

# 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 2021



### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

#### ARTICLES

FEATURE: EUROPA BRIEFS .....	13
THE LUSTER CHRONICLES: EUROPA 1960 .....	20-23
THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES II.....	13-18

#### DEPARTMENTS

NEW ISSUES: EUROPA 2021 .....	2-10
NEW ISSUES: GENERAL (OTHER)....	11-13
NEW ISSUES: WITH SCOTT #s .....	19

**ESU Auction #154** ..... *Insert*



**HEADS UP!** If there is a big red X next to your name on the mailing label, it means that this will be your very **LAST ISSUE**. *It's not too late* — you will have a Dues Page included with your copy. Send it in with your remittance and you won't miss an issue.

**New Issues**  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

For all of these write-ups, I'll refer often to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), whose Red Book is the bible for endangered species classification.

Although the series designation is Endangered National Wildlife, it appears that many countries, such as Austria below, didn't quite get the memo, and decided to present just European wildlife, whether threatened or not. Many countries also picked the same animal. The European Lynx, for example, is a series favorite. I'll try not to duplicate my descriptions, but won't guarantee it.

So, with all that said, here come the stamps ....

**AUSTRIA** 1v

*Issue date*  
8 May 2021



The **Wolf** (*Canis lupus*), also known as the gray or grey wolf, is a large canine native to Eurasia and North America. The global wild wolf population was estimated to be 300,000 in 2003 and is considered to be of *Least Concern* by the IUCN. The Eurasian wolf, however, once widespread, is now more scarce, as it was hunted almost to extinction during the Middle Ages up until WW II. The recovery of European wolf populations began after the 1950s, when traditional pastoral and rural economies declined and thus removed the need to heavily persecute wolves. The Eurasian Wolf and the Italian wolf are now legally protected in most European countries, for the most part in accord with the Bern convention on Endangered Species.

— from Wikipedia

**FRANCE** 1v

*Issue date*  
7 May 2021



Titled simply Endangered Fauna, the stamp pictures what I'm guessing to be the following:

**Spanish Gatekeeper** (*Pyronia Bathsheba*) or **Wall Brown** (*Lassiommata megra*) butterfly,  
**Eurasian lynx** (*Lynx lynx*),  
**Eurasian otter** (*Lutra lutra*)  
**Alpine Ibex** (*Capra ibex*), or **Chamois** (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)  
**European Skink** (*Ablepharus kitaibelii*)

Those last two animals are a WAG (Wild-Ass Guess); the first three are more of a SWAG (Scientific Wild-Ass Guess). I'm basing my guesses on the assumption (always risky) that they are all common, and classified as *Least Concern*, even though they are said to be Endangered on the stamp.

**Spanish ANDORRA** 1v

*Issue date*  
30 April 2021



The **bearded vulture** (*Gypaetus barbatus*), also known as the lammergeier and ossifrage, is a bird of prey and the only member of the genus *Gypaetus*. The population of this species continues to decline. In 2004, it was classified by the IUCN Red List as least concern; since 2014, it is listed as *Near Threatened*. The bearded vulture is the only known vertebrate whose diet consists almost exclusively (70 to 90 percent) of bone.

— from Wikipedia

New Issues  
 Europa 2021  
 Endangered National Wildlife

**SWITZERLAND** 2v

Issue date  
 23 March 2021

The **Woodland Brown** and the scarce **Large Blue** – two butterflies that could hardly be more different. But they do have one thing in common: both are classified as endangered species in Switzerland.

The designs are of the woodland brown (*Lopinga achine*) and the scarce large blue (*Phengaris teleius*) – because insects are also classified as wild animals. The illustrations seek to highlight the delicate nature of these animals through a highly detailed and lifelike style.

— from Swiss Post



The stamps are also available tete-beche in a ms of 4 sets as shown —>

**DENMARK** 2v from a set of 5v

Issue date 20 May 2021



The **Northern Checkered Skipper** (*Carterocephalus silvicola*) is found in northern Europe and north and east Asia.

The **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*Boloria euphrosyne*) is widespread throughout Europe, ranging from Scandinavia to northern Spain and from Ireland eastwards



across the Palearctic to Russia and to the north of Kazakhstan. In England and Wales (plus another 10 countries) it has declined rapidly in number and is a highly threatened species.

— from Wikipedia

**GERMANY** 1v

Issue date 6 May 2021

**Tragosoma deparium**

**Ceruchus chrysomelinus**

**Mycetoma suturale**



Here come the Beetles, where it appears that the little critters are crawling over the top of the stamp. I'm guessing that this may be a self-adhesive stamp, as some may be averse to licking it. That fella in the upper right looks like it could give you a nasty bite. None of these appear endangered.

