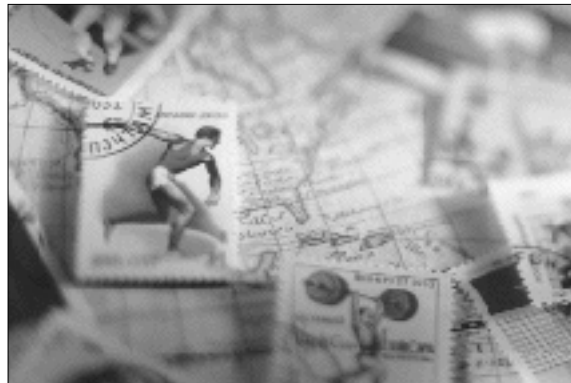


# Multicultural Postage Librariansiana

## Part II: Libraries and Archives on Stamps Around the Globe

By Vladimir F. Wertsman



It is hard to imagine—even in the wildest visions of science fiction authors—the shape of civilization around the world without the existence of libraries and archives and the materials (books, periodicals, documents, microfilms, pictures, audio and video recordings, and so on) that they preserve for millennia. All countries around the globe—whether large or small, whether or not they are members of the United Nations—demonstrate that their libraries and archives were, are, and will remain important pillars of their human heritage and civilization. Despite this axiomatic truth, when we descend to the philatelic world—with countless stamps and hundreds of topics—we encounter a completely different picture. Libraries on stamps are relatively rare compared to other topics, issued irregularly, and in many countries entirely absent from the philatelic repertoire.

Still, in comparison to librarians and archivists, whose presence I addressed in the previous issue of *MultiCultural Review*, libraries and archives do appear more frequently, and in the stamps of more countries. A number of countries—Canada, for instance—feature the buildings but fail to bestow similar honors on the leading people in the field. In all, more than 120 countries and territories have issued stamps that represent libraries and archives, in contrast to two dozen that have released stamps depicting librarians and archivists.

And now, let's get acquainted with the libraries that appeared for the first time on their respective countries' stamps, listed in chronological order. A country-by-country listing appears in the reference section, along with the catalogue identifications of the stamps.

### 1870–1940

**The United States**, which issued the world's first stamp portraying a librarian or archivist (Benjamin Franklin in 1847) was also the first to print a stamp depicting a library. The New York Mercantile Library appeared on several stamps between 1870 and 1875. **Canada** became the second country by issuing revenue stamps of the Halifax Law Library in Nova Scotia in 1879 and in later years as well. **Belgium** was the third, with its Louvain University Library on stamps circulated between 1915 and 1920. **Spain** printed in 1916 a stamp with the National Library in Barcelona. **Austria**

issued in 1923 a stamp portraying the Abbey Library of Melk, and six years later a stamp with the Austrian National Library. **Iceland** launched a stamp with the National Library and Archives in 1925, and in 1927 we find the State University Library, Tartu, on an **Estonian** stamp. During the next decade we encounter on stamps in **Finland** the Helsinki University Library (1932); Khartoum University

Library in **Sudan** (1935); the Central Municipal Library of Copenhagen, **Denmark** (1936); the National Archives and Library in Santo Domingo, **Dominican Republic** (1936); the **Ceylon** Octagon Library, Temple of the Tooth, Kandy, in what was then a British colony (1938); and the **Soviet Union's** Lenin State Library in Moscow (1939).

### 1940s

Despite the ravages of the Second World War, libraries continued to appear on stamps. Half were in countries distant from the war, but others were issued in the midst of a conflict that, ironically, left many European libraries destroyed. Stamps from the World War II era included the Public Library of Morelia, **Mexico** (1940); Dr. José Francia's Library, **Paraguay** (1940); the Jagiellon University Library of Cracow, **Poland**, then under Nazi occupation (1940); the Bucharest University Central Library, **Romania** (1941); **Colombia's** National Library in Bogotá (1941) on several stamps; and the **Aden-Seiyun** British protectorate (now Yemen) religious library in the mosque of Seiyun (1942). Interestingly, in 1948 **Turkey** produced a stamp with the University and Cantonal Library of Lausanne, Switzerland.

### 1950s

The output of libraries on stamps grew in the 1950s. Two years after its establishment in 1948, the nation of **Israel** issued a stamp of the Hebrew National and University Library in Jerusalem. Then, in 1951, the **United Nations** released a stamp showing the library in its old building, and **Peru** featured the San Marcos Library at the National University in Lima. Additional stamps from this decade included the Vat Sisaket Library, Vientiane, **Laos** (1952); the Saarbrücken University Library in the autonomous Saar region, later part of the Federal Republic of Germany (1953); the Kolarov Library

in Sofia, **Bulgaria** (1953); the Berlin Central Library in Berlin, **Germany**, then under Allied administration (1954); **Hungary's** National Library and Museum, Budapest (1954); the José Martí Library in Havana, **Cuba** (1957); the National Museum Library in Prague, **Czechoslovakia** (1958); and the old building of **Costa Rica's** National Library (1959).

