

EUROPA NEWS



BULLETIN OF THE EUROPA STUDY UNIT

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



Europa Philately in all of its aspects:
CEPT/PostEurop, EU Agencies, European Cooperation, NATO, Norden, sepac, EuroMed

Happy New Year 2020

In this issue ...



We wrap up the birds,



begin looking at
ancient postal routes,



and re-visit Brexit, again,

Plus Europa Nostra, "Luster Chronicles", New Issues, and a mini-Auction!!!!

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INDEX TO 2019 INSERT

ESU MINI-AUCTION #146 INSERT

DUES NOTICE.....ALSO IN THERE!

New Issues
Europa 2019
National Birds

KAZAKHSTAN ss
Issue date 19 December 2019



The **golden eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is one of the best-known birds of prey in the Northern Hemisphere. For centuries, this species has been one of the most highly regarded birds used in falconry. It is the most widely distributed species of eagle, and has been depicted on other Europa stamps as well.

Please make a pen-and-ink change to the index in EN#454-6 to change Kazakhstan from 'no issue' to '455-2'.

Note that the Europa logo is not on any of the stamps; it is only on the souvenir sheet. On that same note, I was unable to identify the logo in the upper left of the sheet. Can anyone enlighten me?

ALBANIA 1v+ss ??? Still no word

Collectors Choice Award Announced

This year the [Europa Blogspot](#) ran another "Collector's Choice" contest for best Europa stamp. The voting was done in 4 stages, with the final stage deciding the ultimate winner. First prize this year, by a large margin, goes to Ukraine, for their beautiful set of two stamps and souvenir sheets.

....Continued on next column

Pictured here are the two Ukraine souvenir sheets



Second prize went to Jersey,



and 3rd place to Moldova.



Interestingly, none of these finished at the top in either the Jury Prize or the Public Prize.

Moldova was so proud of their result, they proudly displayed their Collectors Choice certificate on their Facebook page:



**Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes**

New Issues

**Sepac 2020
Art from the State Collection**

FINLAND 1v

Issue date
6 May 2020



A once-a-year route that spans the globe.

ÅLAND 1v

Issue date 8 May 2020



The stamp shows the Postrodden competition over the Åland Sea, which is carried out in memory of the postal farmers' obligation to keep the post and follows the old postal line between Åland and Sweden that was in use until the early 1900s. Photographer David Lundberg from Åland captured the omnipotent boats through his lens. — from Åland Post

BELGIUM ss of 2v

Issue date 15 June 2020



At press time, no further details were provided by bpost.

ÅLAND 1v

Issue date 5 March 2020



According to Åland Post, their stamp “commemorates the Åland artist Henrik Nylund (1945–1982) who, during his short life, managed to make a lasting impression in the Åland art and cultural life. The stamp shows Nylund's Sabina triptych from 1976, which today hangs in Åland's Lagtings premises.”

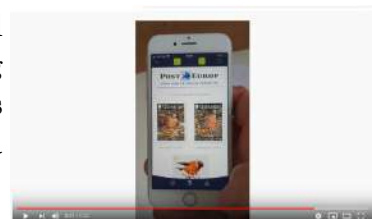
**Vote for the best SEPAC stamp of 2019.
See page 9.**

**Europa 2019 National Birds
One more thing**

New member Tom Stillman writes in a recent email:

I received the stamps from Guernsey and downloaded the app to hear the bird calls, but I could not get it to work. Have you heard from any other members on whether the app worked or not?

I remembered downloading the CEE app months ago, and, not surprisingly, it did not want to run again until I downloaded an update. Which I did. I also re-watched the YouTube video [youtube.com/watch?v=v5_QIvdG7w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5_QIvdG7w) to refresh my memory. I then scanned the stamps of Gibraltar. Voila. It worked. So well, in fact, that the family dog perked up her ears looking for the bird. Has anyone else had a problem? ■



New Issues

**Norden 2020
Local Mammals**

DENMARK 4v

Issue date
2 January 2020

European roe deer
(*Capreolus capreolus*)



European hedgehog
(*Erinaceus europaeus*)



Eurasian red squirrel
(*Sciurus vulgaris*)



Hazel dormouse
(*Muscardinus avellanarius*)



Stoat, aka Ermine
(*Mustela erminea*)

ÅLAND 1v

Issue date
5 June 2020



The stamp shows the mythical bat. In the Ålandic artist Bo Söderlund's imaginative illustration, the night hunter stands out against Mariehamn's city library's famous silhouette. The stamp has fluorescent print that glows in the dark. The Northern bat is the most common bat species in Åland.

