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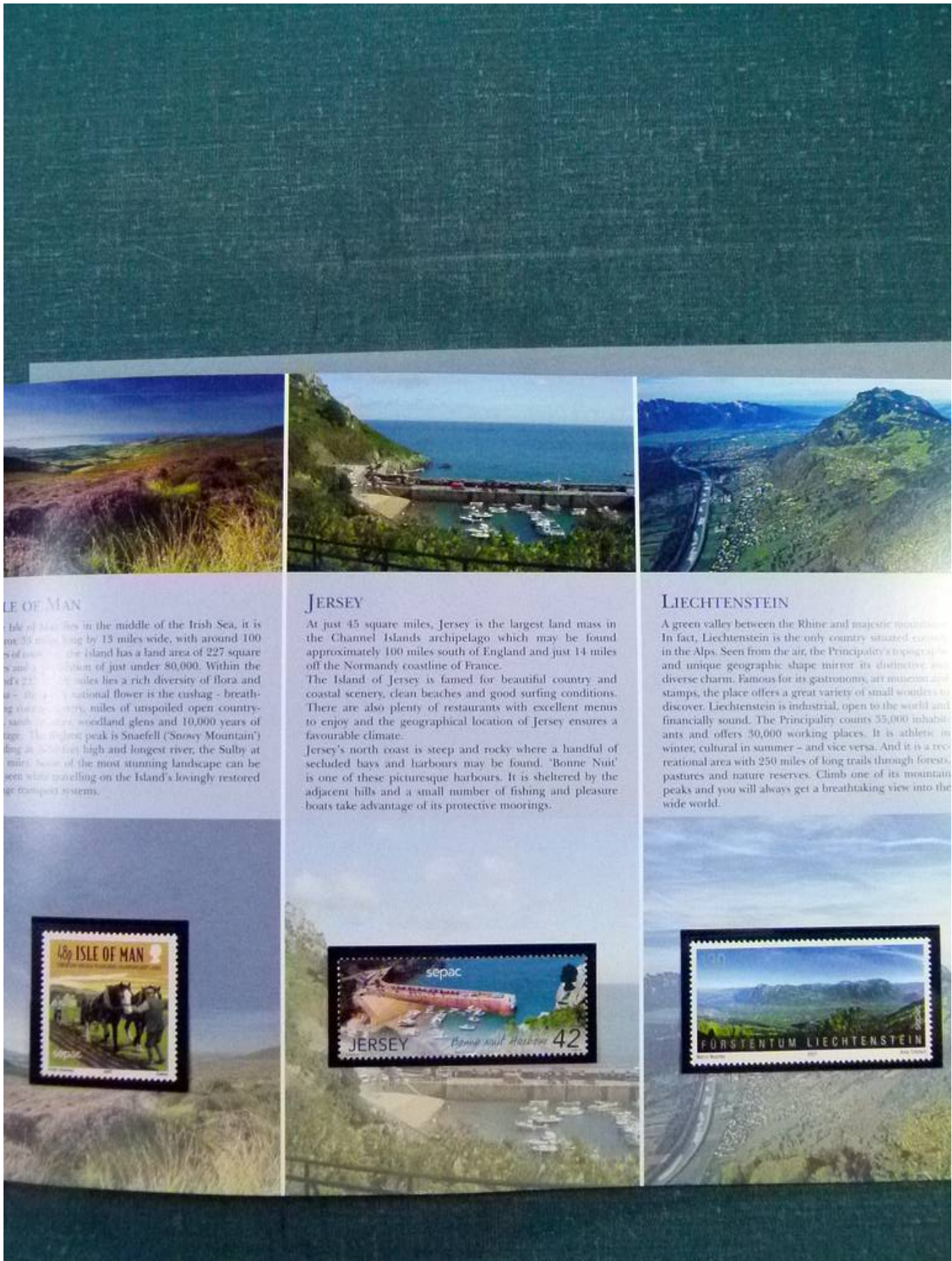


Foto nr.: 5



MALTA

The islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino, in the centre of the Mediterranean, have a total land area of just 316 square kilometres, and lie midway between the south of Europe and the north of Africa. The islands were created in the Tertiary era, some 200 million years ago, and despite their small size, are rich in archaeological remains, with temples dating back thousands of years. The islands enjoy a classic Mediterranean climate mix of moist winters and long, dry summers, with an average temperature of 19 degrees Celsius, although it can get much hotter when winds blow from Africa. The stamp included in this folder is a painting executed by well-known local artist John Bugeja.

MONACO

Nestled in the Mediterranean seashore and steeped in French and Italian culture, the Principality of Monaco has been a Sovereign State led by the Grimaldi Dynasty for more than seven centuries. H.S.H. Prince Albert II holds the destiny of this privileged country. With a policy wide-opened to the world, this Principality counts 35000 inhabitants living on the Monegasque territory with 80% foreign nationals. The tourism is particularly well expanded since the creation of the Monte-Carlo quarter (1866), the international sport events like the Tennis Tournament (1897), the Rally (1911) or the Grand Prix (1929). Besides, a hundred of non-polluting industries and not less than a thousand of companies from the tertiary sector testify the expansion of a reliable activity.

ÅLAND

Åland is an autonomous and demilitarized island province situated in the middle of the Baltic Sea between Finland and Sweden. The Åland archipelago is unique, consisting of more than 6,500 islands and skerries, most of which are uninhabited. The varied Åland scenery is a display of pine forests, deciduous forest groves, beautiful meadows and barren cliffs. Large parts of the archipelago consist of untouched nature with picturesquely rounded rocks and windswept cliffs. From the end of April until August, the Åland meadows and groves bloom with an ever changing floral splendour. The grove known as 'Kjusan', which can be found close to the church of Hammerland, is a typical example of an Åland spring scenery, blooming as it is with lesser celandine.

Foto nr.: 6



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 metalwork, in the Isle of Man he 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 Whitcomb 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, tucked between Belgium, France and Germany. The country is 140 km long and 52 km wide, encompassing an area of 2,586 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 a Carolingian refuge. It is one of the largest residences of the romanesque and gothic periods in Europe. Until the beginning of the 15th century it was the seat of the counts of Vianden. In 1977 it was transferred to State ownership and restored to its former glory.



