

Landlocked Countries: Armenia, Part 2

by Geir Sør-Reime

During the period when Armenia was part of the Soviet Union, the number of constituent republics had risen to 16 due to annexations during WWII. For the 50th anniversary of the October revolution, 15 stamps showing the flags and arms of the now 15 union republics were issued 1967, including one for the Armenian SSR.

The 30th anniversary of the Armenian SSR was celebrated on three 1950 stamps, one of which featured the picking of grapes. Armenia and Georgia both claim to be the oldest wine-producing areas of the world (but the 1951 30th anniversary of the Georgian SSR features tea picking).



Soviet 1960 Armenian SSR 40 years a-b (Sc. 2394)



Soviet 1980 Armenian SSR 60 years (Sc. 4679)



Soviet 1958 Yerevan a-c (Sc. 2128)



Soviet 1961 Armenian folk costume a-b (Sc. 2425)



Soviet 1967 Armenian SSR (Sc. 3343)



Soviet 1967 Armenian SSR (Sc. 3343)



Soviet 1970 Armenian SSR 50 years (Sc. 3750)



Soviet 1990 Yerevan a-b (Sc. 5862)

The 40th anniversary was marked with a single 1960 stamp showing the Government House in Yerevan, and the 50th anniversary was marked with a single 1970 stamp. For the 60th anniversary, a single stamp was issued in 1980.

In 1958, 15 stamps featuring views of the capital cities (of the then 15 union republics) including Armenia's capital Yerevan were issued. Also, in 1990 there was a series of 15 stamps showing buildings in the capitals of the union republics, including Armenia's Yerevan.

One of the 1960-61 stamps featuring provincial costumes included a



Soviet 1963 Armenian wrestling (Sc. 2771)



Soviet 1965 Abegjan (Sc. 3062)



Soviet 1983 Khachaturyan (Sc. 5144)

The Armenian composer Aram Khachaturyan was honored on a single stamp in 1983 on the 80th anniversary of his birth (he passed away in 1978). The centenary of his birth was commemorated on both an Armenian and a Russian



Soviet 1990 Sasunsky (Sc. 5892)

stamp showing Armenian costumes, and a 1963 set featuring regional sport included a stamp showing Armenian wrestling.

The Armenian writer Nazaryan was commemorated on a 1964 stamp, while writer Abegjan was commemo-



Soviet 1964 Nazaryan (Sc. 2858B9)

rated on a 1965 stamp. In 1975, the Armenian playwright Sundukyan was honored on a single stamp.



Soviet 1975 Sundukyan (Sc. 4393)



Russia 2003 Khachaturyan (Sc. 6765)



Armenia 2003 Khachaturyan (Sc. 672)

stamp in 2003. There was also a 2019 stamp celebrating him as a world-famous Armenian. The Armenian epic poet David Sasunsky was included in a 1990 set focusing on epic poems from the union republics.

The 2750th anniversary of Armenia's capital city Yerevan was celebrated on a pair of 1968 stamps (next page). Armenia issued a souvenir sheet for the 2800th anniversary of founding of Yerevan in 2018.



There was also a souvenir sheet from Artsakh for the anniversary.
Left, Soviet 1968 Yerevan 2750 years (Sc. 3524-25)

Below, Artsakh 2018 Yerevan 2800 years



Soviet 1990 Akhpat church (Sc. 5918)

In 1990, the St. Nshan's Church in Akhpat was included in a 1990 series featuring historical monuments in the union republics.



Yerevan University: top, Soviet 1970 (Sc. 3768); bottom, Armenia 2019

Armenian heritage buildings were featured on five 1978 stamps.



Soviet 1978 Armenian buildings a-b (Sc. 4696-4700)



Left, Armenia 1998 Spitak earthquake 10 years (Sc. 584); right, 2018 Spitak earthquake (Sc. B1511)



In 1988, Armenia was hit by an earthquake, the Spitak earthquake and three semi-postal stamps were issued for the relief fund. It is estimated that around 38,000 people died and many more were injured, and many buildings collapsed. Ten years after the earthquake, Armenia issued a memorial stamp in 1998, and in 2018 a stamp for 30th anniversary.

