

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

sepac

Small European Postal Administration Cooperations



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Another great ESU Auction Insert

Index to 2021 Insert

Dues Time!! 2nd call! Now with the holidays over, please take time to renew.
 For those who have already, many thanks!!

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

Here we go with 2022, and thanks to the Europa Blogspot we have previews of some of the upcoming stamps, *including* descriptions of what is being depicted. That's a welcome first for the Blogspot, which usually only shows the stamp images. The various postal websites haven't been much help.

ALAND 1v

Planned Issue date 9 May 2022



Sjörrå, Mistress of the Lake

The Sjörrå or the Sjöfru (Mistress of the Lake) was a mythical creature of the lake, or Rå, in Swedish folklore. A female, humanoid water spirit, she is a seductive creature, often featured sitting and combing her long, sweeping hair with delight. She often lures and drowns men who are unkind, unfaithful or otherwise disrespectful to her or the lake.

Like all other rå (keepers) she protects her domain and awards those kind to her with good fishing luck and saves them from drowning. In wintertime she would sometimes stick her hand up from the waters; if the visitor then gave her a mitten she would thank him for his kindness with gifts or protect him in his time of need.

— from *Philatelic Pursuits and Wikipedia*

FINLAND 2v

Planned Issue date 27 April 2022



Päivätär and Kuutar are *luonnotars* (feminine personifications of nature) or goddesses of the Sun and the Moon in Finnish mythology. They own the gold of the Moon and the silver of the Sun, spin golden and silver yarns, and weave clothes out of them. In Kalevala, young maidens ask Päivätär and Kuutar to give them some of their golden and silver jewelery and clothes.

Both luonnotars are mentioned in Finnish folk poetry, but there is little information of them. Päivätär and Kuutar are emuus (origin mothers) of bees, wasps and hornets and appear in spells that were sung in order to prevent these insects from stinging. There is also one spell from Finnish Karelia that states that the world tree grew from the golden and silver tears of Kuutar and Päivätär.

— *Finnish Folklore Wiki, courtesy of Europa Blogspot*

**Dues Time!! 2nd call! Now with the holidays over, please take time to renew.
 No promo code, no gimmicks. Just use the enclosed flyer.
 For those who have already paid, many thanks!!**

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

BELGIUM ss

Planned Issue date 13 June 2022



Legend of St Hubertus: Legend holds that on a Good Friday morning, while the faithful were in church, Hubert was hunting in the forest. As he pursued a magnificent stag or hart, the animal turned and Hubert was astounded to see a crucifix floating between its antlers. He heard a voice saying: "Hubert, unless thou turnest to the Lord and leadest a holy life, thou shalt quickly go down into Hell."

Hubert dismounted and prostrated himself, and after asking "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me do?" he is told, "Go and seek Lambert, and he will instruct you." Hubert set out immediately for Maastricht, to meet Lambert, a bishop who received him kindly and became his spiritual director.

St. Hubert has been described as the patron saint of hunters and is honored by sportsmen as the originator of ethical hunting behavior. However, he renounced hunting after having his vision encountering the stag,

— from Wikipedia, courtesy of the Europa Blogspot

Silivius Brabo was a legendary Roman warrior who killed Druon Antigoon. Antigoon had built a fortress along the river Scheldt, and demanded tolls from the ships sailing down the river and the people who intended to pass the bridge over the river. Antigoon cut off the hands of the people who did not want to or could not pay and threw their amputated hands into the river. One day, Silivius Brabo sailed down the river and refused to pay the toll. He defeated the extortionist Antigoon, cut off his hand, and threw it into the river

According to folklore, the name of the city Antwerp (hand werpen in Dutch) originated from the act of Brabo throwing the hand. In 1887, a fountain was put in front of Antwerp City Hall in Antwerp. Showing Silivius Brabo in the act of throwing the severed hand into the river. Throwing the amputated hand has become a symbol of Antwerp and symbolizes the free waterways.

— from the National Center for Biotechnology Information



New Issues
 Europa 2021
 Endangered National Wildlife

So, on we go with the stragglers. Still waiting for Albania. It appears that Italy at least got the memo. Both of the animals depicted are listed as *Critically Endangered* by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

ITALY 2v self-adhesive
 Issue date 15 November 2021



The **Aeolian Wall Lizard** (*Podarcis raffonei*), also known commonly as **Raffone's Wall Lizard**, is endemic to Italy.

There are only four locations hosting this species, all of them in the Aeolian Islands. The overall population is around one thousand specimens distributed on a surface not bigger than 20,000 m² (.008 mi²). Competition with the very common Italian wall lizard, introduced by man, reduced its distribution to this smaller area.

The **Marsican Brown Bear** (*Ursus arctos arctos*) is a subspecies of the Eurasian brown bear, with a range restricted to the Abruzzo National Park and the surrounding region in Italy. It has been on the brink of extinction for decades now; in the 1980s, there were about 100 of them and only about 43 remain. Some believe this is below the threshold of survival, but they have endured in the Park's conservation area.



