

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

SPECIAL ISSUE



2022 the struggle



PLIEGO PREMIUM 2022

2022 Stories & Myths well underway

EL DRAGÓN DORMIDO, MALLORCA

2023 the new theme

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Another great ESU Auction **Insert**

Breaking News

New Theme Announced for 2023

Following the decision of the Extraordinary PostEurop Board of Directors meeting held on 25 April 2022, the 2023 EUROPA Stamp theme will be “PEACE – the highest value of humanity.” This was proposed by Ukrposhta (Ukraine Post) “to show solidarity with Ukraine and to promote the universal value for all humanity – peace”. This was picked up by most stamp publications. Below is a condensation from Linns Weekly Stamp News, edition of 23 May 2022., article by Denise McCarty.



Ukraine won the contest for Best Europa Stamp Design in 2006 with “Integration As Seen By Young People.”

The Europa stamp theme for 2023 was changed to “Peace — the highest value of humanity” at the request of Ukraine’s post office, according to an April 29 press release from PostEurop. The trade association representing European public postal operators, PostEurop also selects the theme for the multinational Europa stamp series. Underwater Fauna and Flora, originally to be the subject of Europa stamps in 2023, will now be the theme for 2024. Likewise, the theme of National Archaeological Discoveries is postponed from 2024 to 2025.

A contest will be held to select the common design to be used by all participating nations. [Not to be confused with Ukraine’s own common design. See page 6. —ed.]

In addition, PostEurop has previously discussed the possibility of suspending both Russian Post and Belarus’ Belpochta from participating in PostEurop activities. That action will perhaps take place at a virtual meeting of the association’s general assembly on June 1.

[Editor’s Note: this had to happen. For that matter, why is Russia still in the Council of Europe?]

An April 28 organizational announcement from PostEurop said that two items on the agenda of that June 1 meeting will be the “amendment ... to allow for the suspension or exclusion of a Member from PostEurop” and the “revocation of Mrs. Olga Zhitnikova of JSC Russian Post as a Member of the Board of Directors.”

Both the press release and organizational announcement said that while Russia and Belarus may issue Europa stamps in 2022 “given their membership status at the time of the call for publication and following the existing Europa guidelines,” neither postal administration will be allowed to participate in the most beautiful Europa stamp contest organization by PostEurop. Public online voting in that contest is scheduled to begin May 9 and continue through Sept. 9.

Russia already issued a single 55-kopeck Europa stamp on Jan. 20. Belarus was scheduled to issue two new Europa stamps in May.

The first Europa postage stamps were issued in 1956 by six postal administrations. In 2021, more than 50 postal administrations issued Europa stamps.

According to PostEurop, Europa stamps underline “cooperation in the posts domain, taking into account promotion of philately. They also build awareness of the common roots, culture and history of Europe and its common goals.”

[Once again, no mention of the ATA, the ESU or our [website](#), or the [Europa Blogspot](#). —ed.]

Breaking News

New Theme Announced for 2023

A lot of activity has been recorded as well in response to these incidents in the Ukraine. One of the first was a contest run online for best motif summarizing current events.

Ukraine's post office, Ukrposhta, announced the contest 1 March and received almost 500 entries by the March 4 deadline; that's less than a week. Ukrposhta selected the top 20 entries and displayed these images on its Facebook and Instagram pages for the general public to vote on from 8 to 11 March.

The winner was Boris Groh, who's winning entry gave a view of a Ukrainian soldier giving the "Single-Digit Salute" to a passing Russian destroyer. Quoting Ukrposhta:

The stamps reproduce Boris Groh's winning design in the contest for Ukrainian defiance with the message "Russian warship go f—k yourself." Groh's design illustrates that response by showing a soldier on the island flipping off a Russian warship. The sheet margins include the statement "Glory to Heroes."

UKRAINE 2v

Issue date 12 April 2022



The **F** stamp is for sending a registered letter weighing $\leq 50g$ within Ukraine.

The **W** denominated stamp is for sending a non-priority simple letter by land transport $\leq 50g$ to foreign countries.



Groh's illustration received 1,756 out of the 8,000 votes cast in the poll, according to Ukrposhta's press release announcing him as the winner.

A professional artist, Groh lived in Crimea until the 2014 Russian invasion and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. He then moved to Kyiv and later to Lviv, according to Ukrposhta.



Ukrposhta's photo of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy holding the country's new stamps issued April 12.

Personally, your humble editor finds it amazing that, even in wartime, life goes on. But so it does. The next few pages document what I know so far about stamp issues pertinent to the situation in the Ukraine. I see this becoming an ancillary topic to a well-rounded "Europa" collection. If Lighthouse does not come through I will undoubtedly create my own pages for this sub-topic. For now, I'll simply call it "Peace and Solidarity."

New Issues

Peace and Solidarity

As might have been expected, other countries are expressing their solidarity/support with Ukraine philatelically. This could become a presentable little sidebar to a Europa collection; we will publish a checklist in the future.

The following is excerpted from Linn's issue of 11 April 2022:

Other European countries have joined Latvia in issuing stamps to demonstrate their support for Ukraine after the Russian invasion on Feb. 24.

As reported previously, Latvia's postal administration, *Latvijas Pasts*, issued a €1.44 stamp March 10 in a souvenir sheet of three stamps and a label, with 50 percent of the proceeds going to the Ukrainian charity organization *Ziedot.lv*.

Since then, Estonia, Poland and Austria released stamps showing their solidarity with Ukraine. Also, Croatia is scheduled to issue a stamp April 12, and Lithuania announced a design contest for a stamp to be issued in May.

