

# the prancing horse

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**FERRARI PHILATELY IN PH #132** was an introduction to collecting Ferrari philatelic items, ranging from single stamps to covers (envelopes). In the Ferrari world, there are many rewarding subtopics to collect, including drivers and GT, sports and prototype and Formula 1 cars, which is the focus of this article.

Stamps are produced in many forms, such as single stamps, strips of three or more, souvenir sheets, plate blocks (entire sheets) and a series. A souvenir sheet can be described as a sheet of one or more stamps specifically printed by a government for a specific event or purpose with extra-wide margins and inscriptions describing the purpose of the issue. Most of the time, the stamps are integrated into the entire design or graphic of the souvenir sheet, which tend to be more recent issues.

Just like Ferrari automobiles and factory literature, stamps carry identifying numbers for their type. There are two authorities that track all the different types and variations of most stamps, Scott and Krause-Minkus. Typically a stamp would be identified with both a Scott and Krause-Minkus (Minkus) number, but the Scott number is much more widely used and is most often quoted when describing a stamp. There are other cataloging companies such as Michel from Germany, Stanley Gibbons from Great Britain and Yvert & Tellier from France. Scott, an American company, is the largest and most widely used reference system. However, the only problem with the Scott number is that most of what is available are newer stamps, and these numbers are assigned only once a year. Therefore, many described within this article don't have numbers yet associated with them. Where the Scott numbers are known, they are noted after the description of the item.

As discussed in the previous article, all Ferrari stamps and materials have been produced only by companies outside the United States, and, in many cases, from exotic locations such as Kirgistan, Chad, Ajman, Tanzania, Lesotho, Mongolia, Cambodia, Somalia and Eritrea. While you might not consider these countries garden spots, they are prolific producers of stamps destined for collectibility. While Eritrea is, today, an independent and recognized nation, it was colonized by Italy from 1880-1941. With an estimated 75 percent of the population dependent on food aid and most roads unpaved, one might ask what purpose does this little South African country have in publishing stamps featuring Ferraris? The answer is simple – revenue generation.

Other collection-worthy postal items besides stamps are covers. Covers were produced to celebrate the first day release of a stamp and commonly will feature cover art to match the stamp. There are many races that feature special covers and postmarks and autographs.

So how do you find these historic and highly collectible gems? First, refine your search. Is there a specific car, race circuit or driver you like? A country or type of stamp? If you don't set some parameters, it can get overwhelming in a hurry! You can locate stamps by

PAUL GILPATRICK writes that stamp collecting is one of the most popular hobbies in the world, though chasing automotive-related or Ferrari topical issues requires some diligent research.

# Ferrari Philately

## Formula 1 in Stamps

Ferrari's recent championships have been reason to celebrate, providing many countries the motivation to produce commemorative single stamps and sets. Many countries, including the Republic of San Marino produced two single stamps and a souvenir sheet to celebrate Ferrari's Campione Del Mondo in 2000. This beautiful sheet depicts the enormous Scuderia Ferrari shield flag unfurled among the masses in Italy. The two stamps in this sheet feature Michael Schumacher and are also among the first stamps to denote the price in euros as well as lira.



ACTUAL SIZE

searching the Internet, visiting local "stamps for collectors" shops or contacting other stamp dealers through the mail. Don't expect to find all the stamps at any one time. It requires diligent sleuthing and the development of credible sources. Initiating a relationship with a stamp dealer who knows what you look for is also helpful. Stamp collecting is fun, rewarding and educational.

Most of the stamps depicted in this article are brand new, mint stamps, but you can also collect used or cancelled stamps that can also tell a very interesting story. Watch for used or cancelled stamps showing Ferrari history as they are tougher to find and very collectible. There are wonderful cancellations running around on used envelopes from Modena, Maranello and the factory and can be real treasures.

So, get out there and support your local small republic by buying and collecting these wonderful pieces of art. And just think, if you ever run short of postage to mail the mortgage... well, you can guess the punch line.



San Marino produced a particularly interesting issue in 1996 (Scott 1368). This stamp looks like the front page of the Italian newspaper, *La Gazzetta dello Sport*. It's a little deceiving in that the headlines scream "Campioni del mondo!" and "Vai Ferrari," with an image of an F310 on the bottom. This is a 1996 issue, and the headlines are actually describing the images of Italian cyclist Fausto Coppi and an Italian rugby star!

