

THEMATICS

Nr 182: NOVEMBER 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,

Reading so much about philately, it is inevitable that the subject of the hobby's future appears more often than not. What is interesting that the writers of the articles seem to look at various aspects of the hobby and then come to different conclusions. And although there are several of them who seem to think that the hobby will die quietly, the majority see the hobby surviving the so-called "present lull" and then grow in the future. But it will look quite different from what we see today, and that the collectors will drive many of the changes. The traditionalists have held sway for a long time, but changes are being introduced at a rate that is rather faster than many of us may have anticipated. This was brought home to me many years ago when Cassie Carstens and myself started a strong drive to place thematic philately on the map in our beautiful country. A senior philatelist pointed out to me that a more open approach to philately was underway already. At the time I did not want to acknowledge the correctness of the statement. But it did make me think, and over the years I have been involved in thematic philately I have seen the changes in the hobby, and these are all pointing at the survival of the hobby in ways that we are seeing yet. All I can say to that is Keep stamping.

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: Reanie de Villiers at 082-567-0353 or Reanie.devilliers@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.

***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 – 7 October 2023

On Saturday 7 October 223 5 members met at the Greek Church, Pretoria. **Petra** started the meeting off with a very special, relevant contemporary postal and historical envelope. She showed the Rourke's Drift first day cover, signed by Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and then the programme of the commemorative service held at the Voortrekker Monument for the prince. He was a frequent visitor to the Monument and he had a hand in ensuring that the Zulu artifact used by the Monument is authentic. **Mias** showed a Topic Science handbook of 1987 by the American Topical Society he got with an inherited collection. The topics discussed triggered some ideas of collecting. He also found some stamps on rock paintings and from his own collection realised that he has a start-up collection on this theme. **Madge** mentioned that aerophilately will be incorporated in the PPS meetings in future and she showed 2 Australian envelopes on the Centenary of the first flight between England and Australia, 1919 and the 50th anniversary of the first air mail Australia-England 1981/1981. She also showed a huge collection of match box covers. The themes within those pages are amazing. **John** showed the Star Trek Character series from UK and how it fits in with his space collection. He also realized that his collection needs to be organised and set out with a plan. He decided to start with the constellations and grouped it into 8 groups. The collection's bigger title is **Our night skies**. His zodiac pages are already 10 pages and will probably reach 40 pages. Very impressive! He also showed a China space booklet of 2003. A lovely meeting once again.

Helena Snyman

WC Chapter – 7 October 2023

No report was received.

Reanie de Villiers

FACTS AND FEATS: THE POSTAL SERVICES

The longest career as a stamp designer was that of Ferenc Bökrös who made his debut in 1919 with the stamps of Bela Kun's Soviet Republic in Hungary. His swan song was the Anti-fascist Martyrs series of December 1974. His career spanned a total of 55 years. Shortly on his heels was Czeslaw Slania the Polish-born Swedish stamp engraver, whose career spanned 54 years.



The most prolific stamp designer is Gyula Vasarhelyi who designed about 5000 stamps for 110 since 1962. Exact details of his designs are lacking as his stamps are not always accredited to him in official





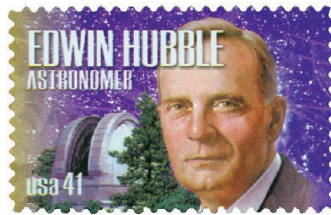
catalogues. Runners up were Gordon Drummond with some 1227 stamps and Victor Whitely with some 1033 stamps. The most prolific American is Bradbury Thompson who produced 96 designs since 1958. Chuck Ripper has designed 59 stamps since 1980 and C.R. Pickering produced 53 designs between 1947 and 1962.

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 EDWIN HUBBLE

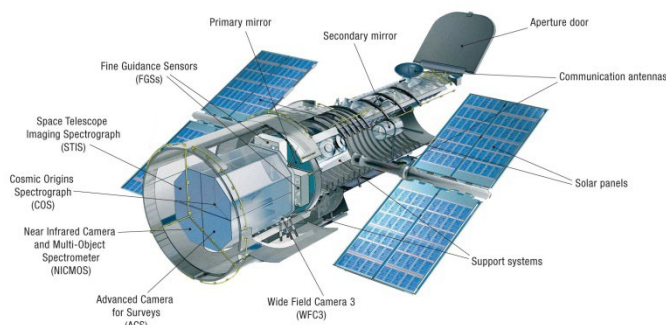


Edwin Powell Hubble was an American astronomer. He played a crucial role in establishing the fields of extragalactic astronomy and observational cosmology. Edwin Hubble was born on 20 November 1889 to Virginia Lee Hubble (née James) and John



Powell Hubble, an insurance executive, in Marshfield, Missouri, and moved to Wheaton, Illinois, in 1900. Hubble's studies at the University of Chicago were concentrated on mathematics, astronomy and philosophy, which resulted in a bachelor of science degree by 1910. A Rhodes Scholar, he spent three years at The Queen's College, Oxford studying jurisprudence instead of science (as a promise to his dying father), and later added studies in literature and Spanish, eventually earning his master's degree. After a year of high school teaching, he entered graduate school with the help of his former professor from the University of Chicago to study astronomy at the university's Yerkes Observatory, where he received his Ph.D. in 1921. His dissertation was titled "*Photographic Investigations of Faint Nebulae*". In Yerkes, he had access to one of the most powerful telescopes in the world at the time, which had an innovative 61 cm reflector. Earlier, in 1917, Albert Einstein had found that his newly developed theory of general relativity indicated that the universe must be either expanding or contracting. Unable to believe what his own equations were telling him, Einstein introduced a cosmological constant (a "*fudge factor*") to the equations to avoid this "*problem*". When Einstein learned of Hubble's redshifts, he immediately realized that the expansion predicted by general relativity must be real, and in later life, he said that changing his equations was "*the biggest blunder of [his] life.*" In fact, Einstein apparently once visited Hubble and tried to convince him that the universe was expanding. Hubble proved that many objects previously thought to be clouds of dust and gas and classified as "*nebulae*" were actually galaxies beyond the Milky Way. He used the strong direct relationship between a classical Cepheid variable's luminosity and pulsation period (discovered in 1908 by Henrietta Swan Leavitt for scaling galactic and extragalactic distances. Hubble provided evidence that the recessional velocity of a galaxy increases with its distance from Earth, a property now known as Hubble's law, although it had been proposed two years earlier by Georges Lemaître. The Hubble law implies that the universe is expanding. Hubble's name is most widely recognized for the Hubble Space Telescope, which was named in his honour, with a model prominently displayed in his hometown of Marshfield, Missouri. Hubble married Grace Lillian (Burke) Leib (1889–1980), daughter of John Patrick and Luella (Kepford) Burke, on 26 February 1924. Hubble had a heart attack in July 1949 while on vacation in Colorado. He was cared for by his wife and continued on a modified diet and work schedule. He died of cerebral thrombosis (a blood clot in his brain) on 28 September 1953, in San Marino, California. No funeral was held for him, and his wife never revealed his burial site.

