



UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 2 February 2004

International Bureau Circular

30

Benin – Illegal postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **BENIN** asks me to inform you of the following:

"The postal administration of Benin has been informed of the issue and sale of a considerable number of illegal postage stamps bearing the name of the "Republic of Benin" or "Benin". These products are of an offensive nature and are distributed on the philatelic market by unauthorized private companies and dealers. This amounts to a serious attack on the reputation and moral integrity of the Republic of Benin, as well as being a flagrant violation of its national legislation on the production of postage stamps and of article 6 of the Universal Postal Convention.

"These postage stamps appear on numerous websites and in publications promoting philately in general. The deceitful advertisements for these stamps even affirm that: *"The origin of these stamps may be questionable and they may be listed as illegals. We therefore suggest that you buy them only because you like them. We offer them because they are on the market."* These words inscribed on the stamps by these authors indicate their illegal nature.

"Moreover, these companies, as forgery specialists, even use the logos of various organizations which would be entitled to take legal action for abuse of their intellectual property.

"The proliferation of illegal stamps has reached uncontrollable levels and several countries, particularly in Africa, continue to be afflicted by this phenomenon even though they have denounced it.

"In this connection, the postal administration of Benin is incensed by and utterly condemns the existence of such a network. It therefore asks you to invite all Universal Postal Union member countries and partners to do everything possible to identify, locate and denounce the perpetrators of this economic and moral crime.

"Furthermore, it once again appeals to all parties to redouble their efforts and vigilance regarding illegal stamps that may be produced, disseminated and sold on their territory. To eradicate this scourge, it firmly counts on the initiatives of the Universal Postal Union, the Pan African Postal Union and the World Association for the Development of Philately.

"In conclusion, the postal administration of Benin wishes to take this opportunity to provide all UPU member countries with the address of its philatelic bureau, the only body authorized to contact philatelists worldwide:

Bureau philatélique du Bénin  
Attention: Mr. TEOU O. Joseph  
BP 5959 – DSPF/OPT COTONOU  
BENIN  
E-mail: jostheou@yahoo.fr

"In addition, the postal administration of Benin is also prepared to contact its diplomatic missions with a view to more rigorous monitoring at philatelic exhibitions, and reserves the right to increase cooperation with Interpol in this fight against illegal issues.

"The protection of the postage stamps issued in 2003 in compliance with WNS standards took effect in our country in November 2003."

/ A list of the illegal postage stamps identified to date is annexed.

Yours faithfully,

K J S McKEOWN  
Director of Markets

**Illegal postage stamp issues produced in the name of the Republic of Benin  
(to facilitate their identification, these stamps have been classified by theme)  
(for illegal postage stamps found with mention of the years 2002 and 2003)**

**Fairy tales, cartoons**

\* One set of four individual postage stamps, each depicting a scene from the cartoon "Winnie the Pooh". Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

\* One set of three individual postage stamps, each depicting a scene from a different tale, "Puss in Boots", "A Thousand and One Nights" and "Mowgli". Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

\* One set of fifteen miniature sheets (eleven vertical and four horizontal), each depicting a scene from a popular tale in the background, namely: The Owl and the Pussycat, Pinocchio, Little Red Riding Hood and The Ugly Duckling. Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting a different scene from the same tale, and each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet depicts various "Walt Disney" characters and "Elvis Presley". All but three of the miniature sheets feature the words in English "75th Birthday of Mickey Mouse", either at the top or bottom.

One set of three horizontal miniature sheets, each containing nine postage stamps and inscribed in English "Looney Tunes". Each stamp depicts a different cartoon scene featuring characters such as "Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Daffy Duck, Wile E. Coyote, Road Runner, The Skunks, The Tasmanian Devil and Tweety and Sylvestre". The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of these cartoons on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, with the words at the top in French "LES CONTES" ("TALES") and "HILDEBRANDT" at the bottom. Each stamp features a different scene from the tales in question. Each stamp has a value of 200f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of these tales on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, inscribed at the top in English "SPIRITED AWAY" and with Asian characters at the bottom. Each stamp

depicts a different scene from Miyazaki's Japanese tale. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 200f, 300f, 300f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of this tale on the margins of the miniature sheet.

## Fauna

*Various domestic, wild and endangered animals, sea creatures, birds and winged animals, and penguins*

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which supposedly depicts an endangered animal. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is also inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and heads of various animals are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two miniature sheets, each of which features an enlarged animal in the background and contains a postage stamp featuring a different species. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, the name of the species and "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet also bears the "Scouts" logo.

\* One horizontal miniature sheet depicting a polar bear in its environment in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different Arctic species, alternating between a polar bear and an owl. The miniature sheet is inscribed in the top right in French "Les animaux de l'Arctique" ("Arctic animals").

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of six postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of wild cat. The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in French "LES FÉLINS" ("FELINES"). Each stamp has a value of 200f, is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and also bears the name of the species and the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of a wildcat are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet featuring three domestic cats in the background and containing a set of six postage stamps. Each stamp features a different species of cat, is inscribed with a value of 100 FCFA, the year 2003 and the "Scouts" and "Rotary" logos.

\* One vertical miniature sheet depicting three domestic cats in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different species of cat. The miniature sheet is inscribed vertically on the left in French "Les chats" ("Cats").

Three horizontal miniature sheets, each containing a set of nine postage stamps, and each depicting a different species of cheetah, gorilla, leopard and panther. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of the respective animal are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of horse. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of horses are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of eight postage stamps (two rows of four), each of which depicts a different species of horse. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 3.0 for the upper row and 5.0 for the lower row, the year 2002 and the name of the country abbreviated to "BENIN". The miniature sheet has been cancelled with the date "02.09.2002".

Seven miniature sheets in the same format, each containing a set of six postage stamps, and each depicting a different species of the roe deer, squirrel, hamster, porcupine, kangaroo, lemur and hare families respectively. The values of the stamps from left to right are 135f, 150f, 200f and 270f, 300f and 400f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and also bears the name of each species and two emblems attributed to the "Scouts". A miniature sheet, depicting a landscape and an enlarged insect in the background, accompanies each of the preceding miniature sheets. It contains a postage stamp depicting a different species of the animal family concerned, and is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, the name of the species, "POSTES 2002" and the "Scouts" emblem. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top with the name of the animal concerned in English or Latin, namely: "DEER", "SQUIRRELS", "CRICETINAE" (for the hamsters), "HYSTRICEDAE" (for the porcupines), "KANGAROOS", "LEMURDAE" (for the lemurs) and "HERES" (for the hares).