— from Åland Post

FAROE ISLANDS 1v

Issue date
20 February 2020



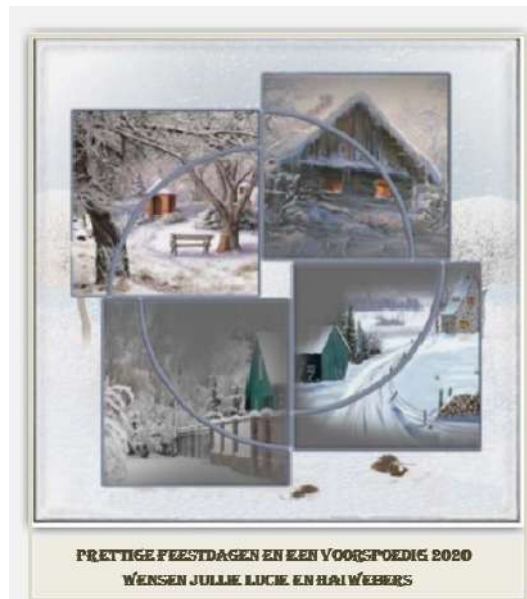
The grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) is found on both shores of the North Atlantic Ocean. Its name is spelled gray seal in the US; it is also known as Atlantic seal and the Horsehead seal.

A rather large seal, they have proved amenable to life in captivity and are commonly found as zoo animals around their native range, particularly in Europe. Traditionally they were popular circus animals and often used in performances such as balancing and display acts. At least one grey seal, probably escaped from captivity, has been observed in the Black Sea near the coasts of Ukraine.

— from Wikipedia

Well, almost Norden

Each year ESU member Hai Webers (Netherlands) has been sending us an electronic Holiday card. This year he sends us greetings and best wishes for 2020. I'll drink to that!





NEW ISSUES
 with **SCOTT** catalog numbers
 From Linns' November-December Special Editions
 — Don Smith



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


<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>*</u>
Bosnia (Muslim)	817	9-May-19	Europa 2019, 817a-b se-tenant horiz pr (817c, ss of 2; 817d, bklt pane of 6, 3 each)	1
Bosnia (Croat)	386	28-Jan-19	European Data Protection Day EN 452-11	3a
Bosnia (Croat)	388	30-Apr-19	Europa 2019, 388 a-b se-tenant horiz pr, 388c ss of 2	1
Bosnia (Croat)	392	19-May-19	Tree of Life, joint w/Bosnia (Muslim), Bosnia (Serb) 616	3b
Bosnia (Serb)	609	18-May-19	European Youth Olympic Festival	3c
Bosnia (Serb)	612-4	24-Apr-19	Europa 2019, 612-13 se-tenant pr; 614a-d sheet of 4	1
Bosnia (Serb)	616	18-May-19	Tree of Life, joint w/Bosnia (Muslim), Bosnia (Croat) 392	3b
Bulgaria	4874	5-Dec -18	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, 1v+label	4a
Bulgaria	4886	20-Feb-19	NATO, 4886a ss of 2 + label EN 451-11	2b
Bulgaria	4891	10-Apr-19	INTERKOSMOS space Flight EN 451-12	5c
Bulgaria	4892-3	24-Apr-19	Europa 2019, 4893a ss of 2 EN 451-7	1
Bulgaria	4894-5	24-Apr-19	Europa 2019 booklets EN 451-7	1
			4894b & 4895b bklt panes of 4, 4894a & 4895a imperf	
Bulgaria	4900	31-May-19	Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights EN 452-10	2a
Bulgaria	4905`	9-Jul-19	Diplomatic Relations w/Russia EN 453-9	3b
Bulgaria	4907	15-Jul-19	Winemaking, se-tenant pair joint issue w/Russia 8038 EN 453-7	3b
Croatia	1137	8-Jul-19	EuroMed 2019 EN 453-4	1d
Dominican Republic	1644	8-May-19	Cooperation with European Union	3a
France	5625	16-Mar-19	European Capitals: Helsinki, ss of 4 EN 452-12	3a
France	5638	2-Apr-19	Diplomatic Rel w/Poland, ss of 2, joint w/Poland 4409 EN 452-15	3b
France	5656	10-May-19	Europa 2019	1
France	5692	5-Jul-19	EuroMed 2019 EN 453-3	1d
France	1o78	5-May-19	CE 70th Anniv, official stamp EN 452-10	2a
France	1o79	5-May-19	European Court of Human Rights, official stamp EN452-11	2a
Germany	3117	1-Jul-19	Rosetta Space Probe (ESA)	2a
Gibraltar	1700-1	5-Feb-19	Europa 2019 (1701a, ss of 2)	1
Guernsey	1489, 1491	1-Apr-19	Europa 2019, (1491a ss both stamps)	1
Guernsey	1493a	1-Apr-19	ss of 6 with 3 each of 1489 and 1491)	1
Guernsey	1504a	24-Jul-19	Sepac 2019, ss of 3 EN 453-6	1c
Iceland	1501	12-Sep-19	Sepac 2019 EN 449-6	1c
Italy	3568	29-Apr-19	Cultural Heritage, joint issue w/ Vatican City 1717, sheet of 6 EN 453-9	3b
Jersey	2217, 2219	5-Mar-19	Europa 2019, 2219a ss both stamps	1
Latvia	1018-9	26-Apr-19	Europa 2019 (1018a: bklt of 4 1018)	1
Liechtenstein	1787	2-Sep-19	Sepac 2019 EN 454-5	1c
Malta	1655-7	9-Jul-19	EuroMed 2019 EN 453-4	1d
Malta	1660	20-Jul-19	Sepac 2019 EN 454-5	1c
Montenegro	442	9-May-19	Europa 2019 (printed in sheets 8 + label)	1
Montenegro	444	27-May-19	Games of Small States of Europe EN 454-18	3c
Morocco	1272	8-Jul-19	EuroMed 2019, 1272a-b se-tenant horiz pr EN 453-5	1
Romania	6250	8-Apr-19	Election to European Parliament, (6250a sheet 5 + label)	2a
Romania	6251-2	12-Apr-19	Europa 2019, in sheets 6 + label, 6152b-c: ss of 4, 2 each 6251-2	1
Romania	6277	31-May-19	Visit of Pope Francis, joint w/Vatican City 1720	3b