Foto nr.: 9

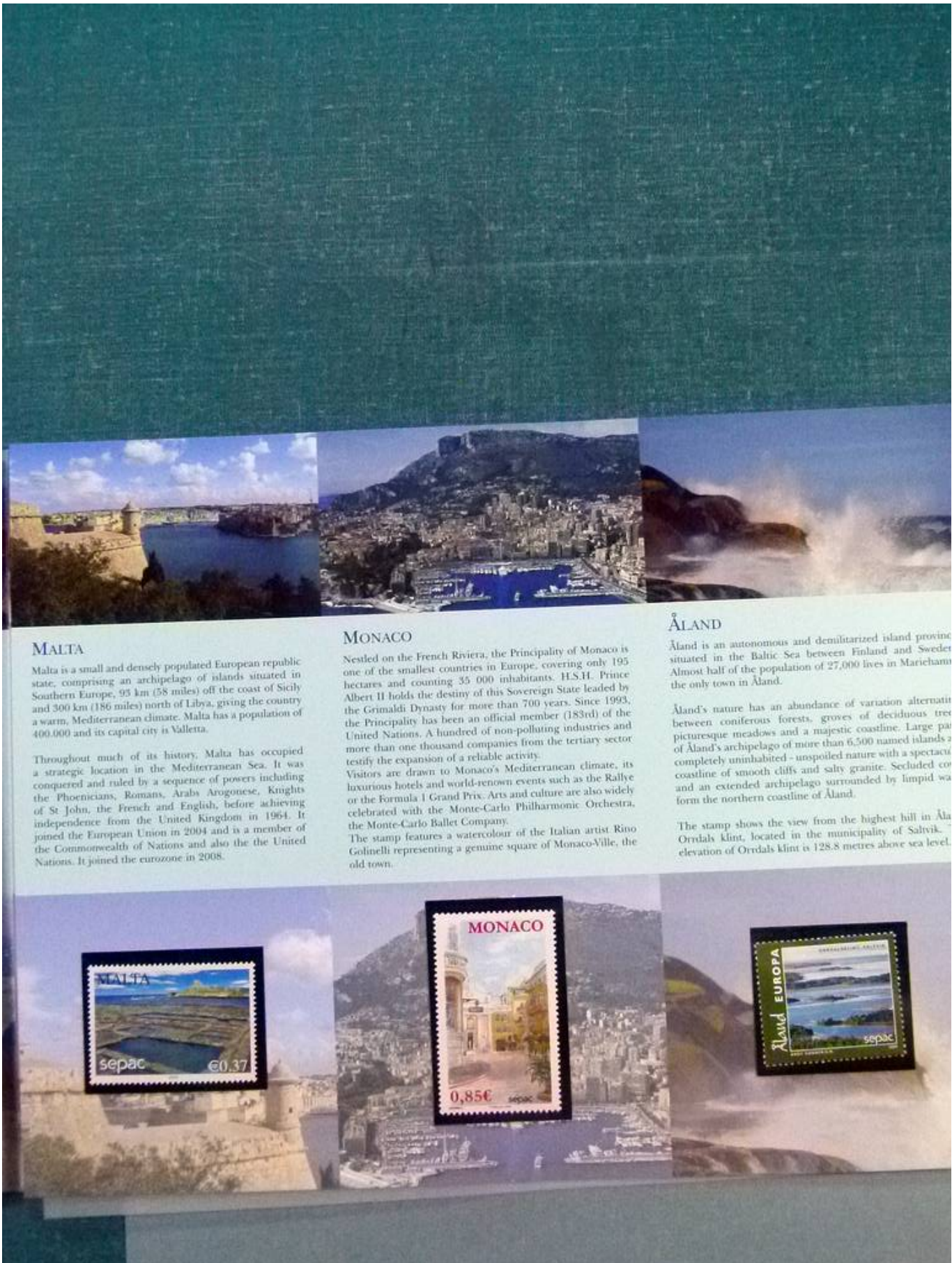


Foto nr.: 10



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



JERSEY

Although part of the British Isles, Jersey is found just 14 miles off the coast of Normandy, France and is the largest and most of the Channel Islands.

Jersey Post's 2011 SEPAC stamp features St Ouen's Bay which dominates the west coast of Jersey. The natural curve of the Bay is home to some of the best surf conditions in Europe providing the venue for international competitions on a regular basis.

The area of coastal sand dunes that border the beach, has been designated a Site of Special Interest and is one of the most important habitats in Jersey with an abundance of wild flora and fauna.

Jersey has a long history of being invaded and many fortifications have been built around the Island over the years. Offshore in St Ouen's Bay stands La Rocco Tower, built during the Napoleonic Wars as a defence against the threat of French invasion.

LIECHTENSTEIN

The Liechtenstein "Unterland" (the Lower Country) is situated in the north of the Principality and with its 35 km² it is the smaller of the two territories that make up the whole country. In its five communes Eschen-Nendeln, Mauren-Schaanwald, Gamprin-Bendern, Ruggell and Schellenberg live about 12,500 people, which is almost a third of the Liechtenstein population. In Ruggell, the northernmost village of Liechtenstein, we find the nature reserve of the Ruggeller Riet, a charming peatland dating back 10,000 years. Its most famous plant is the Siberian Iris which in May and June turns the whole area into one blue carpet. But this peaceful place which has been under conservation for many years is also home to 146 different bird species and 534 species of butterflies.

LUXEMBOURG

In the year 963, the Carolingian Count Siegfried acquired a small stronghold called "Lucilinburhuc". It was there that the name of Luxembourg first appeared in history. The name would pass to the city which took shape all about, and then be handed on to the country which developed around that city.

In spite of its modest demographic dimensions (approximately 93,000 inhabitants), the city of Luxembourg has become a metropolis, as much in what concerns activities in the service of the international community as in what concerns the composition of its population (over 60 % of its inhabitants are foreigners). Today the city is a microcosm of the Europe of tomorrow.

The old quarters and fortifications of Luxembourg have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Foto nr.: 14



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 on the islands. This 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.

Faroe Islands sheep

In late April the greatest and most valued sign of spring appears in the Faroe Islands. Everybody is looking forward to the event and we observe the meadows with expectation. And then suddenly it is there – the first lamb. A tiny little lump of wool with large eyes and ears – and like most baby animals, the cutest little thing you'll ever see.

GIBRALTAR

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Atlantic bluefin tuna

The Atlantic bluefin tuna is a species of tuna in the *Scombridae* family. It is native to both the western and eastern Atlantic Ocean, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. Atlantic bluefin have become extinct in the Black Sea and is a close relative of the other two bluefin tuna species, the Pacific bluefin tuna and the southern bluefin tuna.

