

EUROPA NEWS



BULLETIN OF THE EUROPA STUDY UNIT

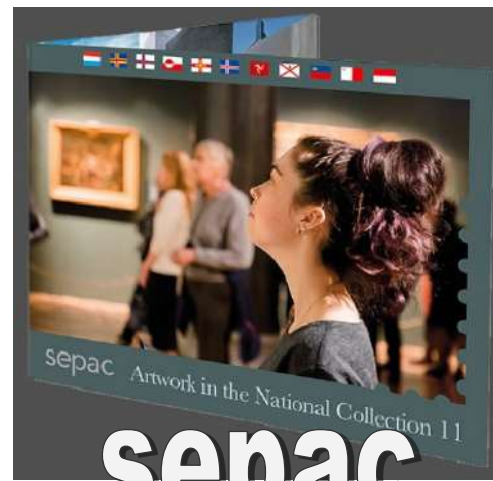
<http://www.europastudyunit.org/>



Europa Philately in all of its aspects:

CEPT/PostEurop, EU Agencies, European Cooperation, NATO, Norden, sepac, EuroMed

New Issues Issue ... plus a new Auction ... and Handbook Update



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

ARTICLES

- FEATURE: HANDBOOK UPDATES 13
- THE LUSTER CHRONICLES: EUROPA 1959 15-19
- THE BACK PAGE: KEP LABELS 20

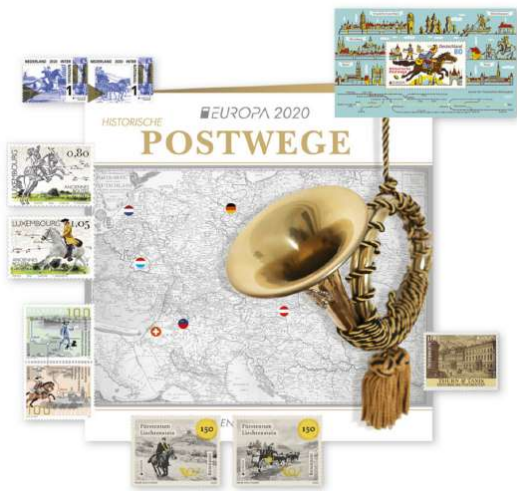
ESU AUCTION#150 INSERT 1
HANDBOOK UPDATES INSERTS 2-4

DEPARTMENTS

- NEW ISSUES: EUROPA 2020 2-7
- NEW ISSUES: EUROMED 2019 8
- NEW ISSUES: EUROMED 2020 9-10
- NEW ISSUES: SEPAC 2020 7
- NEW ISSUES: GENERAL (OTHER).... 11-13
- NEW ISSUES: WITH SCOTT #s 14

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

Six countries have issued their fifth booklet in a series of year-end collectibles. The countries — Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Switzerland — have one set of their stamps and accompanying backstories inside. The folder can be ordered from any of the six postal administrations. Your editor’s suggestion is to add the annual SEPAC folder, and then order both from one of the small countries (Liechtenstein or Luxembourg). They are very friendly and easy to deal with.



Liechtenstein Post has the 2020 SEPAC folder listed in its online shop; as of this writing Luxembourg only has the Europa folder.

The SEPAC folder is shown to the right. The price is CHF 18.70, which is just under \$21. The Europa folder is CHF 22.00, or \$24.



I used PayPal and shipping was free! ■

UKRAINE 1v+ss

Issue date
 25 June 2020

Postman Fedir Feketa



On foot, with a bag over his shoulder, any time of the year, in any weather and any circumstances, he crossed the mountain path every day, almost 38 miles (60 km), to Uzhgorod and back. He was Fedir Feketa, a native of the Transcarpathian *Turia Remeta*, a legendary figure and postman, delivering mail for thirty years. He has become a true symbol of “friendliness, sobriety, honesty and obedience”. Initially, in the 19th century on the facade of the local church, he appeared on a plaque with a bas-relief showing the village postman. In 2003 a monument in the Transcarpathian district of Perechyn was built in his honor.

— from “Philatelic Pursuits,” by Mark Joseph Jochim

The single stamp is issued in a ms of 6 stamps (3x3 with the bottom row upside down). The ss is issued in a booklet. The stamp within the souvenir sheet is actually larger than the single stamp.

