



UNOstamps Newsletter

nr. 13 - August 2008

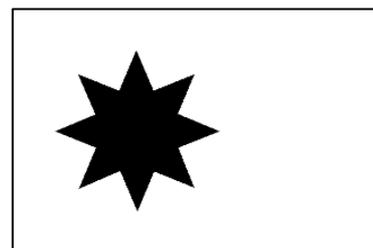
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edited by Maxim van Ooijen

Introduction

This is the thirteenth issue of the UNOstamps Newsletter. It contains the newest additions to the UNOstamps website, news from the UN 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.

I apologize for the delay of this Newsletter, but as I mentioned earlier the jubilee exhibition for our local historical society takes up a lot of my time. Also I have to finish my book. Our mayor has already agreed to receive the first copy in October or November. You can imagine the pressure that this gives.



Your reactions to last month's question

Last month I asked you for your comment on the first year of the UNOstamps Newsletter and on the future issues. Some of the 80 readers responded and I give their reactions below. Apparently you like what I am doing, so I will try to continue as usual.

I am a keen reader of your newsletter. I enjoy its contents very much including its quiz section. Let it remain monthly and please don't make it bimonthly. As we will have to wait for two months for the next issue. Please also include Readers' section in your newsletter and publish Reader's reactions too. It's a very nice and informative newsletter for all philatelists. Hope you would kindly consider my suggestion.
Mrs. Jeevan Jyoti, India

I think your website is super. I'm not yet reading the newsletter long enough to give a balanced judgement. Until now I think it's outstanding so you should go on like this.
Peter van de Laar, Netherlands

It is real pleasure to read your newsletter and especially to search for the answer on the Quiz.
Davor Franjkovic, Croatia

My honest feedback is I like the newsletter as it is. So no changes would be best unless you have a lot of pressure and would want to make it every two months. I am very happy reading your newsletter and quiz and look forward to it every month.
Anthony J. D'mello, Saudi Arabia

UNO Newsletter: OK for me.
Albert Pelsser, Canada

I really enjoy your newsletter and look forward to it each month and know how much work it takes to produce such a quality newsletter. If you decide a newsletter every two months is enough work for you then that is understandable.
Vera Radnell, Australia

New additions to UNOstamps in July 2008

Three new countries on the website this month, bringing the total to 75 countries. A personal milestone.

Portuguese Timor

Portuguese explorers claimed Timor in 1515, lured by the promise of spices. For the next 460 years, the Portuguese controlled the eastern half of the island, while the Dutch East India company took the western half as part of its Indonesian holdings. In 1702 the Portuguese officially added the region to their empire, renaming it "Portuguese Timor." Japan seized the island in February 1942. Portuguese Timor was handed back to Portugal after the war. The colony was declared an 'Overseas Province' of the Portuguese Republic in 1955. East Timor declared its independence in 1975. Indonesia invaded East Timor, declaring the region the 27th Indonesian province. This annexation, however, was not recognized by the UN



French Oceanic Settlements

The 118 islands of French Polynesia (the Society, Marquesas, Austral and Gambier Island groups and the Tuamotu Islands group) were declared as a protectorate by France in 1843. In 1944, the islands were declared to be an overseas territory of France. On 25 October 1946, a decree by France allowed the Polynesians to manage their own public matters, while still maintaining institutional control. On 22 July 1957, the territorial assembly was instituted in "French Polynesia" with control over such affairs as commerce, transportation, and education.

Alderney

The Island of Alderney is renowned for its severe tides and its rugged and dangerous coastline. Over the centuries it has proved the undoing of dozens of ships, many well known, some obscure and some whose wrecks still await discovery. It is a part of the Channel Islands, belonging to the Bailiwick of Guernsey, and started issuing stamps 25 years ago. Only two souvenir sheets have a UN theme.



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

Recent finds

The UN Postal Administration issues not only stamps, sheets and souvenir cards, but for their regular subscribers they have special envelopes with combined issues or special postmarks. One of these envelopes I like to show you this month. I recently received it from the UNPA Office in Vienna.

Last April the pope visited the UN Headquarters in New York. For this occasion UNPA issued special personal stamps with a special postmark. Although the cover is a 'normal' cover used for many purposes in New York, it is still a nice addition to many a collection.



Not only if you collect UN related stamps and postmarks, but also when you collect religion or popes or peace missions, you can add this to your collection.

Verhagen pleased with new Human Rights Commissioner

25 July 2008 - Foreign minister Maxime Verhagen is pleased with the nomination of Navanethem Pillay, a South African judge, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced his decision on 24 July.



Ms Pillay has an impressive track record in the field of international law and human rights. Since 2003 she has served as a judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, and before that she was President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. For many years she worked as a lawyer in the fight against apartheid. In 1995 she was the first black woman to serve on South Africa's Supreme Court.

