

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

POSTVERTRÄGE DER TAXIS 1505.1516
ERSTE INTERNATIONALE POSTVERBINDUNGEN

Thurn & Taxis

Postart	18. Dezember 1805	18. Dezember 1806	18. Dezember 1807	18. Dezember 1808
Frankfurt	10	10	10	10
Wien	10	10	10	10
Paris	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10
Brüssel	10	10	10	10
Amsterdam	10	10	10	10
Rotterdam	10	10	10	10
Antwerpen	10	10	10	10
Lüttich	10	10	10	10
Strassburg	10	10	10	10
Metz	10	10	10	10
Speyer	10	10	10	10
Worms	10	10	10	10
Heidelberg	10	10	10	10
Mannheim	10	10	10	10
Frankfurt	10	10	10	10

Legend:
 - International Postlines via Thurn & Taxis
 - Lines with other carriers
 - National postal services
 - Lines for the postal services of other countries

Entered by Ernst Dreyer

Postal rates of the Taxis Post c.

Europa forerunner? pg 16

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Article

EUROPA 2023

PEACE — THE HIGHEST VALUE OF HUMANITY

It's official!

During their General Assembly in Dublin on 5 October 2022, PostEurop announced the common design that will be used on all 2023 Europa stamps.

The theme will be

"PEACE – the highest value of humanity."

29 entries were submitted for the design competition, which had 44 postal companies participating in the voting. The winning motif is the one submitted by Luxembourg, which they described as "The New Peace Symbol"

Designers : Linda Bos and Runa Egilsdottir from 'A Designers' Collective'

PostEurop writes in their press release this backstory about the design:

"The world needs a new Peace symbol, uniting all nations. Cultural differences perchance a barrier for a state of Peace. If only mankind could respect each other's differences by understanding their significance and responding to them with consideration, the world would be a better place.

"This design shows a visual metaphor for a peacefully integrated, cooperative society in which people embrace each other's culture. It was inspired by the Celtic Love Knot symbol, with interlocking hearts. The color palette illustrates all the nations in the world. By adding hands with intertwined fingers, it conveys the message of mutual respect."

In the USA, a friendly (?) rivalry has existed to see who will hold the first presidential primary in an election year. A similar thing may be emerging with Europa stamps. For the last

couple of years Finland has been first out of the gate with their Europa stamp (remember the Santa Claus issue?).

Well, one more time Finland leaps well ahead of other countries in announcing their Europa stamp. You can tell that this one didn't take too much imagination after all:



FINLAND 1v
self adhesive

Issue date 9 May 2023



The [Europa Blogspot](#) noted that the design is very close to the one used for the UPU 2016 World Post Day campaign.

In an announcement that will surprise no one, Russia has decided not to produce a Europa stamp for 2023.



New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

ITALY 2v self adhesive
 Issue date 28 September 2022



Romeo and Juliet -
 Grieving Juliet in the presence of lifeless Romeo.

Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare early in his career about two young Italian star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately reconcile their feuding families. The play is set in the Italian city of Verona.

Colapesce holding up one of the three columns on which Sicily rests, consumed by the fire of Mount Etna, to prevent the island from sinking.



In a version from Palermo, edited by Italo Calvino, Colapesce spends all of his time swimming, until his frustrated mother curses him to turn into a fish. He instantly becomes half fish, with duck feet and a frog's throat. He appears to fishermen and warns them of upcoming storms, and also informs them of the marvels found at the bottom of the sea. A king hears of him and summons him, then gives him orders to swim around the island and explore the bottom of the ocean.

The king sends him down on numerous dives around Italy. Nick Fish discovers that Messina rests on three columns, some of which are broken, and brings back hot and fresh water from springs in the ocean around Naples. Finally the king urges Nick Fish to explore a bottomless ocean chasm, despite his resistance.

(Concluded in next column)

He throws his crown into the chasm and orders him to fetch it. Nick Fish reluctantly dives in. Some lentils he was carrying float to the surface, but he never returns.

— from Wikipedia via Europa Blogspot

KAZAKHSTAN 2v+ ss of 2 sets as shown
 Issue date 28 September 2022



Bayterek and **Samruk** : Ancient Turkic myth a tree of life "Bayterek" and a sacred bird "Samruk". Bayterek in Kazakh means "High poplar tree", every year the Samruk, lays its egg (the Sun) in the crevice between the branches of the poplar tree.

— from the Europa Blogspot

New Issues
Europa 2022
Stories and Myths

GREENLAND 2v + 2v self adhesive

Issue date 31 August 2022



Each stamp is available in ms of ten stamps. The same 2v are also available self-adhesive in a booklet:



Aka Høegh, one of Greenland’s most significant living artists, says about her two stamps :

- “The first stamp symbolizes Inuit narratives in a broader sense. I have drawn two mask-like faces to represent that our stories are told and passed on. The book is open to let the stories come out. In creating the design, I cut from an old history book with old orthography, as a form of talking flower that grows.

- The second stamp depicts a myth about the children between the willow twigs. After Earth came into being, humans appeared. It is said that the little children came forth out of the earth between the willow bushes, covered in willow leaves. Then they lay there with their eyes closed, between the bushes, squirming. Then the children crawled around and ate of willow twigs and of the soil. This is an Inuit narrative of the genesis of man.”

— Europa Blogspot

Article

We Keep On Keepin’ On

— Dana Roper, ed.

