

THE PRAYER “AVE MARIA”

Sung in the sardinian language

Popular devotion to the Madonna is popular all over the world, but the people of Sardinia celebrate it in a special way. In fact, thanks to an ingenious intuition, a song was born in 1600 in the language most familiar to all social classes; “Deus ti salvet Maria” is the original title. The collection opens by describing how this prayer-song came into being and how it became popular in Sardinia. The second chapter describes the text of the Sardinian song translated into English, with its connections to episodes of faith.

The textual words are in cursive and framed, while the commentary and linking texts are in normal font.

Testo originale in sardo

Deus Deus ti salvet Maria,
chi chi ses de grazia piena,
de grazia ses sa ivena ei sa
currente... ei sa currente.
Su, su Deus onnipotente
cun, cun tegus est istadu,
pro chi t'ha preservadu im-
maculata. Bene, beneitta e
laudada, supra, supra e
tottu gloriosa, mama fizza e
isposa de su Signore. Bene,
beneittu su fiore chi, chi est
fruttu e su sinu Gesu' fiore
divinu Signore nostru.
Pregade pregade lu a fizza
ostru chi tottu sos errores a
nois sos peccadores a nos
perdonet. Meda meda
grazia a nos donet in vida e
in sa morte e in sa dicioza
sorte in paradisu.



Luxembourg 1946 - 'Rebirth' souvenir sheet in b/w imperforate.

The text of the song translated into English with reference to the pages of the exhibition illustrating it

God save you Mary, who are abundant in grace (p. 8), You who are the spring and the current of grace (p. 8-9). Almighty God has visited you and preserved you immaculate (pages 10-11) . Blessed were you, and above all glorious, (pg. 11-12) mother, daughter and bride of my God (pg. 12-13). Blessed be the flower and fruit of thy breast, Jesus the divine flower and our God our Lord (p. 14). Pray to your Son for us sinners that he may forgive us all our errors. Grant us many graces in life and death and a wonderful destiny in Paradise (p. 15-16).

Exhibition Plan

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1. The history

1.1 The sung Ave Maria

The Jesuit father (order of **Pope Francis**) Innocenzo Innocenti, born in **Todi** in 1624 had the idea of composing a sung prayer to the Virgin Mary. Contemporary with him was Father Segneri, who collaborated on the drafting.



The Jesuits' idea was to promote the Christian religion through sung prayers, **even by a choir**, which stuck in the mind more easily.



In the Jesuit **manuscripts**, there was a great consideration for the **Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus**, and they decided to teach the cult to the Sardinian people.



Brasile - Telegram form pre-franked.



The Sardinian population at that time was dedicated to **sheep farming**, particularly in the interior areas of the island.



Original design by Corrado Mezzana of the 'Italia al lavoro' 50 lire stamp; series issued in 1950 dedicated to Sardinia.

1. The history

1.1 The sung Ave Maria

In the fertile flatlands, particularly in the Campidano area, Sardinians peoples were dedicated to agricultural work.



Letter sent on 17 August 1933 from Lido di Camaiore to Florence in internal tariff. It was franked with 10 stamps of 5 cents as the post office was probably missing the 50 lire stamp.

That is why they only spoke Sardinian and did not know Spanish, which was the official language. In effect, in those years Sardinia was under the domination of Spain.



Vatican 1991-Postcard of 650 Lire

1. The history

1.2 Song in Sardinia

In Spain, they used to sing praises to the Virgin Mary, the so-called 'gosos'. In the church archives of the **town of Torralba**, an early version of the Ave Maria sung in Spanish dating back to 1600 has been found, and is the evidence that the Jesuits thought to introduce the sung prayer also in Sardinia.



Letter sent from Torralba to Sassari on 23 November 1889 in the 20 cent interior rate. It was stamped with the large circle stamp used as a date stamp. The Torralba dot numeral cancellation (2303) is used to cancel stamps.

It is believed that it was Bonaventura Licheri of Neoneli who came up with the idea to make this song understandable to the people of Sardinia.

