

Land-Rover Stamps: 80 inch Land-Rovers

by Dixon Kenner

While Land-Rovers are a very engaging pastime, over in Canada there are times of the year when working on one's vehicle becomes exceedingly challenging. I speak of Winters where the temperatures tend towards those where the Fahrenheit and Celsius scales cross, beer freezes, all the while you try and accomplish some task in a very inadequately heated temporary shelter. That is when I engage in another pastime of mine, philately, or stamp collecting. While the Victorian British line engraved stamps (1d red, 2d blue) are where I concentrate, over the years I have combined an interest in Land-Rovers with stamps. Also known as topical collecting, in the early Nineties I wondered if there were any stamps with an image of a Land-Rover on them. With over half a million different stamps issued around the world since the 1840's, surely there would have to be a couple of them. Thus, I started seeking out Land-Rovers on postage stamps.

At the beginning, I thought, "How many could there be really? A dozen maybe?" Well, after years of looking, the total stands at more than a hundred and forty, putting Land-Rover ahead of most other vehicles. The sheer number of stamps led to the collection being divided into various categories that not only reflect philately as a hobby, but also the many guises of Land-Rovers. There are "real" stamps, there are the cinderella's (not "real" stamps really), and there are the pure fakes. There are Land-Rover fire appliances, Range Rovers, military Land Rovers, et cetera. However, this particular article will deal with 80" Land-Rovers on postage stamps of which there are, currently, eleven stamps.



As background, the very first postage stamp issued with a Land-Rover on it was by French West Africa in 1957. The stamp, issued on March 11th, 1957, celebrates the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and their good works in medicine (1). The stamp depicts a small convoy of three vehicles, the first an unmistakable short wheelbase Series One, followed by a pair of vehicles that could be anything, but look like J20 Toyota Land Cruisers in front of some traditional homes. French West Africa was a federation of eight French colonial territories in Africa: Mauritania, Senegal, French Sudan (now Mali), French Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Dahomey (now Benin) and Niger. The capital of the federation was Dakar. The federation existed from 1895 until 1960. I include this stamp in this article, but do not count it, as it is impossible to say if this is an 80" or an 86". Possibly someone in the Register might know if the SMOM took delivery of any 80" Land-Rovers. If not, this would be 86" inch. Anyone know?

1979 - Uganda - Elizabeth II Leaving Owen Falls Dam

It took until 1979 for an 80" to appear on a postage stamp. The stamp, part of a series of four, it commemorates the anniversary of the Queen visited the newly built Owen Falls Dam in Uganda.



in 1954 (2). A one shilling stamp, it is a drawing of the Queen in an open Land-Rover. Given the date the dam was inaugurated, the vehicle would have been an 80".



There is also a souvenir sheet associated with this particular event. Idi Amin was quite the anglophile in many ways and this stamp issue exemplified it, despite some erratic behaviours. On the right of the souvenir sheet, in a poor quality black and white image is Idi Amin (Besides President, his title included 'Lord of All the Beasts of the Earth and Fishes of the Seas' and 'Conqueror of the British Empire in Africa in General and Uganda in Particular'. He also claimed to be the uncrowned King of Scotland).

Idi Amin fled to Uganda on April 11th, 1979 after attacking Tanzania in January and losing badly. This loss led to a another variant of the stamp. With the departure of Idi Amin to Saudi Arabia, where in return for a health allowance, he was to keep out of the limelight, the new government overprinted a number of the, then current, issue with "Uganda Liberated 1979". This particular issue was one of them. The souvenir sheet vanished.



1980 - Anguilla - Anguilla 1980 Separation from St Kitts.



Anguilla is a British colony in the leeward islands of the Caribbean. In the 1960's, it was going to be granted independence as part of a country composed of the islands of St Kitts, Nevis, and Anguil-

la. By 1967 & later in 1969, the locals did not like this idea very much, less the folks over in St. Kitts, so they declared independence from St. Kitts. How was this accomplished? Well, in 1967 they bundled up the few policemen, who were from St. Kitts and drove a bunch of vehicles onto the grassy strip that served as an airport, and put out a lot of barrels to stop planes from landing. By 1969 the British sent an envoy with a proposed solution. He was sent on his way. A week later, the island was invaded by the Scotland Yard, with the SAS as support.

