

SOS Signal

BULLETIN OF THE

STAMPS ON STAMPS - CENTENARY UNIT

OF THE AMERICAN TOPICAL ASSOCIATION

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CONDOLENCE

We offer the deepest sympathies of the Unit membership to Rene Verheyen on the sudden passing of his wife on September 6. Mrs. Verheyen will be remembered by those who met her at many European exhibitions and ISCA meetings which she attended with her husband.

1982 DUES INCREASE

Enclosed with this issue of the <u>Signal</u> you will find your renewal form for 1982 SOSCU membership. As outlined in the last issue, increased printing and postal costs have forced us to reluctantly increase our annual dues. In the

past, the dues were set at a low rate with the Unit's members adding donations if they so desired. The purpose of these donations was to offset a possible deficit in operating expenses. That possibility has been an actuality in recent years, and even with the very generous donations the cost of running the Unit's activities exceeded its income.

We have decided to increase the dues to a more realistic level, and as previously mentioned, have set different rates for domestic and overseas members. These rates are as follows: U.S., Canada and Mexico -- \$7.50; overseas -- \$10.00 per year.

The overseas rate includes mailing of the <u>Signal</u>, checklist and auctions by "Printed Matter -- Air" rates. We feel the additional cost is well offset by prompter and more dependable delivery. However, should an overseas member not wish to pay for the air service he can pay the domestic rate (\$7.50) and his mailings will be made by "Surface -- Printed Matter."

We want the membership to know that the rates were arrived at by very careful study of this year's expenses and before the announcement of the U.S. postal rate increase of November. There is little margin for additional increases in cost.

We know this represents a sizeable increase in the cost of membership but we feel we will deliver more than full value. Each issue of the <u>Signal</u> will run between 8-10 pages plus photos. There will be three or four auctions throughout 1982 (with one planned for January) and the yearly checklist will probably run between 8-10 pages. The editor plans to add several features to the <u>Signal</u> which should benefit the membership.

Please send in your renewal forms as soon as possible. This year many members did not send in their dues until late in the spring, which incurred the additional expense of follow-up letters. If you decide not to renew, please let us know by card or letter.

We hope to have you all with us next year.

MARGINALLY SOS? LOU GUADAGNO

I recently received two queries from members Berenice Kaplan and Tomio Uyeda and both were on the same subject. Mrs. Kaplan wanted to know why the 1977 checklist did not list the SURINAME Amphilex '77 s/s which shows a stamp under a magnifier in the body of the sheet; Mr. Uyeda wanted to know

why the July/Sept. New Issues report stated the NO. KOREA WIPA '81 s/s was not SOS when there is a block of the 1933 AUSTRIA semi-postal on the sheet.

I spoke to Ed Leland about these and he advised that given the basic definition of a stamp, only that portion of the sheet that has postal value is considered in SOS listings. If the reproduction is outside the perfs (or frame, in the case of imperfs) of the stamp, it is no more than a decorated margin. If the whole sheet has a given value, as for instance, the centenary sheets from Nicaragua (1962) and Cyprus (1980) then it is listed as SOS.

Personally, I follow this same rule in my own collection. However, this is not to say we are right and those who collect such s/s are wrong. A spot check of the catalogs show many items with "stamps in the margins" from a host of countries -- U.S.S.R., Cuba, Turkey, Colombia, Mongolia and Paraguay, to name just a few.

In addition, I spoke to Ed Leland about another type of s/s which does not fit our "definition." In the last few years ECUADOR has taken to issuing a set of stamps and a s/s with a given value with "stamps" of the set on them that have their values omitted. The stamps are not reproductions but are identical to the regular stamps except not having a value. Could these be considered SOS?

I would like to get some dialogue going between our members. Are such issues SOS? Do you want them listed or at least noted in the new issue reports?

If a majority want such material added, I would be willing to work with some members who collect them, in making up a checklist and identifications. Please let me know your opinions, pro or con. If you don't want to write me directly, send a note along with your renewal, and Mrs. Kane can forward them.

INCOMING SIGNALS LOU GUADAGNO

According to a release in <u>Michel Rundschau</u> 11/81, ROMANIA issued an imperf s/s on October 28, 1981 to note the European Security and Cooperation Conference in Madrid. The "For Peace in Europe" sheet has three

5 L airmail stamps which reproduce "cut outs" of Romanian "Europa" s/s stamps issued in 1975, 1977 and 1980. There are only 39,500 numbered sheets and this should be considered a controlled speculative issue.

Set for release in November is another "Europa" SOS issue -- this from HUNGARY to note the 50th Anniversary of the Danube Commission. The Hungary set of seven stamps issued in 1967 to note the Commission's 25th session has been reproduced on seven stamps and a s/s. The stamps show river vessels, scenes and flags from the nations that the Danube River flows through. As usual the stamps will be released perf and imperf as well as numbered and unnumbered s/s.

Unbelieveable as it seems, there is yet another straggler in the Rowland Hill centenary issues! According to a release in <u>Stamps</u> the YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC on 15 September 1981, finally got around to releasing stamps prepared in 1979 -- seven stamps plus two s/s. From the brief descriptions at least two are type A SOS, reproducing YAR stamps, a third has possibly identifiable "classic European stamps" under a magnifying glass and another shows a stamp collector. The s/s were not described.

According to Minkus Journal -- No. 3, 1981 -- New Issue News, ZAIRE overprinted various remainders to commemorate its 20th Anniversary of Independence. One value (Minkus #1113) is the 1979 250 k Rowland Hill SOS (Sc #951). Announced as released on December 13, 1980, Ed Leland and I had discussed listing it in this Signal as an addition to the 1980 checklist. However, Dave Jackson writes that it was noted in Stamp Collecting as not having been distributed until February 1981. Until other catalogs confirm one date or the other we will hold off listing.

After having read in an ad in an English stamp magazine that the ST. LUCIA Lindbergh first airmail flight commemorative set was supposedly issued twice, I wrote to the Castries Postmaster General for confirmation. Four months later I received a reply:

"The ... issue was released on the 2nd October, 1979 and no official FDC was released. A reprint was released in April 1980 as a result of a breakdown in communication caused by a change in agency. There was no difference in the two printings, Walsal Security Printers of England dealt with the printing and the reprint."

At least two different unofficial FDCs were produced and I have written to Walsal to confirm if the printings are indeed identical. There may be selvedge markings that could set the printings apart. I will report further if any new information arises.

JACKSON'S
JOTTINGS
DAVE JACKSON

However speculative the LESOTHO issue of gold SOS may be, they are available from the Lesotho Philatelic Bureau at face value plus R5 handling and insurance. Offered by a dealer here at L50 mint.

The TURKEY set commemorating Ataturk's Birth Centenary was due for withdrawal, unless sold out earlier, on November 18. Two million sets and 500,000 min. sheets were printed.

A Nepalese correspondent in <u>Philatelic Magazine</u> writes that the NEPAL centenary stamps were originally scheduled for mid-April and were held up as a result of a delay in delivery from the printers.

The compiler of the Foreign New Issues listing in Stamp Collecting has not established postal use of the ANGOLA 1980 stamp centenary overprints. These stamps however are to be catalogued by Stanley Gibbons as numbers 748-749.

According to the compiler of the Foreign New Issues in <u>Stamp Collecting</u>, the NICARAGUA items overprinted "1980 ANO DE LE ALFABETIZACION" have not been made available to purchasers by the Managua post office at face value or even near equivalent.

"Watchman" in <u>Stamp Collecting</u> says that he holds no brief for many of the stamps issued by <u>SAMOA</u> but in the case of the 1971 Interpex sheet he is prepared to make an exception.

