

EUROPA NEWS



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



ATA



PostEurop

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

How did we miss this??

UKRAINE 1v
Issue date 19 February 2021
Order of the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred



The Order of the Heaven's Hundred Heroes is an order of Ukraine presented for civil courage, patriotism and the *defense of the constitutional principles of democracy, human rights and freedom*; humanitarian, social and charitable activities; selfless service to the Ukrainian people during the Euromaidan-protests; as well as any events related to the protection of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. What more is there to say? See also Irony Alerts on pages 13 and 20.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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Another great ESU Auction Insert

Dues Time!! Last 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

GERMANY 1v

Issue date
 5 May 2022



This stamp is the first ever to feature a "matrix code" introduced since last year by the German Post. "Anyone who scans the letter before sending it can keep an eye on its status via the Post app. Matrix code franking is more forgery-proof and ensures that postal stamps cannot be used more than once."

RUSSIA 1v

Issue date 20 January 2022

**Ruslan and Lyudmila by
 Aleksander Pushkin**



In Russia, mythology is closely and inextricably linked to pagan culture; it is filled with tales of gods, rituals, and customs. Over the course of history, people had been inventing various mystical creatures to explain the unknown world around them. As time went on, many of the characters took root and became part of the culture of the peoples; they safeguarded, helped to gather a rich crop, to bring prosperity, recover from diseases and donated happiness.

Many of them are described in the narratives of Russian writers. For example, in poem *Ruslan and Lyudmila* by Aleksander Pushkin we read a passage about a sacred place Lukomorye and fairy tale personages living there: a learned cat, a mermaid, Kashchey, Baba-Yaga, and a warlock.

— Europa Blogspot

FAROE ISLANDS 2v + 2v self-adhesive

Issue date 16 May 2022

Legends of Floating Islands

Svinoy Island



Mykines Island

In many island cultures there are legends of islands that drift in from the sea, disappear back into the ocean, then re-appear, perhaps conjoining with other islands. In 1673 a priest ascribed this phenomenon to floating icebergs, or a Satanic veiling of the superstitious population. A century later in 1781-87, Jens Christian Svabo, a man of the Enlightenment, attributed the phenomenon to rocklike clouds drifting on the horizon, or even "pollamjørki", literally "polar darkness", the Faroese term for heavy, drifting sea-mist.

Svinoy—Island of Pigs—is said to have originated as a floating island; it is usually shrouded in fog. On another island lived a farmer with one sow. Every now and then the sow would wander off and later — voila, piglets. Where does it go? One day a woman followed the sow to what is now Svinoy and since then the island has been stationary, and laden with pigs.

The **Mykines** legend involves a prehistoric giant, or colossus, who wanted to live in the Faroes but couldn't find anything big enough for him, even when he tried smashing islands together. His last attempt was the large island of Mykines, which got lodged in the archipelago but was still insufficient. Will the giant ever return?

— from *Posta, Faroe Islands*

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

AUSTRIA 1v

Issue date 7 May 2022

**Legend of the
Waterman of Eisenerz**



According to legend, the discovery of the iron deposits at Erzberg is due to the knowledge of a water man. He lived in a grotto northwest of Eisenerz and was captured by the inhabitants near Lake Leopoldstein with the help of a pitch-soaked cloak. To buy his freedom again, he offered "gold for ten years, silver for a hundred years or iron for ever".

The clever people of Iron ore are said to have chosen the latter, whereupon the water man showed them the ore mountain. After they had convinced themselves of the ore deposits, they released the water man and he disappeared into a karstic spring, which has since been called Wassermannsloch.

— Wikipedia via Europa Blogspot

FRANCE 1v

Issue date 9 May 2022

Mélusine

Mélusine is a figure of European folklore, a female spirit of fresh water in a holy well or river. She is usually depicted as a woman who is a serpent or fish from the waist down.

— Wikipedia via Europa Blogspot

LIECHTENSTEIN 2v + ms of 2 sets as shown

Issue date 7 March 2022



"The White Woman" is a figure that appears in numerous legends and myths in these parts. As a rule, she appears as a harmless being whom observers see by chance or notice by their having an uneasy feeling. On the stamp, the white woman floats through a field full of mulleins and slowly dissolves into thin air, just as she is said to have done, according to legend, when children encountered her. The mullein stands for fearlessness and protection from evil spirits.

