⊏EUROPA NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPA STUDY UNIT
http://www.europastudyunit.org/

EUROPA POST·EUROP

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

Double Issue

MAY-JUNE 2020 **Issue # 457**

⊏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

EUROPA 20° GAMLE POSTVEGAR

Ancient Postal Routes

JULY-AUGUST 2020 **Issue # 458**

⊏EUROPA NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPA STUDY UNIT
http://www.europastudyunit.org/

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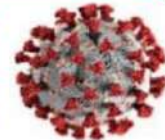CEPT/PostEurop, EU Agencies, European Cooperation, NATO, Norden, sepac, EuroMed

Due to circumstances we could not anticipate (—->) and which were beyond our control, Issue #457, pictured on the left, never made it to print, although it was published on our website.

For our print readers, we offer a first in the history of Europa news — a double issue, with content for EN 457, and never before seen content for EN #458. Read the Editor's Explanation on the following page.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Page
Welcome to our *First Double Issue*

If you are reading the print edition of this Europa News, you are holding in your hands a first for the ESU — a big double issue. If you are reading this online, then it's probably not a surprise, but those who rely solely on the print edition are surely wondering .. What's up? Let me explain.

As I was putting together the material for EN#457 we got hit with life-changing news. A virus now called Covid-19 is especially contagious and very nasty. Add to that the fact that the elderly and those with medical conditions, are especially susceptible. Well, I and my wife each check both boxes, so we hunkered down. Which left me more time for stamps, so work on EN#457 proceeded apace. Meanwhile, Don had already put together a nice mini-auction, so we had all we needed to go ahead.

Except, we got hit with some news out of left field. It seems a few workers at the Denver Library, where Tonny prints the EN, tested positive for the virus. Just like that we're out of business. That was the bad news.

The good news was they could spray the place down with disinfectant, except…
The bad news was that some of the older books would absorb the wetness and would need time to dry out. They would then have to be tested for mold. So…
The good news was that if everything tested out ok, then people would be allowed in, possibly on a restricted basis, but…
The bad news was that the EN could not be printed until June at the earliest, and realistically we were probably looking at mid-June.

So, what to do? The directors put their heads together (figuratively) and debated … print two separate issues? Since we were coming up on the deadline for EN#458, the most cost-effective answer was to combine the two issues into one double issue. Saves time, saves postage, and saves Tonny a lot of extra work.

So here we are, and you are holding a piece if ESU history in your hands. Readers of the electronic version will already have had access to EN#457 online, so they've had a jump on about half of the content of this issue. Edits have been made here and there to reflect newer information (such as the cancellation of the Great American Stamp Show, alas).

Electronic readers also got a bonus, since a mini-auction was included in the last issue. But hang in there. Don has put together a very nice mega-auction for this issue as well. So as always, bid early, bid often, and have fun. By the way, rumor has it that Bruce Wayne has leased space in Don's wine cellar for a few of the older, retired Batmobiles. Don says we shouldn't believe it. ∎

As I write these words, we are just moving on from our celebration of Memorial Day, when we give thanks to the people who fought for all of the other things we give thanks for. Which got me thinking about our previous ESU President and newsletter editor, Col. Stephen Luster. He was such a kind person, and generous to a fault. He never really spoke of what he did to serve his country, but his gravestone at Arlington Memorial Cemetery gives a clue. He was buried with full military honors, Section 59, Grave 4460. We miss you Steve.

Editor's Page
From EN# 457

I certainly hope that this issue finds all of you well during this difficult time. One silver lining: I'm getting more time to work on my collection, and as I make new album pages I'm looking at stamps I must have bought back during the Carter administration. Now the challenge is to get my butt out of the chair periodically.

With that in mind, there are lots of free apps you can find that will put a little alarm clock on your computer desktop. Set it for an hour or so. When it goes off, get up and walk around for awhile, or just do something else that you've been putting off — like cleaning up your workbench.

And there's always that "Honey-Do" list. While scrounging through my desk I found that Round Tuit I thought I'd lost. So … now I can work on all those things that I'd put off until I got a Round Tuit.
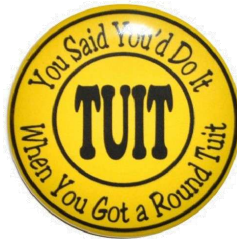
My eye doctor has a "20/20" rule: every 20 minutes, look away from what you're doing and look around for 20 seconds, preferably at something 20 feet away or more. This causes your eyes to change focus. My mother had terrible eyes and passed them on to me (thanks, mom). I have myopia, amblyopia, dystopia, diplopia, and strabismus. Whew. Just writing all that makes me tired.

My eye doctor is also a visual training specialist. I made his acquaintance in my mid-30s, and he took me on as a challenge. After 3 years he gave me depth perception. It was like a whole new world opening up. He says he's used my case when he goes on the lecture circuit, but so far I've gotten no royalties. Not even lovely parting gifts. But I do have my sight, which comes in handy for looking at stamps.

Our Handbook Editor Alex Cwiekalo says he's also up to his eyeballs in what we used to call "Action Items" back in IBM.:

"Glad to see from everyone's emails that you're all finding time to work on your collections, etc. Out here in Ohio I've been "balls to the walls" working on our ESU HB – AND LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT. However, my wife's dining room table (still) looks like a bomb fell on and around it:

It wasn't much of an issue when we could get out and do things. Now that we have so much quality time together, well, … Plus, have to work on the old taxes now and then. Y'all take care and stay safe …"

Director Caroline Scannel has many activities. She edits the Old World Archaeologist and has an awesome UPU collection. She reports "I'm working on my stamps, a quilt and . . . the cats are driving me crazy! Tapping me on the shoulder when I'm at the computer. Sitting next to me meowing. Insisting on me petting her and him. I wish these two would get a hobby." Caroline, their hobby is you.

Don has another great auction ready, and our Tonny is digging into his Miscellaneous Box (see separate article). Stay well everybody! ∎

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

SWEDEN ss
Issue date 30 April 2020

Old postal roads are a common theme for the countries within PostEurop. Long before all households in Sweden were given the right to receive mail several days a week, there were fixed mail routes. The one between Stockholm and Hamburg is one of the oldest and was an important link for news distribution to and from the continent. — *from Postnord.se (Swedish Post)*

Note: Only the first two stamps have the Europa logo.

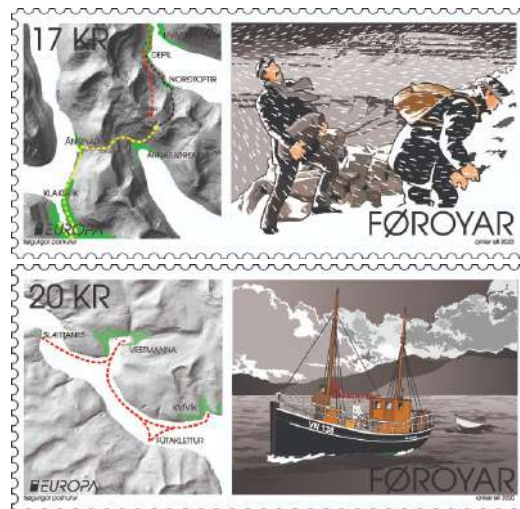### DENMARK ss
Issue date 11 May 2020

Quoting from Linn's Stamp news:
According to information from PostNord, the Europa souvenir sheet "focuses on Christian IV's establishment of the post office in 1624 and Denmark's first post route between Copenhagen and Altona/Hamburg."

Note: The central stamp does not have the Europa logo.

FAROE ISLANDS 2v
Issue date 27 April 2020

The following is excerpted from Posta, Faroe Islands:

Postal routes in the Faroe Islands have always been difficult and challenging. Formidable mountains had to be climbed and deceptive straits crossed to deliver the mail - and sometimes things went very wrong.

One of the most challenging postal routes on land was Klaksvík - Viðareiði, requiring hardy mail carriers to vanquish one of the most inaccessible mountain areas in the Faroe Islands. In November 1887, the first Faeroese postman fell off a cliff to his death. His route is marked in yellow.

A few decades later, two postmen survived a heavy snowstorm by building a shelter of rocks, then tearing it down and rebuilding it to stay warm. They survived. The red line on the map indicates the route they travelled.

The second stamp pictures the route to Vestmanna - Vágar islands. A treacherous strait claimed many boats and lives. The small proud mailboat "Ólavur" is still at anchor in Vestmanna, well maintained and fully functional despite its 90th anniversary this year.

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

GERMANY ss of 1 "wet-adhesive" stamp
Issue date 7 May 2020

Leading in the gradual establishment of a regulated European postal system was the de Tasso courier family, who came from Lombardy and was called **Thurn and Taxis** in 1650.

In 1490, the Roman-German king and later emperor Maximilian I commissioned the brothers Janetto and Francesco de Tasso to set up a regular postal service. This Dutch postal course, on which letters from Innsbruck (where Maximilian I's main residence was located) could be sent to the Netherlands and to Italy, is considered the first permanently operated, centrally organized postal route in the Holy Roman Empire and the year 1490 as the founding year of the modern European postal system.

The Imperial Post Office was founded in the 16th century and was also run by the de Tasso family. Around 1800, all Central European cities were connected by regular postal courses, but no longer only by the Imperial Post Office, which had repeatedly had to cede routes to imperial post and regional post offices.

— from Deutsche Post

The stamp shows a typical Postrider. The sheet margins depict the various towns served, and a metro-style map of the early postal routes. –ed.

LUXEMBOURG 2v
Issue date 9 June 2020

Four main postal routes were established under Charles V in 1516 to improve postal connections. One of them, the Wiener route, also ran through Luxembourg. These new postal services were available not only to rulers but also to private citizens. At the end of 1680, Luxembourg was included as a branch in the Brussels-Vienna route, thus improving the letter traffic between Luxembourg and Brussels. In 1701 the postal routes were officially established. Thus, Luxembourg received postal connections with all its neighboring countries.

— from Post Luxembourg

Note: set side by side, as above, the stamps form a contiguous design. —ed.

SLOVENIA 2v
*Issue date
29 May 2020*

Shown are an old postal carriage, and a postillion (post rider with a postal horn in his hand). This postillion became a synonym for the postman bringing joyful news.

— from the PostEurop website

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

FRANCE 1v

Issue date
11 May 2020

Briska Post Trunk and Post Roads

The history of the roads of France was also that of the post roads from the moment when the royal power, wishing to ensure the rapid circulation of official dispatches, established the Post Office for horses in the middle of the 14th century. This organization is based on two emblematic businesses and a private infrastructure: postillions accompany bags of mails and couriers; post masters, who paid dearly for the privilege of holding official post relays positioned every seven leagues. This system determines post routes, frequently mapped since 1632, and maintained by engineers since 1747.

Radiating first in a star from Paris, the network had 27 destinations in 1790, with transverse links connecting the main cities of the kingdom, up to around forty routes. This road network is still legible across a number of national motorways today. On these expressways, galloping is primarily the prerogative of the "stationary" routes, accessible to travelers since 1794: there were 4,000 in 1815 and 60,000 in 1829! At the heart of the 19th century, average speeds of 12 to 14 km per hour were reached.

