



Forum of Adriatic & Ionian Cities

Promoting innovative forms of decentralized cooperation and partnerships between local authorities of the member countries.



"The Forum aims to build and develop the economic, social, environmental and cultural heritage of the Adriatic and Ionian coastal cities and to collaborate on European integration and enlargement. It pursues this goal by promoting innovative forms of decentralized cooperation and partnerships between local authorities of the member countries."

from the Forum website: www.faic.eu

The Forum (known by its initials FAIC) was established in Ancona, Italy in 1999. This association brings together the coastal cities of the 7 countries of the Adriatic-Ionian Basin: Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Greece. 54 cities are included in the membership, which has become a significant initiative of the EU.

The next plenary session will be held 14-16 December 2012 at the founding city of Ancona. The session will also note, sadly, the passing away of Bruno Bravetti, former Secretary General of the Forum, and its founder in 1999. ■



On 18 November 2011 **ALBANIA** issued a single stamp to publicize the FAIC with a map showing the member countries.



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FEATURES

Don Smith has done it again. Another great auction of EUROPA-related material.	Insert
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We have a new publisher for the EN!
See the Editors Page.

New Issues



European Football Championship—Poland/Ukraine

Euro 2012 was hosted for the first time by Poland and Ukraine, between 8 June and 1 July 2012.

PORTUGAL ss Issued 4 June

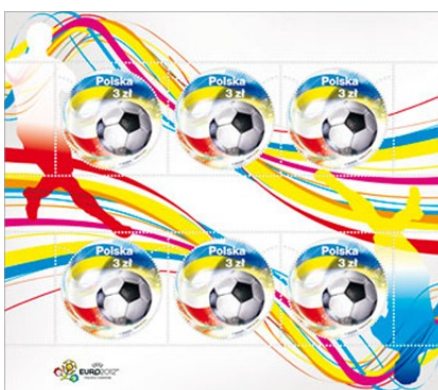


The above is a companion to the single stamp noted in EN#410-2

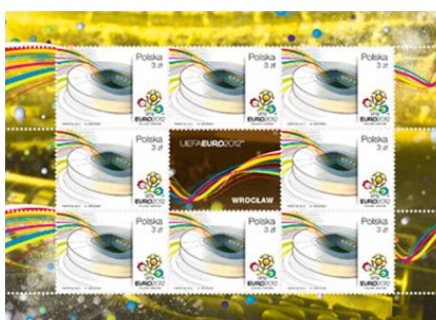
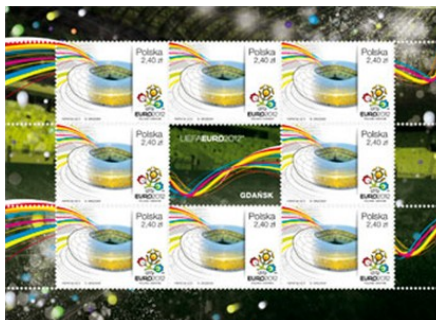
ss Issued 8 June:



POLAND—Host Country
1v Issued 8 June in sheet of 6



POLAND 4v issued in sheets of 8 with center label (shown below) plus a ss, issued 8 June



UKRAINE—Host Country
Issue date not known
3v showing venue stadiums



2 blocks of 4v showing venue stadiums. Each block is printed in a sheet of 16 stamps (4 blocks each)
Issue date 28 May



1v showing players holding trophy
Issue date 1 June



1v showing Euro2012 logo
Issue date 8 June



New Issues

UKRAINE Issue date 11 June
ss of 2 stamps



It appears that a booklet was also issued on 8 June (cover shown below) but I cannot ascertain its contents from the Ukrainian Post web-site.



BULGARIA ss Issued 8 June
Also some form of postal stationery



CROATIA 1v Issued 8 June



The final match took place on 1 July 2012 at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev, where Spain defended their title with a 4-0 win over Italy. Spain became the first team to win two consecutive European Championships, and the first international team to win three straight major tournament titles (Euro 2008, 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012).



