

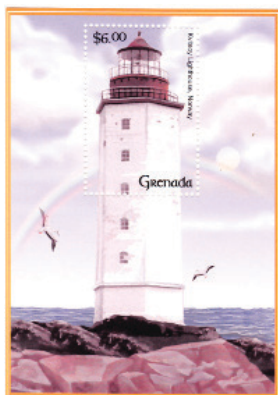
Lighthouse Stamps - Bringing

By Timothy Harrison

It is probably impossible to determine how many lighthouse postage stamps have been issued around the world, but, the numbers have to be in the thousands.

Although stamp collecting is still rated as one of the world's largest hobbies, the numbers of new people, especially young people, collecting them has been rapidly dwindling. This is shameful, because so much can be learned about the world just from collecting postage stamps, even when you narrow the field down to just lighthouse postage stamps. In fact, I would dare to say that a person can learn more about geography and world history by collecting and researching lighthouse postage stamps than they will ever learn from social media or from most history and geography books.

To give you just a small example of what I'm talking about, we are publishing some information on just a small sampling of lighthouse postage stamps from around the world. Maybe it will encourage you or encourage you to encourage some young person in your life to take up the hobby and put down those hand held devices for a while.



Grenada

This souvenir sheet from Grenada, an island nation in the southeastern Caribbean Sea, features the Kvitsoy Lighthouse in Norway. Grenada may be best known to many of you from *Operation Urgent Fury* that was a 1983 United States led invasion of the island nation with a population of about 91,000 located about 91 miles north of Venezuela, which

resulted in a U.S. victory within a matter of weeks. The date of the invasion is now a national holiday in Grenada, called Thanksgiving Day. Although Grenada has a lack of traditional lighthouses, it is unknown why they issued a postage stamp with the Kvitsoy Lighthouse in Norway. As with many other small nations, this was probably done to raise money from the sale of postage stamps from stamp collectors. The Kvitsoy Lighthouse is located in the City of Rogaland, Norway and was automated in 1969. In 1998 the Kvitsoy Lighthouse was designated a Norway Heritage Site.



New Caledonia

This postage stamp, issued by New Caledonia, features the Amédée Lighthouse in New Caledonia, which is a special collectivity of France located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, 750 miles east of Australia and an amazing 10,026 miles east of metropolitan France. The Amédée Lighthouse is an iron lighthouse located on Amédée Island, which is 15 miles from Nouméa, New Caledonia. At 184 feet tall, with 247 steps, it is one of the tallest lighthouses in the world



The metal components of the Amédée Lighthouse were manufactured in North-East Paris France in 1862 and the tower was constructed in Paris as part of a demonstration. It was the first metallic lighthouse constructed in France. It was then disassembled into pieces weighing a total of 855,000 pounds and transported along the River Seine to the port of Le Havre for its voyage to New Caledonia. The foundation stone was laid in New Caledonia on January 18, 1865, and it was first lit on November 15, 1865. Its light signals the entrance to the passage of Boulari, one of only three natural passages in the reef surrounding New Caledonia. On the other side of the world, the Roches-Douvres Lighthouse in the English Channel is the twin brother of the Amédée Lighthouse.

Argentina



This set of four stamps was issued in 2004 by the South American nation of Argentina to honor the 125th Anniversary of the Servicio de Hidrografía Naval, which is the organization that manages Argentina's lighthouses. The only lighthouse featured

the World Closer Together

on the stamps is the Faro Cabo Virgenes Lighthouse, which is also known as the Cabo Virgenes Lighthouse. It was built in 1904 at the eastern entrance to the Strait of Magellan at the southern tip of continental Argentina. The 85-foot tall lighthouse is still operational, and the grounds are open to the public.

End of the World



On the left side of this attractive stamp, designed by artist Claude Andreotto, is shown the San Juan de Salvamento Lighthouse that was the basis for the 1905 Jules Verne novel *The Lighthouse at the End of the World*. The right side of the stamp features a replica of the lighthouse that was constructed in the 1990s. The lighthouse was located on an island named Isla de los Estados off the coast of Argentina. Interestingly, the English translation for Isla de los Estados is Staten Island. The lighthouse was first lighted on May 24, 1884 and it operated until sometime in September of 1900. The stamp was apparently issued on January 1, 2000 to honor the beginning of the new millennium. In 1971, with a slight change in the title, Jules Verne's novel was made into the movie *The Light at the Edge of the World* that starred Kirk Douglas, Yul Brynner, and Samantha Douglas. However, for effect, the movie used a traditional tall lighthouse tower.