"Watchman" in <u>Stamp Collecting</u>, July 30, thinks that the SWEDEN 1955 stamp centenary set in sheets of nine, although a speculative item, are worth the <u>L170</u> that the latest Sieger catalog values them at -- but always search out the lowest possible price.

"Marketman" in July <u>Stamps</u> magazine says that the BRAZIL m/s marking the Jubilee of the Department of Post and Telecommunications will not be a scarce item but what really will prove worth having are the three maximum cards which repeat the stamp design and he suggests that you get them mint and with the stamps tied to the picture side if you can find them.

The ARGENTINA 1940 stamp centenary m/s was recently offered here with watermark inverted at L25 unhinged mint.

The IRELAND 1976 U.S. Bicent. 15p value unhinged mint with the "missing silver" variety was offered here in an auction with an estimate of £220.

At a Harmers of London auction, the MEXICO 1947 U.S. stamp centenary 30c black in imperf vertical pair with original gum realized 67.50.

The recent PITCAIRN 70c definitive stamp showing the burning of obsolete stamp issues was originally an unadopted design for the 1977 definitives. (See Signal Jan.-Mar. '78.)

NEW ISSUES ED LELAND

CAPE VERDE, on 18 May, issued a souvenir sheet for WIPA '81. The stamp on the sheet shows Austria B336; the 2s+1s Winter Olympic stamp of 14 Nov. 1975, and is a type A SOS item.

NEPAL on 16 July, issued three type A SOS stamps and a s/s to mark its postage stamp centenary. (See New Issue Notebook and photo A.)

BRAZIL, on 1 August, issued three stamps marking the centenary of the Don Pedro "small heads" stamps. Each stamp pictures a different "small head" stamp and are all type A SOS. (See photo B.)

MEXICO, on 1 August, issued a single stamp marking the 125th anniversary of the first Mexican stamp. It is a type A SOS as it shows Mexico #1. (See photo C.)

THAILAND, on 4 August, issued four stamps to mark
Thaipex '81. All are type A SOS as they reproduce earlier issues picturing
former kings of Siam/Thailand.* (See photo D.)

TURKEY, on 8 August, issued a souvenir sheet to mark Balkanfila VIII Stamp Exhibition. The type A SOS on the sheet reproduce Turkey B68, the 100 + 100ku semi-postal of 17 April 1935 issued for the 12th Congress of the Women's International Alliance, and Turkey 733 issued 20 October 1931 for the Second Balkan Conference.

JORDAN, in September, issued three stamps to publicize its Postal Museum. All are type A SOS as they each reproduce stamps of Trans-Jordan and Jordan issued from 1934 to 1975 picturing Kings Abdullah and Hussein, historical buildings and propaganda maps.* (See photo E.)

NEW CALEDONIA, on 16 September, issued a 41F stamp for Stamp Day. It reproduces the New Caledonia #4, the 25¢ on 35¢ provisional of 1881 -- thus a type A SOS item. (See photo F.)

JAPAN, on **q** October, issued four type A SOS for the Philatokyo '81 Exhibition. (See New Issue Notebook and photos G-H.)

GERMAN DEM. REP., on 6 October, issued two semi-postal stamps for Philatelists Day. One is type A SOS as it reproduces an imprinted stamp postcard from Gt. Britain.

JAMAICA, on 16 October, issued four stamps to publicize World Food Day. All are an unusual type A SOS as the total design is an earlier issue with only the World Food Day emblem and a new value superimposed. (see photo I.)

ZAIRE, on 27 April, issued a set of stamps reproducing Norman Rockwell Saturday Evening Post covers. The 50k value shows a postal clerk sorting mail and a stamp blob appears on an envelope and this is an unidentifiable type SOS.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, in September, issued four stamps for the 25th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. One value shows children mounting stamps in an album and thus is an unidentifiable type SOS item.

UNITED STATES has issued the 18¢ Edna Millay (July 10), 18¢ Bobby Jones (Oct. 22), and 18¢ Babe Zaharias (Sept. 22), each of which have the "Mr. Zip" stamp blob on envelope and thus is an unidentifiable type SOS item.