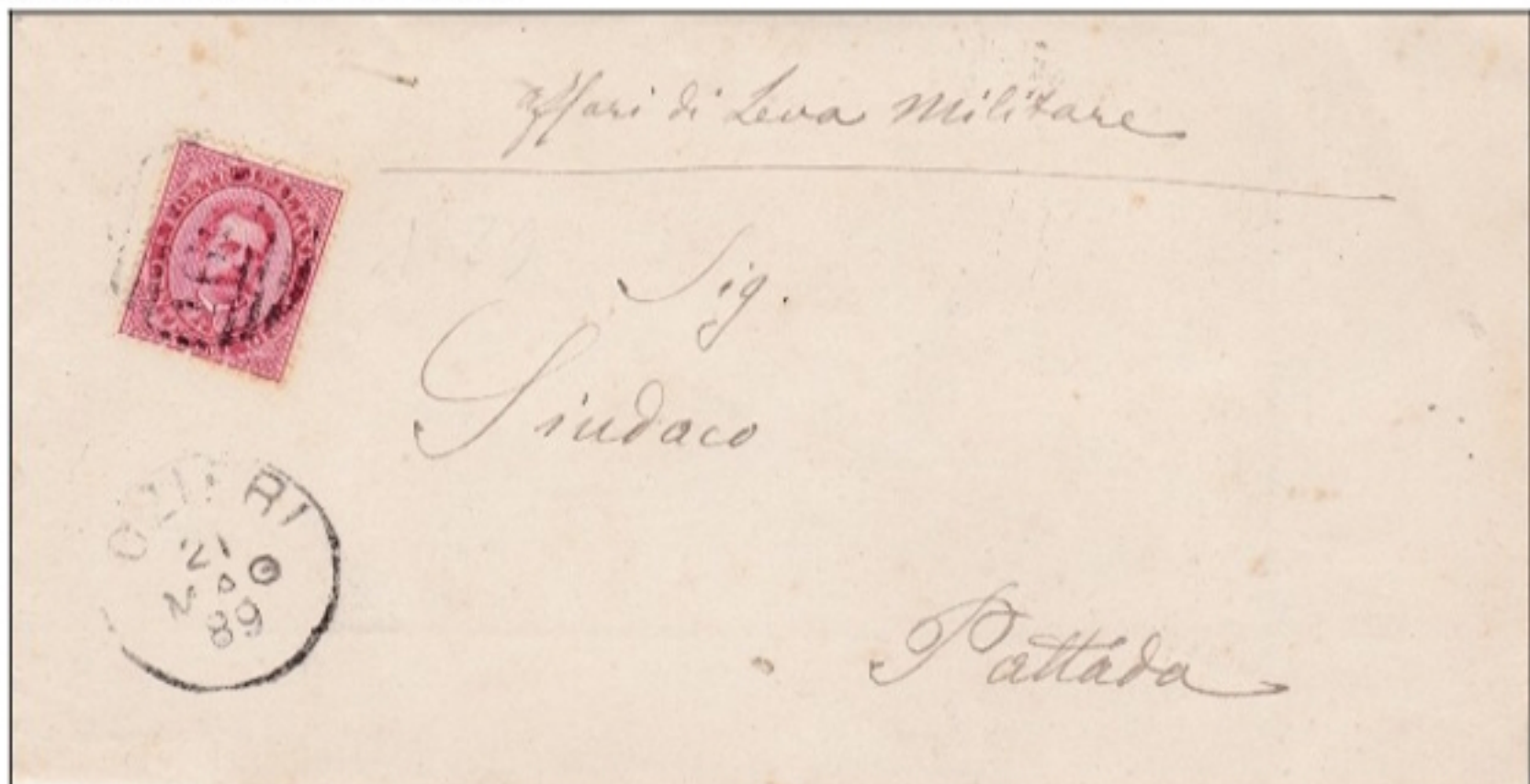


Confirming that praise to the Virgin Mary was expanding throughout Sardinia, in San Vero Milis there is news of a song dedicated to the **Virgin of the Rosary**.



The language used in the song is Logudorese, one of the two most widespread variants of Sardinian, which had its main centre in the **city of Ozieri**.

