



UNOstamps Newsletter

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edited by Maxim van Ooijen

Introduction

This is the seventeenth 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.

It's another new year. Personally the last year was not very special, so I hope that 2009 will be different. A short look on the past year is on the Comments page on the UNOstamps website.

As we enter 2009 I hope to add many pages to the website, and to find many new additions for my collection. As 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy and the International Year of Natural Fibres, that shouldn't be a problem.

I hope you enjoy reading it. And don't forget to visit the website!



New additions to UNOstamps in December 2008

One new country was added to the website this month, bringing the total to 79 countries. Also there are six new persona, making the total 50. And there are two new comments, a new stamp catalogue and a new souvenir sheet from the Pitcairn Islands.



French West Africa

French West Africa was a federation of eight French colonies in the western part of Africa. The territory was formed by the union of Senegal, French Sudan (from 1904 Upper Senegal and Niger), Guinea, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Mauritania, Upper Volta and the mandated territory of Togoland. Before 1944 stamps were issued for each separate colony. From that date on these were replaced by stamps for the whole territory. Two stamps can be seen on the website.

Maria Baers

Maria Baers (1883-1959) was the first catholic female senator in Belgium and an internationally active feminist. In 1912 she founded the General Secretariat of the Belgian Christian Women's Trade Associations. Baers was a member of the International Labour Office in 1932, a Belgian delegate in the Committee for Social Affairs of the League of Nations in 1939 and a delegate at the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1952.





Hubert Krains

Hubert Krains (1862-1934) was a Belgian post official and writer. He was elected secretary of the Universal Postal Union in 1895. He stayed on until 1911. In 1908 he published the book *L'Union Postale Universelle, sa foundation et son développement* (The Universal Postal Union, its foundation and its development).

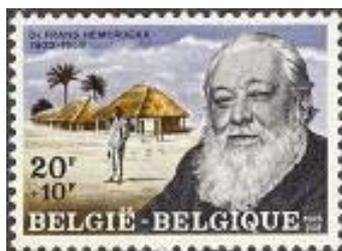


Camille Huysmans

Jean Joseph Camille Huysmans (1871-1968, born as Camiel Hansen) was a Belgian socialist politician. Between 1905 and 1922 Huysmans was secretary of the Second International. As minister of Education he led the Belgian delegations to the UNESCO conferences in Mexico (November 1947) and Beirut (November 1948). In Beirut Huysmans was also chairman of the Credentials Committee.

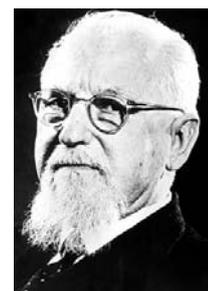
Frans Hemerijckx

Frans Hemerijckx (1902-1969) was a Belgian doctor, specializing in tropical medicine. In 1929 he went to the Belgian Congo, convinced that he would conquer leprosy. During the Second World War he founded Dikungu, a village for people affected by leprosy. He began to conduct regular tours of the area dispensing medical care where needed so that people affected by leprosy could remain with their families. Hemerijckx acted as a consultant for the World Health Organization on many occasions. As the most respected leprosy doctor of his time he conducted study visits and wrote official WHO reports. Among those a series called *Leprosy problem in India*.



Frans Van Cauwelaert

Jan Frans Van Cauwelaert (1880-1961) was a Belgian lawyer and politician. He studied medicine and philosophy (and later law) in Leuven and became a member of parliament in 1910. Until the day he died, he represented the district of Antwerp for the catholic party and after 1945 the Christian Democrats. After the Second World War his political activities were mainly focused on foreign policy as member of the Council of Europe (1949-1961), Belgian delegate to the United Nations (1954-1959), member of the West European Union (1955), chairman of the Belgian parliamentary NATO-association (1955-1961) and first chairman of the Interparliamentary Benelux Council (1957).