These ancient routes made for truly adventuresome conditions, including seasonal discomfort and other imponderables. From the wheelbarrow pulled by a horse, to trunks without shock absorbers and on two wheels, to the Briska model of the 1830s equipped with a convertible, postal vehicles always knew how to find the relay light lit during the night, because "the post office suffered no interruption ... "

— from La Poste

French ANDORRA 1v

Issue date
12 May 2020

Since the end of the 18th century, the delivery of mail from the valleys of Andorra was assigned to the post office of La Seu d'Urgell, where the nearest roadway passed from Andorra. Between 1837 and 1870, letters from and to Andorra passed through L'Hospitalet-près-l'Andorre by stagecoach via Ax-les-Thermes. The long journey took eleven and a half hours. The porter took the letters in the relay at L'Hospitalet and transported them on foot to Andorra via the ports of Envalira and Soldeu. In 1870 the intermediate stage of Ax was eliminated. The visual of the stamp is inspired by an old map showing the route of the postal route which linked L'Ospitalet to Andorra la Vella.

— from La Poste

MONACO 1v

Issue date 6 May 2020

The stamp represents a messenger responsible for delivering mail in the 18th century. The background is a view of the Rocher (Rock of Monaco) at the time.

— from Monaco Office des Timbres

Time to vote for your favorite Europa stamp. Go to posteurop.org/europa2020 to cast your vote.

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

SPAIN 1v issued in a ms of 6v as shown

*Issue date
23 April 2020*

Spanish ANDORRA 1v
Issue date 23 April 2020

In Spain, postal routes go back to times of the Roman Empire, who took advantage of previous routes of Tartessos, Phoenicians and pre-Roman peoples to build their network of roads where official mail or *cursus publicus* would circulate.

After the Middle Ages, the Renaissance brought the rebirth of postal routes thanks to the genius of Francisco de Tassis, who managed to articulate the first postal network at a European level. Felipe el Hermoso knew how to take advantage of deTassis' skills by appointing him Master of Posts, thus establishing one of the foundations of the Hispanic Monarchy.

The road network that began taking shape found its impetus in the reforms of the Bourbon dynasty, in which portions of roads were conditioned and paved, post houses were built, and the *Real Casa de Correos* was built, kilometer zero of the network of postal routes that throughout contemporary times would configure the current state highway network.

— from Correos (Spanish Post)

The mountainous topography of Andorra has always impacted communications with the exterior; now add the harsh winter climate, which could sometimes cut off the territory for months, and the dispersed and isolated habitat of its population.

However, nature also provided a way of communication via the Valira river bed, which connects the towns of Andorra la Vella and La Seu d'Urgell. Post pedestrians, who carried correspondence on the back of their mules, traveled this first route, maintaining communication between the two towns.

In 1730, La Seu had its own post office to channel mail, from the Principality to the valleys of Andorra. Between 1750 and 1780 it was decided that the person in charge of the post at the Consell General should offer an unofficial mail delivery and collection service to the towns in the valleys.

In 1877, Spain appointed Tomás Rossell i Moles as official manager, who in addition to selling stamps for use in the Principality, collected and delivered the correspondence from La Seu. This structure remained until 1927, when a Royal Order created, in Andorra la Vella, a Central Administration with Post Office staff made up of six postmen and several pedestrians. Thanks to the completion of a road in 1913, it was even possible to drive by car from Andorra la Vella to La Seu d'Urgell.
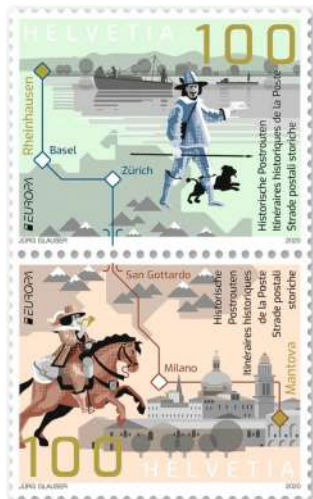
— from Correos (Spanish Post)

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

SWITZERLAND 2v
se-tenant vertically
Issue date 7 May 2020

Thurn & Taxis

The design produced by Switzerland in cooperation with Germany depicts a postal route from 1627, printed in a vertically correlated form. The route ran from Rheinhausen in Germany, passing through Basel and Zurich, before reaching Milan and Mantua. It was operated by the House of Thurn and Taxis, a noble family from Lombardy who set up a courier service for the Republic of Venice in the 14th century.

The brothers Janetto and Francesco de Tassis (the Germanified form of Taxis) founded the postal service spanning Europe in 1490 on behalf of the later Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I. Their descendants ran the imperial post service from Brussels. The post riders were adventure seekers who encountered many dangers along the way. In the beginning, the postal charge was indicated as a figure on the envelope: on the front if it had to be paid by the recipient and on the back if it had already been settled by the sender. Later, postmarks were introduced, even before the emergence of the stamp in the 19th century.
— *from Swiss Post*

There are more Europa stamps teed up for our next issue, but as of press time their respective post offices haven't provided any background information. Maybe a result of Covid-19, or maybe just because they haven't been issued yet. More to come for sure in the next EN.

CZECH REPUBLIC 1v
Issue date 22 April 2020

Horse-drawn Carriage

In Czech countries, the development of postal services began with the advent of the Habsburgs. Regular mail, organized transport of messages on today's territory of the Czech Republic is associated with the election of Ferdinand I as Czech king and was formed even before Habsburg sat on the throne in 1526.

Ferdinand I used the services of the aristocratic family of Taxis, who since the end of the13th century almost monopolized postal transport in northern Italy and much of Europe. The oldest postal route between Prague and Vienna, it led through Tábor and further to the village of Košice, where it split into two branches. The south was headed for Linz, the east branch led through Jindřichův Hradec and Slavonice further toward Vienna. — *from Česká pošta*

POLAND 1v
Issue date 29 April 2020

The stamp shows a graphic representation of the postal route from Cracow, through Warsaw, and on to Gdansk on the northern border.

Postal carriers travelled on horseback and then proceeded on foot.

This is information gleaned from the stamp design. The Polish Post website offered no additional information.

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

GUERNSEY 2v from a set of 6, also ss of 6v
Issue date 1 April 2020

Shown is the ss which contains all six individual stamps of the issue. Although the Guernsey Post Office calls this a Europa issue, only two of the stamps — 68p and 85p — actually carry the Europa logo.

The stamps depict the following mail and packet ships that sailed between Guernsey and the United Kingdom. Europa stamps are shown in bold:

50p: Earl of Chesterfield
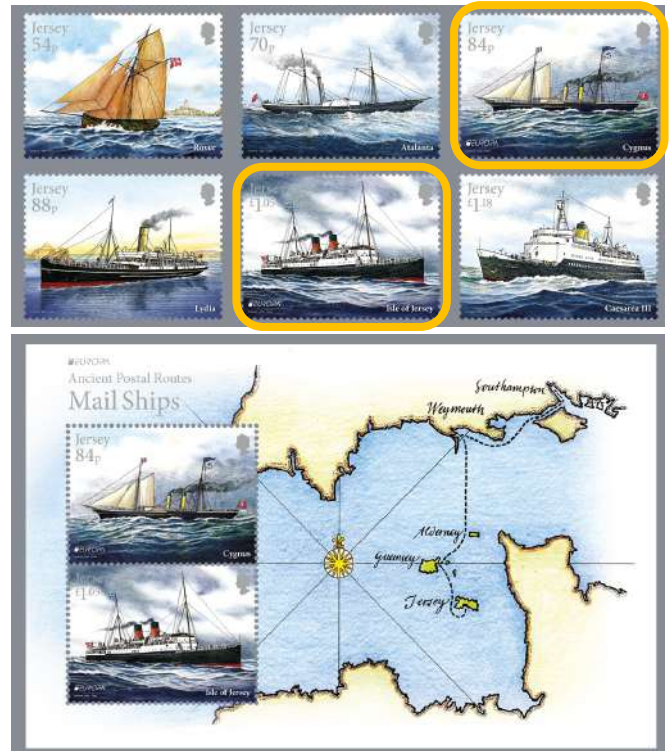**68p: Ariadne**
70p: Antelope
85p: Alberta
95p: Isle of Guernsey
£1.02: Sarnia

— from Guernsey Post

JERSEY 2v from a set of 6v and a ss of 2v
Issue date 7 April 2020

The first mail ships set sail to-and-from Jersey in 1794, since then the island has been serviced by dozens of mail ships and passenger boats. A variety of vessels that span Jersey's mail ship history are depicted on this six stamp set.   *— from Jersey Post*

Although Jersey Post calls this a Europa issue, only two of the stamps — 84p and £1.05 — actually carry the Europa logo. The stamp designs show the march of technology over the years.

Online readers can click on the picture to go to the website:

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

ISLE OF MAN 1v from a set of 6v; also a ms of 10 of the Europa stamps

Issue date
22 April 2020

400th anniversary of the Mayflower

— continued from previous column

2020 marks 400 years since the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, UK and on to discover the New World. The ship has become a cultural icon in the history of the United States and more than 30 million people can trace their ancestry back to the 102 passengers and ~30 crew aboard the Mayflower when it landed in Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts.

Each stamp in this set depicts a key event and/or person in the history of the voyage:

1st - The Departure of the Mayflower: After its departure from Plymouth, UK. This stamp pictures the ship amidst the stormy weather it faced at sea on its famous voyage.

EU - The Arrival at Plymouth Rock: (**EUROPA**) This stamp displays the Pilgrims as they prepare to step ashore at Plymouth Rock for the first time. The Mayflower can be seen anchored in the background.

Large - The Signing of the Compact: This stamp shows the Pilgrims as they sign the Mayflower Compact aboard the ship on 11 November 1620. The compact symbolized the establishment of an independent democratic government that still affirmed allegiance to the Crown of England.

RoW - The Peace Treaty: Displays the Pilgrims and the Wamponaog tribe chief Massasoit, as they ceremoniously sign a peace treaty. The treaty marked the beginning of a peaceful relationship; the Wamponaog taught the Pilgrims how to farm the land.

£1.85 - Myles Standish: This stamp depicts Myles Standish, our Manx connection within the issue. Myles was an influential and key member of the Mayflower voyage. He played a large role in the defense of the colony during its infancy. In 1621 he was elected by his fellows to act as first commander, a position he held for the remainder of his life.

£2.50 - The First Church in New England

From the Isle of Man Post Office:
This set of six stamps tells the story of the Mayflower and the individuals involved within the pilgrimage. Each stamp depicts a key event and / or person in the history of the voyage and is designed to reflect the time period during which the pilgrimage occurred.

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

NETHERLANDS 2v printed se-tenant in sheets of 3 sets

Issue date
11 May 2020

The Old Post Routes stamp sheet has 6 stamps in 2 different designs. The first design features an etching of a postillion on horseback, with a post horn to his mouth. The second design contains a print of 2 postillions on the stage of a stagecoach pulled by 2 horses. On the right side, each stamp has an identical vertical cut-out of a painting of a resting horse putting its head into a feeding trough. All images are printed in the same blue as the Priority logo.   *— from postNL (Netherlands)*

TURKEY 1v

Issue date 9 May 2020

The road system in the Ottoman Empire, whose territory spread over three continents, was organized as the Anatolian and Rumeli roads, east and west of the Bosphorus. The Ottoman roads starting from Istanbul consisted of six main routes, called the "arm," that covered the country from the ground up, as shown on the stamp.

