

Volcanic features on stamps: 2007

My first acquaintance with volcanic rocks was when I completed an undergraduate mapping thesis on the Borrowdale Volcanic Series of the English Lake District, having never previously seen a volcano

My first visit to a “real” volcano was several years later to Pico El Teide on the Island of Tenerife. It was there that I learnt that volcanoes break a number of the basic rules of stratigraphy, namely original horizontality, lateral continuity, inverse sorting, instantaneous (geologically speaking) deposition of large volumes.

I have since visited a number of volcanoes in various parts of the world, including, of course, the United States.

Collecting volcanoes on stamps is a natural outgrowth of my passion for volcanoes. I guess I am a volcano junky, since I have close to 100 books devoted to volcanoes and three filing cabinets full of reprints from journals.

Volcanic features are found on the stamps of a large number of countries, which makes for a geographically varied collection. I don't have them in an album, all are stored in stockbooks. My collection is nowhere near complete and is continuously being added to.

The disk:

A previous compilation of volcanoes on stamps was made by the late Bertha Jochimsen and published in 1990 (2nd edition) by the American Topical Association. Subsequently I published “Volcanoes on stamps 2000” in 2001. This work has been expanded to include all things volcanic and contains much “back-of-the-book” material previously not found in Scott, such as Manchurian and SCADTA overprints.

To facilitate use with multiple computer systems, the catalog is in three formats; an Excel spreadsheet with links to images, a Quattro Pro spreadsheet without links, and a PDF version for those who lack spreadsheet programs. The PDF version can be printed, it runs to 158 pages. The images are in jpg format and can be viewed without going through the catalog.

The catalog consists of the country name, the Scott catalog number, the face value, year of issue and color of the stamp, the name of the volcano, the Smithsonian catalog number, and the approximate value.

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The Smithsonian catalog only lists active and historic eruptions. Many of the volcanoes depicted on stamps are extinct or dormant volcanoes and therefore are not listed in their catalog. I have therefore given the volcano the first four digits of the subregion in which the volcano is found. Likewise, there are extraterrestrial volcanoes not in the Smithsonian catalog appearing on stamps, I have invented numbers for them. Moreover, many countries are now issuing cartoon volcanoes, these have been cataloged as ????. Information concerning the volcanoes can be found online at:

Siebert L, Simkin T (2002-). Volcanoes of the World: an Illustrated Catalog of Holocene Volcanoes and their Eruptions. Smithsonian Institution, Global Volcanism Program Digital Information Series, GVP-3, (<http://www.volcano.si.edu/world/>).

The approximate value is assigned in the following manner:

- * stamps cataloging between 0.00 and 0.99 U.S. dollars
- ** stamps cataloging between \$1 and \$9.99
- *** stamps cataloging between \$10 and \$99.99
- **** stamps cataloging between \$100 and \$999.99
- ***** stamps in excess of \$1,000

To find a more accurate value you will need to obtain the relevant Scott Catalog. Additionally exchange rates are constantly changing so you will need to have access to the latest exchange rates.

Stamps not listed in Scott are indicated by the symbols NL. Their values are not given.

Anyone finding errors or omissions is encouraged to contact the author, preferably by email at jlwstark@sbcglobal.net.

Information concerning both the volcanoes and the stamps can be found at the author’s continually expanding website at www.iomoon.com. The latter location also acknowledges the many people from around the world who have provided the author with stamps for his collection.

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