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

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

PORTUGAL
 SS+1v
PORTUGAL— Azores
 SS+1v
PORTUGAL — Madeira
 SS+1v

Issue date 25 May 2020

The only information available on the web is the following on the PostEurop website:

“Simple design concept using, relevant iconographic elements to portrait our 500-year long postal history.”

A folder is available that has the three stamps and the souvenir sheets, shown below:



Inside the folder you can finally get detailed information about each stamp:



The folder is priced at €10.37, or just over \$12. That seems reasonable.

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

ITALY 2v self-adhesive

Issue date
 29 June 2020



The first stamp shows a table of the Italian peninsula of 1695 called "Italy with its post offices and main roads" which showed for the first time the

entire Italian postal road system (from a private collection).

The second stamp reproduces a panel depicting a part of the current regions of Campania and Lazio taken from the "Postal and Kingdom of Italy Communications Map" published in 1930 (from the Communications Library).



— from *Posteltaliane*

IRELAND 2v

Issue date 16 July 2020



Taking inspiration from religious art, using a quadriptych (four quadrant layout), the stamps tell the story of the journey of a letter during the Middle Ages. The National rate (N) stamp shows a medieval monk preparing a letter and then carrying it overseas by boat. The International stamp (W rate) shows the message being carried onward by horseback and the delivery of the message to the recipient, a medieval prioress. The stamps are based on illustrations by artist Orlagh Murphy.

— from *anpost* (Ireland Post website)

VATICAN 2v

Issue date
 23 June 2020

Shown on the stamps are street maps of the 11th century, which indicate in red the *cursus publicus*, the ancient Roman postal system. The first reproduces the cartoon of the Axernias Colony (Terracina), with a section of the Via Appia. The second reproduces the vignette of the Colonia Iulia (Turin), with the intersection of its main streets, the *Cardo Massimo* (north-south direction) with the *Decumano Massimo* (east-west direction), which, extending outside the walls, joined the city to the four cardinal points.

The stamps reproduce two “vignettes” of the 6th century *Corpus Agrimen-sorum Romanorum*, contained in Pal. lat. 1564, manuscript of the century. IX of the Vatican Apostolic Library, which served as a model for the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, a street map of the 11th century.



— from *Stato Della Citta Del Vaticano, Philately* (Vatican Post)

New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

ARMENIA 1v
Issue date
 3 July 2020



The postage stamp depicts a general view of the old city of Gyumri, which was the first cultural and political center of Armenia in the 19th century.

— from *Stamps of Armenia*

ARTSAKH (Armenian Post of NAGORNO-KARABAKH) 2v issued singly and se-tenant in mini-sheets of 10 stamps.

Issue date 25 May 2020



The website gives no background information. But the stamps, when put adjacent to one another, show a route from Shushi to Yelizavetpol by stagecoach, then from Yerevan to Horadiz and beyond by rail.

The locomotive shows a 0-5-1 configuration, a monster of traction apropos for a mountainous region.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 2v issued singly and ss of the same 2v as shown
Issue date 8 May 2020



Pictured are the cities of Sarajevo (left hand stamp) and Istanbul (Right-hand stamp). The stamps are also issued in a booklet of 6 stamps (3 sets) printed se-tenant with straight edges around the sides, as shown below:



New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes

BULGARIA 2v + ss + booklet

Issue date 29 June 2020



The background of the two stamps is an antique map, which includes the two largest Bulgarian cities, Sofia and Plovdiv, and the distance between the two cities outlines a route from the ancient Roman roads. The low value depicts a stone relief from the 2nd century of a Roman travelling wagon (not a chariot).

— from PostEurop and akgimages

NORTH MACEDONIA 1v and 1 ss

Issue date 8 May 2020

No further information available on their website. There's that Roman wagon..



MONTENEGRO 1v + ss of 1v with identical stamp, as shown

Issue date 9 May 2020



No information concerning the design on the website. But there's that Roman wagon again.

**New Issues
Europa 2020
Ancient Postal Routes**

CYPRUS 2v
Issue date 4 May 2020



During three centuries (1571-1878) of Ottoman occupation of Cyprus the town of Larnaka was the centre of commerce and the abode of the consular corps. Correspondence was minimal and any mail was hand carried by a ship's captain.