NEW ISSUES
 with **SCOTT** catalog numbers
 From Linns' November-December Special Editions
 — Don Smith



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

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>*</u>
 <i>The following issues have earned our (not-so-) coveted "cinderella" designation:</i>				
Djibouti	1587b	13-Dec-18	Airbus A300	3b
Djibouti	1641, 1649	27-Feb-19	European High-speed Trains, ss of 4, 1649 Eurostar ss	3b
Djibouti	1664, 1673	14-Mar-19	Concorde, sheet of 4, 1673 ss EN 453-22	3b

New Issues
European Cooperation

LIECHTENSTEIN 2v
SWITZERLAND 2v
Issue date 14 November 2019
Social Diversity
Joint Issue of identical designs



The two special stamps are the result of a competition between the two postal companies, to which three designers from Switzerland and Liechtenstein were invited. The multifaceted topic "Social Diversity" was specified.

The drawing "Crowd" from Liechtenstein shows a colorful collection of happy people. "Society Puzzle, from Switzerland, presents a variety of life situations in an interlocking motif. Both designs convey a positive image and are characterized by tolerance, openness and modernity.

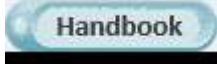
— from *Philatelie Liechtenstein and Swiss Post*

Europa Briefs

Austrian Black Proof of the 2016 European Soccer issue is now for sale at Austria Post. The price is just €1.00, with the admonition that this is not a valid stamp. Still, it's another interesting item to add to a Europa sports collection. Is this the beginning of a new trend in Austrian stamps?



Our Handbook Editor has been busy over the holidays, and has provided updates to all recent handbook listings for Europa, SEPAC and EuroMed, plus the Council of Europe issues. They have been posted on the members area of our website under the Handbook button on the left side of the page.



Yes, Virginia, it's dues time.

Please use the insert to send in your check now, while you're thinking about it. Thank you!!

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

MOLDOVA 1v

Issue date 9 October 2019

70th Anniversary of the Council of Europe



FRANCE 1v

Issue date 14 October 2019

Bicentenary of ESCP Europe



ESCP Europe is the oldest business school in the World. (*ESCP = École supérieure de commerce de Paris.*) It remains the only pan-European school, with six campuses in Berlin, London, Madrid, Paris, Turin and Warsaw, and an associated campus in Luxembourg. Ironically, as of November 2019, the school has removed “Europe” from its name to emphasize a global perspective and its French heritage..

The [ECSP website](#) declares: ESCP has chosen to teach responsible leadership that is open to the world, aware of social issues, and supported by European diversity, multiculturalism and universal values. Teaching is also part of our philosophy: training our students to ask the right questions, to question preconceived ideas and patterns, to decode the world so that they can make the right choices.