— from Wikipedia

KAZAKHSTAN 2v in a ms
 Issue date 15 November 2021



The **Siberian Roe Deer** or eastern roe deer (*Capreolus pygargus*) is found within the temperate zone of eastern Europe and central and east Asia. Fossil records show their territory once stretched to the northern Caucasus Mountains, as well as eastern Ukraine, but their numbers diminished in eastern Europe due to overhunting. Overall, the species is still listed as *Least Concern* by the IUCN.

The **Wild Boar** (*Sus scrofa*), also known by various names (swine, pig, etc.), is native to much of Eurasia and North Africa, and has been introduced to the Americas and Oceania. The species is now one of the widest-ranging mammals in the world, as well as the most widespread. It has been assessed as *Least Concern* on the IUCN Red List due to its wide range, high numbers, and adaptability to a diversity of habitats. The wild boar is the ancestor of most pig breeds; they were probably domesticated from wild boar as early as 1300–1270 BCE in the Near East in the Tigris Basin,

— from Wikipedia

New Issues
SEPAC 2022
Local Beverages

As is usually the case, the [Europa blogspot](#) is the first to unveil news of upcoming issues. The blogspot reports that the theme for 2022 is Local Beverages, but there's nary a mention of this on the [SEPAC website](#). Heck, that website still solicits entries for best design of 2019! One must wonder just how serious these people are. Well anyway, the blogspot reports the following proposed new issue from Aland, where the issue is described as "Locally Produced Drinks."

ALAND 1v
Proposed Issue date 6 September 2022
Freshly Squeezed Sea-Buckthorn Juice



Also known as a sand thorn, seaberry, and sal-lowthorn, Sea Buckthorn is a shrub that produces small orange/yellow berries. They are commonly found in Russia, China. Northern Europe and Canada.

Sea Buckthorn berries are edible (often not eaten raw), healthy, and very nutritious. They are often used to make juice, tea, jam, puree, sauces, pies, and ice cream. They are also used as cosmetics, moisturizing body lotions, and their oils are used for treating hair and skin.



To make juice, just wash the berries, smosh them in a blender, add sweetener and strain out the juice.

— from [LittleSunnyKitchen.com](#)

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

BELGIUM ss
Planned Issue date 24 January 2022
Iconic Belgian Coins, and 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the Euro



POLAND 1v
Issue date 16 October 2021

25th Anniversary of Poland's Admission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)



BELARUS 1v
Issue date 21 December 2021

25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta



New Issues
European Sports

POLAND 1v

Issue date
12 September 2021

Amputee Football
European Championships
in Kraków



The 2021 European Amputee Football Championship was the second edition of the international competition of amputee football national men's teams. It was organized by the European Amputee Football Federation (EAFF), and was held in Kraków Poland between September 12–19, 2021. Turkey won the title for the second time, defeating Spain in the final. Poland became bronze medalist before Russia.

— from Wikipedia

New Issues
European Culture

MOLDOVA 2v
ROMANIA 2v

Issue date 24 November 2021

Viticulture *Joint Issue*



Romania also notes that this issue marks the 30th anniversary of Moldova-Romania diplomatic relations.



New Issues
Cinderellas

GUINEA-BISSAU 2ss

GB-21322a,b

Issue date
5 October 2021

45th Anniversary of
Concorde Entry into
Commercial Service



CENTRAL AFRICA 2ss

CA-21612a,b

Issue date
30 September 2021



CENTRAL AFRICA 2ss

CA-21609a,b

Issue date
30 September 2021

European Year of Rail



BURUNDI

BU-21xxx

Issue date ?

Civil Supersonic Air-
craft



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

New Issues
2021: European Year of Rail



PORTUGAL 4v+ss

Issue date
21 September 2021

The locomotives shown are the work-horses of the Portuguese railways.

The *Gare do Oriente* (Lisbon Oriente Station) shown on the souvenir sheet is one of the main Portuguese intermodal transport hubs. Inaugurated in May 1998, the modernist station includes a Lisbon Metro station, a high speed commuter and regional train hub, a local, national and international bus station, a shopping center, and a police station. The station was conceived with a multi-modal platform intersecting the cardinal axes for the various transport modes.



2240 SERIES
ELECTRIC TRIPLE
UNIT



FERTAGUS
UQE 3500
2-STORY



MEDWAY
4700:



TAKARGO
VOSSIOH 6000



Locomotive: ALFA PENDULAR Self-propelled 4000 series
Overall picture: LISBON ORIENTE STATION, one of the main Portuguese intermodal transport hubs

— from ctt Portugal and Wikipedia

Article

The Matter of Ukraine — Dana Roper



The association agreement was initiated in 2012, but the Ukrainian government suspended preparations for signing it on 21 November 2013, during the presidency of pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich. At the EU summit in Vilnius on 28–29 November 2013 the association agreement was originally planned to be signed but it was not. The decision to put off signing the agreement led to the pro-EU [Euromaidan](#) movement. These protests led to the removal of Yanukovich and his government by parliament after the 2013–14 Ukrainian “Revolution of Dignity” in February 2014.



