In an earlier Europa News (EN# 405-12f) we published a short article on the European Danube Commission.

As noted in the previous EN article, a number of stamps have been issued by various countries commemorating the commission, and a checklist was provided therein.

Joining that series is this souvenir sheet from Hungary shown in the previous column, issued 22 September 2014. It is an overprint on the Danube River Bridges sheet (Scott# 2909) originally issued in 1985. The special postmark for the block uses the sixtieth anniversary logo. The stamp set released in 1985 (Scott# 2902-09 shown on the right) was issued to show “beautiful bridges on the Danube” and is not pertinent to the Danube Commission per se.
Pictured are figurines produced in Liechtenstein in the 1940s: a “Polar Bear” and a “Goat”. The pictures are snapshots of childlike playing scenes: The polar bear is enjoying the climate in the freezer compartment of a refrigerator and the goat is proudly climbing a lemon.

The toy factory in Schaan at that time made nativity figurines and various animal figures for several years. A kind of modeling material based on diatomaceous earth was pressed into metal molds and painted by hand after hardening. The figurines found a ready market worldwide. In 1949, one of the company’s founders left the company. Under the name Spiwa, his partner merged with another company in the business and continued to make toys for some years afterwards.

— from Philatelic Liechtenstein

**SWEDEN** 2v
Issue date 26 March 2015

Only one of two stamps is currently showing on Sweden Post’s website. More to come.

**JERSEY** 2v from a set of 6v
Issue date 24 March 2015

The stamp set celebrates the model trains produced by the Hornby company. Pictured are two classic Hornby train sets. First is the legendary Flying Scotsman passenger train. The other (high) value shows the “mixed freight” train, a generic small steam loco pulling a varied consist.

The illustrations are copied straight from the boxes of train sets currently available, with track, and Digital Command Control (DCC) ready for the advanced modeler:

**DENMARK** 2v self adhesive
Issue date 2 January 2015

*Addendum to last issue*

Danish Post lists on their website under “Toys” what they call a ‘theme sheet’ of 6 stamps and “… lots of stickers, which you can use to create your own mini-figures. A fun and original way to decorate your envelopes.” The theme sheet is shown below:

**SAN MARINO** 2v
Issue date 10 March 2015

**GERMANY** 1v
Issue date 7 May 2015

The Hornby lineup also includes a scale model of the Eurostar Channel train, shown below in its new paint scheme.
KAZAKHSTAN 2v se-tenant issued in mini-sheets of 4 sets with central labels as shown (the se-tenant set on the right below has been cropped off the illustration)  Issue date  15 January 2015

GEORGIA 1v + ss (shown) incorporating that same 1v
Issue date  14 February 2015

FRANCE 2v
Issue date  3 October 2014
50th anniversary of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM)

EDQM was established in 1964 to develop a common pharmacopoeia in Europe. By 2013, 37 member states and the European Union (EU) have signed the common Convention.

Issue date 6 October 2014
60 years of European Cultural Cooperation

The building shown on the stamp is Event Hall, a multi-purpose indoor space designed located in the “City of Arts & Sciences” complex in Valencia.

The year 2015 also notes the 30th anniversary of the European Capitals of Culture initiative. The 2015 capitals are Mons (Belgium) and Plzeň (Czech Republic — see next page).
New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC  1v in mini-sheets of 4 stamps with 2 labels    Issue date 18 February 2015
Plzeň - European Capital of Culture

St. Bartholomew’s Cathedral depicted on the stamp is the main landmark of Plzeň, commemorating the hundreds of years of its cultural tradition. The fountain in the foreground embodies the present-day city. (Mons, Belgium is this year’s other Cultural Capital.)

AZERBAIJAN  2v in a souvenir sheet    Issue date 19 December 2014

ROMANIA  2v issued in mini-sheets of 6v    Issue date 18 December 2014
Joint Issue ~ Traditional Folk Art

CROATIA  2v in a souvenir sheet

Fortified church assemblies dating from the Middle Ages, through the two postage stamps illustrating the Evangelical Church in Cristian, Brasov, and St. Nicholas Church, in Komiža, Vis Island, Croatia.

