

Vatican Notes



Vatican Philatelic Society

VOLUME XXVIII - No. 2

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1979

From the Editor

It is with deep regret that I must announce my resignation as editor of VATICAN NOTES. I will, of course, remain as editor until a new editor is found. I wish to thank the Society for affording me this opportunity and I am grateful to those who have furnished material for NOTES during my tenure. Those interested in the position of editor should contact:

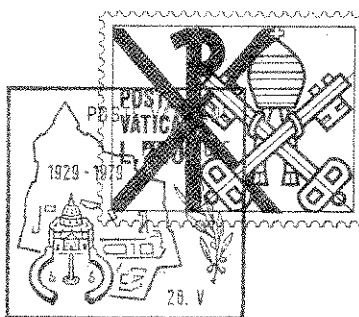
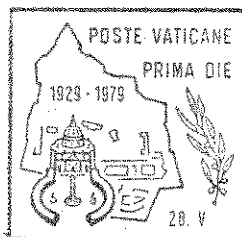
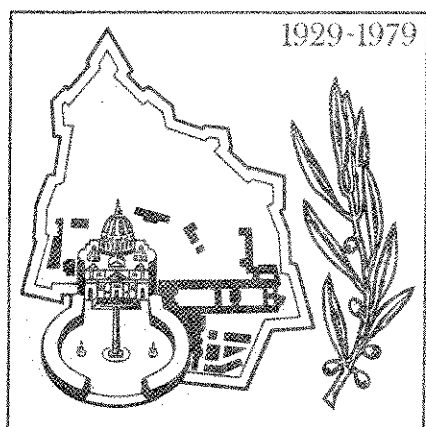
Mr. Francis Welch, President
Vatican Philatelic Society
Box 500
Conway, NH 03818

DUES ARE OVERDUE

Dues for 1979-80 were payable July 1st. If you have not renewed your membership, this is the last issue of NOTES that you will receive. To those who have paid their dues, we say "Thank you". We urge those who have not renewed their dues to send \$6.00 U.S. to:

Mr. Wallace R. Smith, Secretary
165-15 Union Turnpike
Flushing, New York 11366

Airletter Sheet No. 17



AÉROGRAMME

Vatican Notes

Official Bimonthly Organ
of the
VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Org. 1953

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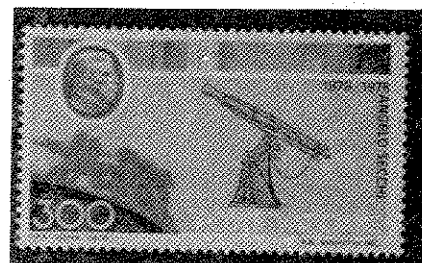
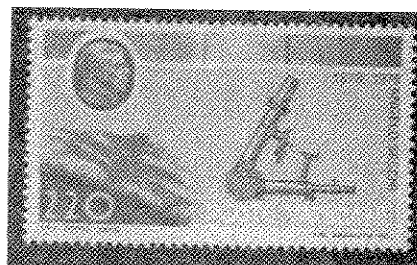
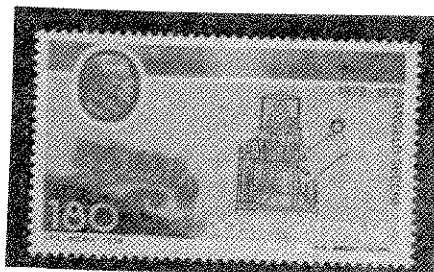
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St. Basil Commemoratives