Ukraine issued a stamp in 2014 (Scott #975) to commemorate the Euromaidan Movement. See EN#425-16 for a rather prescient write-up.

The following is a summary from the Wikipedia article [Ukraine-European Union Relations](#). I believe it to be factually correct, given that Wikipedia is suspect in areas of current affairs.

Relations between the European Union (EU) and Ukraine are shaped through the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). Ukraine is a priority partner within the Eastern Partnership and the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The EU and Ukraine are seeking an increasingly close relationship with each other, going to gradual economic integration and deepening of political co-operation.



Pro-EU rally in European Square, Maidan, 1 December 2013

The political part of the Association Agreement was signed on 21 March 2014 by the new Prime Minister, Arsenii Yatseniuk. Meanwhile, the EU has attempted to stabilize Ukraine by freezing assets of allegedly corrupt Russians and Ukrainians and by granting financial aid to Ukraine. The economic part of the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement was signed on 27 June 2014 by the new president, Petro Poroshenko. On 1 January 2016, Ukraine joined the DCFTA with the EU.

Ukrainian citizens were granted visa-free travel to the Schengen Area for up to 90 days during any 180-day period on 11 June 2017 and the Association Agreement formally came into effect on 1 September 2017. On 21 February 2019, the Constitution of Ukraine was amended, the norms on the strategic course of Ukraine for membership in the European Union and NATO are enshrined in the preamble of the Basic Law, three articles and transitional provisions.

Article

The Matter of Ukraine — contd

That rather dry article omits a very important event. For that I turn to the [Council on Foreign Relations](#) website for the following information.

In 1954, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine to strengthen the “brotherly ties between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples.” However, since the fall of the union, many Russian nationalists in both Russia and Crimea have longed for a return of the peninsula. The city of Sevastopol is home port for Russia’s Black Sea Fleet, the dominant maritime force in the region. In February and March 2014, Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. This event took place in the aftermath of the Revolution of Dignity and is part of the wider Russo-Ukrainian conflict.



In March 2014 Russia supervised a “Status Referendum” in which a majority of the population supported integration into the Russian Federation. The referendum is not internationally recognized by most countries. Beyond Crimea, however, in recent elections Ukrainians have clearly indicated that they see their future in Europe, but the country continues to grapple with extreme corruption and deep regional rifts that could impede its path.

After Russia annexed Crimea, it began arming and abetting separatists in the Donbas region in the country’s southeast. Russia’s seizure of Crimea was the first time since World War II that a European state annexed the territory of another. More than fourteen thousand people have died in the conflict, the bloodiest in Europe since the Balkan Wars of the 1990s. A buildup of Russian military forces along the border with Ukraine in late 2021 has stoked fears that Moscow is preparing for a large-scale invasion of its neighbor, although the Kremlin has denied this.

One notable event—the Battle of Donetsk Airport—was memorialized by Ukraine with a postage stamp (Scott# 1241) honoring the “Cyborg Defenders” of the airport. See EN# 458D-23.



Western scholars disagree somewhat on the motivations behind Russia’s aggression in Ukraine. Some emphasize NATO’s post–Cold War enlargement, which Russia has viewed with increasing alarm. In 2004, NATO added seven members, its fifth expansion and largest one to date, including the former Soviet Baltic republics Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Four years later, when NATO declared its intent to bring Ukraine and Georgia into the fold at some point in the future, Russia made clear a redline had been crossed.

Russia’s aggression in recent years has galvanized public support for Ukraine’s Westward leanings, but public opinion in Ukraine has been mixed. The coming months will be a crucial test for the US and the EU’s resolve to keep Ukraine independent. ■

Feature
Europa Briefs



A few years ago, the [Europa Blogspot](#) began yet another contest for best stamp. He calls this one the “Collector’s Choice”. In cooperation with the "[Blog timbré de ma philatélie](#)," a French collector’s blog, the 4th edition of the Best Europa stamps "The Collector's choice" competition was held during five weeks, four-qualification rounds and one Grand Final in order to vote for reader’s favorite 2021 Europa stamps issue.



The winner of this one was Austria, with 34.8% of the votes. It was a close race and Poland — winner of the PostEurop contest — finished 2nd with 32.6% and the Faroe Islands 3rd with 29.7% . Here’s the final tally:

1. Austria
2. Poland
3. Faroe Islands
4. Slovenia
5. Estonia
6. Czech Republic
7. Madeira
8. Croatia
9. Azerbaijan
10. France
11. Norway
12. Jersey
13. Turkey
14. Åland
15. Russia
16. Belgium



Shame on me for not sending a link to our members who have shared their email addresses. I will do so next competition.