So, here we go with a rundown of what we know now.

ESTONIA 1v

Issue date 24 March 2022



According to *Omniva* (Estonia Post), the text in the upper left corner is in two languages. The first line in Ukrainian translates to “Glory to Ukraine!” and the second line in Estonian translates to “Estonia supports Ukraine,”

LATVIA 1v in a ms of 3v+label (shown)

Issue date 10 March 2022



From *Latvijas Pasts*:

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, *Latvijas Pasts* will issue a block of three stamps in support of Ukraine on March 10. The sale price of the stamp block will be nine euros, and 50% of the proceeds from its sale will be donated to the support program of the charity fund *Ziedot.lv Ukraine*.

The philatelic editions dedicated to supporting Ukraine depict the symbols of independence of both countries - the Independence Monument in Kiev and the Freedom Monument in Riga, the national flags of Ukraine and Latvia, and inscriptions in Ukrainian and Latvian: “We are with you!” and “Glory to Ukraine!”

According to *Ziedot.lv*, the charity organization was “founded in 2003 with the mission to channel individual and business donations to people in need. *Ziedot.lv* is offering a safe, easy and transparent way to support carefully verified and selected charity projects, to follow-up their progress and be sure your donation has reached the goal.”

New Issues

Peace and Solidarity

AUSTRIA 1v

Issue date
31 March 2022



From Austria Post:

At the end of February 2022 something happened that was hard to imagine in Europe: the outbreak of war on European soil and not far from Austria.

The consequences affect millions of people, directly and indirectly. Those directly affected are often defenseless and helpless and therefore very dependent on human solidarity, on humanitarian aid from those who can provide it quickly and unbureaucratically.

The surcharge stamp of Austrian Post is a solidarity contribution. It should help to provide those affected with what they need - the range and extent of what is necessary is large. That's why half of the 2 euro surcharge for the stamp, which has a nominal value of 1 euro, goes to two experienced aid organizations: the Austrian Nachbar in Not "Neighbor in Need", and the international UNICEF. Both are partners in issuing this special stamp

* * *

That is a huge surcharge, unlike the usual small amounts that get tacked on to a semi-postal stamp. They are obviously targeting us collectors as well as the general public.

The organization "Neighbors in Need" was founded in 1992 by Caritas, the Austrian Red Cross and by the Austrian Broadcaster ORF, originally to aid victims of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. Their purpose now is "to support people who are in need as a result of natural disasters, war, armed conflicts, or political and economic crises." Ukraine should satisfy most of those criteria.

POLAND 1v

Issue date
24 March 2022



"We Are With You!"

Design shows hands clasping with the colors of the flags of Poland (white & red) and Ukraine (blue & yellow).



Also a companion stamp, titled "Poles Rescuing Jews"

MOLDOVA 1v

Issue date
19 April 2022



**MOLDOVA
FOR PEACE**

From Moldova Post:

Thousands of people cross the border every day into the Republic of Moldova due to the war happening in Ukraine. They have various needs regarding food, transportation, goods, services (medical, translation and interpretation, psychological help, etc.) and more. The National Inbound and Domestic Tourism Association from Moldova (ANTRIM) is available to accommodate refugees during this period."

New Issues
Europa 2021
Endangered National Wildlife

So at last we have Albania. As Yogi Berra famously said, it ain't over 'til it's over! Still, we can venture to say that **Europa 2021** is a wrap. However, Linn's is still behind in assigning catalog numbers to many of the issues, so Yogi still gets the last word..

ALBANIA 1v + ms of 1v (same stamp)

Issue date 30 March 2022



The inscription on the stamp, repeated on the larger block, says simply “Endangered National Wildlife. It looks attractive, and is hopefully worth waiting for.”

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

Article
Editor's Musings

For a number of medical issues — scoliosis, stenosis, halitosis, et al. — I have been late in getting out this issue of the newsletter. Those close to me have been very supportive, and so I keep buggerin' on, as my cousin in England is wont to say. I have had zero time to work on my own collection, but that has also given me time to ruminate a bit.

When Russia made its move it was to no one's surprise. ... except the outcome. This obviously has not had time to play out, but the fact that Ukraine still stands as I write this in mid-May is nothing short of amazing. By now, Ukraine was supposed to be flying the Russian flag and Vladimir was supposed to be looking around for more.

Instead, the western alliances have held together, Putin is a war criminal, and instead of crumbling, NATO is stronger than ever.. Who'd have thought?

Why, instead of falling apart, NATO membership is being sought by Sweden and Finland. And Turkey will probably decide to stay put.

Becausebecause we've been down this road before, and no one with a memory wants to do it again. That's why NATO was created, the Europa alliances were formed, and these bonds have been tightened. We've seen what monsters like Vladimir Putin can unleash, and we are saying “no more.”

Now we hear pundits saying that Ukraine might win. But, what does that mean exactly? How can Russia stay on the Council of Europe or the United Nations Security Council after what Putin has done? Do those organizations really stand for something? Stay tuned. ■

New Issues

And now, let's pick up where we left off last issue with stamps for **Europa '2022**

NORWAY 2v

Issue date 22 April 2022



Huldra



Troll

A **Huldra** is a seductive forest creature found in Scandinavian folklore. Though described as beautiful, the huldra is noted for having a distinctively inhuman feature—an animal's tail (usually a cow's or a fox's) and/or a back resembling a hollowed-out tree.

In Old Norse sources, beings described as **Trolls** dwell in isolated areas of rocks, mountains, or caves, live together in small family units, and are rarely helpful to human beings. Trolls may be ugly and slow-witted, or look and behave exactly like human beings,

—Wikipedia via Europa Blogspot

Note: the troll as depicted must be what J.K. Rowling had in mind. It looks like me before I've had my morning coffee. —ed.