— from La Poste, Wikipedia, and ESCP.eu



BELARUS 1v in a ms of 6v

Issue date 1 November 2019

25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and Georgia



LUXEMBOURG 1v

Issue date 8 November 2019

Space Resources



In 2005, Luxembourg became a full member of the European Space Agency (ESA). This laid the foundation for the involvement of companies from the Grand Duchy in ESA R&D programs and space research projects. Luxembourg offers a unique legal, regulatory and business environment that allows investors and companies to develop and use space resources.
 — from Post Luxembourg

ANDORRA Fr 1v

ANDORRA Sp 1v

Issue date 9 November 2019

25th Anniversary of the Admission of Andorra to the Council of Europe

Joint Issue



The designs are almost identical, save for the perforations. One bisects the stamp across the top of the circle, the other across the bottom. On 10 November 1994 Andorra became the 33rd member of the Council of Europe.

New Issues
European Cooperation

WALLIS & FUTUNA IS. 1v

Issue date
unknown

Cooperation with
the European
Union

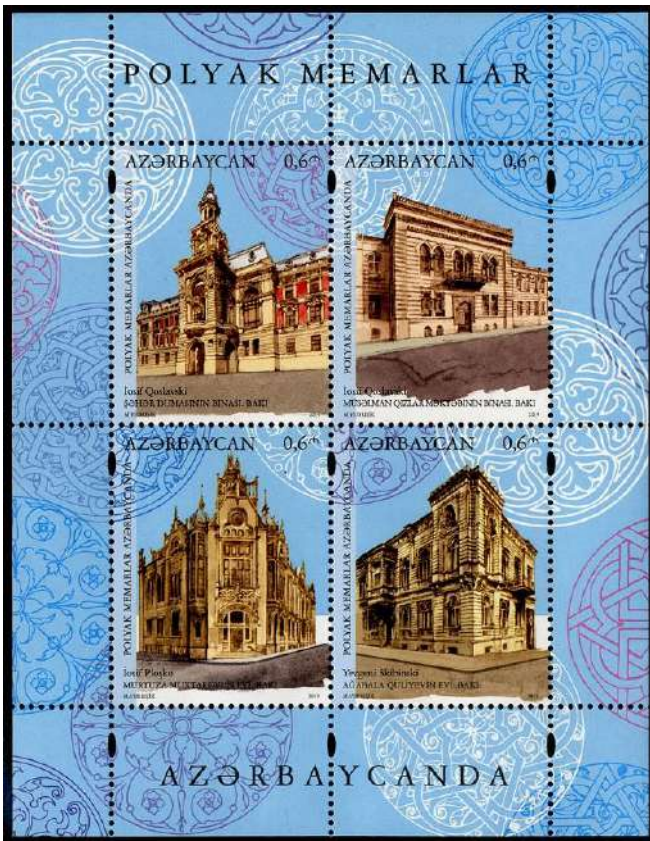


AZERBAIJAN ms of 4v
POLAND

Issue date

Architecture

Joint Issue



GIBRALTAR 1v
LUXEMBOURG 1v

Issue date
8 November 2019

Defensive Tunnels

Joint Issue

The Gibraltar issue depicts the **Great Siege Tunnels**. The Great Siege of Gibraltar was an attempt by France and Spain to capture Gibraltar from Great Britain during the American Revolutionary War. One face of the Rock had a blind angle, so tunnels were built to access and place a gun in a notch in the sheer cliff face.



The Luxembourg issue depicts the Bock Casemates. In 963, Count Siegfried built a fortified castle on the Bock promontory, which was soon to become the cradle of the city. In the course of the centuries, on the western side, mighty ring walls were added. Eventually, the added fortifications caused the Casemates to be called “the Gibraltar of the North.” The superstructure has since been razed, but the Casemates could not be blown up without demolishing part of the city. In 1994 the Casemates was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.



— from Gibraltar Post and Post Luxembourg

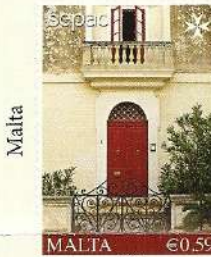
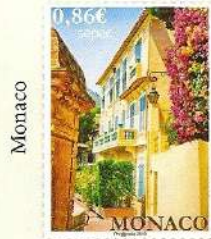
Yes, it's dues time. Please use the insert to send in your check now, while you're thinking about it. Thank you!!

sepac stamp competition 2019

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation

Historic Homes of Europe

Vote for the most beautiful 2019 SEPAC stamp for a chance to win a year collection from each of the participating 11 SEPAC members!