Letter sent from Ozieri to Pattada on 21 May 1889 in reduced rate between public authorities of 10 cents. The stamp has been cancelled with the dot numeral cancellation stamp 1629 used at the Ozieri office and the large circle stamp has been used as a date postmark.



1. The history

1.2 Song in Sardinia



The light of God's word also arrives in Sardinia with the singing of the Ave Maria, in solemn church services with the ancient customs of the island, in which Sardinians pray to the Virgin Mary.

Monaco 1968 - saggio di colore bordo di foglio con data di emissione.



Registered 'open' letter at reduced rate sent from Monza to Vimercate on 1.10.1955 in which 25 lire is the letter rate and 35 lire the reduced recommendation fee.



And they entrust themselves to her who obtains so many graces because she is the mother of Jesus.



1. The history

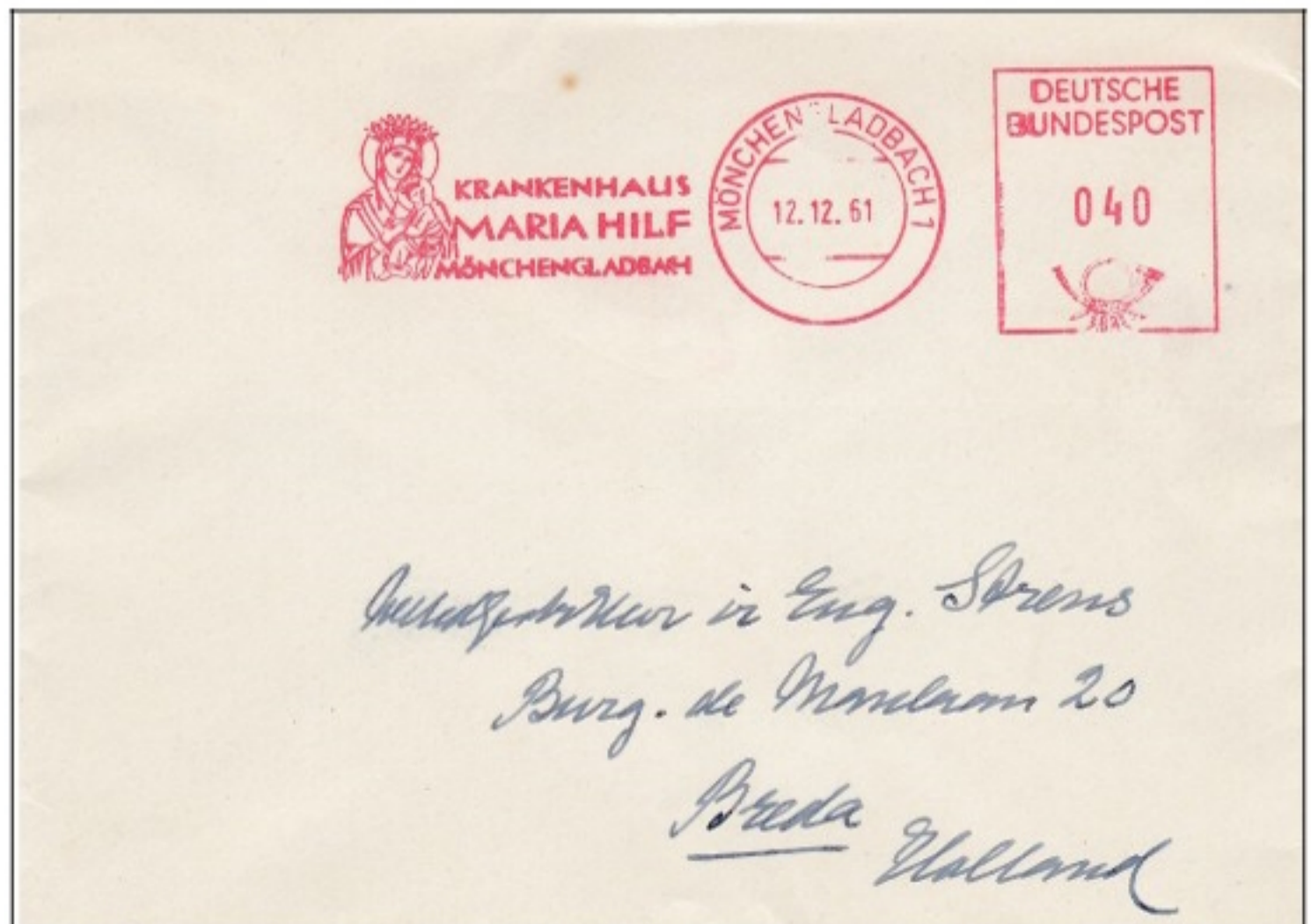
1.2 Song in Sardinia

In 1974, the Ave Maria in the Sardinian language, through the merit of **Maria Carta**, a singer from **Siligo**, a village of 813 inhabitants near Sassari, crossed the borders of the island and reached the limelight on **Italian national television** in the programme 'Canzonissima'.



Trieste zone 'B' 1954 - Postcard in city postage rate.

Sardinia remains the land where this prayer sung to the **Virgin Mary** is most often performed, particularly during religious solemnities.



Germany 1961 - Francotyp automatic franking from Moenchgladbach

2. The song

2.1 God and the Virgin Mary

The song opens with a request to **God** to save Our Lady, in the same words as the prayer in Spanish.



God save you Mary

Who are abundant in grace.



Re presentation of God in Michelangelo's Last Judgement.

The Virgin Mary is described as **full of God's grace** and the faithful recognise this virtue.

