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The Early Map Stamps of Panama

Brian Marshall & Stuart Hamilton

When Napoleon captured the Spanish throne in 1808 a political vacuum was created in which the Spanish government was both weak and discredited. This encouraged the emergence of independence movements in the Spanish colonies in Latin America, the first revolt occurring in Quito, Ecuador in August 1809. This was followed by a revolt in Caracas, while in Colombia a move to overthrow the Spanish government took place in June 1810. The failure of the Colombian revolution led to inter-provincial fighting, and not until 1819 was Simon Bolivar able to lay the foundations of modern day Colombia. Bolivar's creation was known as Gran Colombia, and included Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama under a single government based in Bogota. Various parts broke away over time, and by 1832 the modern federalist state of Colombia had come into being. It included Panama.

Panama made a number of efforts throughout the nineteenth century to break away from Colombia, but was always forced back into the Colombian federation. In 1903 Panama successfully declared its independence, as part of a larger plan to give the United States the right to build a canal across the country. Following the declaration of independence in February 1903, the canal was built, and for much of its subsequent history was owned and operated entirely by the United States government.

Even before independence Panama was allowed to issue its own postage stamps. Because of its isolation (caused by jungles and swamps) from the rest of Colombia, Panama was created by the Colombian government as a sovereign federal state in February 1855. This gave Panama the freedom to set its own legislative and administrative

agenda separate from the Government of Colombia. This included the right to establish a local postal system.

THE PANAMA (COLOMBIA) 1878 ISSUE.

A set of four stamps, (Scott 1-7, Stanley Gibbons 1-4) with values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos, was issued for use in Panama in 1878. The stamps were issued following the promulgation of Decree No. 37, dated 9 February 1878, by the Panamanian State Government. Article 1 of this Decree set out the design of the stamps to be issued, which was to be a drawing representing the Isthmus of Panama, inside an oval, at the centre of the stamp. The drawing is the Panamanian coat of arms, which included a map of the isthmus and a ship on each side of the isthmus. Article 2 called for four stamps to be printed, with the colors and dimensions specified. Article 3 called for the stamps to be printed abroad as soon as possible.

The stamps were printed in Bogota by the lithographer Demetrio Paredes, and were issued imperforate. The map on these stamps shows neither topography nor any political information. There are no lines of latitude or longitude (Fig.1).

The 50 centavos stamp appeared as a stamp on a stamp (Fig.2.) when Panama in 2001 issued a stamp to commemorate the 18th Congress of the Union Postal de las Américas, Españay



Fig. 1 - Panama 1878 Sc 1, SG 1.

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Portugal. Also appearing on this stamp was a reproduction of the 1894 Panama overprint of the 1892 issue.

Fig.2 – Panama 2001 Sc883, SG1656.



GUSTAVE MICHELSEN'S UNADOPTED ESSAYS 1886.



Fig.3 – Panama 1886 Michelsen's unaccepted design.

In 1886 Gustave Michelsen, a Colombian stamp designer, prepared a set of seven stamps for use in Panama, which looked, in broad terms, rather much like the issue of 1878. The seven stamps each have the same identical design (Fig.3), which includes a simple map of the Panama isthmus. The stamps ranged in value from one centavo to one peso. Examples exist both perforate and imperforate. According to Lamastus there are only 50 sets in existence. Michelson's design was not accepted.

THE PANAMA (COLOMBIA) 1887-1888 ISSUE.

On 5 August 1886 a new constitution recreated the United States of Colombia as the Republic of Colombia. The sovereignty of the states was abolished, and they became departments. Panama was able to continue issuing its own stamps because of its isolation from Colombia, and because it used silver currency whereas paper currency circulated in most of Colombia. The value of the paper money declined with time, and a silver peso was worth rather more than a paper peso. This resulted in people buying stamps in the rest of Colombia using paper money, and selling them in Panama for silver money, resulting in a tidy profit for the seller, and a loss of income for the Panamanian postal service. Thus it was agreed that Panama could issue its own stamps, which were valid for postage both within and from Panama.

A set of six new stamps was issued in 1887-1888 (Fig.4). These are the first ever postage stamps where the central and only design is a map. The map itself shows topography by means of hachuring. The cities of Colon and Panama are located, and dotted lines indicate Panama's boundaries. Lines of latitude and longitude are shown, but as there are no numbers to indicate degrees of latitude or longitude, the lines are probably an artistic device only. The proposed location of the Panama Canal is shown. The values were 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos (Scott 8-13, Stanley Gibbons 5-11).



Fig.4 – Panama 1887 Sc10, SG7a

These stamps were lithographed by the Spanish born Colombian Leon Villaveces. All were printed on colored wove papers of varying thickness except for the 50 centavo value, which was printed on white wove paper. The frame of the 2 centavos

value is different from the frames used for the other values in this issue, so it is possible that Villaveces designed and printed this issue, but there is also the possibility that the two centavos value came from the Litografía de Demetrio Paredes in Bogotá. At one time it was believed that Paredes had designed and printed the whole set, but recent research by Federico Brid (2008) has cast doubt on this.

The stamps were not all issued at the same time, probably because of the short notice given to the printer. Only the 10 centavos stamps were delivered by 1 November 1887. There are paper and shade differences for the 10 centavos stamp. Helme (1986) notes that the printer had only two weeks to prepare the stamp, so was most likely forced to use whatever papers and inks were to hand. The 1, 5 and 50 centavos stamps were delivered by the printer in January 1888, and the 2 and 20 centavos values not until September 1888, along with the 10 centavos registration stamp.

The one centavo stamp, was used mainly for posting newspapers, and unsealed envelopes containing advertising matter and for local post cards. It exists in sheets of two different sizes. It was printed in sheets of 100 stamps (10x10), and in sheets of 90 (nine rows of ten). Luff surmises that some damage to the lithographic stone caused the reduction in the size of the sheet.

Reprints were issued on papers of slightly different colors. These stamps also appear on glazed and surface-colored papers.

Copies of these stamps appear regularly perforated, imperforate and partly perforated both ways, and Heydon argues that these "varieties" are the result of trial printings on any available variety of paper, that the printed sheets were preserved as official records, and as such, were invalid for postage. The sheets were handed over to speculators to do whatever they wished with them. Cross (1989) argues that in 1890 a supply of stamps was sold by either the printer or his employees without permission to Gustave Michelson, the designer of the rejected 1886 design, and an American mining engineer, William T. Curtis, and that these stamps were "lithographed from new stones for each denomination in both the issued colors and in a rainbow of new colors and on glazed papers".

Helme (1987-1988) describes in considerable detail the intricacies of favour printings of these stamps, noting that why they were prepared "may never be known". Helme argues that the lack of any official Colombian documentation suggests "that their sale was not sanctioned by the postal authorities, who probably did not even know of their preparation". The reprints were made from newly prepared lithographic stones using new dies. Helme notes that these stamps are sometimes printed on paper colors similar to the original, others are not; some are on glazed and surface-colored papers. None are known postally used or on cover. They could be called reprints, favour printings, or counterfeits. Helme states that they should not be considered as legitimate Panamanian postage stamps.

PANAMA 1892-1896 ISSUE.

A new set of stamps was issued between 1892 and 1896, with values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 centavos, and 1 peso (Scott 15-21, Stanley Gibbons 12a-12g). These stamps were recess printed from engraved plates by the American Bank Note Company. The four lower values and the 50 centavos stamps were issued on 1 June 1892, the 20 centavos value on 1 January 1895, and the 1 peso values on 19 February 1896. The 50 centavo stamp was printed on pelure paper in 1892, the others on white wove paper. The 50 centavos stamp was reprinted in 1896 on wove paper.

The map on these stamps (Fig. 5) shows topography by means of hachuring, and the cities of Colon and Panama are named. Dotted lines indicate the boundaries of Panama. The Scott Stamp and Coin Company acknowledged these stamps enthusiastically, describing them as “beautifully executed” and “masterpieces of engraving”. The stamps were valid for overseas postage.



Fig.5 – Panama 1892 Sc15, SG12a.

A temporary shortage of 1, 5 and 10 centavos stamps in 1894 led to an overprinting of the 2 centavos issue and the remaining stock of the 20 and 50 centavos stamps from the 1887-1892 issue. The surcharge, which was type-set, read HABILITADO /1894/ 1 CENTAVO. Varieties exist, such as CCNTAVO, an inverted surcharge, and a double surcharge. Copies exist with CENTAVO omitted altogether, 1894 and HABILITADO transposed, an inverted A for V, and the surcharge inverted or doubled. A 5 centavos surcharge was printed on the 20 centavos black/lilac stamp, and a 10 centavos

on the 50 centavos brown, with similar varieties. Detailed listings of varieties are given by both Luff and Heydon. Black and red surcharges exist. Catalogue numbers for the surcharges are Scott 22 to 29, and Stanley Gibbons 13 to 21. Brid (2008) comments that no printing records exist for the overprints, which were authorized by a Post Office circular dated 30 October 1894. The overprinted stamps were issued on 1 November (Fig. 6).



Fig.6 – Panama 1894 Habilitado overprint Sc22, SG13.

REGISTRATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT HAND STAMPS 1897-1903.

Copies of the 10 centavos stamp were hand stamped and made available for registered letters, in 1897. The hand stamp takes the form of a circle within which appears the letter R and the name COLON (Fig. 7). A variety of colors were used, including violet, magenta, blue and blue-black. Stanley Gibbons notes that this hand stamp was frequently used as a postmark, but “whole sheets so



Fig.7 – Panama 1897 Registration Stamp ScR2, SGR22. Scott dates this stamp 1898, SG 1897.

postmarked were sold to do duty as registered stamps”. In 1902, when the cost of registration was raised to 20 centavos, the 20 centavos stamp was similarly overprinted.

Later on, during the civil war (the so-called War of 1000 Days from 1899 to 1902), supplies of Colombian registration stamps at Panama City were exhausted, and while a registration stamp was being printed a supply of 10 centavos stamps was hand printed with a large R. These were used for three days only, on 14, 15 and 16 March 1900. Schay notes that a few hundred stamps were prepared and used, and that the overprinting was done with a rubber hand stamp on loose stamps, “as there is no overlapping of the overprint”. The overprint was not used as a cancellation.

The 5 centavos stamp is also found overprinted with an Acknowledgement of Receipt hand stamp. “Acknowledgement of Receipt stamps mark the prepayment for a receipt which will be returned to the sender after being signed by the addressee. Logically, this service must always be in connection with the registration service” (Schay, 1962). There were two forms of the hand stamp, for use in either Colon or the City of Panama. For the hand stamp used in Colon the inscription was in three lines, and read A.R. / COLON / COLOMBIA (Fig. 8). In the City of Panama regular postage stamps were overprinted with the letters A.R. enclosed within an oval line. The hand stamp appears in various colors, and was used between 1898 and either 1902 or 1903, and was also used as a postmark on the 10 centavos value.



Fig.8 – Panama Acknowledgement of Receipt (AR) Stamp SGAR24.

Schay argues that the overprinted A.R. stamps were at first “an unintentional product”. He notes that Colombian A.R. stamps were already available in Panama and that no provisional issues were required to make up any shortfall. Schay speculates that “if the A.R. fee was prepaid by ordinary postage stamps, the clerk may have applied the special hand stamp on the stamp itself, instead of somewhere else on the cover, giving the impression of an overprint”. Later on these “overprinted” stamps were noticed by collectors, who asked for more of them, and so “they were manufactured to satisfy a philatelic demand”.

THE FIRST PANAMA ISSUES, 1903-1904.

With independence achieved, Panama had a need for its own postage stamps. This was achieved initially by surcharging existing stamps (Figs. 9-10). Stamps were surcharged in both Panama city and Colon (a single provisional issue appeared in Bocas del Toro), and there is a bewildering variety of overprints, which are detailed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue. Luff's 1905 study refers to a “startling number of varieties”, and they are listed in a way to please the specialist collector. The wording of the different overprints varies – sometimes a simple PANAMA, but also Republica de Panama. The colors of the overprints vary, and the placing of the overprints varies



Fig.9 – Panama 1903 overprint Sc60, SG37b.

Fig.10 – Republica de Panama overprint Sc107, SG75b.

Fig.11 – Panama 1904 SG103.

as well. Some appear horizontally, others vertically, diagonally, inverted, doubled, and so on. Some overprints are in capital letters, others are not, and as the hand stamps wore out varieties began to appear. Some overprints include a bar (and the width varies), others have no bar. A number of varieties could be found on single sheets. The use of hand stamps to make the surcharges was both laborious and time consuming, and eventually the printing press was used to make the changes. Initially this was a two step process – the first inserted a bar to cover the word Colombia, the second printed the word Panama. The stamps of 1887-1892 and 1892-96 were both overprinted. The overprinted stamps from Bocas del Toro are somewhat scarce, and seem to have been issued only to meet actual needs.

The London based Royal Philatelic Society in volume 16 of its journal published in 1907 summed up its attitude towards all these surcharged stamps with these words: *Since 1903 there have been one hundred and seventy-one stamps issued, all surcharges, ... and many having at least twenty catalogued varieties of overprint. Some of these surcharges seem to have had no normal setting, and might well have been done by a maniac printer with an indiarubber die!*

Stamps with a *REPUBLICA DE PANAMA* overprint, in italics, also exist (Fig. 11). These were a private speculative issue, and appeared in February 1904. Again, varieties exist.

THE 1905 GENERAL ISSUE

In February 1905 Panama issued a set of two stamps, commemorating Panama's independence from Colombia (Fig. 12). The stamps were prepared by the American Bank Note Company. They are of identical design, and feature a map of the new republic. The values were 1 and 2 centavos. 500,000 copies of each stamp were supplied.



Fig.12 – Panama 1905 new issue. Proof copy. SG 137.



Fig.13 – Panama 1906 (1892 issue with surcharge) Sc183, SG140.

The final overprinted stamps appeared in 1906. The 1892-96 20 centavos stamp appeared with a Panama and 1 ct. overprint, in vermilion. The 50 centavos stamp appeared with a PANAMA and 2 cts. overprint, also in vermilion. Both overprints included a solid vermilion bar at the top of the stamp. A 2 centavos on 20 centavos overprint

exists, but was never issued to the public, and all copies were inverted. The final two overprints were a 5 centavos on the 1 peso 1892-96 stamp, (Fig. 13) and a 5 centavos on 1 peso on the 1903-04 stamp.

CANAL ZONE ISSUES, 1904-1915

On achieving independence from Colombia with the support of the United States government, the new Panamanian government approved a treaty ceding to the United States a 20-mile-wide strip of territory surrounding the route of the canal. The Panama Canal Zone was governed by the US as an 'unincorporated territory' from 1903 to 1979. Until 1928 stamps of Panama and the US, overprinted CANAL ZONE, were used for postage within and from the Zone. The first stamp used, to add insult to the Colombian injury, were the 1892 Colombia issue overprinted PANAMA, now further overprinted – SG/Scott 1-3 (overprint on one line) and 11-14 (overprint on 2 lines) (Fig. 14). The Panama issue of 1905 was then used, with the Canal Zone overprint – SG/Scott 9-10 (Fig. 15). The 1892 and 1905 issues were surcharged in 1906 (SG19 & 22, Scott 16-7) and 1911 (SG53, Scott 36) respectively and the 1905 issue reissued with a vertical Canal Zone overprint in 1915 (SG54, Scott 37 – Fig. 16).



Fig.14 – Canal Zone 1904 overprint Sc1, SG1



Fig.15 – Canal Zone 1905 Sc9, SG9.



Fig.16 – Canal Zone 1915 Sc37, SG54.

SOME LATER PANAMA ISSUES, 1915-1950

Following the opening of the Canal to commercial traffic in 1914 an international 'Panama-Pacific Exhibition' was held in San Francisco. Panama issued a set of stamps to commemorate the opening and the exhibition. Among these was a fine relief map of the canal (Fig. 17), which was also overprinted and issued by the Canal Zone (SG55, Scott 42). In 1928 an imperforate issue to commemorate Lindbergh's flying tour included a map of Panama printed rather crudely on greenish paper (Fig. 18).



Fig.17 – Panama 1915 Sc205, SG162.



Fig.18 – Panama 1928 Sc257, SG223.

Continued on p.6

The First Map Stamp?

David Wolfersberger

There has been discussion among CartoPhilatelic Society members about the first map stamp issued. The United States private-die proprietary revenue stamp issued by the Wilmington Parlor Match (Scott RO182, 1869) Fig.1, gets some votes since it is listed in Scott's. Others contend that France Scott 64 (1876), Peace and Commerce (also called Type Sage after the designer Jules Auguste Sage) is the first map stamp because it was the first stamp that could be used as postage, not as a revenue stamp. Fig. 2. See TNCP 57, p 9.

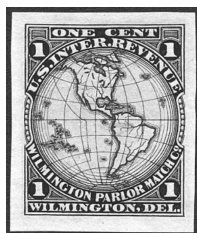


Fig.1 -1869 Wilmington Parlor Match Sc RO182.



Fig 2. - 1876 France Sc 64, Peace and Commerce.

At the joint American Topical Association/American Philatelic Society Stamp Show in Columbus, OH, I purchased a book titled *What's First*. Written by the late Jack Gray of Canada, the author identifies what he considers the first stamp in each of 864 topics.

The first map on stamps, according to Mr. Gray, is Colombia Scott #1, issued in 1859. This stamp has the coat of arms of Colombia. According to the website:

<http://www.colombiainfo.org/en-us/colombia/flagandarms.aspx>,

the coat of arms was adopted in 1834 and is unchanged to this day. Fig. 3.

In the bottom section of the coat of arms is a rather crude map showing two sailing ships on either side of the Isthmus of Panama; also shown is part of modern day Colombia. At the time the stamp was issued, Panama was part of Colombia.



Colombia Sc #1 (1859) Fig.4 features the coat of arms, including the map in the bottom section. This would then seem to be the first postage stamp featuring a map.

Fig. 3 - Colombia Coat of Arms. Showing the Isthmus of Panama.