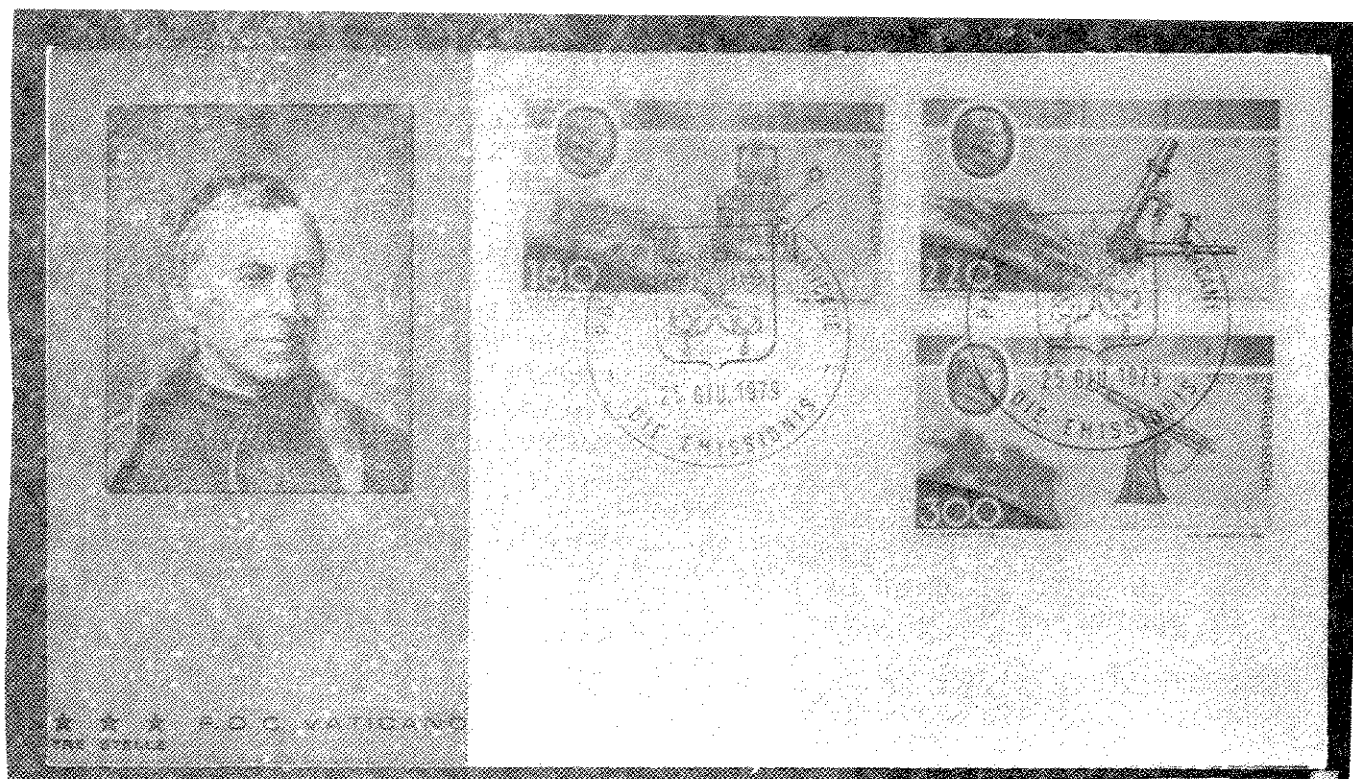


Fr. Secchi Commemoratives

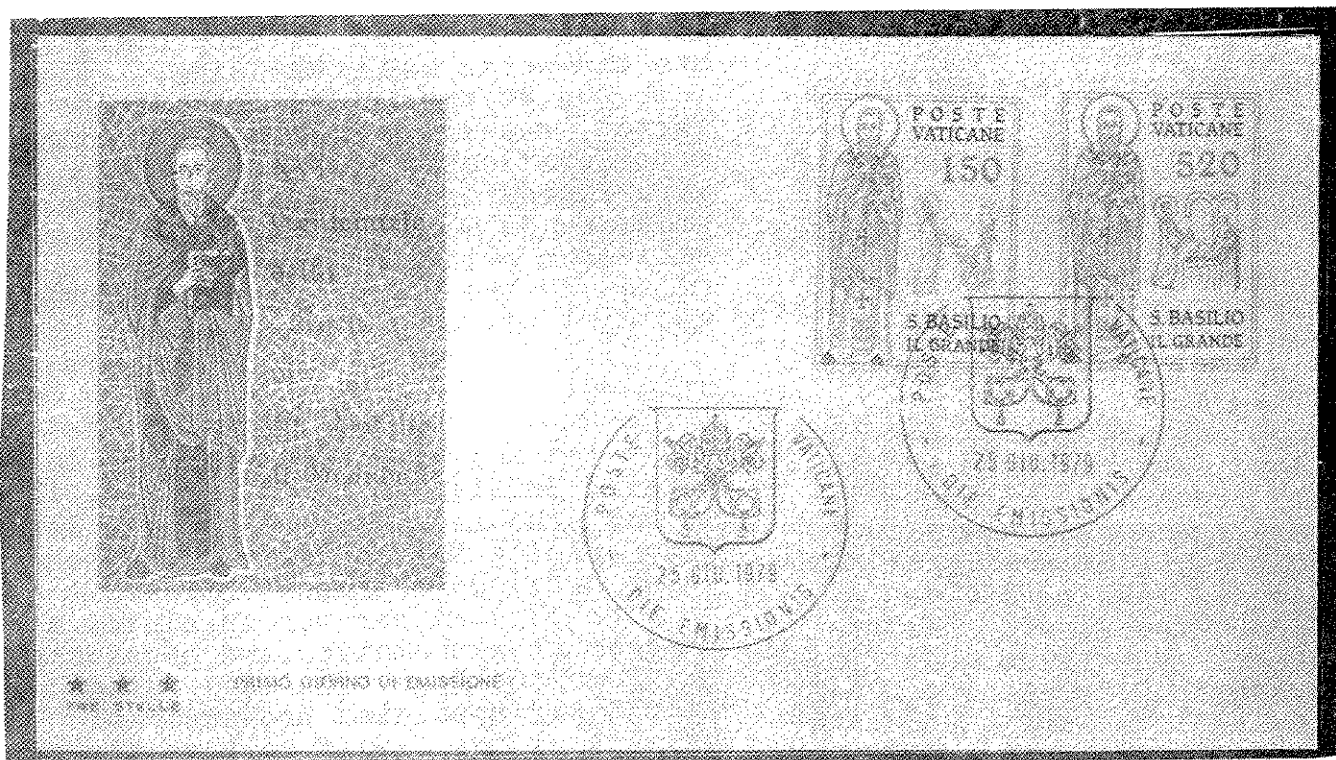


Stories on page 4....

Fr. Secchi FDC



Saint Basil FDC



The Vatican Post Office issued two stamps on June 25, 1979 which commemorated the sixteenth centenary of the death of Saint Basil the Great.

The set is comprised of two values: 150 and 520 lire. At the top right of each stamp are the words POSTE VATICANE. Below these words are indicated the particular stamp's value. Below the price of the 150L is an illustration portraying Saint Basil as a legislator of monastic life; below the price of the 520L is an illustration portraying the Saint's care for the sick in the Basiliade hospital which was founded by Basil and was located in the city of Caesarea. Below the particular illustration are the words S. BASILIO IL GRANDE. On the left side of each stamp Basil is portrayed in episcopal dress.

The stamps are vertical in format, measuring 30 x 40 mm. with a perforation of $13\frac{1}{4}$ x 14. They were issued in sheets of twenty and were produced on white glossy paper in multicolor printing in photogravure by the Polygraphic Institute and Mint of the Italian State.

1,200,000 total series were printed.

Basil the Great (c.330-379) was born at Caesarea, capital of Cappadocia in Asia Minor, around 330 to a wealthy Christian family. He studied first at Constantinople and later at Athens. Upon completing his education, he returned to Caesarea and taught rhetoric in his native city for a number of years.

Through the efforts of his sister, Macrina, Basil was baptized and he immediately thereafter withdrew to Pontus where he devoted himself to prayer and study. Gradually he gathered a group of like minded men around him and formed the first monastery in Asia Minor. The rules under which this monastery's life was organized are the same as those which regulate the lives of the monks in the Eastern Church to the present day. Thus, although Basil lived as a monk for only 5 years, his influence on Christian continued on next page..

On June 25, 1979 the Vatican issued 3 stamps commemorating the death of the astronomer Father Angelo Secchi, S. J. The series is comprised of three values: 180L, 220L and 300L. The series was originally slated to be released last year but, due to the deaths of Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul I, was delayed until this year.

Running along the top of each stamp is a different representation of the stellar spectra. In the upper left of each stamp is a right profile portrait of Father Secchi; in the upper right hand corner are the dates 1878-1978. Vertically inscribed immediately under the dates is Angelo Aecchi.

