

# Prohibited stamps at FIP exhibitions Illegal and abusive issues in philately

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# Prohibited stamps at FIP exhibitions

## Plan

1. Philatelic definitions
2. Definition of prohibited stamps (FIP Congress of 1976)
3. World Numbering System of the *Union Postale Universelle* (UPU)
4. Illegal and abusive issues - definitions
5. Types of prohibited stamps found at FIP exhibitions
6. How to recognize them
7. Serious harm done to philately
8. How to fight them
9. Web site of the Fakes and Forgeries Commission
10. Summary and Conclusions



# 1. Definitions

- In order to clarify terms used in the presentation, we will offer some philatelic definitions:
  - a) Forgeries
  - b) Fakes
  - c) Postal forgeries - Counterfeits
  - d) Facsimiles (or *similitudes*)
  - e) Digital reproductions
  - f) Fantasy or Cinderella
  - g) Prohibited issues
    - Abusive issues
    - Illegal issues

# a) Forgeries

- Made to defraud the philatelist.
- Some of these were originally sold to collectors as similitudes in order to fill out album space. But with time some of these were sold to collectors as genuine.

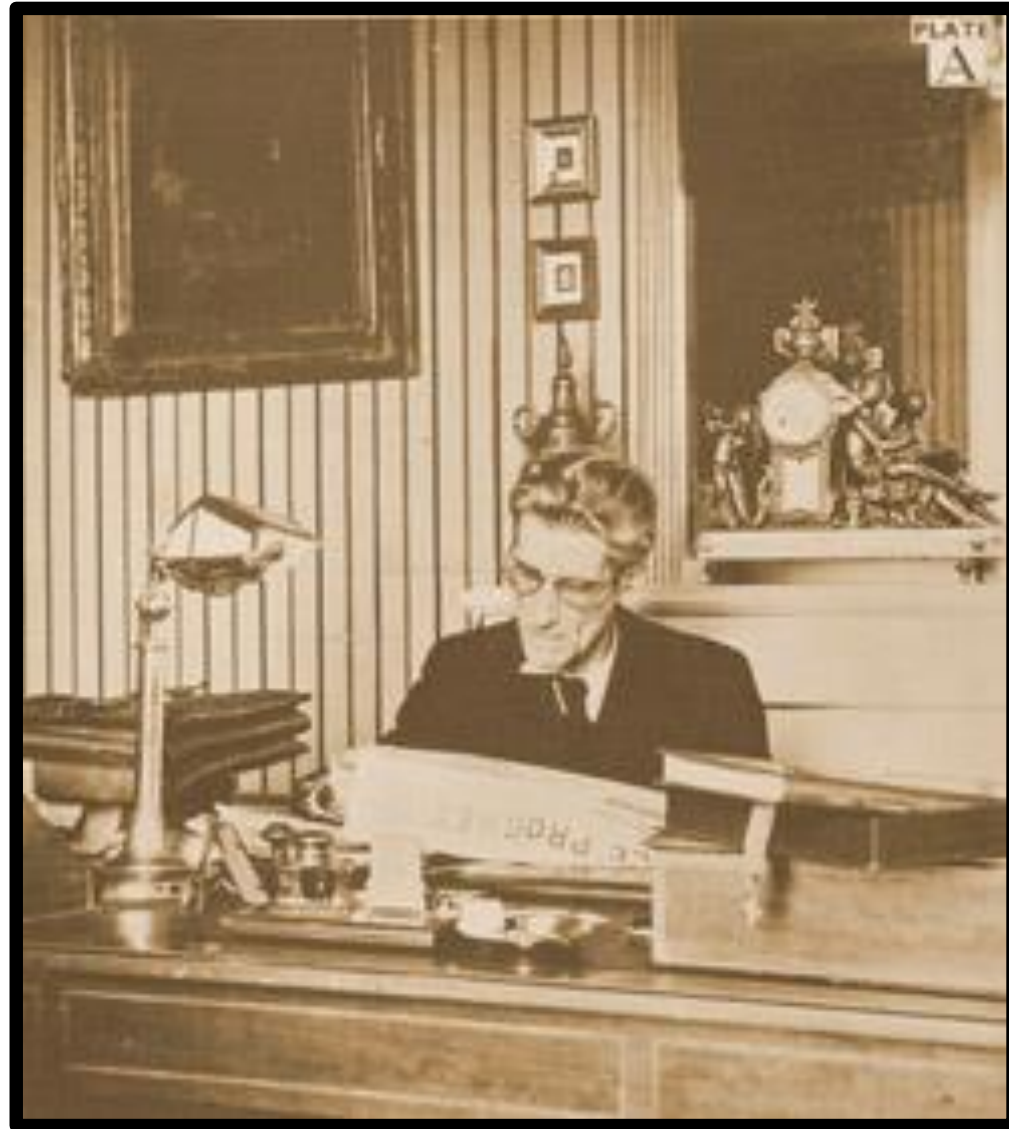
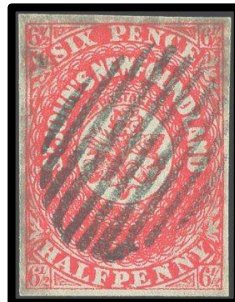
## SOME EXAMPLES

- Spiro Brothers of Hamburg.
- François Fournier of Switzerland.
- Charles Hirschburger of Switzerland.
- Peter Winter of Great Britain.
- Senf Brothers of Leipzig, Germany.



# a) Forgeries

- Jean de Sperati:  
The most technically competent forger of all times...
- More than 600 rare stamps forged.  
Used mostly photolithography.
- Up to hundreds of examples of each stamp reproduced.
- Still thousands of stamps on the market today sold as genuine!
- Also created fakes.

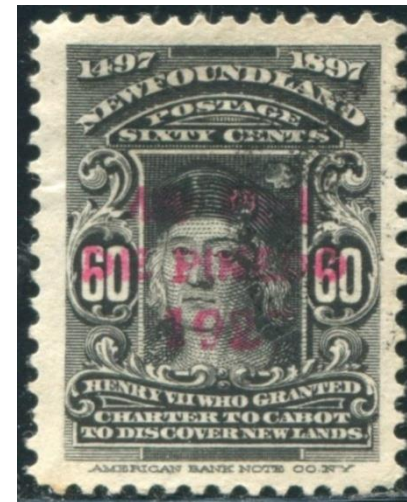


## b) Fakes

- Produced from genuine stamps (as a base) to defraud stamp collectors.
- Fraudsters will add or change perforations, surcharges, margins, cancellations. Or they take them off or re-gum the stamps etc....
- They will also often produce fake envelopes using genuine stamps.

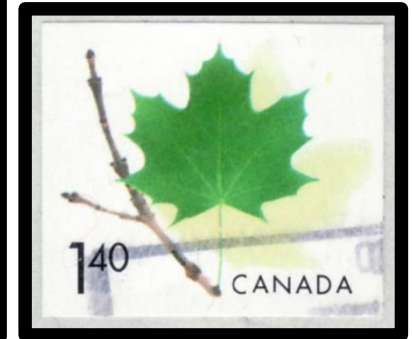
### EXAMPLE

- Raoul de Thuin from Mexico



## c) Postal forgeries - Counterfeits

- Produced in order to defraud the postal system.
- Sold to large mailers or through convenience stores (rarely at PO)
- Usually made in large quantities and found on regular mail.
- These stamps are much scarcer than the regular stamps.
- These stamps are usually collected by specialists.
- Best, if kept on original envelopes.
- In certain countries, it is illegal to collect or even possess them !



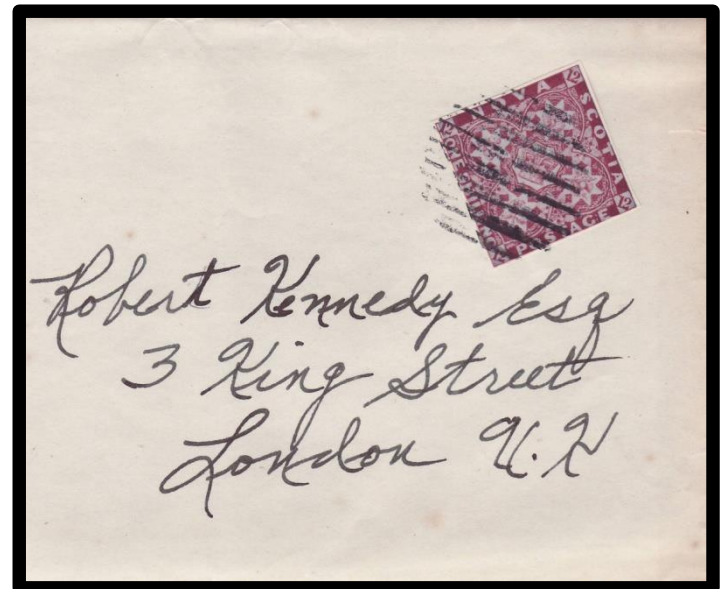
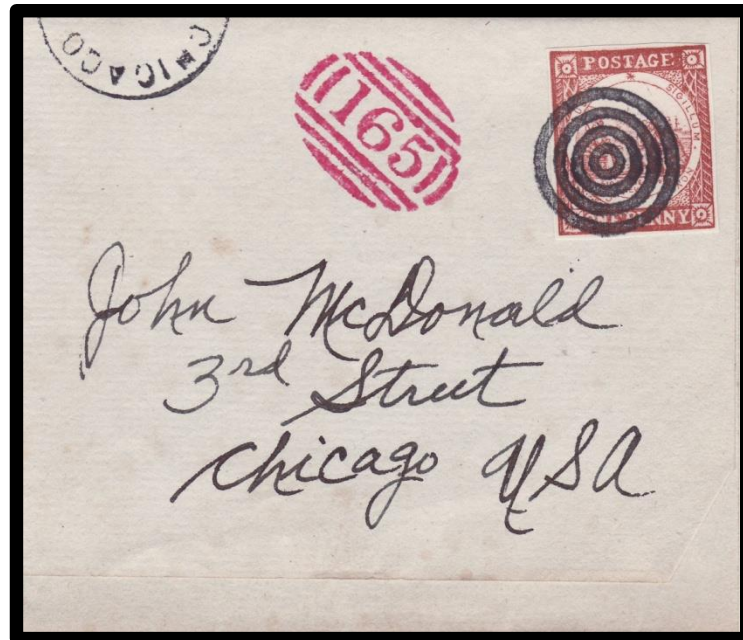
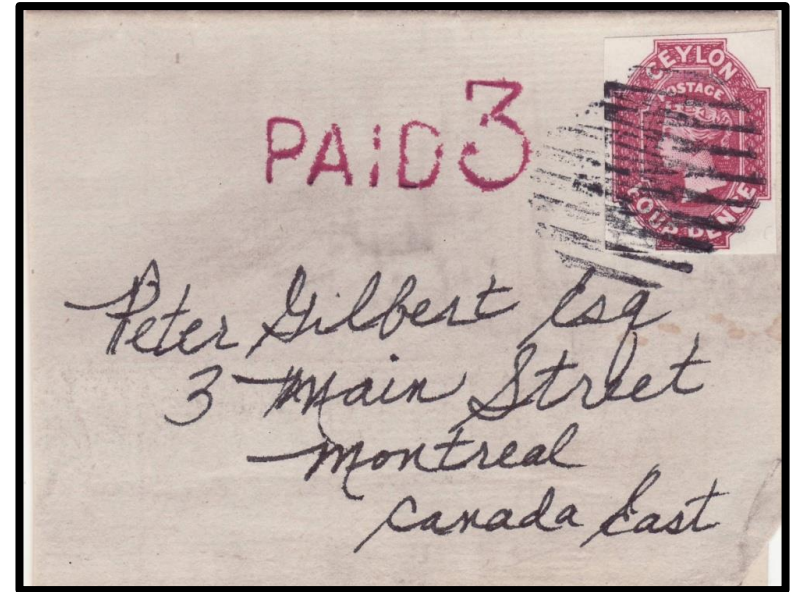
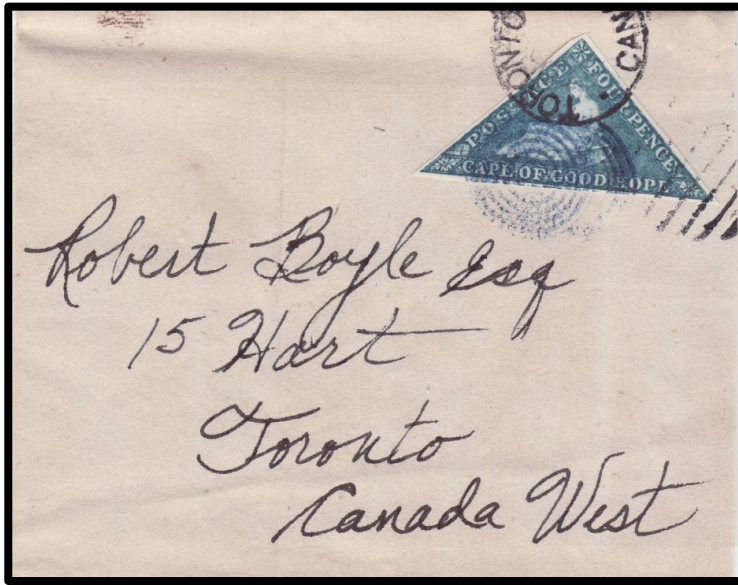
# d) Facsimiles - Similitudes

- Stamp reproductions that were produced originally without the intention to defraud anyone.
- Some of these issues, once taken off their original base, can become quite dangerous to unwary philatelists.
- Certain similitudes can be taken off their base and used as stamps on fake envelopes or pieces.