Rather early in my checkered career I recall one of those performance reviews you get periodically. Toward the end I was asked “How do you handle pressure?” to which I said “I crumble.” “How about criticism?” was asked next. Easy one. “I go into a corner and whimper.” That was enough. A note was made in my file: “Management Material.”

Kidding aside, I think we all like compliments vs. criticism now and then. So it was especially nice to get this email recently from one of my ESU friends in Florida. Hurricane Ian was passing through Tampa and I wondered how they had fared. This note was sent soon thereafter.

“Dana, good morning from the slightly modified sunshine state ;)

“I received my hard copy of Europa news along with some super stamps that Tonny adds for postage! Much appreciated.

“As I devoured the issue I also reviewed the Auction & got curious to see what I might need for my collection. (Your encouragement is contagious!)

“I was pleasantly surprised to discover I have the treasured '62-3 Cyprus issues and also what I'm assuming are authentic 1972 Spanish Andorra stamps!



“Then, as I reached the column discussing the proposed "Peace" theme for 2023 & your memories of the Dove designs I wanted these pages in my album when they come out.

(Continued on next page)

Article

We Keep On Keepin' On — Dana Roper, ed.

"The Great Britain issues with the Queen are especially poignant.

"Certainly a bright moment for another day without water. Many have it so much worse and perhaps without having lovely stamp albums to browse through so no complaints from me

"Just thought I'd share . . . thanks as always for your dedication to Europa.

/s/

Pat Perella, ESU#2083

OK, I admit it. Flattery will get you everywhere, at least where I'm concerned. We do appreciate it when we get a Pat on the back. (Ugh. Just couldn't resist.) Beside \$\$, it's what keeps us going.

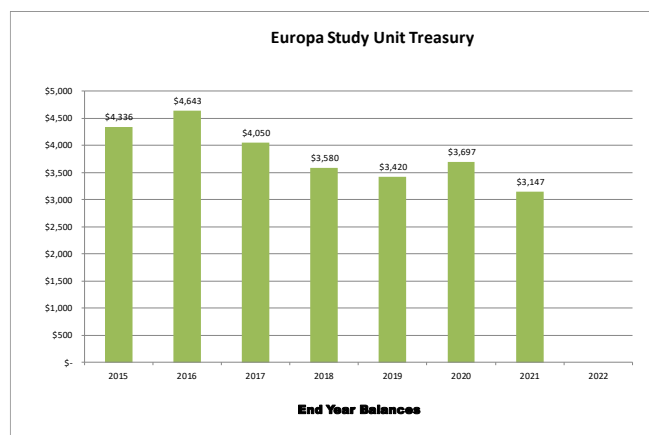
Which is a clumsy segue to my next topic. Keeping the ESU running and putting out these regular newsletters is a challenge. Keeping the auctions going, maintaining the Handbook and the website, creating, composing, printing and mailing the newsletter are all labors of love for four people. Thanks to your yearly Dues, and generous donations, we've stayed afloat and will for awhile yet.

But not forever, and anyone who's been paying attention can see that everything is getting more expensive. And as we directors get older we start getting tired (is that a word?). So we put our heads together (figuratively) and came up with a list of things we might do to right the ship. One suggestion kept coming up, and one we will implement starting with the next issue. That idea is for Europa News to become a quarterly publication.

This move is the most effective way to cut printing and mailing costs. It also gives your Directors a bit more time to work on our own collections! There won't be as many issues, but the overall content will be the same as what you now see.

So, you ask, when will we be dropping the other shoe? I.e., how much will dues go up? That usually happens when publications announce changes like this. We're proud to say that's not going to happen. One reason we already mentioned — going to quarterly, which saves us a ton of postage costs.

The chart below shows the trend. Even though we may be trending down in our balances, Alex reminds us how much worse it could be without taking into account all the postage and supply purchase donations Tonny makes throughout the year; Dana's monetary donations for the web service as well as his FREE webmaster service; all the donated time, effort and expense Don makes for the auctions, and Alex's significant efforts maintaining our Handbook.



Reason two entails a little bit of load balancing. Astute readers have already noticed that the Treasurer has shifted to Alex Cwiekalo. Like the old vaudeville act where a magician keeps any number of plates spinning on the end of multiple sticks, your officers and directors often feel the same way. As one of Tonny's plates started to wobble, Alex volunteered to help. If you pay using PayPal, nothing has changed for you. If you pay the old fashioned way, you will still make your check payable to Europa Study Unit, just change your mailing address.

Europa Study Unit
c/o Alex Cwiekalo, Treasurer
2525 W Choctaw Dr.
London, OH 43140-9081

That's it. No other surprises. We hope these simple changes keep us afloat for many more years to come. We love our hobby, we respect our members, and we love working on our collections that give us so much enjoyment. ■

P.S., a new Dues notice is enclosed with this issue.

New Issues

Peace and Solidarity

The number of countries issuing stamps to support the Ukrainians continues to grow. Canada Post issued this stamp with the following press release:



CANADA 1v
Issue date 7 July 2022

Supporting Ukrainians in time of dire need: New fundraising stamp now on sale at post offices across the country and online.

‘Recognizing the generosity of Canadians in times of need, Canada Post has issued a semi-postal fundraising stamp to provide customers and collectors with a way to support the people of Ukraine and the escalating humanitarian crisis.

