

The Blue Pencil

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New *VN* publication schedule

The costs of producing this journal have skyrocketed in the last 2-3 years along with everything else in life.

Our printer, Zander Press in Wisconsin, has tendered a new estimate for 2009 that represents a price increase of about 30%, from \$901 per issue to \$1157 per issue plus a \$141 mailing prep fee (for spraying on the addresses, putting foreign copies in envelopes, etc.) That amounts to about \$3.25 per copy (we print 400 copies). In addition, we no longer receive a discount for making some pages black and white because this requires manual collating on the printer's part. Zander believes they have actually lost money printing the last couple of issues for us, and it seems possible. I know of other philatelic journals that are already paying about \$5 per full-color copy.

In addition to the printing costs, recent postal service rate cases have been very punitive toward small, independent journals such as ours. Even for bulk rate subscribers, we are essentially paying first-class postage rates. Dan G. Blair, chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission, has projected that the next increase (in May 2009) will again raise rates about 5% on average.

On September 24, I held a teleconference with the Society's elected officers and editorial staff to discuss these financial issues and present the printer's new price quote. We came to the conclusion that costs have simply risen past the point where a bimonthly publication schedule is financially feasible. We have decided that it is in the best interests of the Society to add four pages to each issue (provided content is available) but mail only four times per year, bringing you the same number of content pages annually while realizing enormous savings in printing and postage.

In addition to the financial savings, a less frenetic publishing schedule will allow the volunteer editors and contributors more time to write and edit better content. It also helps to reduce the risk of burnout and fatigue.

This new quarterly schedule puts the VPS on par with nearly every other national specialty philatelic society our size in the U.S. Only a dozen or so of the APS's 202 affiliates publish more often, and these tend to be societies with more than 1000 members such as the American Air Mail Society, American First Day Cover Society, American

Topical Association, and Germany Philatelic Society. (You can see a full list of APS affiliates and how often they publish at <http://stamps.org/directories/affiliat.asp>.)

For your reference, the following table contains the new *Vatican Notes* publication schedule:

Issue Date	Copy Due	To Press	In Homes
Winter (Jan-Feb-Mar)	Dec 15	Jan 15	Feb 15
Spring (Apr-May-Jun)	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15
Summer (Jul-Aug-Sep)	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
Fall (Oct-Nov-Dec)	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15

Face lift gets noticed

The new look of *Vatican Notes* was mentioned recently in *The Philatelic Communicator*, quarterly journal of the APS Writers Unit #30. Page 13 of the Fourth Quarter 2008 issue carries images of the March-April and May-June covers of *Vatican Notes*. Editor Al Starkweather writes:

After becoming editor of Vatican Notes earlier this year, Daniel A. Piazza has gradually freshened its appearance, starting with replacing the former front page with a true cover. While retaining the nameplate's basic design, he then replaced the English derivative Shelley Andante font with a bolder Italian-influenced chancery font. The new cover highlights a single article. The sparse table of contents has been eliminated in favor of bottom-of-page promos.

The Writers Unit #30 (WWW.WU30.ORG) is a national society of philatelic authors, editors, and publishers.

Letters Received

The recent changes to the *Notes* (it's in color; legible; has tons of great illustrations) are a quantum leap above where they were a few years ago. The changes have not only brought pleasure to faithful members of long-standing but have also served as a great recruiting tool. I think it's fair to say that the changes have revitalized the VPS. We no longer look moribund to the outside world.

*John F. Schorn #3520 (LM)
Silver Spring, MD*

I should like to obtain photocopies of the "long-running series from the 1960s covering forged overprints on Scott #35-40" you mentioned in the latest *Vatican Notes*. Can you provide them, or can you tell me when the series appeared so I can order them from the APRL?

*Richard H. Byne #3689
San Antonio, Texas*

Editor's reply: The articles appeared in Vatican Notes during 1963 and 1964. They are unsigned, but were almost certainly the work of then-editor Fr. Herbert A. Phinney, who had an interest in Vatican City and Roman States forgeries. The exact citations (in Volume:Issue:Page format) are as follows: 11:3:10; 11:4:7; 12:2:12; 12:3:11-12; 12:4:12; and 12:5:12. Other mentions of #35-40 forgeries are found at 12:6:7; 18:1:4; and 28:5:1,3,9. Copies of all these article are on their way to you with my compliments.



Perhaps a *Vatican Notes* reader has more information about these two Vatican covers [only one pictured] from 1938. They may have some historical significance since one cover is addressed to a person in Hamburg, Germany who apparently served on the Eastern Front and after the war moved to the Dominican Republic. The other cover is addressed to Gleiwitz, which was then in Germany but is now in Poland. The same person must have mailed both covers since they have the same date and same stamps (also their placement is almost identical). I would like to include these covers in a presentation on the historical side of stamp collecting and how stamps can signify historical events.

*Charles J. Schaefer #3623
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Editor's reply: Karl Hennig was a well-known German dealer of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, an unrepentant Nazi who created lots of Third Reich covers and cards and, as you state, operated out of the Dominican Republic after the war. I suspect both of your covers are his, although only the one is addressed to him. The second addressee may be a contact who serviced covers for him in Gleiwitz. June 27, 1938 was not a significant historical date as far as I can tell. These might be first or special flight covers. I do not find any 1938 flight covers in Bayer's list in the October 1970 Aero Philatelist Annals. The CEI lists a Rome to Napoli first flight on June 22 but nothing for the 27th.

Associate editor's reply: Hitler visited Italy from May 3-10, 1938. Pius XI left Rome as a passive protest, but Mussolini organized military parades and visits to Rome, Naples, Florence and Venice. The underlying cachet on this cover was likely left over from that event and used because pro-Fascist sentiment was still running high in Italy during June, much to the consternation of the Vatican and the King. Exactly what was being commemorated on June 27, though, is not immediately clear.