# Examples of similitudes on covers found on EBay



# e) Digital reproductions

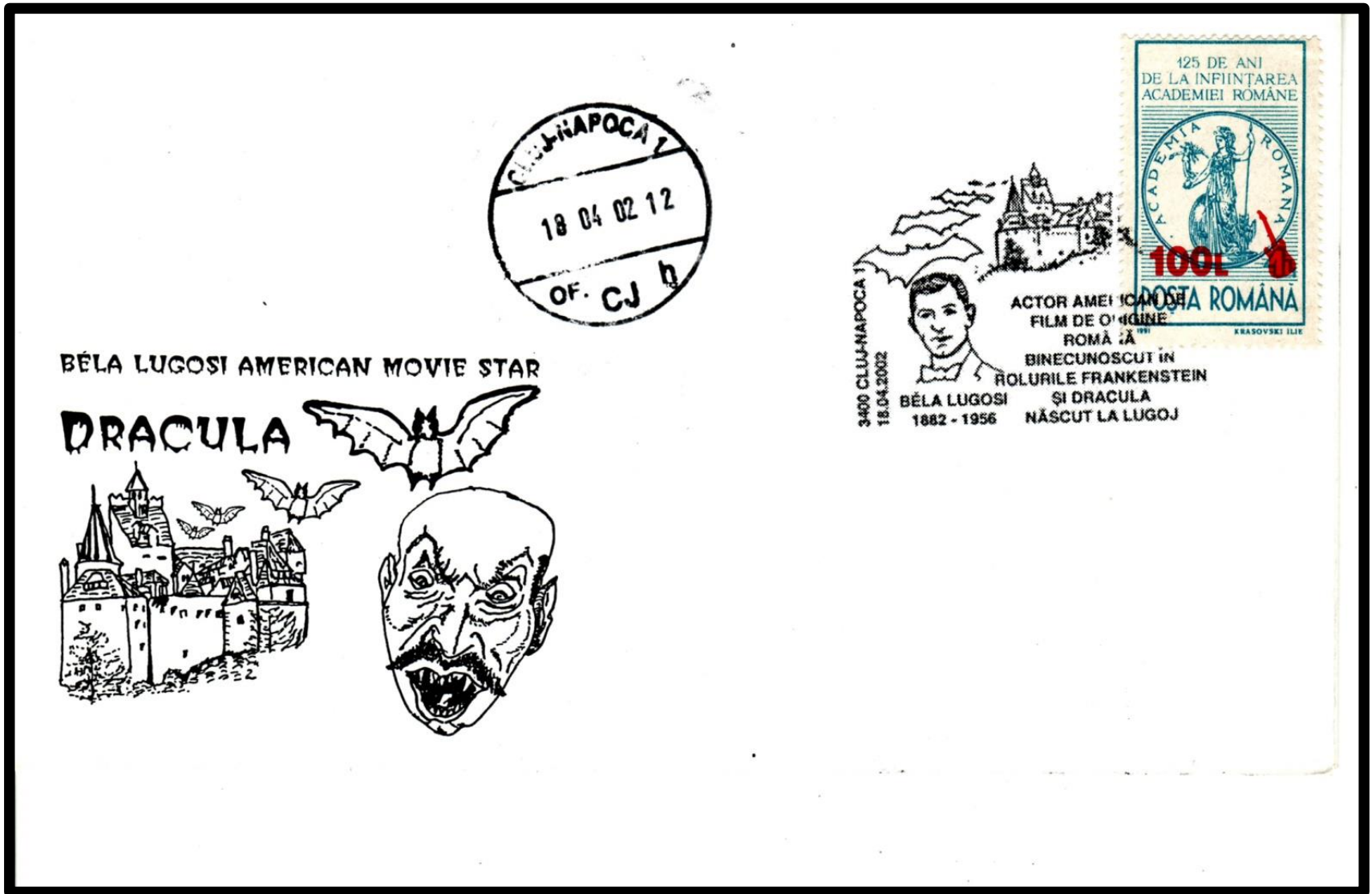
- Real plague found on every Internet sites selling stamps!
- They are produced using different digital printing means:
  1. Color printers
  2. Laser printers
  3. Ink jet printers
  4. Thermo-gravure printers
- **WITHOUT ANY PHILATELIC VALUE!**
- **Be careful ! Some of these are extremely well done!!**
- These are prohibited in all exhibits – the exhibitor could be disqualified or lose many points (downgraded).



# EXAMPLES OF DIGITAL REPRODUCTIONS



# Example of fake digital cancellation



# Example of fake digital cancellation

Genuine = rubber stamp

Fake = laser printing



# f) Fantasy or Cinderella

- Usually non existent countries
- Without any philatelic value
- Paraphilatelic issue
- Can sometimes be sold as what they are not !
- Often sold to unaware philatelists
- Prohibited at philatelic exhibitions
- Most of them not dangerous

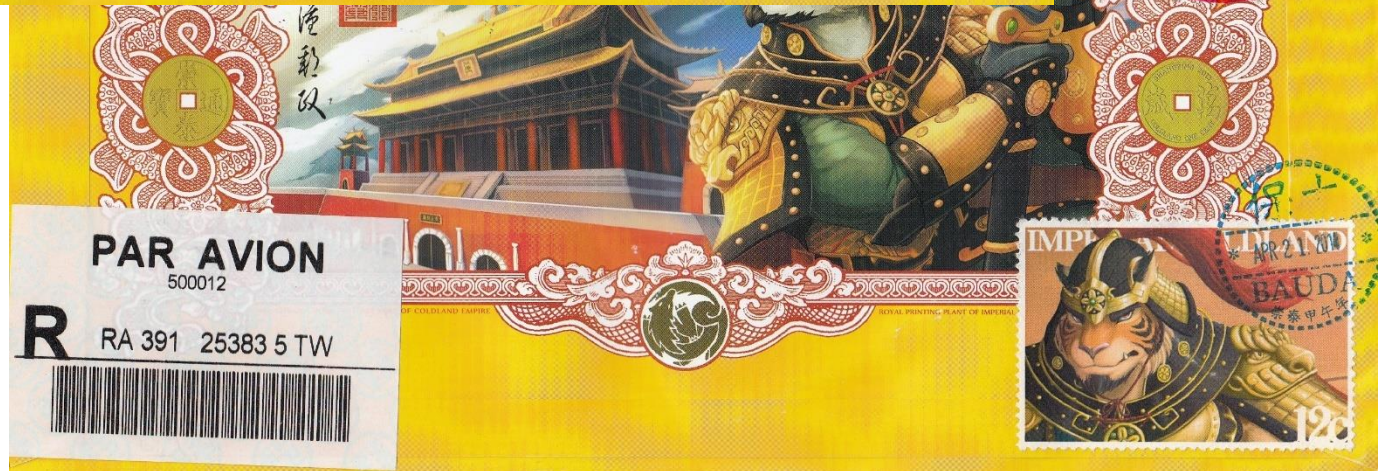


# Example of a Cinderella

- Often sold on **Delcampe** and **EBay** sites as genuine postage stamps from very far away and **new** countries!!!
- Unfortunately, many sellers often try to convince their customers that these are from genuine countries and quite valid for postage!
- Often bought by unwary thematic collectors.
- Absolutely prohibited at ALL philatelic exhibitions.



# Paraphilatelic cover with stamps





## g) Prohibited stamps at FIP exhibitions

- **The prohibited stamps at FIP exhibitions are made of abusive and illegal issues. These should also be prohibited in ALL NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS !!**
- **The abusive issues are the ones that do not follow the deontology code (code of ethics) of the UPU and the FIP Philatelic Congress of Philadelphia of 1976.**
- **The illegal issues are those that are not issued by legal postal administrations. These issues were often mentioned in the UPU circulars.**

# Prohibited issues – Illegal examples

## Abkhazia 1998

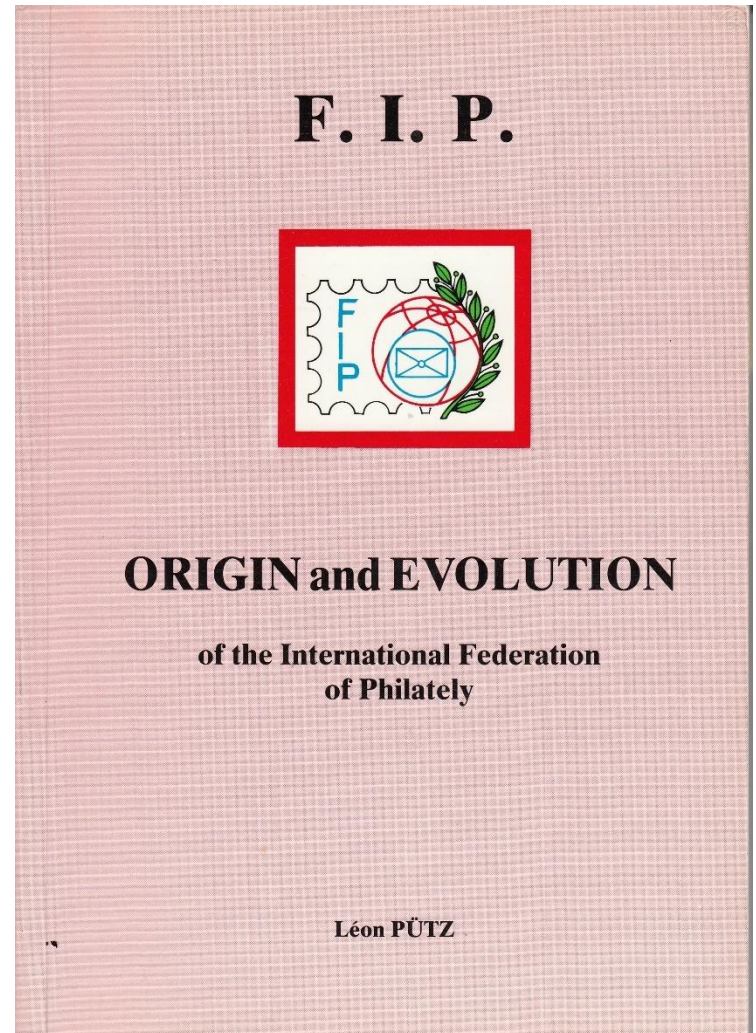


## Abkhazia 1999



# 2. HISTORY OF THE FIP

- Book on history of FIP written by Léon Pütz, President of FIP from 1971-1978.
- Published in French, English and German.
- Available from FIP secretary.
- Very good explanations on all these prohibited issues were provided in 1976.



# First list of undesirable issues

- FIP began to publish lists of undesirable issues back in the 1950's.
- FIP realized quickly that this was not a good solution due to too many issues.
- The Commission against Issues Harmful to Philately was designated in 1953 as the Commission Against Undesirable issues.
- All the published lists can be found on our site.
- Some stamps on these lists are now accepted (ex: issues of DDR).

Mr. Roth, who had been named as president of the commission, resigned shortly thereafter. Thus, there was no activity during 1949. On 2 February 1950, the F.I.P. President requested Mr. Jczler of Schaffhausen to take this office, which he agreed to do in his letter of 25 February 1950.

In the meantime, several national federations had sent the F.I.P. Board information on undesirable issues. On the basis of this information, Mr. Jczler was able to distribute List No. 1 of stamps to be boycotted on 21 March 1950 (see Ill. 6).

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE ( F.I.P.)

Commission contre les émissions abusives

l i s t e No. 1

des timbres-poste exclus des Expositions philatéliques,

Les émissions abusives ne seront pas admises à l'exposition  
\*\*\*\*\*

No. d'ordre	Pays	Description des émissions	Caractéristiques
1	Belgique	1946/48 timbres Demin, Vandervelde et Royesse, perforés "LMAHA"	machination privée
2	"	1947 5 timbres antituberculeux	dépasse 50 ₣
3	"	1948 4 " Abbaye d'Achel	" 50 ₣
4	"	1948 4 " Abbaye de Chèvremont	" 50 ₣
5	"	1948 4 " Edouard Anseele	" 50 ₣
6	"	1948 1 bloc " "	" 50 ₣
7	"	1948 1 timbre Monum. Libér. Anvers	" 50 ₣
8	"	1948 1 " " Résistance Liège	" 50 ₣
9	Sarre	1948 4 timbres Inondation	" 50 ₣
10	"	1948 1 timbre " poste adrienne	" 50 ₣
11	"	1948 2 blocs " "	" 50 ₣
12	Maroc franç.	1948 1 bloc Solidarité	" 50 ₣
13	Belgique	1949 2 blocs Jordans et v.d.Weyden	" 50 ₣
14	France	1949 1 bloc Nations Unies	non fournis aux guichets
15	Maroc franç.	1950 timbre Général Leclerc	dépasse 50 ₣
16	"	1950 " Journée du Timbre	" 50 ₣
17	"	1950 " Solidarité	" 50 ₣
18	Belgique	1950 3 timbres Année Sainte	" 50 ₣

\*\*\*\*\*

Ill. 6

## 2. Undesirable issues (1976)

During the 1976 FIP Congress held in Philadelphia (USA), it was agreed to send a letter to all postal administrations affiliated with the UPU with these four points:

The following postage stamps are to be rejected by all exhibitions held under FIP patronage:

1. Postage stamps which are not placed in circulation by means of open sale at the great majority of postal counters and not sold at face value.
2. Postage stamps whose sales, to an overwhelming degree, is undertaken through commercial agents who are not officials of the issuing country.
3. Postage stamps which are offered to the public in a manner of concurrent issues in the form of stamps, souvenir sheets or pages, perforated or imperforated, in part, with limited quantities, even if they are in different colors.
4. Postage stamps which are issued with surcharges that surpass 50% of face value. An exception is made for amounts which do not exceed the normal postage for domestic letter, under the condition that the surcharge does not exceed the face value.

# 3. World Numbering System

- Developed by the UPU and the AMDP (*Association Mondiale pour le Développement de la Philatélie*), the WNS came into effect in January 2002. The objective is to develop a data base for all legal stamps issued by the Member countries & territories of the UPU.
- The WNS has the objective to serve as a reference for new stamp issues and to give information to the philatelist.
- Only the stamps which were registered at the International office of the UPU by the issuing country will receive a unique WNS number and will be listed on the Web site of the UPU in French & English.
- The UPU web site is a reference tool to help philatelists identify legal stamps versus illegal stamps.

