

ICAO

JOURNAL

VOLUME 50, NO. 10

DECEMBER 1995



security

A matter of the highest priority

Stamp Collection

The many commemorative stamps that were produced in 1994 were a tribute to the role played by ICAO in the safe and orderly development of civil aviation worldwide.

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ICAO SECRETARIAT

ON the occasion of the second International Civil Aviation Day, 7 December 1995, the ICAO Journal has compiled a selection of postage stamps that were issued in 1994 by some of the ICAO Contracting States to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization. These special stamps, many of which are reproduced on these pages, celebrate the importance of aviation in the world community and are a tribute to the role played by ICAO in civil aviation's safe and orderly development.

All told, 39 countries produced a variety of philatelic items comprising 89 stamps and souvenir sheets.

Stamp themes

Ever since the first stamp related to ICAO was issued in 1946, aeroplanes and helicopters have often appeared on stamps honouring the organization, continuing to reflect the interest people have in vehicles that traverse the skies.

Many countries have associated ICAO's founding in 1944 with the ubiquitous Douglas DC-3, the dominant type of commercial aircraft at that time. In view of its worldwide use carrying passengers and mail, it is not surprising that the DC-3 has been depicted on many stamps. Two examples (Cuba and Jordan) from the 50th anniversary collection are displayed here.

Since the airport made its formal debut in the 1920s, it has been a symbol of pride, reflecting industrial and economic expansion of a region or country. Although international standards relating to airport facilities, safety and environmental protection have been the central concerns of most countries, it is certain that with the expected steady growth of air traffic in the coming decades, increasing emphasis will also be placed on airport efficiency and profitability. Among stamps of the 50th anniversary collection, three shown here reflect the importance of airports (Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda).

The fast-paced technological change that the world of civil aviation is now undergoing, most notably with the implementation of the largely satellite-based communications, navigation and surveillance and air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems, was the theme of some of the stamps. A symbol of global cooperation, the new technologies promise worldwide

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CUBA



GHANA



CANADA



ARGENTINA



EGYPT



ICELAND



HUNGARY



JORDAN



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



MALDIVES



KUWAIT



1950 GANTAS CATALINA



1956 TAI DOUGLAS DC3



1966 NEW HEBRIDES AIRWAYS DROVER



1994 Q&A AIR VANUATU BOEING 737

VANUATU



MAURITIUS



SWAZILAND



UGANDA



TUNISIA



SINGAPORE



NEPAL



LESOTHO



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



SUDAN



VIET NAM

Commemorative stamps

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improvements in the efficiency of air traffic services, while at the same time maintaining and improving the present level of air safety. One stamp that addressed this timely theme was issued by Singapore.

The design of several stamps released in honour of the 50th anniversary recognized ICAO's international role in aviation and acknowledged its contribution to the social and economic well-being of peoples throughout the world. These stamps — examples shown here include stamps from Canada, Iceland, Kuwait, Nepal, the Philippines, Switzerland and Tunisia — effectively reflect the organization's benefits to aviation and the growth of international cooperation.

The "Vuelo" sculpture of Leonardo Nierman — a stylized bird wing symbolic of absolute liberty, wind and poetry — was featured on a stamp issued by Mexico. The work of art, a tribute to civil aviation, was donated to ICAO by Mexico in 1992 and is currently on display in the Air Navigation Commission Chamber at ICAO Headquarters.

One of the significant technological milestones celebrated by aviation philately is the supersonic Concorde, the result of 13 years of Anglo-French collaboration. The unique passenger aircraft was introduced into service by British Airways and Air France simultaneously in January 1976. One 50th anniversary stamp that features the historic aeroplane (in a stylized form) was issued by Sudan; the same theme was the object of a souvenir sheet released by the Maldives.

Another technological feat was the development of the helicopter, and the importance of rotary-wing flight today is reflected in a stamp issued by Monaco.

An example of an aeronautical chart appears on Hungary's commemorative stamp, which features a low-altitude en-route chart together with an artist's depiction of a Douglas DC-2.

A first-day cover issued by Vanuatu focused on the ICAO flag and a variety of aircraft in use in that country. The blue and white ICAO flag, raised for the first time on 7 December 1994 — the first International Civil Aviation Day — is similar in size, colour and design to the United Nations flag. Other philately focused on the special emblem ICAO adopted for use during 1994: Egypt incorporated the anniversary logo on a stamp, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines featured it on a first-day cover (of which one stamp is displayed here).

The first celebration in 1994 of International Civil Aviation Day coincided with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Chicago Convention on 7 December 1944. In 1995 the theme for marking International Civil Aviation Day was the aeroplane in our lives — the focus, too, of many of the commemorative postage stamps. Among those pictured here are stamps that were issued by Ghana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Viet Nam.

Global cooperation

The early success of ICAO served as a beacon for other international organizations that followed. The 50th anniversary of the United Nations, celebrated in October 1995, was an opportunity to recognize the close cooperation between the UN and its family of specialized agencies, including ICAO. Argentina addressed this theme when it released a souvenir sheet of four stamps forming a unified design with the earth in the centre.

ICAO embodies the spirit of cooperation and dedication of 184 Contracting States to achieve the safe and orderly development of civil aviation throughout the world. As with philately, the goal of these States has been to break down borders and frontiers, leading to better understanding between people of all nations. □