ROMANIA  2v issued in mini-sheets of 8v+label    Issue date 14 November 2014
Joint Issue ~ Old Churches
**New Issues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BULGARIA</strong></td>
<td>25 October 2014</td>
<td>souvenir sheet International Philatelic Exhibition “Bulgaria-Portugal”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LITHUANIA</strong></td>
<td>2 January 2015</td>
<td>1v, Lithuania becomes the 19th member of the Eurozone (on 1 January)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUNGARY</strong></td>
<td>6 November 2014</td>
<td>1v, European Women’s Handball Championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ITALY</strong></td>
<td>30 January 2015</td>
<td>1v self-adhesive, Turin, European Capital of Sport 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CYPRUS</strong></td>
<td>6 January 2014</td>
<td>Turkish Post, 1v from a set of 3, A stamp-on-stamp showing an envelope with the 1963 Europa issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CROATIA</strong></td>
<td>30 September 2014</td>
<td>1v, 950th anniversary of the Benedictine Monastery of St. Nikolas in Trogir. St. Benedict is considered to be the Patron Saint of Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONTENEGRO</strong></td>
<td>22 October 2014</td>
<td>1v, “Joy of Europe”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the occasion of: 135th Anniversary of the postal communications and post stamps in Bulgaria, and the 25th anniversary of the European Philatelic Federation (FEPA).

The sheet depicts Portuguese Navigator Ferdinand Magellan, and the crests of Portugal and Bulgaria.

Two of my favorite sites for finding new issues are the tiny countries of Liechtenstein (left) and Luxembourg (right). Visit them at [www.philatlie.li](http://www.philatlie.li) and [www.postphilately.lu/](http://www.postphilately.lu/)
The 2015 European Games, also known as Baku 2015 or Baku 2015 European Games, will be the inaugural edition of the European Games, an international multi-sport event for athletes representing the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Europe. It will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 12 to 28 June 2015, and will feature over 6,000 athletes from 50 NOCs competing in 20 sports.

Baku was awarded the right to host the first European Games at the 41st EOC General Assembly in Rome back on 8 December 2012. The European Games will take place every four years thereafter, with the next competition due to be held in 2019.

The logo includes flame, water, the mythical Simurgh bird, an Azerbaijani carpet and a pomegranate as one of the symbols of Azerbaijani profusion. The pomegranate, called Nar, is one of two mascots for the Games, along with a gazelle named Jeyran. The pair are intended to represent the spirit of Azerbaijan and help excite youth for the event.

— information from Wikipedia
### NEW ISSUES WITH SCOTT CATALOG NUMBERS

**- Don Smith**

From Linn’s January & February Special Editions

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>SCOTT #</th>
<th>DATE OF ISSUE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>992-3</td>
<td>23-May-14</td>
<td>Europa 2014</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>30-Sep-14</td>
<td>Benedictine Monastery</td>
<td>EN 426-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>14-Nov-14</td>
<td>Churches: Joint issue with Romania</td>
<td>EN 426-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1211</td>
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<td>Euromed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2121</td>
<td>9-Jul-14</td>
<td>Euromed</td>
<td>EN 423-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4318</td>
<td>9-May-14</td>
<td>Europa 2014 (a souvenir sheet of 2)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4333</td>
<td>3-Oct-14</td>
<td>Danube Commission</td>
<td>EN 426-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4335</td>
<td>6-Nov-14</td>
<td>European Women’s Handball</td>
<td>EN 426-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3247</td>
<td>1-Jul-14</td>
<td>Presidency of the Council of European Union</td>
<td>EN 423-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>883-4</td>
<td>23-Aug-14</td>
<td>Baltic Chain, joint issue with Estonia 764-5, Lithuania 1031. 884 a s/s of 3</td>
<td>EN 423-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The Miscellaneous Box — Caroline Scannel**

I knew it was not a first day cover the minute I saw it. I had just picked out an FDC of the issue a few minutes before on this website I was perusing, same dealer, same purchase.

I liked the artwork! The bright colors portraying mail delivery more than 100 years ago. Each card bearing a different cancel. Besides collecting Europa I also collect Universal Postal Union.

After opening the package I found what I thought was a pair of cards to be a souvenir card issued as a nice souvenir of the French-German Philatelic Exposition held 6-7 April 1974. One card is franked with the Europa issue of 1973 and the other franked with the German issued of the same year. The flag of the EU graces the third card. ■

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**Forward Calendar**

**Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania**
12 March 2015
Protection of the Baltic Sea Natural Environment (joint issue)

**Czech Republic**
15 April 2015
Chomutov – The 6th Czech and German Philatelic Exhibition

**Austria**
24 April 2015
Eurovision Song Contest-Vienna

**Hungary**
4 June 2015
European Women’s Basketball Championship, Hungary-Romania

**Romania**
26 June 2015
Cluj-Napoca European Youth Capital

**Estonia**
1 July 2015
European U23 championships in track and field athletics
Charles the Great: “Father of Europe” — Marcel Van Graven

It is appropriate that for the 1200th anniversary of the death of Charles the Great we United Europe collectors take some time to reflect on those historic personalities that did so much for Europe. However, the question will always linger, do we see him as the great conqueror of Europe or, as he is also known, “the Father of Europe”.