Philately Liechtenstein receives runner-up prize at the PostEurop Innovation Award 2021. That’s the headline on Liechtenstein’s website. Swiss Post won first prize for its integration of video support with smartphones. But little Liechtenstein was first with a postage stamp with blockchain technology (the basis for Bitcoin and the rest) issued in 2021.



Run That By Me Again Dept. A few of our members have asked me (ref EN#462-7) what the deal is with “all this other stuff” like Norden, SEPAC, and EuroMed, Over the years, I realized that I’ve been taking for granted that everyone was up to speed on these associated topics. So, I decided to go back through the files and reprint some of the relevant articles on these topics. The Nordic?Norden issues are now on our [website](#) as a monograph, and I hope to do likewise with SEPAC (Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation), which begins with this issue.

Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) — Dana Roper

Background

The following was sourced from an article originally printed in Europa News #404 (July-August 2011) and subsequent issues. The information has been revised and brought up-to-date where appropriate.

History of SEPAC

The following information is taken from the official **sepac** website www.sepacstamps.eu and other sources:

In 1994, philatelic agent Paolo de Rosa initiated an annual conference for the various small postal administrations which he represented, in order to discuss various philatelic matters of interest specific to those smaller postal administrations. After de Rosa sold his philatelic agency to Afinsa, the postal administrations decided to create their own annual SEPAC conference, which commenced in 1999 and was represented by delegates from the same postal administrations which had attended the De Rosa conference.

Over the years, the value of the SEPAC conference grew considerably, to such an extent that two conferences were held in 2005 to discuss a SEPAC joint postal administration marketing campaign. Two conferences also took place in 2006 to discuss an innovative SEPAC joint stamp issue and to develop the SEPAC official logo shown below

sepac

The criteria for membership of the SEPAC group of Post Offices/Postal Administrations (what I will hereafter call just 'Post Offices') are:

- ◇ the Post Office must be located within Europe
- ◇ the Post Office must be independent
- ◇ the Post Office must have a small home market with more than 50% of its Philatelic customers living outside its own country.

The purpose of the SEPAC stamps is to highlight the joint cooperation of the SEPAC member posts and to make the public aware of the history, nature, scenery and culture of the SEPAC member countries.

It was decided that the stamps would be issued every other year starting in 2007, and that the theme for the first set of common stamps would be "Scenery – Beautiful Corners of Europe". This was then extended to three consecutive issues, much like the first Nordic countries issues.

A guideline for issuance is that the SEPAC logo should be reproduced on one stamp only within each post office's set of stamps. The SEPAC stamp within each set will be that bearing the first weight step postage rate to European destinations. Thus the SEPAC stamp could be part of a larger set of stamps, leaving it up to the collector to decide how much to collect. Iceland, for example, issued a pair of se-tenant stamps, of which only one had the SEPAC logo. The first three Icelandic issues are shown below; the leftmost stamp has the SEPAC logo:



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) — Dana Roper



Map of the SEPAC member states, from the website. Twelve of the members were in the original group; Luxembourg met the membership criteria and joined in 2006.

The coloration is, in this author's view, too misleading. At the least, the northern countries should transition to an ice-blue color.

Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) — Dana Roper

It was decided that a collector folder would also be issued, again like the Nordic countries, but it would contain only the SEPAC stamps. That is in keeping with the guideline, which taken together indicates a desire to keep the collections within affordable limits.

Shown below are the SEPAC stamps for the first year—2007. The theme is “Beautiful Corners of Europe,” sometimes abridged to just “Beautiful Scenery.” Because this is a popular topic and easily pictured, it was carried over for two more years. Whether or not to collect the complete sets is entirely a matter of personal preference. The Iceland se-tenant pairs are very attractive, and would complement a basic collection nicely.



The first SEPAC folder



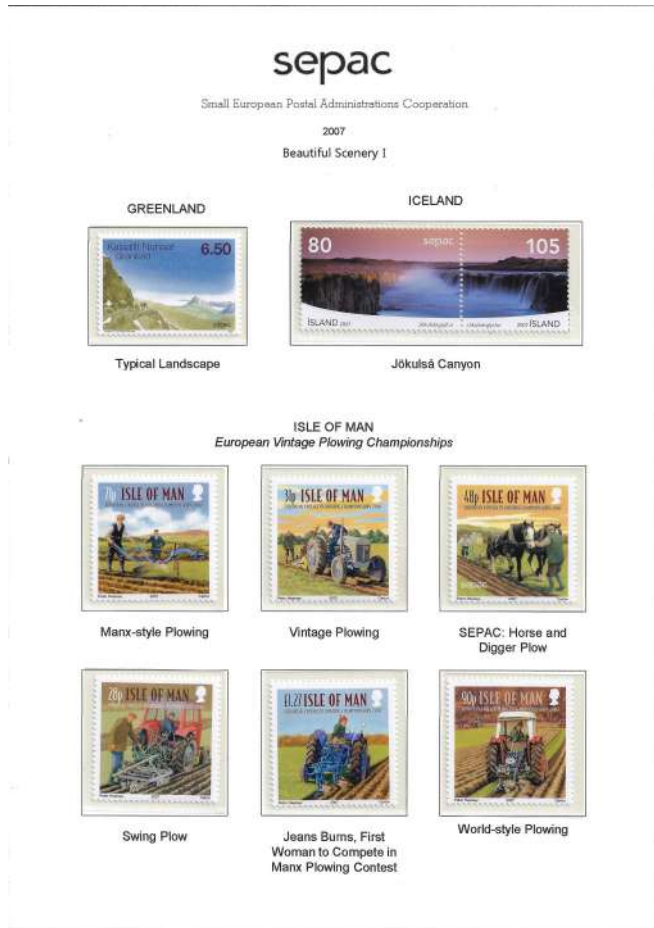
SEPAC 2007 stamps
Beautiful Corners of Europe I