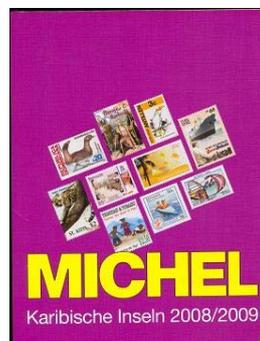
Emilienne Brunfaut

Emilienne Brunfaut, born Emilienne Steux (1908-1986), was a Belgian socialist trade union leader. She became the first female Belgian delegate to a conference of the International Labour Organization (1935) on behalf of the textile workers. In 1975 she became the French speaking president of the Belgian National Committee for International Women's Year, together with the Dutch speaking Lucienne Heman-Michielsens.



New catalogue

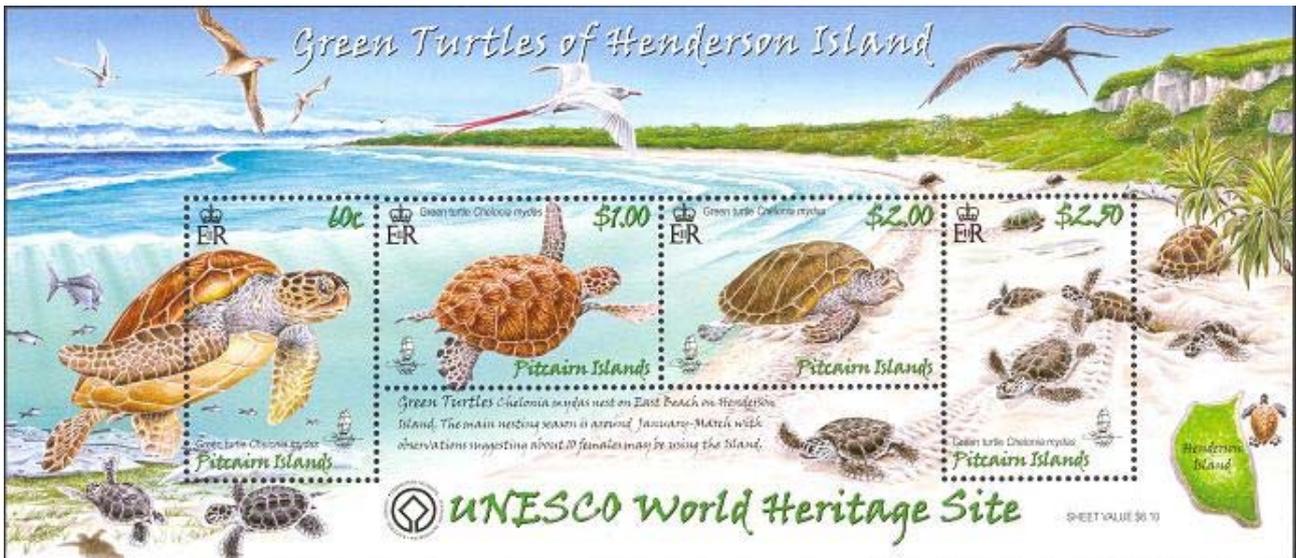
I have bought the new Michel Karibische Inseln catalogue. In this 1947 page volume all Caribbean Islands from Anguilla to Turks and Caicos Islands are listed. The complete contents is on the stamp catalogue-page.



New souvenir sheet

I received the latest stamps from the Pitcairn Islands. A beautiful souvenir sheet with turtles from Henderson Island, a World Heritage site.

I ordered the souvenir sheet on the day of issue (3 December 2008). When it arrived to my side of the world, only a week later, I saw that they sent it the same day. What a perfect service. I can recommend everyone to order their Pitcairn stamps directly from the philatelic service. The sheet is worth having in your collection, even if you don't collect UN stamps or animals or Pitcairn Islands. They found a designer from France that managed to draw turtles under water and on the beach. Also there are those cute little ones making their way from the sand towards the open sea. Well done Pitcairn!



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

Recent finds

In the last Newsletter you could see that I bought lots and lots of stamps for the collection. In December I was very busy cataloguing them all and I didn't buy any more stamps, apart from the sheet from the Pitcairn Islands.

