



EUROPA NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPA STUDY UNIT

<http://www.europastudyunit.org/>



JANUARY
FEBRUARY
2013

#413

Europa 2013—The Postal Van

The theme for 2013 is a celebration of the means whereby the mail is delivered between involved parties. An indispensable element of that sequence is the Postal Van.

This year the PostEurop countries show their interpretation of this theme by illustrating all of the various forms this element can take.

The occasion also marks the 20th anniversary of PostEurop. We will be looking for other (perhaps non-Europa) stamps to mark that event as well.

ICELAND 2v Issue date 2 May



BELGIUM 2v in a souvenir sheet Issue date 11 February



FINLAND 2v Issue date 6 May



ÅLAND 1v+ Issue date 6 May



IT'S DUES TIME (AGAIN).
PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK AND
YOUR SUPPORT. THANKS!!

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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FEATURES

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The first ESU meeting of 2013:
APS StampShow Louisville KY
Saturday 19 January 10:00 am Room L-11
Hope to see you there!!

New Issues

AZERBAIJAN 2v in a souvenir sheet
Issue date 29 October 2012
Diplomatic Relations with Poland



FRANCE 2v in a souvenir sheet
Le Bal Masque (Masquerade Ball)



SWEDEN 2v in a souvenir sheet
Gustav III at the Royal Swedish Opera



Issue date 9 November 2012
Joint Issue

From the website of the Swedish Post: "A French opera composer and a dramatic historic event in Stockholm are united in this Swedish-French celebration of opera. The main character is King Gustav III, who was passionate about France, art and culture."

FRANCE 1v
Issue date 13 November 2012
Henry IV, the co-Prince
Joint Issue with French Principality of Andorra



Henry IV is one of the most popular figures in French history. With the aid of his ministers, including the duke de Sully, Henry brought order and new prosperity to France. Sully was a man of remarkable vision, as is shown in his Great Design, a plan for a federation of all Christian nations, which appeared in his memoirs (1638); he attributed the plan to Henry IV.

Europa 2013 The Postal Van

DENMARK 1v+ souvenir sheet
Issue date 4 March 2013
The single stamp is self-adhesive



Forward Calendar

Switzerland 7 May Europa (2v)
Norway 10 June Europa
Guernsey 29 May Europa
Guernsey September Sepac
Austria January "Thoughts on Europe" — not sure if this is Europa (Austria has planned almost 60 new issues for next year. Good grief.)

ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
1v + 3v in a souvenir sheet
Railroad Bridges
Issue date 25 October 2012
Joint Issue



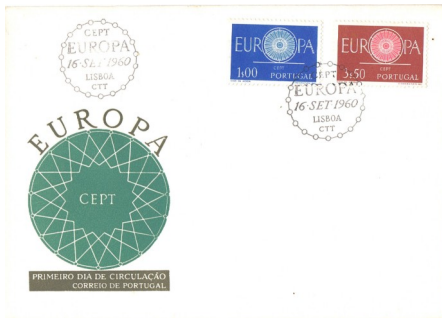
Estonia: the Narva Bridge
Latvia: the Carnikava Bridge
Lithuania: the Lyduvinai Bridge
The Estonia stamp also shows one of the new Stadler FLIRT (Fast Light Innovative Regional Train) type passenger trains that will arrive on Eesti Raudtee track at the end of 2012. The FLIRT was originally developed for the Swiss Federal Railways and was first delivered in 2004.

Europa 1960 FDCs (the Hunt Continues) — Myron Kavalgian

I had written an article some time ago (EN#405-5) describing my struggle to acquire all the 1960 Europa (CEPT) First Day Covers I could afford. At the time I had acquired 160 of them. Here's an update.

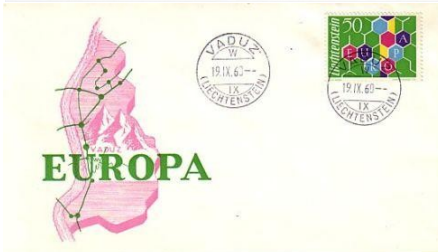
Since the first article, the number of covers has now risen to 190, and they are all different: cachets, cancels, multiple usage, envelope size, addressed/unaddressed covers, personal FDCs and a couple of FDCs with letters.

The number of covers of Belgium, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey number under 10 covers in each country; Portugal and Switzerland only number 5 covers each. There seem to be not a lot of different covers from these countries.



