



UNOstamps Newsletter

nr. 9 - April 2008

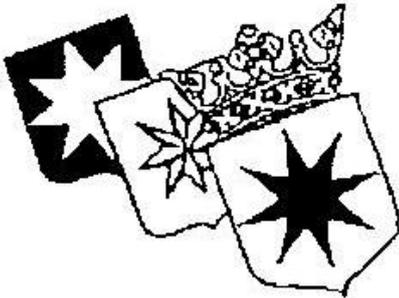
issued by UNOstamps - Netherlands
edited by Maxim van Ooijen

Introduction

This is the ninth issue of the UNOstamps Newsletter. It contains the newest additions to the UNOstamps website, news from the UN (with an emphasis on the Netherlands) and the monthly quiz. There is also room for your comments.

Don't hesitate to give me your opinion on the Newsletter. Please send in comments, suggestions or even compliments. Remember you don't have to wait for the next issue to visit UNOstamps at www.unostamps.nl.

It was a busy month, so there was not much time to work on the website. I had to write the Annual Report 2007 for the local historical society (www.oud-wateringen.nl) because the annual meeting is on 15 April. I managed to finish it just in time and last Thursday I could get them from the printer's.



April is going to be a busy month also. Apart from this annual meeting, there is the Stamp Passion '08 in 's-Hertogenbosch that I wrote about in Newsletter nr. 7 from February. Also I'm visiting Antwerp next weekend and there are meetings almost every other day. And on top of that my boss wants to see me four days a week.



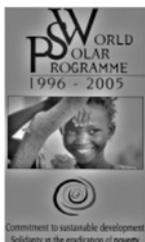
Anyway, this is the new Newsletter. Have fun reading it and don't forget to answer this month's quiz. The question is rather easy and the prize is really nice. And read the remark at the end of this Newsletter to see what you can expect next time.....

New additions to UNOstamps in March 2008

I have added one country (bringing the total to 62), two new subjects and images of magazines and a blue card to the UNOstamps website.

Azores

The archipelago of the Azores lies in the Atlantic Ocean and is an autonomous region of Portugal. They had their own stamps from 1868 to 1931. Since 1980 there are again separate stamps for the Azores (and Madeira) that are also valid in continental Portugal. Three series of UN related stamps can be seen on the website.



World Solar Programme

The World Solar Summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1996 launched the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 in which 104 states took part. This programme was conceived as a concrete follow-up of the recommendations of the Earth Summit. The purpose of WSP was to sensitize governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, academia and private institutions on the need to support the development and utilization of renewable energy for sustainable development.



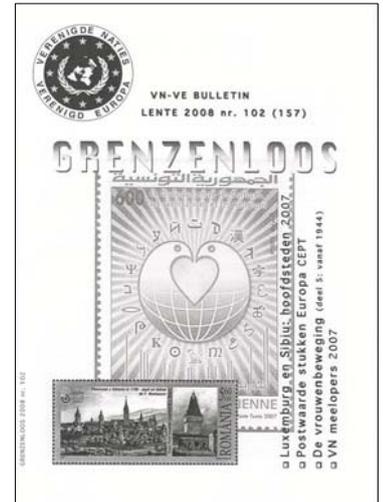
World Heritage - Portugal

Every country that has World Heritage sites within its borders gets its own page on UNOstamps. It lists those sites that have been put on stamps. Portugal is the seventh country on the website, after Netherlands, Solomon Islands, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Austria and Suriname. The site presented here from Portugal is the Central Zone of the Town of Angra do Heroísmo in the Azores.

New images

I have added the Blue card from Pau 1982 and some magazines, including the latest issue of Grenzenloos (spring 2008).

Quick links to all new additions can be found on the page 'New on this website'.



Recent finds

I would like to thank Eric Contesse from timbredujura.blogspot.com. He sent me the two UNESCO series I still missed in my collection. Thank you very much Eric.

By the way, visit his site to take a look at the vast collection of covers from all over the world he has acquired. It is fascinating!