### 1960s

More libraries appeared on stamps in the 1960s, from a new array of nations. Many of these were located in the Middle East, Asia, and the Caribbean. Featured libraries and archives included **Switzerland's** Municipal Archives, Lucerne (1960); the Presidential Library of Tunis, **Tunisia** (1960); **Japan's** National Diet (Parliament) Library (1961); the Apia Public Library of **Samoa** (1962); the Public Library and Historical Society in Hamilton, **Bermuda** (1962); Nassau Public Library, **Bahamas** (1962); Haein-sa Temple in Taegu, South Korea (1963); and **Ivory Coast's** National Library, Abidjan (1964). In the mid-1960s, various Middle Eastern and North African nations—**Syria** (1964), **Algeria** (1965), **Yemen** (1965), **Iraq** (1965), **Kuwait** (1965), **Libya** (1965), and **Saudi Arabia** (1966)—issued stamps depicting the 1962 burning of the University of Algeria Library by French colonial troops during that country's protracted independence struggle. **Jordan** released a stamp of the Library of the Esseniens, Qumran Cave in 1965, while British protectorate **Ajman** released a stamp of the British Library in the same year. Notable stamps later in the decade included another image of the British Library issued in **Bahrain** (1966); the National Library of **Qatar**, in Doha (1966); the Yagiellonian University Library in **Poland** (1966); the old building of the Bibliothèque National in Paris, **France** (1966); the University of Mexico Library, on stamps issued in 1967 in **Dubai** and in **Ras-al-Kaimah**, both then British protectorates; the Lenin Library in the Kremlin in Moscow, on a stamp issued in **Mongolia** (1967); the National Library of **Venezuela** (1967); **Nepal's** depiction of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at the United Nations (1968); the Library of the Children's House in the British territory **St. Helena**, in the South Atlantic (1968); and the National Library of **Iceland** in Reykjavik (1968).

### 1970s

The 1970s were even more prolific than previous decades. As in the 1960s, many nations issued stamps that featured libraries and archives beyond their borders. For instance, both **Botswana** and the **Maldivé Islands** issued stamps of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at the United Nations in 1970. Other stamps appearing during the decade were of an unnamed library in **Burundi** (1970); the National Library of **El Salvador** (1970); the University of **Guyana** Library in Georgetown (1970); the **Gibraltar** Commercial Library, from this Spanish territory (1971); an unnamed library in **Anguilla** (1972); a bookmobile from the Central Library in Bridgetown, **Barbados** (1972); the Central Library of Accra, **Ghana** (1972); the Watphrajatubon Vimolman Klaram Rajvaramatraviharu (WVR) Library, **Thailand** (1972); the Kim-Il-Sung University Library, Pyongyang, **North Korea** (1973); the University Library of Bucharest (Romania) on

a stamp from **San Marino** (1973); the University of the West Indies Library, Mona, **St. Vincent** (1973); **Vietnam's** National Library in Saigon, later Ho Chi Minh City (1974); the Philadelphia Free Library on stamps from the **Virgin Islands** (1974), **Equatorial Guinea** (1975), and **Liberia** (1975); the library of the newspaper *O Estado de Sao Paulo*, **Brazil** (1975); the Roseau Public Library, **Dominica** (1975); the Alderney Island Library, Guernsey, **United Kingdom** (1976); the Senghor Foundation Library, **Senegal** (1976); the German National Library, Berlin, **German Democratic Republic (East Germany)** (1976); the National Library of **Ireland** in Dublin (1977); the Library of Sultan Mahmud II, Nicosia, **Cyprus** (1977); Woermannshaus Public Library, German Southwest Africa, later **Namibia** (1977); the J. K. Ward Public Library, Peel, **Isle of Man** (1978); the National Library of **Faroe Island** (1978); an unnamed children's library in **India** (1978); the Government Postal Library in **Portugal** (1978); and the former Peng-Ha Library in **Taiwan** (1979).

