

EUROPA NEWS



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



ATA



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

Peace and Solidarity



Europa 2022



SEPAC 2022



Liechtenstein Redux



Illegal Stamps



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New Issues
Peace and Solidarity

Since the last issue of Europa News, there have been at least two stamp issues that are not of questionable pedigree and deserves special mention: Spain. Here is an extensive write-up, glommed from the *Correos Filatelia* site:

SPAIN 1v

Issue date
30 May 2022



Since 24 February 2022, Ukraine has been living a constant nightmare since Russia started a senseless war. Until then, Ukraine, the second largest country in Europe after, precisely, the Russian Federation, had maintained a common past with it.

The current reality is that the conflict has taken the lives of numerous civilians, as well as the displacement of millions of Ukrainians who have fled their homes, leaving behind their past and also many of their relatives, which is good because they have had to remain on the front lines, or else, because due to age or physical condition, they have not been able to leave the country and continue to resist under the bombs.

Spain, like most countries in the world, has shown one of its greatest virtues from the outset: solidarity. Anonymous people, as well as public organizations and institutions, launched a multitude of mechanisms to bring aid to Ukraine, as well as to collaborate in the transfer of refugees.

Private cars, buses and endless solidarity caravans left our country loaded with basic goods and food to take to the Ukrainian border. Coming back, those vehicles did not travel empty; they came loaded with sad eyes that had lived through the horror of a war. Many Spanish homes have welcomed Ukrainian families, given them work and shelter, and above all, security and affection.

— *Continued in next column*

— *continued from previous column*

The blue and yellow that also stars in this stamp has filled the balconies and streets of our country, in support of a country that is suffering from a war, which, like all wars, makes no sense.

The conflict continues, the bombs and missiles do not stop, but the rest of the world embraces the Ukrainian people and Spain continues to show every day that it is a country of solidarity and that, from the anonymous citizen to the high institutions of the country, they will not stop providing aid to those who are living this barbarism.

—*from Correos Filatelia*

* * *

A search of France’s Philately Shop unearthed the following new arrival:

FRANCE 1v

Issue date
23 June 2022



“Green Letter” stamp issued with the theme “**United in Ukraine**”. Green Letter is a new feature of French stamps, described as follows:

Green letter stamps allow you to frank your shipments to France in green letter. The delivery of your mail is processed within 48 hours. Affirm your civic commitment by choosing the Green Letter stamp, which is more environmentally friendly, more economical and allows mail to be delivered within 48 hours. Your mail will not be transported by air (excluding Overseas and Corsica links).

* * *

We’ll stay on the lookout for stamps in support of Ukraine. Meanwhile avoid scams and rip-offs. See the article “Illegal Stamps” in this issue.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

And now back to the theme for 2022. As editor, I must confess that I struggled with this one. For what it's worth, I'm apparently not alone. The Blogspot has tried to provide the story where Wikipedia either gets too dense, or fails to yield any info at all.

Anyone who has better info on any of these stamps is urged to send it in. Thanks!

And so, off we go

PORTUGAL 1v + ss

Issue date 9 May 2022

The Miracle of Our Lady of Nazaré



It was 14 September 1182, The Captain-General of the Porto de Mós castle Dom Fuas Roupinho, was hunting, when he sighted what appeared to be a deer. Excited, he launched into fiery pursuit. So invested was he in the task that he only realized that he was on top of a cliff when falling seemed inevitable.

At the last moment however, his horse stood on its hind legs, which have been engraved there ever since. The image of the prey, which would ultimately turn out to be the devil, had vanished. Dom Fuas Roupinho was rescued through the instant intervening salvation of Our Lady of Nazaré to whom he had prayed. The image of the saint was hidden a little further down, in a small grotto located on the headland. Relieved by such a provident intervention, the knight dismounted, descended into the sacred hollow, fell to his knees and prayed in gratitude. Shortly afterwards he ordered the construction of a small church at the top of the cliff, the Chapel of the Memory (Ermida da Memória), where he placed this image.

* * *

Backstory: The relic was already very old at the time. It was said to have been made by Saint Joseph, in the original village of Nazareth. A few centuries later, it would have been transferred to the Iberian Peninsula, to a monastery near Mérida. There it remained until the Arab invasion of 711. Trying to protect it, the Gothic King Rodrigo and the monk Frei Romano decided to take her with them toward the Atlantic coast. The grotto at the top of the cliff was the chosen location. And there it stayed until the miracle that saved Roupinho.

* * *

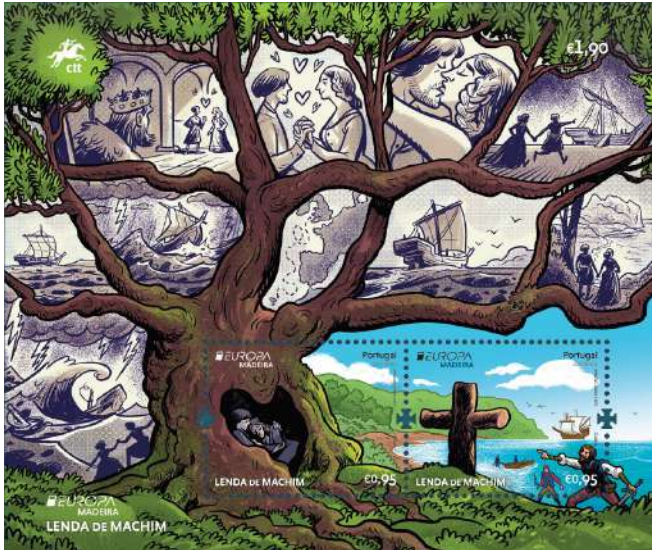
After remaining in the evocative chapel that he had erected in 1182, in 1377 the image was moved to a new sanctuary that King Fernando I had decided to build and which would be rebuilt in the 17th century. It is there that, even today, the image of Our Lady is venerated. And it is from there that worship of Our Lady of Nazaré spread throughout the destinations of the Portuguese maritime explorers, thanks to her popularity among the peoples of the sea.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

AZORES 1v + ss

Issue date 9 May 2022

Legend of Machin



According to legend, a young Englishman named Robert Machin, his beloved Anne of Arfet and some companions, were the first to land on Madeira, in 1377. Anne’s relatives considered her only within the reach of a suitor from the nobility, which Robert was not. On the eve of Anne’s arranged marriage, she eloped with Robert and escaped to France. Bad move, as France was at odds with Britain at what was to become the 100 Years War.