*Ed. Note: The THAILAND and JORDAN stamps will be featured in the New Issue Notebook in the Jan.-Mar. Signal.

NEW ISSUE
NOTEBOOK I
LOU GUADAGNO

Issue: NEPAL: Centenary of the First Stamps

First day: July 16, 1981

Values: 10 paisa -- reproduced: 1 anna ultramarine - April, 1881 40 p -- reproduced: 2 anna purple - April, 1881

3.40 rupee -- reproduced: 4 anna green - April, 1881

s/s: 5 re -- three stamps above

Designer: K. Karmacharya

Printer: Rosenbaum Brothers, Vienna

Method: Six color offset

Quantities: 10p: 5 million, 40p: 4 million, 3.40re: 2 million

s/s 5re: 400,000

FDC with special centenary cancel produced

The stamps reproduced represent the first three stamps issued in 1881, but under Scott's catalog classification are Sc #4-5-6 as they are imperf. However, most catalogs do not differentiate between the routletted and imperf stamps as they were supplied almost simultaneously.

Nepal is a small kingdom in Asia, situated between India and Tibet in the Himalaya Mountains. Despite its remoteness it was the scene of several wars and is ruled by descendants of the Gurkha tribe of India who conquered it in 1768. Until late in the 19th century

it had no more than an internal courier service and virtually no contact with the outside world except through a mail service provided by the British Resident in the capital of Kathmandu. In 1878-9 post offices were opened throughout the nation and extended postal routes were established with postmarks being used for the first time. Soon after it was decided to provide postage stamps and these were produced locally. Never intended for other than domestic use, the stamps were inscribed in Devenagari, an Indian alphabet and have a very crowded design made up of native symbols.

At the base are two crossed kukris (curved knives); above these are three lotus flowers with charkas (metal disc weapons) in their centers, and at the top is a sripech (a ceremonial jewelled headdress with bird-of-paradise plumes worn by Nepalese nobility). The inscription in the top and bottom panels reads, "Sri Gorkha Government" while each side panel gives the various values in annas.

The first printings of the three values was gummed and had pin-point roulette separations, however all later printings were supplied without gum and imperforate. Several kinds of paper, many shades of ink, different plate settings and numerous re-touches and repairs created a specialist's delight. The design was used continuously through 1907 and again during WWI when new stamps could not be supplied from Europe.

The first day of issue is not known but is believed to have been on the religiously significant first day of the Bikram Sambat year, 1938 -- or April 14, 1881 in our calendar. The oldest surviving cover is dated May 16, 1881.

In 1923, a treaty with the British allowed the use of Nepalese stamps on mail to India, and, in 1950 a treaty with the new Republic of India continued this recognition. Nepal did not join the UPU until 1959 and after that its mail was accepted abroad. (See photo A.)

NEW ISSUE NOTEBOOK II LOU GUADAGNO Issue: JAPAN: Philatokyo '81 International Philatelic Exhibitic First day: October 9, 1981

Values: 60 yen -- reproduced: 48 mon brown -- April 20, 1871

60 yen -- reproduced: 100 mon blue '60 yen -- reproduced: 200 mon vermillion '

60 yen -- reproduced: 200 mon vermillion "60 yen -- reproduced: 500 mon blue-green "

In se-tenant block of four -- in sheets of twenty (5 x 4)

Designer: Yoshiaki Kikuchi

Printer: Ministry of Finance Printing Office, Tokyo

Method: 4 color gravure + 4 color intaglio

Quantities: 9 million each value FDC with special cancels produced

The Dragon stamps reproduced are Japan #1-4 in the exact design, size and color as the originals.

The production and use of stamps in Japan in 1871 was just another step in the modernization and centralization of government carried out under the new emperor, Meiji, whose succession to the throne in 1867 ended over 260 years of Shogunate government. He abolished feudalism, ended the seclusion of Japan by promoting trade and communication with the Western world, allowed the open practice of Christianity and called for a unified monetary system and for national postal and telegraph systems.

