

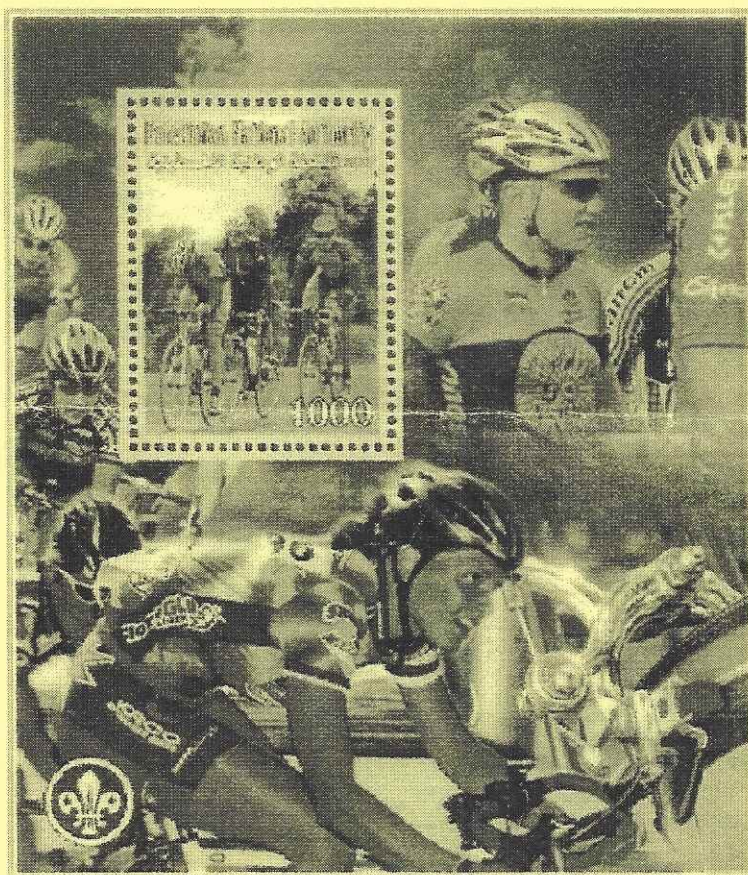
# BICYCLE STAMPS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BICYCLE STAMPS CLUB

BS 60 - August - 2007

President/Treasurer: Brian Sole  
Vice-President: Jari Majander

Secretary/Editor: A.E (Tony) Teideman



PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY - ?

The magazine is included as a benefit of membership. A bicycle stamp checklist is maintained by the club and is available at cost, please contact Piet Hein Hilarides,

Netherlands email: [p.h.hilarides@chello.nl](mailto:p.h.hilarides@chello.nl)



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Bicycle  
Stamps

60

# New Issue Update

* AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	50c	CIRCUS: UNDER THE BIG TOP - THE BURNING BICYCLE - CARICATURE OF CLOWN JUGGLING WHILST RIDING A BICYCLE	5 + SHT + BOOKLET+ PRESTIGE BOOKLET + MAXICARD	60-8
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	SE TENANT STRIP OF 5	AS ABOVE - SE TENANT STRIP OF 5 DIFF. STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	AS ABOVE	60-8
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	SHEETLET OF 10 WITH GUTTER STRIP	AS ABOVE - 2 STRIPS OF 5 STAMPS (AS ABOVE) WITH GUTTER STRIP	AS ABOVE	60-9
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 50 DIFF STAMPS - HAS 2 X 5 X STRIPS OF 5 DIFF DIVIDED BY GUTTER STRIP	AS ABOVE	60-8
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	BOOKLET PANE 	AS ABOVE - BOOKLET OF 10 DIFF. STAMPS ( IE 2 OFF EACH STAMP) - STAMPS SELF ADHESIVE - BOOKLET COVER OF NO CYCLING INTEREST	AS ABOVE	60-12
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	CHEQUE BOOK	AS ABOVE - CONTAINS 10 OF THE ABOVE BOOKLETS - COVER OF NO CYCLING INTEREST	AS ABOVE	
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	PRESTIGE BOOKLET	AS ABOVE - COVER HAS PICTURE OF CHILDREN WAITING TO ENTER CIRCUS TENT ONE IS HOLDING A BICYCLE	AS ABOVE	60-10
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	PRESTIGE BOOKLET	AS ABOVE - PAGE 5 - STRIP OF 5 DIFF STAMPS	AS ABOVE	60-10
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	PRESTIGE BOOKLET	AS ABOVE - PAGE 11 - STRIP OF 5 DIFF. SELF ADHESIVE STAMPS FEATURING GOLD- FOILED STARS AND VARNISHED SPOTLIGHTS	AS ABOVE	60-11
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	PRESTIGE BOOKLET	AS ABOVE - PAGE 27 - BLOCK OF 4 BURNING BICYCLE STAMPS	AS ABOVE	60-11
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	FDC	AS ABOVE - WITH STRIP OF 5 DIFF. GUMMED STAMPS AFFIXED	AS ABOVE	60-9
AUSTRALIA	15.05.07	MAXICARD	AS ABOVE - SHOWS CIRCUS OZ PERFORMER ON BICYCLE - BURNING BICYCLE STAMP AFFIXED	AS ABOVE	60-8
BELGIUM	06.01.07	FIRST DAY SHEET	SPORTS ISSUE - FIRST DAY SHEET OF SET OF THREE SPORTS STAMPS ONE OF WHICH IS CYCLOCROSS	3+FDC+FDS +SHEET	60-7
BELGIUM	06.01.07	SHEET	SHEET OF 10 WITH CYCLO CROSS STAMPS + CYCLISTS ON SELVEDGE	3+FDC+FDS +SHEET	60-7
BELGIUM	25.01.07	BOOKLET PANE	PANE OF 10 SELF ADHESIVE CYCLOCROSS PRIOR STAMPS	1+ BOOKLET	60-13
BELGIUM	09.07.07	FIRST DAY SHEET	AS ABOVE - FIRST DAY SHEET	1+SHEET+ FDS	?
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (CROATIAN POSTS)	20.11.03	FDC	INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY - STAMP DEPICTS DRAWING BY 8 YEAR OLD ANTONIO LOVRIC	1+FDC+ MAXICARD	
BULGARIA	13.05.07	POSTAL CARD	50TH ANNIV. BULGARIAN TECHNICAL MUSEUM - HIGH WHEELER MADE OF WOOD	1	60-18

