



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 2 February 2004

International Bureau Circular

30

30.04 - 2 February 2004

Benin – Illegal postage stamp issues

Issue, sale and distribution on the philatelic market by unauthorized private companies and dealers. of a considerable number of illegal postage stamps bearing the name of the "Republic of Benin" or "Benin". Many carry "POSTES 2002" or "POSTES 2003" and the emblems and logos of "Animals of America by J.J. Audubon", "THE NATURE CONSERVANCY", "Rotary International" and "Scouts".

The values range between 100 and 500 FCFA, and 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f. Some stamps are of the value of 1,000f.

A number of the miniature sheets and sheetlets are also sold cancelled. A number of miniature sheets and postage stamps are also identified on one of the websites for which the prices are in United States dollars, quite high for the perforated format and double (sometimes triple) the amount for the imperforate variety. The same miniature sheets are listed on another website at a much cheaper price.

The following thematics are targeted:

Fairy tales, cartoons: "Winnie the Pooh", "Puss in Boots", "A Thousand and One Nights", "Mowgli", The Owl and the Pussycat, Pinocchio, Little Red Riding Hood, The Ugly Duckling commemorating "Walt Disney" characters and "Elvis Presley and "75th Birthday of Mickey Mouse", "Looney Tunes"(featuring "Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck, Wile E. Coyote, Road Runner, The Skunks, The Tasmanian Devil and Tweety and Sylvestre"), "LES CONTES" ("TALES") and "HILDEBRANDT" and "SPIRITED AWAY" (Miyazaki's Japanese tale).

Fauna: endangered animals, Arctic animals, black and polar bears, bird species (bats, birds of prey, ducks, hummingbirds, owls, parrots, penguins, pigeons, seagulls, song birds, and "thrushes"), domestic and wild cats (cheetah, gorilla, leopards, lions, panthers and tigers.), roe deer, dinosaurs, dogs, elephants, fox, horses, hamster, hare, kangaroo, lemur, pandas, porcupine, reptiles (frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles), Sea creatures (dolphins, fish), squirrels, wolves,

Flora (orchids) and butterflies

Films and Cinema events - "75th Annual Academy Awards", "CLASSIC MOVIES".(classic American cinema actors or actresses), "HARRY POTTER",

James Bond films ("50th anniversary of James Bond"), "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers", "Spiderman" and "TERMINATOR 3".

Leisure (chess)

Lighthouses (also inscribed Phares du Monde" ("Lighthouses of the World"), "AFRIQUE ET OCEANIE", "AMERIQUE", "ASIE" and "EUROPE"

Organizations (Red Cross)

Pictures – Paintings (Female nudes, THE IMPRESSIONISTS, Nudes of the "Museo Nacional del Prado", Vincent van Gogh

Sports ("David Beckham", "Liverpool FC" and "Manchester United FC" football teams)

Vehicles – transport (aircraft, cars, fire engines, motorcycles, trains and locomotives)

Windmills

Famous people (Pope John Paul II (also with Mother Teresa and Princess Diana), actresses, singers, , etc.)

Various famous men and women together as well as individual actors, actresses, ("Britney Spears", "Elvis Presley", "Isabella Rosselini", "Madonna", "Marilyn Monroe", "Nadja Auermann", "Robbie Williams", "Vin Diesel", "100 WALT DISNEY"), comedian Bob Hope, Japanese women, "Jazz Masters", musical groups and singers "AC/DC", "BACKSTREET BOYS", "The Beatles", "BeeGees", "The doors", "F. Mercury", "KISS", "Led Zeppelin", "Metallica", "Mick Jagger" and "QUEEN".

Immoral and provocative scenes (sometimes sexually explicit) inscribed with the artist or originator as follows: "All Buell", "Anton Corbijo", "Baron Jerry von Lind", "Billy DeVorss", "Boris Lopez", "Carlos Cartagena", "Dorian Cleavenger", "Drew Posada", "Edward D'Ancona", "Edvard Runci", "Freeman Elliot"; "GULLIVERA – PART I" and "GULLIVERA – PART II", "Helmut Newton", "Luis Royo", "Matt Hughes", "Nude Miyazawa", "Pearl Frush", "Peter Driben", "Pin-Up", "Ricky Carralero", "Sean Gallimore", "Sexy Models" and "Top Models", "SHUNGA" and "Otagawa Kunisada" and "THE LAND OF THE RISING FUN", respectively.