

# SOS Signal

Stamps On Stamps Collectors Club

## The Pioneer Stamp On Stamp Issues: Greece 1939 By Lou Guadagno

On May 21 1939, Greece issued a set of five stamps to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Union of the Ionian Islands with Greece.

One design showed the arms of the seven Ionian Islands, a second a scene of the port on Corfu, and the final three (Sc# 418-20) had a common design which incorporated most of the design of the stamps issued for the Ionian Islands in 1859.

The unknown designer, working for the British firm, De La Rue & Co. used all the elements of the original stamp design and re-worked them into a very pleasing new stamp. In the right hand corner is an accurate reproduction of the central motif, a bust of Queen Victoria in a frame made of an oval garter with Greek inscriptions; opposite this is a mirror image of the

motif, showing King George I of Greece. In the right and left hand sides of the stamp are reproductions of the intricate engine-turned frames found on the originals, and as a finishing touch, the three new 20 drachmas stamps were recess printed in colors similar to those of the 1859 stamps by the Greek firm, Aspiotis.

These stamps are listed in our Club checklists as Type B stamps on stamps for reproductions of a stamp interwoven into a new stamp design. Some of these listed stamps are hardly recognizable as stamps on stamps, but these certainly are.

The Ionian Islands are a group of seven large and a number of smaller islands off the western coast of Greece, the most well-known being Corfu, Zante and Ithaca, the home of the legendary

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# The Pioneer Stamp On Stamp Issues: Greece 1939

By Lou Guadagno

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Odysseus. The islands were a part of the Venetian Republic for over 300 years, until its defeat by the French under Napoleon in 1797. In 1800 they became the Septinsular Republic under the protection of Russia and Turkey, until re-annexed by France in 1807. By 1809, most of the Islands had been captured by the British, and in 1815, by treaty they came under the protection of Great Britain and established as the independent United States of the Ionian Islands.

The British did much to develop the Islands while under the home rule of the constitutional government, but soon after the Greek mainland gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1830, there was growing sentiment for union with Greece. However, the Greek kingdom was ruled by a member of German royalty, and unfriendly to the British, so they resisted the petitions.

In the meantime, the Islands had retained their position as a center of commerce between southern Europe, Greece and Turkey, so much so, that in 1857, the Ionian parliament passed a law authorizing the creation of postage stamps for use on the inter-island and mainland mails.

Inquiries were made to Perkins, Bacon & Co., the producers of British stamps since 1840, and they developed a die and plate for the stamps. As mentioned previously, the stamps were inscribed

IONIAN GOVERNMENT in Greek, but had no value shown. The reason for this was that although the postal records were kept in British currency, the coinage produced by the British for the Islands was in oboles, the local currency since the times of Venetian rule—in fact, the reverse of all Ionian coins showed the Venetian symbol of the Lion of St. Mark.

In Perkins, Bacon records the stamps were noted as 1/2d, 1d and 2d, while in the Islands, the equivalents were 5, 10 and 20 oboles.

The 1/2d stamps was printed in orange on unwatermarked paper, the 1d in blue and the 2d in carmine on paper watermarked with either a large 1 or 2 positioned so that each stamp had a watermark. Strangely, these were the only stamps produced for the British Empire with the usual penny red and two pence blue colors reversed, and the only stamps produced in the 19th century not inscribed in English. They are also the first stamps inscribed in Greek, and predated the stamps of Greece which were not issued until 1861.

50,000 of each value were produced, and the stamps were finally put on sale in May, 1859. Surprisingly, no cancellers were supplied, so stamps were mostly obliterated by pen. Covers are rare, but some have been found with the red and blue stamps used for each other's values.

In 1862, the German born king of Greece was deposed and the crown offered to Vilhelm, the second son of the future king of Denmark, Christian X. He was the brother in law of future King Edward VI, and of Czar Alexander III of Russia; his grandson is now Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II.

