



JOINT STAMP ISSUES

International Philatelic Society of
Joint Stamp Issues Collectors

N°38 - AUGUST 2007



Elections
Recent Issues
Quarterly Market
Pan American Union
Swiss First Day Covers

Editorial

Dear Members,

Last March 13, Armenia released a stamp depicting the Blue Mosque. This was supposed to be a joint issue with Iran. Hamid Reza Ebrahimi kindly informed me that Iran Post will not release a stamp to complete the joint issue with Armenia.



A similar problem occurred last year with the Iran-Thailand scheduled joint issue. Only the Thai stamp was released on February 11, 2006. Let's hope that Iran Post will be able to resolve its problems (shortage of stamp paper or otherwise) sooner than later.

Another recent odd case is the Greece-Spain joint issue. The Greek stamps were released in June, but the Spanish ones will wait until September. Perhaps our Greek and Spanish members can shed some light on this case. This concerted issue will be described in the next journal.

The next three months (August-October) will see the unprecedented release of an enormous amount of joint issues (at least 18 including ASEAN and SEPAC). This is why I'm currently looking for an assistant editor who will eventually replace me. So, if you want to experience the other side of the Society, let me know!

Don't forget to submit your candidacy for the elections!

Pascal LeBlond



INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOINT STAMP ISSUES COLLECTORS

Founded in 1999

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On-line-only members:	€ 8.00
European (EEC) members:	€ 12.00
Other European and North-American members:	€ 16.00
Other countries:	€ 17.00
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Elections ahead!

The mandate of the current executive board of the Society ends on December 31, 2007. It is therefore time to seek out volunteers.

According to our new by-laws, all seats on the executive board are subject to the election. These are: 1) President, 2) Vice President, 3) Treasurer and 4) Secretary. For technical reason, we can have more than one treasurer, as it is currently the case. Also, the two posts of auditors will be included in this election, although they are not members of the board. The administrative positions of editor, new issue service manager, webmaster and distribution manager are excluded.

As you will read in this journal, Richard Zimmermann will not seek re-election. Since Richard was cumulating two seats on executive board (treasurer and secretary), this is an important transition for the future of the Society. It is therefore essentially that volunteers step forward for this election.

Volunteers must inform the Society of their candidacy, before October 15, 2007, by e-mail (jointissues@yahoo.com) stating which positions on the board they're interested in. Members can cumulate two positions on the board. Those who would like to become auditors will follow the same procedure, although an auditor cannot occupy a position on the board at the same time. The list of candidates will be published in the November issue of this journal. Should the number of candidates justify a vote, members will be informed of the voting procedure at this time.

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Here are summarized job descriptions for the positions subject to the election. All positions required a good knowledge of English.

President: Supervision of all the activities of the Society. Representation of the Society. Management of the Best Joint Issue contest.

Vice President: Assistance to the president. The vice president can manage special projects like membership drives targeting specific regions of the world.

Treasurer(s): Collection of membership fees and payment of expenses (essentially the printing and mailing of the journal). Knowledge of accounting is an asset.

Secretary: Management of paperwork, including the annual report, and of the e-mail account at jointissues@yahoo.com.

Auditors: Control of the expenses on an annual basis.

There is no future without relief

Richard Zimmermann

My first contact with joint stamp issues goes back to the end of 1987 when I discovered the announcement for the January 14, 1988, stamps created by Germany and France on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the cooperation treaty between these two countries. The stamp displayed the portraits of Charles De Gaulle and Conrad Adenauer.



As I was able at that time to explore this issue on both sides of the Rhine River, I discovered that the two postal administrations had to work a long time together in order to prepare all supplementary material that was offered on that day, like joint cancellations and maximum cards. This prompted me to check if this type of issue was frequent and I screened all available catalogues looking for pairs. One must remember that at that time it was just the beginning of personal computers and that the word internet had no meaning at all. I looked also in the philatelic literature if anybody had been interested in such stamps and found only a short article written by François Brisse, the editor of a Canadian stamp journal (*Philatélie Québec*). Eventually this led to a

first list of some stamps and I found the idea of collecting all data on this material quite nice as it allowed me to become interested in worldwide stamps while still remaining limited in the frame of my small budget. Actually it became for me even more interesting to gather the information than collecting the stamps themselves. In his editorial, François Brisse was betting that one day a catalogue on joint stamp issues could exist as the number of issues was constantly growing. In time and with the help of some other collectors "as crazy" as I whose addresses I had received from philatelic associations, the list of joint issues on my (first) computer became quite long. Beside pure twin issues, I had to create some new subgroups such as parallel and concerted issues and I had to dig in all territorial stamps. A new friend, Alain Carles, provided tremendous information as he was also screening all French stamp catalogues (Yvert et Tellier), while I was doing the same with the German Michel catalogues.

It took two years to transform the computer table into a book and to eventually print, at author's cost, the first edition of the *Catalogue des émissions conjointes 1997* that was available for sale by the end of 1996. This was about ten years after I had started collecting these stamps. Although the catalogue was written in French, the 100 samples that were printed were sold within two years to collectors among which some of them became pen pals. They provided over the years a large amount of supplementary data.

Most of the activities linked to my stamp collection were also dependent on my professional activities. Because I moved

several times during that period within France, then to Germany and the Netherlands, I went through periods where I had to slow down, as job and family took a higher priority.



Nevertheless, when I started selling the first catalogue, I also promised to the buyers to send them an update of the catalogue if they provided me with their address.

By the beginning of 1997, I could write a first leaflet that displayed the list of the stamps that were issued during 1996, as a complement to the catalogue. Later during that year I provided two other 4-page papers with information about the issues to come. As I was living at that time in Germany, all this information was provided both in German and French. Most of the collectors who had access to the catalogue were living actually in these two countries. In Hannover I gained another stamp friend, Volker Dietze who helped me to enter the next step.

With the support of the Hannover Philatelic Society (*Briefmarken Club Hannover von 1886 e.V.*), I could create a kind of "subsidiary" of this association that was the premises of our present society, governed by the German Association laws. Founders

were Horst Warnecke (a member of the above cited German philatelic association), Volker and I. This was sufficient to convince several other collectors (mainly the buyers of the catalogue) who accepted to give some money to cover paper, printing and stamp costs. The first journal was actually printed as early as February 1998, which should be acknowledged as the date of the creation of the association, seeing as our oldest members had joined by that period. The date of October 12, 1999 printed on the by-laws is the official date of creation of the society. Since then the society has grown by approximately ten members by year, reaching 130 by 2007.

To include the growing interest of non-German, and non-French collectors, we had to adapt the language and to switch to English. The workload was too heavy to keep the three languages and unfortunately by concentrating to English alone, we also lost some collectors.



In the meantime, the *Quarterly Journal* went from 4 to 32 pages, was renamed *Joint Stamp Issues*, became available in color as PDF file and won three awards.

At that time I also became lucky. Beside the founders of the society, some young collectors also joined. Pascal LeBlond was one of the first and a couple of years later accepted to take over the role of chief editor of our journal. Pascal was the one who created the Best Joint Issue contest, which keeps us in good contact with postal administrations and philatelic journals and brings us several new members each year. We reorganized the board structure and following the last elections, we also had a new management team. Volker who was already living half time in Germany, half time in Asia could not continue being in charge of the secretary position. Anthony Raynaud took over from Volker with the new issues service and both of them are to be congratulated for this very nice job that continues to make all collectors happy.

