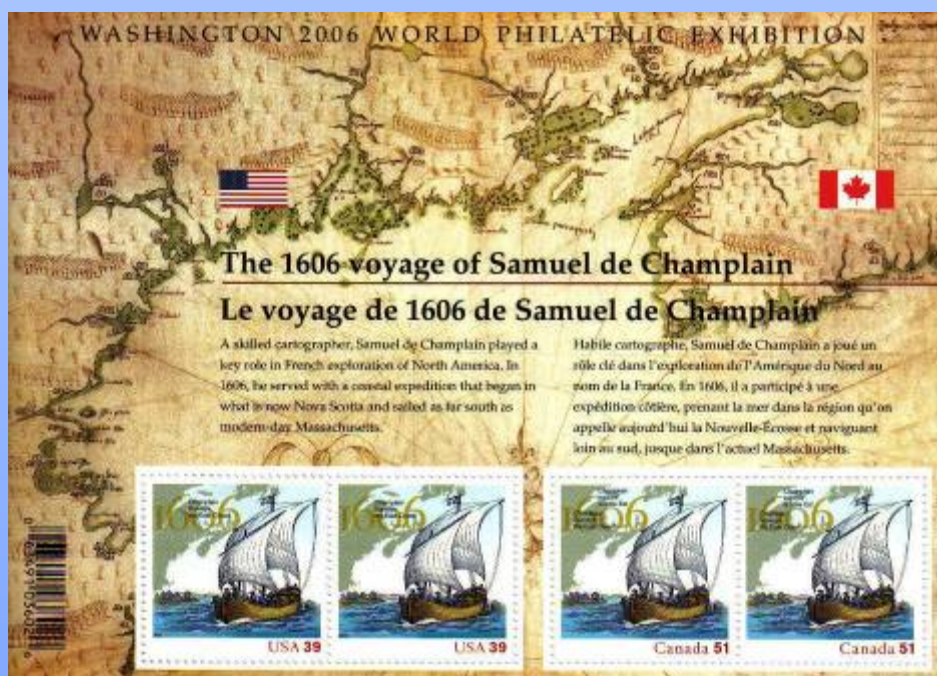




International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors

N°34 - AUGUST 2006

JOINT STAMP ISSUES



Society life
New issues
Black prints and joint issues
Rembrandt joint issue

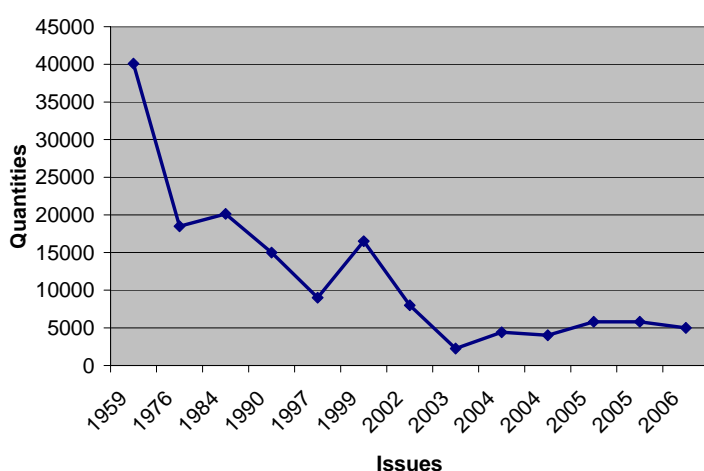
Editorial

Dear Members,

The Summer vacation is almost over, but the last few months were, surprisingly, quite eventful in regards to joint issues as you will read in this journal.

Thanks to the annual survey conducted by *Michel-Rundschau*, we know that the total number of stamp issues worldwide is slowly declining after a peak in 2000. What the survey does not mention is that the quantities of stamps printed for each issue is also declining. The following table shows the trend in relation to Canadian twin issues since 1959.

Canadian twin issues (1959-2006)



Earlier this year, Moya Greene, president of Canada Post, confirmed this trend by announcing "a gradual reduction in the number of issues and individual stamps Canada Post will produce". However, souvenir sheets will be offered more often as well as joint issues.

The 2007 stamp programs of Canada and the United States were recently released. Shockingly, no joint issue is mentioned, a situation last seen in North America in 2000. Let's hope that at least one joint issue will be added to either program this fall.

Pascal LeBlond



**INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF JOINT STAMP ISSUES
COLLECTORS**
Founded 1999

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Yearly membership fees (2006):

On-line-only members:	€ 8,00
European (EEC) members:	€12,00
Other European and North-	
American members:	€16,00
Other countries:	€17,00
First entry fee:	€ 3,00

JOINT STAMP ISSUES - The Society journal

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Society life

In the months ahead the executive will review the administrative and legal matters of our Society.

The first step will be to review and update the by-laws. The Society will then be registered in France.

A new name

For this occasion, Richard Zimmermann suggested that it was perhaps an excellent opportunity to simplify the name of the Society: *International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors*. He has presented two ideas: *Joint Stamp Issues International* or *Joint Issues International*. I agree with him that members should be able to submit their own choices (jointissues@yahoo.com or by mail to the president, address on page 2). I would like to emphasize the fact that the word "Society" should be part of the new name as well as "stamp" or "philatelic" since joint issues are not restricted to the philatelic world.

Affiliation

In another but related matter, Tim O'Shea asked us to study the possibility of affiliation with the American Philatelic Society.

Before the board can discuss this subject further we need to obtain a better picture of our membership. Specifically, we need to know to which other philatelic societies our members are associated with. As an example, your president is also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. Therefore, I encourage all our members to provide us (jointissues@yahoo.com or by mail to the president, address on page 2) with a list of their philatelic societies.



Contents

Editorial	2
Society life	3
New Issue Service	5
Customized catalogues!	7
Black prints and joint issues	8
The Belgian souvenir card	16
Dutch-German Rembrandt issue with a big sensation	18
Apollo Soyuz mission of 1975	20
Recent issues	22
Upcoming issues	32

Involvement of members

I would like to thank Rindert Paalman, Anthony Raynaud and Richard Zimmermann for submitting the articles you will read in the next pages. With their contributions the content of this journal is richer and reflects the international nature of the Society. I hope that they will continue their cooperation and that other members will emulate their example.

Chicagopex 2006

This prestigious philatelic exhibition, taking place in Chicago (November 17-19), is organized by the Chicago Philatelic Society (www.chicagopex.com). It is one of the largest philatelic exhibitions in the United States. Both, Richard Zimmermann's new edition of his catalogue and this journal are inscribed in the 40th Annual Literature Exhibition. Joint stamp issues are not listed in the 2004 and 2005 palmares. Apparently, the judges in Chicago are demanding. Let's hope for the best! If you plan to attend the exhibition, please share your impressions and photos by sending them to us.

New address

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145/04
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Advertisement

- Anthony Raynaud (Les Thiers, Le Mont, F-74369 Abondance, FRANCE) has many stamps, first day covers and mixed documents

related to joint issues available for sale or exchange. Contact him directly by mail or email (DOL7A@yahoo.fr).



In the news

The results of our Best Joint Issue of 2005 contest were published in the August 14 edition of *Linn's Stamp News*: "United States-Swedish Greta Garbo joint issue voted best of 2005" on page 8.

Thanks to Tadeusz Kurlus, our Society was profiled in the August edition of the philatelic Polish journal *Przegląd filatelistyczny*.



New Issue Service

Anthony Raynaud

As a reminder, a New Issue Service is open to all members having paid their yearly membership fees. Almost all new twin issues could be provided at cost prices; most of the issues can now be ordered from the respective philatelic services or provided by our helpful members at face price. Once all fees included (mailing, bank, customs, etc) they can usually be delivered with an overcharge not exceeding 10-20%. There always remains a few issues for which there is no other choice than to buy from a stamp dealer, at prices usually around 2-2.5 times the face value.

A few simple rules apply:

- Pre-payment is necessary, items will be ordered and delivered only if your account shows sufficient credit.
- All items ordered have to be accepted and paid.
- Subscriptions can be stopped at any time but items already ordered before the date of cancellation will be delivered and have to be accepted. Excess of pre-payment will be refunded.

This service is run under a *non-profit policy* during my free time; it also means that neither cost nor stamps ordered should remain at my charge; **this is not negotiable**. All members wanting to join or have more info are welcomed and can contact me directly.

I have been managing the New Issue Service for slightly over a year now and it happened that for some issues I questioned how to react and how you would expect me to react!

The most recent example being the April 5 Italy-San Marino *Le Due Repubbliche* issue. The 1.24 EUR San Marino Siamese S/S (no single stamp issued) was sold out before the date of issue (!); low printed quantities and huge demand from the Italian market made the price go up and up. It's now sold for about 20-30 EUR by Italian dealers while prices on eBay reach around 12-15 EUR. In such conditions, I've decided not to provide this S/S to our subscribers (if some of you would like for me to try to find it, contact me and tell me your limit price). As such problems will probably happen again from time to time in the future, I believe it's time to open the discussion and ask for your opinion.

We have to find an easy way of allowing me to best respond to your wishes and expectations; nobody will have the same price limits. When some will be ready to pay 20 EUR for a *rare* item, others will find 5 EUR already too much. I've thought about how to deal with all the different personal wishes in a manageable way for me!

One idea could be a 3-tier scale:

1-Bottom: Stamps and S/S that could be provided for less than 2-2.5 times the face value with price not exceeding 10 EUR. For example, the Siamese Jersey-New Zealand *Queen's 80th birthday* S/S that could have been provided at face price + minimal charges for slightly less than 10 EUR will represent the upper limit of this tier. One could expect that more than 90% of the new issues will fit in this category.

2-Middle: Stamps and S/S that could be provided for around 2.5-5 times the face value, price not exceeding 15 EUR.

3-Top: The most expensive items, however not exceeding 20-25 EUR.

