

GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW The ESU will meet 11 am, Saturday, 14 August. *Open to all.*

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



Wolves and Weasels and Bears,
 oh my!

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

ARTICLES

FEATURE: EUROPA BRIEFS	19
FEATURE: MISCELLANEOUS BOX.....	24
THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES III.....	19-23

ESU Auction #155 *Insert*

DEPARTMENTS

NEW ISSUES: EUROPA 2021	2-14
NEW ISSUES: SEPAC 2021	15
NEW ISSUES: GENERAL (OTHER)....	14,16-17
NEW ISSUES: WITH SCOTT #s	18

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 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 is a series favorite. I'll try not to duplicate my descriptions, but won't guarantee it.

ESTONIA 2v

Issue date 6 May 2021



Lady's Slipper
(Cypripedium calceolus)



Eurasian Hoopoe
(Upupa epops)

The **Lady's Slipper** is the orchid with the largest flower in Estonia and Europe. Blooming from late May until early July, the faint vanilla scent of the flowers attracts small insects. However, the flower is a trap for pollinators because the only way out of the shoe-shaped labellum is by climbing past the anthers and stigma. It usually grows on wooden meadows and forest edges.

The **Eurasian Hoopoe** is a bright and colorful bird about the size of a pigeon. It is afraid of men but not of man-made structures. The bird tries to reuse its nest for several years. They do not clean the nests which is why they tend to smell. The Eurasian hoopoe mainly eats insects, particularly beetles and their larvae.

— from *Omniva (Estonia Post)*

LITHUANIA 2v

Issue date 23 April 2021



Grey Seal
(Halichoerus grypus)



Eurasian Lynx
(Lynx lynx)

The **Grey Seal** is found on both shores of the North Atlantic Ocean. After being hunted extensively for oil, meat and skins, the seals' numbers rebounded after conservation efforts were enacted; it is now listed as *Least Concern*.

The **Eurasian Lynx** is featured on Poland's stamp, and is discussed there (ref. EN# 463-6).

— from *Wikipedia*

LATVIA 2v

Issue date 23 April 2021



Freshwater Pearl Mussel
(Margaritifera margaritifera)



Black Stork
(Ciconia nigra)

The **Freshwater Pearl Mussel** is an *Endangered* species. It is capable of making fine-quality pearls, and was historically exploited in the search for pearls from wild sources.

Unlike the closely related white stork, the **Black Stork** is a shy and wary species. It is considered to be of *Least Concern* by the IUCN, but its actual status is uncertain. Despite its large range, it is nowhere abundant, and it appears to be declining in parts of its range.

— from *Wikipedia*

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

IRELAND 2v

Issue date 6 May 2021



The **White Prominent** (*Leucodonta bicolorialis*) is a moth from the family *Notodontidae*. It is found in the northern part of Middle Europe, Northern Europe and Russia to the Amur region. In the western parts of the range it is a local and rare species. It is likely extinct in Britain but a population was recently rediscovered in Ireland.



The **Freshwater Pearl Mussel** (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is an aquatic bivalve mollusk and an *Endangered* species. This mussel is one of the longest-living invertebrates in existence; the oldest known specimen in Europe was caught in 1993 in Estonia when it was 134 years old.

Once the most abundant bivalve mollusk in ancient rivers around the world, numbers of the freshwater pearl mussel are now declining in all countries and this species is nearly extinct in many areas. The freshwater pearl mussel is completely protected in all European countries.

— from Wikipedia

TURKEY 2v

Issue date 9 May 2021



**Mediterranean
 Monk Seal**
 (*Monachus monachus*)



Montagu's Harrier
 (*Circus pygargus*)

In ancient times, and up until the 20th century, **Mediterranean Monk Seals** had been known to congregate, give birth, and seek refuge on open beaches. In more recent times, they have left their former habitat and now only use sea caves for these activities. Scientists have confirmed this is a recent adaptation, most likely due to the rapid increase in human population, tourism, and industry. Thanks to conservation efforts, as of 2015 their status was raised from *Critically Endangered* to simply *Endangered* by the IUCN.

The **Montagu's Harrier**, named after British naturalist George Montagu, is a long distance migrant. Birds from Eurasia spend the winter in sub-Saharan Africa, while those from the eastern part of the range migrate to the Indian subcontinent. They travel over a broad front, crossing the Mediterranean at various points. In western Europe, an estimated 70% of breeding pairs nest in agricultural farmlands, especially cereal crops. This makes the Montagu's harrier a very vulnerable species; because of their wide distribution however, they are classified as *Least Concern*.

— from Wikipedia

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

VATICAN 2v

Issue date 25 May 2021



Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)



Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Condensed from the Vatican Post website:

For the realization of the Europa 2021 series, our attention focused on the Vatican Gardens, a natural habitat of 23 hectares located mainly on the Vatican hill, where we observe the protection of the environment and the landscape to safeguard the local fauna and flora. Despite this, wild avifauna represents the most fragile class in this small ecosystem, as it is inserted in a larger environment, such as the city one, where alien species have found a massive settlement at the expense of native ones.

Among these, the **Wren** is difficult to detect in the wooded area of the Vatican Gardens, finding a safe shelter and food among the fountains and the eroded cavities in the deposits of the golden clays from the Vatican hill. This small passerine with the color of the soil, called the "elf of the woods", camouflages itself among the roots of the trees, hopping abruptly in search of worms and insects.

From the smallest exponent of wild avifauna we pass to the greatest present, the **Common Kestrel**, which due to the urbanization of the countryside finds in the Vatican City an ideal ecosystem. Unfortunately, its offspring are sometimes preyed upon and food resources, mainly small passerines and rodents, are less and less available

CYPRUS 2v, also issued se-tenant in booklets of 4 sets as shown, with straight edges on some sides

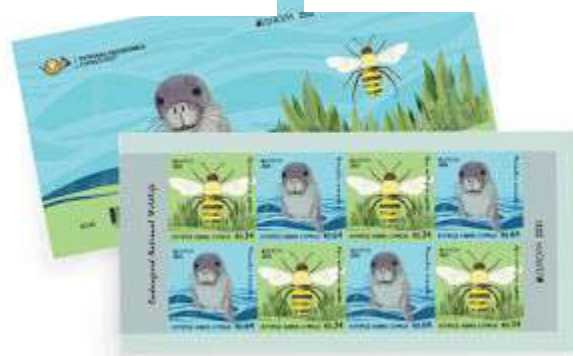
Issue date 6 May 2021



Cypriot Bee (*Apis mellifera cypria*)



Mediterranean Seal (*Monachus monachus*)



The **Cypriot Bee** is an endemic species of Cyprus. Pollinating over 70% of man-made plants, the bee is perhaps the most important pollinator for the human species and its environment. The low rainfall, the few and short flowering periods and spray treatments of wild flowers and crops, the construction in forest areas and the pollution of the environment threaten the survival of the Cypriot Bee and that is why we must protect it.

