Cross Societies was founded in 1919, and is composed of the various National Red Cross Societies. The International Red Cross Conference, begun in 1867, is the highest deliberative body and is composed of a representative of each National Red Cross, of the League of Red Cross Societies, and of all nations signatory to the Geneva Convention. It meets every four years.

Clara Barton (US 967) started the American Red Cross in 1881, and it received its first Federal Charter in 1900. Its charter was revised in 1947. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C.

The design on the Vatican stamps recall the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke X 30-37) which explains in parable how we should love God and love our neighbor as ourself for the love of God.

FORGERY OF THE 7 BAJ.

(7 Baj. #2)

1. Top of the Tiara rounded.
2. Numeran 7 too narrow.
3. Key handles open at junction with shafts.



1.



2.



3.



THE GENUINE 7 BAJ.

1. Top of Tiara somewhat flattened.
2. Numeral 7 fairly wide.
3. Key handles solid circle at junction with shafts.



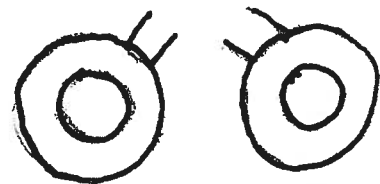
1.



2.



3.



THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSFER OF THE RELICS OF POPE ST. PIUS X FROM ROME
TO VENICE AND RETURN.

On April 11, 1960, three stamps were issued under Ordinance XVI of the same date to commemorate this event. The designs were by Casimira Dabrowska and the work of engraving was done by Mario Columbatì (L.15), Mazzini Canfarini (L.35) and Vittorio Nicastro (L.60). The values of L.15 and L.60 were recessed printed on paper with the #1 crossed keys watermark in panes of 45 (9 x 5) and linear perforated 13 1/4. The L.35 was recess printed on paper with #2 crossed keys watermark by rotary press in panes of 30 and comb perforated 13 1/4 by 14. There were 1,100,000 complete sets printed and they remained valid until March 31, 1961.

The L.15 stamp bears the legend: "Cardinal Joseph Sarto Departs from Venice to Participate in the Conclave". The date given on the stamp is XXVII-VI-MCMIII (June 27, 1903). According to several biographies the date should have been XXVI-VII-MCMIII (July 26, 1903) and several writers in Italian stamp papers suggested that there had been a transposition of numerals in the original design which was not detected until the stamps were printed. But designer Dabrowska in a letter of Feb. 2, 1961 to the editor merely stated: "The date given is authentic".

The design on the L.15 is modeled after "a photograph that the Vatican wanted, and sent me. Vatican left me free for the composition of the attendants of the leaving of the Cardinal, because nobody remembered who were in this time (of the leaving) near him". (Same letter). Since those who had been present were probably dead and there was no record of those in attendance available, the composition of the design was left to the artistic taste of Miss Dabrowska.

Actually the design resembles a photo of the Patriarch before the Scuola di San Rocco in Venice, as he leaves the building of the Scuola where he has just celebrated Mass on August 16, the Feast of St. Rocco, as it was the tradition for the Patriarch of Venice to do each year. The year of this picture is given in "Pius X" (Von Matt) as 1902, but in "Pius X" (Giordano) as 1896. A photo of the actual scene of departure from the gondola to the mole in front of the railway station is hardly artistic, because it shows the Patriarch gingerly stepping from the shaky gondola to the mole. Miss Dabrowska in using the photo supplied by the Vatican presents a much more dignified and artistic scene.

The name "Scuola" used in regards to San Rocco refers to a religious confraternity or charitable guild, which erected and occupies the building depicted. The Scuola di San Rocco was instituted in 1478 for the purpose of attending to the poor and the sick, especially those ill from the plague. Its patron, San Rocco (St. Roch, St. Rock) was born at Montpellier and on a pilgrimage to Rome in the 14th century nursed those sick of the plague while he was in Italy. The building was erected 1524-60, designed by Bartolomeo Buon of Bergamo. The great halls are decorated by 56 paintings of Tintoretto, which took 18 years to execute, and are well known to students and lovers of art.

