

delcampe

The free magazine for collectors

Classic Collections No. 8 / 2024

MAGAZINE



Postcards

A nod to reindeer!

Stamps

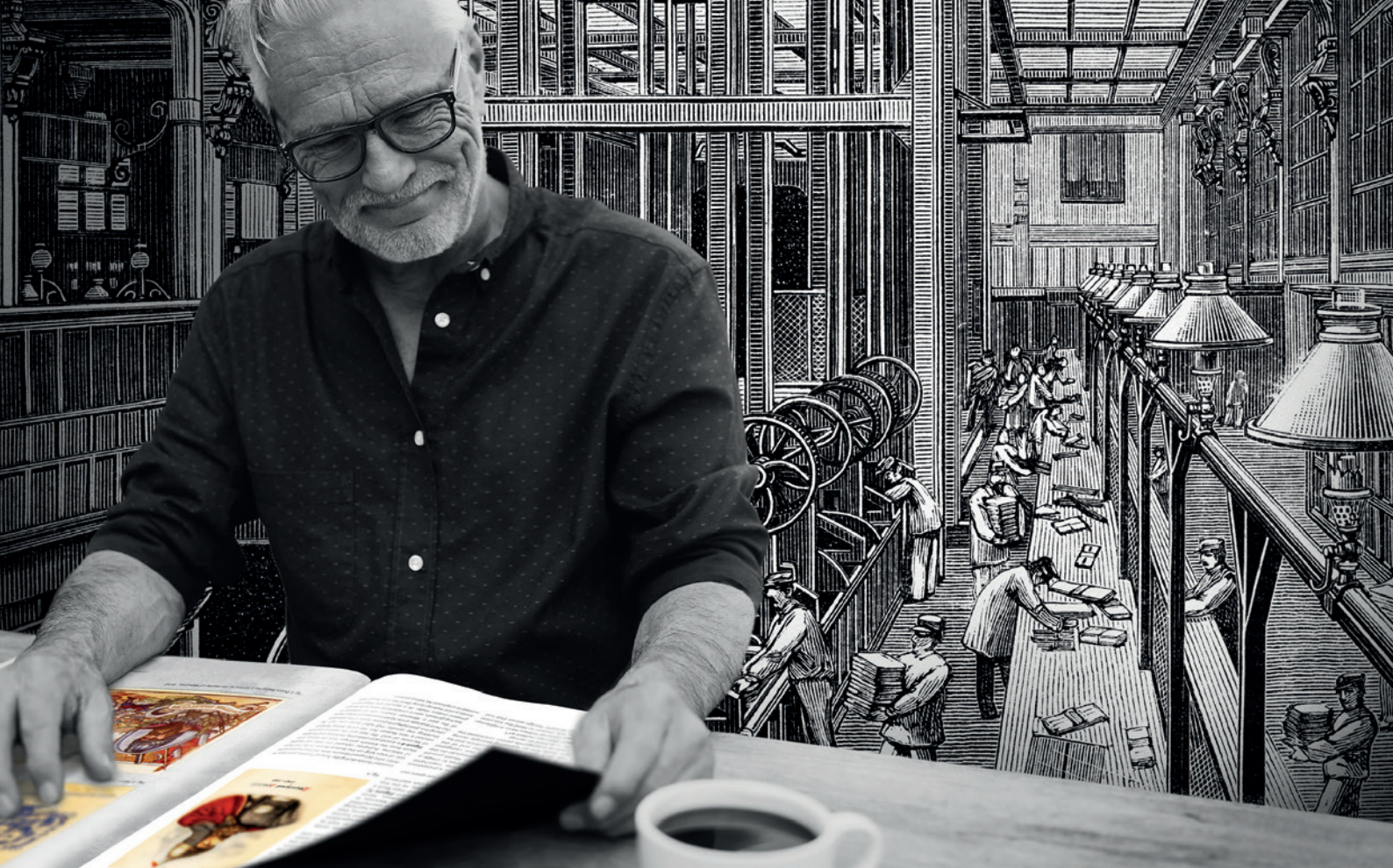
The 30th anniversary of the Sovereignty of Andorra

Coins

Ounces

Photography

Five athletes immortalised by photography



Experience new
and fascinating aspects
of Postal History



SIGN UP NOW FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION

and receive two issues a year
of Post Horn Magazine
in electronic browsable edition via email
for only € 20.00 or € 50.00 for hard copy

You can easily pay with Paypal using
claudio.manzati@lean-instituteitalia.com as nickname
or contact board@posthornmagazine.com for further
information and to indicate the email address where
you would like receive your magazine.



**FIP-FEPA
Gold Medal**

Notos 2021
London 2022
IBRA 2023

**Press Award
2021**

Académie Européenne
de Philatélie

Read the first 4 magazines issued for free!
Scan the QR code with your smartphone





Editorial

Another year is ending. 2023 was an unusual year. It was the first “normal” one since the Covid crisis and yet it was a mixed one with the war in Ukraine and energy restrictions.

We’re living in a strange period full of contradictions. Faced with this unsettled world, the world of collecting is a refuge. It’s a cave full of traditions and wonderful stories as well as sadder stories and amusing anecdotes. Collecting means taking a step into history, geography and fun because, most of all, collecting is a choice that suits us.

We primarily collect for ourselves, regardless of the subject we choose. If, like me, your partner shares your hobby, it’s even more amazing and exciting. However, collecting isn’t necessarily, and is actually rarely, pursued by couples. On the other hand, it leads to many discoveries. The discovery of a topic, of other passionate collectors, of artists...Most of the collectors I meet collect for themselves, but with others!

I invite you to make exciting discoveries

in this latest edition of the Delcampe Magazine.

In stamp collecting, with the article by the Académie, the Red Cross vignette from Grenada, private German post offices, the principality of Andorra and crypto stamps.

In coin collecting, with the superior condition levels of coins and with ounces.

In postcard collecting, we cover Santa Claus’ reindeer and Adeline Boutain. In photography, I’ll introduce you to athletes who have been forgotten over time. I hope that all of these discoveries will lead you to new friends, and perhaps, motivate you to start a new collection!

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all wonderful year-end celebrations. I hope Santa Claus won’t forget to spoil you! Enjoy your reading!

Héloïse Dautricourt

Forever **stamped** on your memory!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace

Contents



Superior states of conservation, -
General principles **12**



Five athletes immortalised by photo-
graphy **24**



A nod to reindeer! **28**



The postcards of Adeline Boutain **30**



The 30th anniversary of the
Sovereignty of Andorra **32**

Delcampe

3 Editorial

Stamps

6 1867, tracking the Le Guichen aviso...

8 Crypto stamps

30 Grenada Red Cross vignettes

32 The 30th anniversary of the Sovereignty of
Andorra

39 Top sales

Coins

12 Superior states of conservation - General
principles

15 Top Sales

20 Special Coins: Ounces

Postcards

27 Top sales

28 A nod to reindeer!

30 The postcards of Adeline Boutain

Photography

24 Five athletes immortalised by photography

“1867, tracking the Le Guichen aviso...”

Alain Vernot of the “*Académie de Philatélie*”

The study of classic letters sent to French navy warships stationed overseas provides historians and collectors with two areas of research: recreation of the postal route taken by the correspondence and identification of the location of the warship to determine if the letter reached the intended recipient directly and quickly.

The first of these two topics is often not particularly difficult for this period because all of the major postal routes were managed by British and French companies and they have often been reconstituted. As for the location of the warships, if you don't have

easy access to military archives, it's now possible to use digitalised publications to obtain very satisfactory results.