The first Ottoman post office opened in Lefkosia in 1871, and the first postal route between Larnaka and Lefkosia was opened. Inland post was carried by horses, mules and camels on dirt tracks from ancient times.

In 1878 when Great Britain took over the administration of the island's post offices they were opened in every town. The transportation of mail was by means of a diligence drawn by two horses and two mules.

In 1905 a railway service began between Ammohostos and Evrychou via Lefkosia and Morphou carrying passengers, goods and mail. The transportation of mail by train ceased with the closure of the railway in 1951.

— from *Cyprus Post*

**New Issues
Sepac 2020
Art from the State Collection**

GUERNSEY 1v from a set of 6v; also available in its own ms of 6v, as shown
Issue date 21 July 2020

Talents of the Local Arts Community



Per Guernsey Post, the designs are as follows:
50p Stamp: Catskin by Frances Lemmon
68p Stamp: Dusk by Keith Langlois
70p Stamp: Cobo Gold by James Colmer
85p Stamp: **(SEPAc)** Cobo Wild Flowers in Pink Pot by Olympia McEwan
95p Stamp: Fishing boat by Richard Le Goupillot
£1.02 Stamp: Guernsey Grockles: Vazon Vera by Yasmin Mariess



New Issues
EuroMed 2019
Costumes Used in the Mediterranean

The last entry for this topic was in EN# 454-8. I just checked the EuroMed Postal page and found that three more countries had issued EuroMed stamps for 2019. So here they are...

TURKEY 2v

Issue date 8 July 2019



Traditional costumes belonging to “Gaziantep” and “Antalya” districts:

Gaziantep: The costumes for private days called “Bindall”, originally from Gaziantep district, are worn in almost every region of our country. Plant motives take place on the embroideries crafted with the dival technique by using the silver thread onto red silk or velvet fabric. Brides use gold and silver jewels and colorful scarfs and feathers on their cap, gorgets decorated with golden coins on their neck, and golden belts on their waist.

Antalya: The decorations made with beads, spacers, fringes and point laces used on the caps of traditional bride costumes of Antalya district wrap the head and fall to the chest. The same decorations can be seen on the belt wrapping the waist and the short waistcoat. Apron dresses on the dimije is decorated with paillettes. Socks made of angora wool crafted with traditional motives are worn on the feet.

— from the Turkish Press Release

SLOVENIA 1v

Issue date 8 July 2019



Slovenia is represented by the country’s coastal and maritime region, including those parts of neighboring Italy that were and still are traditionally home to a Slovene population. The region’s costumes or modes of dress were painstakingly documented in watercolors by the Slovene painter Saša Šantel (1883–1945) in the 1930s. The stamp features his portrayals of a man and a woman in the typical costumes of the *mandrieri* – the members of the Slovene farming and herding community living in the environs of the city of Trieste.

— from the Slovene Post

TUNISIA 2v

Issue date 5 September 2019



The first stamp pictures a special costume for the women of southern Tunisia, in which the *Amazigh* style was fused with the Arab style, giving this costume an esthetic and remarkable richness of heritage.

The second stamp depicts a traditional *Kairouan*-style clothing for men, consisting of a "Jebba" in creamy wool and a woolly "Bornos" in brown, known in Tunisia with a "Kabbouss" and a turban above the head called "Kachta".

— from the Tunisia Press Release

New Issues
EuroMed 2020
Traditional Gastronomy in the Mediterranean

Taking a cue from a previous (2005) Europa theme, this year's common theme is Gastronomy, but of a distinctly Mediterranean flavor. At the time of this EN, the EuroMed Postal site mentioned only this year's theme, with no issue details as yet for any of the participating countries..

FRANCE 1v

Issue date 10 July 2020

Bouillabaisse



Any self-respecting Marseillais will tell you that the only one, the real bouillabaisse is quite simply ... his! Because the art and the way to prepare it is not given to everyone: you have to beware of pale imitations. Originally, this modest dish consisted of boiling, on the return from fishing, in a cauldron filled with sea water, fish too damaged to be sold or which had not found takers. The first mention of this cult dish dates back to the end of the 18th century, but it was rather a method of cooking over high heat, which is reduced to the first broths, with this recommendation: when it boils, drop the fire or "boil and drop" in Provençal, which gives the word "bouillabaisse".

