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Madonna Study Group, Whole No. 1

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MADONNA STUDY GROUP

This is our first effort to issue a bulletin for THE MADONNA STUDY GROUP. Understandably it will be somewhat unpolished, but we hope to propose some aims, procedures and ultimate goals. With this as a start, we are asking for your opinions as to the following ideas so that THE STUDY GROUP as finally organized will meet with the approval of all its members and also provide the means whereby information needed or desired by each member or all members can be researched and disseminated.

A point that should be decided from the outset is "What is to be the scope or field of our study?" Should we limit ourselves to the study of Madonna stamps, or should we include within our objectives the study of Marian stamps? We personally are of the opinion that there exists a difference between these two.

Within the field of "Marian Stamps" we could include:

1. Stamps which depict the complete image of Mary.
2. Stamps which depict a part of Her image.
3. Stamps which include the name of Mary or one of Her titles.
4. Stamps which bring out some symbol expressly Marian:
a Marian monogram, a shield or a specific object of Her worship, a rosary or book of devotions.
5. Stamps which depict world-renowned Marian shrines.
6. Stamps which depict churches or temples consecrated to Her.
7. Stamps which emphasize or were released for some Marian event, such as centenaries, congresses or coronations of Her statues.
8. Stamps which depict a prominent personage known for their devotion to the Madonna.
9. Stamps which depict "Madonna Flowers".

From the above nine items, the first three would fall within the definition of Madonna stamps. All nine items would be included in a Marian collection.

It is also the writer's thought that there should be a division within the collection of philatelic items; thus:

- A. Comprises postage stamps or revenue stamps issued for regular mail, air mail, semi-postals, express stamps, etc.
- B. Comprises postal cancellations which depict the Madonna or a Marian motif within the design of the cancellation.
- C. Comprises the listing of errors, varieties (such as paper or color), or similar philatelic items.
- D. Comprises Madonna or Marian seals, or those "local" issues which had no postal value.

From this wide field of philatelic material, each collector could, if he so chose, specialize or limit himself to that which he desires to collect; or he could organize a collection around a certain field, such as the illustration of "The Life of the Blessed Virgin".

TITLE: I feel that the title of the Study Group is rather obvious: THE MADONNA STUDY GROUP. We are, however, open to suggestions from any of the proposed members for another name to the organization.

ORGANIZATION: It is our understanding that Father A. Horn's articles on "The Madonna on Stamps", which originally appeared in the magazines "Queen of the Missions" and "The Age of Mary", and currently being published in "The Coros Chronicle", will be published shortly in book form under auspices of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Foundation. This will make available to all collectors the designs and stories of all Madonna stamps. I am sure that all collectors of Madonna Stamps are deeply aware of the great debt of gratitude we collectively owe Father Horn; for this reason, it is my feeling he should be nominated as Chairman of our Group.

The next question is "What kind of an organization do we wish?" Shall it be an organized body with charter and by-laws under the auspices of COROS, or a loose organization without officers, bound only by our interest in a common topic?

With the Madonna album pages as published by K-Line Publishing Co. we have a very substantial amount of knowledge already available, but I am certain that further research would divulge an increased number of items that could be included in our collections, as well as information not now known.

To best obtain this information we feel that the Madonna Study Group should organize itself around a so-called language groups. Members who can read and translate a foreign language should provide themselves with the Specialized Stamp Catalog of their country and make available to all other members information which they alone can decipher. They are also better acquainted with the background or stories behind the stamp designs of their country.

Lastly, we propose that a journal be published periodically and mailed to all interested members; this journal would give the latest findings in our field. For the time being at least, we feel that a mimeographed format would be the least expensive.

We could publish questions and answers submitted by the members, as well as the names and addresses of those members willing to correspond with others; also, sources of Madonna philatelic items, where they can be purchased, or where others found them.

To facilitate the publication of our journal, we ask that you fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to W. J. Hoffman, 9333 4th Avenue, Inglewood 4, California, as soon as possible.

A source of possible assistance to Madonna collectors could be the MARIANIST Magazine, which carries excellent articles on The Madonna. Circulation office address is University of Dayton, 163 Franklin St., Dayton 2, Ohio. The world-famous Marian Library of the University of Dayton is the largest of its kind in the world.

September 19, 1962

THE MADONNA STUDY GROUP

1. What foreign language are you familiar with?
2. What stamp catalogs do you now use, or would be willing to purchase for the advancement of the Group?
3. Are you in favor of the name "THE MADONNA STUDY GROUP"?
If not, can you suggest another?
4. Would you be interested in serving as an officer of the Group?
5. Do you favor a Group with charter and by-laws, or a loose organization?
6. Would you submit articles for our bulletin?
7. Should we collect membership dues?
If not, how can we finance a bulletin?
8. If you have any other suggestions, please tell us:

If you are interested even though you have no comments, please sign and return to W. J. Hoffman, 9333 4th Avenue, Inglewood 4, California.

Your name: _____

Address: _____

(City) (Zone) (State)