



## FUNGI

Editor

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*Ed. Note: Occasionally in this section and also in the Herpetology section, we will note a species that is known to be poisonous or venomous by marking it with a ☠ symbol. One should not infer that other species that are not so marked are non-poisonous or non-venomous or safe to handle/eat.*

### ew Issues

Scott #Denom.	Common name; Scientific name	Family name	Code
<b>BELARUS</b>			
<b>1 June 2020</b> (Animals in Winter and Summer) Set/6			
1182a N	Lichen on rocks under a white weasel		C
1182	Pair #1182a,b		C
1183c	SS with 1 each Sc#1181a,b; 182a,b; 183a,b		C SS
<b>BOSNIA &amp; HERZEGOVINA</b>			
<b>2020 February 3</b> (Mushrooms) SS/2			
828a 1.00	Sweet tooth, wood hedgehog, hedgehog mushroom, <i>Hydnum repandum</i>	Hydnaceae	A
828b 1.50	Caesar's mushroom, <i>Amanita caesarea</i>	Amanitaceae	A
828 2.50	SS with a single perforated copy of 828a and 828b		
<b>MALDIVE ISLANDS</b>			
<b>14 June 2017</b> (Mushrooms & Mycologist) MS/4 & SS			
3936a 20r	Bleeding fairy helmet, the burgundydrop bonnet, or the bleeding <i>Mycena</i> , <i>Mycena haematopus</i> & Alexander Fleming	Mycenaceae	A MS
3936c 20r	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. & Alexander Fleming	Trichocomaceae	B MS
3936d 20r	Fly agaric, <i>Amanita muscaria</i> ☠	Amanitaceae	A MS
3936 80r	MS with one each Sc#3936a - Sc#3936d		A MS
3946 60r	<i>Penicillium</i> sp. conidia & Alexander Fleming	Trichocomaceae	B SS
In margin:	Ink or inky cap, <i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Agaricaceae	A SS Z
	Honey mushroom, <i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Physalacriaceae	A SS Z
<b>2017 June 21</b> (Mushroom Paintings) Set/4, SS/1			
3965a 22r	Mushroom as house; "Gnome House" by Fritz Baumgarten		A
3965b 22r	Drawings of mushrooms; "The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady" by Edith Blackwell Holden		
	<i>Mycena</i> sp.	Mycenaceae	A
	<i>Pleurotus</i> sp.	Pleurotaceae	A
	<i>Armillaria</i> sp.	Physalacriaceae	A
	<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	Hydnangiaceae	A
	<i>Clavaria</i> sp.	Clavariaceae	A
3965c 22r	A collection of mushrooms & boletes; "Mushrooms" by William Aiken Walker var. A		
3965d 22r	Stylized <i>Amanita</i> sp., "ex Libris" by Gustaaf van de Wall Perné	Amanitaceae	A
3975 70r	Stylized <i>Amanita</i> sp., "Three Red Mushrooms" by Arlo Zonneveld	Amanitaceae	A
In margin: 5	mushrooms (at least 3 diff. spp.); illustration from Liliana by Apeles Mestres var. B Z		
	Caterpillar sitting on a mushroom, Alice in Wonderland & 5 additional mushrooms; "Advice from a Caterpillar" by Arthur Rackham		B Z

**MALDIVE ISLANDS (continued)****2017 September 26** (Mushrooms) Set//4, SS/1

4002a	20r	<i>Callistosporium luteo-olivaceum</i>	Tricholomataceae	A
4002b	20r	Brain mushroom, turban mushroom, <i>Gyromitra esculenta</i>	Discinaceae	A
4002c	20r	Horn of plenty, black chanterelle, <i>Craterellus cornucopioides</i>	Cantharellaceae	A
4002d	20r	Bay bolete, <i>Imleria badia</i>	Boletaceae	A
4011	60r	<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>	Ganodermataceae	A
In margin:		Horn of plenty, black chanterelle, <i>Craterellus cornucopioides</i>	Cantharellaceae	A SS Z
		Fly agaric; <i>Amanita caesarea</i>	Amanitaceae	A SS Z

Note: All 3 of these sets from the Maldives carry the same warning on the Colnect website as follows: “Although this issue was authorized by the postal administration of the Maldives, the issue was not placed on sale in the Maldives, and was only distributed to the new issue trade by the Maldives's philatelic agent.” I take the choice of words “...acknowledged...” and not “...authorized...” to be a significant distinction, especially since these issues were among at least 690 items issued in 2017 and 1140 issued in 2018. See “Caveat Emptor!” below.

**NEW CALEDONIA****2020 September 7** (Mushrooms) Pair

1268a	140fr	Hairy oyster mushroom, <i>Panus lecomtei</i>	Polyporaceae	A
1268b	140fr	<i>Rywardenia campyla</i>	Polyporaceae	A
1268	280fr	Printed as a horizontal pair [1268a & b] with central label		

## Caveat Emptor! “Let the Buyer Beware!”

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For the past several months I have been attempting to “complete” my Mushrooms-on-Stamps database. This has been a rewarding, but very frustrating, effort. Rewarding in that I now have a relatively consistent record of collectable fungus-related items (20,000+ of them). Frustrating for two reasons: first, despite having a very large database I am now, even more than before, aware of its shortcomings; and second, I am now somewhat discouraged by the flood of “illegal stamps” that I have documented, and the degree to which they have infiltrated the hobby.

I started with a database which included records of about 1,100 sets of mushroom-on-stamps (by far the bulk of them legitimate issues), plus postal stationery, Cinderellas (“local posts”, stamp-like items including matchbook covers and such) and ephemera (cigar bands, product labels, etc.). Over the last six months of further researching these items my overarching database has more than doubled to 2,600+ listings of sets. And my database of individual items which included about 11,000 individual records of single stamps, etc. now contains 21,000+ items!

In addition to these increases, there was a similar (though not as steep) increase in the number of covers with FDCs or commemorative cancels. The number of cachets which include mushrooms, however, has exponentially increased since I last worked with my file of cachets and cancels. This latter increase has led me to abandon any attempt at cataloging all of the cachets offered for each cancel or FDC.

So, why the big increase?