

Land-Rover Stamps, an Introduction

by Dixon Kenner

So, your Land-Rover is out languishing in the hot sun, or under a snow bank, you are inside, and looking for a distraction. Maybe you collect stamps and are looking for a diversion as I was, or you want to expand your collection of Land-Rover paraphernalia in a new direction.

Well, one different tangent to take is to start looking for Land-Rovers depicted on postage stamps. A quick search on the Internet will turn up a few, and as you identify them, then want to go and get one to put in an album, or maybe frame to go up on the wall, you will discover that this can be a lot more rewarding, as well as time consuming. You may then learn about eBay, its joys and disasters, about your local stamp dealer, or about the plethora of stamp vendors upon the Internet. Further searches will lead you to the Land-Rover-Owners mailing lists, established by onetime OVL member Bill Calocchia. In those pages you will find discussions between T.F. Mills and myself about this very topic.

Postage stamps are just one of many collectibles for the hardcore Land Rover enthusiast who has some time and money to throw around after the latest rebuild. Whether it is badges, manuals, books, or brochures, stamps are yet another piece of ephemera. Likewise, Land Rovers are but one of a myriad of obscure topics for the philatelist. Few hobbies can provide quite the same history and geography lesson as stamp collecting. Given that Land Rovers have been reported in just about every country on earth (yes, even North Korea), not to mention many of the world's civil and military services, it is not surprising that so many postal services have commemorated them. The images range from superbly accurate representations of the vehicles (e.g. Tuvalu, 1985; and Ascension Island, 1996) to barely recognisable tiny cars in a larger scene (Australia, 1992).



This is the first article in an irregular series. Later articles will look at specific issues, and eventually conclude with a rather large listing of what I have been able to put together on and off over the past twenty-five plus years. Future articles will deal with such things as:

Land-Rover Series, Defenders, and Plushies on postage stamps;



The Queen and Land-Rovers; Series One 80 inches or later; Land-Rovers as police cars, fire appliances or ambulances;

Planned is discussion on what "may be" a Land-Rover, where the balance of the argument is that they really most probably are, ranking them whether it "is", "maybe", and "most probably not";

An article on what are not Land-Rovers when people claim they are - EG, there is a series of stamps from Lesotho with the theme "Africa in film". There is a stamp for the movie Hatari! starring John Wayne. The vehicle on the stamp is indistinct,

looks like a LR, but is actually a Jeep when you check on what vehicles were used in the movie. Yes, there are Land-Rovers in two scenes, one broken down with the bonnet up. Kind of appropriate really. Or another Australian set, on out-doors activity, which is actually a Toyota FJ towing a caravan/camper, but short of a very good image, you can argue either way. In the end actually getting the stamp, getting a good magnifying glass, or photographing and blowing it up reveals the rear corner wrap around window gives it away.



As a tangent, the reason that stamps where the image is "most probably" or "certainly not" a Land-Rover, are included in this silly exercise because some

claims that they were a Land-Rover, it then got into some listing on the Internet, and the misinformation stays alive forever. Best example of this is Qatar, the "Security Forces" set from 1969, where there are some Ferret armoured cars on one stamp which keep popping up in random lists as being Land-Rovers. No, no, no!

And, interspaced through all of this as interest takes me, a lengthy series of pages with images of all of these stamps, along with descriptive information that will make your efforts to find them a little easier than mine. Frankly, I am both astonished, as well as appalled with the number of stamps I managed to find over the past twenty years of looking on and off.

But, since we need an image or two, these two stamps represent the first postage stamp with a Land-Rover on it, and the second is the most recent postage stamp with one.