Giuseppe Melchior Sarto was ordained a priest on September 18, 1858; he was a curate at Tombolo 1858-67; a parish priest at Salzano 1867-75; a canon, chancellor and rector of the seminary at Treviso 1875-84; the bishop of Mantua 1884-93. The Patriarchate of Venice had been vacant for three years. This post had been refused by Bishop Sarto and others, but at the direct request of Pope Leo XIII, Bishop Sarto accepted out of obedience in 1893. Because of objections from the Italian Government, he was not able to take over the See of Venice for 17 months. Italy dropped its objections on September 7, 1894, and the new Patriarch entered Venice on November 24, 1894. He learned to love the Venetians and they returned his love.

Pope Leo XIII died on July 20, 1903 and the conclave for the election of his successor was to begin on July 31, 1903. (This makes the July 26 date more believable). Since he had been made a cardinal in mid-June of 1903, the Patriarch was due at the conclave, and with borrowed money he bought a round-trip ticket to Rome. The crowd which gathered at the railroad station shouted: "Come back to us! Come back to us!" From the window of his coach Card. Sarto answered: "Dead or alive, I shall come back." This was on July 26. On August 4, 1903, he was elected Pope Pius X. While alive he was never able to come back to Venice, because as Pope he became a voluntary prisoner inside the Vatican, after the example set by Pope Pius IX and followed by Pope Leo XIII, in protest over the seizure by arms of the Pontifical State by the Kingdom of Italy, a situation which remained unresolved until Pope Pius XI in 1929.

The L.35 bears the inscription: "Pope John XXIII Venerates the Remains of St. Pius X About to Depart for Venice, April 11, 1959". The body of St. Pius X left Vatican City on that date and arrived by rail at Venice on the next day, April 12. Of this scene Miss Dabrowska writes (same letter): Pope Giovanni XXIII praying at the side of the body of St. Pius X is authentic - and this scene takes place in the wagon in the Vatican City - and the date of the leaving is authentic too".

For nearly a century no pope had been buried in the crypt of St. Peters, but Pius X requested that he be interred in a secluded part of the crypt. On August 22, 1914, his body was placed in a temporary tomb marked with a cross and his name. The marble tomb in the crypt was ready in December of 1914. In 1923 the cardinals who resided in Rome introduced the cause of Pope Pius X for beatification. By 1931 the preparatory processes were finished by tribunals set up in Treviso, Mantua and Venice for this purpose. The next step was begun by Pope Pius XII with the setting up of a fourth tribunal at Rome in 1943.

In May, 1944, there was a canonical inspection of the tomb of Pius X and the body was found incorrupt, though the face was somewhat shrunken. While excavations ordered by Pope Pius XII were taking place near the tomb of St. Peter in May 1944, the body of Pope Pius X was placed in the Chapel of the Holy Cross in the right aisle of St. Peters. In June of that year it was exposed to the public view, at which time the editor viewed the body, having entered Rome with the 5th Army shortly after the fall of Rome. On July 2 the body was returned to the crypt. In 1945 the body of Pius X was brought to a tomb prepared for it in a small chapel near the Chapel of the presentation of Our Lady in the Temple, in the left aisle of St. Peters. On Sept. 30, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared Pope Pius X Venerable, and on June 3, 1951, declared him Blessed (Cf. Vol. VI #4, p.3, Vatican Notes)

A mask of silver was placed over the face of Pope Pius X and coverings of silver and bronze over his hands for the ceremonies of Beatification. On Feb.7, 1952, the remains of Blessed Pius X were placed in a glass casket under the altar in the Chapel of the Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple. The Bronze work on the casket was done by Francesco Nagni. The winged figures at the corners symbolize the cardinal moral virtues: Justice, Temperance, Prudence and Fortitude, while on the tablet at the base are figures representing the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

After his canonization on Saturday, May 29, 1954, his body was taken in solemn procession, after a solemn pontifical Mass in his honor, on Sunday, May 30, to the basilica of St. Mary Major, where it lay in state for three days, a solemn triduum of thanksgiving (Cf. Vatican Notes Vol.VII #2 p.8)

The coffin appears on the stamp, and the scene from the stamp, as stated above, is from the inside of the railway coach, which took the body of Pope St. Pius X to Venice, and it shows Pope John XXIII kneeling beside it in prayer, just before the train departed from the Vatican City railway station for Venice, where Pope John himself had been Patriarch before being elected Pope

The L.60 shows the Piazzetta, or small square, between the Ducal Palace and the Library at Venice, which is an extension of the Piazza San Marco toward the canal, the principal entrance to Venice from the sea. It was from this point on the mole of the Canal San Marco that the armies of the Republic of Venice departed on their expeditions to the east, and here they returned with the spoils of their conquests. To the left of the scene on the stamp lies the Piazza San Marco and the Church of St. Mark. Across the Canal San Marco can be seen the Island and Church of San Giorgio Maggiore.