This mostly concerns stamps and S/S; there are fewer problems regarding mixed documents, for example (postal authorities issuing souvenir items want to sell these and usually make it easy for customers). Even with such a scale, there could remain some doubtful issues for which I will have to make my own decision; it should be considered as indicative only, again, all items ordered must be accepted and paid. This also leads to another point. As you're expecting to get all new twin issues from the NIS, you could be disappointed to learn that I will not provide one thing or another, especially if you could have bought it by yourself! Therefore I have to keep you informed of the problematic issues; no problem for members having internet access - in one click, the same message can be sent to all and it takes only a few minutes. Things are different if I have to write and mail all the members having no internet access – this is much more time consuming and I can't be sure I will always have enough time to do it quickly; it will also cost the mailing fees to the concerned members.

All of you should have received their summer shipment by now; it is reminded that your account should show a positive credit if you want your subscription to be carried on; members that have not sent their pre-payment yet should send it without delay, otherwise their subscriptions will be ended. Even with all the care I take in preparing your shipment, mistakes or omissions are always possible. Please contact me if you

believe you did not receive something you should have. Pre-2005 issues that you have not received yet will not be provided, except for the October 25, 2004 *Postal code* Spanish Andorra issue that is ordered. For the November 16, 2004 Iran-Venezuela *Mountains* issue, Iranian stamps will be available but a few sets are missing, so please contact me if you don't need it!

Regarding the recent issues that might cause problems or confusion:

-May 25, 2006: *25th anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council*. Stamps are different but S/S are almost identical. Twin issue? Concerted issue? Definitely claimed as a joint issue, I've decided to provide it; anyway stamps from Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait might be hard to find. Any hints are welcomed!

-June 8, 2006: Romania-Hungary *Famous composers*. One of the stamp designs is very close for both countries; claimed as a joint issue, both countries issuing official mixed documents. I'll also provide it.

-July 15, 2006: Germany-Netherlands *Rembrandt*. Thanks to our Dutch members Paalman and Van Huizen who provided quick info and offered their kind service, the sought Dutch prestige booklet will be provided to the booklets subscribers.

I'm now awaiting your reactions, comments, ideas which will be highly welcomed!

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Customized catalogues!

Richard Zimmermann

It is obvious that some of our members, but also most of the collectors of joint stamp issues worldwide, are not interested in all series but limit their investigation to their own country, i.e. to all joint stamp issues involving a single country. Of course, for these collectors, it makes no sense to buy a 50.00 EUR+ catalogue in which they will use only 10% of the information. Several of these collectors requested the issue of a specific catalogue for their own interest.

I was reluctant at first to respond to this request, because from a printing point of view, this did not make sense, and probably a large number of catalogue excerpts per country would be needed. Moreover, this implied a lot of work as well. Eventually I tested the demand by building a first excerpt on the basis of the Nordic countries namely Aland, Denmark, Faeroe, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (one single country did not make sense). This resulted in a booklet with the same structure as the original catalogue to which were added the introduction pages (explanation of all abbreviations and the classification system) and a special page for the specific index. I also had to check if the cost of printing (my own inkjet printer) was so high that it made no sense to produce it. The booklet was even printed in color, contrary to the catalogue. A nice special cover was added and the booklet

came up to 118 pages (!) proposed at a price of 12.00 EUR. Postage costs remain relatively high as the booklet weighs more than 100 grams.

Following this successful trial, I also produced a North America excerpt (Canada / United States / Mexico - 106 pages for 11.00 EUR) and a booklet dedicated to France (Unfortunately this one became thicker than expected - 136 pages - and is divided in two parts sold together at 15.00 EUR). The French territories were included in a third supplement of 66 pages for 7.00 EUR that also contains French Andorra and Monaco. This shows that printing (color) excerpts of the catalogue is possible. Other countries could be prepared in the same way on request and probably for the same printing costs (if you are interested, however, allow a month or so for preparing the first sample). Due to the cost of the booklet, it is obvious that the collector who is interested in more than two countries should better buy the full catalogue. So, these booklets are only intended for those who think that it makes sense to spend less than 20.00 EUR to get all the information on their own single country. I hope this might be of help to some of you.

Hereunder are summarized the real prices of the already existing documents:

Title	Pages	Price	With priority postage to	
			Europe	United States
Nordic countries	118	12.00 EUR	16.00 EUR	17.50 EUR / 23.00 USD
North America	106	11.00 EUR	15.00 EUR	16.50 EUR / 21.00 USD
France (1+2)	136	15.00 EUR	20.50 EUR	22.50 EUR / 29.00 USD
French territories (3)	66	7.00 EUR	9.00 EUR	10.50 EUR / 13.50 USD
France (1+2+3)	202	22.00 EUR	28.00 EUR	30.00 EUR / 39.00 USD

Black prints and joint issues

Richard Zimmermann

Black prints are quite common items, although not offered at normal post offices. Obviously they are less frequent when linked to joint issues, except when proposed in full mixed packages at central postal administration levels. A country such as Sweden is proposing these items quite often and usually, when part of a joint issue, the common imprint that is proposed does not show country name and denomination. In other countries such as France, imprints on small cards are now also offered, but available only on a yearly-subscription basis. They are not necessarily black, but always monochrome. These items are always imperforate. These items can definitely not be considered as stamps, because invalid for postage, but must be considered as philatelic items to be collected as they describe a step of the printing process. They are close to color trials, printing samples or imperforate items. Their printing numbers are always very limited usually in the thousands. In the following text, we will limit our description to some well-known examples of items that were easily available from postal administrations. Special black prints that were distributed only to VIPs, i.e. available only in quantities of a few dozen, are not presented in this article.

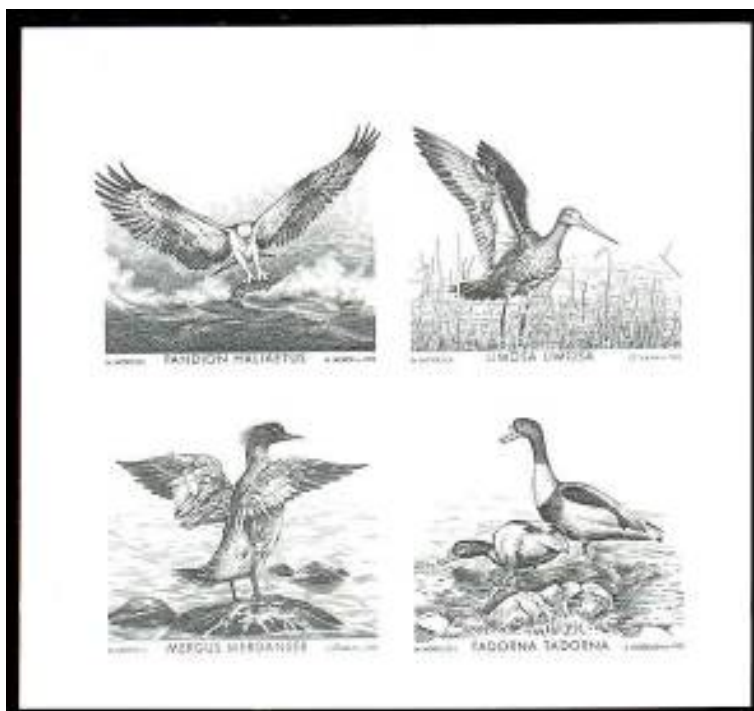
Sweden

Sweden is probably the only country that is systematically proposing black prints to their customers. This means that these items are very easy to find. The reason is probably that many stamps of this country are engraved, allowing an easy transfer of the design to other supports or the creation of individualized items.

Of course we will often find a link with the most well known engraver, Czeslaw Slania. Let us take a look at the most common black prints seen so far and involving joint issues.