The treasury was split between North America and Europe and we are gratefully to Charles Feingersh for having taken over the North American job. In terms of treasury, we should not forget to mention our two auditors, Dominique Josse and Wolfgang Heinssen, who, in fact, have a job that takes from their time only once per year, but they have all the responsibility behind it. We even created regional Vice President positions, but so far only Latif Rashad volunteered for the Asian area.

The web site also became a nice information piece thanks to the help of my second son François who created the entire framework. We have recently found in Eric Bruth an expert in this area. When he joined the society, he was already running his own sites on philately (by the way don't hesitate to take a look at what he is writing about frogs on stamps at www.philatelic-frog.fr and on his blog in English at <http://my-philately.blogspot.com>). He is now updating the society web site and if

he has time in the near future, he will probably change its look and create new pages. Finally the printing and distribution of the journal is now done from Iran as the first trial was also a success. Hamid Ebrahimi helped a lot and even succeeded in dropping the overall costs of all our paperwork (see elsewhere in this journal a report on the result of this operation).

In the meantime the amount of joint issues produced worldwide each year increased drastically. And last year I was able to propose a completely new version of the catalogue in English, a book of more than 730 pages only dedicated to joint stamp issues. Everything had to be rewritten and rechecked, so it took almost two years of work.

Next year the Society will have its 10-year birthday. Probably by that time the society will be strong by about 140 members and we will have had more than 50,000 visitors on our web site. Probably this will deserve a special edition of the May issue of our journal but I will leave our President to decide what to do.

Actually I am only missing some more participation for specific articles in the journal and I hope that in the near future there will be more volunteers for writing articles. I must admit that we already had some help recently from the Netherlands and Germany. Also it would be nice if, in the near future, it would be possible by local advertisement campaigns to gain members in Africa, South America or Australia, or some smaller countries such as Switzerland, Denmark or the Nordic countries where we don't have a single member yet.

This fall will also be the time to renew the board. Pascal has done a fabulous job and I hope he will continue working in the

continuation of what he did in the past years. Charles was of great help and I am sure he is ready to continue taking care of the North American treasury for the next 20 years. I have no doubt that all the others who helped so far will also be ready to stay for a new period of three years.

I think - and I hope - that the only positions that will have to be filled are mine. I must with regret announce that I will not be able in the future to work as much as I did for the society and I will not be candidate for a new mandate. Which is also good, because now that we have so many members it will probably be easy to find a new secretary and a new treasurer? I cumulated the two positions, which can also be taken over by one single person, but there is also an opportunity to have more than one new face for these positions.

There are several reasons why I cannot stay on the board. The first and probably the most important is linked to my job. Some of you have probably understood that I am traveling a lot. In 2007 this will probably represent more than a hundred times taking a plane and as much taking a train. I calculated that since January I have already spent more than 200 hours in planes and we are only half-way through the year (and I am not a steward or a pilot). It is also a hundred nights in a hotel and half of the year away from home. I am spending one week per month in the United States and regularly visiting most of the European countries. This year, I have spent some days in Australia and the Middle East and plan trips to India, Mongolia and China before Christmas. This is definitely only for business and I have seen from all these countries only airports, hotels and taxis. So, don't regret not being able to travel with me. It sometimes happens that I have a chance to spend a

couple of hours with some of our members and those are fantastic hours speaking more about the country than about stamps. I spent some wonderful time recently in Athens, Istanbul, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Washington, with some of our members. Thanks to all of those who made me the big honor to take time for me. As the question will anyway be raised, I just want to complete this paragraph by letting you know that I am leading the research and development of a pharmaceutical company specialized in nuclear medicine and radiopharmaceuticals. If you need more information about that just tell me (I wrote a book for general public on that topic last year).

Lack of time is the main reason. Today I could not write a new catalogue like I did previously. But the second reason is just that a society can stay alive only because their members are involved in its success. So after 20 years of collecting and more than 10 years running this society, it is time to leave the door open for new board members. I hope there will be several candidates and I wrote these pages in this August journal, just to leave more time to all of you to think about your own involvement.

I will of course continue collecting joint issues, remain member of the society, continue writing the February catalogue supplement and I promised Pascal to write at least one article per journal. What do you intend to do next year for the society? Remember: it is a bad sign for a society if it is not able to generate continuously new board members. It would be for me a major failure if the society does not continue without me. Let us hope there will be fresh blood with new ideas. There is no future for the society without relief. Good luck to the Joint Stamp Issues Society.

Society life

New members

077/00 (Welcome back!)
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066/00 Ron TABBERT
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Help needed

Nate Peiss (inksmudge@comcast.net) is requesting samples of databases for an inventory of joint issues.

In the news!

Our Best Joint Issue of 2006 award was reproduced in color in the August edition of *Post.Philatelic* magazine of the Austrian Post. It is also displayed on the website of the *Verband Österreichischer Philatelistenvereine* (www.voeph.at). When can we expect our first Austrian member?

Sold out!

Richard Zimmermann is reporting that the Siamese souvenir sheet of the 2006 Austria-Hong Kong joint issue is already sold out with the Austrian Post. Its value is likely to rise in the coming months. Does our award have an effect on the market?

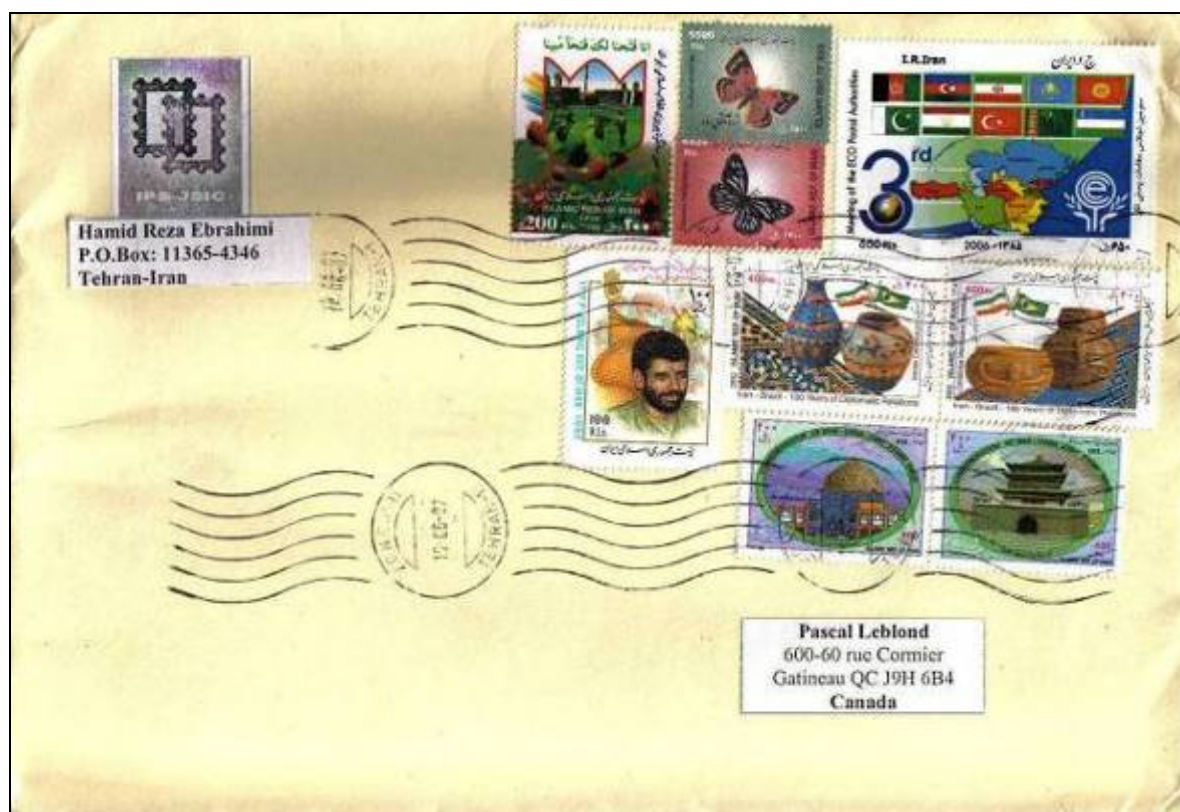
Tehran is our new printing and distribution center!