— from Wikipedia



**New Issues**  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**MONACO** 1v

Issue date 6 May 2021



The **Long-snouted Seahorse** (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) is a small-sized fish that can reach a maximum length of 21.5 cm but the average size is more or less 12 cm. It is native to the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The long-snouted seahorse is relatively rare and limited data exist on its population, about the volume and the impact of trade for traditional Chinese medicine, and for the aquarium, thus the species is considered as "Data Deficient" on the IUCN Red List. Internationally, it is also listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that it is on the list of species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival

— from Wikipedia

**CZECH REPUBLIC** 1v

Issue date 21 April 2021



The **European Wildcat** (*Felis silvestris*) inhabits forests in Europe and the Caucasus; it evolved during the Cromerian Stage about 866,000 to 478,000 years ago. The wildcat has been categorized as *Least Concern* on the IUCN Red List since 2002, since it is widely distributed, and the global population is considered stable.

— from Wikipedia

**GREECE** 2v issued separately, in ms of 4 sets, and booklets of 2 stamps each

Issue date 6 May 2021



**Red Deer**  
(*Cervus elaphus*)



**Short-beaked  
Common Dolphin**  
(*Delphinus delphis*)

The red deer is one of the largest deer species. A male red deer is called a stag or hart, and a female is called a hind. The red deer inhabits most of Europe, the Caucasus Mountains region, Asia Minor, Iran, parts of western Asia, and central Asia. Although at one time red deer were rare in parts of Europe, they were never close to extinction. Their IUCN classification is *Least Concern*.

The short-beaked common dolphin has a larger range than its long-beaked cousin, occurring throughout warm-temperate and tropical oceans. There are more short-beaked common dolphins than any other dolphin species in the warm-temperate portions of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is also found in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas, the Black Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Red Sea. They follow the gulf stream up to Norwegian waters, but seldom do they venture near the Arctic. Although they are *Least Concern* overall, the Mediterranean population is listed on a number of conservation indices.

— from Wikipedia

New Issues  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**GUERNSEY** 2v from a set of 8v, plus a ss of 2v (shown)

Issue date 7 April 2021



As if all this weren't enough, the two Europa stamps are also issued in ms of 10 stamps each:



The *Guernsey Post* website refers to this as a Europa issue, even though only two of the stamps have the Europa logo. Note that Guernsey does the same thing for its SEPAC stamps.

- 50p: European Herring Gull
- 70p: Scaly Cricket
- 73p: (Europa) Basking Shark**
- £1: (Europa) European Eel**
- £1.15: Black-Backed Meadow Ant
- £1.20: Harbour Porpoise
- £2.20: Glanville Fritillary
- £3.50: Porbeagle Shark

The **Basking Shark** (*Cetorhinus maximus*) is the second-largest living shark, after the whale shark, and one of three plankton-eating shark species, along with the whale shark and megamouth shark. It is now classified as *Endangered* due to over-exploitation.

The **European Eel** (*Anguilla anguilla*) is a snake-like, catadromous (i.e. lives in fresh water, then goes to sea to breed) fish. Although they can live up to 80 years, the species is dwindling very rapidly for a variety of reasons, and is now classified as *Critically Endangered*.

— from Wikipedia



**New Issues**  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**NORWAY** 2v

Issue date 23 April 2021



**Atlantic Puffin**  
*(Fratercula arctica)*

**Great Yellow Bumblebee**  
*(Bombus distinguendus)*



The Atlantic puffin is the only puffin native to the Atlantic Ocean; two related species, the tufted puffin and the horned puffin, are found in the northeastern Pacific. Although it has a large population and a wide range, the species has declined rapidly, at least in parts of its range, resulting in it being rated as *Vulnerable* by the IUCN. On land, it has the typical upright stance of an auk. At sea, it swims on the surface and feeds mainly on small fish, which it catches by diving under water, using its wings for propulsion. The Norwegian municipality of Værøy has an Atlantic puffin as its civic emblem.

— from Wikipedia

The great yellow bumblebee is found in northern continental Europe, the British Isles and North America. It is an endangered species in Ireland and very scarce in the UK.

— from the National Biodiversity Network Trust

If you got a red X on your mailing label by mistake, we apologize. Your check may have arrived after the mailing labels were printed.

**POLAND** 1v

Issue date 21 April 2021



The **Eurasian Lynx** (*Lynx lynx*) is a medium-sized wild cat widely spread throughout Eurasia, in Northern, Central and Eastern Europe to Central Asia and Siberia, the Tibetan Plateau and the Himalayas. Despite its wide distribution (the species is classified as *Least Concern* by the IUCN), it is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching and depletion of prey. Conservation efforts have been made through the extensive illegalization of lynx hunting across the territories where the species is observed.

The Eurasian lynx is included on CITES Appendix II and listed as a protected species in the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Appendix III. Hunting lynx is illegal in many range countries, with the exception of Estonia, Latvia, Russia, Armenia and Iraq. Since 2005, the Norwegian government sets national population goals, while a committee of representatives from county assemblies decide on hunting quotas. Paradoxically, perhaps because of its wide distribution, the species is classified as *Least Concern* by the IUCN.

