

# *Cinderella Time:* Davaar's Dubious Stamp Issues

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In the early 1960s, the EUROPA stamp issues enjoyed enormous popularity. Most often the stamps of the participating nations shared the same design as a symbol of European unity. The magic word EUROPA was also included.

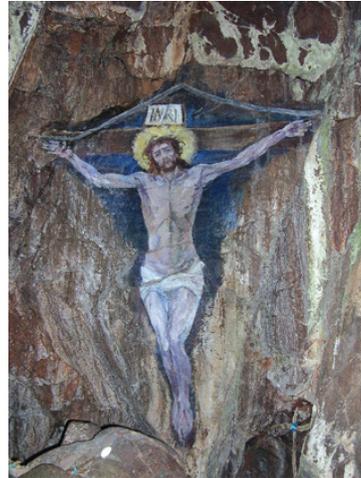
A number of small islands off the British Isles also released EUROPA stamp issues. In some cases there were special designs but in most cases they just overprinted existing stamps with the magic word.

Davaar is a small island in Scotland. In 1964 it was decided to start a local post linking the island with the mainland. The first two stamps depicted the lighthouse on the island. Later that year the pair was overprinted with the word EUROPA which immediately increased the collector appeal of the issue.



*Another popular theme, John F. Kennedy was overprinted on the Davaar 1964 Europa issue.*

At that time Davaar had a permanent population of six people. They were employed to take care of the lighthouse. During the summer period many day-trippers visited Davaar to have a look at the famous 1887 cave painting showing the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (right).



The purpose of the local post was to allow tourists to mail postcards from the island. A mailbox had been installed on Davaar and it was emptied once a week by the boatman who then took the mail items along to Campbeltown on the mainland. This arrangement seems to have lasted for a year or two.

Davaar's stamps only paid for the carriage from the island to Campbeltown. For onward transmission UK postage stamps had to be added.



*A cover with the Europa 1970 overprint on a Davaar JFK issue with the Davaar stamps on the reverse, the Great Britain stamps on the front.*



Very soon after the initial 1964 sets the new stamp issue policy derailed completely. Until 1995 Davaar had released no less than 724 different stamps and souvenir sheets. Not bad for an island which has been uninhabited since the lighthouse was automated many years ago.

Shown here is a souvenir sheet issued in 1995. It marked the 35th anniversary of Coronation Street, one of the most successful soap operas on British TV (it is still on the air). The two ladies depicted on the souvenir sheets are some of the many actresses who have starred on this long-running series.



In common with most other Davaar stamp sets the illustrated souvenir sheet was printed and marketed by some very enterprising stamp entrepreneur. As local postage stamps they are of course completely bogus.

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