

Foreword

Dear friends of Thematic Philately. After a long silence (again!) *TCNews* has finally arrived! There's no excuse for the delay. The idea is to publish *TCNews* whenever enough articles have been gathered for it. Unfortunately there has not been many ready-to-be-published articles recently. But fortunately there has been many *ideas* about future articles, including about the usage of certain types of philatelic material in thematic exhibits. Few of those ideas are ever realized as articles, but let's not forget those good ideas.

In this number Dr. Joachim Maas introduces the brilliant concept and development of his exhibit about mathematics. It is a good example of a theme allowing the widest range of philatelic material to be displayed in clever and often surprising ways.

I have made a comprehensive study of the abusive and undesirable stamps issued during the last three decades. This study was inspired by the latest update to the guidelines for judging exhibits of Thematic Philately, which discourage displaying illegal, abusive and undesirable stamps in thematic exhibits. Private stamp agencies play significant roles in preparing new issues on behalf of many postal administrations. While it is impossible to list all the abusive or undesirable issues, it is good to be able to recognize those countries and time periods when such issues have been abundant. I welcome all observations from readers of *TCNews* regarding the abusive and undesirable issues. Due time this article will be followed by another one dealing with illegal issues.

Speaking of the new guidelines, they were published already in the latest *TCNews*letter (available from the TC website), so they are not repeated here.

Finally, please send articles to be published in *TCNews*, you can find instructions on submitting new articles on page 84.

Jari Majander, AIJP



Francisco 'Paco' Piniella, the champion of the ECTP 2019 in Verona on 22–24 November 2019. His exhibit *La conquista del horizonte* received the highest score (96p) and was voted the best exhibit of the show by the jurors. PHOTO: JOSÉ RAMÓN MORENO.

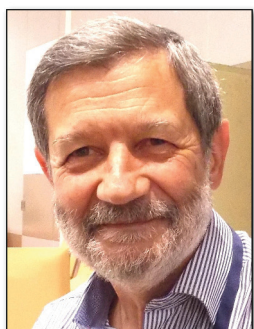
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What TC is about, its goals and main activities

The duties of FIP Thematic Commission (TC) are:

- To develop and promote general interest in Thematic Philately.
- To establish rules and procedures for Thematic Philately.
- To prepare brochures to explain Thematic Philately.
- To translate everything in the official FIP languages.
- To publish TC's news in FLASH and the FIP website.
- To co-operate with other philatelic organisations subject to the approval of the FIP Board.

The duties can be summarized in the following five basic activities of TC:

- Information:** To publish *TCNewsletter*, *TCNews* and TC Website.
- Education:** To stage FIP Thematic Seminars and Workshops and make available the presentations.
- Regulations:** To be responsible for the content of the Thematic Philately Guidelines and propose modifications of the Thematic SREV to the FIP Board and FIP Congress.
- Organisation:** To update the Delegates' contact information, the List of Thematic Jurors and results of FIP and continental exhibitions.
- Contacts:** To keep in touch with the FIP Board, the FIP member delegates and national societies of thematic philately worldwide.

Thematic and philatelic challenges

Mathematics, a science between theory and application

Mathematics is the science that deals with the logic of quantity, shape and arrangement. Illustrating abstract mathematical principles using the widest possible range of philatelic material is challenging. The following article is based on my presentation given at STOCKHOLMIA 2019, where my exhibit was shown in the competitive class and was awarded “Best in class thematic philately”.



TEXT & IMAGES DR. JOACHIM MAAS

My exhibit demonstrates how both pure and applied mathematics have supported man's social, cultural and technical evolution from the era of early civilizations up to today. During its long development, progress has resulted both from theoretic consideration and from impetus of applications. As indicated by the **subtitle** “A science between theory and application”, these two sources of progress define the **concept** of the exhibit reflected in the main structure of the **plan**:

MATHEMATICS, a science between theory and application

1. Early geometry and arithmetic support cultural evolution
2. First height is followed by a period of stagnation
3. Various fields of applications are driving forces in the 15th and 16th century
4. In the 17th and early 18th century mathematics advances with the scientific revolution
5. Since about 1740 pure mathematics has developed to a science of abstract structures ...
6. ... whereas applied mathematics has become an essential tool in a great variety of fields

The chapters either demonstrate the interaction between theory and applications (chapters 1–4), or a chapter focussing on theory (chapter 5) is contrasted by a chapter with focus on applications (chapter 6). Generally, the plan is based on a historical line instead of being organized according to the various branches of mathematics (geometry, arithmetic, algebra, analysis, ...). A concept mainly organized due to the various branches would have resulted in the disadvantage of frequent repetitions, as each chapter would start with early civilizations and end with contemporary mathematics.

The main theme of my exhibit of course is science. As mathematics has supported the social and cultural evolution of mankind, too, the exhibit also focuses on cultural aspects. Thus, my exhibit is about **science and cultural history**.

Like every exhibit of thematic philately, my exhibit has to manage the general challenges of thematic philately: story concept, surprising items, widest possible range of philatelic material, rare items. Additionally, the theme “Mathematics” causes a further challenge of the development of the theme: the **illustration of abstract mathematical principles** by items that are philatelically important as much as possible. It is the aim of this article to demonstrate examples managing this challenge.

Before man studied geometric objects rigorously, he used geometric shapes and principles naturally (chapter 1.1). One of the most natural geometric principles is that of symmetry, applied by nearly all early civilizations, especially to their monumental statues; statue of a goddess of the Mexican Teotihuacan culture:

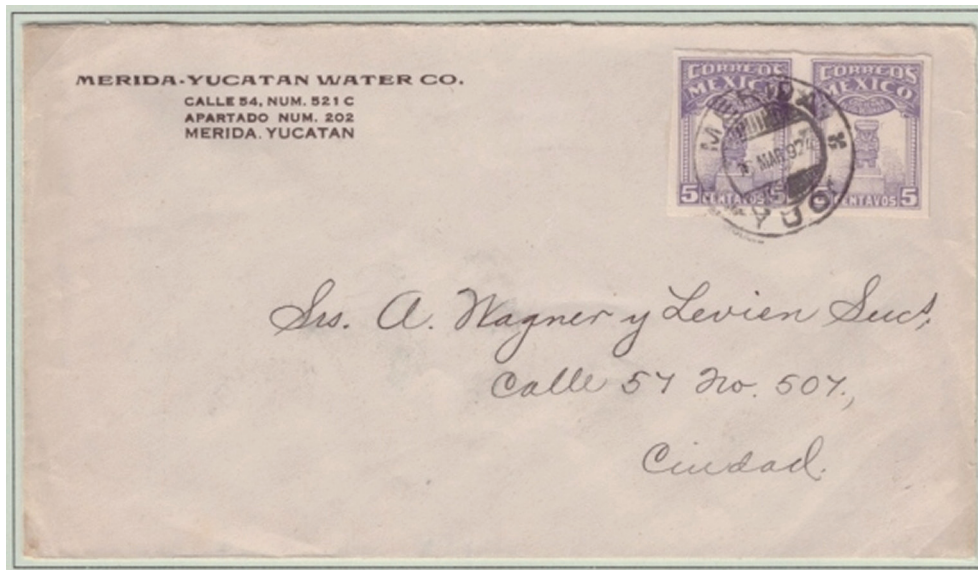
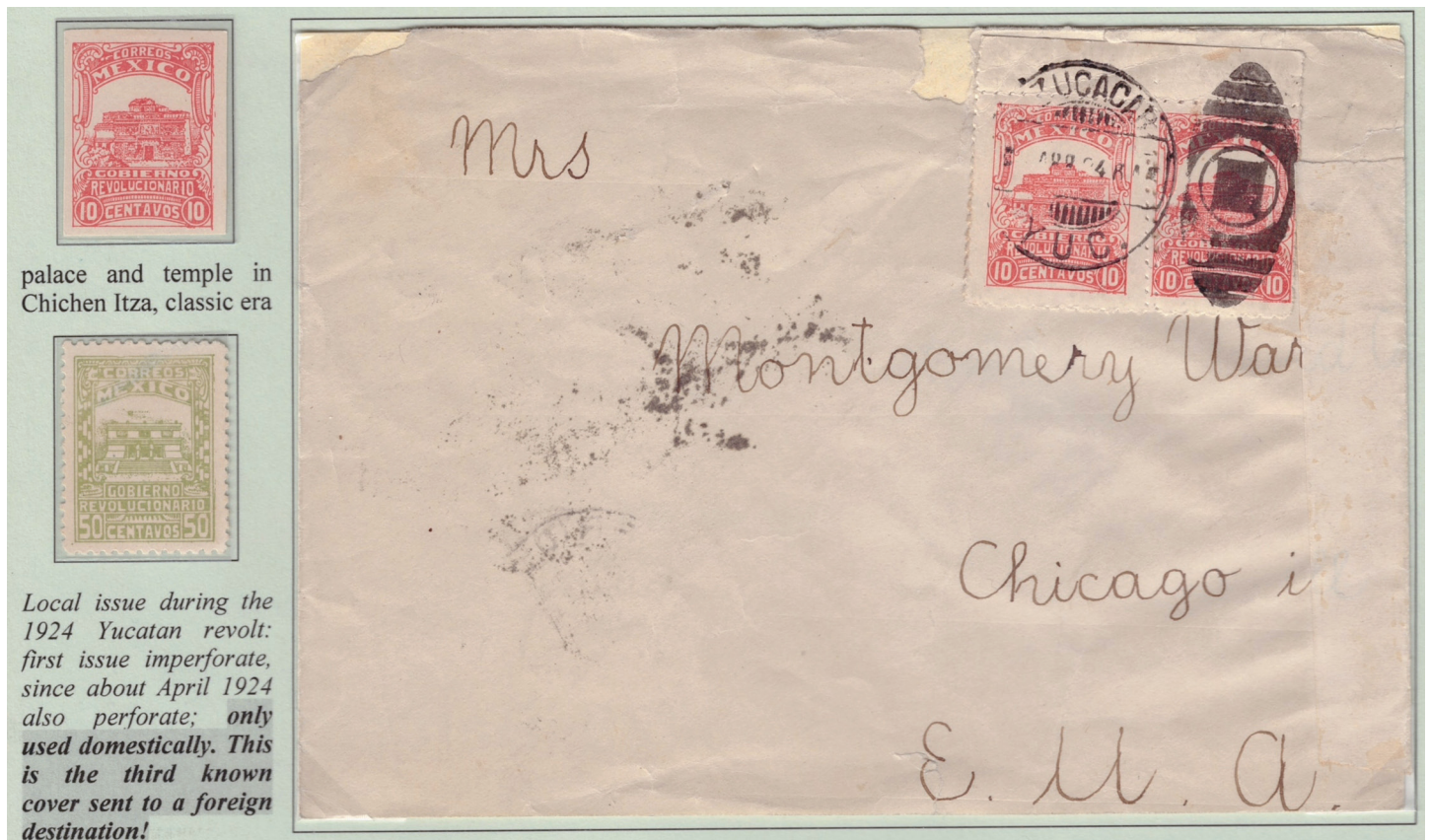


Figure 1. Local issue during the 1924 Yucatan revolt, franking with a pair of the 5c stamp, local usage.

During evolution man attained and applied basic geometric knowledge (chapter 1.2). Architecture of early civilizations was strongly influenced by geometric principles, e.g. the pre-Columbian Mayan architecture, which was dominated by horizontal and vertical lines, bilateral symmetry and aesthetical proportions like the golden ratio:



palace and temple in Chichen Itza, classic era

Local issue during the 1924 Yucatan revolt: first issue imperforate, since about April 1924 also perforate; **only used domestically. This is the third known cover sent to a foreign destination!**

Figure 2.

The ancient Egyptian and Babylonian civilizations were the first to attain basic geometric knowledge. The Egyptian knowledge resulted from practical needs like building and land surveying. Problems were solved following an algorithm without analyzing why the given solution worked. The two covers show US fancy cancellations (both depicting a Babylonian diagram with a „proof“ of the Pythagorean theorem) from the classical period (c. 1860) and the period starting about 1928, when normal date-stamps were not allowed to be used on the front of registered covers:

Egyptian surveyors ("harpenodapts") and **builders** used ropes with segments of the length 3, 4 and 5 in order to construct right angles, a basic application of the later **Pythagorean theorem**. The Babylonian geometers applied it as a rule and even knew some Pythagorean triples. Neither Egyptians nor Babylonians saw the necessity for general a proof.



A Babylonian clay tablet demonstrates the calculation of the length of one side (3) of a rectangle when the lengths of the diagonal (5) and the other side (4) are given - an application of Pythagoras' theorem: *Swiss perfin*

Another Babylonian clay tablet about 1800 BC shows a diagram with a „proof“ of the Pythagorean theorem in the special case of an isosceles triangle. *Fancy cancel New York c 1860* similar to this diagram.



Fancy cancel used 1928 in Fort Lauderdale on a registered cover with requested receipt. At that time normal datestamps were not allowed to be used on the front of registered covers.

Figure 3.

There are no stamps or cancellations depicting “mathematicians” of the ancient Babylonian or Egyptian civilizations. The only personage shown on a stamp is the Egyptian architect Imhotep, who should therefore be highlighted. This is managed by a unique hand-drawn essay:

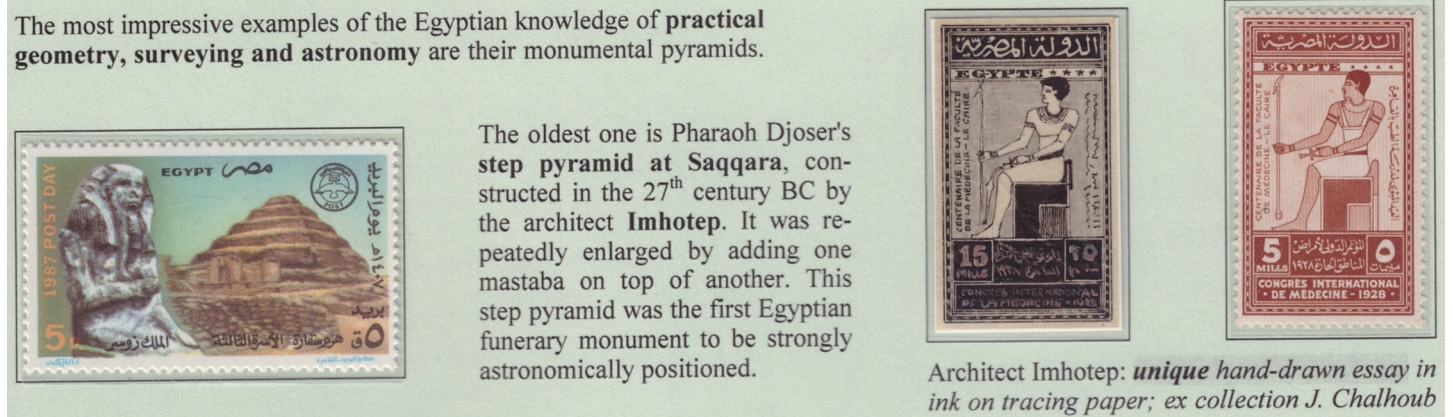


Figure 4.

Man's earliest mathematical activity besides his use of basic geometric shapes and principles was counting, finally resulting in an understanding of the concept of numbers (chapter 1.3). The earliest method of representing numbers was tallying. Since it is difficult to grasp many symbols at a glance without counting, ancient civilizations arranged unit symbols in groups or created new symbols signifying 5, 10, etc., enabling additive numeral systems. The Roman additive system can e.g. be demonstrated by taxations with „V“ and „X“ on early letters. Instead of using two items (one with „V“, one with „X“) or one item with a higher postage of e.g. „XV“, it is philatelically more interesting to choose one item with postage XI correcting VI:



Figure 5. Unpaid letter from Rotterdam to Brussels, 1701; postage corrected from 6 stuiver to 11 stuiver.

One of the most important achievements of human mind was the creation of positional numeral systems, independently developed by the Babylonian, Chinese, Mayan and Indian civilizations. Philatelically, the Babylonian positional system with their base 60 can only be shown indirectly, using the fact that their sexagesimal system is still used today in order to measure time and angles:

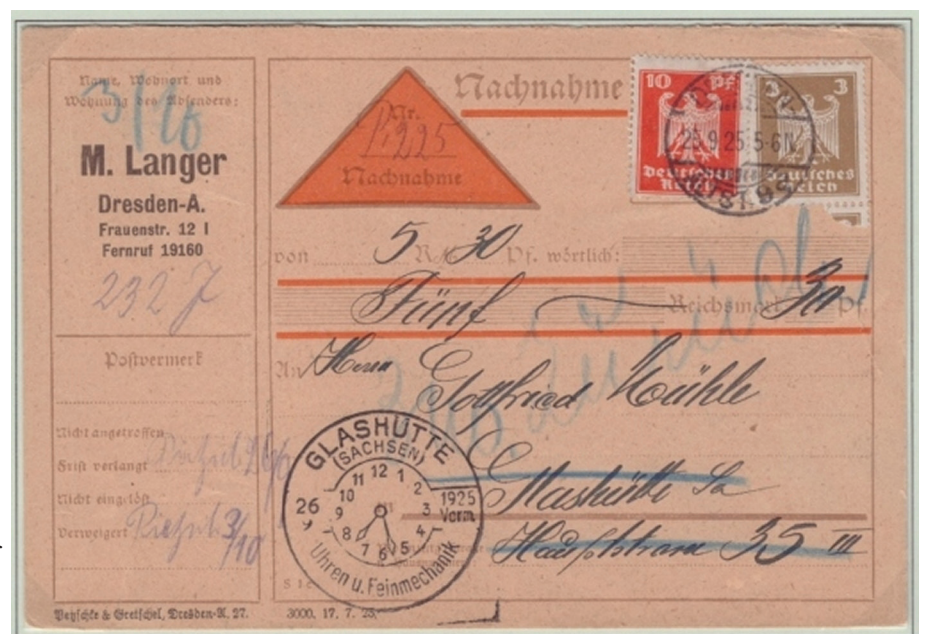


Figure 6. Unusual franking of 13 Pf: local postcard 3 Pf, cash on delivery charge 10 Pf.

The comprehension of the phenomenon of time finally resulted in intelligent calendar systems (chapter 1.4). One of the oldest calendar systems, the ancient Egyptian calendar, was based on the heliacal rising of Sothis and the inundation of the fields by the Nile. Moon god Toth, god of science, writing and calculating, was also god of measuring time, and thus god of the calendar, emphasizing its importance. The artist's sketch for the Egyptian issue of 1925 is extremely unusual, as there is a sketch on the reverse as well:



Figure 7.

Exact fundamentals of mathematics were only developed when Greek scholars introduced deductive reasoning (chapter 2.1). It is a great challenge to demonstrate proofs of mathematical theorems by philatelic material. Here is an example of a proof of the Pythagorean Theorem by rearrangement using a Columbian stamp of 1869 shaped like a non-isosceles triangle:

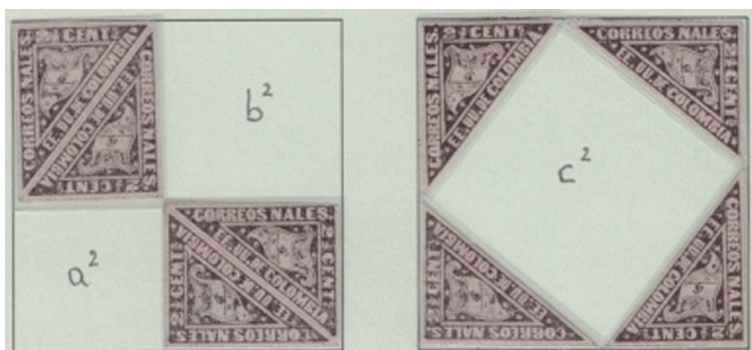


Figure 8. The area of the large square less the areas of the four triangles equals the areas both of the square of the hypotenuse and of the sum of the squares of the two catheti.

Pythagoras and his followers, the Pythagoreans, classified natural numbers, and introduced “perfect numbers” as well as „figurate numbers“, a method of representing numbers geometrically. A number creating Pythagoreans’ special interest is number 6. It is both a triangular number ($6 = 1 + 2 + 3$) and one of the rare perfect numbers, as it is equal to the sum of its divisors 1, 2, 3 excluding the number itself.



Figure 9. 6 Kreuzer franking, unusually consisting of 1 Kr and 3 Kr stamps and a 2 Kr stationery; fee within the German-Austrian Postal Union for distances between 10 and 20 miles.

The thematic development often includes connections to non-mathematical fields, using “surprising” items not to be expected in an exhibit about mathematics. One of the famous discoveries of the Pythagorean School was that the chief musical intervals correspond to simple mathematical ratios between lengths of strings of string instruments. Their theory of music was the first description of physical phenomena (here: acoustics) using mathematics.



Figure 10. **Greek string instrument lyre;** fancy cancellation used in Canton, Mississippi, between 1851 and 1861.

Generally, the exhibit aims at a best possible relation of the philatelic importance of the items and their thematic meaning. If possible, varieties are interpreted thematically: two US stamps with missing or shifted yellow colour together with a normal one illustrate the core of Copernicus’ heliocentric theory (chapter 3.2):

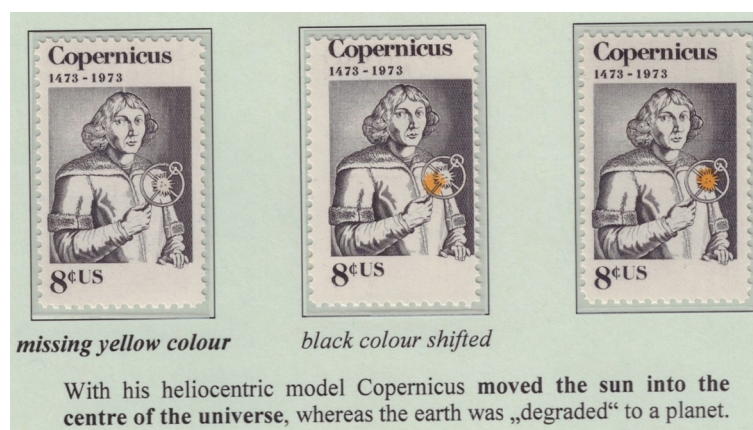


Figure 11.

An example of an interesting interpretation of material from the fields of postal history or traditional philately is the following cover. Thematically it proves the late adoption of the Gregorian calendar of 1582 in Greece not before 1923:



Figure 13. The letter paradoxically seems to have arrived earlier than it was sent: mailed unpaid at Trieste, 11th Nov 1865; arrived at Syros 6th Nov 1865 (Julian calendar) = 18th Nov 1865 (Gregorian calendar).

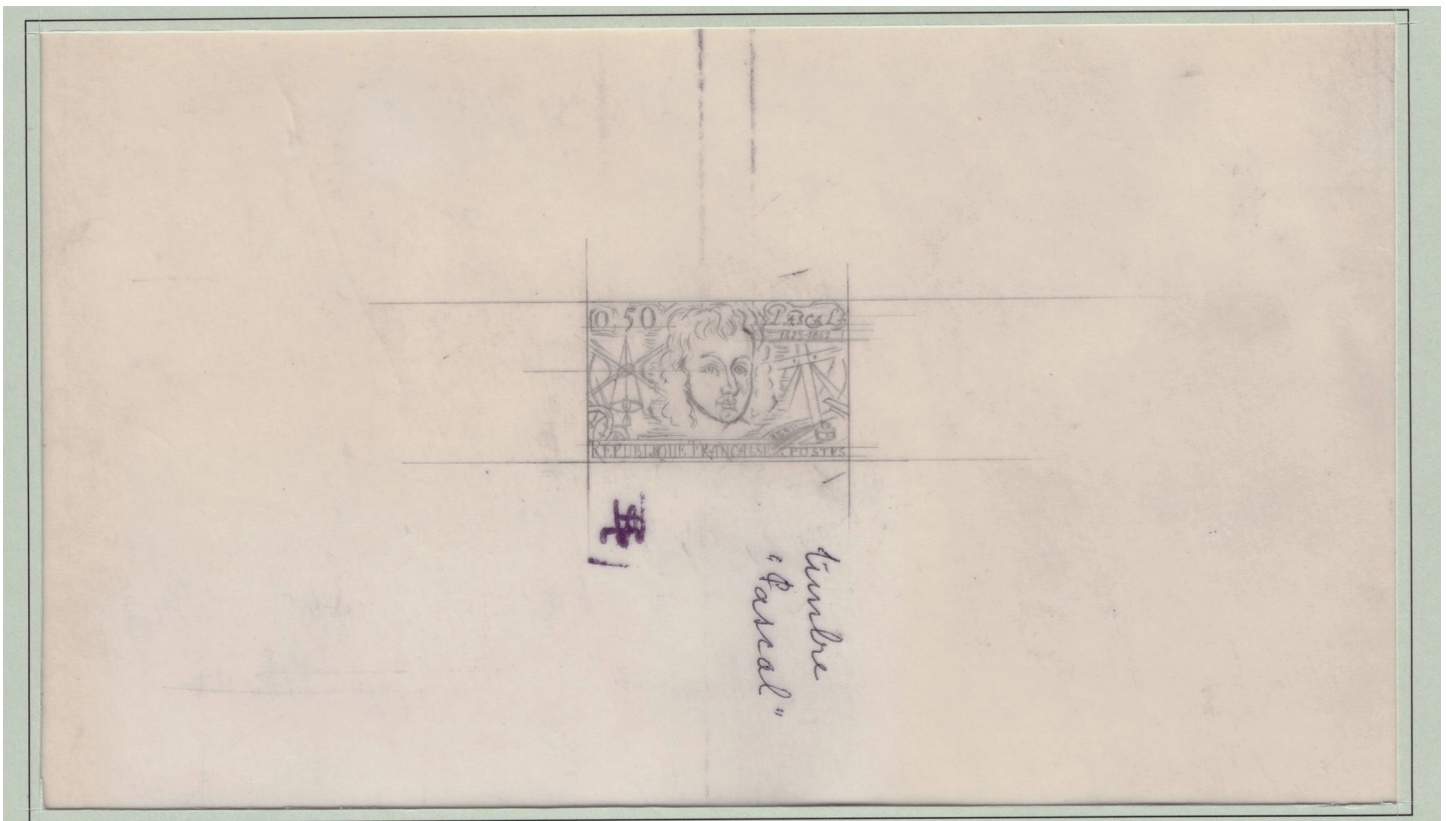
Fee: local fee Trieste	3 Kr
Austrian Lloyd	<u>15 Kr</u>
	18 Kr
	= 55 Lepta
Greek fee	<u>20 Lepta</u>
Total	75 Lepta

In the 17th (and early 18th century), when mathematics advanced with the scientific revolution, French scholars e.g. introduced new methods into geometry (chapter 4.2). In 1640, Blaise Pascal extended the theory of conics to a projective approach. Pascal's scientific researches were partly interrupted by his interests in theology and philosophy. The exhibit shows a philatelic study of the production process of the French stamp honouring the 300th anniversary of Pascal's death. The French stamp (1962) illustrates both Pascal's scientific studies (at left) and his theological work "Pensées" (at right). The study especially reflects the choice of Pascal's portrait used on the stamp. Whereas the French Post decided to use Pascal's portrait showing him as a young man, a Monaco issue uses a portrait depicting a priest.

Figure 14. Artwork by the designer Roger Schardner with Pascal's portrait finally used for the French stamp of 1962.



Figures 15 and 16. Artwork by Roger Schardner, the designer of the French stamp (1962). The proposed portrait, wrongly attributed to Pascal, depicts Louis-Isaac Lemaître de Sacy, a priest at the abbey Port Royal near Paris. This portrait was wrongly used for a Monaco issue, but finally not for the French stamp.



After having prepared several sketches using different portraits (preceding pages), designer Roger Schardner produced a **final drawing in the size of the stamp**, the base for the engraving process. The portrait used was a crayon portrait by Jean Domat (about 1649).



As a final check of the unhardened die, the French Government Printing Office produced up to five **printer's sepia inspection die proofs** on thin card.



issued stamp

Figure 17. Final drawing in the size of the stamp by Roger Schardner, Pascal's portrait by Jean Domat (about 1649). Up to five printer's sepia inspection die proofs on thin card were produced by the French Government Printers as a final check.

One of the problems strongly discussed in the 1630s was that of determining tangents to various curves, finally resulting in the infinitesimal calculus. Pioneers of this evolution were Descartes and Pascal. The exhibit shows postal elements (postmarks and registration-label) referring both to Pascal and Descartes on one item:



Figure 18.

Since about 1740 pure and applied mathematics developed differently. Classic mathematical fields ramified into new sub-branches, mainly focussing on pure mathematics (chapter 5.1). Number theory e.g. developed to an independent sub-branch, when Gauss published his "Disquisitiones arithmeticae" in 1801. It contains a proof of Fermat's polygonal number theorem for the triangular case: Every positive integer is the sum of at most three triangular numbers. Triangular numbers are equal to the sum of the first positive integers: 1, $1 + 2 = 3$, $1 + 2 + 3 = 6$, ... The letter shows the representation of 23 as the sum of triangular numbers (here $1 + 1 + 3 + 6 + 6 + 6$). Representations with only 3 summands would be $21 + 1 + 1$, or $10 + 10 + 3$.



Figure 19.

Important topics of number theory are prime numbers. A still unproved conjecture is the existence of infinitely many prime twins (two successive odd numbers which are both prime). Prime twins could philatelically be illustrated by two number cancellations or by two stamps, but it is a great challenge to illustrate them on one item! This can be managed e.g. by using parcel cards with three parcel labels, the first and the third representing the prime twins. The “disturbing” even number between them can also be interpreted mathematically; except for the pair 3, 5, even numbers centred between prim twins are necessarily divisible by 6.



Figure 20. Parcel numbers 827 and 829 (prime twin) with the centred number 828 = 6 x 138; parcel card used for three parcels sent to a foreign destination, 1897.

In the 19th and 20th century pure mathematics especially aimed at exact fundamentals for every mathematical field (chapter 5.2). As for the set of natural numbers, an axiomatic foundation was given by Peano in 1889. His concept formalizes the process of counting (Mexican stamp). Starting with the unit (registration labels “number one”), the next numbers are generated by adding the unit gradually. A letter accompanying 40 parcels is extremely unusual!

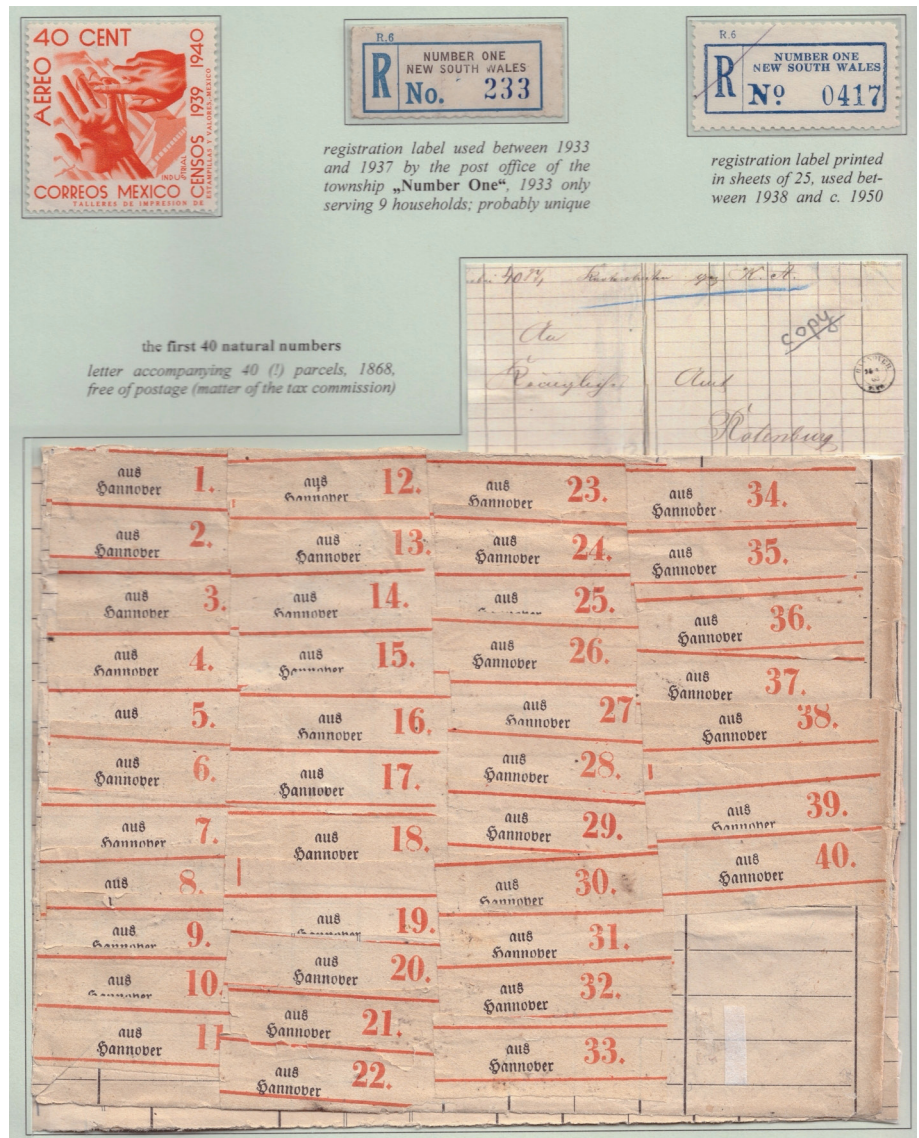


Figure 21.

Within the set of integers (natural numbers and negative integers) divisions are restricted, e.g. $3 : 4$ is not an integer. So, the set of integers is extended to the set \mathbb{Q} of rational numbers, including all ratios of integers. The sum of rational numbers is always a rational number, i.e. $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ satisfies the important algebraic axiom of closure:

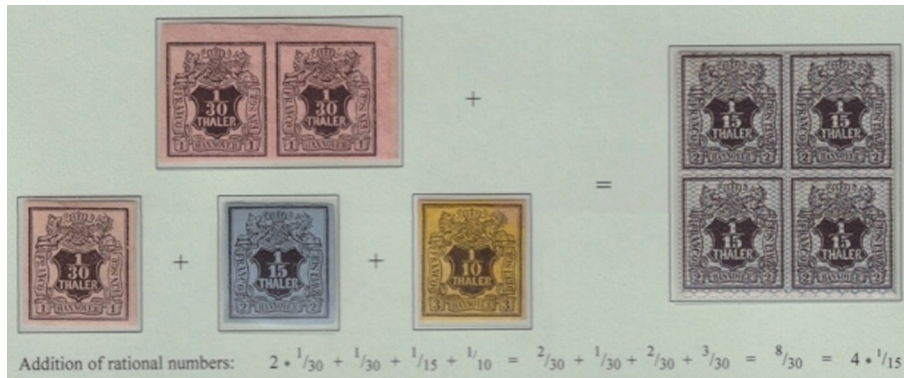


Figure 22.

During the 18th century pure mathematics tended to an increase of generalization and abstraction (chapter 5.3); abstract algebraic structures especially became central topics of algebra. It is very difficult to illustrate this concept by philatelic items. Here it is managed by a postal history item, which does not only thematically reflect the commutative law of addition, but which also demonstrates an important postal historical step of simplifying and reducing the fee for cross border letters, here sent between Austria and Bavaria:



Figure 23.

In 1921 **David Hilbert** (1862-1943) called for a formalization of mathematics in axiomatic form. Set theory and axiomatic formalism were important themes of the **International Congress of Mathematicians in Bologna, 1928**, with addresses by **Lusin** and Hilbert ("Problems of the grounding of mathematics").



N. N. Lusin (1883 - 1950)



Figure 24.

As the exhibit also focuses on cultural aspects, the scientific development of mathematics is embedded into general historical connections. The reform of the units of measurement, 1790, aiming at logically structured measures (chapter 6.1), was a result of the political changes of the French Revolution. In 1790 the French Constituent Assembly set up a committee under the auspices of the French Academy of Sciences in order to unify the arbitrary variety of units of measurement. The committee recommended weights and measures to be based on a decimal system. The cancellation of the Temporary Agency of Weights and Measures, also constituting its free frank privilege, is rare, because the agency only worked for 10 months:

The committee proposed a **quarter of the length of a meridian** as standard for length. Finally in 1795, the **metre** was defined as one ten millionth of the distance between the North Pole and the Equator through Paris.



trial colour plate proof

In the 1790s several commissions and agencies were established to implement the new decimal metric system in France and to supervise the production of new weights and rules:

letter (free of postage) of the **Temporary Agency of Weights and Measures**; the agency only worked between April 1795 and February 1796.



Figure 25.

The French scientific committee of 1790 also argued in favour of a decimalization of time. The new Republican Calendar had 12 months divided into three decades of ten days. Philatelically most important are cancellations demonstrating complementary days at the end of each year:



Figure 26.

Prior to about 1800, “mathematicians” usually researched on natural science, too, especially on problems of physics and astronomy. Even in the 19th century, the connection between mathematics and natural sciences (chapter 6.2) was still strong. Up to about 1900, no congresses with exclusively mathematical topics were held. Thus, mathematicians had to discuss their topics during general scientific meetings, e.g. in special sessions about physics and mathematics during the 8th Italian scientific congress in Genoa 1846:



Figure 27. The identical stamping ink demonstrates that the congress mark was used by the Genoa post office; so that it is a precursor of a special postmark.

One of the most current branches of applied mathematics is computer science (chapter 6.5).

A basic mathematical tool of electronic data processing is the **binary numeral system**, as it allows the representation of data and information by the digital electronic states on and off.



French franking using face values of 1, 2, 4, 8 décimes, the first powers of 2;

triple weight letter, 21 - 30 g, 1864, via Prussia to Brunswick; fee (as of 1st July 1858): 3×5 décimes = $(2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3)$ décimes.



Figure 28.

The contributions to computer science are an example, how mathematics has supported man's social evolution for millennia up to today. ■

Pictorial stationery cards of Greece 1901–1903

In the early 1900s there were both pictorial postal stationery cards and pictorial stationery cards printed to private order in use in Greece. Illustrations on the picture side look similar, but from the postal stationery point of view these stationery cards are of different type. Both types of stationery cards can be displayed in thematic exhibits.

TEXT & IMAGES JARI MAJANDER, AIJP

The first postage stamps of Greece were issued in 1861 and the first postal stationery cards in 1876. Both the first stamps and the value imprints of the first postal stationery cards depict a profile of Hermes. Hermes was a natural choice for the subject, for he acts in Greek mythology as the messenger of gods. Hermes is still a symbol of the post office in modern Greece.

