



# UNOstamps Newsletter

nr. 21 - August 2009

issued by UNOstamps - Netherlands  
edited by Maxim van Ooijen

## Introduction

This is the twenty-first 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](http://www.unostamps.nl). And leave a message in the guestbook while you're there.

## Smaller is better

I hope the title of this comment gets your attention, but first something completely different.

The Gibraltar Philatelic Service offers webmasters of philatelic non-profit websites a chance to earn some pocket money. On the website you will find a link to their stamp shop where you can buy the latest Gibraltar stamps. For every purchase someone makes after following this link, Gibraltar makes a donation to the UNOstamps website. Click, buy and support UNOstamps.

Some time ago I received an Award for my website. The award giver gave me this advice: "Use a somewhat smaller letter and you will have a lot more breathing space". At first I didn't take to much notice, but recently I found out that he was right.

I have always used two letter sizes for the pages on my website: small (like this one) and large. The large letter is used on the subject and person pages. The next few months I will gradually change all these pages to a smaller letter. The pages with the subject and person catalogues, the Newsletter and the links have already been changed.

Please let me know what you think about this change by sending me an e-mail or writing something in the guestbook.



To conclude, I have checked my website on several other computers and what I saw was quite disturbing. Sometimes my website does not appear the same way as it does on my own computer. There are horizontal scrolls at the bottom of the screen, there is a different letter type (it should be Trebuchet MS) and images are in the wrong place. Recently I downloaded the latest version of Explorer (IE 8) and when I looked at my website with this new programme everything was out of place. Then IE asked me to install something, and when I accepted my website was back to its original self.

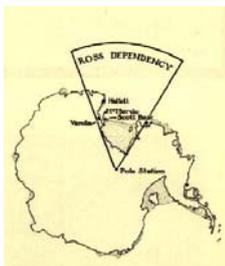
As I can't see what my visitors are seeing, I ask everyone who thinks that something is wrong to send me a screenshot by e-mail ([info@unostamps.nl](mailto:info@unostamps.nl)) so we can sort out the problem together.

Of course there is a new quiz this month. Try to find the answer and win some nice UN related stamps!

I hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. And don't forget to visit the website! (And the Guestbook.)

## New additions to UNOstamps in June-July 2009

Two new countries were added to the website since the last Newsletter, bringing the total to 85 countries. Eight new persons and six subjects got their own page on the website. Also there are two new magazines, a new stamp catalogue, two comments and lots of new stamps, mostly from Bangladesh.



### Ross Dependency

The Ross Dependency in the Antarctic comprises all the islands and territories south of 60°S latitude between 160°E and 150°W longitude. In 1923 steps were taken to assert sovereignty over the Antarctic territory by vesting administration in the New Zealand Government by an order in council under the British Settlements Act of 1887. The New Zealand Antarctic Expedition established Scott Base on Ross Island in 1957; the following year, the Ross Dependency Research Committee was appointed to co-ordinate all New Zealand activity in the dependency. Only one souvenir sheet with a UN theme was issued, for the international Polar Year in 2007.

### Caicos Islands

The Caicos Islands are the largest of the two groups in the Turks and Caicos Islands, comprising 96 % of the land area and 82 % of the population. They comprise four out of six administrative districts of the territory. Caicos Islands stamps were issued from 1981 to 1985. These stamps were also valid for use on the Turks Islands. Four stamps series and three souvenir sheets can be found here. These include the first Disney stamps to be included in the UNOstamps website.



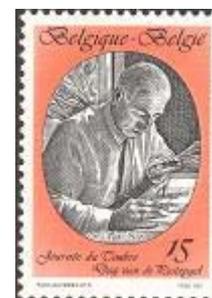
### Corneille Heymans

Corneille Heymans was a Belgian (Flemish) scientist and Nobel Prize winner. In 1938 he received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his discovery how the body measures data about blood pressure and the oxygen level in the blood and sends it to the brain.

Because of his enormous knowledge of pharmacology the World Health Organization nominated him as member of the Committee of Experts of the International Pharmacopoeia.

### Jean Van Noten

Jean Van Noten was a Belgian artist and stamp designer. Although he has made a great number of stamps and art works, not much is known about the life of this famous man. Van Noten designed dozens of stamps for Belgium, Belgian Congo, Ruanda-Urundi and after their independence for Congo (Kinshasa), Rwanda and Burundi. For the United Nations he designed the first commemorative stamp showing the War Memorial House in San Francisco, where the UN Charter was signed.