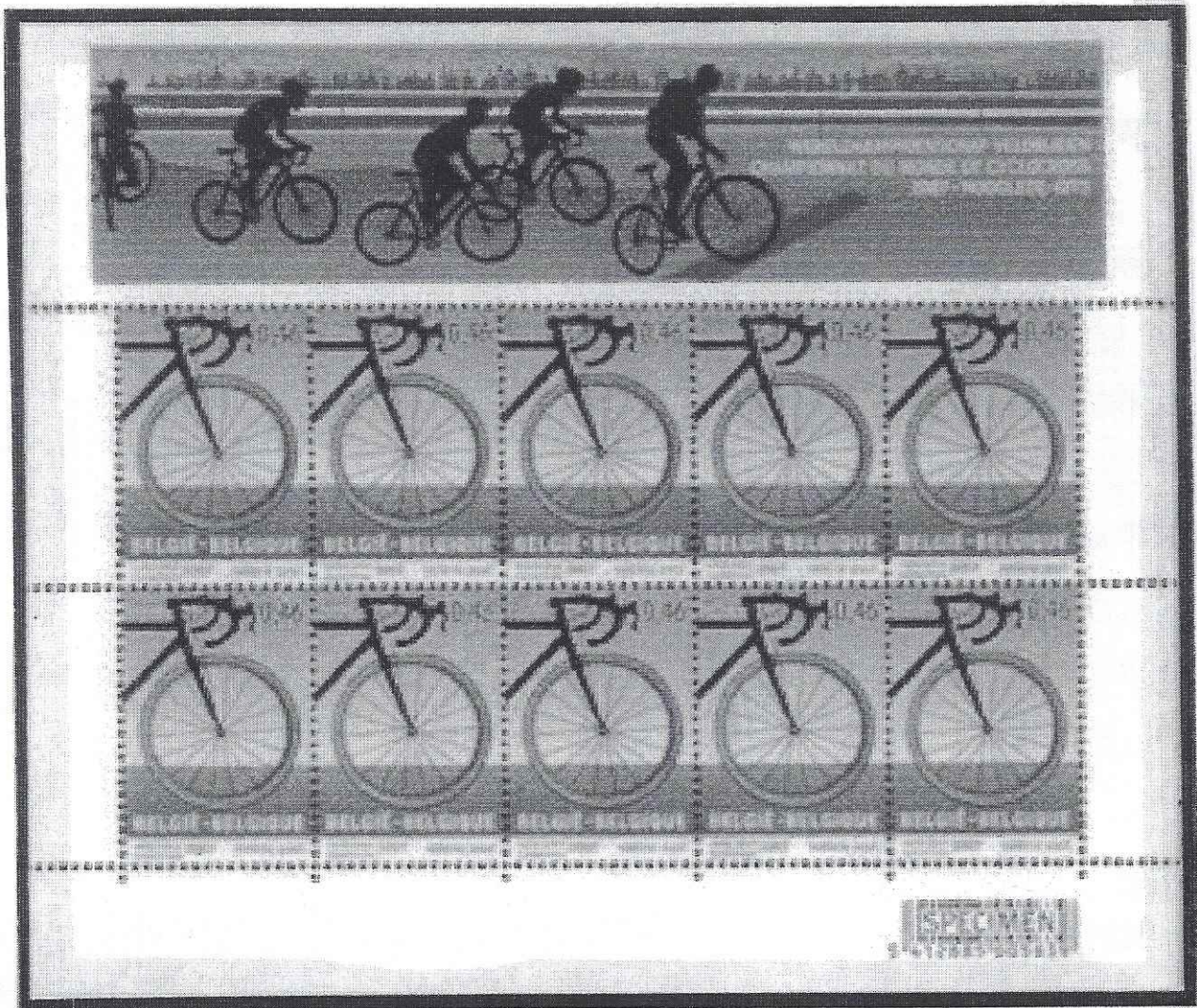
CONGO	?	320 fc	BELGIUM WORLD CHAMPIONS - CYCLIST	4+4MS+ 4 SHEETLET	58-11
CONGO	?	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 4 DIFF STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	4+4MS+ 4 SHEETLET	58-11
CONGO	?	MS	AS ABOVE - MINIATURE SHEET OF THE ABOVE STAMP	4+4MS+ 4 SHEETLET	58-10
COSTA RICA	? 07 04	120c	OLYMPIC GAMES - ATHENS 2004	1+SE-TEN STRIP	50-6
COSTA RICA	? 07.04	SE-TEN STRIP	AS ABOVE - SE-TEN STRIP OF 4 DIFF. STAMPS - INC THE ABOVE	1+SE-TEN STRIP	50-6
ECUADOR	? 2006	0.30	COMMEMORATING THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE - SMALL IMAGE OF CYCLIST	1	58-7
ECUADOR	? 2006	0.20 USD	MAIL CARRIERS - POSTMEN WITH BICYCLES	3	59-10
ECUADOR	? 2006	0.40 USD	AS ABOVE	3	59-10
ECUADOR	? 2006	0.80 USD	AS ABOVE	3	59-10
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	? . ? . 03	400 F.C.F.A	100 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR DE FRANCE - PELETON	1+ SE-TEN STRIP +SHT	51-9
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	? . ? . 03	SE-TEN STRIP	AS ABOVE - SE-TEN STRIP OF 3 DIFF - ABOVE STAMP - CENT OF WRIGHT BROS FLIGHT & 150 TH ANNIV BIRTH VINCENT VN GOGH	1+ SE-TEN STRIP +SHT	51-9
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	? . ? . 03	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 12 STAMPS - CONSISTS OF 4 OF THE ABOVE SE-TEN STRIPS	1+ SE-TEN STRIP + SHEET	51-9
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	??.04	600 F.C.F.A	OLYMPIC GAMES - RACING CYCLISTS	4+SE-TEN STRIP OF 4	58-7
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	??.04	SE-TEN STRIP OF 4	AS ABOVE - SE-TEN STRIP OF 4 DIFF. INC THE ABOVE STAMP	4+SE-TEN STRIP OF 4	58-7
GAMBIA	01.03.03	MS D45	CENTENARY TOUR DE FRANCE - AWAITING DETAILS	12 + 3SHT + MS	
GREECE	09.09.03	MAXI-CARD	OLYMPIC GAMES - ATHENS 2004: MIND & BODY - CYCLING	5 + SHT + MAXI-CARD	
GUINEA	?	850 F	"AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISTS" CYCLISTS IN STREET SCENE	4+S	53-10
GUINEA	?	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	4+S	53-10
GUINEA	?	M/S	BEIJING OLYMPICS 2008 - STAMP OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - CYCLIST ON SELVEDGE	3+4M/S	55-17
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2003	500FCFA	OLYMPIC GAMES ATHENS 2004 - VARIOUS SPORTS PERSONS - INCLUDES LANCE ARMSTRONG	6+S	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2003	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	6+S	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2004	450 FCFA	OLYMPIC GAMES ATHENS 2004 - VARIOUS SPORTS PERSONS - INCLUDES TYLER HAMILTON	6+S	53-10
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2004	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 STAMPS INCLUDES THE ABOVE	6+S	53-10
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2005	MINI SHEET	155 TH ANNIVERSARY OF "PENNY BLACK" STAMP - QUEUE OF VARIOUS TRANSPORTS INCLUDES A CYCLIST ON A HIGH WHEELER	MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2005	450 FCFA	SPORTS STARS - LANCE ARMSTRONG	6+S+MS	53-8

GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2005	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 DIFF. STAMPS AND 3 LABELS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	6+S+MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2005	MINIATURE SHEET	AS ABOVE - MINIATURE SHEET STAMP OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - LANCE ARMSTRONG ON SELVEDGE	6+S+MS	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2005	350 FCFA	"PEQUIM 2008" VARIOUS SPORTS INCLUDING CYCLING	6+S	53-8
GUINEA-BISSAU	??.2005	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 6 DIFF. STAMPS AND 3 LABELS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	6+S	53-8
ICELAND	19.05.04	BOOKLET PANE	EUROPA 2004: HOLIDAYS - TOURING CYCLISTS - PANE OF TEN STAMPS (NO DETAILS YET)	2+2X BOOKLETS	
IRAQ	??.06	500 DINARS	OLYMPIC GAMES - ATHENS VARIOUS SPORTS INCLUDING CYCLIST	1	58-7
IRELAND	28.02.03	BOOKLET PANE	ST PATRICK'S DAY - CLOWN ON A STRANGE CYCLE IN PARADE - BOOKLET PANE OF 10 OF THE ABOVE STAMP	3 + 3 S X 16 + 4 B/KLETS	
ITALY	09.06.07	€ 0.60	50 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF 'LUIGI GANNA' WHO WON THE FIRST GIRO D'ITALIA IN 1909 - AT THE TOP OF THE STAMP IS ROUTE OF THE FIRST GIRO D'Italia	1	60-15
IVORY COAST	??.05	600 F	OLYMPIC GAMES - BEIJING 2008 - TRACK CYCLIST & VELODROME	4+4MS	58-7
IVORY COAST	??.05	MS	AS ABOVE - MINIATURE SHEET OF ABOVE STAMP HAS CYCLING PICTOGRAM ON SELVEDGE	4+4MS	58 COVER
IVORY COAST	?	MS	AS ABOVE - STAMP OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - RACING CYCLIST ON SELVEDGE	?	60-13
NORWAY	27.04.07	NIV	TOURIST STAMPS - A PRIORITY - THIS IS ONE OF 6 SELF ADHESIVE STAMPS FROM A BOOKLET OF 10 - THE STAMPS ARE FOR DOMESTIC USE (2) - FOR EUROPE USE (2) AND WORLDWIDE USE (2) - THEY ARE MARKED "INNLAND" - "VERDEN" AND "EUROPA" -STAMP WITH CYCLISTS IS MARKED " INNLAND" IE DOMESTIC USE	1+ BOOKLET	60-14
NORWAY	27.04.07	BOOKLET PANE	AS ABOVE - INCLUDES THE ABOVE STAMP	1+ BOOKLET	60-14
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY	?	1000 FILS	ROAD RACING CYCLISTS	1+MS	60-COVER
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY	?	MS	MINIATURE SHEET CONTAINS ABOVE STAMP AND CYCLISTS ON SELVEDGE ( MAY HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO COMMEMORATE 100 YEARS OF SCOUTS - AS HAS SCOUT EMBLEM AT BOTTOM LEFT CORNER)	1+MS	60-COVER
QATAR	??.2006	50 D	2006 ASIAN GAMES - GAMES MASCOT RIDING BICYCLE	7	58-7
ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS	? 2004	Db 7000	60 th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY - TROOPS WITH BICYCLES LANDING ON BEACH	1+S	53-9