Uruguay

The nation of Uruguay, located in the southeast region of South America and bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to its south



and southeast, has a number of beautiful lighthouses that are all rich in history. Although the country has a relatively short coastline, for the most part, all of its lighthouses are in very good condition and many are still staffed.

The 225-foot tall Torre Anchorena, which is the first lighthouse featured on the strip of stamps, was privately built in 1920, but apparently it has never officially been declared an official aid to navigation.

The second stamp featured on the strip of stamps is the 79-foot tall Faro de Farallon, also known as the Isla Farallon Lighthouse. It was built in 1870 and is still an active aid to navigation. However, its lantern is now painted differently than what is shown on the stamp.

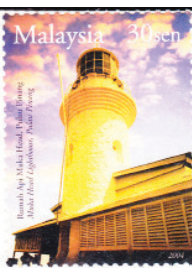
The 82-foot tall Faro de Jose Ignacio, which is the third stamp on the strip, was first lighted on June 1, 1877.

The 1874 Faro De Santa Maria, which is the fourth lighthouse seen on the strip of postage stamps, is located in the seaside resort of La Paloma. Although it is still staffed by lighthouse keepers, the 137-foot tall tower is open for the public to climb on weekends and holidays.

The Torre Del Vigia, the fifth in the strip of stamps, was built in 1800 as a 32-foot tall watch tower to look for enemy ships. We are not sure why it was included with this set of lighthouse stamps, but at one time it probably also served as some type of aid to navigation.

Malaysia

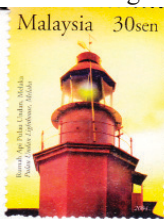
Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy in Southeast Asia. The nation of Malaysia is actually in two parts: the Peninsular Malaysia (also called West Malaysia or Malaya) on the southern end of the Malay Peninsula, and Malaysian Borneo (East Malaysia) on the island of Borneo. (Many of you will recall the disappearance, on March 8, 2014, of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.) For the most part, Malaysia has a number of beautiful and well-maintained lighthouses. The three lighthouse postage stamps shown here all have the same denomination.



Muka Head Lighthouse, built in 1883, is still a staffed lighthouse. Reportedly there is no road to the lighthouse, but the site part of the Penang National Park, is open to the public for

those willing and able to make an approximate two hour hike to the lighthouse.

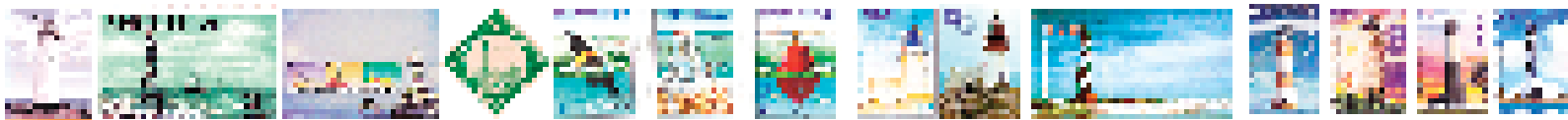
Altinsburg Lighthouse is a two-stage tower with the lower half of the tower being cylindrical masonry and the upper half being



conical cast iron. Only the upper half of the tower is shown on the postage stamp.

Pulau Undan Lighthouse, built in 1880, is on the island of Pulau Undan, off the coast of Malaysia. It was erected during the British rule in Malacca as a beacon for ships travelling along the Strait of Malacca. Situated on the summit of the island, it is reachable solely by boat, the lighthouse and tower are closed to the public.





Scandal

This set of four different postage stamps that featured lighthouses off the coast of Scotland was issued by Philatelic Leasing Ltd. As part of an elaborate tax shelter scheme, plates of the postage stamps were issued by Philatelic Leasing to others who then printed the postage stamps and sold them in mass quantities as real postage stamps that were considered a tax deductible business expense.

To help draw more attention, this set featured some of the most notable lighthouses in the world: Eddystone, Longships, Quenard Point, and Beechy Head. However the U.S. government ruled that the islands where they were issued from, such as these from Holy Island, which is an uninhabited island with no political ties to any nation, could not be used except to mail from one point on the island to another point on the island, and could not be considered as international postage stamps.