He became George I on March 30, 1863 at the age of 17, and as a coronation gift, he was promised the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece. By then, the British were weary of decades of agitation for union with Greece, and with a chance to bolster the popularity of an ally with his new subjects, the turnover was made on May 30th 1864.

The stamps were withdrawn after a period of only five years of limited use and mint remainders were readily available to collectors for many years after. Today the mint 1/2d orange is the most valuable of the three, and sets sell for around \$65.00 and up.

By the way, the 1939 commemoration also coincides with the 80th anniversary of the issue of the 1859 stamps, a fact worth adding to your album write up.

The five stamps are not hard to find in today's market, but sell mint, never hinged for \$80-120.00, and much cheaper hinged. First day covers seem to be very rare, I've never even seen a photo of one.

I am very happy to own and display both issues in my collection.

# A Strange Designer Change

By Lou Guadagno

Uruguay, on April 29, 1979 issued one of a series of souvenir sheets of 4 values to commemorate various events of 1978-1980, including the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, the URUGUAY '79 Exhibition, the Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires, the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and the Death Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill.

The 10 Peso stamp showed Sir Rowland Hill and a Great Britain stamp from 1978 that created a controversy between the two country's postal authorities. The Great Britain postal service had recently started to copyright all of its stamp designs and they advised their counterparts in Uruguay that they had used the stamp design without permission, and furthermore, would not grant permission retroactively. Uruguay was asked to withdraw the sheets from sale, which was done. However, several years later after severe devaluations of the Uruguayan peso, all the stamps were removed from the sheets and used on local mails in the Montevideo post offices.

Overlooked at the time, and unpublicized in the

philatelic press, was a curious change made by the stamp designer in the British stamp depicted.

At first glance, it appears to be the 11p value (Sc # 837) of the four 25th Anniversary of the Coronation designs issued on May 31, 1978, with slight color changes of the Queen's head and inscriptions uncolored instead of tinted and the crown reproduced in yellow ink instead of gold, but there is a bigger difference.

When compared to the actual reproduced stamp, it is apparent that the Coronation Orb which should be on the stamp has been replaced with the St. Edward's Crown from the 10-1/2p design (Sc # 836).

I noticed this when I bought the Gt. Britain set to mount the reproduced stamp with the sheet, and so ended up mounting the two stamps.

Still, after much research in the philatelic press of those times, I have not found an explanation for this unusual stamp modification. However, it still makes another uncommon page in my collection