“Today, nearly four per cent of Canadians can trace their roots to Ukraine. The sunflower is Ukraine’s national flower and has now become a widely recognized symbol of peace and unity. The yellow sunflower and blue-sky background reflect the colors of Ukraine’s flag. The colorful stamp was originally issued in 2011 as part of a souvenir sheet” shown here:



zyphr_philately

Why Canada, you ask? Well, it’s a bit of a stretch, but Canada is a member of NATO, and NATO is commonly considered to be a sub-topic of Europa. The Michel Europa CEPT catalog includes Canada in its NATO section.

From Canada Post , cont’d:

The stamps are sold in a booklet of 10 domestic rate, with a C\$1 surcharge, for a total of C\$10.20.

This booklet of 10 Permanent™ domestic rate stamps is offered to our customers as a means of supporting humanitarian aid in Ukraine. A donation of \$1 from each booklet of 10 stamps will go directly to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

The stamp features a sunflower – the national flower of Ukraine. It has become a symbol of peace and unity. The yellow sunflower is shown against a blue-sky background, reflecting the country’s flag colors of yellow and blue.

Canada and Ukraine share a historic bond. The first wave of Ukrainian immigrants began to arrive in the 1890s, and Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine’s independence in 1991. Today, nearly four per cent of Canadians can trace their roots to Ukraine.

In a similar vein comes this stamp from Portugal:

PORTUGAL 1v

Issue date
27 September 2022

Solidarity with the Ukrainian People



From Portugal Post:

The net value of the sale of these stamps will be fully invested by CTT in actions that can contribute to improving the dramatic situation of the Ukrainian people, to be defined in detail in close collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine in Portugal.

New Issues

Peace and Solidarity

Russia continues its missile barrage against Ukrainian cities. The Crimean bridge was daringly taken out, delivering Vladimir Putin a real blow, and within hours *Ukraine was tauntingly unveiling a postage stamp depicting the ruined span.*

- Peggy Noonan in her column of 13 October, (italics mine)

It's not that often that I learn of a new stamp issue from the Opinion pages of the Wall Street Journal, but there it is. Google found the following from Pravda—Ukrainian Edition:

Ukrposhta, the national postal service of Ukraine, is to release a new stamp depicting the burning Crimean Bridge; the release date will be announced later.

Source: General Director of Ukrposhta Ihor Smilianskyi on Telegram

Quote from Smilianskyi: "The morning has never been so good. On the occasion of the holiday, we are releasing a new stamp with the Crimean Bridge, or, more precisely, with what remains of it."

Talk about a sharp stick in the eye to Vladimir Putin. The stamp comes with a name of M (for "mist", Ukrainian for "bridge"); the price will be 18 hryvnias [US\$0.48], and circulation will be 7 million.

Another Google hit was from eBay, with sellers in Ukraine getting presale orders for the new stamp. Labels are also starting to proliferate, so be careful out there.

The design seems to mimic the iconic scene from the movie 'Titanic'. This conflict is really escalating. Let's hope we have ancestors who will be alive to appreciate this irony.



A Dues Renewal Flyer is enclosed with this issue. Please send your check to Alex Cwiekalo — it will make his day.

New Issues
SEPAC 2022
Local Beverages

The following concludes the series for 2022:

MALTA 1v from a set of 4v

Issue date
 13 September 2022



The following is taken from the website of Malta Post:

Possibly Malta's best-known beverage is the non-alcoholic, amber-colored **Kinnie**. Long a household name in Malta, it was introduced in 1952 as an alternative to the soda drinks proliferating after WWII. Of course, its recipe is a closely guarded secret, but the acquired taste is distinctly one of bitter oranges with extracts of the herb *Artemisia absinthium* colloquially known as wormwood. Kinnie is exported to seven countries and also produced in Australia under license. In the stamp design, the bobbing Luzzuboa, a seascape and slice of orange complement Kinnie's retro label and bottle.

On a different level are Malta's locally produced wines. With an abundance of vines, the Islands have been producing wine for centuries. The second stamp depicts a bottle of the local **Gellewza** grape wine made from a dark-skinned variety of grape that is indigenous to the Islands. Only a small volume is made from this little-planted variety, but it is increasingly found in blends, softening the spiciness of the wine, and adding a bright cherry flavor. Emerging from a family-run vineyard, Delicata's Gellewza grapes are traditionally grown on old bush vines which are largely dry farmed. The wine is unoaked, with a garnet color. This stamp depicts a backdrop of Valletta.



The third stamp shows the unusual yet popular **Bajtra liqueur**. Made by Marsovin, these liqueurs are based on ancient recipes dating to the Knights' presence in Malta and seek to reflect the warmth and fragrance of the Mediterranean. Bajtra liqueur is made from the fruit of the *Opuntia Ficus-Indica*, commonly known as the prickly pear. One may see these all over the Islands; they are harvested between August and September annually. The pulp of the fruit is then extracted, sieved, and fermented by the addition of a yeast species. The liqueur is translucent, pink in color and stands out beautifully against the backdrop of the citadel of Mdina.

Several popular craft beers have recently appeared on the local market. One such beer is the hop-blend known as **San Blas** - its name paying homage to the secluded red sandy beach located below the village of Nadur in Gozo. The deep amber color of this Indian pale ale is dominated by the explosive character of a carefully selected hop blend that showcases the citrusy and peachy notes of American hop varieties, and the more subtle, spicy notes of its British counterparts. The design for this stamp shows hops at the fore with San Blas beach in the background.

New Issues

EuroMed 2022

MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY OR ANTIQUE CITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

FRANCE 1v

Issue date 11 July 2022



Underwater archaeology emerged in the second half of the 20th century. The invention of the scuba suit by Cousteau and Gagnan in 1943 and the rapid spread of its use after 1945 were responsible for most of the discoveries of wrecks, as well as for increased public interest in underwater archaeology and its development.