After surviving bad storms while at sea, the crew disembarked on a lush island where a large tree gave them shelter. When bad weather returned, however, they found that the boat had not weathered the storm, and neither had Anne. Robert buried her next to the leafy tree where they had taken shelter, and erected a wooden cross to mark the spot. A week later, broken with grief, he too perished, being buried next to his beloved.

One crew member ultimately survived to recount the story.

MADEIRA 1v + ss

Issue date 9 May 2022

The Legend of Pêro Botelho’s Caldera



Like many others in Povoação, Pero Botelho used to cook wicker and corn in boiling water boilers, the remains of volcanoes at the bottom of the parish. This foul-smelling mud was claimed to have medicinal properties, especially for rheumatism.

One day Pero fell in. He started screaming “Help me” but his cries were drowned out by the volcano, and because he was an ill-tempered man, people would not be motivated to rescue him. It was said that if one were to call out to him, they would be greeted with a rush of sulphurous gas and stones.

And so the legend grew that if one were to call out “Give us a sneeze, Pero,” they would be scared of what might come back up. From then on, the residents of Povoação began to call the smoking orifice Pêro Botelho’s Caldera,

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

VATICAN CITY 2v + ss

Issue date 16 May 2022



The theme of this issue is the transport of the Egyptian obelisk, which stood on the spine of Caligula's circus, to St Peter's Square, It was to the architect Domenico Fontana that Pope Sixtus IV entrusted the task, which was very complex for the time. The objective was achieved by employing nine hundred men and one hundred and forty horses. An edict forbade anyone to speak or enter the enclosure delimiting the work area under penalty of death.

Everything went well until, right at the end of the operation, a Ligurian sailor realized that the ropes holding up the monument were about to break due to excessive tension, Heedless of the edict, he shouted "Water to the ropes" knowing that hemp becomes shorter and more elastic when wet. The manager immediately took up the suggestion and successfully completed the job. As for the sailor, he received the title of Captain of the First Pontifical Line Regiment, while his family was granted the privilege of supplying the Vatican with the branches used for Palm Sunday.

— from Europa Blogspot

ARMENIA 1v

Issue date 27 May 2022

Goddess Astghik



In Armenian mythology, Astghik (“little star”) was the Goddess of Love, Beauty and Water and the beloved of the God Vahagn (the God of Thunder, Lightning and War). According to the Armenian myths, Astghik, an extraordinary beauty, bathed every night in the Euphrates River. To admire the naked goddess, the young men lit big fires on Mount Daghonats of Taron region. Protecting herself from the eyes of others, every night Astghik covered the entire Taron Valley with fog.

— Europa Blogspot

TURKISH CYPRUS 2v

Issue date 9 May 2022



According to the Turkish Cyprus website, information for these stamps was sourced from these prominent texts:

- Ministry of Tourism = Mythology and Legends
- Ali Nesim and Şevket Öznur - Legends of Cyprus
- Mustafa Kemal Sayın - Legendary Lands

Great, but no info on what is being depicted.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

KOSOVO 2v+ss

Issue date 9 May 2022



The sad sculpture of a woman represents the legend of **Rozafa**, who sacrificed herself for the castle to stand, and not to be continuously destroyed. Her request to leave half of her body outside the castle wall to feed and care for the little child is exactly what made this castle special.

Even today, in the gardens and fields, the villagers place a human image: with body, arms, legs and head, dressed in clothes, more often with rags. **Gogomeli** was set up to have good crops, but also to scare away pests of crops. It is also called **the Elder of the Garden**.



— from Europa Blogspot

The block represents the **Myth of the Shaking of the Old Women**. According to legend, an old woman had gone to the mountains with cattle to enjoy the good, warm, sunny weather of early spring. She was greeting winter, when winter had sought lean days from February, to freeze the old woman who was harassing her. So from that early time water still springs from the rock in the form of an old woman, who is said to be the "old woman's tears".



ARTSAKH (Armenian Republic of Nagorno Karabach)

2v in 2 ms of 10v each, plus 1 ms of 5 sets se-tenant)

Issue date 18 April 2022



No other information available at this time.

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 2v+ss (shown)

Issue date 9 May 2022



The fairies are ancient spirits of nature—personification of its forces. According to Bosnian mythology, fairies are born from dew falling on the leaves of a large tree that grows on a mysterious, unknown hill.

Legends say that they possess magical powers that they can use for good (and bad) purposes. Ancestors believed that fairies lived in mountains and large forests, but also around lakes.

In our mythology, the most famous are: **Red Fairy**: It mostly appears around sunset. Its symbol is red. **Bosnian fairy**: is a girl with lily flowers in her hair. Her symbol is the lily flower. **Queen of Golden Fairies** is the mistress of all Bosnian fairies. Her symbol is the full moon. **Mountain Fairy** is among the oldest vilas and is often called the mother of fairies. Her symbol is the golden apple. **Planinka** is a fairy who has a wreath of flowers entangled in her hair. Her symbol is a white goat.