# Countries in blue use the UPU - WNS



# Example of a UPU notice



UPU | UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL  
UNION

Berne, 6 May 2013  
International Bureau Circular

62

Tanzania (United Rep.) – Illegal postage  
stamps 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

The designated operator of TANZANIA (UNITED REP.), Tanzania Posts Corporation, wishes to inform the UPU member countries of the following:

"It has come to our attention through our philately customers in different parts of the world that illegal stamps bearing the name "Zanzibar" have been introduced into the world market.

"These stamps are on sale on various websites, despite the fact that they do not comply with UPU conditions for postage stamps.

"Tanzania Posts Corporation asks UPU member countries and their designated operators, the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), and all other stakeholders to refuse to disseminate any such stamps, information or items in the market.

"Moreover, Tanzania Posts Corporation urges the designated operators of UPU member countries to refuse entry to their systems of any correspondence bearing illegal stamps."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKeown  
Director of Markets Development



# Serious problems with the WNS

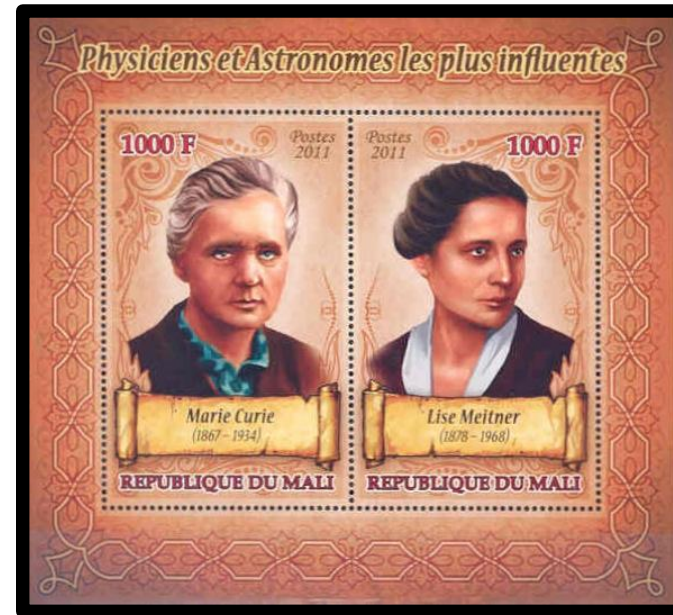
- Many countries do not participate to the system: Germany, Belgium, Finland and many Asian & African countries ...
- Many countries take too many years to register their issues...
- UPU circulars should always contain the photographs of the genuine & illegal stamps reported.
- Many countries do not report their stamp frauds....
- Certain members never sent even one notice of genuine or illegal issue. The system really needs to change to become useful to philatelists...
- The UPU does not let the philatelists have access since 2016 !!!!
- See site at: [www.wnsstamps.post](http://www.wnsstamps.post)

# 4a. Abusive issues - definition

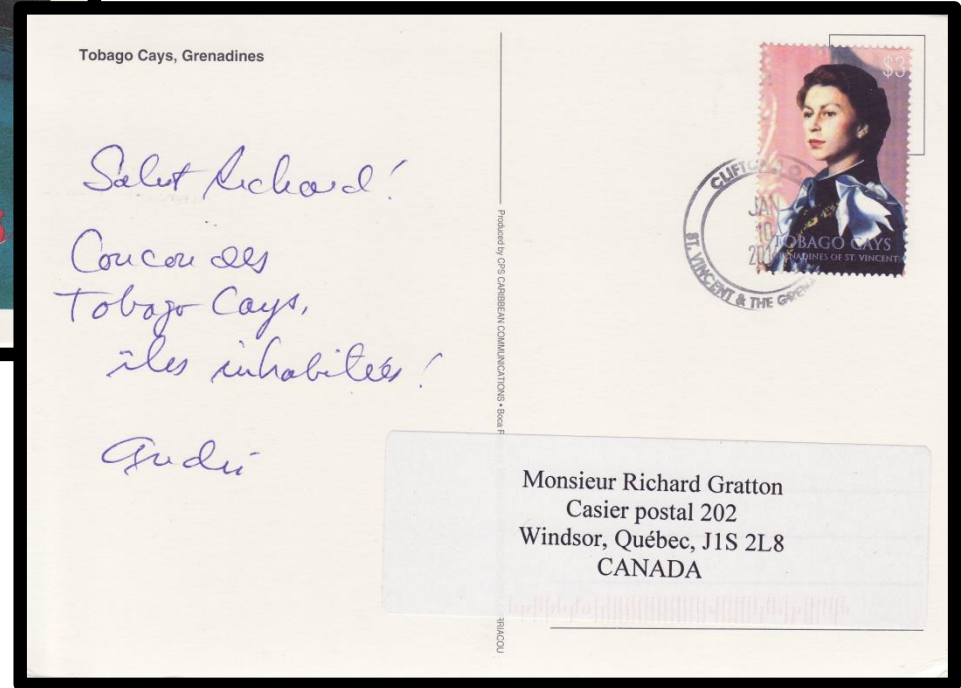
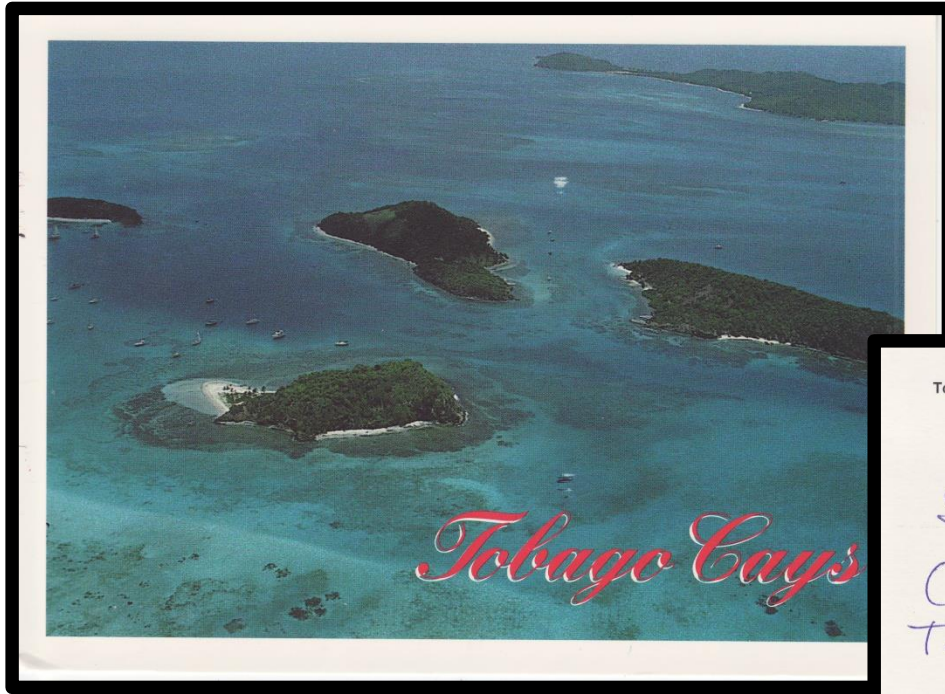
- The abusive issues are the ones from countries not abiding by the philatelic code of ethics (deontology) accepted by the member countries of the UPU and under the FIP resolution of 1976.
- The philatelic code of ethics was put into place in 2008 and accepted by all the UPU members.
- Certain stamps and souvenir sheets are still issued by some countries and against their own code of ethics!
- These stamps are not sold by their philatelic services or national post offices but by private agents or companies not located in the issuing countries.
- These stamps do not correspond to the postal needs of the country and often are not even available in the issuing country.
- **The stamps are still valid for postage in the issuing country!**

# Some countries issuing abusive stamps.

- BURUNDI
- CENTRAL AFRICA
- COMORES
- DJIBOUTI
- IVORY COAST
- GUINEA
- GUINÉ-BISSAU
- GUYANA
- GRENADA & GRENADINES
- SALOMON ISLANDS
- MALDIVES
- MALI
- MOZAMBIQUE
- NIGER
- OUGANDA
- ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES
- SAO-TOME & PRINCIPE
- SIERRA LEONE
- TCHAD
- TANZANIA
- TOGO REPUBLIC
- ZAMBIA



