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FAROE ISLANDS

Each country has its own landscapes and in each country live people who not only think their children are the best, they also think their landscapes are the most beautiful in the world. Are people marked by the landscapes they live amongst?

Many poems and a lot of writing have been devoted to this much debated question. But there must undoubtedly be something in it – it is unavoidable that growing up on boundless steppes or among the skyscrapers of big cities will influence people's characters, each in its own way. And what does growing up on rocky islands surrounded by the endless sea do to people?

Unlike many other creatures on Earth, we are distinguished by incredible flexibility – a secluded life on a rocky island can certainly be exchanged for a busy urban life in the heterogeneous human sea of the continents.

GIBRALTAR

When you first see the Rock of Gibraltar, whether it is from the air, from the sea or from either the Costa del Sol or the western end of the Bay, it is its impressive stature, towering isolated above the surrounding countryside, that causes the greatest impact. It has had this effect on people for many thousands of years. Gibraltar is a beacon which signals the position of the Strait of Gibraltar, the narrow neck which separates Europe from Africa and provides the only link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

For the person interested in natural history, whether it is on land or sea, Gibraltar is incredibly rich and full of surprises at any time of the year.

It is a combination of geographical location, climate and a unique history, together with the preservation of areas of habitat, that has made it a tiny paradise for wildlife.

GREENLAND

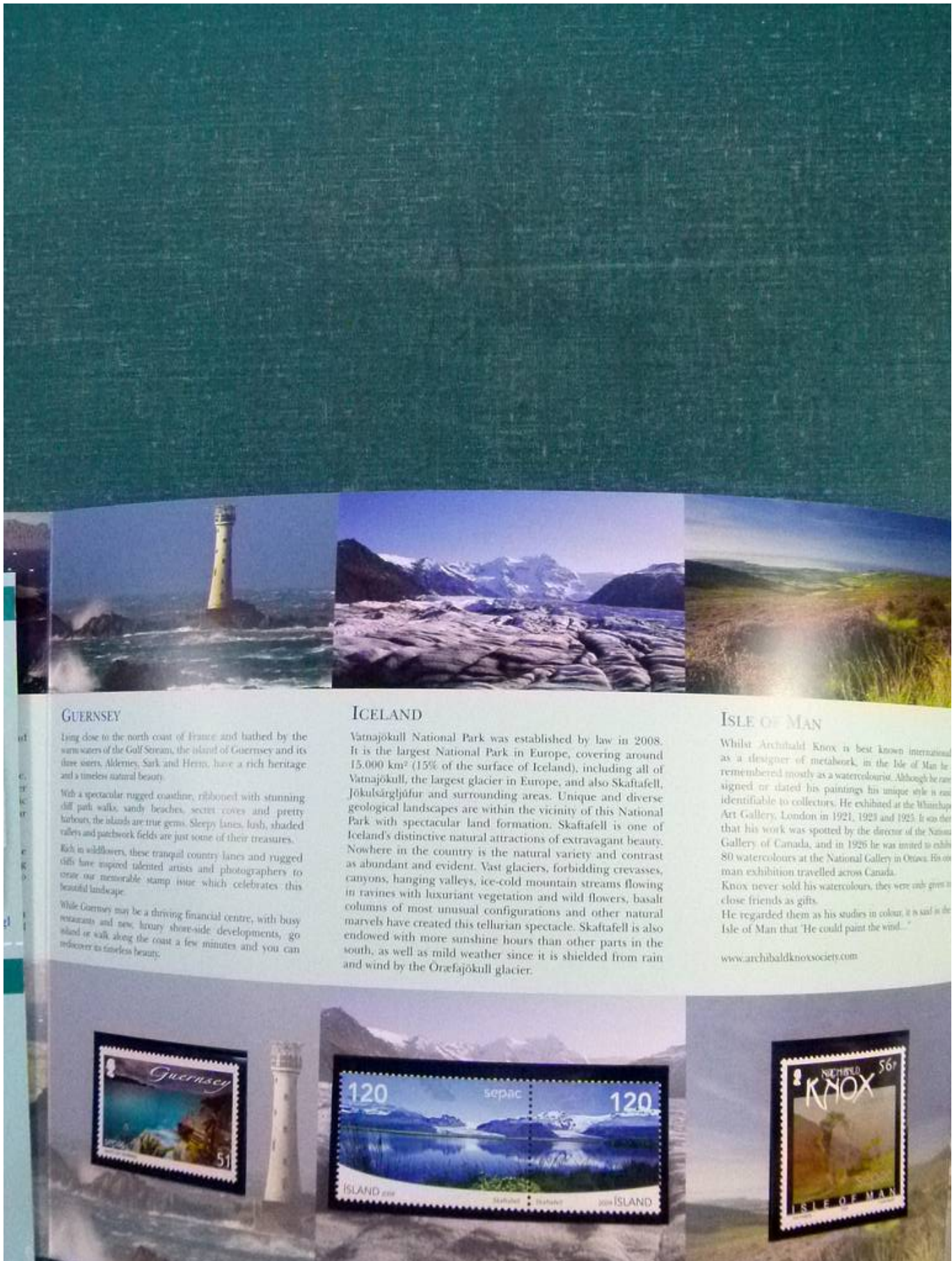
Greenland is hospitality, friendship, ice, ocean, hills, and overall unreal beauty.

Greenland is partitioned into two parts of the Arctic circle. To the north the midnight sun is present in the summer and darkness in the winter, whereas south of the Arctic circle the sun rises and sets every single day, all year round.

Despite its massive size, Greenland only covers one climatic zone, the Arctic zone, which of course has a big impact on nature. More than 500 species of plants are to be found here.

The Arctic summer is short but hectic, which means that the Greenlandic landscape flowers from early July until mid-August.

Foto nr.: 7



GUERNSEY

Using close to the north coast of France and bathed by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, the island of Guernsey and its three sisters, Alderney, Sark and Herm, have a rich heritage and a timeless natural beauty.

With a spectacular rugged coastline, ribboned with stunning cliff path walks, sandy beaches, secret coves and pretty harbours, the islands are true gems. Sleepy lanes, lush, shaded valleys and patchwork fields are just some of their treasures.

Rich in wildflowers, these tranquil country lanes and rugged cliffs have inspired talented artists and photographers to create our memorable stamp issue which celebrates this beautiful landscape.

While Guernsey may be a thriving financial centre, with busy restaurants and new, lively shore-side developments, go inland or walk along the coast a few minutes and you can rediscover its timeless beauty.

