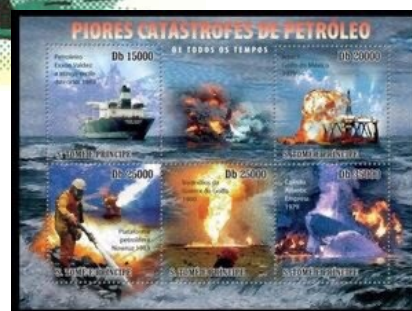
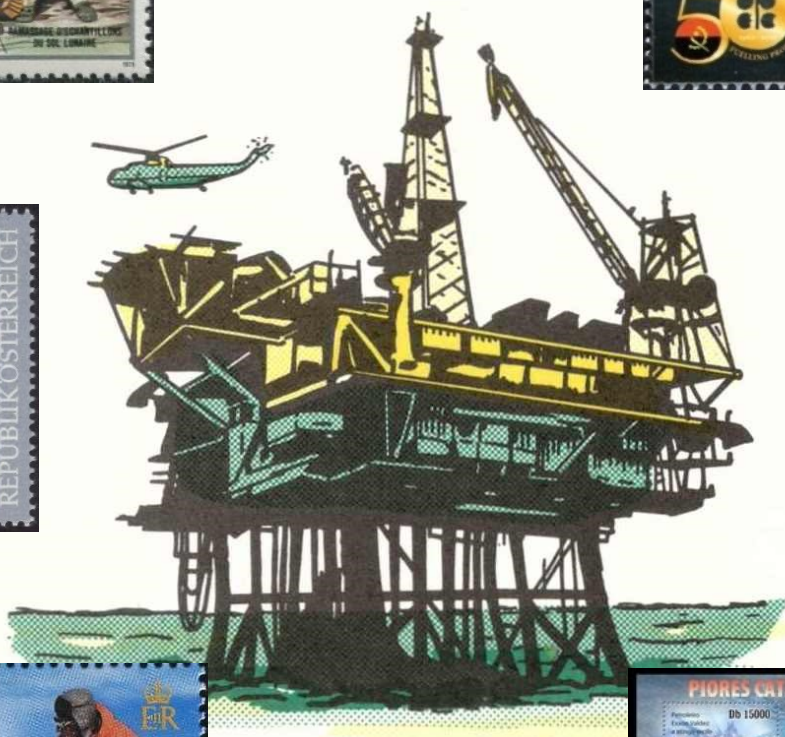


Petro-Philatelist

Vol. 44 No. 2 Whole No. 173

Summer 2023

Drilling as one of the Specialized Themes of Petro-Philately
by D. F. Baldenko and F. D. Baldenko - Final Part: See Page 5.





A Study Unit of the
American Topical
Association

Petro-Philatelist

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The Periodical of the
Petroleum Philatelic Society



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The Certification Committee meets quarterly, to evaluate any new stamps proposed for inclusion in Petroleum Stamps of the World. The current members of the Committee are: Steve Fraser, Michael Hauck, Bill Todd and Hugo Vargas. When necessary, we request input from our President, Anthony Curiale.

All members are invited to propose new stamps for inclusion in PSW, and should send details of them, in the first instance, to Steve Fraser

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Editor's Column

Steve Fraser

As you probably know I deal with much of our PPSI activity. As well as editing, assembling in *Microsoft Publisher* and issuing *Petro-Philatelist* I usually contribute some part of the content, particularly the features on new issues of interest. This integrates well with another activity, which is the work needed to regularly update *Petroleum Stamps of the World*. To produce our catalogue I use a *MYSQL* database using *MySQL Workbench* with an *Excel* loader. As Certification Committee Chair I use this database to produce the quarterly list of new issues that I circulate to the Certification Committee to consider, and then use it to produce the Certification Committee Report, that appears in *PP*. Of course, even when I receive details of new issues from other members I usually need to locate more information on them, or better images than those with which I am supplied. When you access *PSW* on line, whenever you call up the listing for a country, you are requesting a selective search of this database, which is why that search should always give you our latest information.

As I also run the PPSI website (using *Aptana Studio 3* for updates), integration of *PSW* so that it functions properly is arranged with comparative ease. The website itself is run from a server at my home. Of course, it also includes our other databases, such as *Petroleum Revenue Stamps*, which operate in the same way. The website also includes all is-

sues of *Petro-Philatelist*, both downloads and copies of recent issues that you can read on line (that's *Flip PDF*), as well as other features. You may not be surprised to learn, that all of this activity, takes a very considerable amount of my time.

The reason I'm telling you this now, is that I have a tumour, resulting in a recent diagnosis of rectal cancer. My consultant tells me that it's completely curable, he'll simply cut out a piece of the rectum and rejoin it, hopefully in the next few weeks. All should be fine with me, after a period of recovery. But it occurs to me, that were I to cease my work for PPSI for any reason, then the Society may find that locating someone to replace me, is not easy.

Perhaps you can help? It would be good if someone, or perhaps some people, were prepared to take on at least part of my work. This isn't just related to my current health, but for the health of the Society, it would be better if so much of our activity were not being dealt with, by just one person. Perhaps you'd be able to take over editorship of *PP*, or maybe you'd like to take on the research associated with new issues? Maybe even you'd be keen to take over the running of our databases, or the website? All your suggestions are welcome, and obviously, I'd work with anyone to ensure a sensible division of labour, or a smooth handover.

I'd also ask you to consider a contribution to *Petro-Philatelist* yourself. At present I have no material being held back for the next issue, so without your input I'm afraid that it will necessarily be a much reduced edition.

Steve

Oman PDO Mystery - Can you help?

The Oman 85th Anniversary of PDO issue is detailed in the Autumn 2022 issue of *PP*. Reference to the cover of that issue will show you that the miniature sheet is imperforate across the top and bottom, other than at the edges. The marginal descriptions are centred. Now look at the stamps - the descriptions are relatively large and take up the space allowed. Look at the perforations, they appear tiny and are a line perf.



Miniature sheet fully perforated

Now check out the souvenir sheet, shown on page 14. The stamps are identical to those in the miniature sheet. Note the selva; at the bottom, the left hand image there is of a column of some type. The m/s and s/s images were taken from the same dealers listings.

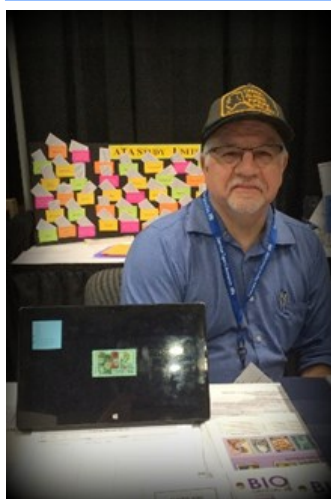
However, other images available are different! The souvenir sheet is fully perforated all round, as

shown on this page, and the marginal descriptions are centred above and below particular stamps. All the descriptions are in a smaller print and only just legible. The perforation is comb perf, and is of a larger gauge. On the souvenir sheet selva, there is now a drilling rig to the left of the column, even though the sheet size is smaller, with less selva to the left and right of the stamps.

The dealer concerned confirmed that the images he uses are of his stamps, but is this really the case? If so, then there are two different issues here, and we will need to list both. I suspect that the dealer could be using publicity material to illustrate his listings, rather than actual stamps.

Can you explain this? If you have this issue, can you please let me know which version you have? The souvenir sheets are illustrated on page 14.

President's Message



My thought for this issue stems from something mentioned by Mr. Martin Kent Miller, Editor & Content Manager of the American Topical Association, in his article in the Jan.-Feb. 2023 issue of Topical Time.

Mr. Miller mentioned that the Royal Philatelic Society had recently noted that the

central focus of their meeting was topical displays. They seemed to acknowledge that topical collecting is taking up more and more space in philatelic journals in recent issues. Several philatelic organizations are offering presentations and programs centered on concepts associated with topical collecting and exhibiting.