Mr Verhagen praised the departing High Commissioner, Louise Arbour. 'For the past four years, Ms Arbour has done an impressive job as head of the UN's human rights policy,' he said. 'She has promoted the universality of human rights in a forceful and independent fashion. This is vital, for many people nowadays tend to relativise the idea that human rights apply to all people, in all places and at all times. Her leadership, personal commitment, energy and dedication have left a significant mark on the UN's human rights efforts.'

The Netherlands believes that the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is very important. It is one of the biggest voluntary donors, contributing over five million euros per year.

(source: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs / photo: Navanethem Pillay, UN News Service)

Radovan Karadžić transferred to UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague

30 July 2008 - Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić has been transferred to the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, to stand trial for alleged atrocities committed during the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s.

Mr. Karadžić, 63, was detained in Serbia last week, nearly 13 years after the first indictment against him was confirmed at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

He faces charges of genocide, complicity in genocide, extermination, murder, wilful killing, persecutions, deportation, inhumane acts and other crimes related to his roles during the 1990s as the president of Republika Srpska, head of the Serbian Democratic Party and Supreme Commander of Bosnian Serb military forces, known as VRS.



Mr. Karadžić is being held at the UN Detention Unit in The Hague and is scheduled to appear before the tribunal on Thursday.

"The arrest of Radovan Karadžić is immensely important for the victims who had to wait far too long for this day," ICTY Prosecutor Serge Brammertz said in a statement issued today. "It is also important for international justice because it clearly demonstrates that there is no alternative to the arrest of war criminals and that there can be no safe haven for fugitives."

Mr. Karadžić is indicted for the most serious crimes under international law: genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, said the Prosecutor.

"He is charged with the ethnic cleansing of non-Serbs from large areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina through the commission of the crimes alleged in the indictment. He is charged with a campaign of shelling and sniping to terrorise the civilian population of Sarajevo.

"He is also charged with the genocide committed in Srebrenica in July 1995 when close to 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed. In addition, he is charged with taking UN peacekeepers and military observers hostage."

Mr. Brammertz said his team is currently reviewing the indictment which was last amended in 2000. "We will ensure that it reflects the current case law, facts already established by the court and evidence collected over the past eight years."

Hailing Mr. Karadžić's arrest as a "major achievement" in Serbia's cooperation with the tribunal, the Prosecutor said he hoped it would lead to the arrest of the two remaining fugitives, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadžić. "Without these arrests we cannot complete our mandate," he stated.

(source: UN News Service / photo: Radovan Karadžić, UN News Service)

Quiz



The twelfth quiz was not as easy as I thought, because only six people from six different countries sent in an answer. The question was: where is this stamp from?

One contestant answered Seychelles. The right answer, however, is **Zil Elwagne Sesel**. Although they are a part of Seychelles, ZES is considered as a separate stamp issuing territory

The stamp was issued for the World Tourism Day 1983.

And the winner is: **Mohd Nizamuddin Safie** from **Malaysia**. It is the second time that his name came out of the fish bowl first. The mint stamps are

already in the mail.

During the month of August 2008 the eyes of the world will be on Beijing, China (or Peking as most of us Dutch still call it). Some years ago the city was host to a very important United Nations conference. This stamp from one of the 75 countries on the website was issued for this conference. I have erased the name of the issuing country almost completely, but it is still there in Arabic.

The question is:

where is this stamp from?

E-mail your answer to info@unostamps.nl before 28 August 2008. All correct answers will be entered in the draw. The lucky winner will receive a special philatelic prize.

The prize consists of mint stamps from United Nations New York (Secretariat 1968), Ireland (50 years of Irish UN Peace-keeping forces 2008), Thailand (UN Day 1967) and Turkey (ILO 50th anniversary 1969) and a first day cover from Malta (International Year of the Child 1979)

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



United Nations Agenda August 2008

- 1-7 World Breastfeeding Week
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- 12 International Youth Day
- 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition

Visitors count

Up to 31 July 2008 UNOstamps has been seen by 1.441 visitors other than myself. 14 of these visitors came from an unknown country. For the first time there was a visitor from **Liechtenstein**, so the total comes at 95 countries. In 2008 people from 76 countries have already passed by the website.

The top ten countries are (between brackets the results of 30 June 2008):

1. (1)	United States	256	6. (6)	United Kingdom	63
2. (2)	Netherlands	187	7. (7)	Germany	61
3. (3)	France	122	8. (8)	Lithuania	51
4. (4)	India	103	9. (9)	Belgium	42
5. (5)	Canada	66	10. (10)	Italy	32



Next issue

Newsletter nr. 14 will be issued on 8 September 2008. This is a few days later than normal because of the jubilee activities of our local historical society. If you have a comment that you would like to share with the other readers, please send it before 28 August 2008. To unsubscribe from the Newsletter, just send an e-mail to info@unostamps.nl with the subject 'unsubscribe'.