In the lower left hand corner is each stamp's value and on each different valued stamp is a representation of a particular solar protuberance. In the center of each stamp is depicted an astronomical instrument or machine which was either created or perfected by Father Secchi; a meteorograph on the 180L; a spectroscope on the 220L; and a telescope on the 300L. At the bottom right of each stamp are the words POSTE VATICANE.

The Stamps are horizontal in format, measuring 50.8 x 30mm. with a perforation of 14 x $13\frac{1}{4}$. They were issued in sheets of 20 and were produced on white glossy paper in multicolor printing in recess and offset by the Polygraphic Institute and Mint of the Italian State.

1,200,00 complete series were printed.

Angelo Secchi, astronomer, meteorologist and physicist was born in Reggio, Emilia, Italy on June 18, 1818. He was schooled in Reggio by the Jesuits, joining the Society in 1833 and being ordained a priest in 1847.

In 1839 Father was appointed a teacher of mathematics and physics at the Roman College. In 1841 Father Secchi was appointed professor of physics at the Jesuit college at Loreto. Fleeing revolutionists in 1848, Father Angelo went to Stonyhurst College in England. Later Father

continued next page

St. Basil

monasticism is as great as anyone's.

In 363 Basil was ordained a priest and deacon at Caesarea. The following year he became bishop of the city. Almost immediately, he was faced with the most difficult challenge of his religious life.

Valens, the Roman emperor, had fallen under the spell of the Arian heresy. This heresy stated that Jesus Christ was neither truly God nor truly man. Valens demanded that Basil either submit to Arianism or some compromise between the heresy and orthodoxy. Basil stood firm against the emperor's threats and Valens, largely because of the bishop's steadfastness, withdrew from Caesarea. Throughout his tenure as bishop, Basil would remain the champion of orthodoxy in the east.

Despite chronic ill-health, Basil tirelessly attempted to aid both the temporal and spiritual needs of his parishioners. He urged regular attendance at Mass and he organized a hospital outside the gates of Caesarea for the poor which soon gained world-wide fame. The bishop made trips to the most remote corners of his diocese and because of Basil's strict supervision of his clergy and his demands that only suitable candidates be admitted to religious orders, his diocese became the model of ecclesiastical order and discipline.

Basil died on January 1, 379 at the age of 49, worn out by hard work and ill-health. The bishop was mourned by Christians, pagans and Jews as a father protector. His feast day in the Western Church is January 2nd; in the Eastern Church Basil's feast day is January 1st.

The Lateran Pact

On May 28, 1979 the Vatican issued an airletter sheet commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Vatican City and the signing of the Lateran Pact between Italy and the Holy See. The airletter sheet's value is 220L.

On the left of the sheet is depicted a stylized plan of Vatican City with the Basilica of Saint Peter. To the right of this diagram is an olive branch and above the olive branch are the dates 1929-1979. Below the depiction of Vatican City is the word AEROGramme. In

Fr. Secchi

taught physics at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C.

In 1850 he was back in Rome as the director of the Roman College observatory which had been founded by Pope Gregory XIII in 1576 in order to aid in reforming the Julian calendar. Secchi, one of the founders of astrophysics (the study of the composition and properties of the stars), did intensive research on the stars, planets and the sun. He made the first general spectral classification of the stars which, with modifications, is used to the present day. Father Secchi carried out investigations

in meteorology with his fame in this area resting upon his invention of the meteorograph, an instrument that automatically and continuously records barometric pressure, temperature, wind velocity, rainfall and humidity. Being a prolific writer, 775 titles were authored by Father Secchi.

He died at Rome on February 26, 1878.

the upper right hand corner is the imprint of the postal value with the design of the crossed keys, surmounted by the papal tiara and the Petrine monogram with the words POSTE VATICANE L.220

The sheet is blue-grey and measures 26.5 x 15.8 cm. when open. The imprint of the postal value, which is horizontal in format, measures, including the perforation, 26 x 29 mm.

550,000 sheets were printed.

The Lateran Pact refers to the treaty, financial agreement and concordat which were signed between the Holy See and Italy on February 11, 1929 at the Lateran Palace.

Since 1870, when the Papal States had been seized by Italy and the pope withdrew to the Vatican, there had been an uneasy truce between the two sides. Pope Pius XI, immediately after his election on February 6, 1922, declared his desire to resolve the differences which existed between the two parties. That same year, Benito Mussolini came to power and evinced his desire for an ending of differences between the two parties.