In the Ottoman period, central-provincial contact was systematically provided through the developed road network that reached the remotest corners of the country. This emphasized the importance of building accommodation and security infrastructure units such as bridges, inns, and caravans to carry out transportation, communication and trade smoothly on these roads.

— from PTT Turkey

CROATIA 2v issued se-tenant in sheets of 6 pairs

Issue date 8 May 2020

Reliable and timely transmission of news has always been an important factor in initiating and developing all important processes within human society. A prerequisite for any organized news transmission is the existence of good and passable roads, so the history of old postal routes in Croatia is largely the history of old Croatian roads.

Pictured on the stamps is the 19th century lithograph "Chapel of St. Frane on Velebit" 19th century. The lithograph was donated to the Croatian Post by the State Archives in Zadar.

— from Croatian Post

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

NORWAY ss

Issue date 17 April 2020

Postal route from Christiania to Bergen.

"Very hazardous Road, passing Cliffs and Valleys, where it was not possible to ride, but where the Postal Farmers had to carry the Mailbags on their Backs," was the description of Vindhellavegen in Lærdal town.

In 1793, the road was finally upgraded, and Kongevegen was the first road between the east and the west. But the stretch at Vindhella was steep and hard for both horse and man to descend. In the 1840s, the road authority built a new road for horse and cart on high walls through the pass, and they added an extra curve to reduce the incline.

The narrow curves on high walls with a sharp incline has made Vindhellavegen one of the most beautiful road-related cultural heritage sites in Norway. Kongevegen has been named Norway's Most Beautiful Road award and it has won EU's highest cultural heritage award, **Europa Nostra**. Vindhellavegen contributed to this.

— *from* posten *(Norway Post)*

Post Europ says that the low value stamp —-> shows the first Greek-built wheeled steamer, completed in 1837 at the Poros Naval Shipyard, used for postal sea service between the port of Piraeus and the Island of Syros (Cyclades).

SAN MARINO 2v

Issue date 24 March 2020

The Europa 2020 series, dedicated to the old postal routes, illustrates the San Marino postilion, in service in the Republic since 1607, in charge of bringing and collecting correspondence to the Rimini post office. The first stamp depicts the postilion going on foot towards Monte Titano, while the second value shows his arrival at the Porta del Paese, in the historic center of San Marino.

— *from the Numismatic/Philatelic Office of San Marino*

GREECE 2v se-tenant; also issued in booklets of 2 sets, with straight edges on top and bottom

Issue date 8 May 2020

"PRINCE MAXIMILIAN"   "ADRCIUCA LODOVICO "
19th cent   19th cent

The Hellenic Post thanks the establisher of the first online Maritime Museum "Greek Shipping Miracle," at greekshippingmiracle.org for providing photographic material which contributed to the design of this issue.

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

GIBRALTAR 2v issued singly and ss of the same 2v as shown

Issue date 8 May 2020

Gibraltar
Europa 2020 'Ancient Postal Routes'

Depicted are two packet ships used to transport mail to and from Gibraltar in the 19th Century:

'Lady Mary Wood' 1842 (£1.66 stamp) was a paddle wheel steam powered passenger/cargo liner with a side-lever steam engine of 250hp and a speed of 12 knots. Launched in 1841, the ship was named after the wife of Sir Charles Wood, the First Viscount Halifax, who was Secretary to the British Admiralty, and Secretary of State for India from 1859-1866. In 1845, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company established the first regular monthly mail service. It was the first mail steamer dispatched to the Far East, arriving in Singapore on 4 August 1845.

P&O's 'SS Iberia' 1836 (£2.86 stamp) - was a ship with a side-lever steam engine of 180hp, a top speed of 9 knots, and a crew of 41. Iberia was registered for Brodie McGhie Willcox, Arthur Anderson 'and others' specifically intended to press their claims to the Iberian Peninsula mail contract. The Iberia carried the first mail under the agreement with the company. Her maiden voyage was from East Lane on the Thames, to Falmouth, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz and Gibraltar, and onward to Madeira.

— from Gibraltar Post

MALTA 2v

Issue date 9 May 2020

The first stamp features a map of the Mediterranean Sea with Malta, Sicily and Italy at its core. Being an island, key naval routes are highlighted such as the Malta/ Pozzallo, Malta/ Messina and Malta/Naples routes. A vessel known as 'speronara' — a small merchant craft — is featured on the left-hand side.

These vessels originated in Malta and became a popular means of marine transport. Using both sail and oars they were swift and convenient, ferrying passengers and cargo (including mail) around the Mediterranean.

The second stamp bears a portrait of Francisco de Tassis who was a 15th century pioneer of the postal service in Europe and tasked by Emperor Maximillian I to reform the courier system in Burgundy and the Netherlands. In time, this new postal system grew as deTassis founded new postal stations in major European cities, thereby guaranteeing a complete service over the years.

De Tassis commercialized this service by establishing fast and stable connections which evolved into the globalized postal network service we have today. His portrait portrays him as a successful entrepreneur complete with symbols of his role and standing in society - a letter, coins and a cylindrical postal container.

— from Malta Post

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

SLOVAKIA 1v reg + 1v self-adhesive from a booklet pane of 6

Issue date 30 April 2020

The Magna Via

After 1526, Hungary's Ferdinand I began to change the state administration of his country and to establish postal routes. In 1528 Buda and Vienna were connected via a route with 10 postal stations. However, it ceased to exist after a year when Buda was seized by the Turkish army. After 1531 it was necessary to provide a postal route between Bratislava and Vienna because the Hungarian Chamber moved its activities to Bratislava.

In 1552 the Court Postmaster, Matej Taxis, on the command of Ferdinand I, began the organization of a route from Vienna to Transylvania. Owing to the Turkish occupation of the southern territories, this important postal route passed through western and northern Slovakia to Košice and from there to the Transylvanian city of Sibiu.

When the emperor's authority over Transylvania ended in 1556, only the route from Bratislava to Košice remained almost unchanged during the entire 17th century. The development of the route through the 18th century resulted in the opening of stations in new regions. Originally individual postal stations were established every two miles of that time and included facilities that provided catering, accommodation, stables and harness service.

In 1999 the Association Magna Via was founded. Its role is to acquaint domestic and foreign visitors with the cultural and historical value of this great postal route.

— *from POFIS (Slovak Post)*

BELARUS 2v issued singly, and in a ms of 2 sets as shown

Issue date 5 May 2020

Initially, the delivery of written and oral messages was carried out by messengers.

Denomination H depicts a horse messenger along the postal route Vilna — Maladzeczna — Mensk — Barysau — Drutsk — Orsha — Smalensk. The route was approved for messengers and ambassadors by the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Zhigimont the Old, in 1528.

Denomination P depicts the postal route Krakow — Warsaw — Goradnya — Vilna, approved by the Grand Duke of Lithuania Stefan Batory in 1583. Against the background of the map there is a messenger holding a road sheet — a special travel document that noted the date, time and direction of departure of the messenger. The technology of augmented reality is applied to this stamp: when you direct a Smartphone camera at the stamp, while the AR MARKA BELARUS application is running, a specially created script appears.

— *from Belpochta (Belarus Post)*

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

ROMANIA   2v issued in sheetlets of 5 values plus label. Also, ms of 2 sets se-tenant as shown below, in two versions with the order of the stamps reversed. Also a ss of 2v, imperforate limited edition.

Issue date 9 April 2020

So far, album makers have provided spaces for just one ms, but this year the images in the selvage are slightly different — note the coins behind the stagecoach. My guess is that this won't matter; you'll still get space for just one ms. And no space for the limited edition ss.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Croat)   2v issued in ms of 8 stamps + label, and a ms of 1 set (shown)

Issue date 5 April 2020

The Roman legions were linked to Rome by the roads where the first post office took place. The Roman Messenger's Service, initially called *vehiculatio* later *cursus publicus*, was founded by Emperor Augustus between 27 and 20 BC. It was initially limited to civilian and military civil servants. The main directions of the roads were ordinary stations (*mansiones*) where passengers could spend the night and cells where horses or other cattle (*mutationes*) could change.

For Emperor Septimius Severus (193 - 211) *cursus* publicus was divided into two parts: the fast (*cursus velox*), who had saddled the horses, draft horse, mules and mules, and more types of circuits - chariot (*cursus velox*), or slow (*cursus claburalis*), which was served by a heavy car that could carry up to 500 kg of cargo.

The carts and the silver penny of the Roman consul L. Saufeius (152 BC) are the motifs on the stamps. The coin on the reverse shows Victoria riding a biga, and on the obverse the head of the goddess Roma. The coin is housed in the Franciscan Museum of the Monastery of St. Ante na Humcu, in the area that includes the very significant military road since the first century.

— from Hrvatska pošta Mostar

It's crackers to slip a rozzer the dropsy in snide!

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

SERBIA 2v, each issued in a ms of 8 + central label

*Issue date
5 May 2020*

Throughout history, every strong and well-organized state developed a network for communications and transportation. The Ottoman Empire, which included Serbia, used Tatars (post riders) with a large number of horses, relay stations and inns.

In addition to the Tatars, state proclamations and orders were also transmitted by pedestrians - Sahis, especially at shorter distances and on those terrains that could be crossed faster on foot than on horseback. The Sahis were a lean and hardy people, armed and dressed in practical clothes. As a sign of recognition, they wore little bells below the left knee. The jingling announced their arrival into populated places, and the bells helped them keep their rhythm while striding.

Over time, they began delivering private letters and small parcels for a fee, and passed on news of recent events: fairs, prices, contagions, and all that was relevant at the time for daily life of the people

After the Second Serbian Uprising, when it was necessary that the news be passed on foot quickly, Prince Miloš used his Tatars, then later postmen, who travelled on coaches using the four well-developed main road routes out of Belgrade. This network was organized on the Sava and Danube rivers, with ferries, boats, and, later, ships, formed an important link in the fast and secure transmission of mail.

—- from the Post of Serbia

HUNGARY 2v issued in a ss of 2 sets, as shown

Issue date 4 May 2020

In the territory of Hungary at the time of Louis the Great in the 14th century, guilds established postal routes. One of the most well-known routes was that of the butchers. Armed drivers escorting cattle from the Hungarian Great Plain to markets abroad, butchers carried the correspondence of the cities and their burghers based on individual instructions.

The main motifs of the stamp designs are a brass sign, used by the butchers' guild to officially summon meetings, and a horn. The background of the stamps shows works by the painter and graphic artist László Balla,

Shown is the Butchers' Post Progressing through Hungary, and Diligence Crossing the Hortobágy Plain. In the background printing of the miniature sheet, John Speed's early 17th-century copperplate engraving of a map of Hungary can be seen with views of four Hungarian cities and drawings of distinguished contemporary personages in the frame. The objects featured in the stamps are on display in the Diligence Room of the Post Museum in Debrecen.

— from Magyar Posta (Hungary Post)

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

ESTONIA 2v

Issue date 14 May 2020

Ancient postal route stamps depict two historic stops on the old Tartu–Võru road. One stamp has a modern photo of the Varbuse postal station built on the side of this road in 1863, where the Estonian Road Museum has been located since 2001.