Article

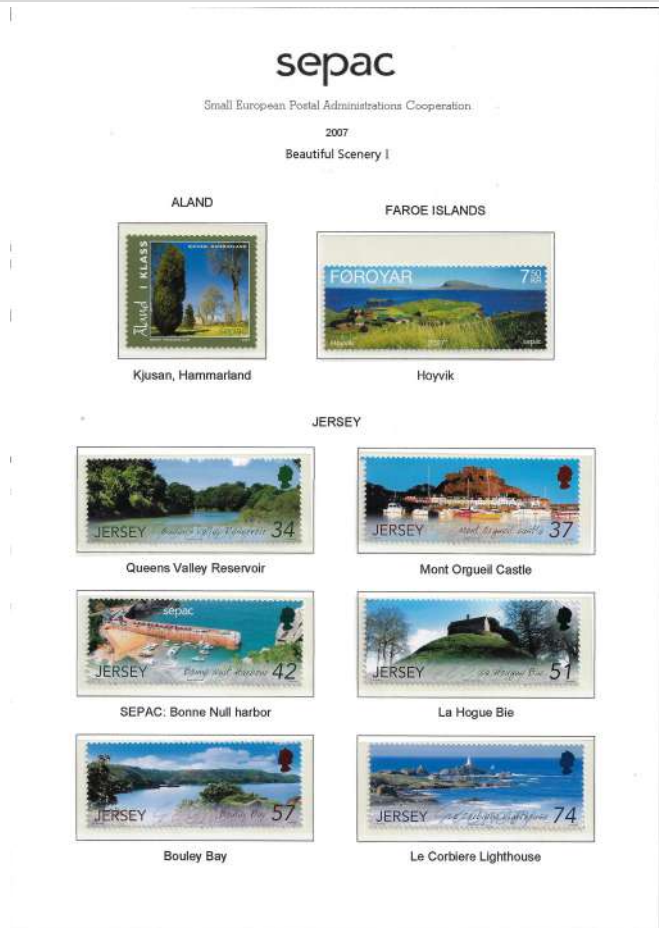
Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) — Dana Roper

Perhaps not knowing what I was getting myself into, I chose to collect the full sets. Below is an example of a page that I “kit-bashed” for myself using PowerPoint and Lighthouse blank pages.



Rather than use the standard Europa header, I decided to create one just for SEPAC stamps. As you can see, Isle of Man wasted no time using a larger set, and putting the SEPAC logo on just one of the stamps. The topic stretches the notion of Scenery just a bit, and the set could also fit into a general area of European Cooperation in a standard Europa collection.

Following are the other pages I created for the first year.



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) — Dana Roper

sepac

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation

2007

Beautiful Scenery I

GIBRALTAR



Views of Gibraltar (40p = SEPAC)



Trinity Lighthouse

2007

Beautiful Scenery I

GUERNSEY



St. Peter Port Harbor

Fort Gray, Rocquaine

SEPAC: Point Robert Lighthouse, Sark



Brecqhou Island at Dusk, as seen from Sark

Vazon Bay

Fontonelle Bay

LIECHTENSTEIN



Panoramic View of Liechtenstein

Collectability with respect to Europa

SEPAC stamps have been included in the Europa blogspot and Europa News for several years. They were given additional cachet in 2021, with their addition to the Michel CEPT 2021 catalog, long considered the bible of Europa related stamps. That may result in a surge of demand, especially for the collection folders.

Collecting the complete sets obviously yields a much fuller story than just collecting the single stamps. The Gibraltar issue in particular is quite striking. The downside is the obvious cost, which always has a habit of going up. There are also no pre-printed pages for a collection like this that I am aware of. I prefer to make my own anyway.