GREENLAND

The musk ox

The musk ox is Greenland's largest land mammal. It is noted for its thick coat and for the strong odour. Musk oxen primarily live in Greenland and Arctic Canada, with small introduced populations in Norway, Sweden, Siberia and Alaska.

In Greenland you can encounter this unique animal: Zackenbergdalen in Greenland's National Park, North East Greenland. This national park is the world's largest with its 972.000 km². In addition, you will find the musk ox further down the east coast around Janusson Land and Itoqqortoormiit.

On the west coast of Greenland, especially around Kangerlussuaq (Søndre Strømfjord), the musk ox population are so big that locals and a few foreign trophy hunters are allowed to shoot a number of oxen per year. This hunt is regulated.

Foto nr.: 15



Foto nr.: 16



JERSEY

The most southern of the British Isles lies 22km from Normandy, France. The island's unique heritage reflects a history of Neolithic settlement and continental invasion, yet its communion has been loyal to the British Crown for over 800 years. Jersey is well known for its mild climate, peaceful leafy lanes and dramatic coastlines, medieval fortresses, secluded bays and golden beaches.

Irish Setter

Many of Jersey's dogs are enrolled in the Kennel Club of Jersey for training in obedience and agility and they are often entered into Shows in the Channel Islands and the UK as fine representatives of a wide variety of breeds. Jersey has many Champion Dogs and this Irish Setter, Jay CH Tiroen Enkormade PdtH Sh CM is the only Jersey bred dog to receive a Show Certificate of Merit from the Kennel Club in the UK.

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 be entirely in the Alps.

The marmot

The European marmot is at home in the high mountain region and lives in colonies in extended corridor burrows. The marmot is a mammal and belongs to the squirrel family. It is without doubt the best-known creature among Alpine fauna. A notable characteristic is the shrill whistle with which marmots warn one another of approaching predators, the golden eagle for example.

LUXEMBOURG

More than 20% of the surface of Luxembourg is covered by forests and woodland. The northern part of the country is formed by mountains rising up to 600 meters, the rest of the country is made up of undulating country-side with broad valleys. Important differences in relief, together with stretches of water interspersed with forests, fields and pastures are the main features that make the landscape so distinctive. Today the Grand-Duchy likes to name itself proudly the "Green heart of Europe".

Wild cat

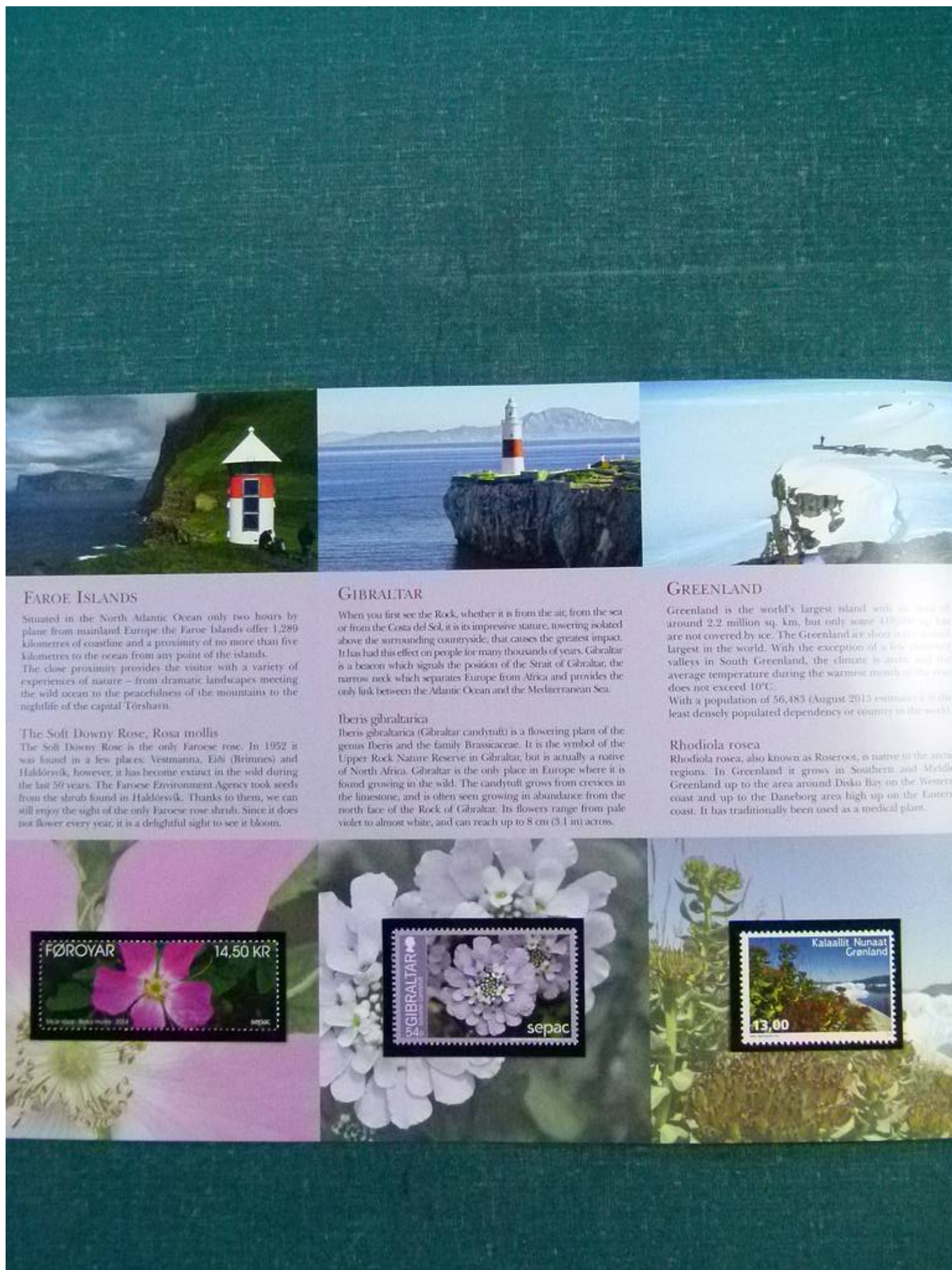
The population of the wild cat (*Felis silvestris*) in Luxembourg has started to grow again after it has been put under strict protection by the nature conservation act. The European wild cats resemble heavily built tabbies with bushy tails, white chins and throats. They are generally larger than house cats with longer legs and more robust bodies.