### Queen Fabiola of Belgium

Her Majesty Queen Fabiola of the Belgians was born Doña Fabiola Fernanda Maria de las Victorias Antonia Adelaida de Mora y Aragón in Madrid. In 1960 she married King Baudoin. In 1992, Queen Fabiola and Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, chaired a meeting of 70 First Ladies who had come to speak in favour of the adoption of the Geneva Convention on the Advancement of Women in Rural Areas. Queen Fabiola was awarded the Ceres Medal on World Food Day 2001 in recognition of her work to promote rural women in developing countries.

### Lily Boeykens

Lily Boeykens was one of the foremost Flemish feminists in recent history. Since the beginning of the seventies, she was one of the most important people within the second feminist wave in Belgium. Lily Boeykens established the Belgian UNIFEM committee in 1982 and participated in all great UN women conferences since 1975. From 1995 to 1999, she was the Belgian representative to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations and as such collaborated to the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention.





### Edmond Struyf

Edmond Struyf was a Belgian post official. Although his career in the postal world is unique, not much information is known about him. It is said that because of his strong personality and visionary policies he had a great influence on the modernisation of the Belgian Post. Also on an international level, within the policy structures of the UPU, he was respected and much appreciated.

Struyf joined the inventivity and working power of the Post, the stamp dealers and the stamp collectors. This proved to be the right formula. Even the UPU recognized this and it resulted in the foundation of the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP).

### Peter Piot

Peter Piot is a Belgian medical doctor and former head of UNAIDS. He took up the role of Professor of Medical Microbiology at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, in 1986, before becoming Director of the World Health Organisation Centre on AIDS and the National AIDS Reference Centre at Antwerp in 1987. In 1992 Piot became Associate Director of the WHO's Global Programme on AIDS. From 1995 to 2008, he was Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and helped to build a broad international coalition against the AIDS epidemic, placing AIDS firmly on the world's agenda.



### Christine Van Den Wyngaert

Christine Van Den Wyngaert is a Belgian criminal law expert and judge in several international courts.

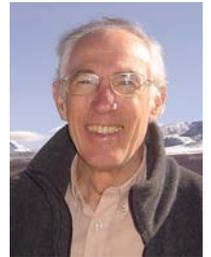
She was an ad hoc Judge at the International Court of Justice in the Yerodia case between 2000 and 2002. In 2003 she was sworn in as one of the new ad litem Judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Since 11 March 2009 Chris Van Den Wyngaert is a judge in the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

### André Berger

André Berger is a Belgian emeritus professor in meteorology.

He received the Norbert Gerbier-Mumm International Award from the World Meteorological Organization in 1994 for *The relation between astronomy and climate variations*. The purpose of the Award is to reward an original scientific paper on the influence of meteorology in a particular field of the physical, natural or human sciences.



### Peacekeeping forces - individual countries - Belgium



Belgium participated in early peacekeeping operations, such as those in Kashmir (1949) and in Korea (1950) where it sent a large contingent. After Korea, there were no Belgian interventions in peacekeeping operations until the 90's, with operations in Somalia (UNOSOM), in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR/UNTAES), and in Rwanda (UNAMIR). Today, the Belgian military are sporting the blue helmet in Sudan (UNMIS), Lebanon (UNIFIL), Israel (UNTSO) and DRC (MONUC). They are also dispatched in UN-mandated coalitions such as ISAF in Afghanistan.

### World Heritage - Bangladesh

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. Bangladesh is the tenth country on the website, after Netherlands, Solomon Islands, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Austria, Suriname, Portugal, Seychelles and Belgium.

One site is presented here: The Sundarbans.



### International Migrants Day

In 1997, Filipino and Asian migrant organisations began celebrating and promoting 18 December as the International Day of Solidarity with Migrants. This date was chosen because it was on 18 December 1990 that the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families (the Migrants Workers Convention). In 2000 the UN General Assembly designated 18 December of each year as International Migrant's Day.

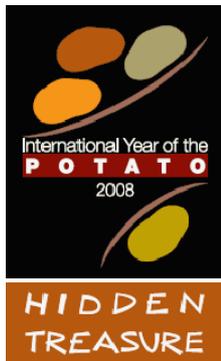
## International Day of Disabled Persons / International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The official title of the Day was changed from International Day of Disabled Persons to International Day of Persons with Disabilities by General Assembly resolution 62/127 on 18 December 2007.

## International Year of Sanitation

In September 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals that challenged the global community to reduce poverty and increase the health and well-being of all peoples. The target to halve the proportion of the 2.6 billion people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 was defined in the Johannesburg Plan of Action (JPOI).