The Liechtenstein alpine region is the setting for many eerie legends. A figure to be found in one such legend is "The Tälibudel". The spirit in dog-like form with fiery red eyes is said to have chased an alpine shepherd out of his hut. The illustration by Liechtenstein artist Eliane Schädler shows the scene of this tale with the fearsome creature in the background.

—from Europa Blogspot

Dues Time!! Last call!!

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

GIBRALTAR 2v and a ss of the same 2v (shown)
 Issue date 25 February 2022



The **Pillars of Hercules** is the ancient name given to the promontories that flank the entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar. The Northern Pillar is the Rock of Gibraltar and the Southern Pillar, Abila Mons, has been disputed throughout history, with the two most likely candidates being Monte Hacho in Ceuta and Jebel Musa in Morocco.

Note: In 1981, Gibraltar used the same legend for their Europa stamps. The theme then was "European Folklore."

— *Europa Blogspot*

A wet bird never flies at night.

SWEDEN 1v

Issue date 26 April 2022

Sweden's National Flower



From Postnord.se:

In 2021, a small bluebell was crowned our national flower. In a booklet with 10 motifs, we show the flowers that went to the final in the Swedish Botanical Society's vote. The bluebell can also adorn a roll stamp. This year's European theme is "Stories and Myths". What better way to greet a foreigner than flower magic on a midsummer night?

We are a little late with this edition of Europa News. Much as I'd like to blame the Covid-19 bug, that wasn't the problem. It did have a medical reason though. It seems that your editor and your publisher both struggle with severe cases of sciatica, a back problem that causes all sorts of nerve pain. It's the sort of thing that causes all activity to cease until the pain is dealt with. In my case, I can only sit or stand for short periods, and the act of changing positions — you guessed it. Still, we persist.

"Getting old is not for sissies." -Bette Davis

New Issues
SEPAC 2022
Local Beverages

FAROE ISLANDS 2v

Scheduled Issue date

16 May 2022

Föroya Bjôr



In the Faroe Islands, the leading company in the field of local beverages is well known. Föroya Bjôr has for almost a century and a half supplied the Faroese with beverages, be it beer and soft drinks of various kinds, and—in more recent years—more hard hitting drinks.

— from *Posta Faroe Islands*

JERSEY 1v from a set of 6v. Also issued in its own ms of 10 stamps,

Issue date 24 May 2022

Jersey Cider



The beautiful apple orchards of Jersey are responsible for some of the finest cider in the world — a Jersey tradition.

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

FRANCE 1v

Issue date 11 January 2022

Presidency of the Council of the European Union



The presidency of the Council of the European Union is responsible for the functioning of the Council of the European Union, and is the co-legislator of the EU legislature alongside the European Parliament. It rotates among the member states of the EU every six months. The presidency is not an individual, but rather the position is held by a national government.

It is sometimes incorrectly referred to as the "president of the European Union". The presidency's function is to chair meetings of the council, determine its agendas, set a work program and facilitate dialogue both at Council meetings and with other EU institutions. As of January 2022 the presidency has been held by France.

Three successive presidencies are known as Presidency trios. The current trio (2022–2023) is made up of France (January–June 2022), Czech Republic

(July– December 2022) and Sweden (January– July 2023). The German presidency began the second cycle of presidencies, after the system was introduced in 2007.

Got all that? There will be a quiz later.



New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

GREENLAND 1v

Issue date
17 September 2021

Arctic Council
25th Anniversary



The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, especially on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. It was formally established in 1996.

The members of the Arctic Council are the eight Arctic States and the six Indigenous Permanent Participant organizations. The eight Arctic states are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA.

The Permanent participant Organizations are the following:

- [Aleut International organization](#)
- [Arctic Athabaskan Council](#)
- [Gwich'in Council International](#)
- [Inuit Circumpolar Council](#)
- [Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North](#)
- [Saami Council](#)

There are six Working Groups within the Arctic Council, each of which focuses on a particular set of issues for the Council. In addition, the Arctic Council has more than 35 Observer states and organizations from around the world.

