

The Journal of the Poster Stamp Collectors Club



July 2015
Whole # 37

A beautiful set of engraved stamps

P. Riquet created these wonderful designs for a set of stamps depicting the seasons and the appropriate clothes to wear. They came in a small envelope and were apparently used to convey Best Wishes. Singles are often seen but the full set of ten is hard to find. Engraved stamps are not at all common.



APS #255.

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President's Corner

Please note my new email address in the masthead above.

Announcement of our next meeting at NY2016

At the risk of repeating myself, I'm reminding everyone that we will meet the following year during the 2016 New York International at the Javits Center where we will be sharing a booth with the Ephemera Society of America and the Postal Label Study Group. Our membership meeting, open to the public, will be held on Saturday, May 29 at 10 AM. The room will be announced later. I am sure that many of our members will be attending the show and, I hope, will come to the meeting. In due course, I will ask who among you plans to attend so, if possible, we can arrange some sort of dinner.

Secretary's Report

New members:

#195 – Steve Catlin, Rensburg, Gauteng, South Africa, email: pennyblack@vodamail.co.za

Reinstated:

#151 – David Lowden, Montclair, New Jersey

#177 – Lee Sanders, Deloraine, Tasmania, Australia

Mail Sale #4, closing August 28, 2015 at 9 PM

Please note that the closing date of **Mail Sale #4** has been changed.

There are over 200 lots that can be viewed, in color, on our website, www.posterstampcc.org. It includes individual items and sets in a wide range of price levels, some with stated estimates. Topical categories include dated classic issues prior to WW I; named artists; "new finds", principally advertisers who won awards at specified expositions; dated & undated events, non-event advertising and thematic.

The directions for bidding and listing & pricing of lots appears at the club web site. Note that Rule #2 outlines a procedure in which you may participate in the bidding for any lot for which you have a special interest within 10 minutes of the closing time.

A special thanks is extended to those members who bid early on the basis of an earlier published closing date. Your bids should have been individually confirmed where applicable.

Please bid soon and often!

From the Editor

You will notice that, once again, we have articles and brief communications from a number of folks. I greatly appreciate your sending them. In this issue, there are two articles of interest to us that were written by non-members. I welcome this. One of Europa posters includes several modern ones that have appeared as poster stamps, something we don't often see. I know some of you have articles brewing. I'll need them for the next issue!

Call for articles for our website

As noted in our last issue, our website has a page for articles related to poster stamps. These articles will be accessible by search engines which might drive more folks to our site and increase membership. I encourage those who have written articles for this Journal or elsewhere to submit them for inclusion. Contact me or Dick Warren for further details.

Word from Walter

Once again, Walter finds a little gem. He claims he almost threw it out but anyone who knows Walter would find that difficult to believe. Neither of us can find out anything about this company. Maybe one of our readers knows? The company name is apparent. What does the "15" in the corners mean? What does the central vignette signify?



He also sent along this post card made by Bill Rogers, a photographer in Frankfort, KY. The stamps are well known and all relate to photography. He must be a collector. Anyone know him?



The Home for Little Wanderers

This private non-profit child and family welfare agency has been in existence since 1799. its current main offices are in Brighton, Mass. Originally founded as an orphanage in 1799, The Home today plays a leadership role in delivering services to thousands of children and families each year through a system of residential, community-based and prevention programs, direct care services, and advocacy.



These stamps are not often seen and come in a number of colors.

A new book from Charles Kiddle

This is Charles's 52nd book. He plans to finish the series at the end of this year. It has been a monumental undertaking. This book deals with the very complex story of the German Flugsport series initially made before WWI and, during the War, overprinted with commemoration of various air battles.