SWITZERLAND 2v

Issue date 5 May 2022



The story of a hero who had to shoot an apple placed on his child's head is found in many different European collections of legends. But it was here in Switzerland where it became a fundamental part of the legend of how the nation was founded. **William Tell** achieved fame far beyond national borders as the courageous and fearless main character in Friedrich Schiller's 1804 play of the same name. After the foundation of the federal state in 1848, William Tell became a major figure in shaping the identity of the emerging nation.

The young illustrator and graphic artist Elena Knecht has taken a fresh look at this subject. She sought to give a modern twist to the folk tale and to present it in a contemporary style.

The dramatic scene with the pierced apple probably comes from Nordic legends in the early Middle Ages. Travelling monks are believed to have brought these stories to Switzerland. The pierced apple is one of the most memorable and famous scenes in the William Tell story.

— from Swiss Post

GREECE 2v se-tenant;

Issue date 12 May 2022

both stamps are also issued in one booklet of 4 stamps (2 of each) - the stamps from the booklet are perforated on two sides only



Orpheus' Death - Orpheus, during the end of his life, worshipped no gods except the sun, whom he called Apollo. One day, he went to pay tribute to the sun near the oracle of Dionysus, where he was caught by the Maenads, and was killed for being an infidel to the god Dionysus.

— Europa Blogspot

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 2v+2ss (shown)

Issue date 5 April 2022



The Slavic people worshiped various deities, and research has led to the fact that the god of thunder and lightning, **Perun**, is considered the supreme god of the Slavic pantheon. He rules the living world by dwelling in a fort on the highest branch of the tree of life. His wife is the goddess of fertility and protector of women, **Mokosh**. She is the mother of the wet Earth and the bright Sun. Perun is depicted as a rough red-haired man, symbolized by an eagle sitting on an oak branch watching the world. The water god of the underworld, **Veles**, is his enemy who lives at the root of the tree of life and is symbolized by the serpent.

The most significant myth of Slavic mythology is the struggle between Perun and Veles, who steals the Sun - Mokosh and takes her to the underworld, where she spends half a year. Perun pursues Veles with his lightning and thunder and expels him to the underground to bring back Mokosh and restore order. The myth was repeated every year in a circular cycle following the movement of the Sun and the seasons. (Željka Šaravanja)

—Europa Blogspot

[Many thanks to those who commented on the varied content of recent editions of Europa News. Many appreciate the attempts to stay current with the horrible situation in Ukraine. I believe that Europa is a living topic with much to offer students of history and world affairs. I can still foresee a separate album section for this sub-topic. -ed.]. ■

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

DENMARK ms of 3v

Issue date 19 May 2022

Hardly any place in Denmark other than Bornholm has such a strong tradition of legends and tales connected with the supernatural world. The rocky landscape is said to be inhabited by the underworld, who revealed themselves to the locals over the centuries.

— Europa-Blogspot



ESTONIA 2v, each issued in ms as shown —>

Issue date 5 May 2022



The stamps depict the painting 'Tiritamme kasvamine' ('Doing a headstand') and the tapestry design 'Siuru-lindu Kalevipojast' ('The Siuru bird from Kalevipoeg') by the artist Oskar Kallis.

Estonian folklore contains many legends and stories about a mighty man named Kalevipoeg. The legends of Kalevipoeg, together with runic folk songs, were the subject for Friedrich Robert Faehlmann and Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald while preparing and writing the epic Kalevipoeg in the nineteenth century.

Kalevipoeg is considered to be one of the most important works of Estonian literature, and its motifs have later been used by many artists, composers, and writers. The work also played an important role in the development of Estonian national self-awareness..

— Europa Blogspot

SLOVAKIA 1v

Issue date 2 May 2022

Lomidrevo or Valibuk



Typical Slovak fairytale story about a young man with a heart made of gold overcoming circumstances (and fighting dragons, of course) to save the day. On this epic road, he learns a lot about people and their nature, about the world, about himself and — of course — he also got a stunning princess as his bride.

— Europa Blogspot

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

LATVIA 2v

Issue date 8 April 2022



One of the stamps shows **Heavenly Father** (God) riding a white horse, while the other stamp shows a scene where Heavenly Father feeds the logs (snakes).

There are many different stories about the Heavenly Father in Latvian folklore. He usually rides a horse, but often also rides in sleighs and carriages. His horses also appear in other ways e.g., like black dogs, black ravens and black oxen with white horns.

Feeding snakes or reverence for snakes in mythology has been found in many peoples since ancient times - tradition has it that souls appear in the form of snakes. The only fact is that the ancient Latvians kept the logs as guardians of the cows and that the Milk Mother herself sometimes appeared in the form of a log, maybe also a calf.

LITHUANIA 2v

Issue date 29 April 2022



Eglė, Queen of Serpents



The Fern Flower

Eglė the Queen of Serpents is one of the best-known Lithuanian fairy tales with many references to the Baltic mythology. The Blogspot provides the complete Wikipedia story [here](#).

The Fern Flower is supposed to appear only on the night of 23 to 24 June during the celebration of the summer solstice. The celebration has pre-Christian origins. In addition to the idea that the finder of the fern flower will become rich or happy, here, the fern flower is sometimes perceived as a symbol of fertility. During this supposedly magical night, young couples go into the woods "seeking the fern flower", which is most commonly read as a euphemism for sex.

