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The Engraver's Skill Creates Lines of Beauty

By MICHAEL BAADKE

So, who's prettier? Grace Kelly or Marilyn Monroe?

The point of my question is not to examine the beauty of these two famous actresses, but to point out the difference in the two recent U.S. stamps that portray them.

You can see both stamps in Figure 1. You may already know what difference I'm talking about.



Figure 1. The engraved image of Grace Kelly is shown at left on a 29¢ U.S. stamp. The image of Marilyn Monroe on the 32¢ stamp at right was printed by gravure.

The 29-cent stamp at the left featuring Grace Kelly was issued March 24, 1993. The 32-cent Marilyn Monroe stamp at the right was issued on June 1, 1995.

Both stamps feature attractive portraits of the actresses.

The image of Grace Kelly was engraved and then printed by the intaglio process. The image of Marilyn Monroe was painted and then printed by gravure.

Which stamp do you like better?

Although I think both stamps are nicely designed, I'll admit that I prefer stamps with line engraved images, so the Grace Kelly stamp gets my vote in this little contest.

Line engraving is part of a process that has been used to produce postage stamps ever since the first stamp, the Penny Black, was issued by Great Britain in 1840. The printing process that uses an engraved design is called "intaglio."

An engraver uses a sharp, finely pointed tool called a burin to cut into a special piece of steel plate that is called a "die."

There are two very remarkable features of engraved postage stamp art. One is that the engraver must create the image in precisely the same miniature size that it will appear on the postage stamp. And secondly, all elements of the design -- portraits, lettering and frames -- must be engraved as reversed or mirror images of how they will appear on the stamp.

Through a series of production processes, the engraved steel die is used to create a printing plate with recessed lines that are filled with ink and pressed onto stamp paper with great pressure. The resulting design shows depth and dimension that other printing processes lack.

Intaglio printing has long been the preferred printing process for security items such as stamps and currency, because the printing method creates a raised surface where the ink is printed on the paper. That raised surface can be felt with the fingertips, even on postage stamps, and that quality is very difficult to duplicate or counterfeit.

Each engraver works a little bit differently. Some use microscopes while working to more clearly see the detail of the engraving in process. Others prefer to use a hand-held magnifier to inspect their work.

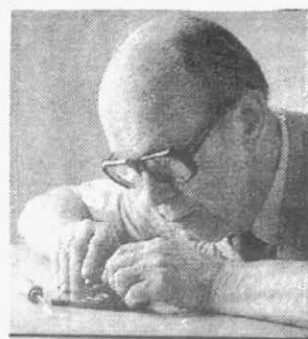


Figure 2. Renowned engraver Czeslaw Slania.

Some engravers also use a process called "etching," where lines deliberately scratched on a plate are deepened with a special bath of etching acid. Other engravers do not etch, but rather, create designs only with the point of the burin.

The engraver who created the image of Grace Kelly shown in figure 1 is Czeslaw Slania. He is shown in Figure 2, at work creating an engraved image.

Slania just turned 75 years old and has engraved more than 900 different designs, a world record. His goal is to reach 1,000 before he retires. He has engraved stamps for more than 25 nations, including Denmark, Iceland, Monaco, Sweden, United States and the United Nations. Slania is one of many who have practiced this extraordinary art form, but of them all, he is most renowned. Copyright Linn's Stamp News, Sidney, Ohio. Reprinted with permission.



Pope John Paul II in Philately

By: ARKADIUSZ WALINSKI



POPE JOHN PAUL II ISSUES IN 1995
(EXCEPT WORLD TRAVELS AND 75TH BIRTHDAY)

POLAND:

Lodz - January 22, 1995.



WYSTAWA
ZNAKOW
POCZTOWYCH
AUSTRALII
1002, 22-29.01.1995



Postage meter cancellation.

Philatelic Exhibition "Philately of Australia" January 22-29, 1995. Portrait of Pope John Paul II in miter and description about beatification of Mary MacKillop by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Sydney, Australia on January 19, 1995.

+ BEATYFIKACJA MARY MACKILLOP + / PRZEZ PAPIEZA JANA PAWLA II - SYDNEY - 19.01.1995 / WYSTAWA / ZNAKOW / POCZTOWYCH / AUSTRALII / LODZ, 22-29.01.1995 / LODZ 47 / 22.1.95 / *79* /

Postage meter in red.

ITALY:

Agnone - March 19, 1995

Commemorative postmark.