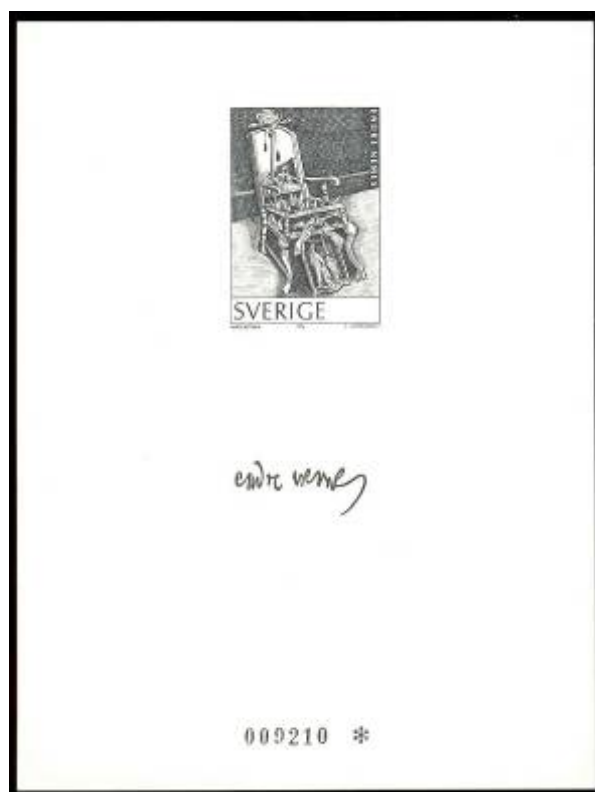
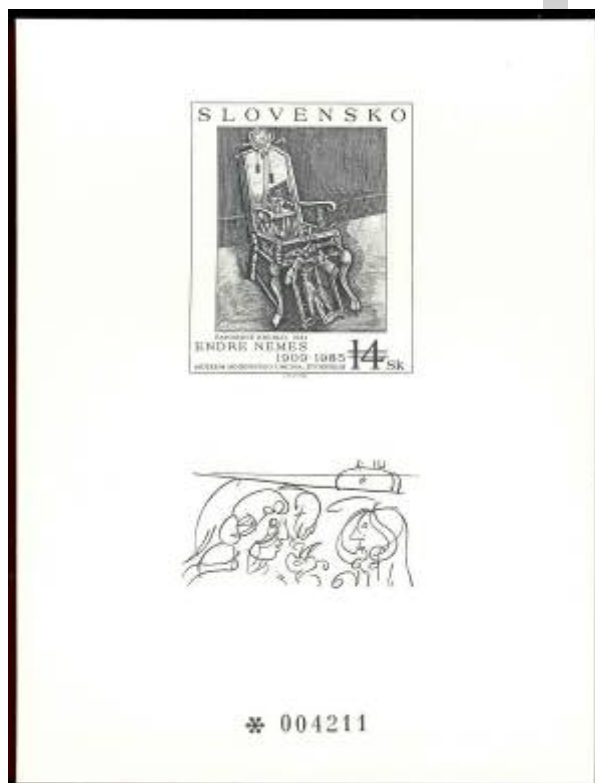
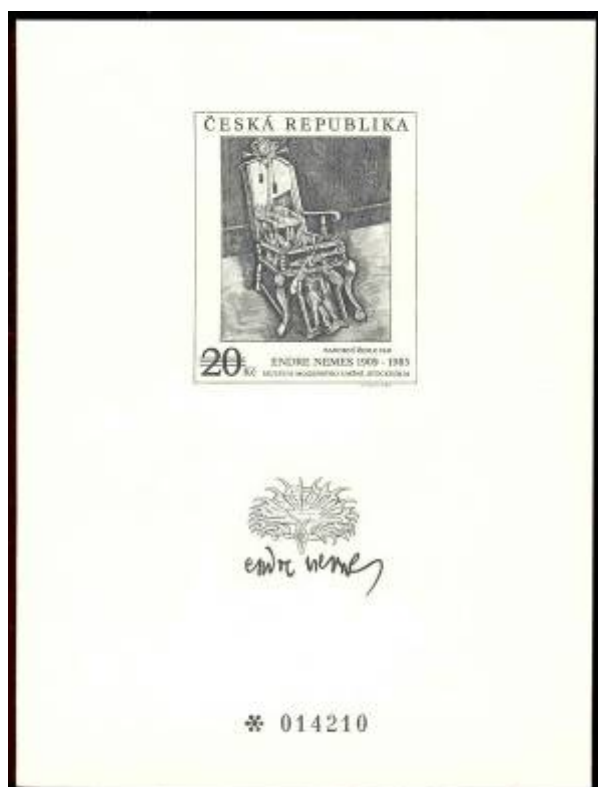
1992: Estonia-Latvia-Lithuania-Sweden

Sweden was involved in joint issues with more than one country at the same time. A classical example is the birds of the Baltic Sea issue of October 3, 1992, involving Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. All four countries produced a booklet of the same size, each containing two blocks of the four different stamps. Sweden produced a black print of this block of four without denomination and without country name. Actually, all the stamps were engraved by the same engravers and this black print simply shows the common parts between all stamps. These common parts include the names of their designers and engravers at the bottom of each stamp.



1996: Czech Republic-Slovakia-Sweden

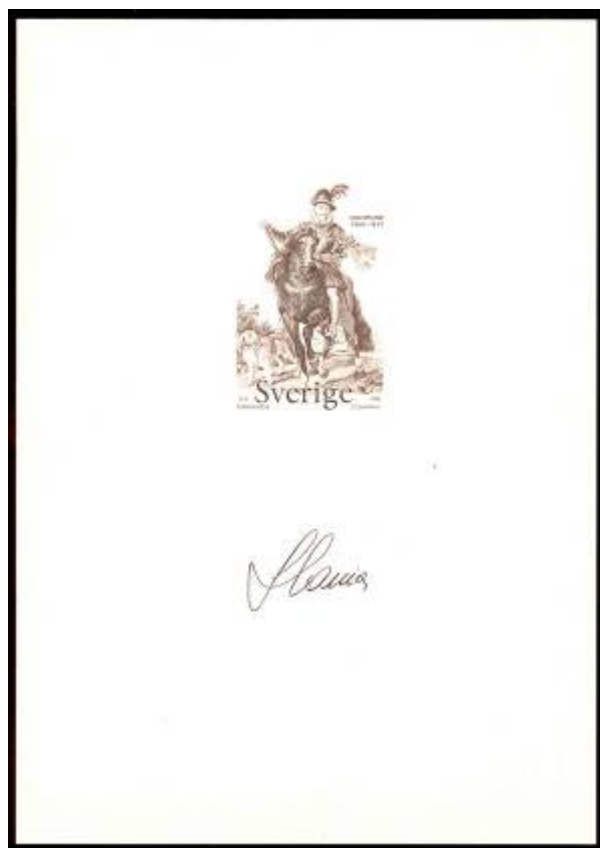
Sweden, Slovakia and the Czech Republic honored Endre Nemes on October 5, 1996, by releasing a triple issue showing one of his paintings, the *Baroque Chair* (1941). Stamps from Slovakia and the Czech Republic are of the same size while the Swedish stamp was smaller because issued as a coil stamp. A folder containing all three stamps, mint, was produced by the Swedish postal administration. Surprisingly this folder also contained three black prints of the stamps, one per country, on numbered sheets measuring 105 x 150 mm. Each sheet also shows a small design done by the artist and/or his signature. Slovak and Czech black prints are printed on card stock and denominations are cancelled with three horizontal bars, while the Swedish document is made on ungummed paper and the denomination is absent.



1998: Poland-Sweden

Black prints are not necessarily black. At the end of the year 1998, the Swedish postal administration was looking for an

original gift to be distributed to their stamp subscribers. Eventually they decided to use the imprint of the Swedish stamp involved in the twin issue from October 3, 1998 with Poland and that was made in honor of the 400th anniversary of the battle of Stangebro. The stamp features King Sigismund III Wasa (1566-1632), king of Sweden (1592-1600) and of Poland (1587-1632). The black process print was produced on a 104 x 150 mm sheet, actually without denomination and in fact in brown color. It bears the signature of Czeslaw Slania. The original stamp is multicolored while the Polish stamp is violet only.



2001: Sweden-United States

On March 22, 2001, Sweden produced a twin issue with the United States on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first attribution of the Nobel Prize. While Sweden was issuing a vertical strip of four different stamps that was also available in

booklets, the United States chose only the design of the stamp showing the portrait of Alfred Nobel next to two medals. Sweden sold a 6-page mixed folder on which the Swedish strip and the American stamp were affixed, all of them first day cancelled. This folder contains an ungummed black print of the Swedish strip. In this case, all printings of the original stamps are shown, of course, in black, including the denominations (cancelled with two horizontal bars).



2001: Australia-Sweden

On August 16, 2001, Australia and Sweden decided to commemorate their long term relationship with a pair of stamps in honor of Daniel Solander (1733-1782), a Swedish-born naturalist who went to Australia with James Cook aboard

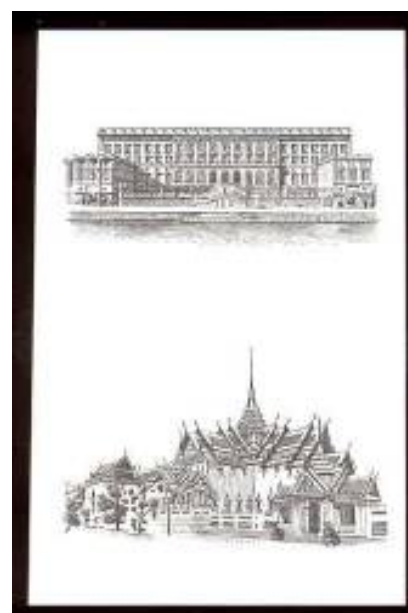
the *Endeavour* (1768-1771). By the end of the year 2001, the Swedish postal administration decided also to offer to all their stamp subscribers, a green print of these two Swedish stamps on a 120 x 75 mm card. All the details of the issued stamps can be seen on this item, however in the same green color, and denominations were cancelled with two horizontal bars. This item was not available for sale.



2002: Sweden-Thailand

One year later, on October 5, 2002, Sweden was involved in another twin issue this time with Thailand. One stamp features the Grand Palace in Bangkok housing the government building. Inside, the Dusit Maha Throne hall shows the perfect proportions of Siamese architecture. The second stamp shows the Stockholm Royal Palace designed by Nicodemus Tessin the Younger and built between 1692 and 1754 which is one of Europe's largest royal palaces. Black prints of the stamps were printed straight from the cylinder. The engraved images were made by the engraver Czeslaw Slania. The black print was presented in a folder with both pairs of stamps, first day cancelled. In this case however, the black print shows only the building without any

inscription of country or denomination. Only 13,000 folders containing each one black print were available.



2003: Spain-Sweden

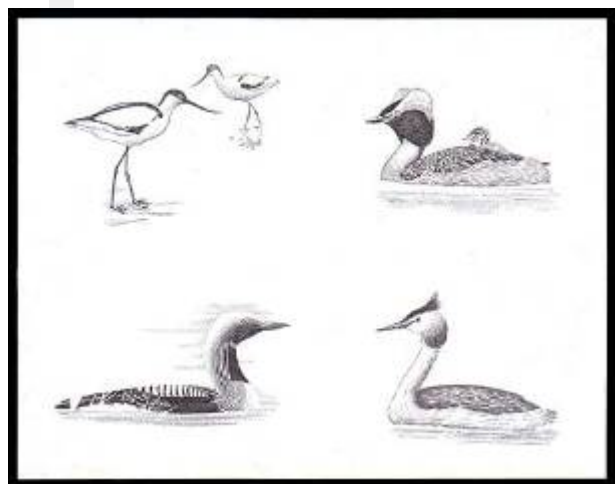
In honor of two Spanish Nobel Prize winners in medicine, Spain and Sweden released a twin issue on March 20, 2003. The engraved portion of the design, by Czeslaw Slania, was available on a Swedish red print.