Euro 2012 was the second consecutive European Championship (after Euro 2008 held in Austria and Switzerland) in which neither of the hosts emerged from the group stage, as both Poland and Ukraine were eliminated. — from Wikipedia

BULGARIA 1v
20th anniversary of Bulgaria's membership in Council of Europe
Issue date 7 May
Also postal stationery



BELARUS 1v
EurAsSec
Issue date 26 July



RUSSIA 2v
SPAIN 2v
Issue date 17 July
Episcopal Palace in Astorga (León) and the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg
Joint Issue



The Russian and Spanish posts issued two joint stamps in mutual recognition of the rich artistic and cultural heritage of both countries. The Episcopal Palace of Astorga was built between 1889 and 1915, although it wasn't completely finished until the 1960's. It was commissioned by Bishop Juan Bautista Grau after a fire destroyed the former Episcopal see. The building, no longer an Episcopal office, now houses the Museum of the Paths since it is located in the Jacobean Way.

The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood or Church of the Resurrection of Christ was built between 1883 and 1907 in the place where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated and represents the architecture of the characteristic Russian Orthodox Church. Both the interior and exterior are decorated with tiles and mosaics of different colors designed by renowned Russian artists. It is considered one of the most beautiful churches in St. Petersburg. ■

— from Stampland

New Issues

ARMENIA souvenir sheet

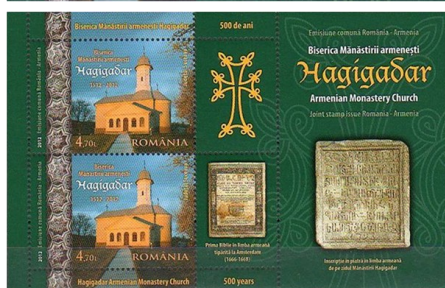
ROMANIA souvenir sheet

Issue date 11 August

Hagigadar Armenian Monastery

Church – 500 years

Joint Issue with identical designs



Hagigadar, built in 1512 by Armenian merchants, is the oldest and the only Armenian monastery in Europe. In August the Armenian community of Romania celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Hagigadar Monastery in Suceava. His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, was in Romania to preside over the occasion. Some 3,000 pilgrims were expected to attend.

Suceava was the capital of Moldavia until 1564: a trading center with a large Armenian population and home to as many as seven Armenian churches. Hagigadar Monastery is known for its miraculous power of granting wishes to believers, and remains a popular pilgrimage destination.

—from the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church

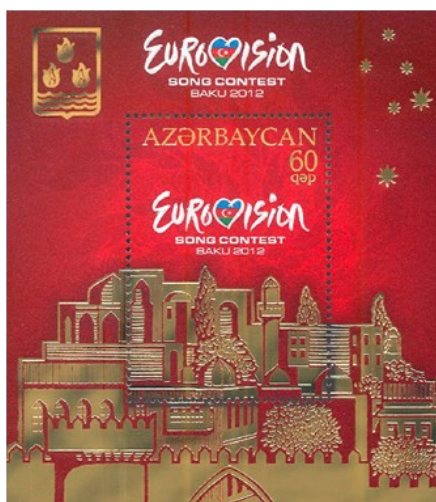


AZERBAIJAN 5 souvenir sheets

Issue date 14 May

Eurovision - 2012 song contest in

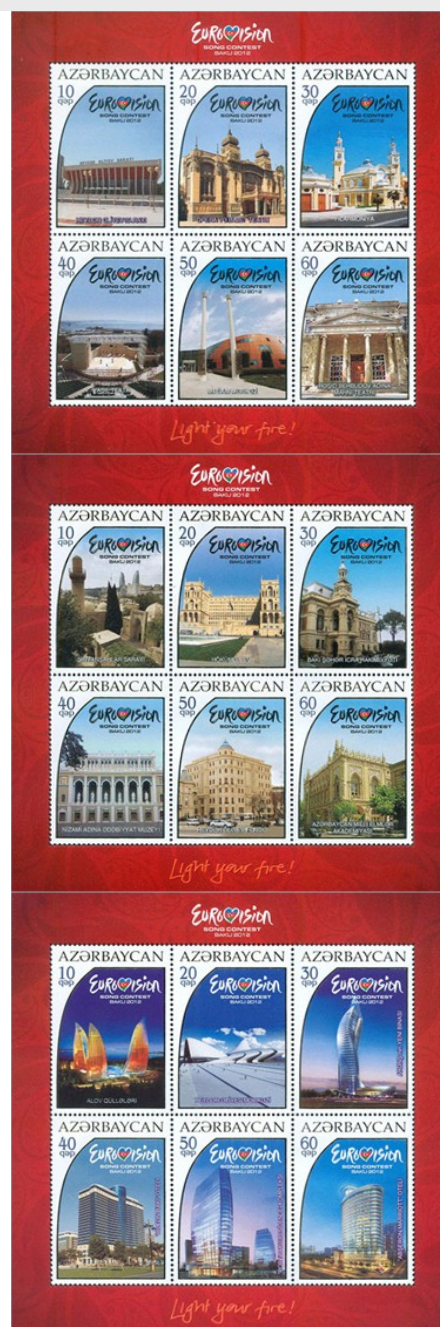
Baku (capital of Azerbaijan)



