

LASALLIAN STAMPS

Lasallian stamps are a subject interesting enough to have found its way a few years ago into the Institute Bulletin.

– The Tercentenary of the birth of the Founder saw the first issues of Lasallian stamps in **France**, **Brazil** and **Panama**. The year was 1951.

– Three years later, **Monaco** and **Ecuador** issued stamps. Monaco produced three stylised portraits of De La Salle on the theme of “educator of youth”; Ecuador commemorated the centenary of the birth of a notable fellow countryman, Brother Miguel.

– In 1958, **Nicaragua** celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers and issued a series of 15 denominations (surface and airmail). These stamps are the best Lasallian issues to date.

– In 1961, the **Philippines** showed their appreciation of the work of the Brothers by issuing a stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of La Salle College in Manila.

– In 1962, **Belgium** commemorated the 50th anniversary of the death of Brother Alexis Marie, an eminent geographer.

– In 1966, **Argentina** joined the almost world-wide acclamation of these pioneers of lower class education by issuing a stamp to commemorate the 75th anniversary of De La Salle College in Buenos Aires.

– In 1978, **Spain** issued a stamp to commemorate the centenary of the arrival of the Brothers in Spain.

– Finally in 1986, **Colombia** issued a stamp to commemorate 100 years of work by the Brothers in that country.

To give readers a clearer picture of the stamps issued here are some details. For each stamp mentioned we will indicate its number in the Yvert & Tellier catalogue as a help to those who are particularly interested.

* As was proper, because De La Salle was born there, **France** was the first country to show its respect and admiration for one of its famous citizens, a pioneer of teacher training colleges, of schools to teach crafts and trades, and an innovator in many ways in the field of education. The stamp issued by the Post Office is maroon/lilac in colour, perforation 13, vertical, 2.5cms by 4cms, denomination 15 francs. The inscription at the base of the stamp reads: “1651 Jean-Baptiste de La Salle 1719”. The portrait is a bust of the Saint without any indication that he is a saint. (Yvert & Tellier catalogue, N° 882). Artist: P. Gandon. In his native town of Rheims a special commemorative post mark was used showing Lejeune’s statue with the

inscription above: “28-29 avr. 1951”, and around it: “Tricentenaire de St. J.-B. de La Salle, Reims”.

* **Brazil**: A Lasallian stamp was issued in 1951, pale blue in colour, vertical, perforation 11 1/2, 3cms by 4 cms, denomination 60 centavos. The Saint is shown in an oval frame of laurel leaves teaching three children (based on Aureli’s statue) with a surrounding inscription: “1651-1951, São João Batista de La Salle, Patroeiro Universal dos Professores”. On top: “Brasil Correio”. (Yvert & Tellier N° 494). On April 30th a special commemorative post mark was used which we will not describe, but which those interested can see in issue N° 127 of Institute Bulletin, 1951, page 200.

* **Panama**: No special stamp was issued on this occasion but there was used in 1951 a black surcharge: “Tercer Centenario del Natalicio de san Juan Bautista de La Salle 1651-1951” on two stamps in common use (2 and 5 centavos, horizontal, 2 1/2 cms by 4 cms). The first, red and black, shows the transport of sugar (Yvert & Tellier N° 281A). The second, light blue, shows Vasco Nuñez de Babca claiming the Pacific Ocean (Yvert & Tellier N° 281B). We point out in passing that surcharges on a stamp alter its value in philatelic terms.

* In 1954, the **Principality of Monaco** wished to honour the Brothers for their work in the two schools and one annex of this tiny nation. It issued three denominations, vertical, 3cms by 4cms (Yvert & Tellier N° 402, 403, 404). The first, 1 franc, purplish red, negative half length portrait of the Saint, below a Brother taking four children to school. The inscription below runs: “St. J.-B. de La Salle, Monaco” followed by the signature of the artist, J. E. Lorenzi. The second, 5 francs, black, shows a stylised version of the Falguiere statue in Rouen. The third, 15 francs, purplish blue, has the same design as the first.

* In the same year, **Ecuador** issued five Lasallian stamps 2.5cms by 3.5cms, perforation 11. It wished to honour in the person of Brother Miguel the educational work of the Institute in this Latin American country. The first, 70 centavos, horizontal, dark green, shows the school in Quito called “El Cebollar” where Brother Miguel taught. The second, 80 centavos, vertical, sepia, shows Brother Miguel teaching two children. The third, 80 centavos, vertical, greyish blue, carries the standard portrait of Brother Miguel. The fourth, 2.50 sucres, dark blue, vertical, shows the tomb of Brother Miguel. The fifth, 3 sucres, lilac, horizontal, shows the impressive monument erected in his own country in honour of this famous educator and writer. The monument is the work of Ciocchetti. (Yvert & Tellier N° 269 to 273). All the stamps were printed by Heraclio Fournier - Vitoria. It is worth mentioning also that Ecuador produced a very fine postcard bearing the portrait of Brother Miguel with the inscription below: “Lirio azuayo”. Azuay is the name of the province where Cuenca is the capital: it was in Cuenca that Brother Miguel was born.