2003: Hong Kong-Sweden

Four water birds are the subject of a twin issue released on October 4, 2003. The Swedish postal administration offered a folder containing mint stamps, a black print with the engraved portion (by Slania) of the design common to both sets of

stamps and four art prints representing water birds. 12,000 folders were available.



2004: Ireland-Sweden

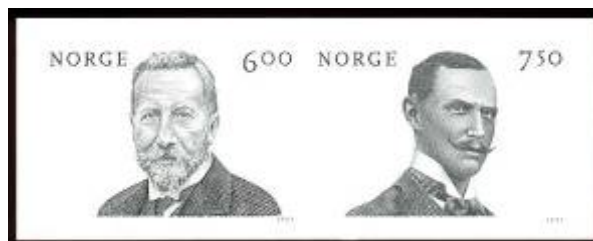
Four Irish Nobel Prize winners in literature are honored on the twin issue released on October 1, 2004. A black print with the engraved portion of the design common to both sets of stamps was part of a Swedish folder also containing first day cancelled blocks of both countries. Lars Sjööblom is the engraver. 8000 folders were available.



2005: Norway-Sweden

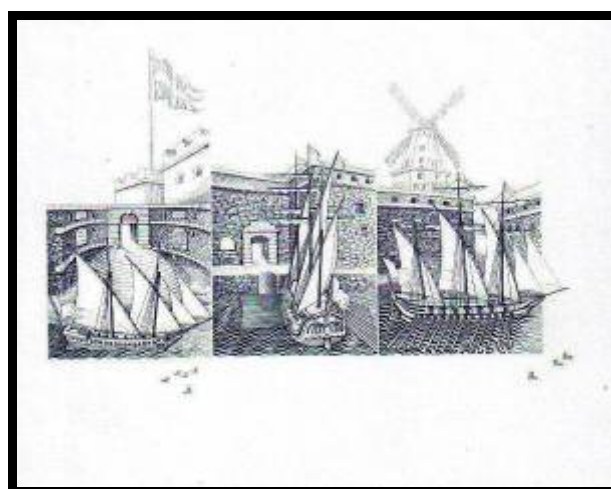
The Norway-Sweden parallel issue of May 27, 2005 was produced to celebrate the cooperation between the two countries after the dissolution of their union on October 26, 1905. Two different souvenir sheets with two different stamps each, designed by Enzo Finger and engraved by Lars Sjööblom and Sverre Morken, were

provided in a mixed folder containing also two black prints of the stamps. It is noteworthy that the Swedish black print that is shown here does not have parallel horizontal edges!



2006: Finland-Sweden

The fortress Suomenlinna is the subject of the twin issue realized on May 4, 2006. For the occasion, the Swedish postal administration produced a folder containing mint booklet panes from both countries as well as a black print showing the engraved portion of the design common to both sets of stamps. Martin Mörck is the engraver. Only 3000 folders are available.

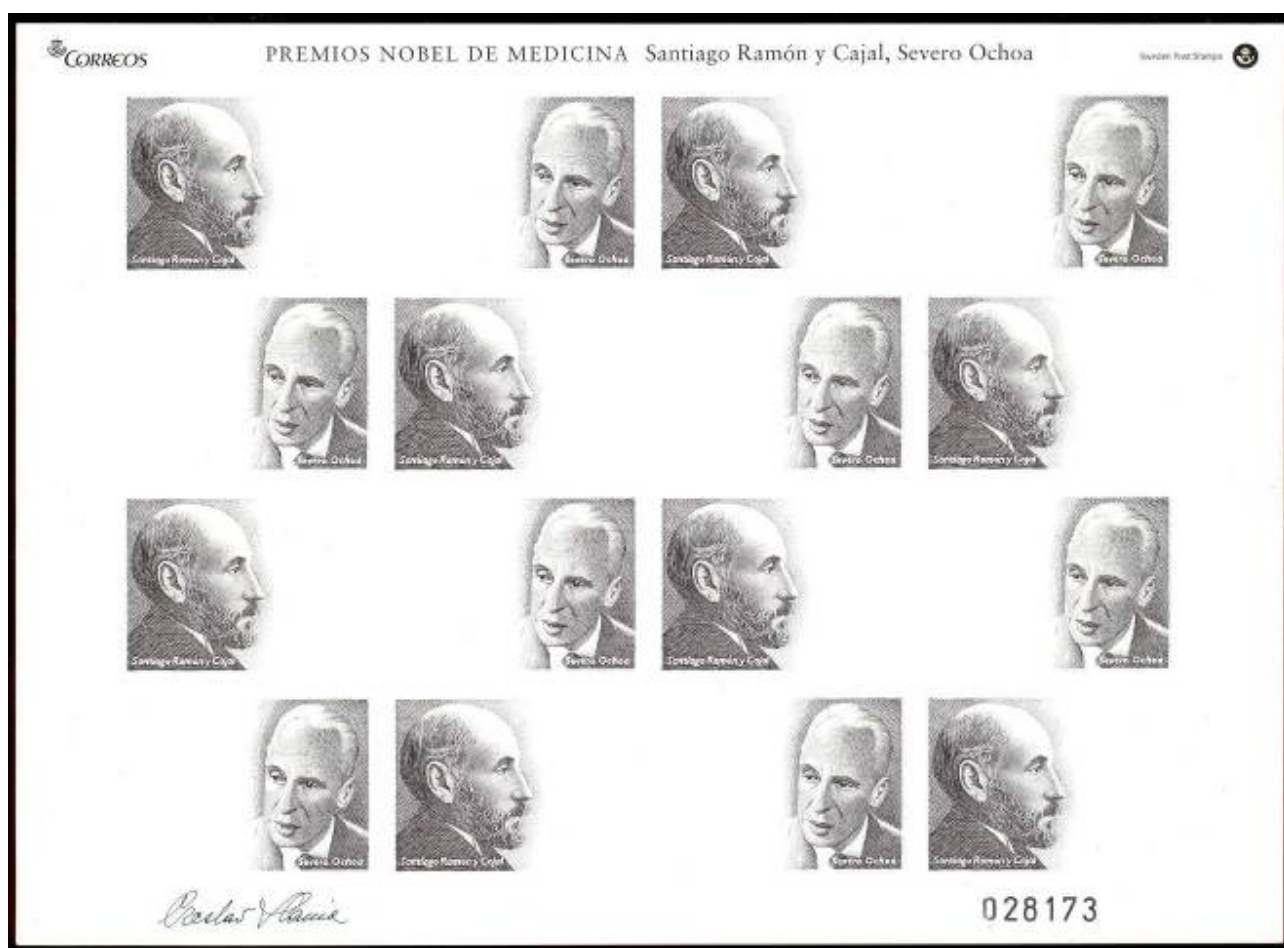


Spain

2003: Spain-Sweden

The March 20, 2003, Spain-Sweden twin issue was the origin of a new type of black print produced by the Spanish postal administration. Both countries issued the same stamps showing the portraits of the Medicine Nobel prize winners Santiago Ramon y Cajal (1852-1934) and Severo Ochoa de Albornoz (1905-1993) in set-tenant pairs. The black print consists in the printing of eight pairs of portraits in the same order as the sheet [2px4],

chessboard ordered, in black color, and without the middle illustration, the country name, the denomination nor perforation. The top margin of the black print is different from the issued Spanish pane. It shows the logos of both postal administrations and the text is different. On the bottom left side, is the engraved signature of Czeslaw Slania who was in charge of engraving the stamps from both countries. The sheet is numbered on the bottom right side.



France

The French postal administration provides monochrome prints of some stamps on thick non-gummed paper. Hereunder are some examples. The same monochrome printings appear on the *Documents Philatéliques Officiels*, first day illustrated sheets (30 x 21 cm) with stamps from

both countries first day cancelled. These monochrome prints are available from the French postal administration, but only on the basis of a yearly subscription.

1994 France-United Kingdom

The May 3, 1994 twin issue on the occasion of the opening of the Channel

Tunnel gave birth to a special French item featuring all four stamps in black, on a thick non-gummed paper (142 x 120 mm). The issued stamps were printed by photogravure.



1996: France-Ireland

Parallel issue: Irish imaginary, 140 x 62 mm, green. The issued stamp was printed by photogravure.



1996: France-Italy-Monaco

Twin issue: 20th anniversary of the RAMOGE agreement, 140 x 62 mm, orange. The issued stamp was printed by photogravure and engraved by Jacky Larrivière.



1999: France-Poland

Twin issue: Frederic Chopin, 140 x 62 mm, blue. The stamp was engraved by Pierre Albuissou.



Finland

1993 Estonia-Finland

On February 8, 1993, friendship between Estonia and Finland was celebrated with a common twin stamp. A sheetlet, size 120 x 79 mm, on gummed paper that shows the imprint of the four colors (black, cyan, magenta and yellow) was offered by the Finnish postal administration to stamp subscribers. Although the denomination and the name of the country are missing, the remaining text on the black imprint shows clearly that this document originated in Finland. This item is not a black print, but four progressive proofs printed on the same paper.

