

THEMATICS

Nr 179: AUGUST 2023

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

PO Box 56221, Wierda Park 0149 **Editor:** Robbie Harm robertharm9@gmail.com

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,

When I start preparing to compile another newsletter, my biggest problem always is which articles to include. The list of articles is far longer than I can include in this newsletter. Not getting any feedback from the readers' means that I make the selection based on those articles which may create most interest, as well as articles from which I can learn. I am now involved with philately since 1967 and in that time I have learned an enormous amount about philately. In spite of that I find that I am still learning new things about this hobby I love. I attend club meetings knowing that there will be something new to learn, and not necessarily from experienced philatelists. Many times it is a relative new collector from whom I learn something new. Several collectors have asked me whether I know how many collectors read these newsletters. My stock reply is that I don't know, and that the people that do not are the losers. While compiling each newsletters I learn something new, and that is the main driver that sees me continuing with these newsletters. I sincerely hope that my readers enjoy the content, as I did while compiling them. Enjoy reading this newsletter.

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:** Ken Joseph 072-597-1287 ken@philatelicfriends.co.za Robbie Harm 082 925 7103, robertharm9@gmail.com/. 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 randstamps@gmail.com. From 09:00, auction at 11:00.

***Second Saturday of the month – Kyalami Stamp Fair** @ Kyalami Country Club, 433 Maple Road, Kyalami from 09:00. **Contact:** Kenny Napier Kenny.napier@mweb.co.za or Clinton Goslin at 083-272-9367 or atlasauctioneers@lantic.net.

***Third Saturday of the month – QSA, Kyalami** @ Kyalami Country Club, 433 Maple Road, Kyalami from 09:00. **Contact:** Paul van Zeyl randstamps@gmail.com.

***Last Saturday of the month – Edenvale Stamp Fair** @ Edenvale Bowling Club, 6th Avenue, Edenvale. **Contact:** Kenny Napier Kenny.napier@mweb.co.za. From 09:00, auction at 11:00.

***Last Sunday of the month – Sunbird Stamp Auction** @ 1st Hillcrest Scout Hall, 16 Shortlands Road, Hillcrest from 09:00 until 13:00. **Contacts:** Kim Breytenbach sunbird.stampauctions@gmail.com.

THEMATICS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Pretoria Chapter – 1 July 2023

No report was received.

Helena Snyman

WC Chapter – 1 July 2023

No report was received.

Reanie de Villiers

FACTS AND FEATS: THE POSTAL SERVICES

British stamps used abroad. British offices abroad were established from 1814 onwards, following the re-establishment of British packet routes at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. On the introduction of the Uniform Penny Postage in 1840 prepayment was gradually introduced in many of these offices, using crowned Paid handstamps. Adhesive stamps of Great Britain were employed in overseas offices in Argentina (1860-73), Bolivia (1865-78), Brazil (1866-74), Chile (1865-81), Colombia (1865-81), Cuba (1865-77), Danish West Indies (1865-79), Dominican Republic (1869-81), Ecuador (1865-80), Egypt (1860-82), Fernando Poo (1874-77), Haiti (1865-81), Mexico (1865-76), Nicaragua (1865-82), Peru (1865-79), Porto Rico (1865-77), Uruguay (1864-73), and Venezuela (1865-80). They were first used in Argentina (1860) and last in Egypt and Nicaragua (1882). In the colonies, British stamps were used till 31 December 1884 (Malta) and 31 December 1885 (Gibraltar). British stamps were used in Ascension Island from 1867 till 1922, the island was administered directly by the Admiralty and children born there being registered in the parish of Wapping. Unofficially, however, British stamps were used in Tristan da Cunha till 1952. No provision was made for the supply of stamps to the island but unstamped mail arriving in Britain was only surcharged at the single rate and not the customary double deficiency. Mail franked by British stamps and cancelled by one of the unofficial cachets of the island were accepted as fully paid by the British Post Office.

Other countries' stamps used abroad. Ordinary French stamps were used in the following countries, and can only be distinguished by the numeral cancellations used, China (1862-1922), Crete (1897-1913), Egypt (1852-1931), Japan (1865-80), Libya (1880-1912),

Madagascar (1880-96), Monaco (1860-85), Morocco (1862-1913), Romania (1857-75), Tunisia (1852-88), Turkey (1852-1914), and Zanzibar (1889-1904). Zanzibar now is part of Tanzania. Austria-Hungary operated post offices in various parts of the Turkish Empire. The stamps of Lombardo-Venetia were used there from 1863 till 1867, and Hungarian stamps were used in Romania 1867-9). Ordinary Russian stamps were used in China (1870-99), while German stamps were used in China (1886-98), Morocco (1893-9), Turkey (1870-84), New Guinea (188-98), East Africa (1888-91), Zanzibar (1890-1), South West Africa (1888-97), Cameroun (1887-97), the Marshall Islands (1889-1901), Samoa (1886-1901), and Togo (1888-1901). American stamps were used in China (1900-19), while Japanese were used there from 1876 till 1900. Australian stamps were used in Papua-New Guinea (1945-52), and the Cocos-Keeling Islands (1955-63 and 1966-69), while New Zealand stamps were used in Pitcairn Islands (1922-40). Conversely, Christmas Island has used the stamps of the Straits Settlement (1900-41), Japan (1942-45), Australia (1945-6), Malaya under British Military Administration (1945-8), and Singapore (1948-58) before issuing its own stamps.