Uruguay Sc # 1022 s/s, 1022a, Gt. Britain Sc # 836-837

## New Issues By Lou Guadagno ( new on list = \* )

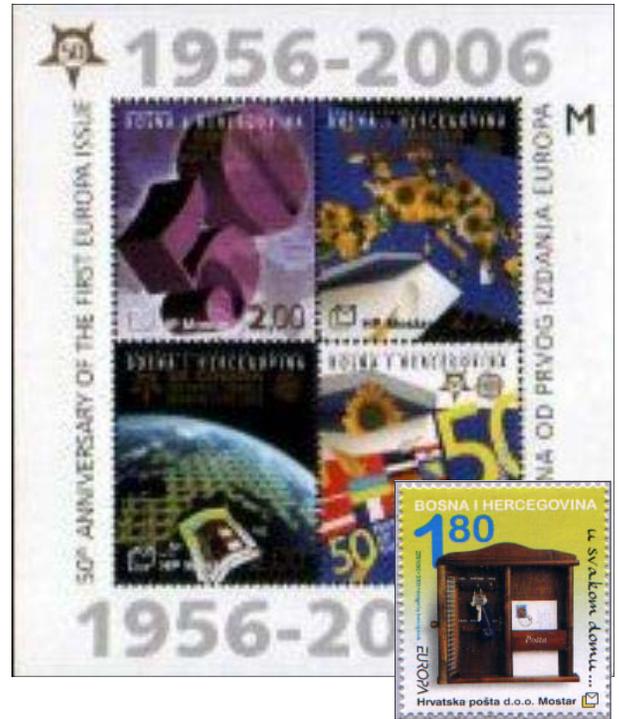
<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
06 01 03	Malta	* 5-24 c	Malta # 677,628,540, 738 ++	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s- 4v)	1232a-d
06 01 03	Montenegro	* € 0,50-2,00	Montenegro # 100-102,105	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4v--perf, imperf)	129a-d
06 01 03	Montenegro	* € 0,50-2,00	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s-perf, imperf)	Pending
06 01 07	Latvia	* 10-20 s	Latvia # 414,463,442,484-5	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v)	633-36
06 01 07	Latvia	* 10-20 s	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s-4v)	637a-d
06 01 10	Greece	* € 1,50-2,50	Greece # 1459, 1255	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s-2v)	Pending
06 01 10	Bosnia (Croat)	* 4 x 2.00	Bosnia–Herzegovina (Croat) # 99	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4v-1 sosos)	Pending
06 01 10	Bosnia (Croat)	* 4 x 2.00	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s-4 v, 1sosos)	Pending
06 01 11	Finland	* NVI(€0,85)	Finland # 87	Stamp Ann'y Publicity (imprinted card # 3)	
06 01 16	Greenland	* 25.00 k	Greenland # Q3	50th Ann'y Parcel Post Stamps II (1 v)	Pending
06 01 16	Greenland	* 26.50 k	Greenland # 438	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (1 v)	Pending
06 01 16	St. Helena	* 10p- £ 1.20.	St. Helena # B2-4,1, other rarities	Treasures of the British Library (6 v)	887-92
06 01 16	St. Helena	* £ 2.00	St. Helena # 1	150th Ann'y St. Helena Stamps (s/s-1 v)	893
06 01 20	Czech Rep.	* 7.50 kc	Czechoslovakia # C59—modified	Traditions of Czech Stamp Production (1 v)	Pending
06 01 20	Czech Rep.	* 8 x 7.50 kc	As above	As above—(booklet-8v, 4 tabs)	Pending
06 01 30	Georgia	* 10-40 T	Georgia,1956 Europa issues tbi	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4v-2 sos-p, imp)	Pending
06 01 30	Georgia	* 4 x 80 T	As above ++	As above—(4 s/s--2 sos—perf, imperf)	Pending
06 01 30	Monaco	* €0,53	Monaco # C81 artwork	10th Ann'y Stamp and Coin Museum (1 v)	Pending
06 01 31	Bulgaria	* .35-1.00 L	Bulgaria # 87a ,54 ,238, 2894A	Bulgarian Philatelists (4v— sos on tabs)	Pending
06 02 02	Iceland	* 2 x 150 k	Iceland # 407, 295 ++	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s– 2v)	1066a-b
06 02 02	Sri Lanka	* 100,500 r	Ceylon # 336	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (2v-1 sosos)	Pending
06 02 09	Italy	* €0,60	Italy # 45, 23,79,239	“The Kingdom of Italy” Exhibition (1 v)	Pending
06 02 09	Italy	* 4 x €0,60	As above	As above (booklet—s/s- 4v)	Pending
06 02 23	Cyprus	* 4 x 30 c	Cyprus # 245, 202, 220, 231	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s—4v)	Pending
06 03 12	(No.) Korea	* 158 ch	DPR (No.) Korea # 4a, 2	70th Ann'y Stamps of No. Korea (s/s-1 v)	Pending
06 03 22	Belize	* \$.25-5.00	Belize # 1111-14	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4v)	Pending
06 03 22	Belize	* 4 x above	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (sheetlets-4v)	Pending
06 03 22	Belize	* 16 x above	As above	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s--4v)	Pending
