Europa 2011 is well underway. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests. In this issue, we present many of the Europa stamp images — already issued and proposed — that are being produced for this initiative. In order to present as much information as possible, the illustrations are not always to scale.

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011**

**AZERBAIJAN**
Issue Date 8 April
Two values and a souvenir sheet

**FRENCH ANDORRA**
Issue Date 9 May
The stamp is to be produced using a special paper that has the feel of wood.

**SPANISH ANDORRA**
Issue Date 4 April
One value

**GERMANY**
Issue Date 5 May
1 value

**CZECH REPUBLIC**
Issue Date 4 May
1 value

**SWITZERLAND**
Issue Date 4 April
1 value

**WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE**

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**AUCTION #120: SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION**
BULGARIA
Issue Date 28 April
2 values; variations and stationery probable

CROATIA
Issue Date 5 May
2 values se-tenant probable

DENMARK
Issue Date 4 May
2 values

HUNGARY
Issue Date 9 May
2 values se-tenant in a souvenir sheet of 2 sets

CYPRUS
Issue Date 4 May
2 values

MONTENEGRO
Issue Date 421 April
2 stamps and 1 souvenir sheet

GIBRALTAR
Issue Date 4 April
4 values
NOTE: because Gibraltar is not a full PostEurop member, these stamps do not have the official Europa stamps logo.
**ESTONIA**  
Issue Date 28 April  
2 values

**LATVIA**  
Issue Date 8 April  
2 values

**LITHANIA**  
Issue Date 23 April  
2 values

**POLAND**  
Issue Date 5 May  
1 value

**SWITZERLAND**  
Issue Date 5 May  
1 value

**BELARUS**  
Issue Date 14 April  
2 values

**RUSSIA**  
Issue Date 5 May  
1 value

**SERBIA**  
Issue Date 5 May  
2 values

**SAN MARINO**  
Issue Date 5 April  
2 values

**ROMANIA**  
Issue Date 27 April  
2 values in mini sheets of 6 stamps  
Also 2 souvenir sheets of 2 sets each,  
2 mini sheet of 6 stamps with illustrations

**SLOVAKIA**  
Issue Date 6 May  
1 value  
Sheet of 8 has logo in selvage

**MONACO**  
Issue Date 3 May  
2 values
As reported in the last issue of EN, the UN is issuing a set of stamps in its UNESCO Cultural Heritage series to highlight the Nordic countries.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Since 1997 the UN has been issuing a series of stamps highlighting the cultural heritage of a specified country or region. The first was the Terracotta Warriors of China. Each year, the series featured two stamps plus a souvenir booklet from each UN office (New York, Geneva and Vienna). The series continues in 2011 with a tribute to the five Nordic countries and the Struve Geodetic Arc. This year, there are no souvenir booklets cited, making the set much more affordable.

The Struve Geodetic Arc is a chain of survey triangulations stretching from Hammerfest in Norway to the Black Sea, through ten countries and over 2,820 km, which yielded the first accurate measurement of a meridian. This helped to establish the exact size and shape of the planet and marked an important step in the development of earth sciences and topographic mapping, and validated Euclid’s claim that earth is not a perfect sphere.

There is no mention in this UN Bulletin of any joint issuance from the Nordic countries, but we will watch for any possible changes. This set makes a nice adjunct to a Nordic Countries sub-collection of Europa. ■
Europa Sports is a collecting topic that is seen by some as very “fringe” and not directly related to United Europe. While this may be true in some instances, I believe there are some cases where there is a strong, if not direct, relationship. In future issues I will explore this topic further, but for now a case in point is a recent issue from Liechtenstein publicizing the 14th Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE).

Background
The GSSE is a biennial, multi-sport event organized by and featuring the National Olympic Committees of 8 European small states since 1985. The Games are currently held at the beginning of June, and feature competition in 9 Summer Olympic sports. The 14th edition of the Games will be the next ones held, and they will take place in June 2011 in Liechtenstein. The Games were last held in June 2009 in Cyprus.

The Games are organized by the members of the European Olympic Committees (EOC). From its initial forming at the 1984 Olympics through 2009 there were eight members; the group’s ninth member was added in 2009. Members all have a population of less than one million. The current members are Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro (added in 2009) and San Marino. The Faroe Islands are currently seeking to also compete at the Games; however, unlike the other participants, the Faroes are not a sovereign nation (they are an autonomous province of Denmark) nor are they an EOC member.