Sweden

Sweden, officially the Kingdom of Sweden, is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. Only one of the stamps of this block of four Swedish stamps with nautical scenes features a lighthouse. Even though our world is getting smaller, thanks to the Internet, we know very little about the lighthouses in Sweden, even though they do have an active lighthouse preservation society.



Oldest Dutch Light

The Netherlands, a country in northwestern Europe, is known for its flat landscape, canals, tulip fields, windmills, and cycling routes. Amsterdam, the capital, is home to the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum, the house where Jewish diarist Anne Frank hid during WWII, and a red light district. Canal-side mansions and a trove of works from artists, including Rembrandt and Vermeer, remain from the 17th-century "Golden Age." On September 13, 1984 the government of the Netherlands issued a postage stamp honoring the Brandis Lighthouse in Terschelling. The tower was completed in 1594 and replaced two earlier towers at the site. In 1994 the 400th anniversary of the tower was celebrated, making it the oldest lighthouse in the Netherlands. In 1837 it had the distinction of being the first lighthouse in that nation to have a rotating Fresnel lens.



Estonian Lighthouse Stamps

The Republic of Estonia is in the Baltic region of northern Europe. It is stated that 25% of the population of Estonia was killed during WW II. After the war the country was taken over by Russia and became part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. They finally gained their independence from Russia as a new democracy in 1991. The Estonian word tuletorn translates in English to lighthouse.

Kunda Tuletorn

Little could anyone have realized when this postage stamp of the 1909 Kunda Lighthouse in Tuletern, Estonia was issued in 1998 that the lighthouse that survived World War II would be destroyed by a fire in 1999. Only the stone foundation of the lighthouse remains, however plans call for the lighthouse to eventually be rebuilt.

Keri Tuletorn

In 1803 this was the first national lighthouse in Estonia to be equipped with reflectors. The lighthouse was dismantled in 1854 during the Crimean War. The current tower, atop the masonry base, was constructed in 1858. In 2003 when the postage stamp was issued, a group was formed to save the lighthouse.



Sorgu Tuletorn

The Sorgu Lighthouse was built in 1904 to replace an earlier wooden lighthouse on a small island in Kihnu Sound on the west side of Patnu Bay in the Gulf of Riga near Manija, Estonia. The island is now a bird sanctuary. Interestingly, this sheet of stamps featured small lighthouses printed around its outer edges, which later editions of their lighthouse stamps did not. Administered by the Estonian Maritime Administration, the Sorgu Lighthouse is currently in a sad state of disrepair.



Old Canadian Lights

In 1984 Canada issued these 32-cent postage stamps that featured four of Canada's oldest lighthouses. The stamp on the upper left corner features Louisbourg Lighthouse, which, in 1734, became the first light station in Canada. The tower no longer stands and has been replaced twice by different towers. The stamp on the upper right



corner is the Fisgard Lighthouse, which is the oldest lighthouse on the west coast of Canada. The 1860 lighthouse is now the site of a museum. The bottom left stamp features the 1809 Ile Verte Lighthouse on the St. Lawrence River opposite of the mouth of the Saguenay River in province of Quebec. Also known as Green Island Lighthouse, it is the third oldest lighthouse in Canada. The final stamp, the one on the bottom right corner, is the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse that was built in 1808 at Hanlan's Point in Toronto Harbour on Lake Ontario. It is the third oldest surviving lighthouse on the Great Lakes.

Kenya

The nation of Kenya was once part of British West Africa and gained its independence in the 1960s. Located on the Equator, the nation's southeast border is the Indian Ocean with the City of



Mombasa being the largest seaport. President Barack Obama's father was born in Kenya. The only "typical" lighthouse tower, of the kind that most of us are familiar with, featured on this set of four lighthouse postage stamps, is the black and white banded Ra's Serani Range Rear Light in Mombasa. Very little is known about this 108-foot tall tower.

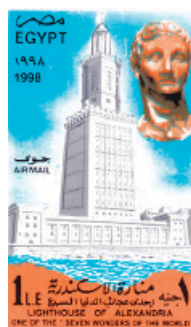
Malta

Although Malta, located in the center of the Mediterranean Sea, may be one of the smallest island nations in the world, it does have a number of beautiful lighthouses. Malta, once a British colony, gained its total independence in 1964 and joined the European Union in 2004. The Maltese word for lighthouse is fanal and its lighthouses are maintained by Transport Malta. Although these three Malta lighthouse postage stamps were issued in 2001, we don't have any information on the Sant'Lermu Lighthouse that was featured on the 6c postage stamp. The tal-Gurdan Lighthouse, featured in the 16c postage stamp, was built in 1853, and the history of life at the lighthouse seems not to have been saved or written about. The restoration of the 1855 Delimara Lighthouse, which appeared on the 22c stamp, was featured in the May/June edition of *Lighthouse Digest*.



