

Welcome to Stamp News Online's  
"WORLD OF STAMPS" Feature,  
sponsored in part by

**F & J COLLECTIBLES**

***The Site for Stamp Collectors***



**More  
than 800 PAGES of  
British Commonwealth and  
Worldwide Mint and Used  
Price Lists—including  
many Topicals !**

**[www.jimjih.com](http://www.jimjih.com)**

**[Jimjih@verizon.net](mailto:Jimjih@verizon.net)**

**PO Box 3184**

**Henrico, VA 23228**



# World of Stamps: Rhodes

By Geir Sør-Reime



Picture side of postcard sent from Rhodes 2008

The Greek island of Rhodes has an area of 543.6 square miles and a current population of 115,500. It is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands and lies just off the Anatolian coast of Turkey.



Left to right: Greece 1947 Colossus of Rhodes (Sc. 515); Hungary 1980, Colossus of Rhodes, from Seven Wonders of the World set (Sc. 2635) 2011 Cinderella stamp featuring Colossus of Rhodes

In Antiquity, the island was famous for its Colossus of Rhodes, known as one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



Greece 1998 for 50th anniversary of incorporation of Dodecanese Islands and showing Colossus of Rhodes (Sc. 1896)



Qu'aiti State 1968 Wonders of the Antique and Modern World, here Statue of Liberty and Colossus of Rhodes (Michel Bl.23A)

The island today is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe.

Although the Colossus of Rhodes was destroyed during an earthquake 226 BC, imaginary images of it have appeared on several stamps, including Greek ones, including the 1947-48 and 1950 pictorial definitives, and one of the 1998 stamps celebrating the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the Dodecanese Islands with Greece. Both the 2006 definitives and the 2014 tourist booklets included stamps showing views of Rhodes.



2014 self-adhesive booklet Visit Rhodes pane



Greece 2006 definitive showing Castle of Rhodes (Sc. 2267)



In Antiquity, various tribes and countries at times controlled the island, eventually becoming Roman and later Byzantine, with shorter periods of Muslim occupations; it came under the Knights of St. John (later known as the Order of Malta) in 1309. From then until 1522, the island



*Order of Malta 1993 showing a 15 Century view of the fortified city of Rhodes, the HQ of the Order of St. John*

was the headquarters of the Order, which built a splendid Grand Master's Palace there. There were several attempts from Egyptian and Turkish forces to overrun the islands, but until 1522, the Order managed to withstand all attempts.

In 1522, after six months of siege, the Knights were overrun by the Turkish forces, and withdrew to Sicily, and from there, eventually settled on Malta.



*Left, 1960 labels issued by Order of Malta, depicting Rhodes Castle. Right, in 1975, these labels were overprinted and put into use as the Order's first postage due stamps (necessitated by the Postal Convention entered between the Order and Malta 1975)*

Naturally, several stamps issued by the Order of Malta (SMOM – Sovereign Military Order of Malta) have demonstrated their links with the island of Rhodes. Already before they started issuing proper stamps, a set of propaganda labels included stamps featuring the Castle of Rhodes and of the Order's Church there, as well as a depiction

of the House of Rhodes in Rome. In 1968, a set of four SMOM stamps showed their headquarters throughout



time, including one stamp for Rhodes. Similar stamps were issued 1999. The unsuccessful 1480 Siege of Rhodes was the theme of 1980 stamps, and 1972 and 1993 stamp showed the fortifications on Rhodes built by the Order.



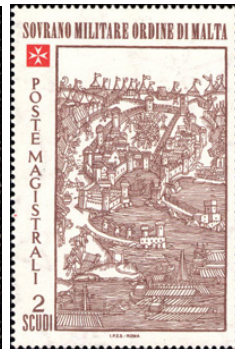
*Order of Malta 1972 showing Rhodes Castle, built by the Order*



*1999 the first three seats of the Order, here Rhodes*



*Order of Malta 1968 showing the seats of the Order, here Rhodes*



*Order of Malta 1980 for 500th anniversary of 1480 Turkish siege of Rhodes, showing beginning of siege with naval battle between the Order and the Turks; and the siege*