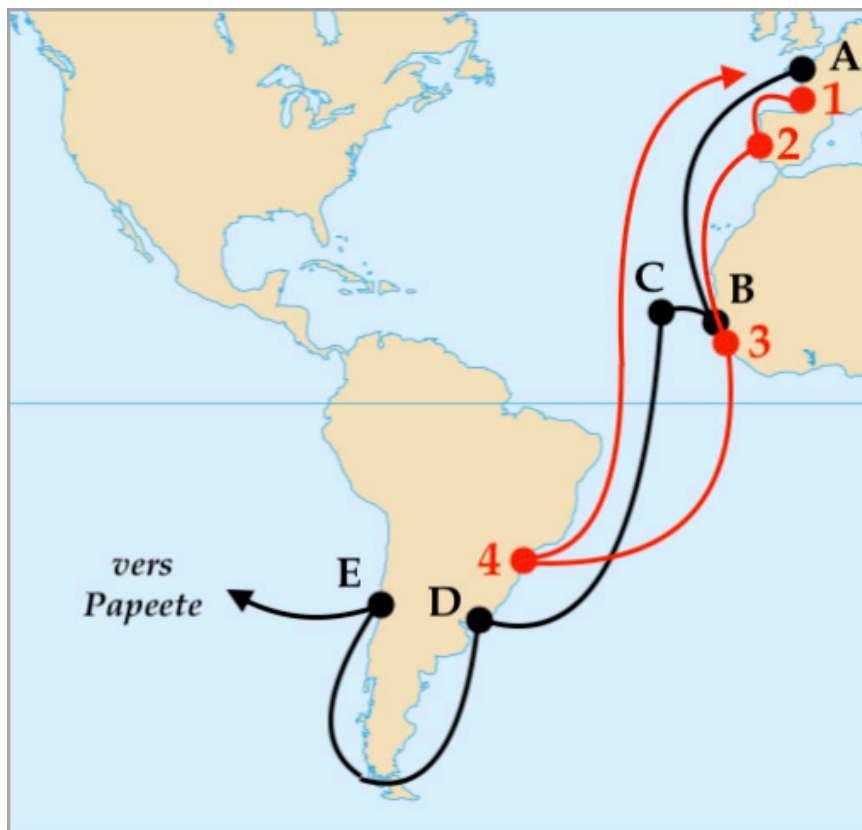
The example presented in this report, documented with precise references to the metropolitan press and the official colonial publications of Senegal and the Establishments in Oceania, relate to a letter addressed to a lieutenant on the Le Guichen aviso. It had just left Rochefort (A) on 22 January 1867 for service in the Pacific after calling in at Saint Louis in Senegal (B), Saint Vincent in Cape Verde (C), Montevideo (D) and Valparaiso (E). The ship reached Papeete on 4 June 1867.

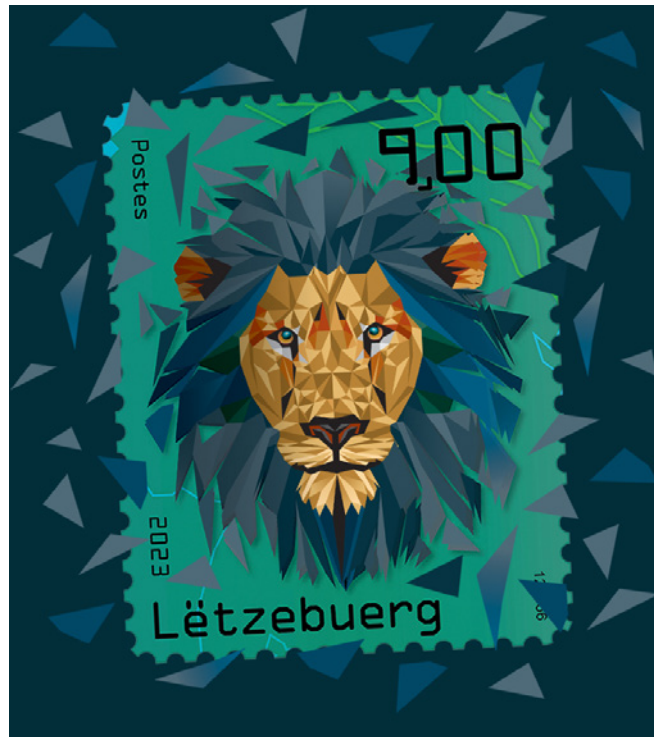
The letter, posted in Paris on 23 January, was addressed to Senegal. It was routed to Bordeaux (1) where it was taken aboard the mail-steamer *Guienne* of the *Messageries Impériales*, which



provided liner service to Brazil after a stop in Portugal (2). The use of the "French route" justified the 20 centime stamp, which was the rate for territorial mail that could be sent by the crews of the fleet stationed overseas.

Unfortunately, when it was taken ashore in Dakar (3) on 5 February and stamped in Saint Louis on the 7th, the letter could not be delivered to its recipient as the *Le Guichen* aviso had made a brief stopover in Senegal before continuing on its way. The address was corrected: "sent to Montevideo" and the decision was taken to entrust the letter (and likely a few others) to the first ship leaving for South America to catch up with *Le Guichen*. This was via the aviso *Le Curieux*, on a date we were not able to identify... However, it stopped over at Rio de Janeiro (4) which was, perhaps, its planned destination, before returning to France, where it arrived on 30 June. On the back of the envelope is the stamp of the Cherbourg office from 1 July 1867 and that of the Cherbourg travelling post office in Paris. The address was corrected one last time to "Division navale de l'Océan Pacifique". We have not been able to determine if the letter was returned to the sender or if it departed on another warship bound for Tahiti.





Crypto stamps



Luxembourg, Austria and the Netherlands 2023, joint issue of 2023 crypto-stamps.

Austria 2019, first issue of crypto stamps by the country.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the PostEurop Philatelic Forum organised by POST Luxembourg. Several post offices and stamp manufacturers presented their innovations in a convivial atmosphere. They included the crypto stamp, which appeared to be everyone's favourite...

The crypto stamp is the idea of the Swiss and Austrian post offices and it has, naturally, first been used in those countries. It is a physical postal stamp with a QR code representing a "Non-Fungible Token"; that is, a kind of unique ownership title to the stamp, which is stored in a blockchain. The system enables the post office to interact with the stamp holder to offer them a new digital user experience.

POST Luxembourg launched its first crypto stamp on 10 October, jointly with PostNL and Österreichische Post. It had a QR code on the sheet and a lion on the physical stamp. It was a joint issue by the three countries. The first issue by POST Luxembourg consisted of 75,000 stamps, valued at €9 each.

While the creation of this type of stamp is quite recent, the first were actually issued in 2018. Many countries are now entering this new market.

With good reason: post offices appear to be quite convinced by the stamps, which sold out in record time in Switzerland and Austria. The launch changed the typology of stamp collectors. It would appear that crypto stamps appeal to a new generation of collectors.

I was also able to admire many unusual stamps as I walked



Switzerland 2023, Saint Bernard crypto stamp.

Austria 2021, orange rhinoceros crypto stamp.

Croatia 2020, first day issue envelope of a crypto coin series.

Croatia 2020, crypto stamp on the theme of aviation.