The Church of San Giorgio was begun by Palladio in 1566 and continued after his death by Antonio Palliani, who designed the facade. To the left is the campanile of 195 feet from which one gets the best view of Venice. In this church at the end of 1799 took place the conclave that elected Pope Pius VII (Scott #246) and there in January of 1800 he was crowned Pope.

The left of the picture shows the Ducal Palace, ravaged by storms and floods in November of 1966. It was built in 820 for Doge Angelo Partizipazio, the first ruler of the Venetian colonists. It was enlarged in the 12th century under Doge Sebastiano Ziani. Partially destroyed by fire in 1419, it was rebuilt by Doge Foscari. Most of the interior is decorated by famous painters including Tiepolo, Veronese, Titian, Callari, Palma, Tintoretto, Vincenzo and Bassano. The south wing facing the canal is by Bassagio, built 1309-40. The west wing on the stamp is by Giovanni and Bartolomeo Buon, built 1424-38. The east wing toward the Bridge of Sighs was begun by Antonio Rizzo in 1484, continued by Pietro Lombardo and completed by Scarpagnini in 1549.

The stumpy effect of the lower pillars facing the Piazzetta is due to the raising of the pavement. The Palace was the official residence for the Doges, the seat of Government for the Venetian Republic and the scene of all state affairs and councils. The capitals of the 36 pillars supporting the palace have finely carved figures symbolic of vices, virtues and the planets. Story has it that in the days of the Venetian Republic, death sentences were passed while standing between the ninth and tenth pillars from the main door, which are red marble.

In the Piazzetta stand two columns brought from Constantinople in 1187. On the left column is the Lion of St. Mark with his paws on the open book of the Gospel of St. Mark, who is the patron saint of Venice. On the right column is the statue of St. Theodore, patron saint of the Venetian Republic, who was a soldier in Asia Minor. He is represented with sword and shield, his foot on a crocodile. Since a legend which predates that of St. George has St. Theodore fighting with the dragon, one wonders if the crocodile is meant to represent a dragon. At one time there stood between the two columns a scaffold for the execution of criminals.

The Body of St. Pius X arrived in Venice by train on April 12, 1959, and was carried by the Great Gondola or Barge from the railway station up the Grand Canal to the Canal San Marco and the body was disembarked as we see it on the stamp. In the procession which accompanied the body to the Church of St. Mark can be seen bishops, diocesan priests and religious, members of the Noble Guard and the faithful. At the side stand members of the Italian Carbonieri at present arms.

The body of Pope St. Pius X remained in Venice for a month, allowing sufficient time for all to see and venerate it. Then it was returned to Rome on May 11, 1959, and it was replaced in St. Peter's Basilica.

Alive, Cardinal Sartò could not fulfil his promise given at the railway station: "Dead or alive, I shall be back." But in death his promise was kept by the return of his relics to his beloved Venetians, now the relics of a saint.

A new Chapter of the Vatican Philatelic Society is in the process of organization in New Jersey. Mr. James E. Segal, 3 Roseland Place, No. Brunswick, N.J., has contacted members throughout the state and several have indicated their willingness to form a Chapter in that area. Mr. Segal is to be congratulated for his efforts and it is sincerely hoped that all members within the area will cooperate with him in making this another active group of Vatican collectors. If you live within easy driving distance, why not get in touch with Mr. Segal as soon as possible and not only share your Vatican knowledge with others, but also make new acquaintances and help the V.P.S. to grow.

Congratulations from the V.P.S. go out to Mr. Tony Rizzo and to Mr. Stephen Sieben of our Chicagoland Chapter for their award winning exhibits at the Illinois State Fair in August.

Mr. Rizzo won the Grand Award and the Governor's Trophy for his collection showing Pontifical State Covers from 1817 to 1868. A First Place Blue Ribbon was also awarded for the classification in which this collection was entered.