Foto nr.: 17



Foto nr.: 18



FAROE ISLANDS

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The Soft Downy Rose, *Rosa mollis*

The Soft Downy Rose is the only Faroese rose. In 1952 it was found in a few places: Vestmanna, Elfi (Brinnes) and Haldórsvík; however, it has become extinct in the wild during the last 50 years. The Faroese Environment Agency took seeds from the shrub found in Haldórsvík. Thanks to them, we can still enjoy the sight of the only Faroese rose shrub. Since it does not flower every year, it is a delightful sight to see it bloom.

GIBRALTAR

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Iberis gibraltanica

Iberis gibraltanica (Gibraltar candytuft) is a flowering plant of the genus *Iberis* and the family Brassicaceae. It is the symbol of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve in Gibraltar, but is actually a native of North Africa. Gibraltar is the only place in Europe where it is found growing in the wild. The candytuft grows from crevices in the limestone, and is often seen growing in abundance from the north face of the Rock of Gibraltar. Its flowers range from pale violet to almost white, and can reach up to 8 cm (3.1 in) across.

GREENLAND

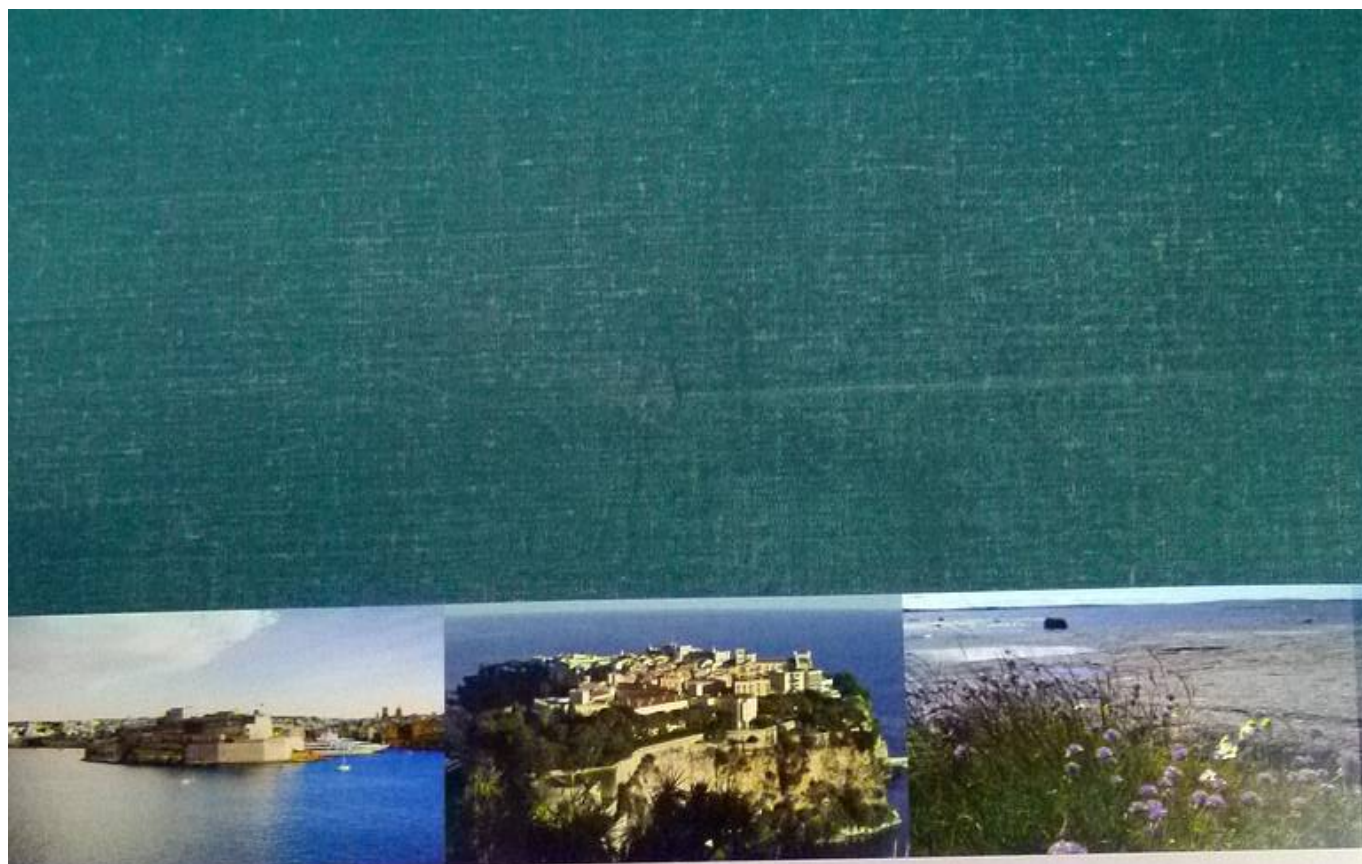
Greenland is the world's largest island with an area of around 2.2 million sq. km, but only some 418,000 sq. km are not covered by ice. The Greenland ice sheet is the second largest in the world. With the exception of a few sheltered valleys in South Greenland, the climate is arctic and the average temperature during the warmest month of the year does not exceed 10°C.

With a population of 56,483 (August 2013 estimate) it is the least densely populated dependency or country in the world.

Rhodiola rosea

Rhodiola rosea, also known as Roseroot, is native to the arctic regions. In Greenland it grows in Southern and Middle Greenland up to the area around Disko Bay on the Western coast and up to the Daneborg area high up on the Eastern coast. It has traditionally been used as a medical plant.

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.

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 on its 2 square kilometre territory. Monaco is a constitutional monarchy, headed by H.S.H. Prince Albert II. www.oetp-monaco.mc

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 33 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



JERSEY
Said to be the warmest place in the British Isles, Jersey lies less than 30 kilometres from the French coast of Normandy. The island's location allows visitors to benefit from its close proximity to the United Kingdom whilst enjoying the ambience of Continental Europe. With historical landmarks to explore, from dolmens to castles and forts, a bustling town, country parishes and long sandy beaches, it is little wonder that holidaymakers visit the island time and time again.

Hydrangea macrophylla
Hydrangea can be seen all over Jersey as they were once favoured for parks, gardens and for planting along roadsides. They flourish exceedingly well in Jersey's climate and, for that reason and despite being out of fashion, they tend to be left as they add so much colour to these surroundings. The species growing by the Fisherman's Chapel at St Brelade's Bay in Jersey are commonly known as 'mopheads' and most are blue or pink although some varieties are white.