The Hubble Space Telescope



Orbiting high above the Earth, the Hubble Space Telescope has a clear view of the universe free from the blurring and absorbing effects of the atmosphere. In addition to observing visible and near-infrared light, Hubble detects ultraviolet light, which is absorbed by the atmosphere and visible only from space. The telescope has beamed hundreds of thousands of celestial images back to Earth

during its time in space. Hubble is a Cassegrain reflector telescope. Light from celestial objects travels down a tube, is collected by a bowl-like, inwardly curved primary mirror and reflected toward a smaller, dome-shaped, outwardly curved secondary mirror. The secondary mirror bounces the light back to the primary mirror and through a hole in its centre. The light is focused on a small area called the focal plane, where it is picked up by its various science instruments. Hubble's science instruments, the astronomer's eyes to the universe, work together or individually to provide the observations. Each instrument is designed to examine the universe differently. Hubble holds two main varieties of instruments: cameras, which capture Hubble's famed images, and spectrographs, which break light into colours for analysis. Hubble's current suite of instruments includes the Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3), Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (COS), Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS), Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (STIS) and Fine Guidance Sensors (FGS). These are not the only instruments that have flown aboard Hubble. The telescope was designed to be visited periodically by astronauts, who brought new instruments and technology and made repairs from December 1993 to May 2009. After launch in April 1990, NASA discovered that the primary mirror was flawed. The flaw was tiny, only about 1/50th the width of a human hair, but significant enough to distort Hubble's vision. During Servicing Mission 1 in December of 1993, astronauts added corrective optics to compensate for the flaw. The optics acted like eyeglasses to correct Hubble's vision.

International Society of World Wide Stamp Collectors and Wikipedia

While compiling the article on Edwin Hubble, I realised that I needed to include some information on the Hubble Telescope. This made the article longer than anticipated - Ed

ANTE PAVELICH: MURDERER, TERRORIST, FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE



Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin and Pol Pot are well-known tyrants who cemented their rule through mass murder. Not as well known, but just as murderous, was Ante Pavelich, born 14 July 1889, in what is now known as Bosnia and Herzegovina. Entering politics after achieving his law degree, he became an advocate for Croat nationalism in the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes established in 1918, later renamed Yugoslavia. **Left** is pictured a Yugoslavia provisional stamp (issued 15 January 1919, by the Zagreb, Croatia, postal agency). The lithographed 2-filler brown-orange stamp, illustrated in the art nouveau style popular at the time, shows the allegory of freedom, which symbolized Croatia's independence from the dissolved Austro-Hungarian Empire. Pavelich, was elected to the new parliament, advocated Croatian autonomy, and eventually strived for an independent state that would break away from Yugoslavia.

By 1927, he was asking Italian dictator Benito Mussolini for help to destroy Yugoslavia.

This 1932 stamp from Italy honours Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, who schemed with Ante Pavelich to destroy Yugoslavia. Below the equestrian statue are the words "If I advance, follow me!" in Italian.



An equestrian statue of Mussolini in Bologna, Italy, is featured on the Italy 50-centesimo purple stamp shown **right**. The stamp, printed by photogravure on paper with a crown watermark, was issued on 27 October 1932, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the fascist government. The Italian "**Se Avanzo, Sequitemi!**" inscription across the bottom of the design translates to "*If I advance, follow me!*" The Italian dictator eagerly allowed Pavelich asylum. While living in Italy, Pavelich founded the terrorist organization Ustasha, which means "*rise up.*" Pavelich organized a terror campaign of bombings and assassinations in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav government tried him in absentia for treason and condemned him to death.

Pavelich's answer was to plot and organize the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia on 9 October 1934, while the monarch was on a state visit to France. Both Pavelich and Mussolini believed Alexander's death would lead to the dissolution of the South Slav kingdom, leading to Italian territorial gains and Croatian independence.



King Alexander of Yugoslavia was assassinated by a terrorist sent by Pavelich. The black borders around this Yugoslavia 75-para stamp indicate that it is from a 1934 memorial issue in honour of the slain monarch.

The stamp **left** illustrates one of the King Alexander Memorial stamps from Yugoslavia. Black borders were printed on the outer edges of a set of definitive (regular-issue) stamps (77-86) originally issued during 1932-33. The typographed 75-para slate green stamp bears Cyrillic and Latin inscriptions at the top and bottom, respectively, in recognition of the three official languages of Yugoslavia: Macedonian, Serbo-Croatian and Slovenian. The stamp was issued just eight days after the king's death. Because the French foreign minister Louis Barthou was also killed, a French court sentenced Pavelich to death in absentia. Now Pavelich had two death sentences on his head. Meanwhile, Pavelich, biding his time, was protected from justice by Mussolini. Seven years later, Pavelich's persistence paid off.

By 1941, World War II was well underway, with Italy and Germany as steadfast allies.

Adolf Hitler and Mussolini, shown flanked by fascist symbols on a Germany 1941 12-pfennig+38pf semi-postal stamp, were preparing to support the totalitarian Ustasha regime in 1941. The German inscription across the top of the stamp reads, "Two Peoples and One War."



Pavelich looked to Adolf Hitler for inspiration and support as Nazi Germany overshadowed fascist Italy. Mussolini's visits to Berlin, Munich and Vienna are celebrated on the German semi-postal stamp pictured shown **right**. The 12-pfennig+38pf rose-brown stamp, printed on paper with a swastika watermark, was issued on 30 January 1941 and symbolized the alliance between the two dictators, who are shown side by side on the stamp. The 38pf surtax benefited Hitler's Culture Fund for his grandiose building projects. With Hitler and Mussolini as powerful benefactors, Pavelich would be able to pursue his own grandiose project: an independent, fascist Catholic state devoid of Orthodox Serbs, Jews and Roma (Gypsies). Pavelich's opportunity came on 6 April 1941, when Hitler decided to destroy Yugoslavia in a fit of rage after an anti-Axis government took power. Invaded on all sides by German, Italian, Bulgarian and Hungarian armies, the country collapsed. The Ustasha state of Croatia, a fascist and ultranationalist organization, was subsequently born out of the ruins. Protected by German Wehrmacht troops, Pavelich was made poglavnik (supreme leader). He could now implement his diabolical dreams.