All Arctic Council decisions and statements require consensus of the eight Arctic States.

SERBIA 1v, issued in sheets of 8 plus 7 labels

Issue date
30 September 2021

JOY of Europe



SERBIA 2v

Issue date 10 June 2021

ECY—European Nature Protection



This is the new logo (above); this is the old logo (below).

What do you think? Any better?



New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

BULGARIA 55

Issue date 16 September 2021

European Year of Railway Transport, and 100 years of the Rhodope narrow-gauge railway



The Septemvri–Dobrinishte narrow-gauge line is the only operating 760 mm narrow-gauge line in Bulgaria. Operated by Bulgarian State Railways (BDŽ), the line is actively used with four passenger trains running the length of the line each way, each day.

GREECE 2v in a booklet of 10 self-adhesive stamps

Issue date 9 January 2021



Greece—EU
 40 years
 Together

Thanks to Hans Snellenberg for this information.

2022 European Capitals of Culture

In 2022, three cities in Europe - Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), Kaunas (Lithuania) and Novi Sad (Serbia) - will hold the title of European Capital of Culture.

The European Capital of Culture is an initiative putting culture at the heart of European cities, with EU support for a yearlong celebration of art and culture. It aims to celebrate the cultural features Europeans share and highlight the richness and diversity of cultures in Europe.

— europeana

LUXEMBOURG 1v

Issue date 22 February 2022

Esch-sur-Alzette,



SERBIA 2v

Issue date 1 February 2022

Novi Sad



If you find yourself standing for some time in front of this clock before you know what time it is, don't worry, it's not you — the clock's long and



short hands are reversed, with the short showing the minutes and the long the hour. Located within the Petrovaradin fortress and

overlooking the city, the "drunken" clock was a gift from Austrian Empress Maria Theresa in the mid-18th century.

— europeana

Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 2 — Dana Roper

The SEPAC countries took another step to gin up interest in their stamps by following another Europa tradition — a vote for Best Stamp Design. This began with the 2009 series of stamps, and Faroe Islands took the honors two years in a row (**2009** and **2011**):



They are indeed beautiful. One wonders if Iceland might have captured the honors if their design hadn't been spread across two set-tenant stamps.

Formats of the stamps stayed the same as well as the number of stamps in a set.

Beautiful Scenery shifted in **2013** to Native Wildlife, always a popular topic. This time Greenland took the honors with this stamp showing a Musk Ox.



Native to the Arctic, it is noted for its thick coat and for the strong odor emitted by males during the seasonal rut, from which its name derives.

The **2014** Beautiful Scenery issue featured native flowers. This time little Åland took the honors with this stamp showing a Nettle-leaved Bellflower. They are found all over Åland, Denmark and England.



Isle of Man also had a striking entry, this time of just one stamp, featuring a Christmas Rose.

In January, this souvenir sheet was issued, dedicated to "Winter Flowers":



This was not SEPAC, but certainly could have been. Instead, Isle of Man Post waited until later in the year, and re-issued one stamp from the souvenir sheet as a stand-alone stamp with the SEPAC logo.



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation

By now, the SEPAC series had become an annual event. Time to come up with a new theme. For **2015**, the chosen theme was “Colorful Culture.” Faroe Islands once again was the winner of Best Design, due to the meticulous detail reproduced on the lace:



Isle of Man and Jersey went overboard this year, with sets of 10 and 14 stamps, respectively.

The series from Isle of Man focused on the millennium anniversary of Tynwald Tapestry. The SEAPAC stamp is in the lower right.



Reproduced are ten out of 78 panels from the Millennium Tapestry which was created and presented to Tynwald in 1979 by the Isle of Man’s branch of the Women’s Institute (WI) who celebrated their 65th Anniversary in 2015.

Even more ambitious is the set from Jersey for the 2015 NatWest Island Games. All 14 events are given a stamp, with SEPAC assigned to the sailing event. SEPAC was also given a dedicated mini-sheet of 10v:



This week-long event saw ~ 3,000 competitors from 24 islands take part in the 14 sports shown on the stamps. The official mascot of the games was a real-life infant silverback gorilla named Indigo who lives at Durrell Wildlife Park in Trinity, Jersey.