This cover from Ireland was seen on eBay with an asking price of \$40.00—>

However there are more available from other countries, but almost all are expensive. This is true of some covers from Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Spain and Sweden. Why they are so expensive is a mystery to me.



One country – Great Britain – has more personal covers (collector created) than any other country so far. I have almost 20 from all over the British Isles, all hand written in different size envelopes. GB even has the same cachet FDC on many registered covers with different town cancels which is different from any other 1960 country.



So the search continues. I have recently acquired covers from sellers in Argentina, Canada, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Latvia, Uruguay and USA.

When I hit the lottery, I intend to buy everything in sight! So far, though, that collecting solution has eluded me! ■

2013 will be the

European Year of Citizens

"The better the men and women of Europe understand their rights as EU citizens, the more informed the decisions they can take in their personal lives, and the more vibrant democratic life in Europe can be at all levels."

-- European Commission

Advocates of Europa: Gen. George C. Marshall — Bill Armstrong et al.

Member Bill Armstrong recently sent along the following:

"In reviewing the 58 copies of the EUROPA NEWS that are currently available online (and enjoying every minute of it) I found an item that made reference to the Marshall Plan topic as a related area of interest to EUROPA collectors. I noted specifically EN#371-5 which showed US Commemorative Panel CP519 (for Scott#3141), celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan (shown below). As a possible assist to collectors I took a look at other US areas I collect for related material. "



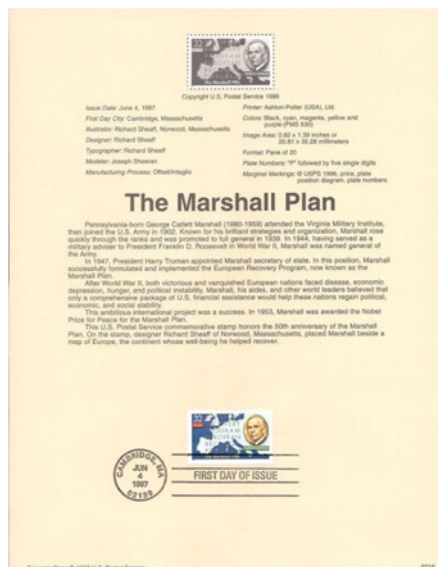
The topic of the European Recovery Program (ERP), aka the Marshall Plan, is an integral part of the Europa topic, and early album pages often included some of the stamps. In the forward to his seminal monograph on the topic, Steve Lus-ter wrote:

Most philatelists I know, consider the Marshall Plan to be an integral part of the European Unity story. Some of them include a section on the Marshall Plan in the larger philatelic story of European Unity,

while others focus exclusively on the philately of the Marshall Plan.

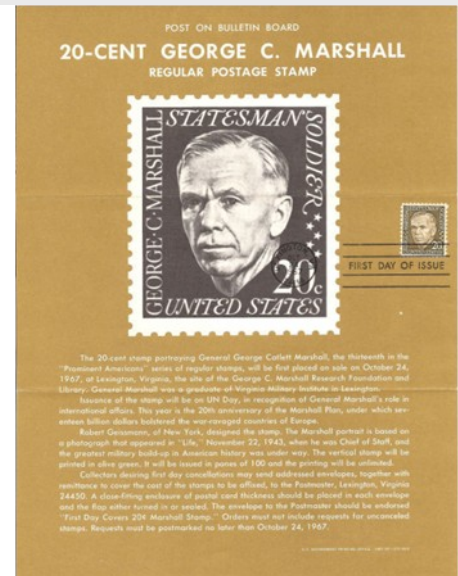
The latter method of collecting was the case with [charter ESU member] Bill Norby. Bill collected the philately of the Marshall Plan in great depth and he won many high-level awards.

In 1999, he was asked to display his stamp collection at the George C. Marshall Museum on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Museum is located on the grounds of the Virginia Military Institute where Marshall had gone to college, and from where he entered military service. Based on the year's exposure of 10 frames of Bill's Marshall Plan philately, he decided to donate his philatelic collection to the Museum.



Post office announcement for the 50th anniversary issue, with stamp and first day cancel added.

Your editor had the pleasure of visiting the Marshall Museum with Steve during a car trip to Knospex and can attest to how impressive Bill's collection is. It is now in the museum vault, but they will pull it for you if you ask. It is worth your time. ■



Post office announcement for the George Marshall definitive stamp (Scott#1289), with stamp and first day cancel added.



Artmaster first day cover for the George Marshall definitive stamp (Scott#1289), on a Postal Commemorative Society display page.



