

# The Blue Pencil

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It is the end of the VPS fiscal year, which means it is time for Society elections and the *Veritas* Award, presented annually to the best feature article in *Vatican Notes* as judged by a vote of the membership. A feature article is one that is original (i.e., not a translation or compilation); signed by its author; illustrated; more than two pages long (including centerfolds and illustration pages but not purely decorative title pages); and explores some aspect of Vatican philately or postal history in depth. News items, regular columns, and one-page contributions—while appreciated by the editor and readers—are not eligible for this special award. As your editor it is my privilege to nominate the following eligible articles from Volume 56:

## July-August 2007 (Vol. 56, No. 1)

*"Vatican Scientific and Cultural Institutions-Part III: Vatican Apostolic Library"* (Greg Pirozzi)

*"Vatican Europa Issues"* (Michael B. Lamothe)

## September-October (Vol. 56, No. 2)

*"Vatican Scientific and Cultural Institutions-Part IV: The Vatican Observatory"* (Greg Pirozzi)

## November-December (Vol. 56, No. 3)

*"The Watercolors of Aldo Raimondi"* (Greg Pirozzi)

*"Vatican City and the Golden Age of Ocean Liner Travel"* (Greg Pirozzi)

## January-February (Vol. 56, No. 4)

*"Le Forme Belle' of Antonio Canova"* (Daniel A. Piazza)

*"Vatican Mourning Covers"* (Greg Pirozzi)

## March-April (Vol. 56, No. 5)

*"An Interview with Irio Fantini"* (Michael B. Lamothe)

*"Vatican Philatelic Ephemera, Part I-Philatelic Show Folders"* (Michael Krejci)

## May-June (Vol. 56, No. 6)

*"Vatican Philatelic Ephemera, Part II-Philatelic Show Sheets and Cards"* (Michael Krejci)

*"Eleazar Albin and Vatican City's Only Bird Stamp Issue"* (Matthew V. Cassetta)

*"Gardens & Medallions 75th Anniversary Retrospective, Part I"* (Greg Pirozzi)

Thanks to all of these authors for sharing the fruits of their research by filling the pages of our Society journal with informative and enlightening articles! Vote for your favor-

ite by marking your choice on the enclosed dues envelope.

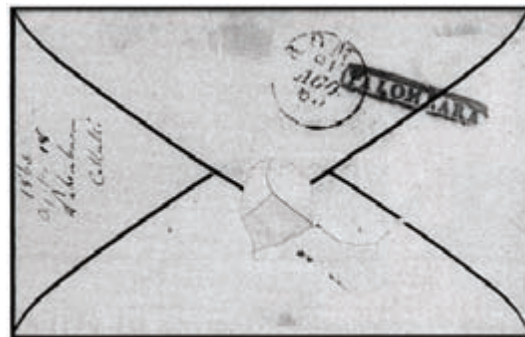
Several members have E-mailed to ask why I have been using the symbol for the British pound in front of denominations expressed in Vatican lire. In fact there is a subtle difference; the pound sign is a script "L" with a single horizontal bar (£) while the lira sign always has two bars (₺).

Why are the symbols so similar? Because both units of currency descend from the ancient Roman *Librum*, a unit of weight that referred to the amount of pure silver in a Roman coin. The lira sign was widely used in both Italy and Vatican City before the introduction of the euro, although it normally followed the denomination rather than preceded it (i.e., 500₺ rather than £500). However, I generally place it before the denomination because the vast majority of our readers are American and used to seeing currency symbols *before* the digits.

## Letters Received

You are correct ("Raimondi Redux", March-April 2008, page 24) that Anna Raimondi was Aldo's daughter. She died about a year ago. Aldo's father Roberto also worked in watercolor.

*Albert Bajohr  
Sebring, Florida*



In the Pontifical Page section of the last issue of *Vatican Notes* (March-April 2008, page 16), Fr. Muldowney illustrated a mourning cover from his own collection. I possess a mourning cover sent from Palombara to Rome via Tivoli (the district center) in August 1865. The postage was paid on the front with a 2 bajocchi stamp cancelled by the Tivoli grill. This cover was included in the October 18, 2005 Nutmeg auction of Roman States postmarks from the extensive collections of Fred Levitsky and Fabio Pompeii.

*Tom Duckworth  
New York, New York*

*Editor's note: the reverse of Tom's cover, showing the Rome and Palombara markings as well as the thin mourning border, is illustrated with his letter. Yet another Pontifical State mourning cover is illustrated on page six.*