Fig. 3a - Isthmus of Panama.



Fig. 4 - 1859 Colombia 2.5c Sc1a.

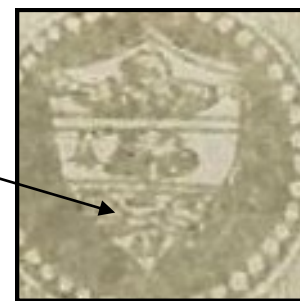


Fig. 4a - Detail.

Colombia Sc 7 provides a better image Fig. 5.

While researching Scott #1, I noticed that this coat of arms appears on many Colombian stamps, including regular postage stamps through 1925. It is also on a wide variety of other postal use stamps



Fig 5 - Colombia Sc 7.

including Registration stamps, Acknowledgement of Receipt stamps, Late Fee stamps, stamps from various departments such as Antioquia and Boyaca, and postal stationary. While hard to see, the coat of arms on these stamps does have the same map as seen on the enlarged Colombian coat of arms.

One of our members mentioned that he was aware that the coat of arms also was on some Colombian revenue stamps. In the book *Handbook of Colombian Revenue Stamps* the author notes that the first revenue stamp issued by the Grenadine Confederation of Colombia was issued on September 1, 1858. It contains the same coat of arms with the map. Fig. 6. (Note: The Grenadine Confederation of Colombia was the name of what is now Colombia, Panama and part of northern Brazil. It replaced the Grand Republic of Granada in 1858 and in turn was replaced by the United States of Colombia in 1863.)

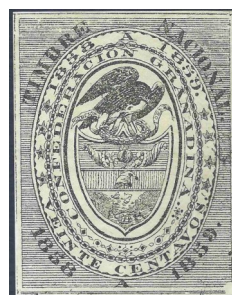


Fig. 6 - 1858 Colombia Revenue #1.

A scan of this first revenue (#1 by the *Handbook* author's numbering system) is Fig. 6. While not very legible the map is present. (The image here is scanned from the *Handbook of Colombian Revenue Stamps*.)

Continued on p.6.

Panama continued from p. 4.

But these were stand-alone issues. In 1930 the fine tradition of map stamps reissued with overprints was resumed. Two airmail stamp sets were issued – the first (SG231-7, Scott C6-9 – Fig. 19) using the 1905 map stamp design but with a monoplane over the Caribbean coast. Later that year an entirely new issue, mainly with new values, was released, this time with a biplane over the canal (SG244-8, Scott C10-14 – Fig. 20).



Fig.19 – Panama 1930
ScC9, SG237.



Fig.20 – Panama 1930
ScC6A, SG482.

Both these issues found enduring use with several overprints over the next twenty years, including to commemorate the opening of a school, the centenary of Chiriqui province and finally in 1950 the centenary of the death General José de San Martín a key leader of the South American independence movement (Fig. 21). This came two years after an issue with a simple but clear map of the canal route and railway line, commemorating President FD Roosevelt, the distant cousin of the US President when Panama achieved independence from Colombia and dependence on the US (Fig. 22).



Fig.21 – Panama 1950
ScC124, SG515.



Fig. 22 – Panama 1948
ScC103, SG482.

Thus Panama commemorated over more than 70 years the severing and making of political and geographic links by a series of fascinating map stamps. ■

First map stamp continued from p. 5.

Since some members supported the US revenue stamp as the first map stamp, it seems that this revenue stamp from Colombia, issued several months before Colombia Scott #1, should be considered.

What do you think?

It is very surprising that the map on Colombia Scott #1 and the first revenue stamps were not identified earlier. In fact, I have many examples of the early Colombian stamps with this map in my country collection but did not examine them closely to discover the map. I wonder if there is another stamp out there with an even earlier issue date that has been overlooked? ■



Fig. 8 - 1959 Colombia Sc C355, Centenary of first postage stamps. Showing Sc 1.

Continued on p. 17.

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The Overseas Maritime Expeditions of Zheng He

Ap Koopman, (52° 18' 10" N, 5° 8' 35" E).

Introduction

My interest in Zheng He began after reading the book '1421' by Gavin Menzies. In this book Menzies tried to provide proof and convince readers, that the Chinese had discovered America before Columbus.



Fig. 1 – 1992 Iceland, Mi. 762. First landing in America; North Atlantic, Iceland, Greenland and Canada.

Around the year 1000 the 'Vikings' colonized Greenland and 'discovered' America. It is certain that they established a colony on Newfoundland, but they did not settle there Fig. 1.

Both the Chinese and the Arabs had the ability to sail across the Oceans. The Chinese had invented the floating compass and solved the problem of scurvy Fig. 2.



Fig. 2 - 2005 Hongkong, Mi. 1303. Chinese inventions & compass.



Fig. 3 - 1981 Sultanate of Oman, Mi 223. A voyage in the footsteps of Sinbad the Sailor. Showing the Itinerary of Sinbad. This refers to the fairy tales of the seven voyages of Sinbad, possibly based on the voyages of Ma Sanbao/Zheng He?

What we know for sure is that there were contacts between Arabia and China Fig. 3.

Portuguese, French and Irish fishermen were familiar with 'land' west of the Azores. Magellan and Columbus also knew this from information and maps by Marco Polo. So, it is not an odd question to ask why the Chinese or others might not have discovered America first!

Zheng He (Cheng Ho) (1371 – 1433) was born in 1371 in Kunyang (the present province of Yunnan), as Ma Sanbao and raised as a Muslim. At that time the area belonged to the Islamic Mughal Empire, that was defeated by Zhu Di in 1381. Ma Sanbao, a Mongolian barbarian, captured slave and eunuch, was selected for service at the court of the emperor. He helped Prince Zhu Di during a bloody war of succession. He was named Zheng Fig 4. In the end he became commander-in-chief of the Ming expeditionary fleets.

Eighty years before Vasco da Gama's arrival in West India, a formidable Chinese navy fleet ruled the China Sea and Indian



Fig. 4 - Postcard with a statue of Zheng He and Stamp Mi. 3645 of the People's Republic of China.

Ocean, from Southeast Asia to the Persian Gulf and East Africa, known to the Chinese as the "West Oceans". Fig. 5.



Fig. 5 - 2005 Singapore Mi. 1419-22, 600th Anniversary of the voyages of Zheng He in the Indian Ocean. Zheng He, his treasure ships, with nautical chart in background.

New Capital and Foreign Engagement - Zhu Di (1360-1424)

About 1400, after recovering from the effects of the Black Death (the Plague), campaigns against the Mongols, completing the Chinese Wall and eliminating rebel factions, Zhu Di (Fig. 6) wanted the greatness and the invincibility of the Chinese Empire confirmed again.



Fig. 6 - Yongle Emperor Zhu Di (1360-1424).

Zhu Di assumed the throne as the Yongle Emperor (1402-1424), during the Ming-dynasty (1368-1644). Yongle Emperor Zhu Di demoted Nanjing to a secondary capital and in 1403 announced that the new capital of China was to be at his power base in Beijing.

The construction of a new city there lasted from 1407 to 1420, employing hundreds of thousands of workers daily. At the center was the political node of the Imperial City, and within this the Forbidden City, the palatial residence of the emperor and his family.

So, in 1421 the Ming capital moved from Nanjing to Beijing. At this ceremony thousands of ambassadors from Asia and from the coasts of the Indian Ocean gathered.

Westerners were admitted if they showed a submissive posture by 'kowtowing': kneeling three times in front of the Emperor and with each knee-turn bending the forehead three times against the ground.

The deep respect that these dignitaries showed was the result of two decades in which the Emperor had made great strides to strengthen his foreign policy.

The Chinese wanted to propagate the power and magnificence of the new Ming dynasty and make the 'whole world' accept China as a unique civilized entity. A country that paid a tribute to China was not subject to China, it was a recognition of China's superiority.

The Fleet of the Swimming Dragons

In 1403 the Yongle emperor ordered six fleets of huge junks to be built. From 1403 to 1419 the Nanjing shipyards constructed two thousand ships, thanks to the efforts of a maritime technology that lay far beyond everything the West had achieved at that time. Ships were constructed several times bigger than Columbus' Santa Maria, including treasure ships measuring 112 m (370 ft) to 134 m (440 ft) in length and 45 m (150 ft) to 54 m (180 ft) in width.

The sheet, Fig. 7, shows the fleet visiting more than 30 countries and regions in Asia, Arabia and Africa, opening up a network of sea routes. This was a glorious chapter in world navigation history. Zheng He's voyages disseminated China's advanced culture, technology and sowed seeds of peace and

friendship. This made an outstanding contribution to human exploration of the oceans.

China's primary purpose was to create an impression. The Voyages were intended for exploration and to establish diplomatic relations with Java, Ceylon, Africa and beyond. This was not for conquest, but to establish friendly relations, trade and gain respect. Fig. 8.



Fig. 8 - 2005 Malaysia Mi. 1324/27. 600 years of a relationship between Malaysia and China. Chinese trade ship, seal of the emperor of China to the sultan of Malacca, trading in Malacca, Nyonya ceramic.