Such observations reinforced Mr. Miller's belief that the future of philately lies in the promotion of stamps (and other philatelic items) depicting topics that connect with new audiences. As such, Mr. Miller has officially declared 2023 to be the Year of the Topical, and I, as President of one of those topical organizations support his declaration.

PPSI is almost 50 years old and we have amassed the largest listing of petroleum and gas industry related stamps in the world and have documented the existence of countless hundreds of other philatelic items related to the industry in the pages of Petro-Philatelist whether they be covers, cancelations, revenues or the like. You have made it possible for anyone in the world with an interest in petro-philately to learn anything and everything related to the topic and the material available. You should be proud. I know I am.

The pronouncement of 2023 as the Year of the Topical is for us a challenge to not simply collect and enjoy this or any other topic you may collect but also to advocate for its importance both within the hobby and within the culture. What does that mean? As a topicalist, we should seek out opportunities to share our experiences, our pleasure with collecting petro-philately with others. If you attend a stamp club or other philatelic organization's meetings, see if there is an opportunity to give a short talk on your

topic, or write a short article for their newsletter. Sometimes your place of employment may have a journal, whether in print or electronic form in which you can produce a small piece. My own former employer has a monthly on-line "get-together" in which our president mentions ongoing and new projects, office happenings, who's getting married, etc., after which they turn it over to an employee to share their hobby or other interesting activity. During one of the sessions, I shared my passion for petro-philately. It was both fun, educational and some of my colleagues even wanted to know more. Not many of my coworkers knew much of stamp collecting or that topical collecting was even a possibility.

Now, not everyone has a dying passion to become a petro-philatelist, so the opportunity does exist to suggest membership in the American Topical Association, where members have access to more than 1400 checklists of topics on stamps, although Petroleum is not one of the checklists available; PPSI, the ATA's study unit is the only source for that topic's checklist. In short, knowing this, I can only echo Mr. Miller's admonishment, "embrace the Year of the Topical, share your topic with everyone who will listen, and send me your ideas to proliferate this official declaration."

I'd like to mention that your board is proceeding to have a 50th Anniversary cover with commemorative cachet and cancel prepared for 2024, the 50th year of PPSI's existence! Such cover would be sent to all active PPSI members as a keepsake of this milestone event. I have mentioned in past President's Messages how you can help us celebrate. I hope you are all thinking of ways you can contribute.



I'd like to thank the Messrs. Baldenko for their definitive narrative and wonderful illustrations on the subtopic of drilling. I'm looking forward to the continuation. The subtopics about which we have written and can write about are numerous and probably unending. I'd love to see more, wouldn't you?

Tony Curiale
Fair Haven, NJ



Drilling as one of the Specialized Themes of Petro-Philately

D. F. Baldenko and F. D. Baldenko

A Continuation of the article commenced in our Spring 2023 edition...

OFFSHORE DRILLING

In connection with the rapid development of equipment and technology for the production of hydrocarbons on the shelf and at sea over the past decades, drilling and production platforms have become symbols of the industry (see Fig. 4 below & Fig 5 overleaf). Oil platforms can be seen as a marvel of engineering, which is reflected in petro-philately.

Various designs of offshore platforms (stationary, jack-up, semi-submersible) and drilling vessels are depicted on the stamps of different countries. Shell's deep-water platform, Perdido, is in operation in the Gulf of Mexico on a floating support held by steel ropes on the seabed, at a depth of 2450 m. The highest (472 m) Troll-A platform weighing 684,000 tons is installed in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. This giant structure (the heaviest man-made object in the world) is one and a half times higher than the Eiffel Tower, which is displayed on the stamp of Norway.

The UK included a stamp showing one of the Forties Field platforms in a 1978 Energy issue. The field was the largest in the UK sector until the much later development of Clair, and it is expected to continue to produce for many years.

Offshore drilling was first carried out in the Pacific Ocean at the end of the 19th century (from a pier 150 m from the coast). Offshore platforms for the development of oil fields began to be used in the United States in the 1930s. The stamp of Romania represents the first offshore oil platform in 1934 in Beaumont (Texas, USA). Some of the early marine drilling rigs are depicted on the stamps of Argentina (1936) and Venezuela (1938).

In the USSR, offshore drilling in the Caspian began in the 1920s. in the bay of Ilyich near Baku. For the first time, a marine field ("Oil Rocks") was erected in 1949 also on the Absheron Peninsula. The envelope and stamp from 1971 (fig 5, overleaf) show a 42 km long overpass and derricks on the horizon.



Fig. 4

USSR, 1934, PSW#3
Argentina 1936, PSW#1
USSR, 1971, PSW#100
Russia, 1998, PSW#2

Russia, 2015, PSW#34
Qatar, 1969, PSW#30
Ivory Coast, 1978, PSW#4
Vietnam, 1988, PSW#27
Norway, 1996, PSW#15

Romania, 1999, PSW#345
Venezuela, 1938, PSW#7

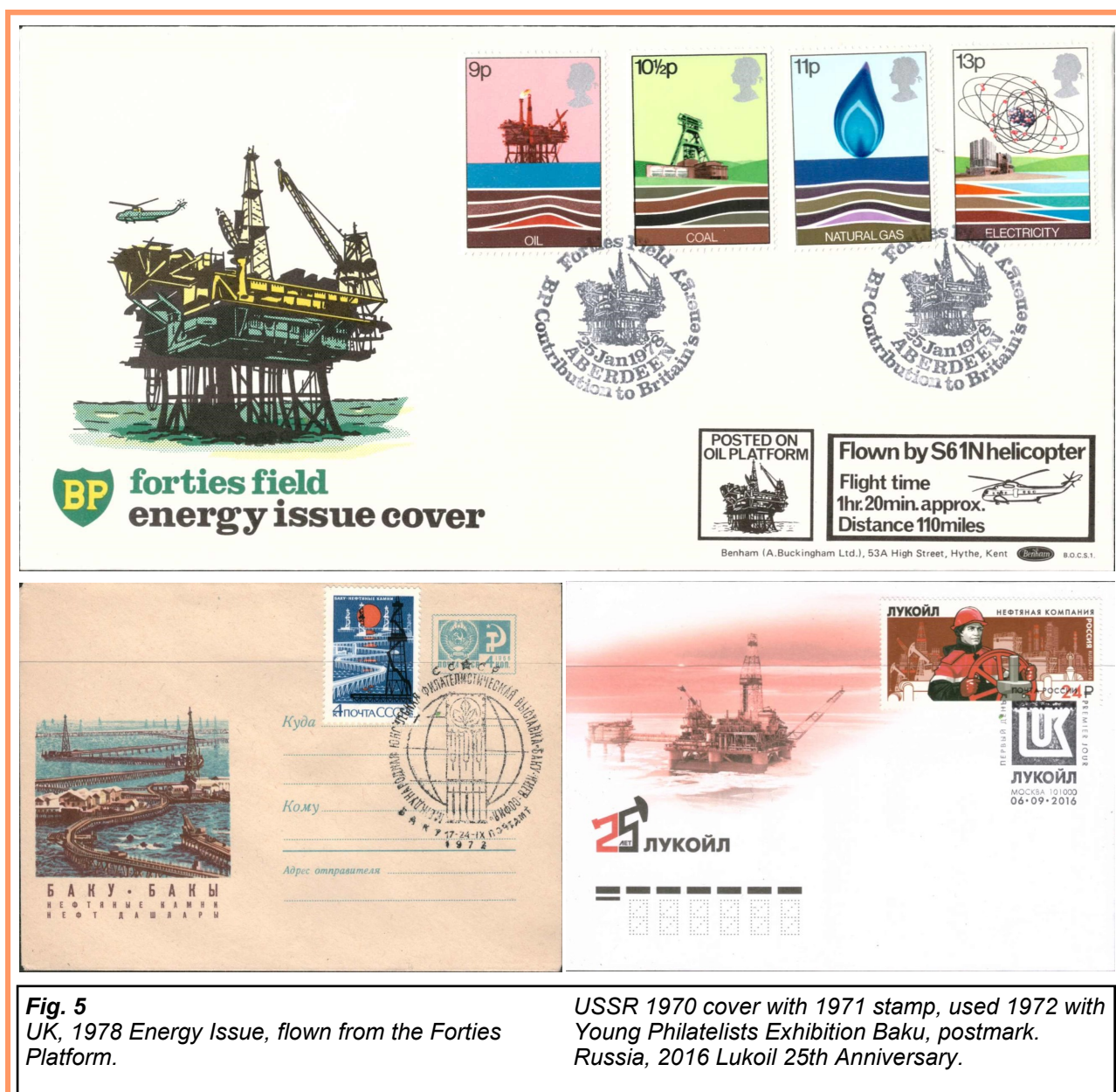


Fig. 5
UK, 1978 Energy Issue, flown from the Forties Platform.