**SERBIA 55**

Issue date 6 May 2022

Drekavac (literally, the Shrieker) is a creature from the mythology of the South Slavs, represented especially in the mythology of the Serbs. The name of this creature comes from the verb *drečati*, which means to shriek or scream.

The Drekavac is also depicted on the 2022 Europa stamps of the Serb post of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

— *Europa Blogspot*

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

SPAIN 1v in a sheet of 25v.

Also issued in a "Premium Sheet" of 6v as shown

Issue date 9 May 2022



The **Sleeping Dragon of Mallorca** - In the south-west of the island of Mallorca lies the legendary island of Sa Dragonera. Between the 14th and 16th centuries it served as a hideout for corsairs, pirates and smugglers.

A Natural Park since 1995, today it is inhabited by some twenty endemic species such as Eleonora's falcons, cormorants and seagulls, which build their nests on its high cliffs. Also, there are many small "dragons" (dragonettes? —ed), guardians of the area: the sargantanas or Lilford's lizards, a species endemic to Mallorca and Menorca. They are similar to geckos and during the warmer months they can be seen as soon as they land on the most uninhabited islands in the area.

Sa Dragonera takes its name from its silhouette. If you fly over the island, the image leaves no room for doubt, showing the figure of a sleeping dragon. The legend of the dragon speaks of this mythological animal, snakes and all kinds of reptiles that protect Mallorca from unwanted invaders.

— from the *Europa Blogspot*

HUNGARY 2v in a ss of 4v (2 sets)

Issue date 2 May 2022



The **Tale of the White Horse** is one of the myths and legends about how the land of Hungary was acquired, dating from the time the Magyar tribes settled in the Carpathian Basin. This was passed down by oral tradition for centuries until it was recorded in writing. Several sources have survived about this story. The legend of the white horse was included by Anonymous in his historical work, but it is also mentioned in the Buda and Dubnica Chronicles.

The most complete story is preserved in the Illuminated Chronicle, written at the end of the 13th century. According to the legend, when the chieftain Árpád and his nobles heard of the wealth of Pannonia, they sent an envoy with the most beautiful steed from Árpád's stable, a white horse, as a present to the prince of the province, Svatopluk. In exchange the envoy asked for a canteen of water from the Danube, a handful of soil and some grass from the meadows.

Little did Svatopluk realize that by giving these he was actually handing over the right to the land. The story goes that the Hungarian chieftains were exploiting an ancient eastern custom which was based on the belief that the soil, dust or any other object taken from a country, settlement or house would place that country or area under the power of its enemy. Árpád then entered Pannonia with the seven chieftains, not as a guest, but as the rightful owner of the land.

— from the *Europa Blogspot*

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

MALTA 2v + postal card

Issue date 9 May 2022

The Legend of Calypso

According to legend, Ulysses' ship was hit by a violent storm, causing him to be the only survivor of his shipwreck. After a few days of clutching a broken mast, he spied land and swimming towards it, found food, water, flowers, and beautiful girls. The nymph Calypso appeared from within a cave giving him food and shelter. Ulysses spent a good many years, "...in heaven with a queen..." as the legend goes, but others have speculated that he was her captive. But after a number of years, it was time to return home and he prayed to the gods to help him. After much persuasion Calypso reluctantly let him go, and gave him, food, water, and sails for his boat.



Legend of Speranza Cave.

According to the book *Naghrfu l-Leggendi Maltin* by Guido Lanfranco, the legend recounts how while a young girl was gathering grass in Mosta field, she heard voices in the distance, only to then be chased by two corsairs. She was far from home and needed a hiding place fast, so she took shelter in a nearby cave.



While praying to Our Lady for salvation, a spider began weaving a web all across the cave's entrance. As a result of this the corsairs did not enter the cave, assuming that the young girl could not possibly be in there. In

his commentary, Guido Lanfranco shares that the chapel at Wied Speranza was completed in 1761. It's well taken care of, and a feast is celebrated each November. The popular cave is situated beneath the chapel, with a statue that depicts the girl praying on her knees, along with statues of Sts. John and Luke.

— from *Malta Post*

NETHERLANDS 2v

Issue date 9 May 2022



Once a wealthy port city, Stavoren began to decline after a sandbank formed outside the harbor, blocking ships from entering and exiting. Several stories have been told over the years to explain the forming of that sandbank, including the tale of the **Lady of Stavoren** in (16th century).

The story involves an exceedingly rich patrician merchant widow, who desired ever greater riches. She sent a captain of her merchant fleet out in search of the greatest treasure in the world. He returned with wheat, declaring it to be "the most precious thing in the world," as it can feed the hungry. The widow, angrily let the wheat be thrown overboard into the harbor of Stavoren.

When cautioned against this wicked behaviour, in hubris she took a ring from her finger and cast it into the ocean, declaring that she was as likely to fall into poverty as she was of regaining the ring. Sure enough, at a recent dinner she finds the ring inside a large fish served to her. Sure enough, she lost her wealth, living out her remaining years in destitution, begging for scraps of bread. In divine retribution the port had silted, and the wheat that had been cast overboard now grew in the resulting sandbank that closed the harbor and ruined the city.

