

Landlocked Countries: Andorra, Part 2

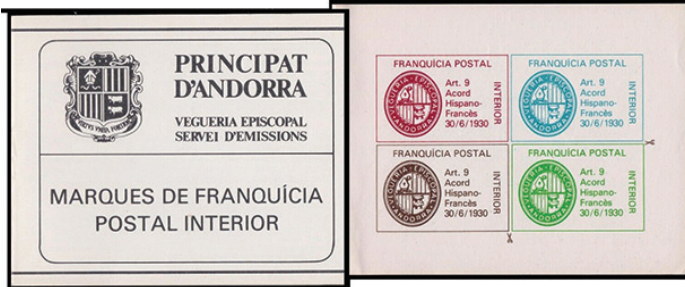
by Geir Sør-Reime

We covered Spanish Andorra in our November 2022 SNO. Here we complete the article with French Andorra. First, however, in the Spanish Andorra section there was this reference:

“Internal mail has been carried free of charge, but the Andorran office of the co-prince, the [Spanish] Bishop of Urgell has produced souvenir stamps that could be affixed to local letters but had no franking value.” Here we see some examples of those Episcopal stamps.



1983
Europa
1992
Olympics
1993



Booklet cover and stamps

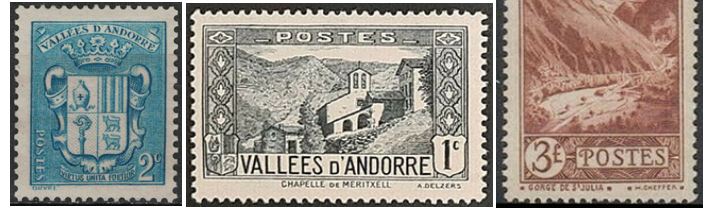
The French Post in Andorra issued its first stamps in June 1931, the French stamps overprinted “ANDORRE”.



1931 First Issue, Sc. 1, 16, 22

They were replaced by a pictorial series from 1932 onwards. From 1936 smaller stamps showing the national arms were issued for the lower denominations.

1932-43 Arms & Pictorials, left to right Sc. 24, 23, 60A



A completely new pictorial series was introduced from 1944 onwards (with a new armorial design for the low values), replaced by another pictorial series 1955-58.



1944 Pictorial, Old Andorra, Sc. 99

The introduction of the new Franc resulted in a new definitive series in 1961, with small stamps showing the national arms for the lower values, and pictorial designs for the rest, including the air



1955 Pictorials, left Les Escaldres Spa, Sc. 124; right, Gothic Cross, Sc. 135

post stamps.

The first stamps portraying a French co-prince were issued 1972, for the 5th anniversary of General De Gaulle's visit to Andorra. Co-prince, President Pompidou was commemorated on a 1975 stamp. There was a stamp for the visit of the French co-prince, President Mitterrand in 1987, showing the national arms of Andorra. Mitterrand was also commemorated on a 1997, featuring a portrait of him.



1961 Issue, Arms, Engolasters Lake, Sc. 143, 153



1972 Andorra Co-Prince De Gaulle, Sc. 218a

1975, Pompidou, Sc. 242
1997, Mitterrand, Sc. 476





Left to right, 1974 meeting of co-princes (Sc. 234; 1978 700th anniversary of treaty, Valira River Bridge, Preamble of 1978 Treaty

A 1974 stamp was issued for the meeting of the two co-princes in Cahors. The French Post also commemorated the 700th anniversary of the Parity Treaties with two stamps in 1978.

There was also a stamp for the meeting of the co-princes in 1994, and another for the 2015 meeting. A memorial stamp for President and Co-Prince Chirac was issued in 2020, and in 2022, a memorial stamp was issued for President and Co-Prince Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Co-Prince 1974-81.



Left to right, 2015 meeting of co-princes (Sc. 746; 2020 Chirac; 2022 d'Estaing

The 400th anniversary of the restoration of the House of the Valley (old parliament house) was commemorated with a 1980 stamp, and a 2012 souvenir sheet commemorated the 50th anniversary of a later restoration of the building.



House of the Valley restorations: Above, 1980 (Sc. 283)

Right, 2012, Sc. 700



1983 definitive (Sc. 318)

“Poste” on these stamps was changed to “La Poste”.

The 1993 Constitution was also commemorated by the French Post, with two 1994 stamps, and Andorra’s admission to the Council of Europe was the theme of a 1995



1995 Council of Europe (admission of Andorra) (Sc. 458)



1994 Constitution (Sc. 434-35)

1995 UN (membership of Andorra) (Sc. 456)

stamp. In 1995, two stamps were also issued for the 2nd anniversary of Andorra’s UN membership.