### 1980s

The 1980s brought to the philatelic world new issues from additional countries, but fewer than in the previous decade. These included the Library of Godthab's Teachers Training College, **Greenland** (1980); the Institute of **Jamaica** West Indian and General Libraries, Kingston (1980); the McMillan Library, **Kenya** (1980); the National Library and Archives in Bairiku, **Kiribati** (1980); the Colombo Public Library, **Sri Lanka** (1980); the **Mauritius** Institute Library and Museum (1980); the National Library of **Luxembourg**, with a book from the eighteenth century (1981); the library building and courthouse in Nevis (**St. Kitts and Nevis**) (1981); the Information Technology Library, **Great Britain** (1982); the Lucian Bernheim Library, **New Caledonia** (1982); a bookmobile in **Seychelles** (1982); the National Library and Archives, **Honduras** (1983); a modern library interior in **Norway** (1985); the United Nations Library in New York on stamps issued in **Mozambique** and in **Bangladesh** in 1985; the National Library in Harare, **Zimbabwe** (1985); a mobile library in **Suriname** (1986); the New York Public Library's main library on a stamp from **the Grenadines** (1986); a series of stamps in a campaign for the National Library of **Nicaragua** (1986); the City Library in Asplund, **Sweden** (1987); the Victoria Public Library in the **Turks & Caicos Islands** (1987); the **Netherlands** National Library bicentennial (1988); and the seventy-fifth anniversary of **Senegal's** National Archives (1989).

### 1990s

The 1990s marked a slight decline compared to the previous decade. This decline would have been greater were it not for the newly independent nations of the former Soviet Union as well as of the former Yugoslavia. Several of these countries sought to highlight the buildings that maintained the records of their nascent national identity. Libraries featured on stamps in this decade include the Prince Philip Library, **Gambia** (1991); the Mandapa Library of the nineteenth century, **Cambodia** (1992); the **Greek** National Library (1993); the public library in St. George, **Grenada** (1993); the

National Library building in **Malaysia** (1994); open books to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the library system in **Bahrain** (1996); **Kazakhstan's** National Library (1996); the Sarajevo Library, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (1997); the East African School of Librarianship at Makerere University in **Uganda** (1997); the National Library in Minsk, **Belarus** (1997); a city library building in **Latvia** (1998); old and new buildings of the public library in **Aruba** (1999); the **St. Pierre & Miquelon** Museum-Archives (1999); and the Episcopal Archives of Ljubljana, **Slovenia** (1999).

## 2000s

The new millennium remains open for interpretation. So far, the following stamps have been recorded: **Argentina's** Jujuy Public Library, the Library for the Blind, and the National Library (2000); Morya Museum and Library, **Lesotho** (2000); the Central Library and other libraries, **Hong Kong** (2000); the Central Library in Castres, **St. Lucia** (2000); **Yugoslavia's** State Archives (2000); the twenty-fifth anniversary of **Andorra's** State Archives (2000); the National Archives of **Macedonia** (2001); the National Archives of **Thailand** (2001); the 150th anniversary of **Lithuania's** State Archives (2002); and the National Map and Book Museum, **Serbia** (2004). **Poland** issued three stamps in 2001 celebrating libraries and museums that served their expatriate population: the Polish Library in Montreal, the Polonia Archives Library and Museum in Orchard Lake, Michigan., and the Polish Museum in Chicago. Let's hope that by the end of the first decade of the millennium, the output of libraries on stamps will not be less than in previous decades. Let's also hope that we see libraries and archives on the stamps of countries that have never issued any on this topic. Several dozen are in this category, among them Ukraine, Croatia, Lichtenstein, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Curacao, Iran, Pakistan, South Africa, New Zealand, Uzbekistan, Somalia, Niger, Guatemala, and Bolivia.


## Some Parting Thoughts

Before concluding this study, one should note that in addition to the previously described stamps (as examples), many countries have issued additional stamps featuring libraries and archives. After identifying all stamps produced by each country, we find that the United States, Russia (including the former Soviet Union), and Germany (including the former East Germany) lead with 35 stamps each. (Germany is also the leader in terms of librarians and archivists depicted on stamps.) Other countries that have produced multiple stamps with libraries and archives are Canada (35); Poland (25); Aden (16); Colombia (15); Romania (13); Israel (10); Egypt, Brazil, Bulgaria, and the Philippines (9 each); Hungary and St. Vincent (8 each); Ceylon/Sri Lanka, Cuba, Mexico, Czech Republic/ Czechoslovakia, South Korea, and Nicaragua (7 each); Bermuda, India, Jordan, Latvia, and Venezuela (6 each); Argentina, Denmark, France, Spain, and Uruguay (5 each); Algeria, China, Finland, North Korea, Mauritius, Peru, Sudan, Switzerland, Syria, Yemen, and Yugoslavia (4 each); and Anguilla, Bahrain, Bosnia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan,

Laos, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldiv Islands, Netherlands, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and Trinidad and Tobago (3 each).

Finally, I again urge the American Library Association (ALA), the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), UNESCO, philatelic organizations, and others to establish committees or task forces concerned with the issue of libraries (and librarians) on stamps. After all, many library buildings feature great architecture, and inside are collections of rare books, art, and music. In other cases, the architecture and contents of the library may be more humble, but these depict local styles and important everyday objects. The services libraries provide to various ethnic and cultural communities are also relevant topics for stamps, as the children's library in India and bookmobiles on several stamps show. In essence, stamps are silent ambassadors for children and adults alike in any country. If a country cares about its cultural heritage, libraries must be represented regularly along with other cultural aspects.