One of the Seven Wonders

This postage stamp issued by Egypt in 1998 features an image of the Pharos of Alexandria that was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The building of the Pharos Lighthouse began around 290 BC by Ptolemy Soter and was completed after his death during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus. The lighthouse stood an amazing 400-feet tall and was lighted by fire at night and mirrors during the day that reflected the sunlight. It was toppled by a series of earthquakes in 1303 AD. The study of lighthouses is called Pharology, which was taken from the name of this lighthouse. In recent years the foundation was located by underwater archeologists. In May of his year the government of Egypt announced that they were going to build a replica of the lighthouse that would use some of the blocks of the original foundation.



The Gambia

How many of you have heard of the country called The Gambia? Located in West Africa, The Gambia is mostly surrounded by the nation of Senegal, but it has a short strip of its coastline that is bordered with the Atlantic Ocean at its western end. It is the smallest country on mainland Africa. The Gambia is situated on either side of the Gambia River, the nation's namesake, which flows through the center of The Gambia and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. In 1965, The Gambia gained independence from the United Kingdom. Since gaining independence, The Gambia has had two leaders -Sir Dawda Jawara, who ruled from 1970 until 1994, when a young army officer, named Yahya Jammeh, seized power in a military coup..



Although The Gambia does have some tall aids to navigation, the country does not have any actual lighthouses. So, in a way to raise money from lighthouse stamp collectors, they issued lighthouse postage stamps that featured beautiful images of tall lighthouses in the United States.

The lighthouses they featured, as shown here, are Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse in Florida, Cape Lookout Lighthouse in North Carolina, Tybee Island Lighthouse in Georgia, Old Cape Henry Lighthouse in Virginia, and Morris Island Lighthouse in South Carolina.

Antigua and Barbuda

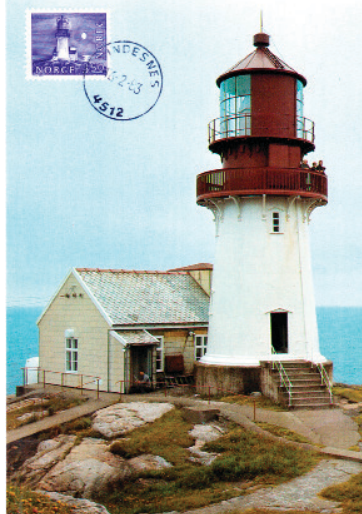
Antigua and Barbuda is a twin-island country lying between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It consists of two major inhabited islands, Antigua and Barbuda, and a number of smaller islands.



Separated by a few nautical miles, Antigua and Barbuda are in the middle of the Leeward Islands, part of the Lesser Antilles, roughly at 17° N of the equator. The country is nicknamed “Land of 365 Beaches” due to the many beaches surrounding the islands. Although the island nation has a few aids to navigation, they have only one traditional lighthouse. This may be the reason that they picked the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in North Carolina to adorn this souvenir sheet that featured one of the most recognizable lighthouses in the world.

Norway's Oldest Light Station

The nation of Norway has over 200 beautiful lighthouses along its coast that are operated by the Norwegian Coastal Administration. The first Lindesnes Lighthouse began operation way back in 1655, making it the oldest light station in Norway. The current tower was constructed in 1822, but, over the years, it has been renovated and altered several times, with significant changes made in 1915.



During World War II the Lindesnes Lighthouse was taken

over by the Germans who built a small fortress with four large guns. Traces of the war, such as trenches and tunnels, are still visible at the site.

This postage stamp of the Lindesnes Lighthouse that is affixed to the front of the post card that also features the lighthouse was postmarked on June 2, 1983, which may have been the First Day of Issue of the postage stamp. Although the lighthouse is still an active aid to navigation, the non-profit Lindesnes Lighthouse Museum Foundation operates a museum at the site that includes the keeper's homes and a visitor center inside the mountain with exhibitions, a cinema hall, cafeteria, and gift shop.