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 – FIRST RACE AT INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



On 19 August 1909, the first race was held at the iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Constructed in 1909, it is the second purpose-built, banked



oval racing circuit after Brooklands and the first to be called a 'speedway'. It is the third-oldest permanent automobile race track in the world, behind Brooklands and the Milwaukee Mile. With a permanent seating capacity of 257,325, it is the highest-capacity sports venue in the world. Considered relatively flat by American standards, the track is a 4.0-km-long rectangular oval with dimensions that have remained essentially unchanged since its construction. It has two 1000m-long straightaways, four geometrically identical 400 m turns, connected by two 200 m short straightaways, termed "short chutes", between turns 1 and 2, and between turns 3 and 4. A modern, FIA Grade One infield road course was completed in 2000, incorporating part of the oval, including the main stretch and the southeast turn, measuring 4.192 km. In 2008, and again in 2014, the road course layout was modified to accommodate motorcycle racing, as well as to improve competition. Altogether, the current grounds have expanded from an original 1.3 km² on which the speedway was first built to cover an area of over 2.3 km². Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987, it is the only such site to be affiliated with automotive racing history. On the grounds of the speedway is the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, which opened in 1956, and houses the Hall of Fame. The museum moved into its current building located in the infield in 1976. Also on the grounds is the Brickyard Crossing Golf Resort, which originally opened as the Speedway Golf Course in 1929. The track is nicknamed "*The Brickyard*", and the garage area is known as Gasoline Alley. The Speedway is owned by Roger Penske's company Penske Corporation, following its 2019 purchase of Hulman & Company and its assets, which included the Speedway, the IndyCar Series, and associated enterprises. In addition to the Indianapolis 500, the speedway also hosts NASCAR's Verizon 200 and Pennzoil 150.

From 2000 to 2007, the speedway hosted the Formula One United States Grand Prix, and from 2008 to 2015 the Moto GP.

International Society of World Wide Stamp Collectors and Wikipedia

65 YEARS OF ROCKETS ON POSTAGE STAMPS

In the 65 years since the Soviets launched the first man-made satellite into Earth's orbit, numerous countries have participated in the space race. Using stamp issues from around the world, the author highlights some of man's finest endeavours in rocket flight.

On 4 October 1957 as part of the then-Soviet space programme, *Sputnik 1* was the first artificial Earth satellite to be launched into space. The Soviets issued several stamps, including a 40k. single dark-blue stamp of a rocket circulating the globe with the launch date in the top-left corner (*right*). Sixty-five years later, South Korea became the latest country to launch a domestically developed Nuri (KSLVII) rocket into orbit. No stamp has been issued yet to commemorate this achievement; however, there has been no shortage of postage stamps commemorating rocket launches and space programmes.



First rocket stamp



One of the first rocket stamps was issued by the USA in 1948 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Fort Bliss in El Paso (*left*). The 3c. red stamp depicts a rocket in the centre being launched. During 1945–50, **Operation Paperclip** took place at Fort Bliss, where the US Army built upon German knowledge to research and develop their own series of rockets and long-range missiles. The following stamps celebrated not just *Sputnik 1*

but also the subsequent two *Sputnik* missions. On 3 November 1957, *Sputnik 2* was the first to carry a living animal, a Soviet space dog named Laika who died on the fourth orbit due to overheating caused by an air conditioning malfunction. Romania issued a set of two 11.20



stamps illustrating Laika (*right*). The Romanians also marked *Sputnik 3*, the Soviet satellite launched in 1958, on a single 31.25 stamp, which featured the launch date of 15 May (*left*). The USSR issued a colourful 40k. value stamp split

into two via perforations. One side was the stamp and the other was a label detailing their achievement (*right*).



In 1958, the next rocket stamps commemorated the International Geophysical Year, an international scientific project conducted from 1 July 1957 to 31 December 1958 that involved 67 countries. America issued a single stamp on 31 May 1958. The USA had



previously launched their first satellite, *Explorer 1*, into orbit as part of the International Geophysical Year and, therefore, did not issue a separate *Explorer 1* launch stamp. North Korea issued a four-stamp set of turquoise illustrated stamps. One of these stamps resurfaced in 1980 to feature on the Sir Roland Hill death centenary two-stamp set. Haiti issued an impressive seven-stamp set (*left*). A British stamp designed by Lynton Lamb was

proposed but wasn't issued. On 12 September 1959, the Soviet Union launched *Luna 2*, where the first human-made object touched the moon. The USSR and Soviet-friendly nations, such as China, Hungary, North Korea and Albania, all issued commemorative

stamps (**right**). Also in 1959, the USSR, as part of Soviet Party Day (the anniversary of the October Revolution), issued a three-stamp set, where the highest value stamp of 1r. featured rockets being launched into space (**left**).



Cosmonauts on stamps

Following the first Soviet manned space flight of Vostok 1 on 12 April 1961 by the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonauts and American astronauts alike became celebrities, with their images festooned on numerous global stamp issues. The Bulgarian Vostok 1 single-stamp issue features Yuri Gagarin. Gagarin also features on a Hungarian 2f. stamp as part of a two-stamp set. North Korea featured Gagarin on both stamps on their two-stamp set. Albania features him on all three stamps, whilst Mongolia depicted Gagarin's image on all four stamps issued (**right**).



Similarly, when American astronaut Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr became the second person and the first American in space in December 1961, Paraguay depicted Shepard's image across seven different coloured stamps (**left**). By 1963, along with Gagarin, Gherman Titov, Andriyan Nikolayev, Pavel Popovich, Valery Bykovsky and Valentina Tereshkova, who was the first and youngest woman in space and went on a solo mission on the Vostok 6 on 16 June 1963, had all featured on Albanian postage stamps with the date and name of their missions (**right**). In 1964, Jordan did something similar with a ten-stamp set in which every other stamp featured an American astronaut, including Virgil Grissom and John Glenn (**left**).