One miniature sheet containing a set of fifteen postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of dog. The values of the stamps, from left to right, are 70f, 100f, 135f, 150f, 170f, 200f, 235f, 250f, 270f, 300f, 335f, 350f, 400f, 470f and 500f. Each stamp is also inscribed "POSTES 2002" and bears the "Scouts" logo. Various species of dog are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet. The same miniature sheet exists in a pre-cancelled format inscribed with the date "30.06.2002".

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of dog. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to

right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and also features the "Scouts" logo. The dogs' heads are partially depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet depicting an enlarged dog in the middle of the background, to either side of which a vertical strip of three se-tenant stamps has been incorporated. Each stamp depicts a different scene with one or more dogs. The values of the stamps, from the top down, are 150f, 250f and 400f on the left-hand side, and 200f, 300f and 500f on the right-hand side. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and also bears the "Scouts" logo.

One miniature sheet depicting a species of dog with its puppies in the background, and containing a stamp featuring a group of dogs of a different species. The stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, "POSTES 2003" and also bears the "Scouts" logo.

\* Two vertical miniature sheets depicting two dogs in the background. Each miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100 FCFA and depicts a different species of dog whose illegible name is inscribed on the stamp. The year is also illegible. The miniature sheet is vertically inscribed on the left in French "Les chiens" ("Dogs").

One horizontal miniature sheet depicting an enlargement of part of a dinosaur in the background and bearing the inscription at the top in French "MONDE DE DINOSAURES" ("WORLD OF DINOSAURS"). The miniature sheet contains a postage stamp on both sides, which depicts the head of another dinosaur and a mineral. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 500 FCFA and the "Scouts" logo, but the year is not clearly legible.

\* Two vertical miniature sheets depicting various species of dinosaur in the background. Each miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100 FCFA and depicts a different species of dinosaur whose (illegible) name is inscribed on the stamp. The year is also illegible. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in French "Le monde préhistorique" ("Prehistoric world").

A set of two miniature sheets, each depicting various species of dinosaur in the background and inscribed in English "THE HISTORY OF DINOSAURS". Each miniature sheet contains six stamps, each of which depicts a different species of dinosaur. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 100 FCFA, the "Rotary" logo and an illustration of a mineral.

One miniature sheet depicting a jungle landscape in the background and several dinosaur heads on the margins, and containing a set of six postage stamps, each

depicting a large head of a different dinosaur. Each postage stamp has a value from left to right of 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

One miniature sheet depicting a jungle landscape in the background, and containing a set of nine postage stamps, each depicting a different scene from prehistoric life – dinosaurs and men in action. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which depicts a different picture of one or more dinosaurs. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. Parts of animals are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two vertical miniature sheets, each depicting an enlarged dinosaur and the "Scouts" logo in the background, and containing a postage stamp depicting another dinosaur. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 1000f and "POSTES 2003". One of these miniature sheets exists in a cancelled format bearing the date "17.03.2003".

One miniature sheet depicting a species of flying dinosaur in the background, and containing a stamp featuring other dinosaurs. The stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, "POSTES 2003" and the "Rotary" logo.

One miniature sheet depicting a species of dinosaur in the background, and containing a stamp featuring the head of the same dinosaur. The stamp is inscribed with a value of 1000f and "POSTES 2003".

One miniature sheet depicting a species of dinosaur in the background, and containing a stamp featuring another dinosaur. The stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f and "POSTES 2003". It has been cancelled but the date is illegible.

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which features a different species of elephant. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The elephant heads are partially depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

\* One vertical miniature sheet depicting giant elephant heads in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different species of giant elephant whose (illegible) name is inscribed on the stamp. The year is also illegible. The miniature sheet is inscribed in the top left-hand corner in French "Le monde préhistorique" ("Prehistoric World").

Two vertical miniature sheets, each containing a set of nine postage stamps, and each depicting a different species of lion and tiger respectively. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. The eyes and head of the respective animal are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

\* One vertical miniature sheet depicting lions' heads in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different species of lion. The year is illegible. The miniature sheet is inscribed in the top left-hand corner in French "Les lions".

A set of two miniature sheets depicting tigers, each containing a set of six stamps. Each of the stamps features a different species of tiger. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English "TIGERS", and "Schim Schimmel" at the bottom. A mountain is depicted in the background and margins of the miniature sheet.

\* One horizontal miniature sheet, depicting wolves' heads in the background. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps in a single row, each of which is inscribed with a value of 100FCFA and depicts a different species of wolf. The year is illegible. The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in French "Les loups" ("Wolves").

One horizontal miniature sheet comprising ten postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of wolf and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The upper row is inscribed with values of 100f, and the lower one with values of 250f. The top and bottom are inscribed in French "LOUPS". Other wolves are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing ten postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of black bear and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The upper row is inscribed with values of 100f, and the lower one with values of 250f. The top and bottom are inscribed in French "OURS" ("BEARS"). Other bears are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which features a different depiction of a polar bear. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. Eyes of polar bears are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One horizontal miniature sheet depicting pandas in the background and inscribed at the top in French "SCIENCES DU MONDE". Each side of the miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting a panda. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 500 FCFA, the "Scouts" logo and an illegible year.

One miniature sheet featuring several pandas playing in their environment in the background, and inscribed at the bottom in English "PANDAS". The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, each of which depicts a different panda. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". The same miniature sheet is sold in a cancelled format, with the claim that it is a first-day cancellation. The date, however, is illegible. The upper part of the stamps of the preceding miniature sheet is sold as a separate set of three se-tenant postage stamps which have also been cancelled.

One miniature sheet depicting, in the background, a fox in its environment looking at another fox that is the subject of the postage stamp comprised in the miniature sheet. The stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f and "POSTES 2003". The miniature sheet bears the inscription at the bottom in English "Animals of America by J.J. Audubon".

Five miniature sheets in the same format, each containing a set of six postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of the following reptile families: frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles. The values of the stamps from left to right are 135f, 150f, 200f, and 270f, 300f and 400f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and also bears the name of each species and two emblems attributed to the "Scouts". A miniature sheet depicting a landscape and an enlarged insect in the background accompanies each of the preceding miniature sheets, except for the miniature sheet depicting turtles. It contains a postage stamp depicting a different species of the animal family concerned, inscribed with a value of 1,000f, the name of the species, "POSTES 2002" and the "Scouts" emblem. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English or Latin with the name of the animal concerned, namely: "CROAKS" and "FROGS", "GEKKONS" (for the salamanders), "SNAKES" and "TURTLES".

A set of two miniature sheets illustrating turtles, each containing a set of six stamps. Each of these stamps depicts a different species of turtle. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is

inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English "TURTLES".

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of six postage stamps. Each stamp depicts a different species of animal. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f and 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed with the name of the animal concerned and "POSTES 2003". The top of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle in English "Animals of America by John James Audubon", and the bottom "200th Anniversary of J.J. Audubon's settlement in the United States". Other animals are depicted in the background and margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps. Each stamp depicts a different species of animal or bird. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The miniature sheet is inscribed in the top-right hand corner in English "THE NATURE CONSERVANCY" – that organization's logo is in the top left-hand corner. The bottom of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle "Saving the Last Great Places". Other scenes of forest life are depicted in the background and margins of the miniature sheet.

One horizontal miniature sheet depicting a desert landscape in the background, and containing two postage stamps, one on each side of the miniature sheet. One stamp depicts a species of bird, and the other a wildcat. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The bottom of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle in English "THE NATURE CONSERVANCY" and bears that organization's logo.

#### *Sea creatures/dolphins, fish*

One miniature sheet containing a set of six postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of dolphin. The values of the stamps from left to right are 135f, 150f, 200f and 270f, 300f and 400f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and bears the name of each species and two emblems attributed to the "Scouts".

One miniature sheet depicting an enlarged insect and dolphin in the background. It contains a postage stamp depicting a different species of dolphin, is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, the name of the species, "POSTES 2002" and also bears the "Scouts" logo. The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English "DOLPHINS".

One miniature sheet illustrating various fish and dolphins underwater, and containing a stamp depicting other sea creatures. The stamp is inscribed with a value of 1000f and "POSTES 2002".

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps. Each stamp depicts a different species of dolphin. The values of the stamps, in rows from left to right, are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. Other dolphins in water are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet depicting an underwater scene with tropical fish in the background, and containing a set of three se-tenant postage stamps. Each stamp depicts a different species of tropical fish. The values of the stamps, from the top down, are 250f, 500f and 750f, and each is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The miniature sheet bears the logo of the organization "The Nature Conservancy" in the top-right-hand corner.

One vertical miniature sheet containing a set of six postage stamps. Each stamp depicts a different species of fish. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f and 250f, 200f and 250f, 300f and 350f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The top of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle in English "THE NATURE CONSERVANCY" and bears that organization's logo. The bottom of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle "Saving the Last Great Places". There are other scenes of sea life in the background and margins of the miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet depicting various fish underwater, and containing a stamp featuring these fish. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f and "POSTES 2003". The top of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle in English "THE NATURE CONSERVANCY" and bears that organization's logo.

*Birds (ducks, bats, hummingbirds, owls, seagulls, song birds, parrots, pigeons, penguins and "thrushes")*

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of three se-tenant postage stamps, and with a background depicting a wild landscape. One stamp depicts a species of bird or wild duck. The values of the stamps are 250f, 500f and 750f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The top left-hand corner of the miniature sheet bears the logo of the organization "The Nature Conservancy".

Five miniature sheets in the same format, each containing a set of six postage stamps that each depict a different species of the following bird or winged families: bats, hummingbirds, seagulls, song birds and pigeons. The values of the stamps from left to right are 135f, 150f, 200f, and 270f, 300f and 400f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and also bears the name of the species concerned and two emblems attributed to the "Scouts".

A miniature sheet depicting a landscape and an enlarged insect in the background accompanies each of the preceding miniature sheets, except for the miniature sheet depicting the bats and pigeons. It contains a postage stamp depicting a different species of the bird family concerned, and is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, the name of the species, "POSTES 2002" and the "Scouts" emblem. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top with the name of the animal concerned in English or Latin, namely: "BATS", "COLIBRYS" (for the hummingbirds), "SEAGULLS", "THRUSHES" (for the song birds) and "PIGEONS".

\* A set of two miniature sheets depicting various species of owl and bird of prey in the background. Each miniature sheet contains a set of six stamps, each of which features a different species of owl or bird of prey. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and features the "Rotary" logo; the latter is also inscribed in the background of each miniature sheet. Each of these miniature sheets is also sold in a cancelled format bearing a first-day cancellation dated "03.08.2003". The upper part of the stamps comprising the preceding miniature sheet is sold as a separate set of three se-tenant postage stamps bearing the same cancellation.

A set of two miniature sheets depicting owls, each containing a set of six stamps. Each of these stamps depicts a different species of owl. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet is inscribed in English, "OWLS" at the top and "The paintings of Pollyanna Pickering" at the bottom.

One miniature sheet depicting an enlarged owl in the background and inscribed "Owls" in the middle in English. The "Scouts" logo is inscribed as a vertical strip on the right-hand side of the miniature sheet. The miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting another species of owl, which is inscribed with 500 FCFA, the year 2003 and the "Scouts" logo.

One miniature sheet depicting an enlarged owl in the background and inscribed "Owls" in the top left-hand corner in English. The "Scouts" logo is inscribed as a vertical strip on the right-hand side of the miniature sheet. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, each depicting a different species of owl. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 100 FCFA, the year 2002 and the "Scouts" logo.

\* Three miniature sheets, one vertical and two horizontal, which are inscribed in the background in French "Les chouettes" ("Owls"), "Les éperviers" ("Sparrowhawks") and "Les faucons" ("Falcons") respectively, and which depict birds from each of these species. Each miniature sheet depicts a different species of owl, sparrowhawk and falcon respectively, and contains a set of six postage stamps in a single row, each of which is inscribed with the value 100 FCFA.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing ten postage stamps, each depicting a different species of black song bird, inscribed "POSTES 2003" and with a value of 200f. The top of the miniature sheet is inscribed across the middle in French "OISEAUX" ("BIRDS"). Other pictures of birds are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

The ten stamps on the preceding miniature sheet are the subject of separate miniature sheets depicting these same birds individually, each of them inscribed at the top in French "OISEAUX" and bearing the name of the bird in question at the bottom in Latin. These are "Athene noctua, Circaetus gallicus, Emberiza cirulus, Hirundo rustica, Motacilla flava, Oriolus oriolus, Phoenicopterus ochuros, Phoenicurus ruber, Pica pica and Serinus serinus" respectively. Each miniature sheet contains a perforated border, which in turn is divided into two perforated halves. The postage stamp is the upper or lower perforated half and contains the main part of the bird depicted. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f and "POSTES 2003". The "Scouts" logo is incorporated into the lower perforated half.