LIECHTENSTEIN
In terms of area, Liechtenstein - lying between Austria and Switzerland - is the sixth smallest country in the world, with around 37,000 inhabitants. With the formation of the Confederation of the Rhine (Rheinbund) in 1806, the principality became effectively independent. Today, Liechtenstein's economy is well diversified and benefits from the currency and customs treaty with Switzerland. The official language is German, although an Alemannic dialect is spoken colloquially.

The Siberian iris
Although the appearance of the Siberian iris is very much in decline, it is still to be found in Liechtenstein's marshy meadows and lowland moors. In large parts of the Ruggeller Riet this light-loving plant, which is also known as the "Blaue Ilge" (*iris pseudacorus*), dominates the landscape with its large violet-blue flowers in the months of May and June.

LUXEMBOURG
With 1,300 identified species of vascular plants in the country, Luxembourg is, despite its small size, the keeper of an astonishing biodiversity. In accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, it's goal is to stop the loss of endangered species. Hopefully many ancient and traditional vegetable varieties will be saved in the gardens, thus contributing to the maintenance of these natural treasures.

Tragopogon porrifolius
Cultivated for its ornamental flower, edible root, and herb properties, it also grows wild in many places and is one of the most widely known species of the subgenus *Tragopogon*. The root and sometimes the young shoots of *T. porrifolius* are used as vegetable, and historically the plant was cultivated for that purpose. The plant has also been used in herbalism, also since classical times is mentioned by Dioscorides; and is claimed to have beneficial effect on the liver and gall bladder. The root is regarded as a diuretic.

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 lemons 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

Guernsey's 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 Blos, 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



Foto nr.: 26



FAROE ISLANDS

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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



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 seventy miles from the south coast of England. 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 here in the British Isles.

Autumn in Guernsey

In Jersey 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



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 monégasque 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 Mariehamn 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



Foto nr.: 35

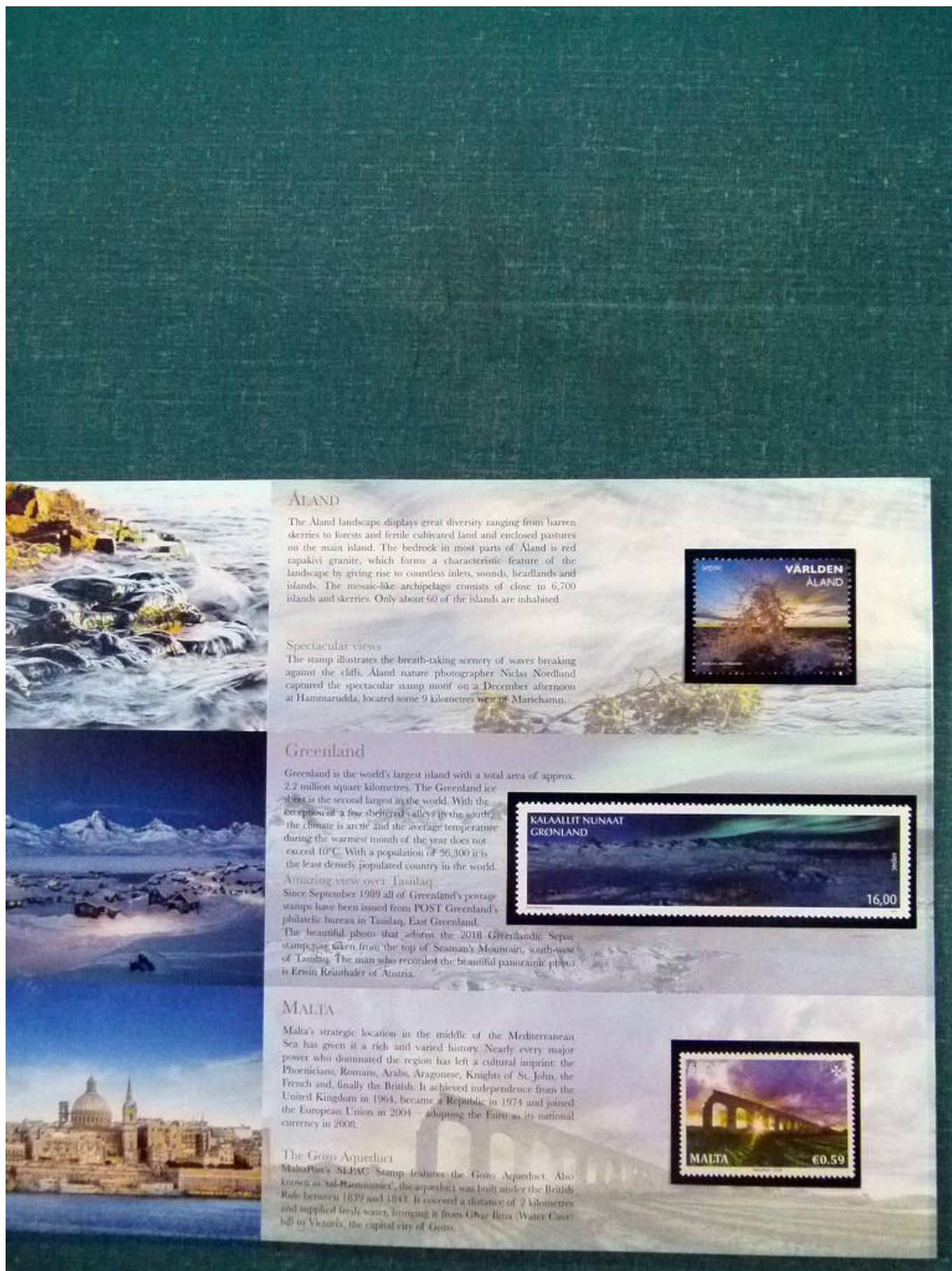


Foto nr.: 36



Foto nr.: 37



JERSEY

Jersey's sheltered, 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 sun from 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 islet 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 ship in 1721. Today, many people enjoy climbing up to the top of the islet 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 SEPAG 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-Duchy 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 Kirkjubøur 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 roykstova. The log houses have been renovated over time on the inside, but roykstovan 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 Clauhavn, nowadays a centre for a unique blend of tourism, nature, fisheries, cultural heritage and sustainability.