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 2 — cont'd

The year **2016** reverted again to Beautiful Scenery, with the theme “Colorful Seasons”. Among many worthy entrants, Guernsey took Best Design honors with their Autumn stamp.



Isle of Man got the honors for Longest Stamp Set, with 17v showing “Churches of the Parish Walk,” collectible in a block of 18 which includes a trailing label.



The Parish Walk is an annual event, so called because it passes through every parish on the Isle of Man, for a total of 85 miles (137 km). See EN# 434-20 for more information.



The 2016 Collection Folder

The theme for **2017** was “Local Handcrafts,” a chance for each country to showcase their uniqueness in tool building and art. Even little Liechtenstein issued a set — 3 stamps, showcasing Stonemason, Tailor, and Goldsmith. That last stamp bears the SEPAC logo.



The stamps were so popular that Liechtenstein produced a follow-up issue in 2018, showing Bookbinder, Instrument Maker, and Shoemaker. None of these was SEPAC of course.



The prize for longest stamp set this year was split three ways. Isle of Man had 6 stamps, Jersey had 8 stamps, and Gibraltar had 9.

Isle of Man chose as its theme some of the works of its resident prolific inventor, Dr. John C. Taylor. He has received over 150 patents and multiple honorary doctorates, including Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he matriculated in the late 1950s. An exhibit of his many clock innovations became a SEPAC stamp, and won that year's award for Best Design.



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 2 — cont'd

The complete series of Isle of Man SEPAC stamps is shown below. They are available in both regular and self-adhesive formats.



Jersey produced a set of eight stamps, with the theme “Ancient Artifacts.” All are designed as SEPAC stamps by Jersey Post, but only one bears the logo. That one is the 73p value, showing the St. Lawrence Pillar.



Actually a half-pillar dating back to the 4th century, it was discovered about 3 feet below the nave floor of the St. Lawrence Church. Tours are now given of the circular route around the church floor, once inhabited by Vikings.

Actualy a half-pillar dating back to the 4th century, it was discovered about 3 feet below the nave floor of the St. Lawrence Church. Tours are now given of the circular route around the church floor, once inhabited by Vikings.

Gibraltar’s SEPAC issue weighed in at 9 stamps, and was titled “Gibraltar’s Military Heritage.”



Designs include the Convent — official residence of the Governor of Gibraltar, Nelson’s Anchorage, the Garrison Library, Trafalgar Cemetery and the American War Memorial. The SEPAC stamp is valued at 50p and depicts the Gibraltar War Memorial.

The monument commemorates the fallen of the First World War and was sculpted by Catalan Jose Piquet Catoli of Barcelona. It was constructed of Carrara marble. The memorial was unveiled by the Governor of Gibraltar, Sir Charles Monro, during a ceremony on 27 September 1923.

It was stated in EN# 441-5 that this seemed to be a strange choice for “Local Handcrafts,” but maybe memorials are Gibraltar’s forte. ■



The SEPAC 2017 Annual Folder.