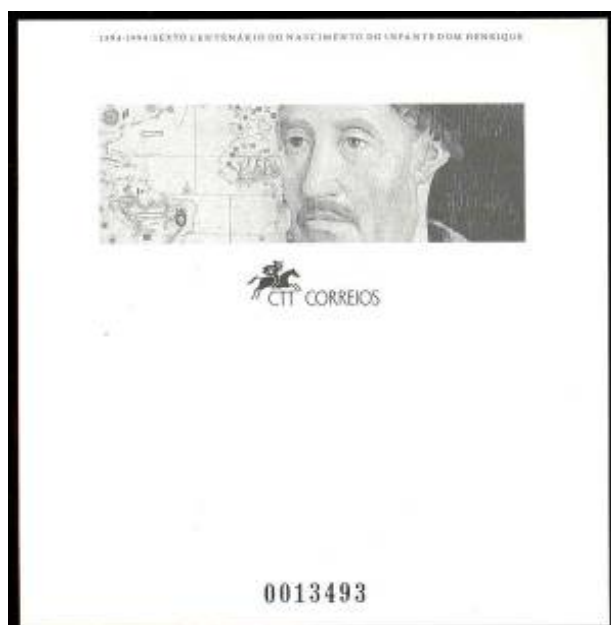


Portugal

1994 Brazil-Cape Verde-Macao-Portugal

On March 4, 1994, Portugal issued the same stamp as Cape Verde, Macao and Brazil on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the birth of Henry the

Navigator (1394-1469). The Brazilian stamp is smaller than the other stamps, but the three other countries have issued their stamps on panes of 25 stamps with a title in the top margin stating "1394-1994 SEXTO CENTENARIO DO NASCIMENTO DO INFANTE DOM HENRIQUE" (*600th birthday of King Henry*). CTT CORREIOS produced a black print of the stamp, size 105 x 110 mm, without country name or denomination, but bearing the same heading as the panes. This black print shows the master design for three of the postal administrations: Portugal, Macao or Cape Verde. The issued stamps were printed by lithography.



Crown Agents

Finally let's show an example of a black print of an omnibus series. It is so easy for a printer in charge of the printing of identical stamps for several countries to produce one more without country name, that I cannot consider this item with a philatelic interest. It only has a marketing purpose for the producers of stamps. These last items should definitely be left out of the scope of stamp collecting.



This list cannot of course be exhaustive. However, in order to complete our own documentation we are eager to learn about items that are not yet described in the catalogue. Any hint to a new item is welcome.

Did you know...

that, since 2000, six postal administrations have only issued engraved stamps as part of joint issues? Australia (2001), Croatia (2002), Finland (2006), Hong Kong (2003), Ireland (2004) and New Zealand (2002). All these stamps were printed in Sweden, except for those of Croatia which were printed in the Czech Republic.

The Belgian souvenir card

Pascal LeBlond

The Belgian souvenir card (*souvenirkaarte* in Dutch, *carte-souvenir* in French) is popular with collectors of joint issues since it is an official dual document. Other postal administrations, like those of Hungary and Israel, are also offering similar cards in relation with their joint issues.

The souvenir card is easy to handle (148 x 210 mm). It features texts in Dutch and French on the back. The Belgian stamps affixed on the card are, however, never postmarked with the first day cancel, but rather with one of the special pre-sale cancels available at a few specific locations during the week-end before the first day of issue. For example, the Belgian stamps of the Belgium-Romania twin issue of 2004 were postmarked with the La Louvière special pre-sale cancel of September 18. The first day of issue was September 20 in Brussels.

Most of the Belgian souvenir cards were designed by Myriam Voz and Thierry Martin (also known under their acronym MVTM). Myriam Voz designed alone the souvenir card for the Belgium-Croatia twin issue of 2002, while Jean Libert did the one for the Belgium-Turkey twin issue of 2005.

All the Belgian joint issues represented on these souvenir cards are twin issues. Only the concerted issue with Germany in 2004 has been so classified because of the 18-day delay between the issuance of the German (November 4) and Belgian (November 22) stamps.

As expected the first cards are the most valuable essentially because of the small

quantity printed (15-20,000 compared to perhaps 60,000 nowadays).



The only mixed (more than two postal administrations represented on the same document) souvenir card was produced for the Belgium-France-Switzerland issue of 1994.

Similar souvenir cards were produced by the postal administrations of Finland (1991), Hungary (1993) and Switzerland (1994).

The cancellations used on these cards reflect the bilingual nature of Belgium: 7 from Flanders (Dutch-speaking), 6 from Wallonia (French-speaking) and 11 from Brussels (bilingual). The 6 cancellations from Wallonia are from Fontenoy, Liège (2), Chapelle-Lez-Herlaimont, La Louvière

and Tournai. Since 2002, texts in cancellations are no longer bilingual, being either in Dutch or in French.

The card was first introduced in 1990 for the twin issue commemorating the 500 years of postal communications in Europe. It is mostly associated with joint issues, but at the time, the souvenir card was only affixed with the Belgian stamp.

Starting with the 1991 twin issue with Finland, the souvenir card is affixed with stamps from both postal administrations. A brief survey reveals that 24 dual or mixed souvenir cards have been produced since 1991 in relation with Belgian joint issues.

Joint Issues on Official Belgian Souvenir Cards					
Joint issue	Type	Date	Quantity	Original price	Cancellation
Finland	T1	91.09.07	15,000	100 BEF (=2.50 EUR)	1000 Brussels
Hungary	T1	93.03.13	20,000	100 BEF (=2.50 EUR)	1000 Brussels
France & Switzerland	T3	94.10.15	49,162	130 BEF (=3.25 EUR)	4000 Liège
Ireland	T1	95.05.13	48,182	120 BEF (=3.00 EUR)	7643 Fontenoy
Luxembourg	T1	96.03.02		120 BEF (=3.00 EUR)	1000 Brussels
Italy	T3	97.05.23		150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	1000 Brussels
France	T1	98.04.18		150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	1020 Brussels
Poland	T1	98.09.28		150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	1040 Brussels
Israel	T1	99.05.16	59,170	150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	1020 Brussels
Sweden	T1	99.09.30	57,488	150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	1020 Brussels
Spain	T1	00.02.24		150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	9000 Gent
Netherlands	T1	00.03.25		150 BEF (=3.72 EUR)	1000 Brussels
Morocco	T1	01.06.10		150 BEF or 3.72 EUR	1020 Brussels
China	T1	01.06.12		150 BEF or 3.72 EUR	1020 Brussels
Dem. Rep. of Congo	T1	01.12.31		150 BEF or 3.72 EUR	2800 Mechelen
Azores (Portugal)	T1	02.07.12		3.72 EUR	8500 Kortrijk
Croatia	T1	02.07.13		3.72 EUR	8500 Kortrijk
Russia	T1	03.05.15		4.00 EUR	2800 Mechelen
Italy	T1	03.09.13		4.00 EUR	7160 Chapelle-Lez-Herlaimont
France	T1	04.05.15		4.00 EUR	4000 Liège
Romania	T1	04.09.18		4.00 EUR	7100 La Louvière
Germany	C1	04.11.20		4.00 EUR	1800 Vilvoorde
Turkey	T1	05.06.18		4.85 EUR	3190 Boortmeerbeek
Singapore	T1	05.09.10		4.85 EUR	7500 Tournai

For further information, visit the Society website at

<http://rzimmerm.club.fr>

Direct access to the members' site (with password):

<http://membres.lycos.fr/jointissues/>

Dutch-German Rembrandt issue with a big sensation

Rindert Paalman

A big sensation! That's what it is. The Dutch prestige booklet Rembrandt, that contains a Dutch and a German stamp with the same picture, seems to show up as one of the biggest rarities of the last fifty years. The booklet was issued on the 15th of July on the occasion of the birth of the great Dutch painter 400 years ago. With a printed quantity of 25 000 to 30 000 and an issue price of 9.95 EUR it was sold out within a week at the Collect Club of Dutch Post and the post offices. Since then prices have risen up to 40.00 EUR on the market and on Ebay (at the beginning of August). Stamp dealers expect prices to go up to 100, even 150.00 EUR.



Dutch Post honoured the birth of Rembrandt with six different stamps: one expensive stamp in a block - etching like – and five stamps plus a label in a sheet of ten stamps (2 x 5 stamps). One of the five stamps is similar to the stamp that

German Post issued on the 13th of July in a sheet of ten identical stamps. The topic is the painting *Saskia with red hat*. Saskia was the wife of Rembrandt. The face value of the Dutch stamp is 0.39 EUR, the German stamp costs 0.70 EUR.

The Dutch booklet - beautifully illustrated and printed – contains the several Dutch stamps and the German stamp. It's the German stamp that makes the booklet so special. On itself it is already quite unique that a booklet contains stamps of two different countries. In the past there was an Australian booklet with a Christmas Islands stamp, but stamps of Christmas Islands are valid for franking in Australia.



The surprise – a really big surprise – is that the German stamp in the booklet differs strongly from the stamp issued in Germany. Perforation, gum and print are almost the same, but the stamps in the booklet are printed on ordinary paper, whereas the German paper has phosphor. The booklet stamp has also a phosphor L-shape tag. The booklet was printed by the famous Joh. Enschedé in Haarlem, Netherlands. German Post printed its stamp at Bagel Security Print in Mönchengladbach, Germany.

The strong difference caused a lot of talk among collectors. The opinion is that this sort of variety will be included in the famous Deutschland-catalogue of Michel. With a printed quantity of not more than 30 000 prestige booklets the stamp is a rarity and a must for German collectors. How will they react when German philatelic magazines publish the news in their coming editions? Will there be a run for the rarity? Policy of Dutch Post is that there will be no reprint when stamps are sold out.



According to Michel, German Post – asked for a reaction – initially said that the German stamp in the booklet is a forgery: “German Post has never given permission to Dutch Post to print the stamp”. Now it says that there might have been a misunderstanding. Problem is that no one believes German Post. Dutch Post is a reliable and outstanding postal administration that would never allow the printing of stamps without permission. And Joh. Enschede would never have printed the German stamp if it hadn’t had the design from Germany.

German Post itself produced 175 000 official dual first day cards (Ersttagsblatt or ETB) with the Dutch and the German stamps and the respective cancellations and also 40 000 official dual souvenir folders with a block of four German stamps and one Dutch stamp. Of course Dutch Post gave its permission for these issues. Dutch Post didn’t react yet on the German accusation. At this moment it is the summer holiday season.

