

LASALLIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

Stamp collecting is one of the many pleasurable hobbies or leisure time activities of our retired Brothers.

Collecting stamps on the basis of themes is the area which seems to generate the most interest while also furnishing a lot of information. Collections of stamps on De La Salle have not been too popular, more because few collectors know about them rather than because of a lack of interest. Certainly their circulation is very limited and therefore they are not readily available everywhere.

In LASALLIANA 14-0-26, some information on Lasallian philatelic Publications was made available internationally. Admittedly it was not exhaustive, but it does indicate that there is interest in this area among the Brothers, students and alumni. The present material is designed to add a little more to what has already been published, and is subject to further revision and completion.

- For the tricentenary of the foundation of the Institute, new issues were published in 1980 and 1981 in **Bolivia, Sri Lanka and Venezuela**.

- Also in 1981, **Panama** came out with a stamp which commemorates the 75th year since the arrival of the Brothers in that country. Actually, it should have appeared in 1979 because the Brothers came to Panama in 1904.

- In 1980, **Ireland** issued an excellent stamp of the Founder to commemorate the arrival of the Brothers in that country.

- The picture of Brother Miguel Febres Cordero appeared on a stamp issued in **Ecuador** on October 30, 1977.

- Subsequently, **Ecuador** honored one of its illustrious sons on October 21, 1984 on the occasion of the beatification of Brother Miguel of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. That was the third stamp dedicated to him. The first was printed in 1954 to commemorate his birthdate.

- In 1961, the **Philippines** honored the work of the Christian Brothers on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary and in 1986 there were three issues to commemorate the Diamond Anniversary of La Salle University of Manila. They represent the Founder and other canonized Christian Brothers.

- Just as in 1962 Belgium honored Brother Alexis Marie, so likewise in 1981 **Canada** presented a stamp to honor the eminent botanist Brother Marie Victorin.

- The **Democratic Republic of Madagascar**, in 1981, brought out a stamp to honor Brother Raphael Louis Rafir-

inga who, during the early years of the ministry of the Christian Brothers in that land, became a man very much revered for his holiness.

In this part of our presentation we will furnish more information on the stamps mentioned above. Unlike LASALLIANA 14-0-26, we cannot provide the Ivert cataloging for the simple reason that we do not have it at hand. We will use the Scott cataloging for those who are interested. We will follow a chronological order for the stamp issues, as far as possible, when the date is available.

- On August 15, 1964, **Nicaragua**, which has issued "the most beautiful group of Lasallian stamps", put into circulation an Air Mail stamp C 410-A80 which presents the most commonly used Lasallian heraldic emblem. It appeared previously on July 13, 1958 but this time it is identified as Cs 0.20. Scott has it cataloged as N° C539A-A81.

- The country with the second largest number of Lasallian stamps is the republic of **Ecuador**. For the beatification of Brother Miguel by Pope Paul VI it published a stamp on October 30, 1977.

It is allegorical and measures 12 x 12 1/2, cataloged as N° C608-AP153, worth \$2.60.

The previous issues of 1954 showed the sites and monuments which commemorate Brother Miguel. The stamp alluded to above, in allegorical style, shows the Piazza of Saint Peter in the Vatican over a background map of Latin America which highlights Ecuador and above these is the image of Brother Miguel. The general idea is to emphasize his importance in the Lasallian contribution to education on this continent. The inscription below reads: "An Academician on our Altars - Blessed Brother Miguel, 1854-1910". It was printed in the Instituto Geográfico Militar de Quito.

- On the feast of St. Joseph in 1980, **Ireland** issued a beautiful stamp of the Holy Founder on the occasion of the centenary of the arrival of the Brothers on that island.

Technically, it consists of a lithograph in several colors measuring 14 x 15. It is nicely done and bears the catalog number 477-A156. Oddly enough it is listed in the catalog as "Order of Salesians" (founded by St. John Baptist). The only printing on the stamp reads "Ord De La Salle in Eirin - 1880-1980". It is printed by "Irish Security Stamp P. L."

- **Bolivia**, to the best of our knowledge, on May 15th, issued the first stamp commemorating the Tricentenary of the foundation of the Institute. It is an allegorical drawing by A. Bel in several colors which represents the Founder with a map of the world to his right and the following words in the upper portion: "Worldwide Tricentenary of De La Salle 1680-1980". It was printed by La Papelera, S. A. and cataloged by Scott as N° 653-A234 with 13 1/2 x 14 perforations and valued at 9 bolivianos.

On May 15, 1981, three others Lasallian stamps appeared in as many countries.

- One of these comes from **Venezuela** by way of Ipostel which issued a vertical stamp excellently printed in silverish tones with the signature of the Founder in red and a black

inscription reading "Lasallian Tricentenary 1680-1980" in the upper part.

There is also a special, original and we believe unique postmark for first day circulation from Colegio La Salle-La Colina bearing the signature of the founder which is very similar to that on the stamp itself.