USSR 1970 cover with 1971 stamp, used 1972 with Young Philatelists Exhibition Baku, postmark.
Russia, 2016 Lukoil 25th Anniversary.

Currently, a number of drilling platforms are in operation in Russia on the shelves of the Caspian, Baltic, Barents, Pechora, and Okhotsk seas, which is depicted on stamps and envelopes.

In 2015, the Pirazlomnaya Platform stamp was issued. This unique ice-resistant fixed structure with a total height of 141 m is located in the Pechora Sea and carries out all technological operations - from drilling to production and tanker shipment of oil. From the platform, the world's first operating in the Arctic shelf, 39 directional wells for various technological purposes with a horizontal ending were drilled. The depth of the wells reaches 3000 m.

The longest horizontal well was drilled from the Orlan platform in the Sea of Okhotsk. The length of the wellbore is 15,000 m with a deviation from vertical axis of 14,129 m.

The commemorative envelope of the Lukoil oil company features a silhouette of an offshore ice-

resistant fixed platform used for drilling and operating offshore wells.

A 1988 Vietnam stamp depicts an offshore platform on which a Soviet-Vietnamese enterprise drilled directional wells in the South China Sea.

DRILLING OF DEEP AND EXPLORATION WELLS, TUNNELING

Drilling deep and ultra-deep wells has always been the focus of the oil community (*Refer to Figure 6, overleaf*). Modern technical means makes it possible to drill ultra-deep wells: Tibr with a depth of 10,685 m in the Gulf of Mexico, Bertha Rogers - 9583 m (Oklahoma, USA), KTB Oberpfalz - 9101 m (Bavaria, Germany).

A record achievement of science and technology is the successful drilling in the USSR of the Kola super-deep well SG-3 with a depth of 12,262 m. Soviet Post Office responded to this event by issuing a



Fig. 6

USSR, 1991 envelope
 USSR, 1968, PSW#84
 USSR, 1968, PSW#85

Italy, 1965.
 Switzerland, 2016
 DDR, 1980, PSW#41
 Egypt, 1971, PSW#14
 USSR, 1986.

Ecuador, 1972, PSW#2
 Norway, 2005, PSW#22
 USSR, 1981.

special envelope and a stamp. The stamp shows the design of the well, the layout of the drilling tool using aluminum pipes and the general view of the drilling rig against the backdrop of the polar landscape.

Several stamps (USSR, DDR, Egypt) are dedicated to exploration work (including geophysical surveys while drilling), which are of great importance for the development of extractive industries and the study of subsoil.

The interesting stamp of Ecuador shows drilling rigs together with an image of the structure of the layers of the drilled rocks.

The Norwegian stamp shows a rock section and profile of deviated wells drilled from an offshore platform in the North Sea.

Problems of geological correlation of layers, largely investigated as a result of exploratory drilling in the search for oil and gas, are marked on the stamps of the USSR and Canada.

Drilling, as an important technological element, also finds its place in the development of deposits with solid minerals (primarily coal), the construction of tunnels (for road, rail transport, metro, water pipes) and other facilities. For these purposes, in the past, jackhammers and drills were used, and at present, special tunneling units and shields (the working body of which is equipped with hard-alloy cutters)

make it possible to obtain a shaft with a diameter of more than 10 m. Explosive drilling is also used in the construction of tunnels.

The tunnel as a technical facility, taking into account the scale factor and drilling conditions, can be considered as a prototype of modern horizontal wells, which are widely used in the development of oil and gas fields.

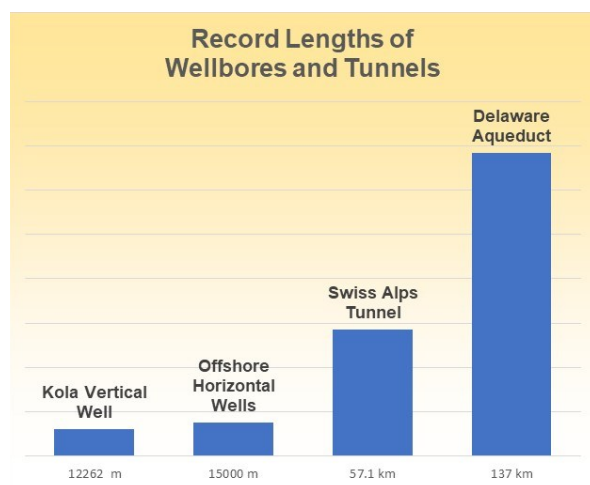
This theme has also found its place in philately. A 1965 stamp from Italy depicts the route of the automobile tunnel in the Alps under Mont Blanc, this tunnel is 8.6 m in diameter and 11.6 km long, connecting France and Italy.

During the construction of the Baikal-Amur Railway (USSR stamp 1981, *above*), five large tunnels were built, one of which (Severomuysky: three shafts with a diameter of 7.5 m and a length of 15.3 km) has no analogues in the world in terms of its tunneling complexity. It required the use of special horizontal drilling methods, and is the longest in Russia.

The world's longest railway tunnel (Gothard, 57.1 km), built in the Swiss Alps, featured on a 2016 stamp (*above*).

The record-breaking tunnel, the Delaware Aqueduct for New York's water supply, was drilled at depths of up to 300 m through rock for a distance of 137 km (1939-45).

Record-breaking achievements related to the rock drilling process also include the tunneling and commissioning in 2023 of the large circle line of the Moscow Metro, with a length of 70 km.



For clarity, the diagram shows the record results achieved in the drilling of wells and the construction of tunnels.

TECHNICAL ELEMENTS OF DRILLING WORK

On stamps and other postal products, there are interesting compositions dedicated to the technical elements of drilling operations (See Fig. 7, below). Thus, in 1980, Austria issued a stamp on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its oil industry, on which a driller inspects a core bit against the background of drill pipe standoffs. A similar plot is depicted on a Venezuelan stamp.

A number of other countries (notably Qatar, Nigeria, Indonesia, Brazil, Thailand) have issued stamps depicting drilling crew workers on the rotary table during pipe operations. On some stamps, the

equipment of the drilling rig (hook, swivel, winch, machine keys) is shown in detail, which gives an idea of the mechanism of the drilling complex. Chad's stamp from a 1998 James Dean series shows a rig site scene from one of the actor's films.

A 1986 stamp from Romania depicts the F-300 drilling rig, which is widely used in that country.

The 2013 stamp of China with an offshore semi-submersible platform demonstrates the features of the bottom hole assembly for directional and horizontal drilling technologies, that have become widespread in recent times.

DRILLING IN ANTARCTICA

Since the beginning of the 20th century, ice has been studied by drilling methods, which serve as primary sources of invaluable information about the Earth's climate in the past (See Fig. 8 overleaf). The most complete collection of ice cores from various depths was collected during the implementation of the European Ice Drilling Project in Antarctica in 1996-2005 with the participation of French, American and Soviet specialists.

At the Russian Antarctic Vostok polar station, a well was drilled in the ice to obtain water from a relict lake. This was developed at the St. Petersburg Mining University. This significant event is commemorated in the postal block of Russia from 2003.

The British Antarctic Territory Post also celebrated drilling in Antarctica with the release of a block with interesting technical details on extracting the ice core and plotting the temperature of the ice sheet over thousands of years.

The French Southern & Antarctic Territory Post issued stamps showing a drilling rig in the ice of Antarctica and the "drill in a snowflake" symbol.