Poland 2023, stamp on the theme of space.



through the aisles of the forum: stamps made of fabric, of gold and even an augmented reality stamp. I bet that you are already wondering where that will lead to. In fact, the stamp is very simple. It features a bird that flies into your telephone when you pass your mobile phone over it, giving you access to a short video. This proves that there is still room for innovation and creativity in the stamp world today. Will philately reinvent itself thanks to technology? At a time when stamp collectors are ageing, the post offices, and I, hope that this will give the field a boost! Long life to POST Luxembourg's new crypto stamp!

European Philatelic Forum: photo of the Stapps Europe stand.

European Philatelic Forum: photo of Emile Espen and Françoise Pütz of POST Luxembourg.

European Philatelic Forum: presentation of the crypto stamps.



Available in our shop on
www.postphilately.lu

35€
 shipment
 included

A unique collection

All luxembourgish stamps issued in 2021.

34 postage stamps and a "black Print"
 of the special "Christmas" stamps in one set.

www.postphilately.lu
contact.philately@post.lu

* The value added tax varies according to the delivery address.



Superior states of conservation

General principles

By Franck Perrin of the Association of Numismatic Authors (*Association Des Auteurs de Numismatique*)

The state of conservation of a coin is one of the essential factors for valuing it, especially if the coin is in exceptional condition. However, there is exceptional and exceptional... When you reach a certain level of perfection, the slightest defect visible with a 10x magnifying glass can change a coin's condition from perfect to "almost" perfect. This article will enable you to become familiar with the different factors you need to take into account to evaluate the "superior" state of conservation of a coin.



65

This condition is the first level of the "uncirculated" category. Inferior conditions only consider the surface of the coin and how worn it is. Starting at 65, all aspects of the coin are considered (i.e., general appearance, surface and striking).

1. General appearance of a superior coin, which is not yet considered perfect. The coin is obviously very nice to look at.

- Its brilliance is homogeneous and pleasant and the coin can be somewhat dull (doesn't reflect a lot of light)
- A slight, unattractive and heterogeneous patina is allowed (only one side has a patina, patina on half a side, the colour of the patina, etc.)

2. Striking surface

- No dents or scratches visible to the naked eye. A few hairlines or nicks which are only visible with a 10x magnifying glass are acceptable
- No traces of handling are visible with the naked eye or a 10x magnifying glass

3. Correct but imperfect striking

- The striking is centred, but that's all. A double border is tolerated
- The border looks sharp
- Details which are difficult to strike may be missing

Note: tiny handling traces visible only with a 10x magnifying glass on maximum one or two high points. In this case, the coin has to have superior brilliance (lustre) OR superior striking, which brings forth details that are hard to achieve at striking time

66

Overall, the coin has something more that differentiates it from the lower-quality coins. Two of the three aspects above must be met.

1. Overall appearance

- The coin has superior brilliance which is impressive at first glance. The coin reflects light strongly and is potentially lustrous (cartwheel lustre in the US)
- Patina is tolerated, but must be homogeneous and pleasant to look at

2. Surface

- There can be no wear, not even on the high points
- A few hairlines or nicks visible only with a 10x magnifying glass are tolerated

3. Striking

- Perfectly struck with a sharp border
- Details that are difficult to strike are present

Note: A minute amount of handling on a single high point of the entire coin visible only with a 10x magnifying glass is tolerated. In this case, the brilliance AND the striking of the coin must be perfect.



67

We are entering the conservation stratosphere. The three conditions described must be met.

1. The general aspect of the coin leaves the observer speechless

- The brilliance of the coin is impressive, with real lustre. It's powerful and homogeneous.
- Patina is still tolerated, but it must be discreet, homogeneous, and original and cannot lessen the overall appearance of the coin

2. Surface

- Start of mirrors
- No traces of handling with a 10x magnifying glass
- Minute hairlines and nicks that are virtually invisible with a 10x magnifying glass are tolerated

3. Striking

- Perfect with all critical aspects appearing with the strike
- The border is sharp and centring is perfect
- The edge has no defects





68

Near perfection, difficult to differentiate from 67;

1. The general aspect of the coin is like that of a 67 coin, but it also has

- Mirror proofs
- No patina is tolerated

2. The surface (of the entire coin) is perfect except for 2-3 small nicks or hairlines which are very difficult to see with a 10x magnifying glass



69

Perfection with a defect, THE defect.

1. A single hairline or small nick on the entire coin, which is difficult to see with the 10x magnifying glass.



70

Absolute perfection. The coin is gorgeous. If there is any doubt about whether the coin is a 70 or not, then it isn't one...

Top SALES



Argentina

Río de la Plata Silver coin 1 sol
1815 Condition: F

€299.99



Finland

10-mark gold coin 1881

€390



Îles de France and Bonaparte (Mauritius and Réunion)

rare 10 pound silver coin dated 1810 (Piastre Decaen), condition: F

€1575



Russia

5 rouble gold coin bearing the effigy of Alexander III (1889, St Petersburg), condition: VF

€675



Colombia

Santa Fe 2 escudo gold coin Philip IV of Spain (1628-1665) Condition: XF

€2,000



Roman Empire

Silver denarius of Trajan (AD 98-99), Condition: VF+

€449

Grenada Red Cross vignettes (1914–1915)

By Alain Israël of the CTCR (Red Cross Theme Club)

The island of Grenada issued a vignette in 1914–1915. Its design and purpose are very similar to those of the Trinidad vignette. It also features a large red cross framed in red with the letters “RED CROSS/GRENADA/SOCIETY” with the sales price of “ONE FRACTION”, or “ONE FARTHING” in later issues, and the years indicated at the edges of the Cross.

A little history

Grenada is an island in the West Indies located fewer than 150 kilometres to the north of Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago. The country has an area of 344 km² and over 113,200 inhabitants. Its official language is English and it uses the Caribbean dollar as its currency. The political system is a constitutional monarchy. The capital, St. George's, is the island's largest city. The country is

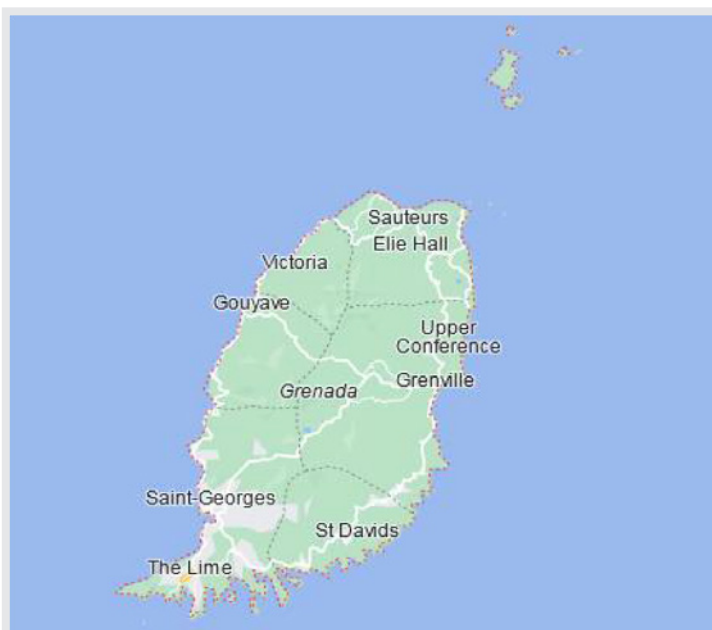
nicknamed “Spice Island” for its cinnamon, cloves, turmeric and, especially, its nutmeg mace.

The island was inhabited by the Kalinago and Arawak indians prior to Christopher Columbus' arrival in 1492.

