

# World of Stamps: Barcelona, Pt.2

by Geir Sør-Reime

(Continued from *Barcelona* page 7, January 2011)



1970 Spanish stamp for 12th European Swimming Championships, Barcelona (Sc. 1623)



Left, 1971 Spanish stamp for 1st World Hockey Cup, Barcelona (Sc. 1693); right 1977 Spanish stamp for 10th Judo World Championships, Barcelona (Sc. 2076).



The first sports stamp associated with Barcelona was a 1970 single for the 12th European Swimming Championships, followed by a 1971 single for the 1st Hockey World Championships, also held in Barcelona. In 1977, a single stamp was prepared for the 10th Judo World Championships to be held in Barcelona in September. The event was cancelled, but the stamp was eventually released in December 1977.

Then in 1987, Barcelona was nominated the host city for the 1992 Summer Olympic Games, and two stamps were issued to celebrate the decision. One of these depicted a detail of the Casa de Batlló, in fact a part of the chimney of this Antoni Gaudí building.



1987 Spanish stamp celebrating nomination of Barcelona as site for 1992 Summer Olympics (Sc. 2524), showing detail from Casa de Batlló



1989 stamp for Athletics World Cup, Barcelona (Sc. 2606)

In 1989, the World Athletics Championships were held in Barcelona, and a single stamp issued for it. During 1988-92, a number of stamps were issued to publicize the 1992 Olympics, and a number of other

countries also issued philatelic tributes to the Games, which really put Barcelona on the map.



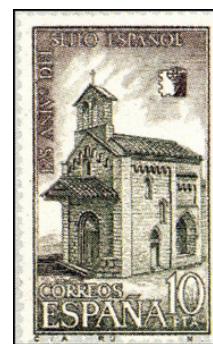
Left to right, 1992 Spanish semi-postal stamp for Barcelona 92 Olympics and showing Sagrada Família, Barcelona (Sc. B201); 1999 stamp for centenary of Barcelona Soccer Club (FC Barcelona) (Sc. 2985); 2000 Spanish stamp for centenary of Royal Barcelona Sports Club (soccer team) (Sc. 3034); 2003 stamp for 10th World Swimming Championships, Barcelona

In 1999, soccer, the heart of Barcelona, was put on the philatelic map, as a single stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of FC Barcelona, the main team of the city. In 2000, the centenary of its city rival, Espanyol (or Royal Spanish Barcelona Sports Club) was recognized.

A second swimming stamp was released in 2003, for the 10th World Swimming Championships in Barcelona.

It is claimed that Spain's postal service originally had its headquarters in the small Chapel of St. Mark, one of Barcelona's oldest churches and it was depicted on one of the stamps commemorating the 125th anniversary of Spanish postage-stamps

1975 Spanish stamp featuring Chapel of St. Mark, Barcelona (Sc. 1868), one of Barcelona's oldest churches, and the site of Spain's first postal service (the stamp was part of a series commemorating the 125th anniversary of Spanish postage-stamps)



Barcelona also has a philatelic heritage, being the location of Spain's first philatelic exhibition, in 1930. A special edition of the obligatory tax stamps for Barcelona was prepared for the exhibition, additionally inscribed C.F.y E.F. (Congreso Filatélico y Exposición Filatélica). These were only sold 1930 Barcelona Exposición obligatory tax (Michel #3



together with the entry ticket to the exhibition. In 1980, a stamp commemorated the 50th anniversary of this congress and exhibition.



1960 Spanish stamp for International Philatelic Congress, Barcelona, and showing Sagrada Familia Church, by Gaudi (Sc. 932)

An international philatelic congress and exhibition took place in Barcelona in 1960, and a set of six postage and four air post stamps were issued. The air post stamps were only sold together with the entry ticket. In 1977, the ESPAMAR stamp exhibition was held in Barcelona, and a stamp was issued for it.

An impressive church in Barcelona is Santa Maria del Mar, built 1329-83 in Gothic style. It was depicted on a 1983 stamp (not shown). Another tourist landmark is the recently refurbished St. Catharine market hall from 1848, depicted on a 2007 stamp.



1976 Spanish stamp featuring Barcelona Customs House (Sc. 1953)

In addition to Antoni Gaudi, another great Catalan architect was Enric Sagnier i Villavecchia (1858-1931), also an Art Noveau architect, who, among other buildings, designed the New Customs House (Nova Duaña) in Barcelona, depicted on a 1976

stamp, one of a series commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Custom Officers' Union.