Cult status

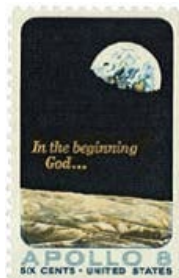
The popular cult status of rockets continued to grow around the world, with France issuing a single 1f. stamp with a rocket as part of the Paris Philatelic Exhibition in 1964. Likewise, for Stamp Day, Hungary issued a four-stamp set with one featuring a rocket orbiting the Earth. Hungary's 1964 Olympic stamp featured a rocket orbiting Earth. Lebanon issued two stamps (5p and 10p) with rockets in the same year to celebrate 21 years of independence (**right**). On 26 November 1965, France launched its first satellite, A1, making France the third country to do so, and it celebrated by issuing a two-stamp set. The 30c. stamp shows the rocket launching the satellite, whilst the 60c. stamp portrays the A1 satellite in orbit (**left**). This achievement seldom gets noticed next to the deaths of cosmonauts and astronauts beginning with Vladimir Komarov, who perished in a pre-launch fire on 24 April 1967. Yemen would issue a 50b. gold stamp with a red Soviet star in his memory and a separate three-stamp set (5b., 10b. and 15b.). Countries including the Maldives issued a two-stamp miniature sheet of two stamps in memory of Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee, who lost their lives during a pre-flight test on 27 January 1967 for the Apollo 1 mission. The following year saw issues, including Hungary's single 10fo. stamp, in memory of Yuri Gagarin who died on a routine training flight on 27 March 1968 (**right**).



Death and tragedy



Deaths and tragedy did little to thwart space-themed stamps or the public's appetite for them. Countries including Ajman devoted issues to the Apollo 9 and 10 missions before the famous Apollo 11 mission, which saw man land on the moon (**left**). Whilst the 20 July 1969 moon landing was globally coined as an 'achievement for all mankind', which Liberia printed on its 65c. one-stamp miniature sheet, America issued just one 10c. airmail stamp featuring a



helmeted Neil Armstrong walking off the ship onto the moon (**right**). Therefore, little fuss was made for Apollo 11 by the USA. Then a single 6c. stamp was issued in April 1969 for the December 1968 Apollo 8 mission, where Commander Frank Borman, Command Module Pilot James Lovell and Lunar Module Pilot William Anders were the first humans to see the far side of the moon with their own eyes and the first humans to see planet Earth from beyond low Earth orbit (**left**). The USA would not issue any stamps in honour of the subsequent Apollo 12 and 13 missions. Whilst the Soviet Union, the USA rival didn't acknowledge Apollo 11, choosing instead to promote their space missions including the 1969 Soyuz 6 and 7, many other countries did.



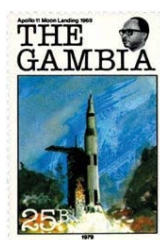
Belgium issued three stamps (6f., 10f. and 20f.) of the three astronauts – Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. Brazil issued a 50c. stamp whilst also depicting Alberto Santos-Dumont, a Brazilian aeronaut who contributed to the early development of both lighter-than-air and heavier-than-air aircraft. States including Gabon, Mali and Mauritania issued gold stamps, as did Sharjah which depicts the American eagle with '**APOLLO 11**' written above. Other countries including Niger and the Republic of



Upper Volta wrote the date of the moon landing as an overprint on existing stamps. Togo issued four-stamp, Christmas-themed Apollo 11 miniature sheets (**right**). Both Japan and China launched domestic satellites via rockets into space in 1970. Japan using the Lambda L-4S on 11 February and China via the DFH-1 on 24 April. Neither country chose to promote these achievements via stamp issues at the time. However, Djibouti and Guinea-Bissau praised Japan's efforts 50 years later with several sets. Japan did too with just a single stamp. China issued its own 50th anniversary commemorative but began earlier in 1978 (**left**). In 1971, when the UK launched Prospero on 28 October at Woomera, South Australia, on a Black Arrow rocket, neither the UK nor Australia issued any stamps.



European Space Agency



In 1979, there were several Apollo 11 10th anniversary commemorations from countries from the Gambia to the Cook Islands (**left**). Another entrant would join the ranks of nations capable of launching their own rockets that year. This time it wasn't a nation, but a collective of nations, via the European Space Agency (ESA). The rocket called Ariane, French for Ariadne, launched successfully over the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana, on the second attempt on 24 December. The French issued a single 1f.70 stamp and first-day cover (**right**). Brazil also issued a first-day

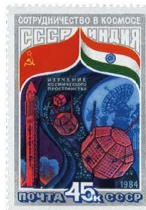


cover. In 1991, countries including Italy, Portugal, Belgium, Guernsey, Monaco, Turkey, France and Ireland issued Europa ESA stamp issues (**left**). Simultaneously, the UK issued a Europe in Space four-stamp presentation pack explaining the ESA's history. In recognition of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009, Royal TNT Post in the Netherlands issued stamps celebrating the ESA's continuing space programme and initial rocket launch. The ESA was most recently praised in a single 2020 Bulgarian stamp issue.



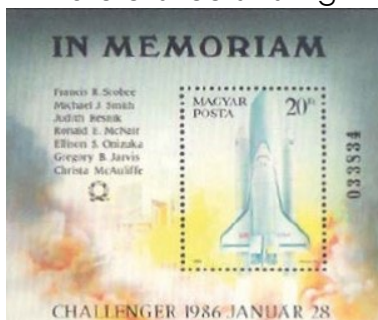
of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009, Royal TNT Post in the Netherlands issued stamps celebrating the ESA's continuing space programme and initial rocket launch. The ESA was most recently praised in a single 2020 Bulgarian stamp issue.