Mr. Sieben was awarded a First Place Blue Ribbon for his "A Study of Postmarks on the first issues of Vatican City"; A Second Place Red Ribbon for "Printing Varieties of Vatican City"; A Third Place White Ribbon for "Stamps of Old Roman States"; and finally, A First Place Blue Ribbon for "Stamps, Covers & Postal Stationery of Nepal".

The V.P.S. and the Chicagoland Chapter are proud that these contestants made such a wonderful showing at a State Fair and we look forward to having many more in the future. -- Congratulations!

A note to members who may have written to Fred Vamos who had a "Special Sale" ad in our July NOTES, and who may not have received an immediate reply--A phone call from Mr. Vamos has assured us that such delays are not his usual way of doing business. A business trip to Europe in search of more philatelic material, combined with his vacation, caused a delay in replying to his mail.

Here it is, NOVEMBER.--- What have you done towards preparing an article for our special Linn's edition? There are only a few months left before a deadline is set for submitting articles, so how about starting work on one immediately? There are no entry fees! No donations to be made! No charge whatsoever, and I might add, "No prizes to be awarded". However, there will be the thanks and appreciation of all of our members for your part in making an excellent showing for Vatican Philately. We need your cooperation, NOW. Write to William P. Quinn, 435 Adams St., Milton, Mass. for further information.

SAVE THE NUBIAN MONUMENTS CAMPAIGN. (379-82, March 10, 1964)

Three copies of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC will give a thorough understanding of the purpose of this campaign:- October 1963 "Threatened Treasures of the Nile"; May 1965 "Yankee Cruises the Storied Nile"; With map "Nile Valley, Land of the Pharaohs"; May 1966: "Saving the Ancient Temples at Abu Simbel". None are so out of date that they cannot be secured.

The new Aswan High Dam is 4 to 5 miles south (up river) from the old Aswan Dam. The new High Dam will be 364 feet above the Nile River bed when completed in 1968 and will form a reservoir more than 300 miles long. The old dam was begun in 1898 and completed in 1902. The new High Dam will inundate a great part of the inhabited parts of Nubia along the Nile above the First Cataract, and homes have been built and people resettled in preparation for this.

The second Vatican design showing the Egyptian-Roman 14 column structure built under Roman Emperor Trajan is on the Island of Philae, a short distance upstream from the new Aswan High Dam. With the backup of the waters, the lower walls are under water already in the design of the stamp, and they appear only after the waters recede from the rising of the Nile. Nearby is the Temple of Isis which suffers the same fate. Three dikes are planned to keep the Nile's waters from submerging the Island and the buildings on it, when the great reservoir, Lake Nasser, is formed by the Dam.

The first design taken from the Temple of the Pharaohs is evidently at El Sibou, about 100 miles further south, upstream on the west bank of the Nile. This temple has the best preserved avenue of sphinxes, and the name El Sibou means The Lions. Ramesses II dedicated this temple to the god Amun. It is being transported to higher ground nearby and beside it will be the temple removed from El Dakka which is about 30 miles north, also on the west bank.

