

Wide-ranging New Issues From Portugal

Portugal has been active, with new issue subjects that range from crystallography to extreme sports.

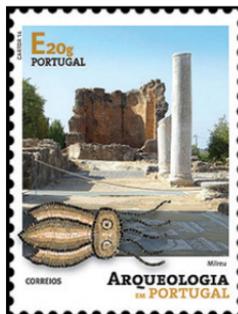


The United Nations has declared 2014 to be the International Year of Crystallography. Historically, the first references on Crystallography date back to antiquity, when Aristotle said ice was crystal (krystallos in Greek). By the late 18th century, crystallography was understood as the science that studied the crystalline field. In this context, in the last hundred years 45 scientists have won Nobel Prizes for their work related to crystallography. Thus, it is intended that the two stamps, issued on July 21 (one shown), demonstrate the application of crystallography in fundamental science.



ties—including those shown here—relative to the daredevil events that are part of today's extreme sports spectrum.

In a 5-stamp joint issue with Morocco (one shown), issued on July 21, Portugal takes us to the Algarve and Alentejo region, telling us “there



is much more to discover beyond the heat, sun and beach.” This stamp depicts the Castle of Silves, about which we are told, “Popular Portuguese and Moroccan traditions have one very interesting thing in common...the ‘stone memory’ of ancient buildings of unknown or unclear origins.”

And in the same set, “from Arraiolos, further to the south, come the rugs that go way back in time and which origin is difficult to pinpoint. The oriental influence is also present in these items, both in the composition and in the choice of the decorative elements - animals, flowers, flower vases – executed in polychrome woollen thread with the typical Arraiolos stitches.”



Finally, on our front cover we picture one of two stamps for commemorating “The Embassy Of King Manuel I To The Pope Leo X- 500 Years, remembering the period when “Portugal was a small but glorious reign” when “valorous navigators...raised the monarch’s ambition to be recognized as the greatest king in Christendom.”

The stamps of Portugal, as well as the issues of 20 other postal administrations at face value may be accessed at the World Online Philatelic Agency, <http://www.wopa-stamps.com/>.

Information also can be found at our Stamp News Now website page, <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/WOPA-NewIssues.html>.