The Liechtenstein Issue
(from the Philatiele Liechtenstein website) to be issued 14 March 2011

From 30 May to 4 June 2011 the Principality of Liechtenstein, for the second time since 1999, will be hosting the biennial Games of the Small States under the slogan “Be part of it”. Some 800 men and women athletes are expected at the “LieGames”, as they are called in the sport-crazed Principality; on five competition days these athletes will contend with one another at 13 venues in nine different sports and 108 events.

In a design competition it was laid down that all nine of the sports featured in GSSE 2011 be reflected in the design of this stamp series. This requirement was met best by designer and former top sportsman René Michlig: the stamps, printed by photogravure, have been realised appropriately in the metallic colours of the medals awarded at such sporting events: “Bronze” (face value CHF 0.85), “Silver” (face value CHF 1.00) and “Gold” (face value CHF 1.40). The Bronze stamp depicts the competition categories athletics, volleyball and cycling, the Silver stamp shows judo, shooting and squash and the Gold stamp table tennis, tennis and swimming. Michlig has himself been a competitor in the Games of the Small States: he won Gold (Monaco 2007) and Bronze (Cyprus 2009) for Liechtenstein in the Javelin. He will be competing in this year’s Games as well.

Previous Stamp Issues
Many of the earlier games have received philatelic recognition. The following table is a list of those of which I’m aware:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scott #</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>YR</th>
<th>EN</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>717 - 720</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>273-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>717 - 721</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>273-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401</td>
<td>Andorra Fr</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>282-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210 - 211</td>
<td>Andorra Sp</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>282-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>815 - 818</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>296-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>818 a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>319-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>842 - 843</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>322-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1142 - 1150</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1509</td>
<td>San Marino</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>343-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1509</td>
<td>San Marino</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>343-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1120 - 1123</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>349-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2462</td>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>387-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112 - 1114</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>392-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1367 - 1371</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1367</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IT NEVER FAILS DEPT. – the Michel CEPT catalog arrived shortly after this issue of EN went to press. Please make the following pen and ink updates to the Europa Handbook page 8 insert for EFTA: Liechtenstein is Michel #1559 Switzerland is Scott# 1390 Michel# 2172
On 16 February 2011 four countries—Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia—issued a stamp in a common design to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the alliance known as the Visegrad Group. The Hungary stamp is shown below; all the countries’ stamps look the same.

The design shows two hands with upraised fingers signaling “V4”, the informal acronym for the group. The 4 upraised fingers on the right indicate the four countries, while the two fingers on the left symbolize the EU, a show of solidarity.

Background
(the following is excerpted from the press releases of the posts of the V4 countries)

In the wake of post-1989 changes, three central European countries decided to forge a closer cooperation with the aim of “returning” to Europe. At a meeting of government representatives of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, convened in Bratislava as early as May 1990, the groundwork was laid for developing a project of trilateral cooperation between these countries.

Subsequently, on 15 February 1991, Czechoslovakia’s President Václav Havel, Poland’s President Lech Walesa and Hungary’s Prime Minister József Antall signed the Visegrad Declaration in Visegrád, Hungary. (Visegrad is located just north of the Hungarian capital of Budapest. —ed.)

After the split of Czechoslovakia and the creation of independent Slovak and Czech Republics in 1993, the trilateral Visegrad cooperation was transformed into the Visegrád 4, or V4 for short.

The endeavors of the V4 received further boost in 1998. At the May 1999 summit held in Bratislava, the Prime Ministers of the V4 countries agreed on the deepening of cooperation in all areas of mutual interest and for mutual support in integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The idea of the V4 alliance derives from a meeting of the Czech, Polish and Hungarian rulers in Visegrad in 1335. Charles I of Hungary, Czech king John of Luxembourg, and Casimir III of Poland entered into an agreement of a close cooperation in political and commercial affairs, and of eternal friendship. It was this agreement that inspired the next successful Central European initiative established 656 years later.

The V4 today
(the following is from the official Visegrad Group website).