ICELAND

Vatnajökull National Park was established by law in 2008. It is the largest National Park in Europe, covering around 15,000 km² (15% of the surface of Iceland), including all of Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe, and also Skaftafell, Jökulsárgljúfur and surrounding areas. Unique and diverse geological landscapes are within the vicinity of this National Park with spectacular land formation. Skaftafell is one of Iceland's distinctive natural attractions of extravagant beauty. Nowhere in the country is the natural variety and contrast as abundant and evident. Vast glaciers, forbidding crevasses, canyons, hanging valleys, ice-cold mountain streams flowing in ravines with luxuriant vegetation and wild flowers, basalt columns of most unusual configurations and other natural marvels have created this tellurian spectacle. Skaftafell is also endowed with more sunshine hours than other parts in the south, as well as mild weather since it is shielded from rain and wind by the Öræfajökull glacier.

ISLE OF MAN

Whilst Archibald Knox is best known international as a designer of metahouse, in the Isle of Man he is remembered mostly as a watercolourist. Although he rarely signed or dated his paintings his unique style is easily identifiable to collectors. He exhibited at the Whitbread Art Gallery, London in 1921, 1923 and 1925. It was then that his work was spotted by the director of the National Gallery of Canada, and in 1926 he was invited to exhibit 80 watercolours at the National Gallery in Ottawa. His only man exhibition travelled across Canada.

Knox never sold his watercolours, they were only given to close friends as gifts.

He regarded them as his studies in colour, it is said in the Isle of Man that 'He could paint the wind...'

www.archibaldknoxociety.com

Foto nr.: 8



JERSEY

At just 45 square miles, Jersey is the largest land mass in the Channel Islands archipelago which may be found approximately 100 miles south of England and just 14 miles off the Normandy coastline of France.

The picturesque harbour and surrounding area at St Aubin is situated at the western end of the long, sandy curve of St Aubin's Bay on the south of the Island. St Aubin was Jersey's main commercial port until St Helier harbour became the Island's premier docking facility in the early 19th century. Until this time, St Aubin had been a bustling port with various merchant's premises along the bulwarks and shipyards catering to their marine needs.

Today, St Aubin is still a busy village with an art gallery, shops, marine chandlers, restaurants, hotels and bars overlooking the harbour which is now filled with yachts and motor boats instead of the merchant ships of yesteryear.

A beautiful and popular location for visitors and locals alike.

LIECHTENSTEIN

When Prince Johann Adam Andreas of Liechtenstein bought the two dominions, the Lordship of Schellenberg (in 1699) and the County of Vaduz (in 1712), he reunited two territories which for centuries had been separated: the "Oberland" (the Upper Country) in the South and the "Unterland" (the Lower Country) in the North. In 1719 they were elevated to the Imperial Principality of Liechtenstein. Today this former separation is still noticeable at elections with the "Oberland" sending 15 Members to Parliament and the "Unterland" 10.

The Chapel of St. Maria which is situated in Triesen was built in the 9th or early 10th century and is the oldest chapel in Liechtenstein. It has always been one of the most famous landmarks of the "Oberland".

LUXEMBOURG

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, a constitutional monarchy, is an independent sovereign state, such between Belgium, France and Germany. The country is 140 km long and 52 km wide, encompassing an area of 2,5 square kilometres with a population of 484,000 inhabitants (official estimate 2008).

Vianden Castle was constructed between the 11th and 13th centuries on the foundations of a Roman 'castellum' and Carolingian refuge. It is one of the largest residence the romanesque and gothic periods in Europe. Until beginning of the 15th century it was the seat of the count of Vianden. In 1977 it was transferred to State ownership and restored to its former glory.

Foto nr.: 9



Foto nr.: 10



FAROE ISLANDS

The Faroe Islands are among the most visually and spiritually alluring islands I've visited on my travels to many wilderness places in the world, and part of what makes them special is the feeling of closeness to the land that they generate, being small windswept islands in the middle of the vast and cold North Atlantic Ocean.

I first saw the Faroe Islands while traveling between Iceland and Norway. What initially impressed me were the striated layers upon layers of the pyramidal shaped mountains rising out of the middle of the ocean. I had never seen such visually unique and appealing mountains such as these, and immediately felt the land calling to me, beckoning me to come explore and stand on its narrow mountain ridges with the white-capped ocean channels surrounding me on all sides.

Jonathan Esper, Wilderness photographer

GIBRALTAR

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GREENLAND

Greenland is the world's largest island with an area around 2.2 million sq. km, but only some 110,000 sq. km are not covered by ice. The Greenland ice sheet is the second largest in the world. With the exception of a few sheltered valleys in South Greenland, the climate is arctic and the average temperature during the warmest month of the year does not exceed 10°C.

Greenland enjoys self-government within a framework set up with Faroe Islands and Denmark. In 1979, Greenland voted to transfer more powers to the local government. This became effective the following year, with the Danish government in charge only of foreign affairs, defense, and financial policy.

With a population of 56,452 (January 2018 estimate), it is the least densely populated dependency or country in the world.

Foto nr.: 11



Foto nr.: 12



Foto nr.: 13



Foto nr.: 14



Foto nr.: 15



Foto nr.: 16



Foto nr.: 17



MALTA

The islands of Malta are situated in the Mediterranean Sea, 80 miles south of Sicily. With a history spanning over 7000 years, Malta has been a home, stronghold, trading post and refuge to many civilizations.

The Islands have been described as a melting pot of cultures with many who have left their mark throughout the ages; Malta is now an independent sovereign nation and a member of both the EU and the Commonwealth.

Wild hare

The Wild hare, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, in Maltese "Fenek elvagg" is not indigenous to the Maltese islands but it has been in Malta for centuries and is now considered part of the country's fauna. The Wild Hare is still encountered in Malta's countryside particularly the isolated island of Għozo.

MONACO

The Principality of Monaco is the second smallest country, by size, in the world. It is located in Southern Europe on the Northern central coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It is the most cosmopolitan state in the world with 119 nationalities living within its 2 square kilometre territory. Monaco is a constitutional monarchy, headed by H.S.H. Prince Albert II. www.oetp-monaco.mc

Yellow-legged Gull

The stamp depicts the gull, a very common marine bird in Monaco. The species featured on the stamp is the *Larus michahellis*, also called the Yellow-legged Gull. It is characteristic of the Mediterranean Sea. This large gull is omnivorous like most *Larus* gulls.

ÅLAND

The surrounding sea has a great influence on the Åland climate. Spring arrives late and summer is warm and short. The coastal climate also means that autumn and winter tend to be mild. Large parts of Åland are covered with coniferous forest with a relatively high share of broad-leaf trees. The lush forest meadows with a wealth of species, particularly of butterflies, Hymenoptera and beetles, give Åland its special character.