Monaco

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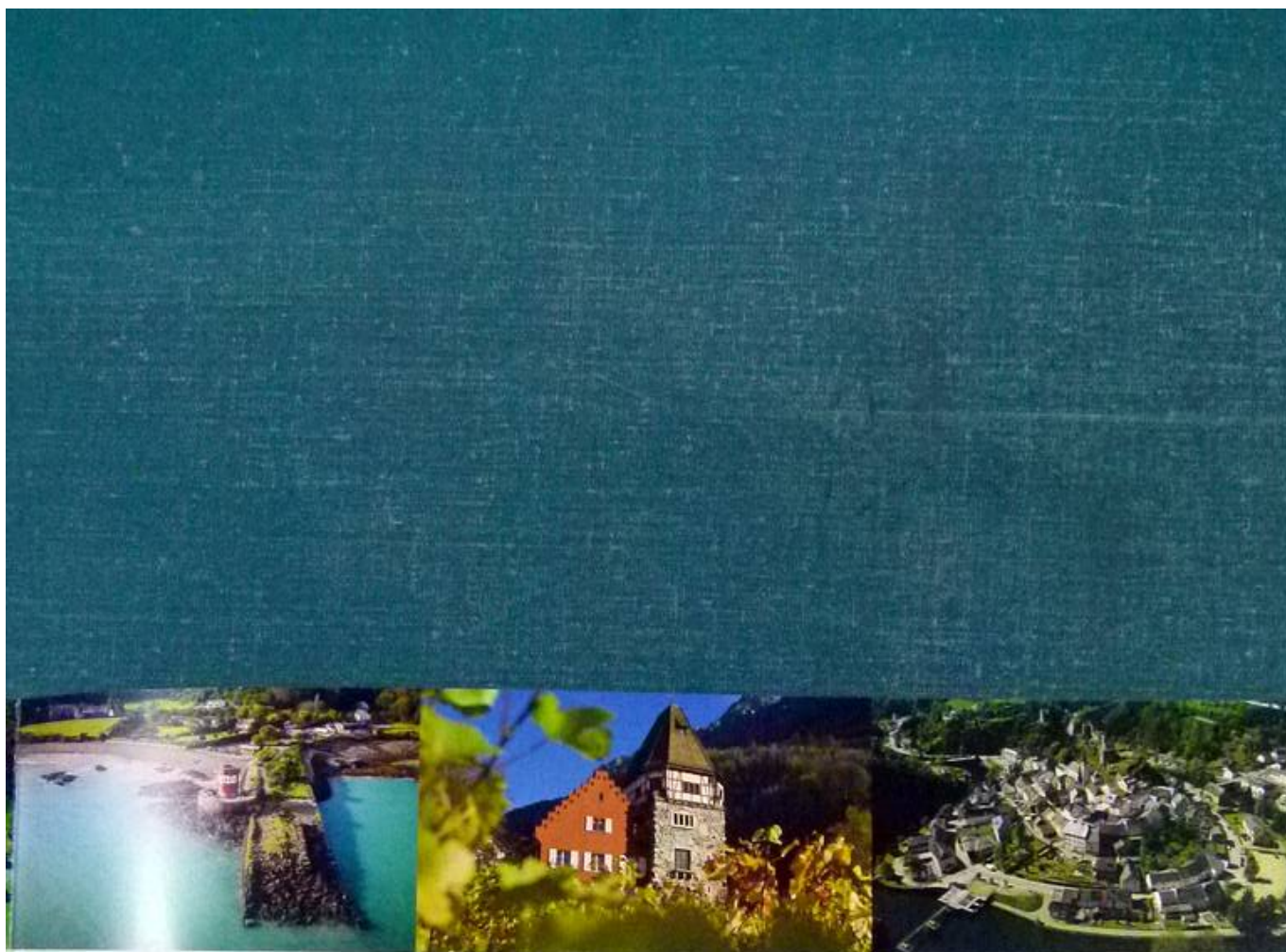
Ancient house of Monaco

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 cliffs.

Foto nr.: 39



Foto nr.: 40



JERSEY

Jersey, the largest and most southerly of the Channel Islands, is situated in the Bay of Mont St Michel off the north-west coast of France. The island is divided into twelve parishes, with the capital of St Helier on the south coast. Rich in heritage and culture, Jersey has many buildings of historical and architectural importance. Magnificent castles, lighthouses and Napoleonic Martello Towers stand proud over its beautiful bays and the countryside boasts historic churches and old granite farmhouses.

Jersey Architecture - Hamptonville

Hamptonville Country Life Museum is a 15th century farm complex made up of three houses, a cider barn and stables. The property has been renovated by the three main heritage organisations in Jersey: the National Trust for Jersey, the Société Jerseyaise and Jersey Heritage. The stamp shows Langlois House, one of the three houses on the complex. Originally built in 1445, it has some of the oldest architectural features in Jersey.



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.

The Red House

The Red House in Vaduz is a stepped gable structure to which a residential tower and wine press building are annexed. The building dates back to the late Middle Ages and has been extended with additional structural units over the centuries. Its dark red paint, from which the name "Rotes Haus" derives, can be traced back to at least the mid-19th century.



LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg is the country par excellence where history witnesses rub shoulders with the avant-garde spirit of contemporary Luxembourg architecture. The many churches, abbeys, bridges and villas covering Luxembourg are as much part of the national architectural heritage as the houses themselves. They blend harmoniously with the surrounding architecture. Urban planning, architecture and engineering in Luxembourg, in dynamic evolution, make the country a laboratory at the forefront of new concepts in sustainable construction.

Villa Clivio

The Villa Clivio (built in 1908) is a hidden architectural jewel in Luxembourg City, located in the inner courtyard of the BCEE bank. It is named after its builder, the entrepreneur Cesare Clivio, who came from Varese in Lombardy (Italy) where the "Floreal" or "Liberty-style" architectural style was flourishing at that time.



Foto nr.: 41



GUERNSEY

The Bailiwick of Guernsey, which includes Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, and Herm, is self-governing, has its own currency and stamps and enjoys 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 silent marina, many consider St Peter Port to be one of Europe's most beautiful harbours.

Guernsey House

The Guernsey House, the Guernsey home of Victor Hugo. He spent 14 years living and working here, writing some of his most masterpieces and re-designing the space around him. The Peter Port town house was the perfect canvas for Hugo to express himself and he set to work lavishly filling it with a mélange of styles.

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.

The Factor's House in Isafjörður

The Factor's House in Neðstúkaupstaður in Isafjörður in the West Fjords is one of the oldest houses in Iceland. It was built by Danish merchants in 1765 and is a prime example of the oldest types of residential buildings from the 18th century, having been in continuous use as a residence since the beginning. The Factor's House is originally a type of log house which has been well maintained throughout the centuries and has been protected since 1975.

