

THEMATICS

Nr 175: APRIL 2023

Newsletter of *Thematics Southern Africa*/Nuusbrieff van *Tematika Suider-Afrika*

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ARTICLES FOR THEMNEWS

Most of the articles which appear in **Thematics** are sourced from a variety of available philatelic magazines; however, it would be wonderful to use more local articles. I have adjusted the newsletter to allow for local and longer articles. The request for articles remains as strong as ever.

FROM THE EDITOR OF THEMATICS

Dear Thematicists,

It really is sad to hear of so many stamp clubs wrapping up their activities, as nobody seems to be prepared to help keep them going. One of the reasons for this is the fact that members generally are growing older, and taking up any responsibilities is not a high priority. I can remember a time when new clubs were being created as the interest in stamp collecting was very much alive. This trend is now being reversed, meaning there are fewer clubs. This is where the various stamp fairs are coming to the rescue. Having a monthly event for stamp collectors will still help to keep the hobby alive, as it tends to pull in people who are not collectors but do have philatelic material. Although the majority of them want to sell and try to change what they have into ready cash. There are also a small number of people who decide to keep the material and start collecting again. This is something clubs have great difficulty achieving. Being involved with the Cape Stamp Fair, I have seen quite a few new collectors come to the fore from attending the Fair. It is just one of the signs that our hobby is far from deceased, but that it is very much alive. **Editor**

THEMATIC MEETINGS / TEMATIESE BYEENKOMSTE

***First Saturday of the month** – *The Pretoria Chapter* meets at **10:00** in Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner of Lynwood Road and Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate).

Contact: Helena Snyman 012-803-8922, 083-990-8953 or helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za.

***First Saturday of the month** – *The Western Cape Chapter* meets at **09:30** in the Church Hall of the DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

Contact: Diederik Viljoen at 021-976-2661, 082-456-6653 or diederikaviljoen@gmail.com.

STAMP FAIRS

***First Saturday of the month** – *The Cape Stamp Fair* @ DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma and St Andrews Streets, Oakdale, Bellville, Cape Town. **Contacts:** Robbie Harm 082 925 7103/Ken Joseph 072-597-1287. From 08:30 until 12:30. Please confirm the date of the next Stamp Fair, although reminders are sent via SMS/E-mail.

***First Saturday of the month** – *Pretoria Stamp Fair* @ Pretoria, Greek Orthodox Church, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate) **Contact:** Paul van Zeyl at 012-329-2464 or paulvz@mweb.co.za.

***Second Saturday of the month – Kyalami Stamp Fair** @ Kyalami Country Club, Maple Road, Kyalami from 09:00. **Contact:** Clinton Goslin at 083-272-9367 or atlasauctioneers@lantic.net.

***Last Saturday of the month – Edenvale Stamp Fair** @ Edenvale Bowling Club, 6th Avenue, Edenvale. **Contact:** Clinton Goslin at 083-272-9367 or atlasauctioneers@lantic.net. Please check with Clinton first to make sure the Stamp Fair is on, although auction lists are normally sent in advance.

***Last Saturday of the month – Sunbird Stamp Auction** @ 1st Hillcrest Scout Hall, 16 Shortlands Road, Hillcrest from 08:00 until 13:00. **Contacts:** Kim and Carol Breytenbach.

***Last Sunday of the month – Durban Stamp Fair** @ Chantecler Hotel, 27 Clement Stott Street, Botha's Hill, Durban. **Contact:** Bev McNaught-Davis at 031-904-1522 or mood@telkomsa.net.

THEMATICS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Pretoria Chapter – 4 March 2023

Our meeting at the Greek Church took place as usual on the first Saturday of the month with again 7 people and 1 apology. What an interesting sharing of information morning it was. Petra showed us 'n wonderful gift she received from a friend of Voortrekker Monument material that nobody of us had seen before: 1938 entry tickets for the amphitheatre; the song booklet used at the Monument; Voortrekker instruction booklet for the 1965 Die Burger 50-year edition. This made Petra think of her own 1948 envelopes which she now combined with photos of the addressees in Voortrekker clothes. We can't wait to see the result. Mias showed us a family gem in a collection of property deed documents, the oldest dating back to 1895. Most of the documents have revenue stamps on them with some very clear revenue stamps. Helena showed her 2022 Commonwealth stamps from England that she received this week from a friend – hand delivered, sadly not through the post. She also showed the new Baobab set from Botswana. Marge showed 2 PPS envelopes recently received and the different cancellers used to cancel the stamps. A very enjoyable meeting!

Helena Snyman

WC Chapter – 4 February 2023

No report was received.

Reanie de Villiers

FACTS AND FEATS: THE POSTAL SERVICES

Special handling stamps were issued by the United States in 1925, in denominations from 10c to 25c. The purpose of these stamps was to give first-class priority to fourth-class mail. They were discontinued in 1929.



Specimen stamps are, generally speaking, stamps overprinted or perforated for sample purposes (e.g. distribution to member countries of the UPU). Such stamps are thus invalidated for postal purposes.



The first use of a specimen overprint was in 1840 when postal stationery was circulated to postmasters in Britain, overprinted in this way. In 1849 many examples of existing British stamps were thus overprinted for inclusion in official reference collections.

The circulation of specimens to the UPU began in 1879. Since then each member sends sufficient examples of each new issue to headquarters in Berne for three examples to be sent out to each member country – including the member submitting the stamps in the first instance. In Britain, only stamps with a face value over a shilling were overprinted from 1892 onwards. The practice of overprinting stamps **SPECIMEN** for UPU purposes has gradually died out since 1945. British colonial stamps, supplied by the Crown Agents, were overprinted until about 1930 but thereafter the word was punch-perforated. The practice ceased after the distribution of Victory stamps in 1946. The high-value stamps of Australia and its dependent territories were overprinted **SPECIMEN** for sale to collectors, but this practice ceased in 1970. Other countries, i.e. West Germany, Cyprus, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, overprinted stamps distributed to philatelic journalists. Mongolia applied a mark across the backs of the stamps for the same purpose. Specimen usage in other languages is **MONSTER** (dutch), **MUSTER** (German), **MUESTRA** (Spanish), **MALLI** (Finnish), **OBRESTEZ** (Russian) and **SAGGIO** (Italian).

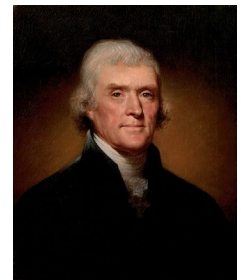
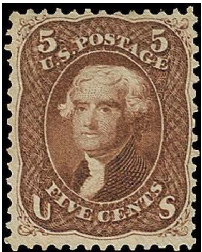


Facts and feats from Mackay, James, The Guinness Book of Stamps, Guinness Publishing Ltd, Enfield, 1988

Please note that the information used for this article has in many cases been overtaken by events – Ed

TIMELINE – BIRTH OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson was born on 13 April 1743, at the family's Shadwell Plantation in the British Colony of Virginia, the third of ten children. He was of English, and possibly Welsh, descent and was born a British subject. He was an American statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher, and Founding Father who served as the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809. Among the Committee of Five charged by the Second Continental Congress



with authoring the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson was the Declaration's primary author, writing it between June 11 and June 28, 1776, in Philadelphia. Following the American Revolutionary War and before becoming the nation's third president in 1801, Jefferson was the first United States secretary of state under George Washington and then the nation's second vice president under his friend and rival John Adams. Among the nation's Founding Fathers, Jefferson is considered unmatched in his intellectual depth and breadth. His passionate writings and advocacy for human rights, including freedom of thought, speech, and religion, were a leading inspiration behind the American Revolution, which ultimately gave rise to the American Revolutionary War, American independence, and the United States Constitution. Globally, Jefferson's ideas were influential in shaping and inspiring the Age of Enlightenment, which proved transformational globally in the late 17th and 18th centuries. He was a leading proponent of democracy, republicanism, and individual rights, and produced formative documents and decisions at state, national, and international levels. Jefferson was a plantation owner, lawyer, and politician, and mastered many disciplines including surveying, mathematics, horticulture, and mechanics. In 1785, Jefferson authored **Notes on the State of Virginia**, considered perhaps the most important American book published before 1800. After retiring from public office, Jefferson

founded the University of Virginia. He and his friend John Adams both died on the same day, 4 July 1826, which was also the 50th anniversary of U.S. independence.

International Society of World Wide Stamp Collectors and Wikipedia

SILK ADDS ANOTHER DIMENSION TO STAMPS AND SOUVENIR SHEETS

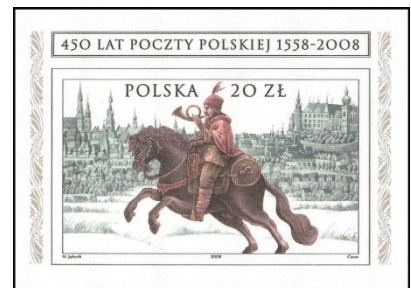
The production of Silk is believed to date back to at least 3,000 B.C. in China, so it is not surprising that China Post has issued numerous souvenir sheets printed on silk fabric.

The topic of stamps and souvenir sheets printed on silk fabric started in 1958 with a souvenir sheet from Poland. Silk stamps and sheets both look and feel different, adding a third dimension and enhancing the sense of touch. It has become a popular topic for collectors and has reached many corners of the world since 1958. Silk stamps are commonly printed in a souvenir sheet format, sometimes referred to as miniature sheets. Seldom seen are individual silk stamps required to be torn by hand because of the limitations of the material. In this article, I will focus on the stamps and souvenir sheets printed on 100 per cent silk or with a very high silk content. Of course, some postal administrations did not have the same standards of material, so there might be some discrepancies. Also, this article serves as an introduction to this topic; it is not intended as a complete list. Not included are stamps printed on paper with silk fibres, such as some classic-era United States postage and revenue stamps, which are a specialized topic on their own. Also not included are silk cacheted covers and other similar products that are not valid for postal use.

Poland



Poland's 1958 souvenir sheet, shown on the **left**, commemorates the 400th anniversary of the Polish posts. The 50-zloty stamp in the sheet features a reproduction of the painting *Na Kieleckim Szlaku* (On the Kielce Route in English) by Apoloniusz Kedzierski, composed of deep blue lines on a light purple background, all printed on silk. In 2008, Poland used silk again to print a subsequent souvenir sheet to commemorate the

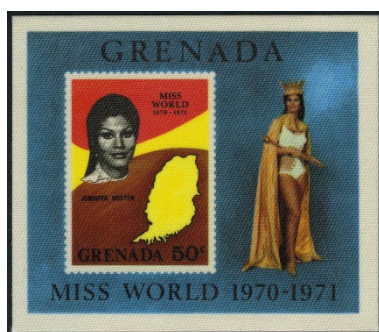


450th anniversary of the posts. That sheet is shown **right**. It is fascinating to compare the two silk souvenir sheets side by side issued by the same country for the same topic but in different eras.

Taiwan

Paintings are featured on two silk souvenir sheets issued by Taiwan. The first, issued in 2012, shows a Ming dynasty work, **Three Friends and a Hundred Birds** by Pien Wenchin, on a NT\$70 stamp. A 2015 souvenir sheet with two stamps, NT\$12 and NT\$70, reproduces **Golden Pheasant in Spring** by Giuseppe Castiglione. Also known as Lang Shining, Castiglione was an Italian Jesuit missionary and a court painter during the Qing dynasty. Another work from the Qing dynasty, an embroidery featuring a peacock, appears on a \$100 stamp in a silk souvenir sheet issued in 2013.