The Eurovision Song Contest 2012

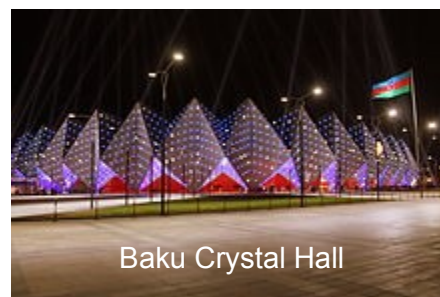
was the 57th annual Eurovision Song Contest. The two semi-finals were held on 22 and 24 May 2012, and the final was held on 26 May 2012 at the newly constructed Baku Crystal Hall.

The design of the contest was built around the motto "Light your fire!", inspired by the nickname "Land of Fire", by which Azerbaijan is commonly known. The contest was won by singer Loreen from Sweden with the song "Euphoria". Russia finished in second place, with Serbia finishing in third.



They were followed by the host country, Azerbaijan, which reached the 4th place. Albania finished 5th, achieving its first top 5 placing, ■

— from Eurovision & Wikipedia



Baku Crystal Hall

Macedonia in the EU — Dana Roper

On 9 April of this year **MACE-**
DONIA issued two stamps to pro-
mote the entry of Macedonia into
the EU.

The Republic of Macedonia has
been a candidate for accession to
the European Union since 2005. It
submitted its membership applica-
tion in 2004, thirteen years after its
independence from former Yugo-
slavia. It is one of five remaining
candidate countries, together with
Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and
Turkey, after the latest round of
enlargement that brought mem-
bership to Bulgaria and Romania.

Among current obstacles to full
membership is the ongoing dispute
with Greece over the country's
name, which is also the reason why
it is officially addressed by the
European Union with the provi-
sional appellation "Former Yugo-
slav Republic of Macedonia", rather
than its constitutional name,
"Republic of Macedonia". Acces-
sion to the EU has been defined as
the highest strategic priority for the
country's government. The ex-
pected accession is currently de-
scribed as a "medium to long term"
prospect.

The government's motto for the
candidacy is "The Sun, too, is a
star", referring to the sun from the
flag of the Republic of Macedonia
being displayed among the other
stars in the Flag of Europe, in the
official logo of the candidacy.



The stamps show Denmark and
Cyprus, who hold the EU presi-
dency in 2012, Jan-Jun and Jul-Dec
respectively.



Macedonia began its formal pro-
cess of rapprochement with the
European Union in 2000, and it
became the first non-EU country in
the Balkans to sign the EU's Stabili-
zation and Association Agreement
(SAA), on 9 April 2001 in Luxem-
bourg. The European Council offi-
cially granted the country candi-
date status on 17 December 2005,
after a review and a positive rec-
ommendation of the candidacy by
the European Commission.

The name issue between Greece
and Macedonia stems from the fact
that Macedonia is also the name of
Greece's northernmost province.
The two countries have been at
odds for the past 20 years over the
use of the name and the implied
right to claim Alexander the Great
as a national hero. Late in 2011
Macedonia got a diplomatic boost
when the International Court of
Justice (ICJ), by a 15 to 1 majority,
rebuked Greece for blocking Mac-
edonia's entry into NATO and, by
extension, the EU. Macedonia
pressed its application for member-
ship at a meeting in Chicago in May
of 2012.

Greece, being an EU member state
of long standing, has veto power
against new accessions, and has
repeatedly stated that it will block
Macedonian accession unless the
naming issue is resolved before-
hand. Since 2008, resolution of the
naming conflict has also been
added to the official preconditions
raised by the EU.