— from Europa Blogspot

NORTH MACEDONIA 2v

Issue date 10 May 2022



The Liar Shepherd

Itar Pejo



Labin and Dojrana (The Bardess)

MOLDOVA 2v

Issue date 29 April 2022

Each stamp is available in a booklet of 6 stamps, each pane with 3 stamps and a vignette. Our guess is that album makers may provide for these, but you never know.



New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

GEORGIA 2v+ 2ss

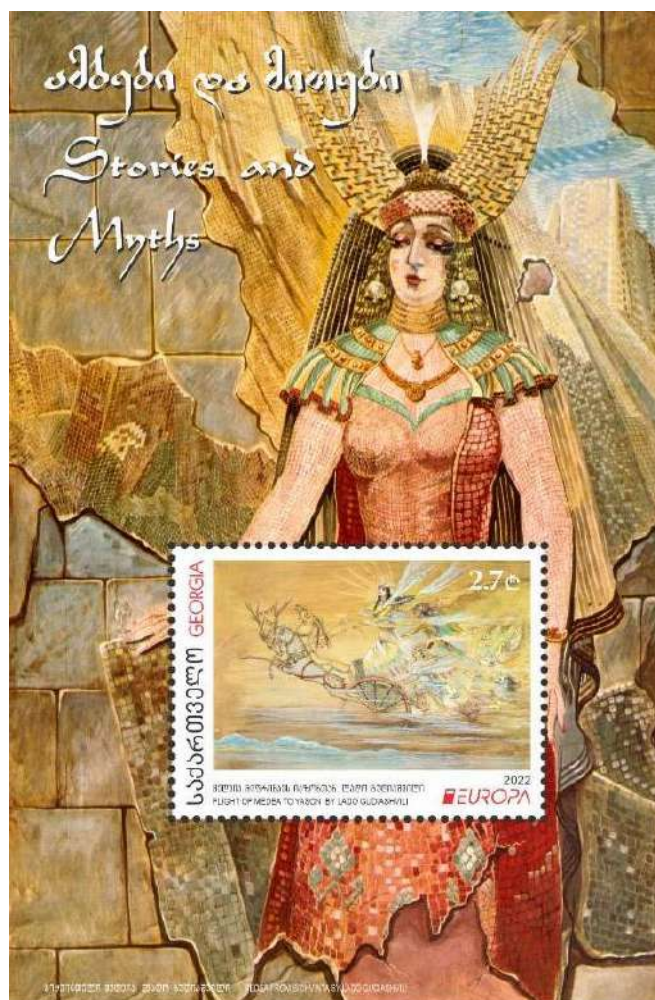
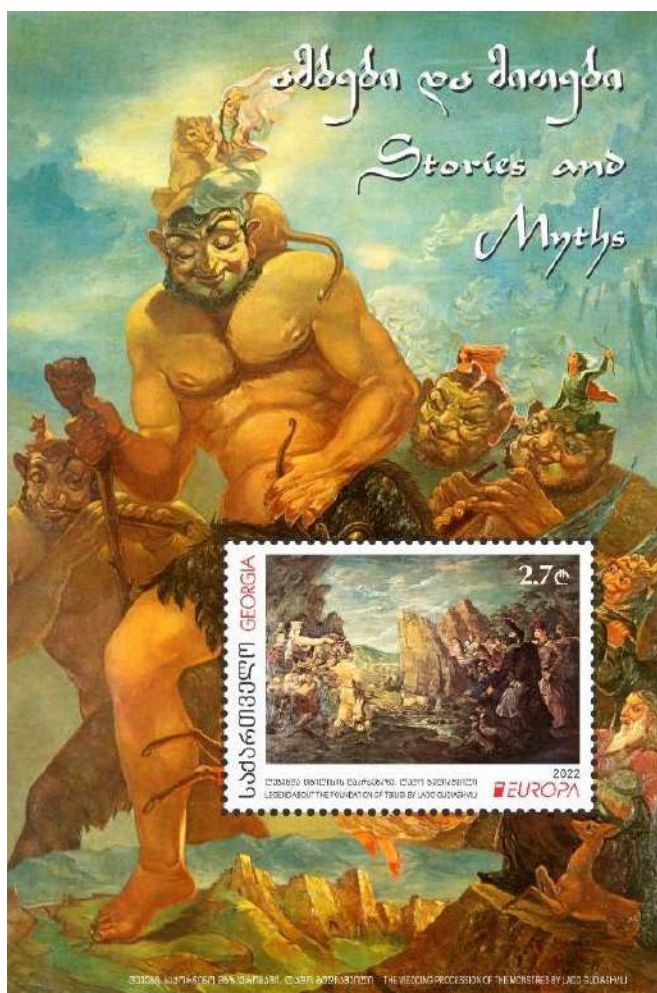
Issue 9 June 2022



Legend about the Founding of Tbilisi



The single stamps are printed in ms of 8 each



More info to come (I hope)

New Issues
SEPAC 2022
Local Beverages

LIECHTENSTEIN 1v

Issue date 7 June 2022



Liechtenstein chose a thirst quencher that comes in top quality from every tap and from many public fountains in Liechtenstein: "drinking water."

Unimaginable for many people in large parts of the world, people in the Alpine country like to enjoy fresh water straight from the tap. Around half of the drinking water consumed each year comes from groundwater and the other half from spring water. The strictest controls and continuous optimization of the network technology are intended to ensure the high quality standard of drinking water in the future.

Responsible for this are seven public water supplies. To ensure that the drinking water reaches the houses in the best quality, the organizations look after numerous reservoirs and other structures such as transfer shafts in addition to the spring tapplings and pumping stations. Almost 430 kilometers of main lines and 270 kilometers of house connection lines are available for transporting the water.

