

January 2006

Whole Number 34

SOS Signal

Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club



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On November 17, 1938 the French Somali Coast issued a series of 22 values of new pictorial stamps to replace the previous designs in use since 1915. Six values had a stamp on stamp design, and so, they were the first stamps in our topic issued as definitives and not as commemoratives.

The colony, now known as the Republic of Djibouti, went thru many name changes on stamps: Obock, from 1883 to 1894, Djibouti, from 1893 to 1902, French Somali Coast from 1902 to 1967 and Afars and Issas from 1967 to 1977.

The French became interested in this region on the horn of Africa because they needed their own base for a coaling station for their ships going thru the Suez Canal to the many colonies in Asia and the Pacific. The first area developed in 1862 was that around the port of Obock. Stamps of the general issue “French Colonies” were used, but because of speculation due to currency variances, colonial governor LaGarde first issued over-

printed and then ordered stamps just for Obock. In 1893, imperforate stamps with imprinted perforations and designs showing local natives were produced. However, by that time, the government moved to the better port of Djibouti, and stamps from there took over.

The 1938 design by L. Kerhor features the portrait of Leonce LaGarde. Above his head, partially obscured by the inscription, COTE FRANCAISE DES SOMALIS is a simplified, and much modified reproduction of a stamp from Obock from 1894. In researching this issue, I could find no reason other than the fact of LaGarde’s involvement in the development of the postal service in the colony for the inclusion of a stamp in the design. Perhaps he just needed something to fill in the space over the portrait, as he changed the shape of the stamp from an isosceles to an equilateral triangle, deleted the imprinted perforations, barely sketched in the details of the design and borders, and

(Continued on page 2)

The first six French Somali Coast definitive stamps: Sc # 163, 165, 167, 171, 172, 175



The Pioneer Stamp On Stamp Issues: French Somali Coast

By Lou Guadagno

(Continued from page 1)

then partially covered it with the inscriptions!

It is probably for all these reasons that the philatelic press at that time did not note the stamp in the design. The early checklist compilers of stamp on stamp issues that I found in researching the U.S. and British periodicals of the forties and fifties, did not include these stamps either. I also did not have them on my own list, made up by going page by page thru the Scott catalogs before I learned of and joined the then SOSCU. The first SOS handbook issued in 1965 did include the stamps and that was the first I learned of them. There was no actual catalog numbers listed, just the Scott Type A8 design number. I finally acquired the stamps and gave them a careful study under the magnifier, hoping I could come up with some detail that would allow the reproduction to be identified with an actual number, and I was pleasantly surprised to find a partial 5 and F inside the diagonal of the N in FRANCAISE which could only be Obock # 61. I sent my discovery to Ed

Leland, the editor of the first handbook and he confirmed it, so this was my first contribution to the stamp on stamp checklists. The second SOS handbook, edited by Bunny Kaplan lists the reproduced stamp per my identification.

It is a shame that this Obock issue has never been reproduced again; it is fairly large by today's standards, printed in a dark blue and rose and its unusual shape and imprinted perforations make a handsome stamp. When I began collecting the actual stamps to match the stamp on stamp issues, Obock # 61 was one I eagerly sought despite the high catalog price. It took several years to find one, and, as is the case with so many issues, this one stamp has a greater value than all the Somali Coast definitives that reproduce it.

Additional and changed color values were issued in 1939-1940; in 1942, many values were produced with various France Libre (Free France) overprints. In 1944, the Vichy France government issued one value in the design without the RF imprint, which was

never sent to the colony. All can be found in dealer stocks and on line selling as singles out of the two long sets for below catalog. Covers of these stamps are another story—first day covers are very rare and commercial cover for many values exist but are not often offered.

Collecting these stamps would be a very interesting challenge.

A LISTING OF ISSUES

Nov 17, 1938: 80c # 163, 1F # 165, 1.50F # 169, 1.75F # 171, 2F # 172, 3F # 175

Dec 4, 1939*: 1.25F # 167, 2.25F # 173

Mar 5, 1940*: 1.40F # 168, 1.60F # 170, 2.50F # 174

Mar 26, 1940*: 1 F # 166

Mar 1, 1942 (Free French)*:
80c # 209, 1.25F # 211, 1.40F # 212, 1.50F # 213, 1.60F # 214, 1.75F # 215, 2F # 216, 2.25F # 217, 2.50F # 218, 3F # 219

Apr 3, 1944 (Vichy France)*:
1.50F Mi # 264 An error exists with the 1.50F missing (Mi # 264I)

* All dates from Michel catalog.