Richard Zimmermann

All those who have received the May journal in its printed form have noticed that it was different from previous. Of course it was not coming anymore from France or the United States, but from Iran and the most surprising aspect was probably the interesting colorful Iranian stamps that were affixed on the cover for postage fees. This was the result of our new collaboration with our member Hamid Ebrahimi, who accepted to take over this responsibility of printing and distributing the journals.

All journals were sent out on the same day on June 16 from Tehran. The journals were received in the different countries in the following order:

Netherlands: June 21; Germany: June 23-28; Ecuador: June 25; United States: June 25-29; Belgium June 26; Greece: June 26; Spain: June 26-29; France: June 27-30; Pakistan June 29; Canada: June 29 - July 3. So the maximum time before landing in your mailbox was 17 days for Canada while the first who received a sample got it in less than five days (Netherlands).



As we asked members to provide some feedback to check time of distribution, I would like to show here the comments that I received from some of you concerning this trial:

I am very proud to announce you that I received today the journal which was mailed from Tehran. The journal arrived on June 23 to the central post office in Quito and was delivered today on June 25. Unfortunately most of the stamps

which were on the folder were damaged or stolen.... as usual. It is a big problem with the Ecuadorian post office. When they see nice stamps they try to steal them and generally the only thing they manage to do is to damage them...Nevertheless I was happy to receive the journalfrom Iran...

Gil Baillard - Ecuador

My copy of Joint Stamp Issues arrived today (June 26). And thanks for using all the nice stamps.

Larry Dodson – United States

Mail from Iran received today. Superb cover. Thanks

Christian Daniel Abravanel - France

Very nice stamps used for postage and the post office didn't mess them up. The Journal looks great. Tell Hamid that he is doing a great job.

Al Ouellette – United States

The cover is franked with 9 different, mostly joint stamp issues, neatly affixed to a 6 3/4 x 9 7/8 yellow envelope. It was lightly cancelled "16 06-07" with a circular date stamp and wavy lines. Quite neat looking. Thank you all.

Roy K. Baardsen – United States

I received my copy of the journal on Wednesday, June 27. That means about 2 weeks in the mail from Iran to Ohio. I appreciate that Hamid used some Iranian joint issue stamps for postage. Thanks to both of you for your efforts!

Ron Spiers – United States

Happily I answer your request. The date stamp on "JSI No 37" was 2007 06 16. It arrived today, 2007 06

29. 13 days, not bad for Canada Post, which deservedly is called "Snail mail"! And Hamid had put 11 different stamps on my envelope! Much appreciated.

Norbert Krommer - Canada

Received my booklet today. Please pass my appreciation on to Hamid. The stamps on the envelope were fantastic.

David W. Leaser – United States

My journal arrived Wednesday, June 27, 2007 to my home in Nova Scotia, Canada. Nice work and lovely stamps. They came lightly cancelled.

Judy Bowlby - Canada

Interesting idea. I hope finances make it possible to do this more often. The stamps are interesting, and in this case, a couple of joint issue items were used.

Ron Tabbert – United States

Note: Normally in the future all your journals will come from Iran. This was a first trial, but apparently the fact that Hamid was using joint issues stamps on the cover was an appreciated and unexpected plus.

The journal arrived Wednesday, June 27, adorned by a beautiful selection of Iranian stamps. Thanks to Hamid Reza Ebrahimi for a stellar job.

Robert J. Hubsmith – United States

I have received my Journal from Iran and the issue is as outstanding, well written, most engaging as ever!

Joseph V. Gallagher – United States

Not only was the Journal received last week, which I am very happy to

state, but the envelope was covered with many Iranian stamps and they were all nicely cancelled! Definitely a big, big bonus.

Mark Alan – United States

What a smart concept!

Charles Feingersh – United States

Journals were slightly different compared to previous ones, as the printer was of course different. The following recommendations were made and if technically possible they will be implemented.

- compared to the previous journals, the quality of the printing is lower, which is not necessarily a big issue as we have to accept a lower quality if the price is also lower. However, most of you have observed that the cover page is of higher quality than the inside pages. In particular this can be seen on the bars that are on top of each pages and that do appear only on pages 31 and 32. We are presently checking if keeping the same quality all over the journal would remain within our expenses limits.

- there is also a problem of alignment between odd and even pages, or between front and back sides for each page. This should be easily solved by setting better top margin and is under investigation as well

Remember that it was first of all a trial and any improvement that can be implemented will take place. As a first conclusion however, it can be considered as a success.

This experience was also important in terms of cost savings. It appears that printing costs are lower, but also postage fees from Iran to any other country are

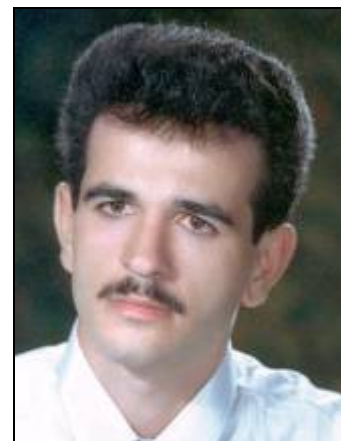
lower than if sent from France. Here are some figures that will convince you:

- the printing cost including paper and stapling were invoiced at 9000 IRR (Iranian Rials) per journal, i.e. 1,080,000 IRR for 120 samples.

- covers amounted 59,000 IRR for 118 samples.

- total postage for all members amounted 1,323,960 IRR.

This makes a total of 2,462,960 IRR for this May journal batch. With the currency exchange rate of 1 EUR for 12,700 IRR, the total cost amounted 194 EUR (266 USD) for 120 samples.



Hamid Reza Ebrahimi

This figure can be compared to the expenses from last year when we spent in May 2006 240 EUR (329 USD) for 115 samples, and in August 2006 225 EUR (308 USD) for 113 samples. Savings per quarter can be estimated at about 30 to 40 EUR which makes more than 120 EUR (165 USD) per year. This money could just be used to increase the quality of the printing. In any case this trial can be considered as a full success thanks to Hamid Ebrahimi. The printed August journal you have now in your hands was provided in the same way.