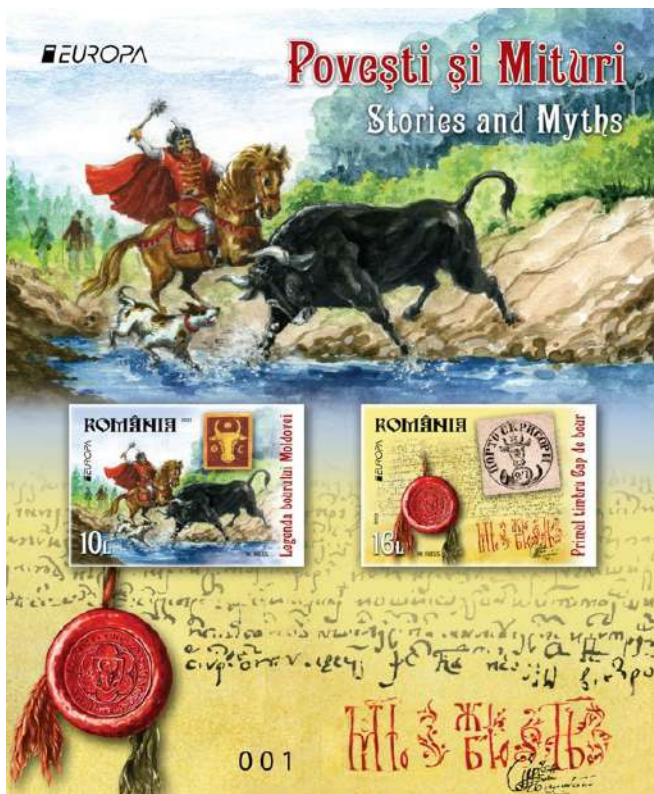
The tale has inspired songs, plays, operas and films. A statue of the fabled Lady gazing out to sea was erected in front of Stavoren harbor in 1969.

— *Europa Blogspot*

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

ROMANIA 2v +2 ms of 2 sets with order reversed
 + 1 ss of 1 set as shown

Issue date 8 April 2022



The "Legend of the Moldavian Ox" describes the fight of the dismounting ruler Dragoș Vodă, with an ox, on the bank of a flowing water, in which, during the fight, the puppy named Molda drowned, to which he was very attached. According to the story, the water was named Moldova, later taken over by the land historically known as the Land of Moldova.

By 1359, the land had become Greater Moldova. Exactly 500 years later, in 1859, Greater Moldova would add another country, Muntenia (Wallachia), under the scepter of a single ruler, Alexandru Ioan Cuza.



Legend of the first stamp "Cap de bour" When the first postage stamps were printed, the drawing reproduced, next to the post horn, the Bull's Head, with horns having a star in five corners. The drawing, whose author had never seen an ox (this animal had disappeared in the seventeenth century), vaguely reproduces the true image of the wild ox, but accustomed to the coat of arms of their country, Moldovans did not respond critically to the lack of veracity of the image.

An exhaustively detailed background of the above is available at Romfilatelia.ro/, and copied at the Europa-blogspot. Most album makers provide spaces for a set of single stamps and one ms of 2 sets. The large format ss is a recent addition printed in limited quantity for revenue enhancement. -ed.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

CROATIA 2v se-tenant, printed in sheets of 8 sets

Issue date 9 May 2022



Our ancestors believed the universe around them was divided into two basic elements, according to which they divided everything that exists into heaven and earth. Up and down. Light and darkness.

What connected the heaven and the earth was the vast "Tree of the World" as the axis that held everything together.

— from *Europa Blogspot*

POLAND 1v in a ms of 9

Issue date 21 April 2022

Wawel Dragon



According to the earliest accounts (13th century), a dragon plagued the capital city of Kraków established by legendary King Krak. The man-eating monster was being appeased with a weekly ration of cattle, until finally defeated by the king's sons using decoy cows stuffed with sulfur.

—Wikipedia via *Europa Blogspot*

LUXEMBOURG 2v

Issue date 17 May 2022



Kropemann

Melusina

Kropemann was a nature spirit who lived in rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, springs, weirs or wells. Children who dared to get too close to the water were pulled in and devoured. Thirty or so years ago, the legend was rediscovered in the municipality of Redingen, and since then the Kropemann has become firmly associated with the area. Annual festivals now promote the new Redington mascot as kid-friendly.

Melusina was the wife of Count Siegfried I, who is considered the founder of Luxembourg. In 963, the count built his castle on the Bock rock above the Alzette for his beautiful wife. That beauty was marred by a short period where her legs became a fish's tail. The Melusina with her fish tail is one of the most famous landmarks of Luxembourg City. A sculpture is located directly on the bank of the Alzette and she is a popular motif in a wide variety of illustrations.

— from *Europa Blogspot*

This issue of EN contains another great auction for your perusal. Don deserves a hiatus, so enjoy while you can! Electronic members have already been granted access, but everyone gets an equal shot. [Enjoy!](#)

If you're not reading this, you probably didn't send us your current dues.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

GUERNSEY 2v from a set of 6v
 Issue date 21 May 2022



Each stamp is available in its own sheet of 10. Additionally, the two Europa stamps are given their own souvenir sheet, shown below:



All these varieties make one wonder ... do the participating countries sense that this would be a good time to cash in on the Europa topic? That usually signals a gain in popularity. We can hope.

From Guernsey Post:

Guernsey, an island steeped in folklore, has a long and spellbinding association with witchcraft and many tales of sorcery have been passed down through the generations.

Folklore tells us that many of Guernsey's oldest and best-known families have association with the practice.

Both black and white witches were said to practice in Guernsey, with white witches using their craft solely for the benefit of other people. Black witches, however, were said to practice ritual witchcraft, holding assemblies and covens to summon demons and devils.

Many of the old houses and cottages in the west of the island have a strange piece of granite extruding from the chimney; these are known as "witches seats" and are a place for these night-time flyers to stop and rest.