Printed by "Casa da Moeda do Brazil", it appears in Scott as N° 1244-A285, lithographed, with perforations of 11 1/2 x 11 with a value of 1.25 bolivianos.

- Another stamp issued on the same date comes from **Sri Lanka** and is worth 2.00 rupies. Horizontally oblong, with perforations of 12 1/2 x 12, predominantly blue in color and lithographed, it was printed in the Soviet Union and represents the Founder on the left, while on the right we find the star heraldic shield of the Institute with its garlands and motto: "Indivisa Manent". Beneath this is a scroll with "Lasallian Tercentenary 1680-1980". Catalog N° 603-A223.

- On that same 15th of May, 1981, **Panama** put on first-day sale a stamp which actually celebrates 75 years of Lasallian education in this small Republic. The real date for commemoration was 1979, but for various reasons, the issue appeared only in 1981. The art work is that of Alberto Conte, an alumnus and shows the Founder blessing the map of Panama. The nine stars represent each of the places in which the Brothers exercised their apostolate in the course of 75 years.

It is the second philatelic issue made in Panama on the Lasallian theme. The first appeared on September 24, 1951 and included two stamps which celebrated the Tricentenary of the birth of St. John-Baptist de La Salle.

It was printed in Colombia with a run of half a million stamps. The value of each was 17 C. Catalog N° 608-A195 with perforations of 12 x 12.

- Among the series on important national figures of **Canada** we find a stamp dedicated to Brother Marie Victorin (Conrado Kirouac) which was issued on July 22, 1981. He was born in Quebec in 1885 and died in an automobile accident on June 24, 1944. He is considered among the greatest botanists of Canada along with John Macoun to whom a stamp was also dedicated on the same day.

Almost square, lithographed in several colors with a value of 17 c it represents Brother Marie Victorin surrounded by flowers and his name appears at the bottom.

Perforations are 12 1/2 and the stamp bears catalog N° 894-A430 of Scott.

- **Madagascar**, where the Brothers have labored since 1866 issued a stamp on August 10, 1981 which was dedicated to Brother Raphael Louis Rafiringa. He was born in Tananarive on May 1, 1854 and died with a reputation for sanctity on May 19, 1919. It is a rather large stamp 5 x 3.5 with perforations of 12. The value is 30 Fr of this Democratic Republic. It is catalog N° 622-A195 and represents the traditional image of Brother Raphael against a red background.

- For the third time in the history of Lasallian Philately **Ecuador** steps forth on October 21, 1984. This time it presents an issue commemorating the canonization of Brother

Miguel, henceforth known as Brother Miguel Febres Cordero. Strangely enough, the stamp says "sanctification".

There are two stamps: one of 24 and another of 9 sucres, printed at the Instituto Geográfico Militar, one vertically oblong and the other horizontally oblong. The 9 sucres stamp shows a photograph of the Academia Ecuatoriana de la Lengua de 1892 against a silver background. Brother Miguel was a professor there. A much better image is found on the 14 sucres stamp in which, against an aerial view of the Vatican and the Piazza of St. Peter as a background, we see superimposed on the right upper corner the picture of Pope John Paul II and on the left lower corner, the photo of St. Brother Miguel.

A very limited edition which is also a collectible appeared as a Philatelic Sticker measuring 9 x 11 cm with a value of S/28. It has the family house of the Febres Cordero in the city of Cuenca in the bust of the father of Brother Miguel, while his mother appears at the lower right.

- In 1961 the **Philippines** issued two stamps to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers on the islands. Then on July 16, 1986, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of this same historic event, the government of the Philippines issued three stamps each showing one of three Lasallian saints against a background of the Brothers' schools of Nozedale and of Taft Avenue.

The first, against a red background, shows the sculptured group of the Founder and pupils in front of La Salle-Paco and La Salle-Taft. Its value is 60 s.

The second, against a yellow background, presents the image of St. Brother Benilde over the building of La Salle University. Value, 3 p.

The third, against a blue background, has the image of St. Brother Miguel Febres Cordero against the original school of Paco where the Brothers first began teaching on the islands. Value: 2.40 p.

All of these stamps are horizontally oblong, 3 x 4 cm and below have the inscription "De La Salle University. 1911 - Diamond Jubilee - 1986".

Besides these stamps, there was also published a triptych entitled: "Commemorative Stamps of the Diamond Jubilee" with the above-mentioned stamps in the center, flanked by a Philatelic Sticker to the right and left, together with a short explanation of the stamps and the Lasallian communities. The Philatelic Sticker is green and white (the colors of the University) and presents the nine founding Brothers of the Lasallian schools in the Philippines.

Also issued was a night view of the front of the University. This Philatelic Sheet is square, 7 1/2 x 7 1/2 at 7.20 p.

In 1988 (Ivert 1510) the **Philippines** reissued the same stamp of Saint Brother Miguel which appeared July 16, 1986 only this time the value changed from 2.40 to 1.90 p.

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