The first Indian rocket mail experiment took place at sea, from ship to shore, off Saugor Island on 30 September 1934. On 18 July 1980, India launched the SLV-3 rocket, which placed the Rohini satellite, RS-1, into orbit. A commemorative stamp naturally depicting the rocket launch was issued a year later. In 1984, a joint USSR and Indian postage stamp depicting each country's flag with rockets and satellites was issued (**right**). In 2020, a year after India successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test called '**Mission Shakti**', a single stamp was issued. Stamp issues for the 20th anniversary of Vostok 1, the first human spaceflight by Yuri Gagarin, appeared in 1981. Grenada issued a four-stamp set showing the rockets in space, whilst the USSR issued a six-stamp set, where two featured Gagarin, one as a civilian and one in space. A year later, in August, delegates from 94 countries and several specialised agencies met in Vienna, Austria, to discuss the state of space technology, its potential and the political issues that derive from using it for the Unispace Conference. The host country issued a single stamp issue of a photograph of a rocket being launched (**left**). In 1983, the USSR issued a two-stamp miniature sheet celebrating 20 years since the first woman cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, was launched on a solo mission aboard the spacecraft Vostok 6.



Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia

On 28 January 1986, the United States Space Shuttle *Challenger* broke apart, killing all seven crew members aboard. Countries including Hungary, Bolivia and Uganda issued miniature sheets listing the names of each crew member. On 1 February 2003, Space



Shuttle *Columbia* disintegrated as it re-entered the atmosphere, killing all seven crew members. Hungary would again issue miniature sheets, as would the Gambia. These issues indicate that the age of the space celebrity was not confined to the 1960s (**left and**

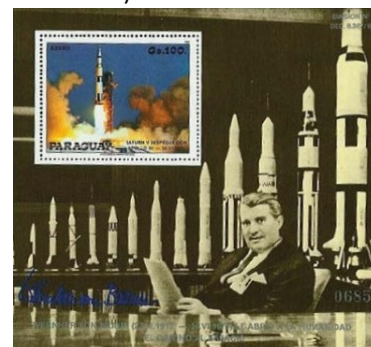


right). Bulgaria issued a two-stamp set in 1987 for the 70th anniversary of the October



Revolution. The red stamp depicts a soldier in battle holding the red Soviet star whilst the blue shows a cosmonaut carrying the red star (**left**).

In 1988, it was the centenary of the birth of Wernher von Braun, a German-American aerospace engineer and space architect who aided the development of rocket technology in Nazi Germany, and then in the United States, working on **Operation Paperclip** at Fort Bliss. Countries including Paraguay issued miniature sheets (**right**). On 19 September



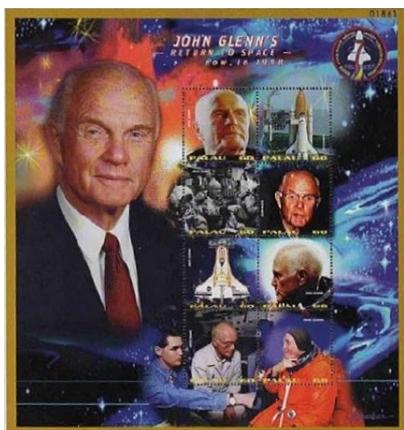
1988, Israel launched a rocket carrying the domestically produced *Ofek-1* satellite into orbit, making Israel the 9th country (including the ESA) to do so. No stamps were issued.

International Space Year

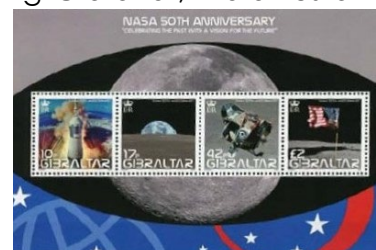
When Ukraine officially separated from the USSR on 24 August 1991, it then continued USSR space programmes within its boundaries, as did Russia in 1992. In 1992, the UN declared it the International Space Year. Countries including Ghana and the Grenadines of St Vincent issued stamps (**left**).



The oldest man in space



On 29 October 1998, John Glenn, the third American in space and the first American to orbit the Earth, circling it three times in 1962, returned to space as a payload specialist aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Countries including Palau and Turks & Caicos honoured Glenn who at the age of 77 was the oldest human to travel in space (**left**). The 50th anniversary of NASA and space exploration was marked in 2008. Countries including Gibraltar, Maldives and Nevis issued four-stamp miniature sheets (**right**). Several milestones were celebrated in 2009 as part of the International



Year of Astronomy. The Isle of Man issued six Europa stamps celebrating 40 years since Apollo 11. Cuba celebrated 70 years of rocket post, whilst Iran issued two 1300r. stamps celebrating the launch of its *Omid* satellite into orbit (**left**). In 2012, North Korea issued several single-stamp miniature sheets to commemorate the 28 July test launch of its intercontinental



ballistic missile (ICBM) Hwasong-14. In 2019 America celebrated 50 years of Apollo 11 with two 'Forever' stamps (**one shown right**).



Conclusion



The profoundness of rockets and satellites is undeniable. In 2013, when Australia issued a 60c. four-stamp set capturing the headlines of their national paper, **Headline News**, Apollo 11 was included. The 2021 French €1.50 stamp for the 60th anniversary of their government space agency CNES (Centre national d'études spatiales – National Centre for Space Studies), prove the global importance of rocket launches beyond Russian and American projects (**left**). The invention of

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope in 2022, which was honoured with a 'Forever' stamp in September 2022, will only encourage more space exploration involving rocket launches enabling satellites to orbit space (**right**).



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

How to Build, Research and Grow a Topical Collection

You are a budding topical collector, and you don't know it yet. Let me explain. Think about the people who fascinate you, favourite objects from your youth, places you've visited, or phenomena that make you curious. Now, reflect on stamps in your collection that match anything on that list of favourite things. Maybe you've picked up a few of these just because the subject of the stamp pleased you. You are building a topical collection by gathering philately that makes you smile. That's how my topical collection got started just three years ago. Since then, it has grown into an engaging stamp hunt and a fascinating search for historic details. Topical collecting is more than just amassing stamps that share a common thread. It represents a subject personally important to you. Topical collecting stimulates the wonder and curiosity dear to every philatelist. Since you've already started your budding topical collection, where do you take it from here? In this article, the author will share her own topical story, suggest ideas to build your topic, offer tips for researching your stamps, and explain how to expand the collection from topical to thematic.