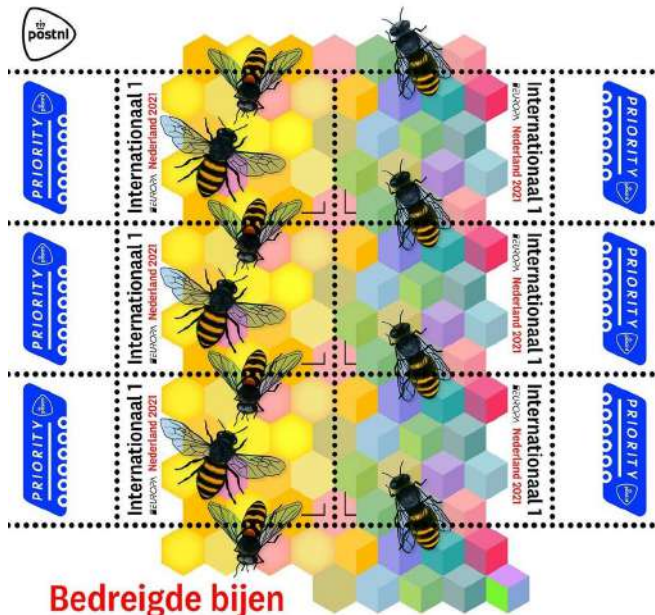
The **Mediterranean Seal** is the most endangered marine mammal in Europe. Their population is only 700, of which 19 live in Cyprus. It is one of the largest seal species in the world, with a length of 8 feet and a weight of 660 lbs and can live up to 40 years. From 2011 onwards it seems that the species is recovering in the Cypriot seas and has now created a local, small, but breeding population. It is classified as *Endangered* by the IUCN.

— from Cyprus Post

New Issues
 Europa 2021
 Endangered National Wildlife

NETHERLANDS 2v se-tenant in sheets of 3 sets as shown

Issue date 10 May 2021



Bedreigde bijen

In 2018 verscheen de nieuwe Rode Lijst van Nederlandse bijen. Van de 388 toen bekende bijensoorten staat 55% op deze lijst. Maar liefst 46 soorten komen niet meer in ons land voor en 72 soorten staan als (ernstig) bedreigd te boek. Bijensterfte is een serieuze bedreiging voor het milieu. Bijen produceren niet alleen honing, ze bestuiven ook wilde bloemen, fruit en andere landbouwgewassen. Zonder die bestuiving zou de opbrengst van de landbouw veel lager zijn. Het verdwijnen van bijensoorten brengt bovendien de biodiversiteit in gevaar.

Op dit postzegel is de bedreiging van de bijen verbeeld. Op de postzegels links staat een honingraatmotief dat op de postzegels rechts verandert in een patroon dat verstedelijkijng illustreert. Juist die verstedelijking is een van de belangrijkste redenen dat bijen steeds minder vliegen. Daar kunnen we zelf iets aan doen! Bijvoorbeeld door parken en plantsoenen bijvriendelijk te maken en bermen in te zaaien met bloemen. Maar ook door bijenhoeven te plaatsen en betegelde tuinen te veranderen in groene tuinen met veel bloemen.

Artikelnummer 410561 Ontwerp: Karen Polder



The **Endangered Bees** stamp sheet contains 6 stamps in 2 designs by graphic designer Karen Polder. The 3 stamps on the left show 7 moving bees crawling around against the background of the hexagonal structure of a yellow honeycomb. The 3 stamps on the right show 4 sitting bees, with different colored cubes in the background as a representation of the urban environment.

— from PostNL

Editorial note: While some studies indicate that bees are in danger of becoming extinct, other studies indicate that some species (e.g. bumblebees) are actually increasing. Common sense conservation should rule the day.

HUNGARY 2v se-tenant vertically in ms of 2 sets as shown

Issue date 5 May 2021



Wildlife in Hungary is protected by law. All forms of cruelty to, and disturbance, endangerment and destruction of them or damaging their habitats are strictly forbidden.

One of the stamps of the Hungarian miniature sheet features a songbird and the other a mustelid species. The **European Stonechat** (*Saxicola rubicola*) is a migratory passerine species which nests in Hungary from March until October. It was chosen the bird of the year in 2021.

The **Steppe Polecat** (*Mustela eversmanii*) is a small predator which occurs mainly on the fringes of the grasslands and agricultural areas of Transdanubia and the Hungarian Great Plain. It has a lighter coat and is more aggressive than the European polecat.

Other animal species characteristic of Hungary are shown in the frame of the miniature sheet: the blind rodent living in loess and sandy areas of the Great Plain, the Hungarian lesser mole-rat; the black and yellow, specially protected lacewing species *Libelloides macaronius*, which feeds mainly on flying insects, and the yellow wagtail, named after its bright plumage, feeding mainly on flies and mosquitoes.

— from Magyar Posta

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

PORTUGAL 1v + ss

The single stamp is the same as that on the bottom of the ss.

Issue date 7 May 2021



The **European Pond Terrapin** (*Emys orbicularis*) is easily identified by its dark color, speckled with yellow spots that form streaks on each shell plate. It prefers slow-moving or still waterways with good quality and abundant aquatic vegetation where it can hide, since it is a discreet creature that dives at the slightest sign of danger.

This animal has a widespread distribution in Europe and North Africa, but has highly dispersed and fragmented populations, particularly in Portugal, where it is considered a rare and *Endangered* species. Its main threats are water pollution and the destruction of natural wetlands, as well as the introduction of exotic freshwater turtles, which are very popular among aquarists.

The **Saramago** aka **Spanish Minnow Carp** (*Anaecypris hispanica*) is a small freshwater fish that is 2-3" in length, with a small head and large eyes, and silver to pinkish color with numerous small dark spots along its flanks. It prefers shallow waterways with low to moderate current and clean oxygen-rich waters, with abundant aquatic vegetation.

It is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula and is found in the basin of the Guadiana River in southern Spain and Portugal. With extremely fragmented and severely declining populations, it is *Critically Endangered*, essentially due to water pollution and the destruction of its native habitats (e.g. due to water abstraction or aggregate extraction).

— from *Philatelic Pursuits* and *Wikipedia*

Just a few EUROPA and SEPAC issues left, which we hope to wrap up in the next Europa News. By then we may have more info on EuroMed issues for this year. Look also for an article or two from Grenzenloos, and the resumption of the Luster Chronicles. And of course, lots more new issues too!