Fig. 7
Austria, 1980, PSW #12
Qatar, 1972, PSW #41
Indonesia, 1974, PSW #5

Nigeria, 1983, PSW #11
Venezuela, 1960, PSW #68
Brazil, 1982, PSW #30
Thailand, 1992, PSW #5

Chad, 1998, PSW #12
China, 2013, PSW #83
Romania, 1986, PSW #320



The later stamp of French Antarctic from 1987 is dedicated to the general problems of drilling in the worlds oceans.

OFF-GROUND DRILLING

Space Exploration is a popular stamp collecting topic. However, such an outstanding achievement as drilling outside the Earth has remained in the shadows for many philatelists (*refer Fig. 9, at right*).

In 1969, American astronauts on the Apollo 11 spacecraft, during the first flight to the Moon, drilled on the lunar surface in manual mode. A portable hand-held electric drill was used to drive the core sampling device. The total depth of several drilled wells was about 3 m. The mass of samples of the delivered lunar soil was 21.5 kg.

Stamps and envelopes from many countries are dedicated to this historical event, as well as to Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon.

Drilling in automatic mode on the lunar surface was first carried out from the Soviet interplanetary station Luna-16 in 1970. The landing stage of the station contained a soil intake mechanism and all the necessary devices for control and return to earth. The drilling device (penitrometer) carried out drilling

to a depth of only 35 cm. But this was the first step of mankind to explore the surface of another celestial body by drilling without the participation of astronauts. The soil (regolith) weighing 100 g in a sealed capsule was brought to the ground and subjected to study.

Subsequently, drilling from the automatic station Luna-24 made it possible to look into the bowels of our satellite to a depth of 2 m.

In 1982, as part of the Venus exploration program, drilling was carried out (to a depth of only 3 cm), and soil samples were taken at the Soviet automatic interplanetary station Venera-13, which made it possible to assess the composition and properties of the planet's surface.

These unique events are reflected in stamps issued in the USSR and other countries. A few of them are shown in the illustration.

In 2014, in honor of the chief designer of unmanned lunar and planetary probes, G. Babakin, a commemorative stamp was issued with a portrait of the scientist against the backdrop of Lunokhod, the series of Soviet robotic lunar rovers.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

In recent years, the postal departments of many countries have not neglected the topic of environmental ecology.



Fig. 9
USSR, 1970
(SG: MS3888)
USSR, 1982
Russia, 2014
Rwanda, 1979

**Fig. 10**

Canada, 1950, PSW#1

Argentina, 1959, PSW#11

St Thomas and Prince Is., 2010, PSW#49

Azerbaijan, 2001, PSW #63&64

Gabon, 2008, PSW#34

Stamps that draw attention to the relevance of technological solutions that can minimize the harm from the development of oil and gas fields and ensure safety, including in the process of drilling oil and gas wells, are interesting in their content (Fig. 10, above). Along with technical objects, they contain elements of flora and fauna in the plots.

St Thomas and Prince Islands "Worst Oil Catastrophes" stamp series highlights the process of extinguishing a fire in connection with the accident on the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EVENTS

The formation and development of the oil and gas industry is inextricably linked with public life, so many stamps reflect political and other significant international events (Fig. 11, right). Oil rigs on the stamps of many countries are symbols of the anniversaries of the national liberation revolutions, the

founding of petroleum companies, the discovery and development of oil and gas fields.

Oil derricks are featured on stamps dedicated to military conflicts and oil crises in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

Many drilling-themed stamps are dedicated to international cooperation. The states that are members of the OPEC, created in 1960 (currently it comprises 13 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America), periodically issue postage stamps with the OPEC emblem, including the image of an oil derrick.

In the family of petroleum stamps, their place is occupied by postal issues issued in honor of the World Petroleum Congresses, dating back to 1933. It has become a tradition since the Rome Congress (1955) that the host country issues commemorative stamps. In most cases, these stamps feature an oil derrick as a symbol of the industry and include the emblem of the congress.

Russia hosted the congresses twice - in 1971 and 2014 and accompanied them with the issuance of stamps, envelopes and special cancellations. For the VIII Moscow Congress in 1971, the USSR

**Fig. 11**

Italy, 1955, PSW#3

Japan, 1975, PSW#3

Romania, 1979,

PSW#228

Egypt 1959, PSW#5

Ecuador, 1974,

PSW#3

Bolivia 2011, PSW#41

Argentina 1982

PSW#33

Tunisia, 2006,

PSW#6



Fig. 12 USSR 1971—8th World Petroleum Congress cover and stamp, PSW#97

postal department issued a multi-subject stamp and an envelope with an A-shaped drilling rig, depicted against the background of a stylized world map and various achievements of scientific and technological progress. One of the authors of article, as a member of the congress organizing committee, happened to take part in the preparation and publication of the special cancellation, and witnessed great interest in this product (Fig. 12, above).

OUTSTANDING PERSONS OF THE INDUSTRY

Petro-philately pays attention to the memory of public figures, scientists and specialists who made an outstanding contribution to the development of the oil and gas industry, and the fuel and energy complex. In the "Drilling" section, this list is not very extensive. (Fig. 13, at right).

Among Russian personalities are the first people's commissar of heavy industry of the USSR, S. Ordzhonikidze, whose name was given to the largest machine-building plant in Russia "Uralsmash" (the manufacturer of drilling rigs) and the geological exploration university; the founder of petroleum geology, I. Gubkin, after whom the University of Oil and Gas is named; and leaders of the oil and gas industries of different years, N. Baibakov and V. Chernomyrdin.

On the stamps of other countries, personalities are also found infrequently. There are stamps in honour of the Nobel brothers, oil tycoons D. Rockefeller, A. Mellon, and the Guinea Peoples Republic block for the 150th Anniversary of the Construction of the first Derrick, with a portrait of E. Drake.

The stamp of Argentina with the background of an offshore platform is dedicated to General E. Mosconi, who is known as the organizer of the exploration and production of oil in Argentina.

In India, a stamp was issued in honor of the outstanding researcher and organizer of science Dr

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, one of whose main activities was the optimization of formulations and properties of drilling fluids.

On the stamps of some oil-producing countries, portraits of royalty, presidents and leaders of states are included.

CONCLUSION

Given the public interest in the philatelic products produced and in order to popularize the world's oil and gas science and technology, postal departments could be recommended to expand the list of petroleum stamp issues related to the well drilling theme. Such stamps should perpetuate the memory of the organizers, scientists and engineers, as well as institutions and enterprises that have made a special contribution to the creation of advanced technologies and technical methods that have determined the progress of the oil and gas industry. Since the topic "Drilling oil and gas wells" is rarely considered in philately, it would be good to further systematize and develop it.



Fig. 13
Russia, 2011 envelope for Nikolai K Baibakov, issued on birth centenary
India, 1994, PSW#10
Argentina, 1979, PSW#31
Russia, 2021, PSW#53
Russia, 2013, PSW#25
USSR, 1958, G K Ordzhonikidze, PSW NL, SG 2290.

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Uzbekistan New Issue: 15 Years of Asia Trans Gas to be considered for PSW Steve Fraser

An extensive new issue from Uzbekistan commemorates 15 years of the JV Asia Trans Gas LLC. Released on May 1, 2023 the issue comprises some 9 values with three souvenir sheets, one of which includes a block of 4 stamps and two others which are single stamps sheets. The 9 stamp values consist of 2 pairs of stamps separated by commemorative labels, 3 stamps each with a label alongside, and 2 individual stamps.

The official description of this issue states that it shows fragments of the construction and operation of the highway, social and cultural activities, awards, achievements, history and prospects of the enterprise.

The Joint venture "Asia Trans Gas" is a limited liability company established according to the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan as the legal entity, conducting and/or organizing and coordinating works on designing, construction and operation of "Uzbekistan – China" Gas Pipeline. The joint venture,





Early Issues of The Petro-Philatelist

I have available spare copies of The Petro-Philatelist from Volume 1 issue 1 to Volume 5 issue 4 whole issue 25 (with the exception of Volume 1 issue 6).