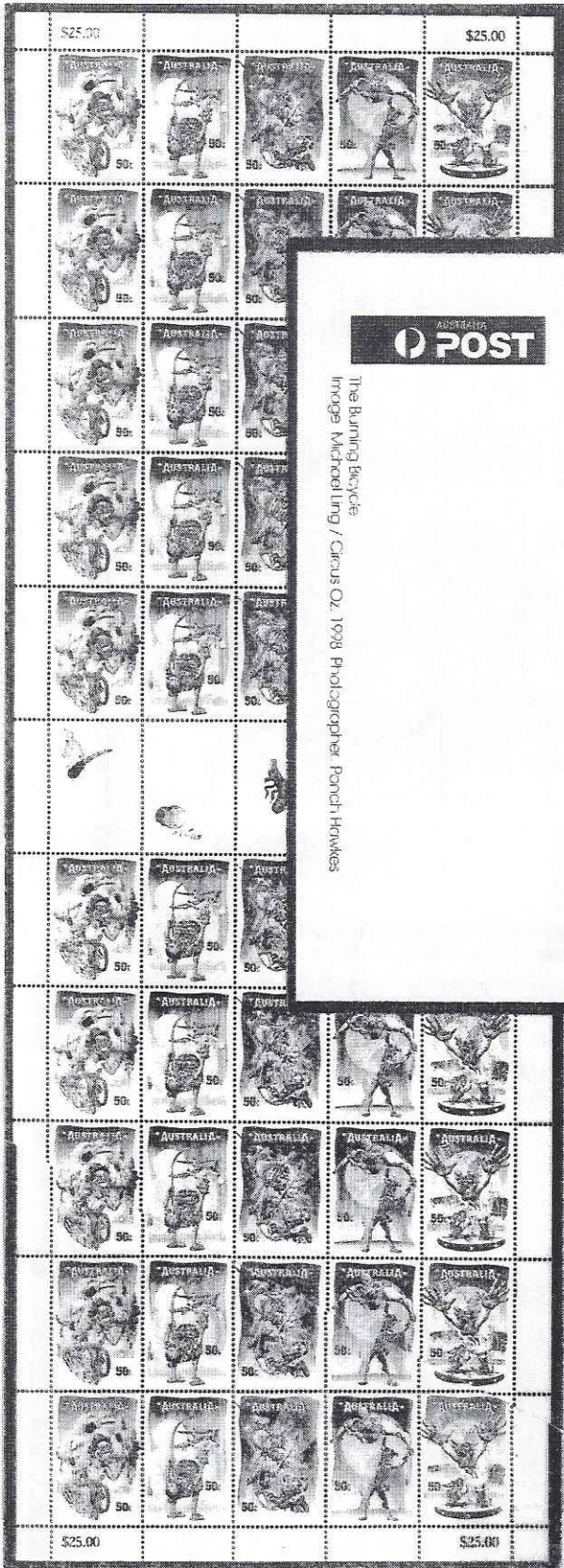
ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS	? 2004	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 9 DIFF. STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE	1+S	53-9
ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS	??.2006	MS	OLYMPIC WINNERS - STAMP OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - CYCLIST (TYLER HAMILTON) ON SELVEDGE	MS	58-7
SIERRA LEONE	17.11.03	1500L	OLYMPIC HISTORY GOLD MEDAL WINNERS - MARCUS HURLEY - USA 1904	8	
SINGAPORE	?	SHEET	"UNIQUELY SINGAPORE" - SHEET OF 5 STAMPS AND 10 LABELS - STAMPS OF ON CYCLING INTEREST - STATUE OF CYCLIST ON ONE LABEL	SHEET	53-16
SINGAPORE	08.02.07	1ST LOCAL	10 TH ANNIV OF SINGAPORE KINDNESS MOVEMENT - STAMPS SOLD FOR 25c EACH - FAMILY WITH BICYCLE	1+ SHEETLET	60-12
SINGAPORE	08.02.07	SHEETLET	AS ABOVE - SHEETLET OF 10 DIFF. STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE	1+ SHEETLET	60-12
SPAIN	??.04	POST CARD	VUELTA ESPAÑA 2004 - FRONT OF CARD SHOWS RIDER BREAKING AWAY - REAR OF CARD SHOWS ROUTE FOR TOUR	POSTCARD	52-17
SWITZERLAND	09.05.06	SHEETLET	CHILDREN'S PUPPET "KASPERLI" - SHEETLET OF 10 STAMPS - STAMPS OF NO CYCLING INTEREST - CYCLIST ON SELVEDGE	SHEETLET	60-12
TATARSTAN	? 2002	5.00	FAMOUS MOVIES - E.T. STAMP SHOWS SILHOUETTE OF BICYCLE RIDER AND E.T.	1+S	53-11
TATARSTAN	? 2002	SHEET	AS ABOVE - SHEET OF 12 DIFF. STAMPS - INCLUDES THE ABOVE	1+S	53-11
UNITED STATES	03.04.03	MAXI CARD	OLD GLORY PRESTIGE BOOKLET UNCLE SAM RIDING A HIGH WHEELER - MAXI CARD OF ABOVE STAMP	5+B+M/	
VENEZUELA	?	1.700 Bs	POSTAL SERVICES - EXERCISE BIKE	10 + SHT	59-11

1. Undated issues will remain on this list or the " Issue Information Update" list, until such time as a date of issue is established.
2. Issues marked \* have been corrected or have additional information, the additional or corrected information is underlined.
3. Issues marked  are deemed to be fake, ie not stamps only Cinderellas, therefore they will not have a date of issue.
4. Additions to the list are indicated by a heavy solid left-hand border to the country's name box.
5. Issues that appear on this list for over a year are moved to the "Issue Information Update" list.
6. The last column shows where the stamp is illustrated, with BS number, followed by page number.
7. POSTAL CARDS are those cards that include the stamp or prepaid indicia printed on it. POST CARDS need the addition of a stamp for mailing. Only those Post Cards issued by a country's post office are included in this list.





BELGIUM - 06.01.07 - TOP SHEETLET WITH FIRST DAY SHEET BELOW



The Burning Bicycle  
Image: Michael Ling / Circus Oz 1998 Photographer: Punch Hawkes