The Visegrad Group (also known as the “Visegrad Four” or simply “V4”) reflects the efforts of the countries of the Central European region to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have always been part of a single civilization sharing cultural and intellectual values and common roots in diverse religious traditions, which they wish to preserve and further strengthen.

All the V4 countries aspired to become members of the European Union, perceiving their integration in the EU as another step forward in the process of overcoming artificial dividing lines in Europe through mutual support. They reached this aim in 2004 (1st May) when they all became members of the EU.

The V4 was not created as an alternative to the all-European integration efforts, nor does it try to compete with the existing functional Central European structures. Its activities are in no way aimed at isolation or the weakening of ties with the other countries. On the contrary the Group aims at encouraging optimum cooperation with all countries, in particular its neighbors, its ultimate interest being the democratic development in all parts of Europe.

The Visegrad Group wishes to contribute towards building the European security architecture based on effective, functionally complementary and mutually reinforcing cooperation and coordination within existing European and transatlantic institutions.

In order to preserve and promote cultural cohesion, cooperation within the Visegrad Group will enhance the imparting of values in the field of culture, education, science and exchange of information.

All the activities of the Visegrad Group are aimed at strengthening stability in the Central European region. The participating countries perceive their cooperation as a challenge and its success as the best proof of their ability to integrate also into such structures, such as e.g. the European Union.

The Visegrad Group closely cooperates with other regional bodies as well as with single countries in the region. The Benelux countries, countries of the Nordic Council of Ministers and countries of the Western Balkans belong to the Group’s priorities. Moreover, the Visegrad Group regularly cooperates with other countries in Central Europe - with Austria and Slovenia within the so-called Regional Partnership and with the Group’s eastern neighbors as part of the so-called V4+ concept.

I believe the V4 is another example of cooperation in action, and should reasonably be included in a Europa collection. —ed. ■
### New Issues with Scott Catalog Numbers

#### From Linn’s March Special Edition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Scott#</th>
<th>Date of Issue</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andorra (French)</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>4-Oct-10</td>
<td>Roman Art, s/s of 2, joint issue with Spanish Andorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andorra (Spanish)</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>6-Oct-10</td>
<td>Roman Art, s/s of 2, joint issue with French Andorra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3908</td>
<td>4-Oct-10</td>
<td>Capitals of Europe: Paris, s/s of 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3924</td>
<td>6-Nov-10</td>
<td>Flemish Paintings, s/s of 2, joint issue with Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3026</td>
<td>10-Oct-10</td>
<td>Includes European Flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>3991-2</td>
<td>24-Oct-10</td>
<td>Landmarks in European Capitals (Sofia, Bucharest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>3714</td>
<td></td>
<td>Europa 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>3730</td>
<td>4-Jun-10</td>
<td>2010 European Athletic Championships, Barcelona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>3734</td>
<td>12-Jun-10</td>
<td>25th Anniversary, Entry into European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2642</td>
<td>26-Aug-10</td>
<td>Slania engravings, joint with Ireland, s/s of 3</td>
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</tbody>
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#### From Linn’s April Special Edition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4182</td>
<td>7-Feb-11</td>
<td>Hungarian Presidency of the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4183</td>
<td>15-Feb-11</td>
<td>Visegrad Group: Joint issue w/Czech Rep., Poland, Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1306</td>
<td>15-Mar-11</td>
<td>European Year of Volunteering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>220-2</td>
<td>16-Apr-09</td>
<td>Europa 2009 (222 a souvenir sheet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>233-4</td>
<td>20-Nov-09</td>
<td>Joy of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>246-8</td>
<td>22-Apr-10</td>
<td>Europa 2010 (248 a souvenir sheet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>21-Oct 10</td>
<td>Joy of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7213</td>
<td>5-May-10</td>
<td>Europa 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7221</td>
<td>28-Jun-10</td>
<td>Russia/Serbian Art, joint issue with Serbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7250</td>
<td>10-Nov-10</td>
<td>European Soccer Championships, 50th Anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>1669-70</td>
<td>15-Sep-10</td>
<td>SOS Children’s Villages*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>3-Sep-10</td>
<td>EFTA 50th Anniversary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: the SOS Children’s Villages began in Europe but are now a worldwide phenomenon (much like CARE has become).*
Europa 2010
Children’s Books

ALBANIA

Europa 2010

A late entry into the theme of Children’s Books

Issue date: 25 February 2011

2 stamps issued in a sheetlet of 10 stamps (2 stamps each tenant as shown) plus a souvenir sheet

With Albania having added their entry, is it safe to say that Europa 2010 is now in the can? At this point, the answer should be yes, but then — who knows? At right is a fearless listing of what is currently the definitive roster of stamps issued for Europa 2010, courtesy of euroswiss.