The current Department of Underwater Archaeological Research (DRASSM), which was born out of this pioneering movement in the 1960s and founded by André Malraux in 1966, has continued to ensure that French research in this field is at the highest level worldwide.

Seas, lakes, rivers and streams preserve the traces of the populations that have crossed them, exploited their resources and developed them, from prehistory to the present day. Underwater archaeology is concerned with the detection and study of ruins preserved underwater. These submerged constructions and wrecks are evidence of the occupation of the territory, the movement of people and goods, the evolution of techniques and the relationship between humans and their maritime, lake and river environments.

An underwater excavation requires a great deal of technical and human resources. It is slower and more expensive than a land-based excavation, but it provides information that terrestrial archaeology rarely does.

(Concluded in next column)

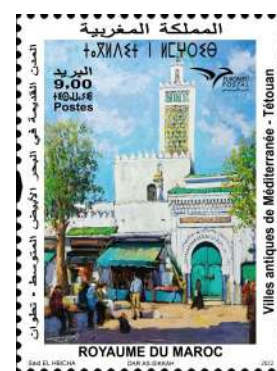
The excavation of the Western wreck Giraglia 2, at Cape Corsica, has thus provided new data to the research on dolia ships and the bulk wine trade at the time of the Roman Empire. It was the starting point for a critical reconsideration of what was thought to be known about this trading system, which had a very limited duration and seems to have remained the only such system until the establishment of the contemporary bulk wine trade.

— *la Poste Press Release*

MOROCCO 1v

Issue date 11 July 2022

Tétouan



Tétouan, a city in northern Morocco, lies along the Martil Valley and is one of the two major ports of Morocco on the Mediterranean Sea. It is a few miles south of the Strait of Gibraltar, and about 37 mi E.S.E. of Tangier.

The city has witnessed many development cycles spanning over more than 2,000 years. The first settlements, discovered a few miles outside of the modern city limits, belonged to Mauretanian Berbers and date back to the 3rd century BC. The modern history of the city starts around the late 15th century.

Tétouan is a renowned multicultural center. The medina of Tétouan is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. It has also been part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the area of Crafts and Folk Art since 2017.

— *from Wikipedia*

New Issues

EuroMed 2022

MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY OR ANTIQUE CITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

EGYPT 1v + 3v se-tenant

Issue date 11 July 2022

A diver passes beneath a representation of underwater antiquity



The diver passes through various examples of underwater archaeology.

Note: the 3 stamps are an obvious set, but only the center stamp has the EuroMed emblem.

MONTENEGRO 1v

12 July 2022
Issue date

Risan



Ancient Risan was the capital of the Illyrian tribe Ardijejaci, who formed a powerful state and conquered the surrounding Illyrian tribes, controlling trade routes both on sea and on land. The most famous ruler of Risna was the Illyrian queen Teuta.

Archaeological objects testify to the importance of the city in the ancient period, and one of the most significant is the coin of King Balajos, the Illyrian leader who continued to rule after the defeat of King Gentius by the Roman Empire.

— from Pošta Crne Gore

TUNISIA 2v

Issue date 11 July 2022



Takrouna



Testour

The Tunisian country hosted multiple civilizations that lasted about three thousand years, in which it witnessed the Punie, Roman, Vanda, Byzantine, Arab and Islamic eras, among others. This made Tunisia a beacon in the Mediterranean basin and many towns and villages were established during these successive eras, such as the like of Testour and Takrouna.

The city of Testour:

Testour is located in the northwest of Tunisia and is one of the oldest Andalusian cities in North Africa. The city was founded at the beginning of the 17th century. One of the most important monuments by which Testour is known is the Great Masque, which was built by Mohamed Tegrino in the year 1630. Its minaret is topped by a strange clock, its hands turning against what is familiar to the normal clocks, and a six-pointed star signifying tolerance and continuity of belonging between Muslims, Christians and Jews.

The city of Takrouna:

Takrouna is on top of a giant rock located at an altitude of 200 meters above sea level. The village was built of stone houses whose architecture reflects the authentic Amazigh construction method (a courtyard in the middle of the house is surrounded by vaulted rooms).

The design of the two postage-stamps models was made by pupils who participated in a “Hackathon” organized by the Tunisian Post in partnership with the Ministry of Education on 8 May 2022 in Tunis.

— from the Press Release

New Issues
EuroMed 2022

MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY OR ANTIQUE CITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

SLOVENIA 1v

Issue date 11 July 2022

**AJDOVŠČINA – CASTRA –
Roman Fortress**



The Roman fortress or Castra (mutatio Castra) was built in the third century AD along the road connecting Aquileia and Ljubljana (Emona). It stood at the confluence of two streams, the Hubelj and the Lokavšek, on the site of an earlier Roman settlement, and was an important administrative and commercial center of the Vipava Valley. The fortress was part of the defensive system known as Clausura Alpium Iuliarum (Barrier of the Julian Alps), within which it had supply and command functions and housed a permanent garrison.

— Slovenia Post Press Release

GREECE 2v + ms of 4v (2 sets) + booklet

Issue date 11 July 2022



Scenes from marine archeology (Peristeri shipwreck, Alonissos). The booklet is the same as the ms except it is perforated vertically only.