European Peacock butterfly

The stamp depicts the European Peacock butterfly. It belongs to the family Nymphalidae and has a wingspan of 55 to 65 mm. It is no coincidence that the pattern of this butterfly reminds you of staring eyes, a perfect deterrent against predators. Potential predators will find the pattern of the fully extended wings alarming.



Foto nr.: 18

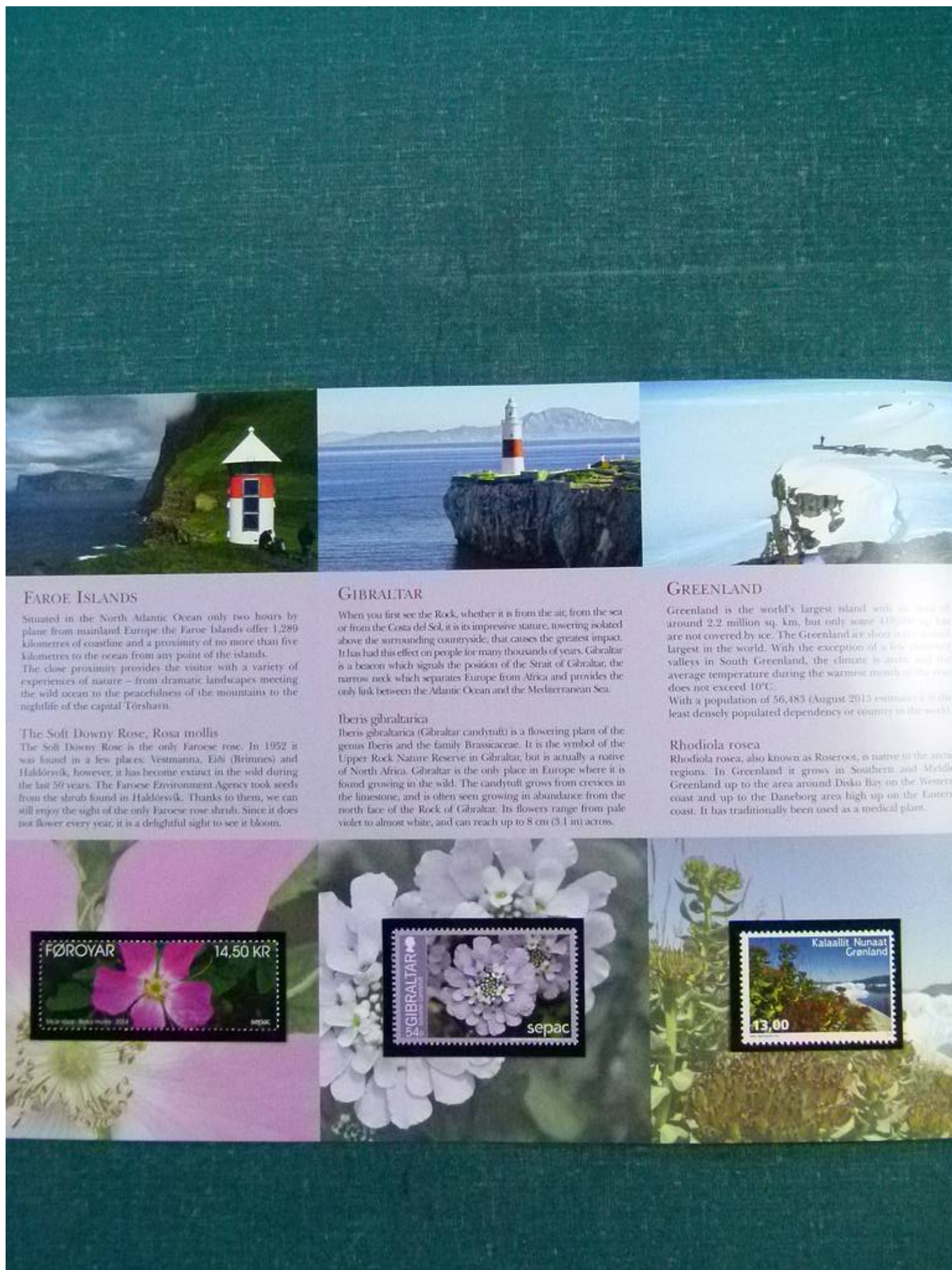


Foto nr.: 19



MALTA

The islands of Malta are situated in the Mediterranean Sea, 60 miles south of Sicily. With a history spanning over 7000 years, Malta has been a home, stronghold, trading post and refuge to many civilizations. The Islands have been described as a melting pot of cultures with many who have left their mark throughout the ages. Malta is now an independent sovereign nation and a member of both the EU and the Commonwealth.

Verbascum sinuatum
English: Wavyleaf Mullein, Wavy-leaved Mullein, Scallop-leaved Mullein; Maltese: Xarbet L-Andar. Commonly seen growing on disturbed ground and flowering mainly in late May and early June. Its large leaves, which are carried mainly at ground level, are somewhat greyish and hairy with wavy margins. The bright yellow flowers are carried on tall branched stems up to some 70cm high. Widely distributed in the Mediterranean area.

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Protea
In honour of H.S.H. Princess Charlene of Monaco, the "Office des Timbres" has chosen to highlight protea, the symbolic flowers of South Africa. It is a work of the French watercolour artist, Noëlle Le Guillouze.

ÅLAND

The Åland nature contains many fascinating nature types and the closeness to the sea and the coast is very tangible on the island. The landscape varies between pine forests with many deciduous trees, worked grounds with fields and pastures and forest meadows. The climate is mild due to the surrounding sea and that, in combination with fertile soil, ensures a rich diversity of species in the flora and fauna.

The Nettle-leaved Bellflower
The stamp depicts the nettle-leaved bellflower. The family Campanulaceae comprises some 700 species in 35 genera. In Åland, we find four genera of some 15 species. The nettle-leaved bellflower grows up to one metre tall with pointed petals. It is often found in hazel groves and broad-leaved woodlands where defoliation guarantees fresh, nutritious, decomposing soil every year.

Foto nr.: 20



Foto nr.: 21



GUERNSEY

The second largest of the Channel Islands, Guernsey is situated in the bay of St Malo in the English Channel, just 30 miles west of the Normandy coast of France. Improvements in transport links to and from the islands heralded the start of the export industry with the first commercial crops of pears and grapes exported in the mid-1800s. There is still a vibrant export market in the flower industry, including the Guernsey lily and award-winning Clematis.

Guernsey in Bloom

Bailiwick of Guernsey has enjoyed huge success at Britain in Bloom awards, which celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2014. Featured on our stamp is St Pierre Bot, a beautiful country parish whose national Gold medal winning team demonstrated skills in restoration, community work on church land and the use of the mulchification of plant material.