The first definitive stamp issue of Greece in 1861–1886 is generally known as the “Large Hermes heads”. The next definitive stamp issue, depicting a slightly smaller profile of Hermes, called the “Small Hermes heads”, was in use until 1901, when it was replaced with stamps depicting the flying Mercury. Mercury was equivalent to Hermes in Roman mythology. In the same year, the first pictorial postal stationery cards were introduced in Greece. The value imprint of these stationery cards also depict the fly-

ing Mercury - based on a sculpture by Flemish-born Italian artist Giovanni da Bologna (1524–1608).

Pictorial stationery cards printed to private order

The first pictorial stationery cards were picture postcards printed to private order by the Greek Post. They came into use in 1901. Anyone could supply a batch of 1 000 postcards to the postal authorities, and the post pressed an imprinted stamp onto the address side of the postcards. Later also smaller batches of postcards were accepted by the post. The face value was 5 lepta for stationery cards intended for domestic use and 10 lepta for stationery cards intended to be sent abroad. The colours of the imprinted stamp were green for 5 lepta and red for 10 lepta. The stamp imprint is embossed and depicts

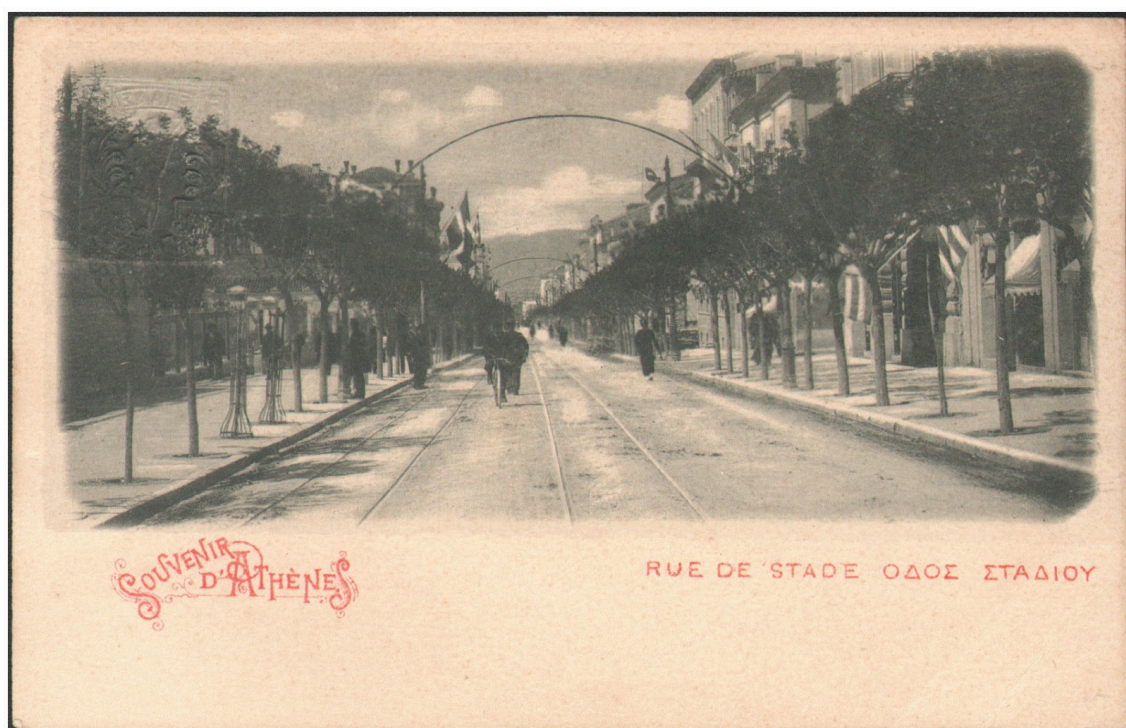


Figure 1. A pictorial stationery card printed to private order in 1901. This card belongs to the *Souvenir d'Athènes* series of picture postcards. Traffic on the streets of Athens was still scarce at the time.



Figure 2. The address side of the pictorial stationery card printed to private order (the same card as in figure 1). It is clear that that an attempt has been made to align the value imprint within the space reserved for the stamp on the pre-printed card.

the flying Mercury (Fig. 2). Rare double stationery cards comprise of two stamp imprints.

Because of their private origins, these stationery cards printed to private order are poorly known, and they have not been catalogued. Most of the cards were originally tourist postcards, for example, the *Souvenir d'Athènes* series (Fig. 1) is a comprehensive collection of attractions from Athens, whereas the *Souvenir de Corfou* and *Un saluto da Corfù* series contain sights of the island of Corfu. Illustrations on the picture sides were also extracted from Greek mythologies and gods. Some of the postcards are multicoloured.

It is allowed to display both the address side (for the flying Mercury) and the illustrations on the picture side of these stationery cards in thematic exhibits, when correctly describing them as pictorial stationery cards printed to private order.

Pictorial postal stationery cards

Already the previous year preparations were started in Greece for the publication of official pictorial stationery cards. It was decided by Royal Decree on June 24, 1900, that a competition will be held for collecting photographs suitable as the subjects for picture postcards. In the summer of 1900 hundreds of photographs were collected within one month during the competition. According to the terms of the competition the images, together with their negatives, had to be handed over against compensa-

tion. At the same time, the photographer lost the copyright to the pictures he had taken.

Stationery cards were printed in the national printing house. The size of cards is 140 x 90 mm, the same size as in the stationery cards printed to private order. Stationery cards intended for domestic and foreign use differ from each other.

In stationery cards intended for domestic use there are two imprinted stamps (Fig. 3, 4). On the address side of the card, in the upper left corner, is a colourless embossed imprinted stamp depicting the flying Mercury. Its face value 10 lepta corresponds to the selling price of the postcard. In the upper right corner, there is a flat imprinted stamp depicting the flying Mercury. The face value of 5 lepta is equal to the domestic postage rate. The price of a stationery card for domestic use is thus 15 lepta. Subtitles on the address side of the domestic cards are only in Greek.

In stationery cards intended to be sent abroad a decorative frame consisting of a Meander pattern was printed on the address side (Fig. 5). The selling price of the stationery cards, 20 lepta, consisted of the price of the postcard (10 lepta) and foreign postage (10 lepta). Thus, two stamps were printed on the cards, colourless embossed Mercury and red flat printed Mercury. The subtitles on the address side of these cards are in both French and Greek.

These pictorial postal stationery cards were printed in sets of 32 different cards. 12 sets were prepared,



Figure 3. This pictorial postal stationery card No. 22 belongs to the first series of 32 cards issued in 1901. The Acropolis Hill dominates the skyline of the city of Athens. An embossed colourless stamp imprint appears in the upper right corner when viewed from the picture side of the card.



Figure 4. The pictorial postal stationery cards of Greece in 1901–1903 have two imprinted stamps. In the upper left corner there is a colourless embossed stamp indicating the price of the postcard 10 lepta. In the upper right corner there is a flat stamp indicating the postage fee. This card is intended for domestic use, therefore the postage fee is 5 lepta. The selling price of this stationery card was thus 15 lepta.

so a total of 384 different cards exist, or in fact 385, because there are accidentally two completely different picture sides of the card No. 353.

The following table lists all series, their dates of publication and printing colours:

#	Date of issue	Series	Printing colours
1	July 1, 1901	1-32	black, brown, green
2	July, 1, 1901	33-64	black, brown, green
3	Aug. 15, 1901	65-96	black, brown, green
4	Dec. 15, 1901	97-128	black, brown, green
5	Jan. 1, 1902	129-160	brown
6	Feb. 15, 1902	161-192	black
7	Feb. 15, 1902	193-224	green
8	May 1, 1902	225-256)	black, brown, green
9	June 1, 1902	257-288	black, brown, green
10	August 1902	289-320	black, brown, green
11	August 1902	321-352	black, brown, green
12	March 20, 1903	353-384 **)	black, brown, green

*) Series 225-256 was first erroneously printed with numbers 125-156. The error was corrected by renumbering the cards, the incorrect number was covered with a black bar.

**) There are two completely different pictorial sides on card 353: 353a) Zappeio Garden and 353b) Athens Main Post Office.

Identifying the postal stationery cards is easy, because the serial number is printed in the bottom right on the picture side. Monochrome cards were printed in black, brown, or green. There are thus three cards of different colours with the same subject. Sets 5-7 were printed with only one colour.

Photographs redeemed in the competition have thus been printed on the picture side of the stationery cards. Some pictures are horizontal, some vertical. Most subjects associate with well-known attractions, such as archaeological sites, throughout Greece. In addition to the serial number, the name of the city and the attraction or monument in question is printed on the picture side in both Greek and French. Text in the bottom margin of the picture side in Greek and French *Edition du service des Postes Helléniques* indicates that the card has been published by the Greek Post. From private postcards printed to private order, that were in use at the same time, this text and serial number are missing. Therefore official postal stationery cards and stationery cards printed to private order can be easily distinguished from each other.

Pictorial stationery cards were not huge success

The Greek Post began selling stationery cards on July 1, 1901. Initially, the post offices sold them in sets of 32 different cards. Later, 32 similar cards



Figure 5. Pictorial postal stationery card intended for foreign use, serial no. 50. In the upper left corner there is a colourless embossed stamp indicating the price of the postcard 10 lepta. In the upper right corner there is a flat stamp indicating the postage fee. This card is intended for domestic use, therefore the postage fee is 10 lepta. The selling price of the stationery card was thus 20 lepta. Sent from Athens to the Danish West Indies, a rare destination.

were sold in installments. Post offices were asked to indicate which of the pictures were best selling in that area and sales stocks were supplemented on the basis of sales data received.

All but one series were published within one year from July 1901 to August 1902. No later than by 1902 it had become clear that the stationery cards did not sell very well. Their selling prices, 15 and 20 lepta, were too high, which limited the interest of the general public to buy cards. So the post office decided to start selling cards at a discount of 5 leptas. For sale it had little effect, so preparing new series was terminated. The last The 32-card series was released on March 1903.

During the first two years, a total of more than 160 000 cards for domestic use and slightly more than 224 000 cards for foreign use were sold. The individual sales volumes of each different card are not known.

The problem arose what to do with the unsold cards. In 1910 it was decided that the cards had to be either sold to the general public or disposed by burning. However, the ultimate fate of the stocks remain unclear. In 1918, some cards in stock were used as postage-free field post items. This is indicated with additional printing on the address side:

ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΑΤΕΛΕΣ

(= postage-free field post stationery)

During manufacturing of the pictorial stationery cards of Greece, quite many printing errors occurred. Variations, such as missing impressions, double printing, shifted serial numbers, cutting errors, etc. are known to exist. These differences, however, do not affect pictures themselves, so in thematic exhibits they can hardly be utilized in the development of the theme. From the postal stationery point of view they are interesting, though.

Subjects from Greek mythology and famous attractions in Greece

About half of the subjects are from Athens. Almost all the main attractions and archeological monuments in Athens have been covered. There are also many pictorial subjects in the cities of Corfu, Aigio, Larissa, Patras, Nafplion and Volos. Meteora, where monasteries were built by nature on top of the rock towers, is the subject of as many as 17 different cards. There are many other interesting pictorial topics in other cards as well.

Various topics can be found in the Greek pictorial postal stationery cards of 1901–1903 as follows:

- Sports, including five cards from Olympia, the birthplace of the ancient Olympics.
- Archeology, history and sculptures.
- Ancient mythologies, including Achilles, Apollo, Dionysus, Epidauros, Hercules, Hermes, Jupiter, Medusa, Minerva, Neptune, Themis, Venus and Zeus.

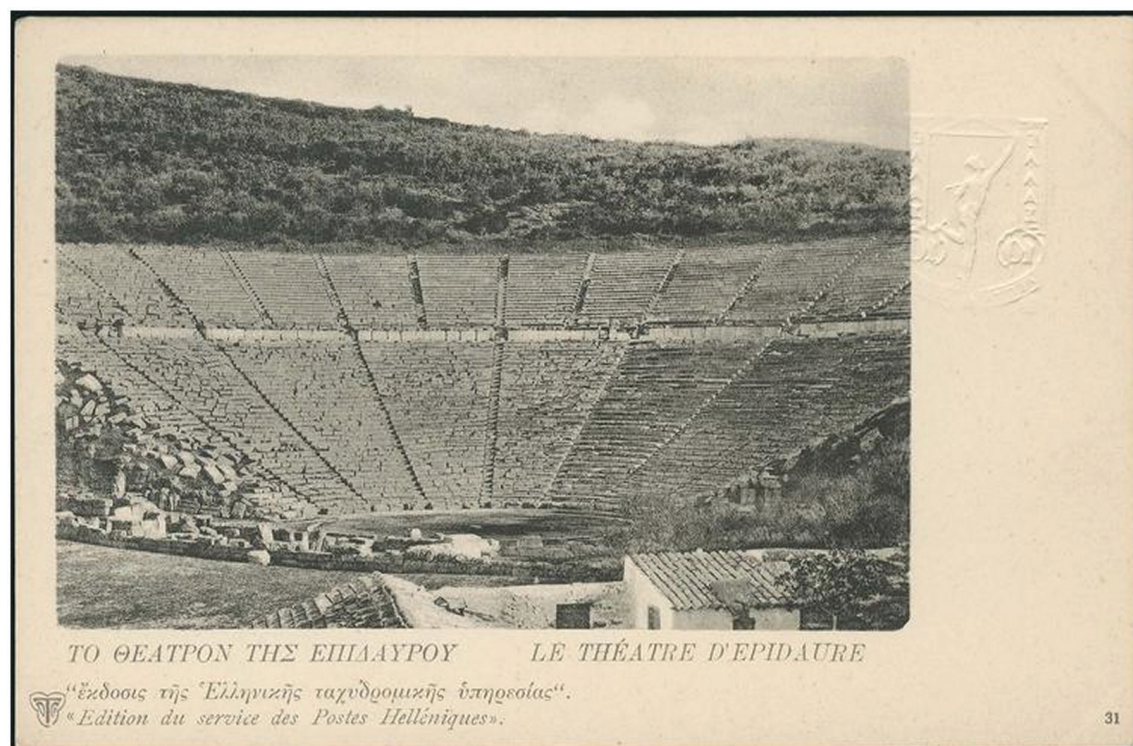


Figure 6. The Ancient Theatre of Epidauros is considered to be the most perfect ancient Greek theatre with regard to acoustics. Pictorial postal stationery card no. 31 issued in 1901.

- Architecture, including the summer palace of the Austrian Empress Elizabeth or Sissi, in Achilleion, Corfu, is depicted on at least ten different cards.
- Byzantine architecture, including churches and monasteries, and the Meteora monastery area.
- Churches (Orthodox, Anglican and Islamic).
- Religious celebrations.
- Folk costumes and dances.
- Villages and castles.
- Traffic, including donkey-drawn carts.
- Rivers and bridges.
- Ports, ships and the sea, for example Piraeus, Corfu, Patras and Volos.
- Water and windmills.
- Music and theater, incl. Epidaurus theater.
- Literature and poetry, incl. Byron and Mel-pomene.
- Medicine, incl. Epidaurus.
- Astronomy, incl. observatory.
- Armed forces, incl. the guard of the royal palace in Syntagma Square of Athens.
- Animals, especially donkeys; including sculptures, such as horse and lion.
- Plants incl. olive trees and palm trees.
- Harvest, incl. wine.

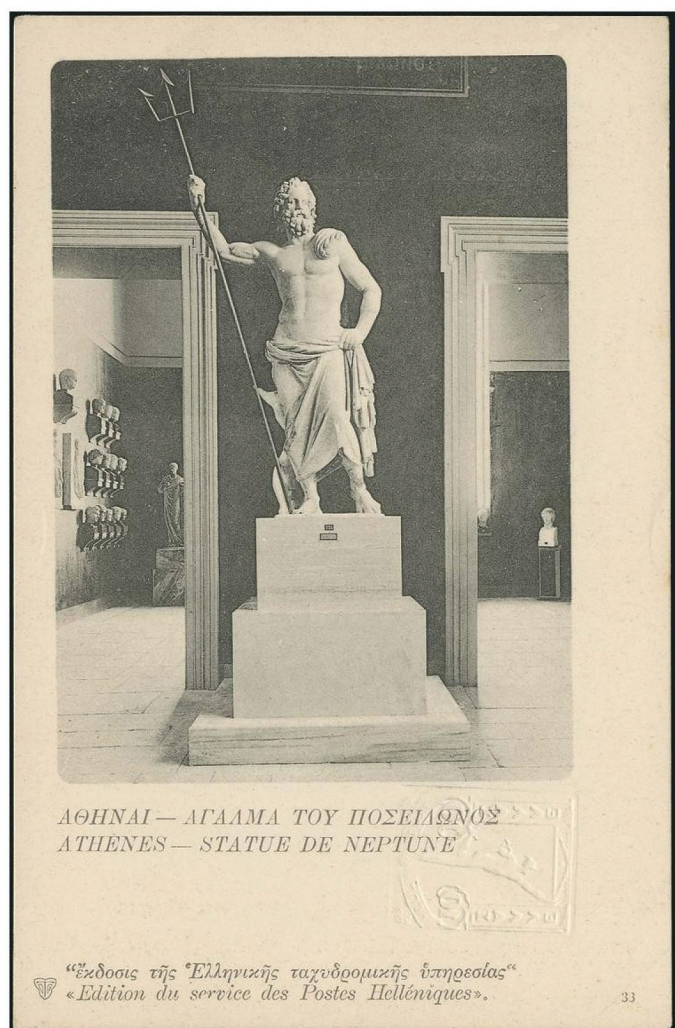


Figure 7. Neptune, the Roman sea god, is the equivalent of Poseidon for Greeks. Pictorial postal stationery card no. 33 issued in 1901.

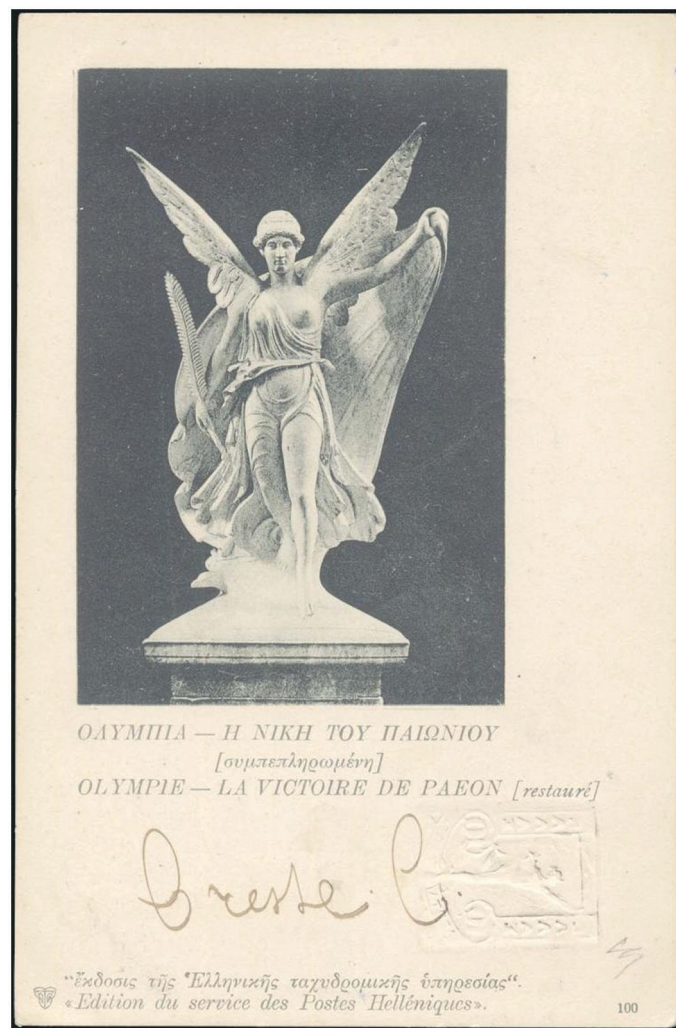


Figure 8. Nike, the goddess who personified victory. Pictorial postal stationery card no. 100 issued in 1901.

The Greek pictorial postal stationery cards are, of course, proper postal-philatelic items for thematic exhibits. In terms of their subjects, these items are particularly suited to exhibits dealing with Greek and Byzantine history. Myths and god figures familiar from ancient Greek mythology are connected to philosophy and are popular topics in art, plays, and literature. You can draw something from them also in stories on contemporary topics.

Greek pictorial postal stationery cards can be found from international auctions, for example A. Karamitsos auction (www.karamitsos.com). There are also some stationeries for sale in online auctions, such as eBay. The prices are typically a few dozen euros per card, but you have to pay significantly more for any specialties. ■

SOURCES:

- LEOUSSIS, PANTELIS, THE ILLUSTRATED POSTAL STATIONERY OF THE HELLENIC POSTAL SERVICE ISSUED BETWEEN 1901-1903. HELLENIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY, 2008. ISSUED IN GREEK LANGUAGE.
- CONSTANTINIS, MOÏSE C., CARTES POSTALES ILLUSTRÉES ÉMISES EN 1901-1903 PAR LA DIRECTION DES POSTES HELLÉNIQUES. HELLENIC PHILATELIC SOCIETY, 1970. ISSUED IN GREEK LANGUAGE.

In quest for abusive and undesirable stamp issues

The new guidelines for evaluating Thematic Philately exhibits makes a statement about abusive, illegal and undesirable postage stamp issues: these items and the information made available by them should not be used for thematic development. While illegal stamps appear well defined according to UPU, abusive and undesirable stamps are less so. International stamp agencies, such as IGPC and Stamperija, have become major players in the stamp market. Many new issues come from these stamp powerhouses, but should all of them be considered abusive or undesirable? Find out, there can more to it than meets the eye.

TEXT & IMAGES JARI MAJANDER, AIJP

Let's be frank, there is no clear way of distinguishing between acceptable stamp issues on one hand and abusive or undesirable issues on the other hand. Most, if not all, countries of the world have issued stamps that some would consider unnecessary or undesirable. Already in 1869, when the first pictorial stamps appeared in the United States, there was public criticism against them. There was a broad-based public opinion, that only definitive stamps, preferably depicting portraits of statesmen or coat of arms, were considered acceptable. The early pictorials became disreputable. Since then there have been occasional debates over what are the acceptable subjects for postage stamps.

The UPU Code of Ethics

In 2016 Universal Postal Union (UPU) published the revised Philatelic Code of Ethics for the use of UPU member countries /1/ when issuing and supplying postage stamps and other philatelic products.

According to it when choosing themes and other design elements the issuing postal authorities *shall not produce postage stamps or philatelic products that are intended to exploit customers*. In other words issuing postal authorities shall not produce any **abusive** issues of postage stamps or other philatelic products. Any philatelic issue that has one or more of the following features shall be regarded as abusive:

- *An issue whose theme is a subject totally contrary to the culture of the issuing member country or territory, and which cannot be considered as contributing to "the dissemination of culture or to maintaining peace".*
- *An issue whose quantity far exceeds the acceptable limits for philatelic issues, where the number of annual issues is unrelated to the actual market capacity, whether for postal prepayment or for stamp collection, of the member country or territory concerned.*

The first statement means that the stamps issued shall represent **symbols of national identity and culture**. Unfortunately nothing could be further from the truth in practise. Since the late 1960s there has been an ever increasing number of new issues that have very little or nothing to do with national identity or culture. Globalization has turned the world into more homogenous culture. Select any global brand and the chances are you will see or feel their presence in most countries of the world. Also there is very little public criticism against such issues. After all they are *just* postage stamps, so why bother?

The second statement is a broad definition of **acceptable limits** for the number of new issues. The issuing postal authorities shall take care to ensure that the number of stamps issued each year is limited to that which the market can accept. This is in order not to saturate the market and thus drive collectors away from the hobby. Again the current circumstances look very different. The number of stamps exploded already in the 1960s and has skyrocketed in this millennium, although there is less and less need for paying postage with stamps. This statement also does not rule out stamps issued only for collectors.

Moreover, according to the UPU Code of Ethics in case an issuing postal authority appoints **agents** to market their philatelic products, *such agents shall observe the same procedures and practices as those of the issuing postal authorities themselves*.

Such agents are well prepared to take over all aspects of designing, manufacturing, issuing, marketing and selling of postage stamps on behalf of their customers, the postal administrations. The two biggest agents today, the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC), established already in 1957 and based in the United States, and Stamperija Ltd. based in Lithuania, have a wide base of clientele: over 80 postal authorities have decided to use their

services. For example IGPC has served over 50% of Africa and more than two-thirds of the Caribbean countries with their postal and philatelic needs.

What is acceptable, and what is not?

In the current circumstances does it make sense to try to distinguish between acceptable and less acceptable issues? Yes, it still does and more than ever. While almost no country in these days can boast to issue only stamps that represent their national identity and culture, it is more likely that there are many more abusive stamps issued by such postal administrations that issue unusually many stamps annually. Many such postal authorities are now customers of IGPC or Stamperija, or both.

What can be considered an excessive number of stamps issued by any country annually? Obviously there is no single number, because it depends on the size of the country, how large the population is, the current need for stamps to pay postage, as well as the culture of issuing postage stamps. What is a large number of new issues for one country, may not be excessive for another.

This article is based on identifying countries with a **sudden change** in their stamp issuing policy or in the annual number of new issues during the past three decades. In case of some countries an excessive rate has been maintained during several years in a row. On the other hand it is also very usual that issuing of new stamps is suddenly discontinued temporarily, and then may later surge again.

By no means *all the issues* of such countries shall be considered abusive. Among the issues there are often some that are directly or indirectly related to the culture of the issuing country. Therefore it may not be meaningful just to create a simple blacklist of some issuing countries only because the majority of their new issues are considered abusive.

Almost all countries may occasionally issue stamps that can be considered undesirable or even abusive by some. However, those countries are not the prime interest in this article.

When describing the policies of various postal authorities, care is taken not to judge them too strictly. Often the issuers of abusive or undesirable items are the postal administrations of relatively poor or politically unstable countries. Many are former colonies that have been exploited in the past by western countries. Issuing and selling postage stamps provides some foreign currency, which can be vital for the local economy. These postal authorities, although according to the UPU Code of Ethics are themselves responsible for their issuing policy, either are not capable, do not care or cannot afford to

care for observing and controlling the practises of their chosen agents. Financial matters are likely to be considered more important than ethics.

Also, it should be kept in mind that the circumstances of individual countries, postal administrations and their agents may change quickly. New policies come into effect, agents are replaced, agents change their services and strategies, new agents appear etc. We do not know what kind of agreements exist between international agents and postal authorities, so predicting even the near future is difficult. We can only observe what has happened in the past. Stamp catalogues are of great help to identify legal issues, which abusive and undesirable issues nevertheless are.

About collecting statistics

It has become very common that abusive and undesirable stamps are issued in the form of blocks or miniature sheets containing one or more stamps. These entities are larger in size and thus may appear more appealing than individual stamps. They also enable selling more stamps at one time for increased revenue. Moreover, they are way easier to sell than stamps issued in large sheets, which need to be broken into individual stamps.

When collecting statistics of new issues for this article, miniature sheets and individual stamps were calculated separately, but so that the number of individual stamps include also those stamps issued in miniature sheets. In some cases stamps and miniature sheets exist as both perforated and imperforate, but imperforates do not contribute to the count. Stamps may also or solely be available in other forms, such as booklets, in which case only the count of individual stamps is included in the statistics.

The statistics generally start from 1990 (most postal administrations in this article were established before 1990) and is collected until 2019, but in some cases there is lack of information regarding the number of new issues during the recent years. It could mean that the stamp program has been discontinued. However, it is more likely that the program goes on, but the publishers of stamp catalogues are struggling to assemble the latest information regarding those issues.

Displaying dubious issues in thematic exhibits

How about displaying such issues with abusive or undesirable characteristics in thematic exhibits? Although such items are philatelic, displaying them in thematic exhibits is **strongly discouraged** by the recent update to the guidelines of the SREV of Thematic Philately /2/. They are described as items that are not considered as appropriate postal-philatelic

material. Therefore the items themselves and the information that they contain **cannot be used for thematic development**. These statements are very clear, but unfortunately are still subject to interpretations because of the very definition of abusive and especially undesirable issues.

The Guidelines continue to also state that the *preference has to be given to issues which have information whose contents bear a direct relation to the issuing country from a political, historical, cultural, economic and/or similar standpoint*. This is a direct reference to the UPU Code of Ethics. The guidelines instruct to *avoid speculative issues, which exploit the "fashion trends" in thematic philately (these dubious items ought to be in principle totally excluded)*.

On the other hand, one could argue whether some "dubious" stamp or miniature sheet, which has been legally issued by a duly commissioned or empowered postal authority, could be displayed as "borderline material" in case there is no other material available to describe a specific thematic detail? In such a case the exhibitor takes the risk of displaying some item that is not at all important philatelically, but may have an interesting contribution to the exhibit from the thematic point of view.

For example, it is known that many dubious issues contain unintentional design flaws, that could be displayed to pay attention to such details that are considered significant within the theme.

The strongest argument against displaying any dubious stamps in thematic exhibits is the **lack of their postal-philatelic significance**. They are not intended for paying postage and contribute nothing to the rarity of philatelic material. They are likely to be easily available even decades after. IGPC, for example, still sells some stamps issued way back in the 1980s.

There can be more in it than meets the eye

While the majority of these speculative issues can be replaced with other issues in thematic exhibits, there are probably some that could be displayed when properly justified. Therefore one must not pay attention only to the issuing countries, their agents and the years when they have issued excessive numbers of stamps, but the issues themselves and the reasons why they were created.

Let's take an example illustrating the importance of understanding the reason behind a particular issue. Let's say an island country located in the Pacific Ocean issues a new stamp with the topic of *global climate change*. If the design of the stamp depicts a polar bear, we might immediately argue that polar bears have no direct relation to the issuing country. That's true. However, this country is known to be potentially very much affected by the climate change

due to the rising of sea level. One major cause of global sea level rise is the increased melting of land-based ice, such as glaciers and ice sheets in polar regions. Polar bears are generally used as the symbol for suffering from climate change. So in this case our argument against the appropriateness of this issue in relation to this country is a bit weak. We might even revise our thinking that perhaps then a polar bear is *not the most appropriate way of telling about climate change in this region?*

However, this is referring to the design details rather than the ethics of the issue! Therefore when thinking about appropriateness and ethics of individual issues, we should not just evaluate the design, but find out the reason for making such an issue. Such reasons are not always self-evident from stamp designs, but additional research is required.

Let's take another example of Princess Diana, who was, like Mother Teresa, very influential person in some countries of the third world. If such a country, that was once visited by this person, issues a stamp commemorating her, would that be considered as inappropriate and bearing no relation to the issuing country? Most definitely not! So we must be careful when judging some issues, because stamp catalogues do not to provide sufficient background information regarding the reason for issuing these stamps.

However, the number of stamps issued for a particular purpose has also significance. If Princess Diana is celebrated by one country issuing six different miniature sheets containing many more stamps, these issues should be considered as abusive and therefore inappropriate to be displayed in thematic exhibits, regardless if she visited the issuing country or not. Less is better from the ethical perspective.

Who knows based on the general knowledge that there is not just one, but two, scouting organizations in Chad? So it would be acceptable if Chad issues stamps with the scouting topic, wouldn't it? The relation would be more direct if the stamps depicted the scouting activities that are commonly practised in Chad, rather than scouting activities in the world in general. Finding and explaining the relation justifies displaying such legal items in thematic exhibits despite the country of their origin.

This said, it is also evident that there are and will be many more abusive and undesirable issues that bear no direct or indirect relationship whatsoever with the issuing countries, but are only inspired by the global culture and purported demand from topical collectors. The message is loud and clear: such issues are **to be avoided in thematic exhibits!** ■

SOURCES

/1/ PHILATELIC CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE USE OF UPU MEMBER COUNTRIES, UPU RECOMMENDATION C 13/2016.

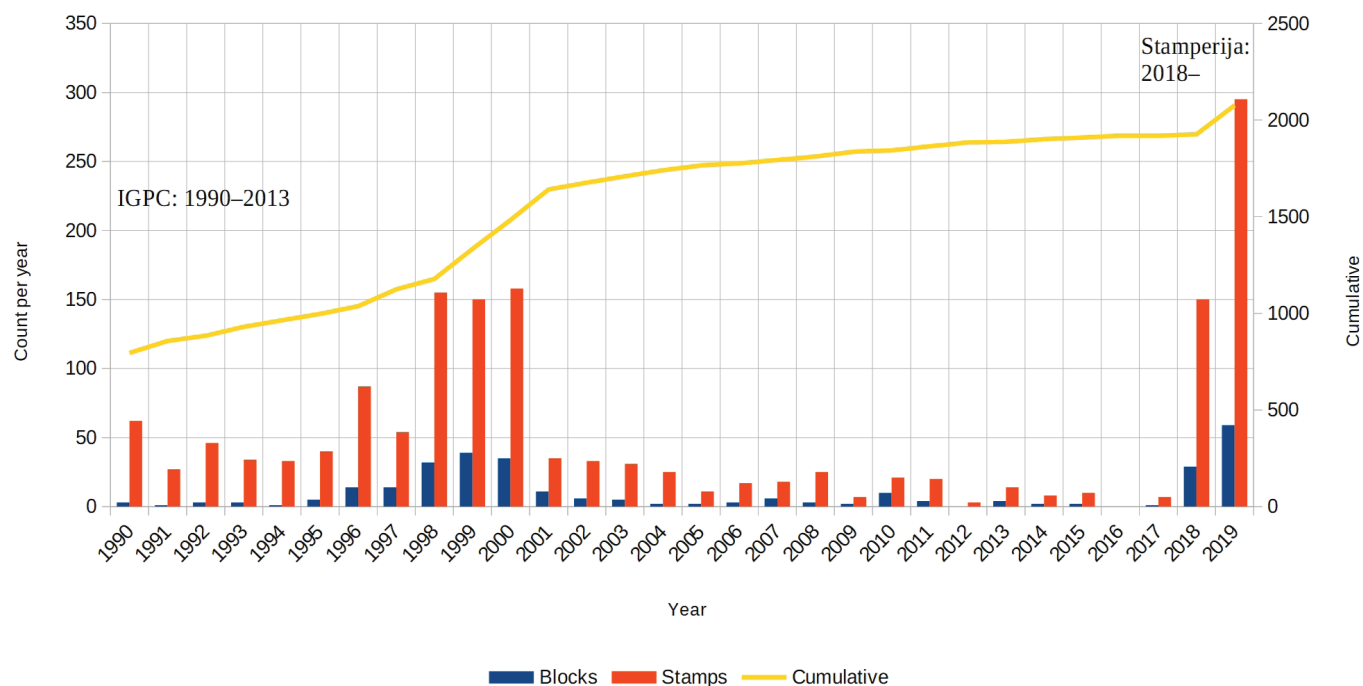
/2/ SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE EVALUATION OF THEMATIC EXHIBITS AT FIP EXHIBITIONS.

/3/ STAMPWORLD.COM.



Angola

1990–2019



Angola

Angola, officially *the Republic of Angola*, is a country on the west coast of Southern Africa. Angola gained independence in 1975, after being a colony of Portugal since the 16th century. It is the seventh-largest country in Africa, with an estimated population of 31 million.

Initially the stamp issuing program of the independent Angola was conservative. However, starting in the mid-1990s, as a customer of IGPC, fairly large numbers of stamps came out each year with topics not directly related to Angola. They were eventually joined by adhesive labels inscribed “Angola”, but not authorized by the postal administration and not valid for postage. There was a calm period during 2001–2017. Since then the number of new issues has again surged as a new customer of Stamperija Ltd.

In 2017 Angola celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Kwanza (Angolan currency), only one set and one block was issued during that year. This is the last “normal” issue for Angola.

In 2018 all 150 stamps issued by Angola were nature related: marine life, big mammals, birds, dinosaurs, butterflies, mushrooms and flowers. In 2019 the choice of themes was extended to transportation, sports, paintings, Nobel price winners, scouts, lighthouses, minerals, space exploration and climate change. The anniversaries celebrated in 2019 included the first man on the Moon, Henry Dunant, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Paul P. Harris, at least four stamps and one block was issued for each.

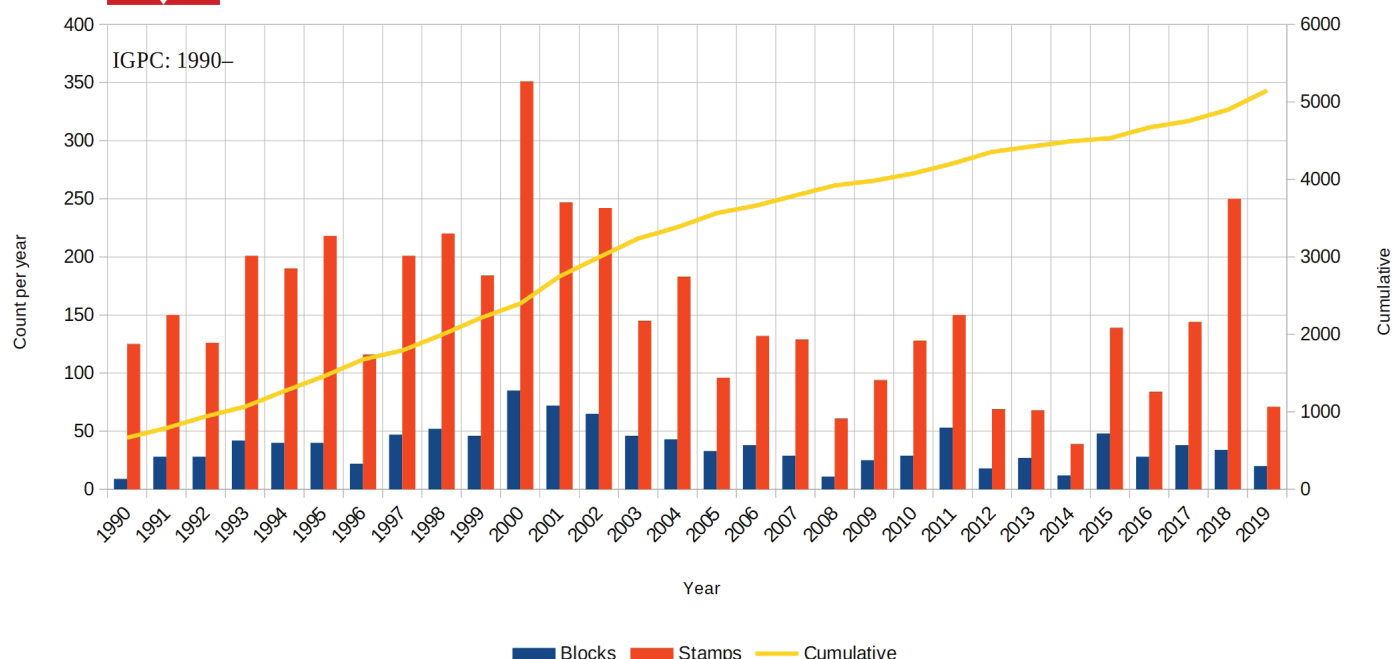


The First Steps of Man on the Moon, two blocks containing five stamps commemorating the first walk on the Moon by Neil Armstrong were issued by Angola in 2019.