Be that as it may, the booklet is a very rare item: for Holland-collectors, for Germany-collectors, for collectors of Rembrandt-stamps, for collectors of stamps with a painting design etc. And of course for us joint issue collectors. Dutch Post didn’t mention the content of the prestige booklet in its news bulletin. On the day of issue – a Saturday – I bought the booklet at the post office in my neighbourhood, because I am also a collector of the Dutch

prestige booklets. Much to my surprise I noticed at home that there was a German stamp in it. So I returned immediately and bought three new ones.

That same day I asked Anthony Raynaud, who runs the New Issues Service of our society, if there are members who have a subscription on special joint issue items. “Don’t wait too long with ordering”, I wrote. He ordered directly nine booklets. A couple of days later I could provide him all nine for the price of 9.95 EUR a piece. Lucky members who have a subscription.

Apollo Soyuz mission of 1975

Richard Zimmermann

In the May 2001 edition of this journal, Joint Stamp Issues, there was a four page article entitled "July 15, 1975 Apollo Soyuz mission - the outcome of a special cover" translated and adapted from a story written by Eberhard Cölle that described the creation of a mixed special issue with Soviet Union and United States stamps related to this event. Very recently Anthony Raynaud discovered another mixed item that we have to describe here, as it is the continuation of the original story.

Eberhard Cölle was able to produce in 1975 a series of 6000 mixed covers that bears a Soviet Union stamp cancelled in Moscow on the day of launch of the Soyuz spacecraft and a United States stamp cancelled from either Cape Canaveral or Houston on the same day.

This was actually possible because there was a difference of 7.5 hours between the launch of the Soviet Union spacecraft and the launch of Apollo to be added to a 7 hours lag time between Moscow and Cape Canaveral. It was also possible because in the months prior to this event, Eberhard spent days in preparing the material and getting all authorizations. Of course he was there when the covers were cancelled in Moscow, he flew himself with the batch of covers and participated in affixing the US stamps and witnessed the cancellation of these items at one of the American postal stations. The result is shown below.

Unfortunately, even if he did know that the Soviet Union and the United States

were planning a joint issue in terms of stamps, the available time frame he had was not sufficient to buy the Soviet Union stamps from the joint issue in advance and to affix them on the cover prior to cancellation. This was the reason why this mixed cover is not a real joint issue mixed cover. Instead he used a stamp issued a couple of months earlier on May 8, 1975.



However, this document was a real success. It seemed so incredible that some collectors raised doubts about the authenticity of these mixed covers. Finally a written statement of R.H. Hickman, Director of the Retail Division, USPS, closed the debate.

A longer non-exhaustive list of special products made by the United States Postal Service, the Soviet Union postal administration or by diverse retailers is given in the conclusion of the article of our May 2001 journal. None of these documents bear both pairs of stamps from the July 15, 1975 twin issue. Actually these items exist and Anthony

Raynaud provided a sample of such an item:



The mixed cover, size 263 x 185 mm, bears a se-tenant vertical pair of the Soviet Union stamps first day cancelled from the Moscow post office on July 15, 1975. This cancellation does show a special illustration with the symbol of the Apollo-Soyuz mission, the same as the one illustrating in larger size the cover itself. Both this cancellation and the illustration of the cover bear the mention "First day cover" in English for the illustration, in French and Russian for the cancellation. The illustration is also completed with the words "Experimental project Soyuz - Apollo" in Russian. The same Russian cancellation obliterates two other Russian stamps that were part of this issue, but not adopted as a design by the USA, and representing the launch of the Soviet Union rocket and the group of five cosmonauts / astronauts (Alexei Leonov, Valeri Kubassov, Thomas Stafford, Vance Brand and Donald Slayton) in front of the flags of the Soviet Union and the United States. On the top left side a block of four American stamps, actually two pairs of the se-tenant joint stamps, chessboard ordered were affixed with an American first day cancellation from Kennedy Space Center also dated July 15, 1975.

A similar second cover (same stamps, same cancellation, and same position of the stamps on the cover) has been seen with the cachet showing the two symbols of the mission in full colors below the signatures of the five spacemen. The text at the bottom left is written in German "Rendez-vous im Weltall USA-Sowjetunion" (*US-SU meeting in Space*) and "Kombinations-Ersttagsbrief" (*mixed first day cover*). As the first item probably originated from some US dealer, this one is definitely produced by a European stamp dealer either from Germany or Switzerland.

The exact origin of these items is unknown (any hint would be appreciated), but their story might be much simpler than the one of the Eberhard Cölle cover. In the United States, first day cancellations can be obtained several weeks after the official first day. In this case there was an agreement between both postal administrations allowing mixed cover cancellations. Therefore it was quite easy to prepare a large batch of covers with Russian stamps, having them cancelled first day in Moscow. The items were then sent to the United States, affixed with the American stamps and sent to one of the designated American post offices with the request of a first day cancellation on the American stamps. The resulting mixed cover shown here was probably available only weeks after the event, but it remains an official document recognized as such by both postal administrations. This might also explain that such items are not as expensive nowadays, compared to the above first item, and can be found at prices below 50.00 USD.

Recent issues

Finland-Sweden

Suomenlinna (Fortress of Finland) is the subject of a twin issue [T1] between Finland and Sweden. Construction of the fortress guarding the Helsinki harbor was ordered by the Swedish Parliament in 1747. Sveaborg (Swedish Fortress) was occupied by Russia following the war of 1808-1809 and its name was changed to Viapori. In 1855, an Anglo-French fleet attacked the fortress during the Crimean War. It became Suomenlinna in 1918 after Finland's independence. The fortress was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991. It is an important tourist attraction drawing more than 650,000 visitors each year.



Title: **Suomenlinna**
 Date of issue: 4 May 2006
 Denomination: 3 x 0.65 EUR (Finland)
 3 x 10.00 SEK (Sweden)
 Layout: Booklet of 3 (3 designs)
 Designer: Eric Bruun
 Typographer: Gustav Mårtensson
 Engraver: Martin Mörck
 Printer: Sweden Post Stamps
 Process: Lithography and steel engraving
 Quantity: 3000 folders

The stamps show three views of the fortress from the sea with archipelago

frigates in the foreground: the King's Gate with a Pajama class frigate, the Tenaille von Fersen with a Turkoma class frigate and the Bastion Hjärne with an Udenma class frigate. The name Helsingfors on the Swedish booklet pane means Helsinki in Swedish.



A dual first day cover was available from Posten (Sweden) as well as a folder containing both Finnish and Swedish booklet panes together with a black die proof of the engraved portion of the design. The first day cover contains a card with texts in Swedish, English and German. The folder has texts in Finnish, Swedish and English.



Bahrain - Kuwait - Oman - Qatar - Saudi Arabia - United Arab Emirates

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council (officially known as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), the postal administrations of the six member states have released a cleverly designed parallel issue [P1] with triangular stamps depicting flags.



The Council (www.gcc-sg.org) was established in 1981 at the height of the Irak-Iran war. Its main objective is to foster cooperation, coordination and integration of the member states in all fields. Accordingly, a common currency is planned for 2010. Yemen will likely join the Council in 2016.



Title: **25th anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council**
Date of issue: 25 May 2006
Denomination: 0.10 & 0.50 BHD (Bahrain)

0.05 & 0.50 KWD (Kuwait)
0.10 & 0.50 OMR (Oman)
0.50 & 5.00 QAR (Qatar)
2.00 & 5.00 SAR (Saudi Arabia)
1.00 & 5.00 AED (UAE)

Layout: Pane of 20
Souvenir sheet
Printer: Cartor Security Printing
Perforation: 14

Official mixed documents have not been seen so far.

Canada-United States

The 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's survey of the North American East Coast was the occasion of the first Siamese issue [S1] between the United States and another postal administration.

There are two versions of the huge (147 x 205 mm) souvenir sheets printed by Ashton-Potter: the Canadian version has a bar code in the lower left corner. An uncut press sheet of the American version is available from the USPS. The American stamp, sold in panes of 20, is noticeably different from the others: it is smaller and self-adhesive.

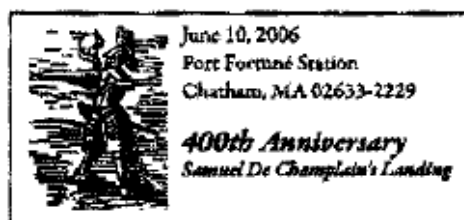
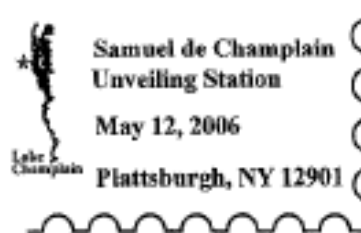


Title: **Champlain surveys the East Coast, 1606**
Date of issue: 28 May 2006
Denomination: 2 x 0.51 CAD (Canada)
2 x 0.39 USD (United States)
Layout: Pane of 16 (Canada)
Pane of 20 (United States)
Souvenir sheet of 4
Designer: François Martin and Réjean Myette

Terrence MacCaffrey (souvenir sheet)
 Illustrator : Francis Back and Martin Côté
 Printer: Ashton-Potter (US pane and both souvenir sheets)
 Canadian Bank Note (Canada)
 Perforation: 13 x 12.5 (pane)(Canada)
 10.75 (pane)(United States)
 11 (souvenir sheet)
 Process: Lithography and steel engraving
 Quantity: 40 000 000 stamps (United States)
 4 000 000 stamps (Canada)
 500 000 souvenir sheets (USA)
 500 000 souvenir sheets (Canada)



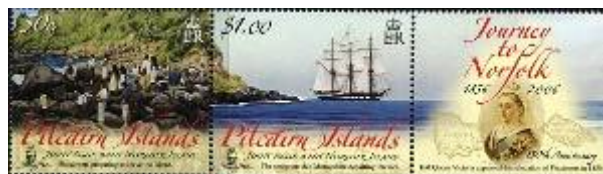
Official dual first day covers are available from both postal administrations. However, only the USPS offers the choice of two first day locations (Washington, DC and Ticonderoga, NY) as well as digital color postmarks and dual first day covers for the souvenir sheet. Two special cancellations (Plattsburgh, NY and Chatham, MA) were also available.