How to vote **LAST DAY TO VOTE: 31 January 2020**

1. Go to www.sepacstamps.eu and click on the stamp competition tab
2. Register by clicking on the button 'Login' located at the top right hand corner of the website (if already registered, simply login using your username and password)
3. Once registered, login and mark the stamp of your choice

You may only cast one vote.

Alternatively you can also place your vote by emailing us on info@sepacstamps.eu (Simply add the country you would like to vote for on the subject line).



Article

Europa Nostra — Marcel Van Graven, Hans Snellenberg

From time to time we have featured various articles on endeavors stemming from the European Architectural Heritage Year of 1975. All of these have had a common theme of publicizing, honoring and preserving Europe’s rich cultural heritage. One such movement is Europa Nostra (“Our Europe”). The following article originally appeared in our sister publication *Grenzenloos* (No Boundaries), Spring 2017 Issue #138. The translation from the Dutch was provided by ESU member and *Grenzenloos* contributor Hans Snellenberg.

EUROPA NOSTRA

Europa Nostra is a pan-European federation of 250 non-governmental and non-profit organizations from 45 countries, who commit all together to the the keeping of cultural heritage and urban planning. The organization maintains narrow ties with the European Union, the European Council and UNESCO. Europa Nostra was founded in 1963 at the initiative of Italia Nostra, as part of the effort to save the cultural heritage of Venice, because Venice was strucked by floods that year. (A number of stamps with the theme “Save Venice” were issued during this time. – ed.)



The Europa Nostra logo. The original EAHY logo has been embellished with landscaping icons — mountains, tree, and water.

Some history.

From 2009 Europa Nostra has been led by the world famous opera singer and conductor Placido Domingo. The activities are coordinated from the international secretary, founded in the Hague (Netherlands). Until now it was not or hardly known that from 2006 Europa Nostra was chosen to coordinate the “Open Monumentendagen” (“Heritage Days”; mostly 2 days a year in the second weekend of September, during which you can visit all kinds of monuments, free of charge).

(See related article “European Monument Year” in EN#427-11. –ed.)

Europa Nostra Award.

In 2011 this award was given to “Bond Heemschut”, the De Bond Heemschut Historical Preservation Society on its 100th birthday. Dutch Post issued a commemorative sheet of 10 stamps with 6 different examples of striking buildings, which were kept up by the support of the organization. The sheet is shown on the next page.

Members of the Bond Heemschut commit on voluntary basis to the keeping of valuable monuments and cultural landscapes in the Netherlands.

Many countries issue their own “Nostra” awards. Award winners of Dutch projects are divided into four categories:

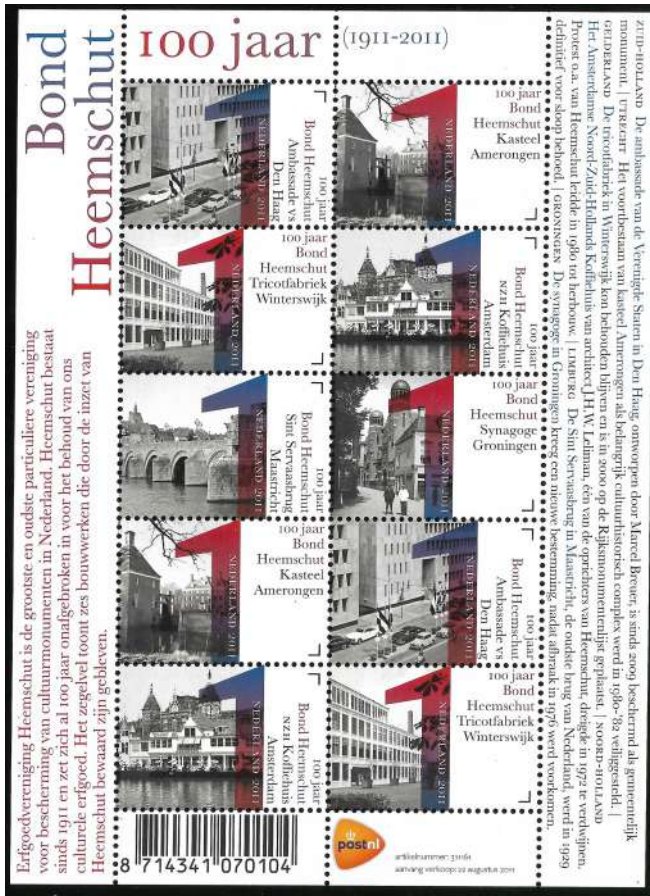
Maintenance and Upkeep, Research, Dedicated Service by individuals and organizations, and Education, Training and Alerting.