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

AZORES 1v + ss

The single stamp is the same as that on the bottom of the ss.

Issue date 7 May 2021



The **Azores Noctule** (*Nyctalus azoreum*) is the only mammal that is endemic to the Azores archipelago. It is found in forests, where it feeds mainly on lepidopterans (such as moths and butterflies) and dipterans (such as mosquitoes), thereby helping to control insect pests. Unlike most bats, this animal often hunts during the day, probably due to the paucity of diurnal birds of prey.

This species occurs in a very small geographical area and is extremely sensitive to the disruption or destruction of its natural habitats and places of shelter (such as hollow tree trunks and caves). Its populations are currently in decline and considered locally to be critically endangered, although the IUCN lists the species only as *Vulnerable*.

The **Blue Whale** (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is found in all of the Earth's oceans and in both hemispheres, from the coastal waters of continental shelves to huge expanses of pelagic waters in the open ocean. In the Azorean archipelago, they can be observed near the coast, generally during spring and early summer, during their Atlantic migrations.

This marine mammal was hunted to the verge of extinction up until 1966. Today, its main threats are collisions with ships and accidental entanglements in fishing gear. There are currently an estimated five thousand to fifteen thousand adult animals, a tiny fraction of its ancestral populations, and it is therefore considered to be *Endangered*.

— from *Philatelic Pursuits* and *Wikipedia*

Erratum Dept.: Alert member Steve Chun wrote to say that my write-up of France's "endangered fauna" issue missed the mark (ref. EN#463-2. He said, "I (Steve) wouldn't even attempt to guess what was depicted. I found Mark Joseph Jochim at [Philatelic Pursuits.com](http://PhilatelicPursuits.com) agreed with you only on the Eurasian Lynx. Further he indicated FD had slipped to May 21 (of course he posted on May 8).” Other animals were the Iberian Ibex, European Mink, Reunion Island Ornate Day Gecko, and the Mélibée Butterfly. Steve’s reference is indeed a good resource, which I’ll plan to visit more often. ■

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

MADEIRA 1v + ss

The single stamp is the same as that on the bottom of the ss.

Issue date 7 May 2021



Zino's Petrel or Freira (*Pterodroma madeira*) feeds over a wide area in the central and eastern Atlantic Ocean, since it winters in the open sea. However, it only nests in the eastern part of Madeira Island, in burrows dug into the soil of mountainous areas above 1600 m in altitude; for this reason, it is considered endemic to this archipelago. During the breeding season these birds congregate in the ocean waters of Madeira and the Azores.

Owing to its small nesting area and very low population, estimated at 65 to 80 breeding pairs, this is one of the rarest and most endangered seabirds in the world. Their nests can be targeted by predators such as rats and cats, or destroyed by rabbits, goats or forest fires. Due to these threats, the species is classified as *Endangered*.

The Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is a cosmopolitan marine reptile that can be found in every ocean in the world except the icy Arctic and Antarctic waters. Most of their lives are spent at sea, where many are caught in trawls and other abandoned fishing gear and eventually drown.

Females only return to land for a few hours every two or three years to lay, where they are often hunted for their meat and eggs. On developed beaches, hatchlings can also be fatally attracted to the artificial light from buildings, rather than following the reflection of the stars on the sea, their only natural shelter. The continued pollution of the oceans, particularly by plastic, poses further threats to this species and it is therefore considered to be *Endangered*.

— from *Philatelic Pursuits*



The PostEurop EUROPA stamps competition is still on — from 9 May through 9 September. Go to the PostEurop website at europa2021.posteurop.org and cast your vote. There are still a few 2021 issues that we haven't covered, but you can get a preview at the PostEurop site.

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

SPAIN 1v

Issue date
 14 May 2021



Not the lynx again! Oh, wait. This one is different.

The **Iberian Lynx** (*Lynx pardinus*) is a wild cat species endemic to the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe. It is listed as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List. The lynx, larger than a domestic cat, was declared a protected species in 1966 and is considered the most threatened feline in the world. The Iberian lynx genetically diverged as a unique species 1.98 to 0.7 million years ago. Its closest living relative is the Eurasian Lynx, with which it coexisted to a certain degree until the 20th century.

— from Spanish Post and Wikipedia

CROATIA 2v

Issue date 7 May 2021



Western Capercaillie
(Tetrao urogallus)



Eurasian Lynx
(Lynx lynx)

The **Western Capercaillie** is also shown on the stamp from Slovakia, and is discussed there. (ref EN#463-10)

The **Eurasian Lynx** is featured on the stamps of Poland and Lithuania. It is discussed on the entry for Poland (ref EN#463-6).

SERBIA 2v each issued in ms of 8 + label

Issue date 12 May 2021



The **Saker Falcon** (*Falco cherrug*) breeds from central Europe eastwards across the Palearctic to Manchuria. It is the national bird of Hungary, United Arab Emirates, and Mongolia. BirdLife International categorizes this bird as *Endangered*, as does the IUCN, due to a rapid population decline, particularly on the central Asian breeding grounds.



The **Horned Lark** (*Eremophila alpestris*), called the **Shore Lark** in Europe, is a species found across the northern hemisphere. Although classified a Least Concern, in 2016 the “Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan” detailed the Horned Lark as a “Common Bird in Steep Decline,”

— from Post of Serbia and Wikipedia

If you are not reading this, then you probably haven't paid your dues for 2021.

Of course, that's like saying that if your parents had no children, then chances are good that you won't either.

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 2v se-tenant, and a ms of those same 2v (shown). Also issued in a booklet of 6 stamps (3 sets of 2) where all stamps have some straight edges.

Issue date 7 May 2021



Lynx
 (Lynx lynx)

Chamois
 (Rupicapra rupicapra)

There's that lynx again.

The **Chamois** is a species of goat-antelope native to mountains in Europe. Some subspecies of chamois are strictly protected in the EU under the European Habitats Directive, but overall they are classified as *Least Concern*. The Chamois is a very small bovid; fully grown they reach a height of 70–80 cm (28–31 in). Chamois leather, traditionally made from the hide of the Chamois, is very smooth and absorbent and is favored in cleaning, buffing, and polishing because it produces no scratching. Modern Chamois leather may be made from Chamois hides, but hides of deer or domestic goats or sheep are commonly used.

— from Wikipedia

Laurent Villoing, our friend from Down Under, tells me that he received an email from PostEurop giving the themes for the next few years.

We already know that 2022 will recycle the theme of Stories and Myths. For 2023 and 2024 we have the following:

2023	Underwater fauna & flora
2024	National archaeological discoveries

MALTA 2v The low value is also issued in a ms of 5 plus label, sold as a booklet. Also a postal card as shown below.