A set of two miniature sheets depicting parrots, each containing a set of six stamps featuring a different species of parrot. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Scouts" logo. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English "PARROTS".

\* One miniature sheet depicting a number of penguins in the background, and containing a set of six stamps, each depicting other penguins. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. The latter is also inscribed on the bottom of the miniature sheet, towards the right, where there is also the English inscription "PENGUINS". This same miniature sheet is also sold in a cancelled format with a first-day cancellation dated "03.08.02". The upper part of the stamps comprising the preceding miniature sheet is sold as a separate set of three se-tenant postage stamps bearing the same cancellation.

Two miniature sheets, one depicting a number of penguins and other polar animals in the background, and the other birds by water in a rocky landscape. Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting birds, penguins or other polar animals. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2002".

### **Flora (orchids) and butterflies**

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of nine postage stamps, each of which depicts a different species of orchid. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f and 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the Rotary International logo. Other flowers and orchids are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

\* One miniature sheet depicting several butterflies settled on orchids in the background, as well as a portrait of the founder of the Scouts and that organization's logo. The miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, each showing a different species of butterfly and orchid. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002" and also bears the "Scouts" logo. This same miniature sheet is also sold in a cancelled format with what claims to be a first-day cancellation. The lower part of the stamps on the preceding miniature sheet is sold as a separate set of three se-tenant postage stamps bearing the same cancellation.

### **Films**

Two vertical miniature sheets, each with a set of six postage stamps (in strips of three), inscribed in the middle in English "75th Annual Academy Awards". In the background, and on each stamp, an actor or actress is depicted at that event's award ceremony. The values of the stamps, from left to right, are 150f, 200f and 250f for the upper set, and 300f, 400f and 500f for the lower set, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

Three vertical miniature sheets, each containing a set of six postage stamps, and inscribed at the top in English "CLASSIC MOVIES". Each stamp features a scene from a different classic film, either the actors or posters promoting the films. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Other cinematographic images are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps, each depicting a different classic American cinema actor or actress whose name is inscribed on the stamp. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". Other cinematographic images are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two vertical miniature sheets, each containing a set of nine postage stamps inscribed at the top in English "HARRY POTTER". Each stamp depicts a scene from a Harry Potter film. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f. One miniature sheet is inscribed

"POSTES 2002" and the other "POSTES 2003". Other scenes from films are depicted in the background and on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet featuring scenes from James Bond films in the background, and inscribed in English "50th anniversary of James Bond". The miniature sheet contains six postage stamps, each depicting an actor or actress from a James Bond film. Each stamp has a value of 100 FCFA and is inscribed "2003".

A set of three (vertical) miniature sheets, each featuring scenes from James Bond films in the background and inscribed in the bottom right-hand corner in English "50th anniversary of James Bond". Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting an actor or actress from a James Bond film. Each stamp has a value of 500 FCFA and features the year 2003.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing eight postage stamps, and inscribed at the top in English "Spiderman". Each stamp depicts a scene from this film. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f and 450f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". Other scenes from this film are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two horizontal miniature sheets, each containing nine postage stamps inscribed at the top in English "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers". Each stamp depicts a scene from this film. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Other scenes from this film are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet. Each stamp has been stuck to a First Day Cover and is advertised and sold separately.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps, and inscribed at the top in English "TERMINATOR 3". Each stamp depicts a scene from this film. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Other scenes from this film are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

### **Leisure (chess)**

One (vertical) miniature sheet depicting chess pieces in the background, and containing two postage stamps. Each of these stamps depicts a famous figure in a medallion and several chess pieces. Each stamp has a value of 500 FCFA, a barely legible year and the "Scouts" logo.

## Windmills

A set of three miniature sheets (two horizontal and one vertical), each containing a set of nine postage stamps. Each of these postage stamps features a painting of a windmill located in a different landscape or environment. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Various sketches of windmills are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

Four miniature sheets, each depicting in the background a painting featuring a windmill located in a different landscape or environment. Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp depicting a different landscape with a windmill, and each stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f and "POSTES 2003".

## Organizations

One vertical miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps, each of which features a different activity of the Red Cross. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Other pictures of the Red Cross feature on the margins of the miniature sheet.

## Pictures – Paintings

One miniature sheet featuring the reproduction of a picture by and a picture of the painter Vincent van Gogh whose name is inscribed across the middle. The miniature sheet contains a postage stamp featuring another picture by that artist, inscribed with a value of 1,000f and the year 2003.

One miniature sheet featuring in the background a picture by Vincent van Gogh whose name is inscribed across the middle. There is a vertical strip of three set-tenant stamps down each side. Each stamp features a different picture by that painter, and the values of the stamps, from the top down, are 150f, 250f and 400f on the left-hand side, and 200f, 300f and 500f on the right-hand side. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

\* A set of five miniature sheets, each of which features a mosaic of pictures in the background and is inscribed in the bottom right-hand corner in English "THE IMPRESSIONISTS". Each miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, each of which features a picture by a different painter. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". Some of the backgrounds and pictures feature quite extensive female nudity.

One miniature sheet, featuring a female nude in the background. There is a vertical strip of three se-tenant stamps down each side. Each stamp features a picture of a female nude (or nudes) by a different painter whose name is inscribed on the stamp. The values of the stamps, from the top down, are 150f, 250f and 400f on the left-hand side, and 200f, 300f and 500f on the right-hand side, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

One miniature sheet featuring a reproduction of a picture of a female nude, and containing a postage stamp depicting other female nudes. The stamp is inscribed with the painter's name, a value of 1,000f and the year 2003.