Pastoral visit to Agnone in the Region of Molise.

86081 AGNONE (IS) / VISITA DI S.S. GIOVANNI

PAOLO II / 19.3.1995 / AGNONE PAESE

DELLE CAMPANE



Visit to the foundry "Marinelli", where the Holy Father blessed a bell being casted which he will present to the United Nations on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

ITALY:

Castelpetroso - March 19, 1995

Commemorative postmark.

Pastoral visit to Castelpetroso in the Region of Molise.

86090 CASTELPETROSO (IS) / VISITA DI S.S.

GIOVANNI PAOLO II / 19.3.1995 / AL SANTUARIO

DELL'ADDOLORATA



Mass celebration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows.

VATICAN - First Day of Issue: March 25, 1995

EUROPE 1995 ISSUE DEVOTED TO THE THEME:
"PEACE AND FREEDOM"

Stamp 750 Lire - A shaft of light illuminating two hands, which support another pair of hands freed from a broken chain. Facsimile signature of the Holy Father.



Stamp 850 Lire - Two clasped hands; in the background is a stylized dove carrying an olive branch and a globe. Facsimile signature of the Holy Father.



ITALY:

Roma - April 14, 1995

Commemorative postmark. Participation of Pope John Paul II in the Way of the Cross on Good Friday, April 14, 1995 in the Roman Colosseum in Rome.
ROMA CENTRO CORR.ZE / VIA CRUCIS
AL COLOSSEO / 14.4.1995 / PARTECIPAZIONE
DI S.S. GIOVANNI PAOLO II.



ITALY:

Rome - April 16, 1995

Commemorative postmark used on Easter Sunday April 16, 1995. Easter - Message of Peace Toward the Holy Year 2000.

* ROMA PRATI * /
MESSAGGIO DI PACE - PASQUA /
16.4.1995 / VERSO L'ANNO SANTO DEL 2000 /



ITALY:

Trento - April 29, 1995

Commemorative postmark.

Pastoral visit to Trento in the Region of Trentino Alto-Adige. 450th anniversary of the Council of Trent.
29.4.1995 / TRENTO / 450. ANNIVERSARIO
CONCILIO TRIDENTINO / VISITA S.S. GIOVANNI
PAOLO II



POLAND:

Wieliczka - June 4, 1995

Commemorative postmark used in Wieliczka on June 4, 1995. Coronation of the icon of Holy Mother the Graceful, Princess of Wieliczka, with crowns presented by Pope John Paul II. KORONACJA PAPIESKIMI KORONAMI / MATKI BOZEJ LASKAWEJ-KSIEZNEJ WIELICZKI / WIELICZKA 1 / 04.06.1995 /



VATICAN - First Day of Issue: June 8, 1995

CENTENARY OF THE RADIO (1895-1995)

Set of 2 stamps.

Stamp 1,000 Lire

Pope John Paul II in the act of broadcasting a message over the microphone he is holding in his hand; on the left - Archangel Gabriel, Patron of the radio and telecommunications; on the right - the Marconi broadcasting station located in Vatican City.

Joint issue by Vatican, Germany, Ireland, Italy and San Marino.

Issued in sheetlets of ten stamps with decorative border inspired by the colors of the flags of the five countries participating in the joint issue.



VATICAN:

Vatican City - June 8, 1995

Commemorative First Day of Issue postmark.

** POSTE VATICANE ** /

DIE EMISSIONIS - 8 GIUGNO 1995 /



VATICAN - First Day of Issue: June 8, 1995

1995 EUROPEAN YEAR OF NATURE CONSERVATION.

Set of 8 stamps showing various views of Vatican Gardens and Castelgandolfo. A booklet has been also issued containing 12 stamps of above set. Special interest to collectors of Pope John Paul II is the front cover of the booklet with a display of an aerial view of the floral coat of arms of the Holy Father in the flower-bed in the Piazzale del Governatorato in Vatican City.

POLAND:

Szczecin - June 18, 1995

Commemorative postmark.

Unveiling of Pope John Paul II monument.

ODSLONIECIE / POMNIKA PAPIEZA /
JANA PAWLA II / SZCZECIN 1 18.06.1995



VENEZUELA: First Day of Issue: June 26, 1995

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Sheetlet of ten stamps. Right stamp located in center of the sheetlet contains tab with quotation from Pope John Paul II homily.

Sheetlet exists with left border in imperforated form.