Obock Sc # 61—"a handsome stamp," and the designer's simplified and much modified reworking (enlarged detail).



Collecting By the Numbers

By Lou Guadagno

If you are a “collect everything” nut like me, you will not be satisfied with having just one souvenir sheet of Switzerland # B344 and Nauru # 197a in your album. Both were printed in large plates as most sheets are, but the printers added numbers in the lower left corner of each individual sheet in relation to their plate position; in order to have a “complete set” of each, you have to get 20 of the Swiss and 12 of the Nauru sheets.

When I first started collecting stamps on stamps almost forty years ago, I was aware of the plate numbers on the Swiss sheets, but the sheer number of stamps I had still to acquire was sufficient cause to put their collection off to a future day. Much the same thoughts came to mind in relation to the issue of the Nauru sheet in 1979; there were so many Sir Rowland Hill commemoratives issued that year, I put off buying the set of plate numbers that several dealers offered.

Last year, I decided the day had come, and so I actively sought to complete the plate number sets

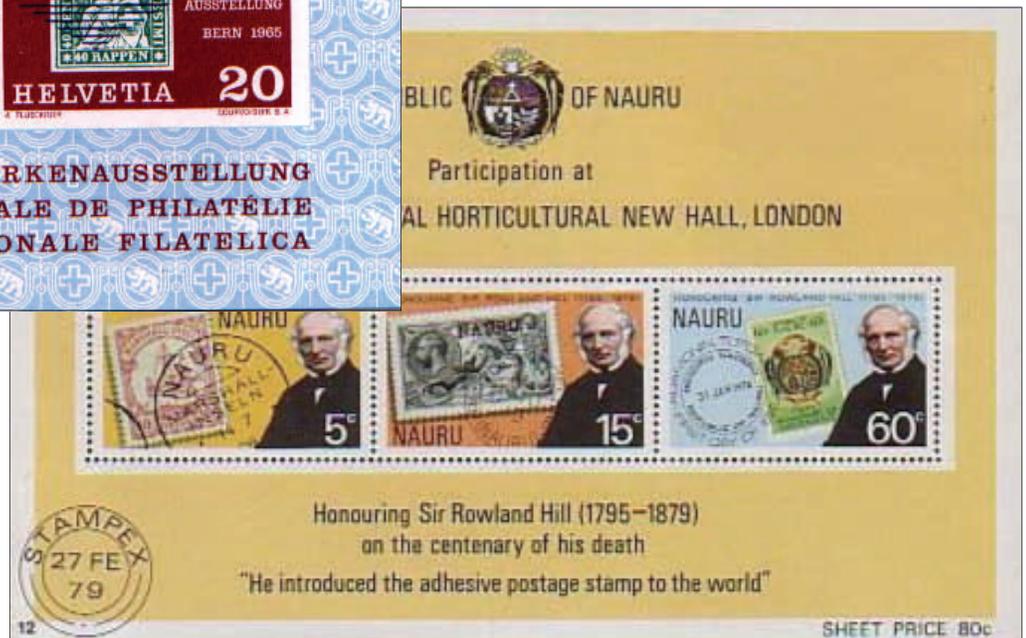
for these two issues. First, I tried at the the stamp shows in New York and found a few of each, but that source quickly dried up. The “thrill of the hunt” was exciting, so I started checking dealers in “Zillions of Stamps” and on eBay on the internet, and was able to find many more over the next few months. In less than a year, I had all 12 of the Nauru sheets, and all but one of the Swiss. Just recently, I was able to find the elusive Swiss sheet # 8 and complete the set.

Happily, neither sheet is very expensive on the internet; some I bought for under \$1.00 and none for more than \$2.00. I probably had made over 100 inquiries as to what plate number was then being offered, as few dealers mentioned them—and in many cases, were not even aware of them! Naturally, after I got all my sheets individually, I saw offers of the complete sets, but I’m still not unhappy about the work it took to get them.

Now I’m thinking of the challenge of getting the matching first day covers....crazy, huh?



Plate numbers in lower left corners of each sheet: Switzerland # B344—1-20, Nauru # 197a—1-12



SOSCC News

By Alf Jordan, Secretary-Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP AND E-MAIL

Enclosed is a list of the current membership roster of the SOSCC. You should be able to figure your entry without difficulty in spite of the inevitable foreshortening from the printing process. Please check for errors and additions and let me know of any changes needed. Please also note the e-mail addresses. If you have one and it is not listed or incorrect, please let me know so we can bring our records up to date. E-mail has become an important mode of communication and we plan to use it more extensively (see below).