A Croatia 5-kuna+3k photogravure-printed semi-postal stamp issued on 10 April 1943, pictures Pavelich in uniform celebrating the second anniversary of the Ustasha state.



This Croatia 5-kuna+3k semi-postal stamp picturing Pavelich in uniform celebrates the second anniversary of the Ustasha state in 1943. The 3k surtax benefited the National Youth Society.

The stamp **left** shows this Semi-postal. A strutting Pavelich, aping his mentor Hitler by giving the fascist salute to regimented members of the State Labour Service (Drzavna Radna Sluzba), is featured on the Croatia 32k+16k grey green semi-postal stamp shown **right**. The surtax of this engraved stamp funded the paramilitary State Labour Service.

On this Croatia 1944 32k+16k semi-postal stamp, Pavelich is saluting members of the paramilitary State Labour Service. The stamp was one of many issued by the Ustasha regime set up by the Axis powers during World War II.

The stamp was one of four issued on 20 August 1944, to publicize that fascist organization patterned after the Nazi Reichsarbeitsdienst (Reich Labour Service). Pavelich's Ustasha regime commenced a genocidal reign of terror against Serbs, Jews and Roma, as well as dissident Croats. In his murderous quest to establish a racially pure Croatia, he killed approximately 200,000-500,000 Serbs, 30,000 Jews and 26,000-29,000 Roma.



The Ustasha established its own death camps and therefore did not require the assistance of the Nazis' vast extermination apparatus. One of these death camps was in Jasenovac, Croatia, where an estimated 100,000 people, mostly Serbians, were murdered. The exact number of deaths is still disputed. On 15 April 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Serb Administration) issued the 90-pfennig stamp shown **left** to mark the 70th anniversary of the



liberation of the Jasenovac concentration camp by partisan forces. In 1966, the sombre stone flower sculpture pictured on the stamp was erected in memory of the camp's victims. Partisan fighters, male and female, who fought against the Ustasha, as well as against German, Italian and royalist Chetnik troops, are featured on the stamp shown **right**.

The Ustasha regime was so brutal that thousands of Yugoslavs rebelled against it. Two Partisan fighters, a man and a woman, are pictured on this Yugoslavia 12-dinar stamp issued in 1945.

This lithographed Yugoslavia 12-dinar ultramarine stamp was issued on 10 October 1945. Although communist-led, Yugoslavs of all



nationalities and political beliefs opposed to the occupation of their country became Partisans, and the brutality of the Ustasha regime swelled their ranks. The collapse of Hitler's Third Reich in April 1945 meant doom for Pavelich's murderous regime.



The Yugoslavia stamp **left** pictures of Pavelich's archenemy, long-time Yugoslav leader Marshal Josip Broz Tito. With help from the Allies, Tito drove the Germans and the Ustasha out of Croatia and the rest of Yugoslavia. The 50p deep green photogravure stamp was issued in 1945 and displays Tito next to the Order of National Heroes, one of the many medals he would acquire during his long rule of Yugoslavia from 1944 to 1980. Pavelich fled to the American-occupied zone of Austria

in May 1945, abandoning his retreating army and fleeing the wrath of the advancing Partisans. Some of the captured Ustasha were massacred after being repatriated by the British army to the Partisans. Others were executed after show trials in Yugoslavia. Several hundred, however, survived by fleeing to Italy via western Austria.

This Austria 1945 1-groschen occupation stamp picturing a post horn was printed by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing for use in the U.S., British and French occupation zones in Austria.

Pictured **right** illustrates one of the Austrian occupation stamps printed by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing for use in the U.S., British and French occupation zones. The lithographed 1-groschen aquamarine stamp picturing a post horn was issued in 1945.



Pavelich stayed in the U.S. zone unmolested for almost a year until April 1946, when, disguised as a Catholic priest, he entered Italy with a false passport. Pope Pius XII, head of the city-state of Vatican City and leader of the Roman Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, is shown in the left profile on the Vatican City 1.25-lira slate blue and black definitive stamp **left**. The stamp is from a set of four (72-76) issued on 12 March 1940. Pavelich met with Pius XII twice while he was poglavnik of Croatia. After May 1945, many Ustasha were aided by Catholic clergy while on their way to Italy. Pavelich and his associates were also sheltered by Catholic clerics in Rome. With the onset of the Cold War, U.S.



intelligence also prevented their extradition to communist Yugoslavia, where a probable death sentence awaited them, because of their anti-communist credentials. Fearing extradition to Yugoslavia, Pavelich obtained a falsified Red Cross passport and was granted asylum in fascist-friendly Argentina on 6 November 1948.

Argentine president Juan Peron's 100th birth anniversary is celebrated on this Argentina stamp was issued in 1995. Peron granted Pavelich asylum, as well as more than 300 Nazi fugitives and other Ustasha members.

Picture **right** illustrates an Argentina 75-centavo light olive bistre and dark blue stamp picturing South American strongman Juan Domingo Peron. The lithographed stamp was issued on 7 October 1995, to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth.



Peron welcomed some of the worst human monsters in history: Dr. Josef Mengele, known as the "angel of death," who had performed gruesome medical experiments on death camp inmates; Adolph Eichmann, Hitler's organizer of the Holocaust; and many of Pavelich's Ustasha henchmen. Living undercover with an assumed name and reunited with his family, Pavelich prospered in Argentina. He still plotted to overthrow the Yugoslav government and re-establish the Ustasha regime. On 10 April 1957, Pavelich's infamous luck almost deserted him when he was seriously injured in an assassination attempt. His true identity was discovered while he was hospitalized. He promptly fled to Chile, then secretly to Spain, where he was granted asylum, to avoid continuing requests for extradition



to Yugoslavia. Pavelich's last rescuer was fellow fascist dictator and devout Catholic Francisco Franco, shown on the Spain 1954 10-centimo dark carmine lake stamp **top left**. The 10c stamp is the low denomination in a 1954-56 definitive set of 21. Franco appeared on many Spanish stamps between 1939 and 1975. After arriving secretly in Spain on 29 November 1957, under Franco's protection, Pavelich continued to plot and conspire. He died in a Spanish hospital on 28 December 1959, from wounds he had received in Argentina. Pavelich was never brought to justice for his enormous crimes for a variety of

reasons. Perhaps Elie Wiesel, a survivor of the Holocaust, said it best, "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."

An article by Lawrence F. Skalak III in Linn's Stamp News Weekly of 30 October 2023

EMBROIDERED STAMPS

Several years ago, while perusing my worldwide collection, I came upon an unusual stamp from Italy (shown **right**) was an embroidered stamp. It was not a photograph or engraving of stitches but actual embroidery.