The other stamp depicts the Tille tavern from the early 20th century. This building was destroyed during the same period, thus modern travelers will not get to see it. On the selvage of the stamp sheet, and the FDC cancel, one can find an image of the traveler sculpture created by Mati Karmin, located at the Ihamaru crossroads.

— from Eesti Post, Omniva

LITHUANIA 2v

Issue date 12 June 2020

The stamp on the left depicts a complex of buildings of the former Tauragė post office with inns, one of the oldest historic buildings in the city, dating back to 1840. To this day, the facades of the buildings still have bright 19th century architectural features, and the most striking of them are visible on the inn building. This post office is also marked by the fact that in 1843 the famous French writer Onore de Balzac stopped here on his way to Paris, and at the inn he wrote a letter to his future wife Evelina Hanska.

The stamp on the right depicts a letter, 1841. sent from Švenčionys to Moscow. The illustration shows the stamps typical of that period and other handwritten requisites for sending.

— from Lithuania Post

LATVIA ss+2v

Issue date 8 May 2020

On the left-hand stamp, artist Ludis Danilāns depicts the delivery of mail with a horse, which tells about a hundred-year-old history when letters and other valuable things were delivered by special mail riders.

The other stamp depicts the delivery of mail by bicycle. Although they were used in the postal industry more than 100 years ago, this type of delivery is still popular among postmen today.

— from Latvia Post

The stamps on the souvenir sheet are not perforated on the left- and rightmost edges.

New Issues
Norden 2020
Local Mammals

NORWAY 1v

Issue date
17 April 2020

Orca

Nature photographer Audun Rikardsen has published a book on whales – and takes the reader on a journey into the world of whales. He follows them closely 24 hours a day and in all weather conditions.Readers learn about all of the "winter whales" and the latest findings from whale research.

The killer whale is one of the main characters in the book and belongs to the top of the ocean's food chain. Most killer whales are found in Antarctica, but there are also around 3,000 in the Norwegian Sea and Barents Sea.

Killer whales are social animals that travel in pods and live in polygamous relationships: The male mates with multiple females. A pod can consist of anywhere between 4 and 40 whales and can stay together for several generations. Killer whales are known for their intelligence, which is particularly evident in the way they communicate.

—from Posten (Nordic Post)

The Nordic Countries website, aka

topoftheworld.nu

is no longer active, and has been that way for well over a year.

Now comes word that the Nordic series will come to an end with this year's stamps. Are collectors being soaked and saying enough? Nearby, Alex Cwiekalo notes that SEPAC may be losing popularity. Maybe collectors can be fleeced for just so long.

Ditto for Europa issues.

GREENLAND 2v

Issue date 18 May 2020

POST Greenland's two 2020 stamps in the Nordic series were designed by creative multi-artist Miki Jacobsen. Many of her works are shown in the Nuuk Art Museum. Depicted are an Arctic bison and Atlantic walrus.

The Arctic bison or Musk Ox occurs in Greenland and northern Canada. It is being re-introduced in Alaska, where it was over-hunted years ago. The name refers to the strong aroma emitted during rutting season.

Atlantic walrus are found across arctic Canada, Greenland and western Russia. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the walrus was heavily exploited by American and European sealers and whalers, leading to the near-extirpation of the Atlantic subspecies. It has since rebounded.

Greenland Post confirmed that this will be the last issue in the Nordic series.

FINLAND 2v

Issue date 3 June 2020

Pohjola—in the Northland:
The hedgehog and the squirrel are familiar visitors to anyone's backyard.
— from Finnish Post

MONACO 1v

Issue date 25 June 2020

The Indolence

L'Indolence is a painting by the impressionist painter Eva Gonzalès (1849-1883) whose paternal grandfather was Monegasque. The work belongs to the collection of the Prince of Monaco. Gonzalès is best known for her starting out as a pupil of the artist Édouard Manet in February 1869. In 1883, Gonzelès died in childbirth at the age of thirty-four, five days after the death of her famous teacher.

— from Office des Timbres, Monaco and Wikipedia

ISLE OF MAN 1v from a set of 10v, issued in two strips of 5v each

Issue date 16 March 2020

The Douglas School of Art

From their website:
"The Isle of Man Post Office presents a celebration in ten stamps of the principal artist-lecturers who inspired successive generations at The Douglas School of Art. While this year is the centenary of the school as a publicly funded educational establishment, its history extends back into the nineteenth century. Graduates of the school have earned a reputation for high achievement in many areas of art and design worldwide and all recognize their debt to the inspirational individuals who fostered their creative beginnings."

The Stamps & The Artists:

Top row "FIRST" (L to R):
John Miller Nicholson: *St Matthew's Church 1882;* A leading advocate for the foundation of the school

William James Merritt: *Harvest Time 1906;* First Head of School 1880-84

David Mitchell Robertson: *Port St Mary 1907;* Head of School 1885-1909

Archibald Knox: *Liberty Tudric Vase 1902-05;* Student c1880-1890 and later Assistant Master

Peter Chisholm: *Peel Castle Against A Sunset c1920s;* Head of School 1909-1943

Bottom row "LARGE" (L to R):
William Hargreaves Whitehead: *Alderman SA Quirk 1945 © Gallery Oldham;* Head of School 1943-1960s

Eric Houlgrave: *Cregneash 1964;* Tutor 1948-1980s

Norman Sayle: *Douglas Promenade Railing 1995;* Student 1954, tutor, then Head of School 1954-89. **The SEPAC Stamp.**

David Fletcher: *The Old Chapel 1990;* Tutor then Head of School 1978-1998

Ian Coulson: *The Old Art School 2020 © The Artist;* Student 1968, tutor then Foundation Course Leader 1987-2016

New Issues
Sepac 2020
Art from the State Collection

FAROE ISLANDS 1v

*Issue date
27 April 2020*

Moon Pigeons

These fragile images on paper were created during the first part of the 19th century. They were originally mounted in a glass frame and hung up in a family living room. However, due to stove heating the frame fell apart and the sheets were preserved in an old Bible. They were then totally forgotten until they finally reappeared and were sold to the Faroese Art Society in 1954. A fifth and final picture later found its way to the Museum's collection as a donation from another branch of the family.

The artist was one of the family's ancestors, known as Díðrikur á Skarvanesi. Due to the pictures' age and artistic quality, Díðrikur must be considered the first Faroese artist, creating his works some hundred years before "Faroese art" became a recognized concept.

These five drawings are the only ones that we know with certainty were created by Díðrikur á Skarvanesi. They are made in gouache, i.e. water color with high pigment concentration as well as a white dye which solidifies the colors while dimming them at the same time.

Most of the birds in Díðrikur's gouaches are wild Faroese birds. The gouaches must also have been made in the Faroe Islands, because according to ornithologist Jens-Kjeld Jensen there is a white-speckled raven among the birds in the paintings, a species which was found in the Faroes at that time but is now extinct.

The pictures might probably have been created in the 1840s.

— from Posta, Faroe Islands

MALTA 1v from a set of 2v
Issue date 27 April 2020

Drawings by Edward Caruana Dingli

MaltaPost's SEPAC issue features a pair of stamps depicting artworks by Edward Caruana Dingli - one of Malta's foremost painters of the early 20th century. The original paintings are exhibited at MUZA, the National Community Art Museum of Malta. His works portray many of the typical scenes associated with Malta at the turn of the 20th century - market scenes, rural landscapes, water-sellers, processions, church interiors and street scenes.

One stamp features a lady wearing the 'ghonnella' - a traditional headdress unique to Malta and Gozo. Made of silk or cotton, it was usually dark in color and covered the frame but not the face of the wearer. Its use petered out in the 1950's.

The next stamp features the annual procession of Corpus Christi as it snakes past the façade of St. John's co-Cathedral in Valletta. Painted in 1927, it illustrates to perfection Caruana Dingli's style.

— from Malta Post

According to the Europa blogspot, the high value on the right is the SEPAC stamp. The illustrations don't show a logo on either stamp, and the description on Malta Post doesn't say one way or the other. —ed.

New Issues
Sepac 2020
Art from the State Collection

GREENLAND 2v

Issue date 18 May 2020

Mother pulling off her daughter's boots

The artwork shown on the stamp is a water-color that was painted at the beginning of the 20th century by Christine Elisabeth Lund Deichmann (1869 – 1945), and hangs in the Greenland National Museum & Archive.

Ms. Deichmann was one of the first female students to attend the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, where she was accepted to study at the age of just thirteen. Her naturalistic works portray family lives in Greenland just after the turn of the century. Reproductions of her art still appear on greet-ings cards, postcards and posters in Greenland and in Denmark.

— from PhilatelicPursuits.com

LIECHTENSTEIN 1v

Issue date 2 June 2020

Matt Mullican
Untitled
(Indian Banner: World), 1982

Liechtenstein chose contemporary art for their contribution. The artist is Matt Mullican, an American best known for combining perfor-mance, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and video as a means of exploring the subjective through the intersection of communal signage and personal semiotics. A part of the "Pictures Generation", Mullican decodes images and signs through diagrams, patterns, and written words. The artist has also been known to ex-amine his own subconscious through hypno-tism in his quest to understand patterns and how they may be broken.   *— from* artnet

Guernsey Post just issued a set of 6 stamps and a souvenir sheet. That will be addressed in the next EN.

MALTA 4v

Issue date 14 February 2020

For those of you who still have extra money to spend on stamps now that the GASS has been can-celled, Malta has issued Old Residential Houses, Series II, a follow up to last year's SEPAC stamps.

Your Humble Editor (YHE) has been at-tempting to collect an expanded series of SEPAC issues, by obtaining and mounting the entire set of stamps where only one has the SEPAC logo, and then including the year-book folder after each annual grouping. I'm starting to think I've been had. There's just so much we collectors can be expected to buy. See SEPAC News elsewhere in this issue. ∎

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

AUSTRIA 1v

Issue date
22 January 2020

25th Anniversary of EU Membership

Austria has been a member of the European Union since January 1st 1995. At the referendum on June 12, 1994, 66.6 percent of the population voted for Austria to join the EU (at that time the European Community, EC). — *from Post AG (Austria Post)*

Editor's Note: the Austria Post stamp program and website shows this stamp rotated 90º to the left, which does not seem intuitive. A prominent stamp dealer's new issue list showed it upright, as I have done. We'll have to wait until next year to see how the European album makers (Davo, Lighthouse, et al.) decide how to do it.

MONACO 1v

Issue date
28 February 2020

30th Anniversary of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention

The Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention was signed in 1989 and entered into force on 1 March 1990. The Monegasque Anti-Doping Committee carries out essential prevention and monitoring efforts to ensure that sporting competitions remain ethical. Working in close cooperation with the World Anti-Doping Agency, the Monegasque body is a key player in promoting the fundamental values of sport.

— *from Office des Timbres Monaco*

GREECE 2v in personalized sheets
Issue date 15 May 2020

On 15 May Greece will assume the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for six months. With a special focus on the 70th anniversary of the signing of the European Convention on Human Rights last year, the Greek Chairmanship will place emphasis on dealing with the consequences of the pandemic and the protection of human rights.

Special collectible products marking the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe include

1. A Special and Personalized Stamp Sheet in a folder. 1000 numbered units available for ten euros each.

2. A Special Collectible Numbered Album comprising: A Special Collectible Mini-Sheet, Two Special Commemorative Envelopes with the two different special and personalized stamps, franked with a gold foil postmark. There are 500 units available for eighteen euros each.