**AUSTRALIA - 15.05.07**  
**SHEET OF 50 STAMPS**  
**FRONT AND BACK OF**  
**MAXICARD**



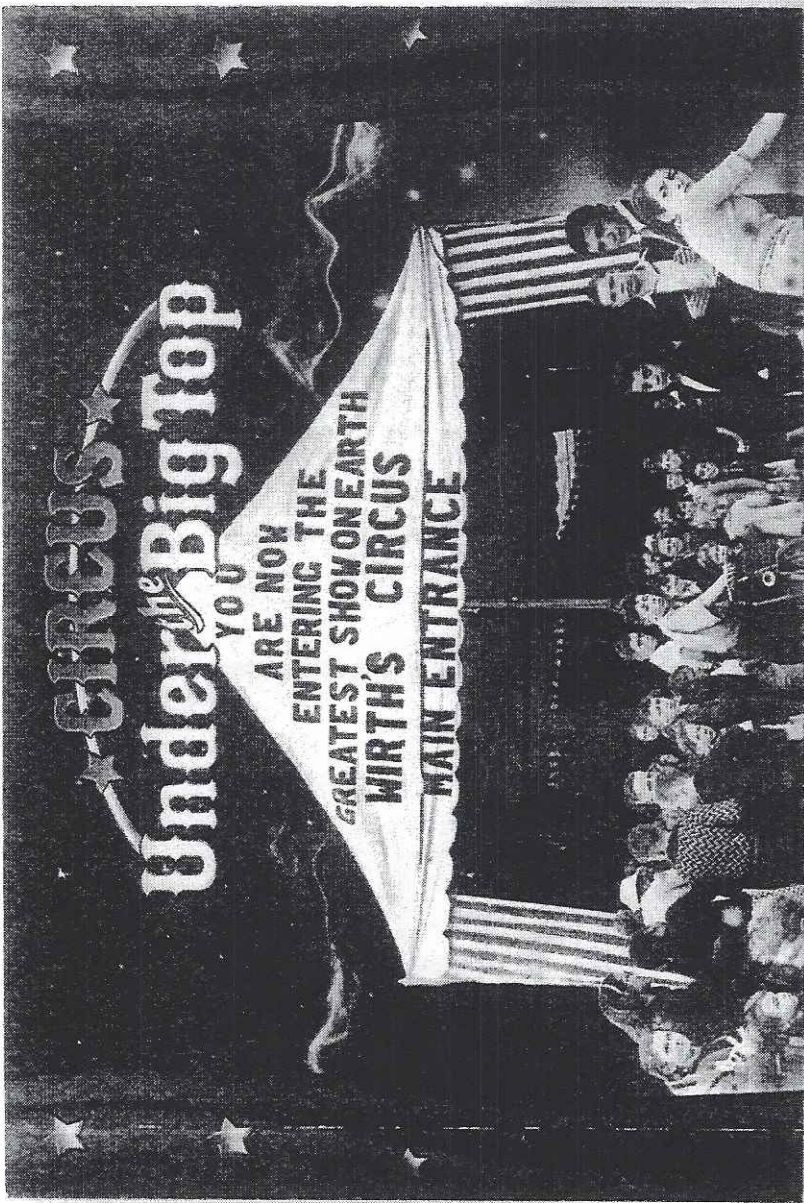


AUSTRALIA - 15.05.07

PRESTIGE BOOKLET

COVER

PART PAGE 4 AND PAGE 5



### TRADITIONAL CIRCUS

Traditional circuses are often made up of three, four and even five generations of the one family. They pass their skills down from one generation to the next, and many maintain the tradition of performing animals. Some traditional circuses still travel thousands of kilometres a year, following circus routes established by their ancestors in the late 1800s and early 1900s. But other circuses now travel only within the capital cities to minimise the costs involved in extensive touring. Traditional circuses are passionate about their culture and heritage. Although faced with constantly changing rules and regulations, rising prices, restricted access to traditional circus sites due to urban development, and competition for the 'entertainment dollar', circus families declare they will always be here, because "as long as there are children there will always be circuses".



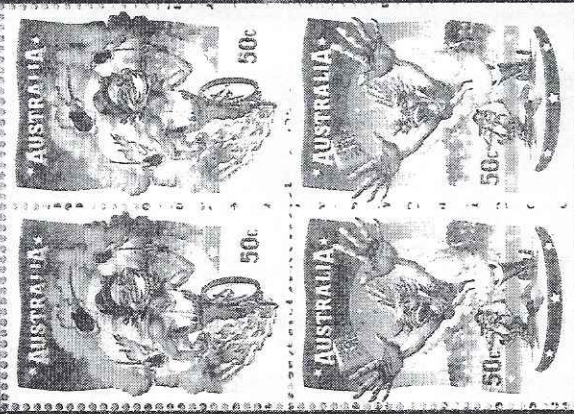
Mabel Foster performing as Salome the Tattooed Lady, Hayden's Circus, 1920s.



Stardust Circus, Charleville, Queensland, 2005.



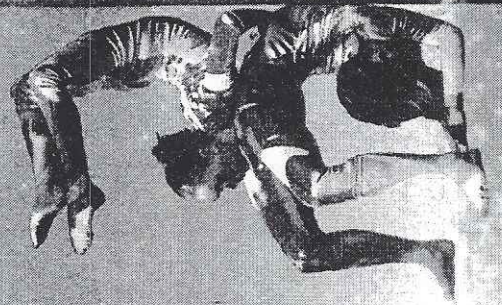
AUSTRALIA - 15.05.07 - PART PAGE 26 AND PAGE 27



## KIDS & COMMUNITY CIRCUS

The 1980s saw the emergence of the community circus movement in Australia. Groups such as Albany Wodonga's Flying Fruit Fly Circus and Melbourne's Women's Circus bring kids and community members together with professional circus artists to learn circus skills and create shows. Community circuses often have the aim of improving community health and wellbeing. They focus on changing attitudes to body image, sharing physical and social skills, and learning about performance. These community groups are generating new interest in circus, and since the 1990s small circus groups have been springing up in every city and region of Australia.

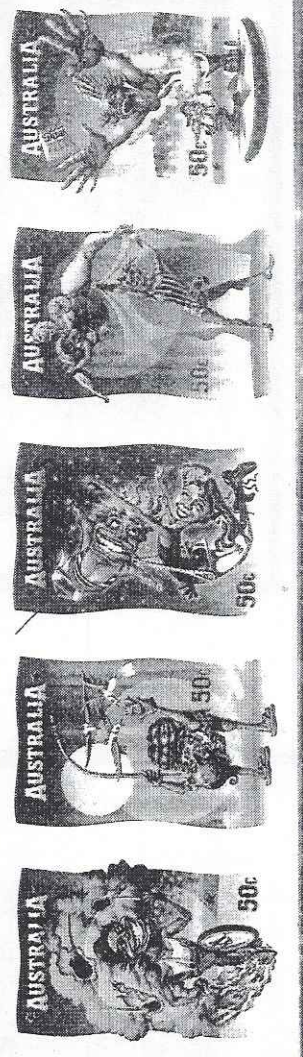
Similar acts are performed today by young girls from Albany Wodonga's Flying Fruit Fly Circus, whose shows regularly tour the world.

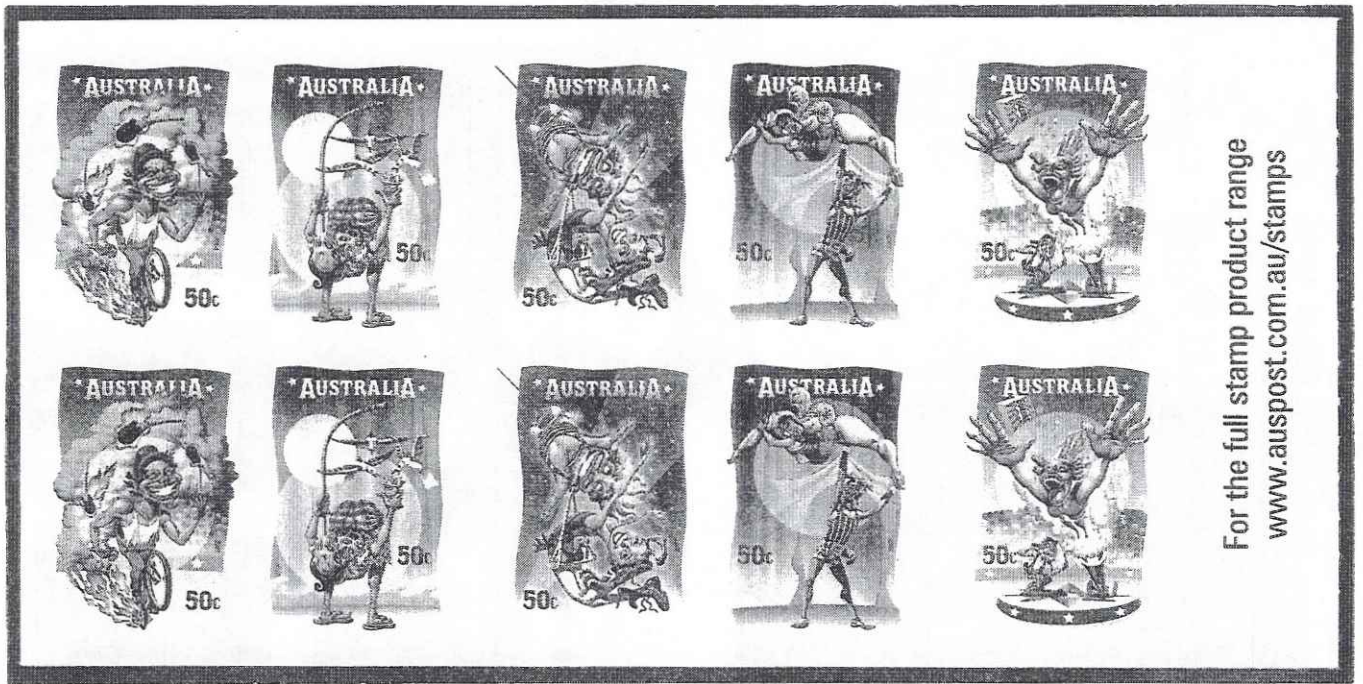


AUSTRALIA - 15.05.07 - PART PAGE 10 AND PAGE 11



Kurt Langtree performs with Lomahe Ashton's Classic Circus when they are in town. Mt. Gibraltar, Queensland, 2006.



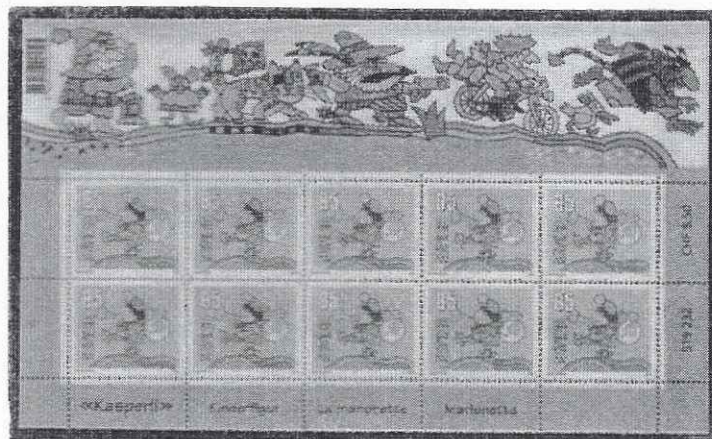


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AUSTRALIA - 15.05.07 - BOOKLET PANE



SINGAPORE - 08.02.07 - SHEETLET



SWITZERLAND - 09.05.06 - SHEETLET "KASPERLI"



IVORY COAST - MINIATURE SHEET - ?