Further research has shown 22 such stamps worldwide produced on large embroidery machines with a self-adhesive coating on the back to enable affixing the stamp. The machines for producing these stamps were developed in the Swiss town of St. Gallen in the early 19th century.

The stamp from Italy is the only one in my collection which is used as can be seen from the scan with a relatively faint cancellation. The remainder of the stamps are mint, probably because these particular stamps are hoarded by locals and philatelists and not widely utilized for postage. The stamps are larger than a standard postage stamp and more similar in size to a Boy Scout badge.



The first embroidered stamps appeared in 2003 with one particular subject, a teddy bear. Five countries: St. Vincent Grenadines (**far left**), Gambia (**middle left**), Grenada Caracaou & Petit Martinique, Sierra Leone (**near left**), and Grenada used the same graphic; the only change being the colours, borders and values.

Austria produced five embroidered stamps of two native flowers, Enzian (**near right**) and Edelweiss (**middle right**). In 2010, Austria produced a large stamp (80 x 60 mm) of a flower, Petit Point; the stamp itself is printed while the central flower itself is embroidered (**far right**).



The country paid tribute to local traditions in 2016 and 2018 with a dirndl (**left**) and a Styrian hat (**right**). The dirndl and hat are native to the Alpine regions of Bavaria and Austria.



To celebrate the 2013 50th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Gambia (**left**) and Grenada (**right**) issued identical stamps. The stamps contain a silhouette image of the Queen and a crown over the text "Diamond Anniversary of the



Coronation."

Liechtenstein produced a blue and green globe (**right**) on a large embroidered stamp in 2020. Probably the most eye-catching is a Princely Hat (Scott M1932) composed of gold thread on maroon cloth. The stamp





comes in a little folder that contains a brief description of the creation of the principality of Liechtenstein (*left*).

To commemorate the Year of the Dragon in 2011, Micronesia produced a stamp with a writhing dragon (*right*). Grenada and Sierra Leone commemorated the Year of the Horse with two similar renditions.



Similar to the Austrian Petit Point stamp, in 2009, Singapore issued a 62 x 90 mm souvenir sheet with the Pigeon Orchid flower in the perforated central portion embroidered (*left*).

In June 2000, Switzerland issued a piece of embroidery as its inclusion in this topical category (*right*). Austria issued the last item in my collection as a COVID-19 mask (*left*).



I have yet to find any used in my online searches. However, I do have St. Vincent and Grenadines Scott 3095 on the cover as well as the Vatican 2019 cover commemorating the 90th anniversary of the



Latern Accord that granted sovereignty to Vatican City.

My journey in this medium was strictly accidental; a single embroidered stamp in my collection stimulated my research. I submitted a checklist to ATA (ATA Checklist #1671), which contains the stamps I could identify as embroidered.

An article by Gary R. Baker in Topical Time No. 438 of March-April 2023

COULD HAVE DONE BETTER

While Commonwealth issues produced some of the world's most beautiful and desirable stamp issues, there have been some that have sadly fallen well below par; from poor design and wrong captions to ill-advised releases of high-value issues. Noel Davenhill picks out a few of the issues where those responsible 'could have done better'.

Up to the earlier years of the Elizabethan reign, there were several significant developments in the handling of stamps from Britain's former colonies and protectorates. Back then, many Crown Agents' pictorial designs were aimed at promoting the territory. Colourful definitive stamps from the mid-1930s helped to publicise participating territories, leaving only Bahamas, Nigeria and St Lucia with a modicum of adapted King George V pictorials alongside smaller-format King George VI portraits in 1938. The policy was not followed by Barbados, Hong Kong, Leeward Islands, Mauritius or the Straits Settlements who commenced the King George VI era without any pictorials. This review looks mainly at definitive stamps issued from the mid-1930s to about 1970 that for various reasons fell short of standards expected from the Crown Agents. Plate flaws, transient varieties and overprint errors are excluded.

Crammed design

Our survey begins with Harrison & Sons' monochrome Mauritius and North Borneo pictorials released simultaneously in 1950. These austerity printings, which are comparable in design to 1938 Seychelles stamps, were severely slated by the philatelic press. North Borneo was especially censured for cramming inappropriate basic photographs into stamp size. One outstanding success was, however, the jovial Bajau Chief (20c.). Whereas maps were a popular Crown Agents theme, the 8c. in a single colour was a disastrous muddle,

improved marginally in the Queen Elizabeth II printing in 1954 with clearer outlines (**left and right**).



Apart from the 20c. value, North Borneo's 1950 pictorials, printed under austerity measures, were widely criticised at the time. The 8c. map design was improved upon for Queen Elizabeth in 1954



Mauritius fared a little better with more appropriate designs; possible exceptions include the Aloe Plant (3c.), Labourdonnais Statue (25c.) and Beach Scene (5r.). The unimaginative images, also repeated in Queen Elizabeth II printings, depict featureless vegetation and windswept coastal trees, which did little to promote the colony (**left**). The reason for a closer view of King George VI Tamarind Falls (4c.) on the otherwise identical Queen Elizabeth II 10c. in 1954 is not known (**right**).



A minute latitude error in the 1950 dodo and map (12c.), was later corrected (**left**). Maps on the 1960 Gibraltar 6d. and 1962 Seychelles 2r.25. lacked definition and clarity despite multicolour photogravure printing. Some Seychelles 1952–54 definitive stamps depict a large star intended to locate the colony's scattered islands in the Indian Ocean; it was not effective!



On Fiji's 1938 2d. and 6d. map design, the 180° longitude was omitted (**left and right**). Due to another presumed oversight, the 1½d. sailing canoe (camakua) was



unmanned (**right**). Both mistakes were corrected with new dies in 1940. A third so-called 'blue sugar cane' error (5d.) (**left**) was more realistically reprinted in yellow-green. As similar mismatched colours occurred on many contemporary Crown Agents stamps, the need for change was questionable. The exclusion of 'TOBAGO' from the title of Trinidad & Tobago's 'minibus' 1951 University of West Indies series led to a boycott by many residents of the forgotten island (**right**). In 1969, colourful post-independence definitive stamps (20c., 25c.) showed outline maps of the twin islands supported with the national flag and a magnetic compass. When retaining the framework for floral motifs (12c., 30c., \$1) the designer obviously overlooked the now pointless (excuse the pun) compass on 12c. and \$1 stamps! (**left**).



An unrealistic lime plantation on Dominica's King George VI 1951 and Queen Elizabeth II 1954 definitive stamps (3c., 48c.) was copied from a vintage postcard; the unsatisfactory view was eventually withdrawn in 1957 (**left**).

Harrison's 1963 photogravure pictorials were somewhat marred by an untidy tangle of branches and foliage (60c.) labelled '**COCOA TREE**'. The 14c. (171) adaption of a promotional photograph failed to embrace the friendly glance of the traditionally dressed model (**right**). A marginally more realistic printing was released in 1965.