If you'd like these for your collection please contact me. The only charge would be for the postage. If no one wants them, then I'm afraid that they will be recycled!

Steve Fraser

URGENTLY WANTED

Articles for Petro-Philatelist

If you can help, then I will be delighted to hear from you

Just send anything you would like to publish to Steve Fraser. Please don't worry about formatting, in fact the less that you format, the less I have to remove to prepare your article for publication. Just send me your text, together with any images you'd like to have included! Ideally the images would be saved at 300 dpi, but that's not critical

Oil Industry Links - Roald Dahl & Anguilla's Jeremiah Gumbs by Albert Sydney



Roald Dahl (1916-1990) was one of the world's most imaginative, successful and loved storytellers. His works have been portrayed on postage stamps in the UK (2006 and 2012), Gibraltar and the British Indian Ocean Territory

What is pretty interesting is that in September 1934 when he was 18 years old, he started working at the Shell Oil Company at their London offices learning about oil. He was later sent abroad in 1938 to Dar-es-Salaam in East Africa, now Tanzania where he was only one of three Shell Company Workers in all of Africa, living in a grand old house. He went all

over Africa to visit Shell Company customers who ran diamond mines, gold mines, sisal plantations, cotton plantations and supplied them with oil to run their machines.

In 1939, when War broke out, he left Shell to join the RAF.

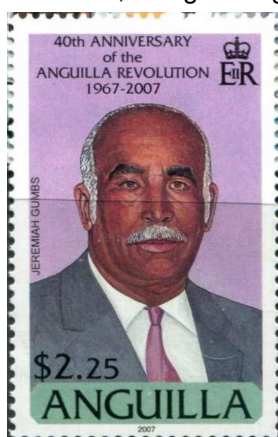
Jeremiah Gumbs (1913-2004), (see left) who became a hero in Anguilla for

wanting Independence, will be remembered for his efforts in 1967, when he went before the United Nations with objections to a British plan that joined that tiny island into a self-governing state, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, associated with Britain.

Britain sent a troop of London's Metropolitan Police force to keep order and stop the secession movement, but efforts to patch the link to St. Kitts failed and Anguilla became a self-governing British dependent territory.

Gumbs had started school in Anguilla but economic hardship drove him as a boy to work the cane fields in the Dominican Republic. Also interesting is that starting at age 15, he worked for two years in oil refineries in Aruba and Curaçao before returning to Anguilla to teach himself tailoring. He moved to Brooklyn, New York at age 25, but was drafted into the U.S. Army. After leaving the army he married Lydia Gibbs and worked with his father-in-law, John Gibbs, in his coal and ice business. Ultimately he established a business in the United States called the Gumbs Fuel and Oil Burner Service of Edison, New Jersey.

He is featured on a 2007 Anguilla stamp issue for the 40th Anniversary of the Anguilla Revolution.



Continued from Page 3...



Small Country: Big Error! Hugo Vargass



internal affairs as an Associated State, and then from 1958 to 1962 Grenada was part of the Federation of the West Indies, a short-lived federation of British West Indian colonies.

Independence was granted on 7 February 1974 under the leadership of Eric Gairy, who became the first prime minister of Grenada, the sovereign state. The new country became a member of the Commonwealth of nations, with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state; it is currently headed by King Charles III, King of Grenada. In March 1979, the Marxist-Leninist New Jewel Movement overthrew Gairy's government in a bloodless coup d'état and established the People's Revolutionary

Government (PRG), headed by Maurice Bishop, as prime minister. Bishop was later arrested and executed by members of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), prompting a U.S.-led invasion, in October 1983. Since then, the island has returned to a parliamentary representative democracy and has remained politically stable.

Grenada Islands are of volcanic origin and do not have any petroleum or gas production. They depend on agriculture; with their main products being sugar cane, cocoa, and spices (nutmeg, mace and cardamom) the first two were introduced by the French in early 1600's and the latest introduced by coincidence, when a ship carrying spices trees from East Asia to England, ended unloading them in Grenada, back in early 1800's.

Grenada like many other small countries produces a lot of postage stamps on all sort of themes like Disney characters, autos, racecars, trains, royalty, athletes, fauna and flora, and many others, that are sold to support their economy. This country has even issued stamps from individual islands that don't have a post office.

Our PSW catalog includes forty-nine stamps with a petroleum or gas related theme. Stamps under the name of Grenada 27, Grenada-Cariacou-Petit Martinique 14, and Grenada-Grenadines 8. The stamps accepted by the PSW's Committee have pictures of

Grenada is a group of islands located in the West Indies in the Caribbean Sea. at the southern end of the Grenadines island chain. Grenada consists of the island of Grenada itself, two smaller islands, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and several small islands which lie to the north of the main island and are a part of the Grenadines. It is located northwest of Trinidad and Tobago, northeast of Venezuela and southwest of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Its size is 348.5 square kilometers (134.6 sq mi), and it had an estimated population of 112,523 in July 2020. Its capital is St. George's. *See the maps above for their location, and for details of the islands.* Grenada is also known as the "Island of Spice" due to its production of nutmeg and mace crops.

Before the arrival of Europeans in the Americas, Grenada was inhabited by Caribbeans, the indigenous peoples of the north Coast of South America. Christopher Columbus sighted Grenada in 1498 during his third voyage to the Americas. Following several unsuccessful attempts by Europeans to colonize the island due to resistance from resident Caribbeans, the French started a settlement and colonization began in 1649 and continued for the next century. On 10 February 1763, Grenada was ceded to the British under the Treaty of Paris. British rule continued until 1974 (except for a brief French takeover between 1779 and 1783). However, on 3 March 1967, it was granted full autonomy over its



different racecars that include oil companies' logos or sponsors' names. Others have pictures of racecar drivers with oil company logos on their overalls and/or on their helmet. There are a few other stamps with historical relation, equipment or personalities related to the industry.

Among those stamps, two of them are very peculiar. In these, they have erroneously named the person and engines in the images. The stamps belong to sets of four stamps (*illustrated above*) issued by both Grenada and Grenada-Grenadines on the 9th of September of 1987 in honour of inventors and their discoveries.

The four stamps in the set from Grenada are:
Isaac Newton, law of gravity. 50 c. value.
Jöns Jacob Berzelius, use of electrochemical cells. \$ 1.10.
Robert Boyle, Boyles Law for pressure and volume. \$ 2.00.

Picture of James Watt but given wrong name Rudolf Diesel, and a steam engine incorrectly labelled Diesel engine. \$ 3.00. (PSW #3)

The four stamps of the Grenada-Grenadines set are:
Isaac Newton, Newton's Medal, 60 c.
Louis Daguerre, Photographer, Inventor of Daguerreotype. \$ 1.00.

Antoine Lavoisier, Chemistry, recognition of the effect of oxygen on combustion. \$ 2.00.

Picture of Rudolf Diesel, but given wrong name James Watt, and a Diesel engine incorrectly labelled as a steam engine. \$ 3.00. (PSW #1)

Both the James Watt and Diesel stamps are catalogued in PSW as petroleum related stamps because of the picture and name of Rudolf Diesel.

Editors note: it is debatable whether the Grenada \$3 stamp should really be in PSW since it merely includes the name Rudolf Diesel and the description Diesel Engine but it shows neither.

The sets are easy to find, even though they are more than 35 years old, and have the names and pictures errors; they can be bought for less than \$ 10.00 each set.