Dual and mixed official Swiss first day covers

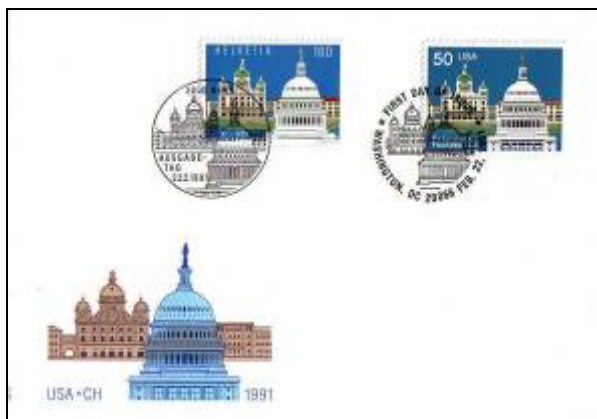
Pascal LeBlond

The main purpose of this article is to illustrate dual and mixed first day covers produced by the Swiss postal administration for unique and twin issues. Except for the first one, they are relatively inexpensive and easy to find.

1988 (25 November) **France-Switzerland:** Jean Tinguely. The Swiss cancellation (4000 Basel) and the cachet (illustration on the cover) are in French although Basel, on the border with France and Germany, is a German-speaking city. Tinguely grew up in Basel.



1991 (22 February) **Switzerland-United States:** 700th anniversary of Switzerland. The Swiss cancellation (3000 Bern) is in German. Berne is the federal capital of Switzerland.



1992 (22 May) **Austria-Switzerland:** Protect the Alps. The Swiss cancellation (7000 Chur) is in German but does not indicate that it's a first day of issue (*Ausgabetag*). The embossed cachet is in German, French and Italian.



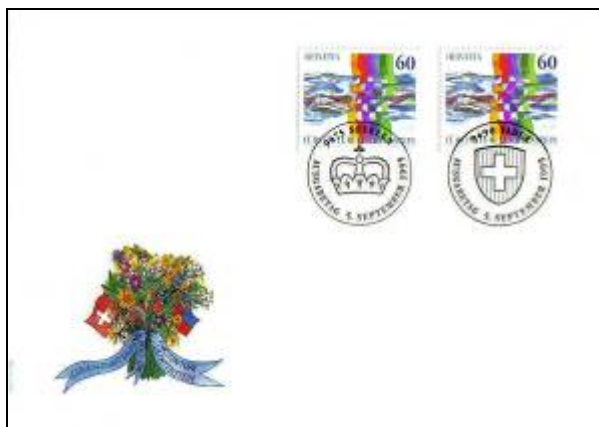
1993 (5 May) **Austria-Germany-Switzerland:** European region of Lake Constance (*Euregio Bodensee*). The Swiss cancellation (8400 Winterthur) and the cachet are in German.



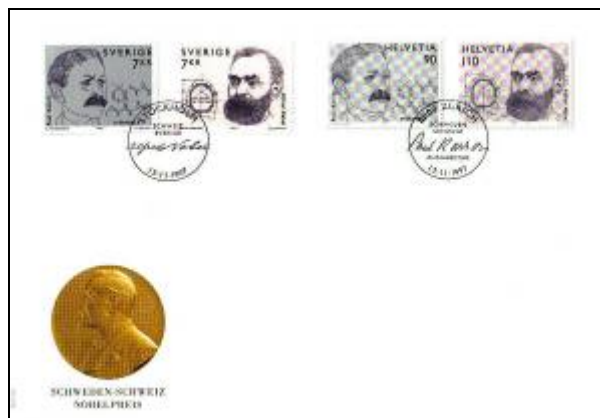
1994 (15 October) **Belgium-France-Switzerland:** Georges Simenon. The Swiss cancellation (1026 Echandens-Denges) is in French. Simenon lived there (8 km west of Lausanne) from 1957 to 1963. The cachet is embossed.



1995 (5 September) **Liechtenstein-Switzerland:** Relations. The Swiss cancellation (9475 Sevelen) and the cachet are in German. Sevelen is located less than 5 km from Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein. The cachet is engraved.



1997 (13 November) **Sweden-Switzerland:** Alfred Nobel and Paul Karrer. The Swiss cancellation (8000 Zürich) and the cachet are in German. Karrer studied at the University of Zurich.



1998 (25 November) **China-Switzerland:** Relations, Western Lake and the Castle Chillon. The Swiss cancellation (1820 Territet-Veytaux) and the cachet are in French and Chinese. The castle is located in Veytaux on an island of Lake Geneva.



1999 (24 September) **Russia-Switzerland:** 200th anniversary of General Suvorov's crossing of the Alps. The Swiss cancellation (6490 Andermatt) and the cachet are in German and Russian. Andermatt is located near the St. Gotthard Pass used by Suvorov to cross the Alps.



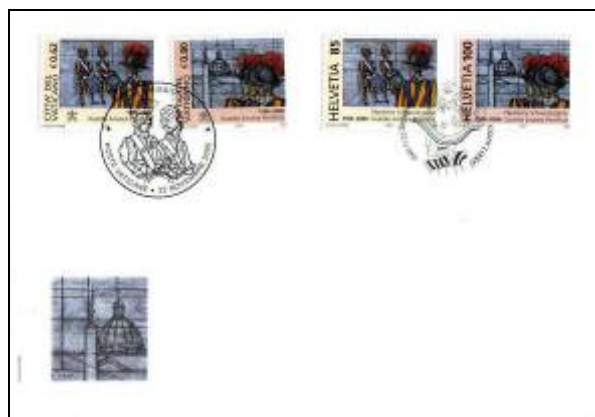
2001 (20 September) **Singapore-Switzerland:** Flowers. The Swiss cancellation (3000 Bern) is in German.



2004 (23 November) **Switzerland-United Nations (Geneva)**: International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005. The joint issue also includes a Swiss service stamp for the International Olympic Committee based in Lausanne. The Swiss cancellation (1200 Genève) is in German, French and Italian. Geneva is one of the seats of the United Nations. The Swiss cancellation for the IOC service stamp (1000 Lausanne) is also in German, French and Italian. The cachet is in German, French, Italian and English.



2005 (22 November) **Switzerland-Vatican**: 500th anniversary (in 2006) of the Papal Swiss Guard. The Swiss cancellation (6000 Luzern) is in German. Many of the original Swiss guards were recruited in and around Lucerne.



Images of these first day covers are not to scale as they vary in size. Most of them follow the ISO paper size system.

C5 envelopes (162 x 229 mm) for A4 letters (210 x 297 mm) folded once: 2001

C6 envelopes (114 x 162 mm) for A4 letters folded twice: 1988, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2004

Special envelopes (140 x 200 mm): 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2005

Usually, the stamps of the postal administration preparing the dual or mixed first day cover should be placed in the upper right corner of the envelope. This is not always the case with Switzerland (1988, 1991 and 1995).