They called the island Kamahuye. Christopher Columbus renamed it Concepción.

Grenada was colonised by the English in the 17th century. It was purchased in 1650 by a company founded by French Cardinal Richelieu. Grenada remained under French domination until 1762. The island officially became British in 1763 via the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Seven Years' War. The French retook the island in 1779, but the British took it back again shortly afterwards. Peace was re-established by the signature of the Treaty of Versailles by the two parties in 1783. Instigated by Victor Hugues, a pro-French revolt broke out in 1795, but it was put down by British troops which retained sovereignty over the territory until its independence.

From 1958 to 1962, Grenada was a province of the Federation of the West Indies, which quickly fell apart. The island became inde-



pendent and part of the Commonwealth on 7 February 1974. The first prime minister was Eric Gairy. However, his government became gradually more authoritarian and linked up with the Chilean and South Korean military dictatorships. It relied on the Mongoose Gang, a militia similar to the Tontons Macoutes in Haiti, to assassinate political adversaries. Gairy built up a significant fortune, accumulating hotels and restaurants. Granada was ruled by the People's Revolutionary Government as a communist state from 1979 until the American invasion of 1983. In 1997, the opposition parties joined forces to counter the "dictatorial" tendencies of the regime.

The Grenada vignette

The first issue was printed on sheets of 2X5 horizontal stamps. The top, bottom and right borders of the sheet are not perforated. We don't know if the same held true for subsequent issues. According to the Mosbaugh catalogue, the 1917 vignette also exists without perforations. While the vignettes were never official, they were often cancelled. They were printed in red on white, yellowish or chamois paper with perforations on two or three sites.

Yvert & Tellier list one of the stamps. It is valued in farthings and printed in 1914-1915. They believe that it is a compulsory surcharge stamp for the benefit of the Red Cross. All similar stamps must be catalogued also, and in the same way.

How many different stamps did the Grenada post office issue?

While Yvert & Tellier only list one, the "One Farthing 1914-1915", Louis Hummel, in his "Catalogue des vignettes de la Croix-Rouge" published in Innsbruck in 1937, lists three: "One Fraction", "One Farthing 1914-1915" and "One Farthing 1914-1915-1916-1917". On the other hand, the small

"Timbres de guerre" catalogue published by Zumstein in 1918 lists only two stamps: "One Farthing 1914-1915-1916" and "One Farthing 1914-1915-1916-1917". Hummel ignored the first issue.

After research, we were confused by the information gathered from the various Red Cross specialists with respect to the existence of the stamp with the three dates "1914-1915-1916". Apparently, no one had ever seen it. Yet, Zumstein was offering it to customers in 1918!

We were given the key to the mystery when we discovered a vertical pair of the Grenada vignette presented by Mr Buhr, a collector from the Federal Republic of Germany, at the Philatelic exhibition for the centenary of the Red Cross in Geneva.

The top stamp had the four years, from 1914 to 1917. The latter was missing from the bottom stamp. This means that there was an error or a composition accident in this variant: the year "2017" was missing on one of more stamps on each sheet. We saw this for ourselves when we examined the stamps shown by collectors at the Geneva exhibition.

Some of them were printed on white, yellowish or chamois paper. There weren't any subsequent print runs and the original stamps were modified with surcharges for the subsequent issues. They are separate issues and the design and composition



The table is as follow



1st issue in 1914, (date unknown), large Red Cross framed by the inscription RED CROSS/GRENADA/SOCIETY/ONE FRACTION, on white paper.



2nd issue in 1915, large Red Cross framed by the inscription RED CROSS/GRENADA / SOCIETY / ONE FARTHING, with 1914 above the horizontal arm of the cross on the left, 1915, below the horizontal arm of the cross on the right. Printed on white paper.



3rd issue in 1917, smaller with the same text and design. Four years to the left and the right of the vertical arm of the cross, above and below the horizontal branch, 1914-1915-1916-1917 and variant without the year 1917.

A - Printed on white paper.

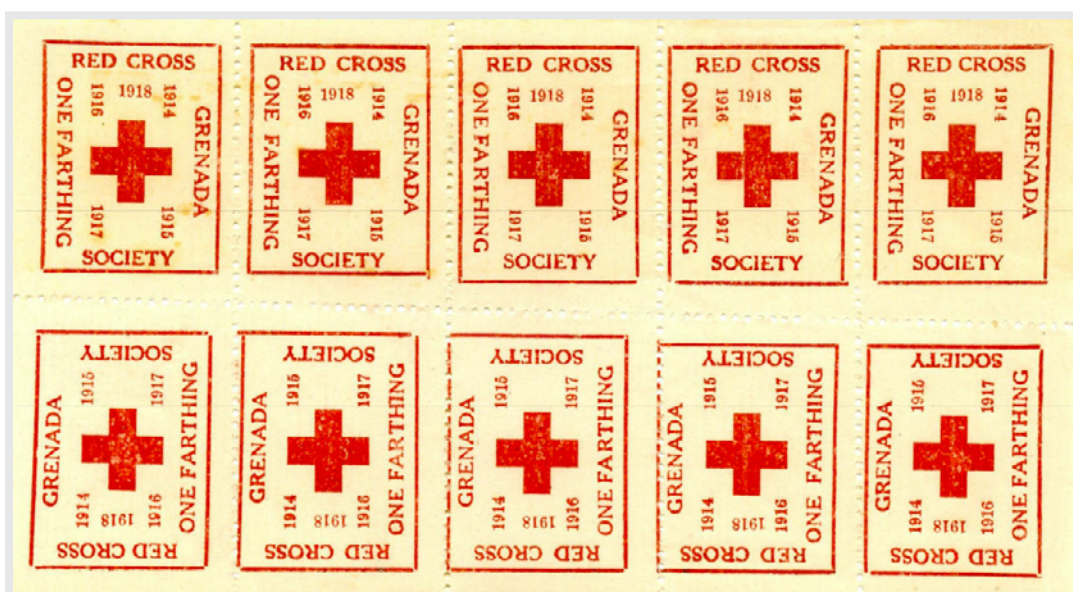
B - Printed on yellowish or chamois paper.



4th issue 1918, 1917 vignette, the year "1918" is printed to the left, vertically under "RED CROSS".



Variants: block of ten vignettes, without perforations on one or two sides.



Registered letter sent from GPO Grenada, B.W.I. on 27 July 1918, arrived at Moudon, Switzerland on 26 August 1918, cancelled with four 6 1/2 pence and one shilling stamps of the George V type, with a War Tax surcharge.

Sources: Le Philatéliste Croix-Rouge n°70. Wikipedia.



Special Coins: Ounces

A few weeks ago, during the amazing Plélauff numismatics show, I had the opportunity, as I do on a regular basis, to talk with a number of collectors. They included Vincent Choffe of Breizhcollections35 who shared his passion for ounces with me. It was a brand new topic for me and, with his precious help, it will be my pleasure to share it with you.



USA 2023, one ounce silver eagle.
 Australia 2016, one ounce on a kookaburra theme.

What is an ounce?

The ounce is a weight measurement between 25 and 34 grams. The unit already existed in Roman times when it was valued at 27.26 grams.

There were different types of ounces in the past: the Paris, Troy, and Dutch ounces, all with different weights.

The silver ounce still exists today and has become an international measurement. The ounce currently has the same weight in all countries: 31.03 grams. It's face value is OZ, which is the ounce symbol, and must be at least 999/1000 silver.