# Abusive issues - Grenadines

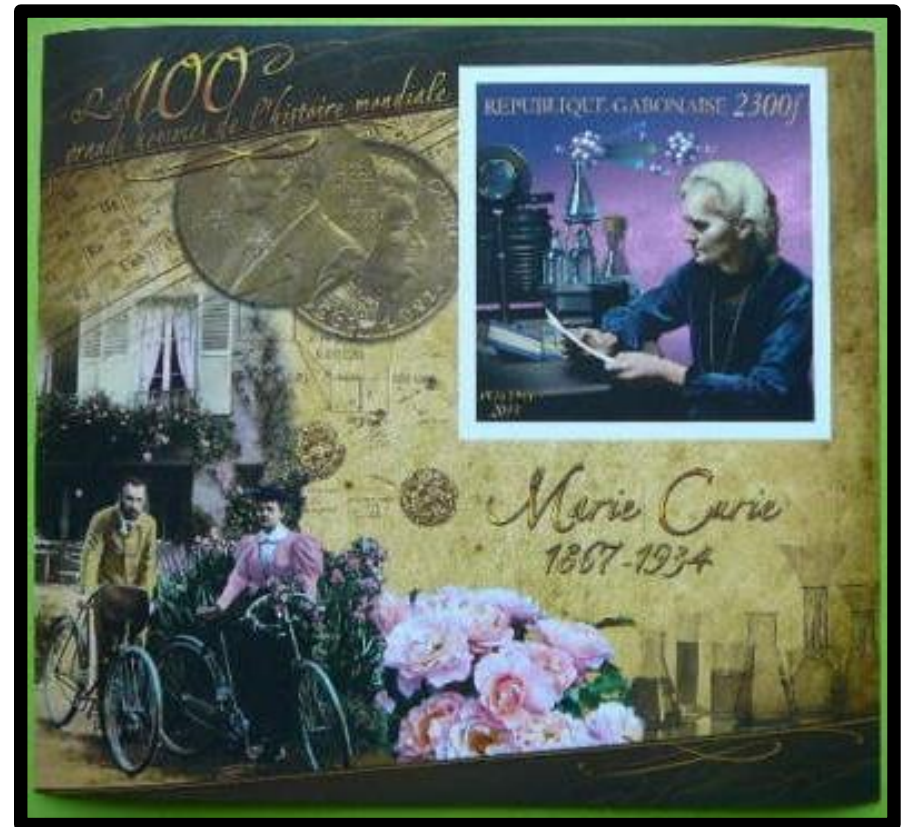


# Prohibited abusive issues - Examples

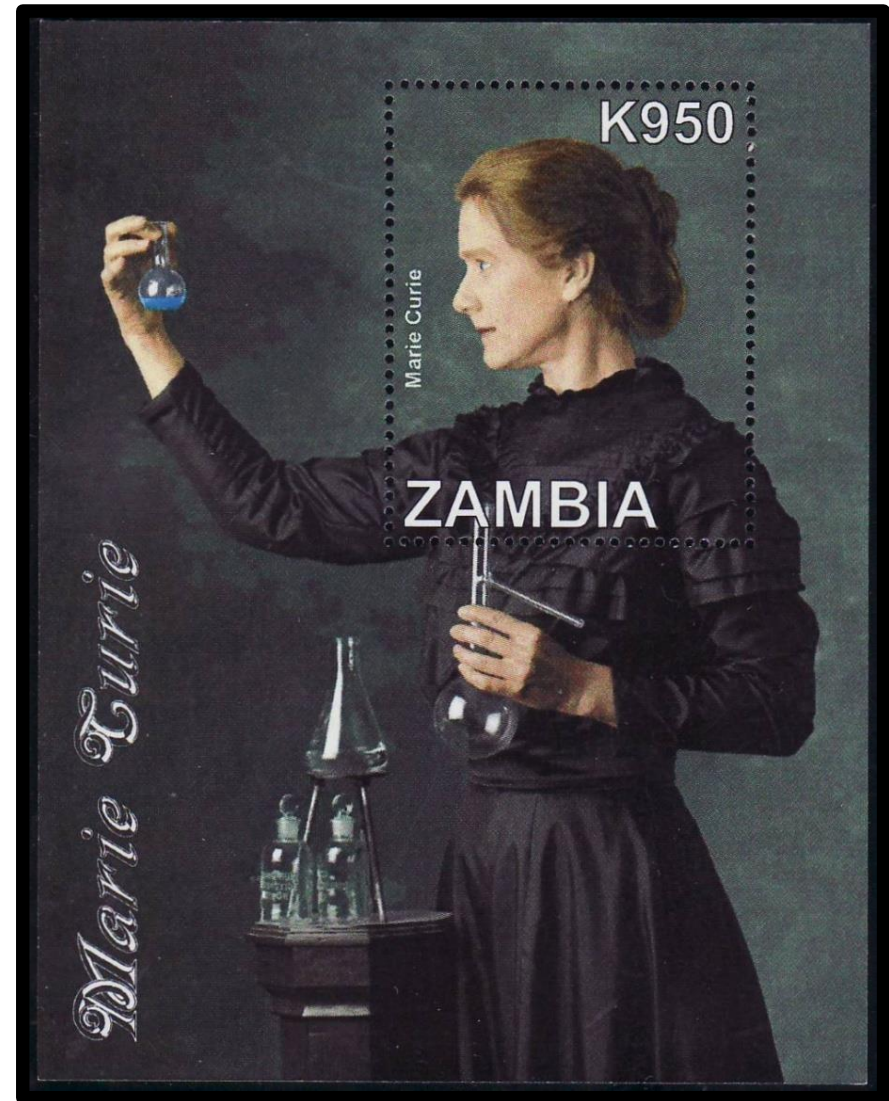
Not sold in Post offices - Perforated



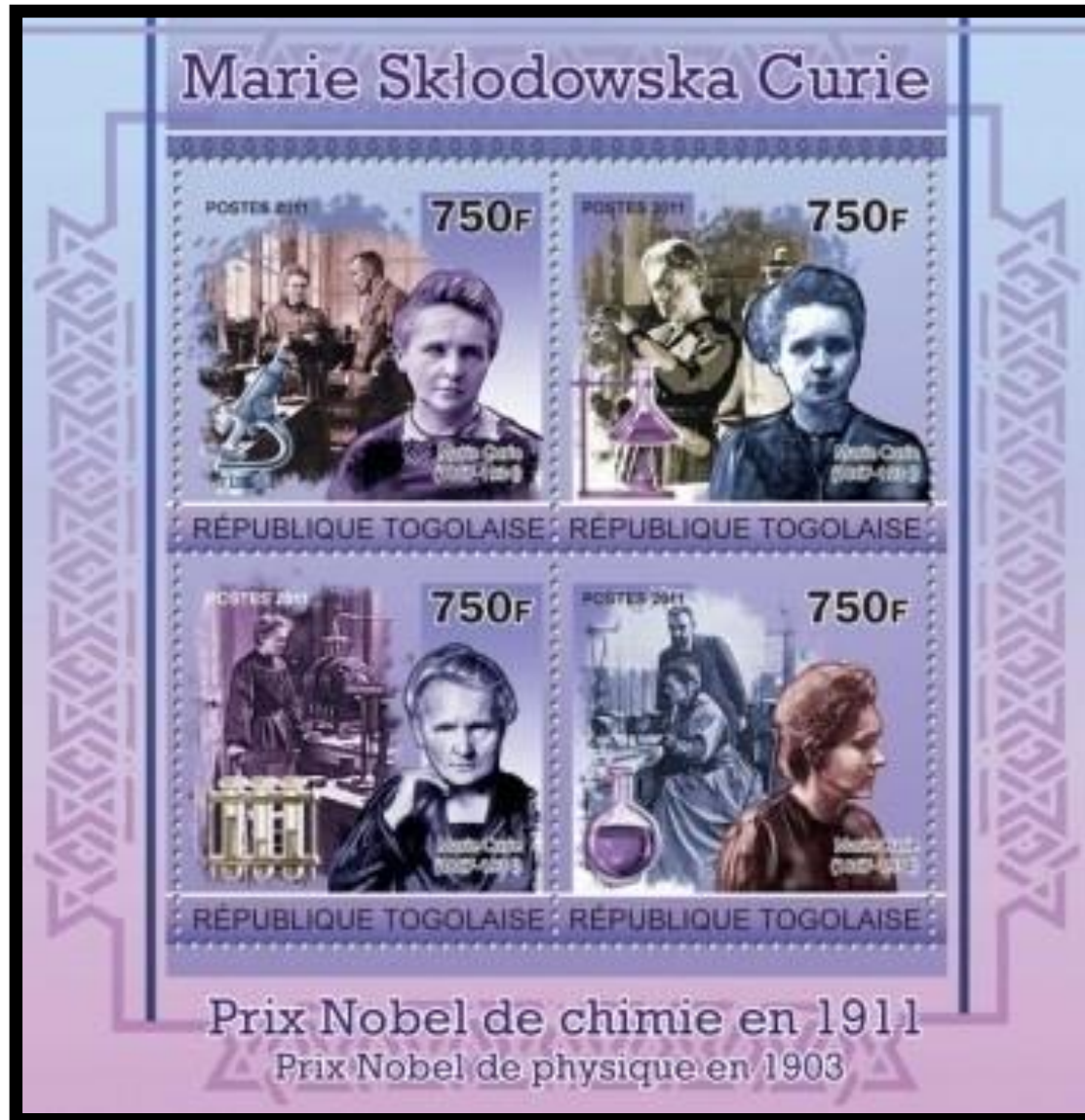
Not sold in PO - Imperforated



# Prohibited stamp issues - Examples



# Prohibited stamp issues - Examples



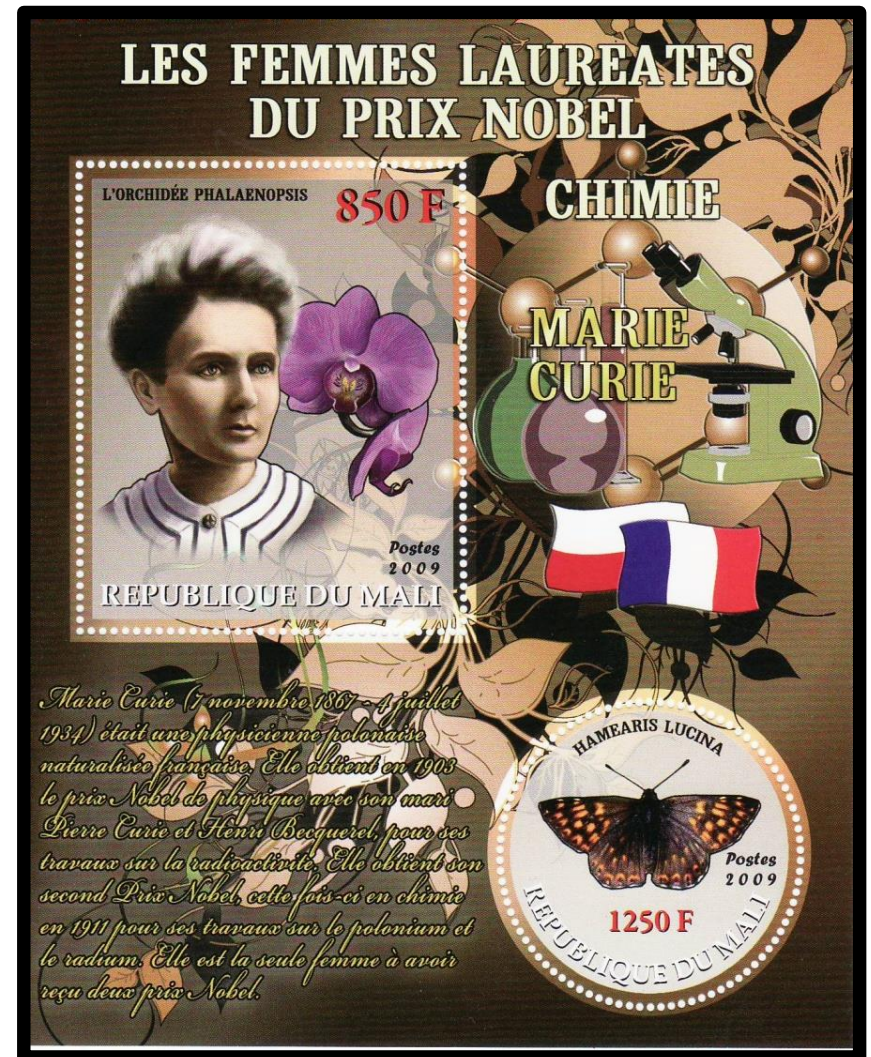
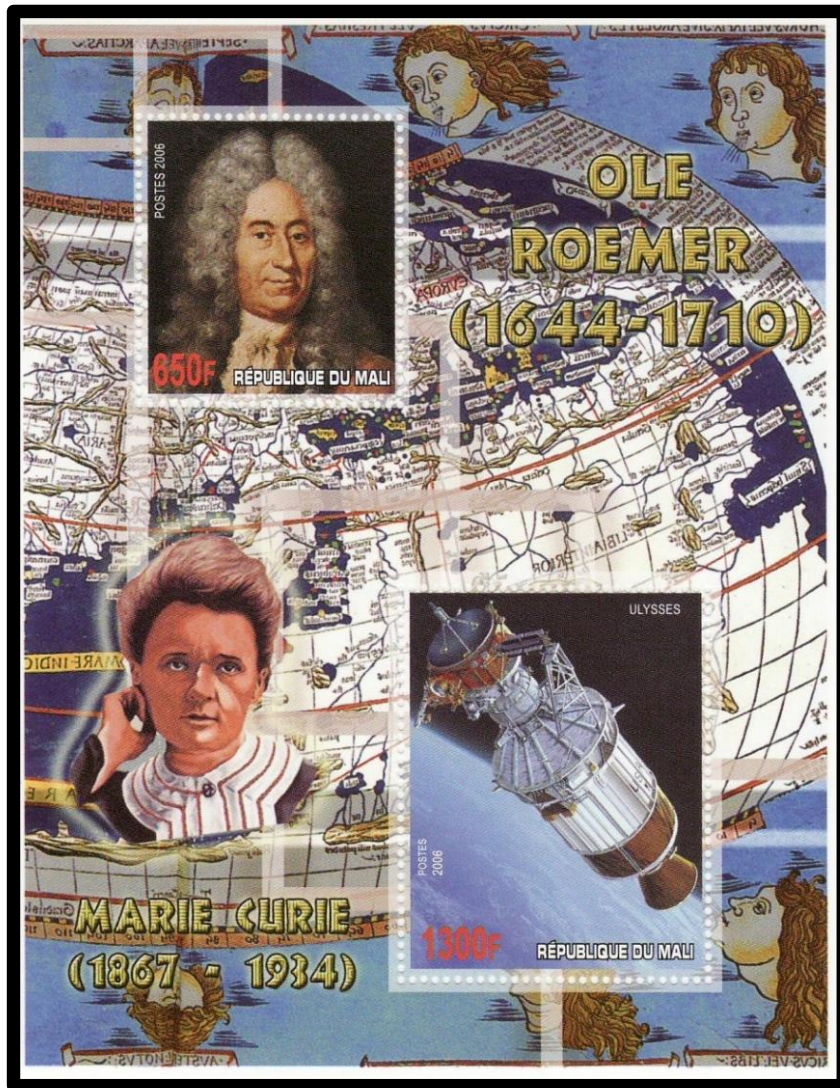




# Prohibited stamp issues - Examples



# Prohibited stamp issues - Examples



## 4b. Illegal stamps - definition

- The illegal stamps are the ones that were sometimes mentioned on the UPU site in its philatelic circulars.
- Unfortunately, for no obvious reason, the site is not available anymore to philatelists since 2016!  
See: UPU: [www.wnsstamps.post](http://www.wnsstamps.post)
- Unfortunately, we cannot use the WNS adequately because too many countries do not participate to the WNS or even list their issues!!
- It is thus extremely difficult for most philatelists to be able to clearly identify illegal stamps!!!

# Examples of countries not registering their stamps

## Mauritanie (MR)

Year	Registrations
<a href="#">2002</a>	N/A *apture
<a href="#">2003</a>	20
<a href="#">2004</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2005</a>	22
<a href="#">2006</a>	Ancun timbre émis
<a href="#">2007</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2008</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2009</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2010</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2011</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2012</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2013</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2014</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2015</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2016</a>	12
<a href="#">2017</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
Total	54

## Burundi (BI)

Year	Registrations
<a href="#">2002</a>	6
<a href="#">2003</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2004</a>	32
<a href="#">2005</a>	Ancun timbre émis
<a href="#">2006</a>	Ancun timbre émis
<a href="#">2007</a>	9
<a href="#">2008</a>	6
<a href="#">2009</a>	37
<a href="#">2010</a>	17
<a href="#">2011</a>	3
<a href="#">2012</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2013</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2014</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2015</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2016</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2017</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
Total	110

# Examples of countries not registering their stamps

## Maldives (MV)

Year	Registrations
<a href="#">2002</a>	180
<a href="#">2003</a>	18
<a href="#">2004</a>	Timbres non transmis. Information inconnue
<a href="#">2005</a>	Timbres non transmis. Information inconnue
<a href="#">2006</a>	Timbres non transmis. Information inconnue
<a href="#">2007</a>	93
<a href="#">2008</a>	23
<a href="#">2009</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2010</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2011</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2012</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2013</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2014</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2015</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2016</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2017</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>

## Mali (ML)

Year	Registrations
<a href="#">2002</a>	4
<a href="#">2003</a>	4
<a href="#">2004</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2005</a>	9
<a href="#">2006</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2007</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2008</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2009</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2010</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2011</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2012</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2013</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2014</a>	5
<a href="#">2015</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2016</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2017</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

# Examples of countries not registering their stamps

## Comores (KM)

Year	Registrations
<a href="#">2002</a>	5
<a href="#">2003</a>	10
<a href="#">2004</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2005</a>	4
<a href="#">2006</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2007</a>	12
<a href="#">2008</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2009</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2010</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2011</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2012</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2013</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2014</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2015</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2016</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2017</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
Total	31

