

The Blue Pencil

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Judging from the feedback I have received, most members seem to like the new look of *Vatican Notes*. I'm especially pleased that several members took the time to write and say that they enjoyed Darrell Downam's first Auction Watch column. Darrell is on hiatus this issue because he has started a new job, but I hope all the encouragement will convince him to take up his column again in the next issue.

Another new feature that I hope will become permanent is a coin column by Lynn Edwards that appears on page 18. About half of those who responded to a recent poll on the VatiStamps listserv (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vaticanstamps>) either collect Vatican coins as well as stamps or would consider it. Although admittedly unscientific, the poll results do suggest that a significant number of people pursue these two hobbies together.

I want to express my thanks (and, I am sure, yours) to these two members who have 'stepped up to the plate' and contributed to their society's journal. I hope some others will follow in their footsteps! There are several opportunities to do so. Readers will notice that the New Issues report on pages 7-8 once again consists entirely of reprints from other sources. I am confident that we can do a much better job, but we need someone to come forward and take it on. It would involve light research and writing, approximately three times per year. The "Meet the Member" column also does not appear because no one came forward and offered to be profiled. Please contact me if you are willing to volunteer for either opportunity.

Associate Editor Greg Pirozzi and I spent an enjoyable afternoon with Fr. Edward Mallowney on March 1. We were there to scan his excellent exhibits of Vatican City and Pontifical State philately. His award-winning collections of zeppelin mail (two frames); Council of Trent errors and freaks (one frame); and first flight covers (two frames plus additional material) can now be viewed online at <http://vaticanphilately.org/exhibits/exhibits.htm>. The first two frames of his Pontifical State usages and rates exhibit are also there, and we hope to scan the last three frames sometime this spring or summer. Father Mallowney is a passionate collector and a remarkable man. Despite turning eighty-eight this year, he is the rector of the Josephite fathers' retirement home in Baltimore and a driving force behind the annual BALPEX show.

As I wrote last time, I plan to attend NOJEX (Secaucus NJ,

May 23-25); NAPEX (McLean VA, June 6-8); and APS StampShow (Hartford CT, August 14-17). Drop me a note if you will be at any of those shows; perhaps we can chat about stamps in person. 



Greg Pirozzi and Father Edward J. Mallowney on March 1. Your editor is operating the camera.

Letters Received

I received the January *Notes* yesterday and enjoyed your article on Canova. By pure chance I watched the British Antiques Roadshow last night and they visited Wellington's home. They showed the 11-foot statue of Napoleon, fig leaf and all and indeed at the bottom of a stairwell but hardly 'imprisoned'. I'm a bit of a Napoleon fan and until a few years ago was a member of the Napoleonic Topical stamp group over there. I think Auction Watch is a great idea and I hope Darrell can keep it up.

*Kevin Bogue
Perth, Western Australia*

Absolutely fantastic job on *Vatican Notes*. The articles are great and the magazine is a thing of beauty. Auction Watch is a neat new feature.

*Joe Arkenberg
Germantown, Wisconsin*

Good luck with your editorship. The January issue looks great. I particularly liked the auction reports.

*Robert Scoble
Sydney, Australia*

Thanks for publishing my profile in *Vatican Notes*. As a result I got a nice letter from another new VPS member in England and traded some duplicate Vatican stamps.

*Hector Cairns
Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland*