

## Booklet series "History and background stories of unusual stamps"



The series is a private project. The booklets are produced without the financial assistance of a publisher. Each booklet is written in English and designed by the author Wolfgang Baldus of Munich/Germany. The booklets are printed in high quality and full color and are 148 x 210 mm in size. The number of pages varies. The price for each copy is 25 Euros or US\$35 postpaid worldwide. The booklets are available from the author against cash or paypal prepayment in US\$ or Euro currency.

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The series is to be continued. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for considering my project. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

## Booklet series "History and background stories of unusual stamps"

Since the first stamps were introduced to prepay the postage of letters more than 150 years ago, small-sized denominated labels were issued by private mail delivery agencies and governmental postal authorities all over the world to indicate their monopoly of a mail transportation service. However, the governments of independent nations, local authorities, and even individuals also issued postage stamps to represent their power and sovereignty over a territory. The history of regular postage stamps, that is, stamps that were issued by legitimate postal authorities, is well documented and easily available for interested collectors. To obtain information about what is often called "back-of-the-book" stamps is more difficult. This group of postage stamps includes items that are not accepted by many stamp collectors, or are difficult to classify. Among them are local and fantasy stamps, stamps of phantom states, and stamps of dubious origin of which only little is known. A number of them have only been mentioned a few times in philatelic literature some decades ago.



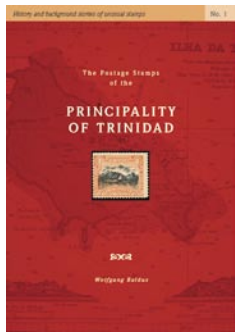
However, many of these stamps do not deserve to be forgotten. Sometimes their history is far more interesting than the history of the majority of regular postage stamps. It tells of political uprisings and revolts, the dreams of self-appointed rulers and the clever swindlers who issued postage stamps to achieve their individual aims. The history of such stamps is often curious, sometimes amusing and sometimes tragic, but in every case there is a story behind an issue that makes it unique.

Therefore, this booklet series deals with stamps that have no significant importance in the philatelic history of the world but are little gems for the friends of unusual stamps who enjoy reading about the byways of philately.

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BOOKLET SERIES "HISTORY AND BACKGROUND STORIES OF UNUSUAL STAMPS"

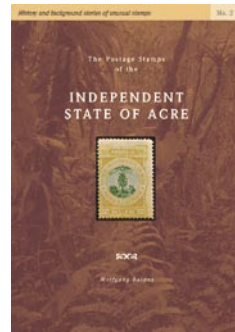
**No.1 (October 2003)**



**Booklet No.1** tells the story of the stamps of the "**Principality of Trinidad**". In 1894, "Prince James the First" built this kingdom on a small remote island off the Brazilian coast but never saw his empire with his own eyes. (36 pages).

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**Silver Chicagopex 2004**  
**Silver-Bronze APS 2004**  
**Silver-Bronze C7NPLE 2005**  
**Silver-Bronze NZ NPLE 2007**

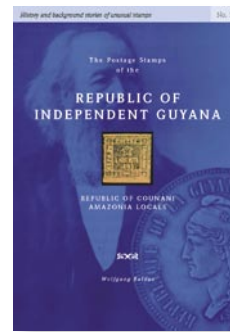
**No.2 (March 2004)**



**Booklet No.2** describes the mysterious postage stamps of the "**Independent State of Acre**" and tells the story about the self-appointed "Emperor of the Amazon" who, in 1900, included stamps in the scheme of his empire. (32 pages).

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**Silver Chicagopex 2004**  
**Silver-Bronze APS 2004**  
**Silver-Bronze C7NPLE 2005**  
**Silver-Bronze NZ NPLE 2007**

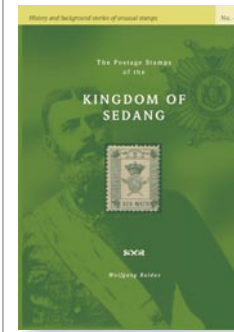
**No.3 (October 2004)**



**Booklet No.3** deals with the **Republic of Independent Guyana**", also known as "**Free State of Couanani**". From 1887 to 1908, five issues of postage stamps were released by two visionaries who called themselves "Presidents of Couanani". (68 pages).

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**Silver Chicagopex 2005**  
**Silver C7NPLE 2005**  
**Silver-Bronze NZ NPLE 2007**

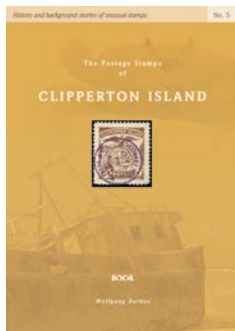
**No.4 (June 2005)**



**Booklet No.4** tells the story of David Mayréna alias Marie I<sup>st</sup>, King of "**Sedang**". He was a soldier of fortune who had his kingdom in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. In 1888/1889, postage stamps were printed for his empire (56 pages).

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**Silver Chicagopex 2005**  
**Silver C7NPLE 2005**  
**Silver-Bronze NZ NPLE 2007**

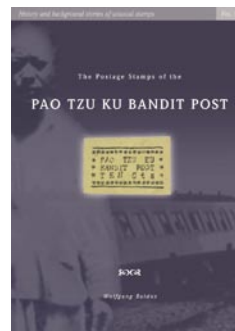
**No.5 (July 2006)**



**Booklet No. 5** introduces the stamps and history of "**Clipperton Island**", an isolated and uninhabited atoll situated 1000 kilometers off the Mexican coast in the East Pacific Ocean. In 1895, a set of postage stamps was released for this desert island (68 pages).

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**Vermeil Chicagopex 2006**  
**Gold GPS 2006**  
**Silver-Bronze NZ NPLE 2007**  
**Vermeil APS 2008**

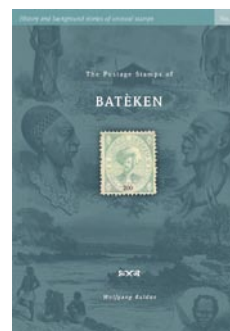
**No.6 (October 2007)**



**Booklet No. 6** describes a spectacular train robbery in China in 1923. Hostages were held captive in the bandit's stronghold on the Pao Tzu Ku mountain for four weeks. A "bandit messenger service" using special stamps maintained contact. (64 pages).

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**Vermeil APS 2008**  
**Vermeil NAPEX 2009**

**No.7 (October 2009)**



**Booklet No. 7** deals with the stamps of the "state" of **Batèken** in Central Africa that were produced in Portugal in 1896. A renowned philatelist and a well-known stamp dealer were involved in the affair. (56 pages).

>>> **The series is to be continued ...**