Two miniature sheets, one vertical and the other horizontal, each containing nine postage stamps, each of which features a picture of a female nude. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed with the painter's name and "POSTES 2003". Other female nudes are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

Eleven vertical miniature sheets, each containing six postage stamps. One of the miniature sheets is inscribed at the top "Museo Nacional del Prado". Each postage stamp features a picture depicting female nudes. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 200f, 300f, 300f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003", except for those on the "Museo Nacional del Prado" miniature sheet, which are only inscribed with the year 2003. Each stamp is also inscribed vertically with the name of the painter and the painting. Other female nudes are depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

### **Lighthouses**

A set of two miniature sheets, each containing a set of six postage stamps inscribed at the top in English "LIGHTHOUSES". Each stamp features a different lighthouse. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. The sea is depicted in the background.

One miniature sheet depicting a lighthouse on a rock at the seaside in the background, and containing a set of six postage stamps, each featuring a different lighthouse. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 500f, "POSTES 2003" and the "Rotary International" logo.

One miniature sheet containing six stamps inscribed in French "LES PHARES" ("Lighthouses"). Each stamp depicts a different lighthouse, is inscribed with a value of 200f, "POSTES 2003" and the "Rotary International" logo. Other lighthouses are depicted in the background.

A set of four miniature sheets, each containing a set of nine stamps, and inscribed at the top in French "Phares du Monde" ("Lighthouses of the World"), and at the bottom "AFRIQUE ET OCEANIE", "AMERIQUE", "ASIE" and "EUROPE" respectively. Each stamp features a different lighthouse and bears the latter's name. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. The sea is depicted in the background. Each of the postage stamps on the "EUROPE" miniature sheet is advertised and sold separately.

A set of three miniature sheets, each depicting a lighthouse and containing a stamp featuring another lighthouse. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 1,000f, "POSTES 2003" and the name of the lighthouse. Two of the miniature sheets are inscribed at the bottom in French "Phares du Monde ASIE", and the other one "Phares du Monde EUROPE", and the "Rotary International" logo features at the bottom of all three.

## **Sports**

Three vertical miniature sheets, each containing nine postage stamps depicting different footballers, namely "David Beckham" and players from the "Liverpool FC" and "Manchester United FC" football teams – the corresponding inscriptions are at the top of each miniature sheet. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The person in question is partially depicted on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet featuring the "Manchester United FC" football team. The stamp has been perforated to include the footballer "David Beckham", has a value of 1,000f and is also inscribed "POSTES 2003".

## **Vehicles – transport (aircraft, motorcycles, trains and cars)**

### *Aircraft*

A set of two horizontal miniature sheets, each depicting various types of airborne aircraft in the background, and inscribed at the top in English "AIR FORCE", and at the bottom "100 years of Aviation, 1903–2003". Each miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, each of which features a different type of aircraft, whose name appears on the stamp. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

Four miniature sheets depicting enlarged aircraft in the background, each containing a postage stamp depicting another aircraft whose name appears on the

corresponding stamp. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Two of these miniature sheets are inscribed at the bottom in English "100 years of Aviation, 1903–2003", and the other two bear the "Rotary International" logo, also at the bottom.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of three se-tenant postage stamps, each of which features various propeller-driven fighter planes. The stamps are inscribed with values of 150f, 300f and 450f and the year 2003. Other aircraft are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

#### *Motorcycles*

A set of three miniature sheets featuring enlarged racing motorcycles in the background. Each miniature sheet contains six stamps, and each stamp features a different scene of racing motorcycles. Two of the miniature sheets contain stamps with values from left to right of 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, each of which is inscribed "POSTES 2002". The third miniature sheet contains stamps inscribed with a value of 500f, "POSTES 2003" and the "Rotary International" logo. The top-left hand corner of the miniature sheet is inscribed with the same logo.

#### *Trains and locomotives*

Two miniature sheets, each depicting an enlarged train in the background, and each containing a postage stamp depicting another train. The stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The top left-hand corner of each miniature sheet is inscribed with the "Rotary International" logo.

One (vertical) miniature sheet depicting parts of locomotives in the background, and containing two postage stamps. Each of these stamps depicts a different locomotive, has a value of 500 FCFA and also bears the Rotary logo. The miniature sheet is inscribed vertically in French "Portraits de locomotives" ("Portraits of locomotives").

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of three se-tenant postage stamps, each of which depicts a different modern train. The stamps are inscribed with values of 150f, 300f and 450f and "POSTES 2003". Other trains are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two vertical miniature sheets, each containing six stamps and featuring a different train. One of the miniature sheets depicts in the background a train crossing a bridge, flanked by a locomotive. Each stamp is inscribed with a value of 500f, "POSTES 2003" and the "Rotary International" logo, which also features in the top right-hand corner of the miniature sheet. \*The other miniature sheet depicts a landscape in the background, with people welcoming a train. It is inscribed at the

bottom in English "Steam Trains". The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002".

One miniature sheet depicting various train parts in the background, and containing a set of six stamps, each of which features a different locomotive or train crossing a different landscape. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English "Classic Locomotives".

One miniature sheet depicting locomotive parts in the background, and containing a set of six postage stamps, each of which depicts a different locomotive and is inscribed with a value of 100f. Each stamp also bears the "Rotary International" logo. The miniature sheet is inscribed vertically in French "Portraits de locomotives".

One miniature sheet containing six stamps, and inscribed at the top in French "LES LOCOMOTIVES". Each of these stamps depicts a different locomotive in a different setting. Each stamp has a value of 200f, is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and also bears the "Rotary International" logo. Various parts of other locomotives are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps. Each stamp features a different train in a station. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. A station is depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

A set of two miniature sheets depicting a snowy landscape in the background, each of which contains a set of six stamps. Each of these stamps depicts a different train crossing various landscapes. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary" logo. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top "TRAINS".

### *Cars*

One miniature sheet featuring a series of racing cars in the background, inscribed "FERRARI" at the bottom and containing a set of six stamps, each featuring a different model of racing car. The values of the stamps from the top down are 100f, 300f, 450f, and 250f, 400f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". This same miniature sheet is also sold in an obliterated format dated "03.08.2002", as though it were an authentic issue. The left-hand part of the stamps comprising the preceding miniature sheet is sold as a separate set of three se-tenant postage stamps bearing the same cancellation.

One miniature sheet featuring a series of racing cars in the background, inscribed "FERRARI" in the bottom right-hand corner and containing a set of six stamps, each featuring a different model of racing car. Each stamp has a value of 500f, is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and with the "Rotary International" logo, which is also inscribed in the top-left hand corner of the miniature sheet.

\* One miniature sheet featuring a series of cars in the background and margins, inscribed at the top in English "Classic Automobiles", and containing a set of six stamps, each featuring a different model of vintage car. The values of the stamps from the top down are 100f, 300f, 500f, and 200f, 400f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". The top-right hand corner of each stamp is also inscribed with the name and model of the car.

Two miniature sheets, each of which depicts a car in the background and contains a postage stamp depicting another model of car. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet bears the "Rotary International" logo.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing a set of three se-tenant postage stamps, each of which features a different model of car. The stamps bear the values 150f, 300f and 450f and the year 2003. Other cars are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

#### *Fire engines*

One miniature sheet containing a set of twelve postage stamps, and inscribed at the top in French "SAPEURS POMPIERS DE FRANCE" ("FIRE BRIGADES OF FRANCE") and at the bottom "1000 ANS D'HISTOIRE" ("1,000 YEARS OF HISTORY"). Each stamp features an action scene with firemen at work. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f, 500f, 550f, 600f and 650f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Various firemen at work are also depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

\* Two vertical miniature sheets depicting fire engines in the background. Each miniature sheet contains a set of six postage stamps, in a single row, each of them inscribed with the value 100FCFA and features a different fire engine. The year is illegible. Each miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in French "Les voitures d'incendie" ("Fire engines").

One miniature sheet featuring action scenes with firemen at work in the background, and containing a postage stamp that features another action scene with the Red Cross. The stamp has a value of 1,000f, and features "POSTES 2003" and the "Rotary International" logo.

**Famous people (Pope John Paul II, actors, actresses, singers, musical groups, etc.)**

*Pope John Paul II, also with Mother Teresa and Princess Diana*

\* A 1 – A miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of Pope John Paul II – on the 500f stamp he is holding a little girl. The values indicated on the postage stamps, from the top down, are 100f, 300f, 500f, and 200f, 400f and 600f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The top of this miniature sheet is inscribed in English "His Holiness John Paul II", and the middle and the bottom with the years "1978–2003". An insignia appears on each side. The vertical margins of the miniature sheet are inscribed with the insignias of the Pope and the Vatican, as well as other depictions of the Pope.

A 1bis – A miniature sheet containing the same six postage stamps of John Paul II as the preceding miniature sheet, but with some differences. The miniature sheet is pre-cancelled and inscribed with the date "07.08.2003" and "POSTES\* REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN\*". The values inscribed on the postage stamps, from the top down, are 150f, 350f, 450f, and 200f, 400f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and "1978–2003". The inscription at the top of the miniature sheet in English is "Holy Father John Paul II", and the one in the middle and at the bottom "25 years of the Pontificate". The vertical margins of the miniature sheet bear the insignias of the Pope and the Vatican, as well as other depictions of the Pope.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing two postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of Pope John Paul II. There is a vignette between these two stamps with another picture of the Pope. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The inscription at the top in English is "Holy Father John Paul II", and the one in the middle and at the bottom is "25 years of the Pontificate". Insignias of the Pope and the Vatican flank the miniature sheet (one in the top right-hand corner, the other in the bottom-left hand corner), as do other depictions of the Pope.

\* One miniature sheet depicting a crowded Saint Peter's Square in the background. At the bottom of the miniature sheet, there is a set of three se-tenant postage stamps depicting Mother Teresa, Princess Diana and Pope John Paul II. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 500f, 1000f and 1500f and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The top right-hand corner is inscribed in English "Called to Love". The same miniature sheet as the preceding one, for which the set of postage stamps is in imperforate format.

B1 – One miniature sheet featuring a portrait of Mother Teresa carrying a child in the background, and containing a postage stamp featuring a picture of Pope John Paul II with Mother Teresa. The postage stamp has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The miniature sheet contains several inscriptions in English. In the top right-hand corner: "19 October 2003", vertically down the right-hand side: "Beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta", at the bottom: "Pope John Paul II – 25 years of the pontificate". The miniature sheet also bears insignias of the Pope and the Vatican in the bottom left and top right-hand corners.

B1bis – The same miniature sheet as the previous one but presented in pre-cancelled format with the date "20.02.2003" and "POSTES\* REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN\*".

\* Three miniature sheets each featuring a different picture of Pope John Paul II in the background, either alone or greeting crowds, and each containing a postage stamp in the middle featuring a picture of Princess Diana. The postage stamp on each miniature sheet has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

\* Two miniature sheets, each featuring a different picture of Pope John Paul II in the background, and each containing a postage stamp in the middle featuring another picture of the Pope. The postage stamp on each miniature sheet has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The top or bottom of each miniature sheet is inscribed "John Paul II".

\* Two miniature sheets each featuring a different picture of Princess Diana in the background, and each containing a postage stamp in the middle featuring a picture of Pope John Paul II greeting a crowd. The postage stamp on one miniature sheet is inscribed with a value of 1,000F and "POSTES 2003", and the one on the other miniature sheet is inscribed with a value of 500 FCFA and the year 2003.

One horizontal miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps, five of which feature a picture of John Paul II alone or in company, and four Princess Diana. Each stamp has a value from left to right of 100 FCFA and is inscribed with an illegible year. There are other depictions of the Pope on the margins of the miniature sheet.

*Various famous women (actresses, singers)*

One miniature sheet featuring several actresses in the background, some of whom are depicted on magazine covers. The miniature sheet contains six stamps, each featuring a different actress, as well as her name, a value of 500f and the inscription "POSTES 2003".

One vertical miniature sheet comprising nine postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of the singer "Britney Spears" whose name is inscribed at the top of the miniature sheet. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". The singer is partially depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of "Isabella Rosselini" whose name is inscribed at the top of the miniature sheet. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". The person in question is partially depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two miniature sheets, each featuring a picture of "Isabella Rosselini" in the background whose name is inscribed in the top-right hand corner, and each containing a postage stamp featuring another picture of "Isabella Rosselini". Each stamp has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2002".