PORTUGAL 2v

Issue date 11 July 2022



“Ancient Cities of the Mediterranean”

Inscriptions on the stamps are miniscule and cannot be magnified with enough clarity to tell if these are accurate translations:.

Upper left:

Tigela com decoracao epigraphica com corda seca total sec XII

Bowl with epigraphic decoration with dry rope

Lower left:

Estela da Abobada o Idade fo ferro

Star of the Vault or Iron Age

Upper right:

Krater de sino de estilo attico de figuras Vermelhas

Red-figure Attic-style bell krater

Lower right:

Vaso de Tavira, finais do dec. XI-inicios do sec XII

Tavira vase, late dec. XI-beginnings of the twelfth century

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

AUSTRIA ss
LIECHTENSTEIN ss
SWITZERLAND ss

Issue date 9 September 2022

150 years of Feldkirch-Schaan-Buchs Railway Line

Joint Issue

From Swiss Post:



AUSTRIA



LIECHTENSTEIN

SWITZERLAND

For 150 years now, a stretch of railway just 18 kms (11 miles) long has formed the backbone of long-distance services between Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. This important connection was celebrated with a joint issue. Coming into service on 24 October 1872, this railway line remains something of a curiosity today. First, because the electric line is the only stretch of railway in the Principality of Liechtenstein; and secondly, because many long-distance services between Austria and Switzerland, for both goods and passengers, also use this line – despite it being single-track.

The miniature sheet issued to mark the 150th anniversary features three locomotives from different eras used in each of the nations: a 1927 steam engine for Austria, an electric ÖBB traction unit from 2004 for Liechtenstein and SBB’s legendary Re 4/4 II built between 1964 and 1985.

In each country, only that country’s own stamp is perforated on the souvenir sheet and shows the respective face value. However, a cancelled souvenir sheet with all the face values was also available. Special post offices were set up along the tri-border region of the three countries.

MONTENEGRO 1v

Issue date
 7 October 2022

JOY of Europe

Joint Issue



The stamp shows a stylized cosmonaut in space, surrounded by planets and stars. The drawing symbolically represents the endless expanse of children's imagination.

— from Pošta Crne Gore

SERBIA 1v in a ms of 8 stamps with alternating labels

Issue date
 3 October 2022

JOY of Europe

Joint Issue



A children’s drawing, selected from the nine labels shown on the ms. See back page.

— from ePhilately (Serbia Post)

New Issues
European Anniversaries and Events

PORTUGAL 2v

Issue date 15 September 2022
 20 Years of the Euro



From the website of the European Commission: Portugal joined the European Union in 1986 and was one of the first countries to adopt the euro on 1 January 1999. In 2002, the euro became available as general currency — banknotes and coins.

SERBIA ms

Issue date 29 September 2022
 140 Years since the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Portugal



SERBIA 1v

Issue date 19 October 2022

105 years of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Kingdom of Denmark



In spite of being located at two opposite ends of Europe, contact between Serbia and Denmark had existed long before there was discourse concerning diplomatic relations, most notably in the field of culture. Several curated collections of Serbian folk songs were translated into Danish in the 19th century. Hans Christian Andersen portrayed Serbia and the Serbian people in a dedicated chapter titled ‘Dryads of Serbia’ in his “A Poet’s Bazaar” travelogue from 1842.

Upon returning from their voyage to the Scandinavian country, two prominent Serbian scientists and politicians Milenko Vesnić and Svetomir Nikolajević introduced the Danes’ culture and art to the Serbian public through their articles. Since 1901, Copenhagen has been a home to the Serbian street.

— from *ePhilately* (Serbia Post)

SERBIA 2v

Issue date 20 March 2022

European Nature Protection (ECY)



Article
 Best Europa Stamp — 2022

The 2022 Best Europa stamp has been announced by PostEurop in this press release:

POST Luxembourg scores a double win in the 2022 & 2023 EUROPA Stamps Competitions

PostEurop is proud to announce POST Luxembourg (Luxembourg - Gold), Posti (Finland - Silver) and Liechtensteinische Post (Liechtenstein - Bronze) as winners of the 2022 EUROPA Stamps competition depicting their national stories and myths.



At the same time, POST Luxembourg took home a second win with the 2023 EUROPA design motif competition based on the theme “PEACE – the highest value of humanity”. (see page 3 —ed.) The results were disclosed during the PostEurop General Assembly in Dublin on 5 October 2022.

The winners were selected in a combined voting in three panels (16,600 votes cast by general public, 37 postal companies and an expert jury) – POST Luxembourg's winning stamp featured Melusina, while Posti's stamp was Goddess Kuutar (Goddess of the Moon) and finally, Liechtensteinische Post's stamp depicted the White Woman.

Details of the voting are in the panel on the right. This is the second year that this method has been employed, and so far it appears to have been very successful. Your thoughts?

Last year in the Europa Blogspot (and the Europa News) it was reported that PostEurop had changed the rules for this contest. Now, three voting panels (public, jury and operators) select the best Europa stamp. The results of these three panels are then compiled and an overall winner is determined.

Luxembourg won the overall contest in a deserved way, by winning 2 of the 3 voting panels :

Public voting:

1. Finland
2. Georgia
3. Turkey



Jury voting :

1. Luxembourg
2. Liechtenstein
3. Switzerland



Postal operators voting :

1. Luxembourg
2. Finland
3. Åland



Consolidated result of all three panels - top 10 :

1. Luxembourg
2. Finland
3. Liechtenstein
4. Croatia
- = Georgia
- = Åland
7. Azerbaijan
- = Germany
9. Switzerland
- = Turkey

Belarus and Russia were excluded from voting.