— *from Hellenic Post*

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

CZECH REPUBLIC ss
SLOVAKIA 1v

Issue date 13 November 2019

30th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution

Joint Issue

In the 1980s, the Marx-Lenin Communist project was in its last moments of existence and Gorbachev's attempt to square the circle by making the totalitarian system democratic was mere utopia. Real socialism was only sustainable in the way it was created — behind barbed wire with bayonets and batons.

Those weapons also marked the beginning of the regime's end in Czechoslovakia. On 17 November 1989 – the day to remember the Nazi violence of 1939, when police brutality ended a peaceful demonstration of students in Prague, it became apparent that Czechoslovakia would embark on a journey like the Polish Solidarność and civil rights activists in Eastern Germany.

Opposition demonstrations in Prague, Bratislava and other cities led to the abolition of the communist party. The dissident Václav Havel became President of the Republic and in June 1990, the first free elections were held after long decades of dictatorship. This all happened to the soundtrack of long-silenced singers Karel Kryl and Marta Kubišová… and the door to the world was opened in front of our nation.

— from POFIS (Slovak Post)

UKRAINE 1v, issued in a ms of 9 stamps

Issue date 16 January 2020

5th Anniversary of the Cyborg Defense of Donetz Airport:

"They withstood! Concrete didn't!"

Mention a cyborg to a Ukrainian and they probably won't think of "cybernetic organisms", or man-machines of science fiction. Instead, the word now conjures up images of rugged, heavily armed men holed up inside what remained of Donetsk Airport in war-torn eastern Ukraine.

The airport has become a symbol of Ukraine's fight against separatists, and the "cyborgs" are Ukrainians who held on, with little sleep or support, despite persistent rebel attack. Although the brave Ukrainian soldiers held on through two separate battles, they were eventually overrun and killed or captured. The airport was only just completed before the Euro 2012 Football Championships co-hosted by Ukraine and Poland; at a reported cost of $860 million. It was totally destroyed in the fighting — building, control tower and runways.

A film about the Ukrainian Cyborgs called **Cyborgs: Heroes Never Die** was released on 7 December 2017, earning US$302,000 in its opening week.

— from BBC News and Wikipedia

The parallels with the American Alamo are striking. –ed.

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

SLOVENIA   1v

*Issue date
31 January 2020*

**Centenary of the Nature
Conservation Memorandum**

The First World War put the brakes on nature conservation endeavors but, following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, belief in the need for nature conservation revived in the new state that emerged after the war. In the spring of 1919 the General Assembly of the Museum Society for Slovenia established a Nature Conservation Section at the proposal of the naturalist Ferdinand Seidl.

On 20 January 1920 the new section drew up a document entitled Memorandum on Nature Conservation. The Memorandum was one of the first programmatic nature conservation documents in Europe and is still relevant today.   — *from Pošta Slovenije*

This one is a significant precursor to European Conservation efforts:

ARMENIA   1v

*Issue date
26 December
2019*

Civil Aviation

Not sure what this is exactly. Armenia Post says that it's a picture of an airplane against Mt. Ararat. Beyond that it's anyone's guess. The caption on the stamp says "AIRPLANE" (Well, duh!). At first I thought that it was an Airbus. The more I look at it though, the more I think it could be of Soviet design. I'd appreciate your thoughts.

BULGARIA   1v in a ms of 2v+label, as shown

Issue date 12 December 2019

25 yrs of Diplomatic Relations between Bulgaria and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM)

SMOM is considered a sovereign state and has Observer status at the UN, but it is not recognized by the UPU.

… and a little filler ….

CHAD   2ss

Issue date 24 February 2020

CH-20107a,b   **European Speed Trains**

Thalys is the second stamp (I think)

Eurostar is the featured train. The inset stamp shows the original French TGV.

New Issues
European Sports

Turkish CYPRUS 1v

*Issue date
12 March 2020*

**UEFA
Euro 2020 Soccer
Championships**

The tournament, to be held in 12 cities in 12 UEFA countries, was originally scheduled to take place from 12 June to 12 July 2020. On 17 March 2020, UEFA announced that the tournament would be delayed by a year due to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic in Europe, and proposed it take place from 11 June to 11 July 2021.

The competition was postponed in order to reduce pressure on the public services in affected countries and to provide space in the calendar for the completion of domestic leagues that had been suspended. However, the tournament will still retain the name "UEFA Euro 2020."   *— from Wikipedia*

MONTENEGRO *ss of 1v*

Issue date 27 May 2019

Games of the Small States of Europe

This ss accompanies the single stamp that was described in EN# 454-18.

Europa Briefs
Numismatic/Philatelic Items

An interesting addition to a Europa collection might be the introduction of a few numismatic items. E.g., the little country of San Marino has prepared a duo of stamp and coin cards for the Europa 2019 issue, as shown below:
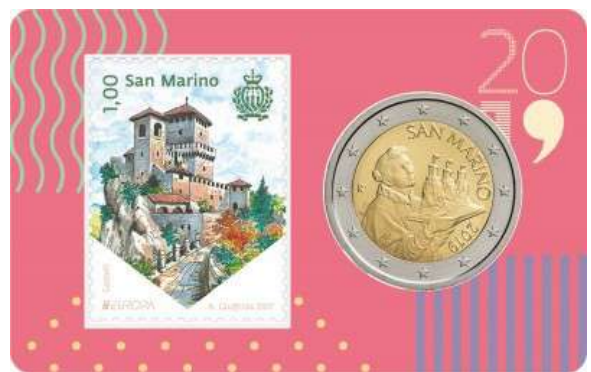
They are available from San Marino at ufn.sm/it/ for a modest €5.50 and €6.50, respectively.

Philatelic coin envelopes are also popular. E.g., Vatican City issued this colorful FDC with coin for Europa 2009 International Year of Astronomy:

New Issues — Catch-Up
European Sports and Events

CROATIA postal card
Issue date 6 May 2019

70th Anniversary of the Council of Europe
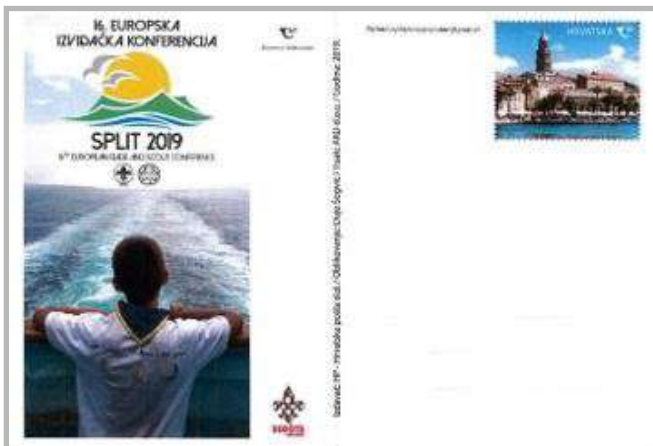
CROATIA postal card
Issue date 8 August 2019
16th European Scout Conference - SPLIT 2019

Adding bits of postal stationery is another way to add interest to an otherwise ordinary collection, and they are fun to track down. The Michel "Ganzsachen" (Postal Stationery) catalogs list most of them.

CROATIA postal card
Issue date 18 October 2018
Alps-Adriatic Philatelic Exhibition FILA 2018

This organization was mentioned previously in EN# 433-9. Switzerland issued a single stamp (Scott # 2576) to note the organizations 20th anniversary in 2015. We should look for a stamp in 2020 to note the 25th anniversary.

ALPS ADRIATIC PHILATELY
ALPE JADRAN FILATELIJA
ALPEN ADRIA PHILATELIE
ALPOK ADRIA FILATÉLIA
ALPE ADRIA FILATELIA

CROATIA postal card
Issue date 30 July 2019

European University Martial Sports Championship

NEW ISSUES
with SCOTT catalog numbers

From Linns' March and April Special Editions
— *Don Smith*

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

COUNTRY	SCOTT #	DATE OF ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	*
Andorra (Spanish)	470	8-Nov-19	Admission to CE, joint w/Andorra (Fr) 815 EN455-7	2a
Austria	2829	8-Nov-19	Charles V, joint w/Luxembourg 1530	4a
Bulgaria	4926	12-Dec-19	Dipl. Relations w/S.M.O.M	3b
Cyprus	**1315**	**9-Jul-19**	**EuroMed 2019 EN 453-4**	**1d**
Cyprus	1317	10-Sep-19	Council of Europe 70th Anniv.	2a
Germany	3144-5	2-Jan-20	Beethoven EN 456-10	4a
			3144a ss, 3145 self-adhesive, 3145a bklt pane of 10	
Gibraltar	1739	8-Nov-19	Tunnels, joint w/Luxembourg 1528 EN 455-8	3b
Gibraltar	1740	12-Nov-19	Nature Reserves, se-tenant pair, joint w/Romania EN 456-1	3b
Greece	**2887**	**9-May-19**	**Europa 2019**	**1**
			horiz. se-tenant pair, 2887f bklt pane of 2887c	
Greece	**2888-91**	**15-Jul-19**	**EuroMed 2019 EN 453-3**	**1d**
			(2891b: bklt pane of 4, 2888a-2898a; ss of 4, 2891c)	
Greenland	**816**	**21-Jun 19**	**Sepac 2019 EN 453-6**	**1c**
Greenland	**817-8**	**21-Jun-19**	**Europa 2019**	**1**
Greenland	**819-20**	**21-Jun-19**	**Europa 2019**	**1**
			self-adhesive (820a bklt pane of 12, 6 each 819-20)	
Hungary	4539	10-Jan-20	European Water Polo Champs. EN 456-9	3c
Ireland	**2226-7**	**11-Apr-19**	**Europa 2019, 2227a ss w/both values**	**1**
Jordan	**2408-12**	**8-Jul-19**	**EuroMed 2019 (2412 imperf ss) EN 453-5**	**1d**
Kazakhstan	774b	24-Jun-16	Charles de Gaulle with others	5c
***Kazakhstan**	**789**	**21-Oct-16**	**Europa 2016, se-tenant pair with Expo 2017 emblem**	**1**
Kazakhstan	794	16-Nov-16	Battle of Moscow 70th Anniv	3b
			se-tenant pair, joint w/Russia 7785	
Kazakhstan	**903**	**19-Dec-19**	**Europa 2019, ss of 3 903a-c**	**1**
Kosovo	**410-12**	**9-May-19**	**Europa 2019, 412 ss of 1**	**1**
Kosovo	415	12-Jun-19	NATO, ss of 4 a-d EN 456-7	2b
Slovenia	1344	8-Jul-19	European Volleyball Champs.	3c
			printed in sheets of 6 + 3 labels EN 454-9	
Slovenia	**1345**	**8-Jul-19**	**EuroMed 2019**	**1d**

*Editor's Note re. Kazakhstan #789: My supplier sent me a horizontal pair like Scott shows. I asked for a vertical pair, because Lighthouse (and I presume KaBe) provided a space only for a vertical pair.

Shown here are just two of the exciting items Don has included in Auction #149.
To the left is a set of deluxe die proofs of the Europa 1992 stamps of France. Estimated retail is over $300. Yours for ???
To the right is a limited edition special proof of Spain's 1999 Europa issue, valued at $30. A nice item to dress up a collection.