— from *Philatelie Liechtenstein*

MONACO 1v

Issue date
14 June 2022



A tribute to Monegasque beer, made since 1905 at the Principality's old brewery in the Fontvieille district. An organic brewery with tapas & pizza menus plus a dining terrace overlooking Port Hercule marina.

GREENLAND 1v

Issue date 31 May 2022



Continuing the water theme, Post Greenland says:

The water from the Greenland ice sheet is bottled in bottles of various sizes. It creates drinking water of outstanding quality. Bottled Greenlandic water is sold as a product, both in Greenland and on the international market.

An actual answer from SEPAC

From Alex Cwiekalo, ESU Handbook Editor, to SEPAC, via their website:

Sepac webpage shows (and has for years) 13 members. The 2021 Joint Sepac Folder refers to "ten of twelve members" issuing Sepac stamps. I realize Iceland no longer issues postage stamps, but if they are still members of Sepac the correct statement on the folder should be "ten of thirteen members."

Hi Alex,

Thanks for the message.

That's correct, Iceland is no longer a member of Sepac, the folder is correct. Our website will be updated accordingly.

We remain at your disposal if we can be of any further assistance..

Regards,
Sepac team

New Issues
SEPAC 2022
Local Beverages

GUERNSEY 1v

Issue date 22 June 2022

Seagull Mischief



From Guernsey Post:

Seagulls will scavenge for just about anything they can get their beaks on. **Herring Gulls** are a very common sight in the island but not a welcome addition to anyone’s picnic! They are very clever creatures when it comes to mealtimes and use their keen sense of smell and great vision. Unfortunately, they have developed a taste for human food, swooping in for any tasty tidbits they can find in their hunt for an easy meal.

Seagulls are one of the few birds that can drink saltwater, thanks to special glands above their eyes which eliminate excess salt, so they can fly far out to sea on the hunt for food without dehydrating. Seagulls might not be fussy about what they stick in their beaks, but this gull certainly is. Breda is an award-winning beer, having won silver at the International Brewing Awards in 2013. Randalls Brewery have been turning malted barley, hops, water and yeast into this popular 5% abv* pale lager since 2008 and one stamp in this series bears the SEPAC logo to tie in with this year’s SEPAC theme of locally made beverages.

*abv = alcohol by volume, a measure of beer’s strength.

New Issues
European Cooperation

CROATIA 2v
SWITZERLAND 2v

Issue date 5 May 2022

30 Yrs of Partnership in Trade

Joint Issue



The following is taken from Swiss Post:

Croatia isn’t just one of the most popular holiday destinations for Swiss people – it’s also a major trading partner in south-eastern Europe. The strong relationship between the two countries is founded on Switzerland’s commitment to humanitarian aid and reconstruction during and after the war in the Balkan state.

Today, Switzerland is the second home of many Croatian expats. The trade partnership between the two countries has existed for 30 years.

The subject of lakes was selected for the joint stamp issue project. For their design, the Croatians selected a widening of the River Krka, in the middle of which Visovac Island is found. It’s 200 meters long and has been inhabited since the 14th century. The smallest book in the world, containing the Lord’s Prayer in seven languages, and a valuable copy of Aesop’s fables are kept on the island. Both are part of a collection of monastic treasures assembled by Franciscan monks.

Switzerland chose Lake Cauma near Flims, which also has a very picturesque – albeit slightly smaller – island. The Romansh dialect Sursilvan, in which the lake is called “Lag la Cauma”, was intentionally used in the name.

New Issues

European Anniversaries and Events

North MACEDONIA 2v

Issue date 5 May 2022

Issued to promote North Macedonia to the EU

Macedonia (now North Macedonia) has been a candidate for EU membership since 2005, fourteen years after becoming independent of Yugoslavia. In 2011 Macedonia began issuing a series of stamps depicting EU capitals, as part of its pitch to be considered for membership.

This year saw a diorama of famous landmarks.



This may be the end of this colorful series.

GEORGIA 1v

Issue date 2022

Dante Alighieri

Our legacy handbook lists Dante as a Europa proponent.



GEORGIA 1v

Issue date 2022

100 years of diplomatic relations between Georgia and the Republic of Turkey



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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS omitted this issue to preserve space.

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Article

Illegal Stamps — John Lowe

In the last issue I made reference to an email that I'd received regarding illegal stamps (EN#469-6). I'll let that email speak for itself, albeit condensed and redacted. below:

Hello Dana,

My name is John Lowe and I am one of the lead research specialists on counterfeit illegal stamps. I hope this email does not offend; my intent is to raise awareness.

I have been aware of your site for years [who knew? -ed.] and am wondering if you might update your members on the problem of illegal stamps. I am presently working on Mozambique which brought me to your site again. The Europa issues for 2006 (actually dated 2004) for Mozambique are illegal. They are in union with Chad, Sao Tome, and Afghanistan.



[Editor's note: the stamps to which John is referring are not Europa issues per se. They are part of an omnibus issue commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first Europa stamp. See our [checklist of these issues](#) on the Members Only website.]

Illegal stamps are designed by criminals with one intent. To rip you off by making you think they come from a legitimate country with or without a valid postal system. Russian republics and territories without postal systems for instance.

Linn's (either by design or ignorance) too loosely defines what Cinderella stamps are. A Cinderella stamp is a fictional stamp inscribed with either nothing, a fictional country name with or without a denomination.

The characterization that they are collectible only promotes them. To say it is ok to do so is wrong. They should be stated to be non-collectible and worthless. They should be stated that if one buys them they are supporting criminal producers and dealers and not the legitimate stamp market nor legitimate stamp issuing or selling entities.