Antigua and Barbuda

1990–2019



Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda is an island sovereign state in the West Indies in the Americas. It consists of two major islands, Antigua and Barbuda. It gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1981, but remains a member of the Commonwealth. Less than 100 000 inhabitants live on the two islands.

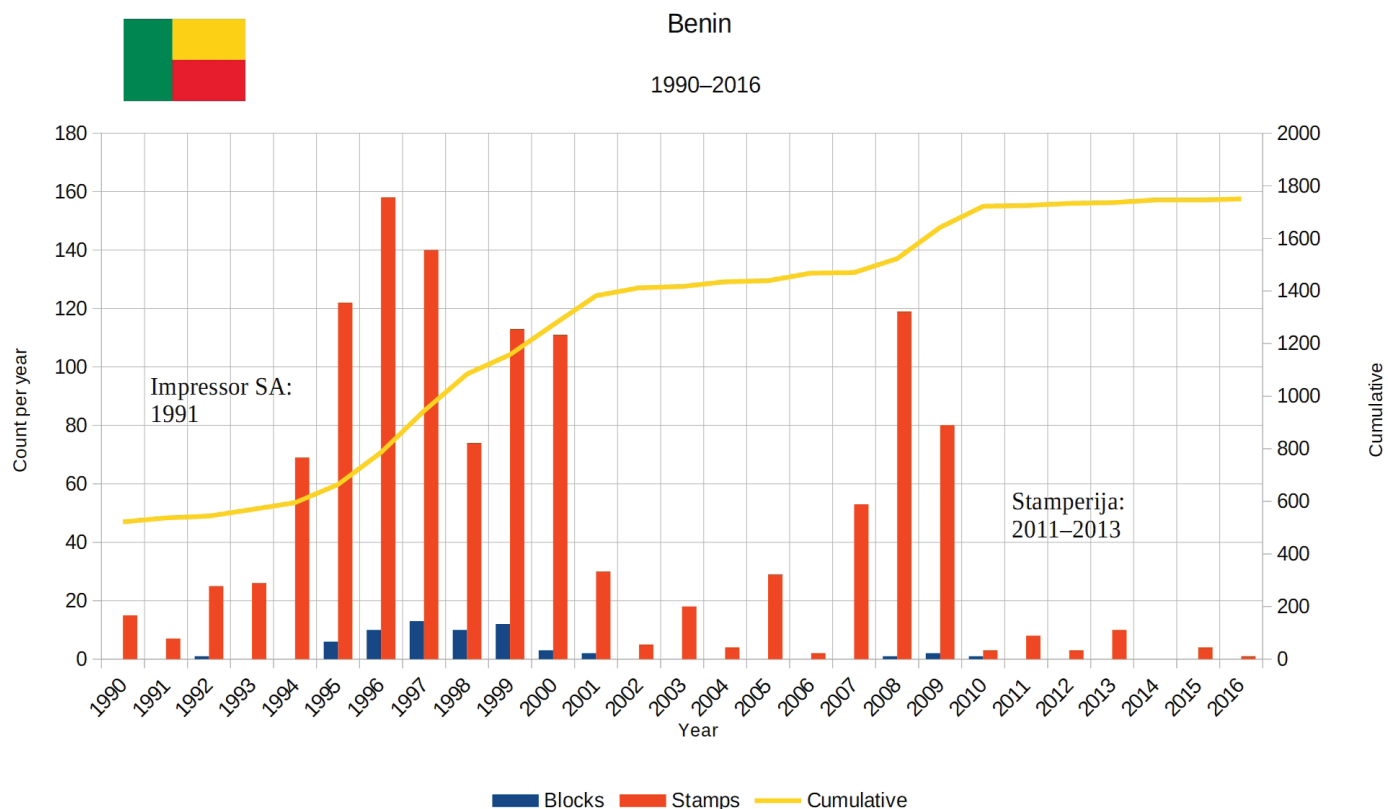
The stamp issuing program of Antigua and Barbuda, a customer of IGPC, as many other countries of the Commonwealth, became prolific soon after gaining independence.

Stamps, often overprinted, were issued separately for Barbuda during 1967–2000, and for Redonda, which is an uninhabited island, during 1979–1991. All stamps of Redonda are considered as undesirable. Antigua had plans to open a resort on the island when the guano and phosphate mining were shut down. The Redonda stamps were used to publicize this idea.

During the last three decades Antigua and Barbuda has issued 4 553 stamps and 1 110 miniature sheets. One peak occurred in year 2000, when 351 stamps and 85 miniature sheets came out from IGPC, many of them celebrating the new millennium. Eight blocks commemorated the 400th anniversary of the birth of Anthonis van Dyck, four blocks were issued for the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Six blocks displayed paintings of the Prado Museum in Madrid and another six blocks paintings of Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. In 2018 four miniature sheets containing 12 stamps each displayed all the 44 individual presidents of the United States.



The Monarchs of the Millennium series issued in 2000 by Antigua and Barbuda consists of four miniature sheets with the portraits of the kings and queens of Great Britain. They were not overprinted with “Barbuda Mail” as Barbuda’s own stamp program was discontinued earlier during the same year. In 2000 there were hundreds of issues worldwide related to the past and new millennium.



Benin

Benin, officially *Republique du Benin*, is a country in West Africa with small southern coastline of the Gulf of Guinea. Initially it was the colony of French Dahomey, a part of French West Africa. The colony became the self-governing republic and gained full independence in 1960. In 1975, the country was renamed Benin and became a Marxist-Leninist state called the People's Republic of Benin. In 1991 it was replaced by the current Republic of Benin.

The stamp issuing program of Benin was typical of former French colonies until 1991, when the provisional stamps issued were old stamps of Dahomey overprinted with "Republique du Benin". Next year the number of stamps issued annually exceeded 100 for the first time. A peak occurred in 1996, when 158 stamps and 10 miniature sheets were issued, many of them overprinted and surcharged. Many stamps issued during the 1990s have been printed by the National Printing Works in Havana, Cuba.

In 2008 and 2009 most of the new stamps were old issues of Dahomey of the 1970s, overprinted "Benin" and surcharged. The cost of overprinting and surcharging stamps is obviously much less than issuing new stamps with new designs. Since 2010 Benin has issued modest number of stamps annually.

Benin became a customer of Stamperija Ltd. in the 2010s, but there are only few stamps designed by Stamperija so far. There are some new stamps since 2016 inscribed "Benin" in the philatelic market, but they remain uncatalogued. Some reports of illegal stamps have also been received.

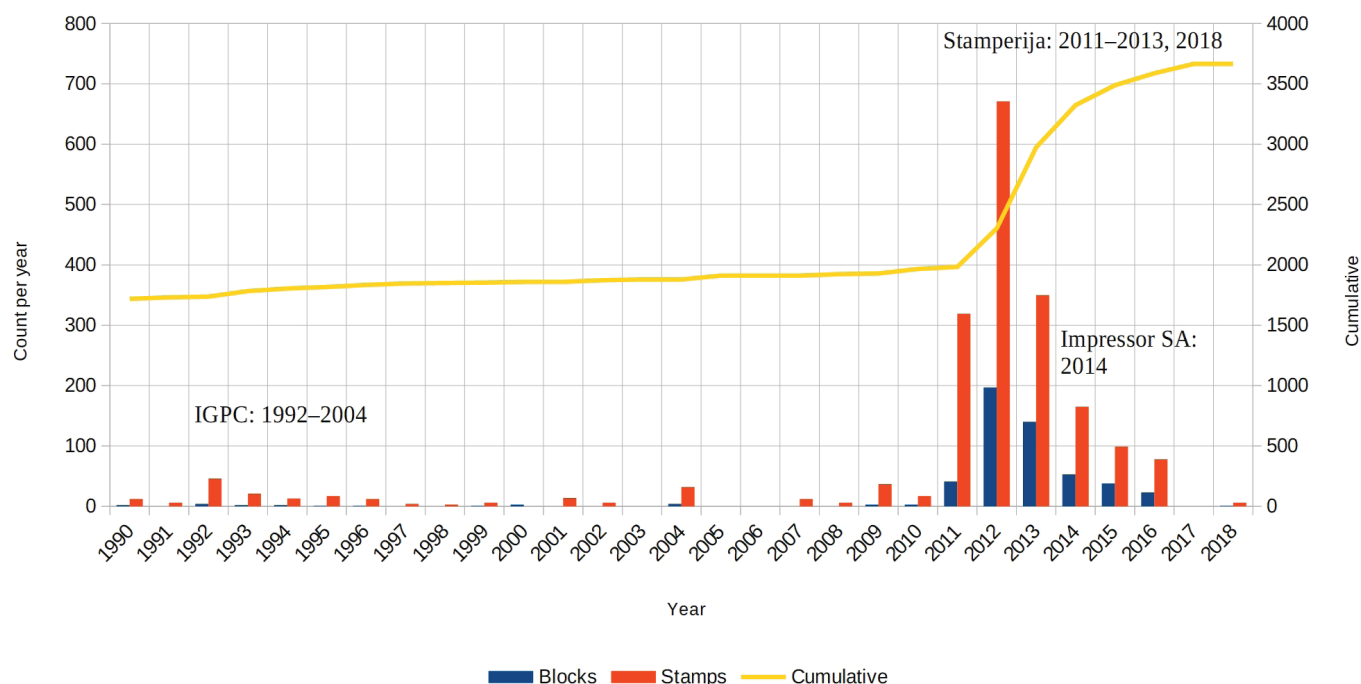


The First Anniversary of the Death of Diana, Princess of Wales, miniature sheet issued by Benin in 1998. The tragic death of Princess Diana has made her one of the most popular persons depicted on stamps together with Queen Elizabeth II and President John F. Kennedy.



Burundi

1990–2018



Burundi

Burundi, officially *Republique du Burundi*, is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley where the African Great Lakes region and East Africa converge. One of the smallest countries in Africa, Burundi is estimated to have 12 million people.

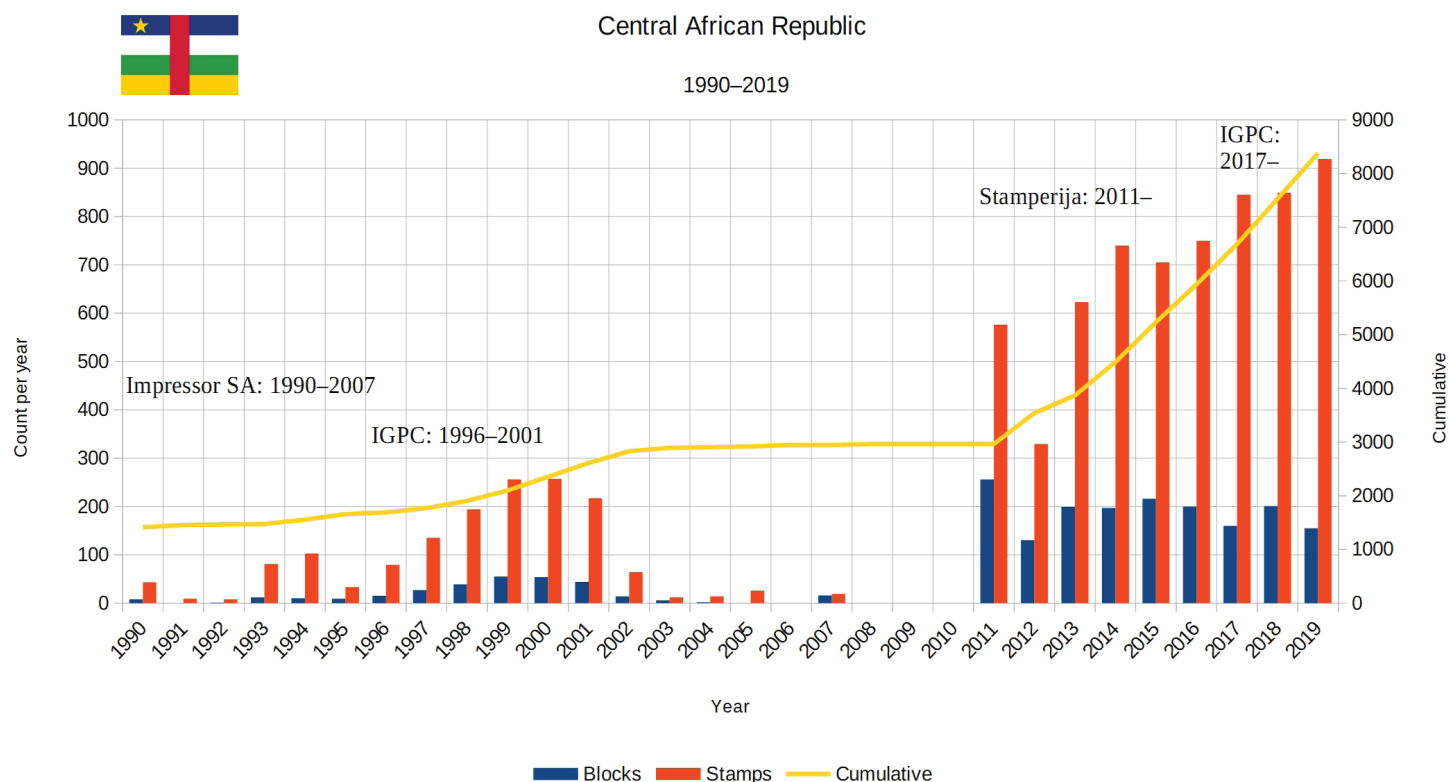
The country was formerly a part of the Belgian territory of Ruanda-Urundi. In 1966, following political turmoil, Burundi ended its monarchy and became a republic. On average about 100 stamps were issued annually during the 1967–1990 period, after which the number of new stamps remained very few until Burundi became a customer of Stamperija Ltd. in the early 2010s.

Since then Burundi has courted – with help from Stamperija Ltd. – the international stamp collectors' market with an array of commemorative stamps, miniature sheets, maximum cards, FDCs, imperforates, errors and more. Some of them are very appealing to topical collectors, like the sheet to the right. A peak occurred in 2012 when 671 new stamps and 197 miniature sheets designed by Stamperija Ltd. were issued. Moreover, all miniature sheets are being sold by Stamperija as perforated and imperforate. Next year the numbers were almost halved, but still remained at high level.

From 2017–2018 there are few stamps from Burundi as catalogued, however, it does not necessarily mean that there are no longer any abusive new issues from Burundi. It is also typical that stamp issuing programs managed by agents are temporarily halted for business reasons.



The 150th Anniversary of Opel, one of the two miniature sheets issued by Burundi in 2012 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Adam Opel (1837–1895). Burundi issued 197 different miniature sheets during the same year.

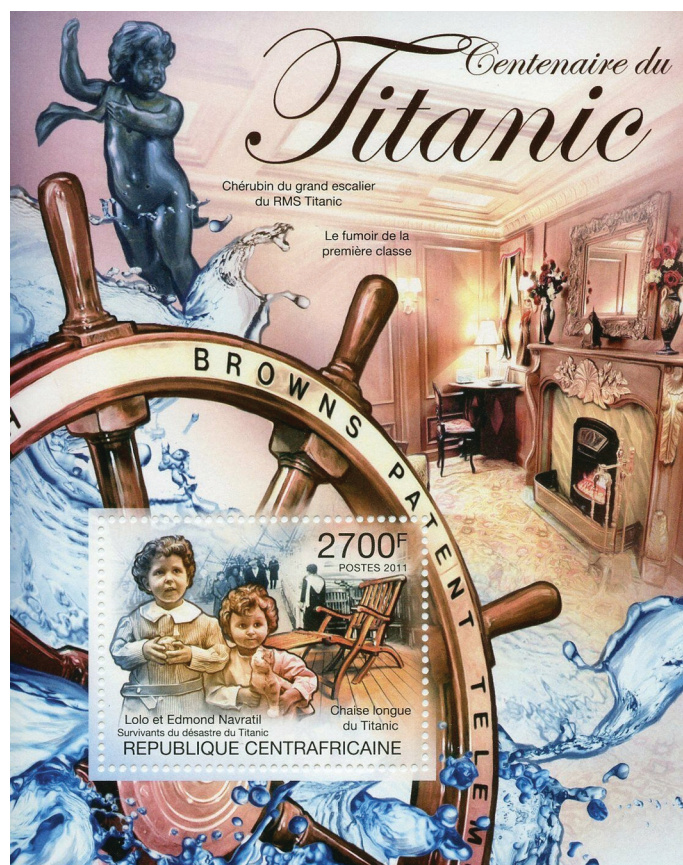


Central African Republic

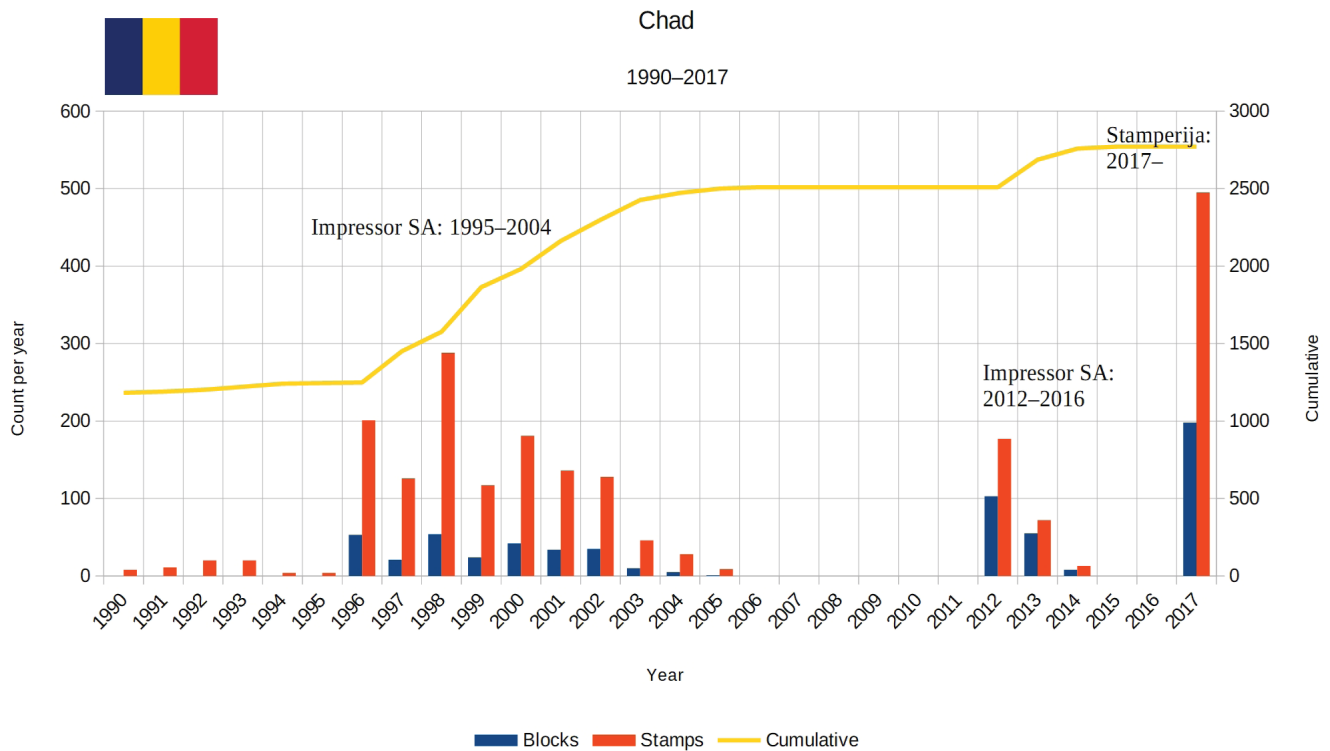
As the name suggests, the Central African Republic, officially *Republique Centrafricaine*, is a landlocked country located in Central Africa. It was previously an autonomous state within the French Community. The republic became fully independent in 1960. The population is less than five million people. The Central African Republic is among the poorest countries in the world.

Today the Central African Republic is one of the most prolific issuers of stamps in the world, more than 10 000 stamps since 1960. The number of new stamps doubled between 1990 and 2002 and has quadrupled since 2011. The peak year so far has been 2019, over 900 stamps and 155 miniature sheets are known to have been issued. The Central African Republic has been a customer of Impressor SA, IGPC and Stamperija Ltd. Impressor SA printed stamps for free during 1990–2007. The currently continuing flood of stamps and miniature sheets started in 2011.

The themes of the miniature sheets issued in 2019 include the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, the 85th anniversary of the birth of Yuri Gagarin, the 40th anniversary of Mother Teresa receiving Nobel Peace Prize, the 160th anniversary of the death of Robert Stevenson, the 55th anniversary of the Japanese speed train Shinkansen, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, the 50th anniversary of the first test flight of Concorde, the 210th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (lots of anniversaries!), in addition to the more usual lighthouses, transport, flowers, birds, paintings and Marilyn Monroe.



Centenary of Titanic. One of the two miniature sheets issued by the Central African Republic in 2011 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Titanic disaster. This rather attractive design with many details from a first class cabin and lounge and the cherub from the Grand Staircase of the Titanic, would be very appealing also to thematic exhibitors. However, it is only one of the 256 different miniature sheets issued by the Central African Republic in 2011.



Chad

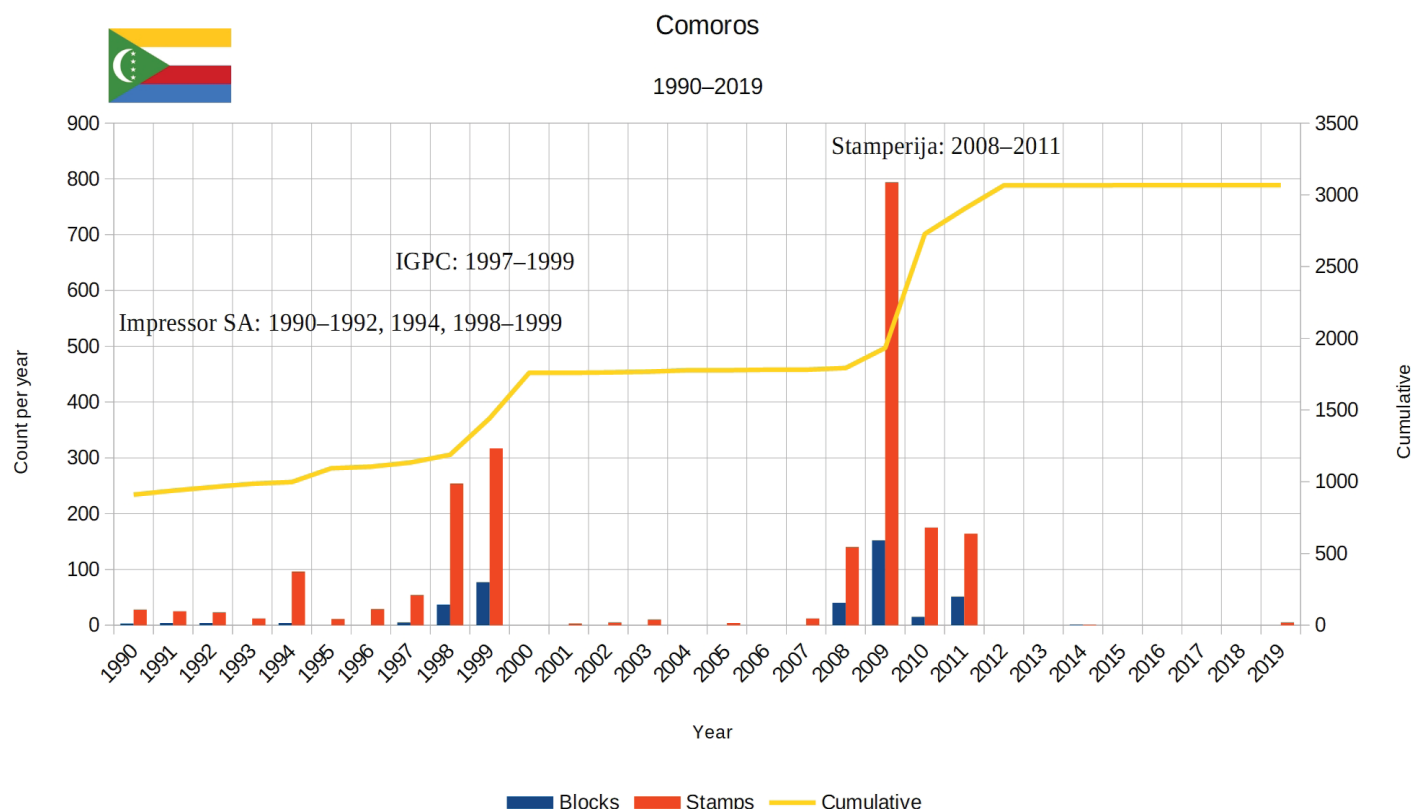
Chad, officially *Republique du Tchad*, is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. It is a large country, with an area over 1 million square km, but is estimated to have less than 14 million people. Since the French occupation of the area in 1905, Chad gained autonomy in 1949 and full independence from France in 1960.

The number of postage stamps issued by Chad doubled from 1995 to 2003 when Impressor SA printed stamps for free for Chad. 288 stamps and 54 miniature sheets were issued in 1998. Another peak came after Chad became a customer of Stamperija in 2017. A staggering number of stamps and miniature sheets were issued that year, 495 and 198, respectively. There is a striking difference to the years just before 2017, when few stamps were issued. Reports of illegal stamps have also been received.

In 2017 the topics included mushrooms, turtles, panda bears, tropical birds, butterflies, orchids, birds of prey, stamp on stamp, kingfishers, minerals, cats, water birds, dolphins, fish, owls, tigers, bees, whales, dinosaurs, lions, elephants, dogs and polar bears. All of these 46 miniature sheets shared the exactly same layout! Another common layout was used for commemorating Edgar Degas, Ferdinand von Zeppelin, Gustav Klimt, Franz Schubert, Prince William, Battle of Stalingrad, Red Cross, Stephen Hawking, Paul P. Harris, the sinking of the Titanic, Valentina Tereshkova, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Marilyn Monroe, Mother Teresa, fire engines, cricket, Concorde etc., another set of 50 miniature sheets. Effort-saving stamp design!



In 2013 Chad issued 14 miniature sheets with the scouting topic. They were designed by Impressor SA. One characteristic of an abusive issue is that it often tries to appeal to collectors of different topics, in this case scouting and insects, scouting with cats and dogs, scouting with mushrooms and birds, scouting with mushrooms and insects, as well as scouting with birds.



The Comoros

The Comoros, officially *Union des Comores*, is an island country in the Indian Ocean off the eastern coast of Africa. French colonized the archipelago and from 1950 the islands were given stamps labelled “Archipel des Comores”. After the independence of three of the Comoros islands in 1975, the Comorian Post and the French post in Mayotte, were established.

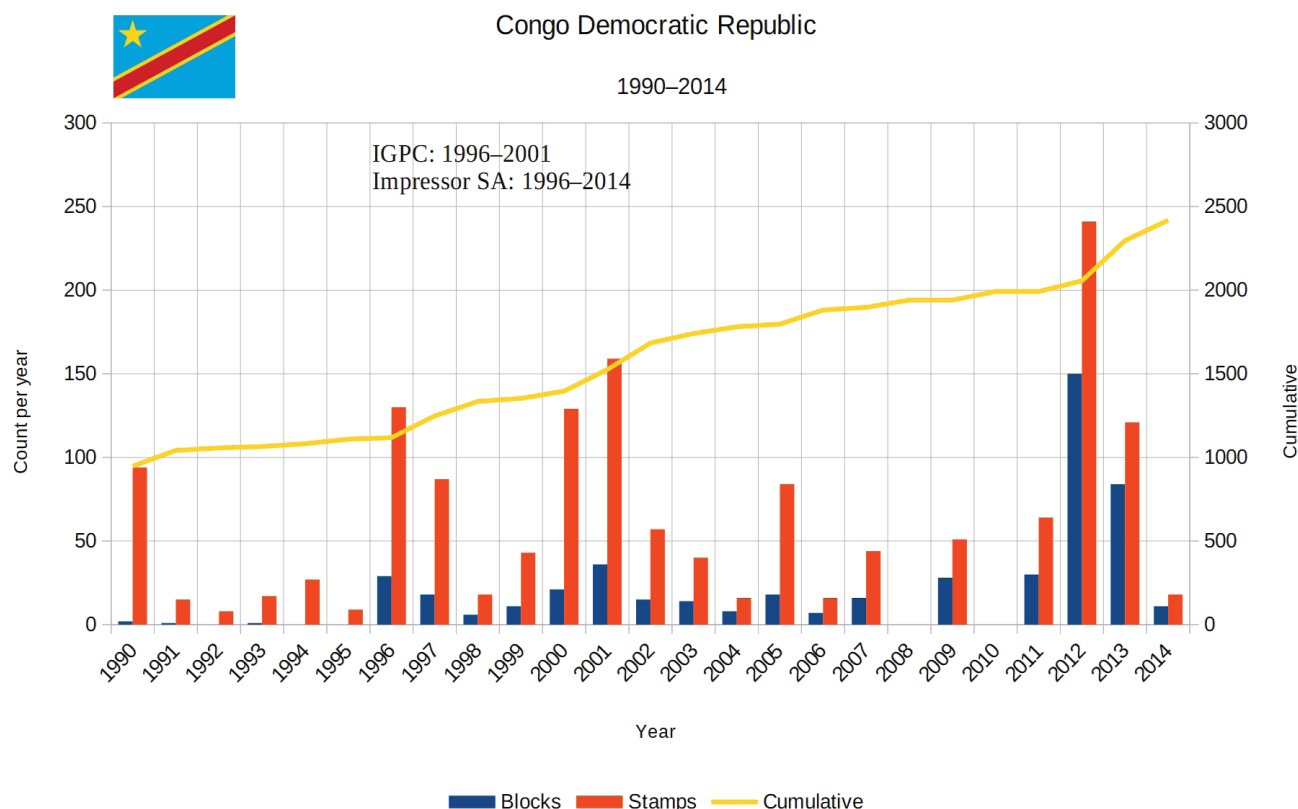
During the Federal and Islamic Republic of Comoros period in 1979–2000, the stamp issuing program was largely returned to subjects of local interest. Stamps were printed for free by Impressor SA. In 1997 the country became a customer of IGPC. The first stamps designed by IGPC commemorated the death of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa. All 32 national teams qualified in the 1998 Football World Cup in France received stamps (five miniature sheets) next year, they were printed for free by Impressor SA.

During the Union of the Comores in the 2000s again very few stamps with local interest were issued until the country became a customer of Stamperija in 2008. Soon afterwards the number of issues started flooding: 794 stamps in 152 miniature sheets in 2009 alone.

In September 2011 the business relationship with Stamperija changed and the new issues were suddenly discontinued. Since then only one joint issue (2014) depicting the green turtle and one set of stamps commemorating the 145th anniversary of the UPU (2019) have been produced.



Two miniature sheets of the Comoros issued in 1998 and 2009, during the two peak periods. The 1998 issue is in the series of *Classic automobiles* (four sheets). The 2009 issue is part of the *Explorers and navigators* series (another four sheets).



Democratic Republic of the Congo

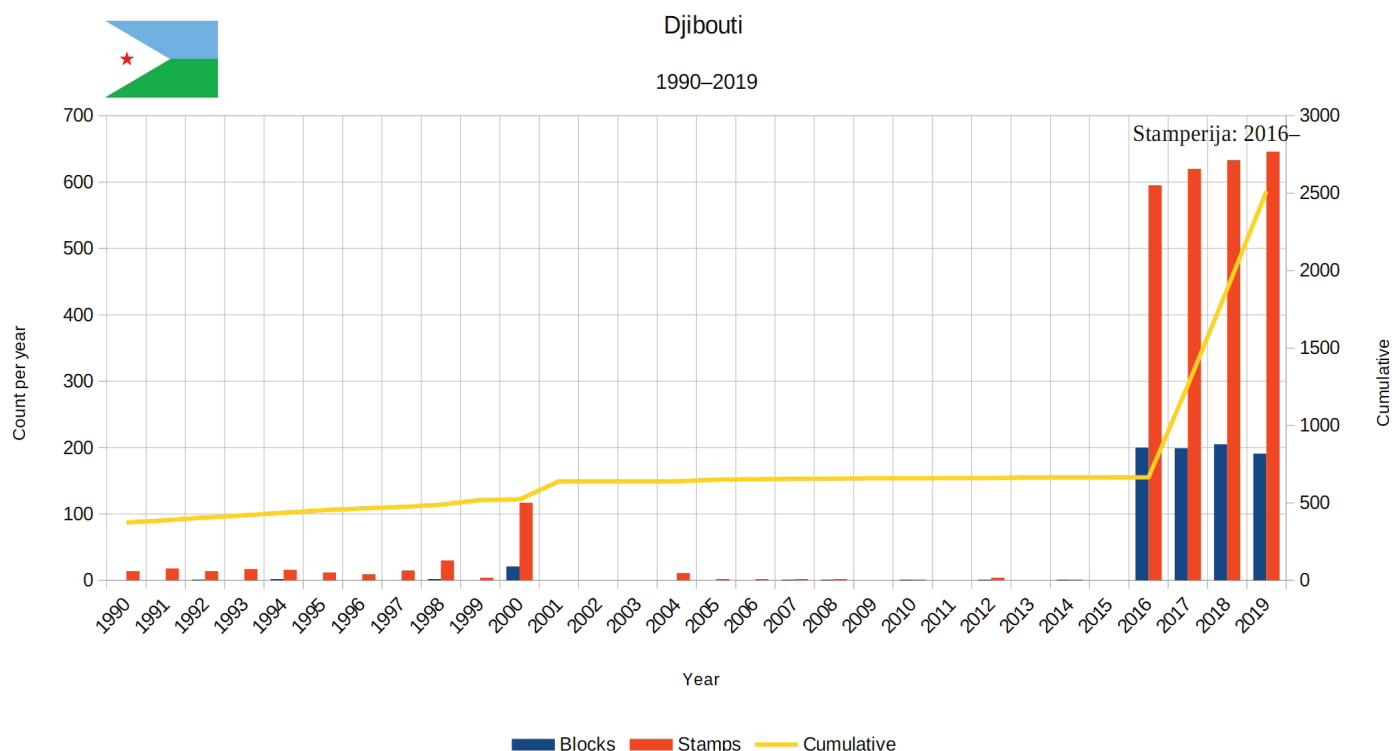
The Democratic Republic of the Congo, officially *République démocratique du Congo*, is a country located in Central Africa. It was called Belgian Congo (1908–1960) and after independence the Republic of the Congo. In 1964 the state's official name was changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and during 1971–1997 it was called Zaire. The country is, by area, the largest in sub-Saharan Africa, with population over 100 million.

Less than 1 000 stamps were issued during the period when the country was called Zaire, reaching a total of 1 334 stamps in 1997. Zaire became a customer of both IGPC and Impressor SA in 1996, when the country was about to be economically collapsed. Impressor SA continued to print stamps for the Democratic Republic of the Congo at least until 2014. In 2012 no less than 150 miniature sheets were issued including 241 different stamps. The majority of these miniature sheets were printed for free by Impressor SA. There is little information available about the new issues after 2014, when 11 miniature sheets for the FIFA Football World Cup in Brazil were issued on the same day.

Since 1997 the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been plagued with illegal stamps. The situation is complex, because there are several producers of these illegal stamps. Impressor SA may have been in control of issuing both legal and illegal stamps, perhaps indicating contractual problems with the authorities. The production of illegal stamps for the Democratic Republic of the Congo escalated in the early 2000s.



This miniature sheet printed in 1997 by Impressor SA for Zaire is controversial, because according to some sources it is considered illegal, while some catalogue publishers (such as Michel) list it as a legitimize issue. In 1997 the state of Zaire was collapsing and suffered from uncontrolled inflation.



Djibouti

Djibouti, officially *République de Djibouti*, is a country located in the Horn of Africa in East Africa. It is a small country with less than one million people. It was known as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas before independence, and as French Somaliland before that.

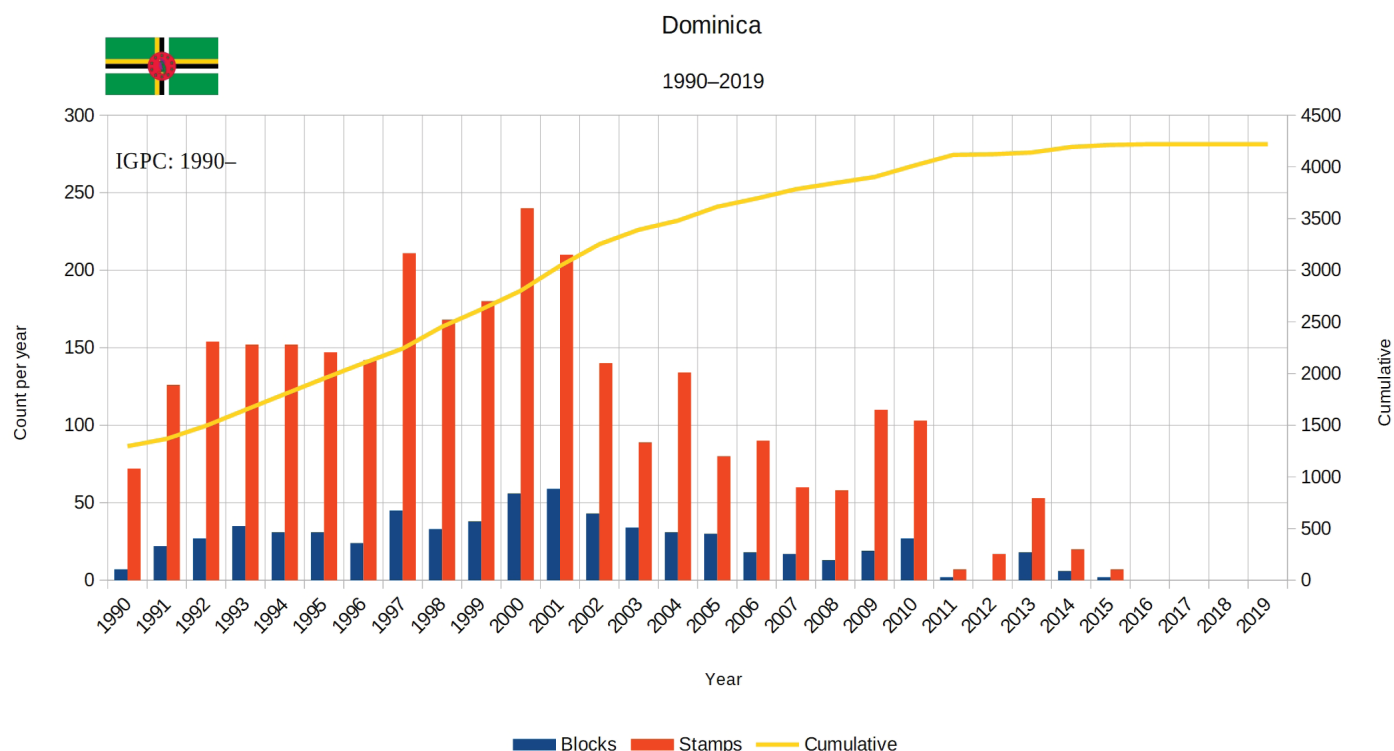
Djibouti had issued only 523 stamps since its independence in 1977 until 2000, when the number of new stamps increased suddenly over 100, just for one year. Only 10 miniature sheets accounted for most of the stamps issued that year. During the following 15 years only few stamps were issued. However, there are also reports of illegal stamps from that period.