Specimen

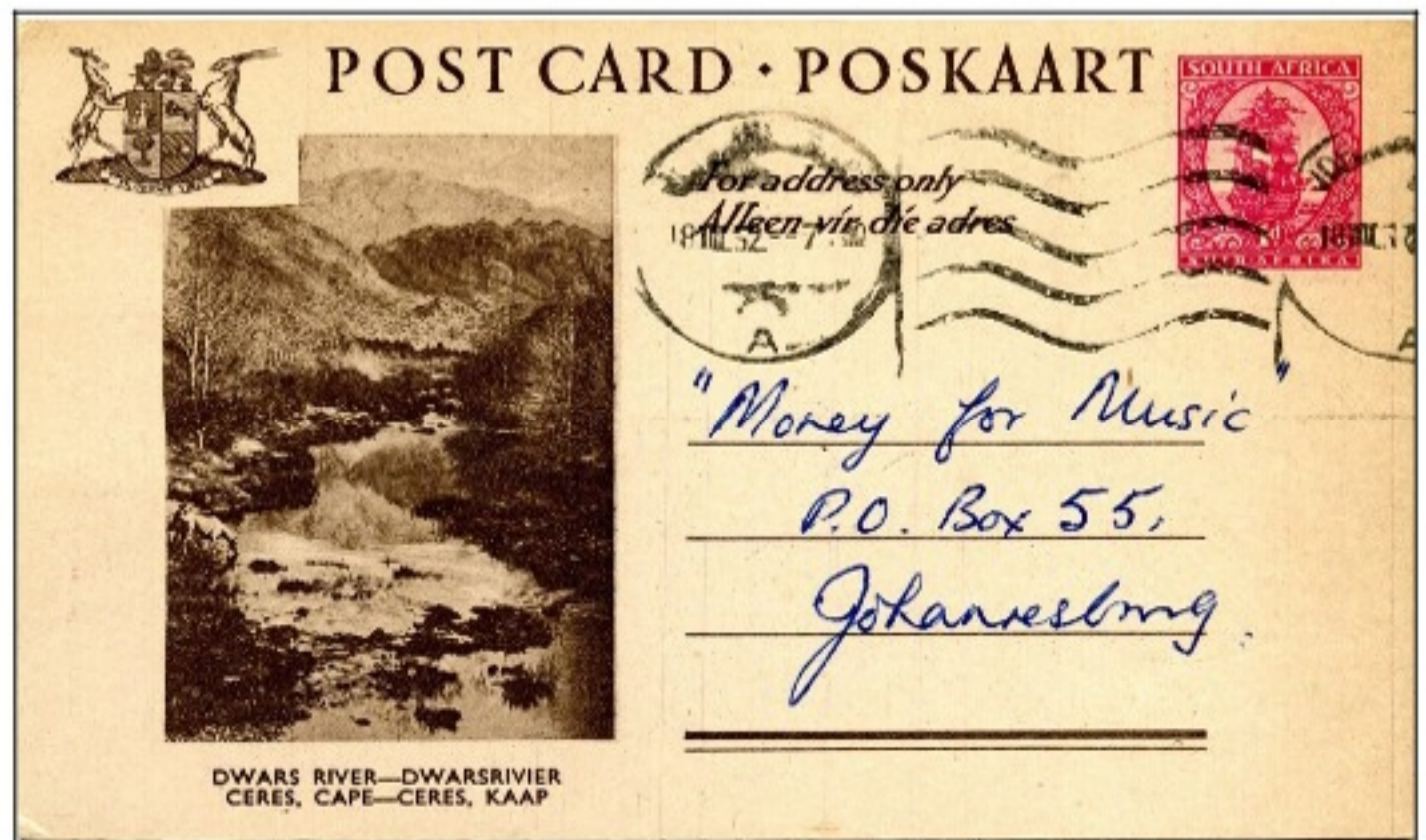


Cancellation with image of the Virgin Mary, referred to by the faithful as 'of the Graces'.

Cancellation of a town named for devotion after Mary full of Grace (Santa Maria delle Grazie)

You who are **the spring** and current of graces

The current is that of a **river** carrying grace throughout the world.



South Africa 1952 - Inland postcard depicting a spring



Germany Reich 1930 - telegram form depicting a river

2. The song

2.1 God and the Virgin Mary

Almighty God has visited you

Recalls the moment when the Archangel Gabriel visited the **Virgin Mary's** house.



Princes of Monaco 1955 - artist's proof signed by engraver Busiere.



A M initials of Ave Maria

The Angel greeted her with the Latin words 'Ave Maria'.

Privileged franking from the Zevio (Vr) curatorate sent on 23 August 1861.

2. The song

2.1 God and the Virgin Mary



And he preserved you Immaculately.

The catechism of the Immaculate Conception was recognised by **Pope Pius IX** in 1854, and **confirmed by Our Lady's apparitions in the cave of Lourdes four years later.**