Grenada



Another early example of a silk souvenir sheet is from Grenada, issued in 1971 to honour Jennifer Hosten of Grenada, who had been crowned Miss World in the 1970 contest. A set of stamps printed on regular paper was issued at the same time. All the stamps feature the same design showing Hosten and a map of Grenada, but they have different denominations and colours. The silk souvenir sheet includes a single 50¢ stamp. Although this stamp looks like it has perforations, it is imperforate. The standard miniature

sheet is shown **above**.

Italy

Skipping forward 30 years, Italy issued an imperforate souvenir sheet in 2001. The sheet, which is shown in Figure 2, celebrates the Italian silk industry. A painting of Como, which is known for its silk, is featured on the illustration on the left side of the souvenir sheet. An inscription identifies the painting as *Como dall'alto* by B. Longoni. The stamp in the upper right is denominated in two currencies, 5,000 lire and €2.58, because Italy was in the transitional period before the euro became the official currency on 1 January 2002. This Italian souvenir sheet resembles a postcard, and the resolution is not great compared to that of other souvenir sheets printed with silk.



Afghanistan



Afghanistan issued a souvenir sheet printed on silk in 2005 to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with China (Scott 1436). The sheet, shown in Figure 3, includes a perforated 150-afghani stamp that depicts camels, scenes of the Silk Road and a symbolic handshake. The sheet is bilingual in Dari and Chinese and was printed by the Beijing Stamp Factory, the largest stamp printing facility in China. I first learned about this souvenir sheet from a Chinese philatelic website. Although issued by Afghan Post, it was acclaimed as the "*first Chinese silk stamp*" since it was printed in China and the target audience for sales probably was collectors in China.

China

China has issued dozens of special collector's items on silk. Most of these are souvenir sheets that exist in two versions: printed on normal paper and printed on silk. The silk versions were either packaged in a special book that was sold at a premium much above the face values of the stamps in the souvenir sheet or were offered in folders as prizes for winning numbers on New Year's postcards issued by China Post. In this article, the author only mentions those silk souvenir sheets that bear actual postage and are recognized by China Post. In 2006, China issued its first silk souvenir sheet. The sheet contains eight stamps, i.e. two sets of the four Treasures of the Study stamps. The four treasures are the brush, ink,

paper and inkstone used in Chinese and other East Asian calligraphic traditions. A souvenir sheet with the same eight stamps, but printed on regular paper was issued in a much larger quantity, while the silk version was only sold in a souvenir folder available at the Beijing International Stamp and Coin Expo. Because of its low quantity (around 200,000) and being the first silk stamp sheet issued by China, it now sells many times above the original price. Other silk souvenir sheets from China are part of stamp issues commemorating philatelic events.

On 8 August 2008, China issued a set of two stamps and- two souvenir sheets, one on normal paper and one on silk, for the opening of **Olympex 2008**. This philatelic exhibition was held in parallel with the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. The designs of the two souvenir sheets are identical, each containing a single round 6-yuan stamp. In the 2022 Scott **Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue**, the souvenir sheet on silk paper is mentioned, but not listed, and given a value of \$20. Similarly, a souvenir sheet on normal paper and another one on silk were issued for the China 2009 World Stamp Exhibition in Luoyang. Each sheet includes a \$6 stamp showing a painting of peonies. Five silk souvenir sheets issued from 2007 to 2011 in folders, one per year, were part of a New Year stamp series featuring woodcut or woodprint images. The sheets were redeemable as prizes on New Year lottery postcards. The Scott catalogue includes a note after the listing for the Mianzhu New Year Woodcut issue of 2007: "A lithographed sheet similar to this stamp [a souvenir sheet of eight, two of each stamp in the set] on a textured silk-faced paper exists. Value, \$16." However, the silk souvenir sheets in the series are not treated consistently in the Scott catalogue. The 2010 silk souvenir sheet has its own catalogue number. It is described as a souvenir sheet of eight, two each of the four stamps in the Liangping New Year Woodprints issue on "fabric-faced paper." A similar souvenir sheet is also on plain paper. There are notes after the listings for souvenir sheets with normal stamp paper for the 2008 and 2009 silk sheets in the series. For 2011, the catalogue note is after the stamp set.

In 2011, China began a series of uncut sheets of four silk souvenir sheets, each featuring a notable person in Chinese history. The first uncut sheet honours Gen. Guan Yu; it includes four examples of silk versions of the \$6 souvenir sheet issued Sept. 12, 2011. Shown in Figure 4 is a 2015 silk souvenir sheet honouring Bao Zheng, also known as Lord Bao. Other uncut sheets printed on silk in this series featured Zhuge Liang in 2014, Xuanzang in 2016, Zhang Qian in 2017 and Qu Yuan in 2018. The 2018 uncut sheet of four was the last in the series. In addition to the aforementioned series, China has commemorated national conferences on silk souvenir sheets of eight stamps each. This series started in 2016 with the G20 meeting in Hangzhou. Other silk souvenir sheets of eight in the series were issued in 2017 for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (4443) and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) leaders meeting in Xiamen, and in 2018 for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Qingdao. Because the sheets in this series were not made public at the time they were issued, one can only speculate that the series was discontinued after a few years.



Mongolia

Left is shown Mongolia's silk souvenir sheet. It was issued in 2006 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Mongol



Empire by Genghis Khan in 1206. He is pictured on horseback in the design of the 3,800-tugrik stamp on the sheet.