This measurement was adopted by the United

States Mint in 1828. Note that, as a precious metal, silver is a safe investment. In addition, countries that strike ounces also make collector coins with the striking year on the reverse and an attractive obverse in perfect condition. That's all it takes to whet the appetite of coin collectors!

Several countries currently issue ounces each year. Millions of coins are struck every year, by the United States, of course, but also by Canada, Mexico, Austria, Australia and China, among others. Which means that there are all kinds of them. Onto a good deal, obverses are becoming increasingly varied, which suits collectors just fine.

In addition to the major countries listed above, small islands in Oceania (Tokelau, Tuvalu and others) are striking ounces, as are several African countries including Somalia, Ghana and the Congo. Each country strikes the ounces with their symbol and the year they are produced. For example, the U.S. silver eagle, the Canadian maple leaf, and the Vienna Philharmonic for Austria. Note that, other than Austria and Germany, it would appear that European countries haven't warmed to ounces yet.

In addition to one ounce coins, there are also 2, 5 and 10 ounce ones, although they are not as common.

While collecting ounces is attracting more and more collectors, the field is (fortunately) not being invaded by forgers. In the event of any doubts, Vincent



UK 2023, one ounce featuring Charles III on a Merlin the Enchanter theme.

China 1996, one ounce Panda.



Mexico 1998, five ounce coin.
Congo 2019, one ounce on a gorilla theme.

Choffe recommends weighing the coin. An ounce weighs 31.1 grams and, sometimes up to 31.15 grams. Forgers cheat on the weight: forged coins are always a few grams lighter.

Conservation

In order to better conserve the coins, it's best to put them in a plastic container (to handle them without damaging them) and to store them in suitcases or suitable safes. It's most important to ensure that they are not exposed to light or humidity. Ounces retain their value because they consist nearly entirely of a pure metal. They will remain popular for years to come as both an investment and a collection. Prices are not particularly high compared to other collections (a few tens of euros), which makes it easy to build up a nice collection.

See the ounces for sale on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Thank you to Vincent Choffe, aka the Breizhcollections35 store on Delcampe who made me want to find out more about the topic. Be sure to visit his store!

Strike gold on Delcampe!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace

Five athletes immortalised by photography



Photography provides a very effective way to create memories. You can find photos of many current and past celebrities for sale on Delcampe. They include singers, actors, politicians...as well as athletes who had an impact on their era and that we've forgotten for the most part. Here are a few.



François Bonlieu

Born on 18 March 1937, François Bonlieu was a stand-out French skier. He won the silver medal at the world Championships of 1954 when he was 16 years old. Ten years later at the Innsbruck Olympic Games in 1964, he won the gold medal in the giant slalom. While these two successes are worthy of being highlighted, he also won other medals that made him a legend. He became a professional skier in 1965. He died in 1973 at the age of 36 after being injured in a fight on the croquette in Nice. However, he left his mark on skiing history.

Fred Bretonnel

Fred Bretonnel marked the history of French boxing. He was born in 1905 and entered the ring for the first time in 1919 at the age of 14. He won the school championship in the minimum weight

category at that age. He then moved to England to continue his training. He won several titles there. After returning to France, he won the French lightweight title in 1923. After competing in the European championship, he left for the United States. However, the boxer was disappointed by the trip. He returned to France where he suffered from depression and neurasthenia and committed suicide on 4 September 1928.

Jean Porporato

Jean Porporato was a racing driver born in 1879. He was very successful in the early 20th century. He first worked as a mechanic in Lyon and started attending races in 1907. He entered the Grand Prix of France in 1914. He then ran the Indianapolis 500 in 1915. He took part in many other races including famous ones like the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1925. He sometimes raced under the French flag and sometimes under the Italian flag. While he has been completely forgotten by the general public, he was a renowned racing driver a hundred years ago!

Miss Billie Tapscott

A South African national, Daphne Ruth Tapscott, nicknamed Billie, was born in 1903. She played internationally, reaching the quarter-finals in France in 1927 and at Wimbledon in 1929. She also won the South African championship four times. She married Colin Robbins, a compatriot and tennis player, in 1930. We don't know much about her besides the fact that she died in 1970, but she was immortalised for us in photos!



On the left-hand page

Photo of ski champion François Bonlieu.

Old photo of the boxer Fred Bretonnel.

On this page

Old picture of the Franco-Italian racing driver Jean Porporato.

Old picture of the tennis player Billie Tapscott.



Photo of Swiss gymnastics champion Ernst Gebendinger.

Ernst Gebendinger

This Swiss gymnastics champion is also unknown today. He was born in Winterthur in Switzerland. He won three gold medals at the artistic gymnastics world championships in 1950. He also took part in the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952, where he won the team silver medal. He lived a long life and died on 23 May 2017 at the age of 91.

It's a bit odd to pay homage to these forgotten celebrities, but it's part of the charm of my work to bring people who have been relegated to the shadows back into the light. The photos shown here are just five among many others!

Would you like to find other photos of celebrities that you may or may not remember... You can find thousands of them on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Top SALES



France

Rare photo-card of the arrival of Charcot's «Pourquoi Pas» in Rouen on 5 June 1910

€710



Postal Stationery

First tennis club in Bolivia Oruro (Bolivia) to Bessarabia (Russia), 1899

€1037,23



Album of 48 original British press photographs from the First World War

€399



Original photo of the fire brigade of the Compagnie du Gaz du Mans around 1910, 11.9 x 17.1 cm on stand

€201.50



France

Manufacture of school exercise books in Ussel, Corrèze

€490



Austria

Frohe Ostern greetings card by Friederike «Fritzi» Löw (1892-1975) from the Wiener Werkstätte associa-

€400



A nod to reindeer!



Santa Claus was born in the United States thanks to an anonymous poem published by a printer in New York in the 19th century. The old man lives at the North Pole. Every year, he climbs into his sleigh on the night of 24 December to bring gifts to well-behaved children. The sleigh is drawn by a team of reindeer.

Did you know that all of the reindeer are females? Male reindeer lose their antlers at this time of year!

The ladies are called Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. What about Rudolph, the famous red-nosed reindeer?

Rudolph joined Santa Claus' team thanks to a 1939 story by Robert L. May, which led to the song beloved by children.

The choice of reindeer is appropriate given where Santa Claus lives. This cervid, called *caribou* in Canada, lives in the extreme north of the planet and is renowned for its toughness. In addition, it can easily be domesticated and used to draw sleighs. So, it makes sense to see reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh.

This year-end provides the perfect opportunity to give top billing to reindeer, which often appear on greeting cards. Reindeer postcards have long been available on Delcampe, featured on Christmas greeting cards and in photos of the animal.

[CLICK HERE](#)

On the left-hand page

Semi-modern postcard of a reindeer farmer in traditional costume.

Contemporary postcard of Rudolph, one of Santa Claus' reindeer.

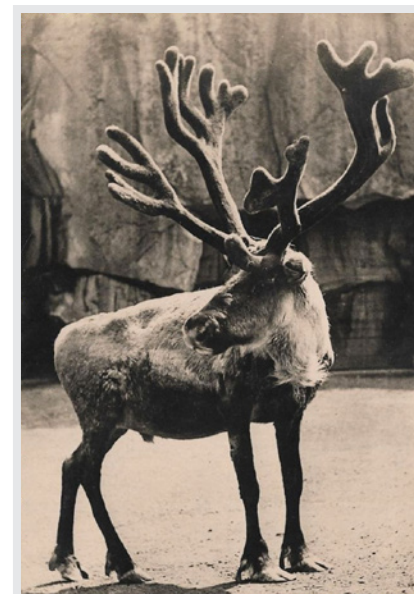
On this page

Illustrated postcard of Santa Claus and his reindeer.

