

SURINAM**2021, 5 May (M)**

1628a	\$25	Red crackling bolete, <i>Xerocomus chrysenteron</i>	Boletaceae	A
1628b	\$30	Ruby bolete, <i>Xerocomus</i> (now <i>Hortiboetus</i>) <i>rubellus</i>	Boletaceae	A
1628c	\$40	Suede bolete + at least 3 others, <i>Xerocomus subtoentosus</i>	Boletaceae	A
1628d	B [\$51]	Peppery bolete, <i>Boletus</i> (now <i>Chalciporus</i>) <i>piperatus</i>	Boletaceae	A

Printed such that stamps can exist either as singles, as a vertical strip of 4, or as a block of 4. My best guess for this issue is that, consistent with recent issues, these stamps were probably issued in miniature sheets of 8 stamps; 2 columns of 4 x 4 rows of 2 stamps, with 1 column upright while the other is inverted relative to the other.

Look-alikes

Belgium (15 Mar 2021): MS of 5 different Jellyfish (Sc#2943). All have the basic shape of gillless mushrooms.

Caveat Emptor! (part 2) “Legalities”

Paul A. Mistretta

In the last issue I began a discussion of a real problem negatively affecting our shared interest in topical philately. In recent years the “issuing” of illegal “stamps” (declared or not by the powers that be at) has far more than doubled the number of items needed to complete a collection of mushrooms on stamps. (And the problem doesn’t end there!) You could say (but probably shouldn’t) that our topic has mushroomed over the last 10-15 years.

But how does one determine whether the issues being offered for sale are valid postage or just pretty wallpaper?

Let’s begin at the beginning with The Universal Postal Union (the UPU). (Note: to avoid confusion all direct quotes in this article will be typed in a different font than the remainder of the article.)

Self described on its website “The Universal Postal Union is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector’s primary forum for international cooperation” (Anon. 2020c). Further:

“Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), with its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization worldwide.

“With its 192 member countries, the UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.

“In this way, the organization fulfills an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services volumes and improve quality of service for customers.” (Anon 2020a)

The Universal Postal Convention Manual, published by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union in Berne (Anon. 2019), contains specific language which is slightly changed and renumbered from previous editions of the Manual, but which retains the sense of the original policies of the Union found at least as early as in the 2004 Universal Postal Convention and Final Protocol approved at the UPU Congress held in Bucharest (Anon. 2009). Quoted sections of Article 2 describes the necessary identification of a legitimate postal authority, while the quotes of the full text of Article 6 describes legitimate issues.

Article 2

Designation of the entity or entities responsible for fulfilling the obligations arising from adherence to the Convention