Thailand



Thailand highlighted its silk industry on a set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet issued on 4 August 2010, the opening day of the Asian international stamp exhibition in Bangkok. Each stamp shows a peacock inside an oval and also includes the emblem of the stamp exhibition and a name of a type of Thai silk. The background colour of each stamp is different. The 25b Royal Thai Silk stamp with a gold background is shown **right**. These stamps differ from the others mentioned in this article in that only the oval part was printed on silk and then affixed to the centre of the stamp paper. In addition to the silk, each oval also features foil highlights. The four stamps in this issue were printed separately in small panes of four. The 25b gold Royal Thai Silk stamp also was printed on a souvenir sheet of one.

Hong Kong

Like China, Hong Kong has a long history of issuing silk stamps but only in souvenir sheets. Most of these sheets are in the New Year zodiac animals series that began in 2012 for the Year of Dragon. That sheet is illustrated in Figure 7. Each souvenir sheet includes a single stamp with a high denomination of HK\$50 (approximately US\$6.40) and each comes with a certificate of authenticity from the printer, Cartor in France. This series has continued yearly since 2012, almost completing a cycle of 12 zodiac animals that will end in 2023 with the Year of the Rabbit. The most recent silk souvenir sheet in the series was issued on 18 January 2023 for the Year of the Tiger. In addition, there is a Hong Kong silk issue that is not part of this series. In 2017, Hong Kong illustrated qipao, a Chinese traditional dress style, on a set of six stamps and two souvenir sheets⁰. The souvenir sheet with a \$20 stamp (1890) was printed on taffeta, a fine lustrous silk. The perforations around the stamp mimic the recognizable shape of a qipao.



Liechtenstein



Liechtenstein, which is known for the quality of its postage stamps, issued its first silk stamps in 2013. The three stamps are se-tenant in the souvenir sheet shown **right**. The stamp designs feature sections of a floral-patterned silk wall covering in the Small Courbaril Room of the Liechtenstein Palace in Vienna. In a new-issue announcement, Liechtenstein's philatelic department described the designs as "applied in gold to real silk by a combination of offset printing, elaborate embossing and hot-foil stamping." The artwork marvellously came alive from these printing techniques. Liechtenstein's second souvenir sheet printed on silk was issued in 2020 in a special limited

edition available on a lottery basis. The sheet has the same basic design as the Royal Birthdays souvenir sheet, but it is printed on silk and the two stamps are imperforate. This silk sheet is part of Liechtenstein's recent tradition of limited-edition items put out once a year. To obtain them directly from the philatelic department, you must register ahead of the issue date.

Macao

The first silk souvenir sheet from Macao is part of the 1 March 2014, set commemorating the 130th anniversary of Macao Post. The sheet contains a single 50-pataca stamp depicting the building of Macao Post Headquarters. Built in 1929, it has the characteristics of Portuguese architecture. The author visited the Macao general post office located at this very building in 2016 and reported on it and other philatelic destinations in Macao in an article published in the 5 March 2018, issue of *Linn's*.

Luxembourg



Less than two weeks after Macau's silk souvenir sheet, Luxembourg debuted its first silk souvenir sheet on 11 March 2014. Shown **left**, the sheet marks the 80th anniversary of the Luxembourg Federation of Philatelic Societies. The federation was founded on 22 February 1934. Not all silk-printed stamps are sold at a premium or with high denominations, and the Luxembourg souvenir sheet is a good example with a face value of just €1.45 (€0.60 and €0.85 stamps). Also, at the time, Luxembourg offered free international shipping for all of its new issues, thereby making this one of the most affordable silk-printed souvenir sheets.

Canada

Canada issued a souvenir sheet in 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its flag. It is thematically appropriate that the souvenir sheet was printed using a fabric, in this case, synthetic silk. The sheet contains a single \$5 stamp with serpentine die-cuts to separate it from the sheet. Moreover, Canada Post issued an uncut press sheet of 23 souvenir sheets, laid out in an unusual format of five by four and three souvenir sheets sideways, as shown **above right**. The uncut sheet is a giant sheet of silk stamps rarely offered in that format.



Japan



Pictured **left** is Japan's first and only silk souvenir sheet. Issued on 26 May 2016, for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, the sheet contains two diamond-shaped, perforated stamps. Silver foil adds extra highlighting. The souvenir sheet was sold packaged in plastic wrap.

Stamp Agency

Many African countries associated with the stamp-issuing agency Stamperija in Lithuania issued silk sheets and souvenir sheets from 2017-21, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the subjects presented on these silk items were Mao Tse-Tung, Chinese paintings, world-famous paintings and COVID-19 topics. Many of the subjects had little to do with the country of origin, and the Chinese-themed stamps especially seem to be targeting Chinese customers. Some of these items are sold by a few dealers and might not be available within the countries of issuance.

Colombia

Later in 2016, on 7 July, Colombia issued a souvenir sheet in silk featuring a white dove for the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Figure 12 shows this sheet with a single \$25 stamp. This is just one of the recent unusual stamps from Colombia. Another dove, this time printed on flock paper, is on a souvenir sheet issued on 13 September 2016. A souvenir sheet that is part of the July 24, 2018, issue marking the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the **ARC Gloria** training ship, has a piece of canvas attached.



Conclusion

Silk stamps and souvenir sheets are part of the larger topic of unusual materials used to print stamps. And while silk may be one of the more common of these unusual materials, the collectability and the resulting three-dimensional aspects silk offers are appreciated by collectors around the world. We have not yet seen stamps printed on silk issued by the United States, and the author hopes the first of its kind will arrive soon.

An article by Wayne Chen in Linn's Stamp News of 16 May 2022

CELEBRATING CLASSICAL AND WORLD MUSIC ON STAMPS

Over the years, both classical and world music have been the subject of many stamp issues from around the world. The author Baron investigates some classic and more recent stamp issues on the themes.