In going through a ton of the Europa News letters I repeatedly see notes stating either no knowledge on production or a vague buyer warning and in some cases showing the issues as legitimate with no follow-up. I was going through them since 2005 to see if their was any information on the 2006 set for Mozambique when I got bothered.

[Editor's note: What bothers John is my admittedly loose use of the "cinderella" designation.

I decided a few years ago to list the junk that I believed would end up in a catalog. As it turns out, that's a low bar. Michel will list just about anything. Scott is more discerning; to their credit they did note that the Mozambique Europa is illegal; Michel does not.



John zeroes in on one group in particular — *Stamperija*—which produces large volumes of stamp-like material virtually overnight. (see article after this one. I believe a close runner-up is NEOFILA. Most of their product is real stamps, but they are print-on-demand from printing presses in Lithuania. See EN#382 for an in-depth write-up. Scott lists them, but in a format that betrays their utter disdain.]

Article
Illegal Stamps — cont'd

[In follow-up email sessions, John and I hashed out our various definitions of what makes a cinderella. I think we discovered that we were mostly in violent agreement. John summarizes it as follows]:

It is the collector's choice on what they buy. It is just that the collector *should be aware* of the reality of what they are supporting. These producers of illegal stamps are relentless. At present I am documenting one that has repeatedly year after year since 2015 produced hundreds of counterfeit sets in the name of numerous countries adding up to several thousand different sets. It is massive and if it is allowed to hit the western world through eBay and other venues, you will see a wave like never before of this "brand" of illegal stamps. Buyer beware. Some are "leaking through" already.

My work in establishing correct terminology and adding precise descriptions on Colnect is almost done. This makes permanent change within which is good.

[Editor: That wave sounds ominous, and of course John confirmed the source to be primarily Russia. My virus protector blocked me from their website. As always, *caveat emptor!*]

References

[ILLEGAL STAMPS](#)

Information and Reference of illegal stamps according to U.P.U. Circulars, by John Lowe

[Colnect](#) Collectors Trading Area, website

"[Cinderella, or Pumpkin?](#)" about NEOFILA and its stamps, EN#432 pp6-11.

[IGPC](#)—"The World's Largest Philatelic Network", EN#431 pp8-11.

[EUROPA Cinderella Issues](#), from the ESU main portal of useful links. Two decades old but still relevant. ■

New Issues
Peace and Solidarity



As we predicted in the last issue, the arrival of fancy trash stamps pretending to serve a need for actual postage is here. They are a perfect accompaniment to the previous article.

I just received an email advising that the Intergovernmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) would be overseeing issuance of four souvenir sheets promoting "Peace for Ukraine." The press release states that because of the topic, "Stamp collectors and enthusiasts will be sure to add these significant stamps to their collection." Uh-huh.



Wait... Here it comes.....



The previous stamps meet the low bar for junk, but this offering might check all the boxes.

Stamperija has announced an omnibus issue of one stamp from the African nation of Togo, shown above. Seems innocuous, except that the issue includes **27 souvenir sheets**, the latter depicting military leaders, Ukrainian air force, drones, etc.

Who buys this stuff? ■

Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 3 — Dana Roper

The common theme for **2018** reverted back to the idea of beautiful scenery, calling it “Spectacular Views..” The usual suspects were at it again, using this theme to create some truly beautiful stamps.

One last time, Liechtenstein issued multiple stamps. Called “Summit Crosses”, it featured four special stamps with photos by Marco Nescher (author of “Panorama Liechtenstein”) depicting breathtaking views of Liechtenstein’s mountain landscape. The SEPAC stamp is the CHF 150 value.

The first part of the series appeared in 2009 to commemorate 100 years of the Liechtenstein Alpine Club. Shown in the bottom of the previous column, it was extremely well received.

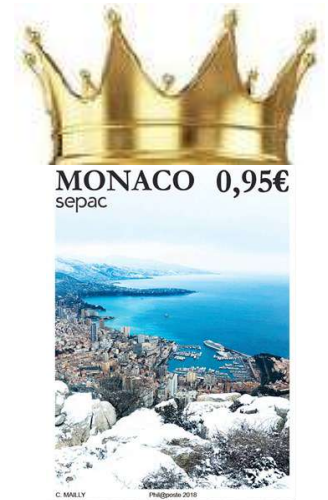
The current four peaks also give a vague idea of just how impressive the alpine world of the small state is.

Long sets are no assurance that the Philatelic Jury will choose your design as best, This year the honor went to Monaco, who issued one stamp:

Why this design?

Perhaps because of the snow. That’s not often seen in this little country, but it was that year—in late February—so never say never.

And of course, it was beautiful.!



Guernsey continued its tradition of multiple stamps with a set of six, of which one bore the sepac logo That stamp, depicting the Guernsey reservoir, is also available by itself in a mini-sheet of ten stamps.



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 3 — cont'd



Guernsey's complete set of "SEPAC" stamp. Only the 76p value has the SEPAC logo.



Guernsey's mini-sheet of SEPAC stamps for 2018

Recalling what was said about Gibraltar's 2017 stamps, it seemed logical to suppose that there might be a monument, or some such tie-in this year. Instead what was offered was simply various views of the rock.

The SEPAC value of 0.80 GBP looks like the heads of two dogs sleeping aside one another. Or not. Maybe it's just me.



Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 3 — cont'd

The theme for 2019 was “Native Houses.”



Aland and Iceland were early entrants, and my honest assessment was that this year augured to be boring, to say the least. Then came



Faroe Islands, with “a beautiful farmhouse in Kirkjubøur”.



Luxembourg continues to add color with an Art Nouveau villa in the city of Luxembourg.