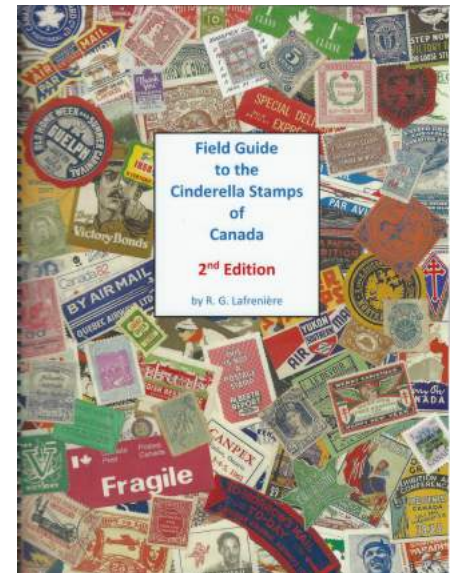
German Aviation: Flugsport-Serie, 2015, 114 pages. All poster stamps in full color, mostly in actual size, with relative value scale as usual, spiral bound, \$75



A new book on Canadian Cinderellas

Three years ago, Ron Lafreniere's published a book *A Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada*. I reviewed it in these pages. This Second Edition is more than twice the size and includes many new chapters and additions to the old ones. They are fully illustrated in color with values assigned in Can\$. Those that are rare are so stated.

No doubt many of you are also interested in other Cinderellas and this book give as complete a listing as I've ever seen. It is 8.5" x 11" spiral bound on slick paper, 344 pp., with an extensive index. Only 200 copies were printed and are available from Ron directly through www.BirdBearPress.com where price and shipping information may be obtained. This is a most useful book and a fine addition to a Cinderella library.



Two new plagiarisms

These two similitudes plagiarize the U.S. issues of the later 19th century. They are ungummed and a bit larger than usual poster stamps. They may well be cut-outs. Nonetheless, such items fascinate me and here they are.



A rare set of 1902 St. Louis Veiled Prophet Parade....Rev. Bill Smutz

The Veiled Prophet organization dates to the 1870's or 1880's. It was founded as a semi-secret group made up of St. Louis elite. Each year the group holds a coming out/debutante ball for the elite young women in town. The parade and the ball are still happening.

I found this set was glued to a couple of pages of the old sticker/poster stamp album I purchased last summer. I have looked them over pretty carefully with a magnifying glass, and I believe they may be cartoons of the floats that were in the 1901 or 1902 Veiled Prophet Parade. I give these dates because the album was put together in late 1902.

The Veiled Prophet folks probably had to set the 1902 parade theme for the designing and construction of floats sometime in 1901 when the world's fair was still scheduled for 1903. When the date got pushed back to 1904, it was too late to redo the parade theme, so this set was issued sometime around the parade date in 1902.

[Ed. This report was forwarded to me by Charles Kiddle. Both he and Bill found this previously unknown set within months of each other, over a century after issuance Needless to say, with only two sets known it is exceedingly rare.



The article on the next four pages are presented here as it appeared in the *London Philatelist* earlier this year.

Exhibition and Event Poster Stamps

The Evolution of Worldwide Catalogues

Stewart Gardiner FRPSL

Early Worldwide Catalogues

Fiedler (1898) (Ref. 1.)

The earliest worldwide catalogue of exhibition and event poster stamps took the form of a combined catalogue and album with spaces for the stamps and was produced by Walther Fiedler in 1898. The earliest entry is from 1894. He produced three formats (full, medium and small) with text in German and French with German or French covers in two different styles and different colours. Examples of the two styles are illustrated in Figure 1. The versions with French covers are scarcer.



Figure 1. Fiedler catalogue.

The full version has the catalogue descriptions on the left page and spaces for different variations of each stamp within each issue on the right facing page and runs to 168 pages. The medium version has 80 pages with the catalogue description and space for one stamp of each exhibition on the right hand page. The small edition is the same as the medium but with 40 double sided pages. The paper used is brittle and acidic and will probably not last another century. Examples of the pages are shown in Figure 2.

At the end of the Preface, Fiedler says (translation):

“Although we have spared neither effort nor sacrifice in preparing a worthy home for the exhibition stamps, it lies in the nature of things that there will be errors and deficiencies in this work, which takes its place as the first of its kind, errors that we will make every effort to correct in a second edition. We will therefore thankfully welcome every suggestion from collectors’ circles”.