In 1980 they issued a set of five stamps celebrating their separation from St. Kitts. The 35 cent stamp shows the above mentioned event at the airport, and in the background, one of the heroic vehicles is a grey Land-Rover. However, it is not an 80". But, there is an accompanying souvenir sheet. While the souvenir sheet has the same five stamps as previously noted, the larger sheet also depicts the British "invasion". Amongst the various scenes is a fanciful airdrop, from a Hercules, of a pair of 80" Land-Rovers with round chutes. In reality, the landing was by sea in a very dignified and civilised manner. Anguilla regained colonial status in 1980, where it remains today as a British Overseas Territory. So, not a stamp per se, but also counted in the 80 inch category because of the drawing on the souvenir sheet.

1985 - Gambia - The 85th Anniversary of the Birth of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Set of 4.



The Gambia is the smallest country in Africa, being at its widest, 30 miles north to south, and extending up the Gambia River for two hundred miles, with borders with Senegal ten miles either way from the river. On July 29th, 1985, they issued a set of three stamps celebrating the 85th birthday of Queen Elizabeth, the queen mother. There was also an associated miniature sheet, but alas, no

Land Rover. The 85 bututs (1) stamp has an image of the Queen Mother reviewing troops in a 1950 or 51 Land-Rover. Despite the series, in 2013 Gambia withdrew from the British Commonwealth, calling it neo-colonialist, though they still issued stamps commemorating Margaret Thatcher, Princess Diana and Prince George that year. Perf is 14x14.25. 1. The currency of the Gambia is the Dalasi. There are 100

bututs per dalasi. About 34 dalasi to the dollar if you were curious.

1985 - Tuvalu-Nukufetau - Cars #2 (leaders of the world) set of 16 - line drawing

Part of a pair, this stamp is from Tuvalu-Nukufetau. Tuvalu is a former British colony, and now independent state in the middle of the Pacific. It has about eleven thousand people on ten square miles of countryside comprising three reef islands and six atolls. Revenue from the .TV (dot TeeVee) internet domain and stamps makes up a good portion of their revenue. Nukufetau is one of those atolls producing lots of postage stamps. It has a population of about six hundred. It isn't very big. Tuvalu, along with Gibraltar, the Republic of Kiribati, Saint Kitts-Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat, the Virgin Islands, and St. Lucia all contracted out their stamp production to a company called Philatelists Limited. The subsequent court proceedings were illuminating when it came to deliberate errors, over-production and other things, such as overprinting "Specimen" et al. They have, however, managed to produce what is a very popular stamp series under the banner "Leaders of the World". For the curious, a document listing all of these stamps from early 1984 to August 1987 runs forty pages. Tuvalu has demonetised this entire series. See www.tuvaluaislands.com for further information.

The top stamp on a light blue background is a line drawing of a 1950 Land Rover 80 inch with headlamps behind the grille. It is rather well done and is easily found on eBay all the time.



The second stamp in the set shows the same vehicle, in a rather good rendering, driving along with enough speed to kick up a good bit of dust. The 80 inch depicted also has trafficators and a capstan winch.



1996 - Ascension Island: International Stamp Exhibition "CAPEX '96" - Toronto, Canada - Island Transport



On June 8th, 1996 Ascension issued the first of three Land-Rover stamps over the years. This series of stamps, printed to commemorate the 1996 International Stamp Exposition in

Canada oddly uses four early vehicles, with the 65p stamp having a Series One Land-Rover 80". It is an early 80 inch because of the canvas cover to reach inside to open the door, though out of scale when it comes to the distance from wheel wells to the door. The stamp was designed B. Dare, printed by Walsall using lithography. The perforations are 14 per inch.