ICELAND

Iceland, "the Land of Fire and Ice", is the home of steaming hot springs, rugged lavafields and majestic glaciers. It has cool summers and long, mild winters. What makes Iceland stand out as a venue is its unique natural beauty, spectacular contrasts and absence of pollution. It is also a land of good people and peaceful living. The population of around 320,000 people mainly lives in the coastal areas.

Iceland flora

One of the main characteristics of the flora of Iceland is the small number of species of vascular plants. The last Ice Age erased all or most of Iceland's vegetation. There are a total of around 490 native and naturalized species in Iceland. A number of species were deliberately introduced and cultivated for agricultural and soil conservation purposes.



ISLE OF MAN

Ours is an Island of contrasts. Our flourishing and progressive international business sector is becoming a world centre for the space industry while our Victorian industrial heritage is represented by the famous Laxey Wheel. Built in 1854 to pump water from the nearby mine, and set within a beautiful pastoral valley, it is the world's largest working water wheel.

Flora

Manx artist Catherine James's colourful SEPAC Flora stamp celebrates the hellebore which offers a burst of colour during the colder months of the year. This beautiful stamp was originally part of our Winter Flora miniature sheet issued in January of this year.



Foto nr.: 22



Foto nr.: 23



Foto nr.: 24



Foto nr.: 25



GUERNSEY

The Bailiwick of Guernsey comprises the three separate jurisdictions of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. Guernsey lies less than thirty miles from the French coast and seventy miles from the south coast of England. The stunning coastline comprises flat sandy beaches, secret coves and rugged harbours; and thanks to its temperate climate the island is host to a range of flora and fauna rarely found elsewhere in the British Isles.

Artists of Guernsey

Originally from Sheffield William Toplis was a young, but established artist when he first holidayed on Sark in 1883. He went on to spend 60 years on the tiny Channel Island and his paintings reflect the natural beauty of its stunning coastal scenery. Our 62p stamp shows his wonderful representation of La Saignee in the North West of the island.

ICELAND

"The Land of Fire and Ice" is the home of fiery volcanoes, impressive mountain ranges and vast glaciers. It has cool summers and long, mild winters. What distinguishes the Icelandic scenery is its unique natural beauty, spectacular contrasts and the absence of pollution. The country is well known for its ancient and recent literature, its music and award-winning films. The population of around 325,000 lives mainly in the coastal areas.

Iceland Airwaves

Music is the theme of the Icelandic SEPAC issue which features Iceland Airwaves, the country's biggest music festival. The object of this annual celebration is to introduce Icelandic music to foreigners. For five autumnal days, artists are invited to perform in a variety of venues, enjoying musical creativity. More than 200 bands attended the Airwaves celebrations in 2014.

ISLE OF MAN

At the centre of the Isle of Man, in the picturesque village of St John's, sits the Tynwald green, our Parliament field. It is sheltered by tree-covered hills and the Tynwald National Park and National Arboretum which was founded in 1916 like the tapestry, to celebrate the Millennium of Tynwald (our most ancient form of government introduced by the Vikings). Covering 25 acres the Park is home to a wide range of ornamental shrubs and trees and a number of breed ducks.

Tynwald Hill

Our 2015 SEPAC stamp is part of The Millennium Tynwald Tapestry stamp issue derived from a large work made by the Isle of Man Federation of Women's Institute in 1979. The view depicted is that of the ceremonial path which links the church to the Tynwald Hill where the Island's laws are promulgated each year in July.

Foto nr.: 26



FAROE ISLANDS

Situated in the North Atlantic Ocean only two hours by plane from mainland Europe the Faroe Islands offer 1,289 kilometres of coastline and a proximity of no more than five kilometres to the ocean from any point of the islands. The close proximity provides the visitor with a variety of experiences of nature – from dramatic landscapes meeting the wild ocean to the peacefulness of the mountains to the nightlife of the capital Tórshavn.

National Bird – The Oystercatcher

Saint Gregory's Day on the 12th of March is celebrated for the arrival of the oystercatcher and the oncoming spring. In September the oystercatchers start to congregate in large flocks on the beach – just before starting the long journey back to the British Isles and the French Atlantic coast. This is the melancholic season, the beginning of winter, when people see the last oystercatchers migrate southeast.

GIBRALTAR

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Alameda Gardens Bridge

The old bridge over The Dell affords the prettiest vistas in the Alameda Gardens. The stunning Bougainvillea that grows over it is over a hundred years old. Parts of the Alameda Gardens and other gardens in and around Gibraltar were designed by Italian landscape gardener Giuseppe Codani, who is commemorated by a bust that lies at the entrance to the bridge.

GREENLAND

Greenland is the world's largest island with an area around 2.2 million sq. km, but only some 410,000 sq. km are not covered by ice. The Greenland ice sheet is the second largest in the world. With the exception of a few sheltered valleys in South Greenland, the climate is arctic and the average temperature during the warmest month of the year does not exceed 10°C. With a population of 55,984 (January 2015 estimate) it is the least densely populated dependent territory or country in the world.

Seasons in Greenland

Seasons in Greenland are very diverse. Each season has distinctive marks. But what really differentiates the seasons is the presence or absence of snow. Some activities and experiences are seasonal, e.g. dog sledding and witnessing the northern lights which primarily take place during winter; whereas northern lights and whales can be seen during summer.

Foto nr.: 27



MALTA

The country's landscape has been influenced by many civilisations and societies which include the Order of St. John, the Arabs, the British and the French. As a result, Malta is endowed by beautiful historical buildings which are found at every corner of the islands. Amongst these building lies the Verdala Palace found in Buskett Gardens, limits of Siggiewi Malta. This architectural heritage is illustrated on MaltaPost's SEPAC stamp issue entitled 'Seasons'.

Verdala Palace, Buskett Gardens, Malta
MaltaPost's SEPAC stamp illustrates 'Autumn' and features the Verdala Palace. This Palace is found in Buskett Gardens, limits of Siggiewi Malta and was built in 1586 during the reign of Grandmaster Hugues Loubenx de Verdalle. Today Palazzo Verdala serves as the official summer residence of the President of Malta.

MONACO

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Seasons
Monaco benefits from a particularly temperate climate. All seasons are enjoyable. The stamp allows for a poetic view on the different seasons in Monaco.

ÅLAND

Because of its location in the waters between Sweden and Finland, the Åland Islands have milder climate, comparable places this far north. This means that summers are a little cooler compared to mainland Finland or Sweden but winters are relatively mild. Summer is from June to August and the Åland Islands have more sunshine hours than anywhere else in Scandinavia. Winter is from December to March. On average, February is the coldest month.