BELGIUM - 25 01.07 - BOOKLET PANE

## Tourist Stamps - Norway 27.04.07

Near Kragerø, at the tip of the Levang peninsula, lies Portør. This ancient outpost was first mentioned in the 12th century in the saga of King Sverre. Sailing vessels could shelter there from the storms and quickly get back on course when the weather improved. There is little shelter outside Porter and sailing conditions can be difficult. Porter was once an important pilot port Today, it is one of Kragerø's most popular spots.

Reine lies on the Lofoten island of Moskenesøya. The area is known for its picturesque mountains, much like an alpine landscape. Down through the years these mountains have also challenged many a mountaineer. Otto Sinding's famous painting of Reine shows the fishing village in a winter setting against the beautiful mountains.

The mining town of Røros straddles the Hitter River just before it runs into the Glomma. Its unique architecture has made Røros a place of international interest and led to its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The town has also been immortalised in the novels of Johan Falkberget. Røros was established in 1646 after the opening of Røros Copper Works in 1644. The old buildings in Røros are the town's greatest attraction. Some of the protected houses in Røros are as much as 250 years old. The most notable building is the church, erected in 1784.

Fredrikstad is situated by the mouth of the River Glomma. It is split by the river into an east and a west side, which are connected by an elevated bridge. The town was founded in 1567, originally on the east side. In 1753 a suburb was established on the west side and the bulk of the population moved over there. To the noise of the steam sawmill, Fredrikstad had by then developed into a "plank town". The place of most interest in Fredrikstad is the Old Town, a garrison town with small, regular Renaissance quarters, cobbled streets and Empire buildings behind the moats and bastions of Fredrikstad's 17th century fortress. The Old Town is the only preserved fortress town in Scandinavia.

Another two of this year's tourist stamps are devoted to active leisure lime. Voss is arranging its annual Extreme Sports Week for the tenth time this year. Norway Post thinks this is worth a stamp and on it we can see two extreme sports enthusiasts in free fall over Vossevangen. The other stamp also shows sport at a high altitude, but this time on the ground and of a far more moderate kind. The cyclists on the stamp are at Finse at 1222 metres above sea level, Finse is on the Bergen Line and the highest railway station in Norway.

**Number:** NK 1645-1650, FH 144-146

**Subject** Trio Ludens over Voss, Old Navy Road, Røros, Fredrikstad Old Town, Portør, Reine in Lofoten

**Design:** Madeleine Mortensen

**Value:** NOK 7.00 (A-priority domestic) x 2 NOK 9.00 (A-priority Europe) x 2 NOK 11.00 (A-priority worldwide) x 2

**Issue:** A-priority domestic: 1.5 million booklets, other values 500,000 booklets each Booklets containing 10 self-adhesive stamps

**Printing:** Photogravure by Royal Joh, Enschedé, Netherlands

**Sales prices:**

First day cover NOK 57.00

Presentation pack NOK 59.00

Collector's set NOK 121.00

Collector's sheet NOK 74.00





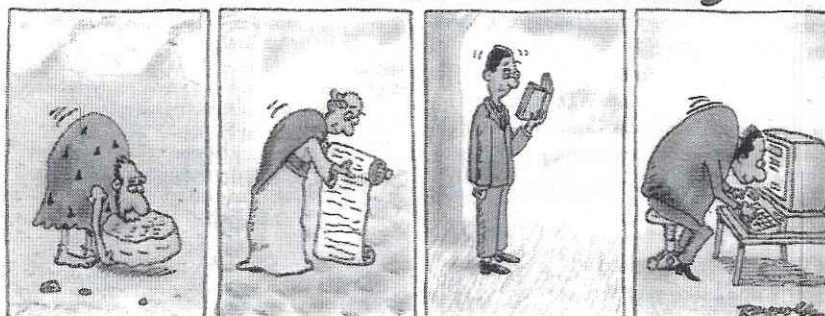
## Italy - 09.06.07 - Luigi Ganna

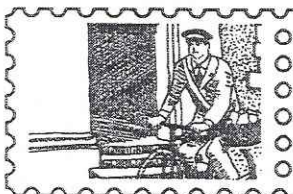
Issue of a regular stamp belonging to the "Lo sport italiano" (Italian Sport) series, dedicated to Luigi Ganna on the 50th anniversary of his death



<b>Date of issue</b>	June 9 2007
<b>Denomination</b>	€ 0.60
<b>Print run</b>	Three million, five hundred thousand copies
<b>Design</b>	Features a close-up of Luigi Ganna during a race followed by two cyclists; at the top there is the route showing the stages of the first Giro d'Italia in 1909, won by the Italian cyclist. The words "LUIGI GANNA" and "ITALIA", the dates "1883-1957" and the denomination "€ 0,60" complete the stamp
<b>Designer</b>	Giustina Milite
<b>Printer</b>	Officina Carte Valori - Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato S.p.A., rotogravure
<b>Colours</b>	Five plus clear-gold interference ink
<b>Paper</b>	Fluorescent, non-watermarked
<b>Paper size</b>	30mm x 40mm
<b>Print size</b>	26mm x 36mm
<b>Perforation</b>	13½ x 13
<b>Sheet</b>	Fifty stamps, denomination - "€ 30,00"
<b>We would also like to inform you ...</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luigi Ganna (2007 Issue postcards/Philatelic postcards)</li> <li>• Luigi Ganna (2007 FDCs/First day covers)</li> <li>• Luigi Ganna (2007 Philatelic cards/Philatelic cards)</li> <li>• (Folder Grandi Eventi/Folder)</li> </ul>	

## The Evolution of Publishing...





# From My Musette

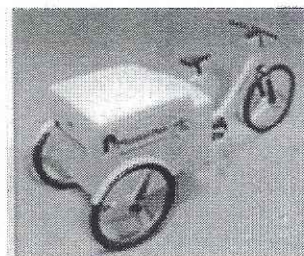


\* Environmentally kind post delivery vehicle

Brennstoffzellentechnik GmbH, has recently launched the Cargobike powered by mini fuel cells, which is now ready for series production. The Cargobike is fitted with the latest Masterflex 250 watt fuel cell system. In addition to the driving power, additional power can be supplied for vehicle lighting or for cooling transported goods.

No CO<sub>2</sub> or fine dust emissions arise in the process. The Cargobike thus meets the requirements for sustainable mobility which does not damage the environment.

The manufacturers claim that the Cargobike is particularly well suited for inner-city services such as postal delivery. GSM June 2007



*Editors note: It appears to have pedals ?? Any member know anymore about this vehicle.*

\* 'Moving the Mail' moves on

The 'Moving the Mail: Horses to Horsepower' exhibition traces the fascinating history of road transport in the postal service and features rarely-seen vehicles from the British Postal Museum's collection, together with images from The Royal Mail Archive.

The postal service has always been at the forefront of advances in technology and 'Moving the Mail' is a reflection and celebration of this.



Moving the Mail first appeared at the Coventry Transport Museum in summer and autumn 2006. It is now on tour and is currently to be found at Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes, the historic base for Britain's WWII code breakers, when the mansion was known as 'Station X', a highly secret location. GSM was given a personal view of the exhibition just prior to Christmas and would thoroughly recommend a visit to the whole Bletchley Park complex where the story of the decoding of German and Japanese military messages and the development of the computer is graphically illustrated in a series of interesting exhibits which includes several of the famous Ultra code machines. Also of great interest to stamp collectors is Bletchley Park post office situated adjacent to Bletchley Mansion where a range of covers and other philatelic items can be viewed and purchased.

The postal exhibition remained at Bletchley Park until 26 February 2007 and then moved to Stampex (27 February to 4 March) before traveling north to the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire, from 2 April until November 2007. GSM February 2007

\* UK Government announce Post Office closures

Alistair Darling, Trade and Industry Secretary has announced that about 2500 post offices will close in reforms to the national postal service. He told the House of Commons that £1.7 billion will be invested in a programme to modernise and restructure the Post Office.



He further reported that the postal service is currently losing £4 million a week and some branches serve as few as 16 customers per week.

Mr Darling concluded by saying, 'Post offices face a long term challenge—internet, e-mail and text-messaging have meant that people, young and old alike, increasingly use the telephone or internet banking, cashpoint machines or direct debits to pay their bills. Closures were necessary but piecemeal closures were no good to anyone. The Post Office must plan a national network'.