Unlike the Europeans, the Chinese armada never sought to establish colonial rule over these oceans by military force. But events were not always peaceful. In 1407 the Chinese had to fight with pirates who blocked the Strait of Malacca and in 1411 they intervened on Sri Lanka in a local conflict.

Beginning in 1405, the Yongle Emperor entrusted his favored eunuch commander Zheng He as the admiral for a gigantic new fleet of ships designated for international missions. The Chinese had sent diplomatic missions over land since the Han dynasty (202 BCE – 220 CE) and engaged in private overseas trade, but these missions were unprecedented in grandeur and scale.

Zheng He's greatest quality was his organizational skills and his ability to lead hundreds of ships with seasoned captains and to coordinate logistics. Among the crew were scientists to gather knowledge of new developments in far countries. Fig. 9.



Fig. 9 – 2005. Macao Mi.1398/1400. 600th Anniversary of the sea voy-

During the period from 1405 to 1433, he conducted seven epic expeditions using China's 'treasure-ships'. These crossed the China Seas and the Indian Ocean, from Taiwan to the spice islands of Indonesia, the Malabar coast of India, to the rich ports of the Persian Gulf and down the African coast.

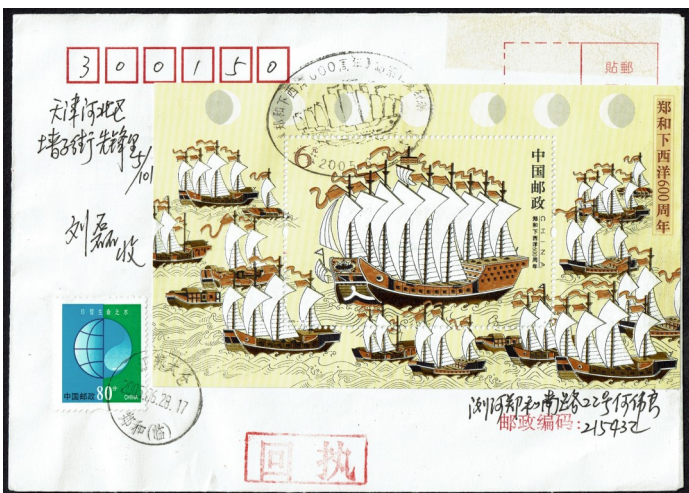


Fig. 7 – 2005 People's Republic of China Mi. B 124. 600th Ann. of Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas.

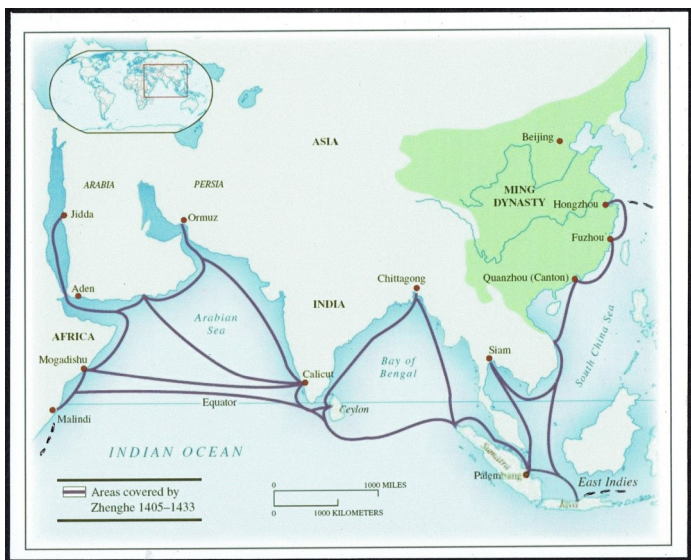


Fig. 10 - Routes of the seven voyages of the Zheng He Treasure Fleet.

The Voyages

- The **maiden** voyage (1405-1407) of the **first** fleet consisted of 62 'treasure ships' another 200 smaller ships and over 27,000 men.

The fleet sailed along China's southeast coast to Champa (Vietnam), Java, Malacca, northern Sumatra, and then crossed the Indian Ocean to the major trading ports on the southwest coast of India, Quilon and Calicut (now Kozhikade), including Ceylon.

These ships were loaded with valuable products like porcelain, silk and jade – meant to impress the rulers and peoples of the dozens of countries that the Admiral visited. The scene of Zheng He's fleet must have been awe-inspiring to eyewitnesses.

They brought back ambassadors and tributes, like tropical woods, spices, essences, minerals, sulfur and exotic animals. Fig.11.



Fig. 11 - 2005 Indonesia Mi. 2412/B 209. 600th Anniversary of Zheng He's voyages showing a treasure ship with its route on the margin; pointing out places on Java, Sumatra and Malacca.

- During the **second** (1407-1409) and **third** voyage (1409-1411) different routes were followed. On the third trip there was a confrontation with the King of Ceylon, who was captured and yielded to Nanjing.
- The **fourth** voyage from 1413 to 1415 explored more distant regions. After visiting India, the fleet continued to the Maldives and Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. A subfleet may have visited the port of Aden in what is now modern-day Yemen, as well as Bengal. After this expedition, eighteen states from today's Vietnam to the distant coast of East Africa sent tribute envoys to the Ming court.
- The **fifth** voyage (1417-1419) was intended to take home the envoys of the eighteen states. The armada visited the ports on the East African coast and from here Zheng He brought back more ambassadors with cargo of tribute from Africa, including wild animals, like lions, rhinoceroses and girafes. The city gate had to be enlarged so that the tall girafes could enter. The Chinese believed that the girafes were a legendary beast called 'qilin' who were mentioned in ancient Confucian classics as epitomizing virtue and prosperity. Fig. 12.



Fig. 12 - 2005 Hongkong Mi. 1295-97. 600th Anniversary of Zheng He's Maritime Expeditions, showing Zheng He as admiral and explorer, gifts: giraffe, porcelain and bronze vessel, sailing ships, protractor and map on background.

- The **sixth** voyage in 1421-1422, escorted the ambassadors, who had stayed in China for years, back home. The fleet split in Sumatra. While Zheng He returned, parts of his fleet visited Hormuz, Dhufar, Aden, Mogadishu and Brava on the Somali coast.

It is said that the sixth trip was aimed to map out the world. For this the armada itself broke down into quarters and each group took a part of the map. It is believed that during this trip Zheng He could have reached the East Coast of America. Fig. 13.



Fig. 13 - 1985 People's Republic of China Mi. 2018-2021. 580th Anniversary of Zheng He's expeditions to the West Seas. Showing Zheng He, as a messenger of peace and trade between the peoples, of India, Arabia and Africa.

Shortly after, the fleet turned back to Nanking. In 1423, the Yongli Emperor died and a power vacuum emerged in China. This caused a confrontation between the Eunuchs and the Confucians. The Confucians were disturbed by the emperor's trust in eunuchs and the costly expeditions, which were regarded as a meaningless waste of resources and money. They opted for an inward looking China with few foreign relations. The eunuchs at court wanted to continue and expand the existing policy, but they lost. His successor, Emperor Hongxi, made an instant end to the expeditions; the voyages stopped for several years.

The fleet from the sixth expedition was dormant from 1422 to 1430, when the seventh expedition was ordered. Zheng He's position continued to be commander of the fleet to defend Nanjing. Because of his authority Zheng He also resumed an important role in constructing projects, such as the Buddhist Great Baoen Temple at Nanjing.

- After a lapse of eight years, it was deemed necessary to dispatch one final – *seventh* – voyage to return foreign emissaries to their native lands.

In consideration for his service to the throne, the new Emperor Xuande, allowed Zheng He to command a final voyage to Africa. Perhaps, so that he could make the Haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca expected of all Moslems at least once in their lifetime. Although his fleet reached the Red Sea, Zheng He's health failed and He could not make the overland trek from Jeddah to Mecca. Zheng He probably died in 1433, during or shortly after the last voyage. He may be buried on the High Seas.

A symbolic tomb, honoring Zheng He, containing the admiral's caps and clothes was built outside Nanjing and stands there to this day. Fig. 14.



Fig. 14 - Tomb of Zheng He in Nanjing.

After 1435 China deliberately left the treasure ships unrepaired to prevent their possible future use. Maps and documents of the expedition voyages were destroyed. Building of ships with more than one mast was officially forbidden.

The timing is ironic, because the Chinese left the way clear for Arabs, the Portuguese and later the Dutch and the British to claim territory. However - after Columbus' discovery of America - Beijing perceived its mistake and tried to correct it.

Zheng He's Navigation Map

Zheng's map (Fig. 15) is one of the world's oldest navigational charts and the first from China showing the route from Asia to Africa. The technique used is drawing landscapes supplemented with instructions. More than 530 place names are included. The studied facsimile includes twenty double pages with maps and two-page spread with star diagrams. To spread Chinese culture, woodblock printing was used.

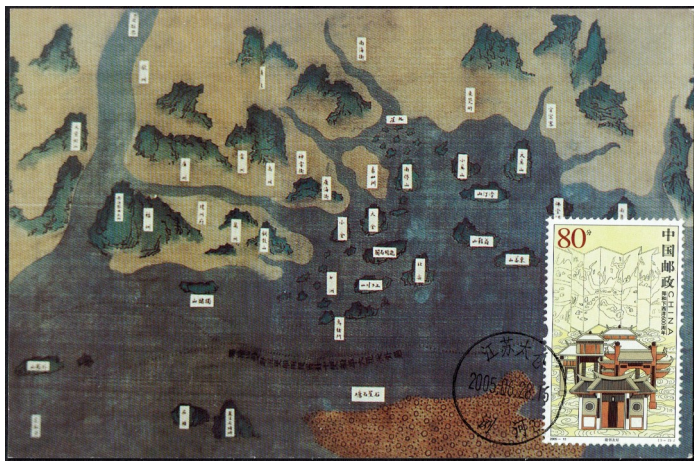


Fig. 15 - People's Republic of China, Maxi Card, stamp Mi. 3646. Maximum Card using a landscape drawing as a map with names and instructions. Stamp

In modern Chinese sources the Mao Kun map, usually referred to as Zheng He's Navigation Map, is a set of navigation charts published in the Ming dynasty military treatise Wubei Zhi. The Wubei Zhi contains 240 volumes, 10,405 pages, and more than 200,000 Chinese characters, which makes it the longest book in Chinese history regarding military affairs. The book was compiled by Mao Yuanyi in 1621 and published in 1628; the name of the map refers to his grandfather Mao Kun



Fig. 16 - 2005 Macao Mi. 1401/B 134. 600th Ann. of Zheng He's Maritime Expeditions showing ships at sea and chart in background.

from whose library the map is likely to have originated. The map is often regarded as a surviving document from the expeditions of Zheng He in addition to accounts written by Zheng's officers. It is the earliest Chinese map to give an adequate representation of Southern Asia, Persia, Arabia and East Africa. Fig. 16 .

Some people still believe that Zheng He's ships also crossed the Pacific, rounded the Cape of Good Hope and reached the coasts of America, Australia and Greenland...

In October 2015 Godfried Franken* visited the library of the National Museum of China in Nanjing and studied the navigation map of Zheng He. In doing so, he ascertained that they did not show the coasts of North and South-America, Australia and New Zealand! Fig. 17.



Fig. 17 - 2005 Hongkong, Souvenir Sheet, Mi. B 146. 600th Anniversary of Zheng He's Maritime Expedition. Showing Zheng He, treasure ship with nine sails, and map of voyages on margin in background.

Legacy

Western scholars began to study these voyages in the early twentieth century. China's nineteenth-century humiliations were strongly related to her weakness and failure at sea. The Chinese Navy was unable to defend itself against foreign powers.

The finding of steles (upright stones) with inscriptions of Zheng He and the excavation of an enormous rudder of a giant ship at Nanjing, led to much debate about the dimensions of Zheng He's 'treasure ships'.

Noteworthy is that, during his expeditions, Zheng He described his travels in extensive, personal records, but these were destroyed.

The stone steles with inscriptions at Liujiagang, Changle; the statues, temples and folktales in the regions he visited, illustrate, it was China's most illustrious scientific and technological era. Descriptions from his captains and records of the last, seventh expedition survived to support this. Zheng He made a name as a tolerant and pragmatic diplomat and brought a 'Pax Sinica' (Chinese peace) across the oceans lasting for decades. Fig. 18.



Fig. 18 - 2011 Indonesia Mi. 2970/B 279. Asian Stamp Exhibition sheet, Wuxi China. Showing Zheng He with an image of the great Chinese Buddhist Temple Sam Poo Kong in Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia. During one of his trips he ordered a mosque built. Now it is a Temple in memory of Zheng He.

2005 ~ Celebrating Zheng He's Sixcentenary.

Zheng He's exploits have been the subject of several issues of Chinese stamps, a commemorative coin and personalized commemorative souvenir sheets. The latter show Zheng He's voyages – 8 stamps with a foto-tab.

In 2005 several Asian countries issued stamps to honor Zheng He. Before 2005 only the People's Republic of China (1985), the Republic of China (1994) and Madagascar (1997) issued stamps on this topic. Figs. 19, 20, 21.



Fig. 19 - 1994 Republic of China/Taiwan, Mi 2205/6. 25th World Trade Center Association in Taipei. 2 stamps featuring a ship of the fleet of Zheng He and Zheng He with map of routes.



Fig. 20 - 1999 Liberia Mi. 2520 (From a series of 22 stamps) The development of ocean sailing technology 15th century AD. Image of a treasure ship from Zheng He's seven voyages between 1405 – 1430.



Fig. 21 – 1998 Marshall Islands Mi. 1089 (From a sheet with 25 warships). An image of a Ming treasure ship.

Zheng He was not a born navigator, but a brilliant strategist and an extraordinary Admiral, the greatest in China, if not in the whole of maritime history. Fig. 22.



Fig. 22 -1997 Madagascar Mi. 1875/ B 271. Chinese admiral and explorer Zheng He with his fleet.

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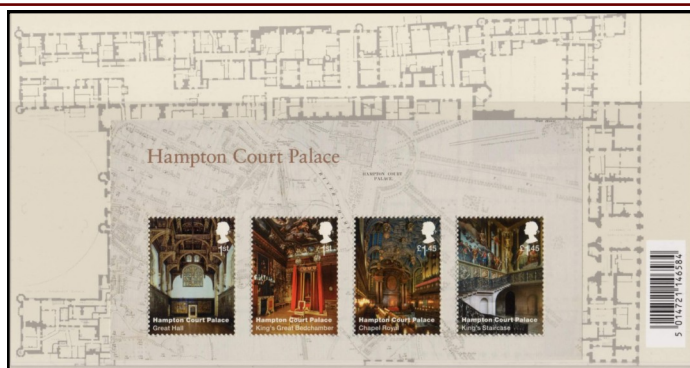
Hampton Court, Bruce Davis

Bruce provided news about several new GB issues: we only have space to document Hampton Court. The Cook issue is noted under *New Issues*. The Harry Potter issues will appear in TNCP 64.

On 31st July 2018 the GB issued a miniature sheet depicting Hampton Court Palace which is situated beside the River Thames in West London. Building the Palace began in 1515 for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey before being taken over by King Henry VIII and was extended by later monarchs. It was opened to visitors by Queen Victoria in 1838. The stamp issue includes a miniature sheet containing 4 stamps showing views inside the Palace , with a background map of the area.

The map shows the Palace, part of the extensive grounds to the east and part of the town of East Moseley, on the west side of the River Thames. The map appears to be part of the Ordnance Survey Six Inch Series (1:10,560), reduced to about 1:15,000 and dates from 1914. It includes the railway line to Hampton Court Station, which was opened in 1849.

A stamp booklet containing six stamps was also issued. The background around the left and right stamps is the same as used on the miniature sheet, but further reduced in scale to about 1:27,000. There is a small overlap between the left and right sections.



GB - Hampton Court Palace.



GB - Retail Booklet which contains six First Class stamps, including two stamps from the Hampton Court Miniature Sheet (Great Hall and King's Great Bedchamber).

Maps on Stamps New Issues

David Wolfersberger and KK Ang

As always, there are a number of new issues to discuss. I identify most new issues from the monthly New Listings Update in Linn's, but always appreciate when members or others alert me to new map stamps so they can be included. Thanks to all who have provided information about new issues.

A souvenir sheet from **Greece** (Scott TBD) notes the sailor/explorer Ioannis Phokas, better known to us as Juan de Fuca. He sailed many times between Spain and America. About 1590, at the behest of the Viceroy of Mexico, de Fuca undertook a voyage from California north to try to find the Strait of Anián, which was thought to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This voyage ended in failure when the crew mutinied, supposedly because of de Fuca's poor leadership.

In 1592 a second voyage was undertaken and this time the Strait was found, separating what is now Vancouver Island and the United States. While the Strait does not join the two oceans, it was later named after him – the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the name it carries to this day.

The souvenir sheet shows this area in SW Canada, along with a picture of de Fuca. Miklos Pinther contacted Ian M. Fowler, Geospatial Librarian and Map Curator, New York Library Map Room, who was able to locate the source of the map. A description of the map from an on-line dealer states, "Scarce Leonard von Euler example of Nicholas De L'Isle's map of the Russian Discoveries in the North Pacific and along the coastline of North America... This example appeared in Swiss mathematician Joseph Von Euler's Atlas." The map is dated 1752. A very similar map was produced by Philippe Bauche in 1753. One difference that points to the map being from L'Isle is the notation on his map at the Strait of Juan de Fuca which reads "Entrée decouv par Juan de Fuca en 1592," the same as the wording on the map shown on the souvenir sheet. Bauche's map has the notation, "Entrée de Fuca."



Greece Sc TBD. Juan de Fuca. 1752 map.

As usual, **Portugal** has issued some nice map stamps. The first, Scott TBD, notes the 600th anniversary of the discovery of Porto Santo Island, located in the Madeira island group about 500 miles southwest of Portugal in the Atlantic. It was claimed for Portugal in 1418 by João Gonçalves Zarco and Tristão Vaz, although it appears on earlier maps of the area. It was the first overseas territory claimed by Portugal and led to its continuing and wide-ranging seafaring exploration. The souvenir sheet has an old map of what must be part of the island's coast, along with a compass rose.



Portugal Sc TBD. Porto Santo Is.

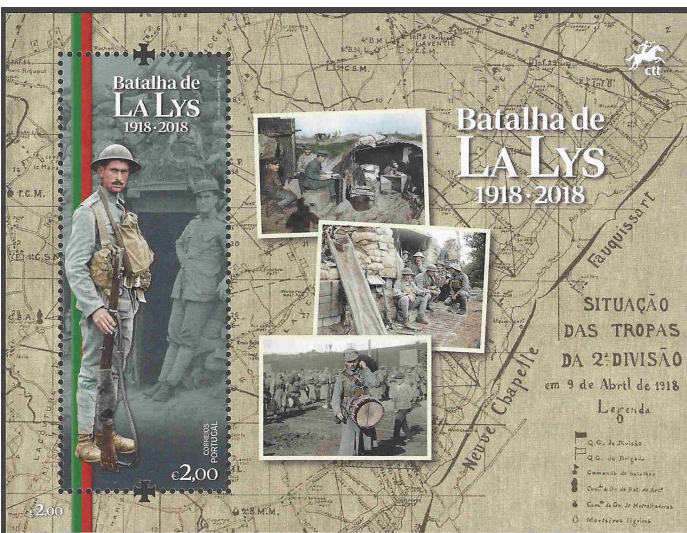
The second set has to do with the introduction of chocolate to Europe. The four stamps in the set picture the harvesting and processing of cocoa into the final chocolate product. The stamp on the souvenir sheet shows the route of cocoa from Bahia in Brazil to Portugal.



Portugal Sc TBD. Chocolate.

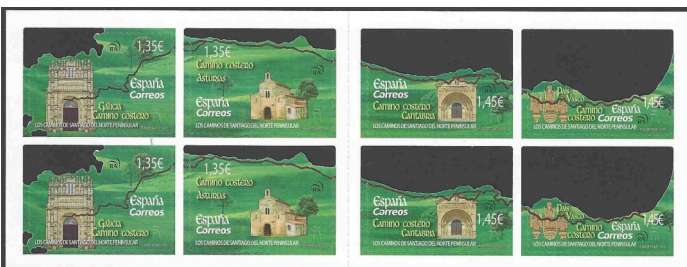
Portugal did not enter World War I until 1916. Prior to that, however, tensions between Portugal and Germany ran high because of German military actions against Portuguese colonies and U-boat actions against the British fleet and commercial vessels. After that, Portuguese troops fought in France and the western front, as well as assisting in Britain.

The German army attacked the Allies at Ypres, Belgium, April 9, 1918. The depleted Portuguese Expeditionary Corps was attached to the equally depleted British First Army in the southern part of what would become the attack zone. The initial attack in what became known as the Battle of La Lys, the Germans attacked the southern area. At first the Portuguese retreated, but then regrouped and with the assistance of British troops, held their line. Over the next few weeks the Portuguese forces helped repel several German attacks. The souvenir sheet (Scott TBD) shows the situation on April 9, 1918, the day of the first attack.



Portugal Sc TBD. Battle of La Lys.

Spain issued a booklet of eight (2 each Scott 4720a-b). The stamps are die cut in the shape of the northern Spanish border, noting the inclusion of Los Caminos de Santiago de Norte Peninsular (The Route of Santiago of Northern Spain) in the UNESCO's List of World Heritage Sites. Los Caminos de Santiago, also known as the Road of St. James, extends over several European countries. The route shown on the die cut stamps reaches from the east at the French border, through the Basque Country, through Cantabria, Asturias, and ending at the western edge of Spain in Galicia. Illustrated on the stamps are various important sites and features.



Spain Sc 4720a-b. UNESCO World Heritage Site.

When one thinks of natural resources in **Iraq**, oil and natural gas come to mind immediately. But it is estimated that Iraq has the second largest deposits of phosphate in the world (after Morocco); silica sand (sand with a particular molecular structure); and sulfur. A recent set of three (Scott 2033-35) has a nice map of Iraq with the main locations of these materials shown.



Iraq Sc 2033-5. Location of mineral reserves.

Italy issued a stamp (Scott TBD) honoring the 1928 flight of the airship *Italia* to the North Pole. Departing Milan on April 15, 1928, the airship finally reached its exploration base in King's Bay, Norway, on May 6. Three flights to the North Pole were planned: The first was quickly aborted because of ice formation on the ship; the second of 60 hours was successful; however, the third ended in tragedy.



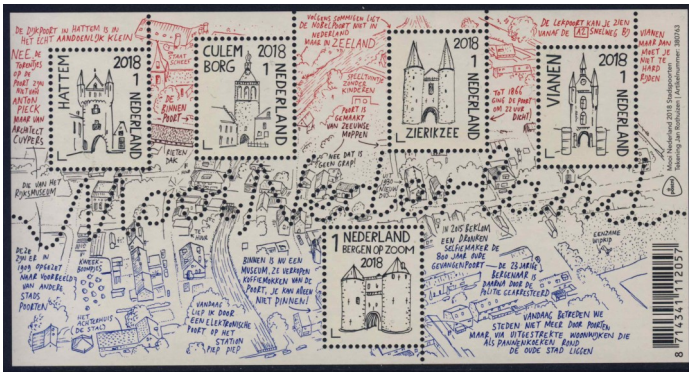
Italy Sc TBD. Flight of airship *Italia*.

The third flight started well on May 23 and the *Italia* reached the North Pole in only 19 hours, aided by a strong tailwind. However, this tailwind became an almost insurmountable head wind as the airship tried to return to base. On May 25, buffeted by strong head winds and the tail heavy because of ice, the *Italia's* gondola hit ground and was sheared off with nine survivors now on the ice. The "envelope," that is the bag that contained the hydrogen for flotation, drifted off with six crew and was never found. In the end, 17 people died including crew and rescuers who died trying to save the crew.

The stamp shows a map of the route of the *Italia* from Milan to the North Pole.

The **Netherlands** issued two sets of souvenir sheets in the continuing Beautiful Netherlands series, this time featuring city gates. The first set was issued in January 2018, the second in June. Except for the last sheet in the second issue, the sheets have similar designs: Five stamps showing the city gate of the town highlighted, and a detailed map of the city on the margin with notes about the various sites in the city.

- The first set of sheets features the cities of Vianen, Bergen op Zoom, and Hattem.
- The second set shows Zierikzee and Culemborg.
- The last sheet in the second set has stamps of each of the above cities. The map on the margin of this sheet has parts from the previous maps shown.



Netherlands Sc TBD. Beautiful Netherlands, City Gates.

Every year since 1913, **Switzerland** has issued semi-postal stamps to support Pro Juventute, a charitable foundation established to help Swiss children. One of the 2017 stamps from the Pro Juventute booklet has a nice globe showing Africa, part of Asia and Europe. There is also part of a world map in the background of the booklet.



Switzerland Sc B789. Pro Juventute.

Niue (pronounced 'New-ay' – which means 'behold the coconut') may be one of the world's smallest independent nations, but the Pacific island known as the 'Rock of Polynesia' (or just 'the Rock') packs in plenty of surprises for the bold traveler. The island sits in the middle of the triangle formed by Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands. Located 2400km north east of New Zealand, on the eastern side of the international date-line. Niue is a tropical island, warm during the day with a pleasant drop in temperature at night all year round.

Scattered throughout the 14 neat and colorful villages, Niue's less than 1500 residents enjoy dual citizenship, as a self-governing nation in free association with New Zealand. They are bilingual, speaking both Niuean and English, and enjoy an independent lifestyle. The locals are very respectful, genuinely friendly and hospitable to visitors and have accepted tourism as an important component to their economic development and wellbeing.

There is archaeological evidence that Niue was settled about 900 A.D. by Samoans. According to tradition, a second group, a war party from **Tonga**, arrived sometime in the 16th century. On attempting to land in June 1774, Captain James Cook and his crew were forcefully repelled by parties of fearsomely attired men uttering blood curdling screams and brandishing spears. Hastily leaving after little actual combat, Cook called the place "Savage Island," a name that appeared on maps into the twentieth century.

London Missionary Society (LMS) members began to arrive in the 1830s, and by the 1850s the islanders had been converted to Christianity. Niue chiefs gained British Protectorate

status in 1900, and in 1901 Niue was annexed to New Zealand. In 1974 Niue gained self-government in free association with New Zealand.

A se-tenant set of four stamps and a mini-sheet of the same four stamps was recently issued. Together they form a great map of the island, with the cities and other major landmarks, such as the Hanan International Airport, shown on the stamps.



Niue Sc TBD. Map of the island.

The First Voyage of Capitan Cook: Despite many voyages across the Pacific, the ocean remained largely unknown to Europeans well into the 18th century, the quest for the great southern continent remained as intense as ever.

In 1768, the Royal Society, a body set up in the UK to promote science, asked James Cook to supervise an expedition to Tahiti. They wanted him to observe the path of the planet Venus across the sun.