— from Wikipedia

**French ANDORRA** 1v

Issue date 15 May 2021

The **Pyrenean Desman** (*Galemys pyrenaicus*) is a small semiaquatic, globally threatened mammal related to moles and shrews. It is classified as *Vulnerable*.

— from Wikipedia



**New Issues**  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**ISLE of MAN** 1v from a set of 10v, plus:

- A ms of 10 stamps
- A sheet of 20 stamps with the Europa stamp included 4 times
- A self-adhesive version of a different denomination, available in a booklet or a sheet.



Details given below

Issue date 12 April 2021

**Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the Manx National Trust**

*From Isle of Man Post:* This issue spotlights aspects of the wide-ranging expert conservation stewardship of Manx National Heritage (MNH) in the 70th year since the Calf of Man was taken on by the Manx National Trust. The Calf's nature conservation has made a significant contribution to the Isle of Man's designation as a UNESCO Biosphere.

The stamps form our postal issue for 2021 as well as our Europa stamp entry for which this year's theme is 'Endangered National Species'.



Above, the self-adhesive sheet. Note that the denomination on the Europa stamp is "1st" rather than "EU"



Above, the ms of 10 and the self-adhesive booklet.

The stamps of the set are described as follows, as they are laid out in the Presentation Pack shown, with more info on the other stamps in the set available on the Isle of Man webpage:



First row:

- 1st: Calf of Man Nature Reserve (Peter Killey)
- 1st: Sea Transport (Mike Radcliffe) – The Calf Attending Boat.
- 1st: Crucifixion Stone (MNH and Paul Corrin)
- 1st x 2: Calf of Man and Wart Bank Nature Reserve (Mike Radcliffe & Dr Lara Howe)

Second row:

EU: **Manx Shearwater Recovery Project** (Kevin Scott) - Manx National Heritage runs a number of projects to safeguard the natural world and in particular the bird life – the Manx Shearwater being so named as it was most plentiful here. As ground and night nesters they were losing their eggs to brown rats, so efforts have been made to reduce the brown rat population. The rat has not been completely eradicated but the Shearwater has responded with a very encouraging increase in breeding numbers.

This stamp forms our 2021 Europa stamp entry 'Endangered National Species'.

- EU: Infrastructure (Mike Radcliffe)
- EU: Flora (Hannah Ehlers)
- EU: Insect Conservation (Dr Lara Howe)
- EU: Calf of Man Bird Observatory (Shaun Murphy and Mike Radcliffe)



**New Issues**  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**BULGARIA** 2v each issued in a ms of 5 with label, and one ss (shown). Also issued in a booklet of 2 panes (one for each design), with much different perfs. And of course a piece of postal stationery.

*Issue date 14 May 2021*



The **European Pine Marten** (*Martes martes*, top stamp), is native to and widespread in Northern Europe. It is classified as *Least Concern* on the IUCN Red List. Although they are preyed upon occasionally by golden eagles, red foxes, wolves, and wildcats, humans are the largest threat to pine martens.

The **Marbled Polecat** (*Vormela peregusna*, bottom stamp) is generally found in the drier areas and grasslands of southeastern Europe to western China. In 2008, it was classified as a *Vulnerable* species in the IUCN Red List due to a population reduction of at least 30% in the previous 10 years. The marbled polecat was once sought for its fur, generally known as "fitch" or more specifically, "perwitsky" in the fur trade.

— from Wikipedia

**ROMANIA** 2v each issued in a ms of 5 with label. Also issued in a 2 ms of 2 sets. Shown below is one ms; the other is similar, with order of stamps reversed and different image on selvage.

*Issue date 22 April 2021*



The **Great Bustard** (*Otis tarda*) a large bird that breeds in open grasslands and farmland from northern Morocco, South and Central Europe, to temperate Central and East Asia. European populations are mainly resident, but Asian populations migrate farther south in winter. It has been listed as *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List since 1996.

The **European Mink** (*Mustela lutreola*), also known as the Russian mink and Eurasian mink, is a semiaquatic species native to Europe. It is listed by the IUCN as *Critically Endangered* due to an ongoing reduction in numbers, having been calculated as declining more than 50% over the past three generations.

— from Wikipedia



**New Issues**  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Croat Post)** 2v + ss containing those same 2v (shown)

Issue date 5 April 2021



From Croatian Post Mostar:

.... a male and a female **Great Black Grouse** (*Tetrao urogallus*), considered an endangered species of game. Black grouse belong to the genus of forest birds from the order of chickens (*Galliformes*), they live in dense mountain forests and feed on various fruits and berries, and in winter the needles of coniferous trees.

NOTE on the Europa Blogspot (since removed): There is a mistake on the second stamp, instead of depicting a female Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), it depicts a **Hazel Grouse** (*Bonasa bonasia*).

Editor's Note: I sided with the Blogspot but since he removed his note, we may be wrong (it happens). Also, the IUCN lists this species as *Least Concern* globally, but *Endangered* in Central Europe.