Many colorful posters were produced to publicize the ERP, such as the one at the left, which was the basis for Turkey's 1958 Europa design. See EN#400-2.

The Early Years

Each year we ask you for suggestions on things we might include in our newsletter. One such suggestion was that we talk about some of our members and perhaps resurrect the early items from the newsletter.

Don Smith has obliged by taking us back to Square One—the founder of the ESU, Robin Crowley (ESU #1):

I am sure there are only a couple of people in the Europa Study Unit who have had the pleasure of meeting the ESU's founder, Robin Crowley. Once you met him you never forgot him!

My first meeting with Robin was right after I joined the ESU, when I was making frequent trips to New York City to attend stamp shows. One such show was in 1962 at the Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan. It was there that I met him for the first time. Robin was a tall man and the distinguishing characteristic was he was blind in one eye. He either wore an eye patch or more frequently glasses with the right lens black. He stood out in the crowd!

And he always – and I mean always – wore a dark three-piece suit. A chain smoker, there was normally cigarette ash on the front of his dark vest.

At the show he gathered together those who were Europa collectors (and one or two others) and made arrangements for lunch at a nearby restaurant. I remember there were Mel and Lauretta Garabrant, Lydia Callihan, Angela Minerva, George Guzzio, Bob Matteson, and a couple of others whose names I have forgotten. There were about a dozen.

We met at the front of the exhibition hall and when all were assembled Robin took off up the street. Being a tall man he had a very long stride and he walked fast! The rest of us ran along trying to keep up. He entered the restaurant, breezed by the maitre'd and began moving tables around the dining room. The waiter had a fit. He said, "Sir. Sir. Let me do that." Robin's response was "Get out of my way!"

When he had everything to his satisfaction he sat down at the head of the tables and chuckled. He thought his performance was very funny. But the point is, Robin was in charge! During the meal the owner of the establishment came out and greeted him – they were old friends. But he did not miss the opportunity during the meal to do some Unit business, going over what he hoped to accomplish with *Europa News* and trying to get input on what the Unit could do.

As editor of *Europa News*, Robin typed them on his typewriter. He had an original and 2 or 3 copies, and he typed the newsletter several times to get sufficient copies. And if you have had the opportunity to read the first issues, you will see immediately that he was a bit verbose. Not a superb typist, errors were simply struck out. He did this also in his several exhibits – to the distress of the judges! But what he did write was profound. ■



The picture above appeared in the May-June 1962 issue of *Topical Time*. The caption was "ATA Lounge at INTERPEX packed with booth workers, members of ATA, Space Unit, Chapters and friends." Robin Crowley is on the right. The article below continued: "EUROPEX—the first philatelic exhibition in America devoted exclusively to the topic of EUROPA, was held in New York City at the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel March 3 and 4. The exhibition was held under the patronage of the Council of Europe and the Europa Study Unit of the ATA. Winners of the competitive exhibition were: Gold Award-Major Nancy Morrow for her exhibit 'NATO'; Silver Award-Rodger Shepherd for his 'Designers, Engravers and Printers of EUROPA issues'; Bronze Award-Robin Crowley for 'The Importance of Luxembourg to EUROPA'; and the fourth award to Mrs. Dorothy T. Gillespie for 'The Birth, Growth and Influence of EUROPA'. The AFDOS award went to Willhelm Bensch, and a special Gold Award was won by Jacques Rodgers of Switzerland." (*Mr. Rodgers was editor of a premier EUROPA catalog in the early 1960s. —ed.*)

The 1956 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (Part 9)

The Luster monograph installment for 1956 concludes with a discussion of other related issues.

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 is now being posted on the ESU website in the near future, where it can also be downloaded and printed.

Now that each of the six ECSC countries have been covered, I want to illustrate two other items. They are scans from an early version of the D'Urso Catalogue (1962).⁸

The first scan is of a complete set of first day covers. I think it would be nice if each of the covers bore the same cachet. However, as can be seen, at least two of the covers have different cachets.

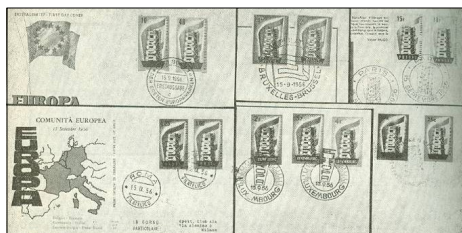


Figure 114. Set of Europa 1956 first day covers as scanned from the D'Urso Catalogue.