## Congo (Rép) (CG)

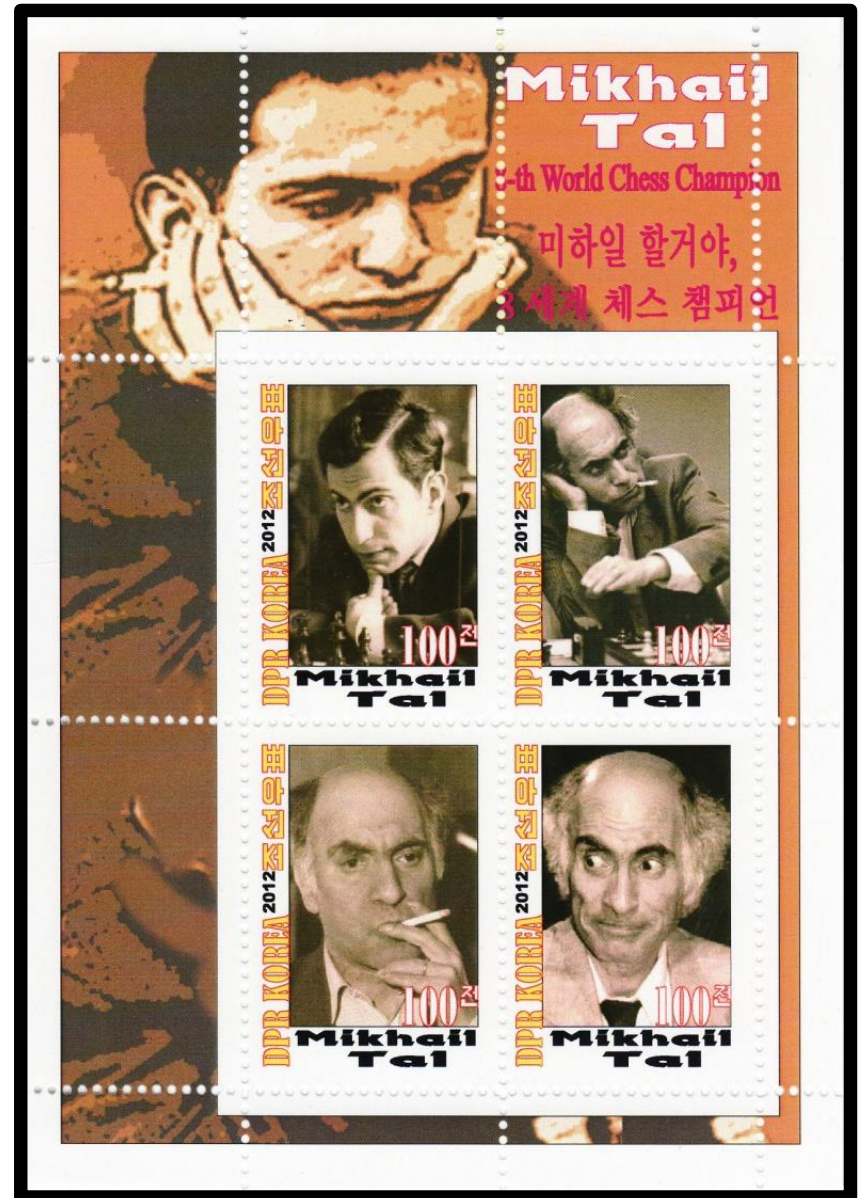
Year	Registrations
<a href="#">2002</a>	10
<a href="#">2003</a>	8
<a href="#">2004</a>	Ancun timbre émis
<a href="#">2005</a>	15
<a href="#">2006</a>	6
<a href="#">2007</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2008</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2009</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2010</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2011</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2012</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2013</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2014</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2015</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2016</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
<a href="#">2017</a>	Timbres en attente d'enregistrement
Total	39

# List of countries where illegal stamps are found & reported by the UPU

- Abkhazia
- Afghanistan
- Adjara
- Angola
- Saudi Arabia
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Central Africa
- Chad
- Chypre
- Comoros
- Congo
- North Korea
- Croatia
- Djibouti
- United Arab Republic
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Greece
- Equatorial Guinea
- Haiti
- Maurice Island
- Ivory Coast
- Iraq
- Isle of Man
- Kirghizstan
- Kiribati
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Malawi
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Niger
- Uganda
- Uzbekistan
- South Ossetia
- Paraguay
- Russia (Numerous regions)
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Slovenia
- Soudan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tchetchenia
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine

# Illegal souvenir sheet – North Korea

- Often found on EBay & Delcampe auction sites.
- Sold to unwary philatelists.
- Can fetch very high prices !
- Cheap printing on cheap coated paper, sometimes gummed.
- Interest to thematic collectors.





# Illegal stamps – North Korea



## German U-boat aces second World War



세계 대전의 독일어 U-보트 에이스

ebay Magasiner par catégorie

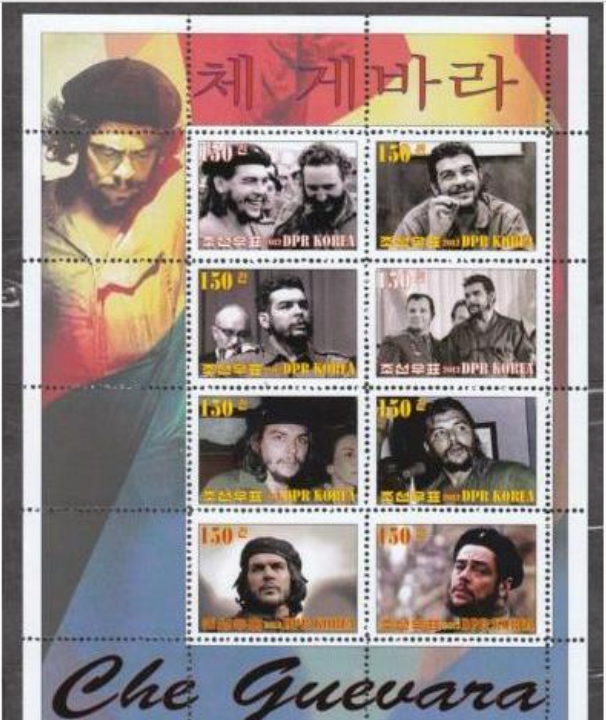
Toutes les catégories

Rechercher

Retourner dans Mon eBay | Catégorie de mise en vente : Timbres > Spécialité philatélie > Copies, Reproductions

Quelqu'un a surenchéri. | Augmenter l'enchère max.

### RUSSIA KHAKASIA SHEET OF 8 STAMPS FIGHTER CHE GUEVARA 2012



État de l'objet : --

Temps restant : 2 h 24 m 14 s (mai 09, 2014 21:42:24 HAE)

Enchère actuelle : **21,25 \$US** [ 8 enchères ]  
 Environ 23,09 \$C

Saisir 21,75 \$US ou plus

**Enchérir**

Ajouter à la liste Objets à suivre

★ Ajouter à la collection

Informations sur le vendeur **balticum** (6506 ★)  
 99,5% Évaluations positives

S'abonner à ce vendeur  
 Voir d'autres objets

Visiter la Boutique : balticum

AUBAINES ebay  
 Plus d'aubaines.  
 Plus d'économies.  
 Plus d'objets popul

Magasiner

## Ebay auction result (May 2014)

The same sheet was offered again by the same seller the week after and sold for only 3\$



# Illegal stamps – South Ossetia

100 years since the birth of Wernher von Braun



# South Ossetia



# Illegal stamps – Tchetchenia



# Tchetchenia

Mapa geopolítico da região do Cáucaso (2008)



# Illegal stamps - Tchetchenia





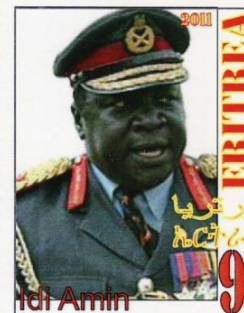
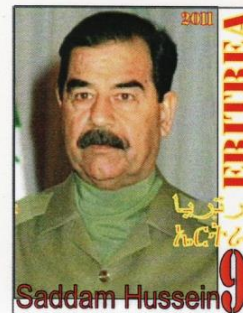
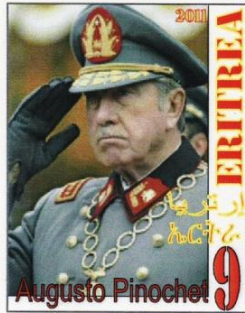
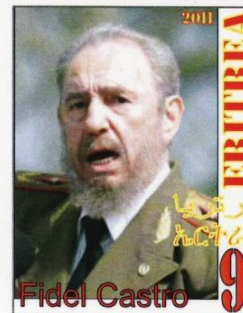
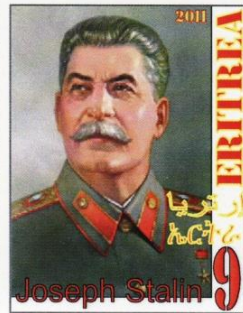
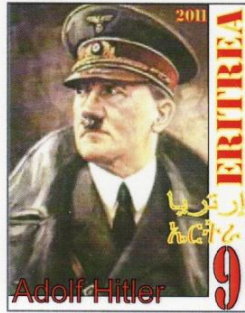
# Illegal stamps - Eritrea

- Who would think that a country would issue stamps on great dictators?
- Eritrea did not register a stamp with the WNS since 2003 !!!!



# Illegal stamps - Eritrea

## HISTORY OF THE XX CENTURY The Great Dictators



# Illegal stamps- Transnistria (Ukraine)



# Illegal issues – Adzaria AJARA



# ADZARIA Illegals



Valtheme

www.delcampe.net

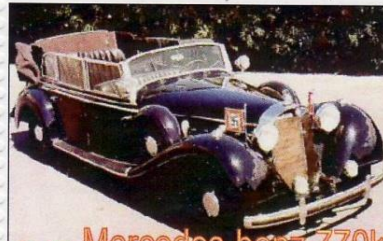


# Illegal issues - Adzaria

## MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF GERMANY



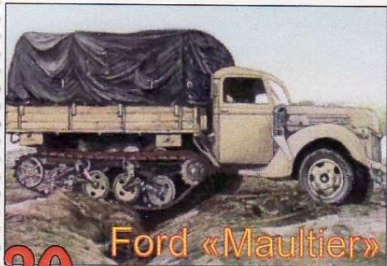
30 2013 ADZARIA  
Kfz 15 Horch



30 2013 ADZARIA  
Mercedes-benz 770k



30 2013 ADZARIA  
VW Type 82 Kubelwagen



30 2013 ADZARIA  
Ford «Maultier»



30 2013 ADZARIA  
Stoewer 40



30 2013 ADZARIA  
Henschel 33D1



30 2013 ADZARIA  
OPEL BLITZ



30 2013 ADZARIA  
Sd-Kfz 231



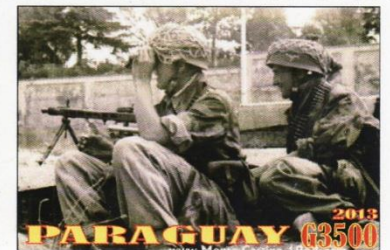
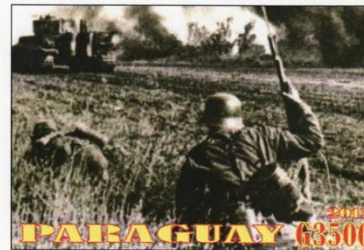
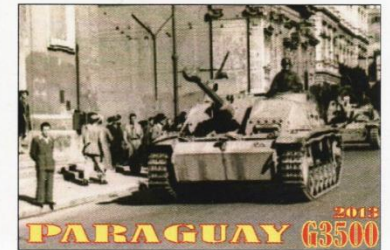
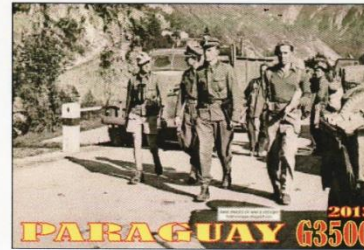
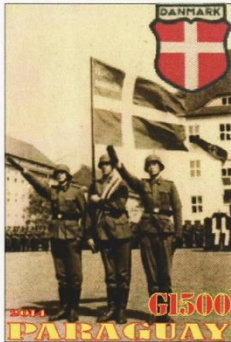
30 2013 ADZARIA  
Mercedes L4500 R

# Paraguay – Illegal issues

- More than 100 different souvenir sheets showing NAZI characters sold by EBay seller.
- Extreme damage done to country reputation.
- Gratton contacted the Paraguay Philatelic Society for action.
- The seller finally stopped.

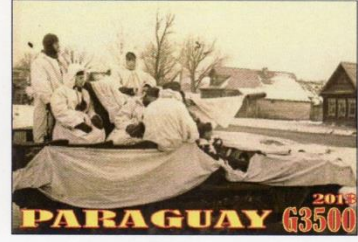
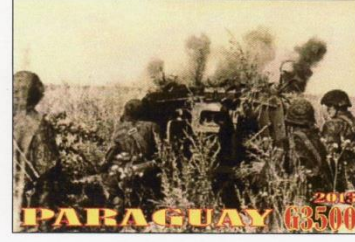
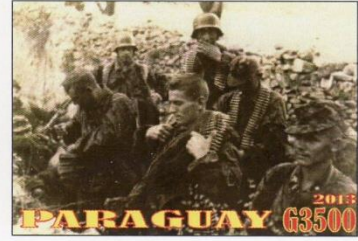
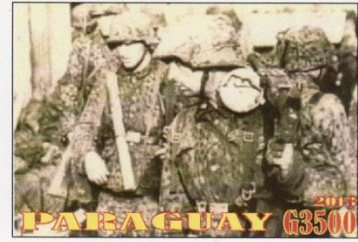
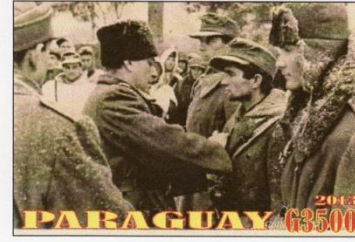
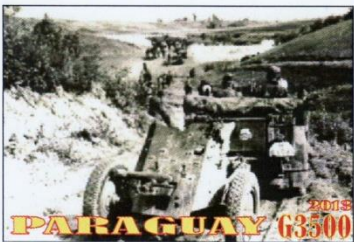
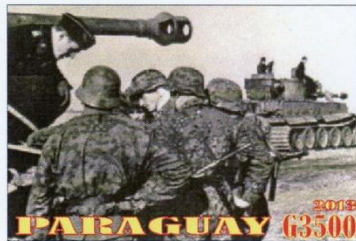
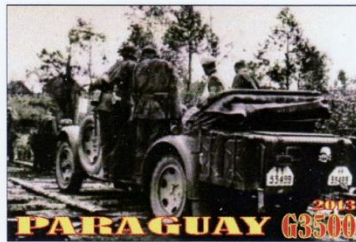


