

Landlocked Countries: Ethiopia, Part 2

by Geir Sør-Reime

British forces took control in 1941, and independence was restored although with an oversight British military administration until full independence was restored in 1944. Ethiopian stamps with the portrait of Emperor Haile Selassie were issued from 1942 onwards.

In 1944 five stamps were issued for the birth centenary of Emperor Menelik II, and in 1947 three stamps celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Selassie dynasty, portraying the first Selassie king, Sahle Selassie (1795-1845).

Also in 1947, five stamps were issued for the second death anniversary of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Two stamps depicted Emperor Haile Selassie meeting with Roosevelt, and another showed a portrait of Emperor Haile Selassie.



1942 liberation Haile Selassie Sc. 247, 257



Left, 1944 birth centenary Menelik II Sc. 267; right, 1947 Selassie dynasty 150 years Sc. 283



1947 Haile Selassie and Roosevelt Sc. 297



Above left, 1947 definitive Sc. 286, above right, 1947-53 air post Sc. C27; left, 1947 Express, Sc. E2

The portrait of the emperor appeared also on the 14 ordinary, 8 air post and 2 express pictorial definitive stamps issued in 1947.

The eighth anniversary of the liberation from Italian occupation was celebrated 1949 with five stamps, all with the effigies of Empress Menen and Emperor Haile Selassie and national symbols.

The 20th anniversary of the coronation of Haile Selassie was celebrated on five 1950 stamps and in 1955 the 25th anniversary was celebrated with six stamps. The 30th anniversary of the coronation was commemorated with five 1960 stamps.



1949 liberation eight years Sc. 297



Left to right, 1950 Coronation, 20 years, Sc. 305; 1955 Coronation 25 years, Sc. 345; 1960 Coronation 30 years Sc. 360

In 1961 three stamps celebrated the golden wedding anniversary of the Empress and Emperor, and in 1962 there were seven stamps for the 32nd anniversary of his coronation, but depicting former kings of Ethiopia.



Left, 1961 Golden Wedding Sc. 375; right, 1962 Coronation 32 years, here King Bazem 7 B.C.-7 A.D., Madonna and Bethlehem

A 1964 set of five stamps pictured former Empresses of Ethiopia, and the 1962 set of former kings was followed up with a 1964 set of six.



1964 Empresses, Queen of Sheba, Sc. 415; right, 1964 Ethiopian rulers, Menelik II, Sc. 433



The 50th anniversary of the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie was celebrated with three 1966 stamps, and in 1967 his 75th birthday was celebrated with three stamps and a souvenir sheet. In 1968 the death centenary of Emperor Theodore was commemorated on three stamps. In 1970 the 40th anniversary of the Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie was again celebrated with three stamps.

Haile Selassie's 80th birthday was celebrated with five stamps in 1972. A definitive issue of 18 stamps, all with the effigy of Emperor Haile Selassie was issued in November 1973. The last issue with effigies of Haile Selassie was a 1974 set of four for the 20th anniversary of the Haile Selassie Foundation.



1968 Emperor Theodore death centenary, Sc. 499



Ethiopia-0703-1974 Haile Selassie Foundation

The 50th anniversary of Ethiopia's postal system was celebrated with five 1947 stamps, and in 1949 four stamps marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, also with an effigy of the emperor.



1951 Abbaye Bridge over the Blue Nile Sc. 308

An effigy of the emperor appeared on all stamps up to 1963 and on several other stamps till 1974. Stamps with his effigy include 1951 stamps for the opening of a bridge crossing the Blue Nile, the 55th anniversary of the Battle of Adwa where Ethiopian forces halted an Italian invasion attempt in 1896, 1952 sets for the 60th birthday of the emperor, for the 'reunion' of Eritrea and Ethiopia and a 1953 set for the first anniversary of this 'union'. The 10th Anniversary of the 'union' was celebrated on five 1962 stamps.

The battle of Adwa was again commemorated on the 75th anniversary in 1971 with four stamps, and on the centenary in 1996 with six stamps and a souvenir sheet.



1996 Centenary of Victory at Adwa Sc. 1417-22



1987 Addis Ababa 100 years, Sc. 1193-96

In 1956 there was a set for the 25th anniversary of the Constitution, and in 1957 for the 70th anniversary of the capital city Addis Ababa and a set featuring previous capital cities of the country. The 100th anniversary was celebrated in 1987 and the 125th anniversary of Addis Ababa was the theme of three 2013 stamps.



1947 postal service 50 years, Sc. 275



1951 Battle of Adwa 55 years, Sc. 319



1957 ancient capitals, Aksum, 500 B.C.-860 A.D., Sc. C46



1956 Constitution 25 years Sc. C42

1958 issues included stamps for an Accra conference of independent African states, and for the U.N. Economic Conference for Africa in Addis Ababa. The second conference of independent African states in Tunis was commemorated on a 1960 set. In 1963 three stamps were issued for a conference of African states in Addis Ababa.



Ethiopia-1779-82, 2013 Addis Ababa 125 years



1958 UN Economic Conference for Africa Sc. C63



1958 Conference of Independent African States Sc. C58

In 1961 the Africa Hall, the HQ of the Organization for African Unity in Addis Ababa was opened and a single stamp was issued for this event. In 1961 there were also three stamps commemorating the 20th anniversary of the retreat of the Italian occupation army.



1960 2nd conference independent African states, Sc. 357

1963 African heads of states conference, Sc. C74



1961 Africa Day, Sc. 365

The U.N. Security Council convened a meeting in Addis Ababa in 1972 and four definitive stamps with an appropriate overprint honored the meeting; later that year three special stamps were issued for the meeting.



1961 liberation 20 years Sc. 368



1972 UN Security Council Addis Ababa Sc. 637



1972 UN Security Council Addis Ababa Sc. 610

The 10th anniversary of the OAU, the Organization for African Unity, was commemorated with 5 stamps in 1973. The 25th anniversary was commemorated in 1988 and the 20th in 2013.



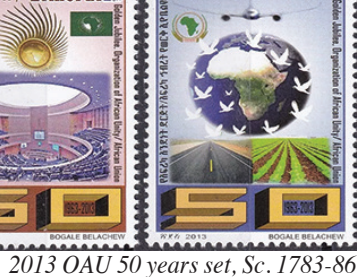
1970 OAU Sc. 566



1973 OAU 10 years Sc. 655



1988 OAU 25 years
Sc. 1208



2013 OAU 50 years set, Sc. 1783-86



1965 visit of Elizabeth II Sc. C86

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain was on a state visit to Ethiopia in 1965, and three stamps with the effigies of her and Haile Selassie were issued. In 1968 the Shah of Iran visited Ethiopia, and three stamps were issued for him.

It should also be mentioned that the Rastafarian religious and lifestyle movement established in Jamaica during the 1930s is named after Haile Selassie when he was still prince and regent (Ras) and bore the name Tafari. They believe that Haile Selassie is the black messiah who redeems black people who have been exiled from Africa through slavery. They also believed that the repatriation back to Ethiopia and Africa at large would occur whenever Haile Selassie decided so. Although he died in 1975, Rastas believe that he is still



Marley-Mongolia 1988
Sc. 2332

present in some form. Emperor Haile Selassie himself did not approve of Rasta ideas, but he never repudiated it in public.

The reggae musician Bob Marley became a leading figure and prophet of the movement during the 1970s. He is pictured on several stamps, often with Ethiopian colors.