**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Serb Post)** 2v + booklet pane of 2 sets with different perforations (shown)

Issue date 15 April 2021



**Hermann's Tortoise**  
*(Testudo hermanni)*

**Harvest Mouse**  
*(Micromys minutus)*

Hermann's tortoise is classified as *Near Threatened*; several tortoise sanctuaries are located throughout Europe.

The Harvest Mouse is classified as *Least Concern* globally, but populations are declining in the UK and southern Europe

— from Wikipedia



New Issues  
**Europa 2021**  
**Endangered National Wildlife**

**LUXEMBOURG 2v**

Issue date 11 May 2021



**Greater Mouse-eared Bat**  
*(Myotis myotis)*



**European Polecat**  
*(Mustela putorius)*

*Myotis myotis* is a large bat with a long, broad muzzle and big, long ears. The body's dorsal side is brown to reddish-brown, while the ventral side is dirty white or beige. Classified as *Least Concern*, it can be found throughout Europe, with populations in most European countries. Unlike many bats, it does not capture its prey by using echolocation in flight. Instead, it gleans it from the ground, locating prey passively by listening for the noises produced by insects such as carabid beetles, centipedes and spiders.

The European polecat is native to western Eurasia and North Africa. It is well known for having the characteristic ability to secrete a particularly foul-smelling liquid to mark its territory. The European polecat is the sole ancestor of the ferret, which was domesticated more than 2,000 years ago for the purpose of hunting vermin. As of 2008, it is classed by the IUCN as *Least Concern* due to its wide range and large numbers.

— from Wikipedia

This is the first thing I saw on PostEurop's [Facebook](#) page. →  
 The [Twitter](#) page shows previews of stamps that even the Blogspot isn't showing yet! [Instagram](#) is another story — it thinks the latest news is about the Castles issue of 2017. This undoubtedly says something about the popularity of the various sites.

**SLOVAKIA 1v**

Issue date 7 May 2021



The **Eurasian Capercaillie**  
*(Tetrao urogallus)*, also known as the wood grouse or heather cock, is a heavy

member of the grouse family and the largest of all extant grouse species. The heaviest-known specimen, recorded in captivity, had a weight of 7.2 kilograms (16 pounds). Found across Europe and the Palearctic, this primarily-ground-dwelling forest grouse is renowned for its courtship display.

A traditional gamebird, the capercaillie has been widely hunted with guns and dogs throughout its territory in central and northern Europe. This includes trophy hunting and hunting for food. Since hunting has been restricted in many countries, trophy-hunting has become a tourist resource, particularly in Central European countries. In some areas, declines are due to excessive hunting, though this has not generally been a global problem. Hence, it is classified as *Least Concern* by the IUCN.

— from Wikipedia





## New Issues

### European Sporting Events

**MONACO** 1v

Issue date  
25 March 2021

#### European Football Championship



Initially planned for 2020 before being postponed due to COVID-19, the European Football Championship (hopefully) takes place from 11 June to 11 July 2021. For the first time in its history, it will not be organized by a single country, but will take place right across Europe, in a dozen selected host cities. The Stadio Olimpico in Rome will be the venue for the opening match, and the final will be contested at Wembley, in London.

— from *Office des Timbres, Monaco*

**HUNGARY** 1v

Issue date  
29 March 2021

#### European Aquatics Championships



The Ligue Européenne de Natation (LEN) was founded in Budapest in 1926 – it is the oldest continental federation governing and coordinating the aquatic disciplines. The LEN European Championships is the world's oldest continental event for aquatic sports. Europe is still the only continent where competitions exclusively for aquatic sports are held every two years.

In 2021 the event returns to its place of inception because Budapest hosted the championship on the first occasion in 1926. This year's event will be held from 17 to 30 August (postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19).

— from *Magyar Posta*

**SLOVENIA** ms

Issue date 3 December 2020

#### Slovenia's Tour de France Heroes



With their double victory in this year's Tour de France, Tadej Pogačar and Primož Roglič recorded the greatest achievement of Slovene cycling to date and triggered a new wave of sporting euphoria in Slovenia.

For three weeks, thanks to these two cycling aces, Slovenia was in the global media spotlight, with journalists from the world's biggest news organizations making the journey to the sunny side of the Alps to film reports in the birthplace of these champions.

The initial euphoria has died down, but the echo of their achievement will resound for a long time to come. Cycling clubs across the country are reporting a record jump in the numbers of children and youngsters wanting to join. All of them with the same dream. The dream of becoming the new Primož or Tadej!

— *Slovenian Cycling Federation as quoted in Pošta Slovenije*

## New Issues

### European Anniversaries and Events

**CZECH REPUBLIC** 1v  
**HUNGARY** 1v  
**POLAND** 1v  
**SLOVAKIA** 1v

*Issue date*  
 15 February 2021

**Visegrad Group 30th Anniversary**



The Visegrad Four (V4) is a regional grouping of four Central European states which was established in 1991 with a declaration by the Member States on close cooperation on their path to European integration. Originally, the group of these countries was called the Visegrad Troika, the four are only a consequence of the division of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in 1993.

