



Where in the world are: North Ingermanland, Dodecanese
Islands and Fiume?

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This month we will travel to a variety of locations throughout the world as we explore North Ingermanland, the Dodecanese Islands and Fiume. All of these locations have issued postage stamps.



So let's start with North Ingermanland. North Ingermanland is a small area located between Lake Ladoga and the Gulf of Finland in the district of Kirjasalo, currently on one of the borders between Finland and Russia. The inhabitants of this area call themselves Ingrians. Over the years many wars have been fought over this area, especially between Sweden and Russia. In 1703, Peter the Great connected Ingermanland with the Russian Empire. In 1920, this area, composed of residents with predominantly Finnish origins, rebelled against the revolutionary government of Russia then in power. A

provisional government was established that sought a union with Finland. This provisional government was able to issue two seven-value sets of stamps. These stamps exist in both perforate and imperforate varieties. This revolt was quickly suppressed by Russian troops. When compulsory collectivization was introduced to this area in 1928, violence again erupted. This resulted in a series of mass deportations in 1928, 1935 and 1936. Between 1917 and 1979 the number of Ingerian native language speakers in this area was reduced from 126,240 in 1826 to 16,239 in 1979, largely due to deportations from this area to the Urals, Siberia and Central Asia. The stamp issuing status of North Ingermanland is inactive.

Yet another former stamp issuing entity is considered to be inactive is the Dodecanese Islands. The Dodecanese Islands cover an area roughly 1,035 square miles in the Aegean Sea between the southwestern coast of Turkey and Crete with a population of 140,848 (1936). It is estimated that there are 163 islands and islets composing these islands, of which 26 are



Source: Lonely Planet located at:
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/mapshells/europe/dodecanese_islands/dodecanese_islands.htm

occupied. The most important of these islands are Rhodes, Samos, Kassos, Karpathos, Halki, Kastellorizo, Simi, Tilos, Nissiros, Kos, Kalimnos, Astipalea, Leros and Patmos. These islands have been inhabited since the prehistoric period, initially ruled over by the Minoans and then the Achaeans. Almost every island has its classical remains, its Crusaders' Castle and its traditional villages. The Romans occupied these islands in 146 BC followed by a long Byzantine period until the time of the Crusades. The Knights of the Order of St. John became the rulers of Rhodes in 1309. Their influence quickly spread to the other islands. It was not until 1522 that the islands were occupied by the Ottoman Turks and in 1912 by the Italians. These islands were then considered the Italian Aegean Islands. On September 12, 1943, British forces seized several of these islands including Samos, Kos and Leros. This occupation threatened the shipping lanes between the then Axis controlled islands of Rhodes and mainland Greece. Plans were almost immediately made to recapture these islands from British forces. British forces in these islands were defeated by the evening of November 16, 1943, resulting in the capture of 3,200 British prisoners of war by German forces. In October, 1944 German forces evacuated Greece. Their counterparts in the Aegean were cut off from both sea route supplies and mail. This resulted in several German stamps overprinted "INSELPOST" (Island Post). On December 22, 1944 the Italian authorities made available quantities of the 5c Rhodes definitive stamps which were overprinted "WEIHNACHEN 1944" (Christmas 1944). In May, 1945 the islands were relinquished to a British force. Soon after that time, British stamps overprinted "M.E.F" (Middle East Forces) was used. On March 31, 1947, Greece occupied the islands. The following day Greece issued a set of Greek stamps overprinted with the Greek initial "Σ.Δ.Δ." (Strategic Digitizes Dodecanese---Military Administration of the Dodecanese Islands). In 1948, these islands were formally ceded to Greece. When these islands were occupied by Greece, overprinted Greek stamps were used until they could be replaced with regular Greek issues. The stamp issuing status of this area is currently inactive.



Fiume or more appropriate the Free City of Fiume is an Adriatic seaport town on the Croatian coast of the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Fiume is now known as Rijeka. This city had been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the end of World War I, when Italy occupied it. Italy disputed the incorporation of this city into Yugoslavia. Italian irregular soldiers under D'Annunzio occupied the city in 1919. The Treaty of Rapallo between Italy and Yugoslavia made this a free city. Despite this agreement, however, Italy annexed this city in 1924. Yugoslavia simultaneously annexed adjacent territory. In May 1945, Yugoslav partisans occupied Fiume. In the period 1945-6, Italian stamps were overprinted for use in this area, after which time regular Yugoslavian issues were used. The stamp issuing status of this city is considered to be inactive.



Well, I hope you have enjoyed this months' trip into philatelic history. Don't forget to check out next month's destinations!

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