Issue date 12 May 2021



Mediterranean Chameleon (Rupicapra rupicapra) Mediterranean Painted Frog (Discoglossus pictus)



Chameleons are not endemic to Malta, and they are thought to have been brought from North Africa by Jesuit priests in the 19th century and released in St Ignatius College in St. Julian's. The **Mediterranean Chameleon** has managed to gain a foothold and survive here and nowadays may be found all over the Maltese Islands.

The **Painted Frog** is endemic to Malta and can survive the harshest summers and droughts by hiding and hibernating in shady and more humid places usually buried deep into soil, cracks and rubble. A decline in its population has been observed throughout the years due to the limited countryside in Malta. This species of frog is strictly protected by national legislation.

— from Malta Post

New Issues
Europa 2021
 Endangered National Wildlife

KOSOVO 2v + ms
 Issue date 7 May 2021

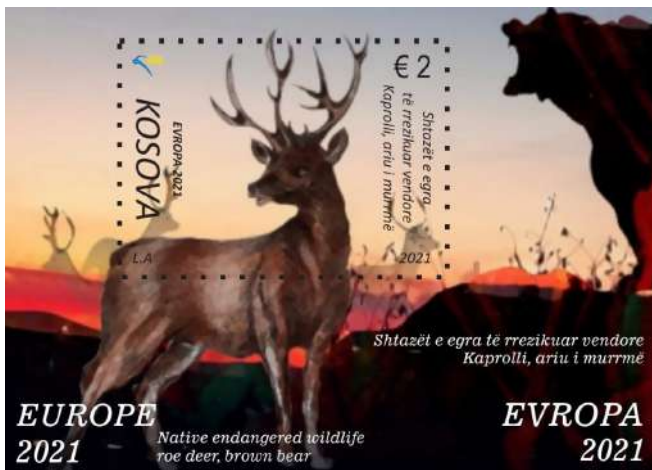


The **Roe Deer** (*Capreolus capreolus*), is a small deer, reddish and grey-brown, and well-adapted to cold environments. The species is widespread in Europe, from the Mediterranean to Scandinavia, and from Scotland to the Caucasus. It is classified as *Least Concern*.



The **Brown Bear** (*Ursus arctos*) is a large bear species found across Eurasia and North America, where it is called a grizzly. While the brown bear's range has shrunk and it has faced local extinctions, it remains listed as a *Least Concern* species by the IUCN.

— from Wikipedia



MONTENEGRO 1v + ss

Issue date
 9 May 2021



The following is quoted from *Pošta Crne Gore* (Montenegro Post):

The area of Solila is located in the swampy part of the coastal zone of the Bay of Tivat and covers an unused floodplain. In the flora and vegetation of the Montenegrin coast, the area of Solila is recognizable by the vegetation that inhabits saline wetlands.

As such complex types of natural vegetation on a silty-clay base have already disappeared in most habitats on the eastern Adriatic coast, the preservation of the compactness of the Tivat salt marshes stands out as a special ecological challenge. Fourteen representatives of amphibians and reptiles have been registered in the area of Tivat Salts.

So far, 111 bird species have been registered in Solila, which represents more than 20% of the total number of species of European ornithofauna. Solila is a habitat of many endangered species, so they are protected as a special floristic-faunal reserve.

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

SLOVENIA 2v

Issue date 28 May 2021



Western Capercaillie
(Tetrao urogallus)



Wildcat
(Felis silvestris)

The largest member of the grouse family found in Slovenia, the **Capercaillie** is pictured on the stamp from Slovakia.

One of the few forest-dwelling members of the genus *Felis* of the cat family, the **Wildcat** is found throughout Slovenia except in the high Alpine area. Forest loss and fragmentation are among the principal threats to the wildcat in Europe, along with the simultaneous spread of the domestic cat and hybridization with it. It is classified, however, as *Least Concern*.

— from Pošta Slovenije

ARMENIA 1v

Issue date
 7 May 2021



The **Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is one of the best-known birds of prey in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the most widely distributed species of eagle, and classified as *Least Concern*.

— from Wikipedia

ARTSAKH (Armenian Post of NAGORNO-KARABACH) 3v + ss containing 2 sets

Issue date 9 April 2021



Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*), a medium-large bird of prey in the raptor family. IUCN classification: *Near Threatened*

Marbled Polecat (*Vormela peregusna*), a small mammal found in the drier areas and grasslands of southeastern



Europe to western China. Classified as *Vulnerable* by the IUCN.



Mountain Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*) prefers the mountains of continental Europe and Asia. It is *Vulnerable*.

Souvenir sheet of 2 sets se-tenant vertically. —>



New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

BELARUS 2v, each in a ms of 5 w/label, + ms of 2 sets as shown.

Issue date 5 May 2021



UKRAINE 2v + ss in a booklet (shown)
 Note: the stamps in the ss are actually *bigger* than the single stamps.

Issue date 9 June 2021



Ukraine chose to use stylized designs to highlight the problem of forest devastation.

The first stamp, called “Killer Wheels”, depicts forests in general being ground up in the gears of mechanization. According to the UN, the forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians are disappearing at an alarming rate due to illegal logging.

The second stamp, “Cry of the Carpathians”, shows a wolf howling over a tree stump, signifying loss of its natural habitat in the Carpathian mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

— from PostEurop and Ukraine Post

The following is from Belpochta, Republic of Belarus:

The species presented on the stamps are included in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus. The tiny **Aquatic Warbler** (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) is a migratory species. It inhabits only open low-land swamps. It builds its nest in Belarus, Hungary, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. It appears in late April or early May and flies away in August. It is classified as *Vulnerable*. The **European Hamster** (*Cricetus cricetus*) is a large rodent with a beautiful variegated color. It has been assigned the highest conservation status for wild populations — *Critically Endangered*. A few decades ago, the European hamster was so widespread that it was considered a dangerous pest of agriculture and was subject to destruction. This led to a sharp decline in its numbers.

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

NORTH MACEDONIA

1v + ms of 1v + ms of 4v

Issue date 7 May 2021



This one is the **Balkan Lynx** (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*). It is found in eastern Albania and western North Macedonia, with smaller populations in Kosovo and Montenegro. It is considered a national symbol in the Republic of North Macedonia and appears on the Macedonian five denar coin. It is believed that in North Macedonia there are from 35 to 40 remaining Balkan lynx, mostly found in Mavrovo National Park. The Balkan lynxes' decrease in number have been thought to be due to illegal poaching. It's status is *Critically Endangered*.



Also issued by North Macedonia is the four-stamp miniature sheet shown above. Three of the four animals have been noted elsewhere.