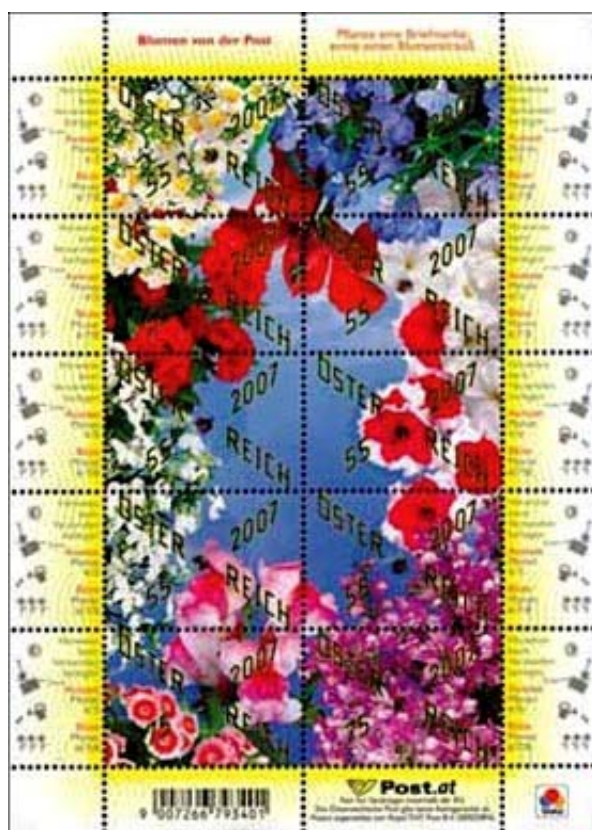
It is possible that the Swiss postal administration started the production of these dual and mixed first day covers after seeing the same product offered by the Liechtenstein Post for its twin issue with Costa Rica in 1988 (6 months prior to the France-Switzerland twin issue).

Some will argue that the Swiss prototype for this series was the cover produced for the France-Switzerland parallel issue of 1985. But this cover is not a first day cover since the Swiss stamp had already been released four months earlier.

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't

Richard Zimmermann

This sentence was the beginning of the open letter that Dr Erich Haas, the leader of the Philately office of the Austrian Post wrote in the Austrian philately journal *Die Briefmarke* to explain the failure of the Austrian-Dutch joint issue project "seeds and stamp" that was reported in our previous journal by Rindert Paalman (*Joint Stamp Issues*, N° 37, May 2007 page 15). In the meantime, the Netherlands alone issued these stamps containing flower seeds, as the sprouting of the seeds and the growing of flowers succeeded in this country, contrary to the Austrian stamps. Austrian Post finally dropped the project.



I do not want to disappoint Rindert, but I would have added to this sentence (which was presented as an Indian wisdom sentence), "... and I am glad it didn't".

When I first saw this project, it looked to me as an April Fools' Day joke. Unfortunately it was real and the stamps were expected to be released on May 13, 2007, the Austrian Mother's Day. Such an attempt might be a surprise (good or bad) for collectors, but in fact we should remember the many trials that have been made by different postal administrations in the past years. Paper was not sufficiently attractive to produce original stamps: printing on wood, steel, silver (remember the Poland Vatican Pope John Paul VI issue) or gold were made, sometimes with nice and original results. They were often fragile and always expensive. Of course they were never used in the mail on real covers. Then different types of tissue and embroidery were used as stamp backgrounds. Colors and printings were replaced by holograms. Eventually some marketing guys invented the embedded material such as ground stone (e.g. from the Gibraltar rock), sand, wood (even from very well known old ships, i.e. Nelson's ship, on the occasion of the anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar) and finally crystals (last year Swarovsky crystals contained in the Austria-Hong Kong Siamese issue).

In the continuation of all these trials the use of natural source material became obvious and the seeds experience probably could have had some commercial success. Each stamp contained (contains I should say because the Netherlands finally marketed their samples) a different variety of flower seeds. It is obvious that such material has a limited shelf life, so success in having the seeds sprout is also limited in time, which probably is part of the explanation of the lack of success of the

Austrian experience. The seeds came from Japan.

This attempt raises several questions. I wonder if the inventors thought of all the consequences of this idea. First, among collectors, besides the fact that the stamp is not flat due to the thickness of the seeds there is also the problem of keeping a material that could eventually decompose between other stamp pages. Actually, on the other hand, if the seed stamps are not sprouting in your albums it guarantees at least that the degree of humidity is low enough to avoid the "normal" stamps starting to stick to the pages. But of course nobody knows what will happen to these stamps if they remain in a collection for several years. Also, if you collect used stamps you must remember that the stamps have been licked, i.e. humidified, and therefore the process of sprouting was probably initiated. Also if you want to remove the used stamps from the cover, avoid using water, as that will have the same effect. In fact used stamps were not supposed to be kept in albums. The final aim of these stamps was to land in ground, which means they were to be destroyed. I wonder how many Dutch stamps have really been used for this purpose and how many can be found in albums already.

On the non-collector customer side, the story might be completely different. Everybody who has traveled knows that some countries, among which the USA or Australia, just forbid the import of food, vegetables and of course seeds in your luggage. So this issue was anticipated and there is a specific text in the margin (label) of each stamp stating "Only for mailing within European Union". There are two other sentences next to this first one saying that the Post does not guarantee

the sprouting of the seeds and that this stamp concept is patented.

The situation is a little bit more complex. As an example Cyprus that is part of the European Union completely forbids import of non-controlled seeds. I wonder if the Cyprus customs are aware of the existence of these stamps.

Let us develop this issue of the hidden export of seeds. Even if these stamps stay within an approved country, how can it be guaranteed that a second party will not re-mail it? How will postmen from any country, first know that seeds are hidden in the stamp and secondly that it is not allowed for import? Was our New Issue Service via Anthony ready to provide this joint issue to US members? How will the stamp dealers community react?

Sometimes marketing guys seem to be really naïve. I do not even understand why the Austrian postal administration did spend so much energy in explaining the failure and were so proud of the concept.

When I saw the result of our best joint issue of 2007 contest raising the Swarovsky crystal issue to the lead position, I must admit that I was disappointed. I had personally excluded these issues because these stamps were far away from my concept of stamps. Stamps have to be found first on mail and I do not know a single collector who really used these stamps on a cover and did send it via the post. But I fully accept the result of the democratic process that designated this issue as the best. I was even the one who congratulated the Austrian and Chinese Posts for this success. I just notice that marketing is working well.

So to help postal administrations to be even more creative in the future I have a series of proposals that they could test hopefully with joint issues. Stamps celebrating the fight against hunger could contain wheat or rice grains. The Day of the Tree in the Middle East could be celebrated with in-stamp-embedded tree seeds. But more subtle would have been to replace flower seeds by hemp seeds e.g. on the occasion of the issue of the fight against drugs stamps. This would help people recognize a hemp plant, as obviously non-drug addicted persons do not know what this plant looks like. I bet this would become a great marketing success with potential high income. This is probably not such a good idea for customs officials.

A step further would be to add some drugs directly on the stamp, or toxins (this reminds me of a not so old story with anthrax), other living materials, such as bacteria, or mummies powder on stamps honoring Tutankhamen or ... If you are a little bit creative you will find an original solution for any topic that is represented on a stamp.

You may not agree with me but as I told you at the beginning of my text, "it looks like an April Fools' Day joke" and "I am glad it did not work".

Editor's note: the open letter of Dr. Eric Haas is reprinted in an article entitled "Hollandblumen keimen nicht" (Holland flowers do not sprout) in the July issue of Michel-Rundschau, p. 36-38.