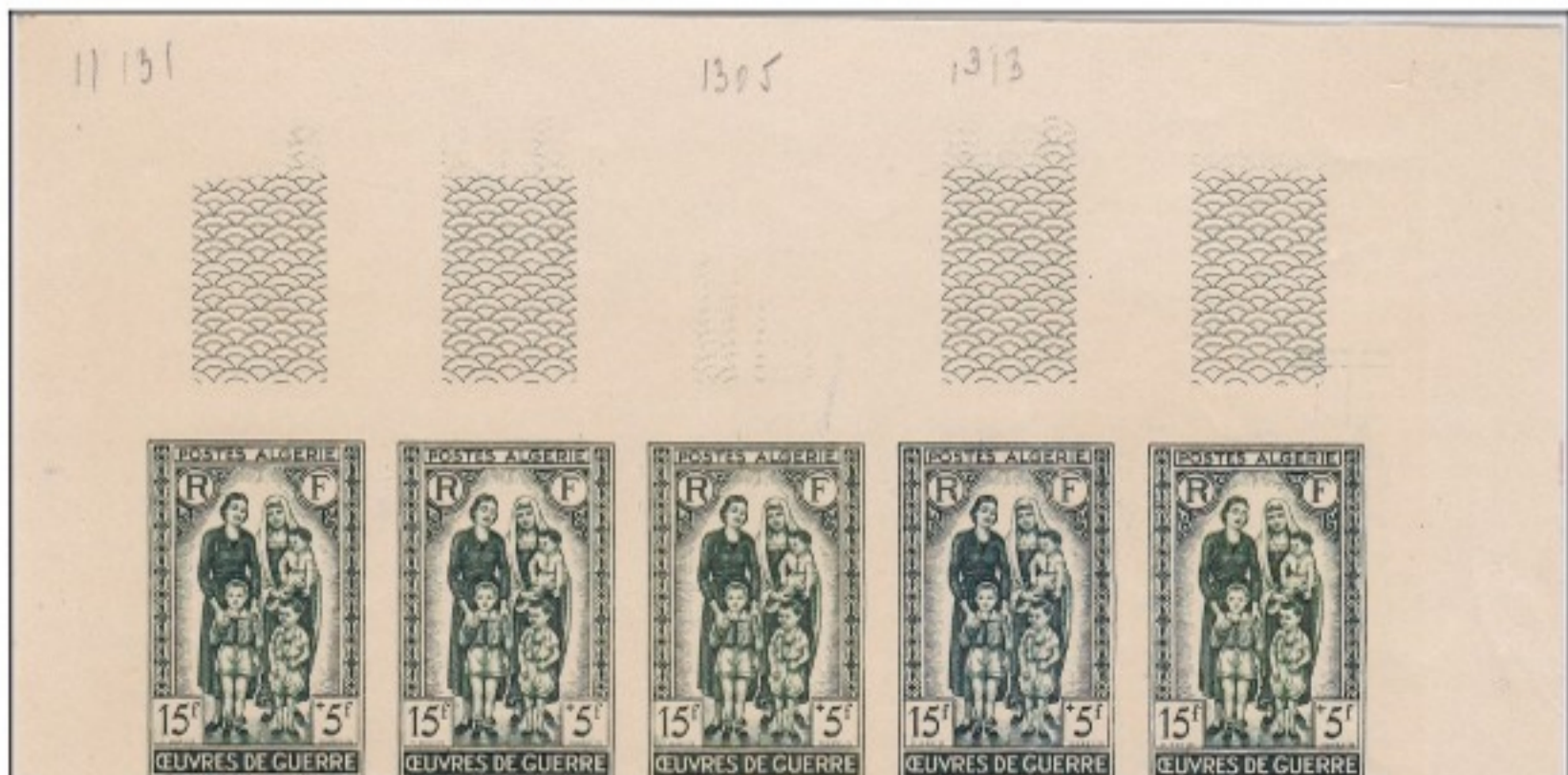


Monaco 1958 - old type artist's proof without engraver's signature used before Imprimerie checks.

Blessed have you been.