New Issues

with **SCOTT** catalog numbersFrom Linns' September & October
Special Editions

— Don Smith



<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>SCOTT #</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Albania	3052	22-Dec-21	Ecotourism, joint issue w/Slovenia 1474
Albania	3053-4	30-Mar-22	Europa 2021, 3054 a ss, 3054a bklt pane of both issues
Albania	3068	11-May-22	EuroMed 2021, 3068a-d blk of 4
Andorra (French)	850	13-May-22	Europa 2022
Andorra (Spanish)	504	14-Mar-22	Europa Cup in Skiing EN 471-7
Austria	B410	31-Mar-22	Peace and Solidarity EN 469-5
Belgium	2966	25-Oct-21	Paris-Brussels Railroad, 2966d Trans-Europe Express 2966e, Thalys locomotive EN 467-17
Belgium	2972	24-Jan-22	Euro Coin EN 467-5
Bosnia (Croat)	444-5	5-Apr-22	Europa 2022 444a ss, 445a ss, 445b pair of 444-445
Croatia	1247	5-Nov-21	Council of Europe Membership 25th Anniversary
Croatia	1252	2-Dec-21	Earth's Treasures, joint w/Poland 4583 EN 471-9
Croatia	1263	12-Apr-22	Peace and Solidarity EN 469-6, 471-10
Croatia	1271-2	5-May-22	Trade Partners, joint w/Switzerland 1865-6 EN470-10
Croatia	1273	9-May-22	Europa 2022 pair 1273a-b
Czech Republic	3897	18-Mar-22	Kosice-Bohumin Railway, joint w/Slovakia
Czech Republic	3899	6-Apr-22	Europa 2022
Czech Republic	3907	15-Jun-22	Presidency of Council of European Union
Denmark	1896	19-May-22	Europa 2022, ss of 3
Estonia	974	24-Mar-22	Peace and Solidarity EN 469-4
Estonia	979-80	5-May-22	Europa 2022
Germany	3292	5-May-22	Europa 2022
Gibraltar	1821-2	25-Feb-22	Europa 2022 1822a ss
Latvia	1099-1100	8-Apr-22	Europa 2022
Latvia	B153	10-Mar-22	Peace and Solidarity EN 469-4
Liechtenstein	1865	7-Mar-22	Europa 2022, se-tenant pair
Lithuania	1199-1200	29-Apr-22	Europa 2022
Monaco	3082	17-Mar-22	Abduction of Europa by Jupiter
Monaco	3092	9-May-22	Europa 2022



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.

Djibouti	2611	20-Dec-21	Concorde, ss of 4 + 2 labels
Djibouti	2629	20-Dec-21	Concorde

Article

My Passion: Thurn & Taxis — Tonny Van Loij

The T&T family has been involved in postal service since the late 1400's. The family lived in Borneo, Northern Italy, and was serving mail for the Roman Curia and the Republic of Venice. They became heavily involved in postal service when they were contracted by the Habsburg family to deliver letters. (According to the accountancy of the logs of the Habsburg Treasury at Innsbruck, Austria.)

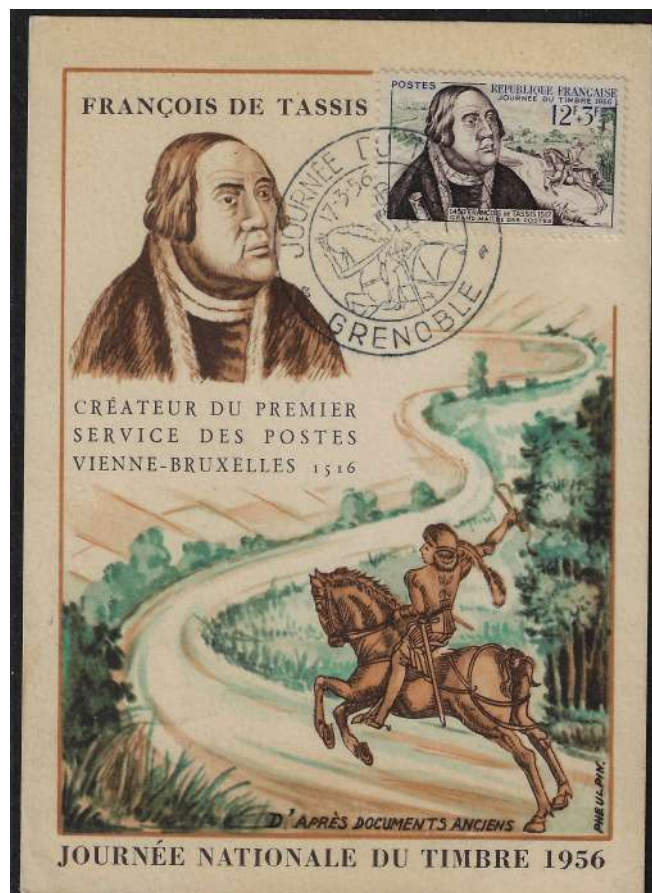
Following the marriage of Mary of Burgundy (1477), Maximilian I of Habsburg took possession of Burgundy and the Flanders. Around 1490 we find reference to Maximilian's introduction of mounted couriers on the route that linked Austria to the Netherlands and France, as well as Rome. There were postal stations every 5 miles. A mounted courier was always on duty awaiting the arrival of his colleague. The courier had to hold to an average speed of 1 mile per hour, otherwise his compensation was reduced. They must also ride day and night if needed.