After the accession of V4 member states to the European Union, within the Regional Partnership the V4 cooperates with Austria and Slovenia, and within the so-called V4 + program, it cooperates with other Central and Eastern European countries.

The Alliance of V4 States is inspired by the meeting of three kings in the Hungarian town of Visegrád in 1335: John of Luxembourg, King of Bohemia, Casimir III the Great, King of Poland, and Charles I, King of Hungary. The result of the meeting was the formation of a significant diplomatic alliance with an agreement on a common defense against the Habsburgs and their growing strength, which was followed by a period when all three kingdoms flourished with unprecedented economic expansion.

*— from Česká pošta and POFIS (Slovak Post)*

Note: The four countries previously issued stamps on this topic in 2011.

**HUNGARY** ss

*Issue date* 3 June 2020

**40th Anniversary of 1st Hungarian Space Flight (INTERKOSMOS Program)**



An admittedly fringe area of Europa collecting, a nice little side collection is stamps from the former Soviet Union depicting attempts to mimic the EU initiatives (e.g. Common Market → COMECON, NATO → Warsaw Pact, European Space Agency (ESA) → INTERKOSMOS Program). With that in mind, I belatedly noticed the following item.

*From Magyar Posta:*

It is now 40 years (in 2020) since the first Hungarian flew in space. The surcharge on two of the stamps of the miniature sheet is devoted to promoting philately among young people.

Thanks to the Interkosmos Program, Hungary had the opportunity to take part in the Soviet Union's international space research program for peaceful purposes. Rigorous tests to evaluate medical, intellectual and psychological suitability preceded the selection of the cosmonauts. Among the 95 fighter pilots considered for the space mission, the two most suitable were Bertalan Farkas and Béla Magyari.

Soyuz 36 lifted off on 26 May 1980 and docked with the Salyut 6 space station, manned by V Ryumin and L Popov, on 27 May. The Soviet-Hungarian pair of cosmonauts returned to Earth in the re-entry capsule of Soyuz 35 on 3 June 1980.



## New Issues

### European Anniversaries and Events

**POLAND** postal card

*Issue date sometime in 2021*

**60th Anniversary of Polish-Cyprus Diplomatic Relations**



## Feature

### Europa Briefs



Auction #153 in the last issue saw some really amazing bargains being won by those lucky members who participated. You never know when others will be asleep and you can hit the jackpot. Check out Auction #154 in this issue for similar opportunities (see lots 3, 25, 35 and 151, just to name a few).



As of this writing, the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) is still a go, and the block of rooms in one of the hotels is already sold out. 62 dealers are on board so far (target is 75). We've requested an hour for an open meeting and we'll have an ad in the show program.

This is a great chance to meet other members, — including your Directors — face to face (or maybe mask to mask), rummage through some items that escaped the auctioneer's gavel, and just enjoy our hobby. [Pre-register](#) now so that you can just walk in. ■

## Article

### The Northern Countries II

— Dana Roper

#### *Background*

The following was sourced from an article originally printed in Europa News 401 (January-February 2011) and subsequent issues. The information has been revised and brought up-to-date where appropriate. This is installment 2 of what will be a self-contained monograph. The first installment appeared in EN# 462-8ff.

#### *History of Norden/Nordic*

The term 'Nordic Countries' (NC) is derived from the French term *Pays Nordiques* which means "The Northern Lands". While the term *Scandinavia* is commonly used for Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the term *the Nordic countries* is used unambiguously for Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland, including their associated territories (Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and the Åland Islands).

#### *The Nordic Stamp Issues (cont'd)*

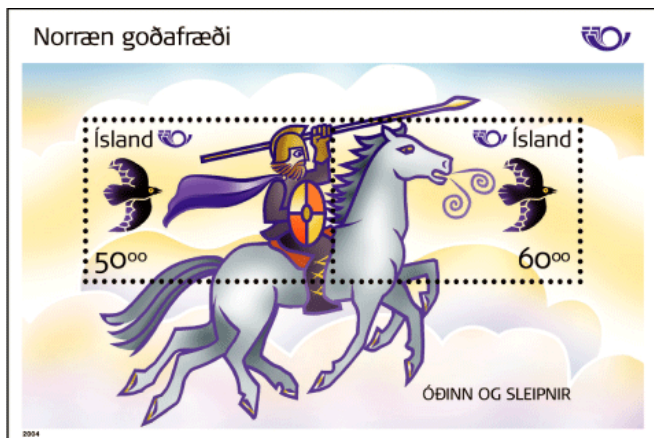
In 1969 the Norden countries began their regular series of stamps. It later became obvious that this was a collecting topic similar to the Europa annual issues. It has always been considered a close adjunct to the Europa topic, and album makers such as Lighthouse include them in their annual "Mitläufer" (Sympathy) supplements. For our part, our Europa Handbook lists them as [Adjunct Section B1](#).

