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## The Marian Philatelist, Whole No. 43

A. S. Horn

W. J. Hoffman

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# The Marian Philatelist

PUBLISHED BY THE MARIAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

Rev. A. S. Horn  
W. J. Hoffman

Chairman  
Editor

Business Address:  
424 West Crystal View Avenue  
Orange, California 92667, U.S.A.

Vol. 7 No. 4

Whole No. 43

JULY 1, 1969

## NEW ISSUES



**BRAZIL:** (Class 2). A stamp issued May 8, 1969 for Mother's Day. Design shows Baroque statue of ST. ANNE AND CHILD MARY in the Hall of the State Mint. St. Anne is the Patroness of the State Mint (Casa da Moeda). A special Madonna cancel of the "Madonnina" after Roberto Ferruzzi used on first day of issue; see Brazil #47.

**BULGARIA:** A 9-stamp set issued in April 1969 depicting Icons from the National Gallery, Sofia. The Madonna appears on the following, which are illustrated with article on page 54.

2 ct. (Class 1). HOLY VIRGIN AND ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN - 14th century.

8 ct. (Class 2). SUPPLICATION (DEESIS), with the BLESSED VIRGIN on the left and St. John the Baptist on the right of the seated Christ - 17th century.

**DUBAI:** An Arab Mother's Day issue of four stamps released March 21, 1969. Data from the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau states observance of Mother's Day in Arab World was introduced about six years ago from the Western World. It should be noted that Dubai issues are now being handled by the Crown Agents Bureau. This Mother's Day issue was listed in the June 1969 issue of Scott's Monthly. The Madonna is seen on the following stamps:

60 dirhams (Class 1). MADONNA AND CHILD by Murillo. Oil on canvas, 65.4 x 45.1 inches, painted c.1670, now in Dresden State Gallery.

1 riyal (Class 1). MADONNA OF THE ROSE by Mazzuoli, who was christened Girolamo Francesco Maria Mazzola but called "Il Parmigianino," (1503-1540). Painted 1528-30, oil on canvas, measuring 43-3/5 x 35-2/5 inches, now in Dresden State Gallery. Work comm-

issioned by the libertine Pietro Aretino which accounts for the picture's sensuality. The rose in the Christ Child's right hand is said to be a symbol of Christ's sacrifice for mankind.

3 riyal (Class 1). CAMPORI MADONNA by Correggio. Original in Estense Gallery, Modena, Italy. Also seen on 1967 Cook Islands Christmas stamp, and on January 27, 1968 issue of Paraguay; see article on pages 26-27 of the March 1, 1968 issue. Stamps not available for illustration.



**GREAT BRITAIN:** (Class 8). A 6-stamp set released May 28, 1969 depicting famous English Cathedrals. One of the stamps shows the Durham Cathedral which Baedeker states is

dedicated to OUR LORD AND ST. MARY. This Cathedral is considered the finest example of Norman architecture. It was begun in 1093. Its exterior is one of the most magnificent sights in England. The western towers date from 13th c., central tower from 15th c. It is 510 feet long and 80 feet wide. Stamps designed by Peter Gauld. Issued in a set of four stamps of 5 d value with a single 9d value and a high value of 1/6d. Printed on unwatermarked paper.

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

**NEW ZEALAND:** Information received from Postal Administration states the 1969 Christmas stamp will reproduce the NATIVITY by Federico Fiori (Federico Fiori da Urbino Barocci), after the original in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, Milan. Stamp will have a 2-1/2 cent value and will be released October 1, 1969.

**NIUE and TOKELAU ISLANDS:** The 1969 Christmas stamp will depict same design as that of New Zealand.

**GREAT BRITAIN:** The postmaster General announced in the House of Commons last January that

the 1969 Christmas stamp will have a religious theme. Design or date of issue not announced as yet.

## Marian Year- Stamps of the Madonna



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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**BURUNDI:** The APS has blackblotted the 8 Christmas stamps overprinted for the Apollo 8 mission due to "other various oddities associated with the issue." These overprints listed and illustrated on page 33 of May 1, 1969 issue.