Overbearing overprints



Bahamas' history of overprints continued with the wordy and defacing '**1942 LANDFALL OF COLUMBUS**' typeface on all ½d. to £1 definitive stamps overprinted by The Nassau Guardian newspaper (**left**). This is

comparable to similar disfiguring 'ANGUILLA TERCENTENARY 1650–1950' overprints on six St Kitts-Nevis stamps. An unspecified 'BAHAMAS TALKS 1962' overprint (assumably the Nassau Agreement talks) on 8d. and 10d. definitive stamps (**right**) were followed in 1964 with yet another to promote the Tokyo Olympic Games. The obsolete 'yacht racing' definitive (211) was appropriately selected for the five-ring symbol overprint plus a surcharge reducing the 1s. face value to 8d. (**left**), thereby increasing publicity on airmail envelopes addressed to North America. The 1954 Queen Elizabeth II bicoloured definitive stamps were a marked improvement from the drab monochrome 1948 Eleuthera tercentenary series from which they were adapted (**right**). The 2s. misleadingly captioned '**NATIVE PRODUCT: SISAL**' features a Mexican import. The choice of colours may have contributed to the indistinct image.



Retention of many fine pictorial designs from the mid-1930s to portray King George VI was marred by a surprising lack of judgement in rejecting all five splendid Cayman Islands images in favour of new, but much less impressive designs (**left**). Critical comments also relate to subsequent Cayman Islands stamps. The series includes a minor oversight omitting the customary dot below the 9d. (143) (**right**), which remained uncorrected in the 1953 Queen Elizabeth issue. A similar mistake on the 1954 KUT 15c. (169) was rectified by inserting the missing dot (169a). The Cayman Islands' 1962 definitive stamps include a stamp captioned '**SWIMMING POOL, CAYMAN BRAC**' (1s.3d), a facility repeated in countless resorts throughout the Caribbean (**left**).



Was the swimming pool at Cayman Brac really a worthy topic for the 1s.3d of 1962?

Amongst somewhat mediocre 1969 pictorials, the Cayman Thrush (¼d.), resembles a tatty exhibit from a run-down museum! Whereas the map of Grand Cayman (2½d.) was acceptable, the ridiculous positioning of the two smaller islands (6d.) was certainly not! (**right**). The images continued on matching decimal currency stamps.



Spelling mistakes



St Lucia's 1936 1d., 2½d. and 6d. definitive stamps showing Columbus Square in Castries captioned 'COLOMBUS' was corrected on the King George VI

6d. in 1938 (**left**). A similar oversight on a 1952 British Virgin Islands stamp shows the map of the main island, Virgin Gorda as 'VIRGIN CORDA' (**right**); this was not corrected. A comparable slip-up occurred in the 1953 Bermuda 3d. and 1s.3d. map stamps showing the parish of Sandys mistakenly inscribed '**SANDY'S**' (140, 145). Without magnification, the almost illegible lettering was corrected in 1957 (140a, 145b). A 1950 and 1953 map of Barbados (\$1.20) partly hidden by a wireless mast, outlines the island's parishes. Due to an oversight, however, the boundary line separating St Michael from St George was omitted. The Barbados 1965 marine life 3c. Seahorse (324) issued with the Latin name *Hippocampus* was corrected to *Hippocampus* (344) (**left above**). St Vincent's 1965 1c.



inscribed '**BOAT BUILDING, BEOUIA**' (231) was misspelt; the small island's correct name, '**BEQUIA**', was placed on sale in 1967 (**above right**). North Borneo definitive (50c.) issued in 1950 is wrongly shown as '**CLOCK TOWER, JESSLETON**' (366); the oversight was corrected in 1952 to '**JESSELTON**' (365a).

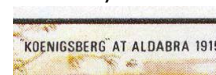
Although an appropriate caption for the cute primate on Sarawak's 1950 2c. definitive is tarsier or *tarsius* (Latin). '**THE TARSIVS**', as shown on the stamp, is unacceptable terminology. Two mistakes on the 10c. (177) depicts a Scaly Anteater standing on two legs, a biologically impossible position. Also incorrect is '**ANT EATER**' in two words. Whereas the 2c. error remained in use without alteration, a new orange 10c. (186)



repeating the bicolour \$2 map in monochrome has

significantly reduced impact (**right**). The Nyasaland 1945 (3d. and 2s.) Fishing village pictorial depicting a tiny twin-paddled canoe on Lake Nyasa, not known in central Africa, was redrawn with a single paddle for the 1953 Queen Elizabeth II definitive stamps (**left**). Two errors occur on the Seychelles

1969 historical definitive stamp (15c.) '**KOENISBERG AT ALDABRA 1915**'; **Königsberg**, the correctly named German cruiser, visited Aldabra Island before the war in 1914 (**right**). The



vessel would not have been welcomed in 1915! The 1957 Pitcairn Islands 4d. (23) featuring a structure captioned

'**PITCAIRN**

SCHOOL' clearly differs from the 8d. issued in 1951 (**left**). A revised 4d. (23a) captioned



SCHOOLTEACHER'S HOUSE' was

released in 1958. Far less publicised is the astonishing Barbados 1970



25c. '**GEORGE WASHINGTON HOUSE**' blooper (**right**). A Google search reveals the small building is clearly not the house (now a museum) where the future first US President resided with his invalid half-brother during an extended visit in 1751.



Many collectors are puzzled by identical images of Sombrero Lighthouse on stamps of the Virgin Islands in 1952 (1c.) and St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla in 1954 (8c.) (**left**). Was there confusion as to the location? No, the administration of the lighthouse was transferred from the BVI to Anguilla. The original structure has since been rebuilt. Mystery surrounds Somaliland Protectorate's

1951 decimal surcharges. Whereas two separate 5c. overprints were printed, only the 5c. on 1/2a. green was issued. The entire stock of 5c. on 1a. scarlet was officially destroyed without being placed on sale; only a handful of copies are known to exist. Gibraltar's 1965 International Cooperation Year 1/2d. omnibus stamp appears as '1/2d', in colours and larger fonts approved for other territories, i.e.: 1s.6d., 2.6d., etc. Harrison's error in misreading the order is likely to have remained undetected until Gibraltar's requisition was checked by the Crown Agents. Due to the reversed colours, the philatelic fraternity initially viewed the 1/2d. as an improbable 1s.2d. value. Gibraltar accepted the oddball as the required halfpenny stamp (**right**). Shakespeare's 400th birth anniversary was marked with single stamps from 12 territories in April 1964. How each country qualified for selection is not clear, but Bermuda's exclusion is astonishing. Inspiration for the playwright's final work **The Tempest** was the dramatic sinking of **Sea Venture** off Bermuda in 1610. **Sea Venture** continues to dominate Bermuda's coat of arms.