The issue is not all one-sided. EU
sources have recently criticized
Macedonia for its policies against
its Albanian minority and the politi-
cization of many state institutions,
warning that these problems may
become obstacles to the official
start of accession talks. Bulgaria
also has issues, mainly related to
conflicting views about the two
countries' shared 19th- and 20th-
century history and the ethnic
separateness of the two nations. ■

—information from the EU website, the
Guardian, and Wikipedia.



The 1956 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (Part 6)

The Luster monograph installment continues with a discussion of the Luxembourg issue for 1956. This has become the most sought-after set of the 1956 (and 1957) series.

Again, note that there are gaps in the figure numbers. This is because this article is excerpted from an even more exhaustive monograph.

The complete monograph will be posted on the ESU website in the near future, where it can also be downloaded and printed.

Continuing with Luxembourg, we find that a set of *three* stamps was issued for Europa 1956. The stamps were designed by Daniel Gonzague and engraved by René Cottet. The stamps were printed on un-watermarked paper. The three stamps are each perforated 13 x 13. The recess printing method was used to print the stamps. The set was printed by the Atelier de Fabrication de Timbre-Poste, Paris, in sheets of 50 stamps. 1,145,000 of the 2f stamp, 425,000 of the 3f stamp and 745,000 of the 4f stamp were printed. D'Urso assigned the numbers 9-11 to these stamps.



Figure 90. The complete set of three 1956 Europa stamps issued by Luxembourg. The stamp colors are light and dark brown on the 2 F, light and dark orange on the 3 F, and, light and dark blue on the 4 F value.

D'Urso lists a deluxe proof for the set. I do not have a copy to illustrate in this monograph. I also do not have a copy of a color essay on a miniature sheet to show you. Two cancels were used for first day covers. One of the cancels was from Luxembourg while the other cancel includes the words "Clervaux - Journées du Groupement Européen des Ardennes." Finally, D'Urso mentions the existence of a maximum card. The D'Urso Catalogue assigns the numbers 9-11 to the Luxembourg 1956 Europa stamps. The deluxe proof is numbered in the catalogue as 9/11A and the color proof is numbered 10AA. First day covers with the Luxembourg cancel are numbered 9/11B while the "Clervaux" cancel is numbered 9/11C. The Maximum card is numbered 9/11D.

Each sheet of Luxembourg 1956 Europa stamps has an accountancy number printed in the upper selvage. These numbers helped postal clerks keep track of their inventories of stamps.



Figure 91. Three examples of complete sets of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps. Each set was taken from the upper row of a sheet. Each stamp shows the accountancy value for its respective row in a sheet.

The 1956 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont'd)

Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps have the date they were printed in the bottom selvage of each sheet. In the case of these stamps, their owner went to the trouble of getting them authenticated. I do not know if forgeries exist... I think not. In any event, a copy of the certificate of authenticity is shown at figure 92c.



Figure 92. Set of lower right margin examples of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps showing the date when the sheet they are from was printed. Certificate of authenticity is at the right.

Illustrated here is an addressed, registered first day cover. It is address to "GAND" which I interpret to mean the city of Ghent in the Netherlands. The cover bears three strikes of Luxembourg.



Figure 93. Example of the Luxembourg first day cancel.



Figure 94. Addressed, registered first day cover franked with the complete set of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps.



Figure 95. Cacheted, addressed first day cover franked with the complete set of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps.

The 1956 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont'd)

The upper cover in figure 96, is an unaddressed first day cover franked with the complete set of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps, with the cachet maker being the "Banque de Timbre" in Luxembourg. The middle cover is a numbered unaddressed first day cover produced by the "Fédération des Sociétés Philatélique du Grand Duché de Luxembourg." The bottom cover is an addressed first day cover also franked with the complete set of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps. The cachet maker is not known to me.



Figure 96. Three examples of Luxembourg first day covers.

I have also recorded several other first day covers from Luxembourg. The leftmost cachet was prepared by the famous stamp dealer Raymond Thill from Rumelange, Luxembourg. The next cover was prepared by M. Bastien of Luxembourg. The last item is a cover seen on the delcampe.com auction site. It appears to be hand painted.



Figure 97. Three cacheted first day covers of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps.