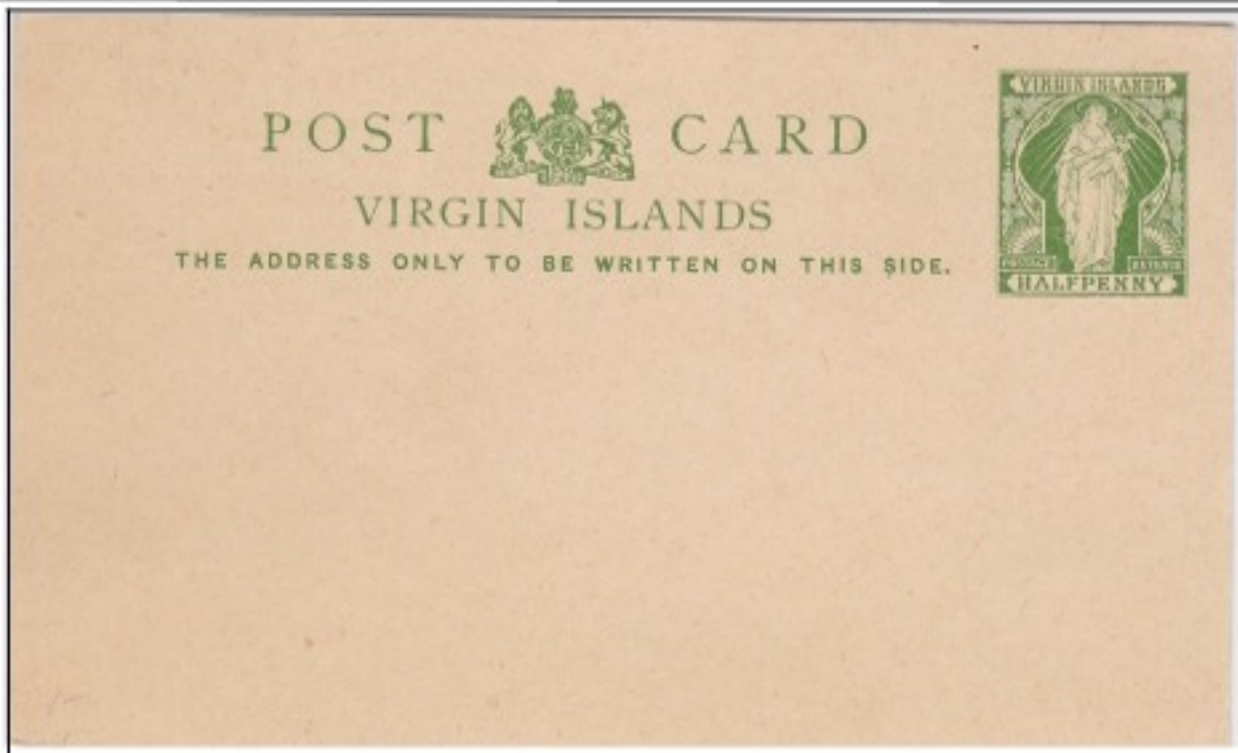
So God has spoken well of the **Virgin Mary** with respect to **all women**, both the saints of the Catholic Church and the mothers of families.