# Paraguay – Illegal issues





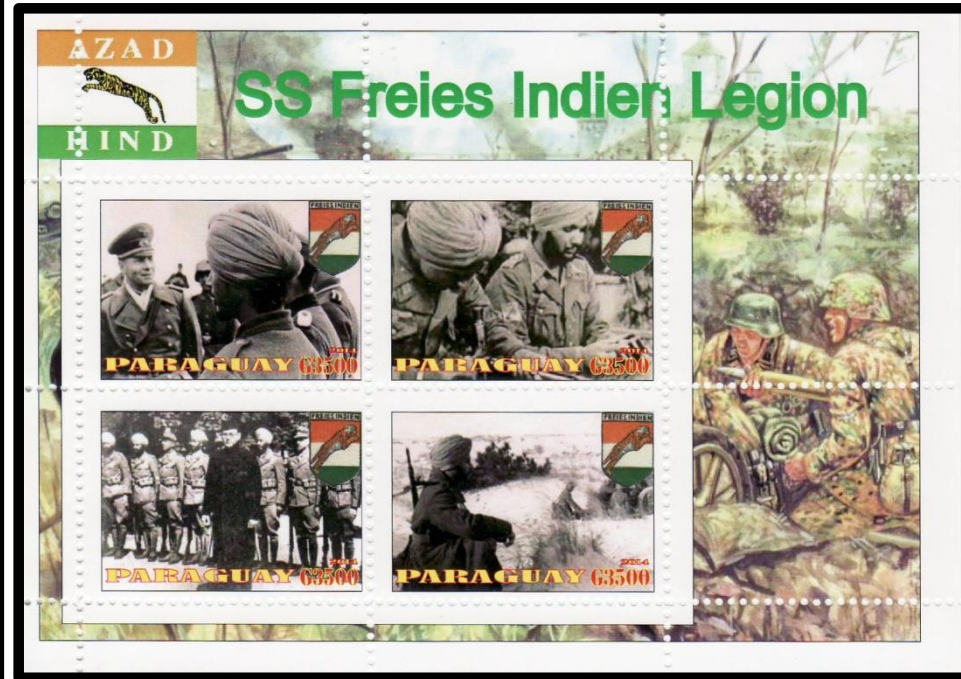
# Paraguay – Illegal issues



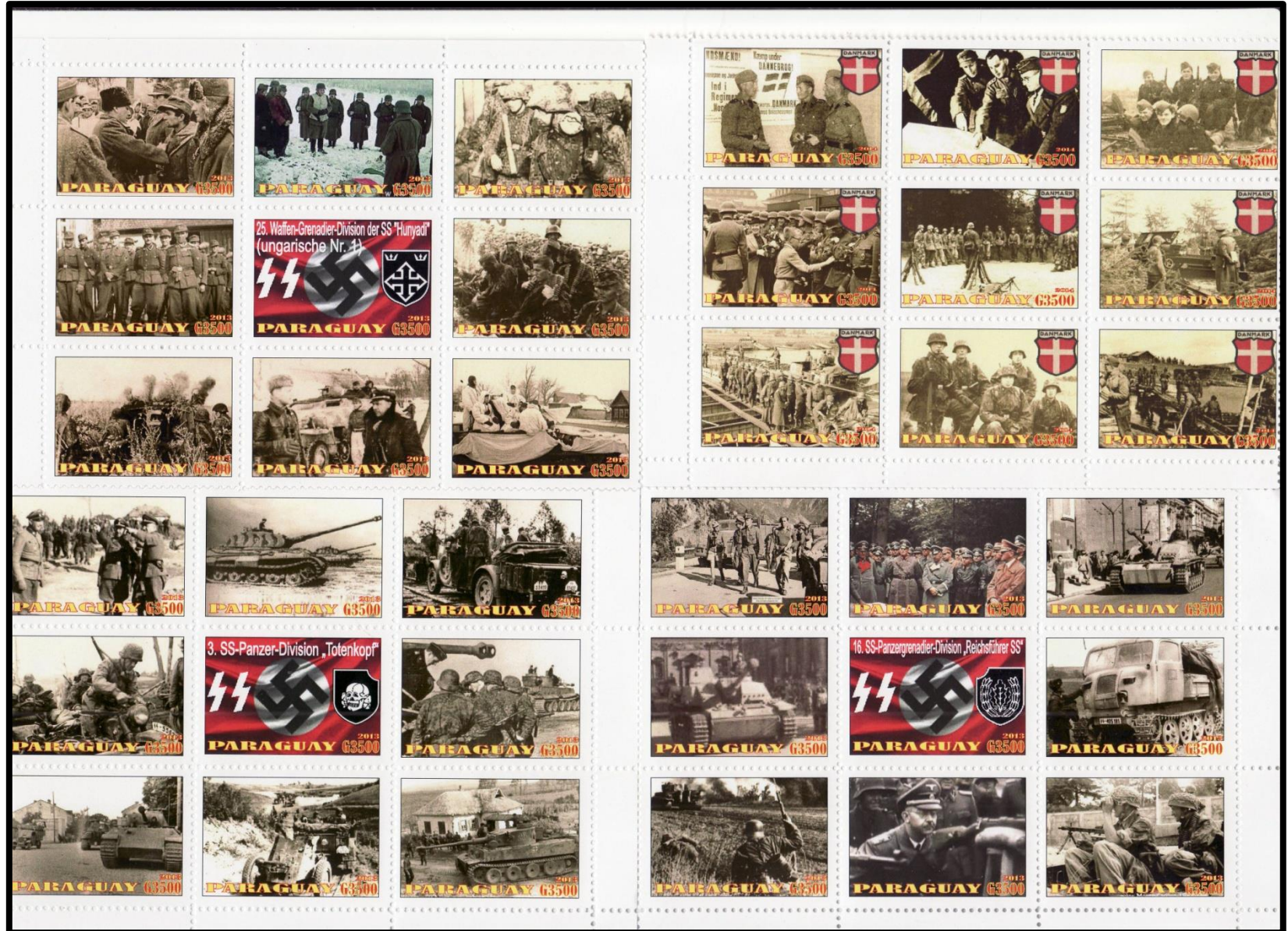
# Paraguay – Illegal issues



# Paraguay – Illegal issues



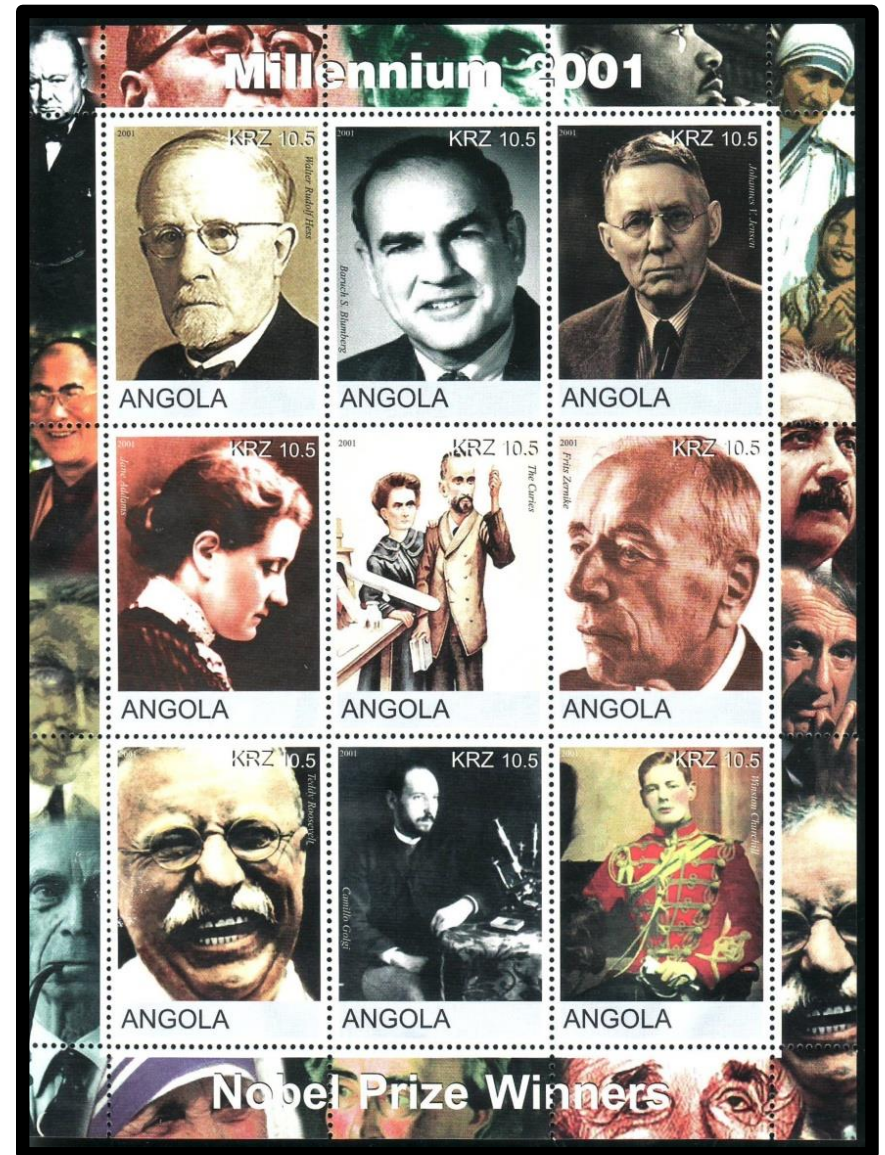
# Paraguay – Illegal issues



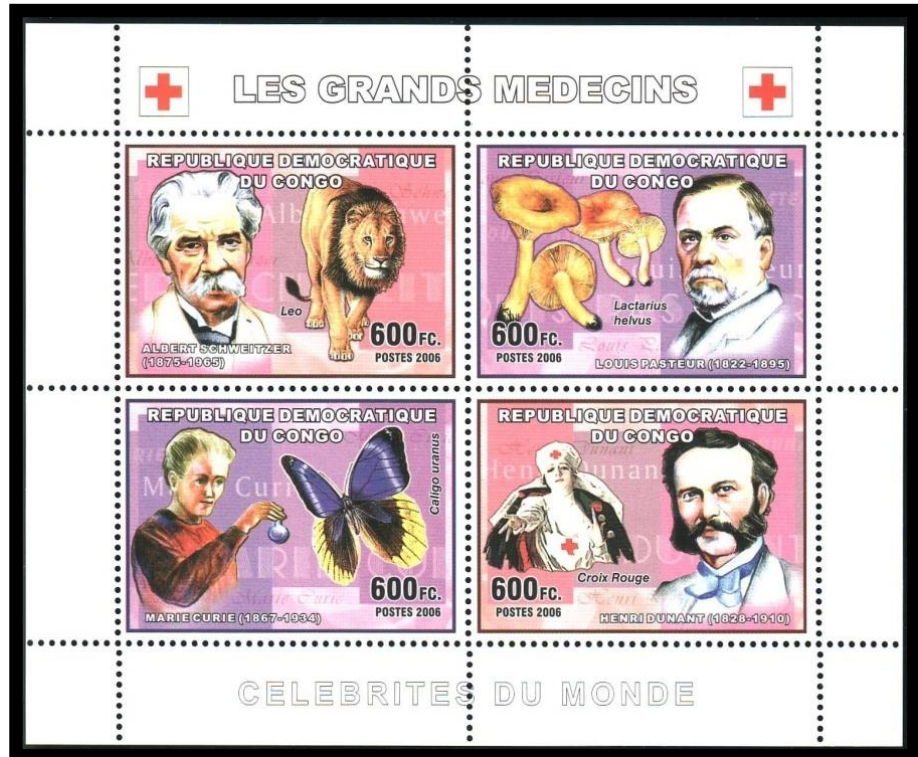
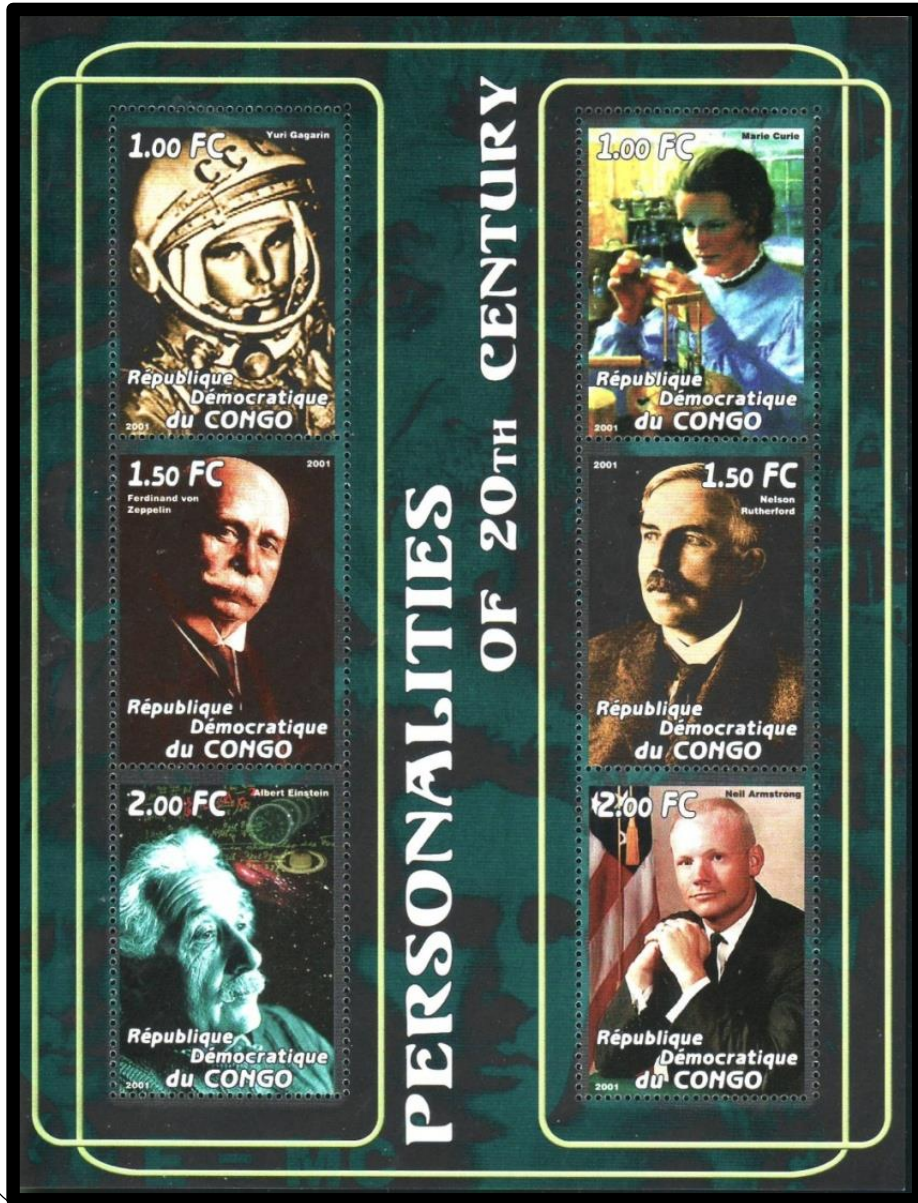
# 5. Prohibited issues at FIP exhibitions

- **Combination of illegal and abusive issues.**
- Often found in thematic collections in youth class.
- National jury not always aware of these issues!
- We should make sure these are not exhibited anymore.
- We will offer all Federations to publish articles and provide information on these prohibited issues for their respective journals and magazines.
- Information is already on FIP Fight Against Forgeries site.