GSM February 2007

\* First day postmark discovery

First Day Cover dealer Adrian Bradbury tells us that a recent purchase of an auction lot of British first day covers contained a pair of Breaking Barriers covers with mixed value definitive pane from the prestige booklet, both sent to the same person. With them was a letter from the Philatelic Bureau explaining that one of the covers had the word 'PHILATELIC' misspelt (PHILALETIC) on the postmark and a replacement with the correct spelling was enclosed.

Adrian, compiler and publisher of Collecting British First Day Covers, had never heard of this error before and could find no record of covers being cancelled with an incorrect postmark. He would be interested to know if any readers have similar covers in their collection.



GSM June 2007

\* A book and a book of stamps at Smiths

Booksellers, newsagents and stationers W H Smith (UK) has announced that it has an agreement with Post Offices Limited to open post offices within 70 W H Smith stores. This follows the successful trials of post offices in six W H Smith stores.

A spokesman for W H Smith said 'We anticipate that the majority of the 70 Post Office branches will have relocated to the local W H Smith store by Autumn 2008.'

A series of protests have, however, been held across England and Wales against plans to close post offices and transfer services to W H Smith stores. The Communication Workers Union has denounced the plan as 'blatant privatisation'.

GSM June 2007

\* The Fakes, Forgeries and Experts Journal

The Fakes, Forgeries and Experts Journal, better known as the FFE Journal has just been published for the tenth time.

This anniversary issue includes 24 articles. This means that in the history of the FFE Journal there have now been 385 different articles by 150 different experts.

This edition follows up on Professor John West's article about how to preserve and protect letters and stamps against time.

In this issue acceptable methods of conservation are described and there is plenty of information about new technical opportunities for identifying forgeries and repairs.

The FFE Journal is approved by the FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatélie) and the AIEP (Association Internationale des Experts en Philatélie). Both organisations recognise it as a reference document and the articles are seen as excellent background material for studies in this area of philately and for the education of judges at international exhibitions.

The illustration above appears in the current edition and shows a faked cover. Although the shades are correct, it has been proved that in 1858 (the year the cover was apparently cancelled) Mr Hammarstrand was no longer a student. That means that none of the stamps belongs to the cover and all the cancellations are painted. The cover was sold at auctions in 1985, 1986 and 2002.

The FFE Journal is €50 and can be ordered via email at: ffejournal.com GSM June 2007







## Philatelic Fraud in Spain

### Spanish Prosecutors File Charges Against 10 in Stamp Fraud Scheme

Thursday, May 11, 2006

MADRID, Spain —

Spanish prosecutors announced fraud and other charges Thursday against 10 executives of two investment houses that guaranteed high returns on antique stamps — an alleged pyramid scheme involving billions of euros and some 350,000 small-time investors.

The executives worked for Afinsa and Forum Filatelico and five from each were charged. Both firms saw their offices in Madrid and other Spanish cities raided and shut down this week, drawing groups of distraught investors to the front doors, wondering about their savings.

Prosecutors allege that the stamps were marked up more than 1,000 percent.

Nine people have been arrested, including the five Afinsa executives charged Thursday and a stamp dealer who worked with the company and was also charged.

Of the 11 people charged, one Afinsa official remains at large, court officials said without explaining why.

The accusations stop short of a formal indictment, but allow authorities to keep the suspects in jail or under court supervision while the investigation continues.

Afinsa is the majority owner of New York-based auction house Escala Group Inc. Shares of Escala, which was known as Greg Manning Auctions until it changed its name last year, have taken a beating since Spanish police raided its and Afinsa's offices on Tuesday.

The accusations — including fraud, falsifying documents and mismanagement and in the case of Forum Filatelico, money laundering — were contained in documents released Thursday by Santiago Pedraz and Fernando Grande Marlaska, investigating magistrates at the National Court.

Two separate charge sheets signed by prosecutors specializing in corruption said both companies are now in a state of "absolute insolvency"

For years, Afinsa invited investors in many Spanish cities and towns to buy antique stamps "that were completely overvalued if not fake" and then paid them interest that did not come from appreciation in stamp value as promised but rather from money chipped in by new customers, the charge sheet says.

Forum Filatelico did the same things, except for using counterfeit stamps, the sheet said.

"In this way, the defendants designed a business that could only work if it repeated ad infinitum this same fraudulent practice with new customers," the prosecutors wrote, adding that apparently large sums of money also went to the defendants themselves.

Afinsa bought stamps from a supplier and sold them to investors at a profit margin of 1,150 percent, it said.

Investors bought sets of stamps from the companies on the promise of getting their money back at the end of a set investment period. Along the way, investors received interest payments as high as 10 percent a year — much higher than rates offered by banks these days for savings accounts or fixed-term investments.

The stamp collections were stored by the companies. In many cases, the investors never saw their investments and knew little about them.

As of the end of 2004, Afinsa was holding \$2.3 billion in money from 143,000, customers, the prosecutors said.

They did not give a figure for Forum Filatelico but news reports have placed it at \$4.98 billion and 200,000 customers.

The Socialist government has said the investments are not covered by the kind of insurance that protects savings accounts in banks because these companies became unregulated in 2003 under a law passed by the previous, conservative government.

## 'Enron of Spain' Fallout Ripples Into U.S. Markets

Thursday , June 08, 2006

By Richard Behar

LONDON —

Some experts are calling it the "Enron of Spain," the biggest financial scam that country has ever known. A Spanish prosecutor has warned it might have "grave repercussions for the Spanish economy." And now, the shock waves are rippling into U.S. markets, where the full effects are still unknown.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission launched an investigation of a relatively obscure New York stamp and coin trading firm called the Escala Group, a company that has morphed in just three years into the third-largest conglomerate in the collectibles industry, after Christie's and Sotheby's.

Trading in the stock of Escala — which has estimated annual revenues of \$3 billion — reached a high of \$35 in February on the NASDAQ stock exchange, but has slid over the past two weeks to around \$7.50 — as the company has been battered by a dozen class-action lawsuits filed in the U.S., alleging fraud.

Escala insists it is innocent of wrongdoing, and notes that no authority has stated otherwise.

The SEC did not reveal the reasons for its probe, but it undoubtedly has much to do with the Spanish scandal, where some 350,000 working and middle-class investors in collectible stamps in Spain and Portugal may have lost billions of dollars in savings.

Last month, that scandal exploded when 300 armed Spanish police officers raided and shut down two huge enterprises, Forum Filatelico and Afinsa Bienes Tangibles, jailing top executives from both — including a stamp supplier who hid 10 million in euros in a freshly-plastered wall of his home. Both firms, which took in roughly \$5 billion from investors over the years, are now in the hands of a Spanish court-appointed administrator. A number of the executives have since been released, though they remain as subjects in the anticipated fraud case.

Among other things, Afinsa is the 67 percent owner of Escala. And Escala, in turn, is the exclusive long-term supplier of stamps to its major stockholder, with a 10-year, \$1 billion deal to provide raw material for the Spanish company's retail stamp investment operations.

Escala is already embroiled in another scandal involving the mysterious 2003 sale of the United Nation's unique postal archive apparently without proper authorization. The U.N. is still investigating, but Escala has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Now it appears that Escala was also an important economic cog in what Spanish prosecutors are calling a pyramid-style fraud that left panicked investors begging for information outside Afinsa's now-sealed elegant headquarters in Madrid.

**20** Investigators in Spain have only begun to pry the metal lids off safety deposit boxes in Afinsa's famed

headquarters vault — boxes that held the stamps for the investors, who rarely took actual possession of them.

These investors were guaranteed annual returns of 6 to 10 percent in their stamp collection investments, depending on how many years they held the stamps. But as one top stamp fraud expert told FOX News: “You could buy these stamps all day on eBay for one-tenth of what Afinsa had valued them at for their investors.”

The allegation is that rather than earning investment returns, early investors were simply being paid out of revenues that later investors brought to the party — essentially a Ponzi scheme

“It’s the Enron of Spain,” says Brian Bleckwenn, senior expert at New York’s venerable Philatelic Foundation, the industry’s central agency for authenticating and grading stamps. In fact nothing is yet that clear, as the executives arrested in Spain have declared their innocence, and in the U.S., Escala Group and its founder, Greg Manning of Far Hills, N.J., have also declared emphatically that they did no wrong.

Nonetheless, a review by FOX News of corporate records, along with dozens of interviews since the Madrid raid, raise serious questions about whether Escala was used — if unwittingly — as part of a global business plan that was far from transparent, and possibly unworkable, and the details of which may not have been fully or adequately disclosed to equity investors.