The SEPAC countries stuck to their word for a few years. The next set of issues occurred in 2009 and 2011. The folders must have become a money maker for the little countries, because after 2013 it went yearly. The theme for 2014 was another repeat of the Scenery theme, after which things got more interesting as the countries voted on new topics. The list is currently the following:

- 1 2007 Beautiful Corners of Europe I
- 2 2009 Beautiful Corners of Europe II
- 3 2011 Beautiful Corners of Europe III
- 4 2013 Beautiful Corners of Europe IV
- 5 2014 Beautiful Corners of Europe V
- 6 2015 Colorful Cultures of Europe
- 7 2016 Colorful Seasons of Europe
- 8 2017 Local Crafts
- 9 2018 Spectacular Views I
- 10 2019 Spectacular Views II
- 11 2020 Art From State Collections
- 12 2021 Historical Maps
- 13 2022 Local Beverages

I'll go into more detail in the next article. ■



New Issues
 with **SCOTT** catalog numbers
 From Linns' November & December
 Special Editions
 — Don Smith



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Aland	443	25-Mar-21	Sepac 2021
Aland	445	7-May-21	Europa 2021
Albania	3044a-d	30-Mar-21	EuroMed 2020 blk of 4 EN 465-7
Andorra (French)	835	14-May-21	Europa 2021
Andorra (French)	837	17-Jun-21	Napoleon
Andorra (French)	838	13-Jul-21	Tour de France
Austria	2906-10	13,20,27-Nov-20	Christmas, joint issue w/Vatican City 1757 (2906 regular gum, 2908 ss of 2, 2909-10 self-adhesive coils, Issued over various dates
Austria	2925	6-May-21	Europa 2021
Bulgaria	4979	9-Jul-21	Three Seas Initiative EN 465-12
Czech Republic	3867	21-Apr-21	Europa 2021
Faroe Islands	788	12-Aug-21	Czeslaw Slania, joint issue w/Denmark, Greenland
Finland	1636	28-Apr-21	Europa 2021 vertical strip of 3 a-c, self adhesive
France	5947B	5-Nov-20	De Gaulle types 1971-2010- redrawn, sheet of 4
France	6027	21-May-21	Europa 2021
Fr. Antarctic Terr.	654	2-Jan-21	Concordia Research Station, ss of 2 a-b EN 466-15
Guernsey	1607-8	7-Apr-21	Europa 2021, 1608a is a ss of both values
Guernsey	1631	1-Sep-21	Sepac 2021 EN 465-6
Isle of Man	2145a	12-Apr-2021	Europa 2021, 2145a is a single from a strip of 5
	2145f		2145f is a ss of 10 of #2145a
	2146f		2146f is a single, from a self adhesive booklet pane
Italy	3695	10-Nov-20	Volterra Cathedral, joint w/Vatican City 1750
Italy	3696	10-Nov-20	Aquileia Basilica, joint w/Vatican City 1751
Jersey	2378	17-Feb-21	Sepac 2021 EN 462-5
Jersey	2391, 2395	11-Mar-21	Europa 2021, 2395a is a ss with both values
Kosovo	460-2	7-May-21	Europa 2021, 462 is a ss
Latvia	1069-70	23-Apr-21	Europa 2021
Macedonia (North)	847	9-Apr-20	NATO Membership
Macedonia (North)	850	8-May-20	Berlin, European Capital EN 459-12
Macedonia (North)	852-3	8-May-20	Europa 2020, 853 is a ss
Macedonia (North)	881-3	11-May-21	Europa 2021, 882 is a ss of 4 832a-d, 883 is a ss
Moldova	1092-3	28-May-21	Europa 2021, 1093a is a ss of 2 each of 1092-3
Monaco	3047	25-Mar-21	European Soccer Championships EN463-11
Monaco	3050	6-May-21	Europa 2021
Monaco	3051	6-May-21	ACCOBAMS (Conservation) EN 464-16
Monaco	3061	10-Jul-21	Sepac 2021



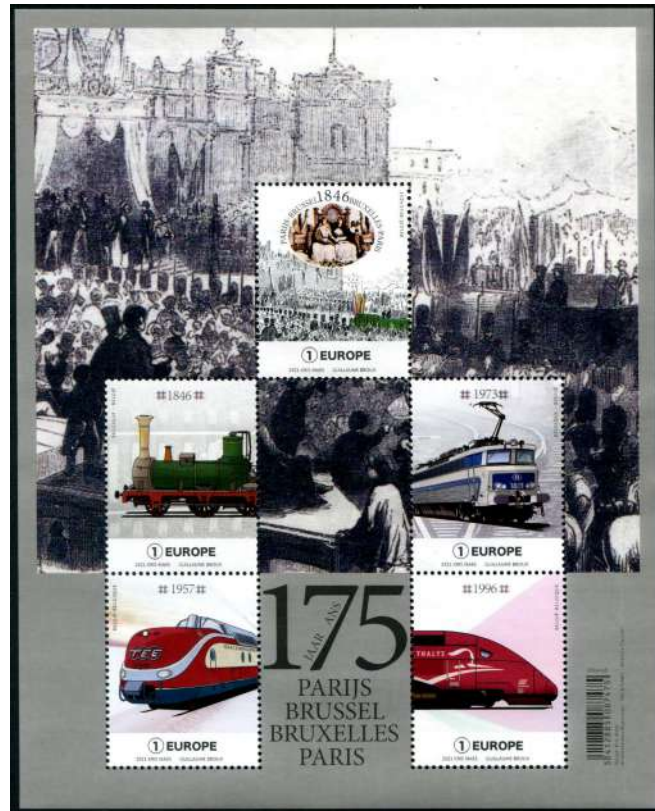
New Issues (cont'd)
with **SCOTT catalog numbers**
From Linns' November & December
Special Editions
— Don Smith