The reform of the government postal system was carried out under the Rowland Hill of Japan, Baron Maeshima Hisoka, the first Minister of Communications. He enlarged the feudal courier routes into a national service, had post offices built, formulated the rates for pre-paid postage and specified a design for the "shojo chisen kitte" -- letter fee stamps -- to be introduced.

His simple design called for a value character inside a rectangular frame made up of stylized plum blossoms. Obliviously, his design was not adopted for reasons unknown today, as many early records of the Ministry were destroyed in the severe earthquake of 1923.

The plates for the stamps were engraved by the same man who produced the new Meiji paper currency in 1869 -- Matsuda Atsutomo of Kyoto. Either as instructed or on his own, he copied part of the design of his paper notes -- two upright (ascending) "ryu" -- dragons with crossed tails enclosing an inscription. For the stamps he added an intricate Greek-key style frame with an inner design of interlocked diamond shapes.

For the four values required, Matsuda individually drew forty designs on a prepared copper plate which were then etched to create the intaglio printing plates. The stamps were printed by his company, Matsuda Gengen-do on "watoshi" -- a native, thin laid paper -- as a protection against reuse as it was supposed to disintegrate when wetted enough to remove them from letters. They were imperforate and ungummed. The stamps were valid for internal use only -- Japan did not join the UPU until 1877 -- so there was no national inscription, only characters for the mon currency value. The rates were for various weights and distances with the 48 m being a special rate for local mail service (delivery in same city mailed).

The "mon" denomination dragon stamps were in use less than a year. They were replaced in March, 1872, with stamps inscribed with a new "sen" currency. (See photos G and H.)

MEMBER - DEALERS

As promised in the last <u>Signal</u>, the following is a listing of member-dealers who specialize in our topics. Send your inquiries or want lists for quotes or approval lots.

J.S. ARMSTRONG - 485 Marine Road, Morecambe, LA4 6AF ENGLAND. Stamp centenary material -- mint - FDCs - special postmarks - varieties/errors - centenary flights.

BERT FLIESCHMANN - 20 Magaw Place, New York, N.Y. 10033, USA. Stamp centenary, SOS and related material -- mint - FDCs - varieties. New issue service.

JOVAN JOVANOVICH -- Box 243, Gracie Station, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10028. Stamp centenary, SOS -- mint - FDCs - varieties.

NIKOLA (MIKE) KOVAC - P.O. Box 248272, Miami, Florida 33124, USA. Stamps-on-stamps, centenaries and related items -- mint - FDCs - #1 issues worldwide.

S. SEREBRAKIAN - P.O. Box 448, Monroe, N.Y. 10950, USA. Stamp centenary - SOS-related material and themes - specialized material - imperfs - deluxe sheets - artist's proofs - errors and varieties.

(If anyone is omitted, please advise and the listing will be continued in the next issue. -- Editor)

SOS: A NATURAL PROGRESSION LOU GUADAGNO

I've always felt that one of the tremendous advantages a SOS collector has over other topicalists is that he can illustrate his collection with the <u>actual</u> subject of his interest. They cannot paste real cats, dogs,

people, or rocks on their album pages but we can mount the reproduced stamp as a natural extension of the basic collection.

I gave a lot of thought to this area of "dressing up" a collection. There are a lot of pros and cons and for a long time I felt the cons had it.

Primarily, there is the fact that it would be physically and financially impossible to acquire all the reproduced stamps. It is a very sobering thought that there are now thousands of SOS issues with even more thousands of stamps shown on them. Even if all the rare and famous one-of-a-kind stamps are deleted, many of the available number ones and early issues are beyond the average stamp budget. Also there was the added cost of having to buy "sets" of stamps in order to get the needed stamps.