My story

My primary topical collection celebrates typewriters on stamps. I love typewriters and I love to type. As a young girl, I desperately searched for entertainment to alleviate the boredom of my summer vacation following my fifth-grade school year. I came across my mother's Royal portable typewriter (*right*) and her high school typing manual on a dusty shelf. Boredom solved!

This typewriter, the author's 1955 Royal Quiet-de-Luxe portable, inspired her topical collection. The vintage typewriter remains a treasured possession.



I decided to teach myself to type. Each day I went through a few lessons in the book and spent the rest of the day practising the skill. By the end of the summer, I was a sufficiently accomplished typist that I could produce correspondence for my mother upon request. Years later I encountered a typewriter on a stamp. It rekindled all the memories of my autodidactic typing lessons and the joyous clacking sound of typewriter keys. I attacked the job of building this new topical collection much the way I taught myself to type: one lesson at a time. What I learned along the way may help you create a collection that brings you much satisfaction.

Building your topic

How many stamps and which ones should you collect? The beauty of a topical collection is that it is wholly yours. You're the boss, so you can be as expansive or narrow in your collecting as you wish. Just how many stamps are there in your topic? The American Topical Association (ATA) has the answer. The ATA makes more than 1,600 topical checklists available to its members. If your topic isn't listed among those hundreds, the association will work with you to create a custom checklist for your topic. The ATA's typewriter checklist contains more than 750 stamps from 32 countries. Like all ATA checklists, the typewriter stamp list provides information to help me find and organize my stamps: date issued, the stamp's denomination, Scott number, and a description of the stamp. The ATA also brings together study units on dozens of topics. Joining a study group is a great way to meet others who share your love for your topic. For example, one of those affiliate clubs, the Graphics Philately Association, is a place for people who collect books, alphabets, manuscripts, printing presses, writing tools, libraries and . . . wait for it . . . typewriters on stamps.

The American Topical Association also publishes books to enhance one's topical collecting knowledge. **Topical Adventures: A Guide to Topical and Thematic Stamp Collecting** shares details of how to think about, build and enjoy a topical collection. A second book, **What's First? From Abacus to Zebra: The First Time Topics are Depicted on**



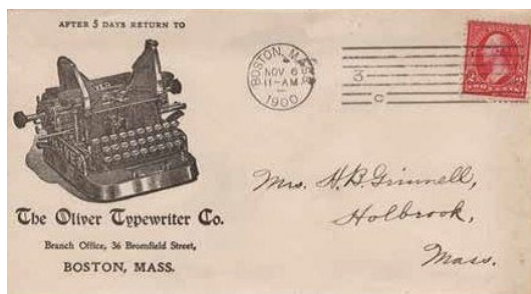
Postage Stamps, offers fascinating facts about firsts in many topics. That's where I learned that the first-ever typewriter on a stamp was issued in 1935 by Turkey (**left**).

The first image of a typewriter on a postage stamp came in 1935 when Turkey issued this semi-postal (Scott B57), one of a set of stamps commemorating the 12th Congress of the Women's International Alliance held in Istanbul.

Searching internet auction sites like eBay, Delcampe and HipStamp also helped me build my collection by searching the word "typewriter."

A 2007 Belgium minisheet offers a comical look at typewriters. My favourite stamp in the set represents romantic communication.

For international auction sites like Delcampe, I translated "typewriter" into 10 languages. The resulting searches of words such as "machine a ecrire" (French) and "schreibmaschine" (German) rewarded me with about 30 previously undiscovered typewriter stamps, covers and typewriter ephemera (**right**). If you want to see what others are collecting on your topic, internet display sites like Colnect (<https://colnect.com/en>) preview digital topical collections.



Collecting stamps on your topic, however, is only part of the fun. First-day covers, as well as commercial covers (**left**) related to your subject, can add depth and interest to the collection.

This 1900 commercial cover franked with a red Washington illustrates the unique silhouette of the Oliver Typewriter.

For example, I came across a 1961 first-day cover for a pair of Philippine stamps that included a typewriter in

commemoration of the Philippine Government Employees Association. The cover features a cachet that also depicts a typewriter (**right**).

A 1961 first day cover from the Philippines with typewriter stamps features a typewriter in the cachet, which commemorates the Philippine Government Employees Association.

This relatively recent issue was very affordable, and I snapped it up. The following week, I found another first-day cover for the stamps but with a different cachet. I soon discovered that the Philippines issued covers offering more than a dozen different cachets for these stamps. I am now collecting them and researching this employee association, established in 1945, just one year before the Republic of the Philippines gained its independence. I am curious to know the history of an organization represented by a typewriter stamp.



This example not only shows how covers add to a topical collection. It also illustrates the potential depth of topical collecting. I can collect every stamp and cover containing a typewriter. Another option is to collect only manual typewriters on stamps, only portable typewriters, only electric typewriters, or only typewriting machines for special purposes such as braille typewriters. The beauty of a topical collection is that I can broaden or

narrow my collection field as my interest and knowledge of my subject grow. And it will grow.



Learning is one of the most rewarding aspects of topical collecting. Delving into the subject matter to better understand what is depicted on the stamps you collect (**left**) excites the mind and opens new collecting paths.

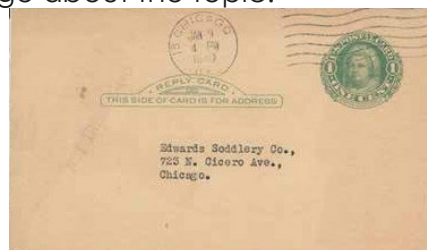
In 2002, Japan honoured cultural pioneer and physicist Professor Tanakadate Aikitu at his typewriter for his work in devising a system to make the Japanese language easier to read for Westerners.