Cook (1728-79) was born in Yorkshire, England, the son of a poor farmer. He first went to sea aged 14 to work on a coal ship. He joined the Royal Navy in 1755, and quickly worked his way up through the ranks. His navigational skills and experience observing eclipses made him the ideal person to lead the mission to the South Seas.

The British Admiralty supported the expedition, hopping to discover the great southern continent. Cook left Plymouth on 26 August 1768 and collected plant specimens on Tierra del Fuego. He anchored off Tahiti for three months from 13 April 1769. When he saw that Tahitians and Easter Islanders could understand each other, he began to suspect that South Sea islanders all shared a common ancestry. Cook reached New Zealand in October 1769 and sailed around the two islands of New Zealand, proving they were not part of a larger continent.

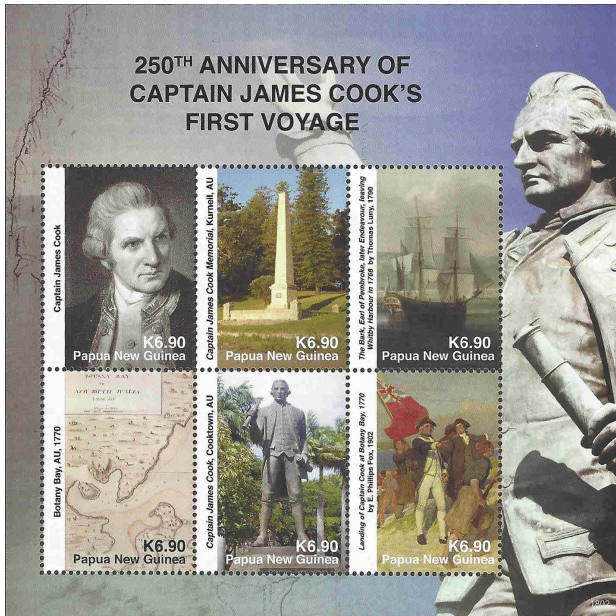
Cook sailed west across the Tasman Sea, sighting land on the southeast coast of Australia at Point Hicks on 19 April. Ten

days later he landed at Botany Bay. When Cook's crew first saw a kangaroo, they were unsure what sort of animal it was. The size of a deer, but jumping like a hare, they decided it must be a "kind of stag." Continuing northwards, Cook ran aground on the Great Barrier and was forced to land to make repairs. He then sailed to Batavia via the Torres Strait before returning home.

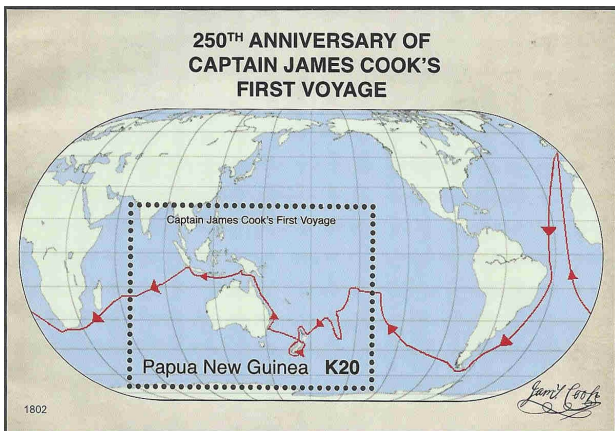
Cook tried to deal fairly with the people he met. On his final voyage in 1779, Hawaii's islanders stole one of his small boats. Cook planned to take the local king hostage to get his boat back. As Cook negotiated, his crew opened fire and the islanders stabbed Cook to death on 14 February 1779.

To mark Cook's first journey around the world, Papua New Guinea and Great Britain issued stamps:

Papua New Guinea Scott 1916-17 (souvenir sheets of 1 and 6, respectively): The first has an excellent world map with Cook's route detailed. Of particular interest is the route circumnavigating New Zealand, demonstrating that the islands were not connected to any other land mass.



Papua New Guinea Sc 1916. Cook's first voyage.



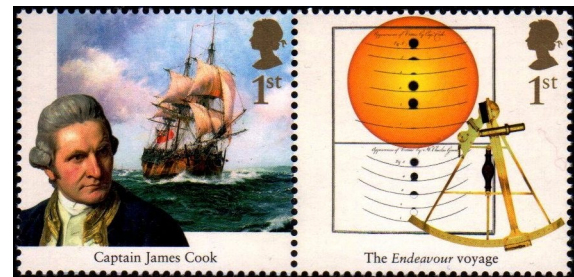
Papua New Guinea Sc 1917. Route of Cook's first voyage.

Great Britain Scott TBD: One stamp on this souvenir sheet of four has a 1773 map of New Zealand, Australia and surrounding areas showing the route of the Endeavor. This map was made by Henry Roberts, a well-known London mapmaker and a contemporary of Captain Cook. Roberts also made the 1784 map showing Cook's route that is on the Royal Mail's Presentation Folder.

The second stamp from Great Britain (Scott TBD) shows the "Map of the Transit of Venus" by Captain Cook and astronomer Charles Green.



Great Britain Sc TBD. 1773 map.



Great Britain Sc TBD. Map of transit of Venus.

Sri Lanka is an island ringed with palm-fringed beaches. Inland is a fertile plain that rises through rolling hills planted with tea bushes to misty mountains. Rain forest covers the southwest.

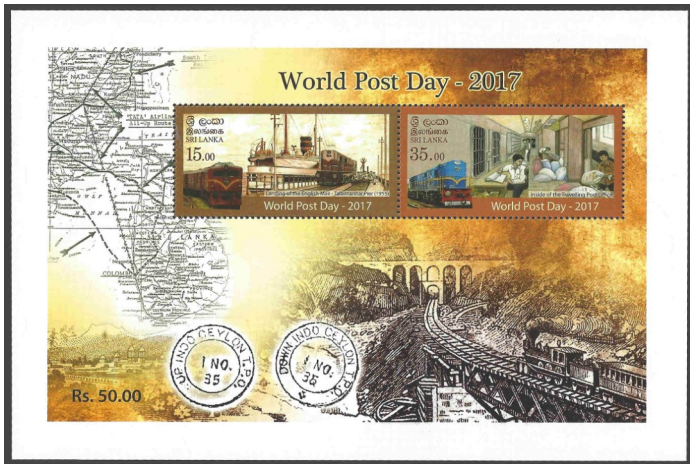
In about 500 B.C., a Sinhalese prince from India conquered the Vedda people who were living here and called the country Sinhala. Around 200 A.D., the island was invaded by Tamil kings from India. The Tamils drove the Sinhalese into the south. The two groups continued to struggle for control of the country until the Portuguese arrived in the 1500s. They were followed by the Dutch and then the British, who ruled from 1802. The British called the island Ceylon. It became independent in 1948 and changed its name to Sri Lanka, meaning "shining land" in 1972.

The beginning of post offices in Sri Lanka goes back to the Dutch period in 1787. The post office system which commenced with five post offices in the coastal areas has today evolved into a system consisting of 641 post offices and 3681 Sub Post Offices. Today, letters, parcels and other postal items received by a Post Office are transported to their respective

destinations by postmen, motor vehicles, airplanes and trains. Originally horse carriages were used for that purpose; in Asia, Sri Lanka was the first to use horse carriages for mail transport.

Postal transport by train was started in 1865, from the capital of Colombo to Ambepussa, about 35mi northeast. From Ambepussa to Kandy. Mail was transported using horse carriages until commencement of train services between these cities in 1867, thus allowing mail to be carried by train from Colombo to Kandy.

Another interesting mail train route was between Medawachchiya, in north central Sri Lanka, to Thalaimannar, located on the island of Mannar on the west coast of Sri Lanka. Here, mail bound for India, was unloaded from the train and transferred to ships operated by the British-India Steam Navigation Company. These ships unloaded the mail at Danushkodi, India where an Indian train carried it to Madras. This Indo – Sri Lanka Traveling Post Office began on March 01, 1914 and was used for the transport of passengers and postal goods between the two countries.



Sri Lanka Sc 2117a. World Post showing mail train.

To note World Post 2017, Sri Lanka issued a souvenir sheet of two (Scott 2117a). The stamps show a mail train from 1955 on one, and the inside of mail post office on the other. On the sheet margin is a detailed map of part of Sri Lanka, with rail routes highlighted.



French Southern and Antarctic Territory Sc Tbd.

First map stamp continued from p. 6.

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Note by Brian Marshall

There is also an 1866 Alabama revenue documentary stamp - tax on seals - which might have a map on it. The state seal of Alabama at this time included a map attached to a tree see :

<http://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-seal/alabama.html>



Fig. 7 - 1866 Alabama Revenue.



Fig. 7a - Alabama State Seal.

There are further depictions of the first Alabama state seal at https://www.bhamwiki.com/w/Seal_of_Alabama

The stamp reproduces the seal of the state of Alabama, which includes what appears to be a map. There is an argument that if this is indeed a map of Alabama, close inspection of the map would indicate that the map is upside down! Fig 7. ■

Scott's New Issues Updates June 2018 to August 2018

Grades: A = High quality map, important feature on stamp. AR = Old or historic map. OC = Map makers and equipment.