Secondly, when you reconcile yourself to getting only that which is already affordable and available, your display glaringly points out what you have omitted.

Another prime consideration, to me anyway, was that of "overkill" -- an SOS with a large reproduction or easily recognizable stamp should not have to be illustrated with that stamp again. In many cases, cacheted FDCs or maximum cards reproduce the stamp in larger format and are more than enough "dress up."

For all these reasons I did nothing with the idea although I really felt that the actual reproduced stamps belonged somewhere in my collection. Now I think I've come up with a compromise.

As I've written previously on several occasions, I feel the identification of the reproduced stamp is an important part of SOS collecting and this information should be an integral part of the basic write-up.

Not too long ago I showed some pages to a non-collector. He stopped at one which had one of my favorites -- an SOS with several tiny reproductions which I had carefully identified -- and asked, "How do I know these are the stamps you say they are?" Since I had those stamps in an old country collection, I showed him and he was satisfied. But I was a trifle put out. Later on, I considered his point well taken and decided to add the stamps to my page. Having taken that step I knew I would have to go further. I flipped through my collection and realized I had found a challenging yet feasible way to work in actual stamps. I would concentrate on just those SOS with the tiny, almost unrecognizable reproductions. These would run from easy one stamp items such as the 1963 France Philatelic publicity and the 1970 Tunisia Stamp Day issues to the multiple stamp items from USSR, Peru and the Philippines with a host of others in between.

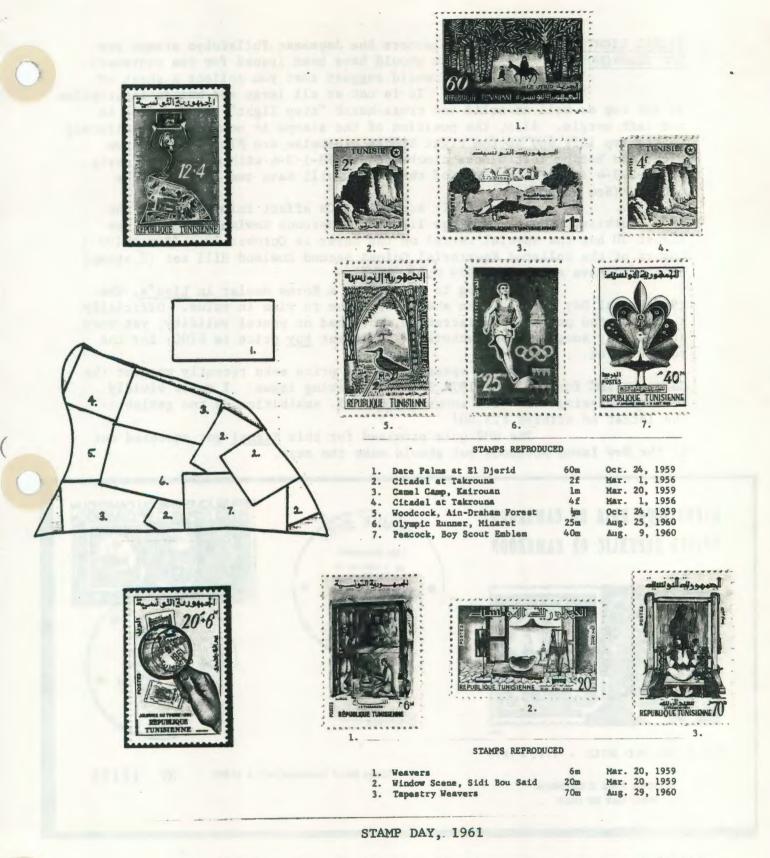
This is not a new idea, I know -- the actual stamp build-up of Peru C140 is right there when you open up the SOS handbook -- but I offer it to all those who also "couldn't see the forest for the trees."

(See photo section for the page described -- Tunisia

Stamp Day 1961.)







The 12 + 4m value, designed by Gorgi reproduces various definitive and commemorative stamps from the first issue of the independent nation in 1956 through mid-1960.