It was decided for 2004 that the Norden stamp issues would henceforth occur every two years, and that they would follow both a common theme and a common format. It was also decided that the format would be a souvenir sheet of similar size, and that a theme would persist for three cycles.

The theme chosen for the first such cycle — 2004, 2006, 2008 — was **Nordic Mythology**, a rich source of interesting subject matter.

- The 2004 issue focused on **Nordic Legends**.
- The 2006 issue was **Mythological Beings**
- The 2008 issue was **Mystical Places**.

Article  
**The Northern Countries II— Dana Roper**



Nordic Mythology—Legends



Nordic Mythology—Mythical Creatures



Nordic Mythology—Mystical Places

The Northern countries also decided to package their bi-annual issues in colorful souvenir folders (shown in the next column).



All of these moves were very successful, and the NC issues became a popular collecting topic. To further promote these issues, a website was developed called “Top of the World of Stamps” which featured the NC issues and also served as a portal to each countries’ postal site. Sadly, that website ceased being supported in 2018.



A side note here: Just as with the Faroe Islands Nordic House Entertainers issue, other stamps happen along which I believe belong squarely in this topic.

Such is the single stamp from Greenland (Scott #470) issued in 2006 honoring the 50th anniversary of the Nordic stamp issues. The design intentionally mimics the 5 swan design of 1956.



The designer, Julie Edel Hardenberg, explained it this way: “My inspiration for the design of the stamp was drawn from the previously issued joint Norden design of 1956, which featured five swans. I decided to use the *snow bunting* as an exponent of the common Nordic theme, as the bunting is a migratory bird and especially visible in northern regions. In this way, it also acts as a parallel to the earlier stamp featuring swans, as the bunting is also represented in all eight Nordic countries.”



Article  
**The Northern Countries — cont'd**

The topic for the next three cycles — 2010, 2012, 2014 — was “Life By the Sea in the Northern Countries” with some examples shown.

- 2010 featured “Life at the Coast”:



Besides the souvenir sheet, the Danish stamps were also printed singly as self-adhesive stamps.

- 2012 featured “Rescue at Sea”:



From the examples, one can conclude that life at sea can be hazardous indeed. Again, the Danish stamps were also printed singly as self-adhesive stamps.

- 2014 featured “Ships”:



Once again, the Danish stamps were also printed singly as self-adhesive stamps.



Article  
The Northern Countries — cont'd

The Nordic Countries again published souvenir folders for each year, available at any of their respective post offices.



2016 saw another change of direction. The three-year series of topics was abandoned in favor of a stand-alone theme for the year. The theme chosen for 2016 was “Nordic Food Culture” and all the countries participated. The single souvenir sheet idea was also dropped, with each country free to do whatever it deemed appropriate.

Denmark stuck with a souvenir sheet and two single self-adhesive stamps with the same design:



Greenland and Norway did likewise, but Greenland departed from the previous size:



The remaining countries all issued single stamps:



Norway's cruise ship offering (above) looked especially appetizing to me.



For that matter, all looked reasonably worth a try, with the exception of Greenland. I am a sushi fan, but ...



... the idea of chowing down on a fish head just didn't work for me. Maybe it's an acquired taste?



Article  
**The Northern Countries — cont'd**

The annual folder for 2016 boasted a different layout also:



Norden 2018 was another stand-alone year. The theme for 2018 was “Nordic Fishes.”

Denmark and Greenland issued souvenir sheets. Denmark abandoned the old format and went with a smaller sheet, while Greenland issued a souvenir sheet with two single stamps as well.



Finland issued two stamps:



The remaining countries issued single stamps.



Sweden, however, made its stamp part of a larger set of 6 stamps. Only this one bears the Nordic Posthorn (in blue toward the lower left — easy to miss).



Article  
**The Northern Countries — cont'd**

The design for 2020 was “Nordic Mammals.” Once more, countries were free to do as they wished. This year Iceland announced that as of 29 October 2020 it planned to stop issuing stamps. With that, the Nordic countries notified collectors that 2020 would also be the last year for Northern Council stamps.

As of this writing, I am not aware of any annual folders for the years 2018 or 2020.

In the next installment, we’ll take up other stamp issues that relate to the Nordic theme.

Iceland’s last group of stamps did include a stamp for the NC theme, showing a Nordic mink.

Greenland and Finland issued two stamps each.



Faroe Islands depicted a seal pup, which can always be counted on to produce an “Aawww...”



Norway issued an eye-catching stamp, showing a killer whale in the ocean swimming underneath a trawler.



Denmark and Sweden issued their stamps on strips of five. Denmark’s stamps are self-adhesive and not connected at their perforations.