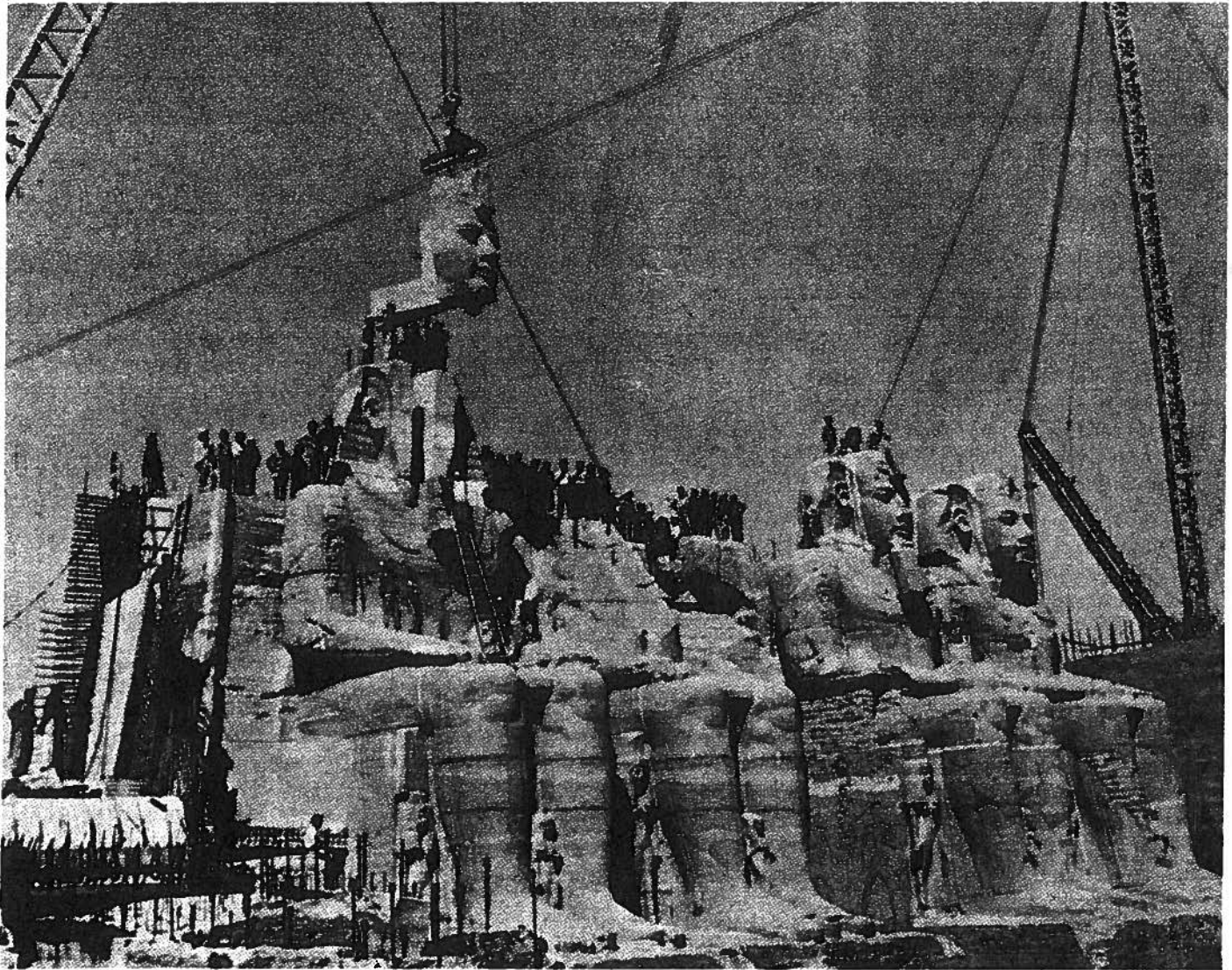
The plan for most of the Nubian monuments has been to disassemble them, move them to higher ground, and reassemble them on higher ground away from the higher level of the water which will be formed by Lake Nasser, a project of the UNESCO and the Egyptian Government. At Abu Simbel the Greater Temple and the Smaller Temple the first plan was to lift each temple in its entirety to higher ground, but the cost was prohibitive, and it was decided to remove them piece by piece. Situated on the west bank of the Nile, facing the rising sun, these two temples were carved out of the sandstone cliffs to honor Ramesses II and his favorite Queen, Nefertari, and were completed for the 30th anniversary of his reign on October 20, either 1274 BC or 1260 BC. About 1000 B.C. they were lost to memory, covered with sand, to be rediscovered in 1813 A.D. In the subsequent years they were excavated and their beauty revealed.

To remove these temples, a cofferdam was built at the river's edge to hold back the water, the temples were cut into numbered blocks and placed in a storage area, and blocks were taken from the surrounding cliffs. The reassembling is scheduled to have been completed in 1966 on a rise 120 feet above the new water level of Lake Nasser.

The population of the Nile has been described as like ants clinging to a stick. Something near 4 % of the land was arable when the Nile overflowed its banks. When the Nile did not rise to its usual level, famine came, which indicates the reason in the biblical story of Joseph in Egypt,- the seven years of plenty followed by the seven years of famine. About 99% or 27 million people of Egypt live off this 4% of the arable land of Egypt. The new High Aswan Dam is a surety against famine with the yearly increase of a half million in population, since the waters of the Nile will be controlled and stored, and they should have no more lean years.