That aside, the stamp is nifty.





Most F1 races also celebrate by preparing either fresh stamps, FDCs (first day covers), unique postmarks or prestige folders. For Imola 2000, Poste Italiane again produced a prestige folder that includes four stamps denoting the 100 year anniversary of Enzo Ferrari's birth. These Italian stamps were originally released on October 26, 1998, but, in this folder, two of the stamps are mounted on separate postal covers. These two stamps – 1952 F1 (Scott 2265b) and 1998 F300 F1 car (Scott 2265d) – were also canceled with an official San Marino postmark from 8/4/2000 with the F2000 F1 car in the middle. The postmark also includes the words Prove Cronometrate (essentially qualifying day). The other two stamps – 1931 Bobbio-Passo del Penice (Scott 2265a) and 1963 250 GTO (Scott 2265c) – are separately presented in the folder. The Poste Italiane presentation is wonderful, and, while Imola was not a victory for Ferrari, this folder is well worth seeking out.



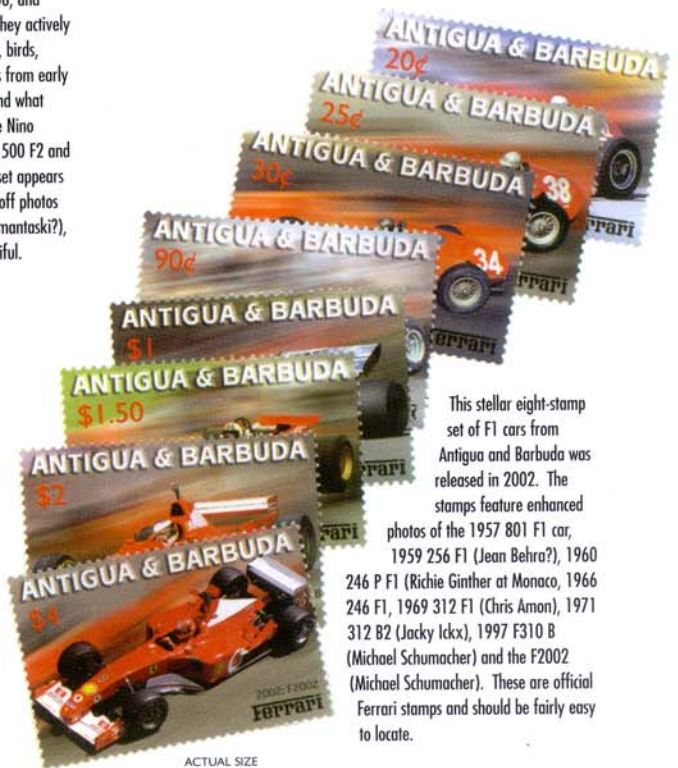
APPROX 1/3 OF ACTUAL SIZE

Another obscure but active stamp producing country, the People's Republic of Benin, offers a new release. France annexed Benin, originally a native kingdom on the West Coast of Africa, in 1894. It was then proclaimed Dahomey in 1958, and remained so until its name finally changed to the People's Republic of Benin. Like many of the African colonies, they actively produce stamps aimed at the popularity of stamp collecting, depicting every "topical" subject from Princess Diana, birds, trains and ultimately Ferrari. This beautiful souvenir sheet includes six franc-denominated stamps of photographs from early F1 races. The cars include Phil Hill in a Dino 156 F1, Lancia D50, Dino 246 F1, 375 F1, Surtees in the 158 F1, and what

appears to be Nino Farina in the 500 F2 and a 625. This set appears to be ripped-off photos (perhaps Klemantaski?), but it's beautiful.



APPROX 1/2 OF ACTUAL SIZE



This stellar eight-stamp set of F1 cars from Antigua and Barbuda was released in 2002. The stamps feature enhanced photos of the 1957 801 F1 car, 1959 256 F1 (Jean Behra?), 1960 246 P F1 (Richie Ginther at Monaco), 1966 246 F1, 1969 312 F1 (Chris Amon), 1971 312 B2 (Jacky Ickx), 1997 F310 B (Michael Schumacher) and the F2002 (Michael Schumacher). These are official Ferrari stamps and should be fairly easy to locate.

