

# The Blue Pencil

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## New advertising manager

I'm happy to announce that member Peter MacDonald of Ottawa, Ontario has volunteered to be the advertising manager for *Vatican Notes*. Peter is already servicing the accounts of our two long-time advertisers, Dan Bayer and Talbot Fuerst, and is approaching potential advertisers. Securing new accounts will broaden members' collecting opportunities while helping to offset the rising costs of publishing this journal. One of Peter's goals is to offer ad placements on our website as well.

Peter considers himself to be an intermediate philatelist. He specializes in Vatican City, the Elizabethan definitives of Canada, and Canadian Christmas philately. Postal history is a recent passion. Besides VPS he belongs to the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC), the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) and the Ottawa Philatelic Society. He is the awards chair for ORAPEX, Ottawa's national-level philatelic show.

Professionally, Peter is an impresario on the Canadian arts and music scene. In 2001, he went full-time with his company, Nutshell Music & Event Management. In 2004, the Ottawa Business Journal named him one of their "Forty Under 40" entrepreneurs who "balance bottom line results with a desire to participate in charitable and community activities." This past November, Peter was named Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals, a provincial arts service organization. He and his staff provide advocacy, education and networking opportunities to the largest member-based folk and roots music organization in Canada (the second largest in North America!)



Peter MacDonald

Every philatelic society relies on its members to volunteer their special talents for the advancement of its field of specialization. I'm grateful to Peter for stepping forward to fill this position. If you are interested in sponsoring the society as an advertiser, or know of a dealer who might be interested, please contact Peter directly. His contact information appears on page three.

## VN website redesign is live

It is now about three years since the VPS went online, and the site is in need of a general updating and overhaul.

I've started with the subdomain assigned to *Vatican Notes*. A redesign of that portion of the site is now live online at <http://notes.vaticanphilately.org>. Please take a few moments to peek under the hood and kick the tires. I've tried to create a site where nothing is more than two clicks away and that "sells" the journal and membership in the society. But I'd like your thoughts via E-mail as to what works, what doesn't, and what's missing.

Now that this part of the site has been overhauled, I will move on to other sections, including completing the upload of scanned back issues of *Vatican Notes*. That project is currently complete through the mid-1970s; my goal is to get the remaining issues online this summer.

## Mailing list updated

I recently spent several days cleaning up the *Vatican Notes* mailing list, manually running all 419 entries through the zip code lookup tool on the USPS website. The object was to find ZIP+4 codes for every address and use recommended USPS abbreviations. My hope is that conforming our mailing list to USPS standards will speed delivery and help cut down on misdirected and undelivered copies. Please take a moment to review your name and address on this issue and let Joe Scholten know if you find any errors. ✍

## Letters Received



I just bought this cover [pictured above] along with three matching covers from the Vatican newspaper, post office and book publishers. Do you have any idea what this cover was produced for? Do you have any idea of who 'WW JR' is? I love a good mystery, and the price was right, so I picked them up. I have never seen any covers like these in *Vatican Notes*. Any help will be most appreciated.

Greg Ciesielski #3353  
Havelock, North Carolina  
[lilski@ec.rr.com](mailto:lilski@ec.rr.com)

*Editor's reply: The magazine and post office covers might be first days for their respective postage meter machines. The machine used on the magazine cover was manufactured by Lirma of Italy and placed into service by the Vatican "around 1958," according to the International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog (IPMSC). The machine used on the post office cover was made by Hasler of Switzerland and was also placed into service in 1958.*

*It does not seem likely that the newspaper and book publisher covers are first days, however. The IPMSC states that the type of franking machine used on these covers was manufactured by S.I.M.A. of Italy and had been in use since 1949.*

*Cachetmaker WW JR was William Wonneberger, Jr. (1931-1976), who founded the Vatican Philatelic Society in 1953 and was a part time dealer. According to an article in the March 1987 issue of Vatican Notes, Wonneberger prepared a series of seven such covers and cards for his clients. You have picked up all four of the covers; now you need the three cards, each of which features a different PORT PAYÉ imprint.*

*A small amount of additional information on these covers is in Vatican Notes 35:5 (March 1987), a copy of which is on its way to you.*

*The IPMSC is available from the author-publishers, Joel A. Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh, at 3102 North 150th Lane, Goodyear AZ 85338.*

I hope you and/or your members can help me in the specialized research I am trying to do. As a Deaf philatelist, I learned of a Renaissance artist who was Deaf and did a lot of paintings for the Vatican. Do you know of any Vatican stamps that show paintings done by Bernardino del Betto, better known as Pinturicchio?

I am aware that Italy issued a stamp in his honor last year and I wonder if he has ever been portrayed on stamps from the Vatican.

*Kenneth S. Rothschild (non-member)  
Burbank, California  
ksrothschild@aol.com*

*Editor's reply: As far as I know, no work by Pinturicchio has ever been reproduced on a Vatican stamp. However, Irio Ottavio Fantini's portrait of Alexander VI in the Popes of the Holy Years series (Scott 1071) was clearly influenced by Pinturicchio's two portrayals of that pope. Additionally, Pinturicchio was an employee of Perugino when the latter was painting his Sistine Chapel frescoes. One of these, Christ Giving the Keys to Peter, has been on a 2000 Vatican stamp (Scott 1158), and it is possible that Pinturicchio worked on it. You would have to do some more art history research to determine that.*

*I am sorry that I could not be more helpful. I will print your E-mail, my reply, and your contact information in the next issue of Vatican Notes in case other members can suggest Vatican stamps I have overlooked or are otherwise interested in your topic.*

I request that my membership be discontinued because I wish the magazine told more of the history depicted on the stamps.

*M.J.K. #3999  
Burlington, Iowa*

*Editor's reply: The content of the journal is largely driven by the submissions received from authors. Most of the currently active writers have a passion for postal history, and so the journal has leaned rather heavily in that direction. I realize, though, that this has limited appeal for some readers, and since becoming editor last year I have tried to solicit more articles of the type you would like to see. The fruits are just now beginning to appear: the topical articles in the last issue on the Lourdes grotto and Matt Cassetta's interesting and lengthy article in this issue on papal voyages to Africa, for example. I also have on hand another piece for later this year that will trace the biography of St. Paul on Vatican stamps. I'm sending these issues of Vatican Notes to you in the hope that they will convince you to reinstate your membership.*

The May-June 2008 issue of *Vatican Notes* was awesome. The photo of the stamp art on the front cover and the explanation about the design on the inside cover was eye-opening. I have been collecting Vatican stamps for 45 years and it is a pleasure to receive the *Vatican Notes*. The Vatican Philatelic Society is the best!

*Jim Whelan #3162  
Evergreen Park, Illinois*

May I send my greetings and gratitude for the spectacular journal—an outstanding publication.

*Br. Joseph V. Gallagher, OSF #3477  
Melville, New York*

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