



## Editorial



### ARE COMMERCIAL CATALOGS STILL USEFUL?

Today, certain elderly collectors or heirs of a deceased relative desire to sell a collection of stamps. Patiently, and using a commercial catalogue (Yvert & Tellier,

Stanley Gibbons, Michel, Scott, Zumstein or others), they undertake and attempt to rate the collection in order to estimate its value. Of course, they quite rightly think that the rating offered by these catalogs on the mint or used stamps gives them a good estimate of the value of the collection. They are, however, disappointed when contacting a stamp dealer or a philatelic club and are offered just 10 to 12% of the catalogue valuation for the collection.

The question therefore remains: Are commercial catalogues still valid as a reference point for quotations? One may but ask! Indeed, the Internet and the websites selling collections of stamps have changed one important and essential parameter: it is no longer the seller who sets the price, but the buyer.

Some good unhinged sets with a catalogue value of €100,00 hardly find a buyer at €10,00 on Internet sites which attract several hundred thousand buyers.

All the arguments of the trade explaining the scarcity, the quality and the purity of the colors remain intangible elements of the quotation make you smile. Everyone has been aware of this for quite a long time. Moreover, today traders more than double their sales outlets by offering stamp collections in lots on Internet websites, at prices that are much more competitive than in their paper catalogues.

Today, we are no longer in the 20th century and it is high time for each commercial catalogue to revise its pricing system and to return to earth, providing price indicators that are in line with market prices.

Postal operators issuing stamps have been able to adapt and so have philatelic press and exhibition organizers. It is time for catalogue publishers to do the same thing even if ASCAT has today almost disappeared from the world of philately...

### LES CATALOGUES COMMERCIAUX SONT-ILS ENCORE UTILES ?

Aujourd'hui, quelques collectionneurs âgés ou héritiers d'un parent disparu veulent vendre une collection de timbres. Patiemment, et à l'aide d'un catalogue commercial (Yvert & Tellier, Stanley Gibbons, Michel, Scott, Zumstein ou autres), ils entreprennent et tentent de coter ladite collection afin d'avoir une estimation de la valeur de la collection. Bien sûr, ils pensent fort justement que la cote proposée par ces catalogues sur les timbres neufs ou oblitérés leur donne de bonnes bases d'évaluation. Mais quelle déception lorsqu'il contacte un négociant en timbres-poste ou un club philatélique et que le prix offert pour ladite collection est à peine de 10 à 12% de l'évaluation faite sur la base des catalogues.

La question reste donc posée : La référence de cotation des catalogues commerciaux est-elle encore valable ? On peut se le demander. En effet, Internet et les sites de ventes de la toile ont changé une donnée essentielle. Ce n'est plus le vendeur qui fait le prix mais l'acheteur.

Des bonnes séries sans trace de charnières d'une valeur catalogue de 100,00 € trouvent à peine preneur pour 10,00 € sur des sites Internet de vente qui drainent plusieurs centaines de milliers d'acheteurs potentiels.

Tous les arguments du négoce expliquant que la rareté, la qualité et la pureté des couleurs restent des éléments intangibles de la cotation font sourire. Tout le monde sait cela depuis longtemps. D'ailleurs, ledit négoce double aujourd'hui sa surface de vente en proposant ses lots sur des sites de vente Internet à des prix bien plus concurrentiels que dans les catalogues papier.

Aujourd'hui, on n'est plus au 20ème siècle et il est temps que chaque catalogue commercial réforme son système de cotation pour revenir sur terre et donner des indications en adéquation avec les prix du marché.

Les opérateurs postaux émetteurs de timbres ont su s'adapter, la presse philatélique aussi, les organisateurs d'exposition également et il est temps que les éditeurs de catalogues fassent la même chose même si l'ASCAT a aujourd'hui quasiment disparu du monde de la philatélie...

JFL



### SPECIMEN en demi-cercle

Pour célébrer le couronnement du Roi Georges VI avec la Reine Elisabeth, le 12 mai 1937, la colonie britannique de Trinidad & Tobago située dans la mer des Caraïbes, émet une série de 3 timbres à 1c, 2c et 8c. Ces timbres furent imprimés par De La Rue. Comme il était de tradition à cette époque, et pour des raisons de publicité ou d'envoi à l'Union postale universelle, quelques exemplaires sont perforés avec le mot SPECIMEN. Cependant, contrairement à l'habitude cette perforation est faite en demi-cercle, ce qui rend difficile sa lecture. Tous les timbres émis pour cet événement royal et par les différentes colonies britanniques (Bahamas, Ascension, les Iles Falkland, Sierra Leone, Jamaïque, Rhodésie du Nord, etc.) reçurent la même perforation. L'Union postale universelle n'approuva pas cette forme de perforation et le fit savoir à l'administration britannique en charge des émissions des colonies.

### SPECIMEN in a semicircle

For celebrating the coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth, on May 12, 1937, the British colony of Trinidad & Tobago located in the Caribbean Sea, issued a set of 3 stamps with the denominations 1c, 2c and 8c. These stamps were printed by De La Rue. As it was traditional at that time, and for reasons of publicity or sending to the Universal Postal Union, some copies were perforated with the word SPECIMEN. However, contrary to usual this perforation was made in a semicircle, which makes it difficult to read. All the stamps issued for this Royal event and by the different British colonies as Bahamas, Ascension, Falkland Islands, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, Northern Rhodesia, etc. were printed with the same "SPECIMEN" perforation in a semicircle. The Universal Postal Union did not approve of this form of perforation and informed the British postal administration in charge of the colonies stamp issues.





## IL FASCINO DI UNA CROCIERA 3/ “LE VIE DEL SIGNORE SONO INFINITE”

di Nicola Valcarcell

Proseguendo lungo il nostro itinerario di studio della storia postale del volo in Italia compiuto dal dirigibile LZ 127 Zeppelin nel 29 maggio 1933, esamineremo, in questa sede, un'aerogramma che un attento osservatore, rispetto a timbri e affrancatura, non tarderebbe a definire un “conundrum”. Lo Stato della Città del Vaticano fu l'unico a stipulare un accordo temporaneo con le poste tedesche nel 1932 per il trasporto di corrispondenza a mezzo dirigibile Zeppelin e vigente dal 2° all'8° volo in Sud America. Pertanto ogni corrispondenza impostata prima o dopo questi voli risultando non convenzionata richiedeva l'affrancatura mista con francobolli tedeschi o di altri Paesi convenzionati (quali, ad esempio, l'Italia). Ne consegue che per il volo in Italia del Graf Zeppelin il Vaticano non era convenzionato e gli aerogrammi in partenza da Città del Vaticano dovevano recare l'affrancatura mista, vale a dire francobolli vaticani per la tariffa ordinaria e francobolli italiani della serie “Zeppelin” per la tariffa aerea. I primi venivano annullati dalle poste vaticane ed i secondi col timbro speciale circolare a mano italiano o col timbro speciale circolare meccanico di Roma recante la sagoma del dirigibile.

Sulla scorta di quanto asserito, un'aerogramma con piena affrancatura vaticana come quello riprodotto in fig.1, non avrebbe dovuto essere ufficialmente accettato ma erroneamente (*una mano santa?*) non è stato eliminato.



Fig. 1 (Recto)

Nondimeno riempie di meraviglia un particolare: come è noto il dirigibile giunse a Roma nel pomeriggio del 29 maggio e ripartì la sera stessa per Friedrichshafen dove proseguì il 3 giugno per il Sud America. Di conseguenza tutta la corrispondenza doveva essere impostata a Roma al più tardi nel pomeriggio del 29 maggio, dato che in quel giorno funzionava un ufficio postale sul campo di Ciampino. Eppure, l'aerogramma è affrancato con la serie “Giardini e Medaglioni” emessa dal Vaticano il 31 maggio e in tale data timbrati, quando il dirigibile era già partito da Roma due giorni prima!