FINANCES

As promised in the last issue, here are the hard figures of the Club's finances for 2005:

On hand 12/04	\$ 1290.67
Dues received '05	784.70
Expenses '05	823.72
On hand 12/05	1251.65

The net change of -\$ 39.02 is more apparent than real: the shift of the printing duties over to Michael entailed certain capital costs that should be recouped in future printing jobs. So, all in all, 2004 was not a bad year for the Club; holding even in spite of X percent of the membership being life or honorary members and not paying any dues at all! If you are interested in an exact breakdown of the expenses and the distribution of the dues, drop me a line and we will provide a detailed accounting.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

An explanation is due to the membership regarding the lateness of the *Signal*. I had to have emergency surgery for an infected gallbladder, which was followed with another lengthier hospital stay for a post-op staph infection. and an even longer period of recuperation. Hopefully, the worst is behind me now, I am back at work after missing two months, and even getting to the things on my desk at home—foremost being the *Signal*. As soon as this issue is off, I will work on finishing the next, and we should be back on schedule with the July issue.

One result of my illness is that I haven't done any research for future articles and I really could use the help of the membership to fill upcoming issues. Any article, of any size, would be appreciated. Write about your favorite stamp or cover, or that great buy you made—if not that, then drop me a line and tell me what stamp or stamp you'd like to read about in a future article.

LG

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

In order to forestall a dues increase secondary to the impending USPS rate increase, we plan to introduce the electronic distribution of this newsletter. We have done this the past year for the Maps on Stamps group, and it has been quite successful, lowering the recipient's cost by anywhere from five to ten dollars per year. We now offer a 20% discount for those who receive their newsletters by e-mail. It is sent in PDF format: some print it out, others just read it on the tube. We will begin electronic distribution with the next issue. If you think you would be interested in such a distribution, let me know and we will set you up. We will begin discounted rates in the Spring.

WASHINGTON 2006

I am glad to report that the Club seems to have lived up to its long tradition of minimally social, if not altogether antisocial behavior—one member has indicated that he will be in Washington, and that it would be a good idea to get together and maybe put a face on the officers and members—so we haven't exactly organized any sort of an organized meeting. I myself, however, will be there for the better part of the duration of the show, so drop me an e-mail if you are planning to attend. At this point we are looking towards the the afternoon of Wednesday, May 31—cuppa coffee or a beer or something!

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Issues By Lou Guadagno (new on list = *)