To facilitate this search, I've now gathered myriad books on typewriters, typewriter history and technological innovations. I've archived journal and newspaper articles on the topic, and I've bookmarked websites about typewriters. Along the way, I've learned some amazing facts. For example, a 1925 report to the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) Hospital submitted at the organization's annual meeting featured a picture of its administrative office. In the foreground of the photo was a typewriter on proud display. This 271-year-old hospital, the nation's oldest, touted to its constituents its utilization of this latest communication technology. The message was clear: If we employ the best technology in administrative spaces, imagine how powerful is our technology in the surgical theatre!

As my search for stamps, covers and information about typewriters continues, I've morphed my topical collection into a thematic one. ATA's **Topical Adventures** differentiates a topical collection, where every item depicts the topic, from a thematic collection in which items depict either the topic or knowledge about the topic.



This 1940 typewriter repair advertising postal card harkens back to the good old days when a repairman would come to your door for just \$1.25 no matter where you lived in the Chicago area.



A stamp that shows the person who invented the typewriter is thematic. I've developed the broader thematic collection through the addition of non-philatelic items and ephemera in response to multiple questions.

A trade card (c. 1900) features the Hall Typewriter, first manufactured in 1887. Trade cards offer an interesting avenue to explore history of a stamp's topic.



Who used typewriters? When was the first commercial typewriter sold? Where did typewriter factories spring up?

A 1935 booklet of the King George V Great Britain stamps includes this typewriter advertisement for the Remington Home Portable Typewriter.

How did the first author to submit a typewritten manuscript feel about the typewriter? (Scholars say this author was Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), who referred to the machine as a



"curiosity breeding little joker." In response to such questions, my thematic typewriter collection now incorporates advertising postcards, correspondence from typewriter companies and early typists, trade cards, stamp booklet advertising, metered postage strips (**right**), typewriter company perfins, poster stamps, typewriter ribbon tins, pictorial cancels (**below left**) and even vintage typewriter keys.





I have created typewriter exhibits for the ATA's annual **My One-Page Exhibit Program**, published articles about typewriter philately, and have developed a typewriter philately presentation that I've delivered to stamp groups.

My favourite typist, Snoopy, and his trusty typewriter make a perfect addition to the author's topical collection with this typewriter pictorial cancel for Peanuts-themed stamps issued in 2018 by Germany.

Finally, in the category of **You Never Know Where Your Topical Collection Will Take You**, I received a recent message from a typewriter collector and shop owner in Philadelphia. He'd seen my presentation, "Exploring Communication Through Typewriter Philately," archived online at www.americanatopical.org. He told me he had no idea that typewriter philately existed! In the future, we'll be collaborating on typewriter history workshops to

encourage new generations of typewriter lovers. I have a second goal: to expose newcomers to philately and topical collecting.

I love typewriters, and I love topical collecting. You are sure to enjoy topical collecting, too. Getting back to those fun stamps you've been saving, it's time to start building your topical collection. Join a study unit of philatelists who share an interest in your topic. Pick up an ATA checklist to begin your stamp search. And then, be ready for surprises. Your topical adventure is about to begin!

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The Author - Dr. Michele Bresso started collecting stamps at age 9. She collects countries (U.S. and Pitcairn Islands) as well as many topics. Bresso is a member of the American Topical Association Board of Directors, and is a director in the Knoxville Philatelic Society, her home stamp club. She is also a member of the American Philatelic Society, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the American First Day Cover Society, the Graphics Philately Association, the Cats on Stamps Study Unit, and the British Thematic Association. She writes a regular column on thematic exhibiting for Women Exhibitors and has authored articles in many philatelic publications.

An article by Michele M. Bresso in the America Philatelist of January 2023

IN THE CLOUDS

In Meteorology 'A cloud is an aerosol consisting of a visible mass of miniature liquid droplets, frozen crystals, or other particles suspended in the atmosphere of a planetary body or similar space'. Water, or various other chemicals, may compose the droplets and crystals. On Earth, clouds are formed because of saturation of the air when it is cooled to its dew point, or when it gains sufficient moisture (usually in the form of water vapour) from an adjacent source to raise the dew point to the ambient temperature.





There are, basically, three levels above the ground at which clouds can be seen. The troposphere is the lowest level.

Cloud formations over Earth, as seen from space

The middle layer is known as the stratosphere and the highest, is the mesosphere. Within each layer, there are several recognised different cloud formations. Strong buoyant updrafts of warm moist air, in an unstable atmosphere, cause cumulus clouds to develop vertically.

The smallest cumulus, flat based and rounded tops. Usually a sign of good weather

These clouds are given the name *Cumulus congestus*. These towering clouds frequently produce moderate rain or (snow) showers and may develop into *cumulonimbus* clouds.



Cumulonimbus incus, or thunderstorm clouds, form when rapid updrafts within *cumulus congestus* rise into the upper atmosphere, spread out like mushroom-shaped anvils. These storms produce lightning and severe storms which may result in heavy rain, large hailstones or even tornadoes. Among nature's most destructive phenomena, *tornadoes* are rapidly spinning columns of rising air extending from the base of the cumulonimbus cloud and the ground. In extreme cases, tornado winds may exceed 250 miles an hour. These are often reported as causing major damage in the Southern states of the USA.



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An article by John Crowsley in Thematically Speaking No 168 of May 2023

CANADA POST'S FIVE NEW LET'S TAKE THE FERRY! STAMPS

On 12 July 2023, Canada Post issued five stamps in a set called Let's Take the Ferry! In the June-July issue of its publication *Details*, Canada Post said the non-denominated, permanent-rate (currently 92¢) stamps are a tribute to the role ferries have played in Canada's waterways. "*Harkening back to a more leisurely mode of travel, these stamps, featuring Canadian ferries still in service, are sure to inspire both nostalgia and wanderlust,*" Canada Post said. The Let's Take the Ferry! Set features five different ships.