Fig. 2 (Verso).  
L'aerogramma, via Roma e diretto a Friedrichshafen per l'inoltro a Barcellona, presenta piena affrancatura vaticana, distribuita anche al verso per cent. 5, e annullata il 31.05.33, giorno di emissione della suddetta serie “Giardini e Medaglioni”. Al verso l'etichetta “Posta Aerea Zeppelin, Par avion», il talloncino “Espresso, (Expres)” e il grande timbro speciale italiano “Lupa di Roma”.



Sia al verso che al recto le impronte dei timbri circolari meccanici di arrivo a Barcellona, 4.06.33, interessate dalla presenza del blocchetto pubblicitario dell'olio d'oliva iberico.

L'enigma sarebbe rimasto irrisolto se non fossero state pubblicate, anni dopo, nella rivista specializzata “Collectors Post, 1960, n.43” le provvidenziali “Annotazioni” ad opera dello stesso autore della preparazione di quel corriere postale, il noto e operoso Sam Buyèr che, in modo esplicito, afferma: “Esistono alcuni pochi pezzi con piena affrancatura vaticana. Ancora, il 31 maggio alcuni dispacci della Città del Vaticano, affrancati coi francobolli emessi in quel giorno e muniti del timbro speciale Zeppelin, furono spediti, insieme alla corrispondenza giunta in ritardo dalle Colonie, a Friedrichshafen per l'inoltro col Graf Zeppelin”.

Il 4 giugno 1933, alle ore 05.28, durante il percorso del 2° viaggio in Sudamerica, il corriere postale preparato da Bayèr (diretto a Barcellona e indirizzato a G. Berni) che, grazie al sistema di numerazione dallo stesso creato, sappiamo essere costituito da 20 cartoline e 5 lettere, fu parte dei 12 kg di corrispondenza lanciata dal dirigibile sulla città di Barcellona.

## Nicola Di Biase nous a quittés



Il n'était pas membre du Postal Club mais il avait été très proche de notre association. Il avait signé en 1993, le protocole d'Obernai qui devait aboutir à la création du Club Philatélique Postal International (Postal Club) en 1994. Il était postier à Milan (Italie) et il avait organisé par deux fois des réunions de conseil d'administration de notre association philatélique internationale, la première à Vérone en 2008 et la seconde à Milan en 2015 lors de l'Exposition Universelle.

Sa passion était le jumelage et il avait été président de l'association européenne dénommée EUROJUMELAGES pendant 6 ans de 1998 à 2004. Il croyait aux vertus fraternelles de l'Europe et des européens.

La maladie l'a rongée et il est décédé le 3 avril 2019.

Nous perdons un ami sincère et toujours disponible pour faire découvrir son pays et ses atouts culturels, touristiques et culinaires.

Nous avons tous une pensée pour son épouse Lucia et sa fille Elena.



## Nicola di Biase Ci Ha Lasciati

Non era socio del Postal Club, ma è sempre stato vicino alla nostra Associazione.

Nel 1993 aveva firmato il Protocollo di Obernai, che avrebbe portato alla creazione del Club Philatélique Postal International (Postal Club) nel 1994.

È stato dipendente delle Poste a Milano (Italia) e per due volte ha organizzato le riunioni del Consiglio Direttivo della nostra associazione filatelica internazionale, la prima a Verona nel 2008 e la seconda a Milano nel 2015 all'Esposizione Universale.

La sua passione era il gemellaggio, ed era stato Presidente dell'associazione europea denominata EUROJUMELAGES per 6 anni, dal 1998 al 2004.

Credeva nella virtuosa fraternità dell'Europa e degli europei.