Recognising the impact of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment, the General Assembly decided to declare 2008 the International Year of Sanitation.



## International Year of the Potato

At the biennial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in November 2005, the Permanent Representative of Peru proposed a resolution that sought to focus world attention on the importance of the potato in providing food security and alleviating poverty. The Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly accepted the resolution in December 2005, and declared the year 2008 as the International Year of the Potato.

The International Year of the Potato has raised awareness of the potato's fundamental importance as a staple food of humanity. But it also had a very practical aim: to promote development of sustainable potato-based systems that enhance the well-being of producers and consumers and help realize the potato's full potential as a "food of the future".

## New stamps

I have added the latest stamps from Austria, Azores, Madeira and Netherlands Antilles. Also I bought a lot of stamps from Bangladesh. This country is now almost complete. These stamps are new to the website:

**Austria:** World Heritage, International Year of Astronomy.



**Azores:** International Year of Astronomy.



**Bangladesh:** World Health Day (1993 and 2008), UNICEF 50th anniversary, International Mother Language Day (2000 and sheet 2002), World No-Tobacco Day (2001), United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (sheet), World AIDS Day (2001), International Migrants Day (2007), World Heritage, International Day of People with Disabilities (2008) and International Year of Sanitation.

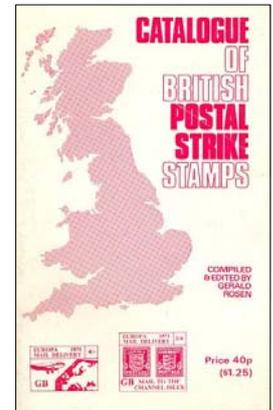
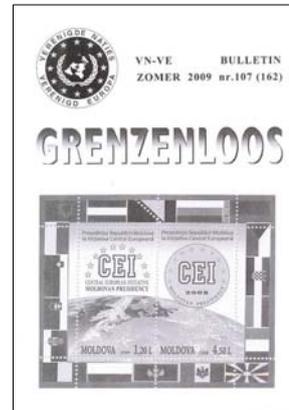
**Madeira:** International Year of Astronomy.

**Netherlands Antilles:** International Year of the Potato, reprint of an International Court of Justice stamp.



## New stamp catalogue and magazines

Newly added to the website are the *Catalogue of British Postal Strike Stamps* from 1971 (a rare item!) and the latest issues of the magazines *Grenzenloos* (nr. 107) and *The Journal of UNPI* (nr. 191).



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

## United Nations News

### Senior UN official nominated as Secretary-General's top envoy to Iraq

7 July 2009 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced today that he has chosen the second most senior official in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to be the UN's top envoy in Iraq.

Mr. Ban has informed the Security Council of his intention to appoint Ad Melkert, who has served as Associate Administrator of UNDP since 2006, to succeed Staffan de Mistura as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Iraq and head of the UN mission in that country (UNAMI), UN spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters.



Ms. Montas said that Mr. Melkert (53) brought a unique combination of political experience and economic and development expertise to the role from his work as a government minister and member of parliament in the Netherlands and as a senior official at UNDP and the World Bank.

"As a result, he enters with a deep understanding of the nature of the challenges and priorities that face Iraq at this phase of its transition," she said.

Ms. Montas said Mr. Ban was also grateful to Mr. de Mistura for his "valuable leadership in a challenging security environment in Iraq."

UNAMI is tasked with assisting in the reconstruction of Iraq, the implementation of the International Compact with Iraq and the process of national reconciliation and inclusive political dialogue.

(source: UN Press Release / photo: Ad Melkert, UN Photo 135240, Paulo Filgueiras)



### UN world court sets date for public hearings on Kosovo independence issue

29 July 2009 - The International Court of Justice, the United Nations' principal judicial organ, announced today that it will hold public hearings starting on 1 December on the question of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence early last year.

The UN and individual Member States will be able present oral statements and comments at the ICJ's headquarters in The Hague, as will the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) of Kosovo, which authored the declaration of independence from Serbia.

In October 2008 the General Assembly voted to request the ICJ to give an advisory opinion on the legality of the move by Kosovo,

where ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs and other minorities by about nine to one.

Some 36 Member States and the PISG have already filed written statements on the question, and they have until 15 September to indicate to the ICJ whether they wish to participate in the public hearings.

The ICJ, also known as the World Court, is tasked with settling legal disputes between UN Member States and with giving advisory opinions on legal questions.