Old illustrated postcard of Santa Claus in his sleigh.

Illustrated postcard of Santa Claus and his reindeer.

Old postcard of a reindeer.





The postcards of Adeline Boutain



My curiosity was immediately piqued when Mr Jean-Pierre Guittoneau, one of our Delcampers, told me about Adeline Boutain, one of the first woman photographers. He provided me with the opportunity to share some photographs by this little-known artist with you!

Old Adeline Boutain postcard, Saint-Gilles la Foire aux Oignons.

Old photograph, portrait of Adeline Boutain photographer, Boutain et Fils, la Croix-de-Vie.

Who was Adeline Boutain?

The artist was born on 11 April 1862, as Adeline Libaux, in Machecoul, Loire Inférieure, where she spent her youth. She married her first cousin Yves Boutain at 19 and the couple moved to Croix-de-Vie in Vendée. They had two boys.

Unfortunately, Adeline Boutain was widowed very young, in 1895. She was 33 at the time. She opened a shop selling fishing and beach accessories to earn enough money to run her household. However, her great passion was photography. On the advice of her friend, Doctor Marcel Baudouin, Adeline began taking pictures of the landscapes and people of Croix-de-Vie where she lived in the early 20th century.

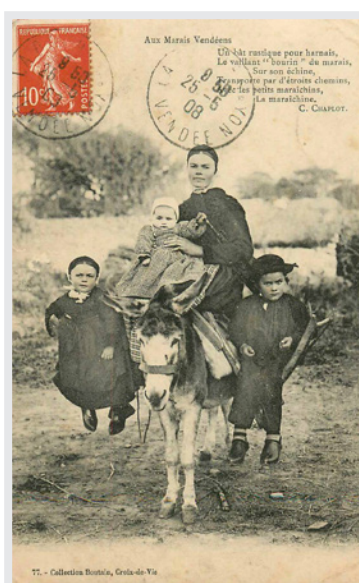
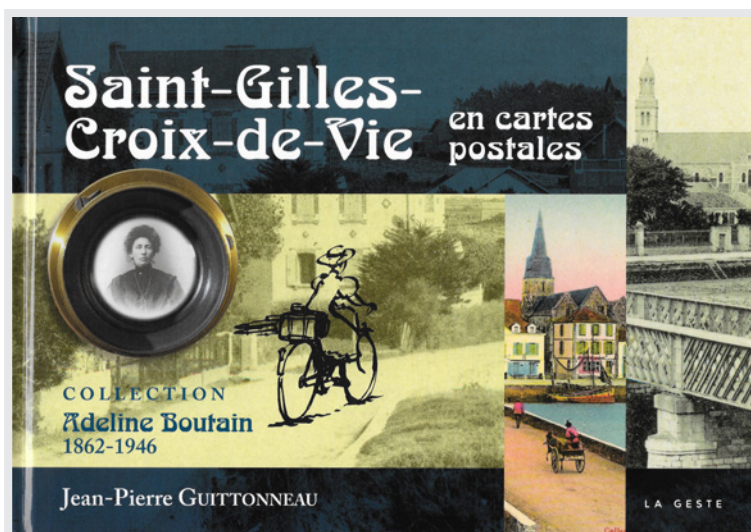
She published her photos as postcards, which she sold in her shop. They provide an amazing testimonial to the life of her town and the surrounding region at the time.

The themes of the postcards are wide ranging. She took photos of people, landscapes, animals, buildings and local customs...It's this diversity and her photographer's eye which have ensured that her work is still of interest today.

Adeline Boutain lived a long time for her era, dying in 1946 at the age of 83. Jean-Pierre Guittoneau dedicated a book to her in 2019 entitled "Saint-Gilles-Croix-de-Vie en Cartes Postales", published by La Geste. It is, of course, available on Delcampe.

You can also find Adeline Boutain's postcards on Delcampe!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Book entitled "Saint-Gilles Croix-de-Vie en cartes postales", Adeline Boutain (1862-1946). © Jean-Pierre Guittoneau, éditions La Geste.

Old postcard, Marais salin de Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez, photo taken by Adeline Boutain.

Old family postcard, Aux Marais Vendéens, by Amélie Boutain. Series of old costume postcards, Aux Marais Vendéens, by Amélie Boutain.

The 30th anniversary of the Sovereignty of Andorra

The Valleys of Andorra, nestled in the heart of the Pyrenees mountains, entered universal history in 1278 with the signature of the “Paréages” between the Bishop of Urgell and the Count of Foix. A Constitution was adopted just over 700 years later, making the Principality of Andorra a sovereign country. It became a member of the UN and of UNESCO in 1993 and of the Council of Europe in 1994.



fig. 1: Spanish Andorra 1979, Bishop Père d'Urg, Co-prince of Andorra from 1278 to 1293.

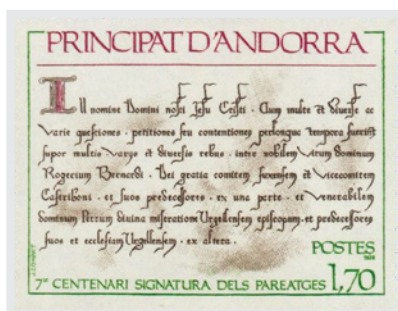


fig. 2: French Andorra 1978, 7th centenary of the Paréages



fig. 3: French Andorra 1964, confirmation of the 1288 Paréages.

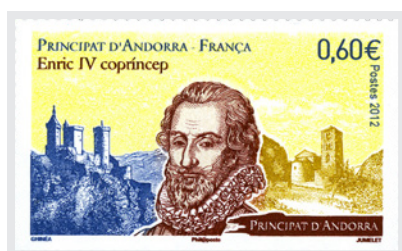


fig. 5: French Andorra 2012, Henri IV.



fig. 4: France 1991, 6th centenary of the death of Gaston Phébus.

Feudal Andorra

The feudal conflicts between the Bishops of Urgell and the Counts of Foix were settled by the “Paréages” of 1278. They were confirmed by those of 1288, which granted the Valleys of Andorra a permanent status (for over seven centuries). Andorra’s Co-princes are the bishops of Urgell and the Counts of Foix. The most famous of the Counts of Foix is Gaston Phébus (1331-1391). (fig 1, 2, 3, 4)

In 1607, the rights of the Counts of Foix were transferred to the Crown by Henri IV. On 27 March 1806, Napoleon I re-established Andorra’s status, which had been abolished by the revolutionaries in 1793. Later, the kings of France, then the presidents of the Republic, became the Co-princes of Andorra. (fig 5, 6, 7)

In order to enjoy a degree of autonomy in the management of internal affairs, the Andorran nobles obtained the creation of a “Conseil de la Terre” (Land Council) in February

1419. The New Reform of 1866 transformed the latter into a General Council, a parliament with 28 members elected by the heads of local families. (fig 8, 9)

The evolution of Andorra's status

Despite the fact that universal (male) suffrage came into effect in 1933, the issue of Andorran institutions became increasingly acute as a result of strong demographic growth (5,000 inhabitants until 1950 and 60,000 in 1970). The Co-princes Joan Martí Alanis and Georges Pompidou met in secret in Cahors on 25 August 1973 to deal with the issue: the creation of the first Andorran government followed in 1981. (fig 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)



fig. 6: French Andorra 1964, Napoleon I re-establishes Andorra's status in 1806.



fig. 8: French Andorra 1982, the Land Council



fig. 7: French Andorra 1990, President Charles de Gaulle



fig. 10: Spanish Andorra 2015, Bishop Joan Martí Alanis (1928-2009) Co-prince of Andorra from 1971 to 2003.



fig. 9: French Andorra 1977, the General Council



fig. 12: French Andorra 1974, meeting of the Co-princes in Cahors.



fig. 13: French Andorra 1982, creation of the Andorran government.