Negotiations began on August 5, 1926. The meetings were conducted in secrecy and resulted in a treaty 2½ years later.

continued on next page

The treaty consisted of a preamble and 27 articles.

Italy recognized the Vatican's absolute independence and sovereignty, even in international relations. Catholicism was recognized as the sole religion of the State, although no restrictions were placed upon other religions. Vatican City was created as an independent state with defined territory over which the Holy See was to exercise exclusive and absolute sovereign jurisdiction, free from interference from other governments. The Vatican was allowed to issue coins and stamps, send and receive diplomatic representatives and govern as citizens those with fixed residence within its borders. Italy guaranteed the Vatican an adequate water supply, a link with the Italian railway system, as well as connections with the telegraph, telephone and postal services of the outside world. The Vatican's jurisdiction over the patriarchal basilicas of Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major and Saint Paul's, as well as the pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo was recognized by Italy.

The Vatican, in return, agreed to remain aloof from temporal disputes between nations and from international congresses called to settle such disputes, unless the Vatican had been appealed to to mediate the dispute. The Vatican recognized Rome as the capital of Italy.

As a financial settlement for lost lands, the Vatican received 750 million lire in cash and 1 billion lire in 5% negotiable government bonds from Italy.

The concordat consisted of a preamble and 45 articles. The main purpose of this part of the Lateran Pact was to regulate the status of religion and the Catholic Church in Italy.

The Church was guaranteed free exercise of its spiritual power and free, public exercise of worship. The Holy See was guaranteed its right to communicate freely with the Catholic world and publish instructions in any language. The Vatican could select archbishops and bishops in Italy after present-

ing the candidates' names to the Italian government for possible objections. Newly appointed bishops had to take a loyalty oath to the State. Religious and priests were exempted from military service and jury duty. The Vatican was given control of the catacombs in Rome and elsewhere in Italy. The State recognized the civil effects of the sacrament of matrimony as well as agreeing to religious instruction in public elementary and secondary schools by ecclesiastically approved priests, religious and laymen. Religious associations and confraternities received State approval, as did auxiliary organizations of Catholic Action. A prohibition was placed against ecclesiastics or religious who might wish to enroll or engage in political parties.

The Lateran Pact was signed on February 11, 1929 and was formally ratified on June 7, 1929.

When Italy became a republic in 1944, the Pact was embodied in the new Italian Constitution. This action had the support of Communists, Socialists and Christian Democrats.

New Coin

On September 20, 1979 the Vatican issued a 1,000 lire coin in commemoration of the one month pontificate of Pope John Paul I.

On the obverse side are a profile of the late pontiff with the inscription IOHANNES PAULUS I, MCMLXXVIII; on the reverse side are the coat of arms of John Paul I with the inscription CITTA' DEL VATICANO and the coin's value L. 1,000.

The outer rim of the coin is smooth and has the word HUMILITAS inscribed on it.

Sculptor Guido Veroli designed the coin.

It is made of silver and is 31.4 mm. in diameter with a weight of 14.60 grams.

The coin was minted by the Polygraphic Institute and Mint of the Italian State.

THE SOCIETY CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY TRANSACTION BETWEEN MEMBERS.

CHAPTER NEWS

The New York Chapter #3, Vatican Philatelic Society, will have a lounge at the A.S.D.A. Stamp Festival which will be held at the Madison Square Garden September 12-16, 1979. We of the Vatican Philatelic Society will have two guest speakers for our meetings. The speakers: Mr. Raymond Kelly and Dr. Charles Fitz. Come on in and relax at the lounge. After all, its for all Vatican Society members, friends and visitors. Come on down, meet new friends and enjoy.

New York Chapter #3 also announces the annual "Vatpex Stamp Show" that will be held on Sunday September 30, 1979 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Church of Saint Stephen, 414 East 82nd Street, between First and Yourk Avenues, New York City. There will be a ten dealer bourse and about 50 frames of exhibits. Admission is free. Note the date, Sunday, September 30, 1979. Further information about the show and the club may be obtained from either:

Mr. Laurence Black
3563 Bainbridge Avenue
Bronx, New York 10467

or

Mr. Raymond Kelly
2317 Vance Street
Bronx, New York 10469.