Monaco is most colorful yet, picturing a house in the historic district (but of course!).

And of course Jersey issued six stamps, all called the SEPAC issue, but just one (shown) actually had the SEPAC logo.



Then there’s Liechtenstein. In its present appearance, the Red House was built between 1902 and 1905, when sculptor and architect Egon Rheinberger connected the much older residential building with a stepped gable and the old wine press building with a round tower built according to his own plans. He thus created a striking architectural complex, which today, alongside Vaduz Castle, is another landmark of the capital and has been a listed building since 1951.

Guernsey issued a souvenir sheet showing views of Hauteville House, a place where Victor Hugo lived during his exile from France. The house is one of Guernsey’s many historical gems, inscribed on the island’s Protected Buildings List. Hugo himself is considered to be a Europa forerunner.

Malta provided four stamps showing typical facades of old residential houses. The stamp in the upper right is SEPAC. The design was so popular, it was repeated with four stamps the following year, but without the SEPAC logo.



This possibly inspired the design for the yearbook, which highlights a simple doorway.

So who won Best Design of 2019? Answer: Aland. Go figure.



Greenland showed “The Mission House” built in 1751 by the Danish Christian missionary Poul Egede; it was in service until 1880.

Article

Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation (SEPAC) Part 3 — cont'd

The theme for 2020 was “Art from the State Collection.”



According to Åland Post, their stamp “commemorates the Åland artist Henrik Nylund (1945–1982) who, during his short life, managed to make a lasting impression in the Åland art and cultural life. The stamp shows Nylund's Sabina triptych from 1976, which today hangs in Åland's Lagtings premises.”



Jón Stefánsson (1881–1962) was Iceland's first modern landscape artists and one of the founders of modern art in Iceland. This painting depicts the Skjaldsbreiður, an Icelandic lava shield formed in one huge and protracted eruption roughly 9,000 years ago.

Jersey again gives us an expanded set, featuring the art of Claude Cahun.



Born Lucie Renee Mathilde Schwob, she was a French surrealist photographer, sculptor and writer. SEPAC is third from the left in the first row.

From an extended set of ten stamps, Isle of Man offers this from the Douglas School of Art. This SEPAC stamp highlights the work of Norman Sayle—: “Douglas Promenade Railing” 1995;



Liechtenstein chose contemporary art for their contribution. The artist is Matt Mullican, an American best known for combining various art forms into one.

Discovered in 1954, this picture was originally painted sometime around 1840. The artist was Dísðrikur á Skarvanesi. Most likely the first Faroese artist, creating his works some hundred years before “Faroese art” became a recognized concept. One from a set of five, this work is titled “Moon Pigeons.”



The artwork shown on Greenland’s stamp is a watercolor painted at the beginning of the 20th century by Christine Elisabeth Lund Deichmann (1869 – 1945), and hangs in the Greenland National Museum & Archive. Titled simply “Mother pulling off her daughter’s boots,” that's probably a frequent activity in Greenland.



Malta just issued two stamps, and referred to both of them as SEPAC issues. Neither bore the SEPAC identifier. It is generally assumed that the high value on the right is SEPAC.




Next issue wraps it up. ■



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



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Azores	620-1	7-May-21	Europa 21, 621a ss of 2 (620-621a)
Belarus	1268	21-Dec-21	Diplomatic relations w/Sovereign Military Order of Malta, EN 467-5
Hungary	4636	2-May-22	Europa 2022
Liberia	4525	26-Oct-19	Charles de Gaulle in ss
Madeira	390-1	7-May-21	Europa 21, 391a ss (390-391a)
Norway	1917-8	23-Apr-21	Europa 2021, self adhesive
Poland	4601	25-Mar-22	Peace and Solidarity EN 469-
Portugal	4305	2-May-21	NATO Tiger Meet, sheet of 6 different EN 465-13
Portugal	4306-7	7-May-21	Europa 21, 4307a ss of 2 (4306-4307a)
Portugal	4308-10	14-May-21	Presidency of Council of EU, 4310 a ss EN 465-13
Portugal	4347-8	9-Jul-21	EuroMed 21 EN 465-8
Portugal	4361-5	21-Sep-21	European Year of Rail, 4365 a ss EN 467-7 I
Romania	6565-6	22-Apr-21	Europa 21
	6565a		Tete-beche pair
	6565b		Sheet of 5 + label
	6566a		Tete beche pair
	6566b		Sheet of 5 + label
	6566c		ss 2 each 6565-6, 6565 at UL
	6566d		ss 2 each 6565-6, 6566 at UL EN 466-11
Romania	6630-3	10-Sep-21	European Year of Rai, 6630a, 31a, 32a, 33a, sheets of 5 + labels
Romania	6659-60	24-Nov-21	Wine making, joint w/Moldova 6659a, 6660a. sheets of 5 + labels EN 467-6
Russia	8335	20-Jan-22	Europa 22
Spain	4513	14-May-21	Europa 21
Spain	4532	9-Jun-21	Conrad Adenauer EN 465-12
Spain	4545	12-Jul-21	EuroMed 21
 <p><i>The following are listed in Scott but we include them here under our "glass slipper" (cinderella) designation. We leave it to you to determine their illegality, and just how collectible they are.</i></p>			
St Thomas & Prince Is.	3509	13-Mar-18	Concorde, sheet of 4
	3529	13-Mar-18	Concorde over Paris ss
St. Vincent	4205b	30-Nov-20	Charles de Gaulle
St. Vincent	4205d	30-Nov-20	Winston Churchill

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — the Monograph, Part 6 supplemental

We interrupt the Steve Luster narrative with this submission by ESU Member Haim Bassan (Israel) . The Liechtenstein issue of 1960 is one of considerable interest.

