

Postage Stamps

Religion Reflected On 1958 Issues

A worldwide revival of interest in religion was reflected on postage stamps in 1958.

As the millions of thousands of collectors around the world attest, postage stamps are a mirror of the lives and interests of people everywhere.

Therefore, it is significant that stamps with a religious design or honoring religious leaders and events have greatly increased in recent years. The number of 1958 stamps classified as "religious topical" by collectors will apparently exceed 150, and establish an all-time record. The number finally counted in 1956 was 131, and in 1957 about 125.

The commemorative stamp issued by the United States on May 31, 1958, to mark American participation in the International Geophysical Year is typical of the trend toward inclusion of religious symbolism.

This striking red-and-black

10 COPIER JOURNAL
Tuesday, December 26, 1956

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three-cent stamp showed a photograph of a solar flare on the sun one of the phenomena American scientists studied during the IGY, and across the face of the new 3-cent stamp.

On the 3-cent and 8-cent stamps of the present regular issue, and this year has been used on the new 3-cent postcard.

And in 1956, the stamp honoring the 75th anniversary of the first public celebration of Labor Day showed a mother reading to her child from the Bible, a segment from the mural in the lobby of the AFL-CIO headquarters building in Washington, D.C.

Last year the Bible was pictured on a stamp commemorating religious liberty in America.

A trend similar to that in the United States can be seen in countries from Australia to Greenland and even beyond the Iron Curtain.

Australia issued a beautiful Christmas stamp this year, picturing the three Wise Men last year's Christmas stamp. Australia issued stamps commemorating the centenary of the foundation of the Anglican Church of Australia, one of which pictured St. Paul, patron of a Catholic seminary in 1890.

Switzerland honored the 25th anniversary of the Salvation Army in Geneva, Poland the 100th anniversary of the Finnish Missionary Society, and France has paid tribute to St. Vincent de Paul, patron of all Catholic charities.

Bulgaria's Communal rulers issued a stamp picturing Saints Cyril and Methodius, pioneer ninth-century missionaries to the Slavs.

Russia itself depicted a Catholic priest on a stamp. Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer (1473-1543). It was a gesture of propaganda toward restive Poland and the Kremlin. One may have forgotten that Major Nikolai Kopernik (Copernicus) was canonized by the Church of Fraenzenburg, in Prussian Poland, from the roof of which he conducted his observations.

No discussion of religious stamps is complete without mentioning the inspiring stamps

of religious design of the year, in honor of the annual Catholic Day observance. It showed "Christ Over the Atom" and followed an equally inspiring design used in 1957 in honor of the First World German Evangelical Church Day.

A trend toward interreligious clarity and understanding has been clearly disseminate.

Catholics Monaco has issued

a set of stamps honoring the work of Protestant missionary Dr. Albert Schweitzer and followed it this year with a series honoring the centenary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Protestant Iceland recently issued a stamp picturing its last Catholic Bishop, John Maron, martyred 500 years ago. And Norway

first issued stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Anglican Church of Norway, one of which pictured St. Paul, patron of a Catholic seminary in 1890.

Switzerland honored the 25th anniversary of the Salvation Army in Geneva, Poland the 100th anniversary of the Finnish Missionary Society, and France has paid tribute to St. Vincent de Paul, patron of all Catholic charities.

The trend has spread behind

Down in the South Pacific, the Iron Curtain with Cyprus, Pircle Island, home of the descendants of the Mutiny on the Bounty, honored its most treasured possession, the ancient ship's Protestant pastor and educator B. C. H. N. Bounty, on a postage stamp.

In Europe, the only countries until recently which used religious designs or themes on stamps were Spain and Portugal and, of course, Vatican City. Increasingly, in the last two years, such nations as France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Luxembourg, Austria, and Prince Rainier's tiny Monaco have been using religious themes on stamps.

West Berlin, for example, has just honored famed Protestant theologian Dr. Friedrich Schleiermacher as one of the city's "great men."

Meanwhile, Germany produced perhaps the most beau-

tiful stamp in the world.

Stamp collectors are

issue the most outstanding relig-

ious designs. It also sponsors

exhibits of religious stamps at

collectors' shows.

French stamp honors St. Vincent de Paul

of Israel, many of whom are

based on Old Testament themes.

A stamp issued by Israel Decem-

ber 10 in honor of United Nations

Human Rights Day carried the

Biblical verse "Thou shall love

thy neighbor as thyself" engraved

upon a rock, with a translation

beneath in each official

language of the UN—English,

Russian, French, and Spanish.

So many stamps with religious designs have appeared that an organization, the Collectors of Religion on Stamps Society, has been established to encourage the hobby.

Maryknoll — The

house arrest of Bishop James E.

Walsh, former executive secre-

tary of the Catholic Central

Bureau in Shanghai, China, has

been confirmed by the State De-

partment. It was announced here

by the Maryknoll Fathers.

A spokesman for the mis-

sionary order said, "It was in-

formed by the State Depart-

ment that the United States

ambassador in Poland had

queried the Chinese Communist

government's repre-

sentative there concerning Bishop

Walsh.

The reply was, the spokesman

said, that Bishop Walsh had

been arrested in Shanghai be-

cause he violated the law of

China, but no further details

were given.

Urge to sit down and enjoy

the fire. Mother Evans hastened

gloomily. "Mary, thinking

that I could help you, I'm not

much good," she apologized.

"These old hands shake — but

could I just come out into your

kitchen and try?"

"Would you, Mother Evans?"

We ushered the grand little lady

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

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