



UNOstamps Newsletter

nr. 19 - May 2009

issued by UNOstamps - Netherlands
edited by Maxim van Ooijen

Introduction

This is the nineteenth 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. And leave a message in the guestbook while you're there.

Long time, no see

Let me start with apologizing to all readers of this Newsletter. The last edition was three months ago. I know that being busy with all sorts of other things is not a real excuse, but it is the truth. If you have seen the comment I placed on the website on 2 May (and the e-mail I sent to all subscribers) you know what I have been busy with (and you can see me on Youtube).

I hope to continue the Newsletter in the 'normal' way, but unfortunately I can't be certain that a delay won't happen again. At best there will be a short Newsletter with a quiz and a few news items. I can only hope for your understanding.

Well, on to the Newsletter of May. I have visited the Briefmarkenmesse in Essen (Germany) and bought a lot of new stamps. Please read the comment of 10 May on the website to get an impression.

A very important event I witnessed was the presentation of the new Dutch Europa stamps for the International Year of Astronomy. The first stamps were presented to Dr. Ronald Plasterk, minister of Education, Science and Culture during the *Evening of the Stars* in Science Centre Nemo in Amsterdam on 4 April 2009.

After the presentation he hurried out of the hall but I ran after him and got him and Linda van Zomeren, Director Marketing and Sales of TNT Post to pose for a unique and exclusive photo. You can see the new stamps on the website.

This edition of the UNOstamps Newsletter is rather a small one, but at least it is here! There is also a new quiz where you can win the new Dutch stamps to start your IYA 2009 collection with. I hope you enjoy reading it. And don't forget to visit the website! (And the Guestbook.)



UNOstamps exclusive photo: Dutch minister Plasterk receives the first stamps for the International Year of Astronomy in Amsterdam, 4 April 2009

New additions to UNOstamps in March-May 2009

Since the last Newsletter the main additions have been copies of the Dutch magazine *Grenzenloos* and the US magazine *The Journal of UNPI*. Also there are some new books on UN and general philately, the first book on the UN itself (from 1959), a new stamp catalogue and two comments.

Because of the new Europa stamps I have added one new subject page.

International Year of Astronomy

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) launched 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) under the theme, *The Universe, Yours to Discover*. IYA2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the first astronomical observation through a telescope by Galileo Galilei. It will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, with a strong emphasis on education, public engagement and the involvement of young people, with events at national, regional and global levels throughout the whole of 2009. UNESCO has endorsed the IYA2009 and the United Nations proclaimed the year 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy on 20 December 2007.

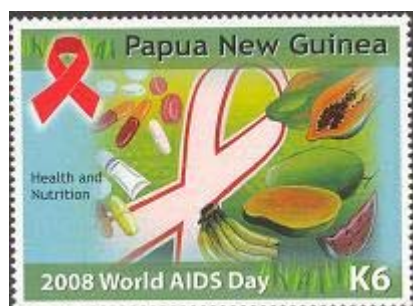


New stamps

This international year leads to a lot of stamps. New on the site are the Europa stamps from Jersey, Liechtenstein and Netherlands. On the Jersey stamps the stars are made from simily silver and the Liechtenstein stamp is printed on hologram foil. One of the Netherlands stamps shows the actual lens (57 mm) that Christiaan Huygens used to look at Saturn. He discovered the moon Titan on 25 March 1655. The drawing of this discovery is also on the stamp.