It is believed that over one hundred people were found guilty of witchcraft in Guernsey in the 16th and 17th centuries. The last witch trial in Guernsey took place in January 1914 when a local woman, Aimee Lake, was charged with witchcraft.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Serb Post) 2v

Issue date 11 May 2022



Baba Yaga

Drekavac

In Slavic folklore, **Baba Yaga** is a supernatural being (or one of a trio of sisters of the same name) who appears as a deformed and/or ferocious-looking woman. In fairy tales Baba Yaga flies around in a mortar, wields a pestle, and dwells deep in the forest in a hut usually described as standing on chicken legs. Baba Yaga may help or hinder those that encounter or seek her out and may play a maternal role; she has associations with forest wildlife.

Drekavac, (literally "the screamer") is a mythical creature in South Slavic mythology.

A modern description of a supposed drekavac describes it as a canine creature similar to a dog, originally thought to have come from the souls of sinful men, or from children who died unbaptized. It was popularly believed to be visible only at night, especially during the "twelve days of Christmas."

When assuming the form of a child, it predicts someone's death, while in its animal form, it predicts cattle disease. The drekavac is believed to avoid dogs and bright light. Also, it is believed that if the shadow of drekavac falls upon some person then that person will turn sick and die.

— *Europa Blogspot*

BELARUS 2v

Issue date 6 May 2022

Issued in mini-sheets of 5 with a vignette, and as a combo mini-sheet (shown below) with both sets.



Lesovik -

Rusalka



Lesovik, or **Leshy**, is a tutelary deity of the forests in pagan Slavic mythology. As the spirit rules over the forest and hunting, he may be related to the Slavic god Porewit.

In Slavic folklore, the **Rusalka** is a typically feminine entity, often malicious toward mankind and frequently associated with water. In Belarus they were linked with the forest and field. They were usually pictured as beautiful naked maidens, but in some areas they were imagined as hideous and hairy.

— *from Wikipedia*

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

SLOVENIA 2V

Issue date 10 May 2022



The Giantess



King Matjaž

The **Giantess** (*Ajdovska deklica*) is one of many mythological figures in a Slovene folk tradition that tells of a mountain-dwelling race of giants. These giants were said to have lived “long ago”, so stories about them are thought to contain popular beliefs about the original inhabitants of the land.

Stories about giants and giantesses vary considerably. People used to explain ancient material remains and prehistoric burial mounds as giantish structures. The former inhabitants of these structures were said to be trapped by enchantments in the ruins – or in some cases even in the walls of churches,

King Matjaž is a well-known figure in the literary folklore of Slovenia. The basis for many legends of King Matjaž is the Hungarian king Matthias Corvinus (1458–1490), who distinguished himself in the defense against the Ottoman invaders and also ensured tolerable living conditions for Slovene peasants. Stories about King Matjaž do not have a basis in historical fact but have merely taken the king’s name.

— *Europa Blogspot*

Spanish ANDORRA 1v

Issue date 16 May 2022



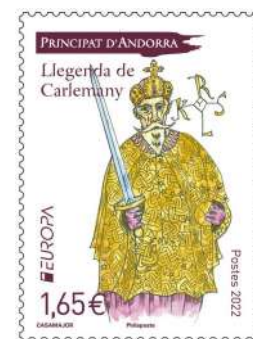
Our Lady of Meritxell

In the late 12th century, on January 6, a wild rose in bloom was found by villagers from Meritxell going to Mass in Canillo. It was out of season and at its base was found a statue of the Virgin and Child. The statue was placed in the Canillo church. However, the next day the statue was found under the same wild rose. The statue was taken next to the church of Encamp. However, as before, the statue was again found under the same wild rose on the next day. As in similar legends elsewhere, the villagers of Meritxell took this as a sign and decided to build a new chapel in their town after they found an open space miraculously untouched by the winter snows.

— *Europa Blogspot*

French ANDORRA 1v

Issue date 14 May 2022



Charlemagne

Charlemagne was king of the Franks, Lombards and Emperor of the West and laid the foundations for the medieval kingdoms of a united Europe. A legendary figure in his own right, he is considered to be one of the Fathers of Europe

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

CYPRUS 2v

Issue date 6 May 2022



The **Secret Treasure of Regina** - Regina, namely the Queen, is a mysterious person mentioned in several myths and legends of Cyprus.

Some of these legends are connected to the castle of Vufavendo, in which, according to tradition, Regina hid her treasures in one of its 101 rooms. One of the legends states that every night on which the Resurrection of Christ was celebrated, a secret door would open for a short period of time through which someone could gain access to Regina's room containing the treasures.

On one night of the Resurrection of Christ, a shepherd entered the room, but the door closed before he could collect the treasures.

The shepherd had a pomegranate with him and by eating a piece every day he was kept alive until the following year when on the night of the Resurrection the secret door opened and he gained his freedom.

The **Legend of Digenis Akritas** - Digenis Akritas was the most courageous of all the Akrites, who guarded the borders of Byzantium. They caused fear and terror to the Saracens who came from the mountains of Central Asia.

The giant stone that dominates the sea and is called "Petra tou Romiou", is associated with the legend of Digenes Akritas, from whom the area took its name.

According to legend, Digenis Akritas, the legendary Byzantine hero, during the 7th - 10th century, in order to repel the Saracen Arabs, who were preparing to plunder the area, grabbed onto the mountain range of Kyrenia by his one hand as a result of which it took the shape and the name Pentadaktylos (meaning five fingers) and with his other hand lifted a huge rock (the Stone of Romios – Petra tou Romiou) and threw it into the sea against the Saracens who left fleeing.