However, I could not resist buying two new 2 euro-coins from Belgium and Portugal. They were issued for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I will add them to the website, when I find out something more about them (designer, issue date, etc.)



United Nations News

Seven human rights fighters receive top UN awards

10 December 2008 - The United Nations General Assembly today awarded its top human rights prize to seven global advocates ranging from a Congolese doctor who treats female victims of sexual violence, a nun who fought for indigenous rights before her murder in Brazil, and the assassinated Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto.



The UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights, awarded every five years, was presented at a General Assembly ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The winners are former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour; United States ex-Attorney-General Ramsey Clark; Executive Director and co-founder of Jamaicans for Justice Carolyn Gomes; Denis Mukwege, co-founder of the General Referral Hospital of Panzi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); Human Rights Watch, represented by its executive director Kenneth Roth; Ms. Bhutto; and Dorothy Stang of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who was mur-

dered in Brazil three years ago.

They join a distinguished roster of previous laureates that includes apartheid fighter and former South African President Nelson Mandela, US civil rights leader Martin Luther King, former US first Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, former US President Jimmy Carter, and Amnesty International.

The prize was first awarded on 10 December 1968 on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the UDHR.

"As we mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we acknowledge the tireless work and invaluable contribution of these individuals and organizations that have fought to see the rights and freedoms embodied in this historic document become a reality for people in all corners of the world," Assembly President Miguel D'Escoto said.

"These awardees constitute symbols of persistence, valour and tenacity in their resistance to public and private authorities that violate human rights. They constitute a moral force to put an end to systematic human rights violations."

(source: UN Press Release / photo: General Assembly President Meets Human Rights Award Recipients, UN Photo 234412, Erskine Debebe)

Gays, lesbians must be treated as equal members of human family - UN rights chief

18 December 2008 - The top United Nations human rights official lamented today that there are still too many countries that criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex and that some 10 States still have laws making homosexual activity punishable by death.

"Those who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, those who are transgender, transsexual or intersex, are full and equal members of the human family and are entitled to be treated as such," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay told high-level panel discussion on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, held at UN Headquarters in New York, organized by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France and the Netherlands.

"The ageless cliché that everyone is equal but some are more equal than others is not acceptable. No human being should be denied their human rights simply because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. No human being should be subject to discrimination, violence, criminal sanctions or abuse simply because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity," she said in a video message.

"Ironically many of these laws, like Apartheid laws that criminalized sexual relations between consenting adults of different races, are relics of the colonial and are increasingly recognized as anachronistic and as inconsistent both with international law and with traditional values of dignity, inclusion and respect for all."

She said that laws proscribing the death penalty for such activities are used to justify threats, attacks to the physical and moral integrity of persons, including their exposure to torture, with human rights defenders being particularly vulnerable.

"The stigma attached to these issues means that violence and discrimination often go unpunished as victims dare not report their cases and the authorities do not pay sufficient attention to those who do," Ms. Pillay added.

Dutch foreign minister Maxime Verhagen said in his speech: "The statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity that was [will be] delivered in the General Assembly today, on behalf of over sixty UN member states, is a breakthrough in our quest for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people throughout the world. An estimated 5 to 10 per cent of the world's population is homosexual - hundreds of millions of people, who are systematically discriminated against.



What this statement attempts to do is call the UN's attention to human rights violations and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Other grounds for discrimination, such as race, colour and sex, are widely condemned - and rightly so. Discrimination based on sexual orientation, however, has been neglected by the international community. In many countries, the issue is dismissed or ignored.

We should not leave this room merely with words in our heads, but also with a resolve to act. Today's statement should be the beginning of a longer process. The Netherlands will remain strongly committed to promoting and protecting human rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The Dutch government has endorsed the Yogyakarta Principles, which give an overview of human rights and fundamental freedoms in relation to sexual orientation. I call on other states to also embrace these Principles. Let's turn today's historic moment into a historic movement!