The beautifully colored pictures in the National Geographic give one an idea of the monuments being saved, and the map will help one locate the various sites being rescued by the "Save the Nubian Monuments Campaign".

Reassembling the Great Temple of Abu Simbel.



+++++

Notes on : THE PONTIFICAL STATE ISSUES OF 1867 & 1868 AND THEIR REPRINTS. (CONT.)

3 Centesimi (Moens):-

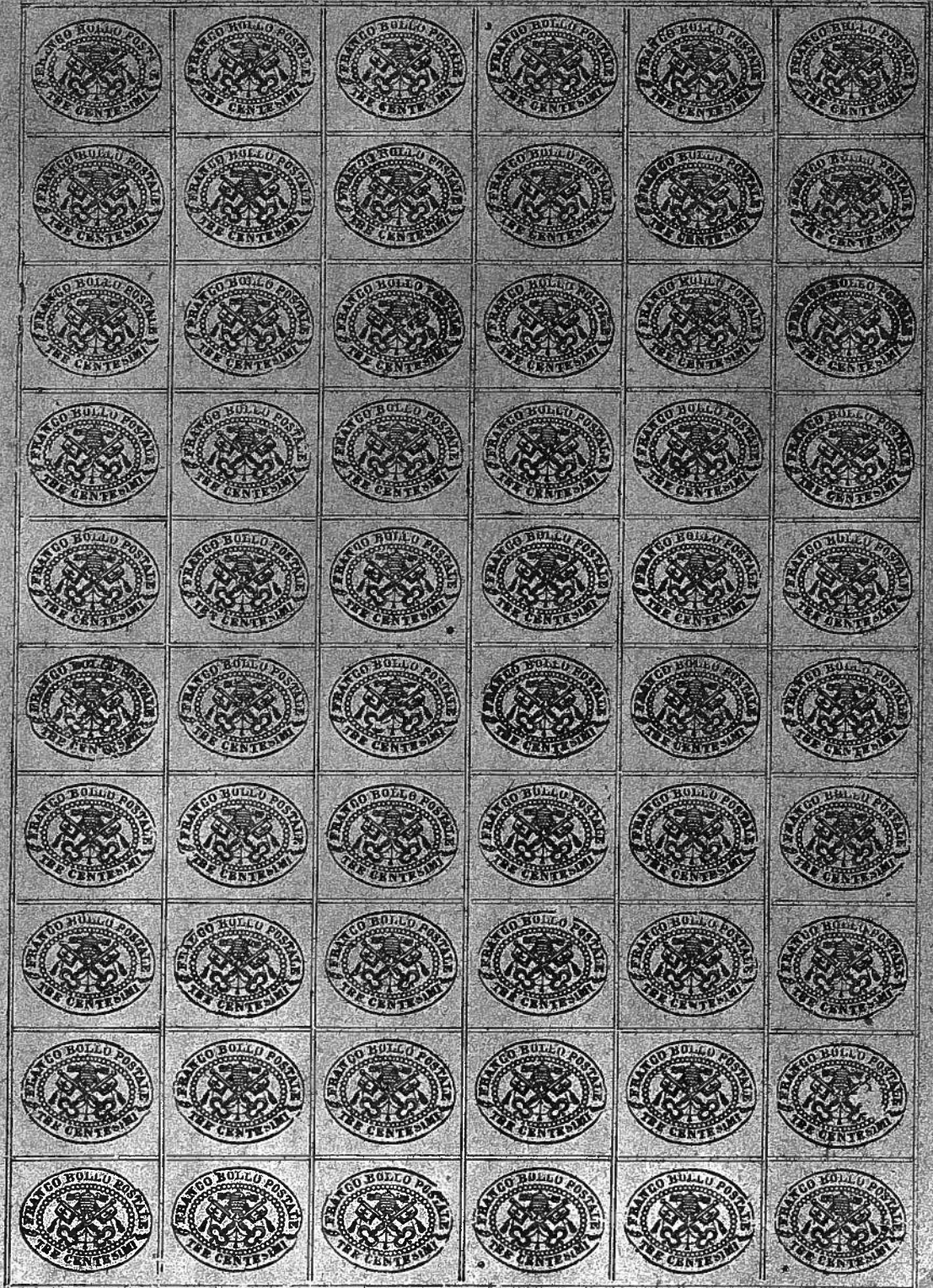
Setting:- Sheets of 120 stamps in two panes of 60 (6 x 10) with narrow gutter (7-9mm) between panes. Possibly the 3 Centesimi comes in sheets of four panes of 60 as described in the foreword on Moens's reprints in Vol. XV, #6 of Vatican Notes