Algeria 1955 - colour proof in horizontal strip of 5 with surcharge for war victims

2. The song

2.2 The Virtues of the Virgin Mary



And above all glorious

The Virgin Mary radiates a light that brings her to everyone's attention as an example.

British Virgin Islands - postcard of halfpenny

Mama Of the God,

in that the Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus on Christmas night, in the cave of Bethlehem, in utmost poverty.



Monaco 1968 - colour essays



Palestinian cancellation celebrating the bi-millennium of the nativity



The scene of Jesus being born is illuminated by a very strong light, indicating that He will be the light that will illuminate the world from now on.

2. The song

2.2 The Virtues of the Virgin Mary



Daughter of the God

This definition occurs because at the same time as being a mother, she is also a **daughter of Jesus** in that she receives his teachings.

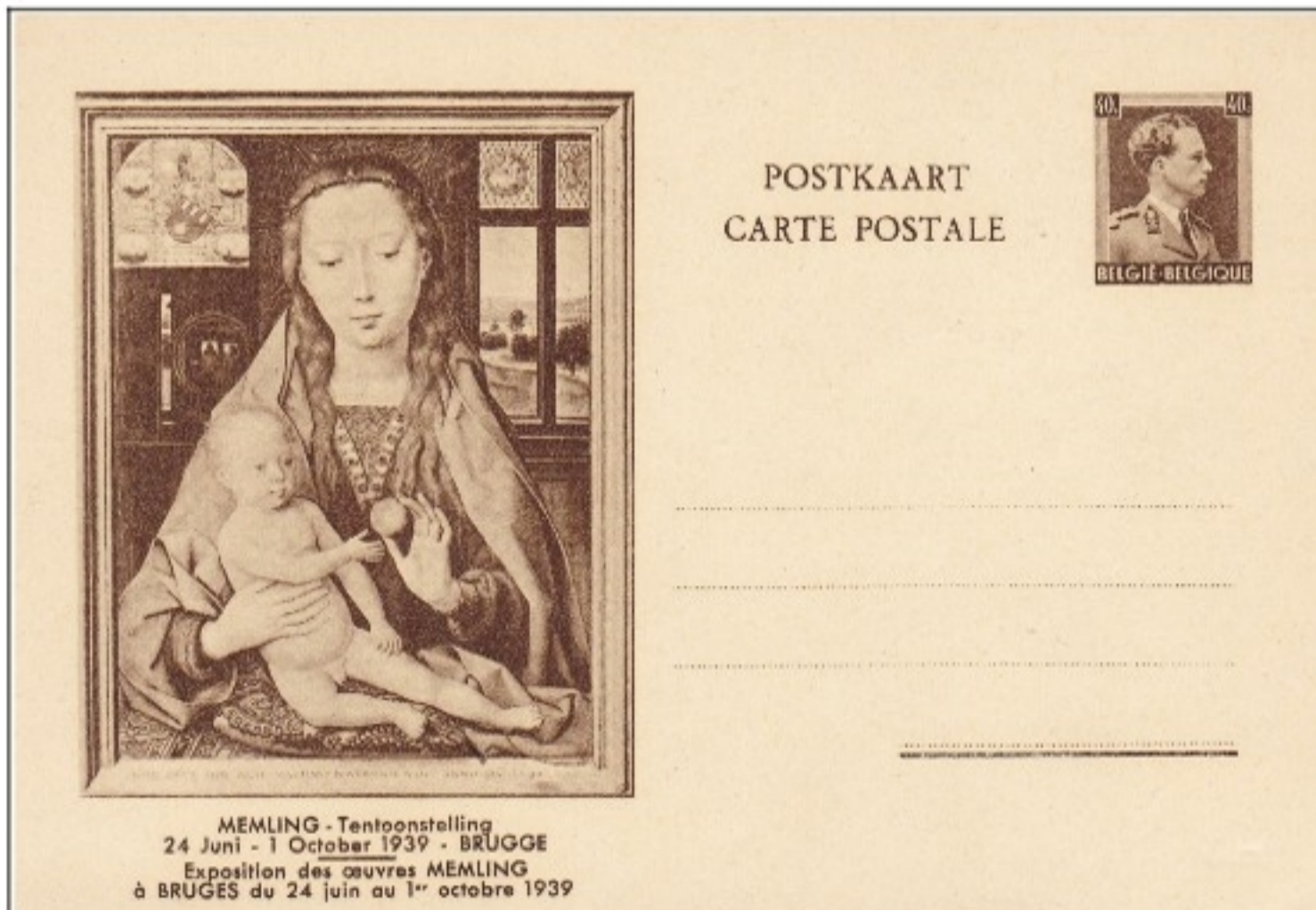


Bride Of the God.

The song presents us with an unusual definition of the Virgin Mary, seeing her as the **bride of her son Jesus**, whom she tenderly holds in her hand.



Liechtenstein 1946 proof of the colour blue



Belgium 1939 - 40 cent. postcard

In fact, the **Virgin Mary** was faithful to her son like a husband to his wife from birth (which corresponds to the wedding day) to death, remaining **under the Cross**.



Heavily shifted printing

2. The song

2.3 Mother of Jesus

Blessed be the
flower

