

The Salvatorian

Seals

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Many collectors of seals are interested in the output of the various religious societies. These are a class of stamps that do not come under the heading of charity, hospital or relief seals but are issued for the benefit of some particular institution which has to depend largely on the support of its friends and contributors for its funds. These include such seals as the St. Anthony Guild at Patterson, New Jersey, Maryknoll stamps that come from New York state, the Holy Childhood issues from Pittsburgh,, Pennsylvania the Divine Word Society and many others and particularly the Salvatorian seals. These are issued by the Salvatorian Seminary located at St. Nazianz, Wisconsin. It is a home opened to boys and young men and particularly those who aim to become a priest in the great Catholic organization. It is a preparatory seminary and does a wonderful work along this line.

They have been issuing seals in support of this work since 1925. Not a great deal has been written about them. F. J. Strathman of Pocahontas, Iowa who has long been a collector of this class of seals, sends me what he says is a complete collection. They include the early seals which appeared in two colors. The various later issues, most of which are familiar to collectors of seals. They include a series of seals that many have classed as commercial seals as they bear no mark or indication of the society putting them out. Some of the seals for later years cover various phases of life. There are birthday seals, wedding anniversary seals, religious quotations, a set for Easter, another set for Father's day and Mother's day. Still another in beautiful colors for Biblical scenes. In

late years some of the issues were die cut in gold and silver design made to put on Christmas packages with various inscriptions such as: "To My Mother," "My Father," "My Sister," "To My Relative," "For My Sweetheart" and others. They existed in proofs. Color proofs, blocks and various combinations. According to Mr. Strathman's collection the first of these appeared in 1925. They were put up in booklets of ten to a page. Each page with four pages to a book and in each page is a different color. Some of these designs were in two colors with a dark center and a various colored border and were inscribed for the benefit of the Salvatorian Seminary. They show a child with extended arms with Merry Christmas inscription at the top. The 1926 seals are similar in appearance, but the center is changed and shows an older child standing with right arm holding a branch of holly with a cross in the background. This issue is also said to be rather scarce. It is in solid colors. Booklet panes of ten to a sheet comes in green, orange, purple and blue. The 1927 seals were the same design except that the center showing the child is not a solid color, blue, black or red while the borders are light green. The 1928 are about the same design as the 1925 seals except the colors are different, the borders being one color and the child in the center another. There is quite a variety of color in these. Mr. Strathman's book lists three types of this issue. The 1929 seal is the one most commonly seen. They come in booklet panes with a black center and a red border. There are five different pictures in each center, one shows the Holy Birth, another the Madonna and Child, another the Madonna and child standing and another the child alone with the cross in the

background. These are listed as type I. Type II of the same year are the same designs except the borders are dark green. The stamps are evidently printed in large sheets perforated vertically and then cut so as to leave straight edges at top and bottom for the booklets. His collection plates a large number of these varieties. The 1930 seals were printed from new dies with the same designs. Two colors were used. Those with the solid red centers have green borders and those with the green borders have red centers.

The Salvatorian seals of 1931 did not show any mark to designate what they were or where they were from. One set was a small gilt seal, ten to a booklet page, each one containing a Christmas scene and the greeting, "Merry Christmas" or "Christmas Greetings." A similar pane was issued in gilt with blue print, the same design as the gold seals. In addition to this another small sheet was issued for this year in multi-color designs with no inscription except the Christmas greeting. They carry views of holly, a ship, the Christmas star, lighted candle, a house in the moonlight, an open gate, a child kneeling, a child, mother and a lighted church. A similar set for the same year was issued in the larger multi-colored seals and carried the same designs as the small seal. In 1932 the small seals were used, appearing in gilt with blue print, a gold in black print and a gold in blue print. These were ten to a page without any designation as to what they were, with the wording "Merry Christmas" and each one a different view. A set of multi-colored small seals were also issued for 1932. The designs on these showed mother and child and the Holy parents at Christmas, church bells ringing, the three wise men, a burning candle, a ship at sea, the lantern, the mother and child, Christmas visitors and a small window. The proofs for these issues can be distinguished as they are perforated top and bottom and not through the middle of the strip and are wider spaced than the regular seals.

In 1933 there was a departure from the kind of seals that had been issued by this Seminary in the past. One booklet contained seals marked, "Easter Greetings." These were the usual ten to a page with two designs picturing the Ascension. They are in gilt and various colors. Another series in multi-color contains two types of seals marked "Easter Peace to You" and another, "Rejoice, He Is Risen." A third set was dedicated to the popular Mother's day and Father's day ideas. The Mother's day seal showed pictures of the Virgin and child and the Father's day pictures of St. Joseph. These are on a gilt background and multicolored. Another page carries inscriptions "God Bless My Mother" and "God Bless You Dad." The all year seals for 1933 contained St. Anthony with alternate inscriptions of St. Anthony Guide and another S.A.G. These are in gilt and multi-color. Another set of same design is issued without the gilt background. There is also a set of imperforates in all these designs, also color proofs, showing the red and yellow coloring before the gilt was placed on them. A set of small seals similar to those used in 1931 were also put out in 1933 but the gold set was on yellow gilt paper, the silver set was perforated 12 instead of 12½ in the first issue. There were some minor details in the color pictorial seals of this set. They also come in color proofs and various multi-color. In 1934 an all new design was used. They are all embossed gilt paper and each seal is die cut so that they can be taken out and used for placing on Christmas packages. One set carry the usual Christmas greetings. A silver set printed in blue carry similar inscriptions. There is also

a set of highly multi-colored seals with various religious designs on white paper of which there appears to be several printings and designs with different color backgrounds. These are also die cut to the edges of the design so that they can be pulled apart and used for correspondence. A further set of the gold and silver designs the gold being printed in black and the silver in blue. "To My Sister," "To My Father," "To My Relative," "To a Friend," "To My Daughter," about twelve different inscriptions to a page which are die cut. In 1935 the embossed idea was continued in a number of new designs. Bright silver paper with blue print with the various inscriptions for Merry Christmas and Happy New Year make most attractive seals. A similar set appeared with the inscriptions to mother, sister, father and so forth. A set appeared in silver with red print and another with green print. Another unusual appearing seal is the embossed silver in white ink with the various Christmas inscriptions. Another sheet carries three large embossed designs to a set, inscribed "Merry Christmas," "Joyous Greetings" and so forth. A set of gilt, embossed initials were also issued in this year.

The seals for 1933, 1934, 1935 were evidently issued to all phases of the trade where there would be a demand for seals. None of them carry the wording of the Salvatorian Seminary or any date and unless found in collections are rather hard to identify as to just what they are. Altogether they make a most attractive collection of seals, particularly for those who are interested in the religious issues.