The Silver Wedding debacle



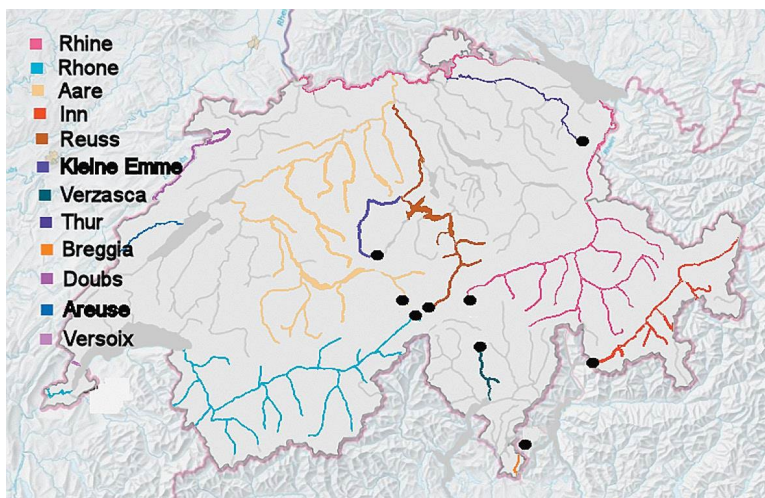
Despite ongoing post-war restrictions and a faltering economy, the Royal Silver Wedding on 26 April 1948 was marked in Great Britain with two stamps, including a £1 denomination that prompted widespread condemnation from the philatelic community (**left**). Criticism accelerated when the Crown Agents announced a complementary omnibus series for sporadic release in the months ahead. Outrageously high values resulted in a statement in May 1948 from Stanley Gibbons suspending catalogue listings. The first issue was Turks & Caicos Islands on 13 November after celebrations were long forgotten. In response to criticism, the Crown Agents agreed to limit high denominations to matching definitive stamps – a promise not upheld! Whereas the top Falkland Islands Dependencies (1s.) fulfilled obligations, Pitcairn Islands (10s.) and Gilbert & Ellice Islands (£1) did not (**right**)! Gambia, Jamaica and Malta also exceeded the pledge. It has been suggested that staggered release dates spanning 16 months may have been manipulated to allow time for dealers and collectors to acquire funding for costly high denominations. Their Majesties would have been unimpressed receiving congratulations from Gilbert & Ellice Islands on 29 August 1949, almost 1½ years late! Whereas post-war deprivations in 1947–48 postponed Mauritius, Bermuda and British Honduras commemoratives, this dark chapter in Crown Agents history clearly awards the **'Could Have Done Better'** wooden spoon to the ill-conceived Silver Wedding debacle!



An article by Noel Davenhill in Gibbons Stamp News of January 2023

PHOTOGRAPHS CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF A DOZEN SWISS RIVERS

Rivers have been the subject of Swiss stamps beginning with the 1952-56 Pro Patria semi-postal issues. The Pro Patria series was the topic of the author's column in the issue of *Linn's Stamp News Weekly* of 21 February 2022. A more recent example is the 2022-23 Swiss River Landscapes series of definitive (regular-issue) stamps, which is the focus of this article, where the author takes us on a philatelic journey.



This map of Switzerland shows the locations of the 12 rivers pictured on stamps mentioned in the article. The author coloured the rivers to match the map's key on the left. The black dots, also added by the author, mark the sources of nine of the rivers. Map courtesy of the Federal Office of Topography in Switzerland.

The rivers for the **River Landscapes** series were not chosen for their importance so much as for the scenic value of the spot where the photographer took the picture that appears on the stamp. That is not to say that three of Switzerland's main rivers — the

Rhine, Rhone and Inn, which flow into the North Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea via the Danube, respectively — were omitted; they are part of the set. Rather, it's just that some very short rivers made the list because of their beauty. The map of Switzerland shows the 12 rivers and their tributaries traced in various colours.

Let us begin with one of the major rivers of the world: the **Rhine**, which is shown in pink on the right of the map. The Rhine is shown on the 1.80-franc River Landscapes stamp **left**. The photo was taken in Chur in the canton of Graubunden in southeast Switzerland.



The Rhine in this area bears little resemblance to the broad river we think of when it passes through Basel on its way to the Netherlands and the North Sea. The official source of the Rhine is the Tomasee on Piz Toma, on the border between Graubunden and the canton of Uri near Tschamut at an altitude of 2,344 metres. A black dot on the map marks that point. You will notice that there are two branches of the river. The section that arises from the Tomasee is called the Vorderrhein; the branch entering from the south is called the

Hinterrhein. The two branches converge just before the river reaches Chur, where the photograph on the stamp was taken. The Rhine flows north from Chur to form the border first with Liechtenstein, then with Austria through the Bodensee (Lake Constance), and finally with Germany, where it exits Switzerland at Basel where Switzerland, Germany and France meet. The river is 1233 Kilometres long, 378 kilometres of which are in Switzerland. By the time the Rhine reaches Basel, it has descended 2,088 metres with 12 power plants taking advantage of the flow to produce electricity from run-of-the-river generators. Those generators do not completely dam the river, instead relying on a low dam called a weir to provide a small head of water that is compensated for by the volume of water passing through the generators' turbines.

The next river we will examine is the *Rhone*, shown on the 400-centime River Landscapes stamp **right**. The photograph was taken in Varen, near Sierre in the canton of Valais.



The river's source is the Rhone Glacier, shown on the 1936 15c Landscapes definitive stamp (**left**). The river runs the length of the Valais before entering Lake Geneva at Bouveret. The river then emerges at the western end of the lake and continues to the French border at Chancy in the canton of Geneva. It then turns south and exits into the Mediterranean Sea near Arles.



On the map of Switzerland, the Rhone is coloured light blue, and its source is marked with a black dot. The river is 813 kilometres long, of which 290 kilometres are in Switzerland. From an altitude of 2,207 metres at the Rhone Glacier, it drops 1,908 metres before it exits Switzerland. The Verbois power plant is on the Rhone.