Seasons
The stamp depicts the Åland seasons from the perspective of an apple. Graphic designer Annika Zetterqvist's idea for the motif may be summarised by the words "germinate, blossom, ripen and enjoy", symbolising the seasons of both nature and life. In recent years, apples as a garden produce have significantly increased its share of the total Åland farm produce.

Foto nr.: 28



Foto nr.: 29



JERSEY

Flailwick of Guernsey comprises the three separate fiefdoms of Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. Jersey lies less than thirty miles from the French coast and is a member of the British Isles. The island's coastline comprises flat sandy beaches, secret coves and rugged harbours, and thanks to its temperate climate it is host to a range of flora and fauna rarely found elsewhere in the British Isles.

Autumn in Guernsey

In Guernsey there can be no more spectacular display of autumn colours than in the island's Saumarez Park. The park is the largest on the island, the park houses a range of gardens, including a bamboo walk, a Japanese garden, a camellia lawn along with a picturesque rose garden and a walled garden. Our autumn stamp captures a majestic Ash 'Jaspidea' tree in glowing autumnal colour.



ICELAND

"The Land of Fire and Ice" is the home of fiery volcanoes, impressive mountain ranges and mighty glaciers. It has cool summers and long rather mild winters. What distinguishes the Icelandic scenery is its unique natural beauty, spectacular contrasts and the absence of pollution. The country is well known for its ancient and more recent literature, its music and films. The population of around 332,000 lives mainly in the coastal areas.

The Seasons

Seasonal differences are pronounced in Iceland and changes in climate and nature are impressive. In spring the sun rises earlier and sets later. The colours of nature are fair and varied in autumn. Migrating birds practice aerobatics before flying off to warmer latitudes. Winter arrives with storms and snow and northern lights swaying across the sky on clear winter nights.



ISLE OF MAN

The Isle of Man has many interesting churches and chapels located in some beautiful town and rural locations. To the visitor they are peaceful retreats from the busy world but to residents they are often the active centre of their community. The Island's early ecclesiastical history is something of a mystery, and although historians think that parishes were organised at an earlier date, the establishment of such a system by our Scandinavian ancestors was set up later in the twelfth century, evidence of the Island's rich heritage.

St Patrick's Church Jurby

Situated prominently on the coast it is closely associated with the nearby Royal Air Force aerodrome (built for training purposes during World War II) and a number of military personnel are buried here. Home to a pre-Reformation font of red sandstone and a silver chalice (a rarity now in the Manx Museum) there are a number of ancient crosses to be found on this site.



Foto nr.: 30



FAROE ISLANDS

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The Faroese Knife

The knife has always been the most important tool of the Faroese. This is signified by the old saying: "A knifeless man is a lifeless man" which indicates the need in everyday life to have a knife handy at all times. The knife was used in almost all activities undertaken in the old farmer-hunter society, by men, women and children. The knife was the Faroese universal tool.

GIBRALTAR

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Military Heritage - War Memorial

The Gibraltar War Memorial, also referred to as the British War Memorial, is located to the west of Lane Wall Road in Gibraltar, the British Overseas Territory at the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula. The monument, which commemorates the fallen of the First World War, was sculpted by Jose Piquet Caroli of Barcelona, Spain and was constructed of Carrara marble.

GREENLAND

Greenland is the world's largest island with a total area of 2.2 million sq. km. Only some 410,000 sq. km are not covered in ice. The Greenland ice sheet is the second largest in the world, the exception of a few sheltered valleys in South Greenland. The climate is arctic and the average temperature during the warmest month of the year does not exceed 10°C. With a population of 56,225 (January 2017 estimate) it is the least densely populated country in the world.

Local handcraft in Greenland

Greenland's population depends heavily on marine resources, including sealing. In Greenland, sealing means much more than food on the table and housekeeping money. In fact, there is a proud Greenlandic tradition of using the entire seal and has been caught. It is a rich cultural heritage, which can be combined with aesthetically beautiful seal skin articles.

Foto nr.: 31



MONACO

Located in Southern Europe on the Northern central coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the Principality of Monaco is a constitutional monarchy headed by H.S.H. Prince Albert II. It is the second smallest country, by size, in the world. The Principality offers a cosmopolitan international lifestyle. A gateway to Europe, residents of 119 different nationalities have decided to make Monaco their home. www.cetp-monaco.mc

Pottery
Always mindful of its artistic development, Monaco opened its first ceramics workshop in 1874. The first monegasque pottery produced abundantly and diversely. After its closing in 1884, Prince Albert I inaugurated the second pottery in 1907, which ceased its activities in 1914. A number of workshops produce ceramics to this day, carrying on the tradition of artistic pottery in Monaco.

MALTA

The Maltese Archipelago has been ruled by a succession of powers who left their mark on Maltese history including its traditional handicraft. Craft forms, such as weaving and pottery date back to prehistoric times. Cotton was introduced in around 870 A.D. whereas lace making became highly popular during the 16th century. A popular craft, which was and is still used to support Malta's fishing industry are the Bamboo Fish traps.

Traditional Handicrafts
MaltaPost's SEPAC stamp illustrates Maltese traditional handicraft and features 'Bamboo Fishing Traps'. These traps were traditionally made with a fine reed-like material, but these days are made out of nylon, which is virtually indestructible.

ÅLAND

The arts and crafts tradition is very much alive in Åland. Local artisans combine old handicraft traditions and modern creativity. Characteristic is the connection to the Åland archipelago through choice of material, form and function. The level of craftsmanship is high with a great variety of productions from brightly coloured woven rugs and silk-screened textiles to delicate silver jewellery and trivets made from thick, knotted rope. The handicrafts are found in the shops of Marikhamn or at the artisans' studios and shops.

Local crafts
The stamp depicts jewellery made from recycled material. The necklaces on the stamp were handmade from old leather garments and metallic bits. At the lower edge of the stamp, a pair of earrings made from ostrich feather down appears. The jewellery is designed and produced by Anna Karlson in her tiny workshop in Godby, Åland. She mainly uses recovered material, mostly leather but also yarn, pieces of glass or discarded cartridge cases.

Foto nr.: 32



Foto nr.: 33



Foto nr.: 34



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The close proximity provides the visitor with a variety of experiences of nature – from dramatic landscapes meeting the wild ocean to the peacefulness of the mountains to the nightlife of the capital Tórshavn.

Spectacular Views of Faroe Islands

They got a bit of a fright, the happy campers at Tórshavn's campground, when tremendous waves came crashing against the rocks just outside the place where they parked. Thousands of tourists visit the islands every year to see, feel and experience the mild North Atlantic summer season. However, if you want to experience the true playground of the sky and weather gods, you need only travel to the Faroes in the winter season.