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# Country-by-Country Listing

**Note:** All countries or other territories with stamps described in the article are listed here alphabetically, with catalogue identification of stamps (S=Scott's Catalogue; C=Canada Postal Stamps; MK=Minkus Catalogue; Y=Yvert Catalogue).

Aden-Seiyun (S/8)	Gibraltar (S/386)	Paraguay (S/383, S/385)
Ajman (MK/82)	Great Britain/United Kingdom (S1000)	Peru (S/C110)
Algeria (S/B98)	Greece (S/1776)	Poland (S/N60, S/3582-3585)
Andorra (S/268)	Grenada (S/2202)	Qatar (MK/148)
Anguilla (S/153)	Grenadines (S/728)	Ras-al-Kaimah (MK/132)
Argentina (S/2100A-D)	Greenland (S/134)	Romania (S/B149-153)
Aruba (S/739)	Guernsey (S/144)	Russia/Soviet Union (S/708)
Austria (S/B64, S/338)	Guyana (S/108)	Saar Region (S/244)
Bahrain (S/465-67, MK/16)	Honduras (S/C721-22)	St. Helena (S/S/220)
Bangladesh (S/262)	Hong Kong (S/891)	St. Kitts & Nevis (S/122)
Barbados (S/376-79)	Hungary (S/1085)	St. Lucia (S/1122)
Belarus (S/222)	Iceland (S/146)	St. Pierre & Miquelon (S/687)
Belgium (S/118)	India (S/787)	St. Vincent (S/362)
Bermuda (S/182)	Iraq (S/380-81)	Samoa (S/225)
Bosnia & Herzegovina (S/290)	Ireland (S/411)	San Marino (S/1973)
Botswana (S/66)	Isle of Man (S/137)	Saudi Arabia (S/363-68)
Brazil (S/1174, 1375)	Israel (S/23)	Senegal (S/76f)
Burundi (S/343-46)	Ivory Coast (S/387)	Serbia (S/4576-77)
Cambodia (S/1211)	Jamaica (S/484)	Seychelles (S/491)
Canada (C/NSH 2/a-43)	Japan (S/731)	Slovenia (S/368)
Ceylon (see also Sri Lanka) (S/284)	Jordan (S/522)	Spain (S/O14, 18)
Colombia (S/C31, 33)	Kazakhstan (S/168-69)	Sri Lanka (S/589)
Costa Rica (S/C280)	Kenya (S/175)	Sudan (S/55-57)
Cuba (S/168)	Kiribati (S/363)	Suriname (S/B348)
Cyprus (S/468)	Kuwait (S/2890)	Sweden (S/600-01)
Czech Republic/Czechoslovakia (S/890)	Laos (S/J1-6)	Switzerland (S/393)
Denmark (S/252-53)	Latvia (S/469)	Syria (S/C330-32)
Dominica (S/444)	Liberia (S/705)	Taiwan (S/2143)
Dominican Republic (S/317)	Libya (S/282-83)	Thailand (S/643)
Dubai (MK/241)	Luxembourg (S/655)	Tunisia (S/384)
El Salvador (S/819)	Macedonia (S/2001)	Turkey (S/979-80)
Equatorial Guinea (MK/1258)	Malaysia (S/525)	Turks & Caicos Islands (S/727)
Estonia (S/316)	Maldive Islands (S/318)	Uganda (S/1697)
Finland (S/B9, 11)	Mauritius (S/507)	United Arab Emirates (see Ajman, Dubai, Qatar, Ras-al-Kaimah)
Faroe Islands (S/39-40)	Mexico (S/C109)	United Nations (S/2, S/10)
France (S/1159)	Mongolia (Y/522)	United States (S/105L1-6)
Gambia (S/1086)	Mozambique (S/955)	Vatican (S/436)
Germany (S/1289)	Namibia (S/408)	Venezuela (S/C 977, 980)
Germany, Berlin (S/9N109)	Nepal (S/16)	Vietnam (S/480-81)
Germany, Democratic Republic (S/1756)	Netherlands (S/1001)	Virgin Islands (S/253)
Germany, Federal Republic (S/494)	New Caledonia (S/482)	Yemen (S/214)
Ghana (S/445-49)	Nicaragua (S/1539-45)	Yugoslavia (S/2477)
	Norway (S/867)	Zimbabwe (S/515-18)

## Editor's Shelf (continued from page 22)

reveals details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He comes to the conclusion that the sacred texts are important in today's world. If all the faiths took from one another, exchanged ideas, recognized their commonalities, and were open to peaceful coexistence rather

than fighting over whose beliefs are right, there would be peace and harmony. Feiler feels that God can unite different faiths into a shared "allegiance of hope."