**New Issues**  
with **SCOTT** catalog numbers

From Linns' March-April Special Editions  
— Don Smith



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<b>Aland</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>8-May-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020</b>
<b>Aland</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>5-Jun-20</b>	<b>Norden 2020 EN 455-4</b>
Cyprus	1337	9-Jul-20	65th Anniversary of EOKA EN 459-12
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>9-Jul-20</b>	<b>EuroMed 2020 EN 459-10</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>6-May-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020</b>
<b>Finland</b>	<b>1612</b>	<b>3-Jun-20</b>	<b>Norden 2020, pair 1612a-b EN 458-18</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>5867</b>	<b>10-Jul-20</b>	<b>EuroMed 2020 EN 559-9</b>
France	1o80-1	4-Sep-20	Council of Europe Official Stamps EN 461-7
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>30-Oct-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>2913</b>	<b>8-May-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020, horiz. pair, booklet pair 2913c, booklet pane 2913f w/2 each of 2813c</b>
<b>Greece</b>	<b>2918-21</b>	<b>20-Jul-20</b>	<b>EuroMed 2020, 2921b booklet pane of 4 (2918a, 2919a, 2920a, 2921a) EN 460-5</b>
<b>Greenland</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>18-May-20</b>	<b>Sepac 2020 EN 458-20</b>
<b>Greenland</b>	<b>848-51</b>	<b>14-Sep-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020, (850-851 self-adhesive) 851a bklt pane of 12 (6 each)</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>2280-1</b>	<b>16-Jul-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020</b>
Lithuania	1168	1-Aug-20	Painting, joint issue w/Poland 4493
Montenegro	464	5-Oct-20	Joy of Europe EN461-7
<b>Poland</b>	<b>4478</b>	<b>29-Apr-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020</b>
Poland	4480	13-May-20	Pope John Paul II, joint w/Slovakia 848
Poland	4493	1-Aug-20	Painting, joint w/Lithuania 1168
Russia	8214	3-Nov-20	Diplomatic Relations w/Turkey EN 461-6
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>13-Jul-20</b>	<b>EuroMed 2020 EN 459-9</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>1389-90</b>	<b>13-Jul-20</b>	<b>Europa 2020</b>



The following got a fully descriptive listing in Scott, complete with illustrations, but many might still categorize these as wallpaper. They are listed here under our "glass slipper" (cinderella) designation. We leave it to you to determine just how collectible they are.

Gambia	3788c	4-May-18	Pres. Trump w/European Parliament Pres. Tajani
Gambia	3978b	20-Sep-20	Churchill in Victory in Europe Day ss
Liberia	3385a	26-Mar-20	Concorde in ss of 4
Liberia	3386	26-Mar-20	Airbus A-300, ss of 4
Liberia	3399	26-Mar-20	Concorde ss
Liberia	3400	26-Mar-20	Airbus A-300 ss
Liberia	3441	28-Jun-20	Great Britain withdrawal from EU, <i>sheet of 100 diff.</i>

“The Luster Chronicles”

The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 2

The Luster Chronicles” starts the 1960 stamp issues with the issue from Austria. See EN# 462– for the first installment of Steve’s monograph.

AUSTRIA



The common design used by most countries

Austria and Liechtenstein were the only countries, in 1960, to issue a Europa stamp that did not follow the common design for that year. The common design was a 19-spoke wheel forming the letter “O” in the word Europa.

The issue date of August 29, 1960 for Austria’s Europa stamp does not coincide with the dates of issue of the other CEPT countries. That date was mostly 19 September 1960.

Austrian first day covers are found with a special cancel from the Salzburg 1 post office. The cancel commemorates “JUVABA 60” international stamp exhibition held in that city. The dates on “JUVABA 60” first day covers are all 29 August 1960.

The D’Urso Catalogue mentions “another first day cover” bearing a different special cancel, commemorating a European Management Conference held in Vienna on September 9, 1960. Covers with a CIOS cancel other than 19 September 1960 are, in my opinion, not first day covers.

The Scott Catalogue 2 indicates that the first day of issue for the Austrian 1960 Europa stamp is August 29, 1960. Scott indicates that the design is an “Ionic Capital” (at the top of a column). Scott describes the design as “Europa: Idea of a United Europe.”

The Domfil Catalogue 3 indicates that the date of issue was 29 August 1960 and the design depicts a “Column.” The D’Urso Catalogue indicates that the “JUVABA 60” cancel was used as early as 27 August 27 but the catalogue does not describe the stamp.



### “The Luster Chronicles”

## The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 1

The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that ‘...the designer of the stamp was Adalbert Pilch and the engraver was Rudolph Toth. The stamp was recess printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated  $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ , by the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei, Wien. The stamps were printed in sheets of 50 (10 stamps across by 5 rows down). The printing quantity was 3,000,000.