In 2008 the Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam got the Dutch award, which as a result of this was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in June 2014.



Netherlands Scott #B276

Article
Europa Nostra — cont'd



Centenary of the De Bond Heemschut
Historical Preservation Society
Netherlands Scott #1393

Shown are the Embassy of USA in the Hague, Amerongen Castle, Tricot-factory in Winterswijk, North-South Coffee house in Amsterdam, Servaas-bridge in Maastricht and Synagogue in Groningen. Note that since there are only six unique designs, the Scott number refers to a pane of 6.

The original article in Grenzenloos included the following addendum by Hans Snellenberg:

“Many years ago I first learned of the Europa Nostra organization. At the foreword to my exhibition entry "The Council of Europe proclaims example cities in the context of the European Architectural Heritage Year 1975", is the following sentence used by me.

"The Council of Europe has, after a number of preparatory meetings on the 4th to 7th of July 1973 conference held in Zurich, declared 1975 to be European Monuments Year. 'A future for our past' became the motto for this year. Participants in the conference were members of the Council of Europe, UNESCO, the European Commission, the European Council of Municipalities, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Europa Nostra and the European Tourism Commission."

“After this year, in which many activities have taken place, there has been, and will be, a lot of philatelic attention.

“I note specifically action "Renaissance of cities" in 1981 and the “European Monument Days” in 1998. Also the granting of a "Europa Nostra" Conservation Award is another example of these follow-up actions.”

In 2016, Spain issued a stamp commemorating the 40th anniversary of its Hispania Nostra Organization. This issue, and its relation to Europa Nostra, was reported in EN #434-13. ■



Spain Scott #4125



BREXIT — So Where Are We Now?

Our first major update on Brexit (**B**ritish **e**xit from the EU) was over three years ago (EN #436-10). We kept up with events (EN #439-11 and EN #450-14) and can now say, in the words of Bart Simpson, “are we there yet?” The answer is, (drum roll), ... almost. For a concise review of where we are, I turned to the BBC, for a definitive assessment. Herewith, a slightly condensed version:



Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU

The UK is due to leave the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020, after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal was backed by Ministers of Parliament (MPs).

For those not following every twist and turn, this guide covers the basics.

Why is the UK leaving?

A public vote - or referendum - was held on Thursday 23 June 2016, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain.

Leave won by 52% to 48%. The [referendum turnout](#) was very high at 72%, with more than 30 million people voting - 17.4 million people opting for Brexit.

Why hasn't Brexit happened yet?

Brexit was originally due to happen on 29 March 2019. That was two years after then Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50 - the formal process to leave - and kicked off negotiations. Under Mrs. May, the deadline was delayed twice after MPs rejected her Brexit deal - eventually pushing the date to 31 October 2019.

After replacing Mrs. May as PM, Mr. Boris Johnson was required to seek a third extension after MPs failed to pass a revised Brexit deal into law.

The new deadline has been set for 31 January 2020, three and a half years after the referendum was held.

Why did Parliament reject Theresa May's Brexit deal?

The main sticking point for many Conservative MPs and the DUP (the government's ally in Parliament at the time) was the Irish backstop.

The backstop was designed to ensure there would be no border posts or barriers between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland after Brexit.

If it had been needed, the backstop would have kept the UK in a close trading relationship with the EU and avoided checks altogether.

But many MPs were critical. They said if the backstop was used, the UK could be trapped in it for years. This would prevent the country from striking trade deals with other countries. After MPs rejected the deal for a third time, Mrs. May resigned as prime minister.

What is the new Brexit deal?

After winning the Conservative leadership contest, Mr. Boris Johnson took over as PM in July 2019 and set about renegotiating Mrs. May's deal. Mr. Johnson succeeded in replacing the backstop with new customs arrangements. Unlike the previous deal, the revised one will allow the UK to sign and implement its own trade agreements with countries around the world.

However, the revised deal effectively creates a customs and regulatory border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. This means some goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain would be subject to checks and pay EU import taxes (known as tariffs). These would be refunded if goods remain in Northern Ireland.

BREXIT — So Where Are We Now? —cont'd

The rest of the deal remains largely unchanged from the one negotiated by Mrs. May. Known as the withdrawal agreement, it includes:

- the rights of EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU
- how much money the UK is to pay the EU (initially thought to be £39 billion)

Has the new Brexit deal been approved?