The 10th anniversary of the Constitution was celebrated with a 2003 stamp, and the 20th anniversary on a 2013 stamp. Andorra held the Presidency of the Council of Europe in 2012 and



Constitution anniversaries: left, 10th, Sc. 567; right, 20th, Sc. 714

the French Post issued a single stamp publicizing it. The 25th anniversary of Andorra’s membership of the Council of Europe was celebrated on a 2019 stamp, which was a joint issue by the French and Spanish Posts.



Above, 2012 Council of Europe (Andorran presidency); right, Sc. 709; 2019 Council of Europe (25th anniversary of admission)

With the introduction of Euro currency in 2002, new definitive stamps featuring the national arms were issued. A 2014



Left, 2002 Euro (Sc. 545); right, 2014 Euro coins on 2016 issue (Sc. 755)

pair of stamps depicted Andorran Euro coins.

Andorra’s embassy in Brussels was featured on a 2010 stamp issued for a stamp exhibition in Antwerp.

The French Post has also issued several series of postage due stamps, the first appeared in 1931 (page 6), with new designs being



2010 Brussels embassy Sc. 672, with label

introduced in 1931, 1938, 1943, 1964, and 1985. The two latter issues featured flowers, with each value showing a different species.



1931 postage due, J1 1938 postage due, J20 1943 postage due, J21

Left, 1964, J46, Centaury
Right, 1985, J58, Broom

Stamp booklets were issued by the French Post between 1987 and 2007. The first booklet was a large format book containing two 1.90 francs and six 2.20 francs stamps of the 1983 arms design. The booklets issued between 1988 and 1993 were small vending machine booklets containing stamps featuring the national arms (1988 booklet 10x2.20 francs, 1990 10x2.30 francs, 1991 10x2.50 francs, 1993 10x2.80 francs). Then between 1996 and 2003 the self-adhesive booklets featuring municipal arms (described above) were issued, and finally, in 2006 and 2007, self-adhesive booklets containing ten “Forever” stamps featuring the national arms were issued.



1987 booklet pane, Sc. 330a (with cover reduced)



1990 booklet pane, Sc. 386a



2007 booklet pane of 12, Sc. 623b (with cover reduced)

From 1996, the French Post released self-adhesive booklets with stamps showing the arms and location of the parishes of Andorra, with Carillo in 1996, Encamp in 1997, Ordino in 1998, Massana in 1999, La Vella in 2000, Sant Julia de Lòria in 2000, and Escaldes-Engordany in 2003 (in Euro currency)



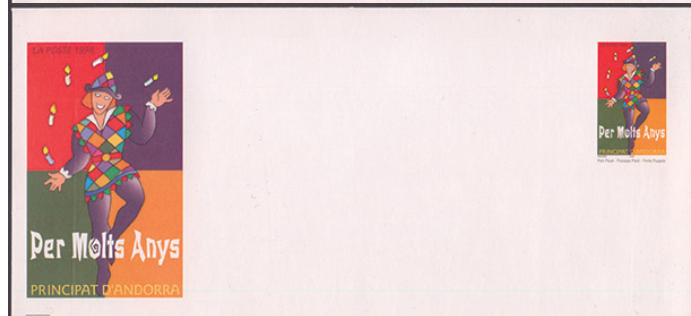
2003 booklet pane, Escaldes Engordany, Sc. 565a

The French Post has also issued one aerogram in 1985 with a stamp imprint showing an Airbus A310 plane.



1985 Aerogram

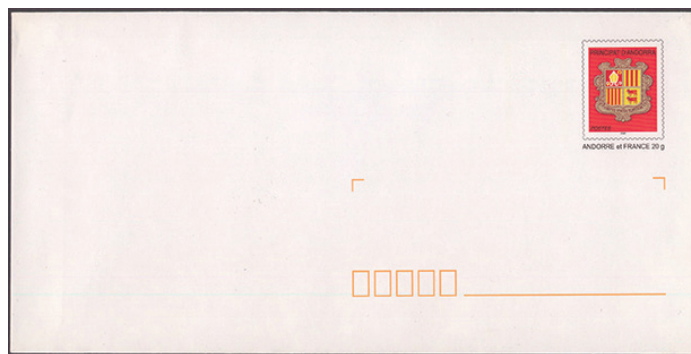
There have also been a series of pre-stamped envelopes, the first appearing in 1996 with the stamp imprint illustrating the Caldea Spa in Escaldes-Engordany. In 1997 and 1998, two stamps from the 1994 Ski resorts issue were used as imprints on two pre-stamped envelopes. In 1998, there was also a Happy Birthday issue. A traditional Andorran house was featured on a third 1998 issue. Between 2004 and 2008, several envelopes with the national arms as imprint were issued, and in 2007 there appeared a series of ten envelopes with different imprints showing scenery of Andorra



1998 PSE Ski resort
1998 PSE Happy Birthday
1998 PSE Traditional House



1996 PSE Caldea Spa
1997 PSE Ski resort



2004 PSE Arms