



Vatican Notes

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AEROGRAMMES, A Fascinating Addition to a Vatican Collection

By
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When first approached by a dealer who offered a current aerogramme, I did not consider aerogrammes as being a subject of much interest. He did however arouse my curiosity in them. It appeared that the relatively small number of issues would be easily acquired and would be an interesting addition to my Vatican collection.

After reading a number of articles in *Vatican Notes* and examining several catalogs I realized that collecting aerogrammes would be a fascinating task. I noticed immediately the number of varieties that exist in individual issues, and attempting to acquire one of each variety appeared to be a lifetime if not an impossible task. This is what provides "the thrill of the hunt" when attending stamp shows.

My collection started by acquiring descriptive information with my annual subscription from the Vatican Philatelic office, and subsequent purchases were made from dealers, stamp shows and auctions. Mint copies and first day covers were usually available, but the more elusive and interesting postally used aerogrammes were a rarity.

Mounting my collection with descriptive information was my goal since the aerogrammes by themselves in an album did not appeal to me. I could find no one source to provide detailed information about each aerogramme, therefore I found myself going from article to article and catalog to catalog to research data about each issue. It was at this point I decided that what was needed was a manual describing each aerogramme including the various varieties. My goal was to prepare such a manual.

I recently completed this task and have a completed manual for reference purposes. A sample page is seen in this article. Although contradictory information was noted in some of the information gathered, this manual presents what I believe is the generally accepted data about each aerogramme from the first issued in 1950 to the most current issues in 2001. I plan to use this manual when attending shows in the pursuit of those elusive varieties.

If there are any members interested in acquiring a copy of my manual, I would be pleased to provide it at my cost of having it reproduced. I may be reached at:

34 Wayne Avenue Waltham, MA 0245

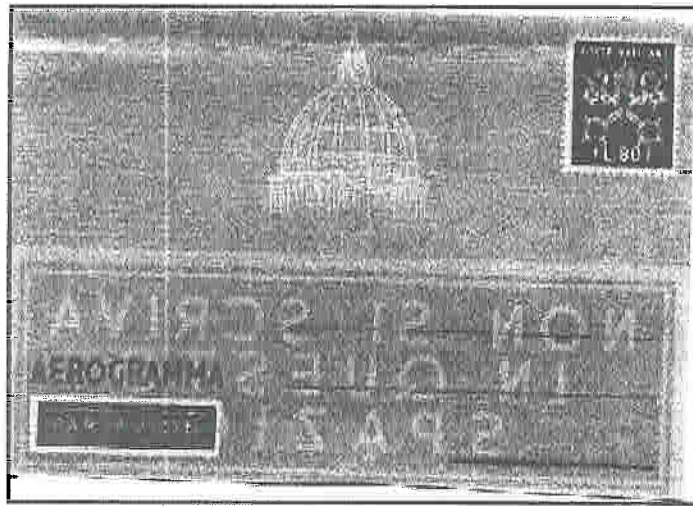
or

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Aerogramme # 4

First day of issue was May 8, 1951

This air letter sheet has a new format. Its size is smaller than #'s 1,2, &3, and has two gummed flaps for sealing. The sheet measures 16.6 x24.1 cm when opened, exclusive of the flaps for sealing.



Front: Completely overlaid with blue, except for spaces for the stamp and Par Avion boxes and the outline of St. Peter's dome in the upper center of the address panel. The overlay shows imitation perforations around the space for the stamp which measures 20 x 25 mm, (perforations included), is printed in brown with Poste Vaticane, The Papal Coat of Arms and value L.8-showing in white. It is seen at the upper right of the address panel. In the lower right in the same panel are three lines in blue for the address. The upper two lines are of equal length and the lower a shorter double line. The two upper long lines are solid, and appear to be overprinted with dots. The top line of the lower shorter double line is printed in dots and the bottom line is solid dark blue. In the lower left of the address panel in the space left in the blue overlay. Above the rectangle in brown is printed Aerogramma. On the top flap in Italian and French, printed in blue, is "It is forbidden to enclose any object"

Back: The back is covered with an overlay in brown which shows white miniscule Poste Vaticane horizontally, except in the lower half of the address panel, which contains a brown overlay, outlining in white in three lines in Italian: Do not write in this space. Both flaps are gummed for sealing.

See Aerogramma #4 pg 13

Aerogramma #4 from Pg 11



Back of address panel – “Do not write in tis space”

Watermark: Stato Della Citta Del Vaticano runs vertically, reading from the inside.
Usually showing parts of two watermarks.

Varieties:

- Brown overlay missing
- Blue printing missing
- Brown overlay on front
- Very pale brown stamp
- Lacking Aerogramma and stamp
- Blue overlay partially missing
- Lacking inside inscription
- Without Par Avion
- Without all wording
- Double watermark
- Without all wording and with double watermark
- Whitish impression of stamp and Aerogramma
- Printing of Par Avion shifted
- Brown overlay on front
- Paper fold
- Without overlay on front