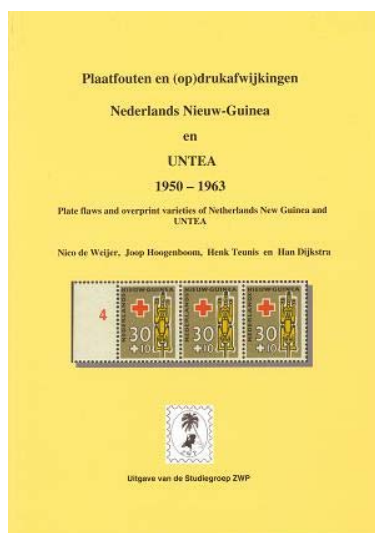
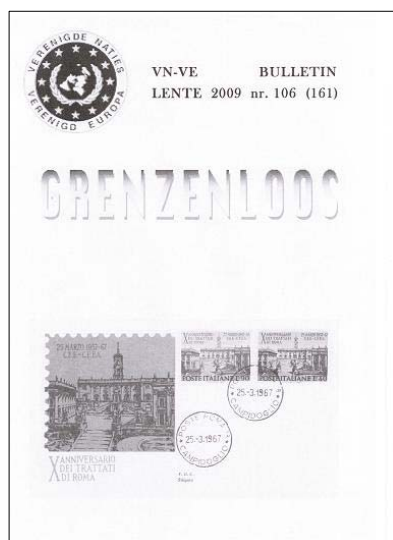
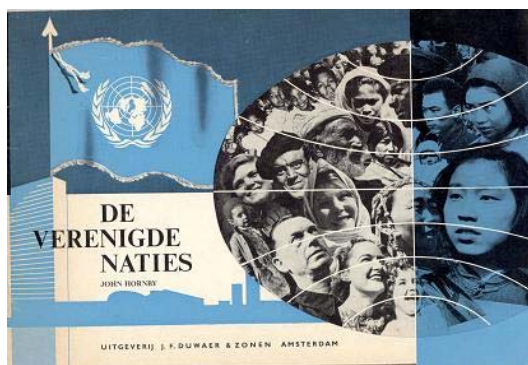
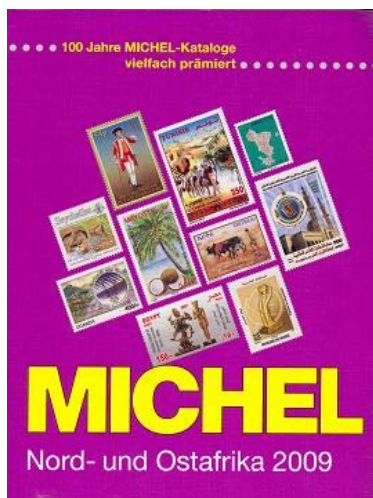


Another new series of stamps is that from Papua New Guinea for World AIDS Day 2008. A nice series with a small sheet and a souvenir sheet. The stamps are very large so the First Day Cover is enormous!



New books, magazines and catalogue

Twenty new magazines, one general UN book, four philatelic books and one new stamp catalogue were added. Here just a few images.



This book on the right is bilingual and has the title *Plate flaws and overprint varieties of Netherlands New Guinea and UNTEA 1950-1963*.

Issued by a specialist stamp club in the Netherlands, it is the most comprehensive study on this subject and a must for every UNTEA collector.

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

Quiz

For the eighteenth quiz a fourteen people from ten countries sent in an answer. The question was: where is this stamp from? Three contestants answered Hong Kong, India or Singapore. Obviously the stamp was from a British colony. The right answer, however, is Aden. The stamp was issued for the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union in 1949.

And the winner is: Martia Peeters from Belgium. The mint stamps are already in the mail.

Since 1959 there have been a lot of international years proclaimed by the General Assembly. This year, as you have read earlier, is International Year of Astronomy. But it is also International Year of Natural Fibres, International Year of Human Rights Learning and international Year of Reconciliation. You wonder how that all fits in one year, but apparently it does.

On the UNOstamps website there are subject pages on almost every international year. And a lot of countries on the website have issued stamps for one or more of these years.



One stamp (from one of the 80 countries currently on the website) issued for an international year is shown here. I have erased the name of the country and the reason for its issue almost completely. The remaining image should make it very easy to find the right answer.

The question is:

what International Year is this stamp for?

E-mail your answer to info@unostamps.nl before 8 June 2009. All correct answers will be entered in the draw. The lucky winner will receive a special philatelic prize. The prize consists of stamps dedicated to several international years from France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Uruguay and Vatican City and the latest stamps from the Netherlands for the International Year of Astronomy. All these can be yours! Good luck! You can see the complete prize on the website.



United Nations Agenda May 2009

- 3 Sun Day
- 3 World Press Freedom Day
- 8-9 Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost their Lives during the Second World War
- 15 International Day of Families
- 17 World Information Society Day (formerly World Telecommunication Day)
- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity
- 25-31 Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
- 29 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
- 31 World No-Tobacco Day

Visitors count

Up to 30 April 2009 UNOstamps has been seen by 826 visitors other than myself. 25 of these visitors came from an unknown country. In March I could welcome for the first time a visitor from Angola. The total therefore rose to 104 countries. In 2009 people from 65 countries have passed by the website. The top ten countries are (between brackets the results of 28 February 2009):

1. (1)	France	125	6. (8)	Belgium	42
2. (3)	United States	90	7. (6)	Canada	30
3. (2)	Netherlands	89	8. (6)	Italy	23
4. (4)	United Kingdom	72	9. (9)	Germany	22
5. (5)	India	47	10. (-)	Bangladesh	19

Next issue

Newsletter nr. 20 will (hopefully) be issued on 15 June 2009. If you have a comment that you would like to share with the other readers, please send it before 8 June 2009. To unsubscribe from the Newsletter, just send an e-mail to info@unostamps.nl with the subject 'unsubscribe'.