Classical composers and institutions



The majority of classical composer stamp issues coincide with poignant birth and death anniversaries; however, there are noble exceptions. The 20th-century Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian had a stamp in his honour in 2019, despite the year of the anniversary not ending in a zero or a five (**left**). The most recent stamp for the Polish composer Chopin in 2015 paid tribute not to him, but to the Warsaw International Chopin Piano Competition (often referred to as the Chopin Competition), which was initiated in 1927 and held every five years since 1955 (except in 2020 when it was postponed to 2021) (**right**). In 1959, a stamp set showing composers Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Handel, Haydn and Spohr was issued to commemorate the opening of the 2000-capacity concert hall, named Beethovenhalle, in Bonn (where



Beethoven was born) on 8 September as opposed to the composers themselves. In April 1922, the new Republic of Austria released a set of stamps featuring seven of its greatest composers – Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Bruckner, Strauss Jr and Wolf (**below**). In Austria, philatelic issues rose considerably in value, thanks to charity surcharges. For example, the 1924 issues to raise funds for artists bore surcharges of anything from 300 to



3000 crowns. They were produced in print runs of around 500,000 and were only available for a month. Whilst 1922 marked 190 years and 125 years since Haydn and Schubert's births subsequently, this issue was about celebrating Austria's cultural heritage in classical music as opposed to celebrating poignant anniversaries of the composers themselves. In 2021, Croatia celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Zagreb

Philharmonic Orchestra (**left**). The motif of the 3k.30 stamp features harmonic instruments, including the clarinet, harp and tuba. In the same year, Italy celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its Laudamo Philharmonic Orchestra with a single stamp (**right**). Bulgaria celebrated 100 years of its National Academy of Music, named after influential Bulgarian composer Pancho Vladigerov (although initially called the Bulgarian State Conservatoire when founded in 1921), with a stamp featuring piano keys with the black keys spelling out '100' (**left**).



In 2020, Austria celebrated 100 years of its Salzburg Festival (Salzburger Festspiele), which takes place in Mozart's birthplace and hosts opera concerts and plays, whilst Latvia issued a €1 postage stamp in honour of the opera *Ban, uta* staged by composer Alfrefids Kalnin, s, which first premiered at the Latvian National Opera in 1920 (**right**).



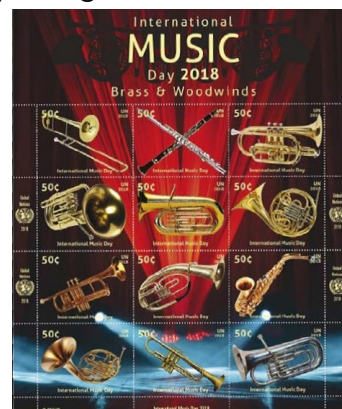
Classical music – International Music Day

On 1 October 1975, the United Nations International Music Day was initiated by violinist and conductor Lord Yehudi Menuhin for the *promotion of musical art among all sections of society*. Following his death in 1999, the Patron of the Philatelic Music Circle (of which Menuhin was a member from 1969 until his death) decided to award the Yehudi Menuhin



Trophy for the most popular music stamp issued the previous year in Menuhin's memory. The first winners in 2001 were designers Myriam Voz and Thierry Martin for their Belgium five-stamp sheet of 2020 featuring a portrait of J S Bach and the instruments he played (**left**).

In 2005, Franco Filanci designed the San Marino stamp for the reopening of La Scala in Milan. In 2017, the top three designers received awards instead of just one. Each year, 66 stamps from 59 countries and 51 postal administrations are long-listed for an online poll. The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has issued its own miniature sheets for International Music Day. In 2018, the UNPA issued three different miniature sheets of 12 stamps from its issuing offices in New York, Vienna and Geneva. The New York sheet focused on brass and woodwind, Vienna focused on string instruments, and Geneva focused on percussion instruments (*right*).



Manufacturers and inventors of classical music instruments

The influence of classical music is so strong that stamp issues have actually celebrated the inventors and producers of classical musical instruments. In 2019, North Macedonia issued a stamp in memory of Antonio Stradivari, an Italian craftsman of string instruments, such as violins, cellos, guitars, violas and harps. Two years later, Slovenia saluted Ivan Bajde (1855–1920), who was the inventor of the piano harp, on a 69c. postage stamp.

World music

World music is best defined as an English phrase for styles of music from non-Western countries, including quasi-traditional, intercultural and traditional music. Like with popular music, world music themes on postage stamps have soared dramatically over the last decade. World music has been best represented on stamp issues via nation-states' indigenous musical instruments.

World music instruments

In 2021, Zimbabwe issued a four-stamp set. Stamps include paintings of the hosho (a pair of maranka gourds with seeds) and mbira (a family of traditional musical instruments of the Shona people of Zimbabwe). Mbira consists of a wooden board with attached staggered metal tines, which are played by holding the instrument in the hands and by plucking the tines with the thumbs and forefingers. In the same year, Algeria issued two stamps. One features the tar (*left*) (an ancient, single-headed frame drum played in the Middle East and North Africa). The tar's drumhead, usually made from goat skin, is struck with one hand. The other instrument featured was the goblet drum (darbuka) (*right*), which is a single-head membranophone with a goblet-shaped body. The darbuka is considered the national symbol of Egyptian Shaabi Music and western North African countries, including Algeria, which dates back to 1100 BCE.



Nepal issued an eight-stamp set (each 20r.) in 2020 of instruments, including the sahane, which is made of wood and has a double reed at one end and a metal or wooden flared bell at the other end. Its sound is thought to create and maintain a sense of auspiciousness and sanctity and is widely used during marriages, processions and in temples as well as concerts. The sahane was a part of the naubat (traditional ensemble) of nine instruments found in the royal court. The damaahaa, a drum bowl shaped like a kettle drum and covered with animal hide is one of five traditional instruments included in

the Panche Baaja played during holy ceremonies. The traditional players of this instrument are part of an occupational caste called Damai. Another stamp features the karnaal, a large, straight brass trumpet, over a metre long, which has a prominent bell resembling a datura flower and is also part of the Panche Baaja.