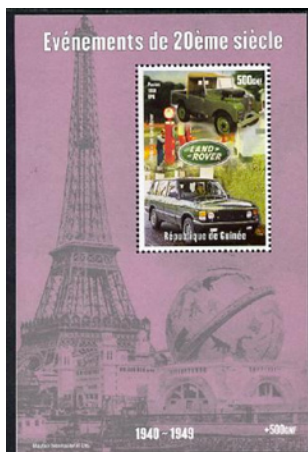
1997 - Uruguay - History of Automobiles - Set of four (souvenir sheet?)



This stamp appeared in the series "History of the Automobile". This set of four stamps, all with a value of \$6 (Uruguay), has one that shows the first Land-Rover. Not an Series One 80", but the first centre steering prototype

with a single centre seat. A three quarters image, which is identical to the photograph of this vehicle on the Wikipedia page. Interestingly, it does not have an image of Maurice Wilks on the stamp as the other three stamps depict the inventor, Ford with his first automobile, Bosch with the magneto, and Diesel and an engine.

1998 - Guinea-Corakry (Rep de Guinee) - Events of the 20th century 1940-49 - Launch of Land Rover perf souvenir sheet



Guinea-Conakry, or officially the Republic of Guinea, but hyphenated to distinguish it from Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, two other, well governed (sic) alternatives. Conakry is the capital of this Guinea, as Bissau is the capital of the other Guinea. This Guinea has its challenges as do most of the west African countries, and despite large exports of aluminium ore, it supplements the government

coffers with postal issues for collectors. To that end, in 1998 or so, Guinea started issuing a huge number of stamps to note the upcoming new millennium. Within this was a series on events of the 20th century. One such souvenir sheet for 1940-49 shows a Series One Land-Rover and, oddly for the decade, a Range Rover for the launch of the Land-Rover. Do note, this series does not appear in the Scott catalogue. Whether or not they are legitimate is an open question. This series is not referenced with a Scott or Stanley Gibbon's number, nor do they appear in several of the on-line catalogues. Given all of this, they are probably fakes, but available from numerous sources. An entire article can be written on Cinderella stamps.

2006 - Iceland - General purpose vehicles

Iceland issued its second Land Rover stamp on March 29th, 2006 within the theme of road transportation. Specifically, "the First Jeeps" as all four by fours are referred to in Iceland. There were



four stamps in the series. The stamps depict the first 4x4's that were imported by Iceland between 1940 and 1970, and the year that they first appeared: Jeep (Willys, 1946), Land-Rover (1951), Austin Gypsy (1965), and Gaz (69, 1955). The Land-Rover on the 70 kroner stamp is a Series One eighty inch soft top. Unlike Djibouti, the number plate doesn't resolve to anything. In fact, the image almost looks like a model. These stamps were 36.94 mm x 26.0 mm and only offered in booklets of 4 with two of the designs in each. Because of this, they are perforated at 13 x imperf. They were printed by Carter Security Printing using the offset printing process.

2015 - Falkland Islands - Queen Elizabeth II, longest reigning monarch.

By 2015, the Falklands had outsourced their stamp programme to a third party company, in this case PobjoyStamps. The company issued collections of 4 different stamps from 6 territories which covers events that occurred during the reign of Elizabeth II, as part of the commemoration of her becoming the longest reigning monarch. The issues stress the local



relevance to each individual territory participating in the omnibus series. In the case of the Falklands, there are four stamps. The 75p stamp has an image of a Series One Land-Rover. The first Land Rovers arrived in the Falklands in the 1950's. Government records from 1951 show that the first, Registration Number 168, belonged to the Falkland Islands Company. With no roads outside Stanley the introduction of the Land Rovers made life much easier. Even the Dentist (with his treadle operated drill) and the Doctor had to travel by horse until the Rovers arrived. The Falkland Islands are also home to the southernmost official Land Rover dealership in the world. The portrait of her Majesty (often seen driving Land Rovers herself over the years) shows her wearing her coronation crown, in 1953. Known as the St Edward's Crown, it was made in 1661 for the coronation of King Charles II, and is reputed to contain gold from the crown of Edward the Confessor. It is set with 444 precious stones. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images).