Top row:

Roe Deer (see Kosovo, this issue)

Wolf (see Austria, EN#463-2)

Bottom Row:

Brown bear (see Kosovo, this issue)

Mute Swan (*cygnus olor*), a pure white swan that is one of the heaviest flying birds, weighing in at 17-23 lbs. It is native to much of Euro Siberia, and is listed as *Least Concern*.

— from Wikipedia



The **Eurasian Eagle-owl** (*Bubo bubo*) is one of the largest species of owl, and can have a wingspan of over 6 ft. It is also one of the most widely distributed, with a total range in Europe and Asia of about 12 million sq mi. Tame eagle-owls have occasionally been used in pest control because of their size to deter large birds such as gulls from nesting. It is classified as *Least Concern*.

New Issues
European Sports

NORTH MACEDONIA 1v

Issue date 1 June 2021

Republic of North Macedonia in the European Football Championships



In 2021 North Macedonia played in the finals for the first time in history, qualifying for Group C. They played Austria, Ukraine and the Netherlands in June, but were eliminated in the first round.

— from Wikipedia

New Issues
SEPAC 2021
Historical Maps

GREENLAND 1v

Issue date
 8 June 2021



Greenland's design was created by illustrator and graphic artist Nuka K. Godtfredsen. He was inspired by a historical map of Greenland showing the Gustav Holm and GC Amdrup shipping routes from 1884-85 and 1900, plus maps of the coast northeast of Tasiilaq.

— from POST Greenland

LIECHTENSTEIN 1v

Issue date 7 June 2021

“Map of the Upper Rhine Valley”



One of the oldest known maps of the Upper Rhine Valley, this was probably drawn around 1620 by Swiss cartographer and engineer Hans Conrad Gyger (1599-1674). The watercolor pen and ink drawing shows the catchment area of the Rhine between the Swiss districts of Altstätten and Bad Ragaz with the castles and palaces existing at that time. Thank you goes to the public records office of the Canton of St. Gallen that provided the map.

— from Philatelie Liechtenstein

MALTA 1v in a set of 4v

Issue date 28 May 2021

Malta Post refers to this set of four stamps as their SEPAC issue, even though only the 0,50 value has the SEPAC logo.



Historical maps of the Maltese Islands produced by different European cartographers.

0.20 stamp: map drawn by Dutch cartographer Johannes Janssonius, first published in Amsterdam c.1650. It also shows the arms of the Order of St. John and an inset plan of Valletta.

0.50 stamp (SEPAC): map by Giovanni Giacomo De Rossi, Italian printer and cartographer, published in Rome in 1686. The map of Malta is in the upper half of the sheet, while a large plan of the harbor area, within a very elaborate and theatrical setting, is in the lower half.

0.63 stamp: a map by a French cartographer Bernard Antoine Jaillot published in 1734, showing the road network, aqueducts, and the various towns and villages of Malta and Gozo. A large inset on the top right corner shows the Grand Harbor with the magnificent fortifications of Valletta and the Three Cities.

The 1.25 stamp: map by a German cartographer Georg Matthaus Seutter the Elder published c.1725. It depicts a galleon and the Grand Master of the Order of St. John. An inset plan of Valletta and its harbors appear along the bottom.

— from Malta Post

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

HUNGARY 1v
Issue date 18 May 2021
Hungarian Presidency
of the Council of Europe



Hungary joined the Council on 6 November 1990 as the twenty-fourth member and the first of the Eastern Bloc countries. Between May and November 2021, Hungary will carry out the tasks of the presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the second time the country has done so. During the six months of the Hungarian presidency, priorities will be the efficient protection of the national minorities, the future generation, inter-religious dialogue, the challenges of the future and the environment.

— from Magyar Posta

MONACO 1v
Issue date
6 May 2021
25th Anniversary
of ACCOBAMS



I would put this squarely in the province of European Conservation. The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) is a legal conservation tool whose purpose is to reduce threats to cetaceans (i.e. dolphins, porpoise and whales) by improving current knowledge on these animals.

ACCOBAMS has 24 Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

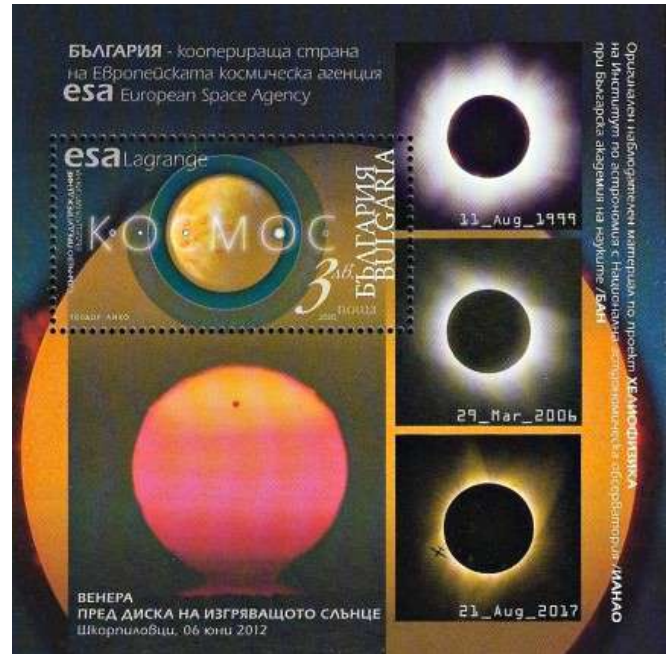
— from the ACCOBAMS website

RUSSIA 1v
Issue date
25th Anniversary of
Accession to the Council of
Europe



The irony is that Russia is still a member at all. What's next? Admission to NATO?

BULGARIA ss
Issue date 23 December 2020
European Space Agency, Lagrange mission



The Lagrange mission is an ambitious plan to send a satellite to the so-called L5 Lagrange point, to observe weather conditions on the sun, and send back data to earth which will provide early warning of major events that could disrupt terrestrial applications.

The ESA will have renamed the mission before its scheduled launch in 2024.

— sourced from ESA and NOAA

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

SLOVENIA 1v

Issue date 27 May 2021

8th European Congress of Mathematics (8ECM)



The Congress, which takes place every four years, was hosted by Slovenia for the first time. Held between 20 and 26 June 2021, all lectures and talks that were scheduled to take place in Portorož were moved online. Among other things, 8ECM will include a math's-themed postage stamp exhibition prepared by the British philatelist and mathematician Professor Robin Wilson.

The basic design of the special 8ECM stamp represents the famous Fibonacci sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, . . . In this sequence, discovered in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century by the mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci, each number is the sum of the two preceding numbers in the sequence. The ratio between each number and its predecessor gradually approaches the golden ratio, while the numbers in the sequence are arranged in a logarithmic or Fibonacci spiral.

