Stamps as Icons/Icons as Stamps: Vatican City’s Cold War Philatelic Propaganda

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Santa Maria di Galeria Transmitting Station (1959, Scott #263)

Visit of Pope Paul VI to the United Nations (1964, Scott #418)

L’Osservatore Romano Centenary (1961, Scott #310, 312)
Stamps as Propaganda

- Visual
- Inexpensive
- Widely disseminated
- Can be targeted (to a point)
- Reproduced in large quantities
- Cadre of collectors who will propagate and amplify the message
- Design, production, sale, and use is controlled by the state

*In the Vatican – Europe’s last remaining absolute monarchy – this means the pope*
Eugenio Maria Pacelli
1876-1958 (reigned 1939-1958)

-A veteran of the Vatican diplomatic corps
-Nuncio to Bavaria
-Cardinal Secretary of State and Lord Chamberlain to Pius XI

Brussels World’s Fair (1958, Scott #242)
Angelo Roncalli
1881-1963 (reigned 1958-1963)

- A veteran of the Vatican diplomatic corps
- Delegate to Greece and Turkey; Nuncio to France

Coronation of Pope John XXIII (1959, Scott #252)
Giovanni Battista Montini
1898-1978 (reigned 1963-1978)

- A veteran of the Vatican diplomatic corps

- Attached to the nunciature in Poland

- Then served in the Vatican’s Secretariat of State (Rome) under both Pius XII and John XXIII

- The first pope ever to fly in an airplane and the first to leave Italy in more than 150 years

Coronation of Pope Paul VI (1963, Scott #367)
Valerian Martyrs
(1959, Scott #256-61)

Flight into Egypt
(1960, Scott #265)

Pope St. Leo the Great
(1961, Scott #301)

St. Paul in Chains
(1961, Scott #308)
Closing of the Marian Year (1954, Scott #189)
Mary, Queen of Poland (1956, Scott #217)
Casimira Dabrowska (1890-1972)
Quincentenary of the Birth of St. Casimir (1959, Scott #264-265)
Vytautas Kazimieras Jonynas (1907-1997)
1100 Years of Slavic Christianity (1963, #369-371)
Millennium of Polish Christianity (1966, Scott #433-438)
Christmas (1968, Scott #465)
Millennium of Hungarian Christianity (1971, Scott #513-514)
Millennium of the See of Prague (1973, Scott #543-544)
Ninth Centenary of the Martyrdom of St. Stanisław of Kraków (1979, Scott #648, 650)