Article — "Stuff" Happens — Don Smith

Don Smith takes pride in his meticulous record keeping, so this report was a surprise:

This is the first auction that I have had trouble getting payments because of the USPS. I mailed the lots to Person X on April 20. He got them May 13 - 23 days (to Ohio, the next state over!). He didn't think he won anything until I sent him a "reminder" to pay and he said he never got the lots. He has since paid.

Person Y in Florida had to send 3 checks. The first two got mutilated in the mail; he just got returned to him 2 shredded envelopes. The third made it. So much for the "new" USPS.

[or maybe this *is* the new USPS. Groan. —ed.





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



Erratum: in the last issue (EN#468-13) in this listing, Montenegro #480 was incorrectly identified as SEPAC 2021. It should have been listed as EuroMed 2021; we regret the error.

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Croatia	1239	12-Jul-21	EuroMed 2021 EN 465-9
Croatia	1244	22-Sep-21	Woodpeckers, joint issue w/Kyrgyz Express Post
Cyprus	1356-7	6-May-21	Europa 2021
Cyprus	1358	8-Jul-21	EuroMed 2021 EN 465-9
Denmark	1879	12-Aug-21	Slania, pair a-b, joint w/Faroe 788, Greenland 874
Estonia	954	12-Jul-21	European Athletic Championships EN 465-15
France	6067	9-Jul-21	EuroMed 2021 EN 465-10
Greece	2945	6-May-21	Europa 2021, horiz. se-tenant pair "a-b", horiz. pair "c", bklt pane of 2 "f"
Greece	2948-51	13-Jul-21	EuroMed 2021, 2951a, ss of 4 stamps EN 465-7
Greece	2961	19-Nov-21	European Philatelic Exhibition, Athens
Greenland	866	8-Jun-21	Sepac 2021 EN 464-15
Greenland	868-9	8-Jun-21	Europa 2021
Greenland	870-1	8-Jun-21	Europa 2021, self-adhesive 871a bklt pane of 6 each 870-1
Greenland	874	12-Aug-21	Czeslaw Slania, joint w/Denmark 1879, Faroe Islands 788
Ireland	2309-10	6-May-21	Europa 2021 self-adhesive
Isle of Man	2159-66	11-Jun-21	European Soccer Championships EN 465-14
Israel	2299	30-Nov-21	Masaryk, joint issue w/Czech Rep. 3890
Kazakhstan	968	29-Nov-21	Europa 2021, ss of 2 a-b
Lebanon	838	24-Aug-21	EuroMed 2021, EN 466-5
Luxembourg	1581-6	22-Feb-22	European Capital of Culture 2022, 1586a booklet of 10 (2 each 1582-6) self -adhesive
Malta	1712-4	12-Jul-21	EuroMed 2021 EN 465-9
Montenegro	481	7-Oct-21	Joy of Europe
Poland	4577	16-Oct-21	25th Anniv. Admission to OECD EN 467-5
Poland	4578	22-Oct-21	Czeslaw Slania, joint w/Sweden 2879
Poland	4583	2-Dec-21	Salt Crystals, pair a-b, joint w/Croatia
San Marino	2112	23-Sep-21	Council of Europe Bank, EN 466-6
San Marino	2114	21-Sep-21	Italy, European Soccer Champs. 2020
Serbia	977	30-Sep-21	Joy of Europe
Sweden	2879	22-Oct-21	Czeslaw Slania, joint w/Poland 4578

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 6

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

LIECHTENSTEIN

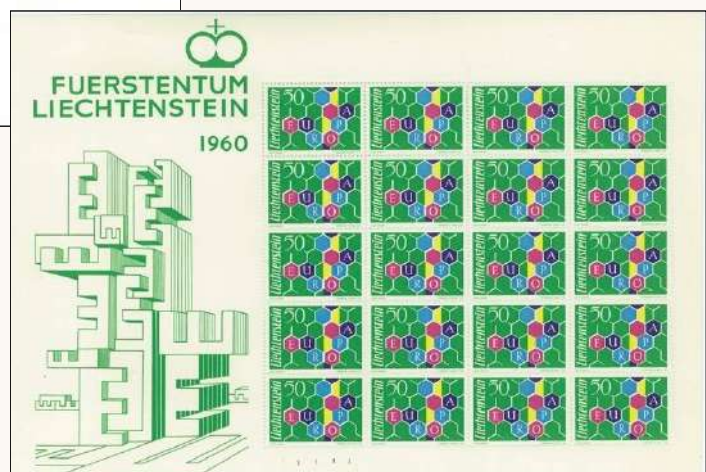
Liechtenstein issued a single stamp for Europa 1960. The stamp is denominated at 50 R. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 84 to the stamps. The stamp is multicolored. At the time, Liechtenstein was not a member of the CEPT. Likely that is why the common design was not used. However, the stamp and sheet are considered by many to be one of the few “gems” of Europa philately.



Technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Louis Jager. No engraver is listed. The stamp was rotogravure printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 14 x 14, in sheets of 20 stamps by Harrison & Sons, Ltd., London. Production quantity was approximately 322,000 stamps; the printer had trouble properly lining up the colors within the stamp, thus the small printing.

D’Urso reports a single variety of the stamp— it can be found with double horizontal perforations. There are also a very few with the printers name almost touching the bottom of the stamp design.

First day covers franked with a single stamp or a full sheet of 20 stamps are reported, as are maximum cards franked with a single stamp.