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Spectacular Views of Gibraltar - Catalan Bay

Catalan Bay is a small fishing village in Gibraltar. Historically, Catalan Bay had been populated by Genoese fishermen who were part of a much larger settlement pattern along the eastern coast of the Rock during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. During the nineteenth century only fishermen were permitted to live in Catalan Bay. The families who live in the village today are mainly descendants of these Genoese fishermen and are colloquially known as caletefios.

Monaco

Located in Southern Europe on the Northern central tip of the Mediterranean Sea, the Principality of Monaco is a tiny monarchy headed by H.S.H. Prince Albert II. It is the smallest country, by size, in the world. The Principality offers a cosmopolitan international lifestyle. A gateway to Europe, of 139 different nationalities have decided to make it their home. www.oetp-monaco.mc

Spectacular view of Monaco

Nestled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Alps, Monaco enjoys an exceptional setting. The picture shows a view on Port Hercules. Thanks to its temperate Mediterranean climate, Monaco has particularly mild winters. How February it snowed in Monaco and in the neighboring Alps. The contrast between the snow on the heights of the Principality and the shade of blue in the sea made for a spectacular view.

Foto nr.: 35

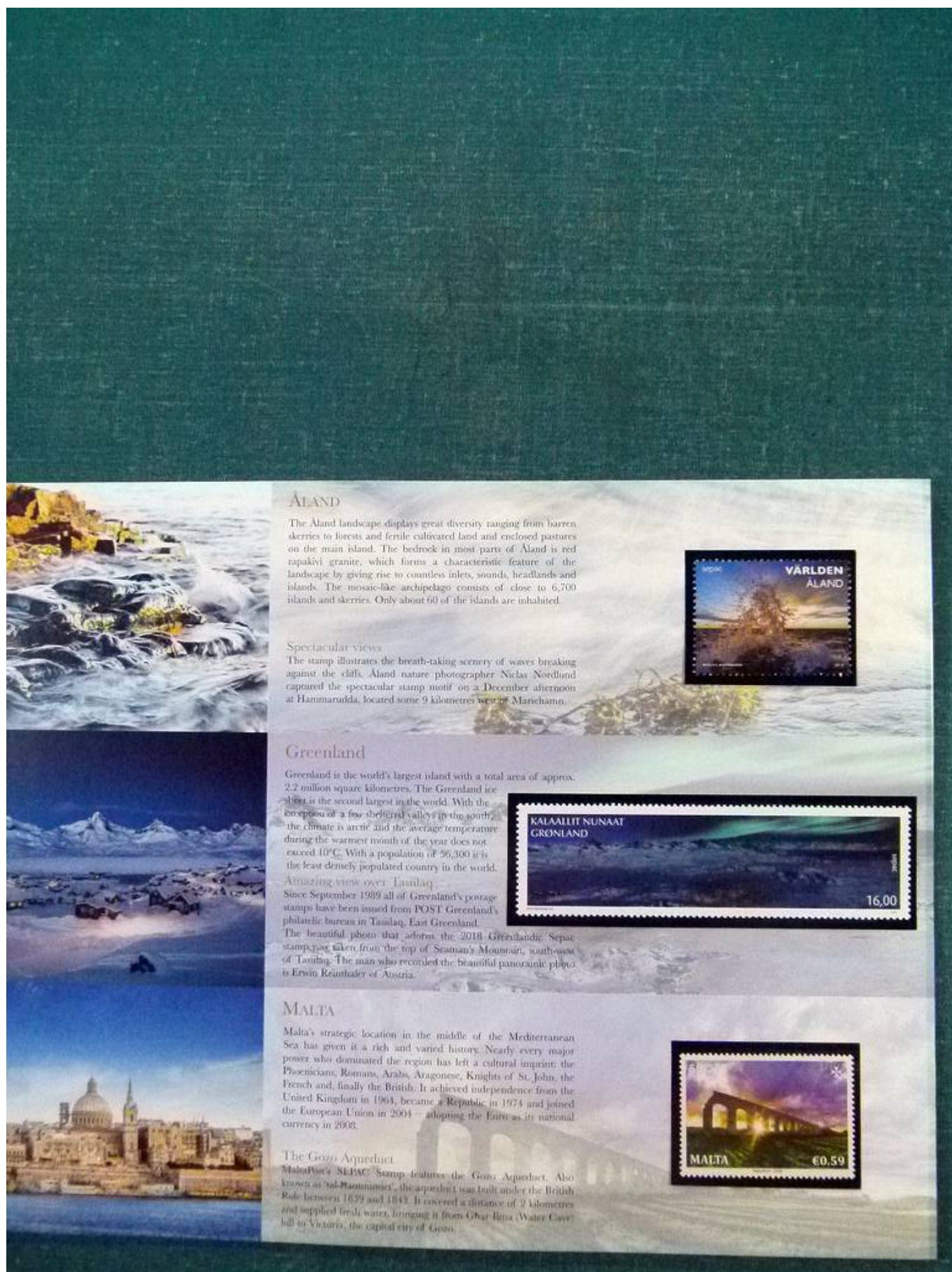


Foto nr.: 36



Foto nr.: 37



JERSEY

Jersey's location, southerly position in the Bay of St Malo, just 30 miles from France and 137 from the United Kingdom, makes it one of the warmest places in the British Isles. With mild winters and summer, the growing season comes early to Jersey and spring flowers begin to appear as early as February. Surrounded by tidal waters warmed by the Gulf Stream, visitors and locals alike can enjoy the Island's scenic beauty taking in wonderful cliff-top rambles, coastal walks and walks along quiet lanes meandering through picturesque valleys.

Golden Sands in Portelet Bay
Accessible by a long pathway, Portelet Bay is on the southwestern coast of the Island. The inlet known as Ile au Guerdain can be reached on foot at low tide and is home to Juvrin's Tomb, the burial place of Philippe Juvrin who died of the plague on board the boat in 1721. Today, many people enjoy climbing up to the top of the inlet and watching ships sailing to and from the main harbour in the Island's capital, St Helier.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein is a land-locked country in the Alps between Austria and Switzerland. Its border with Switzerland follows the course of the Rhine, while to the south and east the national frontier is shaped by the High Alps. The border with Austria runs for the most part along the mountain ridge. The Principality is the smallest Alpine country in area and the only one to lie entirely in the Alps.

Summit Crosses – Klausli
The folded layers of rock at "Klausli" present a fascinating sight. The stamp with the summit rising to a height of 2,585 metres above sea level serves as Liechtenstein's SEPAC stamp this year. The image depicts a breathtaking view of Liechtenstein's mountain landscape and gives a vague idea of just how impressive the alpine world of the small state is.