This next item, also scanned from the 1962 edition of the D'Urso Catalogue,⁸ is a complete set of the 13 Europa stamps from the six ECSC countries, all on the same cover. A cachet of sorts, showing the European Movement's "E" flag bears the inscription in several languages "For a United Europe." This cover may or may not be the one listed in the D'Urso Catalogue as numbers 1/13F. A cover with all 13 stamps is as I wrote, mentioned in D'Urso. The cover illustrated here bears cancels from each country dated from March - April 1957.



Figure 115. Cover, not a first day cover, with all the 1956 Europa stamps on it.

To show that someone got it mostly right, figure 116 is a set of five first day covers with matching cachets. The cover from France is missing in this set.



Figure 116. Set of five first day covers, all with the same cachet, franked with the 1956 Europa stamps from each of the ECSC countries, less France.

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

Philatelic and non-philatelic material using the 1956 common design.

This final section deals with a variety of material. Some are actual stamps, while others are souvenirs, labels or cachets, prepared for various events or causes. However, all the items in this section have one thing in common. They all contain an image of the 1956 Europa common design.

Labels - As used in this monograph, the definition of a label includes items that were produced to look like a stamp. However, they are not from any legitimate stamp issuing entity. For that reason, they bear no postal validity.

The imperforate labels shown here are from the "Romanian Government-in-Exile." They were produced by a group located in, I believe, Spain, ostensibly to raise money to help fight communism in Romania. The labels were produced in a set of three stamps that draw heavily on the 1956 Europa common design. These labels also come perforated.



Figure 116. Set of three imperforate "Romania-in-Exile" labels.

The "Romania-in-Exile labels are known both perforated and imperforate. They are known on cacheted "first day covers" with special cancels and on souvenir cards. They are known with a variety of over-prints, some inverted.



Figure 117. Selection of items bearing "Romania-in-Exile" labels.

Actual Philatelic Items - Several countries have "borrowed the 1956 Europa common design for use on their own philatelic items. The souvenir sheet at figure 123 from the Yemen Arab Republic is one. This sheet is known both perforated and imperforate.



Figure 123. Imperforate souvenir sheet from the Yemen Arab Republic.¹²

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

SOUVENIRS - Each of the items in this section was produced either by the Europa Study Unit or another organization, to commemorate a stamp show... and each contains a copy of a 1956 Europa common design stamp.

The first item is a set of two souvenir sheets. They were produced to commemorate the first convention of the Europa Study unit. That convention was held in New York city from March 22-24, 1963, in conjunction with the INTERPEX stamp show of that year. The sheet's colors are red (for the low values of the stamps shown) and blue (depicting the high values from the two-stamp sets chosen to be on the souvenir sheet).



Figure 118. Set of two souvenir sheets produced by the Europa Study Unit for its first convention in 1963.

Note that the low values of each Europa set of stamps are on the red sheet to the left, while the high values of each set are on the blue sheet to the right.

This next item was also produced by the Europa Study Unit. It commemorates 20 years of Europa stamps. A 1956 Europa stamp from Belgium and a 1976 stamp from Germany are depicted on the sheet. In the background can be seen the main building and flags in front of the Council of Europe's headquarters in Strasbourg, France.

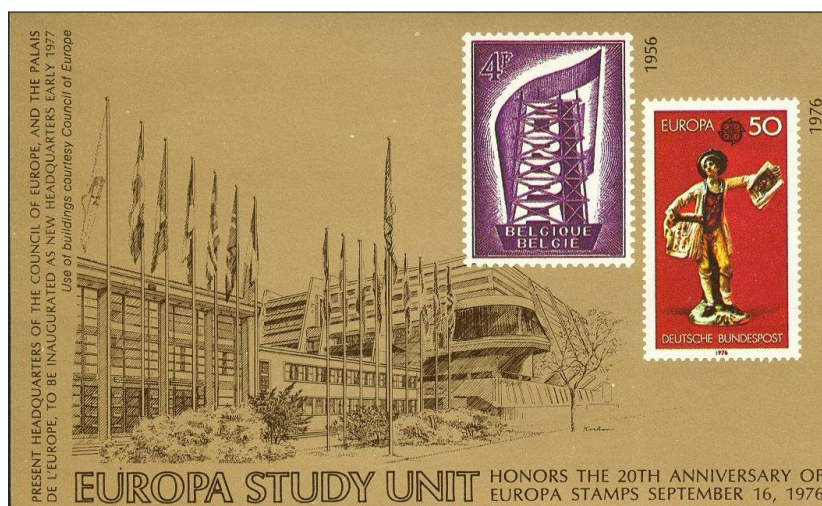


Figure 119. Souvenir sheet produced by the Europa Study Unit to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Europa stamps.