The 1956 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont'd)

I once owned the cover at figure 98. It is not a first day cover. Rather it bears a "Luxembourg - Ville" postmark dated October 3, 1956. I do not know the rate to send a registered letter from Luxembourg to the United States in 1956. Evidently, a total of 9F was sufficient, or an overpayment.



Figure 98. Registered cover addressed to Cambridge, Massachusetts in the United States, franked with the complete set of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps.

The D'Urso Catalogue lists a maximum card for Luxembourg. The catalogue assigns the numbers 9/11D to the card. I no longer believe that the way D'Urso lists the numbers implies that the whole set of three stamps has to be on the card. Rather, I now believe that a proper maximum card is one with any (or all) of the stamps. This applies for all the countries that issued two stamps, or Luxembourg that issued a set of three stamps. So, the maximum card at figure 100, franked with the 2f value of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamps, would carry the D'Urso number 9D.

Illustrated here is a maximum card whose design has been shown before in this monograph. This card is franked with the 2F value of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa set. The stamp is tied to the card with the official first day cancel.



Figure 100. Maximum card with one value, first day canceled, of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa set.



Figure 101. Unaddressed cover franked with the 2f value of Luxembourg's 1956 Europa stamp, with special cancel for the United Nations.

Historical Europa: The Balkan Ententes — Johanna Bruno

Some years ago I bought a Europa Forerunners collection that came on Lighthouse pages that were literally ripped out of their album. I was able to salvage some by cutting them onto other paper; the remainder I made up myself using WordPerfect 7 (an oldie but still a goodie). Here is what I was able to create for the Balkan Ententes.

Europa-Union

The Balkan Ententes

The Balkan countries, after series of local wars, settled down World War I with a desire for peaceful co-existence. Several treaties were made but none included any plans for improvement of their weak economies. Consequently, at the crisis leading to World War II these treaties collapsed.

**Petite Entente
(Little Entente)**
1920/1921 until 1938



The Petite Entente was an alliance formed in 1920 and 1921 by Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia with the purpose of common defense against Hungarian revision and the prevention of a Habsburg restoration. France supported the alliance by signing treaties with each member country.

Map of Europe with the countries of the Petite Entente, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, identified in green.

Stamps issued for the Petite Entente

Romania
December 5, 1936



16th anniversary of the Entente
Overprint on the stamps of 1935-1936 showing King Carol

Europa-Union

The Balkan Ententes
Continued

**Petite Entente
(Little Entente)**
1920-1921 until 1938

Stamps issued for the 16th anniversary of the Entente

Czechoslovakia
July 1, 1937



Stamps show the St. Nicholas cathedral in Prague

Yugoslavia
July 1, 1937



Stamps in Cyrillic and Latin inscriptions depicting the Memorial Church in Oplenac

Romania
July 1, 1937



Stamps show the Cathedral at Curtea de Arges

Most of my information came from the Internet and from our own Europa Handbook—section B4 (Historical Europa)

Europa-Union

The Balkan Ententes
Continued

Balkan Entente, also called Balkan Pact
established in 1934

The participating countries were Turkey, Yugoslavia, Greece and Romania
All stamps issued in 1937 and 1938 show the coats of arms of these countries