La malattia lo ha consumato e portato al decesso il 3 aprile 2019.

Perdiamo un amico sincero e ricordiamo sempre la sua disponibilità a farci scoprire il suo paese con le sue risorse culturali, turistiche e gastronomiche.

Abbiamo tutti un commosso pensiero per sua moglie Lucia e sua figlia Elena.

JFL





## Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an international organization whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Founded in 1949, it has 47 member states, covers approximately 820 million people and operates with an annual budget of approximately 500 million euros.

The organization is distinct from the 28-nation European Union (EU), although it is sometimes confused with it, partly because the EU has adopted the original European Flag which was created by the Council of Europe in 1955, as well as the European Anthem. No country has ever joined the EU without first belonging to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is an official United Nations Observer.

The headquarters of the Council of Europe are in Strasbourg, France. English and French are its two official languages. The Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress also use German, Italian, Russian, and Turkish for some of their work.

The Council of Europe has its own service stamps, which are used for franking the mail from this international organization, such as UNESCO in Paris or the UPU in Berne. For celebrating its 70th anniversary, a service stamp will be issued on May 6, 2019.



## Le Conseil de l'Europe

Le Conseil de l'Europe est une organisation intergouvernementale instituée le 5 mai 1949 par le traité de Londres. C'est une organisation internationale qui rassemble 820 millions de ressortissants de 47 États membres, par le biais des normes juridiques dans les domaines de la protection des droits de l'homme, du renforcement de la démocratie et de la prééminence du droit en Europe. Son budget annuel est d'environ 500 millions d'euros.

L'organisation est distincte de l'Union européenne (UE) composée de 28 nations, bien qu'elle y soit parfois confondue, en partie parce que l'Union européenne a adopté le drapeau européen original créé par le Conseil de l'Europe en 1955, ainsi que l'hymne européen. . Aucun pays n'a jamais adhéré à l'UE sans appartenir au Conseil de l'Europe. Le Conseil de l'Europe est un observateur officiel des Nations Unies.

Le siège du Conseil de l'Europe se trouve à Strasbourg, en France. L'anglais et le français sont ses deux langues officielles. Le Comité des Ministres, l'Assemblée parlementaire et le Congrès utilisent également l'allemand, l'italien, le russe et le turc pour certains de leurs travaux.

Le Conseil de l'Europe dispose de ses propres timbres de service qui servent à affranchir le courrier au départ de cette organisation internationale, comme l'UNESCO à Paris ou l'UPU à Berne. Pour fêter ses 70 ans, un timbre de service sera émis le 6 mai 2019.

## EUROPE 2019.

### NATIONAL BIRDS

Birds are the object of great interest on the part of human being, both for their pleasant appearance, the vivid color, the varied color of the feather, the melodious song, but also for their customs of great originality. This contributes to the great weight that birds have among the vertebrates, being more numerous in Romania, as species and individuals, than all others in one place.

Birds are some of the few animals in the process of evolution who have been given the opportunity to fly, perhaps the main character they characterize, but here nature also admitted exceptions that make it even more interesting to study them.

For this year, under the title Europa 2019, PostEurop, body of the Universal Postal Union, a United Nations specialized agency, has chosen the theme "National Birds", a topic greatly appreciated by collectors.

The two stamps of the postage stamps issue illustrate the Golden Eagle and the Eurasian Skylark.

The first stamp, with the face value of Lei 1.80, illustrates the Eurasian Skylark, and the second stamp with the face value of Lei 19.00 represents the Golden Eagle.

In addition, the stamps issue is completed by a special philatelic product with a medal on the obverse in the front of the image of the Golden Eagle. Its reverse features, in the foreground, the Heroes' Cross, designed and erected under the supervision of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie between 1926 and 1928 and dedicated, as it is written on the commemorative plaque, "to the glory and memory of heroes from Prahova who fell in the First World War, the 1916-1918, to defend their country".