* In 1958, **Nicaragua** wished to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers and issued a series of 15 denominations, surface and airmail. Eight different subjects appear on these brightly coloured stamps. These stamps measure 3 cms by 4 cms. Thirteen are vertical and two horizontal. (Yvert & Tellier: surface mail: N° 825 - 831; airmail: N° 387 - 394).

As it would take too long to describe all these stamps, we will simply list them in order of value: coat of arms, 5 centavos (surface) and 30 centavos (airmail); Pedagogical Institute of Managua, front view, 10 and 60 centavos; half length portrait of St. La Salle, 15 and 85 centavos; Brother Venero Carlos, 20 centavos and 90 centavos; Brother Antonio, 50 centavos and 1.50 cordobas; Brother Julio, 75 centavos and 1.25 cordobas; Brother Argeo, 1 and 1.75 cordobas; Brother Eugenio, 2 cordobas. This beautiful series was printed also by Heraclio Fournier - Vitoria.

* In 1961, the **Philippines** government wished to show its appreciation and gratitude for the work of the Brothers by issuing two stamps, one at 6 cents and the other at 10 cents, horizontal, polychrome and ochre, 2.5 cms by 4 cms. Both stamps show the front view of De La Salle College, Manila, and bear the inscription: "Golden Jubilee 1911 - 1961" as well as the coat of arms of the Institute in a circle, with around it the words: "De La Salle College, Manila". Perforation 11 1/2, (Yvert & Tellier N° 516 & 517).

* In its series "Famous Men", **Belgium** honoured an eminent geographer, Brother Alexis Marie Gochet, by issuing a stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. The stamp is 2 francs, greyish blue, vertical, 3 cms by 4 cms, perforation 11 1/2, (Yvert & Tellier). On the same occasion the authorities organised an exhibition in the town where the Brother was born (Tamines, near Namur and on the River Sambre). The exhibition described and illustrated the scientific and pedagogical work of Brother Alexis who gave the teaching of geography a new lease of life in the second half of the 19th Century. The exhibition highlighted the issue of this stamp in honour of "one of the eminent

men of your influential Congregation" by sending its respectful greetings to the Superior General.

* In 1966, **Argentina** joined in the jubilee celebration of the 75th anniversary of De La Salle College in Buenos Aires (1891-1966) by issuing a commemorative stamp. It is 10 pesos, burnt sienna, horizontal, 2.5 cms by 4 cms, perforation 13 1/2, lithographed in sheets of 100, an issue of 2 million stamps. The stamp shows the front of the building and, to one side, the picture of the Founder based on the Cesare Aureli statue in St. Peter's, Rome. The stamp was designed by Mrs Candida Gomez. (Yvert & Tellier N° 777). The stamps were issued on November 26th by decree N° 3498/66. The issue was the result of the work of Mr Angel Vago.

* In 1979, there was issued in **Spain** a stamp commemorating the centenary of the arrival of the Brothers (1878-1978). The vignette shows a picture of the Founder based on the so-called "rue de Sèvres" painting. It is multicoloured: maroon olive, lilac, red and blue; 5 pesetas, perforation 13 1/2. (Yvert & Tellier N° 2157).

* Finally in 1986, **Colombia** honoured St. La Salle by issuing a stamp to mark the centenary of the Brothers' arrival in the country. In reality, the District of Medellin was founded in 1890 but negotiations started in 1886, and in 1887 an agreement was signed between Mgr. Bernardo Herrera Restrepo and Brother Bernon Maria, Visitor of Ecuador and Chile and representing the Superior General, Brother Joseph.

This multicoloured stamp (airmail) shows a half length portrait of the Founder based on Gagliardi's painting, the latter having recently come back into favour. In the top left hand corner, the coat of arms of the Institute in black, and in the top right corner the three broken chevrons of the coat of arms of the Rheims De La Salle family. From the chevrons there radiate the three colours of the Colombian flag, yellow, blue and red; 25 pesos, perforation 12 1/4 by 12 1/4. Printed by Carvajal S.A.

Brother Francisco R. Rivero.