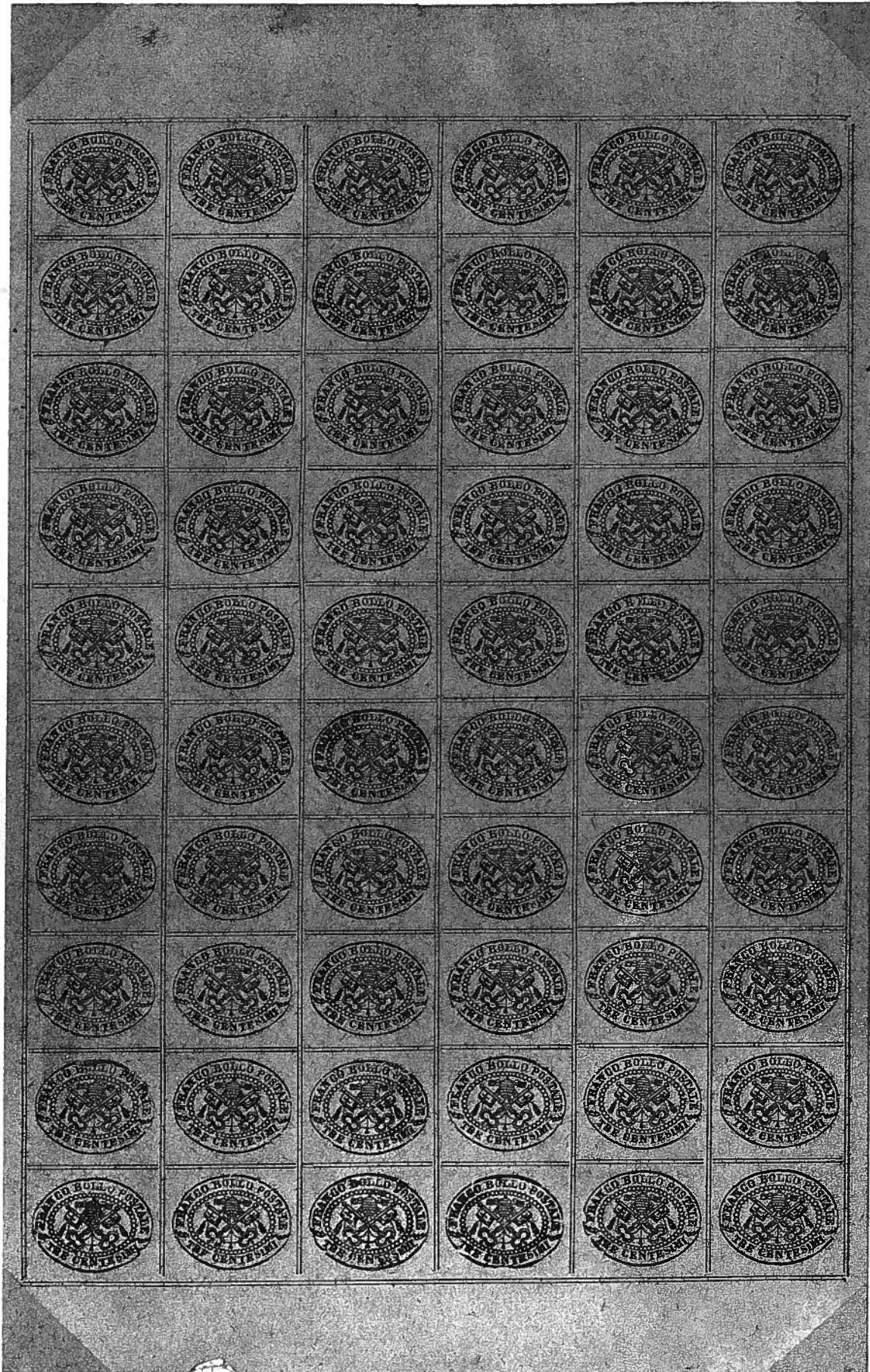
Glaze:- no glaze on either imperforate or perforate; a slight shine keeps them from being dull.