He recognises that his catalogue is incomplete and contains errors, and plans further editions. Sadly there were no further editions, as far as we know.



Figure 2.

Catalogue and stamp pages from full version.

Stamp page from medium and small version.

Cazin & Rochas (1914)

1914 saw the publication of the first comprehensive worldwide catalogue of 'Exhibition and Event Poster Stamps' (Ref 2) by Cazin & Rochas. This was an impressive publication of 460 pages, as it truly sought to cover all issues known at a time when gathering of the information must have been difficult and time-consuming. The Cazin & Rochas catalogue was also notable for its preface in which it surveys and pays homage to earlier and other current catalogues, and goes on to discuss and justify the approach they took with various aspects such as:

- Classification: chronological sequence by year, and within each year alphabetical sequence
- Colours: in the order approximating to the seven colours of the prism: violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red and metallic colours in decreasing order of value of the metals they copy: gold, silver, bronze
- Pricing: a value assigned to most stamps, and
- Terminology: use of expressions or general terms associated with philately

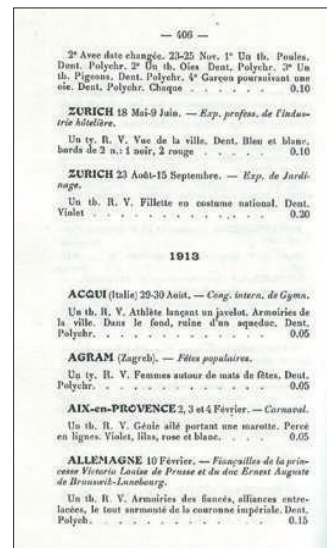
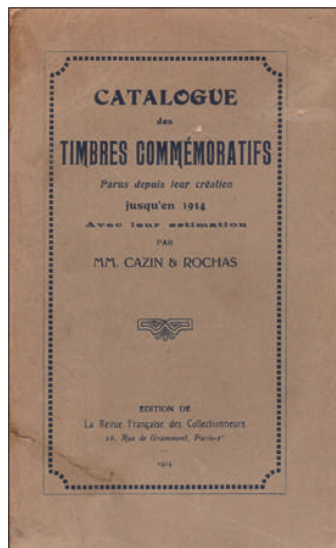


Figure 3. The cover of the catalogue and a sample page.

Gardiner and Greiczek (2014)

In 2007 Walter Schmidt, editor of the Poster Stamp section of the *Cinderella Philatelist* suggested that it would be a good idea to update the Cazin & Rochas catalogue. Stewart Gardiner wrote to Walter supporting the idea, and in no time at all found that Walter had charmed him into volunteering to lead the project with Steve Greiczek as a co-compiler. A project team of 18 enthusiasts from Italy, the United States, France, Holland, Canada, Denmark and the United Kingdom provided the bulk of the content of the catalogue with help from a further 20 contributors and scans from the Campbell Johnson collection held in the British Library: a truly international collaboration. The project was worthwhile for a number of reasons:

1. The Cazin & Rochas catalogue is fairly comprehensive but not complete and is not illustrated. There is no illustrated general catalogue of these issues available to collectors.
2. An illustrated general catalogue would stimulate interest in the hobby and provide an introduction to one-country or specialised catalogues.
3. The facilities for good quality colour scanning and printing available today make the project feasible and cost effective.
4. Many of the commemorative poster stamps of this period are works of art, and so this book should have an aesthetic appeal.

The project team agreed that the scope should be 'Exhibition and Event Poster Stamps', where 'event' can be a meeting or a dated commemoration. They excluded locals and general propaganda poster stamps. Some items from Cazin & Rochas that are out of scope but are important or attractive were included. They included cut-outs to ensure that their status is known but recognising that they can also be rare and collectable. A scarcity rating was given to each stamp.

The catalogue was originally issued in parts: Part 1 to 1899; Part 2 1900–1905; Part 3 1906–1910; Part 4 1911–1913 and the final Part 5 1914. Corrections and additions were issued with each subsequent part. Part 1 was issued in 2007 and part 5 in 2011.