Rock fish give it its iodized and full-bodied taste. We generally add small mullet, monkfish, whiting, scorpion fish, scallop, some pickles, tomatoes, onions, leeks, celery, garlic and olive oil, without forgetting the essential pinch of saffron. We serve the broth first, then the fish, accompanied by croutons.

Bouillabaisse is one of the jewels of Mediterranean cuisine which ... pays homage to the sun and the sea.

— from LaPoste

CROATIA 1v

Issue date 13 July 2020

Rab cake



Rab cake is not just a dessert from selected island ingredients - sun, almonds, fragrant lemons and maraschino cherry liqueur.

It tells the story of the history of the island of Rab and the city in which every stone house remembers tens of generations.

It all started back in the 12th century when flour, sugar and spices were far from the island. The innovations came from Venetian merchants, but there was little for the islanders. During one expedition to Venice, Pope Alexander III met the Dalmatian islands. On Rab, according to historical sources, in 1177 he blessed the cathedral of the Assumption of Mary. On that occasion, he was served a dessert prepared by the nuns - Rab cake. It is they who are responsible for the fact that the original recipe has been preserved from oblivion.

— from Croatian Post

SLOVENIA 1v

Issue date 13 July 2020

Only the Best Ingredients



Extra Virgin Olive oil, Sea Bass from the Fonda fish farm in the Gulf of Piran, Joata stew of Karst and Trieste, and two notable Slovenian wines: Refosco and Malvasia.

— from Pošta Slovenije

New Issues

EuroMed 2020

Traditional Gastronomy in the Mediterranean

CYPRUS 1v

Issue date 9 July 2020

Kolokasi



Kolokasi is a purely traditional Cypriot food cooked in various ways. With its characteristic conical shape and special taste, kolokasi is identified with the Cypriot Gastronomy and the whole culture of the island.

Kolokasi (Taro in English) is a root vegetable that originates in southeast Asia and Malaysia. In Europe it's hard to come by and is only grown in substantial quantities in Cyprus and the Greek island of Ikaria. The variety grown in Cyprus is known as *Colocasia Esculanta*.

Kolokasi is a popular dish in the Cypriot cuisine and is cooked in tomato sauce either on it's own or often with pork or chicken. In its raw form kolokasi is poisonous as it contains high levels of calcium oxalate, which however are safely reduced to non-harmful levels during the cooking process.

— from Cyprus Post and "Yummy Cyprus"

MALTA 3v

Issue date 9 July 2020

From Malta Post comes the following:

Maltese gastronomy is closely linked to our long relationship with outside cultures. Although traditional Maltese food is seasonal and rustic, both our history and geography have made our gastronomy eclectic, allowing us to 'borrow' from Italian, Maghreb and other cuisines. As a nation we are well known for having a 'sweet tooth' with wheat and sugar forming the backbone of our pastries. Therefore, MaltaPost's philatelic offering for EuroMed 2020 portrays Maltese sweet delicacies.



The first stamp depicts Biskuttini tar-Rahal or Rustic Biscuits. These traditional pastries consist of a unique blend of spices and aromatic herbs including ground cloves, caraway seeds and aniseed. They were sometimes prepared for special occasions such as christening parties. They are decorated with swirls of pink or blue icing and served with tea. Their aroma has come to be associated with quaint, old village bakeries.

Qaghaq tal-Gunglien (Biscuit rings with sesame seeds) are ring shaped biscuits made of flour with lemon/orange rind and a blend of aromatic spices with sesame seeds scattered on top. They are extremely popular with the locals and available at most bakeries and supermarkets.

Pasta Roza bil-Gewz tal-Indi (Coconut Lamington) has become a traditional sweet. It originates from Australia but Malta adapted it and given it a local flavor. Consisting of soft vanilla or butter cake, it is soaked in a strawberry syrup (as opposed to dipped in chocolate) and rolled in desiccated coconut. It is light and fluffy in texture and incredibly moist. You can't miss it on the counters of small village shops nestled under a veil of soft tulle!