United Nations News

Madagascar ratifies statute establishing International Criminal Court

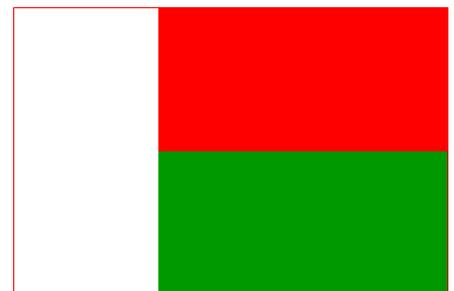
17 March 2008 - Madagascar has become the latest country to ratify the Rome Statute that sets up the International Criminal Court (ICC), the independent, permanent court that tries people accused of the most serious crimes, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Malagasy Government deposited its instrument of ratification to the statute on Friday, according to a news release issued by the ICC in The Hague, the Dutch city where it is based.

When the statute enters into force for Madagascar on 1 June, the island nation will be the 106th country to become a State Party to the ICC - almost 10 years after the Rome Statute was adopted in July 1998, leading to the court's founding.

Late last year Judge Philippe Kirsch, the ICC President, called for those countries that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute to do so, saying the court was already having an impact by deterring crimes and improving the chances for sustainable peace in some countries.

(source: United Nations Press Release)



AIDS ambassadors visit the Netherlands

20 March 2008 - On the initiative of the Dutch HIV/AIDS Ambassador Paul Bekkers, his counterparts from around the world met in the Netherlands on 18 and 19 March. Australia, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States all have HIV/AIDS ambassadors because of the high priority that they give to combating HIV/AIDS.

The meeting was organised with a view to joining forces in the fight against HIV/AIDS, as this would have a greater impact than each individual ambassador's efforts.



The ambassadors were unanimous in their concern about the declining focus on HIV/AIDS throughout the world. The disease is already devastating development in the worst affected countries, while the number of infections worldwide continues to rise. The tide can only be turned if combating HIV/AIDS remains a priority.

In recent years, the fight against HIV/AIDS has resulted in better health care in developing countries, through greater availability of medication and qualified professionals and better hospitals. The ambassadors discussed how this approach could be sustained and improved where necessary. Other subjects included further coordination of the division of tasks among international organisations in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the issues to be addressed at the G8 summit, the special UN summit on HIV/AIDS in June and the XVIIth International AIDS Conference in Mexico in August.

(source: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, photo: Radio Netherlands Worldwide)

Government's reaction to Wilders' film

27 March 2008 - Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende has reacted to the film Fitna that MP Geert Wilders has released on the internet today. Prime minister Jan Peter Balkenende:



"On behalf of the Dutch government, I would like to respond to the online film by Mr Wilders. The film shows images of violent acts and holds Islam and the Koran responsible for them. The government condemns such acts and those who commit them. The film equates Islam with violence. We reject this interpretation. The vast majority of Muslims reject extremism and violence. In fact, the victims are often also Muslims.

We therefore regret that Mr Wilders has released this film. We believe it serves no purpose other than to cause offence. But feeling offended must never be used as an excuse for aggression and threats. The government is heartened by the initial restrained reactions of Dutch Muslim organisations.

Muslims, Christians and people of other convictions can easily live together in peace. The problem is not religion, but misuse of religion to sow hatred and intolerance. That is why we are calling for respect for everyone's deepest convictions.

We are aware of the concerns and the sentiments about this film in the international Muslim community. We have recently spoken with many people at home and abroad to promote mutual understanding. We will continue to follow this course.

The Dutch government stands for a society in which freedom and respect go hand in hand. Such a society demands dedication and commitment. We oppose extremism. Anyone who breaks the law is dealt with firmly. Let us solve problems by working together. Let us reach out to others and build confidence and trust. Let us conquer prejudice. We shall surely succeed."

(source: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, photo: Planet.nl)

Lindbergh in Surinam: the big mistake?

In February stamps from the republic of Suriname were added to the UNOstamps website. The day after I received an e-mail from Canada. The famous ICAO historian Albert Pelsser pointed out that there was something wrong with the description of one of the stamps. What has happened?

On 16 May 1984 two stamps were issued for the 40th anniversary of ICAO, the International Civil Aviation Organization. The text on the 35 cent stamp reads as follows: Landing Ch. Lindbergh op de Suriname Rivier. Even for non-Dutch speakers it is obvious that it means 'Landing of Charles Lindbergh on the Surinam River'.



Albert Pelsser wrote to me: "In the 1920s, Juan Trippe, the visionary founder of Pan American Airways, invited famous aviator Charles Lindbergh to serve as a technical advisor to PanAm. Colonel Lindbergh inaugurated in 1929 the airmail service between the United States and the Panama Canal Zone with the S-38. Lindbergh visited Surinam when he made the first official mail-flight with Pan America; his flying boat, a Sikorski S-38 landed on the Suriname River on 23 September 1929; there was no airport in Suriname at that time. His wife Anne Morrow and Juan Trippe of PanAm accompanied him."