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

This final souvenir was produced in Italy. It is one of a series that was produced annually to commemorate the "EUROPA" stamp shows. Those shows were held in the former royal palace in Naples. This sheet is imperforate and it was produced for the 5th "EUROPA" stamp show in 1965. The sheet commemorates the 10th anniversary of Europa stamps. The sheet is affixed to a cover along with the complete set of Italy's 1965 Europa stamps. A special "cancel" in red was also applied to the sheet.



Figure 120. Souvenir sheet produced for the 1965 "Europa" stamp show in Italy.

City Post - Some cities in the Netherlands are allowed to deliver internal mail. Sheets of "stamps" have been produced to indicate when carriage has been made by that post rather than the national post. Figure 122 is an example of a sheet of 8 "stamps" featuring the Netherlands 1956 Europa stamp design. These "stamps" can be told apart from the regular stamps by many different features. Among them are their size, the fact that they contain a city code number, different denomination and the word "STADTPOST" (e.g., city post).



Figure 122. Netherlands city post stamps with 1954 Europa stamp design.

The 50th anniversary of Europa stamps opened the gates for use of the 1956 common design as seen on the souvenir sheets below.



Figure 124. Imperforate souvenir sheets, each with a likeness of the 1956 Europa common design.

End of Part 9. This concludes the excerpts of the 1956 issue.

The complete monograph is available now on the ESU website in the Members section.

The Miscellaneous Box — Dana Roper



I got this busy cover from Tonny VanLoij, in a grab bag of miscellaneous Europa-related items that he brought to the APS StampShow meeting in Atlanta last January. The basic cover utilizes a first day cancel of the Austrian issue for the 10th Europa talks on 12 June 1967. These talks were held each year in Vienna, and are all listed in the D'Urso and Rogers catalogs. The cancel shown is D'Urso C-92, which has a rarity factor of 3.

The cachet on the lower left shows one such "Large Family House" in Mauerkirchen, Austria, and the logo of the PCV in Sedlescombe, England. According to Wikipedia, the PCV was founded in 1946 in Switzerland, and quickly became

international in scope, with villages in Germany, Austria, Great Britain and India.

The cover was then flown by balloon to Salzburg, in celebration of 20 years of the Pestalozzi Children's Village (PCV) in Austria. The cancel (or cachet, I'm not sure which) in the upper

left shows that this occurred 5 days later, on 17 June.

The cachet notes that 1967 was the 20th anniversary of Pro Juventute (literally, For the Children) of Austria.

The inset below shows the relevant inscription on the back of the cover. It reads:

Letter needs to be dropped off by 13 June with correct postage. This letter will serve as receipt for the 1/2 year dues of Shilling 10 (approx \$1.50) to **Pro Juventute** of Austria. ■

37. BALLONPOSTFLUG

Bis 13. Juni in Österreich frankiert
per Post aufgeben.

Halbjahresbeitrag S 10.—

Dieser Brief gilt als Gönnerausweis
der

ÖSTERREICHISCHEN
PRO JUVENTUTE

5010 Salzburg, Nonnbergstiege 2

Aland Gutter Strips — Leo Malz

For those of us looking to add some interest to our annual issues collection, member Leo Malz has a suggestion. In a recent email he wrote:

“I’ve made some scans of a few items which I thought would be of interest to the members, as they have not previously been illustrated nor I believe properly described. Herewith are scans of the recent Europa issues for Åland for years 2009-2012.

“Although mention has been made of the existence of gutter pairs in EN and the checklist, no mention was made that the gutter pairs had designs on them and in fact should be collected as gutter strips of 5 and not as single gutter pairs...”