Drastic change in the issuing policy occurred when Djibouti became a customer of Stamperija in 2016. Since then approximately 600 stamps and 200 miniature sheets have been issued annually.

The topics of 2016 included various animals in 38 different miniature sheets, selected anniversaries, such as the 75th anniversary of the death of Robert Baden-Powell, the 90th anniversary of the birth of Marilyn Monroe and the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to name but only few. Peacemakers, humanists, monarchs, painters and celebrities, such as Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, John Paul II, Princess Diana, Queen Elizabeth II, Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet and Elvis Presley, were also commemorated by issuing two miniature sheets for each person. Next year Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962) was commemorated again, this time for the 55th anniversary of her death.



In 2016 two miniature sheets with 4+1 stamps were issued to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. USS Arizona was hit by Japanese torpedo bombers and sank. USS Missouri is remembered as the site of the surrender of the Empire of Japan. About 200 miniature sheets were issued by Djibouti annually in 2016–2019.



Dominica

Dominica, officially *the Commonwealth of Dominica*, is an island country in the Caribbean. Claimed by France in the 17th century, it was later awarded to Great Britain, and became independent in 1978. The population is less than 75 000.

Dominica has been a customer of IGPC, like many other countries of the Commonwealth, and shares a similar kind of stamp issuing program as the other Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean. During the 1990s the number of new issues grew year after year reaching 240 stamps and 56 miniature sheets in the beginning of the new millennium. Dominica issued 14 miniature sheets including 124 stamps to celebrate the new millennium during 1998–2000.

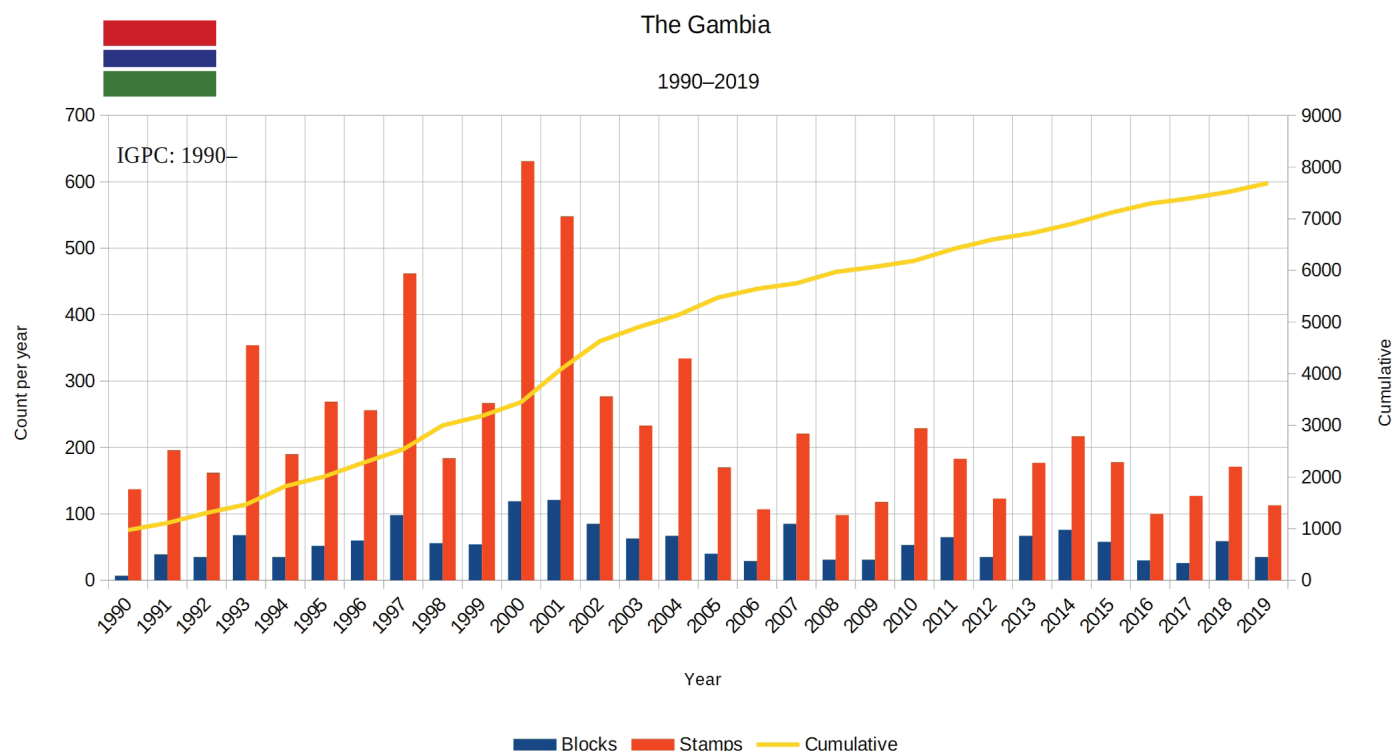
Some subjects of the stamps are related to Dominica, but the majority of them are not. In 1979, the United Nations launched the International Year of the Child, leading IGPC to approach the Walt Disney Company for permission to use their characters on postage



Japanese female beauties in the miniature sheet issued by Dominica in 2002. Ukiyo-e is the best-known type of Japanese woodblock art print. Although these IGPC-designed stamps are beautiful, the issue must be criticized as having no connection with the Creole culture and heritage of Dominica.

stamps. Since then Dominica has issued at least 147 stamps, about half of them after 1990, featuring Walt Disney characters.

Another obsession of ICPG is to design stamps depicting famous artwork of Japanese artists, including Hiroshige, Hokusai and Taikan. Dominica has issued a fair share of these stamps. After 2010, however, Dominica has issued only about 100 stamps. What happened to the stamp issuing program after 2015 is not known.



The Gambia

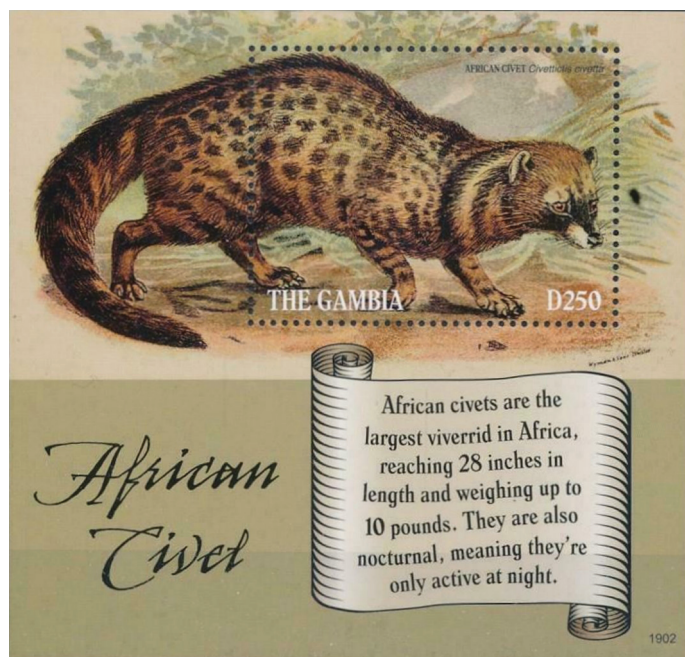
The Gambia, officially *the Republic of The Gambia*, is the smallest country within mainland Africa, with only about two million inhabitants. It is surrounded by Senegal except for a short coastline on the Atlantic Ocean in the west. The Gambia achieved independence in 1965, as a constitutional monarchy within

the Commonwealth. In 1970, The Gambia became a republic. In 2013 The Gambia left the Commonwealth with immediate effect.

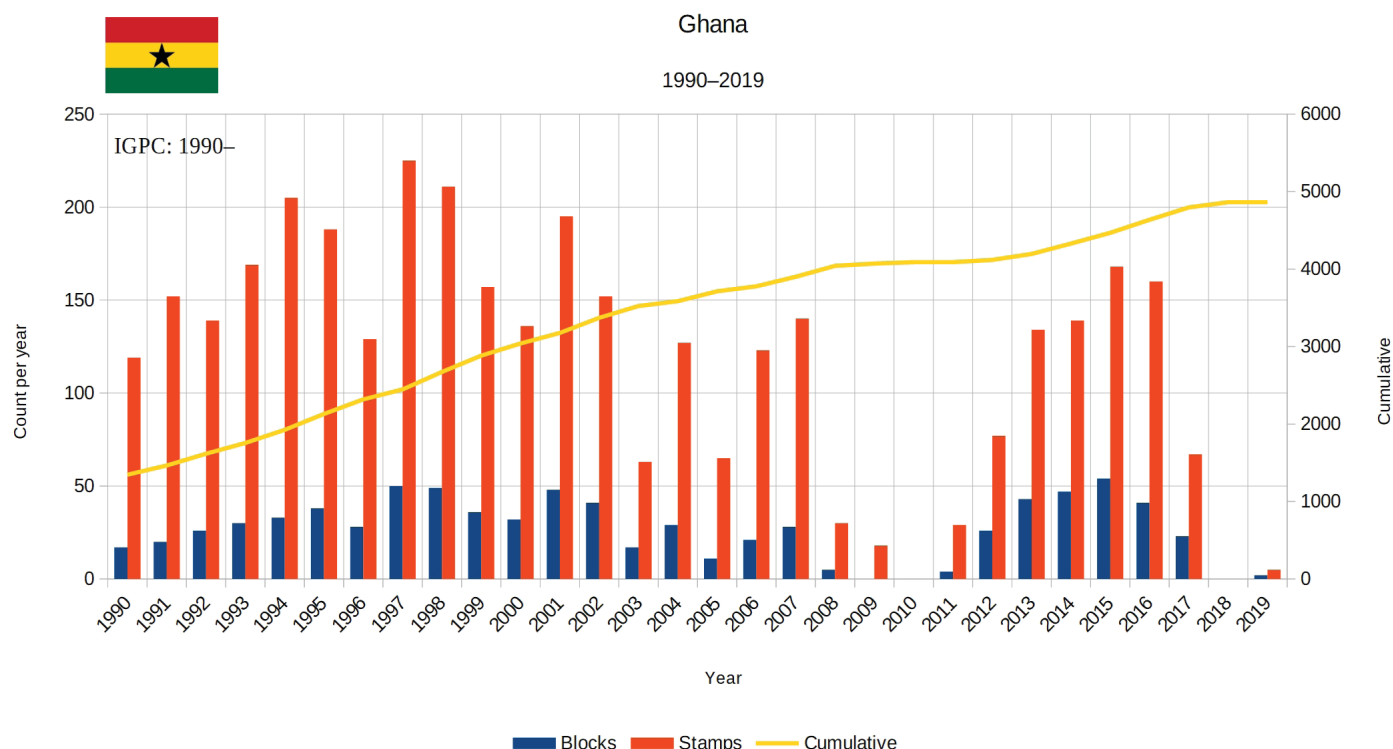
The Gambia had issued less than 1 000 stamps before 1990. Since 1990 it has issued over 7 000 stamps more. The peak years with respect to the number of new issues were 2000 and 2001. During the record year 631 stamps and 119 miniature sheets came out. The Gambia has used the philatelic services of IGPC throughout this period, but there are also reports of illegal stamps.

The new millennium in year 2000 inspired 17 new miniature sheets, including the *Monarchs of the Millennium* and the *Popes of the Millennium* series, which were shared by other countries of the Commonwealth, also customers of IGPC. But The Gambia also celebrated Betty Boop, an animated cartoon character, with three miniature sheets, and many old American TV comedy series. The 400th anniversary of the birth of Anthony van Dyck (1599–1641) and the travels of Pope John Paul II were the topics of 14 miniature sheets each. 12 miniature sheets were issued to introduce the teams of the European Football Championships hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. The Gambia really exceeded all expectations of that year!

Since then the Gambia has issued 98–221 stamps annually, much less than in year 2000, but still considerable numbers for such a small country. The Gambia continues to be a customer of IGPC and is soon expected to return to the Commonwealth.



One of the more recent issues from The Gambia include this miniature sheet of 2019 depicting African civet. The range of this large viverrid extends to all regions of the sub-Saharan Africa, including The Gambia. This miniature sheet is one of the more appropriate new issues for the Gambia. It is the IGPC product no. 1902 (code printed in the lower right corner).



Ghana

Ghana, officially *the Republic of Ghana*, is a country along the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. It is formerly known as the colony of Gold Coast, and gained independency from the United Kingdom in 1957. Today Ghana's population is approximately 30 million.

Ghana was the first country client of IGPC. Ghana appointed them in 1957 to help with the distribution of the stamps and the administration of the post offices of the newly born republic. It also brought crucial revenue to a progressing Ghana, as Ghanaian stamps became more widely available for international customers.

The number of annual new issues grew rapidly in the early 1990s, reaching peak in 1997, when 225 stamps, most of them in the form of miniature sheets, were issued. Year 1997 marked the 40th anniversary of Ghana, but only 4 stamps, designed by IGPC, were issued to commemorate it. The total number of stamps issued by Ghana is now nearing 5 000, however, very few stamps have been issued since the last active period in 2012–2017.

IGPC has designed over 150 miniature sheets for its customers commemorating World War I, including four miniature sheets issued in 2014 by Ghana, and at least twice as many miniature sheets remembering World War II. Such globally important events are obviously a great source of inspiration for stamp designers, because the subjects can be used worldwide. The disruption these global wars brought about had impact also on the Gold Coast, seen then as Britain's "model" African colony.

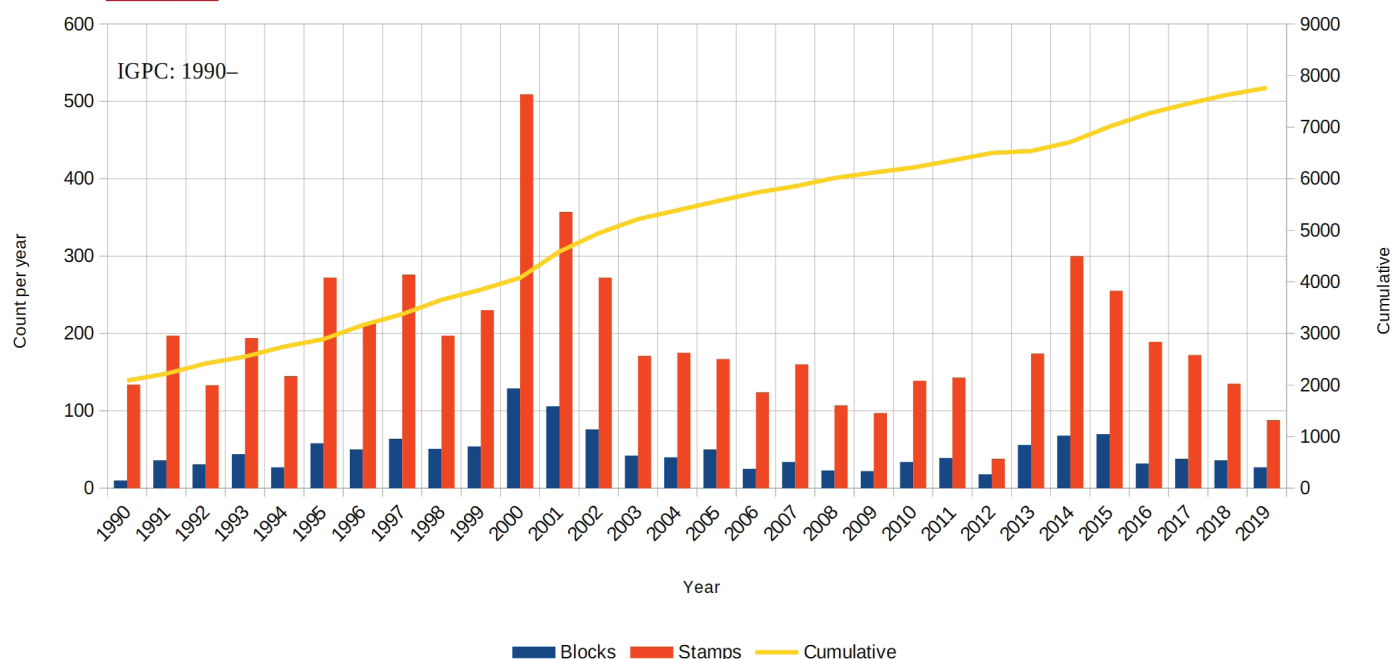


Two of the four miniature sheets issued by Ghana in 2014 to commemorate the beginning of World War I (IGPC designs with product codes 1413 and 1414). Similar layouts were used also in the 2014 issues of Gambia, Palau and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.



Grenada

1990–2019



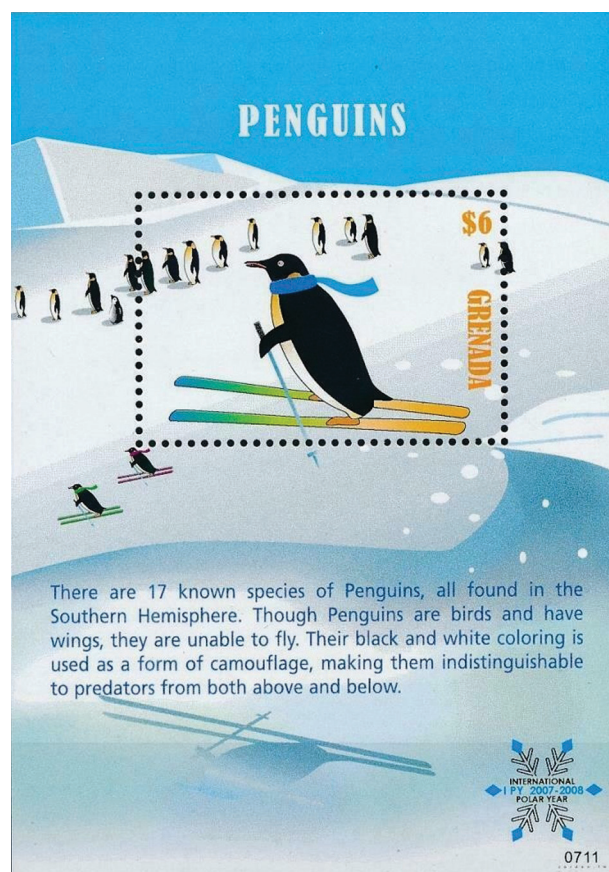
Grenada

Grenada is a sovereign state in the southeastern Caribbean Sea at the southern end of the Grenadines island chain. Grenada consists of the island of Grenada itself plus six smaller islands which lie to the northeast of the main island. Independence as a sovereign state was granted in 1974. Establishing the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in 1979 led to a U.S.-led invasion on the main island in 1983.

Grenada ranks among countries that have issued the most stamps in the world, over 8 000 for Grenada, the main island, alone, and another 5 300 for the smaller islands in the Grenadines island chain. The number of the stamps has tripled since 1990. The peak years in issuing new stamps occurred in 2000–2001, the same years as for many other clients of IGPC. 509 stamps and 129 miniature sheets were issued in 2000. Since the peak the annual number of new issues has varied between 38 and 300 stamps. In addition 35 miniature sheets on the average have been issued annually. There was another significant peak with 300 new stamps and 68 miniature sheets in 2014.

Among the typical IGPC issues of year 2000 (the *Monarchs of the Millennium*, the *Popes of the Millennium* and the *Faces of the Millennium* series of miniature sheets, Betty Boop, as well as countless anniversaries) there was an issue with direct relation to the local culture commemorating the opening of the Grenada National Cricket Stadium. The new complex was damaged in 2004 as a direct result from Hurricane Ivan.

See the next page for a short evaluation of the stamps issued separately for the Grenadines island chain.

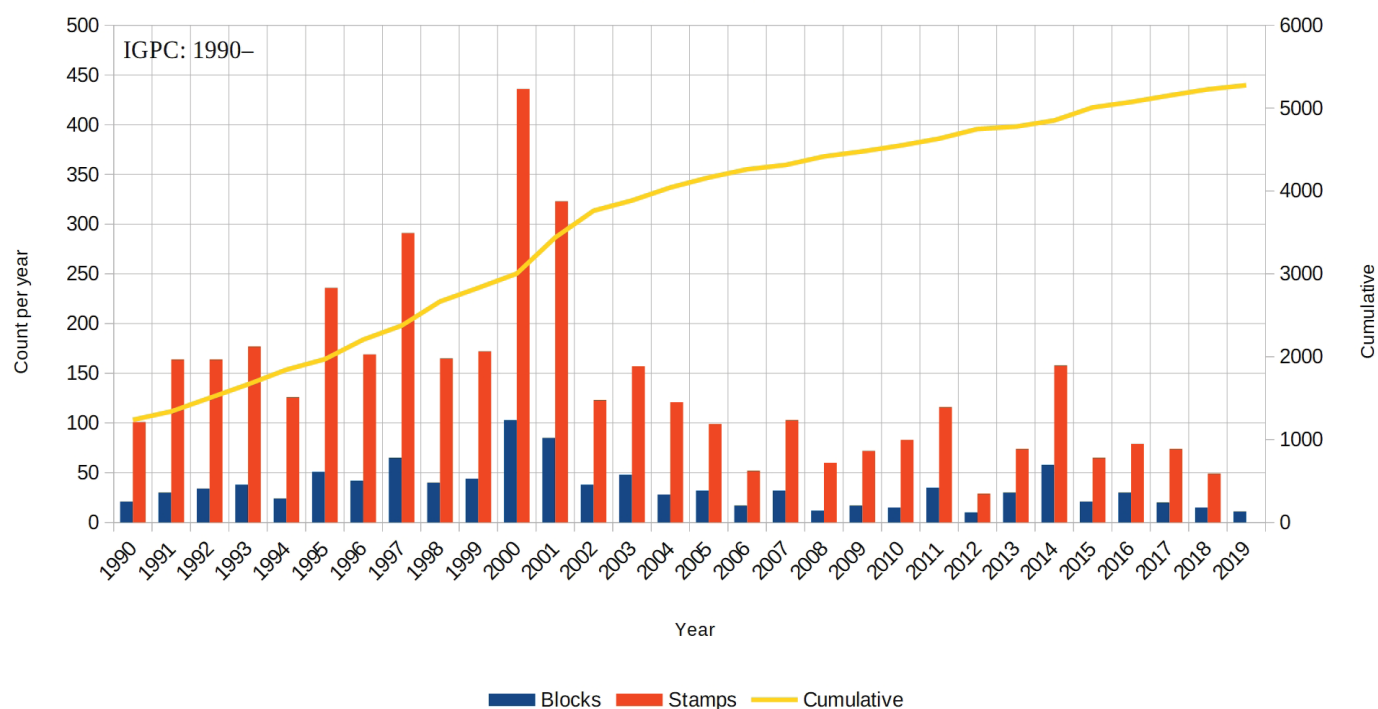


Perhaps one would not expect to see penguins downhill skiing on the island of Grenada?! But they can be seen in the stamps issued by Grenada in 2017 (IGPC product no. 0711). This miniature sheet commemorates the International Polar Year. Year 2017 was relatively calm from the number of new issues point of view: just 127 stamps and 26 miniature sheets were issued.



Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique

1990–2019

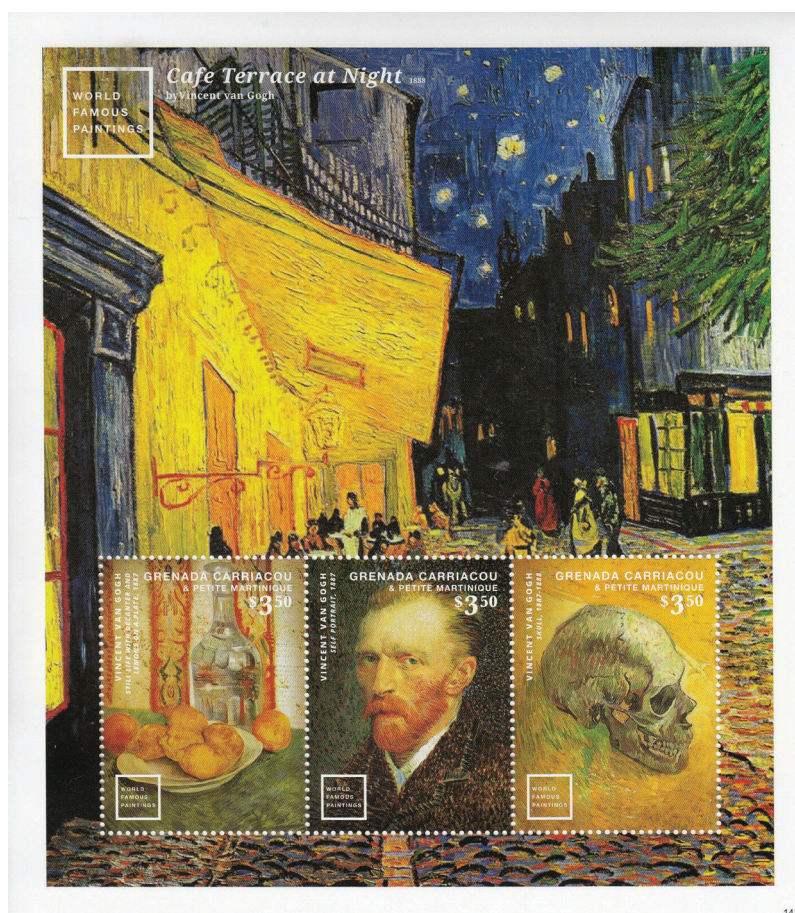


Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique

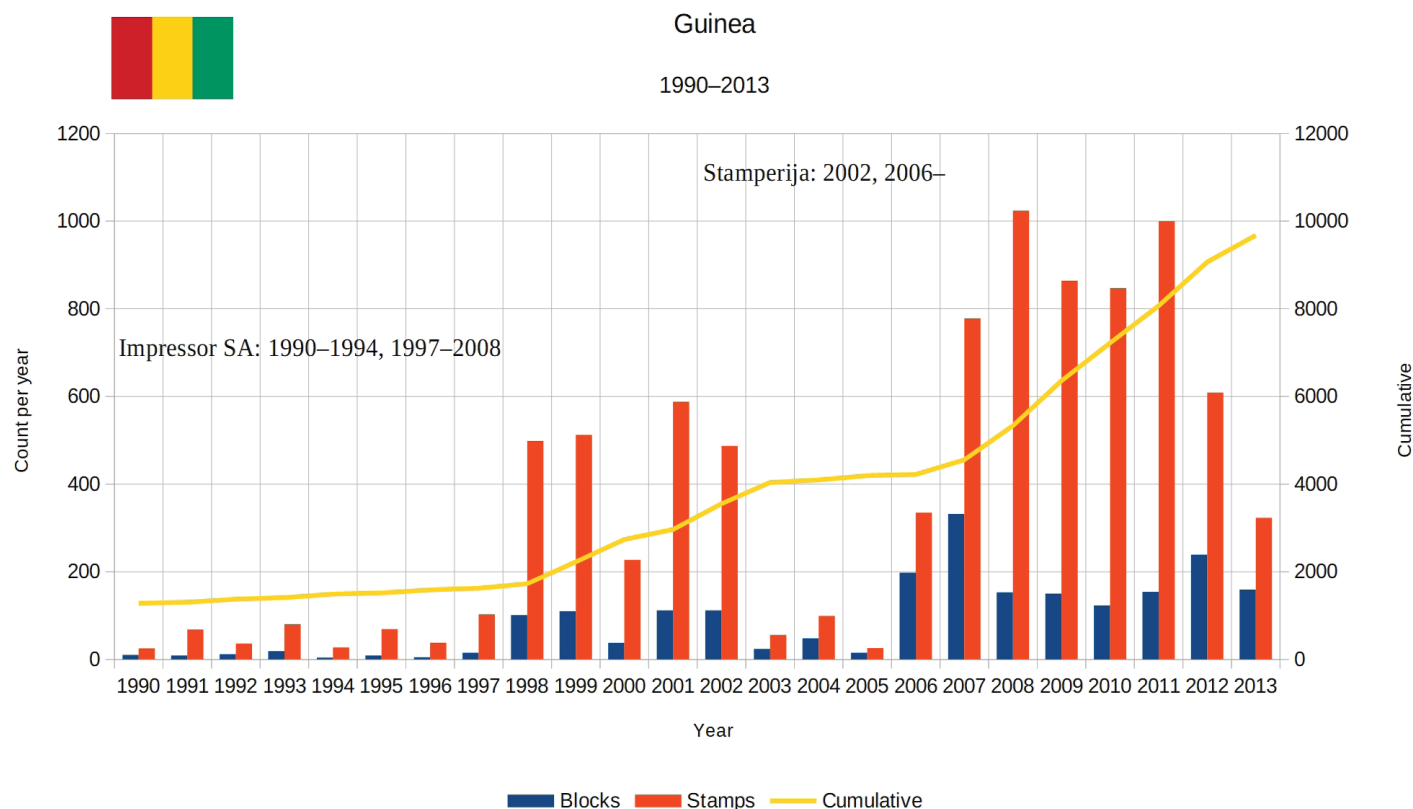
Carriacou and Petite Martinique, also known as the Southern Grenadines, is a dependency of Grenada, lying northeast of the Grenada main island. Stamps inscribed “Grenada Grenadines” were issued in 1973–1999 for these islands. Since 1999, stamps for the Grenadines have been marked “Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique”.

There are already over 5 300 stamps issued for Carriacou & Petite Martinique, compared with over 8 000 for the main island. The number of stamps has doubled during the first two decades of the 21st century. The peak years, as expected, occurred at the same time as for the main island, 2000–2001. Also the stamps themselves have been similar with the same layout as in the stamps of the main island, but with different designs, as usual for the IGPC-designed stamp products. 436 stamps and 103 miniature sheets were issued in year 2000.

Another smaller peak in the number of new issues occurred in 2014, again simultaneously with the main island. This time 158 stamps and 58 miniature sheets came out. For example year 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, therefore four miniature sheets were issued depicting aircrafts, ships and submarines of World War I.



In 2014 a series of new miniature sheets, *World Famous Paintings*, was issued by both Grenada and the smaller islands, paintings by Parmigianino and Maurice Denis for the main island, as well as Caravaggio and Vincent van Gogh (pictured above) for the smaller islands of Grenada, inscribed GRENADA CARRIACOU & PETITE MARTINIQUE on the stamps.



Guinea

Guinea, officially *Republique de Guinée*, is a country which lies along the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa, formerly known as French Guinea. It is sometimes also called Guinea-Conakry to distinguish it from two other countries in the region, Guinea-Bissau and Equatorial Guinea. The first stamps of the Republic of Guinea were issued in 1959 marking independence.

Today Guinea is one of the most prolific issuers of postage stamps, the number of all stamps issued exceeds well over 10 000. The number of stamps has increased more than tenfold during the three last decades, which is probably a world record. Many stamps for Guinea have been printed for free by Impressor SA. Stamperija Ltd. has been the authorized representative of Guinea post administration (the issues of 2002, 2006–2018).

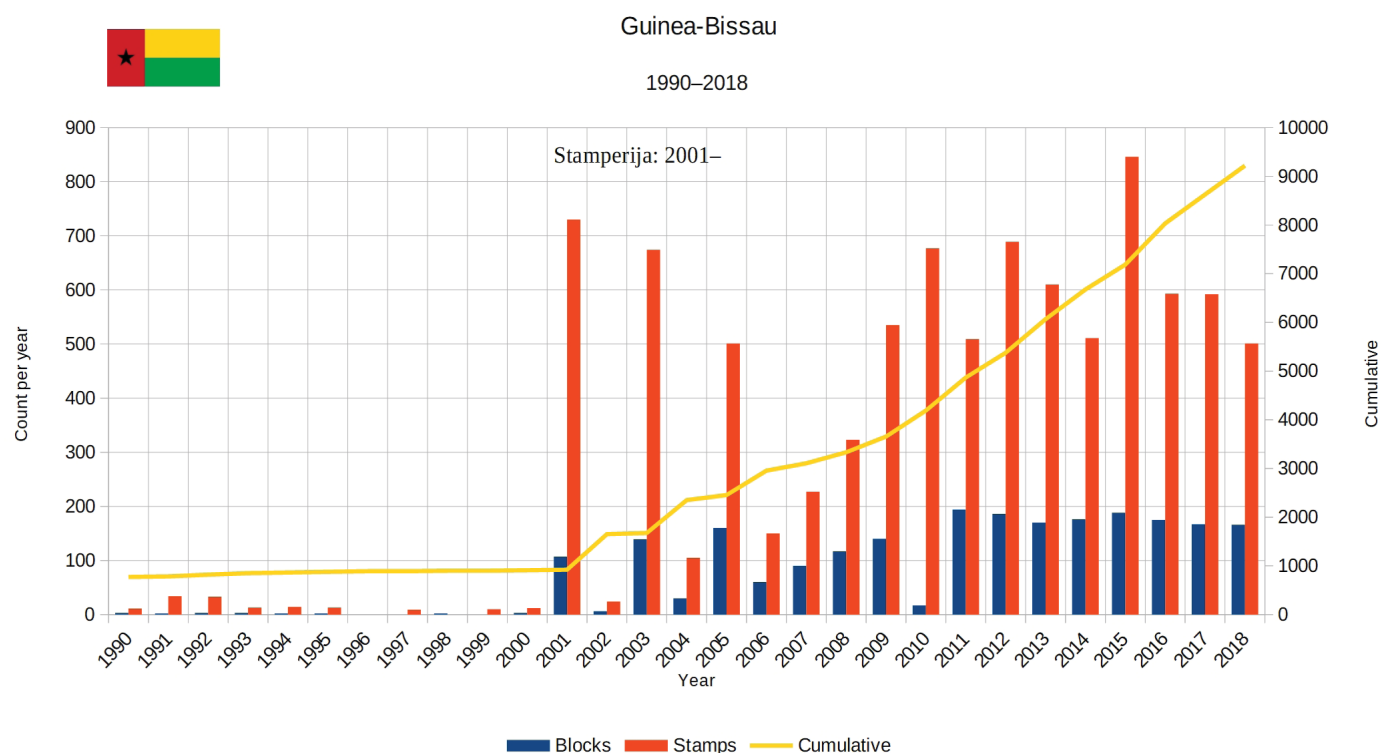
Guinea has issued over 1 000 stamps annually at least twice, in 2008 and 2011. Records of new stamp issues are available until 2013. The stamp program has continued at least until late 2019. Reports of illegal stamps inscribed “République de Guinée” have also been received.

During the record year 2008 there were numerous issues commemorating Summer Olympic Games, Africa Cup of



This block depicting Formula 1 Grand Prix champions was issued by Guinea in 2007. It is one of the 332 blocks or miniature sheets issued during the same year, which is probably another world record.

Nations and European Championships in Football, Formula 1 Grand Prix, and great champions in professional cycling. Two series of miniature sheets were devoted to cats and dogs with their (celebrity) masters. Even a tribute to the former World Champion in chess, Bobby Fischer, was made by issuing five blocks and miniature sheets. Additionally 45 of the new issues in 2008 were older issues surcharged and overprinted. Unfortunately most, if not all, of these issues are prime examples of abusive items.



Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau, officially *Guiné-Bissau*, is a country in West Africa with an estimated population of less than two millions. It was formerly known as Portuguese Guinea. It is one of the ten poorest countries in the world, more than two-thirds of the population lives below the poverty line and depends mainly on agriculture and fishing. Smugglers take advantage of government corruption and disorder to operate unimpeded. In such circumstances it is clear that issuing postage stamps with relation to local culture is not the top priority of Guinea-Bissau.

The first stamps of independent Guinea-Bissau were issued in 1974. Until 2000 only 910 stamps had been issued, but since then the number of stamps have increased more than tenfold – well over 9 000 stamps had been issued just two decades later. This surge in the number of issues is a direct consequence of Guinea-Bissau becoming a customer of Stamperija Ltd. in 2001, when 730 new stamps and 107 miniature sheets came out, almost doubling the number of stamps in mere one year! During the last decade the number of stamps issued annually has been consistently over 500, including 200 miniature sheets on average.

In 2001 numerous miniature sheets commemorated the medallists of the Olympic Games in Sydney, the European Football Championships in France and World Table Tennis Championship in Osaka. Also paintings, in particular nude paintings, was the theme of 2001 with 24 mini-



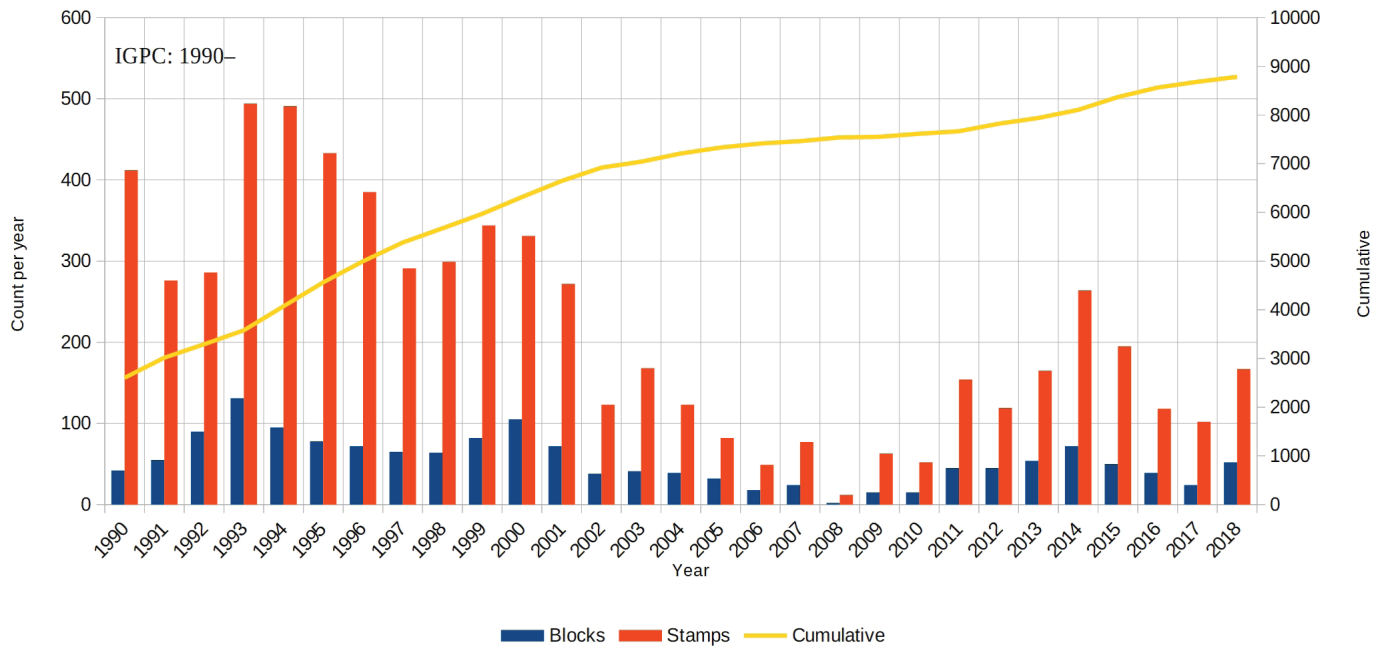
Christianity arrived in Guinea-Bissau with Portuguese traders and missionaries in the 15th century. Miniature sheet designed by Stamperija issued in 2017 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

ature sheets. Interestingly there were also two issues designed in the style of the contemporary Portuguese stamps and related to local culture. One set of three stamps was issued for the 2nd anniversary of the death of an Italian-born Guinea-Bissauan Roman Catholic bishop Settimio Arturo Ferrazzetta. His death was mourned as a great national loss.