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

GERMANY 1v

Issue date
 2 July 2020

German Presidency
 of the EU Council



The Council of the European Union, also known as the EU Council of Ministers, together with the European Parliament form the main decision-making bodies of the European Union. While the EU Parliament represents EU citizens, the governments of the EU member states are represented on the EU Council.

The presidency of the Council of the European Union, the EU Council Presidency, takes over the rotation principle every six months from another member state. The country that holds the presidency ensures that the work of the Council is systematic and that decisions are taken, and the Presidency coordinates EU policies.

In order to be able to continuously pursue long-term political tasks, three successive EU member states have been working together as "trio presidencies" since 2009. From July 2020, Germany (presidency from July to December 2020), Portugal (presidency in the 1st half of 2021) and Slovenia (presidency in the 2nd half of 2021) will be the new three-member presidency.

— from Deutsche Post

NORTH MACEDONIA 1v

Issue date 9 April 2020

North Macedonia in NATO



ICELAND 1v

Issue date 5 July 2020

50 Years as Member of EFTA



(Note: this stamp was mentioned in EN# 458-6, but with no further elaboration. —ed.)

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is a regional trade organization and free trade area consisting of four European states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The organization operates in parallel with the European Union (EU), and all four member states participate in the European Single Market and are part of the Schengen Area. They are not, however, party to the European Union Customs Union.

EFTA was historically one of the two dominant western European trade blocs, but is now much smaller and closely associated with its historical competitor, the EU. It was established on 3 May 1960 to serve as an alternative trade bloc for those European states that were unable or unwilling to join the then European Economic Community (EEC), the main predecessor of the EU.

The Stockholm Convention (1960), which established EFTA, was signed on 4 January 1960 in the Swedish capital by seven countries (known then as the "outer seven": Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). A revision, the Vaduz Convention, was signed on 21 June 2001 and entered into force on 1 June 2002. Since 1995, only two founding members — Norway and Switzerland — remain. Iceland joined in 1970.

— from Wikipedia



New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

ROMANIA ss

Issue date 5 May 2020

Centenary of Diplomatic Relations with the Vatican



The Romanians' relations with the Church of Rome date, through their Daco-Roman ancestors, from the first centuries of the Christian era. In 1948, the Communist government banned the Romanian church, but relations were re-established in 1990. 1999 and 2019 saw two Papal visits.

— from Romfilatelia

CYPRUS 1v

Issue date 9 July 2020

65th Anniversary of the EOKA



EOKA is an acronym for Ethniki Organosis Kyprion Agoniston, a Greek Cypriot nationalist guerrilla organization that fought a campaign for the end of British rule in Cyprus, for the island's self-determination and for eventual union with Greece. This would fit in with the Cyprus Question—Section 10b—in the [legacy handbook](#).

NORTH MACEDONIA 1v

Issue date 8 May 2020

North Macedonia in the EU—European Capitals Series:



Berlin

Zagreb

AZERBAIJAN 1v

Issue date 13 December 2019

10th Anniversary of Azerbaijan's Membership in the Eastern Partnership



The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint initiative involving the EU, its Member States and six Eastern European Partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Launched in 2009, the EaP is a strategic and ambitious partnership based on common values and rules, mutual interests and commitments, as well as shared ownership and responsibility. It aims to strengthen and deepen the political and economic relations between the EU, its Member States and the partner countries, and supports sustainable reform processes in partner countries.

— from the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Note: Georgia has also issued a stamp, with an identical design (see EN #456-11). I'm not aware of any others