Also, the special philatelic product includes a reproduction of an artistic engraving (2002), author Ion Octavian PENDA.

The Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) is a songbird widely spread across Romania, being present from April until the beginning of autumn. It prefers the steppe or the plain habitats with abundant herbaceous vegetation, often being encountered in agricultural land areas.

The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is considered the ancient Carpathian pride alongside the bearded vulture (*Gypaetos barbatus*), with a wingspan of 190-225 cm, the Golden Eagle is one of the most renowned species of birds of prey on earth. It is mentioned in a lot of Romanian folk legends and stories carefully gathered by Simion Florea Marian in the Romanian Folk Ornithology, published in Cernauti in 1883, where it appears under other popular names such as: pajura, zgripturoaica, pajura imparateasca, vulturoaica, etc.

The presence of the image of this bird was intertwined with the history and tradition of many peoples, being since ancient times an ensign, a flag and a symbol of empires and civilizations, and often considered as a symbol of luck.

The "mountain vulture" symbol was related to the historical tradition of Romania, starting from the vulture of the first ruling Basarab house, to the coat of arms of the United Principalities during the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, to the one after the independence was gained during Carol I's reign, becoming the symbol of Greater Romania. At present, the Romanian State coat of arms has an eagle in the foreground, having the crown of steel of the kings of Romania on its head, but it is also illustrated in the first quadrant of the coat of arms, one in which the coat of arms of Wallachia appears.

The postage stamp issue Europe 2019. National Birds will be available on Friday, April 12th 2019, in Romfilatelia's shops network in Bucharest, Bacau, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara and online on <http://romfilatelia.ro/store/>. The special album, created into limited printing of 387 pieces, reunites in a joint topic, products belonging to philately and numismatics. In the interior of the album there are exposed two valuable collection pieces: the block of two imperforated stamps and the medal on the obverse in the front, the image of the Golden Eagle. The block of the issue is numbered from 001 to 387.

Romfilatelia thanks to "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History for the documentary support given to the development of this postage stamp issue and the photographer Silviu Matei.





## Essais du CRI modèle Vienne

En 1956, le Bureau international de l'Union postale universelle (UPU) envisage de changer l'illustration et la mise en page du coupon-réponse international dont l'ancienne formule datait du congrès de l'UPU de Londres en 1929.