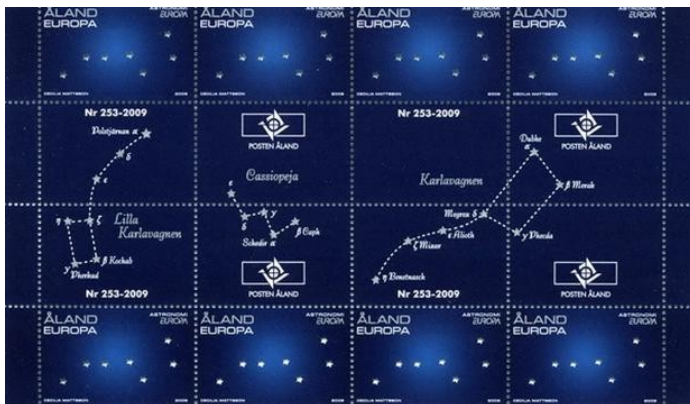
Not only does Leo make an excellent point, he is also flagging something that has probably escaped most of us. A check of the latest Michel CEPT catalog reveals that the editors of that catalog also make mention only of gutter pairs, not gutter strips or blocks (Åland 2009 would be a gutter strip of 4 rather than 5, but who’s counting?)

So, is this a genuine attempt to make the Europa stamps more interesting, or just another attempt to extract additional revenue from collectors? Or perhaps both? If you are interested, now would be the time to get on board this specialty, while there should still be copies out there.

Leo also cites the Denmark self-adhesive sheet of 2010, first reported in EN#401-15 and shown again below. He says “the layout is most unusual and it should be collected as an intact sheet and not just as a single ... the word ‘should’ of course is not intended to dictate what collectors wish to do...” ■



Denmark 2010 self-adhesive sheet



Åland 2009 gutter strip



Åland 2010 gutter strip



Åland 2011 gutter strip



Åland 2012 gutter strip



NEW ISSUES WITH SCOTT CATALOG NUMBERS - Don Smith



From Linn's **November** & **December** Special Editions

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

| COUNTRY | SCOTT # | DATE OF ISSUE | DESCRIPTION | * |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|--|-----------|
| Azerbaijan | 984-8 | 14-May-12 | Eurovision Song Contest <i>ref EN#411-4</i> (984-6 = sheets of 6 different, 987-8 = souvenir sheets) | 3a |
| Azores | 544-5 | 5-Jun-12 | Europa 2012 (1v+ss) | 1 |
| Bosnia (Croat) | 266 | 5-Apr-12 | Europa 2012, se-tenant pair (266 = souvenir sheet 2 ea) | 1 |
| Bosnia (Serb) | 447-9 | 26-Apr-12 | Europa 2012 (449 = souvenir sheet of 6, 3 each 447-8) | 1 |
| Cyprus | 1175-6 | 1-Jul-12 | EU Presidency (1v+ss) <i>ref EN#412-2</i> | 2a |
| Czech Republic | 3532 | 2-May-12 | Europa 2012 | 1 |
| Estonia | 709 | 10-Aug-12 | Euro 10 th Anniversary <i>ref EN#412-2</i> | 2a |
| Greenland | 622-3 | 7-May-12 | Europa 2012 (self-adhesive booklet stamps) | 1 |
| Hungary | 4240 | 9-May-12 | Europa 2012 (sheet of 4, 2 each 4240a-b) | 1 |
| Hungary | 4244 | 25-May-12 | Smokehouse & Pottery <i>ref EN#410-2</i> (sheet se-tenant pair, joint issue with Slovenia) | 3b |
| Hungary | 4245 | 8-Jun-12 | Euro2012 Soccer (omnibus issue) <i>ref EN#410-2</i> | 3c |
| Iceland | 1268 | 22-Mar-12 | Norden 2012 (souvenir sheet) | 1b |
| Iceland | 1274-7 | 3-May-12 | Europa 2012 (1276-7 booklet stamps) | 1 |
| Madeira | 300-1 | 9-May-12 | Europa 2012 (1v+ss) | 1 |
| Poland | 4050 | 12-Jul-12 | Muzakowski Park (UNESCO site, joint with Germany) | 3a |
| Poland | 4054 | 6-Sep-12 | Polish-German Stamp Exhibition <i>ref EN#412-3</i> | 3b |
| Portugal | 3393-7 | 10-Apr-12 | European Capital of Culture (4v+ss) <i>ref EN#410-3</i> | 3a |
| Portugal | 3398-9 | 17-Apr-12 | ERASMUS program <i>ref EN#410-9</i> | 2a |
| Portugal | 3400-1 | 9-May-12 | Europa 2012 (1v+ss) | 1 |
| Portugal | 3414-5 | 4-Jun-12 | Euro2012 Soccer (omnibus issue) <i>ref EN#410-2, 411-2</i> | 3c |
| Portugal | 3422 | 4-Jul-12 | Euro2012 Soccer (Portugal victory) <i>ref EN#411-2 date given in that issue was incorrect</i> | 3c |
| Romania | 5301a, 5302a | 11-Oct-11 | Romania-Moldova sheets of 8 + label <i>ref EN#408-15</i> | 3b |
| Romania | 5302b | 11-Oct-11 | Romania-Moldova souvenir sheet of 2 <i>ref EN#408-15</i> | 3b |
| Romania | 5309a | 11-Oct-25 | Eur.Day of Civil Justice sheet of 8 + label <i>ref EN#408-15</i> | 3a |
| Romania | 5356-7 | 6-Apr-12 | Europa 2012 | 1 |
| Romania | 5357b,c | 6-Apr-12 | Europa 2012 souvenir sheets of 4 (2 sets) (sheets are the same except for stamp positions) | 1 |
| Russia | 7367 | 25-Jun-12 | European Newts (pair; joint with Belarus) | 3b |
| Russia | 7376 | 17-Jul-12 | Churches (pair; joint with Spain) <i>ref EN#411-3</i> | 3b |
| Serbia | 591 | 13-Apr-12 | Ján Koniarek (joint with Slovakia) <i>ref EN#410-2</i> | 3b |
| Serbia | 593-4 | 4-May-12 | Europa 2012 | 1 |
| Serbia | 596-7 | 1-Jun-12 | ECY Nature Protection | 3a |
| Serbia | RA47 | 27-Feb-12 | European Wrestling | 3c |
| Slovakia | 636 | 13-Apr-12 | Ján Koniarek (ss; joint with Serbia) <i>ref EN#410-2</i> | 3b |
| Slovakia | 637 | 4-May-12 | Europa 2012 | 1 |
| Spain | 3863 | 17-Jul-12 | Churches (pair; joint with Russia) <i>ref EN#411-3</i> | 3b |
| Turkey | 3284-7 | 15-Feb-12 | European Capital of Sport <i>ref EN#412-3</i> | 3a or 3c |
| Turkey | 3305-6 | 9-May-12 | Europa 2012 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 848 | 8-Dec-11 | Commonwealth of Independent States | 3b |
| Ukraine | 866-9 | 20-Feb-12 | Euro2012 Soccer (omnibus issue) <i>ref EN#411-2 which showed 3 values rather than 4;</i> <i>these are actually generic labels on personalized stamps</i> | 3c |
| Vatican City | 1507 | 13-Sep-12 | Battle of Milvian Bridge <i>ref EN#412-2</i> (souvenir sheet, joint issue with Italy) | 3b |