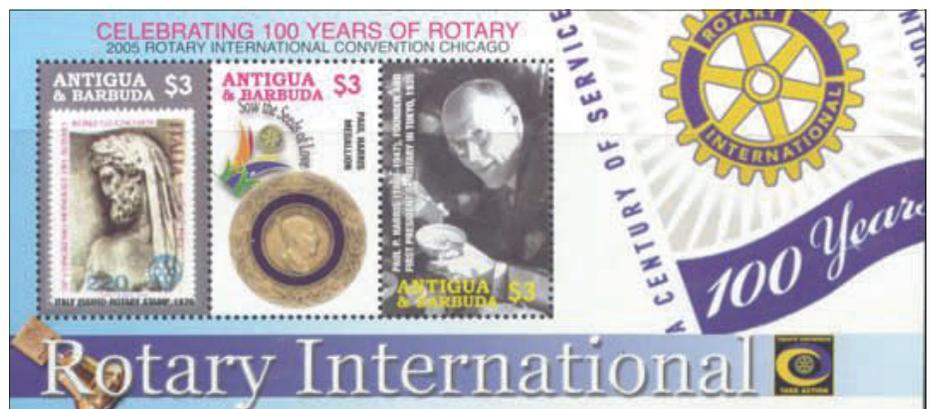
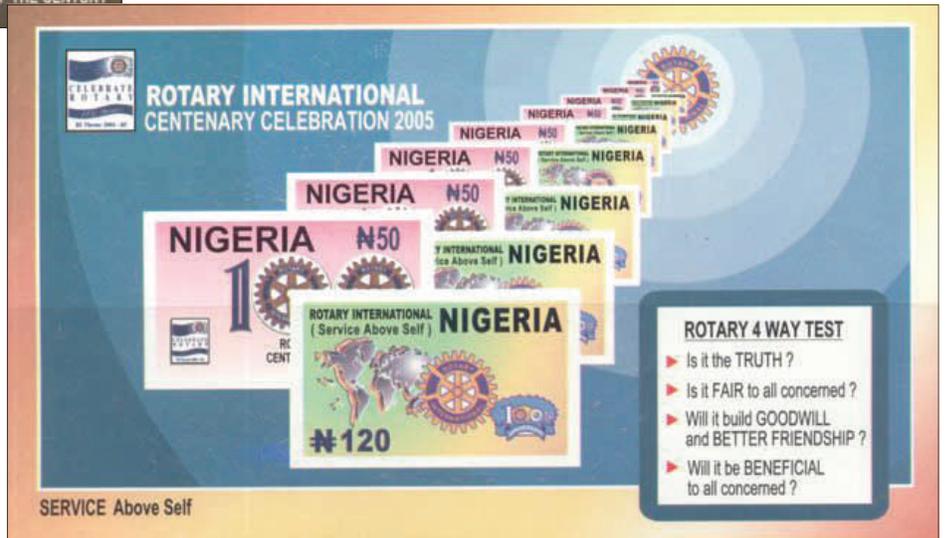
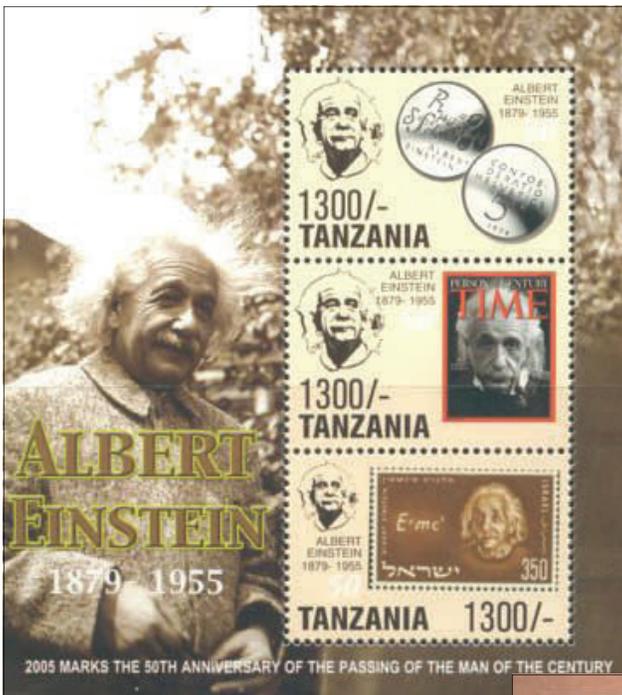
<u>*Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
05 10 10	Antigua Barbuda	* 3 x \$ 3.00	Italy # 1372	* 100th Anny Rotary Int'l (s/s-3 v—1 sos)	Pending
05 10 00	Bolivia	* 3 x 2b, 4b	Bolivia essay, stamps, GB, Brazil # 1	Stamp Day (s/s-6 v)	Pending
05 10 25	Azerbaijan	* 4 x 3000m	Fr., Ger., Azerbaijan Europa stamps	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v perf)	804-07
05 10 25	Azerbaijan	* 4 x 3000m	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v imperf)	804a-7a
05 10 25	Azerbaijan	* 4 x 3000m	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v imperf s/s)	804b-7b
05 09 01	Bosnia-Herz	* 10-50 f	Bosnia-Herzegovina # 327	* Postal Services (4 v—1 sos)	Pending
05 00 00	Cuba	* 1.30-3.90 P	Spain # 1126, 1010, 1526, 1263	* 50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v-- perf, imperf)	Pending
05 00 00	Cuba	* 1.30-3.90 P	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (perf, imp s/s—4v)	Pending
05 11 19	Cuba	* 15, 65 c	Cuba # 7, 16	* 150th Ann'y Havana Local Stamps (2 v)	Pending
05 10 28	Finland	* NVI (€ 0,85)	Finland # 11	* Stamp Ann'y Publicity (Imprinted card—# 2)	
05 11 00	Fr So, Antarctic	* € 0,90	Fr Southern & Antarctic Terr # 1	50th Ann'y First Stamp (1 v)	Pending
05 10 20	Gambia	* D35-40-50	Luxemb # 318, France # 806, 805	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s—3v)	2970-72
05 10 20	Gambia	* D35-40-50	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s—3v)	2972a
05 09 30	Gibraltar	* £ 5.	Gibraltar # 384	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (1 v) sheet of 4 v	Pending
05 10 31	Greenland	* 50 k	Greenland # Q4a	* 100th Ann'y Parcel Post stamps (1 v)	464
05 00 00	Guinea-Bissau	* 3500 fcfa	Gt. Britain # 1	155th Ann'y of the Penny Black (ss—1v)	Pending
05 11 14	Macedonia	* 60-350 d	Macedonia # 243,158, 97, 76	* 50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v) sheet of 8--2 ea	Pending
05 11 14	Macedonia	* 60-350 d	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s—4 v)	Pending
05 11 17	New Zealand	* 3 x \$1.50	N.Z. # 83, 256, 1219, 1(in margin)	New Zealand 2005 Nat'l Stamp Show (s/s—3 v)	Pending
05 08 09	Nigeria	* N 120	Nigeria # 771-2 (Modified: imperf)	100th Anny Rotary Int'l (s/s—sos in margin)	772a ?
05 10 09	Nigeria	* N50-150	Nigeria # 118,746	* 131st Year of Postage Stamps (4 v—1 sos # 776)	773-76
05 08 13	Norway	* NVI (39 kr)	Norway # 96	* 150th Ann'y of Stamps (imprinted envelope)	
05 11 17	Norway	* A (NVI-6 kr)	Norway # 1—"essay"—no inscriptions	150th Ann'y of Stamps (1 v)	Pending
05 11 17	Norway	* 12, A (6) kr	Norway # 1, "essay"—no inscriptions	150th Ann'y of Stamps (s/s—2 v)	Pending
05 11 17	Norway	* NVI	Norway # 1	150th Ann'y of Stamps (imprinted card)	
05 11 18	Norway	* NVI (39 kr)	Norway # 64	* 150th Ann'y of Stamps (imprinted envelope)	
05 00 00	Peru	* 4 x S. 2.00	Spain # 1526, 941, 1567, 1607	* 50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s—4 v)	Pending
05 11 04	Romania	* 2 x 50 b	Romania-Moldavia # 1	160th birth Ann'y —D. Butculescu (2 v—1 sos)	Pending
05 12 07	Samoa	* 60s-\$3-4-10	Europa stamps—tbi	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v + sheetlets of 4)	1075-78
05 12 07	Samoa	* 60s-\$3-4-10	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s—4 v)	1078a
05 10 24	Serbia	* € 0,25	Yugoslavia # 265-7 (on cover)	* Stamp Day (1 v)	Pending
05 10 20	Spain	* € 2,21	Cuba # 1	150th Ann'y Stamps of Cuba, Puerto Rico (1 v)	Pending
05 00 00	Surinam	* 1, 2, 9 srd	Netherlands # 379,369, 375	* 50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (3 v, s/s —3v)	Pending
05 11 22	Switzerland	* 85 c	Switzerland— pseudo stamp	Stamp Day 2005	1222