Guyana

1990–2018



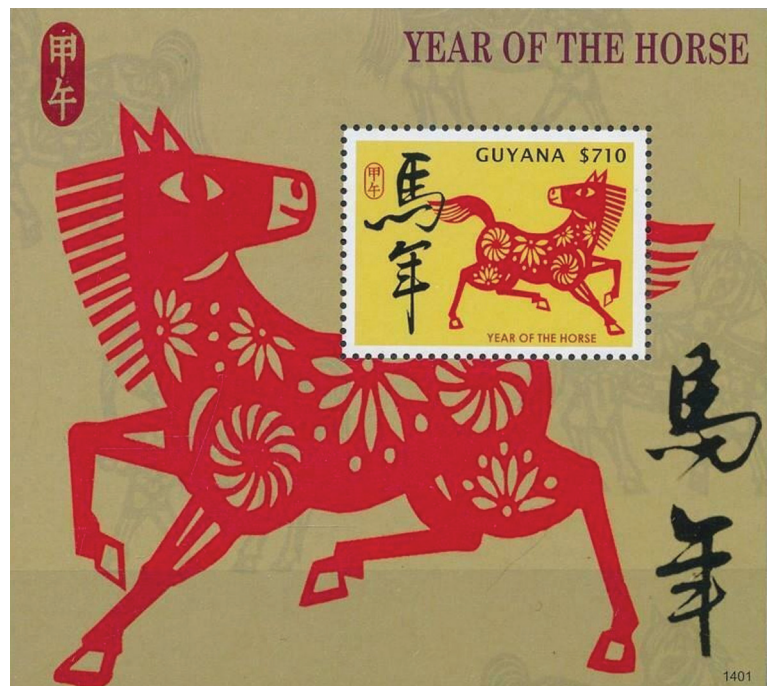
Guyana

Guyana, officially *the Co-operative Republic of Guyana*, is a country on the northern mainland of South America. Guyana is the only South American nation in which English is the official language. The country has a population of less than one million.

Guyana became independent from Great Britain in 1966 and began immediately producing its own stamps, and not just a few stamps, but more, and then even more. Being a member of the Commonwealth, Guyana has been a customer of IGPC since the late 1980s. In the early 1980s most new issues were older issues surcharged and/or overprinted. Guyana has probably a world record in issuing stamps depicting orchids (over 700 stamps).

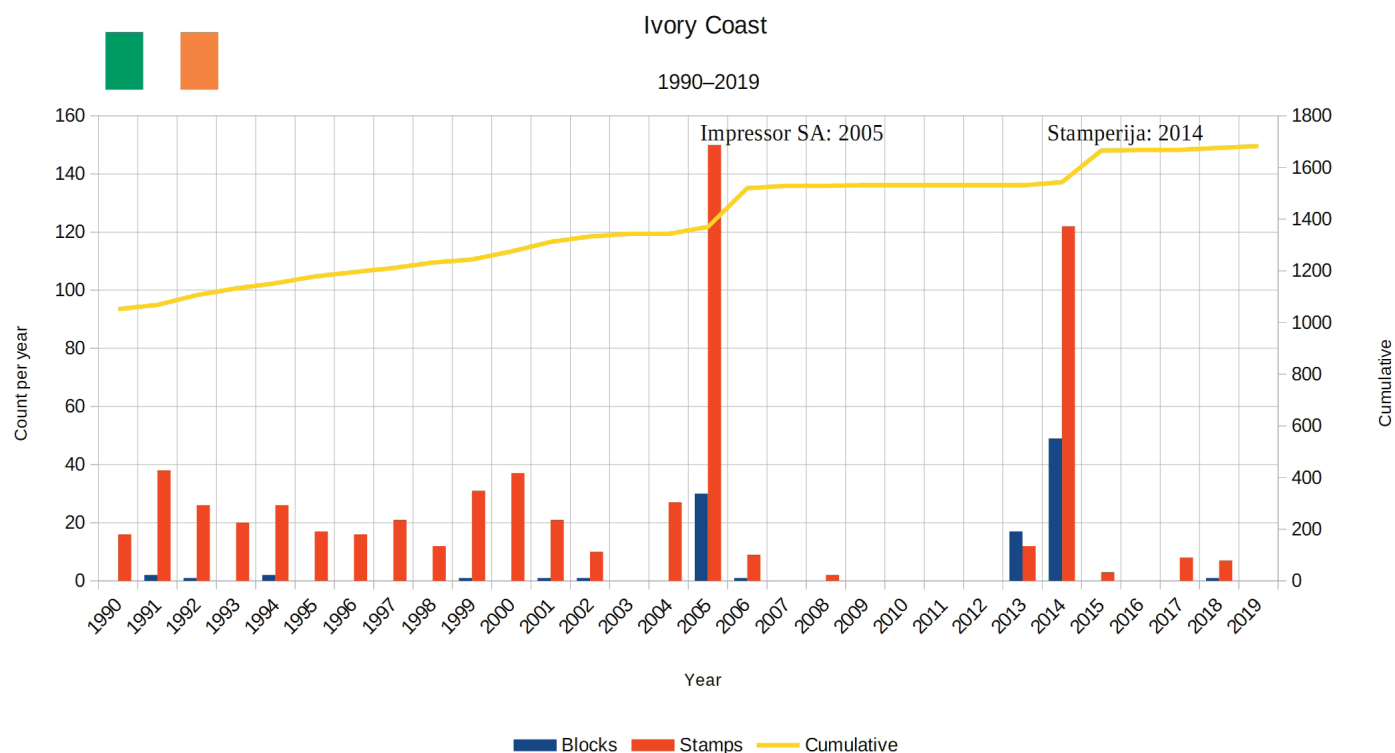
Guyana was especially active in issuing new stamps in 1981–2005 and then again since 2011. Just recently the number of stamps issued by Guyana has exceeded a new threshold, 9 000 stamps. However, a peak period was already in 1993–1994, when nearly 500 stamps and 110 miniature sheets on average were produced annually.

Despite flowers, fungi and animals (both prehistoric and living) the leading topics of 1993 included the 40th anniversary of coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the 18th World Scout Jamborees in the Netherlands, Famous People of the 20th Century in different sectors of



Guyana has issued miniature sheets celebrating Chinese New Year since 1997. For many years it was the first issue of the year, unless some Walt Disney characters took higher priority: in 1999 Guyana had issued already 40 Disney stamps before the Chinese New Year issue on January 4th! The above block came out already in 2013 to celebrate the Year of the Horse in 2014 (IGPC product no. 1401).

humanity (12 miniature sheets), the 50th anniversary of World War II and the 200th anniversary of the Louvre in Paris (12 miniature sheets). Towards the end of the year there was a flood of miniature sheets with characters from the Walt Disney cartoons, such as Donald Duck (17 sheets) and the film “Aladdin” (7 sheets).



This block is one of the 49 blocks and miniature sheets in the series of *Le Faune Africaine* (African fauna) issued by Ivory Coast in 2014. But was this design originally prepared for Ivory Coast? Two subspecies of African buffaloes do occur in the Ivory Coast region of West Africa.

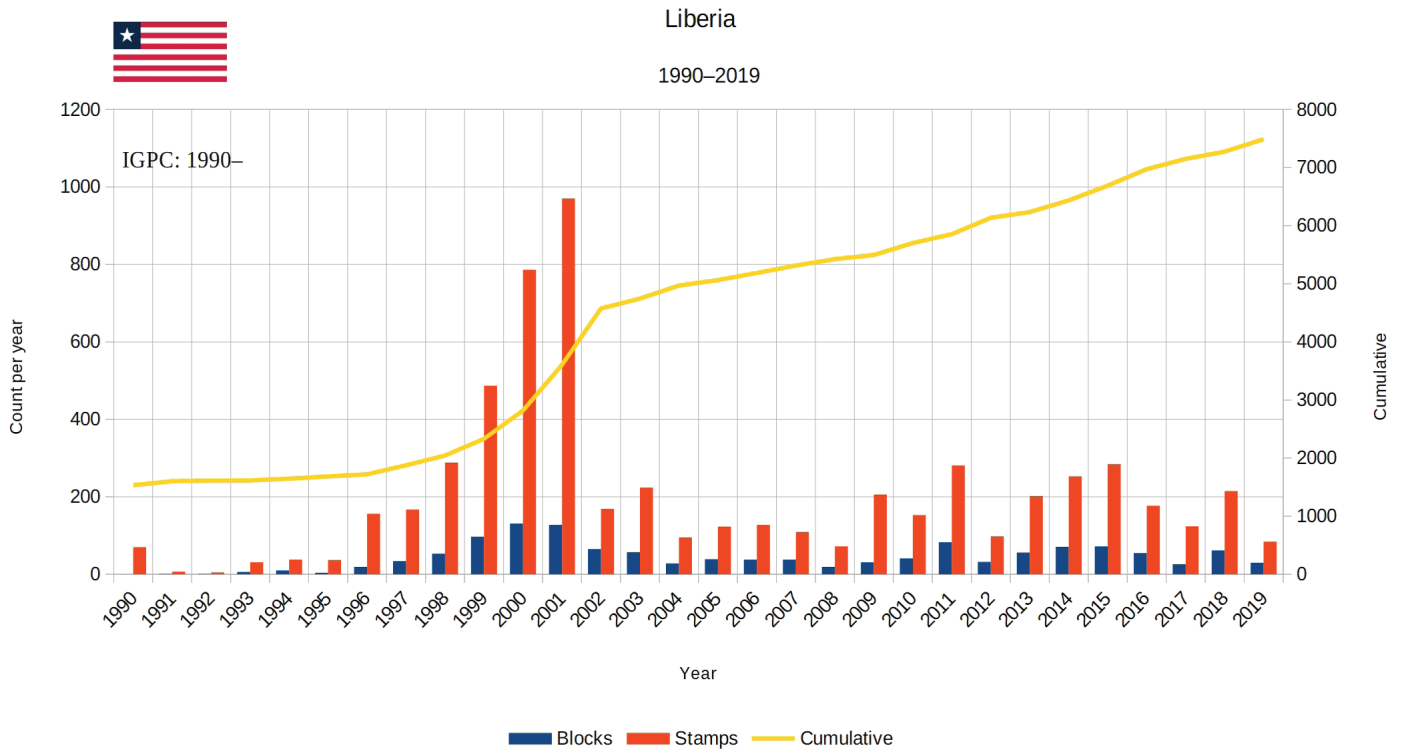
Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast, officially *Republique de Côte d'Ivoire*, is a country located on the south coast of West Africa. The area consolidated as a French colony in 1893.

Ivory Coast has issued only less than 1 700 stamps since gaining independence in 1960. However, during two years in the past three decades, the annual number of new issues has suddenly surged. The first peak occurred in 2005, when 120 stamps and 30 miniature sheets were issued during the last three months of the year, most of them were printed for free by Impressor SA.

The second peak occurred in 2014, when Ivory Coast was using the services of Stamperija Ltd. 122 stamps and 49 blocks and miniature sheets came out on just one day, 10th March of 2014, which was also the only day when stamps were issued by Ivory Coast in 2014! All except one of these miniature sheets depicted African fauna, and the exceptional one celebrated the Year of the Horse according to the Chinese lunar calendar.

The Chinese New Year and African fauna designs had probably been prepared by Stamperija Ltd for use by any African client, and then decided to be used for the stamps of Ivory Coast. Since 2014 Ivory Coast has published only few stamps with local contents, and one set of five stamps celebrating the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations with China, that has financed important infrastructure projects, such as a motorway construction, in the capital area. There are also reports of a massive amount of illegal stamps with the country name.

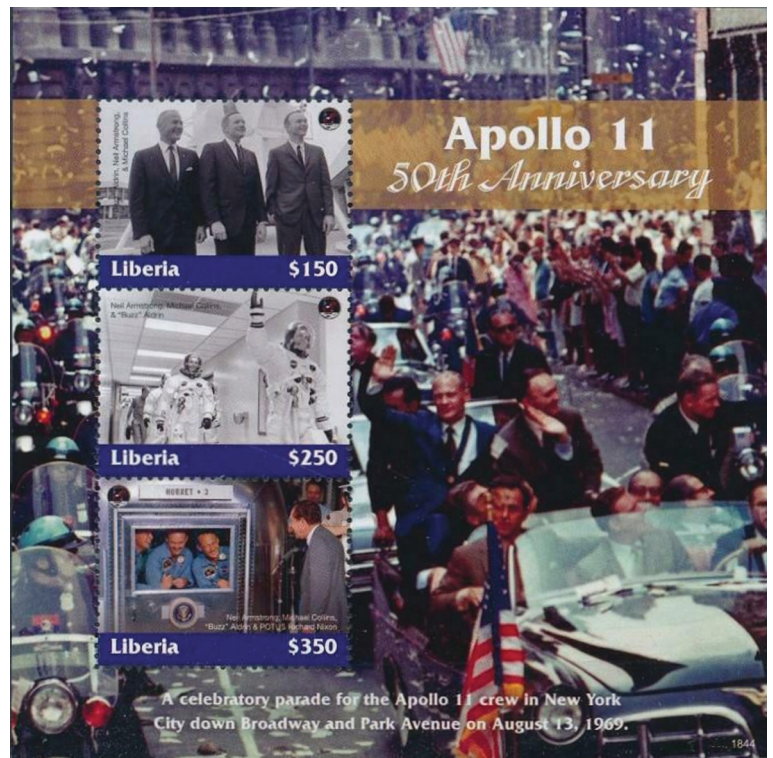


Liberia

Liberia, officially *the Republic of Liberia*, is a country on the West African coast. It is the first African republic to proclaim its independence in 1847. During World War II, Liberia supported the war effort against the Axis powers and in turn, the United States invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia and continues to keep close relations today. Liberia has a population of around 5 million.

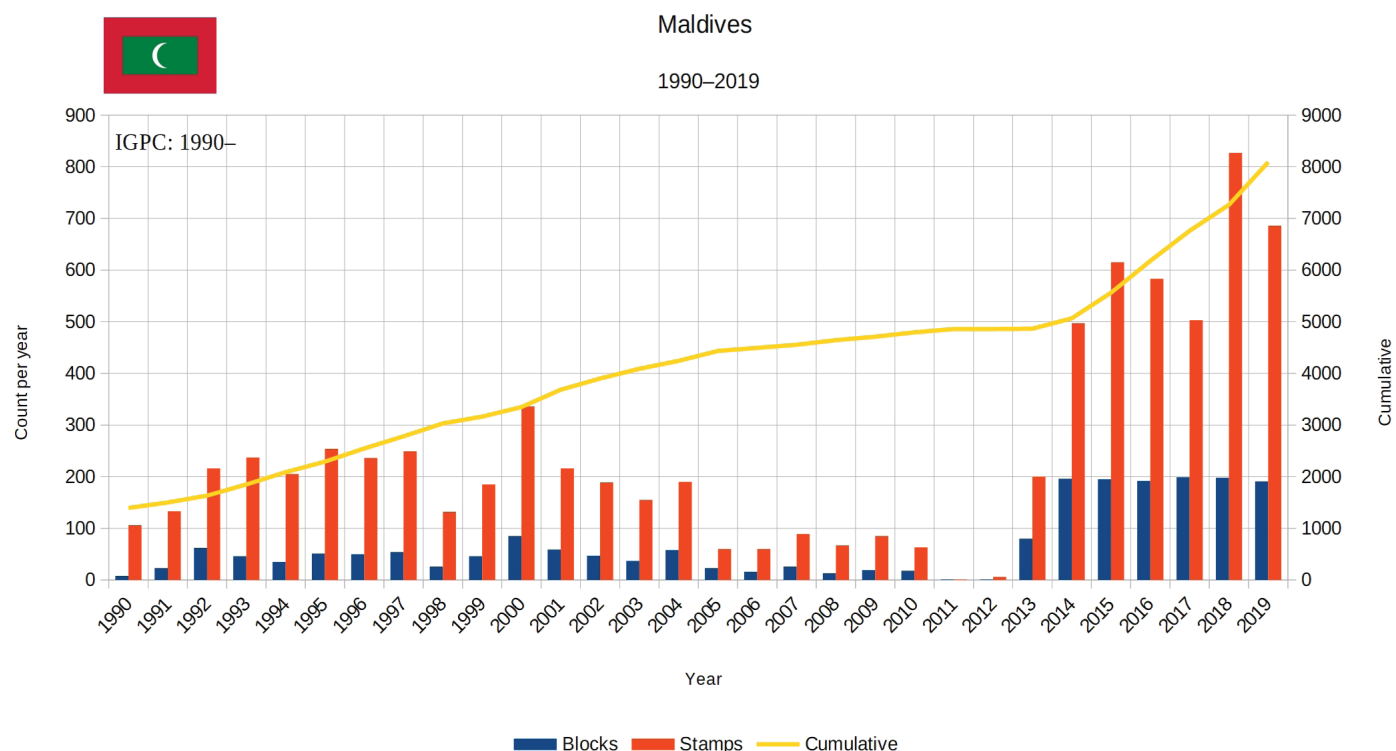
Liberia has relied on IGPC for marketing and global distribution of their postage stamps during the last three decades. The annual number of new issues began to increase rapidly in 1996 and peaked in 2001, when 970 stamps and 128 miniature sheets came out. Since then Liberia has issued about 200 new stamps on average each year, which is considerably less than during 1999–2001.

Significant amounts of investments that have come to Liberia from the United States, but also from China, is reflected in the topics selected for the stamps. For example, Liberia has frequently issued stamps and miniature sheets depicting leading Chinese politicians and commemorating birth and death anniversaries of the former Chinese premiers. However, it is definitely the United States that Liberia has paid most attention to; presidents, especially Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, heroes of the West, victims of the shuttle Colombia, American freestyle wrestlers, pop stars, espe-



This miniature sheet was issued by Liberia in 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission. It depicts the celebratory parade for the homecoming of the Apollo 11 crew in New York.

cially Elvis Presley, the list is almost endless. There are occasional issues with local relation, but the majority of the stamps have topics selected around the world, issues such as *Birds from Around the World* or *Monarchs from Around the World* make that point very clear.



The Maldives

The Maldivian Islands, officially *the Republic of Maldives*, is a small island nation situated in the Indian Ocean and is formed by a double chain of twenty-six atolls. In 1965 the former sultanate gained independence from the United Kingdom and the republic was established three years later. Less than 400 000 people live permanently on the islands.

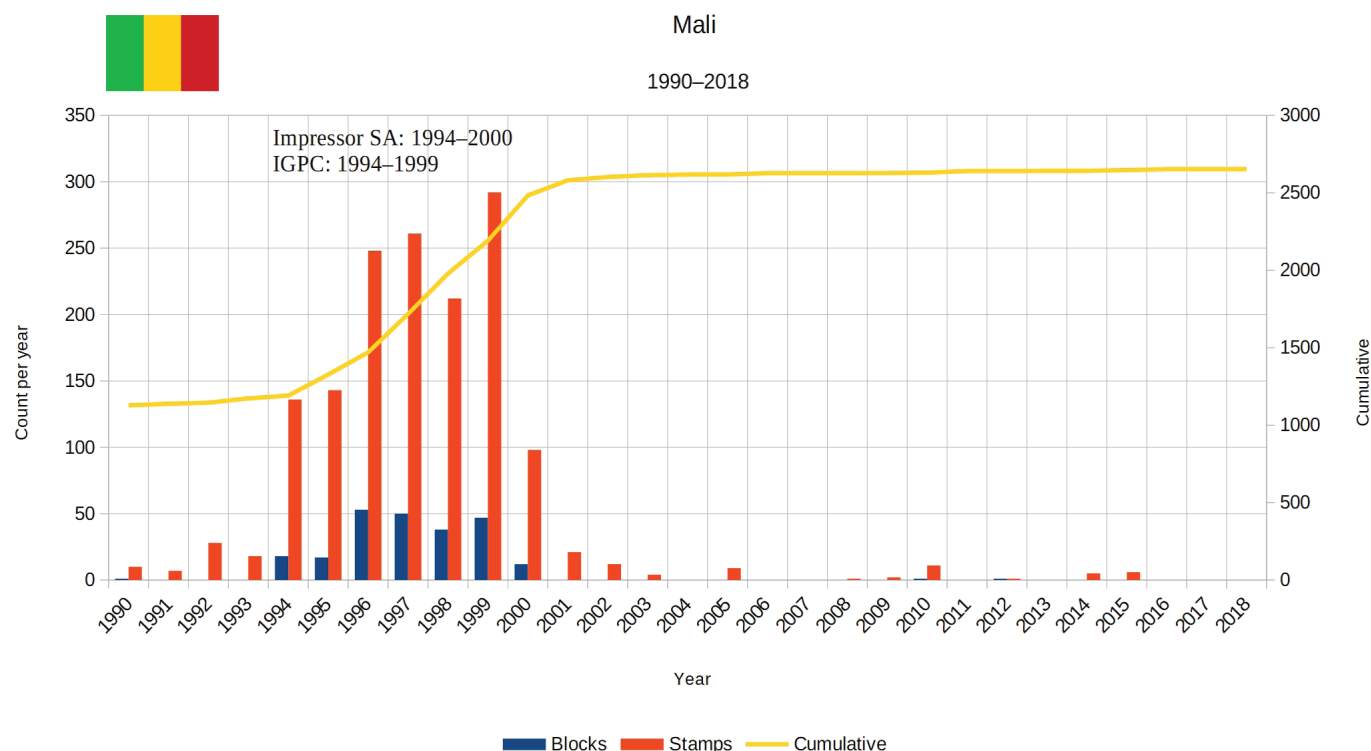
The Maldives is a member of the Commonwealth and its postal administration is a customer of IGPC. On average about 200 stamps were issued by the Maldives during the 1990s and early 2000s. There was a break during 2011–2012 (just seven stamps issued), but since then the number of new issues has skyrocketed. A peak so far occurred in 2018, when 827 stamps and 198 sheets came out. Recently 200 miniature sheets have been issued annually. The number of Maldivian stamps nearly doubled during 2013–2020, and the total will soon reach 9 000, making the Maldives one of the most prolific issuers of stamps in the world.

The period between 1990 until 2012 is mixed, with many undesirable or abusive issues, but also some more interesting ones, such as definitive stamps with local motives, birds, flowers and sea life, something that one would expect from the Maldives. However, since 2013 the Maldives has issued an excessive number of generic miniature sheets – generic in the sense



An example of a miniature sheet that was issued by the Maldives in 1994. It commemorates the 40th anniversary of the death of Henri Matisse by depicting one of his masterpieces, *the Painter's Family*. His wife is seated on the couch, his sons Pierre and Jean are at the check-board, and his daughter, Marguerite, stands at the right. This issue is appealing, making it hard to decide whether or not to display it in a thematic exhibit. There would be no problem at all if this miniature sheet were issued by France.

that almost any other country could have issued them by changing only the country and the face value inscriptions on stamps. It goes without saying that they hardly have any relation to the local culture of the Maldives.



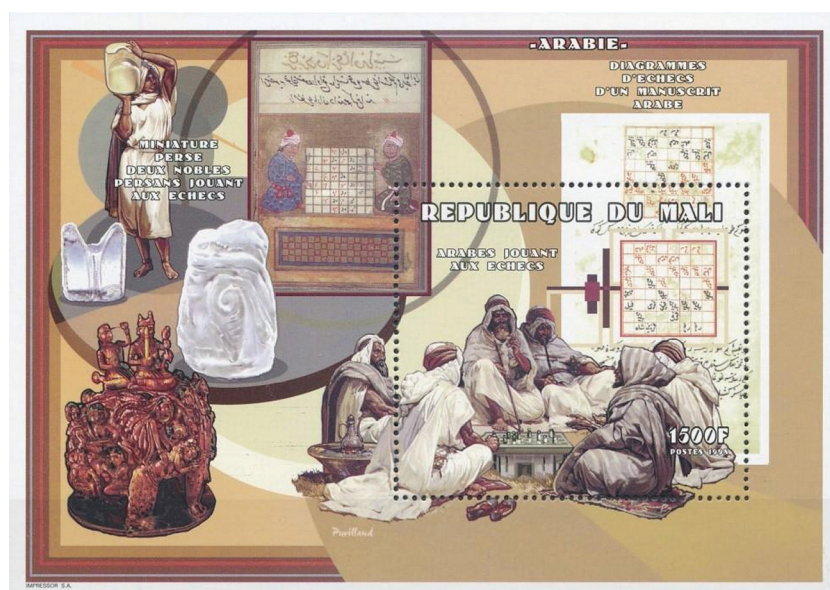
Mali

Mali, officially *Republique du Mali*, is a landlocked country in West Africa, the northern regions of it reaching deep into the middle of the Sahara Desert. The Mali Republic was created in 1960 and occupies roughly the same territory as the former French Sudan. Mali has a population of about 20 million and is considered one of the poorest countries in the world.

Mali had been quite conservative in issuing new stamps until 1994 (less than 1 200 stamps issued before 1994). However, the number of Mali stamps more than doubled during 1994–2000, when stamps were printed for free by Impressor SA and Mali became customer of IGPC. Just before that period Mali had implemented an economic adjustment programme that resulted in some economic growth – issuing of new stamps to collect revenue can be understood in that context.

Since 2001 all new stamps have had local relation, which is quite unusual for a country like Mali. At the same time Mali has experienced many armed conflicts and also military coups.

During a peak period 1994–2000 the majority of the issues were generic, but occasionally also stamps with local contents were issued in normal sheets. It gives an



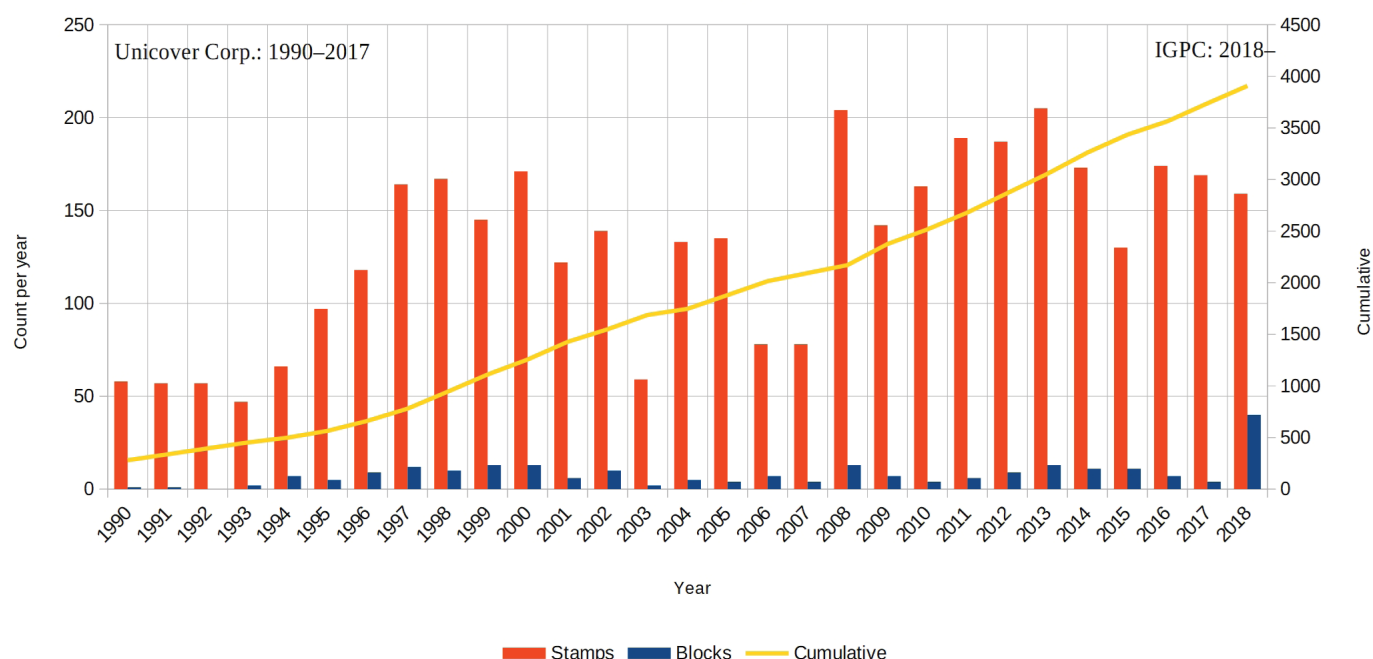
In 1998 Mali issued a set of six miniature sheets with the chess theme. This is one of the more interesting ones because it is related also to the Muslim culture of Mali. The game of chess passed from India to Persia. When the Arabs conquered Persia, chess was taken up by the Muslim world and subsequently spread to Europe. The high face value of this miniature sheet suggests, however, that this issue is intended only for collectors. It was printed for free by Impressor SA and is hardly intended for paying postage in Mali.

impression that they were intended for paying postage in Mali, while the generic ones were used for collecting revenue from collectors worldwide. For example, in 1998 a series of definitive stamps depicting local art and culture came out. The face values of these 12 stamps range between 5 Fr and 90 Fr, whereas a typical miniature sheet of that period (like the one above) has a face value of 1500 Fr or even higher.



Marshall Islands

1990–2018



The Marshall Islands

The Marshall Islands, officially *the Republic of the Marshall Islands*, is an island country near the equator in the Pacific Ocean. Geographically, the country is part of the larger island group of Micronesia. The country gained independence in 1979 as an associated state of the United States. The population of the islands is less than 60 000.

The Marshall Islands has issued stamps since achieving postal independence in 1984. Until 1990 only 280 stamps had been issued. However, the number of stamps has increased rapidly since 1990, up to 205 annually, reaching 4 000 in 2019. The Marshall Islands has emitted relatively few miniature sheets, up to 13 annually, but they usually contain a lot of stamps. Since 2018 miniature sheets have been issued in increasing numbers. Unicover Corp. took care of the philatelic services of the island country until 2017.

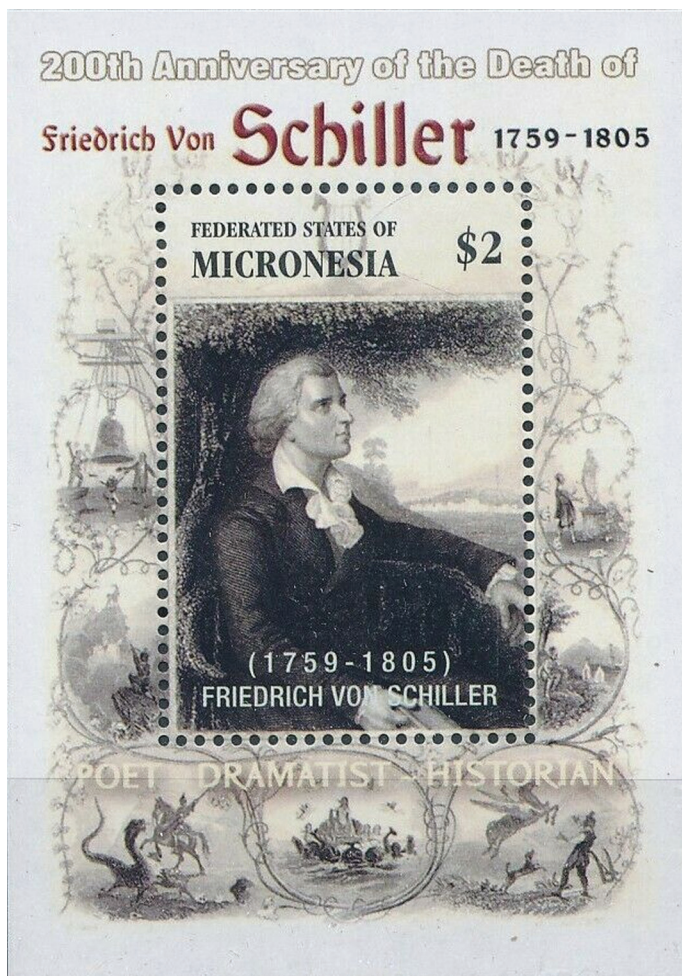
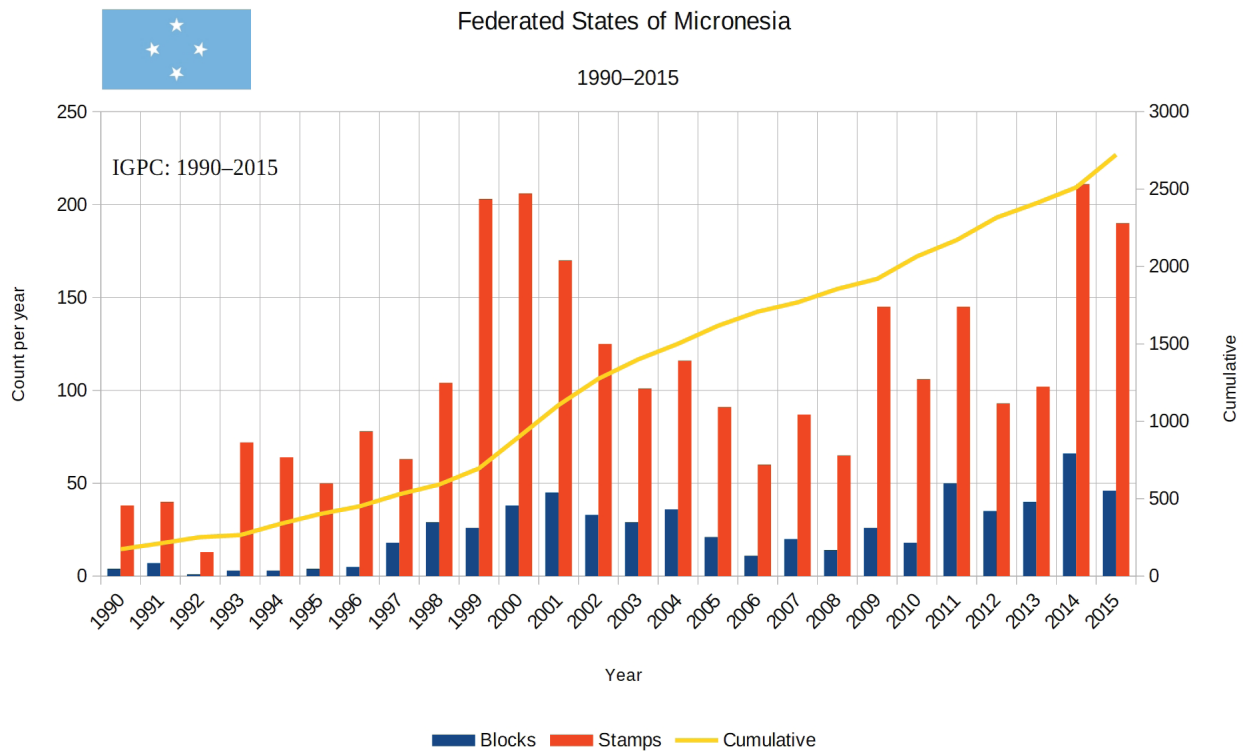
Between 1989 and 1995 the Marshall Islands issued a long commemorative stamp series of the history of World War II, picking up the key events of the global war. It was repeated in 2011–2015 with a set of miniature sheets for the 70th anniversary. There have been many other military related miniature sheets in addition, depicting jet fighters, legendary biplanes,



Stamps of the Marshall Islands have been frequently printed in se-tenant form, in sheets containing a number of different designs joined together. Above is an example from the *Vintage cars* series, five different sets were issued in 2001–2005. The individual car designs are quite nice, including drivers and passengers with contemporary clothing. Unfortunately, however, these designs have no relation to the Marshall Islands.

legendary aircrafts, world's greatest aircrafts, aircrafts of the US Air Force, aircrafts of the US Navy, fighting ships (one for each state of the United States), and so on. The largest such “miniature” sheet consists of no less than 50 different stamps!

In the 2010s new stamps with more varied topics have appeared. Some of the more ingenious ones include birthday hats of Queen Elizabeth II (yes, just the hats!), semaphore signals (30 different) and different eyes of nature.



In 2005 the Federated States of Micronesia commemorated the 200th anniversary of the death of Friedrich von Schiller. The design of this block with illustrations from his poems is aesthetic, as one would expect and is appropriate for the topic.

