

CONTENTS

A HISTORY OF MANKIND

From prehistory to the present day

PREHISTORY, ANTIQUITY

Prehistoric man	10
Ancient Egypt and Persia	12
The Greco-Roman world	14
Ancient China	16

VTH–XVTH CENTURIES: FROM THE BARBARIANS TO THE BIRTH OF MODERN TIMES

Invaders and settlers	18
Knights	20
The Silk Route	22
The golden age of Islam	24
The Renaissance and the wars of religion	26

XV–XVIII CENTURIES: CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLDS

Oceanic discovery	28
The Spanish conquest of the New World	30
The colonies of North America and the Caribbean	32
The Indian and Pacific oceans	34

XVIII–XIX CENTURIES: THE BIRTH OF NATIONS

The birth of the United States of America	36
The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars	38
The nation states of Europe	40
South American independence	42
19th-century colonial empires	44

THE XXTH–XXIST CENTURIES

The First World War and the rise of fascism	46
The Second World War	48
The Soviet Revolution	50
Communism in Asia	52
The rise of Islam	54
Europa: the construction of Europe	56
The emergence of alternative powers	58

MAN'S HABITAT

HOUSES AND VILLAGES

Desert and tropical habitats	62
Rural and mountain habitats	64
Urban and waterside houses	66

TOWNS AND MONUMENTS

Castles and medieval towns	68
Palaces for pomp and pleasure	70
Parks, gardens, and fountains	72
Public buildings	74
Major cities and their monuments	76

BELIEFS AND CUSTOMS

WORLD RELIGIONS

Buddhism and Hinduism	80
Christianity and Judaism	82
Islam and mosques	84
Places of worship: pagodas, temples, and cathedrals	86
Monks and missionaries	88
Animist rites and beliefs	90

FESTIVALS AND CUSTOMS

The New Year and the zodiac	92
Major religious festivals	94
Traditional music	96
Traditional dance	98
Carnivals and festivals	100
Tales and legends	102

ART AND CULTURE

Our cultural heritage

COSTUME, JEWELRY, AND WORKS OF ART

Hairstyles and adornments	106
Regional costumes and fashion	108
Embroidery, carpets, and ceramics	110
Gold and silverware, jewelry, clocks, and watches	112

PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

Portraits of women	114
Portraits of men and couples	116
Paintings of daily life	118
Landscape and animals in art	120

LITERATURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Literary classics	122
Crime fiction, fantasy, and comic strips	124
The circus, and children's literature	126
Theater	128
Classical music	130
Opera, ballet, and song	132
Cinema	134

DISCOVERIES, INVENTIONS, AND MANUFACTURING

TRANSPORT

From sedan chair to coach	138
Rail transport	140
Cars, motorbikes, and trucks	142
Sailing ships and liners	144
Aircraft and aerostats	146
Nature's wrath	148

INVENTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Inventors and scientists.....	150
Post, communications, radio, and television.....	152
Roads and canals, bridges, and dams.....	154
Mines, industry, and energy.....	156
Medicine and biology.....	158
The conquest of space.....	160
Conquest of the poles and oceans.....	162

SOCIETY**JOBS AND SOCIAL LIFE**

Farming and animal husbandry.....	166
Fishing, industry, and the service sector.....	168
Military and public forces.....	170
Royal and princely families.....	172

EDUCATION AND LEISURE

Mother and child.....	174
Education and teaching.....	176
Children's toys and games.....	178
Parlor games and board games.....	180
Country and mountain pursuits, and scouting.....	182
The seaside and tourism.....	184
Food and drink.....	186

THE ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Preserving the environment.....	188
First aid and medical care.....	190
The battle against disease.....	192
National health and safety campaigns.....	194
Human rights.....	196
The status and image of women.....	198

COMPETITIVE SPORTS**LAND SPORTS**

The Summer Olympics.....	202
Gymnastics and athletics.....	204
Skiing and skating.....	206
Soccer, rugby, and handball.....	208
Basketball, volleyball, tennis, baseball, and cricket.....	210
Golf, polo, and horse-riding.....	212

WATER SPORTS AND MOTOR SPORTS

Swimming and water sports.....	214
Sail sports and aerial sports.....	216
Cycle, motorbike, and car racing.....	218
Combat sports.....	220
Traditional sports.....	222