**NETHERLANDS ANTILLES:** The stamps scheduled for release April 16, 1969 have been postponed. The issue includes the 10-cent value which depicts the Altar in St. Anna Church and its CRUCIFIXION. Stamp illustrated on page 34 of May 1, 1969 issue.

THE MARIAN PHILATELIST

**BULGARIA:** A UPI release dated May 19, 1969 states that the Rila Monastery, dedicated to the "Nativity of Mary," has been returned to the Orthodox Church with the naming of Archimandrit Joan, the Vicar of Sofia, as its Abbot. The Monastery has been in government hands since the end of World War II. It is a symbol of Bulgarian nationalism, having survived invasions and five centuries of Ottoman rule. After World War II the government turned it into a national museum; during this period it was completely restored and modern facilities added. The government first spoke of turning the cloister back to the Church during a visit to Bulgaria of Orthodox leader Patriarch Athenagoras I during the fall of 1967. The new Abbot was a monk at the monastery before it was taken over by the government.

### MARIAN POSTAL CANCELLATIONS

#### ARGENTINA:

27. Chilavert, August 14, 1967. OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION. "15th Anniversary FIBA-Argentina-August 14, 1967." Special cancel for philatelic exhibition FIBA, Philatelic Center of Villa Ballester.

#### BELGIUM:

66. Aalst, March 22, 1969. ANNUNCIATION. "St. Gabriel Guild-Aalst-22-3-69."  
67. Tournai, May 21, 1969. NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL. "1971 - 8th Centenary."



Argentina #27



Belgium #66



Belgium #67

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**AUSTRIA:**

The following cancellations appear with a 1968 cancel:

18. Innsbruck. ST. ANNE COLUMN WITH IMMACULATE CONCEPTION STATUE ON TOP.
  19. Mariazell. THE GREAT MOTHER. Late Romanesque statue, dressed and crowned, from Pilgrimage Church of the Nativity of Mary, Mariazell.
  27. Rankweil. SHRINE CHURCH OF THE VISITATION OF MARY on the Frauenberg, in former Montforter Castle from 1300. Shrine statue dates from 1450. Church rebuilt 1470; round tower dates to 1682.
  31. Klosterneuberg. CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF MARY.
  46. Maria Taferl. CHURCH OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER. Minor Basilica since 1947.
  49. Zirl. CRECHE. Crib Village.
- \*\*\*\*\*
58. Pöllau by Hartburg, November 11, 1968. MADONNA ON COLUMN (center), from 1681; VIRGIN MARY PILGRIMAGE CHURCH (right on hill), built 1338-74 and Parish Church since 1707. "Pöllau - the Pearl of East Steyr."
  59. Pöchlarn, August 27, 1968. CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION OF MARY, (built 1389-1429, rebuilt 1766, towers date from 1777-81). "Pöchlarn - City of Niebelungen."
  60. Pettneu on Arlberg, August 26, 1968. GOTHIC PARISH CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION (built 14th c.). "Pettneu on Arlberg - 4063 feet - Mountain Resort-Winter Sports."
  61. Mondsee, November 30, 1968. MARIA HILF CHURCH (extreme right), founded 1449, Marian Church since 1706; ST. MICHAEL CHURCH (center). "Alpine Seaside Resort-Mondsee."
  62. Mönichkirchen, September 6, 1968. PARISH CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY (built in 1200) "Mönichkirchen-3141 feet-Mountain winter resort."
  63. Eisenerz, August 28, 1968. TOWER OF MARKET CHURCH OF NATIVITY OF MARY (above letter S), mentioned in 1453 archives. "Visit Erzberg City - Eisenerz)"
  64. Maria Schutz, August 30, 1968. Picture portion same as Austria #37, postal cancel differs. TWO-TOWERED PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION. ST. VITUS CHURCH (left foreground). "Chairlift to Sonnwendstein - Maria Schutz."
  65. Marbach on the Donau, November 18, 1968. Under "und" PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER - MARIA TAFERL. Bottom portion is view of Danube at Marbach Market Place. "Vacation and bathing paradise from Niebelungen Province-Wauchau."
  66. Losenstein, August 28, 1968. SACRED HEART OF MARY PIERCED WITH THREE NAILS in lower portion of the coat-of-arms of Nail Forge Guild. "At anytime of the year vacation in Losenstein."
  67. Linz-Postlingberg, March 13, 1968. Same picture as Austria #39, postal cancel differs. BAROQUE PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY, Minor Basilica, built 1738-74 on 1874-foot mountain. "Postlingberg - the Danube City on the edge of the Alps." Strip cancel.
  68. Lilienfeld, August 20, 1968. TOWER OF MONASTERY CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, Cistercian Monastery founded 1220; tower altered in 1810. "Lilienfeld-Muckenkoegellift-Home of M.Zdarsky's Health Resort and Winter Sports Spot."
  69. Innsbruck, June 8, 1968. Same as Austria #18 except larger type and picture. There are many variations of this cancel.
  70. Gross-Enzersdorf, March 16, 1968. OLD CITY WALL WITH PARISH CHURCH OF MARIA SCHUTZ, dating to 1200. "Visit Gross-Enzerdorf-door to Marchefeld."
  71. Galtur, August 14, 1968. CITY VIEW WITH PARISH CHURCH OF NATIVITY OF MARY. "Galtur-Tyrol - Winter sportsplace-health resort - 2626 feet."
  72. Frohnleiten, August 21, 1968. CITY VIEW WITH PARISH CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, built with Servite Monastery 1679-71; tower not attached to church. "Visit the health resort-Frohnleiten."
  73. Bischofshofen, August 12, 1968. Left is Parish Church of St. Maximilian, in center AFFILIATED CHURCH OF OUR DEAR LADY, dating to 1359, tower completed 1522; at right is St. George Chapel."
  74. Attersee, August 13, 1968. PARISH AND PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, former Gothic Castle Chapel, rebuilt 1721-28. "Attersee-Alpine Sea-Health Resort."
  75. Raabs on the Thaya, September 10, 1968. PARISH CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, 13th c. Pillar-Basilica, rebuilt 15th c., tower renewed 1910. Complete title of church is "To Mary's Assumption on the Mountain." "Raabs on the Thaya-Health Resort Raabs-Pearl of Thaya Valley."
  76. Salzburg, October 9, 1968. Will be again listed and illustrated in September issue.
  - 76a. Same as #76 except larger picture and print.
  77. St. Florian by Linz, August 19, 1968. BAROQUE AUGUSTINIAN MONASTERY AND MONASTERY CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION, from 1071; Baroque style added 1689-1755. "St. Florian, A. Bruckner's Resting Place."
  78. Spital on Pyhrn, August 12, 1968. BAROQUE PARISH CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION, dedicated 1199, rebuilt Baroque 1714, completed 1730. "Spital on Pyhrn, 650-1000 meters, Health Resort-Winter Sports."
  79. Schottwein, August 9, 1968. Same picture as Austria #37 with different cancel. BAROQUE TWIN-TOWERED PARISH AND PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION. "Mountain lift - Sonnwendstein - Maria Schutz." On top of the peak on right is Chapel dedicated to Fallen Brethern.