This joint issue was released during Washington 2006 World Stamp Exhibition.

Norfolk Island-Pitcairn Islands

The migration from Pitcairn to Norfolk is once again the subject of a parallel issue [P1]. In 1981, a delayed parallel issue [R2] was released for the 125th anniversary of the historical event. This time, it's the 150th and both sets of stamps were released on the same day.



In 1856, the 194 inhabitants of Pitcairn were relocated to Norfolk after a five-week long journey (6000 km) on the ship *Morayshire*. Years later, some of them returned to Pitcairn. As of 2005, only 67 persons still live there.

Title: **Arriving on Norfolk / Journey to Norfolk, 1856-2006**
 Date of issue: 7 June 2006
 Denomination: 0.50, 1.00, 1.50 & 3.00 NZD (Pitcairn)
 0.10, 0.30, 2 x 0.50, 4.00 AUD (Norfolk)
 Layout: Pane of 40 (Pitcairn)
 Designer: Mary Butterfield (Pitcairn)
 Tracy Butterfield (Norfolk)
 Illustrator: Tracey Yager, Sue Draper & Glenn Douran (Pitcairn)
 Printer: Southern Colour Print, New Zealand
 Perforation: 14.5 (Pitcairn)
 Process: Lithography



An official dual first day cover is available from the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau.

Norfolk also released five stamps entitled *Journey to Norfolk* on May 4.

Hungary-Romania

To mark the 60th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Romania, their respective postal administrations released a twin issue [T3] dedicated to composers Béla Bartók (1881-1945) and George Enescu (1881-1955). They are considered two of the greatest composers of the 20th century. Both friends were inspired by folk music.



Hungarian Bartók was born in Transylvania which, after World War I was ceded to Romania. He is a founder of ethnomusicology. Romanian Enescu is perhaps best remembered for his *Romanian Rhapsodies*. His grave is located in the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris.



Title: **Major or famous composers: Béla Bartók and George Enescu**
 Date of issue: 8 June 2006
 Denomination: 2 x 90.00 HUF (Hungary)
 2 x 1.20 RON (Romania)
 Layout: Pane of 50 (2 designs)(Hungary)
 Pane of 40 (2 designs)(Romania)
 Pane of 12 (2 designs)(Romania)
 Souvenir sheet of 2 (Romania)
 Designer: Péter Berky (Hungary)
 George Ursachi (Romania)
 Printer: Állami Nyomda Nyrt., State Printing Company (Hungary)
 Fabrica de timbre (Romania)
 Perforation: 13 (Romania)
 Process: Lithography
 Quantity: 800 000 stamps (Hungary)
 298 600 stamps (Romania)

A dual commemorative card is available from Magyar Posta (Hungary) and a dual first day cover from Romfilatelia (Romania).



France-United Nations

Six of the thirty French UNESCO World Heritage Sites are the subject of a twin issue [T1] between France and the United Nations. Of the six stamps issued by the United Nations, only the two from Geneva are part of the joint issue with France and show the same sites: Provins and Mont-Saint-Michel.

Provins (France 0.53 EUR and United Nations 1.00 CHF) is a well preserved medieval fair town near Paris. Both stamps show the Caesar's Tower. Inscription on the UNESCO's list was in 2001.

Mont-Saint-Michel (France 0.90 EUR and United Nations 1.30 CHF) is a Gothic-style Benedictine abbey built on an islet between Normandy and Brittany between the 11th and 16th centuries. Inscription on the UNESCO's list was in 1979.



Paris, Banks of the Seine (United Nations 0.39 USD) is delimited by the Pont Scully and the Pont d'Iéna with Ile de la Cité and Ile Saint-Louis in between. This area includes many famous Parisian landmarks: Notre-Dame Cathedral (depicted on the stamp), the Louvre, Place de la Concorde and the Eiffel Tower to name a few. It is a harmonious and spectacular example of urban riverside architecture. Inscription on the UNESCO's list was in 1991.

Pont du Gard, Roman aqueduct (United Nations 0.84 USD) is a marvel of Roman engineering constructed between 40 and 60 AD to permit the 50-km long Nimes aqueduct the crossing of the valley of the Gardon in the south of France. Inscription on the UNESCO's list was in 1985.

Carcassonne (United Nations 0.55 EUR) is a superb fortified medieval town of the 13th century. The site (south of France) is also an early example of restoration carried out by architect Viollet-le-Duc in the second half of the 19th century. Inscription on the UNESCO's list was in 1997.

The Loire Valley (United Nations 0.75 EUR) between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes is a cultural landscape world-renowned for its castles (like the Château de Chambord depicted on the stamp) and its historic towns. It offers a wonderful glimpse into the Renaissance. Inscription on the UNESCO's list was in 2000, but the Château de Chambord was already on the list prior to that.





The United Nations Postal Administration offers a folder containing four dual documents (two first day covers and two maximum cards) featuring the two French stamps and their respective counterparts from the United Nations office in Geneva. La Poste (France) offers a dual *document philatélique officiel*.

Title:	World heritage: France
Date of issue:	17 June 2006
Denomination:	0.53 & 0.90 EUR (France) 0.39 & 0.84 USD (UN, New York) 1.00 & 1.30 CHF (UN, Geneva) 0.55 & 0.75 EUR (UN, Vienna)
Layout:	Pane of 48 (1 design)(France) Pane of 20 (1 design)(UN) Prestige booklet (2 designs)(UN)
Designer:	Abaka (France) Robert Stein (United Nations)
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing (UN) Phil@poste (France)
Perforation:	13 (United Nations)
Process:	Lithography and stamp foiling (UN) Photogravure (France)
Quantity:	260 000 stamps (UN, 0.39 USD) 180 000 stamps (UN, 0.84 USD) 280 000 stamps (UN, 1.00 CHF) 280 000 stamps (UN, 1.30 CHF) 220 000 stamps (UN, 0.55 EUR) 220 000 stamps (UN, 0.75 EUR) 28 000 booklets (UN, New York)

29 000 booklets (UN, Geneva)
41 000 booklets (UN, Vienna)
10 000 folders (UN, Geneva)

This joint issue was released during the *Salon du timbre et de l'écrit* philatelic exhibition in Paris.

Order of Malta-San Marino

Since the Order of Malta is not a member of the Universal Postal Union, this joint issue should be listed as [NR]. However, the interesting combination of one stamp se-tenant with a label reminds me of the Otto Sverdrup joint issue of 2004: the ship stamp se-tenant with the rowboat label on the Canadian souvenir sheet versus the ship label se-tenant with the rowboat stamp on the Greenlandic souvenir sheet. However, the new stamps are not part of souvenir sheets. If the Order of Malta was a member of the UPU, would this joint issue be classified as a twin or as a parallel issue?

The Order of Malta stamp depicts a child with a doctor and a nurse wearing the octagonal cross of the Order. The background shows the Magliana Gate in Rome where the St. John the Baptist Hospital is located. The label reproduces the design of the San Marino stamp with the addition of the coats of arms of San Marino and of the Order of Malta as well as with a quotation from Matthew, The Beatitudes: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted".



The San Marino stamp depicts a doctor examining a child. The background depicts

landmarks of San Marino: Statue of Liberty, Palazzo Pubblico, State Hospital and the Institute for Social Security. The label reproduces the design of the Order of Malta stamp with the two coats of arms and a quotation from Johann Wolfgang Goethe: "Concrete gestures alone show the force of love".



Title: **Charitable works**
 Date of issue: 19 June 2006
 Denomination: 2.20 EUR
 Layout: Pane of 10 stamps and 10 labels
 Designer: Irio Ottavio Fantini
 Printer: Cartor Security Printing
 Perforation: 13.33 (Order of Malta)
 Process: Lithography
 Quantity: 35 000 stamps (Order of Malta)
 35 000 labels (Order of Malta)
 130 000 stamps (San Marino)
 130 000 labels (San Marino)

No dual documents are known for this joint issue.

China-Poland

The twin issue [T1] between China and Poland is a testimony to the quality of craftsmanship achieved by gold and silversmiths during the 17th and 18th centuries in both countries.

China is represented by the *Eternal territorial integrity* gold cup inlaid with pearls, rubies and sapphires with dragon-shaped handles and elephant's head feet. It dates back to the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1796) of the Manchurian Qing dynasty and is one of the masterpieces of the Palace Museum in Beijing.



From Poland, a silver mug (1660-1680) from Gdansk by Peter Rode was selected. It is decorated with biblical scenes of the life of Joseph. An eagle adorns the lid. The mug is from the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw.



Title: **Gold and silver wares**
 Date of issue: 20 June 2006
 Denomination: 2 x 0.80 CNY (China)
 2 x 1.30 PLN (Poland)
 Layout: Pane of 16 (China)
 Pane of 50 (2 designs)(Poland)
 Designer: Wang Huming
 Printer: Beijing Stamp Printing House (China)
 Perforation: 13.5 x 13 (China)
 Process: Photogravure (Poland)
 Quantity: 800 000 stamps (Poland)

A Chinese dual official first day cover, with two different stamps from both postal administrations, is available.



Argentina-France

Tango (music and dance) is intimately associated with Argentina. But, it is also linked to France. Hence, the first ever recording of the music was done in Paris. Furthermore, Carlos Gardel (1890-1935), the most popular tango artist of all time, was born in France.



The identical stamps represent the legs of a dancing couple and a bandoneón player. The bandoneón is a musical instrument of German origin related to the accordion.



Title: **Tango**
Date of issue: 21 June 2006 (France)

24 June 2006 (Argentina)
Denomination: 0.75 & 4.00 ARS (Argentina)
0.53 & 0.90 EUR (France)
Layout: Pane of 30 (1 design)
Designer: Aurélie Barras (France)
Illustrator: Antonio Segui
Printer: Imprimerie des timbres et valeurs fiduciaires (France)
Process: Photogravure (France)

A dual *Document philatélique officiel* is available from La Poste (France). It appears that a dual card from the Argentinian Post is also available.