NATURE**THE MINERAL AND VEGETABLE KINGDOMS**

Landscapes of the world.....	226
Forests, trees, and fruit.....	228
Flowers.....	230
Minerals, fossils, and prehistoric animals.....	232

LAND FAUNA: WILD AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Wild animals of the savannah and virgin forest.....	234
Wild animals of the woods, prairies, and mountains.....	236
Horses and farm animals.....	238
Dogs, cats, and other pets.....	240

FAUNA OF THE SEA AND AIR: FISH, BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES

Fauna of the coasts and tropical lagoons.....	242
Fauna of the open sea and poles.....	244
Birds of the world.....	246
Reptiles, insects, and butterflies.....	248

APPENDIX**STAMPS FOR ALL**

Remarkable stamps.....	252
Classic collections.....	253
Unusual collections.....	254
Millennium commemoratives.....	255

DISTRIBUTION OF STAMPS BY COUNTRY

This book contains 3,581 stamps from 208 different issuing countries, listed here in order of the number of stamps chosen. This selection is the result of personal choice to illustrate the 113 different themes of this book, with as broad a range of countries as possible, and comes from my personal collection.

United States: 261 stamps; France: 228; Great Britain: 210; Russia: 156 (187 including the new independent republics); Germany: 142; China: 132; Japan: 113; Italy: 85; Spain: 75; Austria: 64; Brazil: 59; Poland: 55; Turkey: 51; Vietnam: 50; Belgium: 49; Canada: 46; Hungary and New Caledonia: 45; Greece: 43; India: 42; Australia and French Polynesia: 41; Mexico: 38; Laos: 35; Portugal: 34; Korea (North and South) and Czechoslovakia: 33; Taiwan: 30; Egypt and Switzerland: 27; Argentina: 26; French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Chile, Morocco, and Norway: 25; Algeria and Republic of Ireland: 24; Senegal, Sweden, and Tunisia: 23; Iran, Mongolia, and Romania: 22; South Africa: 21; Cuba: 20; Netherlands and Wallis & Futuna: 19; Denmark: 18; Cambodia and Niger: 17; Congo: 16; Benin, Indonesia, Mali, French Equatorial and West Africa: 15; United Arab Emirates, Ivory Coast, Mayotte, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, St. Pierre & Miquelon, and Thailand: 14; Burkina, Central African Republic, Colombia, Israel, Monaco, Peru, Togo, and the Vatican: 13; Somali coast (Afars and Issas), Bulgaria, Finland, Madagascar, and Chad: 12; Angola, Bolivia, Iceland, Mauritania, and Syria: 11; Bosnia, Comoros Islands, Lebanon, Singapore, and Ukraine: 10.

The remaining 10 percent of stamps represent 120 more countries:

Gabon, Mauritius, Pakistan, Philippines, Vanuatu, and Yugoslavia: 9; Cameroon, Estonia, Hong Kong, Kenya, Liechtenstein, and Uruguay: 8; Faeroe Islands, Guinea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, and Slovakia: 7; Croatia, British territories (Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Gibraltar), Kazakhstan, Macao, Nicaragua, and Rwanda: 6; Afghanistan, Bhutan, Djibouti, Slovenia, Tanzania, and Venezuela: 5; Cyprus, Ecuador, Ghana, Grenada, Jordan, Libya, Lithuania, Micronesia, Nepal, Paraguay, San Marino, Swaziland, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe: 4; Aland, British Antarctic Territory, Dutch Antilles, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Ethiopia, Fiji Islands, Greenland, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Jamaica, Lesotho, Montserrat, Mozambique, Nigeria, Transkei, the United Nations, Uzbekistan, and Zaire: 3; Albania, Andorra, Antigua, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Guyana, Panama, Spanish Sahara, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent, St. Helena and Union Island: 2; and finally 1 stamp from each of the following issuing countries: Aitutaki, Anguilla, French Antilles, Armenia, Ascension Island, Barbados, Bermuda, Biafra, Botswana, Burma, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Christmas Island, Ciskei, Cocos Islands, Cook Island, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Equatorial Guinea, French Guyana, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Macedonia, Maldives, Nauru, Palestine, Papua, Pitcairn Island, Rio Muni, El Salvador, Sealand, Seychelles, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Surinam, Trinidad, Tristan da Cunha, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands, and Zambia.

In total, Africa and the Middle East are represented by 614 stamps, Europe by 1,553, Asia and the Pacific by 816, and the Americas by 598 stamps.