Turkey
October 20, 1937



Yugoslavia
October 29, 1937



Romania
February 10, 1938



Greece
February 8, 1938



Europa-Union

The Balkan Ententes
Continued

Balkan Entente, also called Balkan Pact
established in 1934

Issues of 1940
The stamps show the Coat of Arms of the participating countries

Turkey
February 8, 1940



Greece
May 27, 1940



Romania
February 10, 1938



Yugoslavia
June 1, 1940



Latin inscription Cyrillic inscription

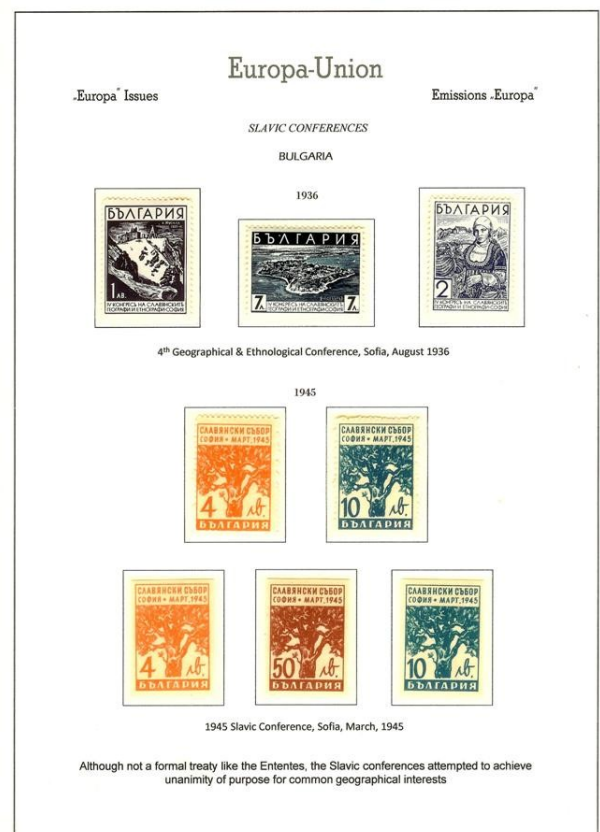
Historical Europa: The Balkan Ententes — cont'd

A couple of covers from the period always add interest to a collection. Here are a couple of examples:



The set above contains nine stamps. At the moment I only have the first six in used condition.; I'm still looking.

To the right is a page from Dana's collection that includes other Slavic conferences not mentioned in the handbook. That's what makes Europa fun—the avenues are endless. ■



The Miscellaneous Box — Caroline Scannel

A friend handed me this cover from one of those great Dollar Boxes you find at shows. He handed it to me and said "Write something about this. It's addressed to the European Union."

Remember those old "tractor feed" computer printers? The paper had holes on the sides that were gripped by the printer to feed the paper straight? That's what those holes are at the sides. It came in a plastic page protector to protect it from further deterioration. It looks older than it is, as it was cancelled 13 November 1962. What? That was a half century ago? Well, when you put it that way....

My first question was; what is ceca, cee and ceeea? CECA was the Coal & Steel Community, but what about the rest? There were too many abbreviations. This necessitated a trip to my local library where there is a book with all the abbreviations of the various European Union committees.

The cover is addressed to the European Union from the Press and Information Service of the European Communities in Rome. The meter gives some information where it originated. CECA in Italian means *Comunita Europea del Carbone e Dell'Acciaio* which in English would be ECSC — European Coal and Steel Community. (Co-incidentally, CECA is also the acronym for the French version as well.)

The first step toward a unified Europe was taken in May 1950 when Robert Schuman of France proposed pooling together coal and steel resources between France and West Germany. Schuman's plan formed the blueprint for the European Coal & Steel Community, which was established in April 1951. The agreement was drafted by Jean Monnet of France and was the first expression of a New Europe which would result in the European Union 40 years later.

The ECSC was the first time the various European States yielded sovereignty to a supranational authority.

Only 6 countries — Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany — felt ready to accept the supranational principle of the ECSC. Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg had formed BENELUX (in 1948) and therefore had some experience in intra-governmental negotiations.

The ECSC was the first step in the direction of political union advanced by Jean Monnet who felt that building such integration step by step would achieve union better than the imposition of a Western Union Federal State as regimented by the United States.

The ECSC survived until the creation of the European Economic Community in 1967, when it was merged into the same.

Finally, what about CEE and CEEA? CEE - European Energy Community CEEA - European Atomic Energy Community, also known as EURATOM. Jean Monnet, ECSC architect and President, wanted a separate community to cover nuclear power. ■



EUROPA NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPA STUDY UNIT,

AN ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELISTS
DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PHILATELIC
MATERIALS COVERING THE IDEA OF A
UNITED EUROPE... UNITED IN A POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL SENSE.

www.europastudyunit.org

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* Dues must be received by 31 January
to ensure continued membership, in-
cluding uninterrupted receipt of the EN.

Editor's Page

Our printing comes In-house

Softcopy of the last issue of Europa
News—EN#410— was sent to the
printer on 3 July and posted to the
website that same night. Our elec-
tronic members, and all members
for whom we have current email
addresses, were notified that the
latest issue was available for view-
ing.