19.04.2010 Åland - 1 stamp (EU value = 0.85 €)
25.02.2011 Albania - 2 stamps & 1 souvenir-sheet (100,-, 150,- & 250,- ALL)
07.05.2010 Andorra (French post) - 1 stamp (0.56 €)
06.05.2010 Andorra (Spanish post) - 1 stamp (0.64 €)
08.10.2010 Armenia - 1 stamp (350,- AMD)
11.06.2010 Austria - 1 stamp (0.65 €)
16.03.2010 Azerbaijan - 2 stamps & 1 souvenir-sheet (0.20, 0.60 & 1.- AZN)
07.05.2010 Azores - 1 stamp (0.68 €) + 1 souvenir sheet (2x 0.68 €)
30.03.2010 Belarus - 2 stamps (2x 1000,- BYR)
15.03.2010 Belgium - one souvenir-sheet of 2 stamps (2x EU value 3 = 5.40 €)
26.04.2010 Bosnia and Herzegovina - 2 stamps (1.- & 1.50 BAM)
05.04.2010 Bosnia and Herzegovina (Croat post) - 2 stamps (2x 3.- BAM)
09.04.2010 Bosnia and Herzegovina (Serb post) - 2 stamps (1.- & 2.- BAM)
23.04.2010 Bulgaria - 2 stamps (0.60 & 1.50 BGN)
07.05.2010 Croatia - 2 stamps (2x 7.10 HRK)
05.05.2010 Cyprus - 2 stamps (2x 0.51 €)
28.05.2010 Cyprus (Turkish post) - 2 stamps (2x 0.80 YTL)
05.05.2010 Czech Rep. - 1 stamp (17.- CZK)
01.06.2010 Denmark - 2 stamps (5.50 & 8.50 DKK)
06.05.2010 Estonia - 2 stamps (2x 9.- EEK)
04.05.2010 Finland - 2 stamps (2x 0.80 €)
09.05.2010 France - 1 stamp (0.70 €)
06.05.2010 Germany - 1 stamp (0.55 €)
15.05.2010 Gibraltar - 4 stamps (0.10, 0.42, 0.44 & 1.50 GBP)
12.10.2010 Great-Britain - 1 stamp (0.41 GBP) + 1 souvenir sheet (2.86 GBP)
26.05.2010 Greece - 2 stamps (0.72 & 3.22 €)
18.01.2010 Greenland - 2 stamps (8.50 & 9.50 DKK)
04.05.2010 Guernsey - 2 stamps (0.45 & 0.50 GBP) & 1 souvenir-sheet (2.95 GBP)
07.05.2010 Hungary - 1 souvenir-sheet (4x 160.- HUF)
06.05.2010 Iceland - 2 stamps (165 & 220.- ISK)
06.05.2010 Ireland - 2 stamps (0.55 & 0.82 €)
18.02.2010 Isle of Man - 2 stamps (0.33 & 0.56 GBP) out of a set of eight stamps
07.05.2010 Italy - 2 stamps (0.60 & 0.65 €)
09.02.2010 Jersey - 2 stamps (0.42 & 0.45 GBP) out of a set of four stamps
06.05.2010 Kazakhstan - 1 stamp (240.- KZT)
05.05.2010 Kosovo - 2 stamps (1.- & 2.- €) & 1 souvenir-sheet (2.- €)
09.04.2010 Latvia - 2 stamps (0.55 & 1.20 LVL)
06.09.2010 Liechtenstein - 1 stamp (1.40 CHF)
08.05.2010 Lithuania - 2 stamps (2x 2.45 LTL)
16.06.2010 Luxembourg - 2 stamps (0.50 & 0.70 €)
05.05.2010 Macedonia - 1 stamp (100.- MKD)
07.05.2010 Madeira - 1 stamp (0.68 €) + 1 souvenir sheet (2x 0.68 €)
04.05.2010 Malta - 2 stamps (0.37 & 1.19 €)
30.04.2010 Moldova - 2 stamps (1.20 & 5.40 MDL)
05.05.2010 Monaco - 2 stamps (0.56 & 0.70 €)
22.04.2010 Montenegro - 2 stamps (0.60 & 0.90 €) & 1 souvenir-sheet (0.60 & 0.90 €)
15.11.2010 Norway - 2 stamps (8.50 & 11.- NOK)
05.05.2010 Poland - 1 stamp (3.- PLN)
07.05.2010 Portugal - 1 stamp (0.68 €) + 1 souvenir sheet (2x 0.68 €)
06.05.2010 Romania - 2 stamps (4.30 & 7.60 RON)
05.05.2010 Russia - 1 stamp (10.50 RUB)
17.03.2010 San Marino - 2 stamps (0.60 & 0.65 €)
05.05.2010 Serbia - 2 stamps (66.- & 77.- RSD)
04.05.2010 Slovakia - 1 stamp (0.90 €)
28.05.2010 Slovenia - 2 stamps (D value & 0.92 €)
06.05.2010 Spain - 1 stamp (0.64 €)
28.01.2010 Sweden - 2 stamp (2x 12.- SEK)
06.05.2010 Switzerland - 1 stamp (1.- CHF)
09.05.2010 Turkey - 2 stamps (0.80 & 1.10 YTL)
30.04.2010 Ukraine - 2 stamps (2.20 & 3.30 UAH)
22.06.2010 Vatican - 2 stamps (0.60 & 0.65 €)