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



| <u>COUNTRY</u> | <u>SCOTT #</u> | <u>DATE OF ISSUE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|
| Albania | 3051 | 11-Jun-21 | European Soccer Championships 2020 |
| Andorra (Spanish) | 492 | 30-Apr-21 | Europa 2021 |
| Armenia | 1257 | 7-May-21 | Europa 2021 |
| Armenia | 1259 | 31-May-21 | Regional Communications Commonwealth |
| Armenia | 1261 | 3-Jun-21 | European Soccer Championships 2020 |
| Austria | 2903 | 10-Oct-20 | Carinthian Referendum Anniv. EN 462-6 |
| Austria | 2944 | 30-Aug-21 | European Year of Rail EN 465-17 |
| Belarus | 1234 | 2-May-21 | Regional Communications Commonwealth |
| Belarus | 1240-1 | 4-May-21 | Europa 2021, 1241a ss 2 each |
| Belgium | 2959 | 14-Jun-21 | Europa 2021 sheet of 2, 2959a-b |
| Belgium | 2960 | 14-Jun-21 | European Soccer Championships ss sheet 2, EN 466-8 |
| Bosnia-Herz. | 845 | 7-May-21 | Europa 2021, horiz pair 845a-b; 845c ss of 2 (845a-b); 845d bklt pane of 6 (3 each 845a-b) |
| Bulgaria | 4983b | 16-Sep-21 | European Year of Railways 2021 in ss |
| Czech Republic | 3877 | 8-Sep-21 | Dante, ss sheet of 4 (2 each a-b) |
| Georgia | 575-6 | 22-Sep-21 | Europa 2021, 576a ss both values |
| Gibraltar | 1808 | 8-Sep-21 | Sepac 2021 EN 466-4 |
| Italy | 3731 | 22-Apr-20 | Environment, joint issue w/Slovakia 843 |
| Italy | 3656 | 2-Sep-20 | EuroScience Open Forum EN 460-10 |
| Italy | 3736 | 5-May-21 | Napoleon, self-adhesive |
| Italy | 3742 | 1-Jun-21 | Carabinieri, joint w/San Marino 2108 EN465-16 |
| Kyrgyz Express Post | 144 | 21-Dec-20 | Mosque, joint w/Turkey 3737 EN 465-16 |
| Liechtenstein | 1835 | 1-Jun-21 | Sepac 2021 EN 464-15 |
| Liechtenstein | 1844 | 6-Sep-21 | Zotow paintings, ss of 2, joint w/Ukraine EN 466-8 |
| Liechtenstein | 1845 | 6-Sep-21 | Dante, ss of 2 a-b |
| Lithuania | 1190 | 2-Sep-21 | Battle of Chocim, joint w/Poland 4567, Ukraine |
| Luxembourg | 1575 | 14-Sep-21 | Sepac 2021 EN 465-6, 466-4 |
| Luxembourg | 1573-4 | 14-Sep-21 | Map of Europe |
| Macedonia | 877 | 26-Apr-21 | European Capitals, joint w/Slovenia 878 |
| Macedonia | 878 | 26-Apr-21 | European Capitals, joint w/Croatia 879 |
| Macedonia | 879 | 26-Apr-21 | European Capitals, Lisbon |
| Macedonia | 889 | 1-Jun-21 | European Soccer Championships 2020 |
| Malta | 1703-4 | 12-May-21 | Europa 2021, 1703a ss 5 + label |
| Malta | 1706 | 28-May-21 | Sepac 2021 EN 464-15 |
| Montenegro | 476 | 8-May-21 | Europa 2021, 476a ss of 1 |
| Montenegro | 480 | 12-Jul-21 | Sepac 2021 EN 465-9 |



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 | 1628 | 10-May-21 | Europa 2021, additional to listing, see EN 467-16 Left stamp from booklet pane Right stamp from booklet pane Booklet pane of 2, 1628c, 1628d Complete booklet 3 panes 1628e |
| | 1628c | | |
| | 1628d | | |
| | 1628e | | |
| Poland | 4567 | 2-Sep-21 | Battle of Chocim, joint w/Lithuania, Ukraine |
| Poland | 4569 | 12-Sep-21 | European Amputee Soccer Championships EN 467-6 |
| Russia | 8310 | 13-Oct-21 | European Women's Forum, self-adhesive |
| St. Helena | 1171-5 | 5-May-21 | Napoleon, 1175 a ss |
| Serbia | 960-1 | 10-Jun-21 | European Nature Protection, sheets 8 + label |
| Slovenia | 1447 | 12-Jul-21 | EuroMed 2021 EN 465-10 |
| Tunisia | 1757-8 | 15-Jul-21 | EuroMed 2021 EN 466-5 |

Feature
Miscellaneous Box — Dana Roper

In the last EN, I ran an article about the situation with Ukraine. Timely we are.