Mr. Johnson tried to put his revised deal to a vote in Parliament on 19 October 2019. However, the vote did not go ahead. Many MPs wanted to postpone it until the legislation needed to turn the deal into law had been approved. MPs said this was to stop a possible no-deal Brexit.

With Parliament in deadlock, Mr. Johnson called an early general election, to which MPs agreed. The election, which happened on 12 December, resulted in a Conservative majority of 80. Eight days later, MPs voted 358 to 234 in favor of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which now goes on to further scrutiny in Parliament.



PM Boris Johnson on a "good hair day"

What happens next?

Assuming the European Parliament also gives the green light, the UK will formally leave the EU on 31 January with a withdrawal deal. However, this would only mark the next step in the Brexit process. Following its departure, the UK will enter a transition period until 31 December 2020.

During this period, the UK's trading relationship with the EU will remain the same while the two sides negotiate a free trade deal. At the same time, many other aspects of the UK's future relationship with the EU - including law enforcement, data sharing and security - will need to be agreed.

If a trade deal is ready in time, the UK's new relationship with the EU can begin immediately after the transition. If not, the UK faces the prospect of having to trade with no agreement in force. This would mean checks and tariffs on UK goods travelling to the EU.

Mr. Johnson has also ruled out any form of extension to the transition period, meaning the clock is already ticking.

* * *

So, what to make of all this? No cause for alarm, if the US stock market is any indicator. Also, the election may not have been so much a rejection of the EU as a rejection of Mr. Johnson's opponent — Jeremy Corbyn, who many see as a Marxist and an anti-Semite.

From this perch, far away across the pond, I suspect that the EU will proceed apace, and the UK will negotiate new trade deals with it. Life will go on.

What will all this mean philatelically? Again, probably not much. Great Britain was never a strong participant in Europa anyway. Myself, I plan to keep collecting. Happy new year! ■

**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5b**

The Luster monographs resume this issue with part b the 1959 Europa stamps from Italy

These next three items are all un-adopted essays for Italy’s 1959 Europa stamps. Note that the God Mercury is featured on each of the essays.



Publicity folder, showing Italy’s 1959 Europa stamps in their actual colors.



**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster**

Let’s look at some cacheted first day covers. These eight all bear the “Roma Philatelico” cancel dated September 19, 1959.



“The Luster Chronicles”

The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont'd)

Here are eight more first day covers with the “Roma” cancel.



“The Luster Chronicles”

The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont’d)

Here are eight more cacheted first day covers from cities other than Rome. All cancels are dated September 19, 1959.



This concludes Part 5b. The next installment of Steve’s monograph will continue with the stamps of Luxembourg. ■

Article

Europa Catapult Mail — Arnold Engel

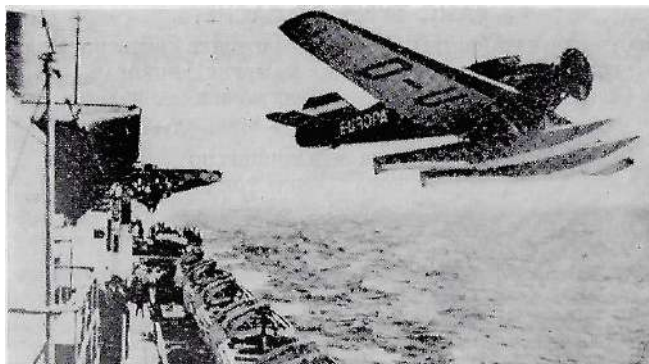
Every now and then Don Smith informs me that he has been cleaning out old files, and has found something that we might find interesting. His file room must be as spacious as his cavernous wine cave, as this has been going on for some time. Anyway, the following item comes from the **Airpost Journal** of September 1982. (Did I mention how huge his file room must be?)

The article is titled “The S.S. ‘Europa’ Catapult Mail” by Arnold Engel of Philadelphia, and is quite lengthy. The following is a “Readers Digest” version of the story.

On 8 January 1982, the new, 35,000-ton 13-deck luxury liner *Europa* of the German Hapag-Lloyd A.G. of Bremen, Germany started her maiden voyage. Turning the clock back 52 years, we recall how the North-German Lloyd launched from the Blohm & Voss ship-building docks in Hamburg another *Europa* - one of two vessels which brought us most of the joy of collecting catapult airmail covers. Like her sister ship, the *Bremen* which had been placed in service on the Europe-United States ocean route the previous year, the *Europa* was equipped with a catapult installation, including an improved version of the Heinkel He 58 seaplane. Later, it was replaced with a Junkers JU-46, capable of handling 200 kg. (450 lbs.) of mail.