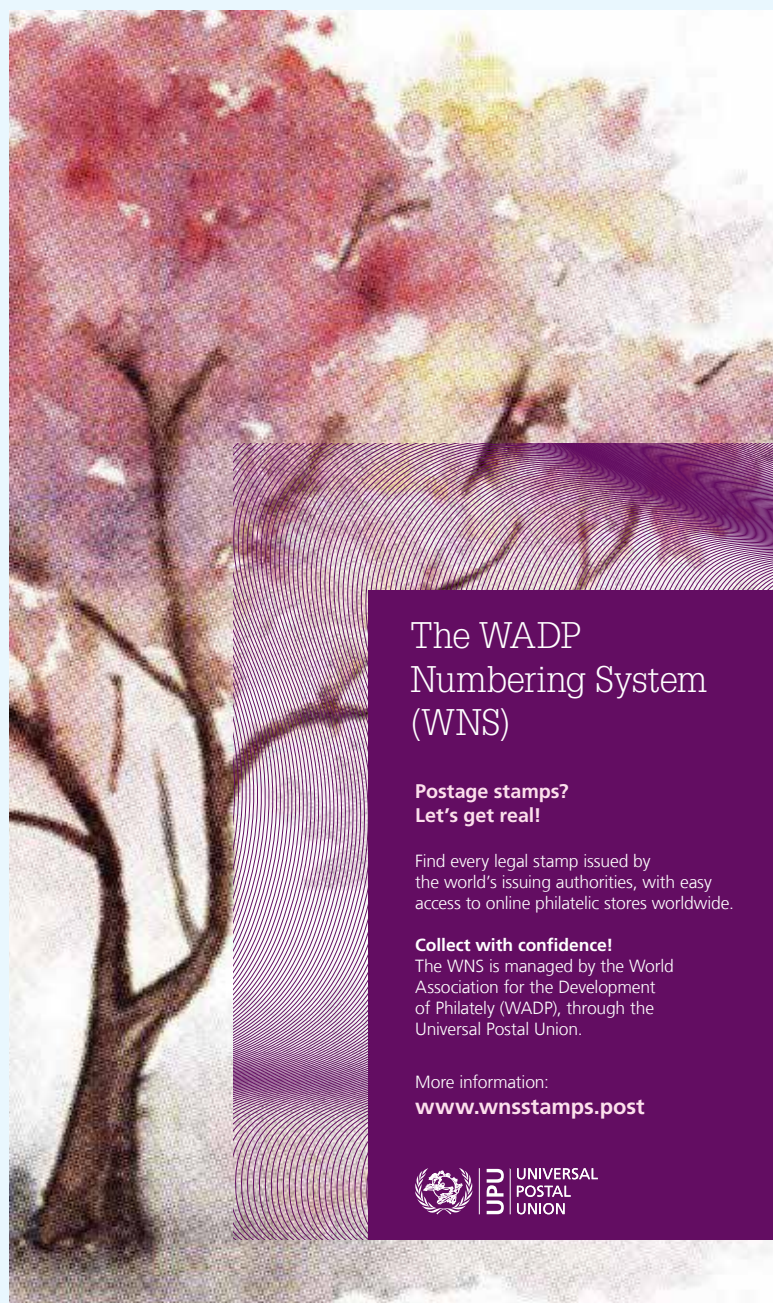
Le Bureau international fait alors travailler plusieurs artistes qui proposent des projets. L'un d'entre eux donne lieu à différents essais de couleurs (Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4). Une mise en page est également proposée (Fig. 5). La France, la Belgique et la Suisse servent souvent de support pour des raisons linguistiques. Curieusement le Bureau international ne proposera pas de projet aux délégués des pays-membres du congrès de l'UPU réunis à Ottawa (Canada) en 1957. Il y aura encore un long chemin à parcourir pour l'adoption du nouveau coupon-réponse international au congrès de l'UPU de Vienne (Autriche) en 1954 (Fig. 6).



## Essays of the Vienna model IRC

In 1956, the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) expects to change the illustration and layout of the international reply coupon, the old model of which dated from the London UPU Congress in 1929.

The International Bureau then works with several artists who propose some sketches. One of them gives rise to different color essays (Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4). A layout is also proposed (Fig. 5). France, Belgium and Switzerland often serve as support for linguistic reasons. Curiously, the UPU International Bureau will not propose a draft of IRC to the delegates of the UPU member countries gathered in Ottawa (Canada) in 1957. There will still be a long way to go for the adoption of the new international reply coupon at the UPU Congress of Vienna in Austria in 1954 (Fig. 6).



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## Nouveaux adhérents Last members registered :

- CHAUNAVEL Camille (France)
- CHAUNAVEL Olympe (France)
- FIZES Gabriel (France)
- VALCARCELL Nicola (Italia)
- WIEDMER Henri (USA)
- WIEDMER Edouard (USA)



## Forthcoming international stamp shows :

- STOCKHOLMIA 2019 – Stockholm (Sweden) 29. 05 – 3. 06. 2019
- CHINA 2019 – Wuhan (China) 11. - 17. 06. 2019
- SINGPEX 2019 – Singapore 31. 07. – 04. 08. 2019
- NORDIA 2019 – Sarpsborg (Norway) 23. – 25. 08. 2019
- BULGARIA 2019 – Plovdiv (Bulgaria) 14. 10. 2019
- MonacoPhil 2019 – Monaco 28. – 30. 11. 2019