(source: UN Press Release)

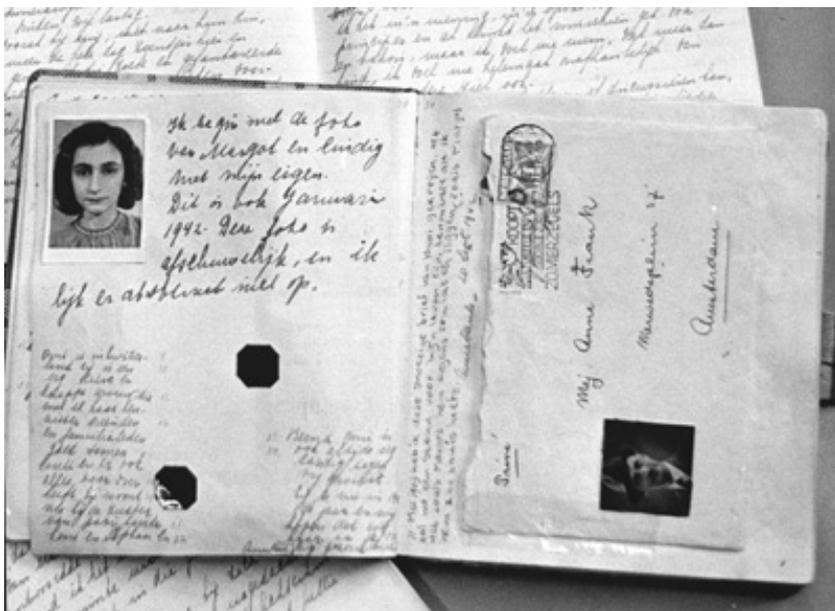
## Magna Carta and Anne Frank Diaries among items joining UNESCO register

**30 July 2009** - The diaries of Holocaust victim Anne Frank, the Magna Carta and the royal archives of Madagascar and Thailand are among 35 items of documentary heritage that are being added to a United Nations register designed to preserve them for future generations.

Koichiro Matsuura, the Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, announced today that these items will be inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register after they were recommended by a panel of international experts who have gathered in Barbados this week.

There are now 193 inscriptions on the register, which began in 1997 and aims to preserve and promote documentary heritage that is considered to be of global significance and often endangered.

The newly inscribed items include the Magna Carta, the English legal charter from 1215 that is considered highly influential to the development of liberty, law and democracy worldwide, and the diaries of Anne Frank, the Dutch Jewish schoolgirl whose account of her family's daily life in hiding under Nazi occupation before she was killed is now one of the world's most read books.



This year's additions also include the royal archives of Thailand and Madagascar; the so-called Archives of Terror from Paraguay, which document police repression during 35 years of dictatorship that ended in 1989; the archives of the League of Nations, the forerunner of the UN; and the archives of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia, which contain photographs and other documents showing the brutal rule of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s.

Another archive joining the list is that of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which began operations in 1949.

One of the newest items to be inscribed is the collection of documents recording the 600-kilometre-long peaceful human chain that formed in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1989 to press the case for freedom in those Baltic countries, which were then part of the Soviet Union.

Other additions include more than 34.000 Vietnamese woodblocks depicting the official literature and history of the country; the collected works of Canadian animator Norman McLaren; *Song of the Nibelungs*, the heroic poem from mediaeval Germany; a registry of slaves of the British Caribbean from the early 19th century; and an encyclopaedia of medical knowledge and treatment techniques compiled in Korea in 1613.

The other items to be inscribed either come from or relate to the following countries and territories: Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France,



Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands Antilles, Poland, Russia, Saint Lucia, Spain, Ukraine and the United States.

**Diaries of Anne Frank (Netherlands)**  
The diary of Anne Frank tells of daily life during World War II in the Netherlands through the eyes of an adolescent girl and shows the impact of Nazi occupation. It describes her life during the two years she, her family and four other people, all Jews, lived in hiding from Nazi persecution, before they were betrayed and deported. Her diary is one of the top 10 most read books worldwide.

### Catecismo Corticu, First Catechism Written in Papiamentu Language (Netherlands Antilles)

Papiamentu, an Afro-Portuguese-based Creole, is widely spoken by almost a quarter million people in the Dutch Caribbean islands today, across social class, race and ethnicity. The translations of the Roman Catholic catechism into Papiamentu in 1826 and 1837 had great impact on the history of the ABC-islands (Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao). It is the oldest surviving document where Papiamentu appears in a full book-form printed publication and marks a turning point in the evolution of Papiamentu from a popular spoken tongue to the official language of the people of the ABC.