New Issues Catch-Up European Anniversaries and Events



SPAIN 1v issued in a special sheet of 6 stamps shown below

Issue date 17 May 2019

Euroleague Basketball Final Four Tournament in Vitoria



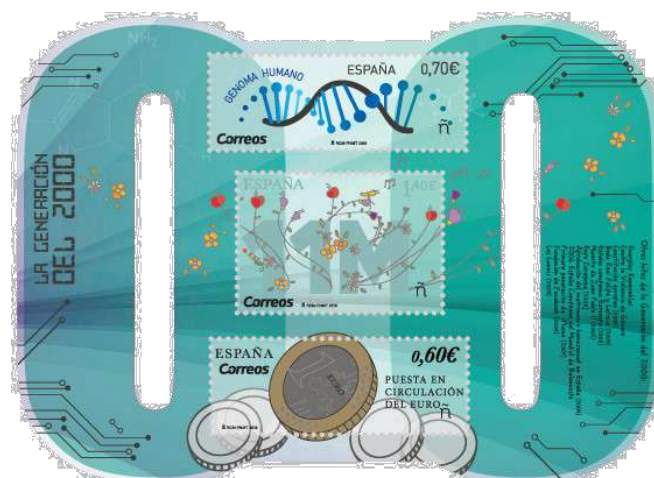
On May 15, 2018, Euroleague Basketball announced that the Final Four would be held in the Fernando Buesa Arena in Vitoria-Gasteiz. It was the first time ever the event would be hosted in Vitoria. When the Spanish team made the playoffs it was reason for a special stamp. Spain lost the first round to Moscow, who went on to win the final. Spain won the playoff game for third place, defeating the Turkish team.

— from Correos (Spanish Post) and Wikipedia

SPAIN 1v in a ms of 3 stamps

Issue date 19 September 2019

Introduction of the Euro

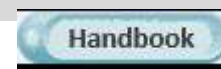


Issued as part of a sheet of three stamps commemorating the “00” generation. The stamps publicize, from top to bottom, the Human Genome project, the 11 March 2004 Madrid train station bombings, and the Introduction of the Euro currency.

— from Correos (Spanish Post)

Auction Manager Don Smith says he could use some more glassine envelopes. Perhaps when you pay for your bids you could include some empty glassines. Thanks much!

Feature Europa Handbook News



From HB Editor Alex Cwiekalo:

Dana,

I have all the checklists (Europa (1956 onward), Norden (1956 onward), Sepac (2007 onward), Euromed (2014 onward), CoE) completely reformatted and page numbered for the entirely new and revised ESU Handbook.

OK, that’s exciting. As a preview, Alex has updated Europa 2019, SEPAC and EuroMed for 2019. Also the Nordic issues will now be getting spreadsheet status; Alex has provided years 2012 thru 2018 already. All of these have been posted on the Handbook Page of our website. A printout of Europa, SEPAC and EuroMed 2019 is also included with this edition of the EN.



NEW ISSUES
 with **SCOTT** catalog numbers
 From Linns' July & August Special Editions
 — Don Smith



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Austria	2837	22-Jan-20	Entry into European Union, 25 th Anniv. EN 458-22
Austria	2839	31-Jan-20	Brexit Map countries of European Union EN 456-12
Azerbaijan	1247-8	3-Dec-19	Folk Tales, 1248a ss 2 each, joint w/Belarus 1163-4
Azerbaijan	1269	13-Dec-19	Partnership w/European Union, 10 th Anniv. EN 459-
Belarus	1163-4	3-Dec-19	Folk Takes, 1164a ss 2 each, joint w/Azerbaijan 1247-8
Belarus	1165	6-Dec-19	State of Union w/Russia, ss of 2 w/coats of arms
Croatia	1154	2-Jan-20	Presidency Council European Union EN 456-6
Croatia	1155-6	23-Jan-20	European Capitals of Culture, joint w/Ireland 2265-6 EN 456-8
Cyprus (Turkish)	830	20-Jun-19	Europa 2019, se-tenant pair a-b
Denmark	1835-9`	2-Jan-20	Norden 2020, 1839a is a bklt pane of 10 (2 each of #1835-9) EN 455-4
Estonia	914	28-Jan-20	Antarctica, joint issue w/Russia 8114
Faroe Islands	745-6	24-Feb-20	Norden 2020, 746 self-adhesive, 746a bklt pane of 6 EN 455-4
Faroe Islands	753	27-Apr-20	Sepac 2020 EN 458-20
Faroe Islands	756-7	27-Apr-20	Europa 2020
Germany	3168	7-May-20	Europa 2020
Gibraltar	1742-7	25-Mar-20	VE Day Anniv., 1747 a ss w/Churchill
Hungary	4557	4-May-20	Europa 2020, se-tenant pair 4557a-b
Malta	1677-80	14-Feb-20	follow-up issue to sepac 2019 EN 458-21 Note: None of these are actual sepac stamps!
Poland	4471	20-Feb-20	Diplomatic Relations w/Azerbaijan
Serbia	888-9	6-Dec-19	European Volleyball Champs., EN 456-9
Slovakia	815-6	3-May-19	Europa 2019, 816 self-adhesive, 816a bklt pane of 6
Slovakia	835	13-Nov-19	Velvet Revolution, joint w/Czech Rep. 3809 EN 458-23
Slovenia	1368	31-Jan-20	Nature Conservation EN 458-24
Spain	4356	23-Apr-19	Europa 2019
Spain	4357	5-May-19	Council of Europe 70 th Anniv. EN 452-10
Spain	4360	17-May-19	Euroleague Basketball Tournament
Spain	4369	5-Jul-19	EuroMed 2019 EN 453-4
Spain	4379a	19-Spe-19	Introduction of the Euro from ss of 3
Switzerland	1743-4	14-Nov-19	Social Diversity, joint w/Liecht. 1802-3 EN 455-6
Switzerland	1764-5	7-May-20	Europa 2020, 1765a is ase-tenant vertical pair of #1764-5
Turkey	3653-4	9-May-19	Europa 2019
Turkey	3665-6	8-July-19	EuroMed 2019 EN 459-9
Ukraine	1211-2	22-May-19	Europa 2019, plus 2 similar stamps lacking gray frames in a booklet
Wallis & Futuna II	814	17-Oct-19	Cooperation w/European Union