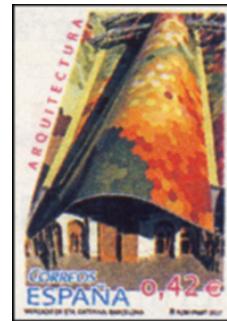
And another famous Art Noveau or Modernist building is the Catalan Palace of Music, opened in 1908 and designed by Lluis Domènech i Montaner (1850-1923). The Palace was depicted on a 2000 stamp. Both this, and



1980 Spanish stamp for 50th anniversary of first national stamp exhibition, Barcelona (Sc. 2216)



1977 Spanish stamp for ESPAMAR '77 stamp exhibition, Barcelona (Sc. 2065)



2007 Spanish stamp showing St. Catherine Market, Barcelona from 1848

his Hospital de Sant Pau (1901-30) are on the World Heritage list, and the Hospital was featured on a 2001 stamp.



Left, 2000 Spanish stamp for World Heritage sites, here Catalan Music Palace, Barcelona (Sc. 3057); right, 2001 Spanish stamp featuring Hospital de Sant Pau, Barcelona (World Heritage site) (Sc. 3130c)



1972 Spanish stamp for 125th anniversary of Gran Teatro del Liceo, Barcelona (Sc. 1741)

Other Barcelona buildings on Spanish stamps include the Liceu opera house, founded in 1847 on La Rambla, designed by Miquel Garriga i Roca. Much of it was destroyed by fire in 1994, but it was re-

opened after reconstruction in 1999. In 1972, a single stamp was issued to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the opera house, showing the building's facade.

A modern architectural monument of Barcelona depicted on a Spanish stamp is the Montjuic communications tower, designed by Santiago Calatrava 1989-92, built to transmit the 1992 Olympic Games. It was featured on a 2008 stamp.



2008 Spanish stamp showing Montjuic TV tower, Barcelona, designed by Santiago Calatrava (1989-92), Sc. 3568



1999 Spanish stamp for centenary of Barcelona Subway System (Sc. 2992)

The funicular railway up to the Montjuic mountain is part of Barcelona's subway rail system. The 75th anniversary of this system was commemorated on a 1999 stamp. The railway line

from Barcelona to Mataró celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1974, also commemorated with a stamp.



1974 Spanish stamp for 125th anniversary of railway Barcelona-Mataró (Sc. 1800)



1967 Spanish stamp, regional costume of Barcelona (Sc. 1399)

Other aspects of Barcelona depicted on stamps have been the female regional costume, included in the 1967 series of Spanish regional costumes. In 2001, the Giants' Parades of Barcelona were honoured with a stamp.

And if you stay in Barcelona, you will probably taste the wines of Penedés, the wine district located just south of the city. The demarcation (since 1985) of the area was commemorated with a 2003 stamp.



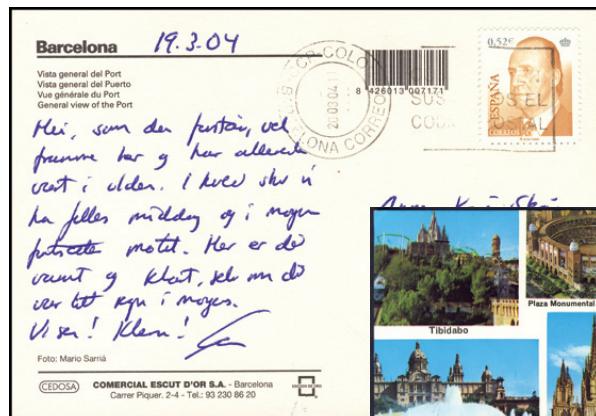
2007 Spanish stamp for centenary of Institute for Catalan Studies, Barcelona

As the capital of Catalonia, quite naturally, the Institute for Catalan Studies is located in Barcelona, and when the institute celebrated its centennial, a single stamp was released in 2007 to mark the occasion.

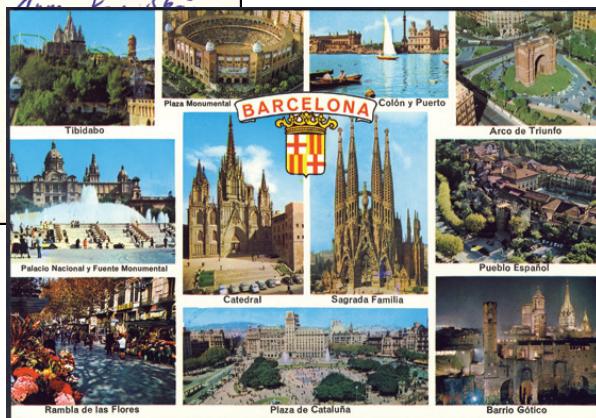
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2003 Spanish stamp for Penedés wine demarcation



Postcard from my first, 2004, visit to Barcelona



You are reminded that in addition to this two-part Barcelona article, we separated out the section on Antoni Gaudí for our Browsing the Web article in the January Stamp News Online.