In 1990, stamps, including overprints on the 1988 Spitak stamps were issued for the Armenia '90 stamp exhibition in Yerevan.



Soviet 1990 Armenia 90 overprint on 1988 Earthquake issue Sc. B173-75)

A 1991 set of 15 stamps featured folk festivals of the 15 union republics. The Armenian stamp showed the Ascension Day festival.



1991 Armenia Ascension Day (Sc. 6031)

The last Soviet stamps were released in December 1991, and Armenia's first stamps as a sovereign state appeared in May 1992, featuring Mount Ar-



Armenia 1992 Mt. Ararat (Sc. 430a) 1st issue after independence

arat. The 25th anniversary of the first post-independence stamps was commemorated with a single 2017 stamp.



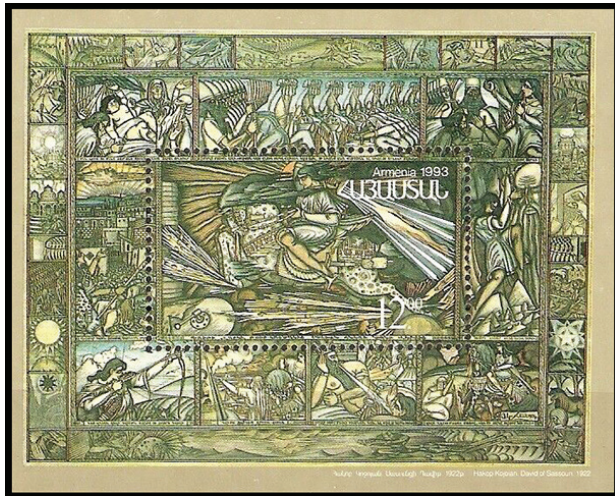
Armenia 2017 25 years stamps

Independence was celebrated with a set of six stamps, one of which featured the new national flag.



Armenia 1992-93 independence (Sc. 433, 437, 439)

In 1993 another set of four and a souvenir sheet showed Armenian cultural heritage, and there was also a set of five stamps showing landscapes of Armenia.



Armenia 1993 cultural history souvenir sheet (Sc. 451A)



Armenia 1993 landscapes (Sc. 452-56)

The last 1993 stamps publicized the Yerevan '93 international stamp exhibition. In 1994, this stamp was overprinted for the ARAFEX '94 and ARMENIA '94 stamp exhibitions and surcharged in the new Dram coinage.



Left, Armenia 1993 Yerevan '93 (Sc. 457) with tab;
Right, Armenia 1994 Yerevan '94 (Sc. 485)



Clockwise from top left: Armenia 2003 Dram currency 10 years, 20 years, 25 years

The first Armenian stamps were denominated in Soviet currency, but from 1994 onwards, Armenia introduced its own Dram coinage. One Dram was divided into 100 Luma. A stamp was issued 2003 on the 10th anniversary of the Dram coinage, and another in 2013 for the 20th anniversary. Even the 25th anniversary was celebrated in 2018, this time with a round stamp mimicking a coin.



Armenia 1994 archaeology (Sc. 464-65)

1994 started with two issues focusing on Armenia's rich past, with one series showing old religious objects, the other archaeological finds. The 75th anniversary of Armenia's first stamps was commemorated with a 1994 single stamp.



Left, 75th anniversary of Armenian postage stamps; right, 1994 religious objects (Sc. 459-63)



1995 continued the religious theme with two sets, each of five stamps and a souvenir sheet celebrating 1700 years (in 2001) of Christianity as state religion in Armenia.



Armenia 1995 1700 years Christianity 2 (Sc. 492)
Armenia 1995 1700 years Christianity 3 (Sc. 520)
Armenia 1995 Vazgen I (Sc. 493)



Right, Armenia 1995 Vazgen I (Sc. 493)

These stamps also marked the ARMENIA '95 stamp exhibition. There was also a single



stamp mourning Vazgen I, the Patriarch of the Armenian Orthodox Church.

In 2016 the 350th anniversary of the first Bible in Armenian was printed.

Armenia 2016 first printed Bible (in Armenian)



Armenia 1997 first printing press 225 years (Sc. 550)

225 years of printing in Armenia was commemorated on a 1997 stamp.