D I G I T A L I S A T I O N  R E V I E W
Intercultural dialogue has long been a principle supported by the European Union and its Institutions. The year 2008 was designated “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue” (EYID) by the European Parliament and the Member States of the European Union. It aimed to draw the attention of people in Europe to the importance of dialogue within diversity and between diverse cultures. The cover illustrated here is the issue from Portugal (Scott #3074-7, Michel #3371-4) celebrating the EYID. Ireland also issued a stamp (Scott #1774, Michel #1814) and a postal card which showed the EYID logo featured on the cachet, and San Marino issued a colorful souvenir sheet (Scott #1749, Michel Block 39). According to the Ireland Post, “the central idea of the design concept is dancing together as an expression of ‘joie de vivre’. Several figures form a circle and turn about, hand in hand. The open ellipse echoes the openness of the EU: people from all nations are welcome here. The four basic colours of the logo - blue, red, yellow and green - symbolizes both harmony and diversity in that they are the base colours from which all other hues are formed.”

Being a list maker, I immediately started wondering how many other European Years there were. The answer is many—one every year since 1983, plus European Conservation Year (1970 and beyond) and European Architectural Heritage Year (1975 and beyond). A quick check of Wikipedia yielded the following:

1983 - European Year of SMEs and the Craft Industry
1984 - European Year for a People’s Europe
1985 - European Year of Music (that year’s EUROPA theme)
1986 - European Year of Road Safety
1987 - European Year of the Environment (a follow-up to ECY)
1988 - European Year of Cinema and Television
1989 - European Year of Information on Cancer
1990 - European Year of Tourism
1992 - European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work
1993 - European Year of the Elderly and of Solidarity between Generations
1994 - European Year of Nutrition and Health
1995 - European Year of Road Safety and Young Drivers
1996 - European Year of Lifelong Learning
1997 - European Year against Racism and Xenophobia
1998 - European Year of Local and Regional Democracy
1999 - European Year of Action to Combat Violence Against Women
2001 - European Year of Languages
2003 - European Year of People with Disabilities
2004 - European Year of Education through Sport
2005 - European Year of Citizenship through Education
2006 - European Year of Workers’ Mobility
2007 - European Year of Equal Opportunities for All
2008 - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
2009 - European Year of Creativity and Innovation
2010 - European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
2011—European Year of Volunteering

The years in italics are those for which I think there was some form of philatelic recognition. So—here we have another potential set of Europa sub-topics. European Music Year of 1985 (both Europa and collateral issues) is well covered in the CD version of the Europa Handbook. Would anyone like to take on some of the other years?
So did the Beatles pronounce it correctly? The following emails were received addressing the great Michel catalog “controversy”.