Better late than sorry... (again)

*The third meeting of the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) postal administrations was held in Ankara, Turkey, in September 2006. At the time only Iran and Kazakhstan jointly issued stamps for the event. Turkey has now released a similar stamp on **April 5, 2007!***



50th Anniversary of the Pan American Union (1940)

Larry Dodson

The Pan American Union, now a part of the Organization of American States (OAS), was established on April 14, 1890. Its purpose was to promote friendship and commerce among its member nations. It celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1940, and 15 of the 21 member nations chose to celebrate the event. While there is no common design, many of the nations chose either or both of two themes: the flags of the members and a map or globe showing the western hemisphere.

Honduras was the first to commemorate the anniversary with a four stamp souvenir sheet that was issued on April 13, 1940, one day before the actual date of the anniversary. The flags of Honduras and the United States are shown on a map of the western hemisphere. Other than the denominations, the only difference in the four stamps is the men pictured in a small oval at the upper right. The souvenir sheet is also available imperforate.



On October 1, 1945, the perforated and imperforate Pan American souvenir sheets were overprinted by Honduras to celebrate the May 8, 1945, unconditional surrender of Germany in World War II. On February 26, 1951, the two sheets were overprinted to commemorate the 75th Anniversary, in 1949, of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). This second overprint on the imperforate sheet is quite rare.

On April 14, 1940, another six nations commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Pan American Union. Four of these countries did this with a single stamp. Argentina's stamp shows a map of the western hemisphere, while the colorful issue from Bolivia shows the flags of the 21 members. Brazil shows a map of the western hemisphere flanked by Presidents Roosevelt and Vargas. The stamp from the United States shows *The Three Graces* from the painting *Spring* by Botticelli.





The Dominican Republic issued five stamps, all of the same design but with different background colors. The design shows the flags of the Pan American nations in a circle around a map of the western hemisphere. Guatemala chose to overprint two earlier stamps, one showing a statue of Columbus and the other a 1927 postal tax issue.



One day later, on April 15, 1940, Panama issued a single stamp to honor the

anniversary. It shows a display of the flags of the members. In August of that year the stamp was surcharged to change its value. On April 30, 1940, Cuba commemorated the anniversary with a stamp featuring Gonzalo De Quesada. The stamp also shows an arrangement of the flags of the Union members.



Paraguay's contribution to this group of issues was an eight stamp set released on May 13, 1940. The stamps, four regular issues and four air mail issues, share a common design showing the western hemisphere on a globe. On May 22, 1940, El Salvador commemorated the anniversary with two bi-colored stamps showing the same design. It features an allegorical figure of Peace and an airplane on each side of a globe showing the western hemisphere.





Venezuela celebrated the Union's anniversary with a single stamp issued on June 13, 1940. According to Scott, the stamp, which shows a number of men in a meeting, depicts *The Founding of the Grand Colombia*. Ecuador released eight stamps in two designs on July 9, 1940. The regular issues depict the flags of the member nations, while the air mail issues show two allegorical figures holding an airplane above a globe showing the western hemisphere.



On August 2, 1940, Nicaragua issued a single large stamp showing the Statue of Liberty above the flags of the involved nations. The stamp was overprinted in 1961 for a Central American Philatelic Convention in San Salvador. The final stamp to commemorate the 50th

anniversary of the Pan American Union was issued by Chile on September 11, 1950. It shows a globe depicting the western hemisphere.



Six nations chose not to honor the anniversary. These are Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.

In summary, it can be seen that 15 nations issued stamps to honor the 50th anniversary of the Pan American Union. Several of these issues were released on the same date. No two nations have identical stamps, but many of the issues have similar design features of flags and maps.

Editor's note: This issue is not listed in the catalogue but if the Pan American Union requested it from its members, then it should be listed as a parallel issue (P2).

My Quarterly Market

Richard Zimmermann

These pages will provide information on some often surprising discoveries made during the past months while looking for items at some dealer's shops, at auctions or on the web. If you think you have also discovered some special or unusual item that could interest our readers, don't hesitate to write your own "My Quarterly Market" page or at least to provide me with the picture(s) and the story of your item(s).

This month I didn't want to speak about recently bought material, but just to show you what kind of nice material you can discover in your own mailbox. Actually, the recent trial of having our journal sent from Iran and the excellent idea of Hamid Ebrahimi to affix nice stamps from his

country and even some joint issues on the cover prompted me to look again in a box in which I am collecting all envelopes I have received in the past and that were so nice that it made no sense to remove the stamps from the paper. During exchanges of information and stamps with our friends and members from Pakistan, Mohamed Akram Naeem, Ehsan Mahmood and Abdul Latif Rashad, I always had the nice surprise to see beautiful stamps on their covers. Of course each time it was possible for me, I also answered with nice French stamps. It happened only once that such a cover arrived to my home delayed, damaged and emptied of its contents. Nice covers unfortunately don't resist in some hands.



Recent issues

Azores-Madeira-Portugal

The centenary of scouting is the Europa theme for 2007. For this occasion, Portugal and its territories of Madeira and the Azores have released a territorial parallel issue [PD].

Scouting was introduced in Portugal in 1911. The Scouting Federation of Portugal (*Federação Escotista de Portugal*) was founded in 1928 and regroups two associations: Scout Association of Portugal (*Associação dos Escoteiros de Portugal* = *AEP*) established in 1913 and the National Corps of Scouts (*Corpo Nacional de Escutas* = *CNE*) founded in 1923 by the Archbishop of Braga as a catholic group. About 90% of Portuguese scouts are members of the CNE.



Title: **Europa, 100 years of scouting**
 Date of issue: 9 May 2007
 Denomination: 9 x 0.61 EUR
 Layout: Pane of 8, souvenir sheet of 2
 Designer: Sofia Martins
 Printer: Cartor
 Process: Lithography
 Perforation: 12.5 (Madeira)
 13 x 13.75 (Azores, Portugal)





All the Portuguese stamps feature the spelling *Escutismo* used by the CNE and not *Escotismo* used by the AEP.

There is one official mixed document featuring all three single stamps first day cancelled as well as the three souvenir sheets.

Armenia-France

Postponed twice, this twin issue [T1] publicized the Year of Armenia in France (September 21, 2006 to July 14, 2007). The stamps depict two Christian artworks.



The first one is a famous medieval sculpture: the *Ange au sourire* (Smiling Angel). It graces the North portal of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Reims, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1991. Sculpted in the 13th

century, the angel was decapitated during the German bombing of Reims on September 18, 1914. Restoration was completed on February 13, 1926.



The second artwork is an Armenian miniature, by the artist Minas (15th century), representing a Nativity scene. It is part of the ancient manuscripts collection of the Mashtots Matenadaran in Yerevan. This collection has been part of the UNESCO Memory of World register since 1997.

Title:	Year of Armenia in France
Date of issue:	22 May 2007
Denomination:	70, 350 AMD (Armenia) 0.54, 0.84 EUR (France)
Layout:	2 panes of 48
Designer:	Aurélie Baras (France)
Printer:	Philaposte
Perforation:	13
Process:	Lithography (Armenia) Photogravure (France)
Quantity:	200,000 stamps (Armenia)



Both first day cancellations feature the slogan of the Year of Armenia in France: *Arménie mon amie* (Armenia my friend).

The only known dual official document is the French *document philatélique officiel*. Anthony Raynaud was able to produce unofficial dual first day covers by using the Armenian first day cover.