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

The Luster monographs resume this issue with part 6: the 1959 Europa stamps from Switzerland.

SWITZERLAND

For those of you have read any of my other monographs, you know that I have not treated non-ECSC countries in detail. That decision was entirely mine. Such is the case of Switzerland’s 1959 “Europa” stamps. They were issued on 22 June 1959 and not on 19 September 1959 as with all of the other ECSC countries.

However, I have decided for this monograph, to provide a few more details for the Swiss Europa stamps. Why? Because of events that took place subsequent to their release and use.

Switzerland issued two stamps with the same design in 1959. The word “Europa” appears along the left side of each stamp, reading from the lower left to the upper left. While the designs are the same, they are not the common design created by Walter Brudi. The Swiss “Europa” stamps have as their central design a series of four circles intertwined with four squares to form a stylized chain. The Swiss stamps are denominated 30 C and 50 C. The 30 C stamp was printed in red and the 50 C stamp was printed in blue.

The stamps were designed by Hans Schwartzbach and engraved by Heinrich Heusser. Both stamps depict the same design, but not the common design. The stamps were recess printed on unwatermarked paper, perforated $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$ by the Schweizerisch Wertzeichen-druckerei, Bern, in sheets of 50 stamps. 36,182,000 30 C Stamps were printed and 39,907,000 50 C stamps were printed.

The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the number 62 to the 30 C stamp and the number 63 to the 50 C stamp.

In addition to the complete set of 2 stamps, the D’Urso Catalogue lists blocks of 4 stamps (62/63).

Several philatelic products were also produced by the Swiss postal authorities. They are: A booklet numbered #21 (62/63A); a collective sheet numbered #170 (62/63B); a collectors’ sheet (62/63C). First day covers were also produced for this issue. The official cancel is shown below. Maximum cards are also known for the issue (62/63E).