The 110c River Landscapes stamp illustrated on **left 4** shows a photo of the Aare River near Rubingen in the canton of Bern. The river, highlighted in yellow on the map, drains the centre of the country. There are 40 power stations on the Aare, including the cracked dam containing the Grimsensee. The source of the Aare is the Aare Glacier, which is marked with a dot on the map. The Aare's course takes it through Lake Brienz and Lake Thun and then through Bern before entering Lake Biel, where it heads northeast after exiting the lake. The Aare finally reaches

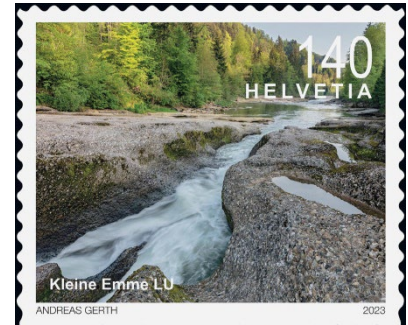
the Rhine near Felsenau in the canton of Aargau. The drop from the Aare Glacier to the Rhine is 1,565 metres.

Illustrated **right** is the 290c River Landscapes stamp picturing a photo of the *Inn River*, also called the *En in the Engadine*. The Inn is one of the major river systems because it is the source of the Danube River. The river has its origin in the Lagh dal Lunghin on Piz Lunghin. The source, in the southern area of Graubunden, is marked with a dot on the red-coloured river on the map. The Inn, from its source to the Danube at Passau in Germany, is 518 kilometres long, of which 97 kilometres are in Switzerland. The Inn descends 1,405 metres in Switzerland and 2,193 metres in total. There are four hydroelectric power stations in the Inn in Switzerland and 20 in Austria and Germany. The Inn leaves Swiss territory at Vinadi in Graubunden.



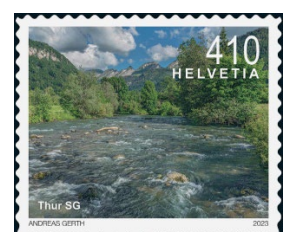
The Reuss River is featured on the 185c denomination in the River Landscapes set. The **Left** shows that stamp. The Reuss originates in the area of the Gotthard Pass at Lago di Lucendro in the canton of Ticino at an altitude of 6,990 feet. A dot on the brown-coloured river on the map indicates the source of the Reuss. The canyon of the Reuss is the path of the Gotthard rail line in the canton of Uri. The river enters the lower end of the Vierwaldstattersee and reforms at the other end of Lake Lucerne. The Kleine Emme River joins the Reuss just east of Lucerne in Emmenbrucke and flows northwest to join the Aare at Windisch in the canton of Aargau. The river is 164 kilometres long and descends 2,000 metres.

The 140c River Landscapes stamp **right** features the Kleine Emme, a tributary of the Reuss, with its source in the canton of Obwalden at Emmensprung at an elevation of 4,810 feet. The river, which is only 58 kilometres long, crosses into the canton of Lucerne and makes its way north as the Waldemme (Forest Emme) to Schupfheim, where it becomes the Kleine Emme. The Kleine Emme continues north to Wolhusen, where it makes a sharp right turn and flows toward Lucerne and its confluence with the Reuss at Emmenbrucke. The river is shown in lilac in the middle of the map. A black dot marks the source.



The 90c River Landscapes stamp shown **left** features an interesting river that is only 31 kilometres long: the Verzasca in the canton of Ticino. The Verzasca, famous for its clear turquoise water and coloured rock formations, is shown in dark green on the map; its source, the Pizzo Barone (at an altitude of 2,865 metres), is identified with a black dot. The river flows south into Lake Maggiore at Gordola and is dammed a mile or so up from the lake for hydropower generation.

The Thur River is shown on the 410c River Landscapes stamp shown **right**. The river has its source near the Santis range in the canton of St. Gallen at an altitude of 1,347 metres. On the map, the river is depicted in grey-violet with the source marked. After descending the



slopes of the Santis range to Unterwasser, the Thur flows through the Toggenburg region to Wil, where it turns east to be joined by the Sitter River at Bischofszell. From there, the Thur heads northwest into the canton of Zurich to join the Rhine near Andelfingen. The Thur is 130 kilometres long and is a wild river with no dams to impede its flow.



orange on the map.

The southernmost river in Switzerland, shown **left** on the 530c River Landscapes stamp, is the Breggia in the canton of Ticino. The river has a total length of almost 16 kilometres. The Breggia has its sources and mouth in Italy and it flows into Lake Como. Its sources are on Monte d'Orimento in the Val d'Intelvi, Italy, at an elevation of 1,390 metres and 2.5 kilometres from the Swiss border. The river enters Swiss territory near Scudellate and flows for 10 kilometres through Switzerland, exiting at Vacallo and flowing another 3 kilometres to Lake Como. The river is shown in

The next river shown, the Doubs River, forms the border with France for most of its length as it flows through Switzerland. **The right** shows the 230c River Landscapes stamp picturing the Doubs at Le Theusseret in the Doubs Nature Park. The Doubs begins and ends in France. Its source lies at an elevation of 946 metres above the town of Mouthe. It flows northeast for about 68 kilometres before it forms the border with Switzerland at Les Brenets in the canton of Neuchatel. The border section extends for about 58 kilometres to a point near Soubey, Switzerland, where it takes a dogleg to the east for about 27 kilometres before it hits the border at Ocourt in the canton of Jura and flows into France. It joins the Saone River at Verdun-sur-le-Doubs, having travelled for 452 kilometres. A total of 85 kilometres are in Switzerland. The Doubs is shown in pink on the map. The source is not shown but is located between the words Breggia and Doubs on the map.



The Areuse, a 15-mile-long river in the canton of Neuchatel, is shown on the 210c River Landscapes stamp **left**. Its source is near Saint-Sulpice, and it flows into Lake Neuchatel at Cortaillod. It is shown in blue-violet on the map. Its origin lies under the "a" of Breggia in the key at left on the map.

The final River Landscapes stamp to highlight, illustrated **right**, is the 115c denomination showing the Versoix River. The river begins in France at Divonne-les-Bains, 2.5 kilometres from the Swiss border at Bogis in the canton of Vaud. It flows 19 kilometres to Versoix in Vaud, where it flows into Lake Geneva. The Versoix is shown in magenta on the map. The source of the Versoix is not marked, but it lies just inside France.



An article by Richard T. Hall in Scott Stamp Monthly of September 2023

UNITED NATIONS DEFINITIVE STAMP CELEBRATES MARIE CURIE

The United Nations Postal Administration will honour physicist and chemist Marie Curie

(1867-1934) on a definitive stamp to be issued on 7 November 2023. Through her pioneering research in radioactivity, Curie discovered the elements polonium and radium.