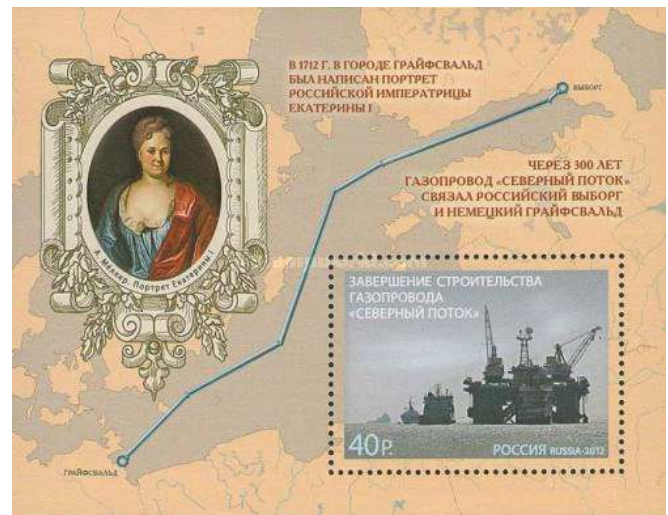
That got me to remember running across a souvenir sheet that I've been meaning to mount. Some day. For years, I've had it filed as an example of European cooperation.

So now we have an Irony Alert. The subject of this souvenir sheet has been denigrated recently. Can you identify it? It's long, gray, and lies on the ocean floor,

No, not whale poop. It's the Nord Stream oil and gas pipeline. This sheet commemorates the completion of what we are now calling Nord Stream 1 in February 2012.

So let's see. The USA cancels or curtails many of its own oil and gas resources.

Germany and other countries are doing likewise and stopping their nuclear fuels as well.



Russia is drilling like mad and laying more pipelines; e.g. Turk Stream in the Black Sea.

The EU and even the USA are now dependent on Russia for energy more than ever before.

What could go wrong?

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5

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

ICELAND

Iceland issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 3 Kr and 5.50 Kr. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 80 and 81 to the stamps. The colors of the stamps are described as green for the 3 Kr stamp and blue for the 5.50 Kr stamp.



The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No engraver is listed. The stamps were rotogravure printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 11¾ x 11¾, in sheets of 50 stamps by Courvoisier S.A., La-Chaux-de-Fonds. 1,500,000 of the 3 Kr stamp and 750,000 of the 5.5 Kr stamp were produced.

D’Urso reports one variety for this issue. There is a white stroke (line) to the bottom left of the wheel. A first day cover and maximum card are reported.



Official Reykjavik first day cancel.

"The Luster Chronicles"

The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5

IRELAND

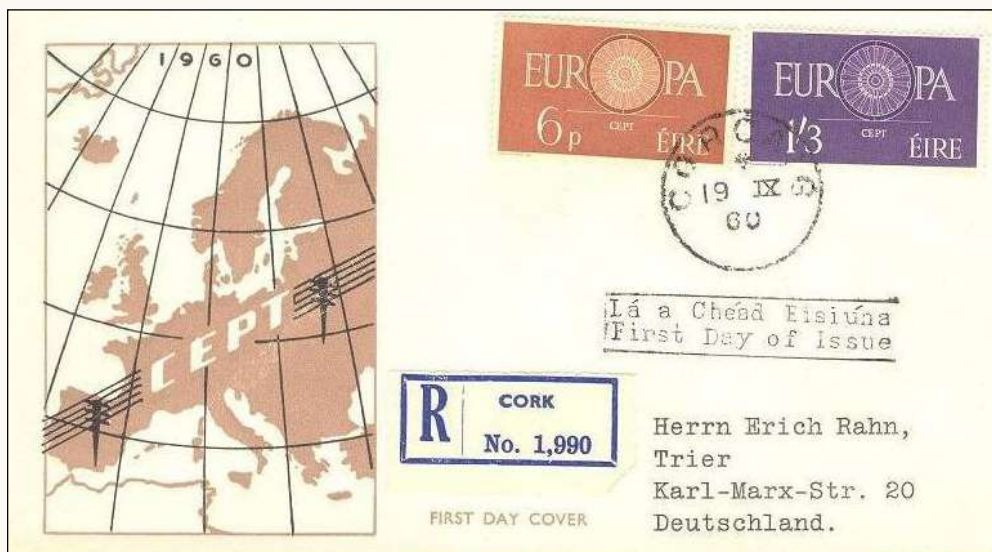


Ireland issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 6 d and 1/3 Sh. The D'Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 78 and 79 to the stamps. The colors of the stamps are described as light brown for the 6 d stamp and purple for the 1/3 Sh stamp.