New Issues By Lou Guadagno (new on list = *)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
05 00 00 Tanzania	* 3 x 1300 /-	Israel # 117 (without tab)	50th Ann'y death of A. Einstein (s/s—3 v-1 sos)	Pending
05 12 15 Turkey	* 10-70k	Turkey # 1520, 1800, 1553, 1775	* 50th Ann'y Europa (perf s/s—4 v)	Pending
05 12 15 Turkey	* 10-70k	Turkey # 1493, 1936, 1602, 1876	* 50th Ann'y Europa (imperf s/s—4 v)	Pending
05 09 06 Australia	A\$ 5.00	Australia—New So. Wales # 86	* From The Archives II (s/s)	2422
05 08 15 Canada	\$.50	Canada # 176	250th Ann'y Acadian Deportation (1v)	2119
05 04 24 Cuba	15-65-75 c	Cuba # 1-2-3	150th Ann'y first stamps of Cuba (3 v)	4490-92
05 07 22 Ecuador	2 x \$.90	Argentina # 1, Venezuela # 1	Bolivar, San Martin meeting (2 v se-tenant)	1735a-b
05 07 12 Gambia	3 x 35 D	Hung # C287, Mon # 1100, Fr # 770	Death Centenary, Jules verne (s/s—3 v)	2965a-c
05 07 28 Gambia	3 x 35 D	Israel # 117(with tab)—on # 2967c	50th Ann'y Death, A. Einstein (s/s-3v-1 sos)	2967a-c
05 08 19 Guyana	\$ 400	Netherlands # 277	60th Ann'y V-E Day (s/s—1 v)	3912
05 07 12 Nevis	\$.90	Vatican City # 66	Sede Vacante (1 v, sheetlet 12 v)	1456
05 04 21 New Zealand	2 x \$ 2.00	N.Z. # 99, 123a (error)	Pacific Explorer 2005 Exhibition (S/S—2 v)	2012b
05 06 01 New Zealand	\$.45-2.00	N.Z. # 369, 918, 989, 1219, 1878	150 Years of Stamps-III (5v)	2017-21
05 06 01 New Zealand	\$.45-2.00	N. Z.—as above	150 Years of Stamps- III (s/s—5v)	2021a
05 06 01 St Vincent	70 ¢	Vatican City # 63	Sede Vacante (1 v, sheetlet—9v)	3452
05 06 01 St Vinct—Bequia	70 ¢	Vatican City # 64	Sede Vacante (1 v, sheetlet—9v)	359
05 06 01 St Vinct—Union I.	70 ¢	Vatican City # 64	Sede Vacante (1 v, sheetlet—9v)	290
05 02 10 Serbia	€ 0,50	Serbia-Mont. # 246,242,264	Definitive	277
05 05 26 Sweden	4 x NVI	Sweden # 944, 430, 250, 1490	150th Ann'y Stamps (Bklt pane—4 sos—partials)	2512a-d
05 05 26 Sweden	4 x NVI	Sweden # 2, 1	150th Ann'y Stamps (Bklt pane—4 v—2 sos)	2513a-b
05 05 26 Sweden	9 x NVI	Sweden # 2	150th Ann'y Stamps (S/S—9 v sos)	2513e