When Japan started its series of Musical Instrument stamp sheets back in 2018, stringed and woodwind instruments debuted. The subsequent series focused on jazz instruments, including the saxophone (*left*) and double bass (*right*). Series three issued in 2020 contained two separate stamp sheets featuring traditional Japanese instruments, including the biwa (a short-necked plucked string wooden lute traditionally used in narrative storytelling) and taishōgōto; a stringed instrument derived from the Taishō period (1912–26), which is also called the Nagoya harp.



2020 saw Iran issue two 18000r. stamps featuring Persian long-necked lutes: the tar descended from the Sasanian Empire (224 CE to 651 CE) and the setar (originally a three-stringed instrument with a fourth added in the 19th century) (*left*). The

same year saw India issue a stamp series called Musical Instruments of Wandering Minstrels. One stamp shows a sketch of a sitting musician playing the algoza (a paired woodwind instrument first developed in 7500BC traditionally used by Baloch, Saraiki, Sindhi, Kutchi, Punjabi and Rajasthani folk musicians) (*right*).



The algoza has two joined beak flutes: one for melody; the second for the drone. Turkey issued a set of three 2ytl. Stamps of traditional instruments in 2019 (*one shown left*). The same year saw Oman issue a four-stamp set. Three show musicians playing instruments, one is of

a soloist playing the barghum, a blowing instrument made from horns of goat or oryx that give no more than two musical tones (*right*), while the other two stamps feature an ensemble playing the Azi (a traditional Omani music piece performed in various styles all over the Sultanate) and drummers playing as the Al-Rauwah dance is performed by both men and women at weddings.



2019 also saw Angola issue _ ve stamps (four 300k. and a one-stamp 1200k. miniature sheet) showing indigenous instruments including the 16th-century lamellophone. Another stamp depicts the omakola, the name of the traditional healing ritual to help the sick and



the instrument of the same name (made out of calabashes) played during this ritual. The prominence of traditional instruments in stamps was best depicted in 2018 when Columbia issued a two-stamp set celebrating 160 years of diplomatic relations with Russia by featuring the Colombian plucked tiple guitar and the Russian-stringed balalaika (*above left*). A year earlier, Uruguay

also celebrated 160 years of diplomatic relations with Russia by depicting the tamboriles drum used in the playing of Uruguayan Candombe music alongside the balalaika across a two-stamp miniature sheet. Individuals who helped to increase the demand for local instruments and their production have also been celebrated. In 2019, as part of a four-stamp miniature sheet, Curaçao included an 800c. stamp showing a portrait of Horace J Sprock, who introduced the ka'i orgel (street barrel piano) to the island of Curaçao by leasing the ka'l orgel to organisers of dancing parties.

World music musicians

Countries have also increasingly been depicting traditional musicians on postage stamps. In 2019, Columbia released a \$500 stamp celebrating 100 years since the birth of Gilberto Diaz, who was a composer, singer and accordionist of traditional Colombian vallenato music (**right**). In 1968, he gained notoriety for winning the first version of the 'Vallenato Legend Festival' in the city of Valledupar and is often cited as one of the best Vallenato musicians of all time. In 2021, when one of the most renowned artists of the vallenato musical genre, Jorge Antonio Oñate González, died; Columbia issued a single stamp in his memory. In 2020, Uruguay issued two stamps with tabs celebrating 200 years since the birth of the basque musician José María Iparraguirre. Iparraguirre is known for his compositions, including *Gernikako Arbola* (literally 'the Guernica tree'), which has become the Basque anthem. Uruguay also celebrated 100 years since Carlos Gardel, one of the most famous popular tango singers, obtained citizenship in Uruguay on a single stamp \$70 miniature sheet in 2020.

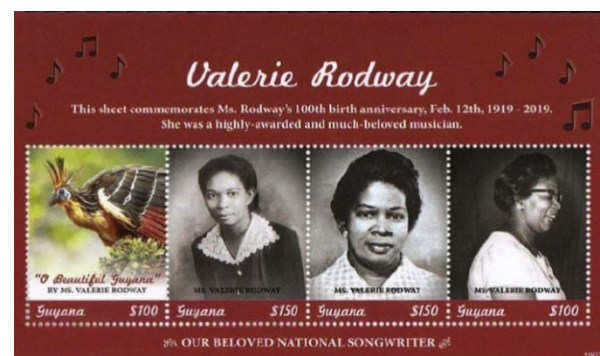


A year earlier, Argentina issued a \$100 stamp of French-born Gardel. In 2020, Costa Rica issued a three-stamp miniature sheet of three musicians that included the music genres they represented (**left**). For example, Walter 'Gavitt' Ferguson Byfield (born 1919) is credited for his contributions to calypso music on a 1215col. stamp, whilst folklorist María Mayela Padilla Monge, who has recorded original songs with traditional Costa Rican rhythms and language, is commemorated on a 720col. stamp. In 2021, Azerbaijan celebrated famous street musicians (ashugs) on a single one-stamp miniature sheet. Ashig Alasgar and Jambil Jabayev were born in the 19th century and Yunus Emre died in the 14th century. Above the portraits of the three ashugs is the logo of the International Foundation for Turkish Culture and Heritage.



