



UPU | UNIVERSAL
POSTAL
UNION

Threats to philately



Threats to philately

- Philately is a significant postal sector business, providing significant support for stamp-issuing authorities and postal development in general
- Postage stamps and philatelic products continue to generate considerable income and serve to promote countries and their issuing authorities at both the national and international level
- However, in recent years, the philatelic market has had to contend with the illegal production of a large number of stamps in a growing number of countries



Threats to philately

Illegal and abusive issues

- Postage stamps issued for countries that do not exist, no longer exist, or do not yet exist
- Postage stamps issued in order to confer some sort of political recognition on the country in question
- Postage stamps issued without the permission of the country's designated operator

Illegal stamp issues – How to recognize them

- They are reported in UPU circulars
- They have a clearly commercial theme and often do not reflect the country's image or identity
- They are not in the WNS (for WNS members)



Les menaces contre la philatélie



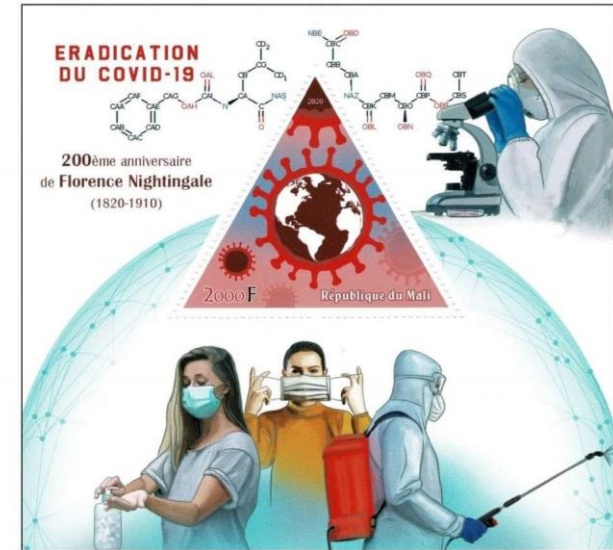
Croatia 2016 – 3 sheetlets of 4 stamps



Libya 2017 – Sheetlet of 4 stamps



Egypt 2017 – Sheetlet of 4 stamps



Mali 2020 – Sheetlet of 1 stamp



Threats to philately

Abusive stamp issues – How to recognize them

- Large number of stamps issued with respect to potential usage
- Similar format
- Subject without special interest or topicality
- Mixture of subjects
- Lacklustre execution (very poor printing, no security perforations, no innovative features)

Abusive stamp issues – What they lead to

- The stamps are never seen affixed to a letter
- The face value corresponds to no particular postage rate
- The stamps are never sold at auctions
- The stamps are not allowed at exhibitions
- Unhappy collectors
- Depletion of resources



Threats to philately

Counterfeits

- The illegal reproduction of stamps with the aim of harming customers or issuing authorities. Production methods include photocopiers, scanners and even dishonest and unscrupulous printing firms

Falsification

- The alteration of existing stamps through chemical or physical manipulation with the aim of misleading customers



Threats to philately

What are the identifiable causes of illegal issues?

- No philatelic policy
- No annual or multi-year programme
- No information published about new issues
- Postage stamps not sent for registration in the WNS
- Date of issue not announced
- Date of withdrawal not announced
- Stamps not officially destroyed
- Reuse of old values
- Uncontrolled printing of stamps
- No national legal mechanism for combating fraud
- Issue rights relinquished to an agent



Threats to philately

How to prevent illegal issues

- Join the WNS
- Develop a detailed annual or multi-year programme of postage stamp issues
- Issue a press release about the programme and enter it in the WNS
- Choose illustrations for stamps with care
- Choose the printer and monitor the production process from start to finish
- Schedule postage stamp issue dates
- Send postage stamps to the UPU 15 days after their date of issue for WNS registration
- Issue a press release for each issue
- Provide supplies to all your post offices and the agent or agents responsible for marketing your stamps abroad
- Schedule and publicly announce the withdrawal date for each postage stamp



Threats to philately

If you discover an illegal issue

- Immediately notify the International Bureau (Logistics Directorate – Philately and IRCs Programme – philately@upu.int)
- Ask the UPU to publish a circular (see circular)
- Notify the philatelic press that the stamp is illegal
- Notify catalogue publishers that the stamp is illegal
- Notify postage stamp dealers that the stamp is illegal
- Report the illegal issue to the police and legal authorities of your country



Threats to philately



Berne, 4 December 2017
International Bureau Circular
Egypt – Illegal issues

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Dear Sir/Madam,

The designated operator of **EGYPT**, National Post Organization of Egypt, asks me to inform the designated operators of other Unions member countries of the following:

"National Post Organization of Egypt has recently discovered that the series shown in Annex 1 are being sold and distributed as stamps produced by Egypt:

- Winter Olympic Games 2018 series (four issues on a miniature sheet);
- Renaissance Painters series (six issues on two miniature sheets);
- High-Speed Trains series (four issues on a miniature sheet);
- Napoleonic Wars series (four issues on a miniature sheet);
- Coins series (four issues on a miniature sheet).

"National Post Organization of Egypt confirms that these are illegal issues and are not valid as evidence of payment of postage. National Post Organization of Egypt strongly denounces and condemns such illegal issues. The issuance of these stamps is a flagrant violation of national legislation on postage stamp production and of the provisions of article 8 of the Universal Postal Convention, in accordance with which, only National Post Organization of Egypt is authorized to issue postage stamps on behalf of Egypt.

"National Post Organization of Egypt is calling upon the cooperation, solidarity and support of all UPU member countries and bodies to prohibit the sale and circulation of the illegal stamps, in accordance with Egyptian laws and regulations and the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention. The continued production and sale of illegal issues is a criminal activity, which is harming not only philately and the reputation of the country, but is also detrimental to all countries and the wider postal sector."

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Alexandre Ducrest
Director of Logistics

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Annex

Illegal issues denounced by National Post Organization of Egypt

Winter Olympic Games 2018



Napoleonic Wars



High-Speed Trains



Coins



Renaissance Painters





Threats to philately

What to do

- Keep philatelic players (IFSDA, AIJP, FIP, etc.) informed about your issues
- Monitor Internet shopping sites
- Avoid abusive issues
- Issue postage stamps whose themes relate to the country's culture
- Do not hand over your issuing rights to an agent
- Issue a quarterly press release about your philatelic activities



Threats to philately

What not to do

- Lower your guard
- Reduce printing quality
- Reduce cancellation quality
- Think training is unnecessary
- Be over-trusting
- Believe anything is possible
- Relinquish control of philately to agents
- Think that philately is only for collectors



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For questions or further information:

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