06 03 28	Armenia	* 4 x 70 D	Armenia Europa issues tbi	50th Ann'y Europa (s/s– 4v —sos in margin)	Pending
06 03 29	Dominica	* \$.75-3.00	Japan # 2607g, Yugoslavia # 1649	White Olympics Ann'y (4v—2 sos)	Pending
06 03 29	Dominica	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
06 05 11	Antigua-Barb	* \$ .75-3.00	Austria # 714, 715, 717	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—3 sos)	Pending
06 05 11	Antigua-Barb	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
06 05 11	Grenada	* \$ .75-3.00	Switzerland # B172, B173	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—2 sos)	Pending
06 05 11	Grenada	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
06 04 24	Nevis	* \$ .75-3.00	Italy # 705, 707, 708	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—3 sos)	Pending
06 04 24	Nevis	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
06 05 18	St. Vincent	* \$ .75-3.00	France # 168, USA # 716	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—2 sos)	Pending
06 05 18	St. Vincent	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
06 03 30	Hungary	* 75 ft	Hungary—stamp essay detail	Birth Ann'y, Sandor Legrady, designer (1 v)	Pending
06 03 30	Cyprus	* 25 c	Cyprus # 2	* 25th Ann'y Postal museum (1 v)	Pending
06 03 31	Finland	* NVI(€0,85)	Finland # C1	Stamp Ann'y Publicity (imprinted card # 4)	
06 04 06	Gambia	* D10-25	Norway # 1029, 1030	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—2 sos)	Pending
06 04 06	Gambia	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
06 04 06	Liberia	* \$ 20-50.00	Austria # B337, B338, B335	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—3	Pending
06 04 06	Liberia	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
06 04 06	Sierra Leone	* 1000-3000L	USA # 1146, Canada # 1152	* White Olympics Ann'y (4v—2 sos)	Pending
06 04 06	Sierra Leone	* 4 x above	As above	As above (sheetlets—4v x 4)	Pending
04 12 04	Mongolia	800 t	Mongolia # 1 ++	80th Ann'y Stamps of Mongolia (s/s-1 v)	2587
05 07 20	Moldova	1.50, 15 L	Italy # 715-no value, inscriptions *	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (2 v-1 sos-#497)	496-97
05 07 20	Moldova	1.50, 15L	As above	As above (s/s--2v—I sos)	498
05 08 09	Micronesia	\$ .37	Vatican City # 67	Sede Vacante (1 v)	658
05 08 09	Palau	# .37	Vatican City # 61	Sede Vacante (1 v)	841
05 08 11	Uruguay	\$P 16,37	Spain # 1263,1126	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (2 v)	2121-22
05 09 30	Gibraltar	£ 5.00	Gibraltar # 384	50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s--1 v)	1026
05 11 14	Macedonia	60-350 d	Macedonia # 243, 158, 97, 76	* 50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (4 v)	352a-d
05 11 14	Macedonia	60-350 d	As above	As above (s/s—4 v)	353a-d
05 11 17	Norway	NVI(6k)	Norway # 1— no value, inscriptions	150th Ann'y Stamps of Norway (1 v)	1450
05 11 17	Norway	NVI(6k),12k	As above, + Norway # 1	As above (s/s-2 v —as # 1450, 1451a)	1451
05 11 24	Peru	4 x 2 s	Spain # 1526, 941, 1567, 1607	* 50th Ann'y Europa Stamps (s/s--4v)	1482a-d

++: s/s have stamps in margins tbi

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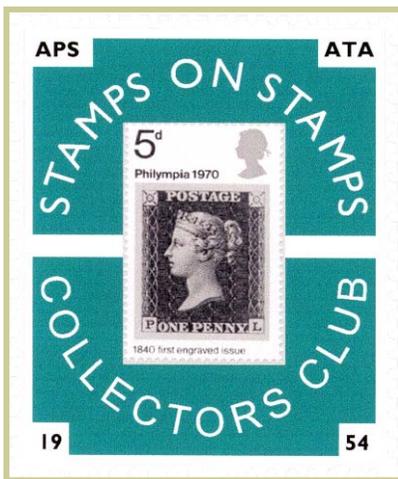
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