# Prohibited issues – Angola & Afghanistan

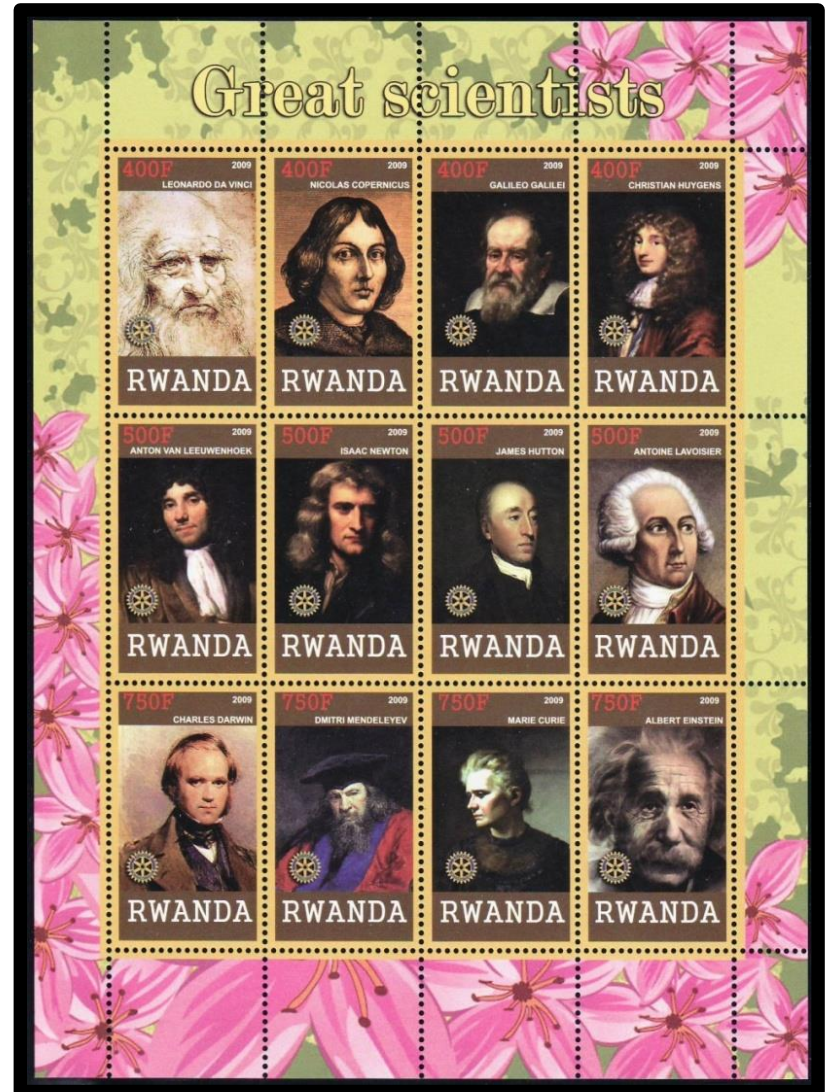
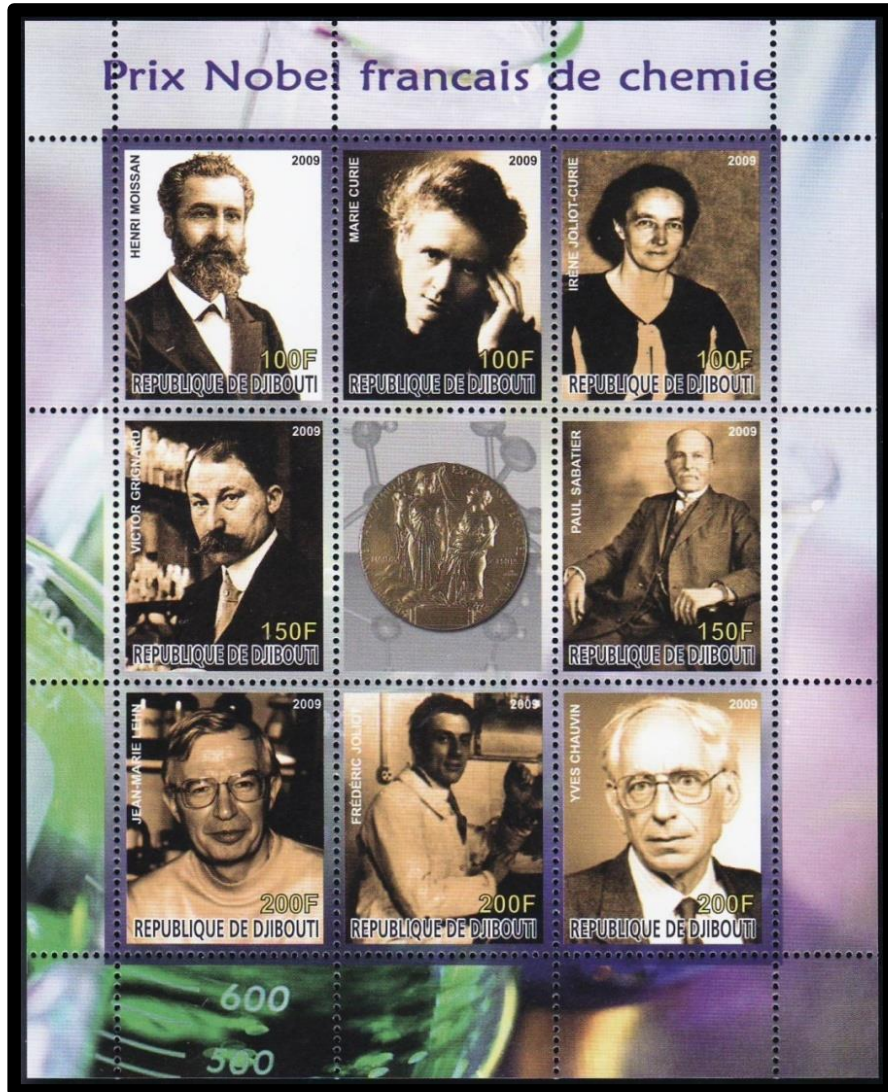


# Prohibited issues - Congo



# Prohibited issues – Djibouti & Rwanda

## Notice : 2 French mistakes in Djibouti !





# Illegal issues – Southern Soudan



# 6. How to recognize prohibited stamps

- **EXAMINE ALL STAMPS BEFORE PURCHASE**

- **Make certain that:**

- **The name of the country is written correctly.**
- **The monetary unit on stamp is the right one used in the country.**
- **The nominal face value makes sense.**
- **The language is good ! – Most of these are produced for an English-speaking market...**
- **There are no grammar and spelling mistakes...**
- **The subject on the stamp has some relation to the country.**

- **Catalogs sometime list illegals and most of them list the abusive issues.**

- **Know how to recognize the dealers selling them.**

- **Politically unstable countries are at very high risk.**

- **Stamps from countries that survive mostly on philately are often considered abusive !!!!**

- **There are presently so many issues that it is now almost impossible to list them all.**

- **Do your research before buying these issues !**

# Three types of illegal stamps

## TYPE 1 :

- Information on the stamp is basically identical with what is normally found on regular stamp issues from that country.
- The stamps are issued without the consent of the country.

## TYPE 2 :

- Information is similar but not identical: the monetary unit is not good or there is a small difference in the name of the country....
- This little trick is often used by the fraudsters in order to sell their fraudulent productions.

## TYPE 3 :

- Stamps are issued from inexistent countries or portions of countries that do not issue postage stamps.

# Prohibited stamps – TYPE 1

- Russian counterfeit.
- Sold as an ESSAY...
- Manufactured in Israel.
- Hundreds of them sold on EBay!
- Thematic interest for collectors: Women in Science, Curie, Nobel Prizes, Physics & Chemistry...



# Prohibited stamps – Type 1

- Russian counterfeit.
- Sold as ESSAY ...
- Manufactured in Israel.
- Hundreds of them sold on EBay!
- Manufacturer uses pictures available on Internet and often uses the same pictures for all his productions.



## ЗНАМЕНИТЫЕ ФИЗИКИ

1971 ПОЧТА СССР 12к



Мария Склодовская-Кюри  
(1867 — 1934)

1971 ПОЧТА СССР 10к



Мария Склодовская-Кюри  
с дочерьми Евой и Иран

1971 ПОЧТА СССР 6к



Пьер Кюри  
(1859 - 1906)

1971 ПОЧТА СССР 4к



Пьер Кюри  
(1859 - 1906)

# Prohibited stamps – Type 2

Equatorial Guinea

Notice the same design



The monetary value of Equatorial Guinea is the CFA Franc and NOT the dollar \$!

*CFA: Communauté Financière Africaine*

# Prohibited stamps – Type 2

- Somalia
- Monetary unit: Somalia Shilling !
- Issues coming from Israel.
- Thematic interest: Curie, Science, Famous Man & Women, Nobel Prizes...
- Somalia has not been issuing stamps for a few years now!
- Hundreds of sheets sold on EBay.
- Always the same design that comes back!



# Prohibited stamps – Type 2

- Zanzibar - Africa
- Again, very high interest for thematic collectors.
- Zanzibar has not been issuing stamps since 1965 (Union with Tanzania).
- Hundreds of these sold on EBay.
- Same design coming back.
- Probably all printed by the same manufacturer.





# Latvia - Lettonie – Illegal issues

- Latvia does not promote Nazism.
- Nominal face value : A?
- We can easily find on Internet sites information on all issues from Latvia.



# Latvia – Illegal issues



# Illegal issues - Estonia



# UPU circular dated December, 10 2012



UPU | UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL  
UNION

Berne, 10 December 2012  
International Bureau Circular  
Estonia – Illegal stamp issues

189

Dear Sir/Madam,

Estonian Post Ltd., the designated operator of **ESTONIA**, asks us to inform UPU member countries of the following:

"Estonian Post Ltd. has recently been receiving many requests to confirm the validity of postage stamps on the theme of 'Estonian Legion Remembrance'. These illegal issues are also for sale on the Internet. In accordance with its national legislation, the Republic of Estonia has only one body authorized to issue postage stamps, namely, Estonian Post Ltd. Consequently, no other companies on the territory of Estonia may legally issue postage stamps.

"We confirm that these items have been issued illegally and ask all members of the UPU to prohibit their circulation. Such illegal actions are strongly denounced and condemned. Stamps officially issued by Estonian Post Ltd. are published on the WNS website at [www.wnsstamps.ch](http://www.wnsstamps.ch)."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKeown  
Director of Markets Development

# 7. Harm done from prohibited stamps

- In the short and long term, the harm done to philately by prohibited stamp issues is quite enormous:
  1. **Disinterestedness** in the stamp hobby by cheated philatelists.
  2. Postal administrations will have **less money** to invest in the hobby and National and International exhibitions.
  3. **Loss of value** of philatelic collections as unwary collectors buy these stamps instead of genuine and valid stamps.
  4. **Total confusion in collectors** between valid and invalid stamps.
  5. The owners of the copyrights for pictures, drawings or photographs are not requited (**compensated**) for their artistic work.
  6. All the **staff working on stamp production** (designers, photographers, security printers, engravers, graphic artists, marketers, etc....) will lose important revenues and possibly even their jobs...

# Illegal stamps – Ukraine DONETSK – Type 3



Ukraine being unstable politically, fraudsters made collectors believe that new stamps had been issued!



Back to My eBay | Listed in category: Stamps > Specialty Philately > Fakes & Reproductions

Bidding has ended on this item.