On 1 March 1501, while at Ghent (the Netherlands—presently Belgium) Philip the Handsome issued a proclamation appointing Francis Taxis as "Chief et Maistre des Postes" with a daily stipend of 20 Pence. By this act the Archduke elevated Francis Taxis to the rank of Captain and Master of the Posts as a replacement for Olivier de Jamars.

During that period, the mounted couriers had the exclusive privilege of using the Post Horn. The use of that was to announce their arrival of post offices so the next courier was ready to go without loss of time. Also in those days the couriers had something like a *laisse passee* and when, at night, the town gates were closed the courier blow his horn and the gates opened up so they had a safe resting place.

During the 1500's-1700's the mail delivery was between the royal courts of Austria, Spain and the Netherlands since those were all related by marriage and the primary function for the mail was to stay in touch.

The Taxis post master generals, all from the same family, were masters in procuring contracts with individual kingdoms and countries. These contracts were important, since there were small individual states that had their own local postal delivery. The contracts outlined the rights to use main roads for their post offices and delivery, but could not deliver mail to other private postal services. It was also not until later on in the 17th century before businesses and private people could send mail.



Francois de Tassis (Francis Taxis) on maximum card for France National Stamp Day in 1956, showing the mounted couriers used to dispatch the mail. Scott# B302

Article
My Passion: Thurn & Taxis — cont'd

When the Taxis postal service had to cross country borders, they had to use designated border crossings.

Until 1852 the mail was called “stampless letters” and in the category of postal history. In 1852 Thurn und Taxis started issuing their own stamps. Stamps were printed 1852-1858, 1859-1860, 1862-1863, 1865 and 1866 for a total of 32 different issues.

On 1 July 1867 Thurn und Taxis was bought out by the Northern German Confederation because the compensation was getting to expensive and the N.G.P. thought they could deliver at a lower cost. Since many customers still had T&T stamps it was ok to use them for another 2 months.

Since my first exhibit of Thurn und Taxis, 5 years ago, I have won 1 large gold and 3 golds consecutively. I also have probably the largest library of catalogs and books about Thurn und Taxis in the country. I do know of a few people that collect and have exhibited the stamps but I've never seen a exhibit about postal history. I guess the main reason is that the information is only available in German language.



Stub from a letter sent in 1685 via T&T Post.



Cinderella sheet celebrating the Magna Carta, showing Franz von Taxis. It resembles the Belgium sheet shown on the next page. This is what got me started.

So, the most looked after piece for collectors who exhibit is a letter mailed from a small town, preferably to China, at a date as close as possible to 31 August 1867. The latest of such that was auctioned in Switzerland went for € 20,000.00. (US\$19,700).



From Wikipedia: a small section of the extensive family seat at St. Emmeram Castle in Regensburg, Germany

Table of Mail Delivery		
Route	Summer	Winter
Brussels—Paris	44 hrs	54 hrs
Brussels—Blois	60 hrs	72 hrs (3 days)
Brussels—Lyons	96 hrs (4 days)	120 hrs (5 days)
Brussels—Innsbruck	132 hrs (5/5 days)	156 hrs (6.5 days)
Brussels—Toledo	288 hrs (12 days)	336 hrs (14 days)
Brussels—Granada	360 hrs (15 days)	432hrs (18 days)

Keep in mind, during that period, there were no paved roads or highways, no rain gutters or snow plows

Article

My Passion: Thurn & Taxis — cont'd

Editor's note:

The illustrations that Tonny provided for this article left me wondering what else there might be to the story. What he sent could have been an article by itself. Here is the background in Tonny's words:

Dana, the souvenir sheet is what got me going; it was an enclosure (not valid for postage) in a magazine issued for a stamp exhibit in Brussels in 2000 for the 500th anniversary of the Post in Europe. The actual souvenir sheet is shown below; it was issued to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the signing of the Postal Agreement of 1516; Scott# 2796.



The white letter is a history book in itself. It was mailed from Amsterdam to Antwerp on Jun 25, 1685. That is according to the inside of the folded letter. At that time rates or routes were not marked on the letters, since only high ranked people were allowed to send mail. Also, ordinary people could not afford postage. As a note: even the nobility or royals had secretaries (scribes) to write their letters because very few people could read or write.

The letter with the 5 or 6 lines as address; It is from 1735, the entire 6 lines are all the names and positions the recipient had. He was also a major pastry delivery man to the royal courts.

I don't know if you have room but the letter with the stamps is probably the most interesting as far as postal history goes. The letter originated on Oppenheim (Rhineland-Palatinate - south west Germany) and went to Palermo, Sicily. From there it traveled to Mainz by rail, by post coach to Worms, Germany and to Basel, Switzerland. From there it went via Como and ship on to Palermo.

You can see all the cancels from Firenze to Livorno in Italy, then onward to Eisenach - Worms - Firenze - Bazel - Como, and receiving cancel from Palermo. This little thing got around! ■

This topic can send you on to gazillions of interesting byways on the Internet. The following snippet comes from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum:

The Princely House of Thurn and Taxis operated postal systems in western and central Europe for the better part of four centuries. Operations ranged from a monopoly under the auspices of the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) to a private postal system in competition with government services.

Thurn and Taxis traces its origins to the Tasso family of Lombardy in northern Italy. Tasso translates to "badger". The family relocated to Germany and changed their name to the more-or-less equivalent Taxis. Thurn (roughly, "tower") was added to the name in the 17th century. The family coat of arms includes a badger and two towers. Can you spot them?