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In 2019, Guyana issued a four-stamp miniature sheet celebrating the centenary of the birth of Valerie Rodway, who composed Guyanese cultural and patriotic songs (**right**). Rodway was best known for composing music to accompany Guyanese national poetry and Martin Carter's Guyanese Independence poem **Let Freedom Awaken** as Guyana moved towards and achieved its independence from



the United Kingdom in 1966. The same year saw Nepal issue a single 10r. stamp in memory of Amber Gurung, who composed Nepal's 2007 national anthem, **Sayaun Thunga Phulka**. Gurung recorded his most famous song, **Nau Lakh Tara** (a song about the sufferings of the Nepali diaspora in India), in the early 1960s with lyricist and Nepali poet Agam Singh Giri. In 2020, in memory of Sri Lanka's 'most famous singer of Buddhist devotional songs', Mohideen Baig received a stamp issue. Baig's repertoire is not limited to Buddhist devotional music. His song '**Ewilla Ewilla**' celebrating the Sinhala and Hindu New year continues to be the most popular anthem for the season. A year later, Lebanon issued stamps in memory of the Rahbani brothers, Mansour and Assi. The two composers incorporated local and regional socio-political and historical themes into their music. Their prominence rose after the departure of the French in 1946, especially after 1957 when they first performed at the Baalbeck International Festival (which began in 1956).

Conclusion

Popular music artists' contributions to stamp issues have soared over the last decade. Partly

because rules, where living persons cannot appear on postage stamps, have been removed. The first classical music stamps celebrated the anniversaries of deceased composers instead of living contemporaries. Whilst popular music stamp issues are challenging, and in some countries overtaking classical music issues, popular music stamps face fierce competition from world music-themed stamps. The majority of the world music stamps featured in this article were issued within the last five years. With growing and sustained efforts to preserve traditional and indigenous folk music, more stamp issues will inevitably be released.

An article by Michael Barron in Gibbons Stamp Monthly of February 2023

WONDERFUL CRYPTO STAMPS

Over the past few years, cryptocurrencies and crypto technologies have grown in importance throughout the world, and although there have been some serious setbacks in the cryptocurrency world over the past year, the potential of the technology keeps pushing it further into the world. For the past years we have also seen some truly amazing stamps that incorporate crypto technology in various ways, and today we are highlighting a few great recent crypto stamps from around the world.



We are starting in Liechtenstein, which has been one of the frontrunners in combining stamps with crypto technology. They just seem to know what to do with these crypto stamps, as the ones they create seem to become overnight successes! The stamp below will probably be another example of that. Following the release of their issue "The cat", they now present "The meerkat". The stamp depicts a sweet Meerkat in black and white, wearing a rather large chain around its neck, and there are four different versions of the stamp,

where the meerkat is wearing chains of four different colours. With 3000 stamps created in total, you must have your fair share of luck to get your hands on one of only 50 stamps with a rainbow-coloured chain. You have no way of choosing the version, so it really is a gamble! The stamp comes with a digital copy of the stamp in the form of an NFT.

The second stamp today might not feature a meerkat with a gold chain, but this great issue from Thailand is special in its own way - this is the first crypto stamp to be issued by an ASEAN country. The stamp has a simple design with red being the dominating colour and a set of simple figures being depicted in shades of white. There is a single part of the design that stands out from the rest - a bird depicted in grey, perched on top of a house that is completely white. If you want to get your hands on this wonderful stamp, which is the first of its kind in Asia, you can find it directly at www.nordfrim.com.



The three branches of the United Nations postal services have also been involved in crypto stamps for a while now, and their most recent issue of crypto stamps focuses on the theme of peace. The overall designs of the souvenir sheets are similar across the three branches, but the colours of the souvenir sheets are unique, and the main designs are also unique. The overarching theme of peace is clearly seen in the designs of the three souvenir sheets, as they each depict an international sign of peace - the peace sign, the olive branch, and the peace dove. Whether you are looking for UN Geneva, UN New York, or UN Vienna, you can find the corresponding souvenir sheet directly at Nordfrim. Just click on either [UN Geneva](#), [UN New York](#), or [UN Vienna](#) or www.nordfrim.com.

Next up, we have this beautiful and multi-coloured stamp, which is part of a wonderful souvenir sheet out of Liechtenstein. The stamp is a continuation of the successful "Briefmarke 4.0" which came out in 2021, so obviously, the new stamp is named "Briefmarke 4.1". The theme of the stamp is equality, which the designer has incorporated in the stamp through the use of an optical illusion, where all corners seem to be in focus and at the front of the design. The stamp has a built-in SQR code, and when you scan it, you will see the unique serial number for your stamp, along with information about the story of the stamp. You can also use the related app to scan the stamp for authenticity. Get your hands on this wonderful souvenir sheet directly at www.nordfrim.com.



If you like the stamp above, you might want to check out this beauty - it is part of the same issue as the stamp above, but this stamp is a special edition of the above stamp, with a strikingly beautiful design. The stamp is depicted in the centre of the souvenir sheet, and the souvenir sheet cleverly uses the shape of the stamp design to frame the stamp, and though the design is simple, the effect is stunning. This special edition is only made in 5000 copies, and based on the success of the Briefmarke 4.0 issue, you might not want to wait for too long. So hurry up and get your own copy directly at www.nordfrim.com.

Finally, if you are looking for something extraordinary, we might suggest taking a look at the option below. This is the Mystery Boxxx, which is a highly limited edition from Austria. The box includes an overprint of the special block "**The Mercury: 1851-2022**", a limited edition golden version of The Mercury, including a 1g gold bar, which has the crypto information embossed. Finally, you get an NFT of the gold stamp. With only 500 of these ever made, this is truly a limited edition. We suggest that you check it out, but that you act quickly, as they are in extremely limited supply. You can find it directly at www.nordfrim.com. www.nordfrim.com via Stampworld

Compiled by Robert Harm 28 March 2023

PHILATELIC TERMS: M-13

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Moquegua

This is a town in southern Peru, near the Chilean border, which used its own stamps during the war with Chile in 1879-84. Both the provisional issues of Arequipa and regular stamps of Peru were used, and they take the form of various overprints including the words **MOQUEGUA** and **MOQUEA**.