The golden ratio may be described with the words: "The ratio of greater to smaller is the same as the ratio of the sum of both to the greater."

— from Pošta Slovenije

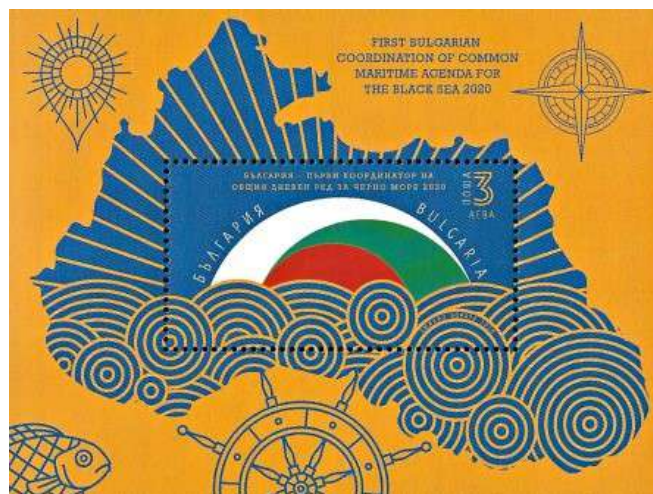
Editor's note: I noticed also that in the logo for the conference, the numeral 8 is rendered as a Möbius strip, the mathematical symbol for infinity.



BULGARIA ss

Issue date 25 August 2020

First Coordinator of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea 2020

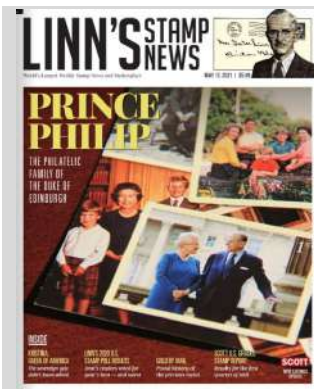


The [Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea](#) (CMA) is a sea basin initiative that aims at supporting regional cooperation for a more sustainable Blue Economy in the Black Sea and it is developed in the broader framework of the Black Sea Strategy. Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine, all [Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation](#) (BSEC) Member States, are the participating countries. The CMA implementation started in 2020. The Republic of Bulgaria was the first coordinator of the CMA and managed to host four meetings of the CMA Steering Group in 2020, in-person and then online. The Republic of Turkey took over the CMA coordination for 2021.

— from the BSEC website

Note: Serbia issued a stamp for the BSEC, Scott# 772, in 2017.






New Issues
 with **SCOTT** catalog numbers
From Linns' May and June Special Editions
 — Don Smith



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Azores	603-4	9-May-19	Europa 2019 (604 ss of 2: 603, 604a)
Azores	614-5	25-May-20	Europa 2020 (615 ss of 2: 614, 615a)
Bosnia (Muslim)	831	8-May-20	Europa 2020, horiz se-tenant pair 831a-b, ss 831c
Hungary	4582	15-Feb-21	Visegrad Group, joint issue w/Czech Rep., Poland, Slovakia 870 EN 463-12
Hungary	4588	29-Mar-21	European Aquatic Championships EN 463-11
Italy	3647-8	29-Jun-20	Europa 2020 (self-adhesive)
Madeira	373-4	8-May-19	Europa 2019 (374 ss of 2: 373, 374a)
Madeira	384-5	29-May-20	Europa 2020 (385 ss of 2: 384, 385a)
Netherlands	1611	11-May-20	Europa 2020, horiz se-tenant pair 1611a-b, 1611c bklt pane of 2 each, booklet w/4 panes
Portugal	4238-9	10-Jul-20	EuroMed 2020 EN 460-7
Russia	8224	20-Jan-21	Europa 2021
San Marino	2094-5	30-Mar-21	Europa 2021
Slovakia	870	15-Feb-21	Visegrad Group, joint issue w/Czech Rep., Hungary 4582, Poland EN 463-12
Spain	4456	13-Jul-20	EuroMed 2020 EN 460-6

 The following are listed in Scott but we include them here under our "glass slipper" (cinderella) designation. We leave it to you to determine just how collectible they are.

Maldiv Islands	3941b	14-Jun-17	Space probe Cassini-Huygens (in ss of 4) EN 443-13
Maldiv Islands	4021	26-Sep-17	Space probe Cassini-Huygens ss
Maldiv Islands	4028	26-Sep-17	Space probe Cassini-Huygens ss
Maldiv Islands	4046	15-Mar-18	Concorde (in ss of 4) EN 446-19
Maldiv Islands	4061	15-Mar-18	Concorde ss EN 446-19
St. Thomas & Prince Is	3340-3344	8-May-17	Concorde (3344 a ss) EN 441-13
Sierra Leone	4788	30-May-18	Concorde ss of 4 EN 447-16
Sierra Leone	4806	30-May-18	Concorde ss EN 447-16



CHICAGO 2021 GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW
 AUGUST 12-15, 2021
 LOCATION: * DONALD E. STEPHENS CONVENTION CENTER
 5555 N RIVER RD • ROSEMONT, IL 60018
 *All health and safety guidelines will be observed.

The ESU will have a meeting at 11 am, Saturday, 14 August. Open to all, we hope to see you there for meet and greet.

Feature Europa Briefs



Here's a nice little item that is tucked away in Luxembourg's [Post Philately website](#):

The description says simply:

To mark the 65th anniversary of this highly collectible series, POST Philately is offering a replica of Luxembourg's first EUROPA stamp.



That's all it says. Stamp dealer [Nordfrim](#) adds a bit more information:

EUROPA stamps cooperation has grown considerably since their introduction 65 years ago, and 52 members currently take part in the jointly themed stamps every year.

The gold stamp from Luxembourg is made from 24 carat gold, and only 650 stamps have been created for the issue.

Ordering directly from Luxembourg Post will cost you €45.00*, postpaid. Considering what some of those gold foil stamps from places like St. Vincent in the Caribbean Islands sell for, that's not bad. Nordfrim will charge a slight markup, but postage is extra.

When I saw this I pounced, Then I also noticed that Luxembourg is already selling the 2021 annual folder of German-speaking countries. I opted for that too. Everything came within two weeks. ■

*Note on the price. I sent an email with this information to our electronic members, some of whom acted as I did. Member Hai Webers pointed out that the price could actually be less. The quoted price includes the Value-Added Tax (VAT) of 17%. If you're outside Europe you are not charged that, so the price is now €38.46. Thanks Hai !

Article The Northern Countries III — 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 3 of what will be a self-contained monograph. The first installment appeared in EN# 462.