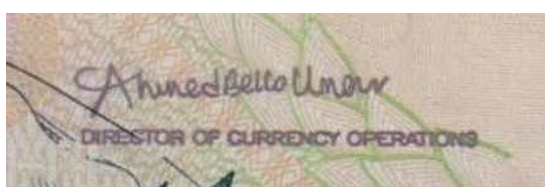
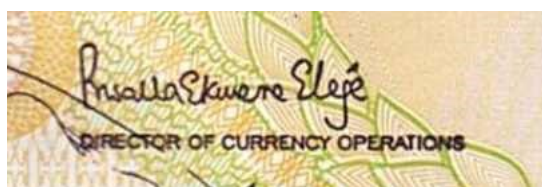
Reference: Grenada. Wikipedia.html

Nigeria 500 Naira Bank Note

Hugo Vargas has brought to our attention a 2020 issue of this banknote, which was first released in 2001. It is identical to the 500 Naira notes already listed in PBOTW except that the director of Currency Operations is Ahmed Bello Umar. He was appointed in December 2019 succeeding Priscilla Ekwueme Eleje, She was the first woman to be appointed to the position of Director of Currency Operations when appointed in 2018, taking over from Olufemi Fabamwo. She exited the Central Bank of Nigeria on December 5, 2019, having reached the statutory retirement age. The 2019 note is identical



to the 2018; the 2021 and 2022 notes seen are as the 2020. The tripod drilling platform shown on the reverse of the note is unchanged.



Signatures
from 2018
and 2020
issues of
500 Naira

Certification Committee Report #95
THE ACCEPTED NEW OFFERINGS
(There were no items rejected this quarter!)

Denom.	Description	Scott	Cat
Australia			
2022, Oct. 3 - King of the Mountain: Brock 50 Years. Perf 14 x 14 3/4, or as noted.			
"Collectables" i.e. 3D Polymer stamp and numbered limited edition sheets, were sold at a high premium over face value.			
1.10 \$	1972 Holden LJ Torona GTR XU-1 - Castrol logo on side of car (gummed stamp ex sheet)	5519	L
1.10 \$	As above but perf 14 (ex S/s)	5519a	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Limited edition S/s of above, numbered and embellished with foil and embossing	NL	L
1.10 \$	As above but die cut self adhesive perf 11.25 ex booklet	5524	L
10 x 1.10 \$	Booklet pane of 10 of above (booklet cover shown)	5524a	L
1.10 \$	Stamp as above but 3D in UV Curable Polymer - only issued on FDC in special pack, not available mint - sold from Nov 2, 2022	NL	L
1.10 \$	1979 Holden LX Torona SS ASX - Castrol logo on side of car	5520	L
1.10 \$	As above but perf 14	5520a	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Limited edition S/s of above, numbered and embellished with red foil and embossed cup	NL	L
1.10 \$	As above but die cut self adhesive perf 11.25 ex booklet	5525	L
10 x 1.10 \$	Booklet pane of 10 of above (booklet cover shown)	5525a	L
1.10 \$	1980 Holden VC Commodore - Castrol & GTX logos on car at side front &	5521	L
1.10 \$	As above but perf 14 (ex S/s)	5521a	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Limited edition S/s of above, IMPERFORATE, numbered and embellished with foil embossed cup	NL	L
1.10 \$	As above but die cut self adhesive perf 11.25 ex booklet	5526	L
10 x 1.10 \$	Booklet pane of 10 of above (booklet cover shown)	5526a	L
1.10 \$	1984 Holden VK Commodore - Castrol logos on front of car	5522	L
1.10 \$	As above but perf 14	5522a	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Limited edition S/s of above, numbered and embellished with silver foil	NL	L
1.10 \$	As above but die cut self adhesive perf 11.25 ex booklet	5527	L
10 x 1.10 \$	Booklet pane of 10 of above (booklet cover shown)	5527a	L
1.10 \$	1987 Holden VL Commodore SS Group A - Mobil logo on front of car	5523	L
1.10 \$	As above but perf 14	5523a	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Limited edition S/s of above, numbered and embellished with black foil and embossing	NL	L
1.10 \$	As above but die cut self adhesive perf 11.25 ex booklet	5528	L
10 x 1.10 \$	Booklet pane of 10 of above (booklet cover shown)	5528a	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Souvenir sheet of 5 stamps including all 4 perf 14 stamps above	5523b	L
5 x 1.10 \$	Limited edition S/s as above but numbered ex minisheet collection of all ltd edition sheets	NL	L
10 x 1.10 \$	S/s ex souvenir pack, 2 sets stamps and 10 labels	NL	L

Denom.	Description	Scott	Cat.
India			
2023, Jan. 28 - My Stamp: 50 Years of Servo Brand of Lubricants			
5 R	50th anniversary logo and containers of numerous types of oil		U
12 x 5 R	Sheet of 12 stamps as above, with selvage showing oil containers and Indian Oil Logo		U
Russia			
2022, Dec. 22 - Centenary of the USSR - Circular Sheet with Coats of Arms of all Constituent SSRs			
200 R	Selvage includes CoA for Azerbaijan and Turkmen SSR's incl. drilling derricks		D
2023, Feb. 25 - Centenary of Birth of Vladimir Vinogradov (1923 -2003), Oil & Gas Scientist at Gubkin Institute of O&G.			
45 R	Portrait of Vinogradov in front of Gubkin Moscow Institute of Oil & Gas Industry		F
Serbia			
2022, Sept. 16 - 25 Years of Diplomatic Relationship with Azerbaijan			
1.06 Din	S/s various buldings, including two of Flame Towers, Baku, at right side		G
Ukraine			
2023, Feb. 15 - Warriors of Light, Warriors of Goodness - Repairing Facilities Damaged by Russian Aggression			
M is rate for a letter of 50 - 250 g, sent within Ukraine			
M rate	Repairing gas installations after enemy missile attacks (M rate = 18 RPH at issue)		P
5 x M rate	Sheet of 5 stamps (one double sized) incl. the above (sold at 90 RPH)		P



From **India** another My Stamp has been issued. This commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Servo brand of lubricants, and several types are illustrated. Servo is part of Indian Oil and is India's biggest lubricant brand. It has a market share of more than 27% in the finished lubes segment. Servo has more than 5200 formulations and 1600 grades of lubricants are available. Servo lubricants are exported to more than 35 countries and Servo is the



first brand in the Asia Pacific region to have been approved by marine engine builders like MAN B&W.

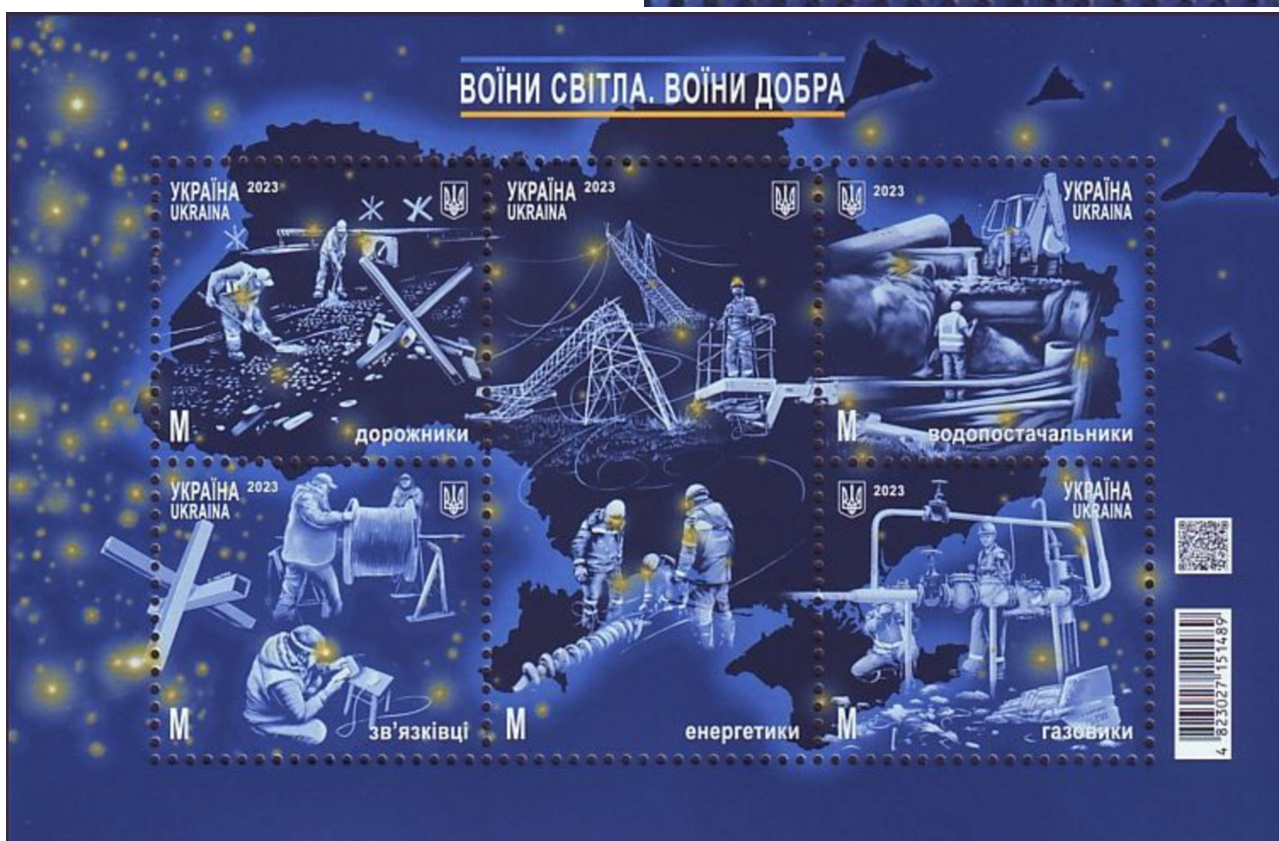
The sheet, among other images, includes the Indian Oil Rhino mascot, see the Summer 2022 PP, holding a container of oil, with a tool chest. This is the Servo Expert Mechanic.