The prayer con-
tinues with de-
dication to a
**particular flo-
wer.**

Germany Reich 1938
Inland postcard



Tunisia 1956 - Coppia di prove di colore

And the fruit of thy womb, Jesus di-
vine flower our God.

This flower is **the fruit of Virgin Mary
his son Jesus.**



He first revealed him-
self to the **shepherds**
and then to the
Three Kings came
from the East to
worship him.



Campione d'Italia 1948. Express registered letter by air with autonomous issue in Swiss Francs following an agreement between the Italian legation and the Swiss Post Office for direct mail to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Pray to your son...

The singing continues, and the people turn to Mary to pray to Jesus.



Belgium 1954 - postcard 'publibel' no. 1287

For us sinners, may he forgive us all our errors.

Christ has delivered men from hell by his death and resurrection. Only in this way can he forgive all sinners of their errors.



Many graces you give us

The Virgin Mary tenderly embraces her son and thus embraces the faithful by giving so much good.



In this concluding page we find the last words of the song praising **Mary** as the **mother of Jesus**.



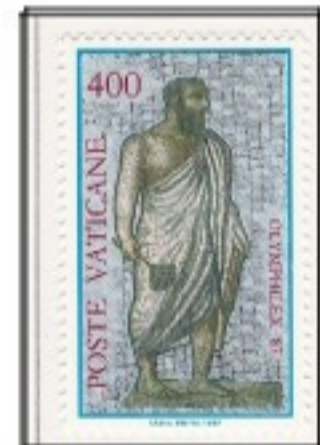
Greece 1941 - Free franking postcard for the armed forces

In the life

From infancy
to youth to
old age.



Perfin "annullato"



And in death

The moment of death .



Specimen imperforate and in changed colour.



and a wonderful destiny in Paradise.