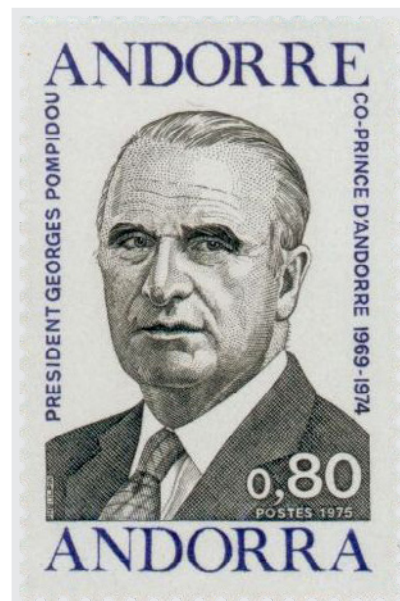


fig. 11: French Andorra 1975, President Georges Pompidou.

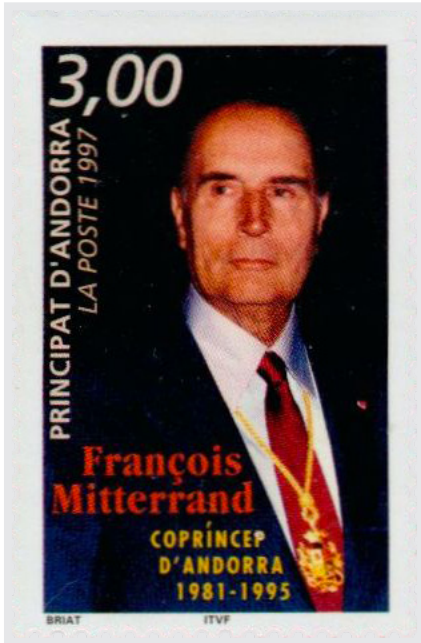


fig. 14: French Andorra 1997, François Mitterrand (1916-1996) Co-prince of Andorra from 1981 to 1995.



fig. 15: French Andorra 2018, 25th anniversary of the Constitution.



fig. 16: Spanish Andorra 2018, the Constitution is signed on 28 April 1993 by President François Mitterrand and Bishop Joan Martí Alanís.



fig. 17: STA 2003 telephone card containing Article 1 of the Constitution which stipulates that Andorra is "a Democratic and Social independent State abiding by the Rule of Law" and that "its official name is Principality of Andorra".



fig. 18: €2 commemorative coin – issued in 2017 – for the centenary of the Andorran national anthem



fig. 19: STA 2003 telephone card, featuring the Andorran flag.

The adoption of the Constitution of Andorra

Despite the progress made, the status of the Principality of Andorra remained anachronistic: a parliamentary regime with no international legal status. Negotiations were initiated by the two Co-princes, Joan Martí Alanís and François Mitterrand, ten years after the creation of the Andorran government. On 2 February 1993, the General Council passed a draft Constitution which was approved by the referendum of 14 March 1993. Bishop Joan Martí Alanís (1928-2009) and President François Mitterrand (1916-1996) signed it formally on 28 April 1993. (fig. 14, 15, 16)

The Constitution of the Principality of Andorra consists of:

A preamble

Title I "The Sovereignty of Andorra" whose first article stipulates that:

"1. Andorra is a Democratic and Social independent State abiding by the Rule of Law. Its official name is Principality of Andorra.

2. The Constitution proclaims that the action of the Andorran State is inspired by the principles of respect and promotion of liberty, equality, justice, tolerance, defence of human rights and dignity of the person."

In addition, Article 2 stipulates that:

"2. The national anthem, the State flag and the coat of arms of Andorra are the traditional ones."

Title II "Rights and Freedoms"

Title III "The Co-princes", whose Article 43 states that:

"1. In accordance with the institutional tradition of Andorra, the

Co-princes are, jointly and indivisibly, the Chief of State, and they assume its highest representation.

2. The Co-princes, an institution which dates from the “Paréages” and their historical evolution, are in their personal and exclusive right, the Bishop of Urgell and the President of the French Republic. Their powers are equal and derive from the present Constitution. Each of them swears or affirms to exercise their functions in accordance with the present Constitution.”

- Title IV “The General Council”
- Title V “The Government”
- Title VI “Territorial structure”
- Title VII “Justice”
- Title VIII “The Constitutional Court”
- Title IX “Constitutional revision”

(fig. 17, 18, 19, 20)

Andorra's entry into the community of nations

The first concrete expression of Andorran sovereignty consisted in removing the “veguers”, who represented the Co-princes, and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Andorra and its two traditional neighbours: Spain and France. Andorra, Spain and France signed a Treaty of Good Neighbourhood, Friendship and Cooperation on 3 June 1993 (signed by Javier Solana, Oscar Ribas Reig and Alain Juppé). The treaty opened the door to Andorra's participation in international institutions. From a diplomatic standpoint, it led to the permanent removal of the veguers, the establishment of embassies and consulates in Andorra by its two neighbours and the creation of Andorran embassies in Madrid and Paris. In addition, Spain recognised the special status of the Bishop of Urgell, thereby providing him with diplomatic immunity. (fig. 21, 22)



fig. 20: Spanish Andorra 2017, Andorran coat of arms.



fig. 21: Spanish Andorra 2018, 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Andorra and Spain.

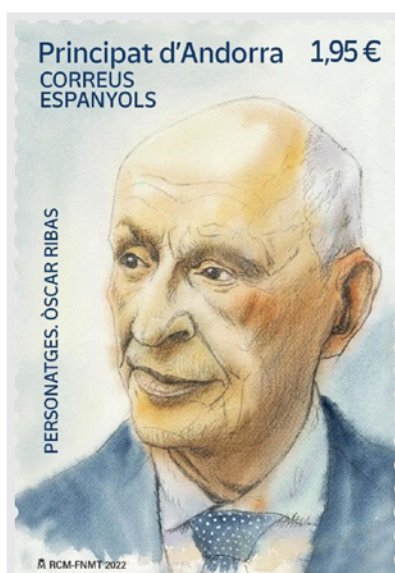


fig. 22: Spanish Andorra 2022, Oscar Ribas Reig.

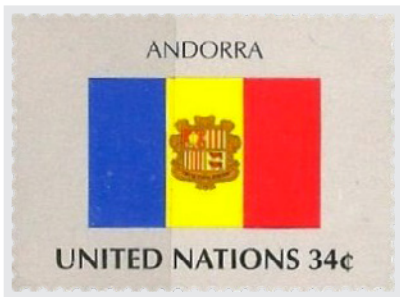


fig. 23: United Nations 2001, the flag of Andorra, a United Nations member.



fig. 24: 1995 STA telephone card featuring the dates of the referendum which approved the Constitution, and membership in international bodies.



fig. 25: Spanish Andorra 1994, 1st anniversary of the Constitution.



fig. 26: Spanish Andorra 2008, 15th anniversary of the Constitution.



fig. 27: French Andorra 1994, 1st anniversary of the Constitution.