The first stamp shows the **Spirit of British Columbia**, built in 1993. This ferry can transport 2,100 passengers and crew, plus more than 350 vehicles, on a 95-minute scenic route that crosses the Salish Sea, connecting Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia.



The second stamp shows the ferry named **Chi-Cheemaun**, which means "big canoe" in Ojibwe. This vessel crosses Lake Huron's Georgian Bay between Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula and Manitoulin Island. **Chi-Cheemaun** was built in 1974, and operates from May to October, servicing up to 643 passengers and roughly 150 vehicles.

The next stamp shows the rare side-wheeled paddle steamer **Trillium**. Launched in 1910, the ship was retired in 1956 but returned to service in



1976 after a two-year restoration. **Trillium** carries up to 800 passengers between Toronto, Ontario, and the Toronto Islands in Lake Ontario.



The **Alphonse-Desjardins**, Vanbuilt in 1971, is shown on the fourth stamp. This ferry provides a year-round connection across the St. Lawrence River between two cities in Quebec: Quebec City and Levis. It can house up to 590 passengers and more than 50 vehicles.

Finally, the fifth stamp depicts the **Grand Manan V** ferry. This ship was built in 1990 and travels in some of the world's highest tides. The **Grand Manan V** carries up to 300 people and 60 vehicles to Grand Manan, the largest island in the Bay of Fundy. The bay is located between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; Grand Manan is part of the former province.

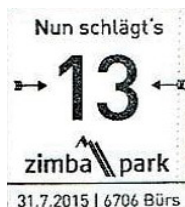


The issue also includes a souvenir sheet with the five stamps se-tenant (side-by-side) and an official first-day cover franked with the souvenir sheets. All products were designed by Context Creative. Photo credits are as follows: **Spirit of British Columbia**, BC Ferries; **Chi-Cheemaun**, Rob Boyce; **Trillium**, George Socka; **Alphonse-Desjardins**, Eric Massicotte; and **Grand Manan V**, Bill Jarvis. Lowe-Martin printed the stamps by six-colour lithography in a booklet of 10 (two of each design) and by five-colour lithography in the souvenir sheet. The quantities printed were 200,000 booklets and 60,000 souvenir sheets. Canada Post produced 7,000 FDCs cancelled in Tobermory, Ontario. The items are available from Canada Post's online store at www.canadapost.ca/shop.

An article by Molly Goad in Linn's Stamp News Weekly of 7 August 2023

RICHARD WAGNER'S LIFE LINE ALONG THE NUMBER 13

Certain natural phenomena and combinations of numbers and numerical systems held fixed meanings for the ancient Assyrians, Egyptians and Greeks. These are being studied again today and also taken more seriously. For example, the Greek philosopher Pythagoras discovered that the entire cosmos, its structure and all life therein, is based on numerical systems. An interesting early historical finding that one finds confirmed in Richard Wagner's life as an extraordinary observation.



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Taking a look at Richard Wagner's eventful life, one can see that between birth and death the number "thirteen" appears again and again. That number, which has long been regarded by many people - rightly or wrongly - as "ominous" or even "foreboding disaster". In ancient cultures and myths from the Greeks to the Teutons, a day with this number was always considered to be especially positive or especially negative. And that's exactly what shows up every time the 13 is related to an event in the life of Richard Wagner.



First of all, it should be noted that Wagner was born in 1813. The sum of the numbers of his birth year ($1 + 8 + 1 + 3$) also add up to 13. And the very name Richard Wagner numbers exactly 13 letters. A trend-setting event in his youth was 13 October 1827. On that day he saw Carl Maria von Weber's opera "Der Freischütz" for the first time, the work that remained a favourite

throughout his life and whose title also numbers 13 letters. When Wagner took up his position as opera conductor in Riga, he conducted the opening performance of the new season on 13 September 1837. The number of operas and musical dramas he composed is also 13: these are "Die Feen", "Das Liebesverbot", "Rienzi", "Der fliegende Holländer", "Tannhäuser", "Lohengrin", "Tristan und Isolde", "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg", "Das Rheingold", "Die Walküre", "Siegfried", "Götterdämmerung" and "Parsifal". In "Tannhäuser" alone, the number 13 plays an important role more than once: On 13 April 1845, Wagner completed the first version. The first performance in Wiesbaden took place on 13 November 1852. On 13 March 1861, the later version, created for Paris, was mercilessly booed there because the second act did not contain a ballet. It was not until 13 years after Wagner's death that the rehabilitation of this work finally took place on 13 May 1896 in Paris with a glamorous revival.



After his participation in the May Uprising in Dresden in 1849, Wagner spent 13 years in exile before he was allowed to set foot on German soil again. During this time Wagner by no means lost sight of his main goal, the realization of his own festival hall. In 1876 that time had finally arrived when the newly built festival hall in Bayreuth opened on 13th August with the first cyclical performance of the tetralogy "Der Ring des Nibelungen". But that's not all: he finished the score of his final work "Parsifal" on 13 January 1882, in Palermo. The last day he spent in his "Haus Wahnfried" in Bayreuth before starting on his final trip to Italy was 13 September 1882. On 13 January 1883 he said goodbye to his friend and father-in-law Franz Liszt for the last time in Venice. Exactly one month later, on 13 February 1883, Richard Wagner closed his eyes there forever.



One can, of course, consider this frequent encounter with the number "thirteen" in Richard Wagner's life to be a mere coincidence. But there are no coincidences in the sense of meaningless occurrences. Because "coincidence" is that which "comes to you" through higher determination. In the Walhalla memorial in Donaustauf, important personalities "of the German language" have been honoured with marble busts and memorial plaques since 1842. Wagner's bust was unveiled there on 29 May 1913.