The D’Urso Catalogue assigns the number 64 to the stamp and describes its color as brilliant black. First day covers bearing the D’Urso-numbered T-42 cancel are reported on a maximum card. D’Urso lists 27 August 1960 as the date of issue for the stamp. The T-42 cancel is the one commemorating “JUVABA 60, an international youth philatelic exhibition.” All of the “JUVABA 60” cancels are dated 29 August 1960, not 27 August 1960 as listed in the D’Urso Catalogue. The cancel is known with check letter “X” and the check numbers 1 through 6. These appear in a small semi-circle near the bottom of the cancel. So what is the correct first day of issue?

I have seen and illustrate on the next page, another “first day cover” bearing a cancel commemorating a European Management Conference that was held in Vienna on 19 September 1960. I expect that these “first day covers” are contrived. They are not first day covers of Austria’s 1960 “Europa” stamp but rather the stamp was put on a cacheted first day covers and serviced at the management conference.

There are several philatelic items that I would like to illustrate here. All bear the design of Austria’s 1960 Europa stamp. First is a black print. These prints were produced from the original die. However, the “stamp” is imperforate. Black prints were affixed to publicity releases for Austrian stamps.



The Austrian Europa stamps were issued in sheets of 50 stamps.



### “The Luster Chronicles”

## The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 1



This sheet was printed from the original die. The word “EUROPA” and the stamp appear to be printed in a brownish color. Loosely translated the sheet reads “They who love their homeland, work for Europe.” The quote is ascribed to Dr. Otto Habsburg. Neither the sheet nor the stamp were valid to pay postage. I do not know the origin of this sheet or the circumstances surrounding its production. Perhaps it was prepared for a stamp show?

I believe that this cover with the special “JUVABA 60” cancel is a true first day cover. However, the details surrounding the first day of issue of the stamp need clarification. Here is my opinion. “JUVABA 60” opened on 27 August and ran through 4 September 1960. Austria’s Europa stamp was not issued until 29 August 1960, two days after the exhibition opened. The D’Urso Catalogue indicates that this cancel (number T-42) is the official first day cancel for the issue. T-42 cancels differ in that they may have a check letter “X” or a check number 1 through 6 in a semi-circle below the coat of arms. This example shows the check number “4.” D’Urso assigns a rarity factor of 3 to the T-42 cancel.





“The Luster Chronicles”

The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 1

Notwithstanding the cachet and the “F. D. C.” mark, this is not in my opinion a first day cover. Look at the date of the cancel.



The “CIOS” first day of issue cancel. It is listed in D’Urso as number V-78 with a rarity factor of 3. The cancel was used from 19-23 August 1960 to commemorate a European Management Conference held in Vienna. The cancel can vary slightly through the use of the check letter “X” and the check numbers 1, 2, or 3.



This concludes the issue of Austria. Next up will be the BENELUX countries. ■

The Back Page  
**The Dayton Peace Agreement**

**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 1v**

Issue date 14 December 2020

25 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement



— This could be included in a NATO collection, KSZE/OSCE, or simply “Issues threatening the realization of a United Europe.”

The *General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, also known as the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA), Dayton Accords, Paris Protocol or Dayton-Paris Agreement, is the peace agreement reached at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, United States, in November 1995, and formally signed in Paris on 14 December 1995. These accords put an end to the 3½-year-long Bosnian War, one of the armed conflicts in the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia. The current Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Annex 4 of the DPA.



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was charged with organizing the first free elections in 1996.

— from OSCE.org

**EUROPA NEWS** is the bulletin of the *EUROPA STUDY UNIT*, APS# 219613  
 AN ASSOCIATION DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PHILATELIC MATERIALS COVERING THE IDEA OF A UNITED  
 EUROPE: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL.  
[www.europastudyunit.org](http://www.europastudyunit.org)

**EDITOR:** Mr. Dana Roper, 7266 Prices Cove Pl, Gainesville, VA 20155; **email:** droper729@gmail.com  
**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:** **PRESIDENT:** Mr. Dana Roper **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Mr. Tonny VanLoij  
**TREASURER:** Tonny VanLoij **VICE PRESIDENT:** Tonny Van Loij, **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** open  
**DIRECTORS:** Mr. Alex Cwiekalo, Ms. Caroline Scannel, Mr. Dan Shilcrat **WEBMASTER:** Dana Roper (acting)  
**AUCTION MANAGER:** Mr. Donald W. Smith, 1633 Florida Ave, Johnstown, PA 15902.  
**EUROPA HANDBOOK:** Alex Cwiekalo

**One last notice, for the handful who haven't yet paid their dues:**

**ANNUAL DUES** (Including one year of the *EUROPA NEWS*): Electronic Membership only \$10/yr;  
**CHEAP!**

Standard Membership (hardcopy of EN mailed): \$20/yr USA; \$30/yr other. **Dues are payable as of January 1st each year.; don't let your subscription lapse!** Payments must be in U.S. Dollars; cash, bank draft, or a money order made payable to the Europa Study Unit.

Send payment to:

**Mr. Tonny VanLoij, Treasurer 3002 S Xanthia St Denver, CO 80231-4237**

We also have a PayPal account name: europastudyunit, email: eunity415.sl@gmail.com