The questions may extend even further — to the venerable investment house of Oppenheimer on Wall Street, which loudly praised Escala’s stock; to the pristine U.S. Mint in Washington, which uses an Escala subsidiary as perhaps the largest single outlet for selling U.S. investment-grade gold coins; to the United Nations, where the controversial stamp archive sale came at a critical time in Escala’s sudden growth and worldwide development.

That the ghost of embezzler Charles Ponzi may have turned up in Spain is all too fitting. For 11 months in 1920, Ponzi parlayed a scheme involving the sale of Spanish postal coupons in the U.S. into a multi-million dollar investment frenzy that collapsed after it was discovered that he was simply using money from new investors to pay off the old ones. When the feds raided Ponzi’s offices, no inventory of postal coupons was found. A swindle of this nature has been known ever since as a Ponzi scheme.

*Editors note: Jordi Quintana first brought this to my notice. I have no up to date information on the outcome of these charges and investigations, Perhaps Jordi can keep us informed.*

# The Commissioner's Tale

Paul Brittain looks behind the scenes at one aspect of organising an international stamp exhibition

With thoughts turning to the next international stamp exhibition to be hosted by the United Kingdom, there may be some who wonder at the role undertaken by the national commissioners and the General Commissioner.

It is understood that the basis of any international event is that it encourages participation from around the world. In the case of a stamp exhibition, that is not only dealers and postal administrations from many countries taking stands, but also competitive exhibits from collectors far and near. The actual scope will vary from exhibition to exhibition. At one time most international stamp exhibitions were 'world' events, welcoming exhibits from all parts of the globe. However, as we shall see, the exhibits are a cost and a logistical exercise that the exhibition organisers have to face, and they are therefore increasingly seeking to keep a strict control on what is undertaken. This often means that rather than inviting exhibits from collectors worldwide, a logical restriction is imposed. For example, exhibitions held in Europe might only welcome exhibits from collectors living in Europe. If the restriction is not by area then it might be by subject, in others words only inviting exhibits of postal history, or aerophilately, or whatever.

## Virtual exhibits

Perhaps at this juncture it would be useful to at least acknowledge that not all believe exhibitions need competitive displays, citing the fact that most visitors head straight for the dealers and pay scant attention to the exhibits. That is probably true as far as priorities are concerned: it is only human nature that the initial instinct will be to search out the items needed for one's own collection before drooling over what others own. However, most will ensure some time is spent looking at the exhibits, if only those of particular interest (time probably does not permit enjoying them all). Collectors have devoted many hours of research, care and attention to their material, and are invariably keen to share their knowledge with others, while this can prove to be usefully informative to others.

Some are now advocating that the days of transporting actual exhibits around the globe are past: far easier that competitors scan their material, which can be viewed and assessed by judges on screen. who likewise do not have to move from their own homes. Only the best of the exhibits would be physically put on display. The concern here is that what the judges might see, if only on screen, might not be a true reflection of the exhibit. It would be only too easy to create a virtual collection, with items not actually owned, or suitably 'doctored'. Can you image an Olympic Games where the competitors were told there was no need to visit the host country, as their achievements Would be filmed for *assessment*? (Mind you it might ease the concerns of many Londoners at the cost of the 2012 Olympics ) Equally would it be right only to display the *crème de la crème*? Should it be only those exhibits that have achieved a gold medal that are put on display?

## Invited exhibits only?

This highlights another suggestion often made: that instead of competitive exhibits, international stamp exhibitions should rely entirely on invited displays. Many exhibitions do have a 'Court of Honour. in which is shown outstanding material. such as items The Royal Philatelic Collection: however to rely on invited exhibits would deny many the thrill and achievement of seeing the results of their endeavours on show from which others can benefit. So we will assume that for the foreseeable future, most international stamp exhibitions will still welcome competitive exhibits from collectors living far and wide. The responsibility for gathering these exhibits and transporting them to and from exhibition. rests with each national Commissioner. To ensure that all the arrangements for the national commissioners run smoothly, each exhibition will appoint its own General Commissioner.

## Invitations

Thus, once a country has decided to host an international stamp exhibition, one of the first tasks the organisers undertake is to invite each contry from which exhibits are welcomed to appoint its own National Commissioner. This task will be entrusted to the national philatelic orginisation in the country concerned.. In the United Kingdom, the body that is responsible for philately is The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) . When other countries are staging exhibitions, it will be the ABPS International Committee that will decide who will be the UK Commissioner on any particular occasion.

The person appointed will have experience of international exhibitions, usually initially as a visitor, before being invited to be a Commissioner (probably in the first instance acting as an assistant to an existing Commissioner). The nominee has to be approved by the exhibition organisers, but this is usually a formality.

The appointed person will normally receive confirmation from the exhibition, often around two years before the event is due to take place, and the first requirement is a photograph. It has become traditional that the photographs of the Commissioners appear in publications produced for the exhibition: some are clearly camera-shy and never submit a photograph; others seemingly believe they live in Neverland, the submitted picture having been taken many years earlier.

The next communication will be copies of the exhibition's prospectus (sometimes called Bulletin One) in which are detailed all the conditions for entry, including the classes in which exhibits will be welcomed, together with entry forms. As a rule of thumb, the completed entry forms are invariably requested by the exhibition organisers about a year before the exhibition is to take place. For many, this seems a very long time, but since for virtually all exhibitions the demand to show material exceeds the space available, careful selection will be needed by the exhibition organisers to ensure a fair and balanced display, and this takes time.



### Careful assessment

Remember that the exhibits are housed at the event in special frames that often are specially made or hired for the purpose. These frames are costly, and occupy much space at the event. At the outset each exhibition will determine how many frames it can accommodate, and thus how many exhibits can be accepted. If applications are received for more than budgeted, a careful assessment will have to be made—and some will end up disappointed.

Having received the prospectus and entry forms, the Commissioner must publicise this fact as widely as possible. Notices to the philatelic press, or the ABPS website ([www.ukphilately.org.uk](http://www.ukphilately.org.uk)) are the normal methods, although individual contact may be made where it is known that a particular collector is anxious to show at a certain exhibition. Copies of the prospectus and entry forms are sent to all who express interest, with a small charge made to cover the postage costs involved. The time may well soon come when such information is available on-line, with completed forms being submitted by e-mail, but at the moment the more traditional methods are still being used, probably essential when dealing on a global basis to ensure uniformity.

With the information sent out, so there will start to be a steady flow of completed entry forms returned. These need to be checked, to ensure all the details and information has been correctly supplied. There will inevitably be chasing to be done: the deadline approaching, and entry forms not returned by those whom the Commissioner knows want to enter. There will also be those who, late in the day, wake up to the fact that they have not yet asked for entry forms, let alone returned them. Perhaps unsurprisingly it is often the same few people who for every event are contacting the Commissioner after the deadline date asking if they are too late.

### Decision time

The completed entry forms are sent to the exhibition—and then it is a case of waiting. Waiting until the decisions have been made and the Commissioner is told of those exhibits that have been accepted, and those that have not.

At this juncture a potential exhibitor can withdraw without penalty. The UK has many collectors who are qualified to show at international exhibitions (one needs to have achieved a vermeil medal at a national competition), and consequently a good number apply to exhibit at each exhibition held. Inevitably therefore not all are successful. Knowing this, some collectors submit applications for more exhibitions than they intend to enter, in the hope that they will be accepted for at least one or two. Occasionally they prove more successful than they dared hope, and receive more acceptances than expected. As a result they decide not to accept all that are offered.

If a successful applicant subsequently withdraws, it can, of course, provide the opportunity for a collector who was declined to fill the void. However, this decision is still left to the exhibition organisers, who have already determined what is required to ensure they have a balanced selection of displays.

At the same time as the successful exhibitors are informed, the nasty subject of money has to be raised. Each exhibitor faces two sets of fees. First, the exhibition itself will set frame fees, that is a charge made for each frame the exhibit occupies. (In general, exhibits at international events occupy five frames

each holding 16 sheets—or the equivalent if the frames only hold twelve sheets—although once an exhibit has achieved a large vermeil medal internationally, it must subsequently be increased to eight frames of 16 sheets. The exception is the One Frame entry, still regarded as an experiment in international exhibitions.)

In addition to the frame fees, the national body (in the UK, the ABPS) may well charge an administration/carriage fee. Communicating with exhibitors, handling the exhibits before and after the exhibition, and transporting them to and from the event are costly, and these costs are shared among all the exhibitors. It is the Commissioner's task to collect these fees: the frame fees are transferred to the exhibition organisers.