**AUSTRIA (continued)**

- 80. Schröcken, September 27, 1968. PARISH CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION with Schröcken mountains in background; first church dedicated 1639; rebuilt 1863 by Pastor Jenny, blessed August 1, 1867. "4300 - 5624 feet - Your vacation destination."
- 81. Waidhofen on the Thaya, October 3, 1968. PARISH CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION, on left, built 1716-23. "Visit Waidhofen on the Thaya - central point of forest quarters"
- 82. Elsbethen-Glasenbach, August 27, 1968. No picture. "Marian Secretariat - Montfort Fathers." Red meter cancel.
- 83. Lambach, August 28, 1968. Benedictine Monastery founded 1056 by St. Adalbero. TWIN TOWERED CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION in center. "Benedictine Monastery-Lambach-Upper Austria. Intermediate School-Agriculture School." Red meter cancel. (See Austria #50 for additional information).
- 84. Schlierbach, Upper Austria, March 19, 1968. SCHLIERBACH MONASTERY WITH CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION to right of cancel, dedicated 1726. Tower to the left is Monastery tower erected 1678. "Schlierbach-Upper Austria Monastery-Grammar School-Agricultural School-Dairy-Glass Painting." Red meter cancel.
- 85. Riezlern, September 10, 1968. PARISH CHURCH OF MARY OFFERING SACRIFICE, built 1892, Romanesque, on site of chapel dating to 1471. "Riezlern with Kanzelwandbahn - 3640 to 6617 feet - Postoffice Special Tariff."

(Note: detailed data supplied by Ernst Forstner, Linz, Austria; translation by Mrs. Frank Benjert).



Austria #58



Austria #59



Austria #60



Austria #61



Austria #62



Austria #63



Austria #64



Austria #65



Austria #66



Austria #67



Austria #68



Austria #69



Austria #70



Austria #71



Austria #72



Austria #73



Austria #74



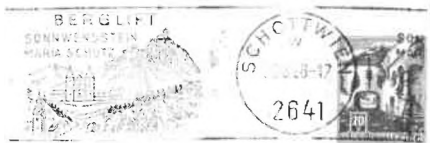
Austria #75



Austria #77



Austria #78



Austria #79



Austria #80



Austria #81



Austria #82



Austria #83



Austria #84



Austria #85

**BRAZIL:**

46. Guanabara, 24-31 March, 1969. ANNUNCIATION. "Archangel Gabriel-Patron of Telecommunications-Brazil-Mail-GB-25-31 March, 1969." Special cancel on issue of St. Gabriel stamp.

47. Guanabara, May 8-14, 1969. MADONNINA after Ferruzzi. "Mother's Day, 8-14 May 1969, Post-GB." Special cancel for issue of Mother's Day stamp depicting St. Anne and Child Mary.



Brazil #46



Brazil #47

**DAHOMEY:**

1. Cotonou, November 25, 1968. MADONNA AND CHILD. "First Day, Noel Tableaux, 25 November 1968 - Cotonou." First day cancel on issue of stamps of Foujita paintings.

**FRANCE:**

77. Saint-Mihiel, November 21, 1968-1969. THE PIETA by Ligier Richier, 1506-67 in Church of St. Michael at Saint-Mihiel. "Saint-Mihiel, its Library, its Landscape, its Sepulchre." Regular cancel.

78. Beaumes De Venise, 1968-1969. CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME D'AUBUNE. "Beaumes de Venise under the laces of Montmirail (Mirail Mountain) - its muscat of the Popes." Regular cancel.

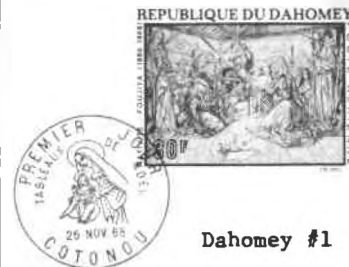
79. Plateau D'Assy, 1968-1969. CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ALL GRACE. "Plateau D'Assy-Sun Salubrity-Face of Mont Blanc." Regular cancel.

**GERMANY:**

70. Listed in May issue but not illustrated.

72. Munich, July 25-October 3, 1965. FRAUEN-KIRCHE. "International Exposition of Transports-IVA-25-6-65." (IVA means Internationale Verkehrs Ausstellung.)