From then on, the river Elbe was the Eastern border of the Frankish Empire. Being the ruler of this multinational Emporium and given his promise to defend the Roman Church, he was crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Leo III on 25 Dec. 800 in Rome. This empire consisted of France, large parts of Spain, the Netherlands, Germany (west of the Elbe River) and a large part of Slavonia. No wonder, then, that Charles the Great, was called “REX EUROPEA”, the king of Europe.

Besides being the emperor, Charles was of great historic importance to Europe in a number of ways. He was very involved in streamlining the law by forming a judicial system with judges and council members; the institution of the Karolingische Monarchie influenced European history for centuries.

He was famous for his legislative and administrative laws, educational stimulus, protection of the church and the free poor. Quality of living was important to him, therefore the reverence: Father of Europe.

Charles also had great influence in the Cultural (Karolingische) Renaissance and economically (Monetary system).
Charles never returned to Rome after he was crowned and stayed mostly in Aachen, Germany. He made this city his primary residence beginning in 794 and permanent residence from 808 until his death on 28 January 814. He was buried in the Karolingische Pfalzchapel, designed and built by him 796-805, an octagonal domed building on the south-side of the Cathedral of Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle – French).

The Bust of Charles the Great in the cathedral of Aachen:

Semi-postal stamp issued to raise funds for welfare organizations
Germany Scott# B671

Floor plan of the octagonal Pfalzchapel in the cathedral
Germany Scott# 2062

1200th anniversary of his death

Charles the Great died 28 January 814, so 2014 was the 1200th anniversary of that event. It was anticipated that this would result in a proliferation of new stamp issues for this occasion, but only the Vatican issued stamps:

The € 0.85 stamp shows Charles the Great on his horse, which stands in front of St. Peters Basilica, Fulda Abbey, which was granted immunity by him in 774 and the Saint Denis Abbey (suburb of Paris) where the crowns of the French kings were stored until the abbey was destroyed during the French Revolution.

The 1.90 stamp shows Charles the Great with his scepter, crown and royal coat, in the background a part of the magnificent Cathedral of Aachen, his favorite place of residence.

Both stamps are designed by Patrizio Daniele.

Charlemagne issue commemorating the 1200th anniversary of his death.
Vatican City issued 20 May 2014

Grenzenloos (Boundless) is a publication of ‘VN-VE Filatelie’, the Dutch Philatelic Society for United Nations and United Europe. It appears four times a year. Its intention is the support of philately in general and the purposes of the UN and of United Europe in particular. Articles are published in Dutch (NL), French (F), German (D) and English (EN), so Google Translate (or Tonny VanLoij) is an invaluable sidekick.
Those of you who belong to the ATA (and I hope that it’s most of you) know that a regular feature of its glossy magazine *Topical Time (TT)* is a column titled *Units in Action*. Since EN is on a similar schedule as TT we are often mentioned there. The July-August 2014 issue caught my eye because of a piece on the Bicycle Stamps Club. This club has a newsletter called, appropriately enough, *Bicycle Stamps*, and they had been running a series of articles on the Prague-Berlin-Warsaw (PBW) Peace Bicycle Race.

Our readers will recall that we just had our own articles on that race (ref. EN# 414-9ff and EN# 421-15). I sent an email to the address given in TT, and over Christmas got a very nice response from Mr. Brian Sole, President of the Club and editor of their newsletter. (Hmmm, why does that sound familiar?)

Brian was kind enough to send me scans of his newsletters, which contained a wealth of information on the race (and on numerous other bicycle related topics). With his permission, I am reproducing some of that content here. It is quite extensive, and too much for a single issue of Europa News. Actually, when combined with our previous articles and the checklist I think we have enough for a respectable monograph. More to come in the next issue of EN. Following is the introduction, from the newsletter *Bicycle Stamps*:

**The Peace Race.**

First organized in 1948, it was originally created with the intent of relieving tensions existing between Central European countries following the interwar period and World War II.

Maintained by the three States ruling Communist parties’ newspapers (*Rudé Právo, Neues Deutschland* and *Trybuna Ludu*), it was dubbed to be the "world’s biggest amateur cycling race" and "Tour de France of the East".