### **Envelopes and forms**

To ensure the exhibits are displayed correctly at the exhibition, the Commissioner will have received, for each entry, a set of envelopes, one envelope for each frame that the exhibit occupies, and what is known as an 'Inventory Form' for each exhibit. On this form the exhibitor has to record the number of stamps, covers and other items shown on each page of the exhibit; the forms are divided into columns to make this task easy. This information is needed by both the exhibition organisers and often by the Customs authorities both in the UK and in the country where the exhibition is being held. The forms provide a check on exactly what is being brought into the country—and that exactly the same is subsequently taken out.

When the Commissioner receives each exhibit from its owner, a check will be made to ensure every page is present, all the items securely mounted, and that all corresponds with the Inventory Form. The Commissioners will be expected to arrive with the exhibits a day or two before the exhibition is due to open, and normally leave the day after the event closes (it always takes longer to build up an exhibition, than it does to dismantle it all). Knowing the dates of travel, the Commissioner will determine when to collect and return the exhibits. A suitable secure location has to be found, not only for the receipt and return, but also for the interim safe storage of the exhibits (naturally the aim is that such storage will be for as little time as possible). The vast majority of exhibitors are very good on this point, and do ensure that the exhibit is delivered at the prescribed time.



### **Transport arrangements**

On the day of travel, secure arrangements have to be made to transport the exhibits to the chosen airport. The cost of travel of Commissioners has to be met by the national bodies (the ABPS in the UK), and comes from the administration fees already mentioned. As long as a Commissioner provides the exhibition with a predetermined minimum number of exhibits (for the UK this is currently 15), the exhibition organisers will provide hotel accommodation for the duration of the event.

However, the exhibits are far from light, and inevitably there are excess baggage charges to be met. (These are, in fact, becoming more onerous, with British Airways now imposing a charge for each additional item of baggage, and reducing the weight limit on each item.) The Commissioner will initially have to pay such costs, recovering such expenses from the administration charge made by exhibitors. Exhibition organisers have been responsible for any excess baggage costs on the return, but increasingly this cost is likewise being placed on the exhibitor.

Depending on the location of the exhibition, the Commissioner will be responsible for ensuring that all Customs documentation is correct, not only for UK Customs, to ensure the unimpeded re-importation of the material, but also for the Customs authorities in the host country.

It is usual for the exhibition organisers to ensure as far as possible that there will be no hassle for the Commissioners arriving with displays. Visas, if needed, and any paperwork will normally have been provided in advance, but it can still need patience while all the formalities are completed.

Once 'free', the exhibition organisers normally meet each Commissioner, to transport the displays to the venue. Here they will be carefully checked in, referring to the Inventory Forms, before being safely stored awaiting mounting in the frames. Sometimes organisers allow Commissioners to be present while exhibits are mounted, but not always. One of the first tasks of a Commissioner will be to ensure each entry has been carefully and properly put into the frames.

To an extent, the Commissioner can now relax for the days of the exhibition, at least in theory. In practice, Commissioners should not stray too far in case any queries are raised, particularly by the judges. Normally Commissioners are expected to attend the exhibition every day: a roll call is taken to ensure that all are present.

A small daily allowance is provided for each Commissioner to offset out of pocket expenses such as the cost of meals, but this rarely, if ever, actually meets such costs. Some exhibitions are now providing meals rather than pay the allowance. Inevitably the Commissioner will not recoup all the expenses incurred. Commissioners will receive invitations to key events, such as any opening ceremony and the awards presentation.

### It's all over

In seemingly no time at all, the exhibition will close, and the process will go into reverse. Exhibits, once dismantled, need to be checked before being packed for the journey home. Paperwork must be completed. Suddenly the weight being carried has risen, for it is not only the exhibits involved: each exhibitor receives a copy of the exhibition catalogue and awards list; there are the medals and any special prizes that have been awarded (and for some reason, special prizes tend to be awkwardly-shaped, bulky and heavy).

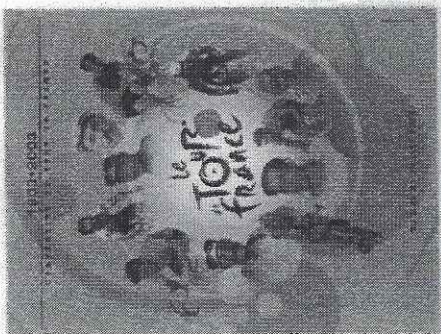
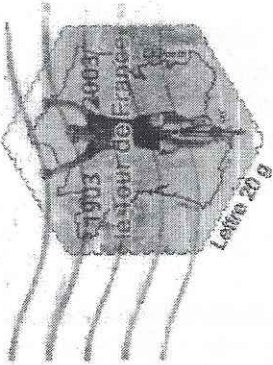
Arriving home, there are Customs officers to be satisfied that all is well, before the exhibits are transported to their safe store awaiting collection by their owners.

Not that the task is necessarily finished—there might still be queries from exhibitors over their particular marks and awards, although often the UK provides at least one of the judging team, who might be better placed to answer such questions.

No details have been given of the role of the General Commissioner. This is the person who has overall responsibility for the welfare of the national commissioners, from drafting the application forms to overseeing the arrangements before, during and after the event. Most communication between national commissioners and exhibition organisers will be through the General Commissioner. Often the person chosen has previously been a national commissioner, and knows all the ropes. In the case of London 2010—Festival of Stamps, the General Commissioner is Brian Sole, who has many years' experience representing the United Kingdom.

Would you be a national commissioner? It is a purely voluntary task, a fact that thankfully is fully appreciated by the vast majority of exhibitors.

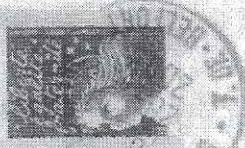




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Rue CLAIRMAIE, 13  
B. 7618 TAINTEIGNIES

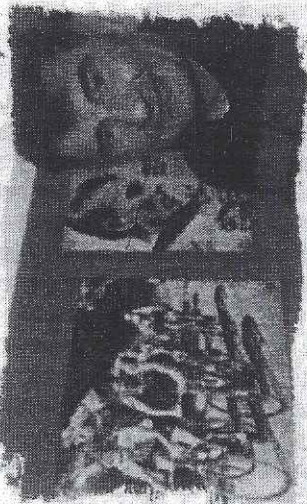
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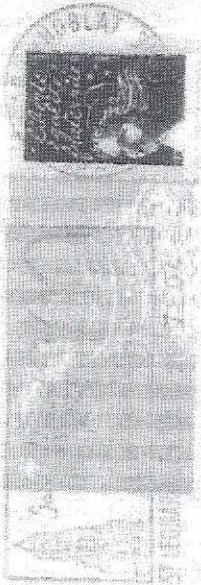
FRANCE - COVERS

**ST LEONARD/GUERET  
13 JUILLET 2004**

*1964-2004 : 40 ans de la Coupe Internationale*



Raymond POULIDOR avec les MAULETOUS  
pour fêter l'évènement de l'été



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Vépe x 5000

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ROUBAIX CEDEX 1



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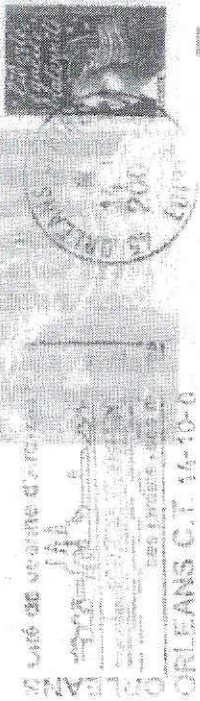
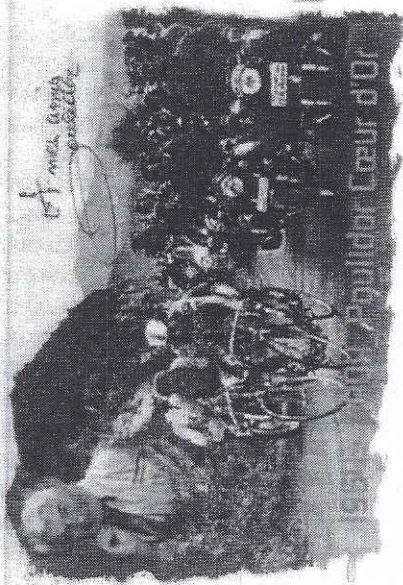


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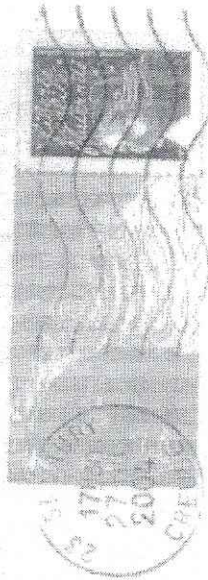
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Roubaix Cedex 4



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