*(source: UN and UNESCO Press Releases / photos: Diary of Anne Frank, ANP / Catecismo Corticu, RNW)*

## Quiz

For the twentieth quiz eighteen people from twelve countries sent in an answer. The question was: where is this stamp from? All contestants gave the right answer. The stamp was issued by Rhodesia in 1974 for the centenary of the Universal Postal Union. And the winner is: **A.A. Munasinghe** from Sri Lanka. The mint stamps will be in the mail very soon.



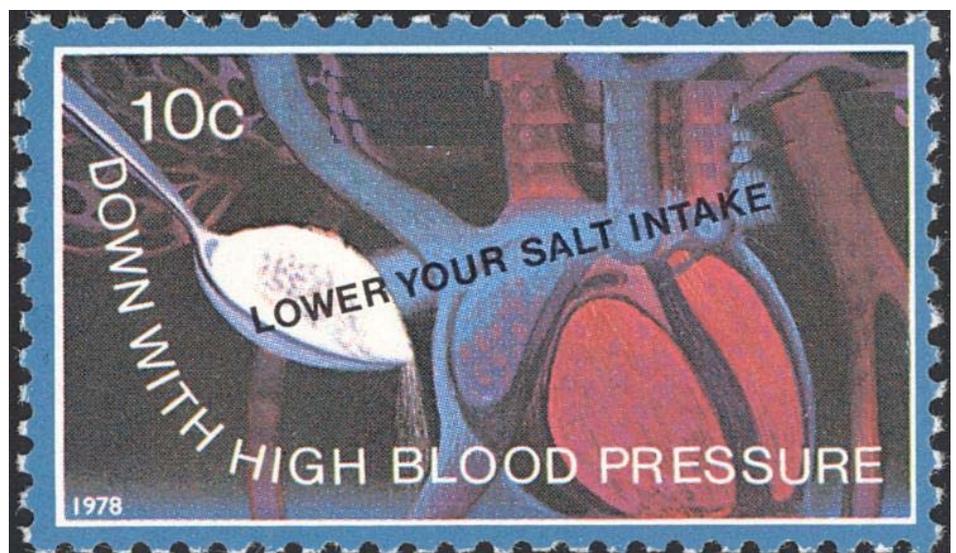
This month's quiz reminds us to take care of your health, especially your blood pressure. One thing you can do to control it is not to eat too much salt.

One stamp (from one of the 85 countries currently on the website) was especially issued to raise awareness on high blood pressure and salt. This stamp is shown here. I have erased the name of the country completely.

The easy question is:

**where is this stamp from?**

E-mail your answer to [info@unostamps.nl](mailto:info@unostamps.nl) before 10 September 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 Africa and from African countries: United Nations New York, Chad, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. All these can be yours! Good luck! You can see the complete prize on the website.



## United Nations Agenda August-September 2009

1-7	August	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
8	Sept.	International Literacy Day
10		World Suicide Prevention Day
15		General Assembly, start of the 64 session, New York
15		International Day of Democracy
16		International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
21		International Day of Peace
27		World Tourism Day
28		World Rabies Day
last week		World Maritime Day

## Visitors count

Up to 30 June 2009 UNOstamps has been seen by 1378 visitors other than myself. 51 of these visitors came from an unknown country. For the first time there was a visitor from Botswana. In 2009 people from 74 countries have passed by the website.

The top ten countries are (between brackets the results of 31 May 2009):

1. (2)	United States	179	6. (6)	Belgium	86
2. (1)	France	175	7. (7)	Canada	47
3. (3)	Netherlands	138	8. (9)	Germany	46
4. (4)	United Kingdom	131	9. (8)	Italy	35
5. (5)	India	90	10. (10)	Bangladesh	31

Up to 31 July 2009 UNOstamps has been seen by 1627 visitors other than myself. 56 of these visitors came from an unknown country. In 2009 people from 77 countries have passed by the website.

The top ten countries are (between brackets the results of 30 June 2009):

1. (1)	United States	217	6. (5)	India	94
2. (2)	France	209	7. (8)	Germany	50
3. (3)	Netherlands	208	8. (7)	Canada	48
4. (4)	United Kingdom	156	9. (9)	Italy	37
5. (6)	Belgium	100	10. (10)	Bangladesh	34
			(-)	Spain	34

## Next issue

Newsletter nr. 22 will be issued on 17 September 2009. If you have a comment that you would like to share with the other readers, please send it before 10 September 2009. To unsubscribe from the Newsletter, just send an e-mail to [info@unostamps.nl](mailto:info@unostamps.nl) with the subject 'unsubscribe'.