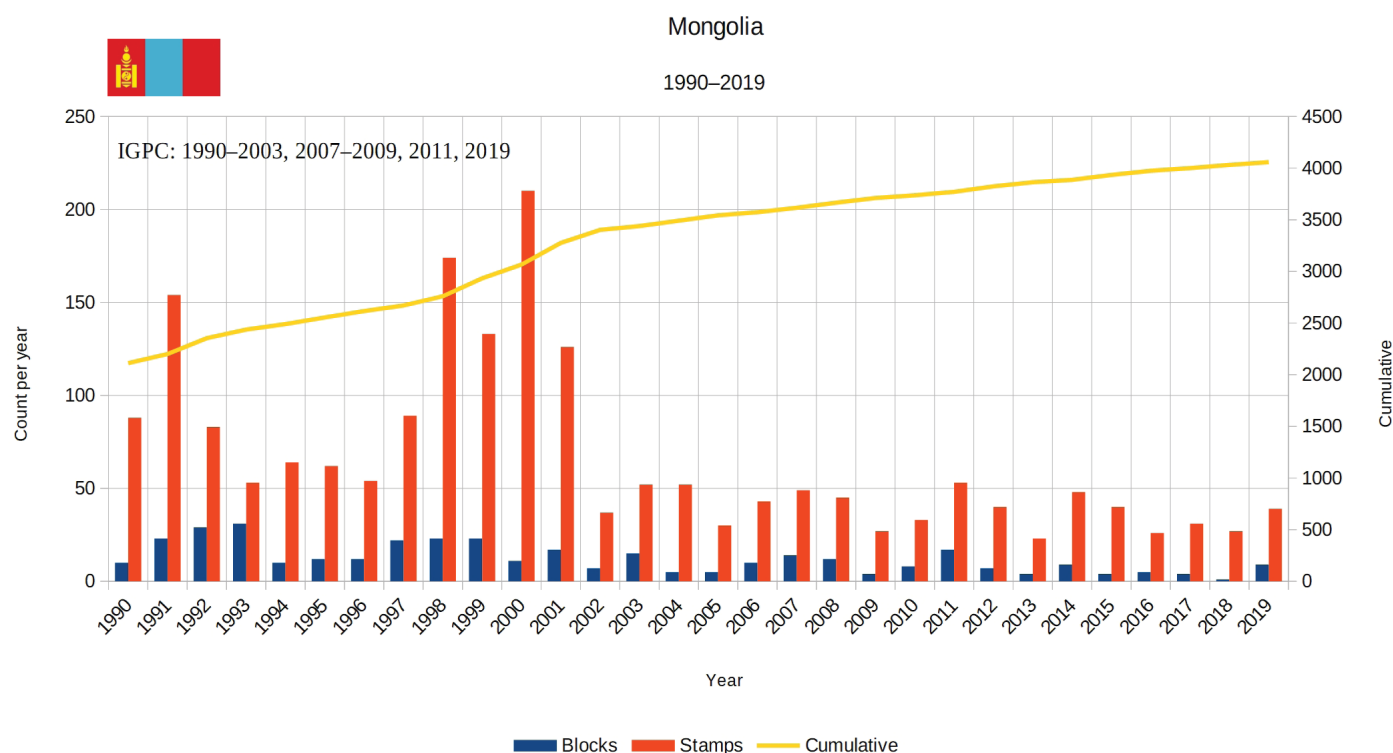
The Federated States of Micronesia

The Federated States of Micronesia, also known simply as Micronesia, is an island country in Oceania. Together with the other two sovereign states in Oceania, the Marshall Islands and Palau, Micronesia is a freely associated state of the United States. The population of Micronesia is more than 100 000.

The first stamps of independent Micronesia were issued in 1984. Until 1990 Micronesia had issued only 174 stamps. Since then the number of stamps has increased rapidly, in particular in 1999–2001, and again since 2014. The country has been a customer of IGPC for a long time. The business arrangement with IGPC has continued and the number of new stamps issued annually has remained at the same level at least until 2017.

Like in case of most other customers of IGPC, the millennium stamps contribute much to the flow of new issues immediately before and after the turn of the century. Although the Micronesian islands also became a war zone during World War II, this is not greatly reflected in the design of the Micronesian stamps. There are many issues with the usual nature and world culture topics (like the one at left).

In 2015 a set of 9 miniature sheets depicting the *First Postage Stamps of the Member States of the United Nations* was issued. These sheets contain 49 stamps on stamps with an amazing number of factual mistakes. IGPC would have needed consultancy from us philatelists!



Mongolia

Mongolia is a landlocked country in East and Central Asia, bordered by Russia to the north and China to the south. The Mongolian People's Republic was proclaimed in 1924. Mongolia is the most sparsely populated sovereign state in the world, with a population of only over 3.3 million people.



In 1993 Mongolia issued nine gold plated and eight silver plated stamps and blocks depicting nature, sports and modern transportation. For special issues, IGPC has used a wide variety of techniques, such as embossing, metallic foil stamping, gold leafing, lenticular printing, holography, embroidery, die cutting, and laser engraving.

In the 1990s the Mongol Post was quite an active issuer of stamps with a wide selection of themes, many of them having connection with the Mongol culture or history, but also many stamps featuring popular global subjects, cartoon characters and individuals from sports and entertainment, including Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe. Stamps featuring images from American pop culture, such as Jerry Garcia (43 different stamps!), TV shows and cartoons, such as the Flinstones, are something one would not expect to see from Mongolia.

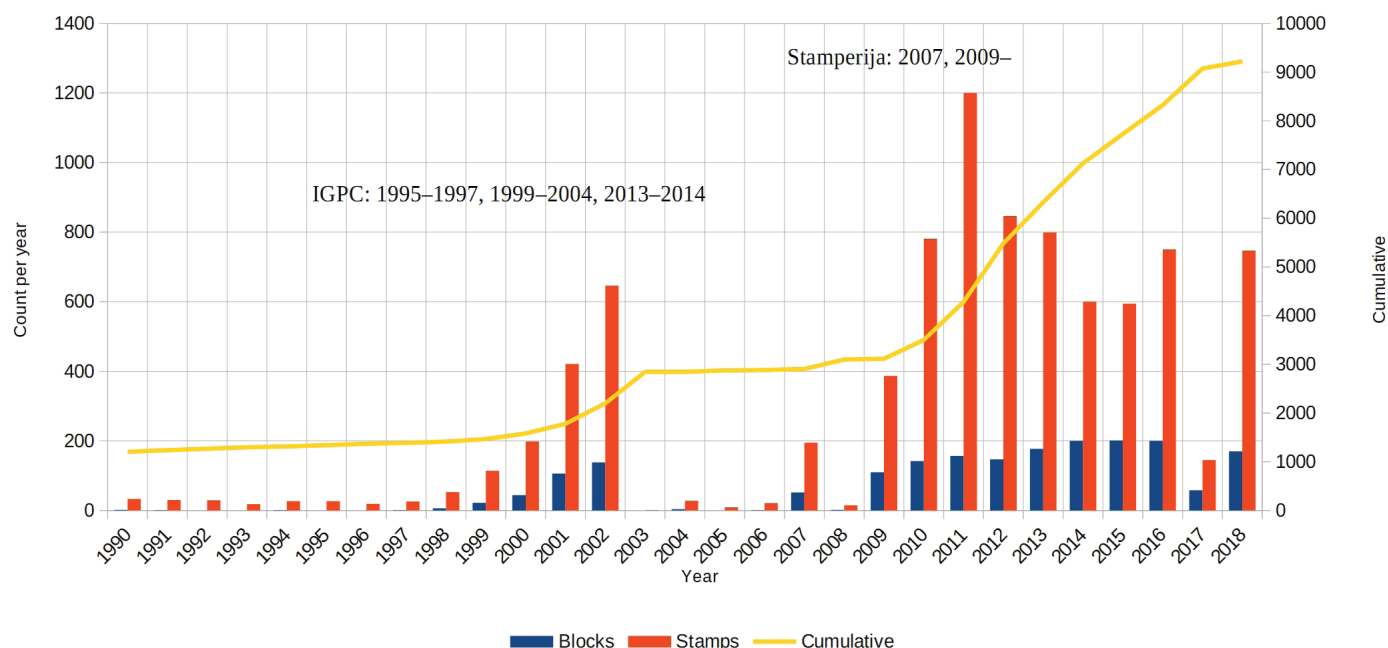
This gives an impression that in the 1990s the Mongol Post had two separate stamp issuing programs, one catering for local needs by issuing stamps designed by local artists and depicting national culture, and the other one, appealing to topical collectors worldwide, with most stamps designed by IGPC.

In the 2010s the stamp issuing policy of Mongolia has changed, with some exceptions, like the Beatles issue of 2013. Now the majority of the stamps have a connection with the Mongol ethnicity, history, culture or achievements. These stamps, from the 1950s on until today, are easily available from mongolstamps.com, the web shop of the privatized Mongol Post Company. This company sells also some IGPC-designed issues, which are also available from igpc.com. This dual issuing policy is quite unusual for a postal administration.



Mozambique

1990–2018



Mozambique

Mozambique, officially *República de Moçambique*, is a country located in Southern Africa on the coast of the Indian Ocean. Mozambique was a Portuguese colony, overseas province and later a member state of Portugal. It gained independence from Portugal in 1975. The country's population today is around 29 million.

Before 1998 Mozambique issued a reasonable number of stamps annually, although being a customer of IGPC already since 1995. The stamp issuing program began to be scaled up in 1999, reaching the first peak of the IGPC period in 2002, when 646 stamps

and 138 miniature sheets were issued. But even that was quite modest compared to what was coming after taking some breath during 2003–2006.

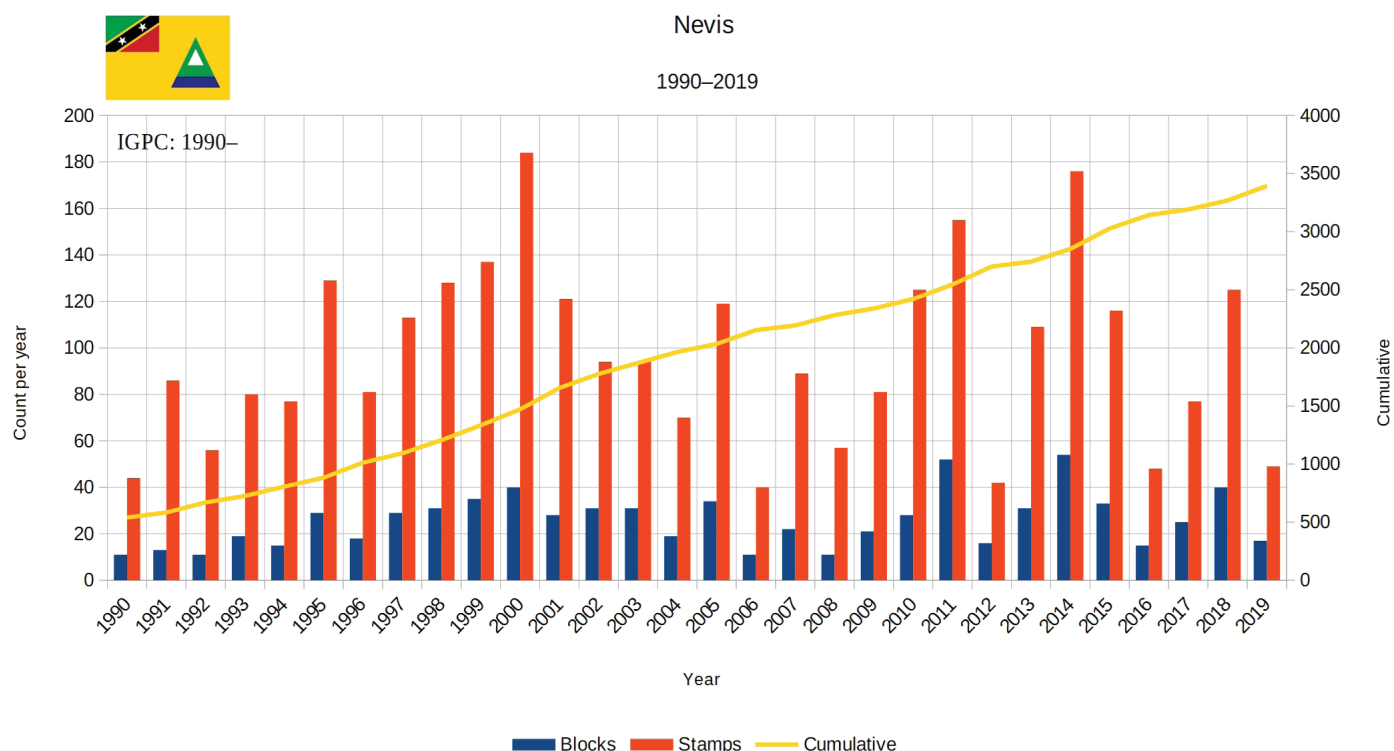
When Mozambique started using the services of Stamperija Ltd. in 2007, the number of new issues started rising rapidly and in 2011 reached heights never seen before in the history of stamp production. During this peak year of the Stamperija period 1 200 stamps and 157 miniature sheets came out! Since then less stamps have been issued annually, but still more 700 stamps on average. The total number of stamps has now exceeded 10 000, which makes Mozambique one of the most prolific issuers of stamps in the world. In 2013–2014 the philatelic services were provided by both Stamperija Ltd. and IGPC, which is quite unusual.

Fauna, flora, sports, anniversaries, famous paintings in selected art museums of the world, painting schools – the list of topics is countless. Stamps are almost exclusively issued as miniature sheets, with occasional local stamps printed in sheets intended for paying postage. There are also few issues in the style of the Portuguese stamps.

In 2013 the common layouts of miniature sheets appeared, making it more efficient to design and print new issues digitally.



An example issue from *the Sea Birds of the World* set of miniature sheets issued in 2002. *Rynchops niger* (the black skimmer) breeds in North and South America. The specific *niger* is the Latin word for “black”. The high face value (50 000 Mozambique meticaïs or approx. 3 US\$) is typical for the era.

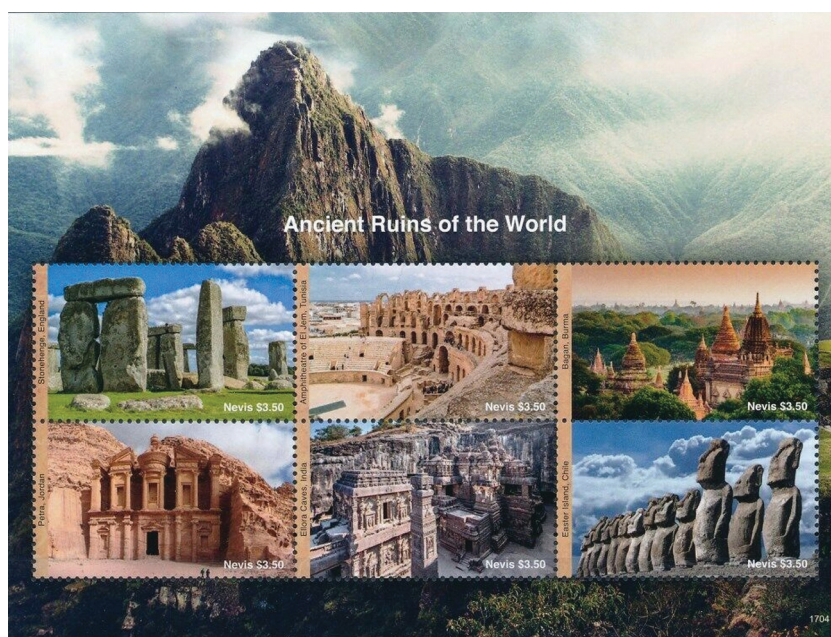


Nevis

Nevis is a small island in the Caribbean Sea that forms part of the inner arc of the Leeward Islands chain of the West Indies. Nevis and the neighbouring island of Saint Kitts constitute one country: *the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis*. It gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1983. The island of Nevis has a population of only 12 000.

Although Nevis is part of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, in 1980 a separate postal administration was established on the island and it began producing its own stamps. Nevis has been a long-time customer of IGPC. The peak years so far have been 2000, 2011 and 2014 when over 140 stamps and 40 miniature sheets have been emitted each year.

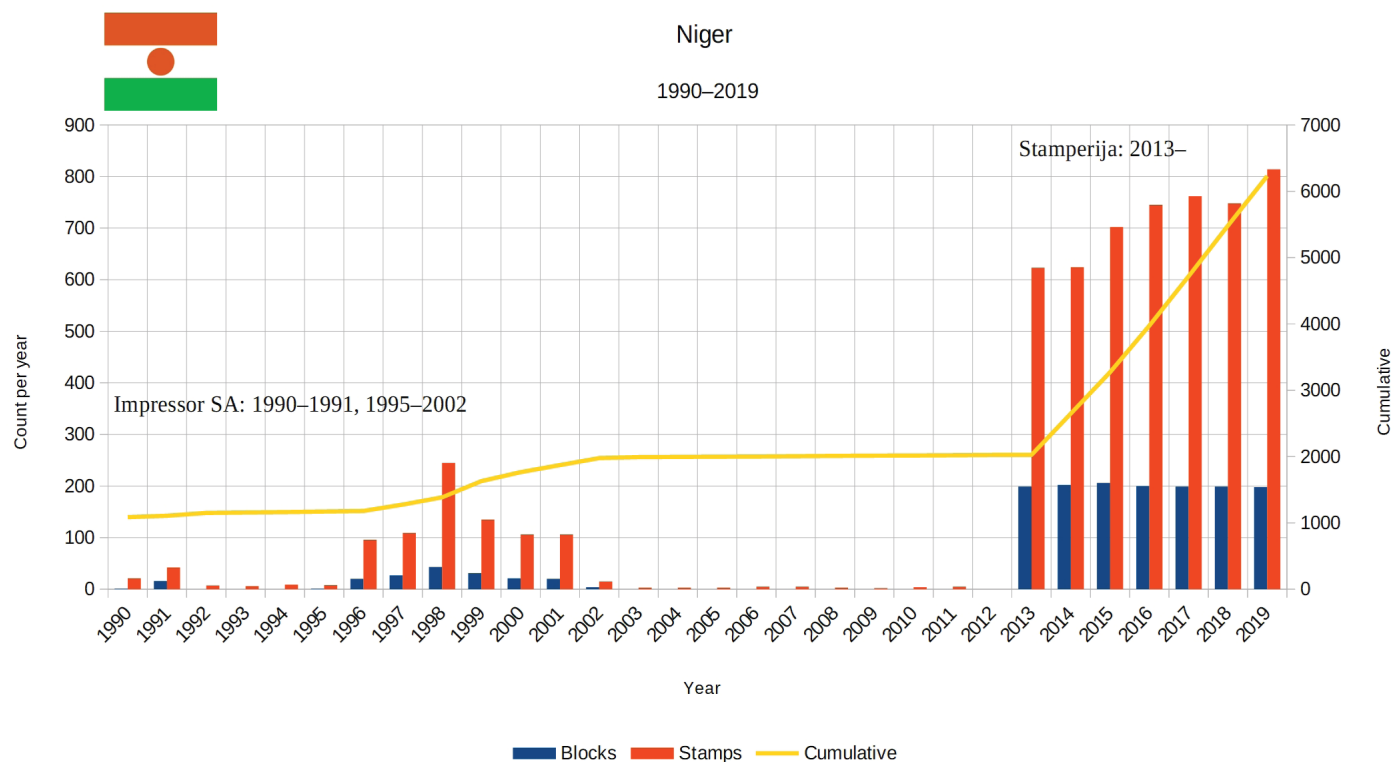
Since the early 1990s Nevis has been fond of Walt Disney cartoon characters, Chinese New Year, Japanese art, religious Christmas paintings, butterflies, marine life, Football World Cup, and has commemorated many anniversaries of world events, births and deaths of statesmen and celebrities, Elvis Presley in particular, similar to other customers of IGPC. In 2011 alone 8 miniature sheets containing 14 different Elvis stamps were issued, and continued next year with 3 additional miniature sheets for the 35th anniversary



This miniature sheet depicting *Ancient Ruins of the World* was issued by Nevis in 2017 (IGPC product no. 1704). The expectation of this issue was that it will be followed by other miniature sheets with the same layout, but this has remained the only one so far. Stamps with images from the sites included in the UNESCO World Heritage List have been issued by many countries.

of the death of Elvis Presley. His popularity in Nevis is only threatened by Queen Elizabeth II – the country is a Commonwealth realm.

Since 2000 Nevis has issued twice as many stamps as St. Kitts, that remained more conservative in its stamp issuing program until 2001. Since then the topics of the stamps have been more or less the same, but the designs of each issue are different.



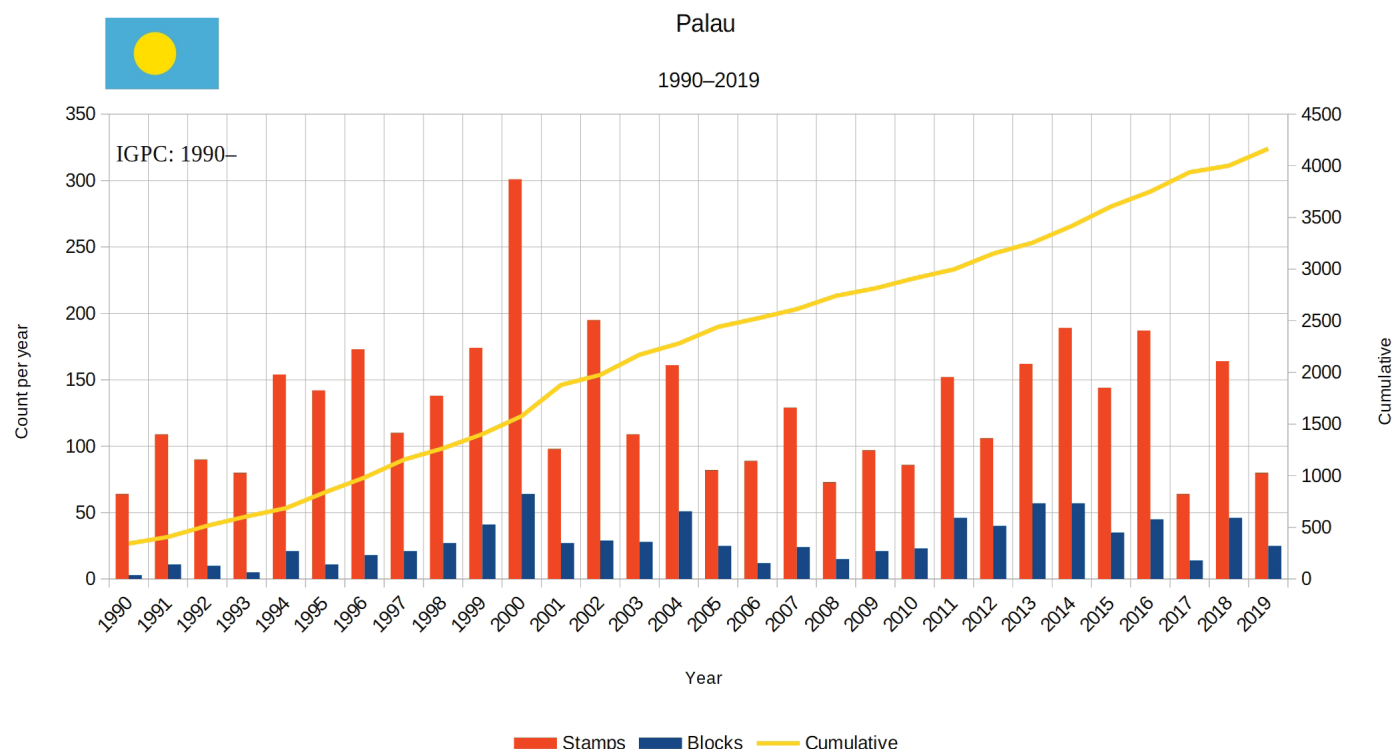
Niger

Niger, officially *République du Niger*, is a land-locked country in West Africa named after the Niger River. Niger is a former French colony that obtained independence in 1960. Over 80% of its land area lies in the Sahara Desert. The country's predominantly Muslim population is about 22 million. Poverty in Niger is widespread and enduring.

In 1996–2001 more than 100 stamps were issued annually, printed by Impressor SA of Switzerland. This printer has had a policy of supplying stamps free of charge to its client postal administrations. In return the printer has the right to print as many stamps, on any subject, that could be sold to collectors. The designs of the stamps from this period are rather unimaginative.

Since 2013, when Niger became a customer of Stamperija Ltd., the annual number of new issues from Niger has gone through the roof, first over 600, then over 700 and finally over 800 stamps in 2019. Stamps are now printed exclusively in the form of miniature sheets. The printing quality is good, but using the same layouts for the designs of miniature sheets gives an impression that they repeat each other endlessly. It goes without saying that none of these excessive issues bear any relation to Niger.

These two miniature sheets issued in 2013 commemorate the 485th anniversary of the death of Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528). During the Stamperija period each issue of Niger comprises of two miniature sheets, one with four stamps and another one with a single stamp.



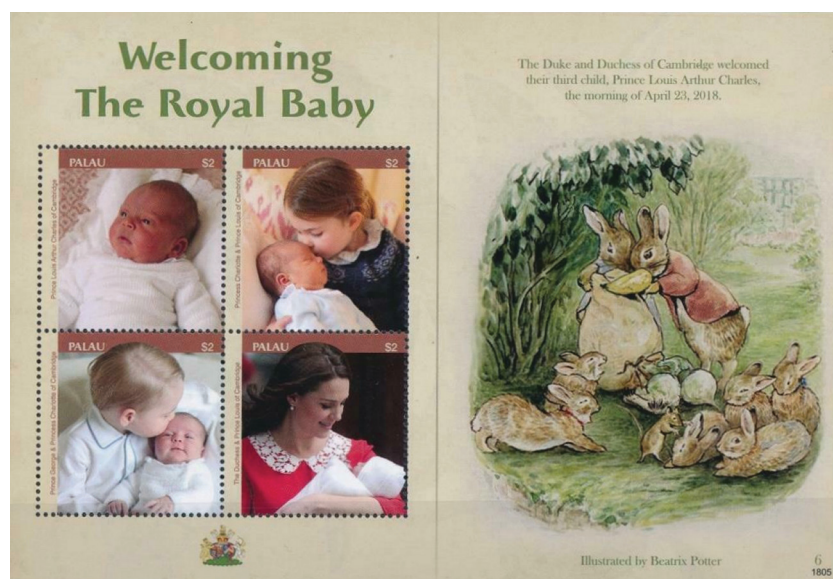
Palau

Palau, officially *the Republic of Palau*, is a country containing approximately 340 islands in the western Pacific Ocean. Together with the other two sovereign states in Oceania, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau is a freely associated state of the United States. The population of Palau is only about 22 000.

The first of Palau's stamps was issued in 1983 after gaining postal independence from the United States. Before 1997 Palau had issued only less than 1 000 stamps, but until today the number has grown well over 4 000. In year 2000 no less than 301 different stamps and 64 miniature sheets were produced. Palau has been a loyal customer of IGPC throughout this period.

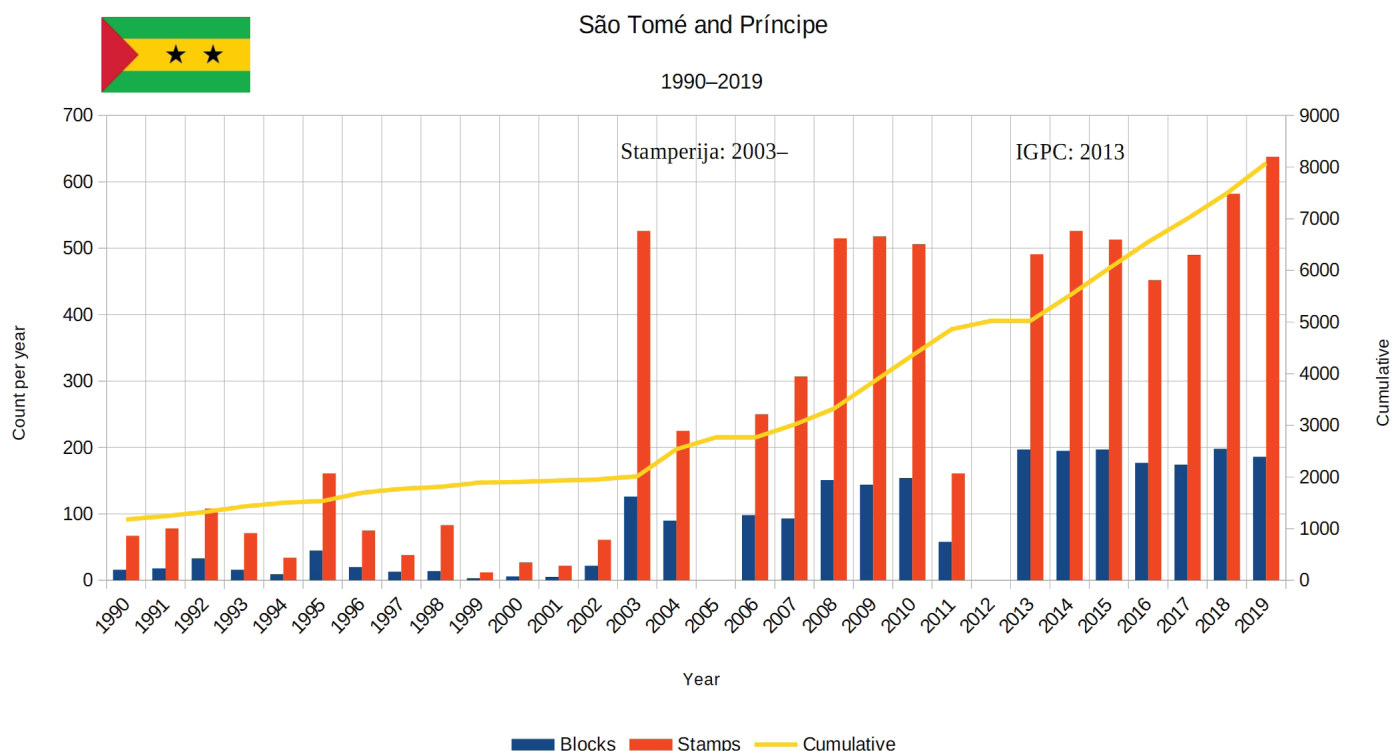
In the early 1990s many issues had direct or at least indirect relation to Palau, but since then more and more designs have been devoted to the world culture. Since 1997 some miniature sheets have been individually numbered, with varying number of digits, in addition to the IGPC product code.

There are few popular topics not covered by the designs of the Palau stamps, but occasionally there are also designs that bear relation to the traditional culture, nature, history, anniversaries and contemporary life on the islands.



In 2018 Palau celebrated the third child of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Photos of the baby, the other children and the Duchess is appropriately associated with an illustration from a British children's book written by Beatrix Potter. The four digits in the lower right corner is the print number of this individual item. The IGPC product code does not appear in this miniature sheet.

In 2016 Palau issued a miniature sheet commemorating the *30th Anniversary of the First Postal Sheetlet* issued in Palau. It is a philatelic panorama to *Palau, the World of Sea and Reef*, comprising of no less than 40 different stamps. The design of this sheet reused the design of a similar sheet issued in 1986. It is not one of a kind in Palau. Miniature sheets with 40 different stamps for celebrating the *Palau-Japan Friendship Bridge* were issued in 2002 – in two denominations. That's another 80 different stamps! Such extensive issues increase the number of annual stamps significantly.



São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe is an island country in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western equatorial coast of Central Africa. It consists of two archipelagos around the two main islands of São Tomé and Príncipe. After peaceful independence from Portugal in 1975, São Tomé and Príncipe has since remained one of Africa's most stable and democratic countries with a population of over 200 000.

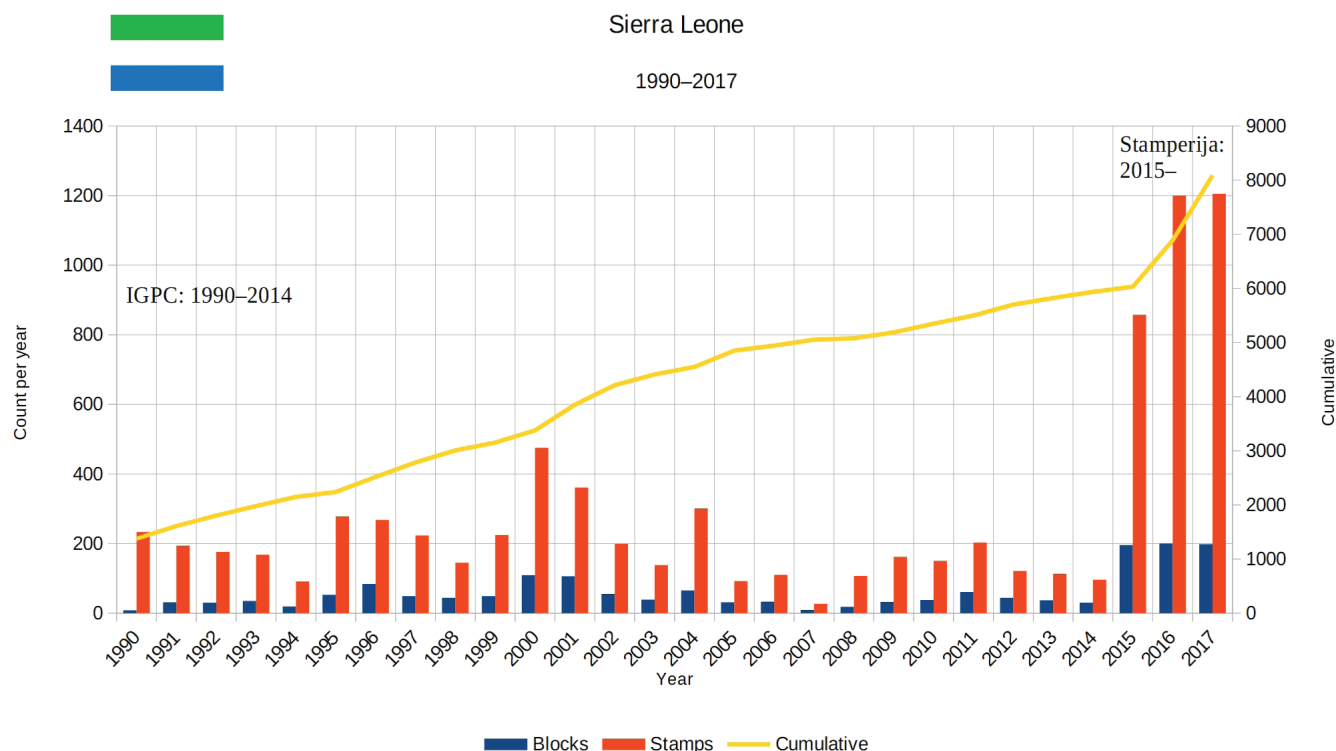
Since 1990 São Tomé and Príncipe has become one of the most prolific issuers of stamps in the world. In year 2000 the total number of stamps was 1 904, in 2010 it increased to 4 355 and is now approaching 9 000. The postal administration of the country has been a customer of both IGPC and Stamperija Ltd., the latter being the official representative of the São Tomé and Príncipe philatelic services.

The stamp issuing program of São Tomé and Príncipe is typical to a postal administration serviced by a philatelic agency. Since 2003 over 500 stamps have been issued annually, with the exception of two years, during which no stamps were issued at all. Such abrupt changes in the program may be followed by huge quantities of stamps issued annually, none at all or something in between. It is not known how much control each postal administration has over their agency and whether all stamps are produced with the approval of the respective postal administration.

The majority, if not all, issues of São Tomé and Príncipe since 2003 bear no relation to the country. All stamps, except very few, have been issued exclusively in the form of miniature sheets with generic layouts. Occasionally a number of older definitive and commemorative issues have been surcharged and overprinted, intended for paying postage.



An example of an earlier issue of São Tomé and Príncipe from 1993. This miniature sheet is an illustration of butterflies pollinating yellow iris flowers, native to Europe, western Asia and northwest Africa. This botanic illustration by Georg Dionysius Ehret is from a Giclee print created in 1749 for educational purposes. The copyright of this illustration has expired a long time ago.



Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone, officially *the Republic of Sierra Leone*, is a country on the southwest coast of West Africa. Sierra Leone is a former British colony, achieved independence in 1961 and is a member of the Commonwealth. The population is over 9 million.

The number of stamps issued by Sierra Leone grew quickly and relatively steadily in 1990–2014, when it was a customer of IGPC, reaching a total of nearly 6 000 stamps. But it was not enough. After switching to Stamperija Ltd. in 2015, the number of issues has increased with another 4 000.

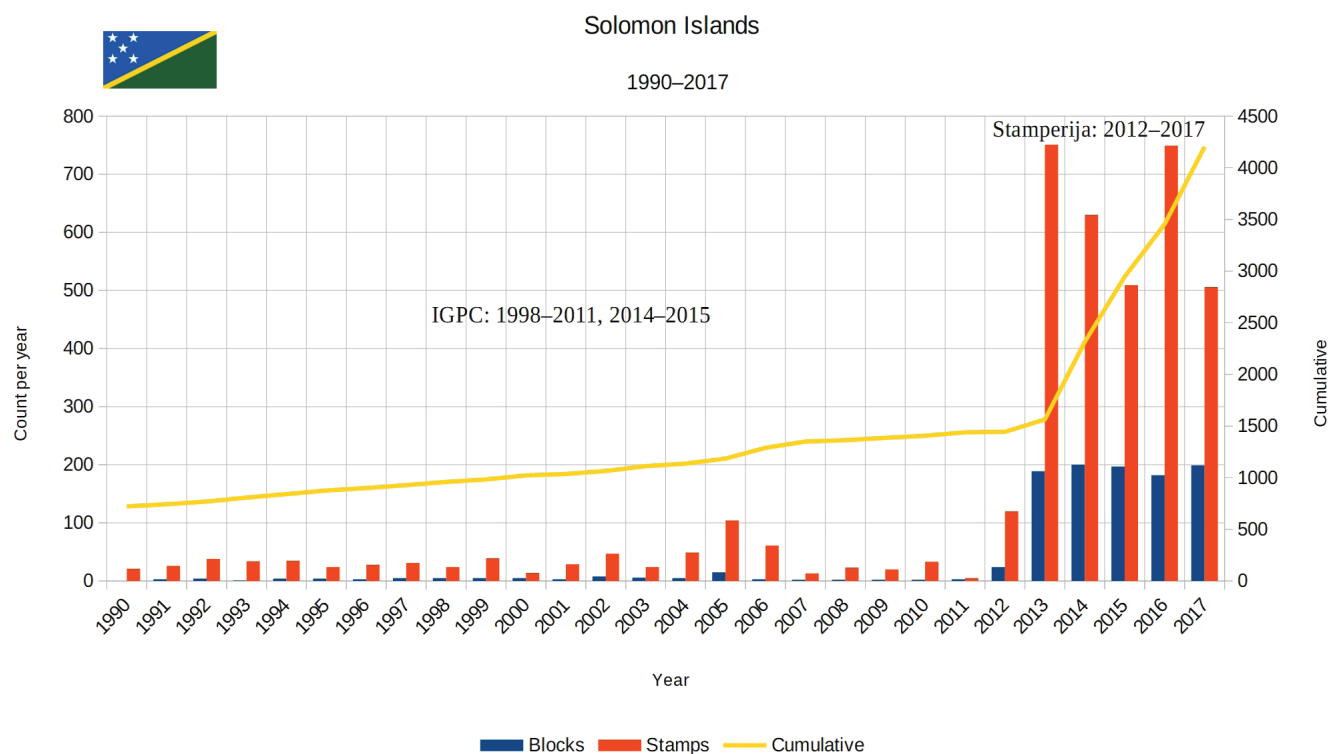
In the 1990s Sierra Leone became known for issuing stamps depicting cartoon characters, Walt Disney's Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse in particular, more than any other country in the world. Until 2015 the stamp program of Sierra Leone followed the familiar pattern for the customers of IGPC: mostly generic designs with subjects from Africa in general, popular world cultures, anniversaries and celebrities, and only very few issues with some connection to the local culture, fauna or flora of Sierra Leone.