This is a general catalogue covering all countries and so it is of necessity a listing covering only the main types and sub-types. After about 1905, the number of poster stamps issued at exhibitions and events began to increase rapidly and also there was more interest from collectors, prompting better records to be produced. It is not really feasible to attempt to produce a comprehensive general catalogue from about 1905: the task would be staggering. It was left to the authors of specialised or one-country catalogues to pursue the goal of a comprehensive record. The aim of the updated catalogue was to produce a representative record building on the Cazin & Rochas catalogue, bringing it up to date using our improved shared knowledge and ease of communication within the philatelic community.

The impact of using a computer with good quality colour scanning and printing can be clearly seen in the 1907 Paris National Colonial Exhibition entry in the 2014 Gardiner & Greiczek catalogue shown in Figure 4.

When the final Part 5 was published, the compilers decided that they would issue a consolidated version of the catalogue in due course. This consolidated version was published in February 2014 and runs to over 900 pages in full colour. A review of the consolidated catalogue can be found in the Library News section of this issue of the *London Philatelist*.

References

1. Fiedler, Walther, *Sammelbuch fuer Ausstellungs-Marken*, Leipzig 1898.
2. Cazin, M.M. and Rochas, *Catalogue des Timbres Commémoratifs, Paris depuis leur création jusqu'en 1914*, 1914.


| PARIS - National Colonial Exhibition. June | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  <p>Type 1 Ultramarine, Carmine, Black lilac, Red brown, Olive green.</p> <p>Perforated Rating: C Imperforate Rating: R</p> |  <p>Type 2 Violet, Blue, Green, olive black, black brown</p> <p>Perforated Rating: C Imperforate Rating: R</p> |  <p>(error of date "1897") Type 3 Dark blue, Blue, Dark green, olive bistre, Brown orange, Carmine, Brown red, Claret</p> <p>Perforated Rating: C Imperforate Rating: R</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Type 4 - Views of the Colonies - 12 types (a-m) with 10 in two rows of five. Three issues. Perforated or imperforate. Rating: individual stamp: C, block of 10: R. Issues 1 and 2 exist bi-coloured; individual stamp: S, block of 10: RR</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  <p>(30% size) Type 5 Violet, Dark blue, Dark green, Black brown, Olive black</p> <p>Perforated Rating: R</p> |  <p>(100% size) Type 6 Blue lilac, Dark blue, Red brown, Violet brown</p> <p>Perforated or imperforate Rating: R</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 4. Sample page from Gardiner and Greiczek.

The London Philatelist review

A general illustrated catalogue of exhibition and event poster stamps to 1914, Volume 1: to 1909 compiled by Stewart Gardiner FRPSL and Steve Greiczek, published 2014 by Cinderella Stamp Club, ISBN 9780954608712, ringbound, vii, pages 1-406, 30 cm. ID No. 17142. *A general illustrated catalogue of exhibition and event poster stamps to 1914, Volume 2: 1910-1914* compiled by Stewart Gardiner and Steve Greiczek, published 2014 by Cinderella Stamp Club, no ISBN, ringbound pages 407-907, 30 cm. ID No. 17143. Available from: In US - Art Groten, PO Box 3366, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 USA; in UK and elsewhere: Ian Pittway, 91 Hawkwood Road, Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Essex, CO9 3JS, UK. Price: £85 or \$US140 plus postage and packing.

Reviewed by Francis Kiddle RDP HonFRPSL.