This S-38 aircraft has only two engines but on the stamp we see one with four engines. This plane, the Sikorski S-40, was not built until 1931. So this is a terrible design error. There is only one recorded visit of Lindbergh to Surinam and that was in 1929. He did fly the first S-40 on 19 November 1931 from Miami to the Canal Zone and that is where the design confusion must have come from.

This envelope on the left is one of the first to be carried by air mail from Surinam to the United States.

When this stamp was issued in 1984 I never read anything about the design mistake in the Dutch philatelic press. So many thanks to Albert Pelsser for his keen eye and contribution to yet another piece of philatelic history.

Quiz

The eighth quiz was again much easier than I thought. A record number of eighteen people from fourteen different countries sent in the right answer. The question was: where is this stamp from?

The right answer is Solomon Islands.

And the winner is: Vera Radnell from Australia. The mint stamps are already in the mail.



In her e-mail Vera wrote: "The stamp shows East Rennell which is the southern portion of Rennell Island. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The island is part of the Solomon Island group. East Rennell is unique in that it has many endemic species of birds, plants and animals. I am an ornithophilatelist and one day hope to visit the Solomon Islands to observe the beautiful bird life there. You chose a beautiful stamp for the quiz."

The quiz for April is all about art. The weekend of 5 and 6 April is National Museum Weekend in the Netherlands. Many museums organize special activities and expositions. Therefore a special, and very very easy, art question.

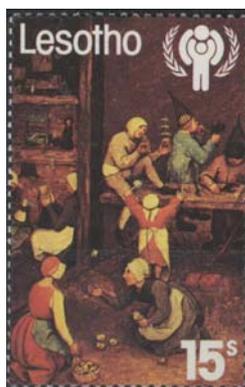
This souvenir sheet from one of the 62 countries on the website shows one of the most famous artists of the 20th Century. I have erased his name, autograph and the name of the issuing country, so the question is:

Who is this world famous artist?

E-mail your answer to info@unostamps.nl before 30 April 2008. All correct answers will be entered in the draw. The lucky winner will receive a special philatelic art prize.

The prize consists of mint stamps from United Nations Geneva (J.M. Sert), Lesotho (Brueghel) and Dahomey (mosaics from Venice).

These beautiful stamps can be yours! Good luck! You can see the complete prize on the website.



United Nations Agenda April 2008

- 4 International Day for the Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- 7 World Health Day
- 23 World Book and Copyright Day
- 28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Protecting **HEALTH** from climate change
World Health Day 2008

Visitors count

Up to 31 March 2008 UNOstamps has been seen by 712 visitors other than myself. 6 of these visitors came from an unknown country. For the first time there were visitors from Bangladesh and Kuwait. This brings the total at 92 countries. In 2008 people from 65 countries have already passed by the website. The top ten countries are (between brackets the results of March 2008):

1. (1)	United States	129	6. (5)	Germany	37
2. (2)	Netherlands	100	7. (6)	India	31
3. (3)	United Kingdom	42	8. (7)	Lithuania	25
4. (4)	Canada	41	9. (10)	Belgium	20
(-)	France	41	(-)	Italy	20

Next issue

Due to the holidays (Queen's Day, Ascension Day, Liberation Day) in the Netherlands Newsletter nr. 10 will be issued on 7 May 2008. If you have a comment that you would like to share with the other readers, please send it before 30 April 2008. To unsubscribe from the Newsletter, just send an e-mail to info@unostamps.nl with the subject 'unsubscribe'.

But.....

Because of my (and the Queen's) birthday there will be a special edition of the UNOstamps Newsletter issued on 30 April 2008 (Queen's Day).

The only contents is a very difficult birthday quiz with three (!) prizes to win. But... be quick to send in your answer, because there is a very strict deadline.



Stamp Passion 08. 11 - 13 April 2008

- Postal administrations with the latest editions from their own countries
- Lots of traders with an extremely broad selection of stamps and accessories
- An exhibition and presentation of the NVPFH Philatelic Design Award 2008
- Plenty of interesting information and presentations
- Lots of activities for kids

Location Stamp Passion 08:
Brabanthallen 's-Hertogenbosch
Diezekade 2
5222 AK 's-Hertogenbosch
The Netherlands

www.stamppassion.nl