The technical details from the D'Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No engraver is listed. The stamps were recess printed on watermarked paper, perforated 15 x 15, in sheets of 120 stamps by De La Rue & Co., Closkeagh, Dublin. 1,500,000 of the 6 d stamp and 1,250,000 of the 1/3 Sh stamp were produced.

D'Urso reports one variety for this issue. The letter "E" in the word Eire is damaged. Unfortunately, D'Urso does not indicate which of the 2 "E"s is damaged and there is no illustration of this variety.

A first day cover and maximum card are reported. First day cancels are reported from these seven cities: Baile Atha Clath (Dublin); Dun Laoghaire; Corgaig (Cork); Gaillimh (Gallway); Luimneach (Limerick); Port Lairge (Watherford); and Loch Garman (Wexford).



Corgaig (Cork)
first day cancel.

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5



First day cover with Dublin cancel.



Luimneach (Limerick) first day cancel.

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5

ITALY



Italy issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 30 L and 70 L. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 82 and 83 to the stamps. The colors of the stamps are described as dark green-brown for the 30 L stamp and ultramarine for the 70 L stamp.

The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No engraver is listed. The stamps were rotogravure printed on watermarked paper, perforated 14 x 14¼, in sheets of 40 stamps by the Ist. Pol. Stato Off. Carte Valori, Roma (Rome). Production quantities were not given.

D’Urso reports four varieties for the 30 L stamp and 4 varieties for the 70 L stamp. For the 30 L stamp there is a vertical white line (position not given); a misplaced center of the wheel; retouched at the top towards the left; and, printed on vertically coated paper. For the 70 L stamp, D’Urso reports “printed on vertically coated paper, a white dot to the right of the letter ‘P’ in the word Postes; a misplaced center of the wheel; and, a horizontal white line” (position not given).

Both stamps can be found overprinted with the word “ANNULLATO” which translates as “specimen.”



First day cover with
Rome cancel.

“The Luster Chronicles”

The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5

In addition to the “Roma” cancel on the previous page, first day cancels from four other cities/events are listed in D’Urso as well as the fact that maximum cards exist for the issue. The four first day cancels are: Roma III Congresso Europeo de Cardiologia. This cancel is listed in D’Urso as number R-14 with a rarity factor of 3; Milano, I Mostra Filatelica Europea. This cancel is listed in D’Urso as number T-47 with a rarity factor of 3; Palermo, Giornata Filatelica Europea. This cancel is listed in D’Urso as number T-48 with a rarity factor of 3. Torino, Mostra Europea Franco-bollo Sportivo. This cancel is listed in D’Urso as number T-49 with a rarity factor of 3. All four of the cancels are illustrated below or on the next page,



D’Urso R-14 cancel used 19-24September 1960. Thus the first day of the congress coincided with the first day of issue of Italy’s 1960 Europa set.



D’Urso T-47 cancel (left) and the T-48 cancel (right)
Both were used only on 19 September 1960, the first day of issue.

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 5



The two cancels to the right are combined in D’Urso and assigned the number T-49. These marks were applied from 19-20 September. The first date of the 19th coincides with the first day of issue.



These two covers was canceled at the Turin philatelic section of the post office and in the city of Gordo Belluna on 19 September 1960. That date makes them both first day covers.

However, neither cancel is listed in D’Urso.

This is the end of installment 5. The series will resume with the stamps of Liechtenstein. ■



The Back Page Catch-Up Items, and Irony Alert #2



LITHUANIA SS
POLAND SS
UKRAINE SS

Issue date
2 September
2021

**Battle of
Khotyn
400 yrs**

The Battle of Khotyn (aka Chotin) is a very important event in the history of Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, as it established the shape of central Europe thereafter. This postage stamp is the first joint project of the Lithuanian Post and the Polish and Ukrainian post offices.

— from Lithuania Post



UKRAINE 1v+stat

Issue date 17 August 2021



**Celebrating 30
years of
Ukrainean
Independence.**

So, Ukraine is happy being free from Soviet-era communist rule..... Uh-oh.

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