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 (part III)

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 (Lighthouse et al.) included them in their annual "Mitläufer" (Sympathy) supplements. For our part, our Europa Handbook lists them as [Adjunct Section B1](#).

In 2020 it was decided that the annual series would come to an end. (Coincidentally, Iceland announced that it would stop printing stamps altogether.)

Still, the topic is not exhausted. Just as with the Europa theme, issues appear that pertain to Nordic solidarity, and are certainly collectible within this area of interest. So, herewith, we conclude this series with a rundown of other issues having a Nordic theme.

Article
The Northern Countries III— cont'd

Other Nordic Issues

The question arises, now that the “official” Nordic issues have been addressed, whether there are other, related stamp issues of a Nordic theme that would be a fit for this area. Since I already opened the door to the possibility earlier in this discussion, my answer is certainly yes.

Already mentioned are the Greenland issue for the 50th Anniversary of Nordic stamp issues in 2006, and the Faroe Islands issue for Nordic House Entertainers in 1993. Speaking of Nordic House ...

The Faroe Islands also produced a souvenir sheet, issued in 1983 (Scott #101), to note the Opening of the Nordic House Cultural Center in Thorshavn. The sheet shows all the Nordic flags save Greenland.



By the way, that 1993 issue consisted of three stamps, plus a souvenir sheet which incorporated those three stamps (Scott# 249a):



Recall that the Nordic House in Reykjavik was the common design for the 1973 NC issue. In 2018, Iceland issued a single stamp for the 50th Anniversary of its Nordic House.



Another area of NC-related stamp issues is Nordic Philatelic Exhibitions. Most prominent of these is **NORDIA**. NORDIA is an annual philatelic exhibition sponsored by the original five Nordic countries, and whose venue rotates among them. To answer the next logical question: yes, there are a number of NORDIA stamp issues — plus many more souvenir items — for various shows.

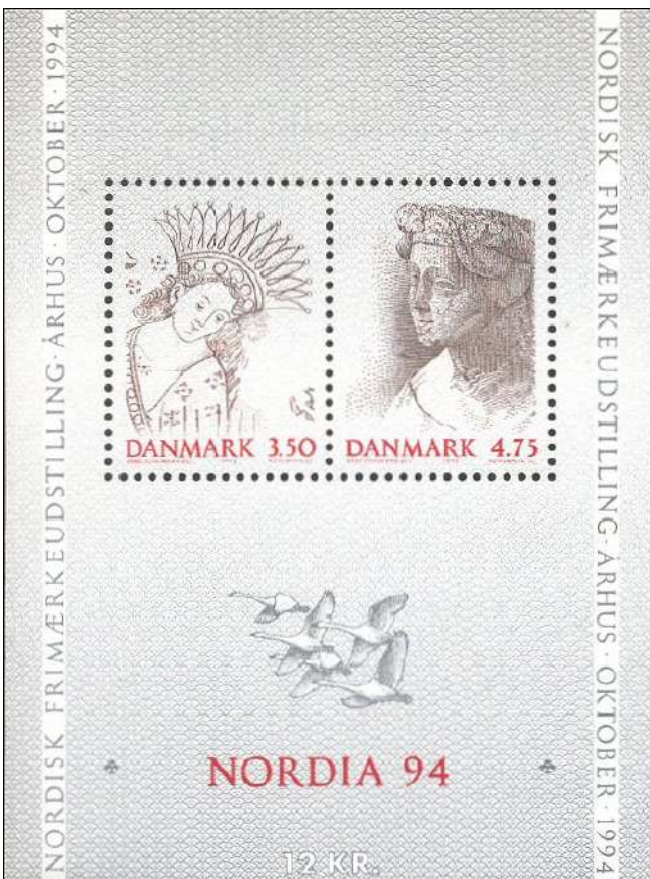
The first stamp for NORDIA was issued by Finland in 1966 (see EN#461-14).



Two more Finnish stamps — NORDIA 1975 (Scott# 571) and 1981 (Scott# 654).

Article
The Northern Countries III— cont'd

In 1992, the Nordic Swans designed by Viggo Bang appeared on a Danish stamp, the souvenir sheet issued for NORDIA '94 in Aarhus (Scott #958). The sheet as such is a tribute to the Danish Queen Margrethe I (1353-1412) who founded the Nordic Union, and became the "Lady and Sovereign Ruler of Denmark, Norway and Sweden". Danish sovereignty over Norway lasted until 1814; the sovereignty over Sweden was already lost in 1648.



There are many other examples of Nordic cooperation, including governmental, technical and societal.

A prime candidate here would be an issue of stamps in 2007 by Greenland, Iceland and the Faroes marking the 10th anniversary of their West Nordic Council, a cooperative group separate from the Northern Council. See pictures at the top of the next column.



Below is a scratch-built page I did for a joint issue commemorating the Kalmar Union, a 600-year old initiative that brought together Denmark, Norway and Sweden (including what is now Finland) under a single monarch:

EUROPA

1997
 Joint Issue
 600th Anniversary of the Kalmar Union

<p>DENMARK</p> <p>Margaret I and Eric of Pomerania</p>	<p>FAROE ISLANDS</p> <p>Coat of Arms</p>
<p>ALAND</p> <p>Kastelholm Castle and Arms of Lord High Chancellor Bo Jonsson Grip, governor of Kalmar</p>	<p>SWEDEN</p> <p>Margaret I and Eric of Pomerania, and the coronation document</p>

The Kalmar Union (Danish, Norway, and Swedish) was a personal union in Scandinavia that from 1397 to 1523 joined under a single monarch the three kingdoms of Denmark, Sweden (then including most of what is now Finland), and Norway, together with Norway's overseas dependencies (then including Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and the Northern Isles).

The Union was the work of Scandinavian aristocracy, achieved by Queen Margarete I of Denmark (1353–1412, who became regent of Denmark and Norway in 1387). The main impetus for its formation was to block German expansion northward into the Baltic region. Its failure to survive was primarily due to the perpetual struggle between the monarch, who wanted a strong unified state, and the Swedish and Danish nobility, which did not. Sweden declared its independence in 1523, which ended the Union.