Up to 1914 the collecting of poster stamps was as popular, if not more so, than the collecting of postage stamps. In 1914 two distinguished collectors, Doctor Albert A. Cazin and Abbot Emmanuel Rochas, combined to produce an all-world catalogue of poster stamps that had been issued for events or exhibitions (Catalogue des Timbres Commémoratifs). Whilst a masterly listing, it was simply a listing with no illustrations. Gardiner and Greiczek volunteered in 2002 to attempt to not only illustrate all the stamps listed in Cazin and Rochas, but also to update it with new discoveries since 1914, of which there have been many. This task would have been nigh impossible without the availability of electronic communication, as this has permitted exchanges of information through emails and scans. By 2007 their work was sufficiently advanced that it was possible to publish a draft catalogue for issues to 1899. This was so successful that other parts were published up to Part 5 in 2011 which completed the catalogue to 1914. Much feedback followed and in 2014 they decided to reissue the five parts, with updates, into the two volumes that we review today. Since the 2011 publication, 500 new items have been added. So what is the book? It is a listing of all known poster stamps that fall within the "events and exhibitions" descriptor. It illustrates some 8,000-plus poster stamps dating from 1827 (Paris Exhibition) with each being categorised into one of five rarity factors. As a record of what has been issued, it is a handbook second to none. The compilers state that the work would not have been completed without the international collaboration of many contributors, a statement I would support. But the praise must go to the two compilers as they have produced a monumental work that will be a reference book for years to come.

A new color variant of the Fiedler Album



The article on the next 6 pages was sent in by a non-member with whom I was corresponding about the Catalan printer, Oliva. I know that there is a fine line between poster stamps and other labels but we see these so often I thought it useful to put them into context.

CATALAN POLITICAL LABELS

We will refer to the political cinderella stamps that were published in Catalonia the year 1899 and in the early 20th century.

To understand its origin, we must do a little bit of history. Spain, the first country in the world to build an enormous empire¹, lost during the 19th century most of the same. Towards the end of the century still conserved the important group of islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. The internal situation of Spain was convulse and the country was not united. Spain had timidly begun to stablish itself at the end of the 15th century, under the Spanish monarchy of the Habsburgs, by joining regions with very different characteristics². There were no unified laws until the 18th century³ and it did actually never get to be an homogeneous national State like France⁴ for instance. In the words of Ortega y Gasset⁵ "*there wasn't a suggestive project of a common life, a minimally collective sense of unity*". Spain was a country with a weak state and economy. It had suffered throughout the XIX century three civil wars between absolutists and liberals, and the industrial revolution had arrived late and only in some regions. Despite this, the majority of the ruling and intellectual class was not aware of the problem.

So when the independence movements in the remaining colonies arose, Spain sought the military solution, which led to a war with the United States⁶ that lose badly in a short time because of the difference of potential of the armies and countries. It is the so-called Hispanic-American war of 1898, which begins in May and ends in July in Cuba and in August in Puerto Rico and the Philippines. On 10th December the peace treaty is signed in Paris, Spain loses its sovereignty in Cuba, ceded Puerto Rico to the United States and sold the Philippines for \$20 million. This situation produces a national frustration in Spain, finally aware of the reality. After four centuries of hegemony Spain had lost its vast Empire.

¹ All Center and South America, including Mexico, except Brasil

² For instance regarding languages: nowadays still are spoken Catalan, Basque and Galician.

³ Nueva Planta decrees imposed by Felipe V, first Borbón king, to the kingdoms of Aragón, Valencia, Majorca and the Principality of Catalonia that repealed its laws and institutions and imposed the Castilian unifying laws.

⁴ Even today, political power is in the Center (Madrid) and the economic is more peripheral (Catalonia, Valencian Region and Basque country)

⁵ José Ortega y Gasset, 1883-1955, philosopher and essayist from Madrid. Deputy during the second Republic.

⁶ The United States supported the independence, even by the means of weapons, as in his day had done France against England

It is in the moments of weakness that unresolved conflicts of the past reappear and the one that concerns us here is the non-existence of an homogeneous national state mentioned before. In Catalonia, mainly, intellectual movements appear to remember the old glories previous to the union with Castile and political movements against the centralism and that pursued the self-government. Some of them come together creating the party *Unió Catalanista* which will issue among other means, the propaganda labels to which we refer here. It was a very cheap advertising, only the cost of the label as the distribution was carried out by the official mail service then each label was glued together with the stamp of mandatory franchise.

The labels represented images of the centralist oppression, of Catalan historical characters, from Catalan symbols such as the badge (the four bars), the patron saint (St. George) and of past heroic deeds. In a few words all of a catalan nationalist compendium. 78 series, according to Nathan⁷, were issued only in Catalonia some with several stamps in different colors and papers.