She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize for Physics, the first person to win the prize twice, and the only person to win prizes in two scientific fields — physics and chemistry. The 2.50-franc Marie Curie stamp is for use from the post office at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva, Switzerland. Designed by Rorie Katz of the United Nations, the stamp features a portrait of Curie and a quote in French to the right of the portrait. The English translation is "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood." The UNPA

discussed Curie's legacy in the latest issue (No. 142) of **Fascination**, its bulletin for collectors. "Marie Curie's research laid the foundation for modern nuclear science, from X-rays to radiotherapy for treating cancer," the UNPA said. "She stood out not only for her brilliant talent and dedication but also for inspiring women and girls in science." The stamp's 7 November issue date coincides with Curie's birth anniversary.

The youngest of five children in a poor family, Curie (née Skłodowska) left Poland for Paris in 1891 to study physics and mathematics at the Sorbonne. In Paris, she met fellow scientist Pierre Curie, and the two were married in 1895. In 1903, Marie and Pierre, along with Henri Becquerel, were awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for their work on radioactivity. In 1906, Pierre died tragically in a street accident. That same year, Marie accepted a position at the Sorbonne. She continued her scientific research and was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1911 for the discovery of radium and polonium. Curie died 4 July 1934, from conditions believed to be caused by her long-term exposure to radiation. According to the Royal Philatelic Society London, Curie has appeared on more than 100 stamps and souvenir sheets from around the world.

Prolific stamp engraver Martin Mörck, the artist behind the UNPA Marie Curie definitive stamp, also engraved one design for two 27 January 2011, French stamps depicting the scientist. In overall appearance, the new Marie Curie stamp is similar to five other UNPA definitive stamps: €0.85 Wangari Maathai issued 1 April 2022; \$1.80 Mother Teresa issued 12 August 2021; \$2.75 Mahatma Gandhi issued 2 October 2019; \$1.30 Kofi Annan issued 31 May 2018; and the 2-franc Nelson Mandela stamp issued 18 July 2018. The euro-denominated stamp is for use from the post office at the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria. The dollar-denominated stamps are for use from the post office at the U.N. headquarters in New York City, and the franc-denominated stamp is for use from the U.N. offices in Geneva.

The Marie Curie stamp measures 50 millimetres by 35mm and is perforated gauge 14 by 14¼. Joh. Enschede of the Netherlands printed 9,000 panes of 20 stamps by offset lithography-duotone. As part of the 7 November issue, the UNPA offers two first-day covers. One FDC is franked with a single stamp, and the other with a block of four. The FDCs are available through 7 May 2024.



FIRST DAY COVER OF THE UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

An article by David Hartwig in Linn's Stamp News Weekly of 30 October 2023

Compiled by Robert Harm 29 October 2023

PHILATELIC TERMS: O-4

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OG

The abbreviation **OG** is often found in auction catalogues, dealers' price lists and philatelic advertising. It stands for *original gum* and indicates that a stamp has the same gum as that with which it was issued. The term does not indicate the condition of the gum, however.

OHHS

The letters **OHHS** are found overprinted on several stamp issues of Egypt from 1907 to 1922. They stand for *On His Highness' Service* and designate stamps for official use.



OHMS



The initials **OHMS** overprint indicates that it is official, often British, mail. It means *On His (Her) Majesty's Service*. Stamps are also known overprinted or perforated with the initials for official use. Canadian stamps in particular were once so treated and are a popular area of Canadian philately.

OHU POST

This is an inscription that can be found on the air mail stamps of Estonia.



OL



The letters **OL** within a circle of dots found on the early stamps of Monaco form a cancellation used on letters collected from areas of French territory that were served by Monaco's postal service and in which stamps of both France and Monaco could be used. The letters stood for *origin locale* according to **Billig's Philatelic Handbook Vol II**. The cancellation was not used after 1908.

Oldenburg

Oldenburg is a former German grand duchy centred around the area of the capital city of the same name. The city is located about 30 miles west of Bremen. The grand duchy has a long history of passing through numerous hands, but it joined the North German Federation in 1867 and thereafter the German Empire in 1871. It was a *land* of Germany until 1946 after which it became an administrative district of Lower Saxony. It covers an area of 2480 square miles which included the enclave of Lubeck-Eutin and Birkenfeld. Stamps were first issued in Oldenburg in 1852 and it continued using its stamps until it joined the North German Federation. It is now part of Germany.



Olonets (Olonetz)



Olonets is a town in the former USSR located on the northeast side of Lake Ladoga. In 1919 it was captured and occupied for a time by Finnish troops fighting the Bolsheviks. The Finnish name for the district was Aunus and during the occupation a set of eight stamps was issued bearing that name. The stamps comprised the coat of arms definitive stamps of Finland overprinted **AUNUS**, but they were soon rendered obsolete as the Bolshevik forces recaptured the district and incorporated it within the USSR, now Russia.

Omahas

The US Trans-Mississippi issue of 1898 is sometimes referred to as the **Omahas** because the stamps were issued in Omaha, Nebraska on 17 June 1898 to mark the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in that city between 1 June and 1 November of that year. The \$1 *Cattle in Storm* stamp is part of this issue.



OMF CILICIE

This is an overprint which can be found on French stamps for use in the French-occupied Cilicia.



OMF SYRIE



This is an overprint which can be found on French and local stamps used during the period of French mandate over Syria.

ON. C.G.C.

This is an overprint which can be found on the stamps of Cochin to designate stamps for Official use.



O.N.F. Castellorizo



This is an overprint which can be found on the stamps of French Offices in Turkey for use on the former Turkish island of Castellorizo, off the coast of Asia Minor, a few kilometres east of Rhodes. O.N.F. stood for *Occupation Navale Francaise*. Stamps of France exist overprinted **O.F./CASTELLORISO**.

ON K.S.D.

This is an overprint which can be found on the Official stamps of the Indian state of Kishangarh



On paper

The term **on paper** is used to describe a stamp that is still on the original paper to which it was affixed to frank an item of mail, but that has usually been trimmed to about 6 centimetres around the stamp.

On piece

The term **on piece** is used to describe an adhesive stamp still affixed to part of its cover,

but not trimmed as close as a stamp said to be **on paper**. Normally, a stamp on the piece will have been cut out to include the obliteration or adjacent postal marking, which will usually have been the reason for not removing the stamp from the paper.

ON S.S.



This is an overprint which stands for *on state service* and is overprinted on Official stamps of the Indian State of Travancore.

ON S.S.S.

This is an overprint which stands for *on state service* and is overprinted on Official stamps of the Indian State of Sirmoor.



ON STATE SERVICE



This is an overprint on the Official stamps of Iraq issued during the British Mandate period.

OPSO

This is a hand-stamped overprint on stamps of New Zealand, the letters standing for **On Pubic Service Only**. Such overprinted Official stamps were used from 1892 to 1897, after which they were replaced by stamps overprinted **OFFICIAL**.



Compiled by Robert Harm 9 Sep 2023