VENEZUELA: First Day of Issue: July 2, 1995

BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED MARIA OF ST. JOSEPH (MADRE MARIA DE SAN JOSE) BY POPE JOHN PAUL II ON MAY 7, 1995 IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE.

Set of 10 stamps issued in a sheetlet.

2 stamps 35Bs (from upper portion of sheetlet) depict Mother Maria of St. Joseph and Pope John Paul II with a Venezuelan flag in the background of the two stamps.

Sheetlet exist with left border in imperforated form.

Also the whole sheetlet exist in imperforated form.

VENEZUELA;

Caracas - July 2, 1995

Commemorative first day of issue postmark.

Beatification of Mother Maria of St. Joseph by Pope John Paul II on May 7, 1995.



BEATIFICATION / Madre / Maria de / San Jose / IPOSTEL / CARACAS 1010 / OFICINA FILATELICA NACIONAL / DIA DE CIRCULACION: 2-7-95

Caracas - July 2, 1995

Same postmark as above, except second line from bottom reads:

SEDE: S.I. CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA



ITALY:

Introd - July 12, 1995

Commemorative postmark

11010 INTROD (AO) / 12.7.1995 / HOMAGE A PAPE WOJTYLA / OMAGGIO A PAPA WOJTYLA

Pope John Paul II on summer holiday in the Italian Alps - Les Combes (municipality of Introd) in the Region of Valle d'Aosta.

"Homage to Papa Wojtyla" - text in French and Italian.



VATICAN:

September 9-10, 1995

Commemorative postmark marking the seventh centenary of the Shrine of the Holy House in Loreto and the meeting of European young people at Loreto.



*POSTE VATICANE * / IUVENVM EUROPAE
CONVENTUS / LAURETANUS VII OCCURRENTI /
TEMPLI SAECULO /
IX-X SEPT MCMXCV
Pope John Paul II in prayer.

ITALY:

Loreto - September 9, 1995

Postmark commemorating visit of Pope John Paul II and the Pilgrimage of European Youth to Loreto.

* 60025 LORETO (AN) * / 9.9.1995 /
VISITA DI S.S. GIOVANNI PAOLO II /
PELLEGRINAGGIO DEI GIOVANI D'EUROPA /



Pope John Paul II, statue of Our Lady and the Holy House of Loreto.

VATICAN: First Day of Issue:

November 20, 1995

The Travels of His Holiness John Paul II

Stamp 1000 Lire -

Trip to Croatia on September 10-11, 1994. Pope John Paul II greeting the faithful; on the right Zagreb's Cathedral; in the middle the statue of the Blessed Lady located in the Cathedral square; in the background the colors of the Croatian flag (coat of arms).



Stamp 2000 Lire -

Pastoral visits in Italy 1989-1994; Pope John Paul II; on top the "Lanterna" (Lighthouse) in Genoa; in the middle the facade of Orvieto's Cathedral; on the right view of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento; in the background the colors of the Italian flag.



VATICAN:

First Day of Issue postmark.
November 20, 1995

DIE EMISSIONIS / * POSTE VATICANE
20 NOV. 1995 *



ITALY:

Palermo - November 23, 1995

Postmark commemorating the visit to Palermo
and the III Italian Episcopal Conference.

* PALERMO C.P. / VISITA DI S.S. GIOVANNI
PAOLO II / 23.11.1995 / III CONVEGNO
ECCLESIALE /



GRENADA: First Day of Issue:
December 13, 1995

Visit of Pope John Paul II
to New York

Stamp \$1

Pope John Paul II. In background
St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.



Stamp \$1

Pope John Paul II. In background
fragment of Statue of Liberty.

Both stamps issued in sheets measuring
8 7/16" x 6 3/8". Each contains 9 stamps
with Pope John Paul II in liturgical
vestments on the right side of the sheet.



GRENADA: First Day of Issue:
December 13, 1995

Souvenir sheet \$6

Pope John Paul II in liturgical vestments;
in background view of New York City.



GRENADA: First Day of Issue:
December 13, 1995

Souvenir sheet \$30

Printed on gold foil

Various portraits of Pope
John Paul II.

In background - New York City,
Statue of Liberty and Saint
Peter's Basilica in Rome.



THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY:

First Day of Issue: December 18, 1995

Set of five stamps issued for Christmas 1995.

100 FILS Stamp - PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat
with Pope John Paul II in Vatican.



Other four stamps depicts views of Bethlehem
and the Nativity Basilica.