“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 7

The Luster Chronicles” continues the 1960 stamp issues with the issue from Norway. This was the year that Europa exploded, from a handful of countries (the CESC) to double-digits (the CEPT).

NORWAY

Norway issued a single stamp for Europa 1960. The stamp is denominated at 90 Öre. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the number 87 to the stamp. The color of the stamp is described simply as blue.



Technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No other name is listed. The stamps were offset printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 13 x 13, in sheets of 100 stamps by Emil Moestue A/S, Oslo. The production quantity was not listed. D’Urso does not list any varieties.

Three first day cancels are known. The official one from Oslo can be seen on the first day cover (next page). Another cancel is from Grenaa-Varberg. It is listed in the D’Urso Catalogue as number N-67 with a rarity factor of 3. Another first day cancel is listed in the catalogue. It is inscribed Varberg-Grenaa. This cancel is listed in the D’Urso Catalogue as number N-68 with a rarity factor of 3. Maximum cards are also reported for the stamp.

**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 7**



The Grenaa-Varberg (D’Urso N-67, rarity 3) and Varberg-Grenaa (D’Urso N-68 rarity 3) first day cancels were used aboard the ships of the “Europa Fergen” line as indicated at the bottom of the cancels. That line ran between Norway and Sweden.



Addressed cover canceled at Varberg on the Europa Fergen (Färjan) Line.

“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 7

PORTUGAL

Portugal issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 1\$ and 3\$50. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 90 and 91 to the stamps. The colors of the stamps are described as blue/light blue and red brown/light red.



Technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No other name is listed. The stamps were offset printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 13½x 13½, by Casa da Moeda, Lisbon. The production quantity was 9,000,000 for the 1\$ stamp and 1,000,000 for the 3\$50 stamp.

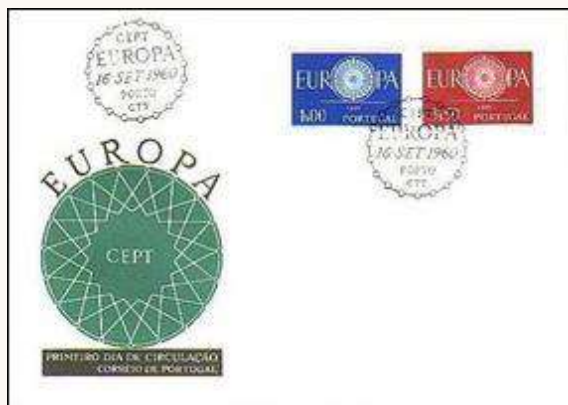
D’Urso lists three varieties for the 1\$ stamp. There is a white dot above the numerals “00”; small white circles above the letter “U” and “A” in the word Europa; and the inner circle of the wheel is partly missing.

D’Urso lists one variety for the 3\$50 stamp. The wheel is strongly misplaced to the left.

Of passing interest is the fact that the Portuguese stamps have 22 spokes in the wheel rather than the nineteen spokes in the accepted design. When incorporating the wheel into the 1960 Europa design, only Portugal deviated from the original nineteen-spoke wheel.

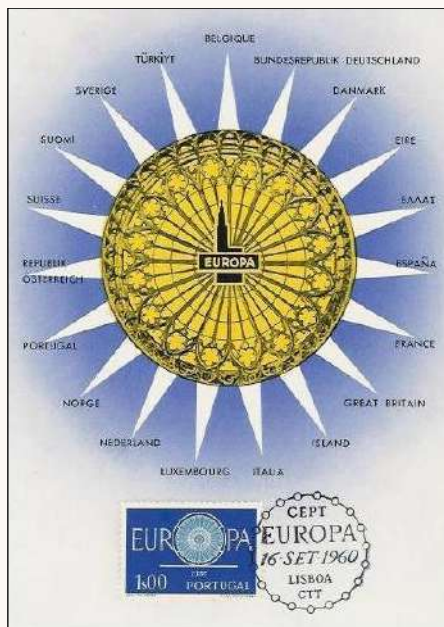
**“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 7**

Two first day cancels are known. They are from Lisbon and Porto. Both are illustrated in this monograph. Maximum cards are also reported for the stamp.



Illustrated here is a maximum card franked with the 1\$ value of Portugal’s 1960 Europa set.

The maximum card design has been seen elsewhere in this monograph.



“The Luster Chronicles”
The 1960 EUROPA Stamps — a Monograph by Steve Luster, Part 7

SPAIN

Spain issued a set of two stamps for Europa 1960. The stamps are denominated at 1 Pta and 5 Ptas. The D’Urso Catalogue assigned the numbers 92 and 93 to the stamps. The colors of the stamps are described as green-black/olive and brown/orange.



Technical details from the D’Urso Catalogue indicate that ...the designer of the stamp was Pentti Rahikainen. No other name is listed. The stamps were roto-gravure printed on un-watermarked paper, perforated 12½x 13, by Fabrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre, Madrid in sheets of 75 stamps. The production quantity was 5,200,000 for the 1 Pta stamp and 3,050,000 for the 5 Ptas stamp.

D’Urso does not list varieties for either stamp in the set.

One first day cancel, from Madrid is listed. Maximum cards are also reported for the set.



This concludes our current installment; the series will continue with the stamps of Sweden. ■

The Back Page
What Is It ??



Full sheet of 8 children's drawings, plus eight copies of the Serbia "JOY of Europe" (RADost Europa) See page 12.

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