This miniature sheet issued by Sierra Leone in 2002 is one of the very few issues during the last two decades claiming that there is a connection to the local wildlife. However, in reality only two of the six animals depicted (oribi and red river hogs) can be found in the Sierra Leone region of West Africa.

As usual for most new customers, the stamp program changed immediately in 2015 when Stamperija took care of it. Few different layouts have been used each year, making it more efficient to design many miniature sheets. Same layout, meaning same size, same frame, same position and number of stamps, can be easily used in a series of 10 or 20 miniature sheets. As a result, the number of stamps issued annually has grown tenfold compared with the IGPC period.

Occasionally the choice of subjects differs from other country clients of Stamperija, probably due to an excessive number of issues for Sierra Leone.



Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands is a sovereign state consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania south-east of Papua New Guinea. Independence from British administration was obtained in 1978, when Solomon Islands became a constitutional monarchy. There are over 600 000 people living on the islands.

The number of stamps issued by Solomon Islands grew in a modest way reaching a total of 1 444 stamps by 2012. However, during the next 5–6 years the number of stamps grew threefold. The Solomon Island postal administration has been a customer of both IGPC and Stamperija. The designs of the issues reveal that since 2012 Stamperija has taken care of most of the issues for Solomon Islands, while IGPC may have produced only few. Since 2011 only miniature sheets have been issued.

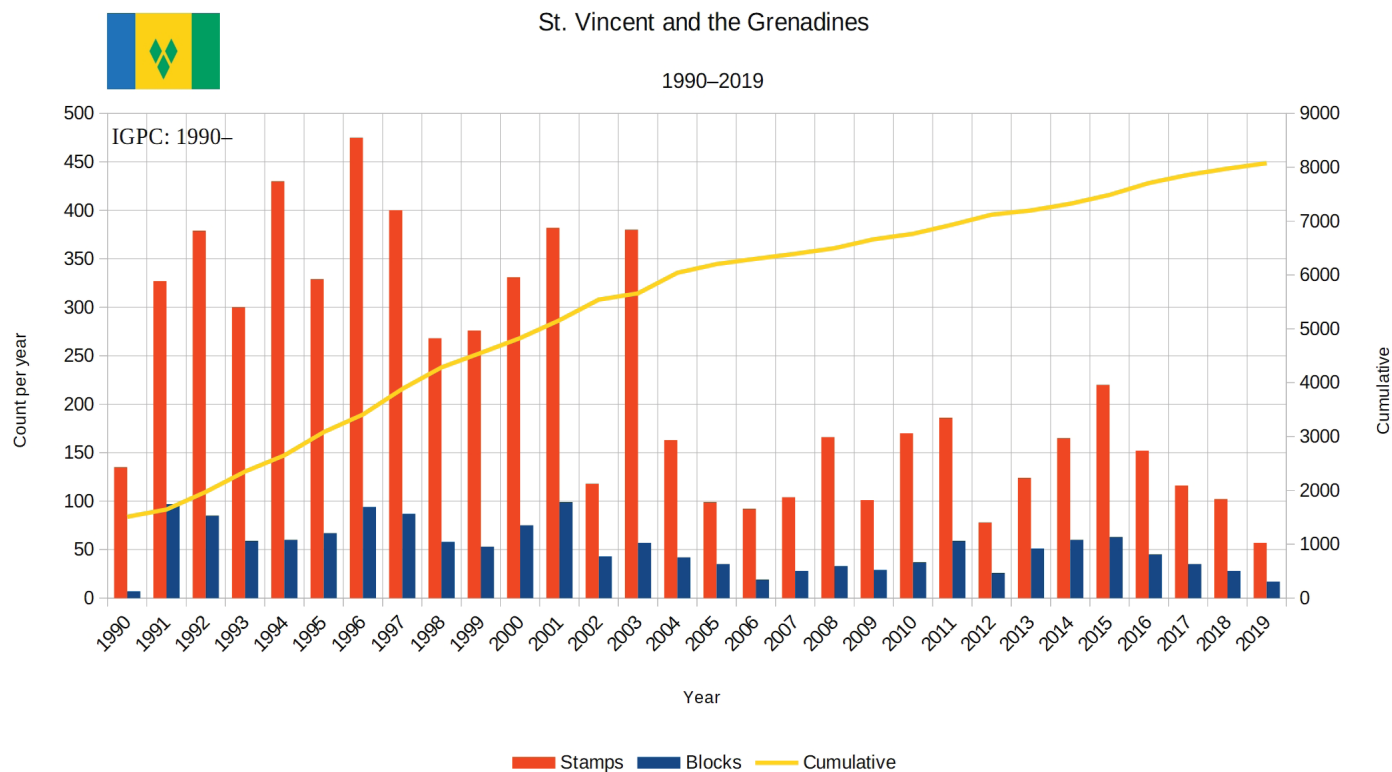
In the early 2010s there are still quite a few issues having direct relation to Solomon Islands, such as *Celebrating Bible Translation in the Solomon Islands*, *Solomon Islands Cathedrals*, fauna and flora from the islands, *National Traditions of Solomon Islands* (depicted at right) and *Royal Visit of Duke and Duchess of Cambridge*. Some of them were designed by Stamperija.

Since 2012 almost all issues are related to world culture, anniversaries, celebrities, flora, fauna, sports, art, lighthouses, transportation, etc. In fact most of the Stamperija designed miniature sheets are so generic that they could have been



This miniature sheet depicting national traditions of Solomon Islands was issued in 2013. It has been produced by Stamperija and is available as perforated, imperforate as mint and on FDC. It is one of the more unusual items from Stamperija with relation to local culture. However, the stamp does not depict a *bamboo bang* (as inscribed on the stamp), but rather a local band playing with bamboo pipes i.e. a *bamboo band*.

issued by any other country (customer of Stamperija, that is) in the world. They give an impression that it is simply random which country's name is printed on the stamps. Individual stamps in these miniature sheets, although very colourful, may look nice and have many details. The quality of modern digital printing is generally high.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, also known simply as St. Vincent, is an island country in the Lesser Antilles island arc in the West Indies. The territory consists of the main island of Saint Vincent and the northern two-thirds of the Grenadines, a chain of 32 smaller islands. Some of these smaller islands are inhabited. Saint Vincent is a realm of the Commonwealth, gained independence in 1979, and has 110 000 inhabitants.

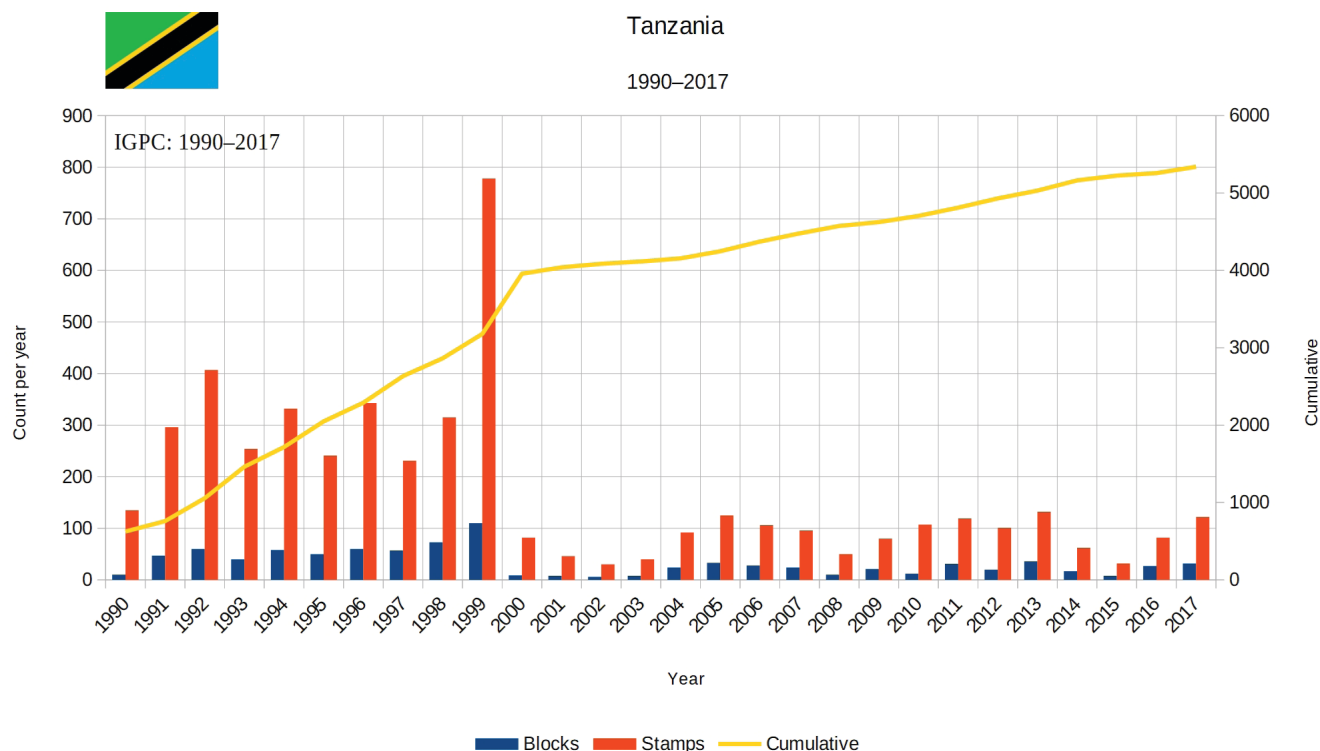
Before 1993 the stamps were inscribed “St. Vincent” and after “St. Vincent & the Grenadines”. However, there were stamps issued also for the smaller islands with inscription “Grenadines of St. Vincent”. Moreover, stamps are or have been issued also for the individual inhabited islands: Bequia (1984–), Canaan (1997–), Mayreau (2006–), Mustique (1997–), Palm Island (2003), Tobacco Cays (2003), Union Island (1984–) and Young Island (2006–).

St. Vincent became a client of IGPC in 1988. By the early-1990s an excessive number of new issues arose and it has continued until today. Especially Walt Disney cartoon characters (at least 465 stamps) such as Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse, baseball players (246 stamps), celebrities such as Elvis (168 stamps) and Marilyn Monroe (47 stamps) have been popular. After the millennium celebrations the number of annually issued stamps levelled off, but has been over 100 with a few exceptions. In the 2010s very few stamps with relation to St. Vincent and other islands have come out.



This miniature sheet issued in 2004 is one of the nine miniature sheets commemorating Marilyn Monroe in the stamps of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Marilyn Monroe™ and her signature are trademarks of the Estate of Marilyn Monroe LLC. For this issue, IGPC, the designer of stamps, acquired license to use her images. However, in general it is doubtful if copyrights are respected in all designs by private stamp agencies.

Over 5 700 stamps have been produced for St. Vincent alone, and well over 10 500 together with all the islands, making St. Vincent the most prolific issuer of IGPC-designed stamps.

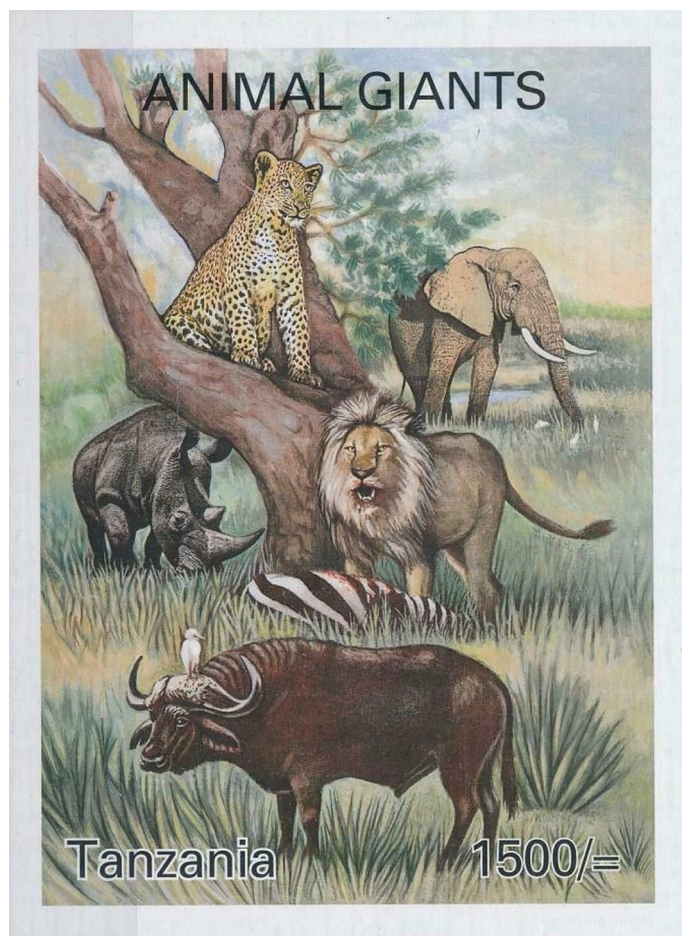


Tanzania

Tanzania, officially *the United Republic of Tanzania*, is a country in East Africa within the African Great Lakes region. Tanganyika gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1961 and merged with Zanzibar in 1964 to form the United Republic. Tanzania is a member of the Commonwealth with over 56 million inhabitants.

The stamp-issuing policy of Tanzania was relatively restrained until the early 1990s when the postal administration began putting out large numbers of issues, with averages of well over 200 stamps annually. Walt Disney figures, sports, transportation, pre-historic animals, birds, butterflies, fish and flowers were followed by world celebrities, travels of Pope John Paul II (10 miniature sheets comprising of 120 different stamps), world arts and more Walt Disney figures. By 1992 few of the issues had relation to Tanzania. A peak was reached in 1999, when 778 stamps in 110 miniature sheets were issued. During this period Tanzania has been a customer of IGPC.

The total number of stamps reached 4 000 in year 2000. Then the stamp issuing policy was changed dramatically: most stamps issued between 2000 and early 2004 have local relation. However, since 2004 there have been issues with relation to *both* local and world cultures. It gives an impression that Tanzania has two stamp issuing policies in place, one for catering for local needs with stamps issued in ordinary sheets, and the other policy taken care of by IGPC, issuing solely miniature sheets intended to appeal to collectors around the world. In practise IGPC may prepare both types of these issues.

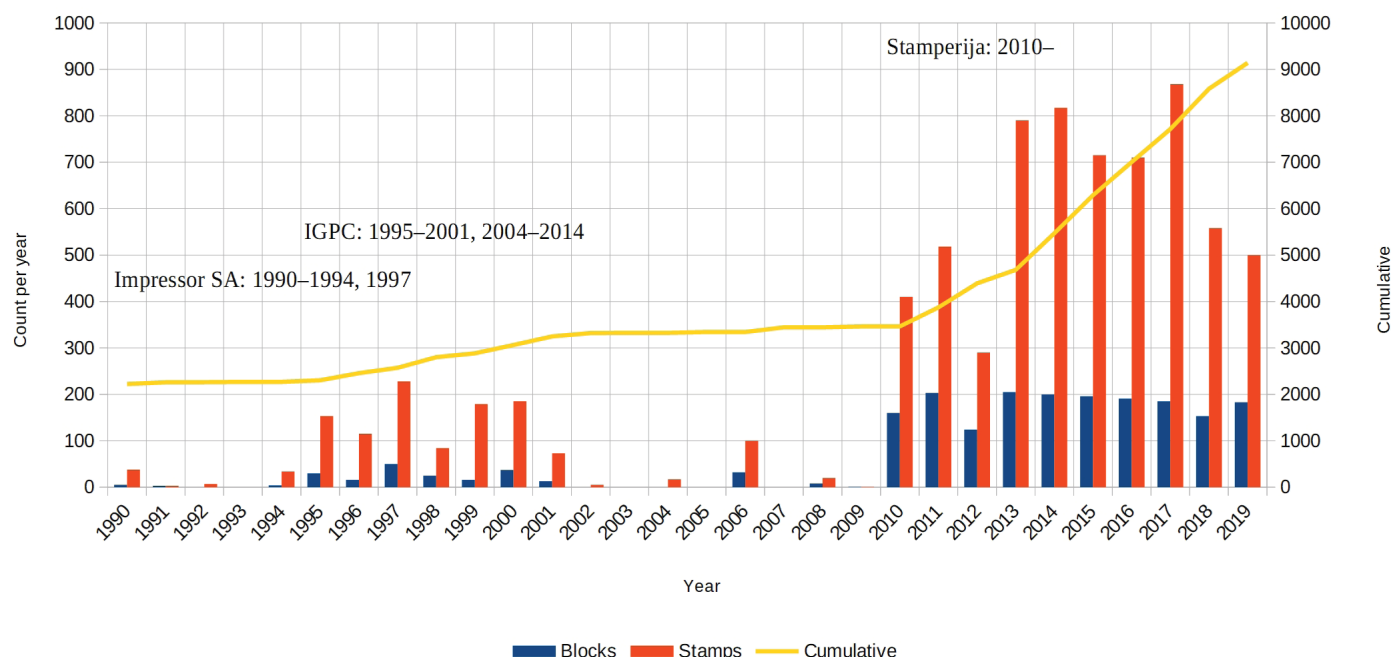


This imperforate block depicting some of the largest mammals in Africa is one of the eight blocks that came out in 2003, all having direct relation to local culture or nature. Except for the now extinct white rhinoceros, the other large mammals can be found across the reserves, conservation areas and national parks of Tanzania.



Togo

1990–2019



Togo

Togo, officially *République togolaise*, is a narrow country in West Africa extending south to the Gulf of Guinea. It is one of the smallest countries in Africa, with a population of approximately 8 million. The Togolese Republic was proclaimed in 1960.

Stamps have been printed for free for Togo by Impressor SA. Togo has also been a customer of IGPC and continues to be a customer of Stamperija Ltd. There has been two periods during which large numbers of issues have emerged. In 1994–2001 over 1 000 stamps were prepared by Impressor SA and IGPC. There are a few stamps with local relation among these issues.

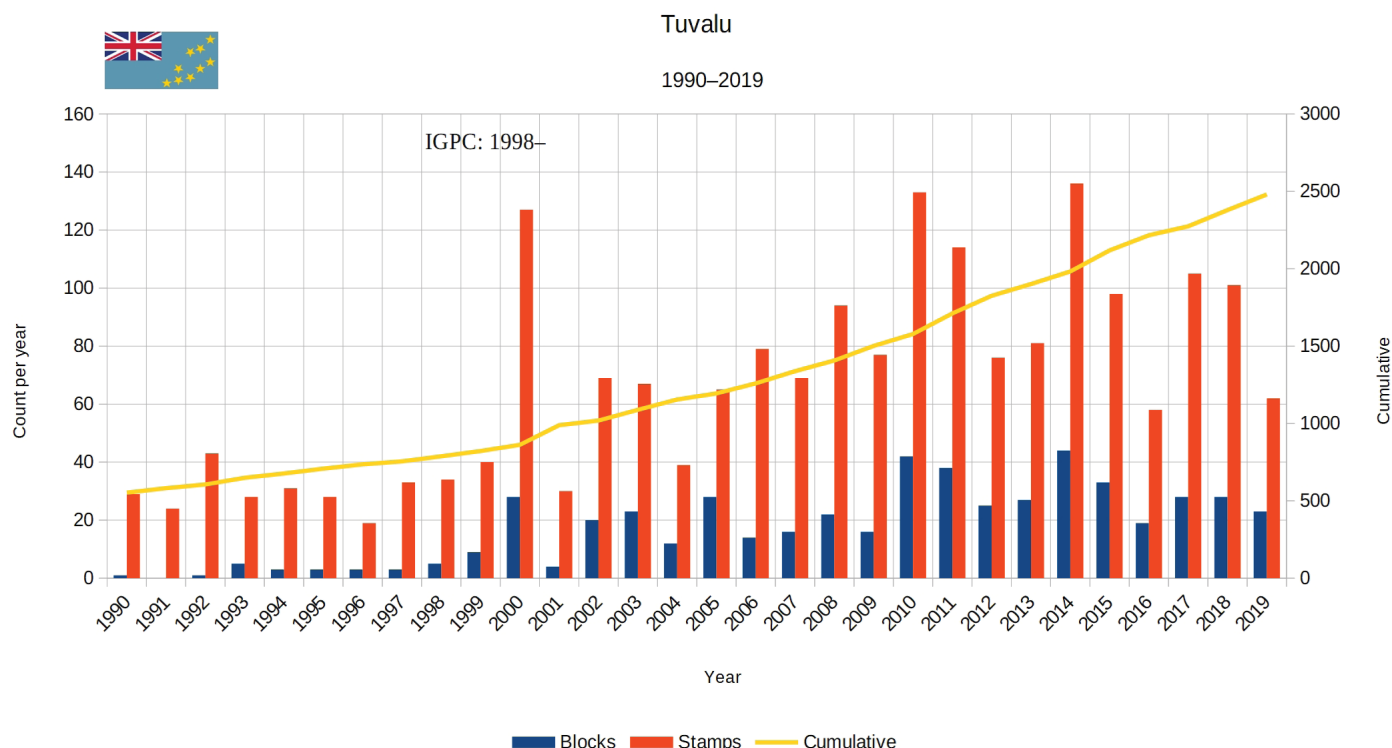
Since 2010 IGPC and Stamperija together, with Stamperija having the leading role, have produced over 6 000 new stamps for Togo until today. During this period there are no more issues with relation to local culture. Only miniature sheets with generic layouts depicting world culture.

For each customer Stamperija has a set of dates each year when new issues are published. For example in 2017 there were only five dates during which all the 185 miniature sheets for Togo were issued: 45 sheets on February 28th, 46 sheets on May 5th, 48 sheets on June 30th, 45 sheets on July 31st and (getting out of steam) just one miniature sheet on October 1st. In this way marketing new issues is more efficient. On any date the choice of subjects may vary almost



Since 1983, some 1 500 different stamps for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), all produced by Groth AG of Switzerland, have been issued in over 200 countries, including this set issued in 2010 by Togo. Proceeds from the sales of these stamps is used to help funding a range of conservation activities in WWF.

randomly (something for everybody), for example minerals, fungi, pandas, dolphins, dogs, fish, dinosaurs, lions, elephants, tigers, lighthouses, trains, fire engines, Concorde, Ferrari, the 100th anniversary of the birth of John F. Kennedy, the 80th anniversary of the birth of Valentina Tereshkova, the 105th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, the 20th anniversary of the death of Princess Diana, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Wilbur Wright, and Chinese New Year. All these issues came out on the exact same date, February 28th, 2017.



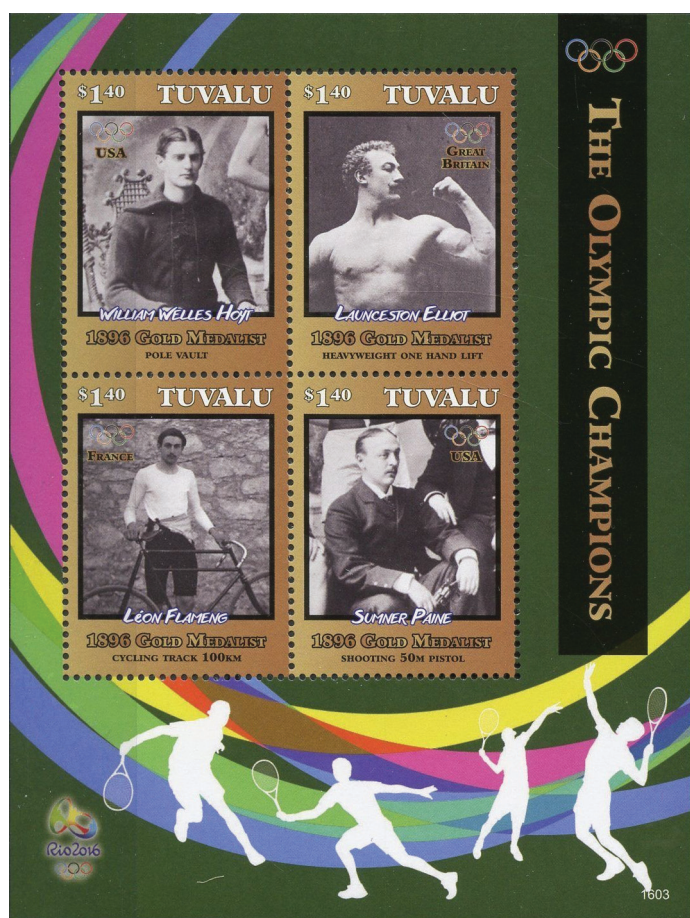
Tuvalu

Tuvalu is an island country situated in the Polynesian region about midway between Hawaii and Australia. Tuvalu is a volcanic archipelago, and consists of three reef islands and six true atolls. It was formerly known as the Ellice Islands, part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands which split into Kiribati and Tuvalu upon gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1978 and 1979. Tuvalu has a population of only 11 000.

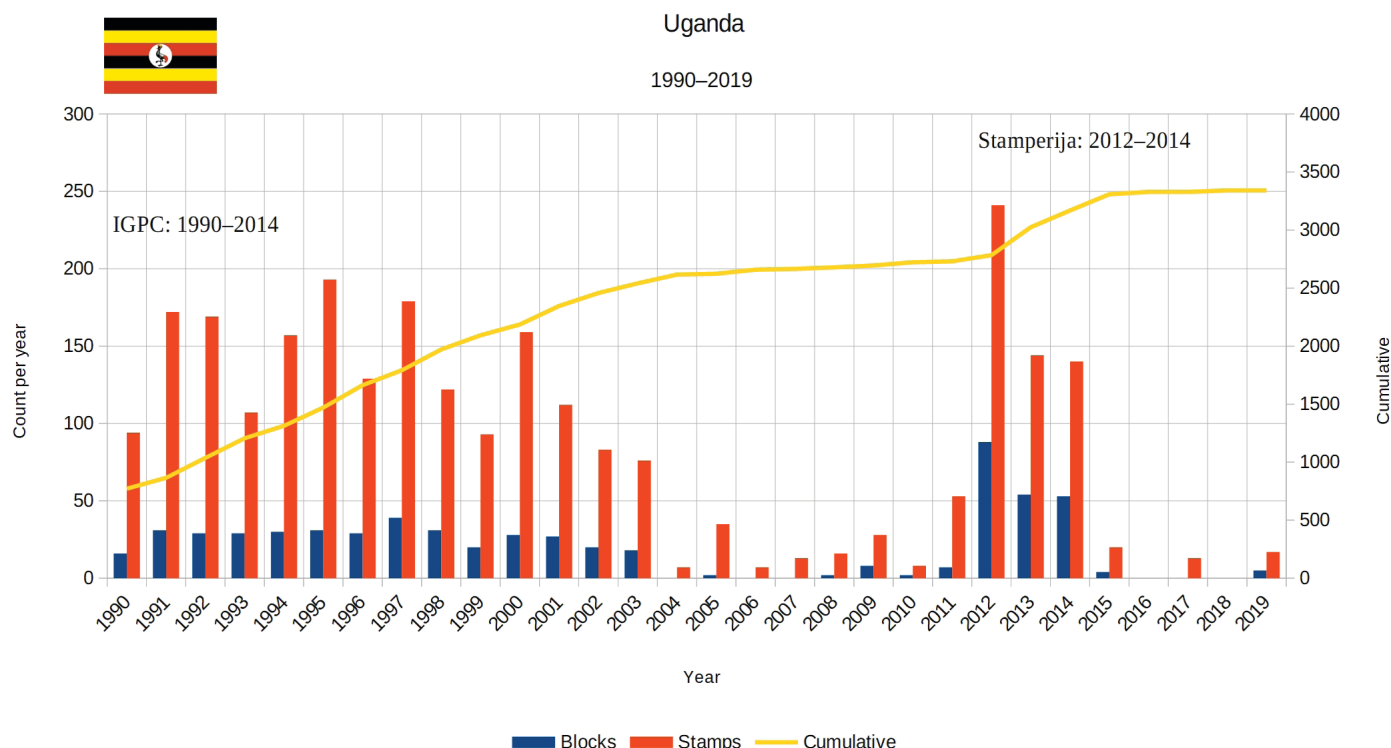
The number of stamps issued by the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau reached 552 in year 1990. Additionally, over 800 stamps had been issued for the eight reefs and atolls Funafuti, Nanumaga, Nanumea, Niutao, Nui, Nukufetau, Nukulaelae and Vaitupu during 1984–1988. Tuvalu has been a customer of IGPC since 1998. The number of new issues has grown rapidly since, reaching the highest level in 2010 and 2014, when over 130 stamps and over 40 miniature sheets were issued each year. As usual for the many Pacific island countries, the stamp issuing program is excessive for the actual postal need.

There are some reports of illegal stamps inscribed Tuvalu and unauthorized overprints of genuine issues of Tuvalu.

In the late 1990s, Tuvalu became involved in a court case with Clive Feigenbaum, the chairman of the Philatelic Distribution Corp., who had deliberately organized reprinting of Tuvalu stamps with errors, such as inverted centres and perforation varieties, for sale to collectors at inflated prices.



This miniature sheet commemorating Olympic champions was realized by IGPC and issued by the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau in 2016. Individual stamps are interesting thematically, because they do not commemorate the greatest Olympic champions, but those not known to many. Obviously these athletes do not have relation to Tuvalu.



This miniature sheet has been designed by Stamperija for the *Famous People of African Origin* series of 20 different miniature sheets issued by Uganda on 8th July, 2013. The person commemorated is Henry Tanner, an American born artist who was the first African-American to gain international acclaim.

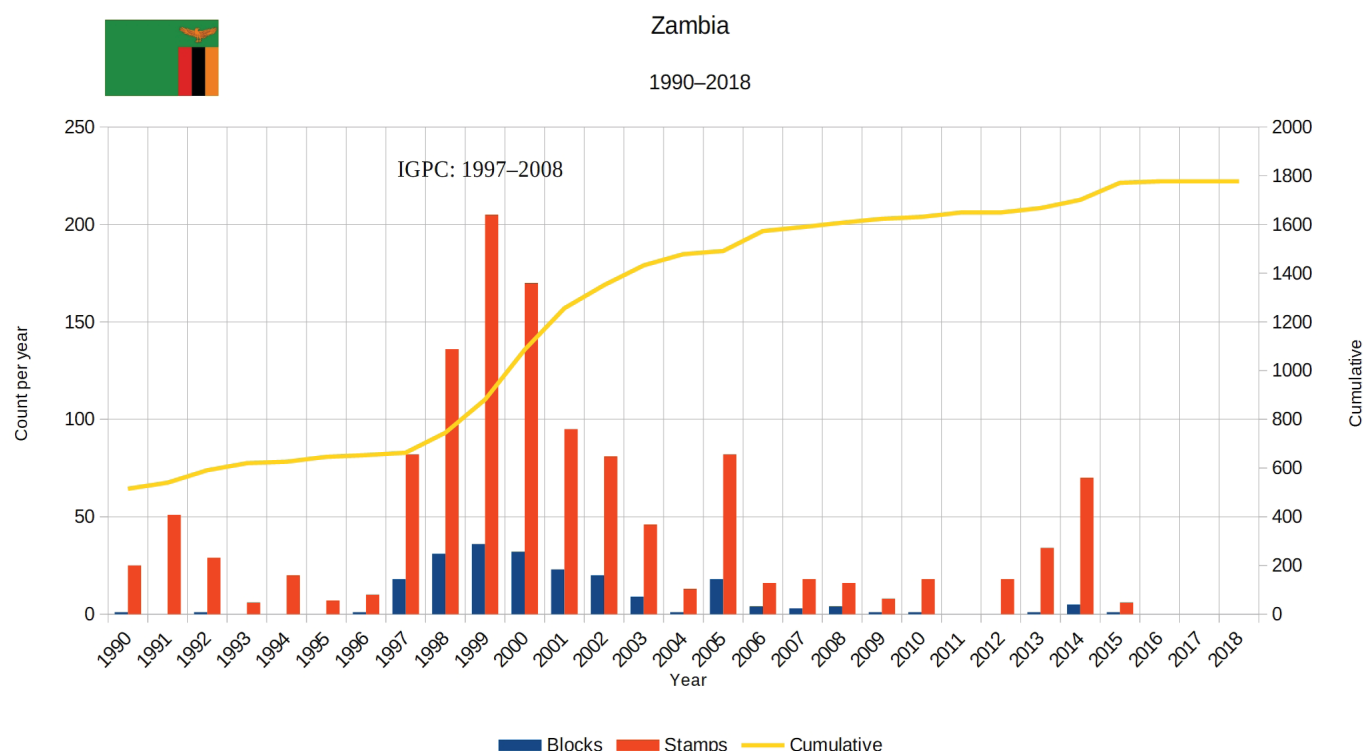
Uganda

Uganda, officially *the Republic of Uganda*, is a land-locked country in the African Great Lakes region in East-Central Africa. It gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1962, but maintained its membership in the Commonwealth. The population is over 43 million.

The number of new stamps had started increasing rapidly already in the mid 1980s, with averages of well over 100 stamps annually during the 1990s and reaching a peak in 1995, when 193 new stamps and 31 miniature sheets were issued. During this period the philatelic services were provided by IGPC.

After several calm years, the number of new issues accelerated again rapidly in 2012, when also Stamperija Ltd. started providing stamps for Uganda. 241 stamps and 88 miniature sheets were issued in 2012 alone. During this period there are issues mainly from Stamperija, but also some from IGPC. The IGPC issues are somewhat more varied by layout whereas the Stamperija issues are generally based on few different layouts, with some changes from year to year. There are also some reports of illegal stamps.

During 2004–2008 and since 2015 the majority of the stamps have relation to Uganda. In 2011–2014 on average only one set of stamps with local content was issued annually, the rest were generic issues depicting world culture. Although two agents have provided philatelic services for Uganda, the total number of stamps continues to be relatively modest, less than 3 400.



Zambia

Zambia, officially *the Republic of Zambia*, is a landlocked country in Southern-Central Africa. Formerly known as Northern Rhodesia, Zambia became independent of the United Kingdom in 1964. The population is over 17 million.

Before 1990 Zambia had issued only 514 stamps, but with help from IGPC the annual number started increasing rapidly in 1997 reaching a peak in 1999, when 205 new stamps and 36 miniature sheets were produced. There were other significantly lower peaks in 2005 and 2014, when 82 and 70 new stamps were issued, respectively. However, the total number of Zambian stamps is still quite modest, less than 1 800.

In 1997 the stamp-issuing policy of Zambia changed rapidly. While some of the issues remained local in content, the majority of them were intended for international collectors, typical for IGPC. More local issues started to appear again in 2003–2004, when Zambia celebrated her 40th anniversary, and since 2006. There have been also three SAPOA joint issues together with Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe depicting birds and wildlife of the region, as well as the FIFA World Cup in football. In 2013 older stamps were surcharged after redenomination of the Zambian kwacha as a



After attaining her independence, Zambia became the first Southern African country to establish diplomatic relations with China. This miniature sheet was issued in 2014 for the 50th anniversary of the Red Flag Canal in the Henan province. The canal had been initiated during the Great Leap Forward and was built in the 1960s. President Kaunda visited the canal in 1974.

direct result of several years of high inflation rate in Zambia. The old currency unit was divided by 1 000. Often such redenominations result in the release of provisional stamps, that are issued for a temporary period until regular stamps are again available. In 2014 new regular stamps were again issued. In 2014 Zambia also celebrated her 50th anniversary, so the number of new issues was mainly increased for these two reasons. Interestingly the only stamp issue of 2015 commemorated the 50th anniversary of friendship with China.

Epilogue: Stamp agencies

Stamp agencies take care of designing, manufacturing, issuing, marketing and selling of postage stamps on behalf of their customers, the postal administrations. The following is a short recap of the private stamp agencies which have provided or are still active in providing philatelic services to governmental postal administrations worldwide.

Nicholas F. Seebeck

Nicholas F. Seebeck (1857–1899) was an American stamp dealer and printer. He developed a novel plan to print stamps for Central American countries (Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua) in the 1890s. The stamps, with face values not relevant to the postal rates of the country, were dated and invalidated at the end of each year, to be replaced with a new series. Unsold (invalid) stamps were returned to Seebeck for sale to collectors. Seebeck retained the right to reprint any invalid stamps as needed for sale to collectors.

Finbar B. Kenny

Finbar B. Kenny (1917–2010) was an American philatelist and businessman. In the 1960s he made deals with a number of the Trucial States (such as Ajman and Fujaira) in order to print stamps on their behalf for sale to collectors. This arrangement ended when the United Arab Emirates was formed in 1971. In the 1960s–1980s he took care of printing stamps for the Cook Islands, Penrhyn and Aitutaki.

Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC)

IGPC is one of the oldest stamp agencies still active today. It was founded in 1957 and is based in New York. Ghana and Togo were the first clients. IGPC has provided over 50% of Africa and more than two-thirds of the Caribbean with their postal philatelic needs. It is also serving many Pacific Island countries and the new governments created during the collapse of the Soviet Union. Some issues of IGPC can be identified by the numbers printed on them. The web site of IGPC is igpc.com.

Impressor SA

Impressor SA is a stamp printer based in Syens, Switzerland. It was very active in the 1990s and early 2000s in supplying stamps free of charge to its client administrations, such as the Comoros, Congo Democratic Republic and Guinea Republic. In return the printer had the right to print as many stamps, on any subject, that could be sold to collectors. Imperforate stamps printed by Impressor SA have been marketed – certified by a handwritten signature – as “Imperforated World Rarities” by the company PhilSwiss. Most stamps printed by Impressor SA are easily recognisable as they have ‘IMPRESSOR SA’ in small

print at the bottom. Some stamps are still for sale at worldartstamps.com.

Unicover Corporation

Unicover Corp., founded in 1967, is based in Cheyenne, Wyoming. It operated the official stamp agency for the Marshall Islands, and continues to provide new issue services for many countries in North America.

Philatelic Collector Inc. (PCI)

Philatelic Collector Inc. started as a wholesale and retail new issue service. It is based in New York. PCI has licensed theme logos to postal administrations around the world. It has partnered with Groth AG, the company responsible for the World Wide Fund stamp collection. In 2010 PCI began solely representing the Cook Islands (including Aitutaki, Penrhyn and Rarotonga), in 2011 Tonga (including Niuafou’ou) and in 2012 also Samoa. The web site of Philatelic Collector Inc. is pcistamps.com.