More New Issues By Lou Guadagno



More New Issues By Lou Guadagno

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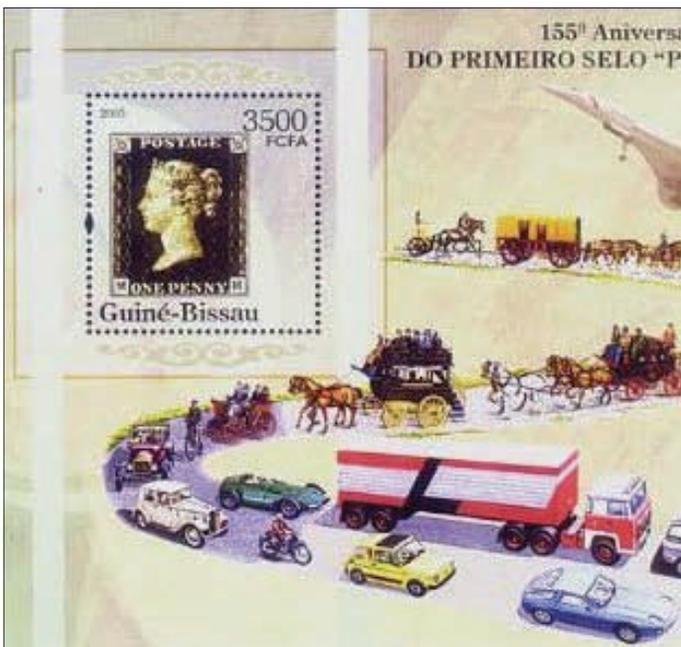
2 € **EUROPA** **THE GAMBIA D35**

EUROPA **1956-2006**

EUROPA

50th Anniversary of the First Europa Stamp 1956-2006

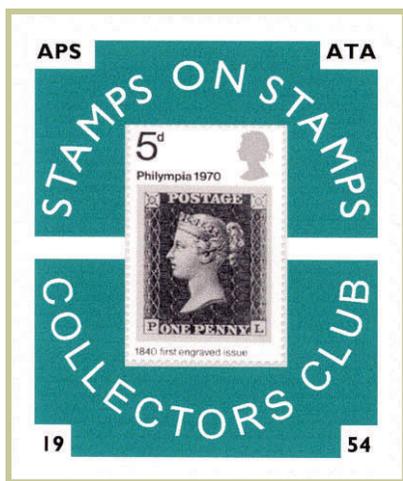
More New Issues By Lou Guadagno



Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club

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SOSCC was founded in 1954. It is a non-profit philatelic organization serving a worldwide membership and is open to persons interested in stamp on stamp designs, stamp anniversaries and related topics. Dues are \$15 per year for members residing in North America and \$18 elsewhere.

Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the Club. You are cordially invited to associate with us. Please contact the Secretary Treasurer or use our website for more information and to become a member.

President	Gaston Barrette	403-2765 Chemin Sainte-Foy Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4S4 Canada
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Email addresses may be found on the SOSCC website:
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More New Issues By Lou Guadagno

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 (Topical Stamps)

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