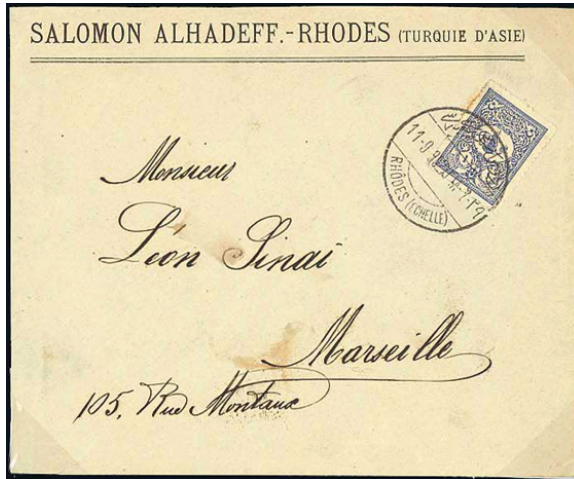


*Order of Malta 2001 showing the Grand Master's Palace, Rhodes and interior of the Order of Malta Museum, Rhodes*

Order of Malta 2007 for 700th anniversary of Papal Bull granting the island of Rhodes to the Order of St. John, showing the fortified city of Rhodes



The Grand Master's Palace was depicted on a 2001 stamp, and in 2007, two stamps marked the 700th anniversary of the Papal Bull granting the Order permission to take possession of Rhodes.



A letter with Turkish stamp cancelled on Rhodes before the Italian occupation 1912.

In May 1912, Italy managed to seize the island from the Ottomans, and after the First World War, it became the administrative centre of the Italian possessions in the Aegean.

After the Italian armistice in September 1943, the German garrison on Rhodes succeeded in gaining control over the island, which then remained under German occupation until the German forces surrendered to the British May 5, 1945. The island was then under British military administration until 1947, when Rhodes and the other former Italian islands of the Aegean were united with Greece.

An Austrian post-office was opened on Rhodes around 1864, and closed during World War 1. The Austrian post-offices

Letter sent from Austrian post-office Rhodes and franked with Austrian PO





*Austrian PO Turkish Empire cancelled 1895 at post-office in Rhodes (stamp Sc. 24 of 1890)*

in Turkey and other neighboring countries were operated by the Austrian Lloyd shipping company under contract.



*1912 stamp prepared by Island Committee for the Union with Greece and cancelled by favour at Austrian PO on Rhodes (stamp SG K3)*



*1912 Aegean Islands general issue, Italian stamp overprinted EGEO at beginning of Italian occupation (Sc. 1)*

After the Italian occupation May 1912, Italian stamps overprinted EGEO were issued September 10, 1912. In December 1912, a set of twelve stamps overprinted RODI (Rhodes in Italian) were issued (with similarly overprinted stamps also issued for the other Dodecanese islands occupied by Italy). Between 1912 and 1924, such overprinted stamps were used concurrently with unoverprinted Italian stamps throughout the Dodecanese.

In 1924, the occupation ended and the Dodecanese islands were incorporated into Italy. Then, stamps inscribed RODI were issued for use throughout the Dodecanese. The 20th anniversary of the Italian occupation was celebrated with a ten-value set inscribed RODI.



*Left to right: 1912-34 "Rodi" overprint on Italian stamp (Sc. 1); 1912-34 "Rodi" overprint on Italian stamps (Sc. 2); 1916 provisional (Sc. 14); 1922 overprint (Sc. 10); 1924 overprint (Sc. 11)*



1929 definitive  
Medieval Galley  
(Sc. 16)



1929 definitive Cru-  
sader (Sc. 19)



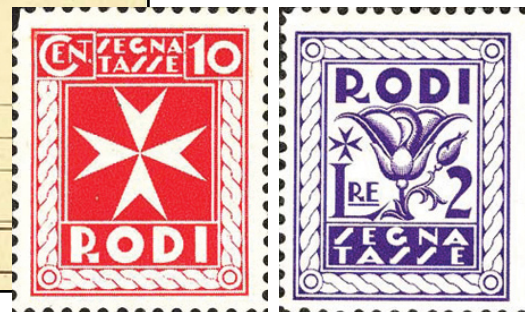
1929 definitive  
Crusader's Tomb  
(Sc. 20)



1934 parcel stamps  
pair (Sc. O11)



1936 postal card



1934 postage due stamps (Sc. J2, J9)

In 1930, commemorative stamps for the Italian hero Ferrucci were issued, being Italian stamps overprinted with the name of each individual island, including Rhodes.