LUXEMBOURG

In the Grand-Duché of Luxembourg one can enjoy the diverse landscapes of the nature parks in the Luxembourg Ardennes, also medieval castles and numerous hiking or mountain bike trails throughout the region. In the south of the country, one discovers the industrial past of the Red Rocks region, and its first steel-works sites. Oenophile? Discover the Moselle region with steep vineyards.

Beaufort castle
Beaufort castle was built in 4 different construction periods between 1050 and 1650. In 1928 the new owner cleared the unoccupied ruins which had been neglected for 300 years. A short distance from the walls one realises that the ruins have almost merged into the calm, green and harmonious environment. A spectacular view.

Foto nr.: 38



FAROE ISLANDS

Situated in the North Atlantic Ocean only two hours by plane from mainland Europe the Faroe Islands offer 1,289 kilometres of coastline and a proximity of no more than five kilometres to the ocean from any point of the islands. The close proximity provides the visitor with a variety of experiences of nature - from dramatic landscapes meeting the wild ocean to the peacefulness of the mountains to the nightlife of the capital Tórshavn.

Old residential houses

The beautiful farmhouse in Kirkjubœur is the Faroe Islands' oldest inhabited log house - so old that its origins disappear in the fog of medieval history. The oldest parts of the building are two log houses and the so-called roykostov. The log houses have been renovated over time on the inside, but roykostovan remains unchanged, as it has been for centuries. A beautiful house and a magnificent example of old Faroese architecture.

Greenland

Greenland is the world's largest island with a total area of approx. 2.2 million sq. km. The Greenland ice sheet is the second largest in the world. With the exception of a few sheltered valleys in the south, the climate is arctic and the average temperature during the warmest month of the year does not exceed 10°C. With a population of 56,300 it is the least densely populated country in the world.

Poul Egede's House in Ilmanaq

The house that we have reproduced on this year's Greenlandic Sepac stamp was built back in 1751. The building is located in Ilmanaq, a small settlement about 15 km south of Ilulissat, approximately 300 km north of the Arctic Circle. Once a traditional whaling town called Clauhaven, nowadays a centre for a unique blend of tourism, nature, fisheries, cultural heritage and sustainability.

Monaco

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Ancient house of Monaco

Nestled between the Mediterranean Sea and the French Riviera, Monaco enjoys an exceptional setting. The evolution of the principality looks forward to maintaining perfect harmony between modernity and tradition. The Monegasque stamp depicts a typical Monaco-Ville, the historic district of Monaco situated on the rocky peninsula.

Foto nr.: 39



Foto nr.: 40



Foto nr.: 41



Foto nr.: 42





FAROE ISLANDS

The Faroe Islands is an archipelago of 18 mountainous islands located halfway between Iceland and Scotland in the North Atlantic Ocean. The first known settlers, according to stories passed down through generations, were Irish monks in the sixth century. The islands' population of nearly 52,000 is spread out across the 17 inhabited islands. These islands are connected by excellent infrastructure linked together by a comprehensive road network and tunnel and ferry connections.

Moon Pigeons

One of the oldest Faroese artworks from approx. 1840 by Diðrikur á Skarvanesi. A brightly coloured row of birds meets the eye, all in profile, slightly shifted to the rear of each other, each on its own small elevation.

They are made in gouache, i.e. water colour with high pigment concentration as well as a white dye which solidifies the colours while dimming them at the same time.



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Artwork in Greenland's National Collection

The artwork depicted is a watercolour by Christine Elisabeth Lund Deichmann (1869 – 1945). The title of the artwork is 'Mother pulling off her daughter's boots'. Christine, her husband and their daughter lived in Greenland from 1901 to 1910. As the wife of a doctor, Christine was able to paint many wonderful everyday portraits.



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Painting of the collection of the Prince of Monaco

In order to illustrate the common theme of "artwork in the national collection", the Monegasque stamp represents 'L'Indolence', the painting by the impressionist painter Eva Gonzales (1849-1895) whose paternal grandfather was Monegasque. The work belongs to the collection of the Prince of Monaco.







Foto nr.: 43



Foto nr.: 44



JERSEY

The largest of the Channel Islands, Jersey is located off the north-west coast of France. Surrounded by beautiful beaches, it boasts one of the largest tidal ranges in the world. In fact, when at low tide, the Island almost doubles in size. Jersey is known for its produce; Jersey Royal potatoes, celebrated for their unique flavour, have been grown in the Island for 140 years, whilst Jersey cows produce some of the creamiest milk in the world.

Jersey Artists - Claude Cahun

Claude Cahun was a French surrealist photographer, sculptor and writer. Best known for her self-portraits, she is famous for creating some of the most enigmatic photographic images of the 20th century. Cahun lived in Jersey with her partner Marcel Moore from 1937 until her death in 1954. The Jersey Heritage Trust collection represents the largest repository of Cahun and Moore's work.

LIECHTENSTEIN

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Untitled (Indian Banner: World)

The original "Untitled (Indian Banner: World)" by American artist Matt Mullican from 1982 is a printed cotton banner measuring over two by two metres. It shows a stylised globe in a red frame. The Kunstmuseum collection houses several works by Matt Mullican. Life and death, living space and society as well as perception of the world are themes that he uses to reflect his experience of the world.

LUXEMBOURG

Mudam Luxembourg - Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean / Les Ming Pei Architect Design opened in 2006. Through its collection exhibitions, programs and partnerships, Mudam Luxembourg aims to advance its mission to collect, present and make accessible the most relevant art of our times, for the largest public possible. The work "Many spoken words" is one of the highlights of the collection. ©Photo Rémi Village / Mudam Luxembourg

Many spoken words - Su Mei Tse

Through this work, as much visual as it is sonorous, the artist pays homage to literature, evoking the infinite potential of words: the eternal renewing of creation. The multiple and incessant details of Many Spoken Words make the fluidity of the spirit, words, creativity perceptible, and leave indelible traces.

Foto nr.: 45



GUERNSEY

The Bailiwick of Guernsey, which includes Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm, is self-governing, has its own currency and stamps and since the same level of independence it has had since 1066. Guernsey's St Peter Port has been home to a busy harbour as far back as the Roman era. With its cobbled streets and picturesque waterfront marina, many consider St Peter Port to be one of Europe's prettiest harbour towns.

Cobo Wild Flowers in Pink Pot

Guernsey's stamps showcase the work of local artists. Our SEPAC stamp depicts a painting, 'Cobo Wild Flowers in Pink Pot', by artist Olympia McEwan, a Fine Art graduate who takes inspiration from Japanese imagery and the history of art in which flowers are a symbol of happiness, affection and virtue. The wild flowers portrayed can often be found on Guernsey's verges and wild spaces.