An article by Karl-Heinz Büdding in Der Musikus No 146 of March 2021

Compiled by Robert Harm 29 May 2023

PHILATELIC TERMS: N-5

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New Greece



This is the name given to areas of Turkey occupied by Greece just before World War 1. Beginning in 1912, stamps of Greece were overprinted *Greek administration* in Greek. Later that same year, a set of special stamps was released for use in New Greece, which included Macedonia, Epirus, and some Aegean islands.



New Guinea, British

The territory known as British New Guinea comprised the southern half of Eastern New Guinea. In 1884 a protection was declared over this part of the island of New Guinea. In 1905 the administration was transferred to Australia, and in 1906 it became the Territory of Papua. The capital was Port Moresby, and the area is now a part of Papuan New Guinea



New Guinea, German



This was a German colony comprising the northern part of the island of New Guinea, plus New Britain, New Ireland, and the Admiralty Islands in the Bismarck Archipelago. After World War 1, the area was mandated to Australia and is now part of Papua New Guinea. In 1897, stamps of Germany were



overprinted **Deutsch Neu-Guinea** and were followed by the Kaiser's Yacht key type bearing the same inscription.

New issue

This is the term used to describe a recently issued stamp. There is no set time at which a new issue ceases to be *new*, but it could be so regarded until it becomes listed in the general catalogues. A popular way of buying new issues is to subscribe to a dealer's new issue service, whereby a deposit is made and instructions are given as to which countries or topics are desired. The dealer will then supply new issues automatically as they become available. Several (if not most of them) postal administrations have philatelic bureaus that offer similar services for their stamp and postal stationery issues.

New Republic



The **New Republic** was a short-lived *republic* proclaimed by the Boers from the Transvaal within the area of Zululand. The *republic* lasted from 1884 to 1888 when it became a part of the Transvaal, and it was later incorporated into the Union of South Africa (now the Republic of South Africa). Stamps inscribed **Nieuwe Republiek** were issued from 1886 and issued until 1888. There were two designs, both rubber-stamped on gummed and perforated paper.

The capital of the *republic* was Vryheid. The area now forms part of the province of Natal.



New South Wales (NSW)

New South Wales (NSW) is one of the 6 states and 2 territories of the Commonwealth of

Australia. Although the fifth largest state in terms of area, it is the most populous state (8.1 million – 2022). It was discovered by James Cook in 1770 and settled by British convicts in 1788 under Capt. Arthur Phillip. Despite its beginning, the area evolved into a self-governing colony with a prosperous economy based on the wool industry followed later by the discovery of minerals. The forming of a federation in 1901 favoured NSW as the centre of Australian industry. The capital of NSW is Sydney, and the city's most famous bridge is featured on a 5/- stamp of 1932 of Australia. The first stamps of NSW were released in 1850 and featured the famous Sydney Views (above left). This had become necessary as the population of NSW grew from 1024 in 1788 to 1,5 million in 1901. Another significant stamp issue began in 1888 when several denominations in a set of stamps were issued to mark the centennial of the first British settlement. Additional stamps were added during the following years. Because of their commemorative inscription **One Hundred Years**, they are regarded as the world's first true government-issued, adhesive commemorative stamps. New South Wales can claim another *first* in the form of the first semi-postal adhesive postage stamps. In 1897 a pair of stamps with denominations of 1d+1/- and 2d+2/6 was released to raise money for a home for consumptives. With the introduction of Australian Commonwealth stamps in 1913, the issues of New South Wales came to an end.



Newspaper stamps

Newspaper stamps were issued by several countries to show prepayment of postal charges on newspapers, journals and periodicals. The first newspaper stamps were issued by Austria in January 1851. Thereafter the example was followed by a variety of states around the world, e.g. Belgium (inscribed *Journeaux Dagbladen*), Brazil (inscribed *Journaes*), Germany (inscribed *Zeitungs Marke*), Philippines (inscribed *Impresos*), Uruguay (*Prensa*), and many others. The first US newspaper issue appeared in 1865 and comprised 51 x 95 mm monsters. In 1875 a handsome set depicting various female figures was placed in use, and the same or similar designs were in use until newspaper stamps were discontinued on 1 July 1898. The US newspaper stamps were used to reflect postage paid on bulk shipments of newspapers. From 1875, the stamps were not placed on the newspapers but on the memorandum of mailing and were retained by the Post Office.



Newspaper Wrapper

A **newspaper wrapper** or just **wrapper** is an item of postal stationery used in the mailing of newspapers. It comprises a strip of paper gummed along one end and bearing an indicium. It was wrapped around a rolled newspaper and sealed at the gummed end. The first use of wrappers was in the US. They were authorised by an Act of Congress dated 27 February 1861, and first issued in October 1861. They were discontinued in 1934. Several other countries have also made use of wrappers.



New York Foreign Mail

From about 1871 to 1877 a considerable variety of extremely attractive fancy cancels was applied by the New York Post Office to outgoing foreign mail.



There are some 100 different circular geometric designs. These fancy cancels were individually cut by different postmasters, and explain the large variety of cancels.

NEZAVISNA DRZAVA HRVATSKA

This is an inscription and overprint found on the stamps used in Croatia during World War 2. Croatia at the time was part of Yugoslavia, and the overprint was applied to the stamps of that country.



N.F.



These initials are an abbreviation of **Nyasaland Force**. The letters were overprinted on stamps of the Nyasaland Protectorate for use during the British occupation of German East Africa during World War 1.

Nicht ausgegeben

This is a German expression for **unused**.

Niger Coast Protectorate

Originally known as the Oil River Protectorate, **Niger Coast Protectorate** located in West Africa was controlled by the British Royal Niger Company. It was incorporated into Northern and Southern Nigeria in 1900. Stamps were first issued in 1890. They were stamps of Great Britain overprinted **British Protectorate/Oil Rivers**. Later issues were inscribed Niger Coast Protectorate.



Compiled by Robert Harm 30 Jun 2023