

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

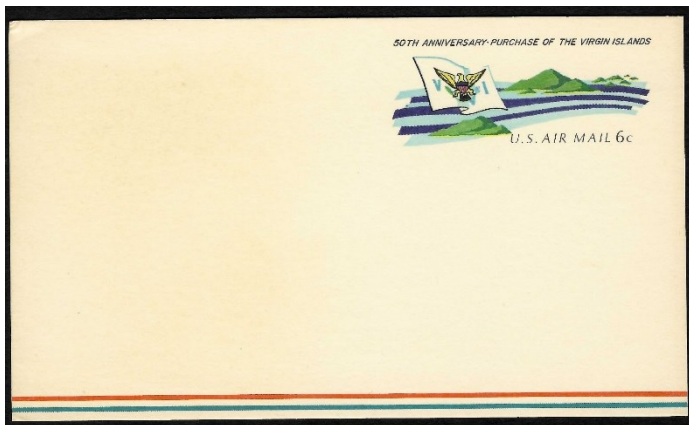
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June 1, 2025

In the May 2022 issue of *The PhilateliKid*, we began brief descriptions of various “Back of the Book” (“BOB”) listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter “B,” “BK,” “C,” “CB,” “CBO,” “CE,” “CL,” “CM,” “CO,” “CVP,” “D,” “E,” “F,” “FA,” “J,” “JQ,” “K,” “L,” “LO,” “LOX,” “M,” “MR,” “O,” “OXF,” “-P,” “PC,” “PN,” “PR,” “PS,” “Q,” “QE,” “QI,” “R” (Part 1), “R” (Part 2), “RC,” “RD,” “RE,” “REA,” “REF,” “RG,” “RH,” “RK,” “RL,” “RN-D,” “RO,” “RS,” “RV,” “RY,” “-S,” “SPCVP,” “TD,” “U,” “UC,” “UX,” “UY,” “WS,” “WX,” “#X,” and State, followed by a number. This month we will look at “UXC,” and “UZ.” All stamps illustrated are from the author’s personal collection, unless otherwise noted.

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “UXC”

In the Scott Catalogue, items listed with the prefix “UXC” are Air Post Postal Cards. There was a time when the United States Post Office Department (USPOD) charged an extra fee for envelopes and postal cards that were sent by air mail. For example, a surface mail postal card in 1967 required 4¢ in postage, if mailed within the United States, whereas a postal cards sent by air mail within the United States required 6¢ in postage. The term used for mail that is both sent and received within the United States is “**Domestic Mail.**” International mail is mail that originates in the United States, but the destination is a foreign country.



<<<<<< UXC 8

In 1967 international mail postal cards that used surface mail required 6¢ in postage, whereas international air mail postal cards required 11¢ in postage.

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “UZ”

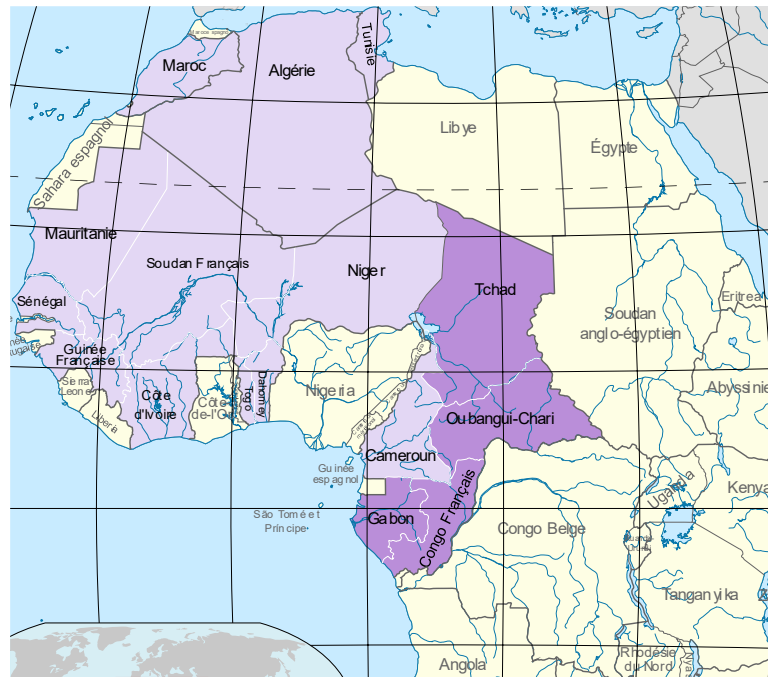
In the Scott Catalogue, items listed with the prefix “UZ” are Official Postal Cards. As with many international postal cards, a postally used card, sent to a foreign destination (not a First Day Cover) is much rarer and more valuable than an unused copy. For example, the Official postal card featured at right has a catalog value of \$0.75 mint, but \$100.00 if postally used. (Not a FDC.)

UZ 2 >>>>>>



DEAD COUNTRIES

Beginning in October 2024, we illustrated stamps from “Dead Countries.” We looked at Newfoundland, Hawaii, Croatia, Bavaria, Cyrenaica, Basutoland, British Honduras, and Dahomey. This month we will look at **French Congo, Middle Congo, French Equatorial Africa, Belgian Congo**, and the **Peoples Republic of the Zaire**. (Now reverted back to just Republic of Congo.) Also, Eastern Rumelia.