One miniature sheet featuring a picture of the singer and actress "Madonna" in the background whose name is inscribed in the bottom left-hand corner. The top left-hand corner of the miniature sheet bears the "Rotary International" logo and depicts a motorcycle. The miniature sheet contains a postage stamp featuring another picture of Madonna. The stamp has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

Two miniature sheets in the same format, each containing four postage stamps, each of which features a different picture of "Madonna" whose name is inscribed at the top of each miniature sheet. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. Other depictions of Madonna and her signature feature on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet featuring a picture of "Nadja Auermann" in the background whose name is inscribed across the middle. The miniature sheet contains a postage stamp featuring another picture of "Nadja Auermann". The stamp has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2002".

#### *Elvis Presley*

\* One miniature sheet featuring scenes of jubilation in the background and an enlarged portrait of the actor/singer Elvis Presley, as well as his signature and the inscription in French "25e anniversaire ELVIS PRESLEY". The miniature sheet comprises a set of six stamps, each featuring a different portrait of Elvis Presley,

with values from left to right of 100f, 200f, 300f, and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each inscribed "POSTES 2002".

\* Six miniature sheets, each featuring a different picture of Elvis Presley in the background (two also feature Walt Disney depictions), and containing a postage stamp bearing another picture of Elvis Presley. Each postage stamp has a value of 1,000f. Two of the miniature sheets are inscribed "POSTES 2002" and the other four "POSTES 2003". Each miniature sheet is inscribed "Elvis Presley", either at the bottom or at the top.

\* One miniature sheet containing nine postage stamps, each featuring a different picture of Elvis Presley. The miniature sheet is inscribed "Elvis Presley" at the top. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". There are other depictions of the actor on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two miniature sheets, each containing six postage stamps. Each miniature sheet is inscribed "ELVIS PRESLEY" at the top. Each stamp features a different picture of the actor Elvis Presley, taken from either a poster or a film scene. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 200f, 300f, 300f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other similar depictions on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One of these miniature sheets has also been found on sale in imperforate format, as though it were a separate miniature sheet. One of the stamps on the same miniature sheet, with a value of 200f, has also been found on sale as though it were a separate issue.

One miniature sheet inscribed at the top "ELVIS PRESLEY", and containing six postage stamps each featuring a different picture of the actor Elvis Presley. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f, 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of the actor on the margins of the miniature sheet.

One vertical miniature sheet featuring Walt Disney and other portraits in the background, at the top and on the margins, inscribed "100 WALT DISNEY" and "ELVIS PRESLEY". The miniature sheet contains six postage stamps, each of which features a different picture of Elvis Presley. Each stamp has a value of 100 FCFA and is inscribed with an illegible year.

One horizontal miniature sheet featuring Walt Disney portraits in the background, inscribed at the top "ELVIS PRESLEY" and in the middle "100 WALT DISNEY". The miniature sheet contains two postage stamps each featuring a different picture of Elvis Presley, inscribed with a value of 500 FCFA and an illegible year.

One horizontal miniature sheet inscribed at the top "ELVIS PRESLEY", made up of ten postage stamps each featuring a different picture of Elvis Presley taken from either a poster or a film scene, and inscribed "POSTES 2003". The upper row is inscribed with values of 100f, and the lower row with values of 250f. The top and bottom are inscribed in French "LOUPS". Elvis Presley's signature is reproduced on the margins of the miniature sheet.

#### *Japanese women*

One miniature sheet depicting a Japanese woman in traditional costume in the background, and containing a postage stamp depicting another Japanese woman. The stamp has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There is an inscription in Japanese at the bottom of the miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet featuring a Japanese woman in the middle of the background, together with an inscription in Japanese. The miniature sheet contains two horizontal strips of three se-tenant stamps, one in the upper and one in the lower part. The values of the stamps from left to right are 150f, 200f and 250f, and 300f, 400f and 500f. Each stamp features a different Japanese woman and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

#### *Marilyn Monroe*

One vertical miniature sheet featuring Walt Disney and other portraits in the background, at the top and on the margins, inscribed "100 WALT DISNEY" and "MARILYN MONROE". The miniature sheet contains six stamps, each of which features a different picture of the actress Marilyn Monroe. Each stamp has a value of 100 FCFA and is inscribed with an illegible year.

One horizontal miniature sheet featuring Walt Disney portraits in the background, inscribed at the top "MARILYN MONROE" and in the middle "100 WALT DISNEY". The miniature sheet contains two postage stamps each featuring a different picture of the actress Marilyn Monroe, and inscribed with a value of 500 FCFA and an illegible year.

\* One miniature sheet inscribed at the top "Marilyn Monroe", containing nine stamps, each featuring a different picture of the actress Marilyn Monroe. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". There are other depictions of the actress on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Three miniature sheets, each featuring in the background a different depiction of the actress Marilyn Monroe taken from magazine covers, and inscribed at the bottom in

French "40e anniversaire MARILYN MONROE". Each miniature sheet contains a set of six stamps, each of which features Marilyn Monroe on a magazine cover. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 250f, 300f, and 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002".

\* Ten vertical and one horizontal miniature sheets, each depicting a different portrait of Marilyn Monroe in the background, and all but one of which are inscribed at the bottom "Marilyn Monroe". Each miniature sheet contains a stamp in a medallion depicting a different portrait of Marilyn Monroe. Each stamp has a value of 1,000f – four are inscribed "POSTES 2002" and seven "POSTES 2003".

One horizontal miniature sheet depicting a large portrait in the background and various poses of the actress Marilyn Monroe, made to look like the negatives of films. The miniature sheet contains six stamps, each featuring a different portrait of Marilyn Monroe, and each inscribed with a value of 500f and "POSTES 2003".

Two miniature sheets inscribed at the top "Marilyn Monroe", each containing twelve stamps, each with a different picture of the actress Marilyn Monroe. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, 550f, 600f and 650f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are other depictions of the actress on the margins of each miniature sheet.

#### *Musicians, musical groups*

Fifteen miniature sheets in the same format, each containing four postage stamps; all with a different picture of the musicians or musical groups in question whose names are inscribed at the top of each miniature sheet. These are "AC/DC", "BACKSTREET BOYS", "The Beatles", "BeeGees", "The doors", "F. Mercury", "KISS", "Led Zeppelin", "Metallica", "Mick Jagger" and "QUEEN". The values of the stamps on each miniature sheet from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f and 500f. Each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003" and bears the "Rotary International" logo. There are various depictions of the musicians or musical groups in question on the margins of each miniature sheet.