73. Dresden, August 27, 1966. SISTINE MADONNA. Same as Germany #52 except without "4" left under "D" of Dresden



Dahomey #1



Germany #72



France #77



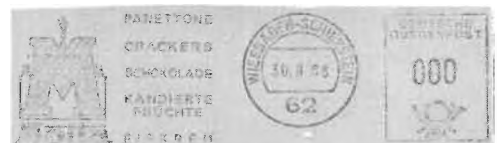
Germany #73



France #78



France #79



Germany #70

**POLAND:**

- 9. Poznan, November 9, 1963. ST. MARY'S CHURCH. "30th Anniversary of the Philatelic Movement in Wielkopolska (Great Poland)." Wielkopolska is a province of Poland where Poznan is situated.
- 7. Correction of translation: "65 years of Philatelic Movement in Poland-Philatelic Exhibition 22-29 November 1959 - 1893 Cracow 1959." (supplied by A. D. Solczanyk).

**SWITZERLAND:**

- 20. Lausanne, June 22-23, 1963. ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL. "Lausannian Society for Study of Stamps--1888-1963--75th Anniversary." Special additional postal cancel of automobile postoffice. (Will be illustrated in September issue).
- 21. Lausanne, October 15-23, 1955. ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL. "National Philatelic Exhibition, Lausanne, October 15-23, 1955." Special additional postal cancel of automobile postoffice.
- 22. Lausanne, 1942-1969. ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL. "Lausanne, City of Sojourn. Regular cancel.
- 23. Neuchatel, 1942-69. MONASTERY CHURCH OF OUR LADY. "Neuchatel, City of Study and Sojourn." Regular cancel.
- 24. Einsiedeln, September 10, 1961. Will be relisted and illustrated in September issue.
- 25. Brissago, November 21, 1968-69. CHURCH OF THE MADONNA OF THE BRIDGE. "Brissago, Palms and Sun." Regular cancel.

**SPAIN:**

March 21 Barcelona, Picture includes HOLY CHILD. "Virgin of the Way - Philatelic Exposition - Barcelona, 21 May, 1969." Special cancel.

**VENEZUELA:**

3. Caracas, December 19, 1969. Additional CRECHE cancel on first day of issue of stamp "Madonna of the Rose Bower," by Lochner. (Supplied for illustration by A. D. Solczanyk).



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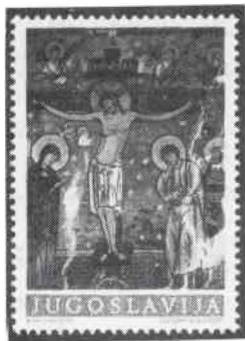
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This supplement brings the Catalogue to current status as of December 31, 1968. Members have written us that they find the Catalogue and supplements of immeasurable assistance and interest. If you have not obtained your copy as yet we suggest you do so. Price of Supplement No. 3 is \$2.75.



Continuing its program of native art stamps, Yugoslavia issued a 6-stamp set reproducing frescoes painted from the 12th to the 15th centuries in its Medieval Monasteries. Three of the stamps are Marian.

Prior to the middle of the 14th century wall painting in the area then known as Macedonia and Serbia reflected the Byzantine influence and culture. After that, the work shows a definite Slavic influence, dating to the time the Southern Slavs (that is the meaning of Yugoslavia) achieved independence. Byzantine style still had some influence on the artists but at this point they began to draw on local talents and subjects. Most of the wall painting done during this period was in small churches throughout the area.



CRUCIFIXION. The 1,25 dinar value presents the central portion of a fresco dating to 1220 in the Monastery of the Holy Virgin at Studenica. Paintings in this Monastery were done between 1219 and 1235. The work is somewhat Italo-Byzantine in style in that Christ is a "Man of Sorrows" - eyes closed and head to one side, a style similar to the Pisan School. But the Slavic influence is seen in the humanism of the figures and in the background which differs from the pre-ordained formal Byzantine style.

The Sorrowful Mother stands at the left, in abject sorrow, her right hand pointing to her Divine Son crucified on the cross. St. John, also a sorrowful figure, is at the right. The background is full of the heads of cherubs. Angels are seen to the left and right of the crossbar. Beneath the figure "5" of the value, at top right, is the half-body of a Prophet holding a scroll, which probably foretells the event which had just taken place. To the right of St. John may be seen the head of a figure wearing the Eastern-type religious head covering; he has a halo and may be a local or national saint, but thus far has not been identified. The fresco has been partially restored, but the damaged portions still in evidence are reproduced on the stamp.