ISLE OF MAN

Milntown house and gardens date from the 16th century. It was built by John McCrystyn, a Deemster between 1511-1533, merged it with his own Altadale Estate.

The McCrystyn name soon became written as Christian and Milntown was known as the Christian family seat until the death of William Bell Christian in 1886. The rebellious William Christian became a hero to the Maux people and was nicknamed William Dhone, or Brown William, on account of the colour of his hair.

Ronaldsway Farm

After the capture and execution of the Earl of Derby in England in 1651, William Dhone called a great gathering of 800 Manxmen at his Ronaldsway farm and inspired rebellion against Derby rule. He arranged the bloodless transfer of power from the Royalists to the Parliamentarians and became a hero to the Maux people. Later arrested and arraigned for treason by the 8th Earl of Derby, his life was ended by firing squad at Hango Hill in January 1663.

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.

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 57,000 it is the least densely populated country in the world.

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.

Monaco

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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', a 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



ÅLAND

Nature has been and remains the main source of inspiration for Åland artists, and international movements have had little influence. The collection of Åland Art Museum presents a broad spectrum of contemporary and old art from local artists or artists with a connection to Åland. One of the best-known artworks is 'Åland Peasant Bride' (1869) by Karl Emanuel Jansson, who belonged to the Düsseldorf School of Painting, but the collection also holds artworks of prominent Finnish and Swedish artists active in the Önningsby Artists' Colony (1886-1914).

Artwork in national collection

The 1976 Sabina triptych is on display at the Parliament of Åland. The painting was made of acrylic on panels by Henrik Nylund (1945-1982). During his short life and artistic career, he made a lasting imprint in the Åland worlds of art and culture. Debuting as an artist in 1971, he was fully autodidact and created both simple drawings and monumental paintings in ink, oil and watercolour.

MALTA

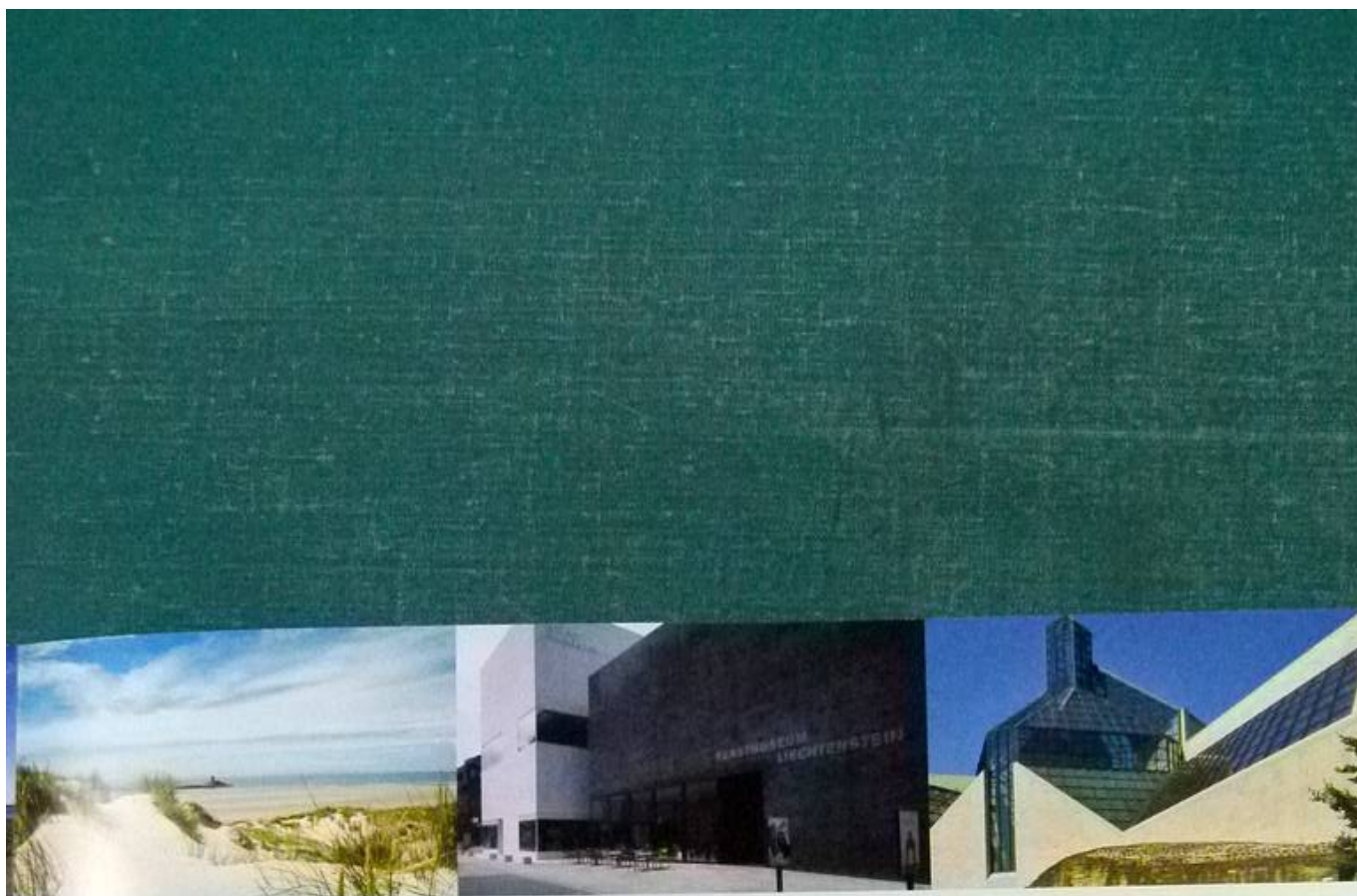
The islands of Malta, which include sister islands Gozo and Comino, are situated in the Mediterranean Sea, 60 miles south of Sicily. With a history spanning over 7000 years, and at the crossroads of strategic maritime routes, Malta has been a home, stronghold, trading post and refuge to many civilization.

Artwork in national collection

The stamp portrays artwork by Edward Caruana Dingli - one of Malta's foremost painters of the early 20th century. The original painting is exhibited at MUZA, the National Community Art Museum of Malta.

The stamp features the annual procession of Corpus Christi as it snakes past the façade of St. John's co-Cathedral in Valletta. Sombre in intent yet festive in spirit, the artist successfully captures a moment in time. Painted in 1927, it illustrates to perfection Caruana Dingli's style.

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

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.