At left, the **Serbia** sheet including images of the flame towers. The Republic of Azerbaijan was the first democratic and secular republic in the Islamic world. Founded in 1918, in 1920 it became a part of the Soviet Union. After 71 years of existence within the USSR, Azerbaijan it became independent. The establishment of diplomatic relations between Serbia and Azerbaijan in 1997 reflected the friendly relations that existed between the two nations in the previous period and the will to further improve these relations. Serbia appears particularly keen to illustrate various anniversaries of its diplomatic relations, and in 2022 it issued stamps for relations with Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Denmark, Guatemala, Iran, Japan, Morocco, Portugal, and Tunisia, as well as Serbia.

Below and right, the **Ukraine** sheet “Warriors of Light, Warriors of Goodness” shows the night time repairing of facilities damaged by Russian aggression. The sheet is dedicated to the “extraordinary soldiers” who work hard every day to ensure that people can continue their routine work. The background to the sheet is of an outline map of Ukraine. The printing other than the blue and black background is varnished so that it is reflective. One stamp (shown enlarged) is of particular interest as it illustrates technicians repairing a damaged gas installation, the other stamps in the sheet show repair of roads, communications, water supplies and energy. Designed by Oleksandr Nikityuk, the sheet circulation was 300,000 copies. The QR code links to information about the issue.



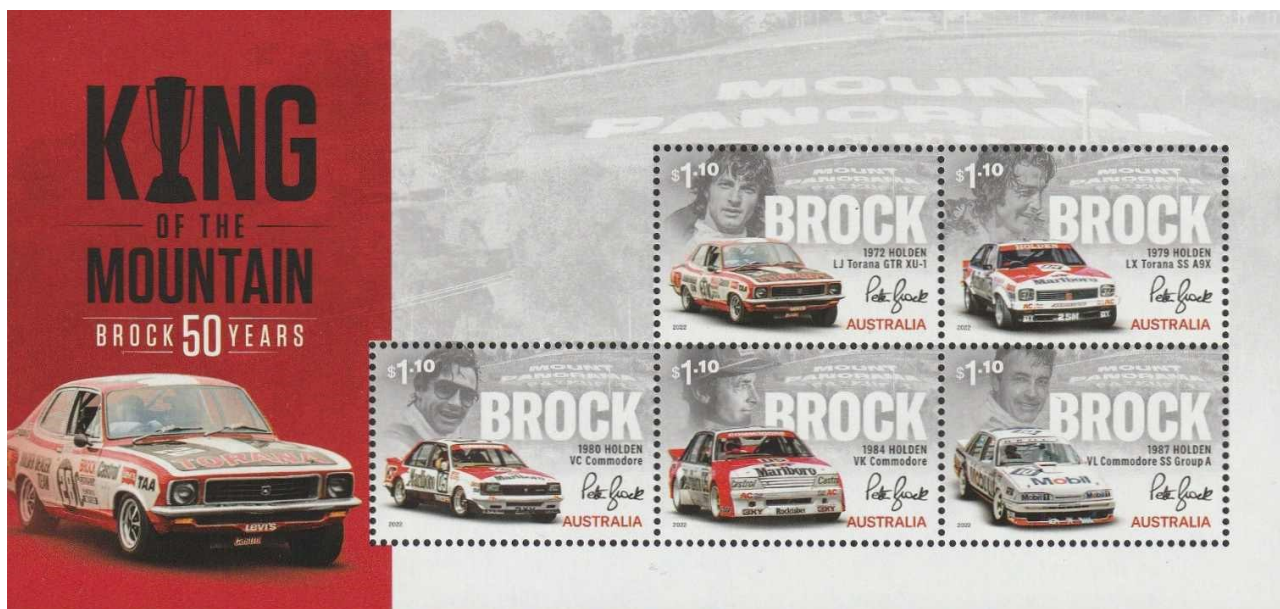


From **Russia** this circular sheet commemorating the centenary of the USSR measures about 100mm across. The embossed stamp shows the CoA of the Soviet Union whilst the selvaige includes the CoA of all of the original 15 constituent Soviet Republics. Thus including those of the Azerbaijan and Turkmen SSR's *shown above* which include oil drilling derricks in their designs. One suspects a desire by some in Russia to re-constitute the USSR, but the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine and others may be less than delighted with this proposition, or even with the reminder of their countries earlier history.



Also from **Russia**, a single stamp commemorates the centenary of the birth of Vladimir Vinogradov (1923 - 2003). He was a scientist in the field of oil and gas and was made a Hero of Socialist Labour in 1983. He worked at the Gubkin Moscow Institute of the Oil and Gas Industry from 1951 - 1993 holding various positions including that of Dean of the Mining and Oil Faculty. He authored more than 200 scientific papers and held several honorary titles including those of Honoured Oil Worker and Honorary Worker of the Gas Industry. The stamp shows a portrait of Vinogradov against a background of the Gubkin Moscow Institute.

From **Australia**, an extensive stamp issue released October 3, 2022, commemorates the **50th anniversary of Peter Geoffrey Brock's (1945-2006) inaugural Bathurst triumph**. The Bathurst 1000 is considered Australia's greatest touring car endurance race. Brock is synonymous with success at Bathurst racing events held at Mount Panorama, hence the often-used monikers King of the Mountain and Peter Perfect. Brock conquered the Bathurst racing event a record nine times, between 1972 and 1987, and the Bathurst 1000 trophy now carries his name. The stamp issue commemorates Brock's illustrious record in this event. The cars featured in the issue were driven by Brock, these are the 1972 LJ Torana; the 1979 LX Torana; the 1980 VC Commodore; the 1984 VK Commodore; and the 1987 VL Commodore. The normal Souvenir Sheet is shown below.



A variety of formats make the Australian issue somewhat complex, whilst the addition of a few "Collectables" by Australia Post, ensures that they maximise the revenue generated.