PIETA DETAIL FROM "THE ENTOMBMENT": The 5,00 dinar value presents a very poignant Pieta, a detail from the fresco of "The Entombment" in the Church of Nerezi, near Skoplja, painted in 1164.

The frescoes in this church rank next to those in St. Sophia Church at Ochrid, and were done under the patronage of the ruling Comneni. It is believed that the artist for these frescoes was brought to Nerezi from Constantinople. They herald the Byzantine Revival or Renaissance period and are distinct in form and content from other 12th century wall paintings.

The design shows the Sorrowful Mother holding the Body of her Divine Son following its deposition from the cross. She has placed her face against His, her right arm encircles His neck, and her left hand is placed on His right arm. This is a sorrowful Mother's last farewell to a Beloved and Divine Son. St. John the Evangelist is at the left but only his head and hands appear on the stamp.

The heads of Christ and the Sorrowful Mother are also seen on a 1941 issue of semi-postals issued by Serbia during German occupation, Scott Nos. 2NB7-2NB10c and 2NB11-2NB14.



MARRIAGE AT CANA: The 2,00 dinar value shows only the bride, groom and best man, however, a very small portion of the Virgin's mantle, seen to the left of the groom's elbow, is included in the design. Including this stamp in our listing is similar to that stamp of the United States, issued in 1893, which shows only the foot of the Virgin in the tapestry at the top of the stamp.

The detail seen on this stamp is from the 14th century fresco in the Monastery at Kalenic.



The Icon is closely linked with the ritual of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and has been sacred in design and purpose. It is highly venerated and the object of many pilgrimages. It has led armies, has been present at court ceremonies, coronations, christenings and at deathbeds. It still stands as a symbol of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and reflects the inspiration of talented artists who worked within the boundaries of sacred art. The wooden Icons, small or large, crude or masterpieces, were revered as symbols of religious and patriotic spirit by a people so often under alien rule. This Bulgaria issue depicts Icons from its cultural heritage now in the National Museum at Sofia, but originally painted for various Monasteries throughout the country. Two of the stamps include the Madonna.

THE VIRGIN AND ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN: The 2 ct. value depicts an Icon painted in 1395 for the Poganov Monastery. This Monastery is now the Archaeological Museum at Sofia. The Icon presents a combination of figures not found on other Icons. It was commissioned by the Byzantine Empress Elena, the wife of Emperor Manuel II Palaeologus (1391-1425), and presented to the Poganov Monastery. The Empress commissioned the Icon after the death of her father, called the Despot Constantine. One source stated that the design was to show the Virgin in the pose designated for a Crucifixion, but in the company of an ancient figure, a stand-in for her father, so St. John the Theologian was chosen. The stance of the figures was to symbolize a "dialogue."



This Icon was the work of an unknown Slav painter with great skill, and was painted in Salonica at that time the center of Slav culture. It is a 2-sided Icon with the "Miracle of Latom" on the reverse, tempera and gold on oak panel, measuring 87 x 62 cm. It was given by the

Poganov Monastery to the National Museum in 1920 and was restored in 1952. It has been exhibited in Paris in 1960 and in Essen in 1964, and has been in the National Gallery of Sofia since 1965.

The letters around the Virgin's head are the epithet for "Refuge," and refer to an underground room in the Church of the Virgin Archeiroporetos in Solonica, thought to be the refuge of St. Dimiter and the place where he died. Between the two figures is an inscription which reads: "Eleana, in the Lord Jesus Christ, Faithful Tsarita."

THE SUPPLICATION (DEESIS): The 8 ct. value shows an Icon which is dated 1495 and was painted for the Batchkovo Monastery. It is unique in that it was painted on a chocolate-colored background and not gold, which was the first time such a technique was used. It is tempera on pinewood, measuring 107.5 x 3 cm., and is in the National Museum, Sofia.