ITALY:

Rome - December 25, 1995

Commemorative postmark.

17th Anniversary of the Pontificate of Pope John
Paul II. "Toward the Holy Year 2000"

* ROMA PRATI * XVII ANNIV. PONTIFICATO
S.S. GIOVANNI PAOLO II / 25-12-1995 /
VERSO L'ANNO SANTO DEL 2000



TID BITS

BURKIEWICZ WINS \$408.00.

Noted dealer Roman Burkiewicz has come by a piece of paper that is probably more valuable than any postage stamp he has ever handled as a stamp dealer. He picked up a check for \$408.00 for winning the Colorado lotto on August 24th. He operates under the name of R.G.B. Mail Sales from Frisco, Colorado.

A.P.S. RECEIVES GIFT OF \$25,000.

The American Philatelic Society recently received \$25,000 from the estate of Arthur Lewandowski. A member of A.P.S. since 1937, he was a specialist dealer and an outstanding student of airmail stationery and the postal history of World War II.

LITHPEX '96.

The Lithuanian Philatelic Society's Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition was held October 25-27 at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 South Pulaski Road in Chicago. It was an ideal set-up: the exhibition as held on the third floor; the banquet (featuring Lithuanian food) was on the second floor; and the museum occupies the first floor. Chester Schafer participated with an exhibit of Lithuanian town cancellations on the German "Postgebeit Ob Ost" overprints which won a bronze award. James Mazepa served on the judging committee.

NEXT F.I.P. APPROVED SHOWS.

From Adam Berestynski of California we learned that the next international exhibitions under F.I.P. patronage will take place in Oslo, Norway, April 21, 1997, known as NORWEX '97. PACIFIC '97 will follow in San Francisco on May 29, 1997.

POLPEX '97

The dates for our next exhibition are March 14-15-16 at the White Eagle. Our theme is the 1000th anniversary of the birth of St. Adalbert.

ANGELS, CHRIST, CHRISTMAS, CHURCHES & CATHEDRALS EASTER, MADONNAS, POPE, SAINTS -

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CZESLAW SLANIA, POLONICA, WORLD WAR II

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- CANADA & VATICAN -

Do you know that the U.S. Postal Service has issued 40 cancellations honoring Pope John Paul II?

- Approval System -

Your want lists welcomed — any topic.

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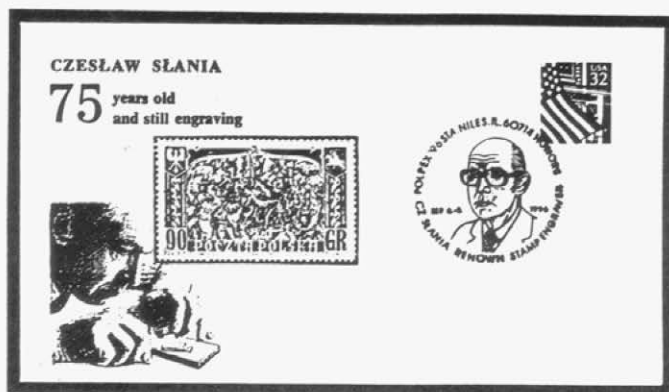
Petition Drive for Matt Urban Stamp

A drive has begun to petition the United States Postal Service to create a stamp to commemorate the late Lt. Col. Matt Urban, one of the country's most highly-decorated combat soldiers. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Urban was the recipient of twenty-nine decorations, including seven Purple Hearts, the French Croix de Guerre for valor, and the Legion of Merit.

Lt. Col. Urban died in 1995 and was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Over four thousand signatures are still needed before the Post Office will consider the petition.

For information about circulating a petition or calling Congressional representatives, please contact John Merten of the Toms River Polish American Club at (908) 286-2306 or Francis X. Gates of the Polish Singers Alliance at (718) 852-6812.



Mini-Polpex '96 Cover with above cancellation - \$1.50

Postpaid

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 458 - Berwyn, Illinois 60402-2944

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Annual Dues which include a subscription to the Bulletin are \$16.00 (U.S. currency only) and should be sent to Polonus Treasurer, Stefan Czarniecki, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. Membership Dues are payable by December 31st, for the next calendar year. New members will receive all the 'Bulletins' for the year in which they join. Changes of address, problems with receiving the Bulletin, should be addressed to: Polonus Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 458, Berwyn, IL 60402. General matters pertaining to the Society, contribution of articles for the Bulletin, complaints or other matters should be directed to the President.