The adoption of the Constitution enabled the Principality of Andorra to become a fully sovereign nation. It was admitted to the UN on 28 July 1993, to the Council of Europe on 10 November 1994, and to the ITU on 12 November 1993. (fig. 23, 24)

March 14th has been a holiday in Andorra since 1993. The anniversaries are commemorated on a regular basis by the issue of stamps by the Spanish and French post offices, of telephone cards and of commemorative coins. In 1994, the Monument to the Constitution – a work by the sculptor Emili Armengol i Abril, born in Barcelona in 1943 – was installed in the gardens of the Maison des Vallées, the headquarters of the General Council. (fig. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30)

Andorra was also admitted to UNESCO on 20 October 1993.

Article 1 of the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO states that “The function of National Commissions is to involve in UNESCO’s activities the various ministerial departments, agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals working for the advancement of education, science, culture and information, so that each Member State may: contribute to the maintenance of peace and security and the common welfare of mankind by participating in the activities of UNESCO... play an ever-increasing role in UNESCO’s work...”

The CNAU (Andorran National Commission for UNESCO) was created in 1996. (fig. 32, 33, 34)

The UNESCO Associated Schools

Network (ASPnet) connects more than 12,000 schools in 182 countries around a common goal to build peace in the minds of children and young people... The Network operates at international and national levels with three clear priorities: education for sustainable development, global citizenship education and inter-cultural and heritage learning. (fig. 35)



fig. 32: French Andorra 2023, 30th anniversary of UNESCO membership.



fig. 33: Spanish Andorra 1997, creation of the CNAU.



fig. 28: French Andorra 2013, 20th anniversary of the Constitution.



fig. 30: €2 commemorative coin – struck in 2018 – for the 25th anniversary of the Constitution.



fig. 34: Spanish Andorra 2006, 10th anniversary of the CNAU.

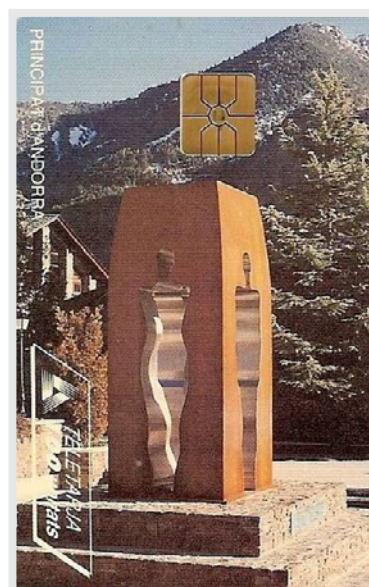


fig. 29: 1994 STA telephone card, 1st anniversary of the Constitution.

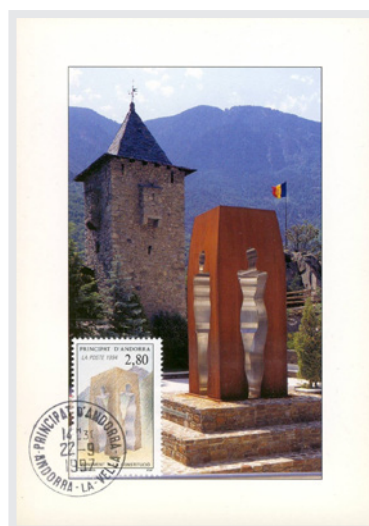


fig. 31: €2 maximum stamp card – French Andorra 1994 – for the 1st anniversary of the Constitution.

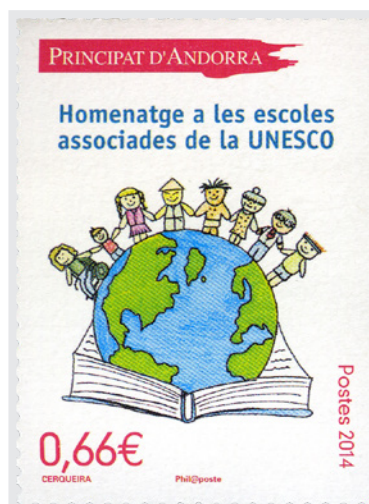


fig. 35: French Andorra 2014, homage to UNESCO's Associated Schools Network.

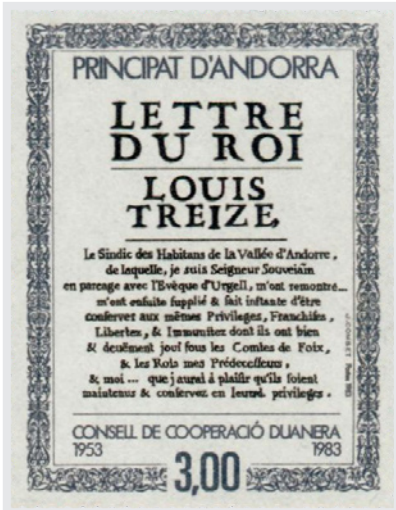


fig. 36: French Andorra 1983, 30th anniversary of the Customs Cooperation Council.



fig. 37: €2 commemorative coin – struck in 2015 – for the 25th anniversary of the customs agreement with the European Union.



fig. 38: €2 commemorative coin – struck in 2022 – for the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the monetary agreement with the European Union.



fig. 39: French Andorra 2016, first Andorran euro coins.



fig. 40: United Nations 2013, Andorran flag and German coin (!!!). The United Nations has not corrected this mistake for 10 years now.

Andorra's latest evolution

There has been a French-Andorran Customs Cooperation Council since 1953 and a customs agreement was signed with the European Union in 1990. (fig. 36, 37)

Andorra didn't have an official currency while it was a remnant of feudal times: both the Spanish peseta and the French franc were used instead. The euro became the official currency on 1 January 2002. After long negotiations, a monetary agreement was signed by the European Union and the Principality of Andorra on 30 June 2011. The agreement allows the Principality of Andorra to mint its own euro coins. (fig. 38, 39, 40)

However, the Principality of Andorra remains outside of the European single market and of the Schengen Area.

Since 2015, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino – which already have the right to issue euro coins - have been negotiating an association agreement with the European Union that will allow them to ensure the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital (Article 26 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union), and thereby, to abolish customs borders. The negotiations should be finalised in 2023 to enable the European Commission and the European Parliament to approve the agreement in 2024 before the next European elections. A referendum may be held in Andorra in the second half of 2024 or the first half of 2025.

Top SALES



France

Mixed franked letter 20c blue + 80c pink by boule de Moulins Bordeaux to Paris on 5 January 1871 (Calves certificate)

€1,200



Falkland

5s. King penguin ** 1933: centenary of British Administration

€810



France

Beautiful letter franked with 3 N°6 Ceres stamps, letter sent from Paris in 1851 to Puebla de Los Angeles in Mexico by «voie d'Angleterre», Signed Baudot

€1,336.5



Belgium

Set of stamps of the VII Olympiad in Antwerp 1920 * (imperforated), sold at a fixed price on Delcampe.net

€884



France

N°122 2fr Merson purple and yellow ** 1900, (signed and certificate)

€2,720



Sardinia

County of Nice, Letter franked 20cd in 1859 from Breglio to Nice, Ex Dubus collection (with certificate)

CHF2,400

Buy - Sell - Collect!



- 90 million items for sale
- More than 1 million active users per month
- 20 years of experience
- Register for free

Join us to give a new dimension to your collection!

 **delcampe**.net

The collectors' marketplace