NEW ISSUES
with **SCOTT** catalog numbers

From Linns' May and June Special Editions
— *Don Smith*

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

COUNTRY	SCOTT #	DATE OF ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	*
Hungary	4544	4-Mar-20	Beethoven	4a
Ireland	2265-6	23-Jan-20	European Capitals of Culture, 2266a ss of 1, joint issue w/Croatia EN 456-8	3a
Kyrgyzstan	604	9-Aug-19	Eurasian Economic Union	5c
Lebanon	**811-2**	**8-Jul-19**	**EuroMed 2019 EN 453-5**	**1d**
Liechtenstein	1802-3	14-Nov-19	Social Diversity, joint issue w/Switzerland EN 455-6	3b
Luxembourg	1528	8-Nov-19	Tunnel, joint issue w/Gibraltar 1739 EN 455-8	3b
Luxembourg	1530	8-Nov-19	Charles V, joint issue w/Austria 2829	4c
Maldive Islands	3855	16-Mar-17	European Space Agency Galileo Probe EN 439-10	2a
Malta	1672	14-Oct-19	Palaces, se-ten pr, joint w/Romania 6332-3 EN 454-17	3b
Monaco	3001	28-Feb-20	CE Anti-Doping Convention EN 457-10	3a
Montenegro	**442a**	**9-May-19**	**Europa 2019, ss of 1**	**1**
Montenegro	450	4-Oct-19	Joy of Europe EN 456-8	3a
Netherlands*	**1590**	**23-Apr-19**	**Europa 2019, se-tenant pair a-b in mini-sheet of 6**	**1**
Norway	**1868**	**11-Apr-19**	**Europa 2019, self-adhesive in bklts of 10**	**1**
Portugal	**4124-5**	**3-May-19**	**Europa 2019, 4125 a ss w/se-tenant 4124-5a**	**1**
Portugal	4234-5,	8-Jul-19	EuroMed 2019 EN 453-3	1d
Romania	6324-7	1-Oct-19	European Gastronomy, in ss of 5 + label EN 454-17	3b
Romania	6332-3	14-Oct-19	Palaces, each in ss of 5 + label, joint w/Malta 1672, EN 454-17	3b
Romania	6337-8	12-Nov-19	Parks, each in ss of 5 + label, joint w/Gibraltar 1740, EN 456-10	3b
Russia	8055	9-Aug-19	Eurasian Economic Union	5b
Russia	**8110**	**15-Jan-20**	**Europa 2020**	**1**
Tunisia	**1706-7**	**5-Sep-19**	**EuroMed 2019, see list EN 454-6**	**1d**

*Netherlands also issued a companion sheet of 6 different birds in the same format as the Europa issue, but without the Europa logo. Scott Catalog #1591, it is valued at $12. The pair of Europa stamps is valued at a little over half that.

CANCELLED

I no sooner got confirmation that the ESU would be having a meeting, than the show was cancelled. I hope we didn't jinx it.

BREXIT — So Where Were We Back Then?

Don Smith told me about an interesting set of stamp booklets he had come across. They contained the 1992 Europa stamps, with tabs on the inside saying "NO to Europe" inside one of them, and "YES to Europe" in the other. This seemed as though it involved Brexit somehow, but the dates are obviously well before the recent vote. When he asked me "What is this all about?" I had no idea. So I asked if he would send them to me, which he promptly did.

I scanned the two booklets and show them below. The first scan is of the outside of the booklets (they are identical). They were made up as

a souvenir of a stamp show, which the cover identifies as the 17th North East Philatelic Weekend in Gateshead, England. The next two scans show the inside:
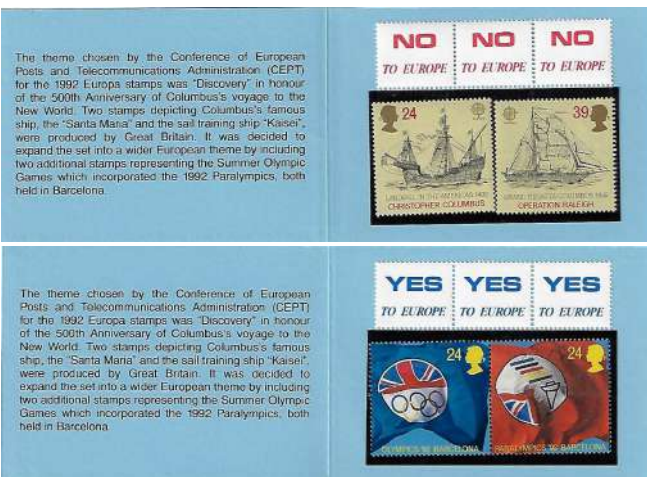
The inscription says that Great Britain issued four stamps simultaneously that year: two for Europa and two for the 1992 Summer Olympic Games and Paralympics held in Barcelona, Spain. One booklet held the Europa stamps, and the other the Olympic pair. Paradoxically, the Europa stamps were assigned the NO tag.

So, what was going on in 1992 that prompted this reaction? A lot, actually. 1992 was the year that the Maastricht Treaty was signed to further European integration. BBC News had a very comprehensive article in 2014 titled Britain and the EU: A long and rocky relationship. The following is condensed from that article:

When the European Coal and Steel Community was forged in 1951, Britain watched, and when the Treaty of Rome created the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957, Britain again declined to join. By 1975, however,

things changed, and Britain came on board. Even conservative Maggie Thatcher was ready to say Yes. When put to a vote, 67% of Britons voted to join the EEC.

However, Ms. Thatcher became more critical of the agreements when it appeared that Britain was getting the short end of the stick in agricultural subsidies vs. the French. She negotiated a correction to this in 1984, but overall the 1980s saw a growing divide between Britain and Brussels. By now, the socialist Jacques Delors had taken the helm at the European Commission and was steering towards a more federal Europe and a single currency.

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 involved huge transfers of power to the new European Union. Britain secured opt-outs from the single currency and the social chapter, but to the treaty's critics it undermined the British tradition of the inviolable sovereignty of parliament. By the early 1990s, many Britons were thinking that joining the EU had been a bad move, and these booklets are a piece of that history.

I was eager to add these items to my collection, but Don and I thought we should give our members a shot. They were included in mini-auction 148, and a lucky Unit member can now add these to *their* collection. ∎

Letters
SEPAC, Norden, and Scott By Topic

Handbook Editor and Director Alex Cwiekalo sent a note to the editors of the Scott catalogs asking why they didn't list SEPAC and EuroMed among their new issues listings "By Topic", as they do Europa. He got an unexpectedly detailed response, which is given below:

Dear Mr. Cwiekalo:
Thank you for your e-mail. Of the groups of countries issuing similar themed stamps, which we mention only Europa stamps in the By Topic because it has been around for so long (about 60 years) and has developed a real following with collectors, some of whom have started a Europa collectors society.

Beyond Europa there is, UPAEP, which creates "America issues" that Spain, Portugal, and most Central American, South American issue, although not necessarily in one calendar year, because many of the Central American and South American countries are notoriously bad in issuing stamps in a timely manner.

The United States created America issue stamps for the first few years of the groups existence until they realized that the other countries would probably end up having themes that the USPS would object to. Sure enough UPAEP did just that, having as a yearly subject Hugo Chavez a few years ago. We mention the stamps that have the UPAEP emblem in footnotes in the catalogues, but do not give them a separate mention in By Topic.

Aside from these two, which are the longest lasting groupings of countries, a whole bunch of such groupings beyond Euromed and Sepac have come along in the past 20 years. Some of these include Regional Communications Commission, which includes many of the Commonwealth of Independence States countries, a subset of African Postal Union countries, an Arab country group that seems to be somewhat fixated on the Palestinian cause, countries that are members of ASEAN (South East Asia). There are probably a few more groups out there that I have forgotten.

While all of these groups are trying to achieve a collector following that will enrich the participating postal authorities in the way that Europa stamps do, none of them, in our opinion, have developed any great following of collectors to warrant even footnotes in the catalog, let alone a separate category in By Topic.

Europa stamps are popular because 1) it encompasses a rather large number of countries, including some countries that many people would say are in Asia, not Europe, 2) it comes up with yearly topics that are pretty much non-controversial that are usually easy for each of the member countries to come up with a decent stamp design, and 3) the countries all try very hard to get their issues in the same calendar year, unlike many of the other Europa-wannabe country groupings mentioned before. Europa also had periods when speculators were touting the stamps, which actually pumped up the popularity of the topic at the time. That's something we haven't seen with the other groupings.

Sincerely,
Martin J. Frankevicz
New Issues Editor
AMOS MEDIA Scott New Issues

Alex wrote back:
Thanks Mr. Frankevicz for your detailed response to my inquiry. You are preaching to the choir though. As a Director of the [ESU] … I'm well aware of how the Europa issuers have continued to exacerbate collectors of that topical. In addition to Europa, the ESU also maintains Europa-related checklists for Norden/Nordic, Sepac, Euromed and the Council of Europe. So I was looking for an easier way of locating the Sepac and Euromed issues in the New Issues listing and subsequently the Scott catalogs.

I don't envy your job of maintaining and producing the New Issues listings that then wind up in the Scott catalogs. But you do a great job and it is greatly appreciated.

Regards, Alex Cwiekalo

Article
## European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) — Hans Snellenberg

ESU member and Grenzenloos guru Hans Snellenberg recently sent me the following note:

Dear Dana,

As a collector of stamps of all kinds of European cooperation, e.g. European institutes, I always look for stamps I can use in my collection.

From CERN, the European Institute of Nuclear Research in Geneva, there are only known a few stamps.

That is why it was special when I discovered last week, out of a Prestige Booklet called "Inventive Britain" issued by Royal Mail on 19th February 2015, containing 4 different sheetlets, one which has a connection with this institute.
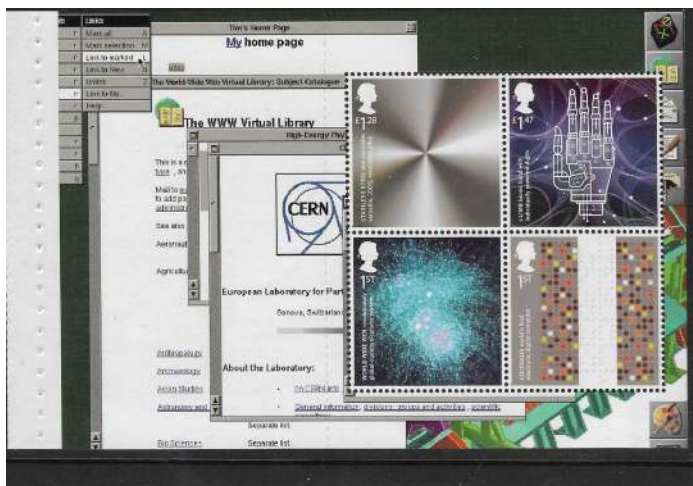
Moreover in 2010 Cyprus issued a special miniature-sheet "Cyprus through the Ages", containing 8 stamps. One of the stamps showed the signing of the Accession to the EU in 2004, issued on 1st October 2010.