The Peace Race was organized by official journals of the Communist Parties of Poland and Czechoslovakia until 1951. From 1952 the DDR joined the organization of the Peace Race, and Berlin, Prague and Warsaw alternated the start and end stages of the race. In 1985 and 1986, the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* was added to the organization and the race started from Moscow and Kiev for these two races. With the fall of Berlin’s Wall and the end of the Cold War the race lost its significance.

Following is information for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Bicycle Stamps Club:

Send £15.00 sterling by cheque or €20.00 in notes, to Bicycle Stamps Club c/o Brian Sole, 49 Westcar Lane, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 5ER, England. (If GIRO, mention Account No. 28 228 5806)

OR

Send US$25.00 (1 year) to Bicycle Stamps Club c/o Steven W. Andreasen, 2000 Alaskan Way Unit 157, Seattle, WA 98121, U.S.A. (Due to bank requirements, cheques should be payable to Steven W. Andreasen, rather than to the Club).
THE BERLIN-WARSZAWA-PRAGUE “PEACE RACE”
Brian Sole

In BS 59 May 2007 Tony Howes listed and described the stamps issued for this annual amateur stage race, from the inaugural race in 1948 (which was run as two events; Warsaw to Prague and Prague to Warsaw) to the 40th anniversary in 1987. The first race was held shortly after the end of World War II and was known as the Peace Race because the organisers wanted European cyclists to take part in a spirit of friendship to help overcome the divisions created by War. Tony confirmed that the final Warsaw – Berlin – Prague race was held in 1989, the year of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Although the Peace Race has continued, it has become a minor event in the International calendar and no longer includes the originating cities.

I am showing 2 pages from my own collection with items from the first 9 races followed by some enlarged handstamps.

BERLIN- PRAGUE 1–5 May 1948 and PRAGUE – BERLIN 1–8 May 1948
A single stamp was issued by Poland and the following special handstamp was used

ITEM 1 Postmark applied at Praha 1; Liberec 1; and Zlin 1, May 1948. Winners August Prosenic – Yugoslavia and Alexander Zoric - Yugoslavia.

WARSAW – PRAGUE 1–9 May 1949
No stamp issued for the 1949 race

ITEM 2
Items 2 and 3
Item 2 postmarked in Czechoslovakia - Praha 1; Brno 1; and Ostrava 1. Item 3 postmarked in Poland - Katowice; Wroclaw 1; Łódź 1 and Warszawa 1. Winner Vesely Czechoslovakia
PBW Peace Bicycle Race Redux — cont’d

4.6 STAGE RACES - East European Peace Race

The first race was held in May 1948 over a route from Warsaw to Prague and back to Warsaw.

Polish currency revalued Sept 1950; stamps overprinted "Groszy".

RIGHT: 2nd race 1949. Pmark LODZ 8th stage.

LEFT: 4th race 1951 Pmark WARSAW.

Postmark: PRAGUE 6 May 1949 2nd Race Start 5th stage.

ABOVE: Postmark CHEMNITZ Start 10th stage 1952.
PBW Peace Bicycle Race Redux — cont’d

4.6 STAGE RACES - East European Peace Race
First held 1948, route Warsaw - Prague- Warsaw, became most important annual amateur stage race in world.

Right:-
Souvenir
Card from
Poland for
8th. Race.
Held 2-17
May 1955.

9th race, Warsaw -
Berlin-Prague held
2 - 15 May 1956.

7th Race
13 stages
held 2-17
May 1954.

colour proofs

Above:-
Proof signed
by the artist.

One, of a set
of 6 postcards.

8th race of 13
stages, Prague
via Berlin, to
Warsaw.

The remaining pages from the Bicycle Stamps article will appear in a future issue and/or a separate monograph.
Speaking of Topical Time (see previous article), the latest edition of Topical Time (Jan-Feb 2015) contains an article titled “Major Milestones in Manned Spaceflight.” One of those milestones is the flight of Alexander Remek of Czechoslovakia. So, what does that have to do with Europa?

During the era of the Soviet Union, many organizations were put up to mimic and/or counter their western counterparts. The Warsaw Pact was Russia’s answer to NATO, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) was the counterpart to the Marshall Plan and the EEC, and INTERKOSMOS was the answer to NASA and the ESA. An interesting sub-collection can be assembled of stamp issues relating to these organizations. In my article on ways to organize a Europa collection I suggested that they be a supplement to the KSZE issues in sub-Category 5. Next to KSZE, the most comprehensive (and the most fun in my humble opinion) is the section on INTERKOSMOS.

I have a rather respectable collection of INTERKOSMOS-related stamps, so I perked up when I saw the illustration reproduced here at the top of the next column. I was not aware of this stamp, and small wonder. Since it is not the first stamp of a large set, Scott does not illustrate it, nor does their description mention INTERKOSMOS. Well, now I know, so I have added it to my want list.