“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 6

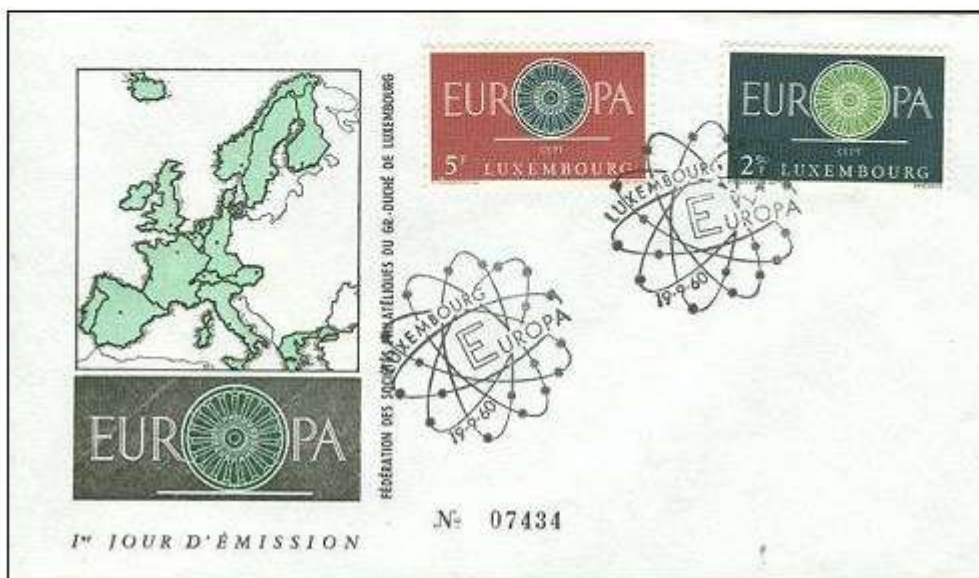
LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 2 F 50 and 5 F. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 85 and 86 to the stamps. The colors of the stamps are described as dark brown and green for the 2 F 50 stamp and red-brown and green for the 5 F stamp. However, the 2 F 50 stamp looks to me to be blue and green while the 5 F stamp appear to be light red and dark blue.

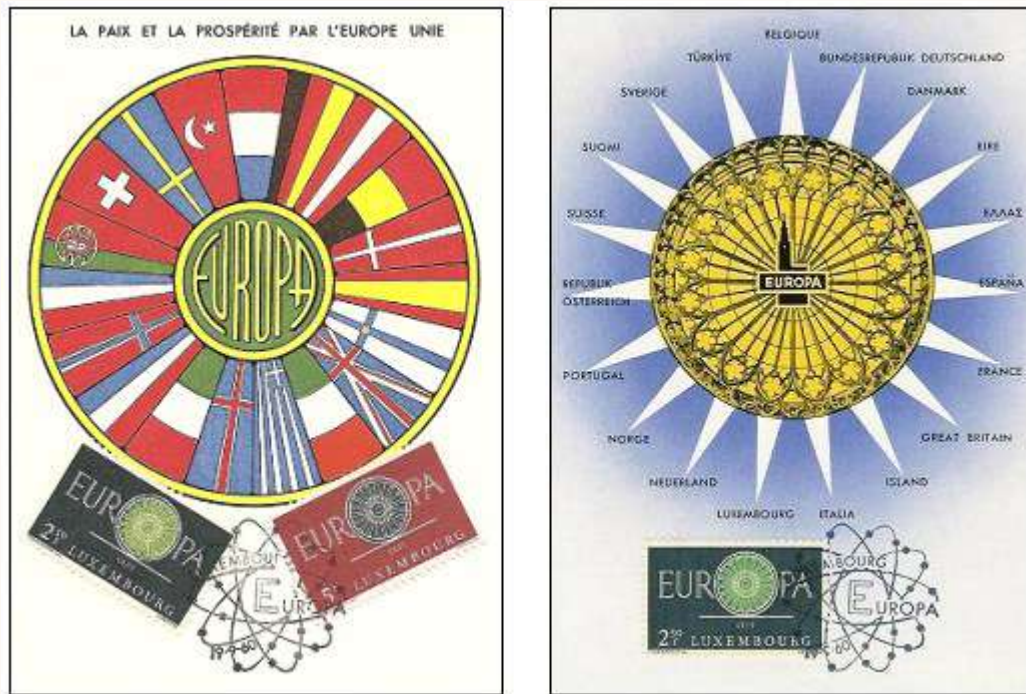
The technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that ...the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No engraver is listed. The stamps were recess printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 11 x 11½, in sheets of 50 stamps by Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, Haarlem. The production quantity was 1,052,100 complete sets.

D’Urso reports a single variety on the 5 F stamp. There is a small circle to the left of the word “Luxembourg.”

First day covers and maximum cards are reported.



“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 6



Here are a couple of maximum cards. I love the designs on them.
 I wonder if there are more designs for me to discover.
 The card on the right has the nineteen CEPT-member nations listed around
 the compass rose.



I could not resist showing this first day cover. The cachet appears to be
 hand-painted.

The Back Page
The Miscellaneous Page — Tonny van Loij

Dana, I was going through parts of my collection and thought this would be a nice example of what fun it can be.

This is a letter sheet sold by the Spanish postal service way back. It is from Malaga, Spain with pictures. Malaga is in the south of Spain, called Costa del Sol, and is a major summer destination for Northern Europeans.

The sheet was mailed at the First Day of issue of the 1958 EUROPA stamps, certified and express. It was mailed to Pamplona in Northern Spain and has a receiving cancel (bottom center) for certified and bottom right for Express.

There is a message on the back from the Philatelic director of the Malaga post office.



It says that he sent the new 1958 EUROPA stamps as a present to the receiver. The address label mentions the sender at the lower left and receiver at center.

Maybe something nice and different for EN. ■

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