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.

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cluding uninterrupted receipt of the EN.

Editor's Page

Re. member Gary Jones' request
for an alternative source for album
pages, member Myron Kavaljian
responds:

*Try a company called "Album Pages";
its owner is Rick Simpson. His
website is at www.albumpages.net.
He's made pages for me (France
art) with appropriate titles on the
pages, spaces with Scott numbers
and they were reasonable and
good. He can make pages Scott
style, Minkus style or a 3 hole
page.*

We have confirmed that White Ace
has indeed stopped doing Europa
supplements, but they will con-
tinue to print matching border
blank pages, so all is not lost.

A warm welcome to new member
Stephane Chevette, who was
given a membership as a birthday
present by his thoughtful brother.
What a great gift idea!

Our Handbook Czar is working dili-
gently to get all of the info for Eu-
ropa 2012. He is targeting the next
issue for the update.

Finally, check the article on page 15
about PMR, then look at the first
offering in Don's latest auction.
Yep, those are in fact the actual
stamps referenced in the article.
How's that for timeliness? This is a
unique opportunity to get a truly
interesting Europa item! ■

When I last visited Steve Luster my mission was to copy his computer files
so that I could transition into the job of EN editor (see EN#399-1). Of
course, I also looked around his den and admired his memorabilia. One
thing that especially caught my eye was a bright blue "Beanie Baby". Col-
lecting these little stuffed animals was all the rage a few years back, and I
remember exclaiming "Oh, look. You have a little Europa Beanie Baby."
Steve being Steve, he immediately said "Do you want it?" I said sure, and
that was that—I brought the little guy (girl?) home with me. The picture
below shows him/her sitting proudly in front of my Europa collection:



But the story does not end there. One of our members asked whether we
could archive some of the older issues of EN on the website. The answer is
a tentative yes, for those we have electronic copies of. It was while I was
looking through what we had that I came across a little item in Europa
Briefs from 2002 (EN#352-6) where Steve first showed us the same Beanie
Baby. It is called "Unity Bear" and was originally for sale only in Europe.
What humbled me was the fact that Steve received this as part of his
NAPEX 2002 President's Award (Steve managed the NAPEX show for many
years). Steve, again, thank you! ■

Europa Briefs

The images below were taken from eBay, and highlight what bargains can be found with a little patience. The item below is a souvenir sheet of 2 stamps issued by the government of Cyprus to publicize the EUROPHILEX'95 stamp show. Scott has assigned it #871, with a 2013 catalog value of \$8.75 either mint or used. Michel calls it Block 17, with a price of €4.50 (about \$5.85). Either valuation is quite reasonable.