Grade O not included but will be on the next Checklist update. They can also be viewed at mapsonstamps.org

Date	Country	Issue	Scott	Format	Grade	Coverage	Value
2017	Algeria	Committee on Social Development, Employment and Labor in African Union	1714		A	Africa in emblem	25d
2018	Bulgaria	Liberation of Bulgaria and end of Russo-Turkish War, 140th anniv	4841	S/S of 2, 4841a-b. See Russia Sc 7904	A	Topo map in background	60r each
2013	Canada	Raoul Wallenberg	2618a	Booklet pane of 6	A	Budapest 1944 on sel-vage	\$1.85
2018	Djibouti	Beluga whale	1412	S/S	A	Arctic showing range of whale	950fr
2018	Djibouti	Organization of African Unity	1441	S/S of 4, 1441a-d	A	Africa on 1441d	240fr each
2018	Estonia	Lighthouse - Manilaiu	TBD		A	Estonia near lighthouse	65c
2018	France	France's World Cup Championship	TBD	S/S of 4	A	World map on margin	First class letter
2018	French Southern & Antarctic Territories	Adelie Territory Symbols	TBD		A	Antarctica with Adelie highlighted	€ 1.00
2018	French Southern and Antarctic Territories	Penguins	TBD	S/S of 4	A	Antarctica	85c each
2018	Great Britain	250th anniv. Of first voyage of Capt. Cook	TBD	S/S of 4	AR	Australia/New Zealand	1st class
2018	Great Britain	250th anniv. Of first voyage of Capt. Cook	TBD		OC	Sextant	1st class
2018	Greece	Juan de Fuca (1536-1602), sailor	TBD	S/S	AR	SW Canada	€ 2.50
2018	Iraq	Mineral	2033-35		A	Iraq showing location of mineral deposits	250d, 500d, 1000d
2018	Italy	90th anniversary of the North Pole expedition with the airship "Italia".	TBD		A	Europe, N Atlantic showing route of flight	95c
2017	Kazakhstan	Alash Autonomy	837		A	Kazakhstan	100te
2018	Latvia	100th anniv. Independence	TBD		A	Latvia	50c
2018	Monaco	World Cup Soccer	2927		A	Russia in background	€ 1.30
2008	Nagorno-Karabakh	Europa	Not listed in Scott, Michel #42-3		O/A	Globe on #42; Nagorno Karabakh on #43	120d, 300d
2018	Netherlands	Beautiful Netherlands - City Gates issue 1	TBD	3 souvenir sheets of 5	A	City gates of Vianen, Bergen op Zoom, and Hattem. Detailed maps of the cities on sheet margin.	1st class domestic
2018	Netherlands	Beautiful Netherlands - City Gates issue 2	TBD	3 souvenir sheets of 5	A	City gates of Zierikzee, Culemborg and city gates of various cities. Detailed maps of the cities on sheet margin.	1st class domestic
2014	Niger	40th anniv death of Charles Lindbergh	1379	S/S of 4, 1379a-d	A	Map of Lindbergh's flight US to France	675fr each
2014	Niger	80th birthday Yuri Gagarin	1385	S/S of 4, 1385a-d	A	World map with route of Gagarin's space flight shown, on margin	750fr each
2014	Niger	20th anniv. English Channel Tunnel	1393	S/S of 4, 1393a-d	A	England, France with Tunnel route, on margin	750fr each
2014	Niger	40th anniv death of Charles Lindbergh	1397	S/S	A	Map of Lindbergh's flight US to France	2500fr
2014	Niger	20th anniv. English Channel Tunnel	1411	S/S	A	Map of Tunnel route, on stamp and margin	2500fr

Date	Country	Issue	Scott	Format	Grade	Coverage	Value
2014	Niger	Mao Zedong	1431	S/S	A	China	2500fr
2018	Niue	Island of Niue	TBD	Issued as se-tenant set and mini-sheet of 4	A	The four stamps, when placed together, form a map of Niue with important sites noted.	30c, \$1.40, \$2, \$4
2016	Oman	Arab Post Day	587	Pair	A	Globe on each	150b each
2014	Palestinian Authority	Euromed Postal	260		A	Mediterranean Sea	500f
2018	Papau New Guinea	250th anniv. Of first voyage of Capt. Cook	1916	Sheet of 6, 1916a-f	AR	1916d: Botany Bay and New South Wales	6.90k each
2018	Papau New Guinea	250th anniv. Of first voyage of Capt. Cook	1917	S/S	A	World map with Cook's route around the world shown	20k
2017	Paraguay	Russian Emmigrants	3060	S/S of 7 + 9 labels	A	Paraguay on margin	1000g to 6000g
2018	Peru	50th anniv. Pampa Gelarus National Reserve	1941		A	Map of area	2s
2018	Portugal	600th anniv. Discovery of Porto Santo island	TBD	S/S	AR	Map of part of Porto Santo west coast, compass rose	€ 1.50
2018	Portugal	Chocolate	TBD	€ 1.50	S/S	Cocoa, map of South America/Europe showing route of trade between the areas.	
2018	Portugal	Battle of LaLys, WWI	TBD	Single and S/S	AR	Map of battle area on margin and on single stamp.	E Rate, € 2
2018	Russia	Liberation of Bulgaria and end of Russo-Turkish War, 140th anniv	7904	S/S of 3, 7904a-c See Bulgaria Scott 4841	A	Topo map in background	1 L, 1.80 L
2018	Saint Pierre & Miquelon	Jules Verne	TBD	S/S	AR	Old maps of Saint Pierre & Miquelon	€ 2.00
2018	San Marino	Int'l Day of Families	2010		A	Globe as bicycle tire	2.50 €
2017	Saudi Arabia	National Day	1458		A	Saudi Arabia	2r
2017	Serbia	Stamp Day	796		A	International Reply Coupon which has 2 globes with details	23d
2017	Serbia	Famous Men	797	Sheet of 6, 797a-f	A	797a: Globe	23d each
2018	Slovenia	Tourist Destinations - Koper	1264		A	Globe	€ 1.42
2018	Spain	The Routes of Northern Spain	4270	Booklet of 8 stamps, 2 each 4270a and b	A	Shown on the stamps and maps is the coast line of northern Spain in Galicia and the Basque country, The stamps also show the coast road and some important sites.	€1.35, €1.45
2017	Sri Lanka	World Post Day	2117a	S/S of 2, 2116-17	A	Excellent map of Sri Lanka with train routes, on margin	15r, 35r
2017	Switzerland	Pro Juventute	B789	Also B790a: Pair B789-90 on translucent paper; B790b: Booklet	A	Globe	85c+40c
2017	Thailand	National Day	2990		A	Thailand	5b
2015	Uganda	Ugandan Martyrs	2160		A	Uganda	3400sh
2017	Ukraine	Cossak Seals	1129	Sheet of 6, 1129a-f	AR	Old map on 1129a	5h each
2017	Wallis & Futuna	250th anniv of discovery by Samuel Wallis	TBD		OC	Compass rose	800fr



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The views and opinions expressed in this journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The CartoPhilatelic Society, its officers or members.

The CartoPhilatelic Society is a nonprofit philatelic organization with a world-wide membership of collectors of maps on stamps. Founded in 1955, the organization was rejuvenated in 2003. We are associated with the American Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association. Annual dues are US\$20 for residents of the USA only, and US\$25 for members residing elsewhere for hard copy, and US\$15 for PDF everywhere. You are cordially invited to join us and share our enthusiasm for maps on stamps. A membership application may be found on our website or obtained from the Secretary. Please send your application and dues to the Treasurer.

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CartoPhilatelic Society Election!

It is time again to elect officers of the CartoPhilatelic Society. The following officers have agreed to have their names placed in nomination to serve a three-year term from April 2019 to March 2022:

- President: Mark Honig
- Vice President: David Wolfersberger
- Secretary / Treasurer: Phil Coop
- Representative at Large: Stuart Hamilton
- European Representative: Volker Woesner
- Asia/Pacific Representative: Brian Marshall

After many years of service as Secretary for the Society, Marybeth Sulkowski has decided to “retire.”

Phil Coop has offered to combine the position of Secretary and Treasurer and provide service to both.

The timeline for the election is:

October issue of *The New CartoPhilatelist*: Request nominations:

December 15, 2018: Nomination close.

January issue of *The New CartoPhilatelist*: Ballot provided.

March 15, 2019: Last day to submit votes.

April issue of *The New CartoPhilatelist*: Results of election announced.

The positions of Webmaster, Editor of *The New CartoPhilatelist*, and Checklist Editor are appointed by the officers.



Once again I am asking for a member to become “Assistant Editor” with a view to succeeding me in a year or two. The pre-requisites are:

- English as a primary language.
- Good computer skills. The ability to manipulate text and edit images. We can teach these.
- A love of Cartophilately.

I spend about 20-30hrs on each edition. I anticipate handing over my eraser in 2020.

Please contact Martin at editor@mapsonstamps.org