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Netherlands	1628a-b	10-May-21	Europa 2021, se-tenant horiz pair (Scott says vertical)
San Marino	2106-8	1-Jun-21	Dante EN 466-7
San Marino	2109	1-Jun-21	Carabinieri in San Marino, joint w/Italy EN 465-16
Serbia	953-4	12-May-21	Europa 2021
Vatican City	1750	10-Nov-20	Volterra Cathedral, joint issue w/Italy 3695
Vatican City	1751	10-Nov-20	Aquileia Basilica, joint issue w/Italy 3696
Vatican City	1768-9	25-May-21	Europa 2021

Feature
Miscellaneous Box — Dana Roper

The sheet on the right just showed up in a dealer's new issue listing. It's a Belgian Railway sheet commemorating 175 years of the Paris—Brussels railway. I see nothing on it to connect it with the European Year of Rail, but it's still a Europa collectable, for two reasons:

- 1) the trainset shown on the lower left is one of those used for the **Trans-Europe Express (TEE)**. The TEE was a network of fast and comfortable international trains attractive to businessmen and other regular travelers. TEE trains' schedules were timed to allow a business traveler to make a round trip within a single day and also have time for business activity at the destination.
- 2) the train on the lower right is the modern **Thalys** train. Track is shared with Eurostar trains that go from Paris or Brussels to London via Lille and the Channel Tunnel and with French domestic TGV trains.



**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 4**

The Luster Chronicles” continues the 1960 stamp issues with the issue from Germany.

GERMANY



Germany issued three stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 10, 20 and 40 Pf. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 72, 73 and 74 to the stamps. The 10 Pf stamp is described as light green; the 20 Pf stamp is described as light red; and the 40 Pf stamp is described as light blue.

The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that ...the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen and the engraver was Harald Braband. The stamps were recess printed on watermarked paper, perforated 14 x 13¾, in sheets of 50 stamps by the Bundesdruckerei, Berlin. 100,000,000 of the 10 Pf stamp, 30,000,000 of the 20 Pf stamp and 20,000,000 of the 40 Pf stamp were produced.

D’Urso reports several varieties on these stamps. The 10 Pf stamp is known im-perforate at the top. The 40 Pf stamp is known with offset printing on the back.



Matching set of maximum cards — first day of issue

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 4

Two different first day cancels are listed in D’Urso. The first is from Bonn. This cancel will be found with a check letter “a,” “b,” “c” or “d” at the bottom of the lower semicircle. These cancels are all dated 19 September 1960.

The second cancel, listed in D’Urso as a first day cancel, was used to commemorate an air flight congress. The cancel is from Köln-Lindenthal. D’Urso assigns the number H-20 to this cancel with a rarity factor of 3. An illustration of the cancel is shown below. D’Urso reports that this cancel was used from September 18-22, 1960. In my opinion, only cancels dated 19 September 1960 can be called first day covers. Maximum cards are also reported.



Special cancel reading
 “Köln-Lindenthal 1 - IV Europäischer Luftfahrt Kongress.”

“The Luster Chronicles”

The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 4

GREAT BRITAIN

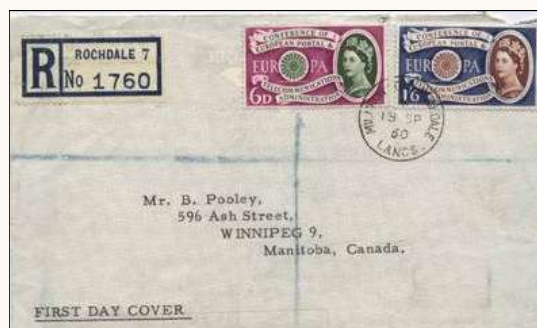
Great Britain issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 6 d and 1/6 Sh. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 75 and 76 to the stamps. The 6 d stamp is described as violet-olive and the 1/6 Sh stamp is described as ultramarine and red-brown.



The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen and the engraver was R. Stone. That designer designation refers only to the common design and not the rest, which is unique to Great Britain. The stamps were rotogravure printed on watermarked paper, perforated 14 x 14¾, in sheets of 240 stamps by Harrison & Sons, Ltd., London. 16,990,320 of the 6 d stamp, and 7,682,500 of the 1/6 Sh stamp were produced.

D’Urso reports several varieties on these stamps. The 6 d stamp has the letter “E” retouched in the word “European.” However, there are two “E”s in the word and the catalogue does not explain which one has been retouched. The 1/6 Sh stamp has the red-brown printing misplaced downward. Also, the 1/6 Sh stamp has the same retouch on the letter “E” as does the 6 d stamp.