A 1995 stamp promoted the Hayastan All-Armenia Fund for the reconstruction of Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), the area of Azerbaijan largely in-

habited by Armenians, and which was seized by Armenia in 1991 and partly re-conquered by Azerbaijan in 2020. The 10th anniversary of the Karabakh (later called the Artsakh) movement, promoting the union of Armenia and Artsakh, was celebrated on 1998 stamps from both Armenia and Artsakh.



Armenia 1995 All-Armenia Fund (Sc. 494)



1998 Karabakh movement 10 years: left, Armenia (Sc. 572); right, Artsakh



The 25th anniversary of the Artsakh movement was commemorated with a 2013 stamp. A 2017 celebrated the 25th anniversary of the 'liberation' of Shushi in Artsakh.

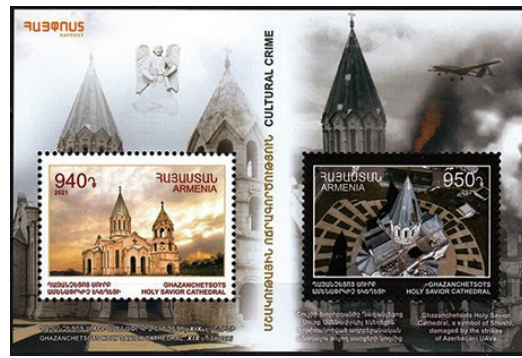


Armenia 2013 Artsakh movement 25 years



Above, Armenia 2017 Shushi liberation 25 years; below, Armenia 2014 Artsakh (with view of Shushi)

In 2020 the city was re-taken by the Azeris. The destruction by Azeri bombing of the Ghazanchetsots Holy Savior Cathedral of Shushi was remembered on a 2021 souvenir sheet with stamps depicting the Cathedral before and after the shelling. In 2022 a similar souvenir sheet focused on the Saint John Baptist Church in Shushi, heavily damaged by Azeri aerial attacks in 2020. Artsakh was also the theme of a 2014 stamp showing a scene of the mountainous region.



Armenia 2021 Ghazanchetsots cathedral



Armenia 2022 Baptist church Shushi

Series commemorating 1700 years of Christianity as state religion of Armenia were also issued in 1996, 1997 (two series), 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 (souvenir sheet only).



Top to bottom: Armenia 1700 years Christianity 1996 (Sc. 544-49); 1997 (Sc. 569); 1998 (Sc. 583)
Next page, 1999 (Sc. 601), 2001 (Sc. 612)



A series of postal cards remembering and honoring heroes of the fights in Artsakh/Karabakh during the early 1990s were issued from 2008 onwards.

36 Armenians that had contributed to the global 20th Century culture were honored on stamps issued in a booklet in 2000.



Armenia 2016 1990s hero (postal card)



Armenia 2000 booklet cover and one pane (Sc. 623)

A 2016 card commemorated the 25th anniversary of the American University of Armenia.

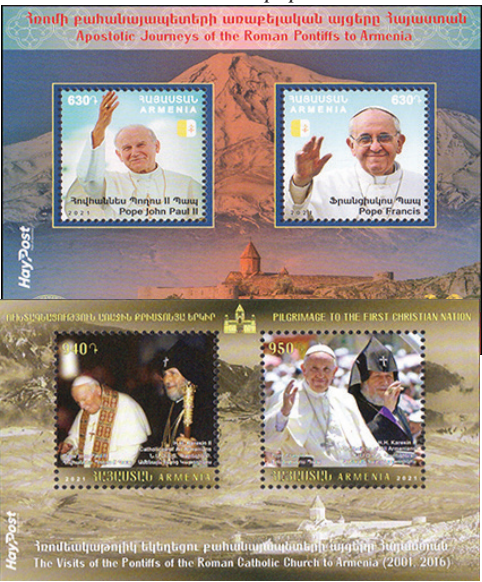


Armenia 2016 American University 25 years (postal card)

Pope Francis visited Armenia in 2016 and Armenia issued a single stamp and a souvenir sheet with four stamps to mark the visit. A 2021 two souvenir sheets featured visits to Armenia by former Pope John Paul II (in 2001) and Pope Francis (in 2016).



Armenia 2016 papal visit



Armenia 2021 papal visits