ICELAND

"The land of Fire and Ice" is the home of fiery volcanoes, impressive mountain ranges and mighty glaciers. It has cool summers and long, rather mild winters. What distinguishes the Icelandic scenery is its unique natural beauty, spectacular contrasts and the absence of pollution. The country is well known for its ancient and more recent literature, its music and films. The population of around 349,000 lives mainly in the coastal areas.

Skjaldbreiður

Iceland's preeminent landscape artist Jón Stefánsson (1881-1962) composed the oil painting Skjaldbreiður in 1937. 1060 m high with a 300m wide crater, the shield volcano Skjaldbreiður (broad shield in Icelandic) is a well-known landmark for all Icelanders. Its eruption around 9000 ago formed the lava fields of Þingvellir, where the Icelandic Parliament was founded in 930.

ISLE OF MAN

The Douglas promenade sweeps from the Sea Terminal to the Derby Castle Electric Train Station and is the sight it greeted millions of tourists since Victorian times.

Three kilometres of stonework and iron railings form a wall that protects the promenade walkway and faces the 'Refuge' built by Sir William Hillary, himself a commensurate Douglas art school graduate Michael Sandie RA, in a bronze informed by a drawing by Norman Sayle RI.

The Douglas School of Art

The School originated in the 1880s and generations of Manx owe a debt of gratitude to a succession of dedicated, talented, fondly-remembered practitioners. Norman Sayle RI (1926) remains the most celebrated and admired artist and lecturer in recent times and his Douglas Promenade Railing watercolor one of the most popular works with visitors to the Island's National Collection.

Foto nr.: 46



FAROE ISLANDS

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Faroe Islands on historical maps II

The stamp illustrates Sebastian Münster's map "Septentrionales regiones" from 1578. Sebastian Münster (1488-1552) was the most important geographer of the sixteenth century. He was also famous for his iconic chart of sea monsters and beasts, both mythical creatures and real. His *Cosmographia*, published in 1544, spread geographical knowledge wide over Europe. He died May 1552 in Basel of the Black Death.

Greenland

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Historical maps of Greenland

POST Greenland's 2021 Sepac stamp was created by illustrator and graphic artist Nuka K. Godtfredsen. While working on the stamp, Nuka was inspired by an old map of Greenland that showed Gustav Holm's and G. C. Andrup's 1884 - 85 and 1900 sailing routes, as well as maps of the coast north east of Tasilaq according to the diagrams that were prepared for Holm, Andrup and Kræuse by W. Thalbitzer.

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Old map of the Principality of Monaco

In order to illustrate the common theme of "old maps" the Monegasque stamp depicts a map of the Principality of Monaco from 1914. This map gives the opportunity to see the spectacular evolution of the Monegasque territory. The Principality has intensified in a century. New districts have emerged, particularly in median lands reclaimed from the sea.







Foto nr.: 47



Foto nr.: 48



Foto nr.: 49



Foto nr.: 50



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Historical maps of Greenland
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Old map of the Principality of Monaco
In order to illustrate the common theme of "old maps" the Monegasque stamp depicts a map of the Principality of Monaco from 1914. This map gives the opportunity to observe the spectacular evolution of the Monegasque territory. Urbanization has intensified in a century. New districts have emerged, in particular in the median lands reclaimed from the sea.



Foto nr.: 51



FAROE ISLANDS

The Faroe Islands is an archipelago of 18 mountainous islands located halfway between Ireland and Scotland in the North Atlantic Ocean. The first known settlers, according to stories passed down through generations, were Irish monks in the sixth century. Today the islands' population of almost 54,000 is spread out across the 17 inhabited islands. The islands are connected by excellent infrastructure linked by together by a comprehensive road network and tunnel and ferry connections.

Local beverages

The old Faroese brewery Føroya Björ (1888) has for almost a century and a half supplied the Faroese with beverages, be it beer or soft drinks of various kinds - and in recent years, stronger liquors which enjoy great success in the domestic market. The stamp features Simun i Vági who started the brewery and designed the iconic logo, the Faroese ram which also is featured on the stamp.

GREENLAND

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Bottled Greenland Ice Cap Water

The water from the Greenland ice sheet is packaged in bottles of various sizes. It creates drinking water of an outstanding quality. Bottled Greenlandic ice cap water is sold as a product, both in Greenland and on the international market. Artist Lisbeth Karlina has in a very creative manner painted the stamp design. In the process, the melted ice collected in the nearby harbour of Ilulissat.

MONACO

Located in Southern Europe on the Northern central coast of Mediterranean Sea, the Principality of Monaco is a sovereign monarchy headed by H.S.H. Prince Albert II. It is the 5th smallest country, by size, in the world. The Principality calls cosmopolitan international lifestyle. A gateway to Europe with 139 different nationalities have decided to make Monaco their home. www.octp-monaco.com

Monegasque beer

In order to illustrate the common theme of "local beverages" stamp of the Principality of Monaco pays tribute to Monegasque beer, made since 1905 at the former brewery in the Fontvieille district.

Foto nr.: 52



Foto nr.: 53







LIECHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein is a land-locked country in the Alps between Austria and Switzerland. Its border with Switzerland follows the course of the Rhine, while to the south and east the national frontier is shaped by the high Alps. The border with Austria runs for the most part along a mountain ridge. The Principality is the smallest Alpine country in area and the only one to lie entirely in the Alps.

Local beverages
Although unimaginal for most people in many parts of the world, people in the Alps enjoy drinking fresh water straight from the tap. In Liechtenstein, about half of the drinking water consumed each year is obtained from groundwater, the other half from spring water. The strictest controls and continuous optimisation of the supply technology ensure a high standard of quality of the drinking water.

LUXEMBOURG

The Moselle extends to the east of the country. The region is named after the river that forms the 42km natural border between the Grand Duchy and Germany. However, this peaceful watercourse is anything but a dividing line. It reflects the open character of a region in which one of the most important means of the European unification process was signed: the Schengen Agreement. With its relatively mild climate, the Moselle valley is above all a traditional wine-growing region.

Moselle wines
The Luxembourg Moselle is best known for its white, still and sparkling wines. Riesling, a racy and fruity wine with mineral notes, is probably the most famous of the country's wines. Luxembourg has a wide range of grape varieties and thus offers amateurs an assortment for all tastes.

MALTA

Strategically located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta has one of the most unique and varied history in the world. Nearly every major power who dominated the region has left a cultural imprint: the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Aragonese, Knights of St. John, the French and, finally the British. It achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1964, became a Republic in 1974 and joined the European Union in 2004 – adopting the Euro as its national currency in 2008.

Local beverages
Kinnie, Malta's own favourite soft drink, is a unique tasting bitter-sweet soft drink with orange flavouring and aromatic herbs. The Kinnie portfolio is produced, marketed, and distributed by Simonds Farsons Cisk plc.

