



THE ROOM OF THE *BUSSOLANTI* OR ATTACHÉS OF THE ANTECHAMBER

This room retains the name linked to the old terminology of the Papal Household. The *Bussolanti*, later renamed the Attachés of the Antechamber, were the attendants of the Pope's antechamber.

This was the last of the rooms making up the 17th Century apartment and was once fitted with a door, now hidden by the wallpaper, leading into a tiny oratory inside the Pauline Chapel.

Here too the original decoration displayed the Pope's coat of arms in the centre of the vaulted ceiling and on the frieze on the walls, which was substantially modified in the 1800s with the insertion of eight landscapes which are the backdrop for scenes from the life of St Benedict.

Among the works of art hanging on the walls, particular note should be taken of the 17th Century picture by Giovan Battista Gaulli, a preparatory sketch for the fresco in the Jesuit Library in Rome. There is also a *tondo* featuring a copy of Raphael's famous *Madonna della Seggiola*, produced in the Vatican School of Mosaics in 1929. Set on the frame are the initials of Pope Pius XI, who presented the piece to King Victor Emmanuel III in December 1929, during the royal family's first visit to the Vatican after the signing of the Lateran Pacts had ratified the accords between Church and State.