Christ is presented as the Supreme Judge. He is seated on a throne which has no back, and holds an open Bible in His left hand. The text on the page is in Greek. The Virgin Mary on the left and St. John the Baptist on the right are interceding for the salvation of mankind and the world before the Supreme Judge. One source stated that the "bunch of flowers wrongly placed on the left of the Virgin's shoulder was a sign of naivety in folk art."

Beneath the throne, to the right of the base, is the donor's inscription: "Prayer of Michael Bakshi, servant of the Lord, and his spouse Anna, April 15 in the year 7003." This "7003" is figured from the Creation and is translated as 1495 A.D. This Icon was also exhibited in Paris and Essen.

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We have been informed that the Austrian Guild of St. Gabriel is in the process of issuing a catalogue of postal issues with a religious motif. This will be most welcome addition to collectors of religious stamps. Date of release or format of the catalogue are not yet known, but this information will be published as soon as received.

Father Horn



One of the stamps issued by the Republic of Dahomey on March 17, 1969, presents a painting attributed to Cesare da Sesto of the School of da Vinci, entitled "THE VIRGIN OF THE SCALES." The original is preserved in the Louvre Museum in Paris. To the right is the Archangel Michael holding scales or balances, one of his symbols. Included in the painting are the Blessed Mother and the Infant Jesus, St. Elizabeth and St. John the Baptist.

The scales, in relation to Our Lady and the Archangel Michael, refer to the judgment of souls, the good deeds of a man on one scale and the bad on the other. Legends of the Middle Ages abound with the stories of the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother before the judgment seat of Her Divine Son in relation to those who were especially devoted to the Virgin Mary during their lives. Paintings and sculptures of the period showing both the Blessed Mother as co-redemptrix and St. Michael as custodian of the scales are numerous. One ancient writer described the Archangel Michael as: "arbiter of man's destinies on the threshold of the world to come." This can also be applied to Our Lady.

"EMBROIDERED MADONNA"



The 15 centavos value stamp in the set issued by Colombia on December 4, 1954 presents a work found in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary, Bogota, Colombia; the same design is also seen on the 5 centavos stamp for ordinary mail. For those who are not familiar with the "story behind the stamp" for this issue, we quote Father Horn's article which appeared in the April 1955 issue of "Queen of the Missions."

The inscription at the bottom reads: "The image woven for the College by Queen Margaret of Austria." This is a small Madonna and Child woven on cloth under which are seen seven cherubs. This is known as the "Embroidered Madonna." Not much has been written about this Madonna which is the most treasured object in the above mentioned Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary. The College was founded in 1653 by Fray Cristobal de Torres, a Dominican, and it was endowed with all the privileges of the University of Salamanca in Spain. He had been the confessor and court preacher of Queen Margaret of Austria, the wife of King Philip III of Spain who died in 1621. After the death of her husband, this pious Queen continued her charitable works, and when her former confessor founded the college at Bogota she embroidered an image of "Our Lady of the Rosary" and sent it to him with this message: "I am sending the one who is to be the Patroness and Mother of your college and collegians." Since that time the original image has been the object of great reverence at the college. This is the origin of the "Embroidered Madonna."

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MADONNA IN ART?

If you are, there is a wide field open to you. Over the past several years many countries have issued stamps which depict the Madonna in Art, some after masterpieces in their own national galleries or museums, and some after the originals in the famous galleries such as the Louvre, etc. True, some of the issuing countries are considered suspect, yet the stamp does reproduce a masterpiece which is a delight to behold, particularly for those of us who never expect to see the original in person. The question may arise as to how one would mount a collection of Madonna in Art. Perhaps these few suggestions may be of some benefit. It could be divided into: pictures, sculptures, stained glass, wood carvings, etchings and engravings, tapestries. It could be further divided by School: Italian, Spanish, French, Flemish, German, Oriental; or it could be segregated by period: Medieval, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Modern. One could mount the stamps by the artist, thus covering his life with a showing of his works. So, if you are looking for a new area of collecting - how about the "Madonna in Art"? We feel you will find a most fascinating and interesting area.

MADONNA SETS FROM PARAGUAY

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