Despite the attempts of the central administration they circulated on the front of the letters next to the official stamp as the issuers intended and in clear contrast with the rules of the Universal Postal Union that already banned this practice in Vienna 1891⁸. One of the most used systems to prevent this advertising, since apparently any national rule against it was promulgated, was to cross out the unaccepted cinderella stamp. We enclose copies of letters and some postcards with this manual crossing out.

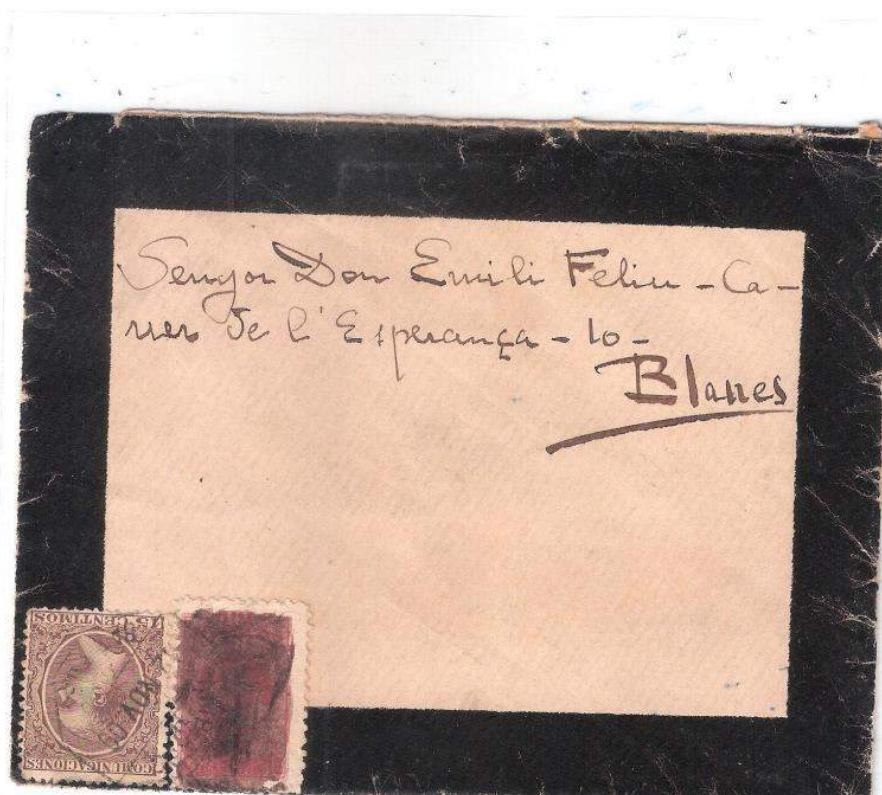
Author: Josep Sauret Pont (economist, member of the Cercle Filatèlic and numismatist from Barcelona)

⁷ S. Nathan was an englishman married to a Catalan who published in 1976 "Spanish Separatist Stamps" in the Spanish Philatelic Society. It's a very interesting catalogue, a large compilation and a necessary and indispensable basis for this topic.

⁸ "Règlement de détail et d'ordre pour l'exécution de la convention " article XV paragraphe 1 : Les cartes postales doivent être expédiées à découvert. Le recto est réservé aux timbres d'affranchissement...Des vignettes ou réclames peuvent être imprimées sur le verso.



N. 1) Letters with the label No. 1 listed by Natham, in the lower one it is visible the attempt to cross out the label



N. 2) Letters with the label nº 2 listed by Nathan, the superior with advertising printed of "Quatre Gats", legendary restaurant in Barcelona, in the lower picture is clearly visible the crossing out of the label.



N. 3) Top letter, circulated from Sheffield to Barcelona with english labels combined with the labels No. 1 and 9 of the catalogue of Nathan, lower postal circulated in Chatelet-France with the label nº 41 of the aforementioned catalogue.