Why was it necessary to have such an expensive contraption, later known as a "catapult"? Answer: To speed up mail delivery across the Atlantic Ocean. In the 1930's airplanes could not carry a heavy payload of mail across the Atlantic, nor could a ship itself provide a runway long enough for a plane to take off. But with the help of the 20 to 25-meter long catapult, a plane could take off from the ship as the latter came within almost 1,000 miles of shore, delivering the mail to the mainland about a day ahead of the docking of the vessel.

Using compressed air as the driving power of its carriage from which the plane—with the motor running at full speed—would get its fast powerful push, the catapult could be swung into the wind which would fling the plane into the air. The catapult flights were handled by the German airline Deutsche Lufthansa.



Mail plane being “catapulted” from S.S. Europa

In the 5+ years of catapult service from the S.S. Europa (September 1930 through October 1935), a total of 91 out of 96 scheduled flights were actually operated. These figures include flights made in each direction, first, from the westbound ship to New York, and second, from the eastbound ship to Southampton. Flights were made only during the summer season, and trips alternated with the corresponding services by the Bremen. The catapult services were discontinued after 1935 because of the scheduling of regular transatlantic service by the dirigible Hindenburg.

All catapult mail received a special cachet furnished by the German postal service. For the first few years, a different cachet was used for each flight, and a tremendous variety in several colors were used. Examples are shown on the next page.

So, not really Europa in the present sense, but a fascinating bit of postal history, in case you run across one of these in a dealer box. ■

Article
Europa Catapult Mail — cont'd

BASIC TYPES OF CACHETS

DEUTSCHER KATAPULTFLUG
 D. "EUROPA" — NEW YORK
 (and flight date)

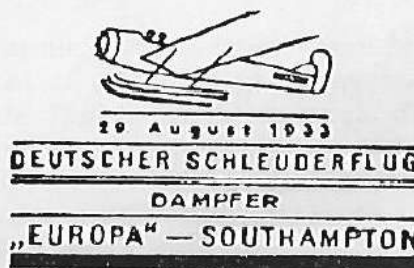
Type A

DEUTSCHER SCHLEUDERFLUG
 DAMPFER "EUROPA" —
 NEW YORK (and flight date)

Type B

DEUTSCHER SCHLEUDERFLUG
 D. "EUROPA" — NEW YORK
 (and flight date)

Type C



Some of the assorted attractive cachets used on "Europa" catapult mail in 1931 and 1933. (The last two items shown are the only ones ever to show the Nazi swastika.)

The Abiding Patience of Stamps — Lawrence Block



Lawrence Block is a prolific mystery writer who also happens to be a stamp collector. One of his protagonists, John Keller, is a professional hit man who, by incredible coincidence, also happens to collect stamps. Block has spoken at APS events, and writes an occasional column for Linn's Stamp News. A decade ago he

wrote a column on the enduring subject of how actively one has to be engaged to enjoy stamp collecting.

You will sometimes see the statement, "Sharks Need to Continuously Swim to Live" applied to stamp collecting. In other words, if your collection isn't growing, what's the point?

What the analogy misses, and [the original] column documents in a variety of ways, is that stamp collecting doesn't demand daily involvement to still be a satisfying hobby. It is possible not to feed your collection for days, months, or perhaps even years at a time, knowing that it will still be there when you are ready.

For some reason, I'm reminded of the "Nike" commercial from the movie "What Women Want." The commercial within the film was about running, but if we switch to a collecting motif, then you might have the following:

"And you can call on the [collection] whenever you feel like it...The only thing the [collection] cares about, is that you pay it a visit once in a while."

There have been several recent threads in discussion groups from collectors thinking about cutting back. The reasons vary but often include that all of the items still missing from their collection are too expensive to acquire. This is not a problem I expect to have with a Classic Era collection [that Keller and I both engage in]. I own in another album what is likely the most expensive stamp in Volume 1 and I've already found the stamp that supposedly is the most difficult to acquire. So I can forge ahead, confident there is a reasonable chance that the last stamp I hinge in the album could come in at under a dollar.

(For accuracy, I should add that the need to continuously swim is only true for some varieties of shark.)

Block kicked off his 2013 book "Hit Me" at the APS StampShow, where he offered signed copies and a special souvenir. Steve Luster kindly obtained a copy for me. ■



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******* IT'S DUES TIME! *******

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