The next sheet is another story. Scott simply mentions that a limited number were overprinted "£5" on each stamp and sold for 2 days during the show. The number on the bottom would indicate that 8000 were actually printed.



Michel did assign a number to this. It is Block 18, but the valuation is 100x greater: €450 (\$585). The valuation is italicized, which indicates that the item is speculative.

A few years ago I noted in my personal database that a seller on eBay was asking \$42 for the overprinted sheet. I should have bought it then. ESU member Alain Thibert ("poledi" on eBay) recently offered both sheets with a starting bid of \$99.95; the winning bid was \$130.

That was a bargain. I found other sellers—mostly on **delcampe**—offering the overprinted sheet for \$350 and up. Alain uses eBay to sell off extra material from lots that he buys. I've found that he always has some interesting items on his eBay site (and seldom any that are that expensive). ■

The images below are from a new dealer's website and fit squarely in the "Are you kidding me?" file. They are from the prolific stamp-issuing country of Sierra Leone and consist of 16 (!!) sheetlets showing all the participating teams in the Euro 2012 soccer tournament. Asking price was \$55.20 (same price for retail and for dealer wholesale). *Caveat emptor*. ■



ESU member **Bill Armstrong** wrote previously:

"I have one MNH copy of the 1975 Andorra 0.80 (Fr) stamp - Michel(s) #264 - Scott #236, with "all" black missing. What do I have?" Tonny VanLoij responded that it sounded like a "color missing" variety, which is no longer considered a great rarity thanks to modern printing techniques.

Bill sent me a picture of the variety, which is shown below next to a regular copy:



The difference is primarily around the perimeter, and is quite striking. Nice find, Bill! ■

The image below is of a new issue from Croatia, issue date 19 October 2012, for the 20th anniversary of EUROHERC.



The Croatia Post website says "Euroherc Insurance is a major Croatian private insurance company founded in 1992." The company website boasts that it is "the first and largest insurance company established with private capital" in the country. So, despite the name, it is not really Europa related, and is mentioned here simply for the record. ■

New Issues — 43rd Pacific Islands Forum



The **Pacific Islands Forum** is an inter-governmental organization that aims to enhance cooperation between the independent countries of the Pacific Ocean. It was founded in 1971 as the **South Pacific Forum**; in 1999, the name was changed to **Pacific Islands Forum**.

The mission of Pacific Islands Forum is "to work in support of Forum member governments, to enhance the economic and social well-being of the people of the South Pacific by fostering cooperation between governments ..."

In a move similar to the European Common Market, The **Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA)** aims to establish a free-trade area between fourteen of the Pacific Islands Forum countries.

On 22 August 2012 **COOK ISLANDS** issued two souvenir sheets to publicize the 43rd meeting of the body. Each of the participant's flags was shown on a sheet.

One of those participants was the EU, whose flag is included on the sheet below.

Information from Cook Islands and Wikipedia

Since 1989 the Forum has held Post Forum Dialogues with key Dialogue Partners. There are currently 14 partners: Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM / KEY DIALOGUE PARTNERS
The South Pacific, a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity in which its cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honored and developed.

LARGE OCEAN ISLAND STATES THE PACIFIC CHALLENGE

Australia • Cook Islands • Micronesia • Fiji
Kiritibi • Nauru • New Zealand • Niue
Solomon Islands • Tonga • Tuvalu • Vanuatu
Palau • PNG • Marshall Islands • Samoa

Economic Growth
Sustainable Development
Security
Good Governance

scan me for additional information

New Caledonia was granted Associate Membership in 2006.
French Polynesia was granted Associate Membership in 2006.

Forum Observers include Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, the ACP Group, Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations, ADB, World Bank, Tuna Commission (WCPFC) and Timor Leste as Special Observer.



EUROPA NEWS

Bulletin of the Europa Study Unit

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