(source: UN Press Release and Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs / photo: Maxime Verhagen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, briefs the media following the panel discussion, UN Photo 245999, Evan Schneider)

Security Council moves to expedite work of UN war crimes tribunals

19 December 2008 - The Security Council today called on the United Nations war crimes tribunals dealing with the 1994 Rwanda genocide and the Balkans conflicts of the 1990s to conduct their trials as quickly and efficiently as possible, and pledged to support their efforts to complete their work.

The 15-member body noted with concern "that the deadline for completion of trial activities at first instance has not been met and that the Tribunals have indicated that their work is not likely to end in 2010," in a statement read out by Ambassador Neven Juric of Croatia, which holds the Council Presidency for the month of December.

Last week officials from both Tribunals reported to the Council on the progress made in the trials of those accused of genocide and crimes against humanity, as well as the implementation of the Tribunals' completion strategy.

The completion strategy of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which is based in The Hague, requires it to finish trials of first instance by 2009.

However, its President, Patrick Robinson, told the Council that while the Tribunal was still on track to complete most of its trials during 2009, a number would continue into the first part of 2010, which would also affect the dates for appeals, a small number of which would then spill over into 2012.

Likewise, Dennis Byron of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) said that instead of the decreased workload that might have been expected with the Tribunal moving towards the completion of its mandate, the court was now confronted with as many as 10 new cases.

At the same time, the Tribunal is faced with the resignation of judges and 13 fugitives remained at large, added the President of the ICTR, which is based in Arusha, Tanzania.

To assist in expediting the ICTR's work, the Council today unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing the Secretary-General to appoint up to three additional ad litem, or short-term, judges to the court, as requested by its President.

The Council took a similar decision regarding the ICTY last week.

(source: UN Press Release / photo: Security Council authorizes ICTR ad hoc judges appointment, UN Photo 250453, Evan Schneider)



Quiz

The sixteenth quiz was very easy. Only nine people sent in an answer. The question was: where is this stamp from? One contestants answered Saint Vincent. The right answer, however, is Ascension Island. The stamp was issued for the 50th anniversary of UNICEF in 1996.

And the winner is: **Albert Pelsser** from **Canada**. The mint stamps are already in the mail. He won one of the prizes in the extra Newsletter last May and his name came out of the hat for the second time this month.



At the start of the International Year of Astronomy, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei pointing his telescope to the stars (a Dutch invention by the way...), we remember that in the 1990s there was an International Year devoted to space exploration.



One stamp (from **one of the 79 countries** currently on the website) issued for this Year with a satellite that was launched but never reached orbit is shown here. I have erased the name of the country almost completely.

The question is:

where is this stamp from?

E-mail your answer to info@unostamps.nl before 1 February 2009. All correct answers will be entered in the draw. The lucky winner will receive a special philatelic prize. The prize consists of several mint stamps from all five continents (**Austria, Cambodia, Liberia, Tuvalu and United States of America**) and these can be yours! Good luck! You can see the complete prize on the website.

United Nations Agenda January 2009

27 International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

Visitors count

Up to 31 December 2008 UNOstamps has been seen by 2.410 visitors other than myself. 24 of these visitors came from an unknown country. There were no visitors from new countries, so the total stayed at 98 countries. In 2008 people from 83 countries have passed by the website.

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

1. (1)	United States	363	(6)	United Kingdom	106
2. (2)	Netherlands	309	7. (7)	Germany	99
3. (3)	France	278	8. (8)	Italy	83
4. (4)	India	139	9. (9)	Belgium	74
5. (5)	Canada	106	10. (10)	Lithuania	65

On the UNOstamps website you can find the complete visitors count for 2008. See where all these 2.410 people came from and where your own country ended up on the list. Follow the link on the page 'New on this website'.

Next issue

Newsletter nr. 18 will be issued on 5 February 2009. If you have a comment that you would like to share with the other readers, please send it before 1 February 2009. To unsubscribe from the Newsletter, just send an e-mail to info@unostamps.nl with the subject 'unsubscribe'.