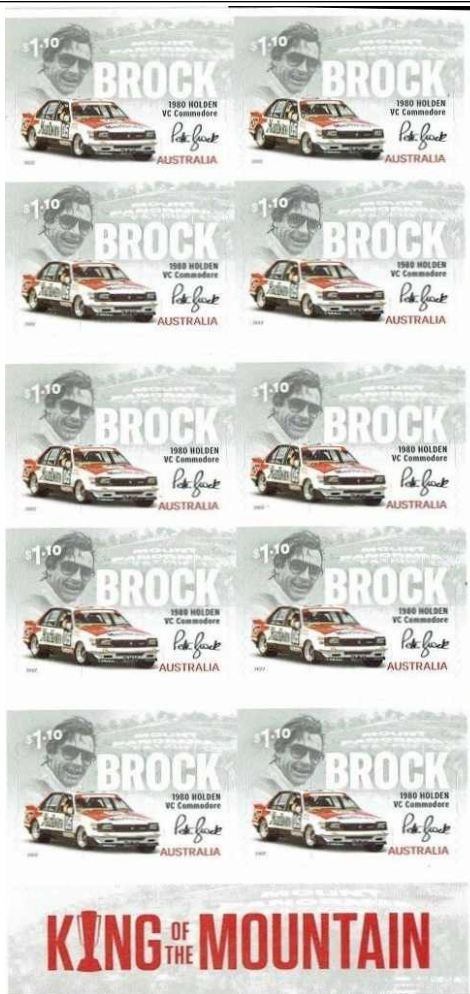
The sheet stock has a slightly different perforation (perf 14 x 14.75) to that in the gummed s/s (perf 14). This results in their being 19 vertical perforations per stamp in the sheet stock compared to 18 in the s/s. The self adhesive stamps from booklets are die cut, with another perforation that incorporates cut outs and the stamps have security slits. A souvenir pack was issued incorporating two sets of stamps and 10 labels, in two designs, which give rise to additional combinations.

In addition to the standard issue "Collectables" add to the variety. A set of 6 individually numbered souvenir sheets was released (limited to 200 sets). Five of the six sheets include five copies of one of the stamps, enhanced with foil and embossing, the sixth sheet includes one of each of the stamps. Two of these sheets, including the one with the set of stamps, are imperforate.



The 1972 Holden LJ Torana was also produced as a **3D stamp** in a limited edition of 150. This stamp was not available in mint condition, it was only released (Nov 2, 2022) on a numbered first day cover, postmarked 1 November 2022 in red ink, at a cost of \$A120.

The 3D stamp was made from a UV curable polymer, a resin-based material that was finished to a smooth surface. The "blank" 3D stamp, which at this stage appeared white, was ink-jetted with coloured inks through a special printing process to complete



the image of the stamp.

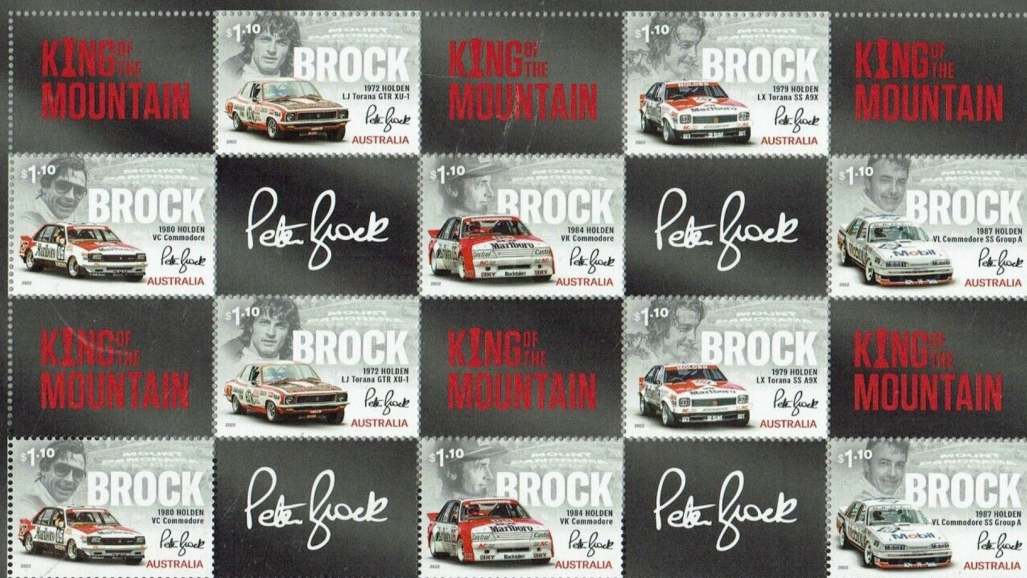
The stamp was affixed to the FDC and postmarked, then presented in a custom presentation pack treated with a finishing effect called Scodix, that gave it a high gloss, raised, textured effect finish.

At left, one of the **booklet panes**, this being the 1980 Holden VC Commodore. The booklet covers give a good enlargement of the car shown on the stamps included and all are shown on our website. They can be obtained unfolded, and also show postal rates, etc. The booklet panes of 10 self adhesive stamps all include the label "King of the Mountain" in the selva below the stamps.

At right, are examples of the sheet stamps and the self adhesive stamps, with die cut simulated perforations. The self adhesive stamp shown is used, with the matrix removed, to highlight just how different are the perforations.



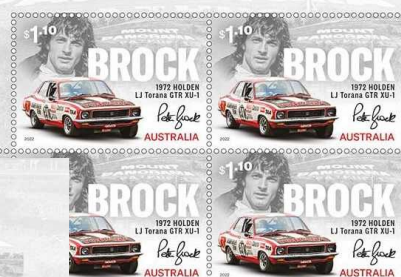
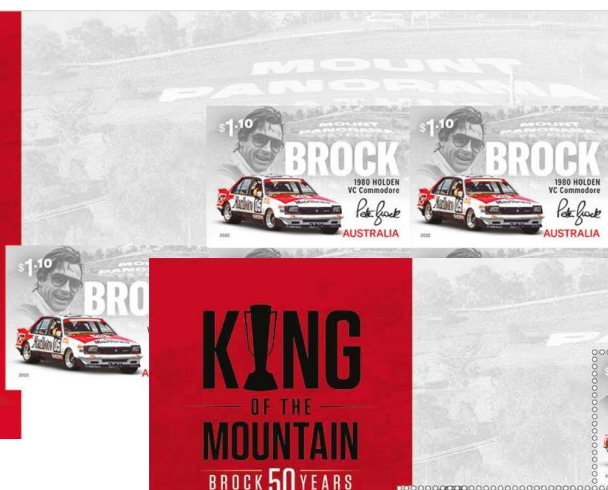
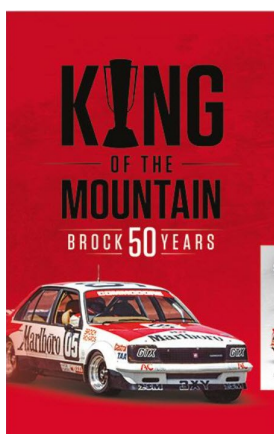
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIRST BATHURST WIN



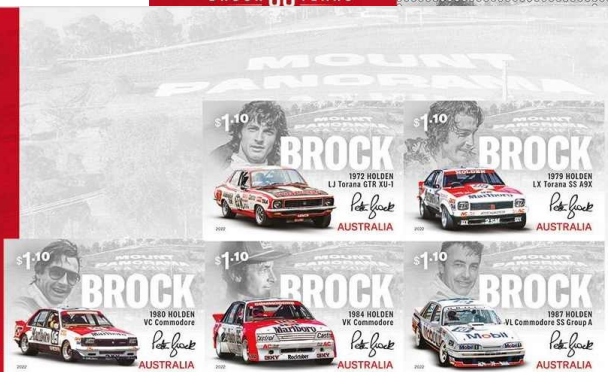
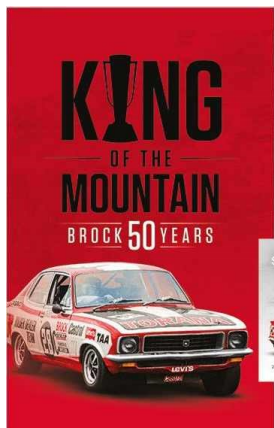
9 x BATHURST 1000 CHAMPION | 48 WINS | 212 STARTS | 57 POLES

Above, the s/s from the 2022 Brock King of the Mountain souvenir pack.

To the left are three of the limited edition numbered sheets, these being the 1980 Holden VC Commodore and the



001/200



001/200

mixed value sheet issued imperforate and the 1972 Holden LJ Torana perforated sheet.

All the items in this issue are illustrated in PSW, on the PPSI website.