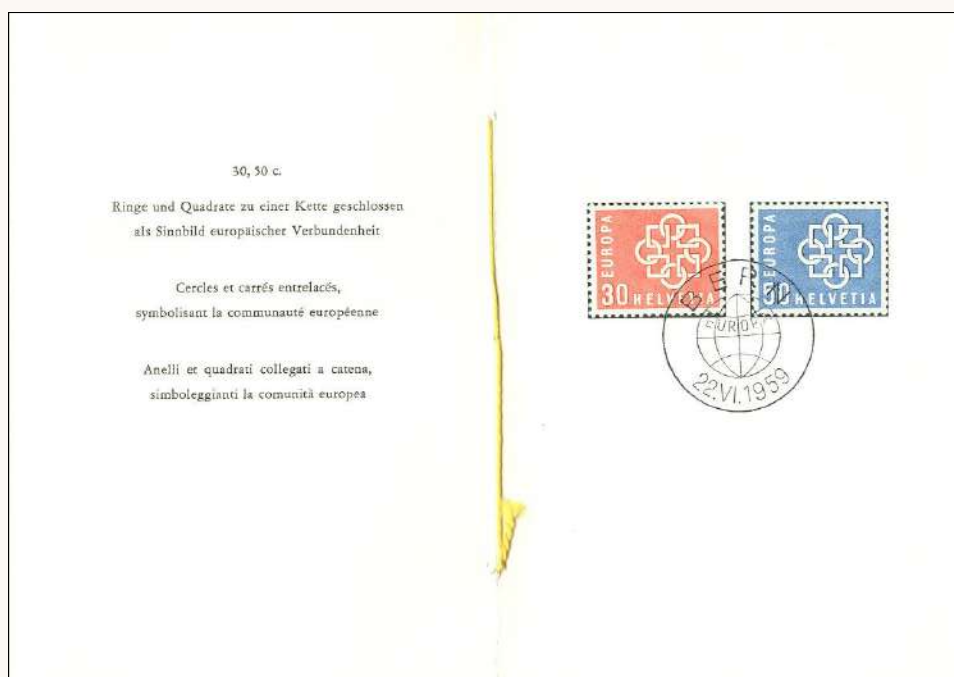


**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont’d)**

Switzerland produced a souvenir booklet for her 1959 Europa stamps, as is done with most new issues from that country.



When opened, here is what you see inside the booklet. Note that the stamps bear the Bern first day cancel.



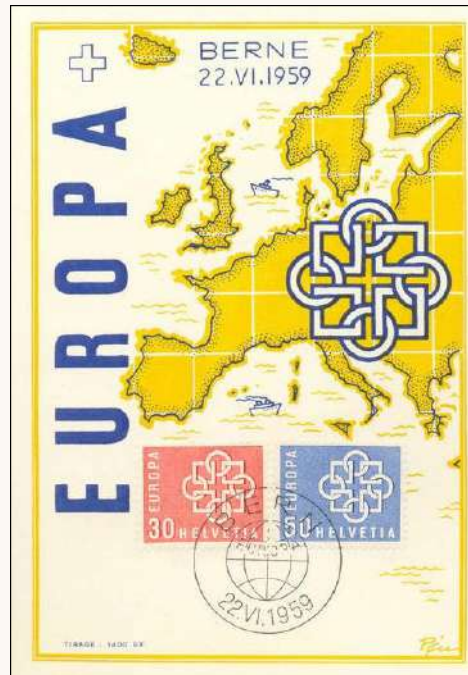
**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1959 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster (cont’d)**

Illustrated below are examples of the Swiss Collective Sheet and the Collectors’ Sheet.
Note the number 170 on the bottom center of the Collector’s Sheet.



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

This page contains examples of a maximum card and a registered, addressed first day cover.



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

The Swiss 1959 Europa stamps were used to frank covers whose cachets or cancels carried other messages. Here are two examples.

The first cover commemorates the Ecumenical Assembly of European Youth:



The next cover has a special cancel commemorating Switzerland’s help for overseas reconstruction. The cancel is listed in the D’Urso Catalogue as number V26 with a rarity factor of 4.



This concludes Part 8. The next issue resumes with the Swiss overprints for the Montreaux conference, which institutionalized the CEPT.. . ■

The Back Page
KEP Labels

To paraphrase Forrest Gump: Buying stamps straight from the source can also be like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. In this case, I ordered a few stamps from [Kyrgyzstan Express Post.](#), aka KEP. Communication was exceptional, and in English, and .. turnaround was fast, and .. I got what I ordered along with some nice stamps on the outside, and .. I got these colorful labels shown to the right.



So, ok, I'm not sure what, if anything, I'm going to do with them, but I'm not going to throw them away either. Who knows, maybe they'll show up in some future auction. Or maybe not. But they're a reminder to me of how pleasant it is dealing with the little postal services (e.g., KEP, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco) rather than the big boys. I'll let them remain nameless. Except for the UK. They're easy and fun too. ■



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