1930 Ferrucci issues  
overprinted (Sc. 24, 28)



Also the 1932 Garibaldi issue was issued in a similar manner.



1935 Holy Year (Sc. 80);

In 1935, stamps marking the Holy Year were also issued with the RODI inscription.

But also from 1930, several Italian commemorative stamps were overprinted 'ISOLE ITALIANE DELL'EGEO' (Italian Islands in the Aegean). A few stamps were also issued with a similar inscription, for use throughout the Dodecanese and concurrently with the stamps inscribed RODI.



1933 Aegean Islands general issue with "Isole Italiane" inscription, here showing a Zeppelin over Rhodes (Sc. C24)



1932 Garibaldi issues overprinted (Sc. 45, 53)



1932 20th anniversary of Italian occupation, 10th anniversary of fascist rule in Italy (Sc. 68), aerial view of Rhodes; and map of Rhodes (Sc. 73)



1940 Aegean Islands general issue showing Dante's house on Rhodes (Sc. 84); and arms of Rhodes (Sc. 63)



After the German military take-over of Rhodes, it continued to be administered by Italian civil authorities and several stamps (overprints) were issued under their authority.

Towards the end of the war, Rhodes and other Aegean Is-



Left to right: 1940 Aegean Islands general issue showing arms of Rhodes (Sc. 63); 1943 semi-postal, general relief (Sc. B8); 1943 express overprint (Sc. E4)



1944 semi-postal for war victims (Sc. B11)



1943 postal card issued under German military rule/Italian civil adminis-



1945 semi-postal for the Red Cross (Sc. B18)



1944 German troops concessionary stamp for Christmas mail, overprinted on Rhodes stamp (Michel 12)



1944 Local Rhodes INSELPOST overprint (Michel 8)



Above, 1944 field post card with Michel 9 and 12; right, 28C: 1944 field post letter with Michel 12



After the German surrender, British stamps overprinted M.E.F. were put in use.

Right, 1942 M.E.F. postage dues on Rhodes 1947 cover (Sc. J1-J5); below, 1946 letter franked with M.E.F. stamp (Sc. 10)



1942-43 M.E.F. stamp (Sc. 4)

On March 31, 1947, Greece took over the islands, and initially, Greek stamps overprinted SDD, signifying Military Administration of the Dodecanese Islands, were issued. These stamps were withdrawn November 20, 1947 and replaced with ordinary Greek stamps. The islands were officially integrated into Greece on March 7, 1948.



1947 Greek military administration Dodecanese Islands (Sc. N242)



1947 Greek military administration Dodecanese Islands (Sc. N245)

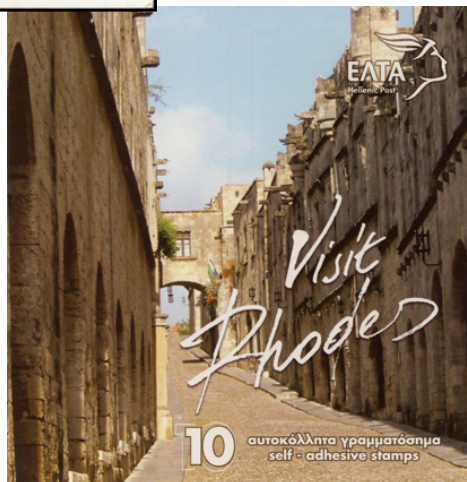


1947 Greek military administration Dodecanese Islands Sc. N248



Front of postcard sent from Rhodes 2008, picture side, page 1

2014 self-adhesive "Visit Rhodes" booklet



**If you enjoyed this article, and are not already a subscriber, for \$12 a year you can enjoy 60+ pages a month. To subscribe, email [subs@stampnewsnow.com](mailto:subs@stampnewsnow.com)**