ACTUAL SIZE

APPROX. 1/2 ACTUAL SIZE



Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique banded together in 1996 to create a lovely six stamp souvenir sheet showing the ten year evolution of Ferrari F1 cars starting in 1986 with the F1 86 (Stefan Johansson), 640 (Nigel Mansell) (misidentified as an F1 89), F92A (Jean Alesi), F93A (Gerhard Berger), 412 T1 (Gerhard Berger) and completing the ten year journey in 1996 with the F310 (Michael Schumacher). All of this is set on a background shot of the F310.

APPROX. 3/4 ACTUAL SIZE



The Republic of Chad produced sheets in 1996 featuring winning races for the Scuderia Ferrari at Monza and Spa that year. These colorful sheets each have one stamp (2,000 francs) with Schumacher in the F310 F1 car. The Monza stamp also has images of Schumacher on the stand with Alesi in second and Hakkinen in third. This third and final victory of 1996 culminated at tifosi central at Monza and proved Ferrari was back as a force in F1. This was an emotional win for the entire team, and I vividly remember Michael leaping up in the air to the roar of the lathered up crowd. Spa was the second win for the year for the team, and it was a phenomenal race for Michael, sparring with Villeneuve throughout the race with Jacques eventually giving up his position. Spa is Michael's self-proclaimed favorite track, and it was an amazing display. The stamp features an image of Michael with the runner Michael Johnson who visited the race and traded a pair of his infamous gold running shoes for one of Schumacher's helmets.



Jacky Ickx scored his first victory for Ferrari at the 1968 French Grand Prix held at Rouen Les Essarts in the rain, and he dominated all other competitors. The 312 F1 Ferrari is depicted on this stamp with Ickx driving. The Democratic Republic of Malagasy, another French island off the coast of Southeastern Africa, released the stamp in 1993 even though it is dated 1990. This stamp was produced in both perforate and non-perforate (no perforations) forms.

ACTUAL SIZE

ACTUAL SIZE



Jamaica recently released six stamps with a combination of sports/prototype and F1 cars starting with the 1947 125 S, 1950 375 F1 (Alberto Ascari), 1965 Dino 166 P, 1966 312 F1, 1971 312 P and 1990 641 (Alain Prost). These are all blurred photographs and are very handsome.

APPROX. 3/4 ACTUAL SIZE





Monaco produced a sheet in 2002 celebrating the 70th running of the Rallye Monte-Carlo, the 3rd Monaco Grand Prix Historique and the 60th Grand Prix of Monte Carlo. This two stamp set features Michael Schumacher in a current Ferrari F1 car on the bottom of one stamp with a car depicting the 3rd Monaco Grand Prix Historique on the top and a second stamp with a current rally car on the bottom and a historic rally car on top.



APPROX. 3/4 ACTUAL SIZE



This item from Monaco is a first day cover from April 28, 1967, when 15 stamps were issued featuring previous winners of the Monaco Grand Prix. The Ferrari depicted on the 18 cent stamp was that of Maurice Trintignant in the 625 F2 car.

These two covers are limited edition items celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Italian Air Force and the centenary of Enzo Ferrari's birth. These bear a special Belgium postmark dated March 3, 1998 and are autographed by John Surtees and Mario Andretti. They were produced to raise funds for the F1 Drivers' Injury Fund and the Royal Air Force Association.

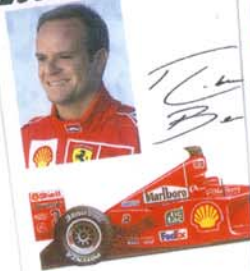


APPROX. 1/2 ACTUAL SIZE

**John Surtees** MBE  
 Ferrari 156, 158, 1512 (1963-65)  
 6 GP Wins/F1 Champion 1964  
 Motorcycle 500cc Champion 1956-58

Italian Air Staff  
 Rome, Italy

**Formula 1**  
**2000 World Championship**



**Formula 1**  
**2000 World Championship**



APPROX. 1/2 ACTUAL SIZE

Finally, two covers from Kazakhstan depict Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello with stamps and facsimile driver autographs.