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

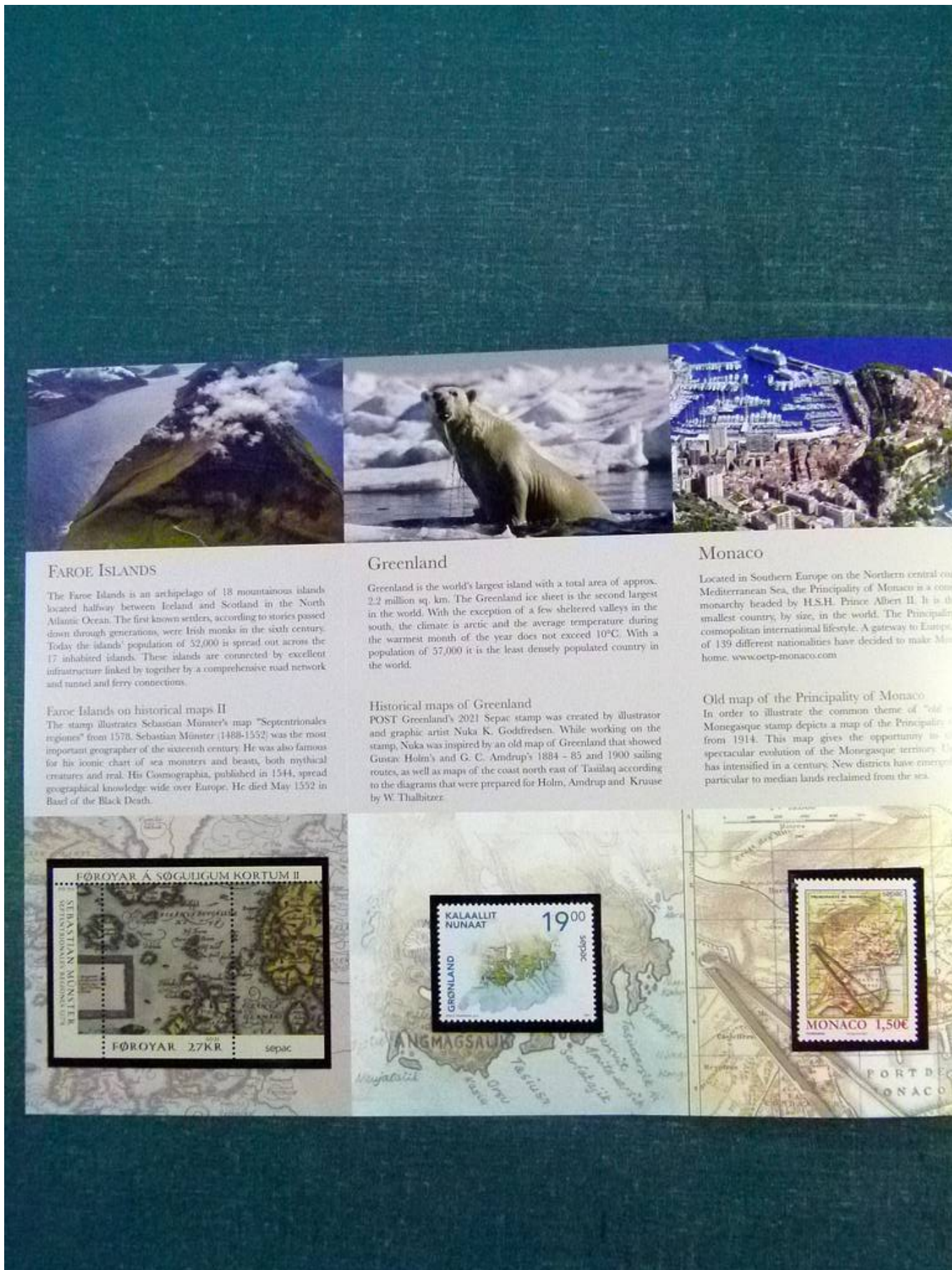
Many spoken words – Su Mei Tse

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

Foto nr.: 45



Foto nr.: 46



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 52,000 is spread out across the 17 inhabited islands. These islands are connected by excellent infrastructure linked by together by a comprehensive road network and tunnel and ferry connections.

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

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 57,000 it is the least densely populated country in the world.

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.

Monaco

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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



GUERNSEY

The Bailiwick of Guernsey, which includes Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm, is self-governing, has its own currency and stamps and enjoys the same level of independence it has had since 1066. The Islands are a constant source of inspiration for creating innovative and collectable stamp issues. Since our postal independence in 1969 Guernsey Post has built a global reputation for the quality of their stamps and the diversity of the subjects covered.

Guernsey Old Maps - John Speed's Guernsey 1611
John Speed was one of the most famous British mapmakers of the 17th century and is best known for his important 'Theatre of the Empire of Great Brittain' atlas of 1611. Assembled over 15 years it is one of the most influential atlases of the British Isles ever published. On the Bailiwick map local names and places are still recognisable although some have evolved more than others.

Gibraltar

Standing 340 metres directly above sea level, Gibraltar's Skywalk offers breath-taking 360° views spanning three countries and two continents and links to other sites within the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, Upper Rock including the thrilling Windsor Suspension Bridge and the famous Apes' Den via a series of walking trails. Built on the foundations of an existing WWII base structure, the Skywalk is designed to withstand wind speeds of over 150km/hour.

Gibraltar Historic Maps

The Gibraltar Historic Maps one pound stamp features an ancient map of Gibraltar which forms part of a set of five stamps. The maps featured on the stamps can be found exhibited at the Gibraltar National Archives and the one-pound stamp carries the official SEPAC logo.

JERSEY

Jersey, the largest and most southerly of the Channel Islands, is situated in the Bay of St Malo, 22 kilometres from the coast of Normandy and 137 kilometres south of the English coast. Roughly rectangular in shape, it measures 8 kilometres by 5 kilometres and is tilted from north to south. Jersey's population of around 110,000 and its landscape is characterised by dramatic coastlines, inland valleys, green fields and a peaceful countryside.

Historic Jersey Maps - Jan Jansson, 1646

Known for its dangerous waters and interesting topography, Jersey has been mapping the island of Jersey for the past centuries. However, Jersey's early cartographic history could be even more inaccurate. The stamp shows a 1646 map of Jersey by Dutch cartographer, Jan Jansson. Of particular note is that Jansson places the Island in the German Sea.



Foto nr.: 50



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Old map of the Principality of Monaco

In order to illustrate the common theme of "old maps" 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



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.