Ascension-Falkland

The 25th anniversary of the Falkland War (2 April – 14 June 1982) was the occasion of a parallel issue [P1] between the two British territories of Ascension and Falkland.

Both overlapping souvenir sheets depict the Black Buck raids performed by the Avro Vulcan bombers of the Royal Air Force. The nearest British base was on Ascension Island (circa 5600 km from the Falkland Islands). To allow a single Vulcan bomber to reach its target, a fleet of 14 Victor tankers were necessary. The first Black Buck raid was carried out successfully on April 30-May 1, 1982.



The Ascension souvenir sheet depicts a Handley Page Victor tanker. The four stamps show the Victor tanker, the Vickers VC10 transport, the Nimrod MR2 for maritime reconnaissance and the Vulcan bomber XM607 used in the first Black Buck raid. The Falkland souvenir sheet depicts the Vulcan bomber. The four stamps show four Vulcan bombers: XM607 (first Black Buck raid), XM597 (last Black Buck raid), VX770 (prototype) and XH558 currently being restored to flying status.

Title:	Falkland War, 25th anniversary
Date of issue:	25 May 2007
Denomination:	2.50 GBP (Ascension) 2.50 FKP (Falkland)
Layout:	Souvenir of 4 Pane of 10 (Ascension)
Designer:	Andrew Robinson
Illustrator:	John Batchelor
Printer:	Cartor
Process:	Lithography
Perforation:	13



In addition, the Ascension Post also issued a second souvenir sheet to mark the anniversary of the war. It features HMS Hermes approaching Ascension. The four stamps depict: HMS Tidespring re-fuelling HMS Antrim, HMS Dumbarton Castle, HMS Fearless and the Atlantic Conveyor.

Finally, four of the Ascension stamps, two from the Air souvenir sheet (0.35 and 1.25 GBP) and two from the Sea souvenir sheet (0.40 and 0.50 GBP), were also available in panes of 10.

No official dual document is known.

China-Hong Kong

A Siamese issue [SD] was released by China Post and Hong Kong Post to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China. This issue caused some confusion amongst philatelists since it was not listed in the Hong Kong Post 2007 stamp program.



China Post issued three stamps, only one was identical to the Hong Kong stamp (festivity). The other two represent prosperity (1.50 CNY) and cooperation (1.20 CNY). The two identical stamps represent a massive sculpture offered by China to commemorate the reunification of 1997. Entitled *Forever blooming Bauhinia*, the sculpture is depicted in front of the national and regional flag with doves flying around. The bauhinia is the emblematic flower of Hong Kong, also featured on the regional flag. The 6-meter high sculpture is located next to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center (Wan Chai district) where the handover took place in 1997.

Title: **10th anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China**
 Date of issue: 1 July 2007
 Denomination: 2 x 1.20, 1.50 CNY (China)
 1.40 HKD (Hong Kong)
 Layout: Pane of 12, souvenir sheet of 4 (China)
 Pane of 10 (Hong Kong)
 Designer: Feng Xiaohong
 Printer: Beijing Postage Stamp Printing Works
 Perforation: 13 x 12.5
 Process: Photogravure

Both postal administrations produced dual first day covers for the two identical stamps.



At press time, all Hong Kong Post's philatelic products for this issue were sold out.

Brazil-Uruguay

The birth bicentennial of Italian hero Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) was the subject of a twin issue [T1] between Brazil and Uruguay. Oddly, Italy did not participate.

For Italians, Garibaldi is the hero of the reunification of Italy. But his deeds are also celebrated in Brazil and Uruguay where he spent part of his exile from Italy (1835-1848). This is why he is often referred to as the "Hero of Two Worlds".

In Brazil, Garibaldi took part in the War of the Tatters (1835-1845) which was mostly fought in the provinces of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. The stamp designed by Brazilian Márcia Mattos depicts Garibaldi on horseback with the green, red and yellow flag of the short-lived Piratini Republic. At right, is the *Seiva*, one of the two ships built and used during the battle of Laguna, in Santa Catarina. The stamp also features the symbol of freemasonry (square and compasses) as Garibaldi was a member.

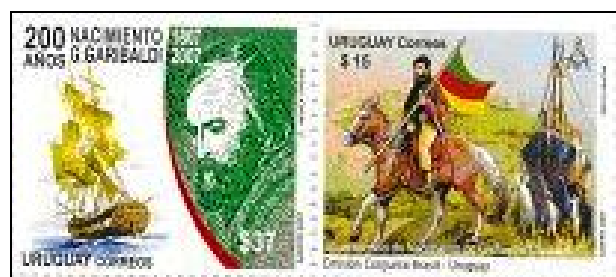


In 1839, Garibaldi moved to Uruguay. During the Civil War (1839-1852), he organized the famed Italian Legion. He earned two victories in 1846 (Cerro and San Antonio del Santo) by adopting guerrilla tactics. The Uruguayan stamp shows a portrait of Garibaldi in green, red and white: the colors of the Italian flag.

To the left, a 19th century frigate recalls that Garibaldi was commander of the Uruguayan navy.



Title:	Giuseppe Garibaldi
Date of issue:	4 July 2007
Denomination:	2 x 1.40 BRR (Brazil) 15 and 37 UYU (Uruguay)
Layout:	Pane of 30 (Brazil) Pane of 28 (Uruguay)
Designer:	Márcia Mattos and C. Menck Freire
Printer:	Casa da Moeda do Brasil (Brazil)
Perforation:	11.5 x 12 (Brazil) 13 (Liechtenstein)
Process:	Lithography (Brazil)
Quantity:	600,000 stamps (Brazil) 30,016 stamps (Uruguay)



No official dual documents are known.

Germany-Latvia

Once again, the UNESCO's World Heritage List provides the subject matter for another joint issue. This time, the historic centres of the Hanseatic cities of Stralsund, Wismar and Riga are depicted on a twin issue [T1] between Germany and Latvia.



Stralsund and Wismar are part of the German state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania on the Baltic Sea (roughly 150 km apart from each other). Stralsund is represented by its City Hall dating back to the 14th century (at left on the stamp). The design is completed by St. George's Church in Wismar (at right). The church was damaged during World War II and reconstruction began in 1990. Seals of both cities are also depicted.

The historic center of Riga is represented by a single building: the House of Blackheads. The Blackheads was a wealthy brotherhood of unmarried merchants. Saint Maurice, often depicted as a black moor, was the patron saint of the brotherhood, hence the name Blackheads. The building, first mentioned in 1334, was destroyed during World War II. The remains were blown up by the Soviets in 1948. The reconstruction took place between 1995 and 2000. The brotherhood of Blackheads lasted in Riga until 1939.