N. 4) Top letter circulated from Barcelona to New York with labels of the series 1 and 40, lower postcard with 2 labels of series 57

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Scarcity ratings

The catalogue was compiled by Stewart Gardiner and Steve Greiczek leading a team of 16 specialists from UK, US, Canada, Holland, Denmark and Italy with contributions from many other collectors. The catalogue is organised by year and by city, town or country within each year in an easy to use two column arrangement.

The catalogue is based upon the Cazin and Rochas "Catalogue des Timbres Commémoratifs. Parus depuis leur creation jusqu'en 1914" published a century ago and draws upon later catalogues and the contributor's collections. This ensures that the content is as accurate and up to date as possible.

This space is available for an ad from our members, dealers or otherwise.

Member classified ads

Wanted: Silent film related poster stamps, especially Wentz issues for The Black Box, series A Art Stamp Album for silent movie stars and Essanay Charlie Chaplin set. Will buy or trade. Ron Kreuger, Box 741, Oak Park, IL 60303 (708-)788-8235 or krugeron@sbcglobal.net

Wanted: Mr. Ice Cream desires ice cream and soda fountain poster stamps from around the world: ice cream, soda fountains, ice cream machines, people enjoying ice cream, etc. Contact Al Mellis: mellisfamily@rcn.com

Wanted: Wisconsin poster stamps, event seals, advertising stamps, charity stamps, labels, artist's proofs on or off cover. Ken Grant, E1 1960 Kessler Rd. Baraboo, WI 53913 email: kenneth.grant@uwc.edu

In the absence of a 1/4 page ad, free member classified ads of up to 30 words, excluding address, will be posted in this space. One ad per member per issue as space permits; first come, first served. Ads must relate to poster stamps. Buy, sell, trade or information sought are all OK. Must be received at least 30 days prior to the next issue.

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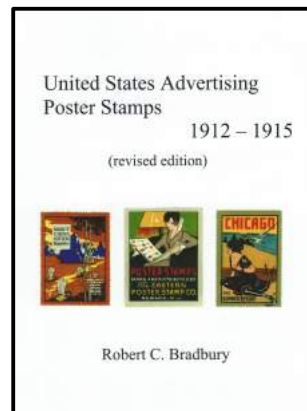
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United States poster stamps bought and sold.

Here is another article by a non-member. At least two of the stamps she shows are also poster stamps.

Posters on EUROPA stamps – by Dana Roper, President of the Europa Study Unit of the ATA

EUROPA stamps are special stamps issued by European postal administrations under the aegis of *PostEurop* which have Europe as their central theme. They are among the most collected and most popular stamps in the world. ...*from the PostEurop web site*

So, what is “EUROPA”?

After World War II, the Marshall Plan played an enormous role in getting a struggling Europe back on its feet. At the same time, visionaries in Europe saw an opportunity to actualize what until then had been only a dream – the unification of Europe. Robert Schuman of France proposed an alliance between France, Germany and Italy to forge a common market in coal and steel, an alliance that would, if realized, make war untenable if not impossible. The BENELUX countries signed on to the idea, and together the six formed the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1952. By 1954 the agency had removed nearly all barriers to trade between its members in coal, coke, steel, pig iron, and scrap iron. As a consequence, trade in these commodities rose dramatically in the 1950s.

In 1956, the six member countries decided to issue a set of stamps with a common design to publicize the success of this common market. The accepted design was inspired by a poster created for the Marshall Plan titled “Reconstructing Europe”:



The set of stamps from Luxembourg is shown below (Sc. 318–320). They show the word “EUROPA”, adopted to signify a United Europe, surrounded by scaffolding with the “E” flag flying in the background. (The “E” flag was the precursor to the current flag of twelve stars).



Another very powerful Marshall Plan poster was designed by Turkish artist Kennen Temizan. A chopped tree trunk with an axe at its side and new growth sprouting out from the top conveys the message that despite the devastation of the war, life is beginning anew. It is titled “Despite Everything”, and Turkey used this for a set of stamps in 1958 to promote the Europa idea. (Sc. 1427-8)



The Europa stamps were continued each year thereafter, and in 1959 the Conference of European Post and Telecommunications (CEPT) was formed, and this new body took over the administration of Europa stamps. The CEPT had many more members than the original “Inner Six” of the ECSC, and in 1960 the EUROPA stamps series took off.