The First EU Astronaut — Dana Roper

Vladimir Remek (born 26 September 1948) is a Czech politician and diplomat as well as a former cosmonaut and military pilot.

He flew aboard Soyuz 28 from 2 to 10 March 1978, becoming the first Czechoslovak in space and the only Czech in space. As the first cosmonaut from a country other than the Soviet Union or the United States, and with the entry of the Czech Republic into the European Union, Remek is considered to be the first astronaut from the European Union (emphasis mine). Remek was a member of the European Parliament between 2004 and 2013 and is also the current Czech Ambassador to Russia.

Given the above, I conclude that Mr. Remek certainly deserves a place in a Europa collection.

Postscript: I wondered later whether the patch for Soyuz-28 might have been unique with respect to the INTERKOSMOS logo. Apparently not. The patch below follows the standard design. Across the top is the flag of the USSR on the left, and the flag of the partner country — in this case Czechoslovakia — on the right. What was more interesting is that Soyuz-28 was the first INTERKOSMOS mission.

The stamp has a few other interesting features. The logo was the first thing to catch my eye. It appears that the artist took a bit of license in rendering the rocket blast below the red star, drawing it as a wave, or sickle shape. Compare it to the official logo pictured in the previous column. If the wavy-contrail version of the logo ever existed other than on this stamp I am not aware of it. Perhaps the artist had the Soviet hammer-and-sickle flag in mind.

Next is the interesting spelling of cosmonaut (“cosmonot”) and the coining of a new word in the process—Intercosmonot. Perhaps it should have been spelled cosmonot, as in “failed to make the grade.” Well, hardly. Read on.

I also was surprised to learn that he is considered to be the first non-Soviet cosmonaut. I had forgotten that Eastern European countries aligned with the Soviets were not actually part of the USSR.

I learned a lot more when I checked the Wikipedia entry for Mr. Remek. I quote:
Handbook Updates
Our intrepid handbook editor has answered your calls and made available all the information that he has to date on the 2014 Europas; he has also updated the 2013 listings with updated information. As a bonus, he has added a listing of the 2014 sepac stamps (the horticulture issue) and the new category Euromed (refer to EN# 423-5).

The 2014 listing, plus sepac and Euromed, are included as a special insert in this issue of EN for paid up members(see column at the right). All of this, plus to 2013 updates, are posted on our website in the Members Area. Enjoy!

Reader Comments and Executive Secretary report
Tonny VanLoij reports that our finances are solvent for at least two more years thanks to loyal members, and membership is holding steady (assuming that we continue to receive your renewals).

Comments were again very positive for the unit, the EN and the website. One member noted that the website doesn’t respond well to dial-up. No issue there — it is graphics intensive. We could still use a real webmaster. Job #1 would be a better PayPal interface. Job #2 would be to create style sheets to tailor the presentation to various platforms (PC, tablets, etc.).

Dues again? Again?
OK, it’s 19 February as I write this and many members have still not gotten around to paying their dues. If you are missing the insert to this issue, then you are among them. We will send you the HB updates upon receipt of your dues renewal.

We know that it’s a pain to write that check each year, so why not re-up for multiple years? By doing so
- You don’t have to remember every December to write that check and post it to us. We know that it’s a bother, really, so this saves you some hassle. Also,
- You don’t have to worry about those pesky price increases. If you’re all paid up, we won’t come after you for more until your membership expires.
- You keep getting your EN right on schedule. If you are an electronic member only, you will always be able to log onto the Members Only site.

If you have already renewed, our thanks for your loyalty. As the song says, you are the wind beneath our wings.

Reader Poll Results
Our members tastes ran the gamut. You voted for Iceland (#1), Ireland (#2) and Portugal (#3) with only one vote separating the winners. Wow! Thanks to all who voted!

Don Smith reports that Auction #130 was very successful. 13 bidders and lots of Unit material was sold. Prices realized are posted on our website.
Energy Charter

On 15 January 2015, KAZAKHSTAN issued a stamp commemorating “Memorable dates and anniversaries: KAZAKHSTAN Chairs the Energy Charter”.

The roots of the Energy Charter date back to a political initiative launched in Europe in the early 1990s. The Energy Charter Treaty and the Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects were signed in December 1994 and entered into legal force in April 1998. To date, the Treaty has been signed or acceded to by fifty-two states, the European Community and Euratom. (The total number of its members is therefore fifty-four. See the map on the right.)

— from www.encharter.org