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- 2674-William Goettel
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2676-Gene Cooper
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2681-David Thomas
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New Number
From #2565 to #2611
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V.P.S. AUCTION

AUCTION SALE No. 24- (cont.)

Lot #	Cat #	DESCRIPTION	MinBid
Lot # 21	(cont.)	(24 covers)	
		-518-20 Golden#143-44 (2)	
		-492 Golden-World Day of Peace(1)	
		-C55-58 Golden#139-140 (2)	
92	**	2 blocks of 4, Western Samoa, #337-38,	
MISCELLANEOUS			
93	°	Cover-reg. backstamped, c. 11.9.33 with #30, 31, 32- light cancel	25.00
94	°	Postcard-PPIus XI in garden with Chamberlain, Nobles, Swiss Guards, & view St. Peter's, with # 7-c. 5.17.33	20.00
95	°	Postc. PPIus XI walking. special double die connected cancel c. 3.2.39	10.00

END OF SALE. THANK YOU.

Dear Members: Thanks for your kind notes, especially bidders and suppliers of material. Keep them coming! **NEEDED: Fiscal stamps-**

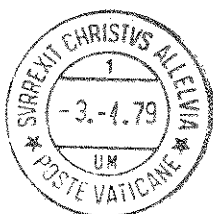
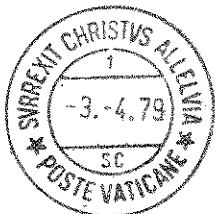
SPECIAL VATICAN CITY CANCELLATIONS

FREDERICK J. LEVITSKY

SVRREXIT CHRISTVS
DE SEPVLCRO
ALLELVIA ALLELVIA



SVRREXIT CHRISTVS
DE SEPVLCRO
ALLELVIA ALLELVIA

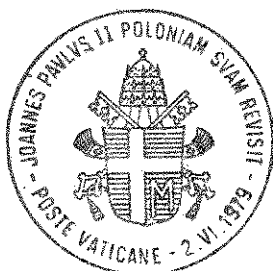


This year for Easter we had a number of special cancellations, the exact number of which is not definitely known at this writing. The two machine cancels at the top have a slogan which reads: "Christ has Risen from the Tomb - Alleluia Alleluia" with a double circle date in one instance

and a single circle in the other. The three regular double circle cancellations, with the special cancel reading "Crist has Risen - Alleluia", one from the Central Office (SC 1) and two from the Mobile Office (UM 1&2) were reported as the total of such cancels used in the Easter season. However, our member cancellation specialist in Sweden, Dr. Nils Rundqvist, recently indicated he had heard that all 27 different were used as was the case last year. Dr. Rundqvist also reported that April 1 was the first day of use.

The machine cancel at the right was received after the others with the information that it was used by the Philatelic Office. It is the same as that at the upper right but without date.

SVRREXIT CHRISTVS
DE SEPVLCRO
ALLELVIA ALLELVIA



Cancellation marking Pope John Paul's trip to Poland, June 2 to 10, 1979. The cancellation reads: "John Paul II Returns to his Native Poland."



The cancellations here have no special inscriptions, but may be used for special events. The cancel on the left was used on the day Pope John Paul visited Montecassino, May 18 and the one on the right was used as a backstamp on covers marking the Poland trip, showing June 10, the date of return to the Vatican.



PONTIFICAL STATES

REV. FLOYD A. JENKINS, SJ, Chairman



Prepared by FREDERICK J. LEVITSKY

FORGERY OF THE 2 BAJ. (2 Baj. #3)

Black on blue paper. Said to be Oneglia to Fournier, 1892.
From the collection of Father Jenkins.

1. B taller than A in BAJ.
2. 2 is misshapen.
3. Entire design is vague and spotty. There is a portion of a black cancel at the lower right corner. The red boxed PD cancel at the left center is the clearest item on the specimen.



1.

BA

2.

Q

THE GENUINE 2 BAJ.

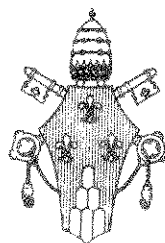
1. All letters of BAJ are the same height.
2. The 2 is well formed and clear.



1. **BA** 2. **2**

Vatican City

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be prepared and sent to you, along with a welcoming Bonus Gift.

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