Hi Dana

Today I received my copy of EN # 469 and I read first “The Luster Chronicles” on the Europa 1960 stamp of Liechtenstein. I also read the E-mail that you sent to ESU members regarding this stamp.

I find in my collection some additional information and items about this stamp that can be added to Steve’s monograph — basic information copied from the D’Urso catalog.

In your E-mail on this issue, you mentioned two types of this stamp regarding the position of the name of the designer that we find in the bottom left of the stamp. A scan of these types is worth a thousand words. In the scan below we can see the two types of the designer name on the stamp. At the right stamp you can see type I that has the designer’s name far from the main design of the stamp and close to the perforation of the stamp this is the common one. On the left stamp Type II, the designer’s name is closer to the main design. You can see the difference between the two designs in the following scan.



In the next column you can see a block of 4 Type II stamp, which turns out to be very scarce.



I don’t know how many stamps were printed from Type II; even MICHEL Specialized Catalog of “CEPT” doesn’t mention the existence of this type of stamp.

Probably the reason for printing Type II was that in many cases in bad centering of the stamp, down shifting , the designer name is off the stamp. See an example below.
 [maybe the designer asked it ?]

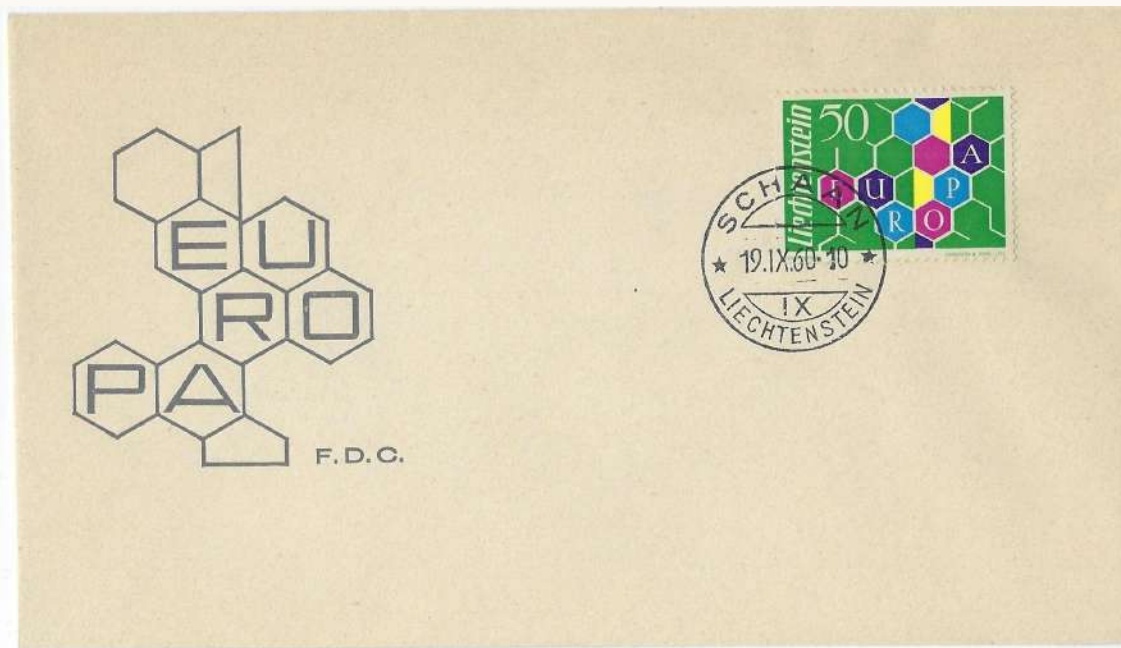


A few words on the stamp designer

Louis Jäger was a well known graphic artist and painter, draftsman, and cartoonist. lived in Lichtenstein. “Europa 1960” was the first stamp that he design for the philatelic services of Lichtenstein. He also design the “Europa 1961” for Lichtenstein and many others In his life [died in October 2018 at age of 88] he designed more than 130 postage stamps for the philatelic services Liechtenstein.

**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — the Monograph, Part 6 supplemental**

As a collector of "Europa" I collect FDCs with a different postmark. FDC with SCHAAN postmark of this stamp is very rare compared to the Vaduz postmark try to find one. See below of example of such a FDC

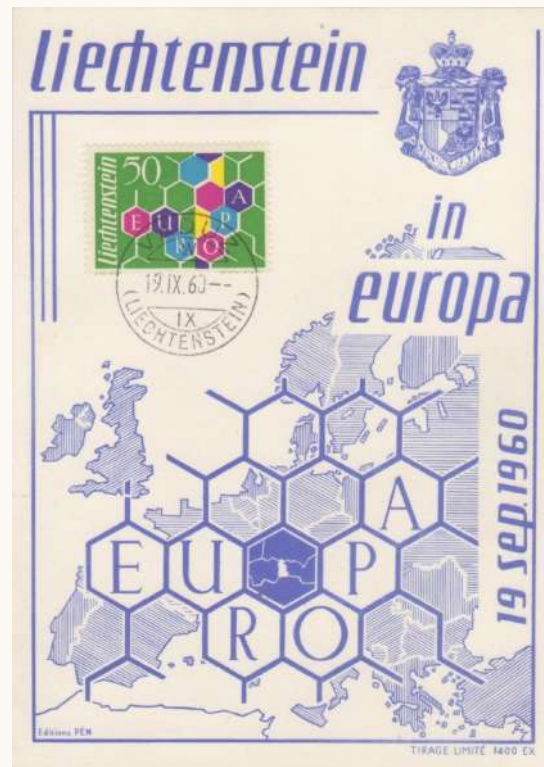
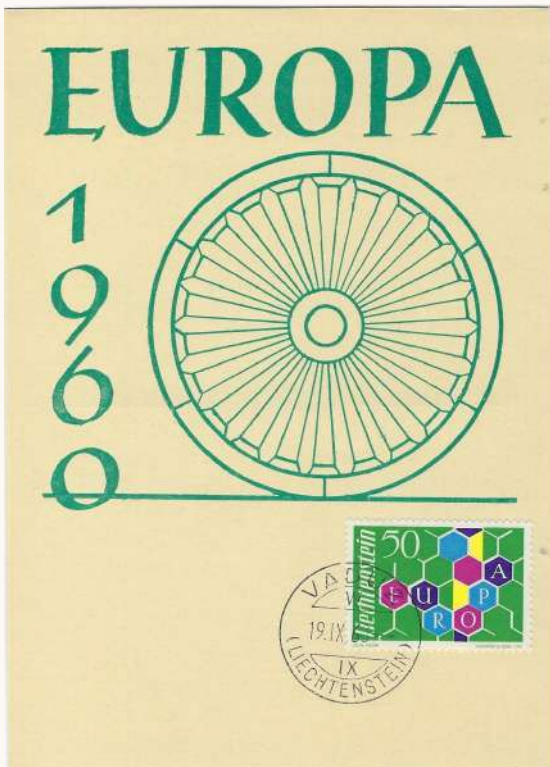