# Browsing the Web: Antoni Gaudi

by John F. Dunn

Within Geir Sør-Reime's "World of Stamps: Barcelona" article there is a reference to "Post-Civil War Spanish stamps with Barcelona-relations are mainly centred round a few themes [including] the famous architect Antoni Gaudi (1852-1926)."

Because of the richness of images on the web supporting the stamps, I decided to devote this "Browsing the Web" section to this Spanish architect and some of his work.

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From Geir Sør-Reime we are told, "The first Spanish stamps to feature the architecture of Antoni Gaudi were three stamps issued for the 1960 International Philatelic Congress, featuring the Sagrada Familia Church, the building of which started in 1882, and is scheduled to be completed by 2026.



1992 Spanish semi-postal stamp for Barcelona 92 Olympics and showing Sagrada Familia Church, Barcelona (Sc. B201)

The church was also depicted on a semi-postal stamp issued 1992 for the OLYMPHILEX '92 stamp exhibition.

In 2002, a single stamp was issued for the 150th birth anniversary of Gaudi, and again, the Sagrada Familia Church was the stamp motif.

One of the 1987 stamps to celebrate Barcelona's nomination as the host for the 1992 Summer Olympics featured a detail from one of Gaudi's other famous works, the Casa de Batlló, an older building which he remodelled in 1905-07 together



Spain 1975. Antoni Gaudi. In the background is Mila House, his last great civil building, completed in 1910. (Sc. 1874)



2002 stamp for 150th birth centenary of Gaudi showing the Sagrada Familia church and Gaudi's signature (Sc. 3176)



1987 Spanish stamp celebrating nomination of Barcelona as site for 1992 Summer Olympics (Sc. 2524), showing detail from Casa de Batlló



1989 Spanish stamp for World Heritage sites in Barcelona: Güell park and palace, Mila house (Sc. 2616). If you focus properly, you can see glimpses of those works.



2008 Spanish stamp showing Casa Vicens, Barcelona, designed by Antoni Gaudí 1883-88

with Josep Maria Jujol (1879-1949). The house was also depicted on a 2006 stamp.

Another famous work by Gaudí is the Güell Palace and Park. The Palace was a town mansion of industrialist Eusebi Güell. It is on the World Heritage list, and was featured on a 1989 stamp, along with Casa Mila, another Gaudí building, built 1905-07 for the Milà couple, and also on the World Heritage list. A 2004 joint issue with China featured the entrance building of the Güell Park.

A 2008 stamp featured Casa Vicens, a town residence designed by Gaudí for industrialist Manuel Vicens 1883-89.

Browsing the web, we find a number of sites and images that expand upon the subjects on the stamps.

From <<http://heindorffhus.motivsamler.dk/worldheritage/frame-SpainAntoniGaudi.htm>>, we learn:

“Seven properties built by the architect Antoni Gaudí, (1852-1926) in or near Barcelona testify to Gaudí’s exceptional creative contribution to the development of architecture and building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Parque Guell, Palacio Buell, Casa Mila, Casa Vicens, Gaudí’s work on the Nativity facade and Crypt of the Sagrada Familia cathedral, Casa Batllo, and the Crypt in Colonia Guell represent an



2006 Spanish stamp showing Batllo house in Barcelona, designed by Antonio Gaudí



2004 Spanish stamp showing entrance to Güell Park, Barcelona, designed by Antonio Gaudí

eclectic, as well as a very personal, style which was given free reign in the design of gardens, sculpture and all decorative arts, as well as architecture.

### Mila House

“Mila House [see page 1, Sc. 1874], popularly called ‘La Pedrera’ [the Quarry] looks like a mass of undulating stone where architecture turns into sculpture and where the original roof and chimneys, abstract and anachronistic, are especially eye-catching.”

This was Gaudi's last great civil building.