Our print readers, however, had to
wait until early August to get their
copies, and we apologize for the
snafu. Here's what happened:

By mid-July I noticed that the EN
had not shown up in my mailbox.
Since I hadn't heard that anything
was amiss I was tempted to assume
that it would show up eventually.
However, I have learned from ex-
perience (and my basic program-
mer training at IBM) never to as-
sume, so I sent an email to the
printer asking if there was a prob-
lem. That prompted this response:

"Hi Dana. I thought [we] had written
you that we are no longer doing print-
ing. We have retired from it and sold
the accounts to a printer in this area.
They are working on it."

Needless to say, I was taken aback.
The good news is that the EN did in
fact show up, albeit late, and it
looked pretty much as it should;
the only differences were that the
new printer used slightly thinner
paper and didn't 3-hole punch the
insert. The bad news is that the
invoice was somewhat more than
we were paying in the past. So, do
we negotiate, suck it up and go on,
or look for an alternative (or possi-
bly some combination of the
three)?

In a way, this was fortuitous timing,
as we had already been discussing
other options.

Enter our resident "*doer of all
things*" Tonny VanLoij, who has
been eyeing a spiffy new printer at
the Denver Philatelic Library that
he thinks can be used to print the
EN. Of course, the labor of feeding
it, running it, assembling the out-
put, labeling and posting falls on
him. Not a problem, says he.

You are holding the result in your
hands and we hope that the experi-
ment was a success. The good
news is that by doing this ourselves
(by which we mean, Tonny) we
save some printing costs. A bonus
is that the new printer does color
as cheaply as B&W, so we can
move to an all-color publication.
What do you think?

Revising the slate of Officers

After our meeting at NTSS 2012,
Caroline Scannell confided that she
would like to step down as Presi-
dent, as she had many other things
going on and couldn't really take
on another major assignment. She
did, however, say that she would
like to continue as a Director if pos-
sible.

That leaves us with a need for an
interim President until we have our
next formal election. The logical
candidate might be Tonny VanLoij,
but even Superman has his limits,
so in the meantime Your Humble
Editor has offered to fill the role. If
there are no objections, we'll go
with that for awhile, and we'll have
an open VP slot. Meanwhile, if
anyone would like to become in-
volved— webmaster, associate edi-
tor, monograph czar, etc.—let us
know.

I also have a long open action item
to revisit our by-laws and update
them where necessary. That'll be
"job number next." ■



NEW ISSUES WITH SCOTT CATALOG NUMBERS

- Don Smith

* = position in proposed new HB outline (ref. EN# 404-12)

From Linn's **July** & **August** Special Editions



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>*</u>
Albania	2917	18-Nov-12	Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (<i>see page 1</i>)	2a
Andorra (Spanish)	377	4-Apr-12	Europa 2012	1
Armenia	885	1-Dec-11	Commonwealth of Independent States	3b
Armenia	887	3-Dec-11	Eurovision Song Contest (887a, a souvenir sheet) [ref.EN#409-1]	3b
Armenia	888-9	14-Dec-11	Europa 2011	1
Austria	2376	9-May-12	Europa 2012 (a souvenir sheet)	1
Azerbaijan	953	5-Jul-11	Eurovision Song Contest [ref.EN#405-1]	3b
Azerbaijan	961	23-Sep-11	RCC	3b
Azerbaijan	962	5-Jul-11	Commonwealth of Independent States	3b
Azerbaijan	981-3	15-Mar-12	Europa 2012 (983 a souvenir sheet)	1
Belgium	2535	2-Nov-11	Europalia (s/s of 2, joint with Brazil) [ref.EN#409-13]	3a
Belgium	2550	13-Feb-12	Europa 2012 (a souvenir sheet)	1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	683	25-Oct-11	Nansen Birth Anniv. (joint w/ BH Croatia & BH Serbia)	3b
Bosnia (Croat)	259	10-Oct-11	Fridtjof Nansen Birth Anniv. (joint w/BH & BH Serb)	3b
Bosnia (Serb)	434-5	15-Sep-11	European Nature Conservation	3a
Bosnia (Serb)	436	10-Oct-11	Fridtjof Nansen Birth Anniv. (joint w/ BH & BH Croat)	3b
Croatia	835-6	9-May-12	Europa 2012	1
Cyprus	1173-4	2-May-12	Europa 2012	1
Germany	2666	1-Mar-12	Sistine Madonna, joint issue with Vatican City	3b
Germany	B1062-4	12-Apr-12	Euro 2012 Soccer Championships [ref.EN#410-2]	3c
Greenland	607	4-Jan-12	Queen Margrethe II, joint issue with Denmark, Faroe Islands, 607a = souvenir sheet [ref.EN#408-15]	3b
Luxembourg	1334-5	15-May-12	Europa 2012	1
Malta	1459	9-May-12	Europa 2012 (pair of se-tenant stamps)	1
Monaco	2676-7	9-May-12	Europa 2012	1
Serbia	576-7	20-Dec-11	European Volleyball Championships	3c
Slovenia	946	25-May-12	Maribofila (European Culture) (souvenir sheet; <i>see pg 16</i>)	3a
Spain	3797	1-Jul-11	World Youth Day, joint issue with Vatican City 1472	3b
Spain	3804d	19-Sep-11	Euro Cup (Soccer)	3c
Spain	3818	10-Nov-11	Year of Russia in Spain, Spain in Russia [ref.EN#407-16]	3b
Sweden	2674	12-Jan-12	Europa 2012 (se-tenant pair)	1
Sweden	2686	21-Mar-12	Norden 2012 (souvenir sheet of 2)	1b
Switzerland	1423	9-Sep-11	Art, joint issue with Liechtenstein 1522 [ref.EN#405-1]	3b
Switzerland	1454	9-May-12	Europa 2012	1
Tajikistan	377	26-Aug-12	Commonwealth of Independent States	3b
Tajikistan	378	8-Sep-12	RCC	3b
Ukraine	850	20-Dec-11	Europa 2011	1
Vatican City	1501-2	11-May-12	Europa 2012	1