I prefer those FDCs who went truly through the mail. You can see one of them below. The fdc was sent to Israel and it has in the bottom right some faint marks of the arrival postmark.



**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — the Monograph, Part 6 supplemental**

To add some items to Steve's monograph you can see 2 examples. The left is an item from a set of 19 matched cards of all “Europa 1960” stamps!



**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — the Monograph, Part 6 supplemental**



The above envelope is not an FDC but it is a nice philatelic envelope with Europa stamp and others. The postmark date is 29 September 1960 [a week after the day of issue; the additional postmarks indicate that this envelope was flown by balloon [3 October 1960] and a postmark celebrating the year of refugees dated 1st October 1960.

**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — the Monograph, Part 6 supplemental**

For dessert an attractive envelope with Europa 60 Liechtenstein.

The envelope was sent to Israel dated 26 September 1960 Registered with a postmark from SCHAAN. [a week after the day of issue of the Europa stamp).

The registration label was from Zurich 1 Switzerland. A very strange label from Switzerland on Liechtenstein cover.

The puzzle can be explained by the left postmark on the back of the cover. This postmark is on the same day as the Liechtenstein stamps from BOUHS Switzerland. BOUHS is situated two miles from SCHAAN but on the other side of the border.

BOUHS is a small municipality with 5000 residents; they probably didn't have a registration label and they used the Zurich label. The envelope arrived in Israel on 29 September 1960, [3 days! after posting it in SCHAAN)



On the right side you can see the arrival postmark at Jerusalem [Israel]. We can verify that the registration is genuine by the square postmark in the middle in Hebrew that the postmaster applied and with hand writing 3 October. It means that a notice was put in the Post Office Box of the addressee waiting to be collected.

I will be very glad to hear comments on this information.
Haim Bassan #1226
ISRAEL

The Back Page

The article below appeared in Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine, 14 years ago. Still pertinent today!

Stamps and the Cold War

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

by Steven Turechek

The years immediately following the end of WWII were supposed to be a time of recovery and hope around the world. Military hardware was supposed to be laid aside in favor of rebuilding in a spirit of cooperation between the victorious allies. But almost immediately cracks appeared in the solidarity of the allies, specifically between the U.S.S.R. and the democratic countries in Western Europe and the U.S.

By 1949 the rift was hopelessly wide. Russia had no intention of departing from Eastern Europe, yet America's initial intent was to withdraw back across the Atlantic. The down-and-out countries in Western Europe would be potentially left to ward off the Soviets alone.

In 1949, between the Berlin Blockade and before the start of the Korean War, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed by 12 member nations who agreed to come to each other's aid in the event of attack on any one member. As NATO's first Secretary General put it, the intent of the organization was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." In contrast to



US issues for creation and 10th anniversary of NATO

the United Nations, a political organization, NATO was a military organization with civilian leadership.

forces were asked to leave French soil, and NATO headquarters was relocated from Paris into Belgium. France eventually stood up her own independent nuclear forces, though stopped short of withdrawing



Greece airmail set for NATO 5th anniversary

As the NATO members began to integrate their defenses, Greece and Turkey (more often at odds with each other) both joined in 1952. Even Russia attempted to render the alliance ineffective by offering to join to help preserve peace in Europe. Rebuffed by the West, the Soviets formed the Warsaw Pact in 1955 with their client states in Eastern Europe. That same year NATO extended membership to West Germany.

Between 1958 and 1967 France undertook steps to separate her military from the common NATO command. Non-NATO



Cover from Canada to Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1969 with NATO stamp at bottom.



Belgium 10th anniversary set

from NATO. Spain joined the alliance in 1982, which stabilized membership at 16 countries through the rest of the Cold War.



Turkey and Netherlands issues for 40th anniversary.

With the abrupt fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, virtual bankruptcy of the Soviet Union, and end of the Cold War in sight, NATO's reason for existence seemingly evaporated. Yet the alliance soldiered on, as former enemies now sought membership. Upon re-unification with West Germany, East Germany effectively gained membership in 1990. Eventually NATO membership was extended to Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland in 2004. Albania and Croatia joined as late as July, 2008.

The NATO alliance has become a Cold War institution that transcended its original purpose and continues to grow ever stronger. NATO's military forces were never used in combat during the Cold War, but were actively engaged in Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan and for training in Iraq.