The idea of a common design continued, and in 1960 the design was a wheel with 19 spokes, for the 19 members of the CEPT, as seen on this Belgian stamp (Sc. 553).



The next year was arguably the most popular of all Europa designs – a formation of 19 doves in flight forming a single dove, Iceland (Sc.340):



Common Themes


The common design approach continued until 1974, at which time it was decided to switch to a common theme instead. Only the CEPT logo (or letters) on each stamp

indicates that the stamp is a "Europa stamp".



This approach, with only two exceptions, has continued to the present and it's generally agreed that this was a good move, as it made a Europa collection more visually – and culturally – interesting.

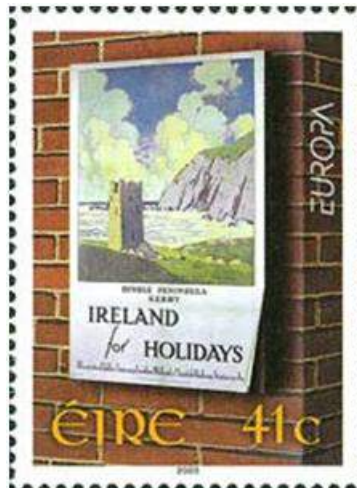
In 1993 the CEPT decided to focus more on telecommunications. A new organization, *PostEurop*, was formed which took over the management of the Europa issues as well as the responsibility for perpetuating the tradition of the Europa stamps and ensuring its evolution. A new logo was also created to replace the CEPT

logo, , consisting of a modern rendition of the word EUROPA preceded by a stylized mailbox.

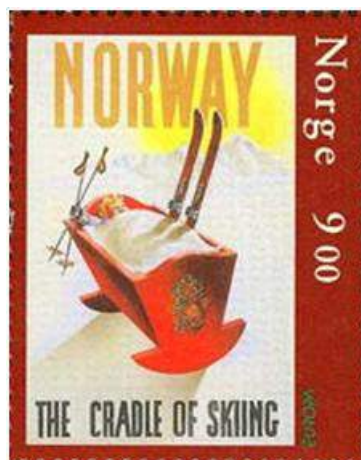
Each year, PostEurop's Stamps & Philately Working Group selects the Europa stamp theme. The Working Group organizes a European Philately Forum every two years with the active participation from all PostEurop Members. In 2003, the subject chosen was "Poster Art" and this produced some very visually appealing stamps, such as:



France: Poster by Raymond Savignac (Sc. 2943)



Ireland: poster by Paul Henry (Sc.1469)



Norway: Poster by Knut Yran (Sc. 1375)

The complete set of stamp designs can be seen at this website:

<http://www.ibolli.it/cat/cept/cept03/cept03.php>

In order to promote Europa issues among philatelists, PostEurop created in 2002 an annual competition of the “Best Europa stamp”. The winner of the contest in 2003 was this stamp from Monaco, poster by Jean-Gabriel Domergue (Sc. 2291):



This is my personal favorite as well. I’m a guy. Need I explain any further? The best Europa stamp was selected by the members of PostEurop during their yearly plenary assembly until 2007, when the competition was opened to public voting. This allowed EUROPA enthusiasts to vote for their most preferred stamp on PostEurop's website <http://www.posteurop.org/EUROPA%20Stamps>.

The Europa Study Unit

The Europa Study Unit is a stamp club for all who are interested in the philatelic manifestations of the **Europa** ideal of political, economic, and social integration of Europe. Europa collectors may limit themselves to just the annual 'themed' issues for Europa, but an expanded collection will also include forerunners (such as advocates of unity, previous attempts at unity, sporting events, etc.) and current issues that commemorate organizations and events that relate to the unification of Europe.

We are an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the American Topical Association (ATA). You do not need to join either organization to become a member of the ESU. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.europastudyunit.org/>