Color:- Gray, which lacks the rose tinge of the genuine rose gray, and is much too dark to be like the color of the genuine Gray and light gray.

GUM:- The imperforates are without gum and the perforated have a light even gum. Perforated are 11 1/2 on all sides.

Variety:- #2 of left pane has TRF for TRE (Appears on Gelli & Tani, and Cohn).





CHAPTER NEWS.**Southern Wisconsin Chapter:**

The Sept. 10 meeting was held at St. John's Cathedral Rectory featured by slides of Italy and Vatican by Mr. Kunda. At the Oct. 1 meeting, Rev. C. Luke Leitermann talked on oddities, freaks, varieties and forgeries of Vatican. The meeting on Nov. 5 will be an auction, where members can offer their duplicates.

Eastern Massachusetts Chapter:

The September meeting on the last Sunday of the month was held at St. Monica's Parish Hall, South Boston. The October 29 meeting will be at the new church hall of St. Richard's, Danvers, with the Nov. 26 meeting returning to St. Monica's. Meetings will be held the last Sundays of April, May and June in 1968.

NEW MEMBERS.

- 2097. Mr. Walter Marggraf, 9411 Fermi Ave., San Diego, Calif., 92123.
- 2098. Mrs. Eleanore McGuire, 432 Suydam St., Apt. 5, Ridgewood, N.Y., 11237.
- 2099. Mr. Edward T. Bastian, 4830 NW 10th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., 33309.
- 2100. Rev. Robert L. Chambers, 70 Devine Way, South Boston, Mass., 02127.
- 2101. Miss Grace Mears, 3954 Helen^{rd.}, Victoria, B.C., Canada.
- 2102. Mr. Lucian E. Milani, 7372 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago, Ill., 60626.
- 2103. Mr. Kazumi Tsuda, 612 So. Flower St., Room 870, Los Angeles, Calif., 90017.
- 2104. Mr. Vinicio H. Nasca, 7426 Carol Lane, Falls Church, Va., 22042.
- 2105. Mrs. Rita Marie Anderson, 943 S.E. 18th Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., 55414.
- 2106. Mr. George P. Krauss, 536 49th Ave., Bellwood, Ill., 60104.
- 2107. Mr. Harold E. Walker, 6285 North Thorne Ave., Fresno, Calif., 93705.
- 2108. Mrs. Isabelle Hyams, 3137 Fallston Ave., "Calverton", Beltsville, Md., 20705.
- 2109. Mr. Gino J. Marieni, 14 Whitewood Drive, Morris Plains, N.J., 07950.

Reinstated:-

- 333. Mr. John J. Juhasz, 11 Jeanette St., Cateret, N.J. 07008.

SWAP LIST.

- Mr. William E. Beaudoin, 137 Vance St., New Britain, Conn., 06052.
- Mr. James E. Segal, 3 Roseland Place, New Brunswick, N.J., 08902.
- Mr. Dominic Grillo, 9317 Second Ave., Inglewood, Calif., 90305.
- Brother Jerome Charbonneau, FSCJ, Verona Fathers, Columbia, N.J., 07832.
- Mr. Joseph M. Periera, 60 Graswore Rd., London, N.10, England.
- Mr. A? Harold Alexander, 330 W. Pine St., Long Beach, N.Y., 11561.
- Mr. Stephen J. Walker, 28 Hale St., Newton, Mass., 02164.
- Mr. Anthony Cibulski, 85-17-214th St., Queens Village, N.Y., 11427.
- Mr. Julius M. Lipp, 130-43-220th St., Springfield Gardens, N.Y., 11413.
- O.J. Bauer, 307 N. Rowland St., Richmond, Va., 23220.
- Mr. Thomas Colbeck, 6649 Gilley Ave., So., Barnaby, B.C. Canada.
- Mr. David Furlotte, 33 Presnell St., Portland, Me., 04102.

FLASH !!! Issued Oct. 13, 1967:-

Fatima 50th Anniv. (L. 30, 50, 200); Layman's Apostolate (L. 40, 130)