Big Norderney Lighthouse



This unusual diamond-shaped postage stamp featuring the Big Norderney Lighthouse on the island of Norderney appears to have been issued prior to World War II. Norderney is one of seven populated East Frisian Islands off the North Sea coast of Germany. Norderney is a little over 10 square miles with a population of slightly over 6,000 people. The lighthouse was built during the years of 1871 to 1874 and is still an active navigational aid that is managed by the Waterways and Shipping Administration of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Senegal

Senegal is a country on Africa's west coast known for its French colonial heritage and natural attractions. It is the westernmost country in the mainland of the Old World, or Eurafasia, and owes its name to the Sénégal River that borders it to the east and north. The capital city of Dakar features the ancient Médina



district and esteemed Musée Théodore Monod, displaying African art. Dakar is also known for its night-life and native music. Saint-Louis, formerly the capital of French West Africa, is known for the colonial architecture in its old town. Most Senegalese are Sunni Muslims with Sufi influences with French being the official language.

This set of aids to navigation postage stamps features two off-shore buoys and two lighthouses.

We are not sure which exact lighthouse Senegal was referring to on the 240F stamp that they listed Phare Entrée De Port, but one good guess is that image is of a lighthouse that is no longer standing.

The Des Mamelles Lighthouse, shown on the 100F stamp, was featured in the May, 2010 edition of *Lighthouse Digest*. Built in 1864, the lighthouse was considered one of the most important lighthouses in the world because it guided ships around the western tip of Africa. It is still staffed by lighthouse keepers, but the lighthouse is reportedly now in danger from erosion and its equipment is getting old and outdated. The lighthouse is open to the public when the keeper is available.

Singapore Souvenir Sheet

This beautiful souvenir sheet of three lighthouse postage stamps was issued by Singapore, which is an independent city-state located primarily on an island off the tip of the Malay Peninsula in Southeast Asia. It was founded in 1819 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles and soon became the backbone of the



British Empire in the Orient. Singapore was occupied by the Japanese during World War II and became independent from the United Kingdom in 1963 when it united with other former British territories to form the Federation of Malaysia. However, things did not work out, and in 1965 Singapore became its own separate country. Its small number of lighthouses is significant to world history and they are well maintained by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

The stamp on the far left of the souvenir sheet represents the 1896 Sultan Shoal Lighthouse, which is a round masonry tower centered on the roof of a two-story keeper's house. The lighthouse is architecturally significant with a remarkable mixture of Oriental and Victorian design. However, because the lighthouse is located on a small island about five miles south of the western tip of Singapore and is off limits to the public, the beauty of the lighthouse can only be enjoyed from photographs.

The middle postage stamp features the world famous 1851, 112-foot tall, Horsburg Lighthouse, which is Singapore's oldest lighthouse. The Horsburgh Lighthouse was named after James Horsburg (1762-1836), who was the British hydrographer of the

East India Company who charted the seaways around Singapore. Ownership of the island where the lighthouse sits was in dispute for many years until 2008 when the International Court ruled that the island belongs to Singapore. The lighthouse is not open to the public.

The postage stamp on the far right of the souvenir sheet features the Raffles Lighthouse, which is named after Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles (1781-1826), who founded the city of Singapore in 1819. The lighthouse is located on Pulau Satumu, the southernmost islet of Singapore, about nine miles southwest of the downtown waterfront. At last reports, the 95-foot tower was still staffed by lighthouse keepers.

Anguilla

Located in the Caribbean, Anguilla is an internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom. It is one of the most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the Lesser Antilles, lying east of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and directly north of Saint Martin. The territory consists of the main island of Anguilla itself, approximately 16 miles long and three miles wide at its widest point, together with a number of much smaller islands and cays with no permanent population. The territory is about 35-square miles with a population of approximately 35,000 people. The only traditional looking lighthouse ever built here was the Sombrero Lighthouse that was built in 1868 on an island about 34 miles from Anguilla to mark the Anegada Passage, the most important route into the Caribbean from Europe. However, the lighthouse, which resembled some of the spindly legged lighthouses of the Florida Keys, was heavily damaged in Hurricane Donna and was replaced in 1962 by a 92-foot tall pyramidal



skeletal tower with square central cylinder, mounted on a concrete base, which is the structure featured on this postage stamp. In 2001 the lighthouse keepers were removed when Trinity House installed a nondescript metal tower. Apparently, at that time, the 1962 tower, featured on the postage stamp, was demolished.