Van Reijen International Agencies Ltd.

Van Reijen International Agencies Ltd. is based in Guernsey. During the last 45 years it has served as an exclusive agent for a number of the Dutch territories in the Caribbean (Aruba, Caribbean Netherlands, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Suriname) to design, print and distribute their stamps. The web site is vanreijeninternational.com.

National Printing Works of Cuba

The National Printing Works of Cuba based in Havana is responsible for designing and printing many stamps of Benin in the 1990s, Cambodia and Laos in the 1980s–1990s, and few other countries, including some issues of Afghanistan after the Soviet withdrawal. Many of these issues share a similar layout with the Cuban stamps of the period.

Stamperija Ltd.

Stamperija Ltd. is a digital printer company based in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is a successor to Brussels Stamp Centre and associated with Bureau Philatélique Bayart. Stamperija is very active in providing postal services to many African countries, the Maldives and the Solomon Islands. For some countries (Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Namibia) only wholesale and retail trading services are provided. Most issues designed by Stamperija are miniature sheets. Some issues of Stamperija are recognisable from the codes printed on them. Designs by the French designer Paul Puvilland are also easily identifiable, such stamps (many from Guinea) are inscribed ‘Designed by P. Puvilland’ at the bottom. The web site of Stamperija is stamperija.eu. Stamps are also sold at bpbayart.eu. ■

Future FIP and Continental Exhibitions with Thematic Class

as of **September 2020**, subject to changes due to COVID-19 pandemic

25-30 August 2021	Yokohama Japan	PHILANIPPON 2021	FIP Patronage Specialized WSC
9-13 November 2021	Cape Town South Africa	CAPE TOWN 2021 capetown2021.org	FIP Patronage Specialized WSC
4-8 June 2021	Taipei Chinese Taipei	TAIPEI 2021 taipei2020.post.gov.tw	FIP Recognition (FIAP)
19-22 November 2021	Athens Greece	NOTOS 2021 hps.gr/notos2021	FIP Recognition (FEAP)
19-26 February 2022	London United Kingdom	LONDON 2022 www.london2022.co	FIP Patronage Specialized WSC
31 March-3 April 2022	Budapest Hungary	HUNFILEX 2022	FIP Patronage Specialized
18-22 May 2022	Lugano Switzerland	HELVETIA 2022	FIP Patronage Specialized
9-12 June 2022	Toronto Canada	CAPEX 2022	FIP Recognition (FIAP)
4-9 August 2022	Jakarta Indonesia	INDONESIA 2022	FIP Patronage Specialized WSC

Results of the FIP and Continental Exhibitions

as of **September 2020**

ISRAEL 2018, Jerusalem, May 27–31, 2018

Frame No.	Exhibitor Name	Country	Title of Exhibit	Total	Medal	SP/FEL/GP	Remarks
WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP							
1121-1128	Magier, Joshua	Israel	Land Cultivation from the beginning of Agriculture to the present time				

Thailand 2018, Bangkok, November 28–December 3, 2018

EXHIBIT NO	COUNTRY	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE OF EXHIBIT				
CLASS 1 - FIP CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS								
1006	Japan	Onuma	Yukio	L.V.Beethoven - His Life in a Historical Context and His Legacy				
1008	Norway	Slettebo	Hallvard	World Scouting				
CLASS 7A - THEMATIC PHILATELY (NATURE)								
7101	Australia	Lee	Linda	Flower Magic	90	G		
7102	Bahrain	Awad	Ahmed	Pyramids	61	B		Transferred to 14
7104	Croatia	Maras	Julije	Gold & Golden	83	V		
7105	France	Aulagnier	Stephane	Bats ... and Human (Previous title: Des Chauves-Souris ... et des Hommes)	81	V		
7106	France	Hamon	Louisa	Tell me the "Horse"	85	LV		
7107	Indonesia	Kurniawan	Tini	Rose, the Wild and Beauty	79	LS		
7108	Israel	Charrach	Josef	Minerals - Their Origin, Exploitation and Uses (Previous title: Minerals from the earth's depths to the crown jewels)	90	G		
7109	Japan	Kanomi	Satoko	Floriculture - Its History of Development Viewed Through Europe	78	LS		
7110	Nepal	Bajracharya	Pradip	Fish	71	S		
7111	Nepal	Kharel	Ramhari	Mountain Peaks (Previous title: Highest Mountain Peaks)	70	S		
7112	Netherlands	van Nies	Peter	The Family Life of Birds	90	G		
7113	Poland	Prange	Ryszard	Vine and Wine - The Gift of Gods, Sun and Soil	92	G		
7114	Slovenia	Suhadolc	Peter	The Conquest of the Unprofitable World. A History of Mountaineering	93	G		
7115	Switzerland	Kalin	Sylvia	I love Chickens	87	LV		
7116	Vietnam	Dong	Luong Son	Seashell - The Beauty of Oceans	72	S		
7117	Russia	Safonov	Lev	Ultima Thule. Arctic Explorations	88	LV		
CLASS 7B - THEMATIC PHILATELY (CULTURE)					Total	Medal	SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
7201	Austria	Riedl	Peter	Franz Joseph Habsburg - Lothringen WWAR I	77	LS		
7202	Bangladesh	Ghazi	Qayyum	The Prehistoric Watercraft	66	SB		
7203	Belgium	Van Laere	Roger	Pre-Hispanic Peru (Previous title: Peruvian Prehistory)	78	LS		
7204	Brazil	Delizoicov Neto	Demetrio	A Notable Presence	90	G		
7205	Brazil	Silva	Ginaldo Bezerra	Watercolour of Brazil: Essay of History and Culture (From Origins to 1945) (Previous title: Watercolour of Brazil: Essay of History and Culture (From Origins to 1889))	87	LV		
7206	Brazil	Pinet	Ricardo Jorge	A brief view to Brazil by a Brazilianist	80	V		
7207	China	Dai	Shuangjie	From the Natural to the Extraordinary - I am Feather (Previous title: Feather)	88	LV		
7208	China	Luo	Daoguang	"Liquid Bread" - Beer (Previous title: Beer)	95	LG		
7209	China	Wang	Xiaozhou	Bridge - The Combination of Constructional Engineering and Architectural Aesthetics	83	V		
7210	China	Yang	Ping	Bottle - It's History, Development and Culture Bottle - throughout its history, culture and development (Previous title: Bottle - Bearing the weight of development and progress of human history and civilization)	85	LV		
7211	Chinese Taipei	Wang	Chin-Ren	Talk the Culture of Shengxiao	85	LV		
7212	Estonia	Andres	Kaido	Unviersity of Tartu 1632-2012 (People and Circumstances)	85	LV		
7213	France	Herrmann	Daniel	Olympism, The Perpetual Battle by Renovators (Previous title: Olympism, The Non-Ending Fight of Renovators)	87	LV		
7214	Hungary	Banas	Artur	The most popular winter sport - Alpine Skiing (Previous title: A sport what originates from the alps - Alpine Skiing)	76	LS		
7215	India	Jain	Pradip	Mahatma Gandhi - A Life in Service of Humanity	86	LV		
7216	India	Jain	Sanjay	Live & Let Live - Jainism the way of life	78	LS		
7217	Israel	Lubianiker	Yoram	Chess - The Game of War	90	G		
7218	Japan	Emura	Kiyoshi	The History of Artist's Portraits - Traces of 600 Years Hand in Hand with Muses (Previous title: The History of Artist's Portrait-the-transition of western art over 600 years)	88	LV		

7219	Korea	Kim	Seong Kwon	The German-Austrian Romantic Music in the 19th Century	88	LV		
7220	Korea	Ryoo	Sang Boom	A Wonderful Journey into the Western Painting (Previous title: The Western Paintings in the 19th century)	81	V		
7221	Malaysia	Bashah	Anuar	Monarchy System of Malaysia	68	SB		
7222	Norway	Solaas	Bjorn Gunnar	Albrecht Durer - Product and Model of his time	89	LV		
7223	Peru	Reyes Soto	Juan Pedro	Little Gods and demons	76	LS		
7224	Russia	Yuri	Inin	Leonardo da Vinci	77	LS		
7225	Spain	Piniella	Francisco	A Country where the sun never sets	92	G		
7226	Spain	Miralles	Maria Teresa	Nurse to care, to teach and to comfort	90	G		
7227	Switzerland	Seydoux	Jean-Marc	Our Father The Sun	87	LV		
7228	Vietnam	Bui	Viet Anh	Vietnam Integration	73	S		
7229	Vietnam	Hoang	Anh Thi	Vietnam on World Stamps	71	S		
7230	Vietnam	Nguyen	Thi My Kim	Alexandre Yersin - A Saviour of Humanity	79	LS		
7231	Mongolia	Chadraabal	Sodoo	Genghis Khan	70	S		
7232	Mongolia	Baasan	Altangerel	Renowned People who changed the world	65	SB		
CLASS 7C - THEMATIC PHILATELY (TECHNOLOGY)					Total	Medal	SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
7301	Argentina	Di Lalla	Hector Alberto	"Changing the horse power" The Automobile (Previous title: "Changing the horse power" The Car)	82	V		
7302	Belgium	Delaey	Yannick	Mail in Motion, once one of the primary functions of the Railroads (Previous title: Mail in Motion, a Primary Function of the Railways)	93	G	SP25	
7303	Belgium	Vandenhaute	Johann	From Abacus to Phablet	91	G		
7304	Brazil	Dedivitis	Rogério	The Life Beat	86	LV		
7305	Brazil	de Oliveira Campolina	Rodrigo	Flying - From Mythology to Reality	75	LS		
7306	China	Fan	Fuwang	Geography	88	LV		
7307	China	He	Kegui	Lamp	83	V		
7308	France	Rouch	Bernadette	Wood: An Inventory (Previous title: Le Bois ... Dans Tous Ses Etats)	85	LV		
7309	France	Matry	Sebastien	Agricultural Equipment, from the soil tillage to the harvest	85	LV		
7310	Indonesia	Hamid	Rachmat Asaad	Bridges, From Nature to Modern Structures	76	LS		
7311	Indonesia	Adikusuma	Teguh Wira	Brum Brum ... I am an Automobile	88	LV		
7312	Norway	Veggeland	Turid	Bitter Pills and Strong Drops	93	G	SP31	
7313	Mongolia	Dorjkhooloo	Misheel	Intercosmos	67	SB		
7314	Moldova	Adam	Andrei	Types of Transport on the stamps and envelopes from the USSR	65	SB		
CLASS 12F - ONE FRAME EXHIBIT (THEMATIC)					Total		SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
12601	Canada	Hedger	Donald	Epic of Vimy - A Canadian Pilgrimage	78			
12602	China	Zhong	Chongjun	Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation	85			
12603	Croatia	Grobenski	Davor	Geodesy - Geodetic Instruments	78			
12604	Cuba	Castro-Bernal	Luis Alberto	Faro ... Guia A Puerto Seguro	78			
12605	Italy	Giovanni	Licata	The Maya	85			
12606	Japan	Kawabe	Masaru	Entry of the Crusaders in Constantinople by Delacroix (Previous title: Liberty Leading the People by Delacroix)	80			
12607	Norway	Solaas	Bjorn Gunnar	"Paloma" - Pablo Picasso's Favourite Bird	76			
12608	Peru	Recuenco	Sergio	The emblems of Independent Peru	90			
12609	Peru	Recuenco	Sergio	SARS: The first epidemic of the 21st century	85			
12610	USA	Clark	Douglas N and Nancy B	A Trip in the Mail Car	86			
12611	Macedonia	Pavleski	Sinisha	A Parrot's Life for me	86			

China 2019, Wuhan, June 11-17, 2019

EXHIBIT	COUNTRY	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE OF EXHIBIT				
CLASS 7A - THEMATIC PHILATELY (NATURE)					Total	Medal	SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
7101	Argentina	Casielles	Daiana Aylen	My Friend The Dog	86	LV		
7102	China	Gao	Lu	The Exploration of Mouth's Mysteries: A Human being's Perspective 一项关于嘴的奥秘的研究：在人类视角下	95	LG		
7103	China	Wang	Hongwei	Water 水	90	G		
7104	China	Ling	Jianhua	Shadow 影子	84	V		
7105	China	Ji	Yi	Cattle 牛	80	V		
7106	China	Dai	Shuangjie	I am Feather - From the Natural to the Extraordinary 我是羽毛—从自然到非凡	93	G	SP	
7107	China	Xia	Zhenlin	Rose 玫瑰	81	V		
7108	China	Guo	Jianchang	Snow 雪	80	V		
7109	China	Chen	Shenghui	The Horse, Distant Memories 马，远去的记忆	88	LV		
7110	China	Chen	Xianting	Into the world of Chrysanthemum 走进菊花的世界	80	V		
7111	China	Luo	Qingming	Pain - From Medicine to Humanities 疼痛——从医学到人文的视角	87	LV		
7112	China	Xu	Sheng	The Mystery of Mask 神秘的面具	87	LV		
7113	China	Xing	Jianxu	Feather 羽毛	82	V		
7114	Chinese Taipei	Liu	Hai-Kuang	The Horse and its dedication to mankind	93	G		
7115	Croatia	Maras	Julije	Gold & Golden	88	LV		
7116	Cuba	Busto	Raudel	A Look to birds from the Human Perspectivte	88	LV		
7117	DPRK	Hyon	Chung Il	Flowers (Title on catalogue: The World of Flowers)	60	B		
7118	France	Rothenburg	Jacques	Beautiful as a rose!	87	LV		
7119	Germany	Beyer	Wolfgang	Rollerbirds	78	LS		
7120	Germany	Riebe	Peter	Northern Dogs in Action	73	S		
7121	india	Singh	Lallan P	Hows and Whys of Birds	85	LV		
7122	India	Jain	Pragya	Ever Changing Dynamics of Mother Earth	85	LV		
7123	Indonesia	Kurniawan	Tini	Rose, The Wild and Beauty	80	V		
7124	Korea	Nam	Sang Chul	The Birds' Life and relationship with human (Title on catalogue: Birds' Life with their homes)	86	LV		
7125	Luxembourg	Lonien	Carlo	History of Coffee	80	V		
7126	Poland	Wojtyra	Wojciech	The Life of Fishes from Appearance on Earth to the present times	91	G		
7127	Switzerland	Kaelin	Sylvia	I Love Chickens	90	G		
7128	UAE	Senali Veedu	Ummer Farook	Mahatama Gandhi	73	S		
7129	Uruguay	Bellini	Enzo	The Turtles: A Singular Evolutionary Success	81	V		
CLASS 7B - THEMATIC PHILATELY (CULTURE)					Total	Medal	SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
7201	Argentina	Santanelli	Julio Antonio	The World is a Soccer Ball	81	V		
7202	Argentina	Cravero	Roberto Nestor	Earth Drawings	85	LV		
7203	Bangladesh	Ghazi	Qayyum	Canoe - The Prehistoric Watercraft	68	SB		
7204	Belgium	Meuwis	Michel	Teach me the French Literature	96	LG	SP	
7205	Brazil	Pinet	Ricardo Jorge	A Brief View to Brazil by a Brazilianist	86	LV		
7206	China	Chen	Pu	History of Christian Church Architecture 教堂建筑的历史	95	LG		
7207	China	Sun	Li	Great Lenin, let's remember him 伟大的列宁，让我们记住他	76	LS		
7208	China	Chen	Yishi	The Developing Children 成长中的孩子们	83	V		
7209	China	Li	Xianghua	A Panorama of Athletics 话说田径	82	V		
7210	China	Liu	Jicheng	I am the most beautiful all over the world 普天之下，我最漂亮	75	LS		
7211	China	Li	Jingbo	Cycling - as a sports 自行车运动	85	LV		
7212	China	Tang	Xiaoxuan	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - His Time His World 歌德—他的时代，他的世界	88	LV		
7213	China	Tang	Xiaofei	The Story of Lamps 灯的故事	80	V		
7214	China	Su	Meihua	Speak with fists - Boxing 用拳头说话——拳击运动	82	V		

7215	China	Zhu	Pingjian	Fashion 时装	78	LS		
7216	China	Zou	Bin	A Documentary about Wooden Sailing Vessels 一部木帆船的纪录片	75	LS		
7217	China	Zhang	Lusheng	Insurance, Guarantees you a secured life! 保险, 使你的生活更有保障	78	LS		
7218	China	Luo	Daoguang	Liquid Bread - Beer “液体面包”——啤酒	96	LG	SP	
7219	China	Chen	Yousheng	Maritime Transportation 海上运输	87	LV		
7220	China	Zhang	Qingjun	History of Opera Stage - A Performance of an Opera 歌剧舞台的历史--记一部歌剧演出	80	V		
7221	China	Lin	Wenlong	Black and White, the Newspaper and its story 白纸黑字, 报纸和它的故事	82	V		
7222	China	Liu	Pengfei	Courier - Messenger of Human 信使	73	S		
7223	China	Song	Gang	The Enchantment of the Olympics 奥林匹克的魅力	80	V		
7224	China	Chen	Qisheng	Biography of Brothers Pottery & Porcelain 陶瓷兄弟小传	78	LS		
7225	China	Lin	Daoyan	Ling Ling ... the bicycle is coming 铃铃.....自行车来了	86	LV		
7226	China	Guo	Xiaolin	The Horse in Sport 马在竞技运动中	90	G		
7227	China	Zhu	Kuangyi	Lions And Related Culture 狮子与相关文化	90	G		
7228	China	Miao	Xiangguang	Sailing Ship 帆船	81	V		
7229	China	Wang	Junsheng	Cheers! Let's drink - all about alcoholic beverages 干杯! 让我们喝酒吧	91	G		
7230	China	Xu	Wei	The History of Writing 书写的历史	90	G		
7231	China	Li	Jingbin	The Long & Short The Rope - The Whimsical Inventions of Human Life	88	LV	FEL	
7232	China	Xiao	Yonghua	THE BRIDGE: Its Social Roles and Aesthetic Values 桥梁的社会角色	85	LV		
7233	Finland	Kemppila	Ulla	The Story of a Book - From an Author to a Consumer	80	V		
7234	France	Joing	Jean-Luc	The Freemasonry	90	G		
7235	Germany	Jobsky	H Ulrich	The Reformation of Doctor Martin Luther - that is more than just the posting of 95 theses	81	V		
7236	Hungary	Vanyó	József	Memento ...!	75	LS		
7237	Hungary	Banas	Artur	One of the most popular winter sports - Alpine Skiing	80	V		
7239	India	Jain	Pradip	Rotary - In the service of Humanity	83	V		
7240	Indonesia	Noviandi	Gita	One World One Promise	85	LV		
7241	Israel	Noy	Zohar	The Movie is about to begin - Kindly take your seat	78	LS		
7242	Israel	Fisher	Lawrence	The Jewish Homeland our struggle for survival	91	G		
7243	Israel	Mey-Raz	Yohanan	Preventing Accidents and Diseases	78	LS		
7244	Mongolia	Chadraabal	Sodoo	Genghis Khan	75	LS		
7245	Russia	Inin	Yuriy	Leonardo Da Vinci "Life, Heritage, Recognition"	80	V		
7246	Spain	Miralles	Teresa	Nurse to care, to teach and to comfort	91	G		
7247	Switzerland	Seydoux	Jean-Marc	The Rainbow, Universal Phenomenon Enticing under all its aspects	85	LV		
CLASS 7C - THEMATIC PHILATELY (TECHNOLOGY)					Total	Medal	SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
7301	Brazil	Dedivitis	Rogério	The Life Beat	85	LV		
7302	Brazil	Fritzen	Luis Claudio	Submarine	85	LV		
7303	China	Luo	Yisheng	The Railway Tracks 铁路轨道	90	G		
7304	China	Ke	Yujin	Oil and Gas - How they have come into human life history 石油与天然气—走进人类生活的历史	89	LV		
7305	China	Liu	Xinsheng	Symmetry	85	LV		
7306	China	Wang	Jiaxing	First Aid 急救	86	LV		
7307	China	Xin	Rong'an	Bacteria 细菌	87	LV		
7308	China	Zeng	Zhiying	I am Propeller Airplane, This is my story 我是螺旋桨飞机, 这是我的故事...	88	LV		
7309	China	Li	Xuexiang	Telephone - Keep us busy all the time 电话—它没让人们闲着	81	V		
7310	China	Kong	Dongming	An Electrifying Account of Electricity - The Exploration, Production and Application of Electricity by Man 一项关于电的精彩解释——人类对电的探索、生产 及应用	91	G		

7311	China	Zhang	Li	The Story of Bridge 桥梁故事	85	LV		
7312	China	Wang	Feng	Electric Lamp - Bring Light to the world 电灯—给世界带来光明	83	V		
7313	China	Man	Zhenying	Safety Helmet	87	LV		
7314	Israel	Lavee	Arieh Favell	Photographer - Camera - Picture	77	LS		
7315	Japan	Enosawa	Yuichi	Our Rotating Foot in Cities: Tramway	91	G		
7316	Korea	Lee	Jae Won	History of Electricity	87	LV		
7317	Moldova	Adam	Andrei	Types of Transport in the philately of the USSR	68	SB		
7318	Mongolia	Dorjkhoro	Misheel	Intercosmos	72	S		
7319	Norway	Veggeland	Turid	Bitter Pills and Strong Drops	93	G	SP	
7320	Switzerland	Scheibler	Hans	Alles Schrott oder was? All Scarp or What?	85	LV		
7321	Vietnam	Van	Lythi	Postal Administrations - Formation and Development	68	SB		
CLASS 14F - ONE FRAME EXHIBIT (THEMATIC)					Total	Medal	SP-FEL-GPC	Remarks
14601	Bangladesh	Islam	Md Zahidul	Most Colorful Festivals in Bengal	59			
14602	North Macedonia	Pavleski	Sinisha	A Parrot's life for me	59			
14603	Mexico	Gomez Martinez	Angel Luis	Steel Horses, From Rider to Biker	59			
14604	Mexico	Luis Porfirio	Gil Zurita	Like Fish in the Water	59			
14605	Mexico	Pacheco	Luis Manuel	Decomposition of the White Light Perception and Sensation of the Color	59			
14606	Mexico	Martinez	Olga	My Wonderful Friend, The Cat	59			
14607	Mexico	Chaparro Sanchez	Ramon	When the Heart Calls	59			
14608	Peru	Ramus	Ross	The Philately of Peru in One Frame	59			
14609	Peru	Recuenco	Sergio	The Emblems of Independent Peru	59			
14610	Russia	Tashiev	Alexandr	The Heros of Victory	59			
14611	Sri Lanka	Samaraweera	Tharuka	Art of Music	59			
14612	Sri Lanka	Samaraweera	Anura	The World of Elephants (Previous title: The Elephant)	59			



José Ramón Moreno (in the middle), leading a group of thematic jurors at the China 2009 FIP exhibition, together with (from left to right) Vojtech Jankovič, Wang Zhi Gang and Hallvard Slettebø. PHOTO: JARI MAJANDER.

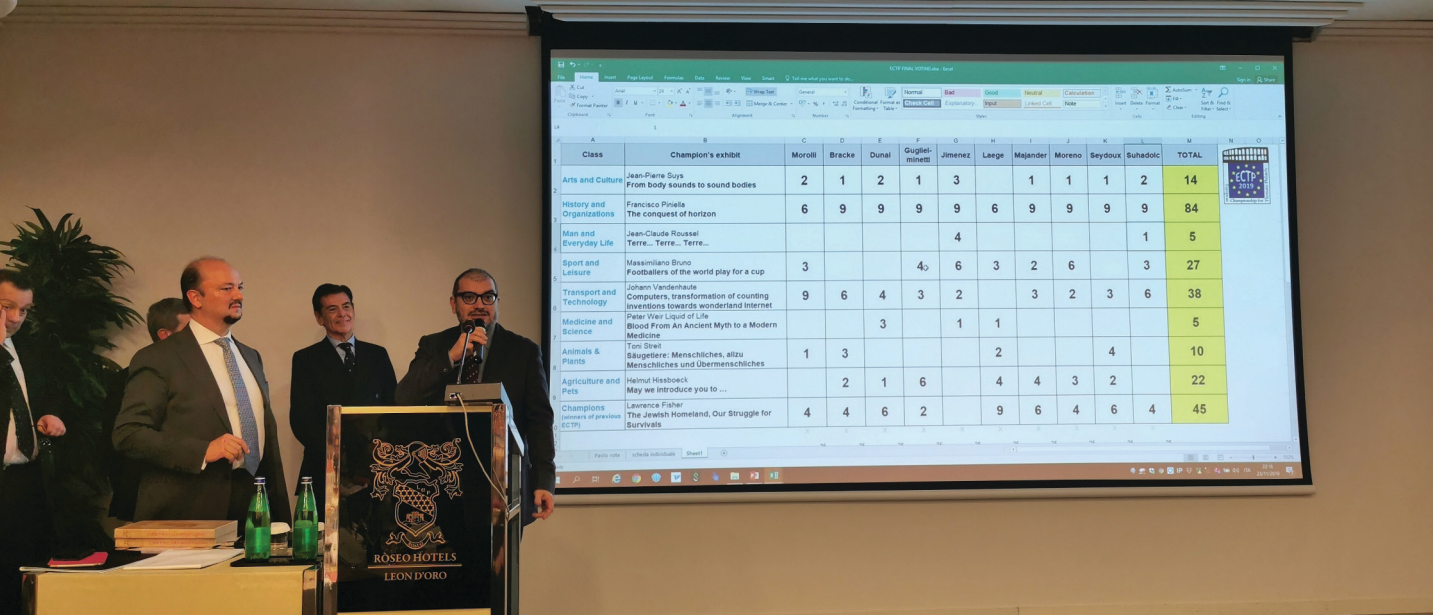
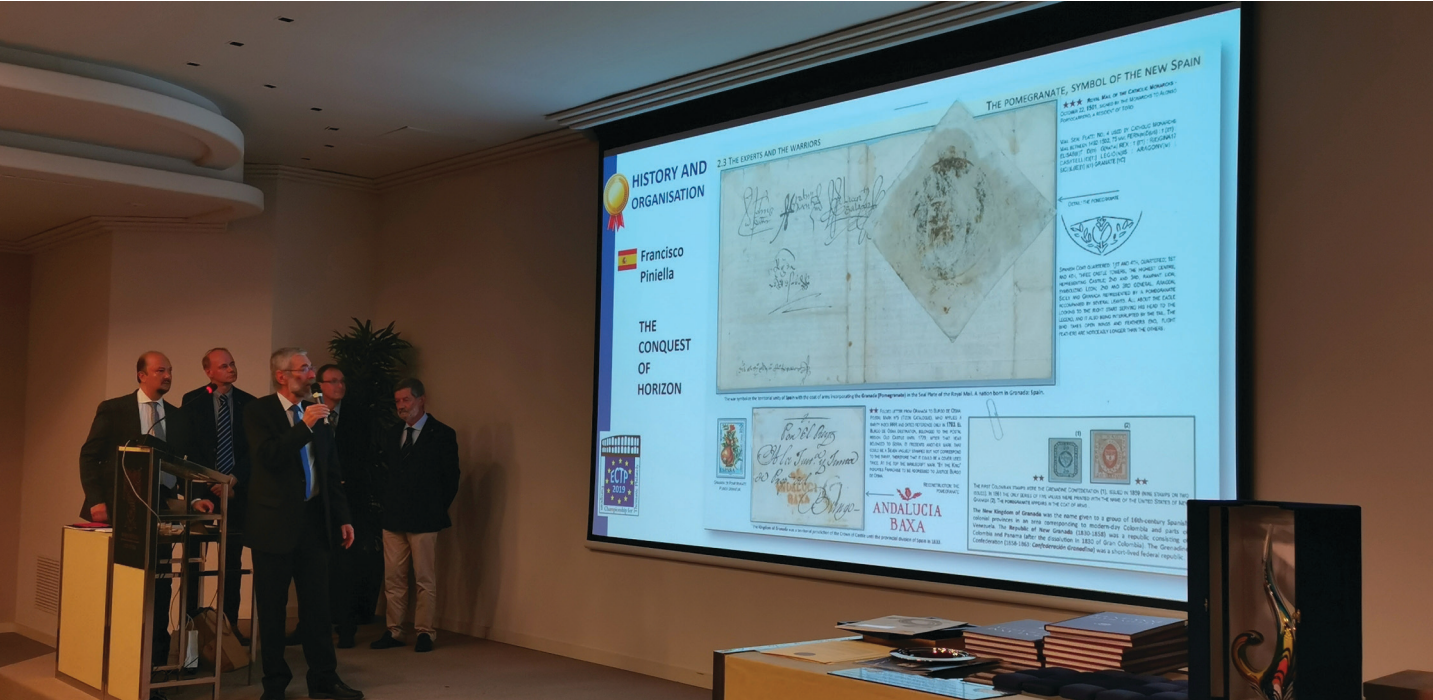


ECTP 2019 - European Championship for Thematic Philately Verona, 22 - 24 November 2019



Exhibitor	Title	Sheets	Points	Award	C
Champions (winners of previous ECTP)					
Wilfried Fuchs	Der Fuchs und seine wechselvolle Beziehung zu uns Menschen	132	87	LV	
Kurt Märki	Der Abendländische Kirchenbau im Hohen und späten Mittelalter	132	91	G	
Lawrence Fisher	The Jewish Homeland, Our Struggle for Survival	132	93	G	
Arte e Cultura - Arts and Culture					
Vincenzo Pinti	La Santa Sindone	84	76	LS	
Gabriella De Zanchi	Puer natus est nobis	84	77	LS	
Gerd Geburtig	"Kosmos" Goethe - faszinierend bis heute	132	85	LV	
Jean-Marie Sauvaitre	Mon voyage en franc-maçonnerie	132	88	LV	
Jean-Pierre Suys	Van lichaamsklanken tot klanklichamen	84	90	G	
Storia e Organizzazioni - History and Organizations					
Enrico Alloni	Il mondo in guerra (da una pace all'altra)	84	81	V	
Peter Riedl	Franz Joseph Habsburg-Lothringen	84	81	V	
Franco Pastori	Decadenza e crisi del Occidente: nascita del medioevo	84	82	V	
Claudio Grande	In biblioteca "dalle tavolette cerate ad internet"	84	83	V	
Richard Winkler	Faszination Gold - Geschichte und Mythos	84	85	LV	
Maurizio Amato	Roma Caput Mundi - espansione e memoria di una grande civiltà	84	88	LV	
Salvatore Picconi	San Marino - Storia dell'antica terra della libertà	84	88	LV	
José Ángel Gándara Rodríguez	Colón; Rumbo a las Yndias	132	91	G	
Jean Luc Joing	La franc-maçonnerie	132	95	LG	
Francisco Piniella	La conquista del horizonte	132	96	LG	
Uomo e Vita di ogni giorno - Man and Everyday Life					
Petr Fencel	Gagarin in a Skirt	84	80	V	
Rasmussen Leif W.	An Evolving Society	132	85	LV	
Ernesto La Greca	Un limite alle atrocità e sofferenze umane	132	86	LV	
Paul Zimmermann	Sparkassen, Banken und Börsen	132	87	LV	
Hans-Jürg Weber	Unser Trinkwasser	132	88	LV	

Jean-Claude Roussel	Terre... Terre... Terre...	84	89	LV
Sport e Tempo libero - Sport and Leisure				
Marian Linder	Fencing (From the origins of fencing to modern fencing)	84	68	SB
Igor Banas	The King of Sports - Equestrian Sport	84	76	LS
Artúr Bánás	One of the most popular winter sport alpine skiing	84	80	V
Jordi Quintana Compte	Cycling: the Epic of Sport	84	80	V
Igor Cep	Organising the Olympic Games (From the candidacy to the closing ceremony)	84	81	V
Pasquale Polo	The game of Rugby town	84	86	LV
Rudolf Spieler	A day at the racetrack, Grand Prix, ...	84	87	LV
Rufin Schullian	Altius, Citius, Fortius - Olympische Spiele Paris 1924	84	88	LV
Massimiliano Bruno	Il calcio: una storia mondiale	132	90	G
Trasporti e Tecnologia - Transport and Technology				
Bernard Santraine	Le ciment des origines des liants à leurs applications	84	77	LS
Wendy Buckle	Paper Past and Present	84	85	LV
Hans Scheibler	Alles Schrott oder was ?	84	85	LV
Marcel Tschumi	Brücken, Wunder der Technik aus vier Perspektiven	84	85	LV
Gianantonio Calani	L'antico sogno delle 4 ruote	84	86	LV
Carlo Doria	Storia dell'Ocean Liner (dall'avvento del vapore al 1939)	84	86	LV
Paolo Morandotti	Ricordate la manopola della radio?	84	86	LV
Paolo Bettarini	Storia dell'aereo civile fino al 1940	84	87	LV
Izhak Barak	The Development of Aviation and Transportation of Mail by Air Until 1919	132	88	LV
Johann Vandenhaute	Computers, transformation of counting inventions towards wonderland Internet	132	92	G
Medicina e Scienza - Medicine and Science				
Pekka Klemi	Fight Against Cancer Through the Years	84	81	V
Henri Aronis	Les dents dans leur environnement...	132	82	V
Peter Weir	Liquid of Life, Blood From An Ancient Myth to a Modern Medicine	132	90	G
Animali e Piante - Animals and Plants				
Rasmussen Leif W.	Nature's Wildlife exploited by Humans	132	82	V
Heinz Bürki	Lebendige Vielfalt des Waldes	132	83	V
Erna Streit-Känzig	Vögel : wir präsentieren uns brillant und beflügeln eure Fantasie.	84	87	LV
Toni Streit	Säugetiere: Menschliches, allzu Menschliches und Übermenschliches	84	91	G
Agricoltura e animali domestici - Agriculture and Pets				
Hans Minder	Kaffee - gönn dir Zeit für eine Tasse	84	71	S
Wilfried Fuchs	Die Erfolgsgeschichte des Weins - von der Rebe zum Genuss	84	87	LV
Rasmussen Leif W.	Animals Subjected to Man	132	90	G
Helmut Hissboeck	Let's talk about wine (May we introduce you to ...)	132	92	G



PHOTOS: PAOLO GUGLIELMINETTI.




FIP Accredited Jurors of Thematic Philately Class

as of September 2020

	Country	Team leader	Name	Year of birth
	Argentina	✓	Otero Eliseo Ruben	1949
	Argentina		Corres Eloy Orlando	1945
	Australia		Benson Yung Lin	1955
	Australia	✓	Beston Bernard P	1946
	Australia		Bromser Charles	1949
	Austria		Kunz Alfred	1951
	Austria		Wagner Reinhard	1946
	Belgium		Bracke Koenraad	1959
	Belgium		Ghys Jozef	1947
	Brasil		Capucio Carlos Eduardo	1954
	Brasil	✓	Macedo Reinaldo Estevao	1960
	Brasil		Luis Claudio Fritzen	1961
	Brasil		Ribeiro Jr Geraldo de Andrade	1952
	Bulgaria		Lasarov Lasar	1947
	Bulgaria		Nikoltchev Christo	1943
	Canada		Alusio Frank	1933
	China		Jiao Xiao Guang	1951
	China		Liang Hong-Gui	1928
	China		Shi Yi Ping	1946
	China		Wang Zhi Gang	1962
	China		Yang Gui Song	1958
	China		Zhang Weiwei	1968
	Costa Rica		Diaz Luis Fernando	1948
	Denmark	✓	Jørgensen Jørgen	1944
	Finland		Hellsten Eero	1948
	Finland		Majander Jari	1962
	Finland		Mäkinen Jukka	1970

	Country	Team leader	Name	Year of birth
	France	✓	Deroy Robert	1938
	France	✓	Jimenez Bernard	1951
	France		Menchon Michel	1939
	France		Nadal Marcel	1943
	France		Roussel Jean-Claude	1945
	Germany		Fischer Peter	1937
	Germany		Fürstenberg Aloys	1938
	Germany	✓	Hess Wolf	1945
	Germany	✓	Läge Damian	1961
	Germany	✓	Maas Joachim	1954
	Germany	✓	Schmidt Alfred	1966
	Germany	✓	Zimmermann Albrecht	1941
	Greece		Virvilis Anthony	1940
	Hong Kong		Szeto Daniel	1951
	India		Mehta Dhirubhai	1925
	Indonesia		Putranto Tono Dwi	1967
	Indonesia		Adikusuma Teguh Wira	1979
	Israel		Barak Izhak	1943
	Israel		Lador Menachem	1952
	Israel		Magier Joshua	1943
	Italy		Bertolini Giovanni	1942
	Italy	✓	Morolli Giancarlo	1939
	Italy		Tecardi Maurizio (Deceased)	1937
	Japan	✓	Naito Yosuke	1967
	Rep. Korea		Chang Se-Young	1948
	Rep. Korea		Huh Jin-Do	1941
	Rep. Korea		Kim Chang Han	1956
	Rep. Korea		Kim Seong-Kwon	1963
	Rep. Korea		Lee Soon-Kyu	1940
	Luxemburg		Wolff Joseph	1934
	Malaysia		Ye Cho San	1956

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	Netherlands		Van Deutekom Anton	1951
	Norway		Slettebø Hallvard	1958
	Paraguay		Kron Carlos E.	1941
	Poland		Babut Roman A.	1948
	Poland		Gruszczynski Jerzy	1931
	Poland		Malendowicz Ludwik K.	1942
	Poland		Wiatrowski Zygmunt	1928
	Poland		Zbierski Marek	1954
	Portugal		Goncalvez Borralho Antonio	1938
	Portugal		Oliveiro e Sousa Eduardo J.	1949
	Portugal		Pedroso Maia Julio Manuel	1960
	Russia		Borodin Aleksei	1955
	Russia		Ilyushin Alexander S.	1943
	Singapore	✓	Chan Huei Lock	1944
	Singapore	✓	Tan Ngiap Chuan	1965
	Singapore		Tan Roger	1953
	Slovakia		Jankovič Vojtech	1964
	Slovenia	✓	Suhadolc Peter	1950
	Spain		Iglesias Xifra José Luis	1951
	Spain	✓	Moreno José Ramón	1949
	Spain		<i>Pan de Alfaro Estanislao (Deceased)</i>	1956
	Sweden		Bengtsson Bengt	1947
	Sweden	✓	Hällström Jonas	1972
	Switzerland		Schlunegger Ernst	1940
	Thailand		Jiraprasertkun Phairot	1972

	Country	Team leader	Name	Year of birth
	United Kingdom		Earle Christine	1947
	United States		Ertzberger Darrell	1957
	Venezuela		Lopez Lopez Luis	1939

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Future numbers of *TCNews* will publish updates.

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as of September 2020



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TC delegates and their contact information can also
be found at the TC website www.fipthematicphilately.org/
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