The 20 + 6m value, designed by Ben Abdallah reproduces three stamps of the 1959-60 pictorial definitives -- all of which he designed himself.

SIGNAL LIGHTS LOU GUADAGNO

For SOS collectors the Japanese Philatokyo stamps are the set that should have been issued for the centenary in 1971. I would suggest that you collect a sheet of this issue. It is not at all large and has an inscription

at the top as well as solid and cross-hatch "stop light" color guides in the left margin. Also, the position of the stamps is not repeated uniformly -- the top left and bottom right blocks clockwise are #1-3-4-2; the top right and bottom left blocks clockwise are #3-1-2-4 with a vertical strip of #1-2-3-4 in between. FDCs of the blocks will have one layout or the other. (See photo H).

Two recently acquired FDCs affect information in the 1979 checklist. Major catalogs list the Cameroons Rowland Hill F.D. as August 30 but the special cancel on the cover is October 10. (See below.) Covers of the unlisted Equatorial Guinea second Rowland Hill set (5 stamps plus s/s) have a May 16, 1979 F.D. cancel.

According to an ad from a Korea dealer in Linn's, the 1956 Postal Day presentation sheets continue to rise in value. Officially issued by the postal administration, they had no postal validity, yet they are eagerly sought by collectors. The latest buy price is \$100. for the set of three.

Another spectacular buy price seen recently was for the Colorano FDC for the U.S. 197% Stamp Collecting issue. I quite vividly remember passing over this cover at the N.Y. exhibition as too garish -- the latest ad offered \$25.00!

The SOS quiz promised for this <u>Signal</u> got squeezed out by the New Issue Notebook but should make the next.

REPUBLIQUE UNIE DU CAMEROUN UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON



SIR ROWLAND HILL - 1795 - 1879

PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION FIRST DAY OF ISSUE





Tirage limité (numéroté de 1 à 23 500)

Nº 18498

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WE SEND OUR WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.













B



शतवार्षिकी हुलाक टिकट् 1९३८-२०३८ POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY 1881-1981 POSTAGE STAMP 108 ; 80t. 407 73.80





125 AÑOS



C

















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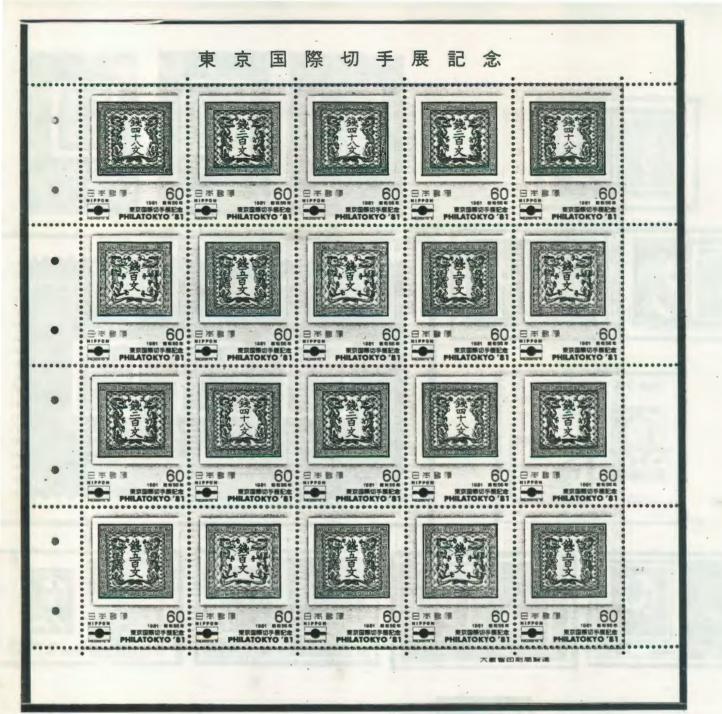






F





H