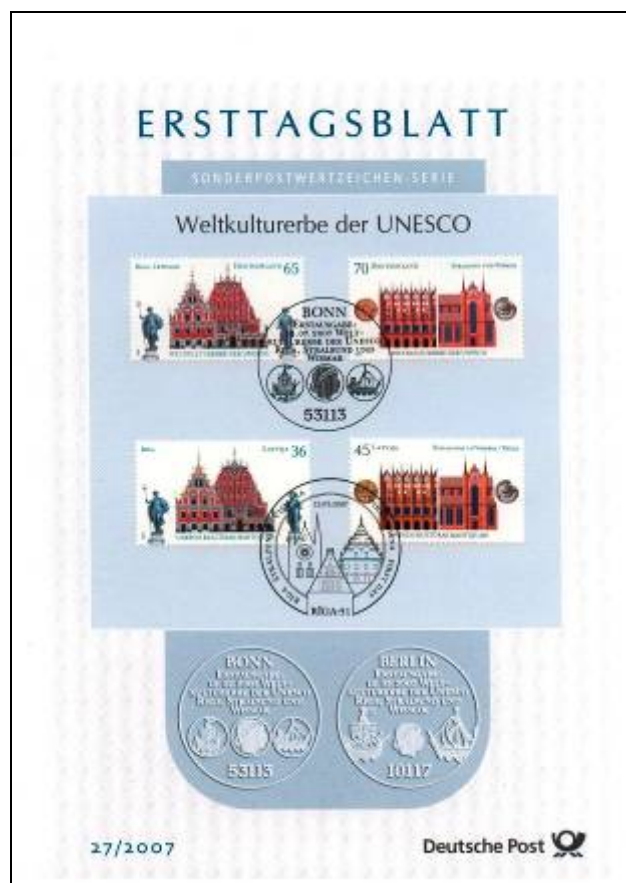


The historic centres of Stralsund and Wismar were inscribed together on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2002. The historic centre of Riga was inscribed in 1997.

Title:	World Heritage: Riga, Stralsund and Wismar
Date of issue:	12 July 2007
Denomination:	0.65, 0.70 EUR (Germany) 0.36, 0.45 XXX (Latvia)
Layout:	Pane of 10
Designer:	Sibylle Haase and Fritz Haase
Printer:	Giesecke & Devrient (Germany) Österreichische Staatsdruckerei (Latvia)
Process:	Lithography (Germany)
Quantity:	800,000 stamps (Latvia)

This is the second time in two years that Germany is celebrating the Hanseatic League with a joint issue. In 2006, it was with Sweden.

The only official dual document available is the German ETB (*Ersttagsblatt*).



France (*Cour des comptes*)

On July 20, La Poste (France) issued a new version of the stamp commemorating the 200th anniversary of the *Cour des comptes* (French Court of Auditors).

Title: **Cour des comptes**
 Date of issue: 20 July 2007
 Denomination: 0.54 EUR
 Layout: Pane of 30
 Designer: André Lavergne
 Engraver: André Lavergne
 Printer: Phil@poste
 Process: Steel engraving

The self-adhesive stamp is identical to the one produced for the Court last March 17, except for the tab which has been removed. Unfortunately, philatelists can only buy this new version in panes of 30 from La Poste.

Omnibus issues

The diamond wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II was the subject of a parallel omnibus issue [PO] involving 8 postal administrations: **Bahamas, BIOT, Cayman, Kiribati, Nauru, Saint Helena and Solomon, Tristan da Cunha.**



Title: **Diamond wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip**
 Date of issue: 31 January 2007 (Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon)
 26 April 2007 (Saint Helena)
 1 June 2007 (Bahamas, BIOT, Tristan da Cunha)
 12 September (Cayman)
 Denomination: various
 Layout: Pane of 6, souvenir sheet of 1
 Designer: CASB Studio
 Photographer: Illustrated London News and Camera Press
 Printer: BDT International Security Printing
 Perforation: 14
 Process: Lithography

On November 20, 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten in Westminster Abbey. Both spouses are great-great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria. Before the wedding, the future prince had to renounce his claim to the Greek throne, convert to Anglicanism and become a naturalized British subject. It's on this occasion that he took the name Mountbatten.



The centenary of the scouting movement and the 150th anniversary of Lord Baden-Powell was also the occasion of a parallel omnibus issue [PO]. It involves 8 postal administrations: **Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman, Fiji, Jamaica, Saint Helena, Saint Lucia and Tristan da Cunha.**

All souvenir sheets have an identical background and the right stamp of every souvenir sheet depicts Lord Baden-Powell. The other stamps show scouts or scouting activities in the respective countries or territories.

Title: **Centenary of Scouting**
 Date of issue: 9 July 2007 (Bahamas, Cayman, Fiji, Jamaica, Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha)
 20 August 2007 (Saint Lucia)
 23 August 2007 (Bermuda)
 Denomination: various

Layout: Pane of 50, souvenir sheet of 2 (Bermuda)
 Pane of 20, souvenir sheet of 2 (others)
 Designer: Andrew Robinson
 Photographer: various
 Printer: BDT International Security Printing
 Perforation: 14
 Process: Lithography



Upcoming issues

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

The next trimester (August-October) will be full of new joint issues on a scale rarely seen before.

Reports are coming in regarding an **Iran-Morocco** joint issue on August 6. Subjects are apparently historic castles (Falak-ol-Aflak for Iran). There is no confirmation yet from Morocco and no stamps have been seen so far.



The joint issue (**Brunei-Cambodia-Indonesia-Laos-Malaysia-Myanmar-Philippines-Singapore-Thailand-Viet Nam**) marking the 40th anniversary of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) will be released on August 8. This massive twin issue features 10 stamps

from each postal administration, although the participation of Myanmar is still unsure. It may be delayed until later this fall or simply abandoned due to a lack of adequate printing facilities in the country.

San Marino Post has confirmed August 24 as the date of issue of the **San Marino-Slovakia** joint issue entitled Rocks of Liberty.



A preliminary image of the **Belarus-Lithuania** joint issue (August 25) was released by Lithuania Post. The subject is the nature of the sanctuaries of Čepkeliai and Kotra.



Ukraine Post stated that the **Moldova-Ukraine** joint issue (preservation of the Dniester's fauna) will be released in September. The Dniester River partially marks the frontier between the two countries.



Humanitarian mail is the subject of the upcoming joint issue (September 6) between the **United Nations** (New York, Geneva and Vienna) and **Switzerland** (Universal Postal Union). A special dual first day silk cover, featuring the four stamps, will be available from both postal administrations.



A preliminary image of the Austrian stamp, which is part of the Austria-Serbia joint issue (September 7) has been released. The subject is the Sea eagle.



The **Greece-Ireland** joint issue, scheduled for September 12, is no longer considered as such by An Post. The subject is the 150th anniversary of archaeological discoveries under the San Clemente Basilica in Rome.

Mr. Kridtanabowon Chanthawet kindly informed us that Thailand Post will take part in a **Japan-Thailand** joint issue in October to mark 120 years of diplomatic relations. This has not yet been confirmed by Japan Post.

The **Iran-Portugal** joint issue, initially scheduled for October 16, is now postponed to a later date.

An **Armenia-Greece** joint issue is listed in the 2007 Greek stamp program.

Iran Post is planning two more joint issues in 2007: **Iran-Iraq** (postponed from 2006) and **Iran-Pakistan**.

2008

The preliminary 2008 Spanish stamp program includes an **Ireland-Spain** joint issue. There will be a **Romania-Russia** joint issue on May 19 according to the 2008 Russian stamp program. Recent reports from Iran mentioned planned joint issues: **Cuba-Iran** and **Hungary-Iran**. The website www.romaniastamps.com is listing two planned joint issues: **Kuwait-Romania** and **Portugal-Romania**.



ARTICLES WANTED