### UKRAINE DONETSK REPUBLIC COA FLAG 2 STAMP SHEETS 2014

Item --  
condition:

Ended: May 19, 2014 12:17:09 EDT

Winning bid: **US \$81.00** [ 8 bids ]  
Approximately C \$88.14

Payments: **PayPal** | [See payment information](#)

Returns: 14 day money back, buyer pays return shipping | [See details](#)

Coverage: Pay with **PayPal** and your full purchase price is covered | [See terms](#)



#### Seller information

**balticum** (6520 ★)

99,5% Positive feedback

[Follow this seller](#)

[See other items](#)

Visit store: [balticum](#)

# Ebay auction result (May 2014)

The auction winner was a newcomer to philately (Feedback < 10)

# Luhansk – Illegal issue – Type 3

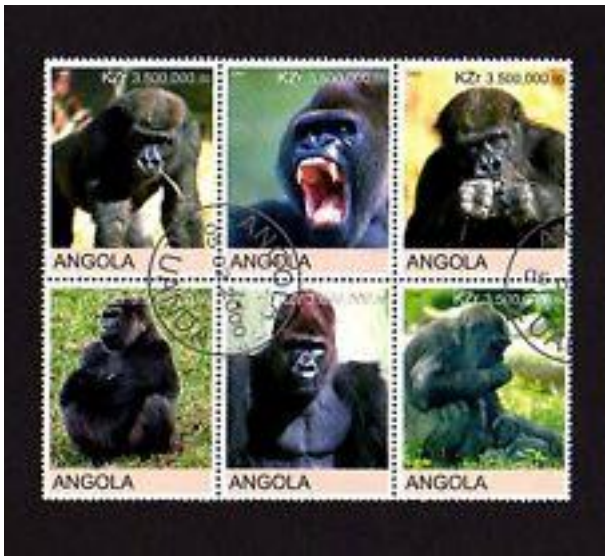
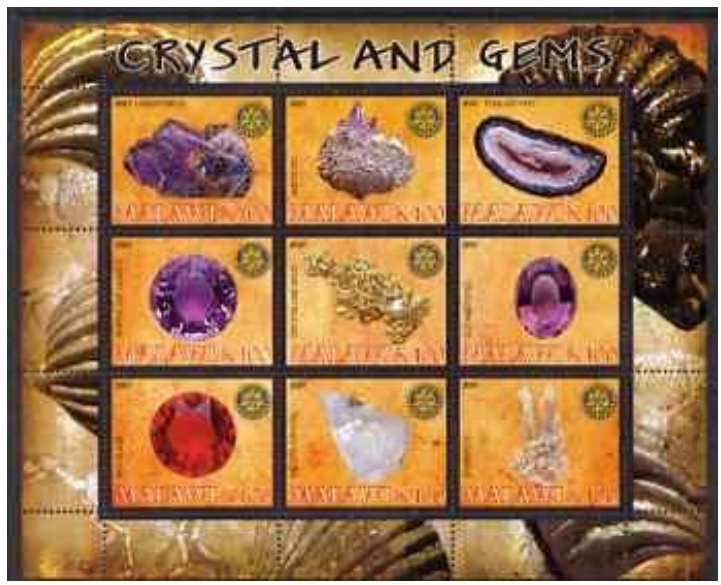




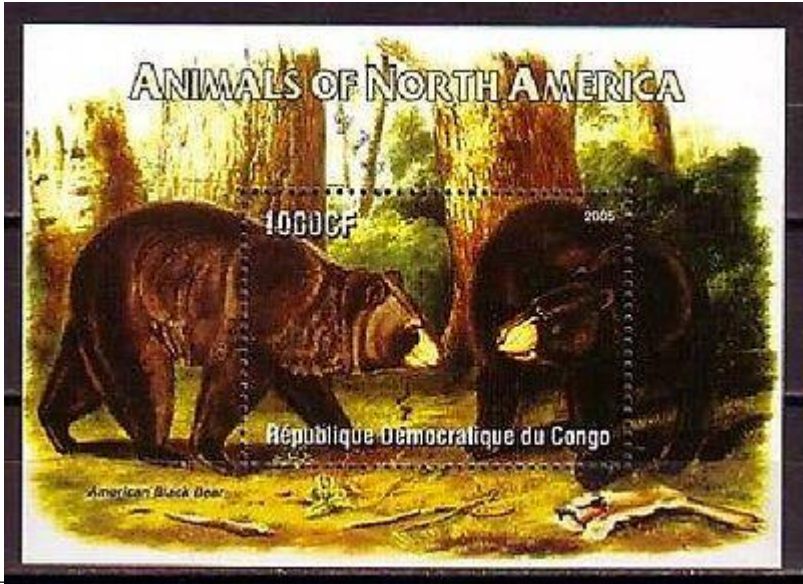
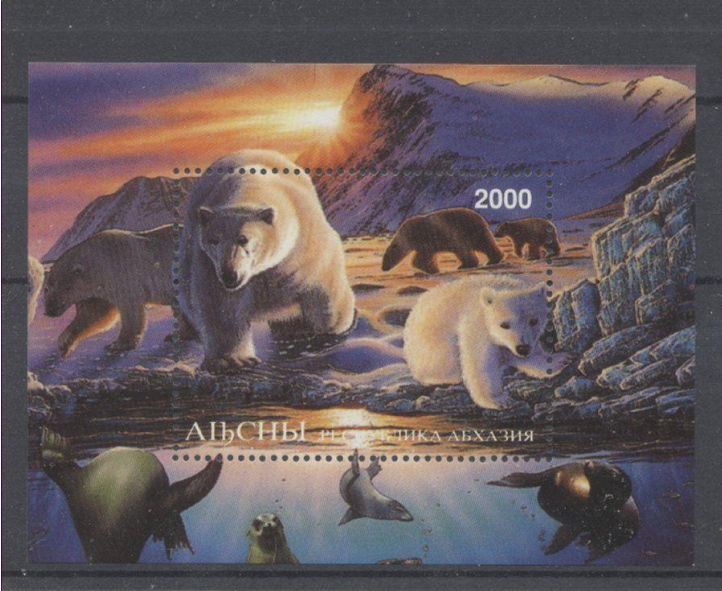
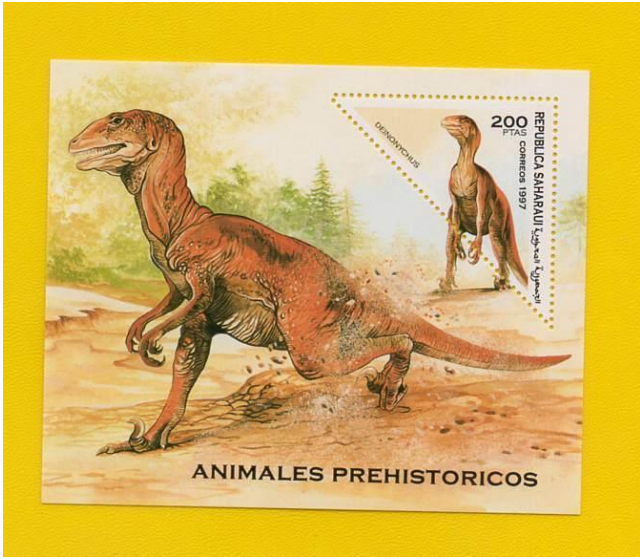
# Somalia Illegal – Great Dictators 2016 issue



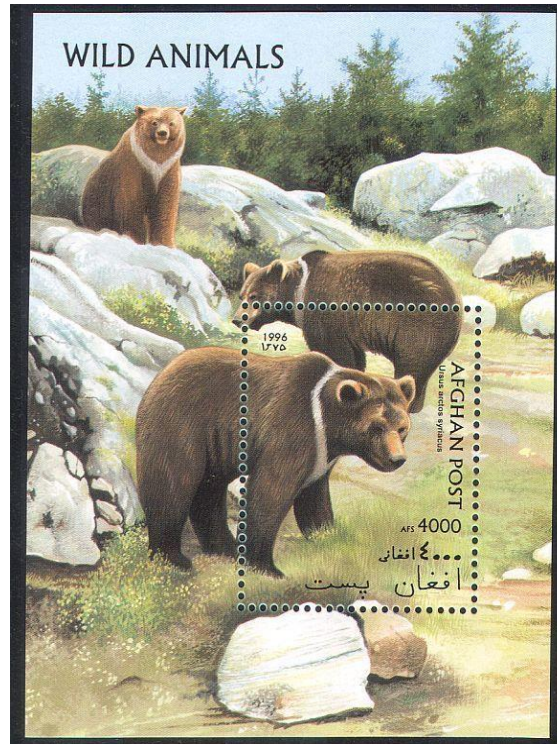
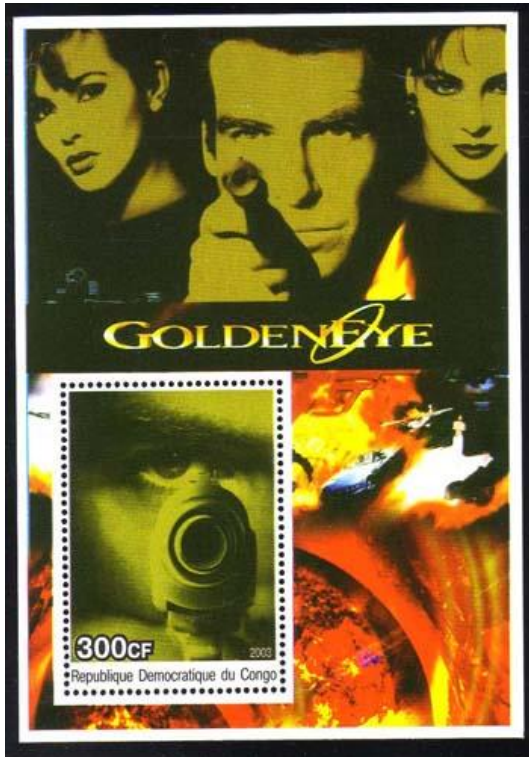
# NY 2016 abusive & illegal issues found in frames



# NY 2016 abusive & illegal issues found in frames













# NY 2016 abusive & illegal issues found in frames



# 8. How to fight illegal stamps?

- Internet sellers that sell these issues – Learn who they are and do not buy anything from them!
- If you buy illegals by mistake, return them and give bad feedback to sellers on their sales on sites such as EBay & Delcampe.
- Complain to seller that these stamps are illegal and should not be sold by him! Ask for a complete refund!!!!
- Share information on your Federation sites, at club meetings and with philatelists friends.
- Ask your Federation what is its action plan to stop these issues.
- Share on Philatelic medias as much as you can.....
- The FIP must reaffirm that the fight on illegal and abusive issues will be taken seriously in the future! National and International jury must be trained to find and identify prohibited material and to penalize exhibitors.

# Buy them, then ask for a complete refund and make a complaint to EBAY and PAYPAL and then give negative feedback !

Feedback	From	When
 These stamps are forgeries illicit stamps without any philatelic value WORTHLESS Somalia 2016 the great dictators of the world Syria Assad (#262666164310)	Buyer: <a href="#">gratton1954</a> ( 1899  ) US \$1.89	During past month <a href="#">View Item</a>
 These stamps are forgeries illicit stamps without any philatelic value WORTHLESS Somalia 2016 the great dictators of the world china chiang kai shek (#252576636006)	Buyer: <a href="#">gratton1954</a> ( 1899  ) US \$1.89	During past month <a href="#">View Item</a>
 These stamps are forgeries illicit stamps without any philatelic value WORTHLESS block animals sharks Donetsk Republic ДНР Новороссия DNR 2016 Ukraine (#251641324949)	Buyer: <a href="#">gratton1954</a> ( 1899  ) US \$2.99	During past month <a href="#">View Item</a>
 These stamps are forgeries illicit stamps without any philatelic value WORTHLESS block animals donkeys Luhansk Republic LNR ЛНР Новороссия 2016 (#251557609185)	Buyer: <a href="#">gratton1954</a> ( 1899  ) US \$2.99	During past month <a href="#">View Item</a>
 These stamps are forgeries illicit stamps without any philatelic value WORTHLESS President Putin of Russia sheet of Abkhazia 2013 (#262284871138)	Buyer: <a href="#">gratton1954</a> ( 1899  ) US \$2.99	During past month <a href="#">View Item</a>

# Web Site of the Commission



- Web site is active since March 2014.
- Address: <http://www.fipfakesforgeries.org/fip/>
- Updated every few months with new information.
- Information on illegal issues and forgeries in general.
- All presentations made at FIP exhibitions are also on the site.
- All Expert Group reports of FIP exhibitions are also listed.



# SUMMARY

## Prohibited issues at FIP exhibitions

```
graph TD; A[Prohibited issues at FIP exhibitions] --> B[Fakes, forgeries, counterfeits, Cinderella's, etc...]; A --> C[Abusive issues]; A --> D[Illegal issues]; B --> E[Already well understood by exhibitors, jury members and philatelists in general.]; C --> F[Issues that do not follow the deontology code of the UPU and the FIP recommendations (Philadelphia 1976).]; D --> G[Issues made without the consent of the country and were often signaled by notices on the UPU site. Stamps with no WNS number.];
```

**Fakes, forgeries,  
counterfeits, Cinderella's,  
etc...**



**Already well understood by exhibitors, jury members and philatelists in general.**

**Abusive issues**



**Issues that do not follow the deontology code of the UPU and the FIP recommendations (Philadelphia 1976).**

**Illegal issues**



**Issues made without the consent of the country and were often signaled by notices on the UPU site. Stamps with no WNS number.**



# Conclusions

- It is not always easy to detect prohibited issues. Philatelists must do their own research to validate the authenticity of certain issues.
- The WNS of the UPU must be improved to better serve collectors.
- The fight against the illegal and abusive issues is imperative for the survival of our hobby: too many newcomers buy these trash issues and realize that their collections are worthless after a certain time.
- We would like to work with all the Philatelic Federations throughout the world to share this message and the contents of this presentation.  
**Again, please help us share this message and this presentation!**
- We need the assistance of all philatelists and Federations to help us eradicate these issues. FIP must take action in the future.
- Only by not purchasing these issues will we be able to eradicate them!
- **Prohibited issues are everyone's business !**

# Questions ?

Remarks

- Remarks ?

Commentary

- Commentary or additional information ?

Recommendations

- Recommendations ?
- Ideas on how to fight these issues ?

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ

grazie

3,00

merci

obrigado

Danke schön

thank you

gracias

LA POSTE merci

ITVF