Kind regards from the Netherlands,
Hans Snellenberg

Re. the first item, I didn't make the connection at first, but then Hans reminded me that The World Wide Web was invented by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 while working at CERN. I missed that one also, and will now add that stamp to my personal database (and want list). Hans mentioned that there aren't many stamps having to do with CERN, so I thought I might share here those others of which I am aware. Does anyone know of any more?

1960: Inauguration of the Eurotron D'Urso cancel # V-67

1966: CERN Publicity Switzerland, Scott #475

1976: CERN Publicity France Scott # 1503

2004: CERN 50th anniversary Spain Scott #3322

2011: Large Hadron Collider Grenada Scott# 3812-13 (souvenir sheets; see EN# 408-15)

2014: 60th anniversary Austria Scott #2493

2014: 60th anniversary Spain Scott #3949

More information about CERN, its history and activities, can be found at their website home.cern.
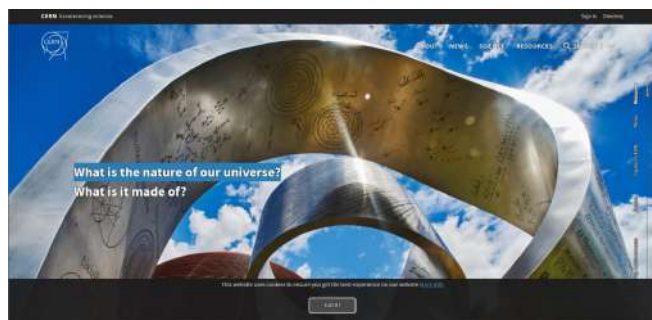
Feature
Fun with PowerPoint — Dana Roper

If all you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. — Kaplan's Law and others.

Every time I come across an instance of someone making up album pages using MS Word, I ask myself "Why not use PowerPoint?" Admittedly, everyone seems to have a copy of Word or a Word clone, but no one seems able to use it well. And for good reason. Word is a powerful tool, but it is what computer programmers call a kludge (pronounced "klooj"), i.e., a hodgepodge of computer code that is hard to understand and hard to maintain. Microsoft did a massive re-write of the underlying code years ago, but they still had to maintain the inelegant interface that very few have had the time or inclination to master. Its purpose is to create a document. That's it.

The problem is the paradigm the application was written for. A stamp album is not so much a document as it is a presentation. Each album page is like a slide in a slideshow, which is the paradigm that PowerPoint was written for. (Granted, most exhibits are now laid out like a document, but step back from the frames and gaze at the layout, and you're looking at a PowerPoint presentation in slideshow mode.)

When I first starting creating my own pages I used a drafting board and an IBM Selectric typewriter which let me change fonts a little. With the IBM PC came Personal Editor, Chart Master, and other clumsy apps. But then came a revolutionary app called Lotus 1-2-3. That was a spreadsheet with graphics, but, together with a word processor, you had the beginnings of an office suite of applications. Fast forward a decade and we have Microsoft Office. There is MS Excel for keeping an inventory and/or want list (I use it for both) and your choice of Word or PowerPoint to create album pages. For me it's no contest. PowerPoint wins.

The nicest thing about PowerPoint is that, once you have created your boxes, you can move them around at will. You can also group them (or any portion), copy them, rotate or flip them around, and when you have something you like, arrange them with precision.

Years ago I wrote an article for Steve Luster describing the basics of how to create a PowerPoint stamp album page (see EN# 400-16), which I then presented at the 2009 National Topical Stamp Show. My technique is to start with a template, then move the final layout to an all-blank page (i.e. nuthin'. No borders, no titles, just a plain blank page) and let the computer do the rest.

So, a mixed blessing of the Covid-19 stay-at-home procedure is that I've been cranking out album pages. My wife has a good eye for design, and when I can't decide on a layout, I'll sometimes ask for her opinion. In this case I had a lot of potential designs, and I was really on the fence. So, PowerPoint and spouse to the rescue.

Once I had a candidate design, I simply gave PowerPoint the "Duplicate Slide" command. I then grouped sets of stamps together, and moved them around, each time creating a another slide. (I was mounting a group of stamps from France and French Andorra publicizing European Conservation from 1972 to 1974). What I showed my BW (Beautiful Wife) was the slide sorter and slide presentation views. The candidates are shown on the next page as slides 16 thru 23. Only one would be the winner. Which would you pick?

What makes this task so easy is PowerPoint's "group" feature. Once you have a potential grouping of stamps, then you literally can group them together and move them around. A typical group looks like this:
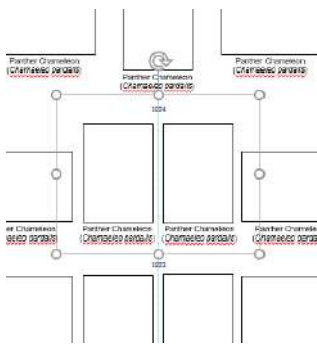
And you can then move the pair of stamps with their descriptions all around on the page. And you needn't stop there. You can make groups of groups ad infinitum. Neat.

By the way, the layout we chose, and the finished product, are on the following pages. I really like the way it came out. ■

Feature
Fun with PowerPoint — cont'd

File | Home | Insert | Design | Transiti | Animat | Slide Sl | Review | **View** | Help

Presentation Views | Master Views | Show | Zoom | Color/ Grayscale | Window | Macros

Macros

16   17   18

19   20   21

22   23

These are the options for laying out this group of stamps. I didn't go so far as to add pictures of the stamps, I just wanted comments on the layout.

We finally settled on layout #20. We both liked the balance. Lighthouse would probably have used layout #23, but sometimes they surprise me.

The finished product is on the next page. It was fun getting someone else involved in my activity.

Stay hunkered down and well, everyone.

Slide 1 of 2   66%

Feature
Fun with PowerPoint — cont'd

EUROPEAN
NATURE PROTECTION

FRANCE ▪ FRENCH ANDORRA

Nature Protection Issues

1972

Golden Eagle
(*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Eurasian eagle-owl
(*Bubo bubo*)

Atlantic Salmon
(*Salmon*)

1973

White Stork
(*Ciconia ciconia*)

Eurasian Blue Tit
(*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

Lesser Spotted
Woodpecker
(*Dendrocopos minor*)

Raccoon
(*Procyon*)

1974

European Bison
(*Bison bonasus*)

Alpine Citril Finch
(*Carduelis citrinella*)

Eurasian Bullfinch
(*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Giant Armadillo
(*Priodontes giganteus*)

The finished product. ■

Feature
Miscellaneous Box — Tonny Van Loij

Everyone is staying busy it seems, but I need at least another 3 months (but NOT virus) just to catch up a little. I've done some rummaging myself, and came across these items.

The Romanian cover was for the 25th anniversary of the opening of the European Philatelic Academy and used one year later for their annual meeting.

As for the postcards.- I had a friend in the club here (he went into the beyond) who was a member of the European Philatelic Academy. I have some more items of that meeting in 2003. He probably got them for being a member.

Stay all healthy my friends.

Feature
SEPAC News
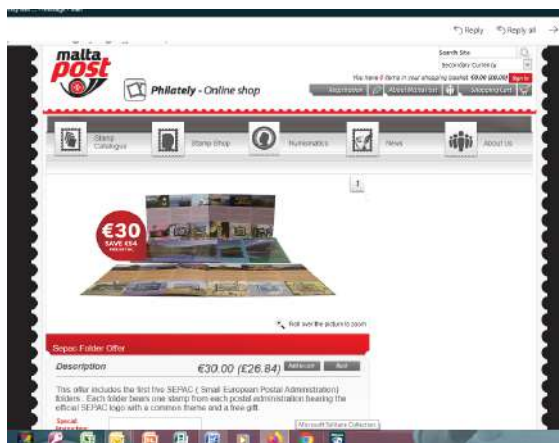
From Director Alex Cwiekalo comes this email from Malta Post. They are offering the first five SEPAC folders for the amazing price of €30.

That's a deal, as the folders usually go for €15-€20 apiece. The offer says that it's a savings of €54, which is conservative.

Alex says that maybe the folders aren't selling all that well. Perhaps. For anyone who's been thinking of buying these items, now is certainly the time! ∎

Article
Propaganda Labels: Croatia In Exile — Dana Roper

A few issues ago we published a compendium of cinderella stamps from the Government of Romania in Exile (EN# 454-10). There is at least one other Government in Exile that has issued Europa "stamps" and that is Croatia.

The following is excerpted from an article online titled "CROATIAN EXILE STAMPS By Eck Spahich" (web address is http://www.crostamps.com/old/es_ex_en.htm):

Closely related with the Croatian struggle for freedom, independence and its own democratic state, is the appearance of the Croatian exile stamps issued in Europe, and later at various other locations wherever Croatian emigrants settled. The first Croatian exile issue saw the light in Bergamo, Italy. The set, issued by the Croatian Liberation Movement, consists of two stamps.

From 1934* to 1976 inclusively, some 30 different series of exile stamps and covers were issued by the Croatian Liberation Movement in Argentina and Spain. Thirteen of these sets are "EUROPA" types, similar to the regular issues of the "EUROPA" series issued by the various European nations.

The Croatian Peasant Society, headquartered in London, England, has issued a number of attractive philatelic labels in 1960's, 1970's and early 1980's. This writer has not been able to compile a complete list of the issues.

Other organizations issuing items of philatelic interest include the Croatian Philatelic Society of Sydney, Australia, issuing several sets of stamps and covers.

The London-based Croatian language newspaper "Nova Hrvatska" in 1984 issued "EUROPA" series set in two colors, each sheet consisting of 32 stamps, for clandestine distribution in Croatia and other parts of Yugoslavia.

_____
* The catalog shown at right refers to issues prior to 1951 as "fore-runners." —ed.

In mid 1960's, the Croatian Relief Society, Inc. of New York City issued a three-color label depicting the Croatian flag, surrounded with the wording "Help Croatian Nation Fight Communism", and in smaller print, the name of the originating organization.

In addition to the above mentioned exile issues, and philatelic labels, several cinderella stamps were published for private speculation. In 1952, several cinderella sets, depicting flowers and animals, were issued. Another set was issued on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union with the same inscription. The Croatian government-in-exile has denied issuing such sets, according to a spokesman.

So, ok, we're interested in those **Europa** stamps that he mentioned. Caroline Scannel might also be interested in the UPU issues. To investigate further, I came across a fairly recent (2002) catalog of Croatian Exile stamps. And the APS has it, so there you go. The APS will scan pages for you, or send the complete document. I didn't know what pages I wanted so I asked for the document, which is pictured here:

Just about everything was in there in glorious color. Or perhaps, almost everything. I've seen some stuff on eBay that was not listed, so I can't say just how comprehensive this catalog is, but it probably stands as the most authoritative resource on the subject.

Anyway, taking my cue from our major newspapers, I decided that no lack of facts should be allowed to get in the way of a good story. So herewith is what I've been able to glean from this catalog and elsewhere (mostly auction sites).

Article
Propaganda Labels: Croatia In Exile — cont'd

1960

The first Croatia-In-Exile EUROPA stamp.

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps, perf and imperf. A variety exists with the red color missing.

1961

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps, perf and imperf.

1962

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps, perf and imperf.

1963

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps, perf and imperf.

The catalog assigns values to these "stamps" in the same format as used by the Michel catalog. Most are assigned values in the 3-6 Euro range, but based on what I have no idea. They show up on auction sites from time to time and usually sell for whatever the traffic will bear.