From member Don Smith comes this:
As to your question on the pronunciation of "Michel" - thirty years ago I bought much of my Europa material at the NY stamp shows from Dick Bowers who insisted that it was "Mickle" to rhyme with "nickel". I had also heard "Michael" as in the name. So at one of the NY shows Michel had a booth and one of the representatives - definitely German and from the headquarters - was tolerant of my practicing my German on him. Anyway, I asked him the correct pronunciation. He said "you may call it what you want, we don't care, but to be correct, it is "me-SHELL."

Unit President Caroline Scannel also weighed in with "miss shell, or michelle - in Italian it's Miquel."

Member Richard Barnes emailed the following:
I asked my fellow members of the San Antonio Philatelic Association whom we have several dealer and three members who speak German. Both ways was OK.

The general rule was the two pronunciation came from the fact it's a German Catalog that's printed in France, thus the two sounds. So whichever way you want to say it - it will be fine!

And finally this from Tonny Van Loij:
About the discussion to pronounce Michel, believe me it is cccchhhhh, impossible to do if you are not Germanic like me; Flemish (Belgium) Dutch (Netherland) or German. Next time we meet I will do it the correct way and tell you a real piece of history to explain.

OK, Tonny, you're on. –ed •
I happened to notice that on their website, the Washington Press showed no annual supplements for White Ace Europa pages since 2006. I asked our officers about it and got a rapid response from member Alex Cwiekalo. Alex sent an email to the Washington Press, and got this nice reply:

Thank you for your inquiry. We haven't discontinued Europa. Obviously we are quite behind in publishing the album but hope to make up some ground this year. Look for at least 2007 and 2008 to be available by summer.

Sincerely,
Carol Silva
The Washington Press

So, any rumors of the death of White Ace Europa pages are greatly exaggerated, which is good news. Below is a scan of the top part of a White Ace page; they were smart to keep the header portion small so that more stamp material could be accommodated.

Our new member in the Czech Republic, Jan Regula, who has his own Europa blog (see the link on our website), writes the following:

"Hallo, in March-April issue on page 6 Europa News is the text ... Speaking of Ecology.' Stamp 10Kč from this souvenir sheet was chosen best post stamp in the Czech Republic in year 2010."

The stamp is indeed beautiful. It is in the upper left on the souvenir sheet (see it in EN #402) —ed.

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PROBABLY THE BIGGEST STRETCH YET: I came across this new issue from Austria (issued 15 February, Scott #2297) and wondered if it might be a candidate for the "Miscellaneous cooperation" section.

The stamp is part of the “famous trademarks” series and pictures an Austrian confection called a “Schwedenbomben”. The name means “Swedish bomb”. A quick Google on that gave the following:

Schwedenbomben are creations from Austria, and consist of glair foam and a filmy covering of bitter chocolate with and without coco crumbles. A legend tells that this kind of candy speciality was invented 90 years ago. Schwedenbomben are a top seller in Austria, and available in almost every supermarket. It’s told that the inventor’s best friend was from Sweden.

So, that last sentence pretty much “scotched” it for me, but the candy itself sounds wonderful.

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SERVICES TO MEMBERS:

Periodic newsletter (EUROPA NEWS) to all members; website with special “Members Only” section; Periodic auctions (~3/yr) of EUROPA-related material, EUROPA Handbook, monographs and specialty items available only to ESU members.
NEW ISSUES

ALAND / RUSSIA joint issue
Issue date: 21 February 2011
One ss apiece for the 150th anniversary of Mariehamn. Founded in 1861, Mariehamn is the capital of Åland. It was named after Maria Alexandrovna, the Empress consort of Alexander II of Russia.

CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, SLOVAKIA
THE VISIGRAD GROUP
Issue Date  16 February 2011
See article on page 8

AZERBAIJAN 10th anniversary of admission to the Council of Europe
Issue Date 18 March 2011

SLOVENIA 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, which established the Coal & Steel Community.
Issue Date 19 April 2011

LIECHTENSTEIN Games of the Small States of Europe
Issue Date 14 March 2011
See article on page 6

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