\*\* One miniature sheet featuring several pictures of the members of the musical group "The Beatles" in the background, and inscribed "The Beatles" across the middle. The miniature sheet contains two horizontal strips of three stamps, one in the upper part and the other in the lower one. Each stamp features a different picture of the group, has a value of 100FCFA and is inscribed 2003.

\*\* Two miniature sheets, each depicting the musical group "The Beatles" in the background, and inscribed "The Beatles". The miniature sheet contains one postage stamp in the bottom right-hand corner featuring another picture of this group. Each stamp has a value of 500FCFA and bears the year 2003.

One miniature sheet containing four postage stamps, each with a different picture of the American comedian Bob Hope whose name is inscribed at the top of the miniature sheet as "TRIBUTE TO BOB HOPE". The values inscribed on the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f and 500f. There are other depictions and caricatures of the comedian on the margins of the miniature sheet.

\*\* These miniature sheets are also sold cancelled, as though it were an authentic issue.

\* One miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, each featuring a different depiction of a jazz musician. The values of the stamps on the miniature sheet from left to right are 100f, 200f, 300f, and 400f, 500f and 600f, and each stamp is inscribed with the musician's name and "POSTES 2003". The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top in English "Jazz Masters". There are other depictions of these musicians on the margins of the miniature sheet.

Two miniature sheets with the same horizontal format, each containing eight postage stamps, with different depictions of the famous people in question, namely: one miniature sheet featuring "Robbie Williams" and another featuring "Vin Diesel". These names are inscribed at the top of each corresponding miniature sheet. The values of the postage stamps on each miniature sheet from left to right are 100F, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f and 450f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". Other depictions of the people in question feature on the margins of each miniature sheet.

*Immoral and provocative scenes (sometimes sexually explicit)*

Six miniature sheets, each containing nine postage stamps, featuring a man or a woman, alone or together, half- and/or fully-naked and in a provocative pose. The miniature sheets are inscribed at the top "Anton Corbijo", "Baron Jerry von Lind", "Dorian Cleavenger", "Drew Posada", "Helmut Newton" and "Matt Hughes" respectively. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2002". Various depictions associated with the people concerned feature on the margins of each miniature sheet.

Seven miniature sheets, each depicting a half-naked or naked woman in a provocative pose in the background. Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp featuring another provocative pose. Each stamp has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2002". Each miniature sheet is inscribed with the name of the artist of origin concerned, i.e. two miniature sheets each with "Baron Jerry von Lind", "Dorian Cleavenger" and "Drew Posada", and one miniature sheet with "Matt Hughes".

Ten miniature sheets, each containing nine postage stamps, featuring a man or a woman, alone or in company, half- and/or fully-naked and in a provocative pose. The miniature sheets are inscribed at the top "All Buell", "Billy DeVorss", "Boris Lopez", "Edward D'Ancona", "Luis Royo", "Nude Miyazawa", "Pearl Frush", "Sexy Models" and "Top Models" respectively. The values of the postage stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". There are various depictions associated with the people concerned on the margins of each miniature sheet. For the "Top Models" and "Sexy Models" miniature sheets, each stamp also bears the person's name.

Four miniature sheets, each depicting half-naked or naked women in provocative poses in the background. Three of these miniature sheets are inscribed "Ricky Carralero", and the fourth "Carlos Cartagena". Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp featuring another woman in a provocative pose. Each stamp has a value of 1,000 F and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

Three miniature sheets, each featuring a half-naked woman in a provocative pose in the background, and inscribed in English in large characters "Pin-Up". Each miniature sheet contains a postage stamp featuring another woman in a provocative pose. Each stamp has a value of 500 FCFA and is inscribed with the year 2003. There are characters in medallions in the bottom right-hand corner of each miniature sheet, named d'Al Buell, Freeman Elliot and Peter Driben respectively.

Two miniature sheets, each featuring women in the background lying down or sitting half-naked in a provocative pose. One of these miniature sheets is inscribed "Edvard Runci", and the other "Top Models". Each miniature sheet contains two horizontal strips of three se-tenant stamps, one each in the upper and lower parts. The values of the stamps from left to right are 150f, 200f and 250f, and 300f, 400f and 500f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". For the "Top Models" miniature sheet, each stamp also features the person's name.

One miniature sheet, featuring several half-naked young women in provocative poses in the background. The miniature sheet contains six stamps, each of which features a different actress or model, half-naked or in a provocative pose. Each postage stamp is inscribed with a value of 500f and "POSTES 2003", and vertically inscribed with each woman's name.

Three miniature sheets, each containing a set of twelve postage stamps, and inscribed at the top "Carlos Cartagena", "Sean Gallimore" and "THE LAND OF THE RISING FUN" respectively. Each postage stamp features one or two half-naked, and even fully naked, women in a provocative pose; the stamps on the last miniature sheet are also inscribed with slogans in English. The values of the stamps from left to right are 100f, 150f, 200f, 250f, 300f, 350f, 400f, 450f, 500f, 550f, 600f

and 650f, and each stamp is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Women in provocative poses also feature on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet featuring a half-naked woman in a provocative pose in the background, and containing a postage stamp featuring a woman whose depiction constitutes one of the stamps in the miniature sheet "THE LAND OF THE RISING FUN". This inscription is at the bottom of the miniature sheet and on the postage stamp, which has a value of 1,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003".

Two miniature sheets, each containing a set of twenty excerpts in the form of perforated vignettes, only two of which are actual postage stamps (one on each miniature sheet). Each stamp has a value of 3,000f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". One of these stamps is located in the top left-hand corner and the other in the bottom right-hand corner. Each of these perforated vignettes recounts an erotic tale in comic strip format of the shipwrecked woman referred to in the inscription at the top of each miniature sheet, namely: "GULLIVERA – PART I" and "GULLIVERA – PART II". The bottom of each miniature sheet is inscribed "TO BE CONTINUED..." and "THE LAND OF THE RISING FUN". There are also scenes from the story concerned on the margins of each miniature sheet.

One miniature sheet containing six postage stamps, each featuring Japanese erotic art (according to the website description). The miniature sheet is inscribed at the top "SHUNGA" and at the bottom "Otagawa Kunisada". Each stamp has a value of 300f and is inscribed "POSTES 2003". Other similar scenes are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet.

\* These miniature sheets and postage stamps were also identified on one of the websites for which the prices are in United States dollars, quite high for the perforated format and double (sometimes triple) the amount for the imperforate one. The same miniature sheets are listed on another website at a much cheaper price.