French Congo

French Congo (Congo Française on the map) issued stamps from 1891 to 1903. It was located in Africa between the countries of Gabon and what became the Belgian Congo. Scott Catalogue lists 52 stamps as being issued during that period. The first 16 stamps were overprints. The first stamps that said “Congo Francaise” were actually the French Navigation and Commerce stamps with the name inserted in red at the bottom. In addition to those samps (Scott 18-34) there were three



Above is a 1935 map of French Equatorial Africa. (In Purple.) **French Congo stamps >>>**

designs that appeared on stamps issued in 1900: a leopard, a standing woman, and a coconut grove. (Scott 35-51.) French Congo ceased to exist as a separate stamp-issuing country, and was renamed as Middle Congo in 1906.

Middle Congo



Middle Congo (“Moyen-Congo”) issued stamps from 1907 to 1933. It then was grouped with three other African territories governed by France, and together was called French Equatorial Africa. (That means colonies of France located at or near the Equator.) French Equatorial Africa existed from 1910 to 1958, when the various countries within French Equatorial Africa obtained independence.

Belgian Congo



<<<<< Belgian Congo **Republic of Congo >>>>>**

The very first colony of Belgium began in 1908 with the ceding of the **Congo Free State** to Belgium. It was named **Belgian Congo**. Its capital was named Leopoldville. Of the three colonies that Belgium eventually had, the Belgian Congo was 98% of Belgium’s overseas



territories. The Belgian Congo had 902,082 square miles, compared to Belgium's size of 11,778 square miles. That means that the Belgian Congo was approximately 77 times bigger than Belgium!

Belgian Congo remained a colony until it gained independence in 1960, when its name became the **Democratic Republic of Congo-Leopoldville**, or simply the "Republic of Congo." (Stamps say "Republique du Congo.")

Scott Catalogue lists Middle Congo stamps under "M," for [Middle Congo](#)."

Scott Catalogue lists French Congo stamps under "F," for [French Colonies](#), and then a sub-set titled [French Congo](#). Note: [French Colonies](#) is listed after [French Offices Abroad – Zanzibar](#), after which Scott lists [Reunion](#), then [French Colonies](#).

Scott Catalogue lists French Equatorial Africa stamps under "F," for [French Equatorial Africa](#).

Scott Catalogue lists Belgian Congo stamps under "B," for [Belgian Congo](#).

Scott Catalogue lists Democratic Republic of the Congo stamps under "C." for [Congo, Democratic Republic](#).

Scott Catalogue lists Peoples Republic of the Congo stamps under "C," for "[Congo, Peoples Republic of](#)."

Scott catalogue lists Peoples Republic of the Zaire stamps under "Z," for [Zaire](#).

In 1966, the name of the capital, Leopoldville, was changed to Kinshasa. The country then became known as the **Republic of Congo-Kinshasa**.



From 1969 to 1992 the country was named the **Peoples Republic of the Congo**, (stamp with gorilla at left) which signified that it was a Marxist ("communist") run country. Beginning in 1971 the Democratic Republic of The Congo's government renamed itself to the **Democratic Republic of Zaire** ("Zaire"). In 1997, after a civil war, the country took



back its former name of **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, ("DR Congo," or "Congo-Kinshasa," or simply "Congo.")

~~~~~ (Above) Stamps of Zaire commemorating the Muhammed Ali – George Foreman boxing match held October 30, 1974. It was nicknamed the "Rumble in the Jungle."

Trivia: The Ali – Foreman match was held on October 30, 1974, at Kinshasa, Zaire. The above stamps have an overprinted date of "25-9-1974," which is Sept. 25, 1974. **Anybody know why? (I don't.)**

Phew! Got that? Luckily, you will not be tested on this!

Stamps of French Equatorial Africa will be illustrated in a future edition of *The Philatelikid*.

*The French Congo stamps and the Zaire stamps are courtesy of Henry Gitner. He is a major stamp dealer located at 53 Highland Ave., Middletown, New York (Henry Gitner Philatelists, Inc.)*

## Eastern Rumelia

Eastern Rumelia, now part of Bulgaria, is also sometimes spelled *Eastern Roumelia*. It was a country that is seldom discussed among stamp collectors. In fact, now that I have been collecting stamps for almost 70 years, I do not remember EVER seeing this country written about or talked about. I “discovered” this dead country when I saw it listed among countries featured in an old stamp album. In that album, Eastern Rumelia shared one single page with three other dead countries, namely Dutch New Guinea (now part of New Guinea), East Africa and Uganda Protectorates (now Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania), and Eastern Silesia (now partly in Poland, and partly in the Czech Republic.)



Scott Catalogue lists 39 stamps for Eastern Rumelia, all issued between 1880 and 1885. Interestingly enough, although the highest number that Scott lists is number 40, Scott does not have any number 2 nor any number 5 for Eastern Rumelia, and Scott says in a footnote that numbers 17-19 were never placed in use. 29 of the listings are overprints. Scott also says,

**“Counterfeits of all overprints are plentiful.”** Illustrated above is one stamp issued in 1881, and two stamps issued in 1884. The franking on the black stamp with a blue cancel, Scott number 13, is 1 Piaster. The franking on the green stamp, Scott number 16 is 10 Paras, and the franking of the pink stamp, Scott number 17, is 20 Paras. The currency was unusual because it only went up to 40 paras. 40 Paras equaled 1 Piaster. Paras and Piasters were the currency of Turkey until 1926.

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