1964

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps, perf and imperf.

1965

Printed in sheets of 25 (5x5) stamps, perf and imperf.

1966

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf. These smaller sheets were more collectible and would fit on an album page.

1967

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf.

Article
Propaganda Labels: Croatia In Exile — cont'd

1968

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf.

1969

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf. Perforations tend to be ragged and overall print quality is poor.

Also, there is at least one imperforate variety in changed colors, as shown:

1970

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf. Perforations tend to be ragged and overall print quality is poor.

1971

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf. Perforations are less ragged than before.

1972

Printed in sheets of 10 (5x2) stamps, perf and imperf. Perforations are ragged again.

"Private" Issue

1984

Privately printed in sheets of 32 stamps, (configuration unknown). Existence of imperforate varieties is also unknown.

Examples of first day covers:

The cachet on the bottom cover reads
"Free Europeans—
do not forget the size of the communist monster"
which is shown devouring all eastern Europe.

Article
Propaganda Labels: Croatia In Exile — cont'd

Other privately printed issues:, from various Croatian Cultural-political associations that never belonged to the Croatian exile government and were therefore not approved or recognized.

Besides the 1984 Europa issue, the issue of 1961 saw some copies of labels from "Croatia" in 3 different colors. The catalog offers these blocks of 4, showing the tete-beche format in
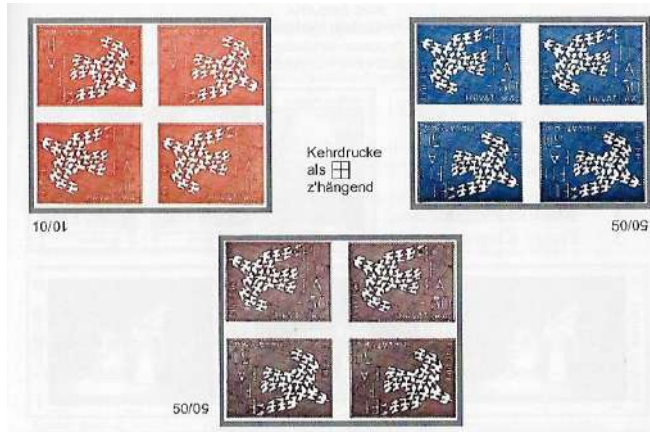
which they were printed.

The catalog also shows single copies of the red and blue versions, which I assume were cut from the larger block.

The catalog makes a point of not assigning any values to these labels, but simply noting their existence. They are all elusive, and are only worth what a buyer would be willing to pay for them.

At the same time, a souvenir sheet also appeared as shown below:

The inscription reads

  "First European stamps' 20th Anniversary 'Struggle of the United Europe to [the] East' "

The catalog simply repeats a variation of this, but I had trouble understanding it. The first Croatia In Exile stamps appeared in 1951, which would be the 10th anniversary. It more probably refers to the creation of Croatia itself by Nazi Germany. ∎

Feature
Miscellaneous Box — Dana Roper

The colorful item on the right is a special "deluxe proof" of the Belgium Europa stamps of 1970. From 1958 through 2000 Belgium Post produced a limited number of these each year. The last Domfil catalog listed these at $120 and up, so when I see one show up on eBay I take note, especially when the price is under $50. I got this little gem for just under $40 plus shipping. It pays to have patience — you never know what might come along. (By the way, I wrote a short article on Belgium proofs of all stripes in EN# 442-16).

"The Luster Chronicles"
The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 7

Steve Luster was ESU President and Europa News Editor for several years before his passing a few year sago (see page 2). One of his last efforts was the creation of a series of monographs on the early years of the Europa topic. The Luster monographs resume this issue with part 6: the 1959 Europa stamps from the Netherlands.

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands issued two Europa stamps with the same design in 1958. They were denominated 12 C and 30 C. The 12 C stamp was printed in scarlet red and the 30 C stamp was printed in olive green.

The stamps were designed by Walter Brudi with some help by S. L. Hartz on the Netherlands stamps. Both stamps depict the common design. The stamps were offset printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 12¾ x 14, by Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, Haarlem, in sheets of 100 stamps. 24,252,000 of the 12 C stamp and 3,203,300 of the 30 F stamp were printed.

The D'Urso Catalogue assigned the number 60 to the 12 C stamp and the number 61 to the 30 C stamp.

In addition to the complete set of 2 stamps, the D'Urso Catalogue lists blocks of 4 stamps (60/61).

D'Urso lists one variety for each value of the set. For the 12 C stamp it is known with a small circle under the letters "LA" in the word "Netherlands (60A). For the 30 C stamp the circle of links (chain) is broken at the upper right (61A).

First day covers were also produced for this issue. They are listed with the cancel illustrated below (60/61B). Maximum cards were also listed in the D'Urso Catalogue (60/61C).

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

The Netherlands issued several items of interest to philatelist. The first is a publicity photo containing both values of the 1959 Europa set. The item in the center is the cover of a publicity folder issued by the Netherlands. When the folder is opened up you can see the complete set of stamps plus some background on the issue. The folder also contains the technical detail of the stamps.

Europe Stamps 1959
of the Netherlands
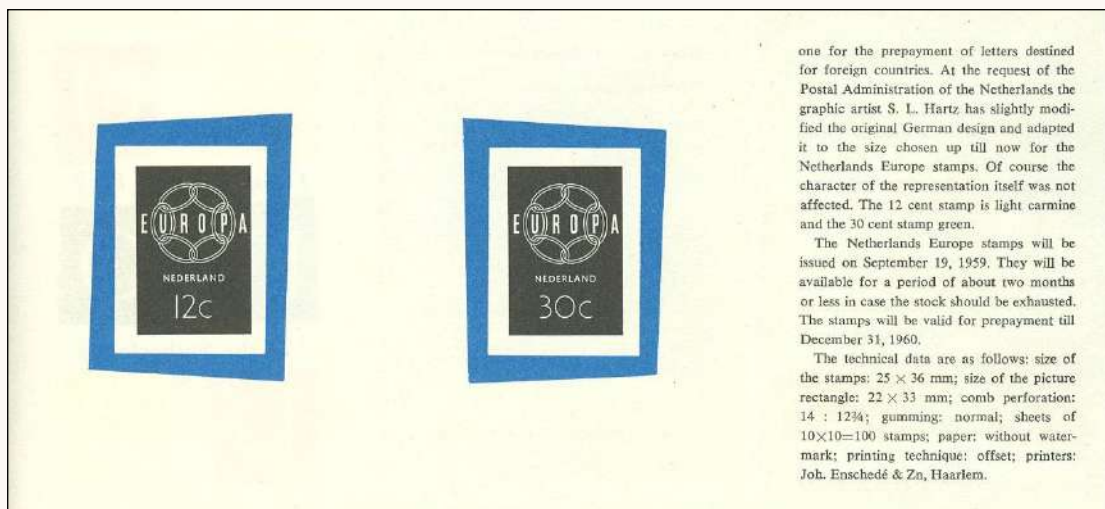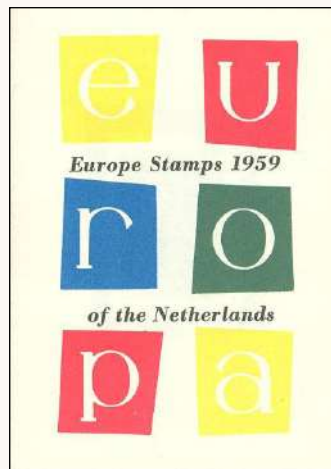
one for the prepayment of letters destined for foreign countries. At the request of the Postal Administration of the Netherlands the graphic artist S. L. Hartz has slightly modified the original German design and adapted it to the size chosen up till now for the Netherlands Europe stamps. Of course the character of the representation itself was not affected. The 12 cent stamp is light carmine and the 30 cent stamp green.

The Netherlands Europe stamps will be issued on September 19, 1959. They will be available for a period of about two months or less in case the stock should be exhausted. The stamps will be valid for prepayment till December 31, 1960.

The technical data are as follows: size of the stamps: 25 × 36 mm; size of the picture rectangle: 22 × 33 mm; comb perforation: 14 : 12¾; gumming: normal; sheets of 10×10=100 stamps; paper: without watermark; printing technique: offset; printers: Joh. Enschedé & Zn, Haarlem.

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

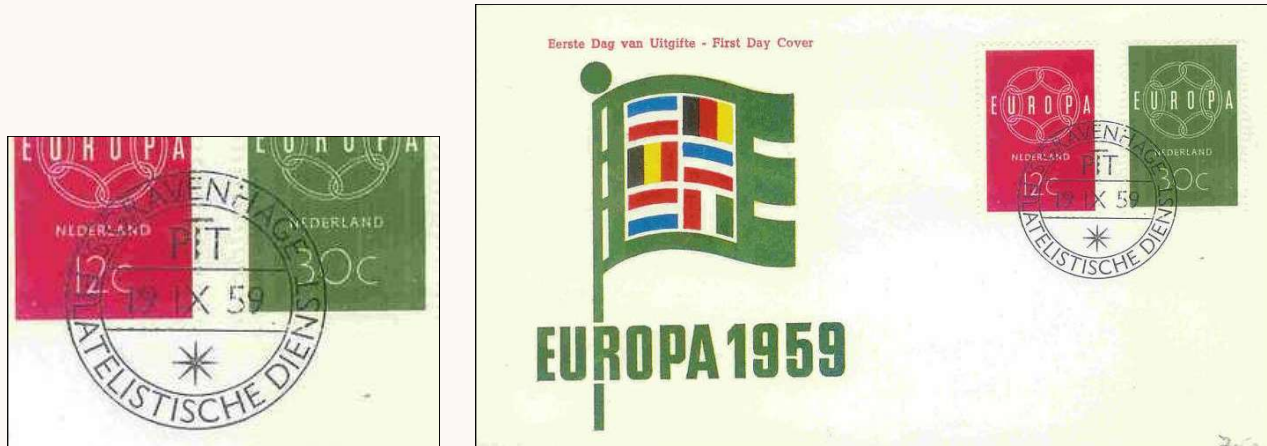This first item is the complete set of the Netherlands' 1959 Europa set in blocks of four.

Below is a commercially used cover franked with a pair of the 30c stamps and a single 12c stamp. The cover was sent from the Netherlands to an address in California.

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

Another cancel seen on Netherlands' 1959 Europa first day covers is the one shown here. This cancel is from the Gravenhage Philatelic Bureau, and is dated September 19, 1959.

Below is an addressed, registered cover, franked with the complete set of the Netherlands' 1959 Europa stamps. The cover was sent to Germany. The stamps are canceled with the official first day of issue cancel and the cachet illustrated in the D'Urso catalog.

This concludes Part 7. The next installment will continue with the stamps of Switzerland . ∎

The Back Page

OK, I admit this is a stretch that would make Spandex ashamed, but here goes anyway. You noticed of course that the PowerPoint feature in this issue used stamps that publicized European Conservation (see page 18). This AP photo just struck me when I saw it. It's a swan and her cygnets chillin' on a pond in the Vacaresti nature park — an urban protected area — in Bucharest, Romania, Monday, 27 April 2020, while we humans were hunkered down in our bunkers. (AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)