MORELIA

This is an inscription on stamps for use in the Mexican province of Morelia.

Morocco Agencies



In 1898 stamps of Gibraltar were overprinted **Morocco/ Agencies** for use at British post offices in Morocco. These were replaced by British stamps similarly overprinted, plus other British stamps overprinted and surcharged in Spanish currency, for use in the Spanish zone post offices, and French currency, for use in the French zone post offices. The stamps were used until 1956. There was a period between 1937 and 1949 in which un-overprinted British stamps were used in Morocco. From 1950 the overprinted stamps were made valid for use in Great Britain. Such stamps bearing postmarks of post offices in that country are less desirable.



Morocco, French



Beginning in 1862, France operated post offices in Morocco using French stamps, and from 1891, French stamps surcharged in Spanish currency were used. In 1902 French stamps were placed in use overprinted **MAROC** and also bearing Spanish currency surcharges, and French postage due labels were converted for this use. The French protectorate over the greater part of Morocco was established in 1912, at the same time that the smaller Spanish protectorate to the north was born. Special stamps for French Morocco were issued in 1917, and their attractive designs feature the country's architectural heritage. Succeeding issues give an excellent



picture of Morocco's scenery, history and culture. These issues were replaced by the first issues of an independent kingdom in 1956.

Morocco, German Post Offices in

For some years before WW1, Germany operated post offices in Morocco. For this reason German stamps were overprinted and surcharged, and issued in 1899, 1900, 1905 and 1911. Forged overprints and surcharges exist, and on the 1911 issue there are forged cancellations.



Morocco Local Posts

Before the introduction of the semi-official posts by the Sultan of Morocco in 1912, more than 20 private local posts operated in the North African country. These had been permitted to operate from 1880. A stamp featuring a sleeping lion under a palm tree was issued in 1897 by Salvador Hassan, a Portuguese banker, for his service between Tangier and Tetuan. Another stamp used for a service from Marrakech to Mazagan, operated by M. Messod Bensimhom, and also dates from 1897.



Morocco, Spanish



Spanish Morocco comprised a strip of the north coast of Africa east and west of the Strait of Gibraltar. This now forms part of the Kingdom of Morocco. The Spanish presence began in 1860 when Spanish troops arrived to protect the enclave of Ceuta. After that the history of Spanish Morocco alternated between differences between Spain, France and Britain, and much fighting occurred. After international agreements Spain was able to proclaim a protectorate of the area known as Spanish Morocco. Following WW2, Spain managed to largely keep the peace in the protectorate, and in April 1956 Spain recognised the independence of Morocco. Spanish post offices were selling stamps from as early as 1903, but stamps for the protectorate only saw the light from 1912. They were in the form of Spanish stamps overprinted **CORREO ESPAÑOL/MARRUECOS**. After that a large number of attractive issues followed, until they were replaced by the issues of an independent Kingdom of Morocco in 1956.



Morvi

Morvi was an Indian Feudatory State in British India. It used its own local stamps from 1931 until 1948, when the state joined the United States of Saurashtra. Today they use the stamps of the Republic of India.

Mosul



Mosul is the capital city of the province with the same name and is located on the Tigris River, about 225 miles northeast of Bagdad. It is now in the Republic of Iraq. The ruins of the city of Nineveh are across the river from Mosul. The city was an important stop on the caravan route from Aleppo to Persia. During the period of British occupation following the defeat of Turkish forces during WW1, the British issued Turkish revenue stamps overprinted **POSTAGE I.E.F. "D"** and surcharged in Indian currency.

Mother Die (moedersnyblok)

The term **Mother Die** is sometimes used to describe an original die created in the first stage of stamp production. It is also called **Master Die** or **Parent Die**. From this die, others may be

made, sometimes called **working dies** or **intermediate dies**. It is from these that the actual multiplication is done to create a printing plate.

Mouchon Type

Stamps of France issued in 1900 and picturing a seated female figure holding a tablet on which is engraved **Droits de l'homme** (*The Rights of Man*). It was named for its designer, Eugene Louis Mouchon, who designed the *Peace and Commerce* issue of France. He also engraved the famous Sower design.

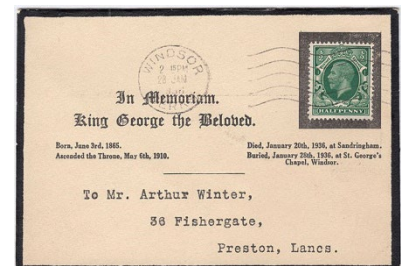


Mount, Stamp (seël monteerhouer)

This is a device for holding material in albums, and is available in a variety of brands and a wide range of sizes to handle stamps, blocks, covers souvenir sheets, etc. Although very different, they follow the same principle by providing a pocket or pouch with a transparent plastic face to protect them and a gummed back by which it can be fastened to an album page. In some cases only the ends of the mount are open, in others, the top is also open. Any mount that seals an item completely should be avoided, as this could cause damage to the item, as they need to *breathe*. All mounts have the advantage of not marking the stamp, since it does not have to be fastened to the mount. However, the stamp can move around in the mount, creating an untidy and unattractive appearance.

Mourning Cover (rou koeverte)

A mourning cover has a black border and is used to notify its recipient of a death. Such covers are collected, and you can occasionally see exhibits of this material at stamp shows. The origin of the custom is not known, but mourning covers have been used in many countries and are still, but not generally. Their heyday was during the Victorian period, when society followed a strict code of etiquette.



MOYEN CONGO



This is inscription which can be found on the stamps of Middle Congo.

Compiled by Robert Harm on 25 September 2022