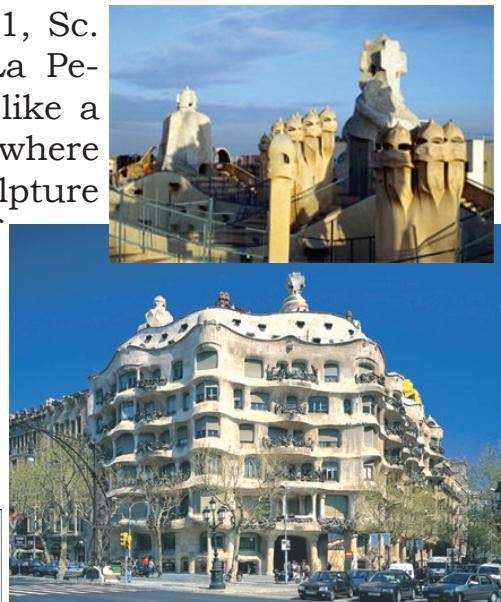
### Guell Park and Palace



U.N. Vienna World Heritage Sites issue, Sc. 280, depicting Guell Palace. See page 2 for joint issue with Congress showing entrance to Guell Park.

a constructive and ornamental function, mushroom-shaped and hyperbolic capitals, and chimneys with abstract decoration.”

“Gaudi's work in Barcelona was in-



Mila House from street level and rooftop

“Guell Palace, which took four years to build, was finished in 1890. It was commissioned by the Catalan philanthropist Eusebio Guell, Gaudi's main patron. In it, Gaudi uses parabolic arches with



Guell Park

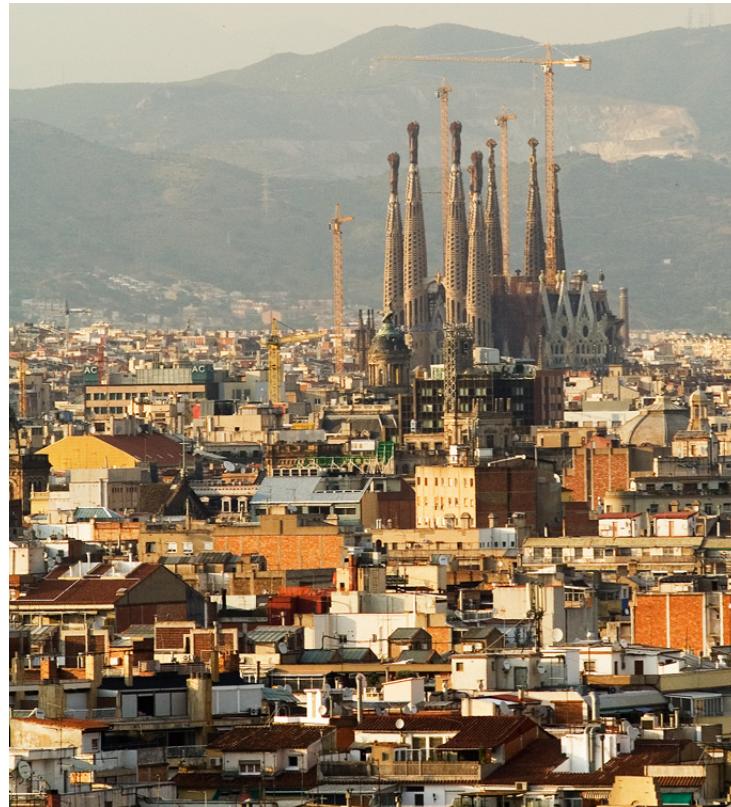


*Part of the Serpentine Bench, which snakes around Guell Park and a detail of the mosaic tile that decorates the bench.*



scribed on the World Heritage List...

### **La Sagrada Familia**



But Gaudi's most spectacular work may be "the huge Templo Expiatorio de la Sagrada Familia (Church of the Holy Family), which, although still unfinished at his death [and scheduled to be completed by 2026], is acknowledged as his masterpiece. Its lofty semicubist towers, with mosaic-covered finials, dominate the Barcelona skyline, and its imaginative forms, colors, and textures are unmatched in European architecture....

“Every part of the design of La Sagrada Familia is rich with Christian symbolism, as Gaudi intended the church to be the ‘last great sanctuary of Christendom.’ Its most striking aspect are its spindle-shaped towers. [When completed] a total of 18 tall towers are called for....There is no ‘recognizable style’ in the architecture, which is a mixture between Art Nouveau, Modernisme, and Gothic Architecture.

“The evangelists’ towers will be surmounted by sculptures of their traditional symbols: a bull (St. Luke), an angel (St. Matthew), an eagle (St. John), and a lion (St. Mark). The central tower of Jesus Christ is to be surmounted by a giant cross, and the tower’s total height will be one metre less than that of Montjuic [the Mountain in Barcelona], as Gaudi believed that his work should not surpass that of God. The lower towers are surmounted by bunches of grapes, representing spiritual fruit.”



*La Sagrada Familia today, still under construction*



*An internal view of the church, showing two of the windows, flanked by statuary and intricate carvings.*