China-Egypt

A surprise joint issue has been released by China and Egypt to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations. Details about this joint issue are still sketchy, but we know that one stamp represents the Abu Simbel temples and the other one the South Gate of X'ian in Northwest China.

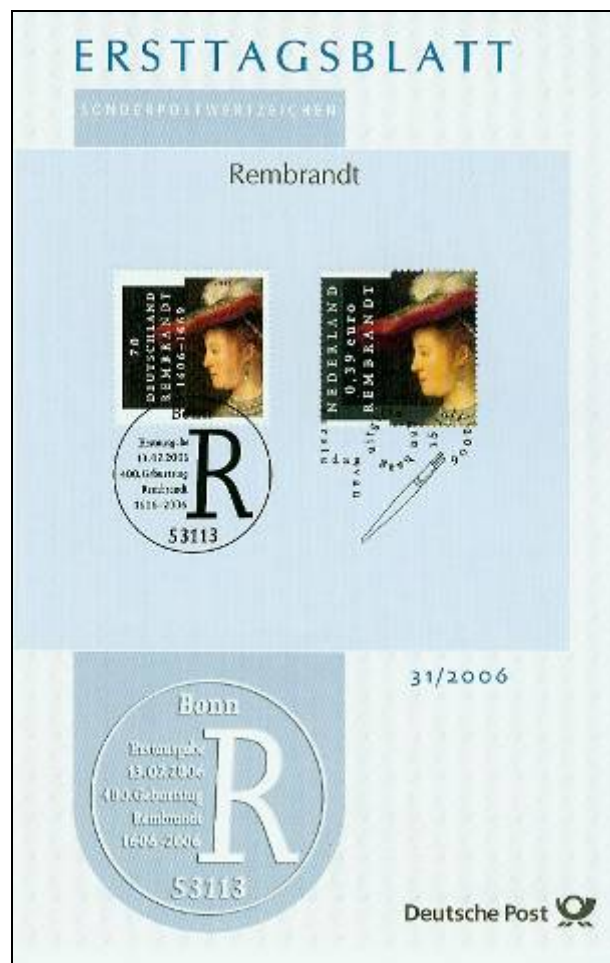


Title: **50 years of diplomatic relations**
Date of issue: 13 July 2006
Layout: Pane of 16 (2 designs and 1 label)(China)

These stamps are so far not mentioned on the China Philatelic Information website, but a press release is available on the Egypt Post website and was reported by the official Xinhua News Agency in China.

Germany-Netherlands

One of the great cultural events of the year is without a doubt the celebration of the 400th birthday of Rembrandt (1606-1669). For the occasion, the postal administrations of Germany and the Netherlands have released a twin issue [T1] depicting a portrait of Rembrandt's first wife: Saskia van Uylenburg (1612-1642). The portrait, painted between 1633 and 1642 is in the collection of the Staatliche Museen (Inv. GK 236) in Kassel, Germany.



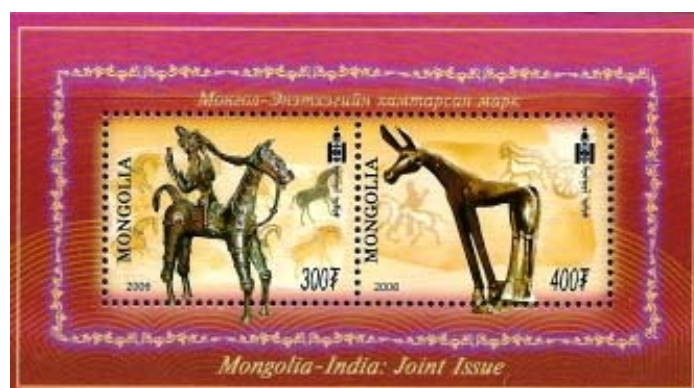
Title: **Rembrandt**
 Date of issue: 13 July 2006 (Germany)
 15 July 2006 (Netherlands)
 Denomination: 0.70 EUR (Germany)
 0.39 EUR (Netherlands)
 Layout: Pane of 10 (Germany)

Pane of 10 (5 designs & 2 labels)(Netherlands)
 Prestige booklet (Netherlands)
 Designer: Walter Nikkels
 Printer: Bagel Security-Print GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)
 Joh. Enschedé Security Print (Netherlands)
 Perforation: 13.75
 Process: Lithography
 Quantity: 650,000 (Netherlands)

A Dutch printing of the German stamp is included in the prestige booklet released by TPG Post (Netherlands). This German stamp is printed se-tenant with the similar Dutch stamp, hence creating a Siamese issue [S1]. However, Deutsche Post (Germany) seems to have been unaware of that and is now considering the Dutch printing as a label. For more information on this issue, please read the interesting article by Rindert Paalman on page 18 of this journal.

India-Mongolia

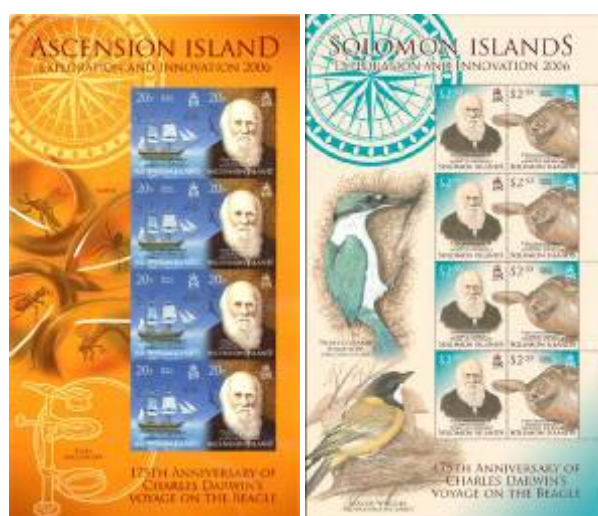
The Mongolian stamps have been issued but we do not know the date of issue. There is still no news from India Post regarding the Indian stamps of this joint issue that was already postponed in late 2005. It commemorates 50 years of diplomatic relations.



Omnibus issues

The postal administration of the **British Virgin Islands** has joined, although belatedly, the omnibus issue [PO] marking the 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II (see previous journal for full details).

An omnibus issue [PO] on the theme of exploration and innovation was released by four administrations so far (**Ascension, Kiribati, Nauru and Solomon**).



The issue marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Brunel and 175th anniversary of Darwin's voyage on the Beagle. These are the only two subjects common to all four administrations. Other subjects are:

Colombus, Edison, Halley, Mozart and Stephenson. Oddly, Kiribati included the Concorde in this issue.

Title: **Exploration and Innovation**
 Date of issue: 27 May 2006 (Kiribati & Nauru)
 24 July 2006 (Ascension)
 2006 (Solomon)
 Denomination: various
 Layout: 6 panes of 8 (Kiribati & Nauru)
 4 panes of 8 (Ascension & Solomon)
 Designer: Derek Miller
 Perforation: 13
 Process: Lithography
 Printer: Lowe-Martin Company (Kiribati & Nauru)
 Cartor Security Printing (Ascension)
 Southern Colour Print (Solomon)

On the occasion of the World Cup of Football held in Germany, two postal administrations (**Nauru and Solomon**) released an omnibus issue [PO]. The stamps show various historic matches: Uruguay's win over Brazil in 1950 (Nauru), West Germany's win over Hungary in 1954 (Solomon), England's win over West Germany in 1966 (Solomon), Argentina's win over Netherlands in 1978 (Nauru), Italy's win over West Germany in 1982 (Nauru), France's win over Brazil in 1998 (Solomon), Brazil's win over Germany in 2002 (Nauru) and a play-off match between Solomon and Australia (Solomon).



Title: **World Cup 2006**
 Date of issue: 9 June 2006
 Denomination: various
 Layout: 4 panes of 10
 Designer: Andrew Robinson
 Perforation: 14
 Process: Lithography
 Printer: BDT International Security Printing

Upcoming issues

Only new information is provided here. For a complete list of forthcoming joint issues, please visit the IPS-JSIC website at <http://rzimmerm.club.fr/latest.htm>.

Ukraine has released a souvenir sheet marking the 750th anniversary of Lviv (*Lemberg* in German) on June 16. It was supposed to be an **Austria-Ukraine** joint issue, but the Austrian stamp will now be released on December 8 which means that this will not be a joint issue.



Slovakia has released preliminary designs of the upcoming **Indonesia-Slovakia** joint issue scheduled for September 27.



Singapore Post has announced a **Japan-Singapore** joint issue on flowers for October 3.

2007 and beyond

La Poste (Belgium) is preparing two joint issues for 2007: **Belgium-Czech Republic** and **Belgium-Luxembourg**.

Ivan Vucetic, the inventor of fingerprint identification, will be the subject of an **Argentina-Croatia** joint issue according to Croatian Post. Expect also an **Austria-Croatia** joint issue.

Mediterranean archaeology will be the subject of a **Greece-Spain** joint issue.

A **Moldova-Ukraine** joint issue is in preparation. The subject will be the protection of the environment surrounding the Dniester River which marks the border between the two countries.

Deutsche Post confirmed the date of July 12 for the **Germany-Latvia** joint issue dedicated to the cities of Stralsund, Wismar and Riga.

A **North Korea-Russia** joint issue will be released on August 14 with a flora theme.

La Poste (France) has already revealed part of its 2008 stamp program. It includes so far two joint issues: **France-Vietnam** and **Canada-France**.

The joint issue with Vietnam is already confirmed by Vietnam Post but with November 1, 2007 as the date of issue of the Vietnamese stamp(s). The subject of the joint issue with Canada is an open secret. It will mark the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Québec. The date of issue could be the actual foundation date: July 3.