A first day cover and a maximum card are reported.



Examples of registered first day covers.

Each cover was canceled in a different city, but each is dated 19 September 1960.

“The Luster Chronicles”

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GREECE

Greece issued a single stamp for Europa 1960. The stamp is denominated at 4.50 Dr. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the number 77 to the stamp. The color of the stamp is described as ultramarine.



The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No engraver is listed. The stamp was offset printed on watermarked paper, perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, in sheets of 50 stamps by Aspioti Elka, Athens, 1,012,000 stamps were produced.

D’Urso reports several varieties on these stamps. The watermark can be found up-side down; there is a line attached to the bottom of the left leg of the first letter lambda (Λ); there is a white dot to the right of the letter “R” in the word Europa; and the stamp comes with a double printing.

A first day cover and maximum card are reported.



First day cover with “Athens 19 September 1960” cancel in Greek.

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 4



Four other first day cancel, all used at Athens but all with variations in language configurations.



Example of the Greek stamp with a short line at the bottom of the left leg under the word Hellas.



Another variety that I have seen is a short left leg on the first lambda in the word Hellas.

Article

Europa In the News — Alex Cwiekalo

Our Handbook Editor (Alex Cwiekalo) and I got an email many months ago from a columnist on the Lorraine County (Ohio) Chronicle-Telegram, asking for an interview to discuss the Europa topic. Being a local Ohio resident, Alex took the action item and arranged a phone call.

The call happened, and more time passed. Finally, Alex called the columnist and asked what happened after the interview. Turns out the article ran last August, and is reproduced below. Thanks Alex, for helping us garner some welcome publicity. ■

The Chronicle-Telegram

WORLD & NATION

Sunday, August 22, 2021 A3

STAMPS

Europe's postal services sought unity after WW II

Coming out of World War II European leaders realized that cooperation and closer integration was needed to prevent the upheaval of another major war.

Postal services became one area where collaboration was necessary to overcome the cumbersome practices of mail traveling across country borders.

Officials had another motive as well: promoting philately.

The effort to come together led to the emergence of special postage stamps that were designated "Europa." In 1956, the six founding members of the European Coal and Steel Community -- Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Netherlands -- worked together to issue stamps with a common design.

Those first joint-issue stamps depicted a tower made of the letters spelling "EUROPA" surrounded by construction scaffolding.

Europa stamps have been issued since then, gradually expanding to include virtually every European country, about 50 in all.

As in most areas of philately, there's a specialty group for collectors of Europa stamps. The Europa Study Unit formed in 1959.

That same year the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) formed but continued to use the Europa moniker because of the



growing popularity of the stamp specialty.

Alex Cwiekalo of London, Ohio, has been collecting Europa stamps since 1969. He recalled walking into a stamp shop in Wiesbaden, Germany, where he was stationed while serving in the U.S. Air Force, and being attracted to the stamps of that year. By then, 26 countries were part of the confederation.

"I thought they were near looking stamps. I started collecting them. For four years in Germany I built my collection by trading coffee and chocolate rations," said Cwiekalo, who today is a director of the study unit.

By 1974, the postal administrations abandoned common designs in favor of a shared theme, allowing each entity to design its own stamp showcasing an aspect of its culture, history or heritage. CEPT officials decided to focus more on telecommunications in 1993, so a new organization, PostEurop assumed management of Europa issues.

Cwiekalo said the focus on a theme rather than a common design allows



DENNIS SADOWSKI

collectors to "see so much more of the history of so many countries."

For example, 1996 stamps focused on famous women. Austria's stamp honors Paula von Preradovic, who in 1947 composed the lyrics for Austria's national anthem "Land der Berge, Land am Strome" ("Land of Mountains, Land by the River").

Other themes include monuments (1978), post offices (1990), the circus (2002) and forests (2011) and endangered species (2021).

The Europa Study Unit publishes a bi-monthly journal as well as books chronicling postal history and stamp topics related to Europe united in a political, economic and social sense.

More information is online at Europastudyunit.org

The Back Page
Eurostar and Brexit Stamps — Hans Snellenberg

Hans Snellenberg has done it again!
 On 20 December he wrote to me the following:

Dear Dana,
 Last Saturday there was a stamp exhibition in Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. It was very quiet, because of the corona-pandemic. A lot of stamp dealers and even Dutch Post were not there.

I looked everywhere and did find 4 stamps of Eurostar and 2 of ICE. Moreover I found another Brexit stamp (with English licorice and BREXIT).

Have a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022.

Hans



The Eurostar stamps are shown above, and the Brexit stamp is to the left. All are privately printed, and so will not appear in any catalog. Still, they're fun.

The licorice (we call that variety "[Allsorts](#)") is called "Engelse drop" (English liquorice) in Dutch, hence the Brexit tie-in. ■

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