Article
The Northern Countries III— cont'd

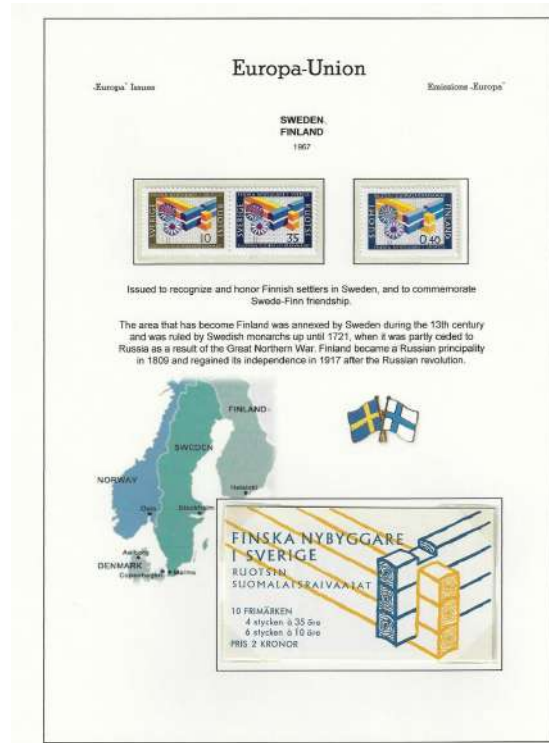
A good example of Nordic cooperation in the technical sphere is the Øresund Bridge - the connection between Denmark and Sweden. The two countries issued joint stamps in 2000 (shown below), and there have been others since:



Humanitarian efforts are also shown on stamps. Below is a joint issue publicizing Refugee'71, a fund raising effort by the countries of the Northern Council to publicize and help the United Nations "International Support for Refugees" campaign.



Friendship and cooperation are also recurring subjects of stamp issues. The first example below is scratch-built page for the joint 1967 Swede-Finn issue:



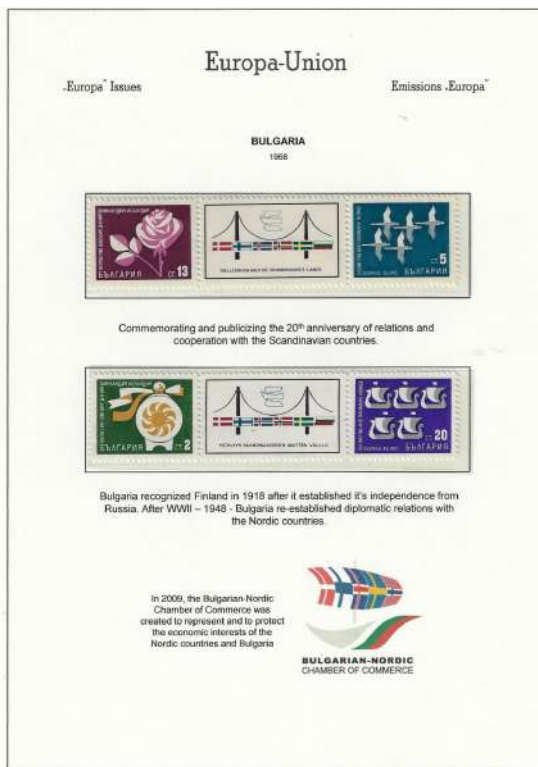
There was another in 1988 celebrating Swede-Finn settlers in America (image cropped):



Article
The Northern Countries III— cont'd

Below is another example of a Friendship issue, this one from Bulgaria of all places, celebrating (in 1968) the 20th anniversary of friendly relations with the Nordic countries.

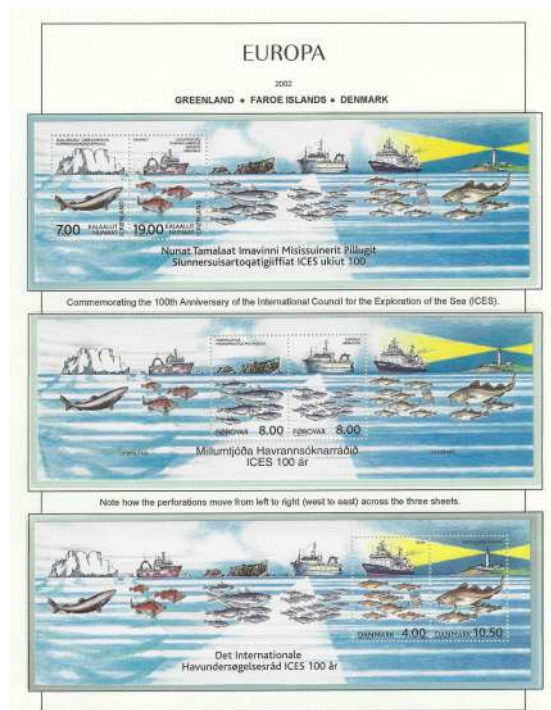
The design is worth noting. First, we have two se-tenant pairs with a middle label. That label shows a bridge with the Nordic flags and the Bulgarian flag supporting it. The designs on the right-hand stamps are variants of two Nordic common designs. The first is the flying swans motif, while the second is the five Nordic ships.



I couldn't resist bringing the page up-to-date, by showing the logo of the newly created (in 2009) Bulgarian-Nordic Chamber of Commerce. So the friendship between the countries persists to the present day.

Finally, there are several "mini-joint issues" by two, three or more countries for various events and anniversaries. Other more fringe possibilities exist, depending on how much farther afield you want to go.

Below is a striking example of a joint issue by Greenland, Faroe Islands and Denmark in 2002 publicizing the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Mounting them like this shows how the perforations (and country identifiers) migrate from left to right. This artistic flexibility is another reason why I prefer Lighthouse pages.



The above is just one example of many joint issues between members of the Nordic community. The beauty of this topic, just like Europa proper, is that you get to decide how far you want to go.

A good place to start building a checklist is the Nordic section of the ESU Handbook. Navigate to the Members Page, then click on the "Handbook" button on the left.



NC issues are in **Northern Countries (Norden/Nordic)**. Enjoy! ■

The Back Page
The Miscellaneous Box — Dana Roper

I'm continuing my effort to catch up on mounting stamps I've acquired over the years. At the rate I'm going, I should be nearing completion is about 30 or so years. Since I'm approaching 77, that presents a challenge. Maybe I'd better hurry it up.

One of the many things that slows me down is when I come across an item like the one shown here.

The postmark is dated 23 April 1976, and if my German isn't too rusty, says it's for the Stamp Show of the B.S.V. Meeting place is in the town of Stockerau, Austria, at the Europa Strasse 84. The cachet says 10th Anniversary of the CEPT.

The indicia in the lower right of the card says 1969, which would have been the CEPT anniversary, so I'm guessing this is just a case of re-use of an older postcard that seemed to fit the theme.



I thought that E84 might refer to the E-route designator, but I doubt it. E84 is completely within Turkey.

So what was E84 exactly? A stamp show, presumably, but what's the significance of E84? For that matter, what is the B.S.V.? I Googled it, and nothing seemed to fit.

Can anyone out there shed some light on this for me? ■

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

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

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