The Story of “Boule de Moulins” — Tonny Van Loij



The theme of the 1979 EUROPAs was Postal History. The France high-value EUROPA stamp, designed and engraved by Pierre Bequet, depicts the “Boule de Moulins” or “Balls of Mills”, a method of *Mail* transport in the city of Paris in the seat of the town during the war of 1870.

As mail via this medium was previously centralized in *Moulin (mills)* these balls were called “Balls of Mills”. (See picture on the maxi card. The ball looks a bit like a hollowed artichoke.) Three engineers, Delort, Robert & Vonoven, invented the system, to move the mail into the city which was completely surrounded by the Prussians.

The ball was made of rolls of zinc, and after the letters were enclosed it was sealed by welding. The cylinder has a diameter of 12cm, and 20cm in length. The weight was approx. 2 kilos and may contain 500 to 600 letters, each no more than 4 grams. Balls were put in the river above Paris and floated down the river. Nets at the English fort of Alfortville were supposed to intercept the balls; however, due to debris and obstacles in the river many of the balls never made it to their destination.

Letters came to the “Mills” from all over France. The fee to have a letter sent that way was 1Fr (normal postage was 20ct). The extra 80ct was for the 3 engineers and operators of the system. However, there was no guarantee for delivery of the letters. The unofficial count for letters sent over the system was between 30,000 and 50,000. Some 25 to 30 “balls” that were lost were found around the 1910s and some as late as 1940 and 1942. The most recent ball was found on 8 August 1968.

The French postal service will do whatever possible to deliver the mail to the descendants of the recipients, because their motto is *No matter what, rain or shine, mail that was paid for must be delivered.*



New Issues - Mariborfila 2012

The **European Capital of Culture** is a city designated by the European Union for a period of one calendar year during which it organizes a series of cultural events with a strong European dimension.

For 2012 the Slovenian city of Maribor was selected as one of the two European Culture Capitals (the other being Guimarães in Portugal).

Slovenia noted this honor by using the Europa 2012 "Visit..." theme to promote the city of Maribor:



Another significant event was **Mariborfila 2012**, held from 24 to 27 May 2012 at the hall of the Leon Štukelj University Sports Centre in Maribor. The exhibition featured the collaboration of members of the Alps-Adriatic philately working group and **Balkanfila**, as well as guests from Cyprus and Portugal.

The exhibition presented 177 different philately stories and 34 titles of philatelic literature, with other events organized to accompany the exhibition.



Slovenia noted the event with a souvenir sheet issued on 25 May.



EUROPA NEWS

Bulletin of the Europa Study Unit

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